Thursday, 28 January 2015 at 18:30: Lecture on the Life and Work of Whitley Stokes by Prof. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín

On 28 January 2015, at 18.30 Professor Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, National University of Ireland, Galway will deliver a lecture at the Embassy of Ireland on the life and work of Whitley Stokes (1830-1909). Stokes was described as ‘the greatest of living Celtic philologists’. After legal studies he practised as an equity draughtsman and conveyancer and during his spare time he studied philology with Rudolf Siegfried, from whom he acquired his mastery of the Celtic languages and of Sanskrit. In 1862 Stokes was sent to India, as Secretary to the Legal Department, and later Law Member of the Council of the Governor-General, a post he held until his retirement in 1882. He was responsible for codifying almost the entire body of Anglo-Indian laws, but during those years in India he was also carving out a reputation for himself as a Celtic scholar. The discovery, by Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, of all Stokes’s 150 working Celtic notebooks, unnoticed since 1919 in the University Library, Leipzig, revealed the extent of Stokes’s astonishing industry in his later years. Professor Ó Cróinín’s lecture will encompass Stokes’ background in Dublin, his connections to well known figures in Germany including Wilhelm and Jakob Grimm and the philologist Johann Caspar Zeuss, as well as his discovery of Stokes’ notebooks. We look forward to seeing you for what promises to be a fascinating evening. The lecture will be held in English.

To RSVP, please send an email to the RSVP address listed on https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/germany/contact-us/.