

Nationalist

She was one of the first members of The Ladies Land League with Anna Parnell etc. She acted as her father's companion whom she followed in his support of Parnell following the split. [\[iv\]](#)

She had known & supported Parnell also John Redmond in their efforts for Ireland. (*Ed Mulhall RTE News & Current Affairs, Advisor to Century Ireland, an online Magazine*) [\[v\]](#)

She was an active member of the Irish Catholic Women's Suffrage Society (ICWSS). [\[vi\]](#)

Her opposition to nineteenth century British imperialistic policies was a feature of her life's work. [\[vii\]](#)

Katharine Tynan Hinkson's works were dominated by the combined influences of Irish patriotism also her Roman Catholic faith. She developed an abiding interest in Celtic mythology. [\[viii\]](#)

Family

She married Henry Albert Hinkson, a barrister & novelist during 1893. They moved to London during 1893. Later they made their homes at various locations. They had three children: Theobald Henry Hinkson, Giles Aymler Hinkson, Pamela Mary Hinkson. (*Pamela a Journalist became a famous writer; her brothers were military men*) Her son Toby married Moira Pilkington the great – great – great – granddaughter of Henry Grattan also niece of Sir Thomas Esmonde. [\[ix\]](#)

Katharine had a still born baby during May 1894 also lost a baby Godfrey in 1895. [\[x\]](#)

Mayo

Her husband Henry was appointed a magistrate to Mayo during 1911 (*dates differ on various websites*) That was a new experience for Katharine who was dismayed at the harsh climate also the isolation of the West. During the time spent at Claremorris she produced a large volume of work: ten novels, two volumes of memories, three volumes of poetry, two schoolbooks, several articles, reviews plus short stories. [\[xi\]](#)

World War

Katharine Tynan Hinkson tackled several social issues within her articles. They included the treatment metered out to shop girls, unmarried mothers, infanticide, capital punishment plus the education of the poor. WW1 was an emotional matter for her, something that engaged her daily as both her sons were involved in military service. For the wars duration she corresponded daily to soldiers also their families. [\[xii\]](#)

Following her husband's demise during 1919 along with her daughter Pamela they left Mayo. They depended on her work for financial survival. She travelled extensively as a journalist throughout Ireland, England also Europe. She sold Yeats's letter during 1920 to John Quinn for £100. [\[xiii\]](#)

Publications

She was a major writer of Irish Literary Renaissance. She produced more than a hundred novels of social protest plus poetry collections, twelve collections of romantic short stories, (*best known was The House in the Forest*) also three plays. Her first book *Louise de la Vallière & Other Poems* was produced during 1885. It was financed by her father: it became an immediate success that resulted in the printing of a second edition. During 1887 she published *Shamrocks*. She contributed to *Irish Authors & Poets* to the *Irish Fireside* in 1887 (*pages 8 / 9, 24 / 25*) She revisited *The Cabinet of Irish Literature*

which had been originally compiled by Charles Read (*four vols 1987 also four vols 1902 /3*) to which she eliminated some non - literary writings from his selection plus penned a predominantly women's volume. She contributed poems to *Studies* from 1913 - 1922. During 1915 she produced a second volume of poems in support of Redmond's volunteers in WW1, notably the *Flowers of Youth* to the *Irish Review* prior to *The Holy War* during 1916. She composed poetry that celebrated in crusade - style the capture of Jerusalem by British Forces in which her sons served alongside Francis Ledwidge. Her *Collected Poems* were printed during 1930. Katharine Tynan Hinkson compiled five volumes of autographical material that included *1913 Twenty - Five Year; Reminiscences* (Smith Elder London) 1916 *The Middle Years* (Constable London) 1919 *The Years of Shadow* (Constable, London) 1922 *The Wandering Years* 1924 (Constable London) also *Memories* (Everleigh Nash, London) [\[xiv\]](#)

During 1890 Katharine Tynan was commissioned by the Loreto Order to write the life of Mother Xavier Fallon; a member of that community. [\[xv\]](#)

She kept a diary of events, that eventually contributed to her two books; *Years of the Shadow & The Wandering Years*. (Ed Mulhall RTE News & Current Affairs, Advisor to Century Ireland, an online Magazine) [\[xvi\]](#)

Her prose work *My Diaries 1888 – 1914* were mentioned in *Letters to Dear Sir* 1892 from University of Virginia on 27th September 1893. (record id; 57620815) [\[xvii\]](#)

Katherine Tynan was considered unique among writers for her personal concern for women, the youth & poor from *Profile of Francis Thompson* published in *The Fortnightly Review*. [\[xviii\]](#)

Katharine Tynan's *Flowers of Youth* (a reference to the soldiers in WW1) was extraordinarily popular. Copies were sold to aid the Red Cross. A thousand were distributed to bereaved mothers in the South of England & the Bishop of London used it several times in sermons. *Any Woman* is a quiet beautiful poem with empathic tendencies. An analysis of the poem may be read at this link. [\[xix\]](#)

Katherine's literary output included vast regular articles for newspapers or magazines in Ireland, England also the U.S. [\[xx\]](#)

'Any Woman'

*I am the pillars of the house;
The keystone of the arch am I.
Take me away, and roof and wall
Would fall to ruin me utterly.*

*I am the fire upon the hearth,
I am the light of the good sun,
I am the heat that warms the earth,
Which else were colder than a stone.*

*At me the children warm their hands;
I am their light of love alive.
Without me cold the hearthstone stands,
Nor could the precious children thrive.*

*I am the twist that holds together
The children in its sacred ring,
Their knot of love, from whose close tether
No lost child goes a-wandering.*

I am the house from floor to roof,
I deck the walls, the board I spread;
I spin the curtains, warp and woof,
And shake the down to be their bed.

I am their wall against all danger,
Their door against the wind and snow,
Thou Whom a woman laid in a manger,
Take me not till the children grow! [\[xxi\]](#)

She described her own writing as '*I am not especially proud of this facility of mine. It has produced a good deal of honest work, with of course, a good deal of necessary pot – boiling, and it has made some few people happy besides myself.*' She reported that '*I shall die young though many my years are – for I was born under a kind star.*' [\[xxii\]](#)

Demise

Katharine Tynan Hinkson's demise occurred when she was aged seventy – two on 2nd April 1931 at Wimbledon Borough of Merton, Greater London.

She is interred at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery known also as Kensal Green, London. Plot no. 2543NE. Memorial 17152400. She is buried next to her friend Alice Maynell. (Steve Tynan) [\[xxiii\]](#)

Tributes

W. B. Yeats praised her '*on the grounds that in finding her nationality, she also found herself.*' He said she was '*too full of English influences to be quiet Irish*' in his review of *Ballads & Lyrics*. A bespectacled portrait of her in oil by John Butler Yeats during 1887 is held in the Municipal Gallery, Dublin. [\[xxiv\]](#)

Yeats also stated that '*She was happiest when she puts emotions that have the innocence of childhood into symbols & metaphors from the green world about her. She has...a devout tenderness like that of St. Francis for weak instinctive things.*' [\[xxv\]](#)

Her '*Wind that Shakes the Barley*' was adapted for a film of that name on the Anglo - Irish War during 2006 directed by Ken Loach with Cillian Murphy in the leading role. [\[xxvi\]](#)

George Russell penned a foreword to her *Collected Poems* during 1930: he described her as '*The earliest singer in that awakening of our imagination which had been spoken of as the Irish Renaissance.*' [\[xxvii\]](#)

Russell stated that '*she has something which is rather rarer among poets than most people imagine, a natural gift for song....What is common to Katharine Tynan's lyrics out of whatever mood she writes is shapeliness which in their architecture.*' A.E. declared that her writing of several subjects of happiness ie; '*Religion, friendship & children...beauty in gardens, flowers, in sky & clouds ...on normal humanity & its affection.*' According to Marilyn Geddes Rose '*She could not in fact see far, & she restricts her spiritual vision analogously.*' [\[xxviii\]](#)

Katharine Tynan Hinkson is referenced in Thom's Irish *Who's Who* 1923 (Dublin) (page 111) [\[xxix\]](#)

The University of Manchester Library includes archival documents related to Katharine, Pamela also Henry Hinkson that include transcripts of several correspondences, her diaries with her first poetry notebook. (Reference GB 133 KTH) [\[xxx\]](#)

Katharine Tynan Hinkson papers 1885 – 1929 are contained within the Special Collections Centre in the Southern Illinois Carbonate. I.D. 1 / 4 / MS055. [\[xxxix\]](#)

Her works are archived at the U. K. National Archives, the Open Library, Libri Vox, Project Gutenberg. Katherine Tynan's *Profile of Francis Thompson* was published in *The Fortnightly Review*. [\[xxxix\]](#)

Maire O' Neill presented an article on K. T. H. on 10th December 1986 that was printed in 'The Dublin Historical Record' vol 40 no 3 (pages 82 - 93) [\[xxxix\]](#)

Her letters to Miss Gossett 1913 - 14 are held within the special collection at the University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware, U.S. Identification no. Mss099, F376. [\[xxxix\]](#)

She is referenced in the following works: Ward Margaret 1981 *The Ladies Land League in Irish History* Workshop vol 1 (pages 27 - 35), 1977 *The Irish Renaissance: An Introduction to Anglo – Irish* (Gill & Macmillan Dublin) 1965 *Daughters of Erin: Five Women of the Irish Renaissance* (Secker & Warburg, London) *W. B. Yeats letters to Katharine Tynan* 1953 edited by Roger Mc Hugh (Clonmore & Reynolds) She is referenced in Braybrook Patrick *Some Catholic Novelists: their Art & Outlook* 1931 (Oates & Washbourne London) Geddes Rose Marylyn 1981 *Katharine Tynan* (Bucknell University Press) Also Fallon Ann 1979 *Katharine Tynan* (Connerton Twayne Publishers Boston M. A.) [\[xxxix\]](#)

John William Cousins references Katharine Tynan in Dent J. M. 1910 *A Short Biographical Dictionary of English Literature* (London) [\[xxxix\]](#)

Further Information

Her biography appears on this site: <https://www.poemhunter.com/katharine-tynan/>

Blogpost dedicated to Marcella & Keith Flanagan who were Katharine's relatives may be perused at the following link. [\[xxxix\]](#)

She is discussed on this site as an Irish writer:
https://openlibrary.org/authors/OL115188A/Katharine_Tynan

An interesting article is available at this link: <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/ba74757f-9fbb-372d-ac62-7226e55a95f6>

Her poetry may be assessed at these sites: Katharine Tynan Hinkson Poetry
<http://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com/Poetry/Tynan.html>

<https://www.poemhunter.com/katharine-tynan/>

<https://www.poetrynook.com/poem/old-love-7/>

<https://www.poetry.net/poem/25020/the-children-of-lir>

An obituary notice may be viewed at this link (*paid site*):
<https://www.nytimes.com/1931/04/03/archives/katharine-tynan-irish-poet-is-dead-widow-of-hinkson-succumbs-at.html>

Footnotes

[iv] Ibid.

[v] Katharine Tynan Hinkson (<https://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/articles/the-great-day-katharine-tynan-the-mothers-war>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[vi] Biography – Katharine Tynan (<http://www.theheroinecollective.com/katharine-tynan/>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[vii] Tynan Katherine (<https://snaccooperative.org/ark:/99166/w6qc049t>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[viii] Katharine Tynan (<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Katharine-Tynan>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[ix] Katharine Tynan (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/t/Tynan_K/life.htm) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[x] Papers of K.T & P.T. (<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/ba74757f-9fbb-372d-ac62-7226e55a95f6>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xi] Katherine Tynan (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/t/Tynan_K/life.htm) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xii] K. T. H. (<https://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/articles/the-great-day-katharine-tynan-the-mothers-war>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xiii] Katherine Tynan (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/t/Tynan_K/life.htm) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xiv] Ibid.

[xv] Tynan Katherine (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/tynan-katharine-1861-1931>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xvi] Katharine Tynan Hinkson (<https://www.rte.ie/centuryireland/index.php/articles/the-great-day-katharine-tynan-the-mothers-war>) [Assessed 12th May2020]

[xvii] Tynan Katherine (<https://snaccooperative.org/ark:/99166/w6qc049t>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xviii] Katharine Tynan (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katharine_Tynan) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xix] Katharine Tynan (<https://www.iluenglish.com/any-woman-by-katharine-tynan-summary-and-analysis/>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xx] Tynan Katherine (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/tynan-katharine-1861-1931>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxi] Katharine Tynan Hinkson Poetry (<http://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com/Poetry/Tynan.html>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxii] Tynan Katherine (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/tynan-katharine-1861-1931>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxiii] Katharine Tynan Hinkson (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/17152400/katharine-hinkson>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xxiv] Katherine Tynan (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/t/Tynan_K/life.htm) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxv] Tynan Katharine (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/tynan-katharine-1861-1931>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxvi] Katherine Tynan (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/t/Tynan_K/life.htm) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxvii] Biography - Katharine Tynan (<http://www.theheroinecollective.com/katharine-tynan/>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xxviii] Tynan Katharine (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/tynan-katharine-1861-1931>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxix] Katherine Tynan (http://ricorso.net/rx/az-data/authors/t/Tynan_K/life.htm) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxx] Papers of K.T & P.T. (<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/ba74757f-9fbb-372d-ac62-7226e55a95f6>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xxxi] K. T. H, Papers (<https://archives.lib.siu.edu/?p=collections/findingaid&id=465&q=>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xxxii] Katharine Tynan (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Katharine_Tynan) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xxxiii] Katharine Tynan Hinkson (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/30079331?seq=1>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xxxiv] U D Library (<http://www.lib.udel.edu/search/>) [Assessed 12th May 2020]

[xxxv] Tynan Katharine (<https://www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/tynan-katharine-1861-1931>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxxvi] Katharine Tynan Hinkson Poetry (<http://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com/Poetry/Tynan.html>) [Assessed 11th May 2020]

[xxxvii] Celebrating Irish Women Authors (<https://pamlecky.com/2016/04/11/celebrating-irish-women-authors-katharine-tynan-hickson/>) [Assessed 11th May 2020].