

Hugh Ryan and his new book

HUGH RYAN, that noted writer from Skerries is about to launch his next novel, entitled 'In the shadow of the Ombú tree.'

It is one from the heart based on the story of his great grandparents, John and Catherine and their dramatic elopement from their native Wexford to Uruguay. Hugh and his wife Margaret visited Uruguay in 2001 as part of the research and got a great welcome from the locals.

The book will be launched in Wexford, the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin and of course Skerries. It is to be launched in the United States in February of next year.

Hugh is no stranger to successful novels, writing the likes of *Ancestral Voices* (1995) and *On Borrowed Ground* (1993).

Recently I got my hands on his first two books, *Reprisal* (1989) and the first one, *The Kybe*, which hit the bookshelves all of 21 years ago.

The *Kybe* is one of those dateless landmarks, *Lambay to Quay Street*, *the Martello Tower to Balcunnin*.

Like all his subsequent work, the research is terrific and I have no doubt that his new one will get the desired response.

Indeed, Irish couple elope, find themselves in South America, she has a village named after her that exists today, (*Santa Catalina*). I feel a possible film coming on...let's hope so.

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South American links explored in new book

THE LINKS between Wexford and South America are explored in a new novel, due to be published next month by Chaos Press of Enniscorthy.

'In the Shadow of the Ombú Tree' is written by Hugh Fitzgerald Ryan who comes from Skerries but whose work regularly

draws on Wexford influences. His 'Ancestral Voices' drew on the upheavals of the 1798 rebellion while his latest offering is coloured by the history of the author's Wexford ancestors.

Researching 'In the Shadow of the Ombú Tree' took Hugh Fitzgerald Ryan on an

emotional journey to Estancia Santa Catalina established by his great-grandparents in Uruguay. He was welcomed there by the entire village, complete with marching bands.

New Irish publisher Chaos Media & Print is based at Bellefield in Enniscorthy.

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