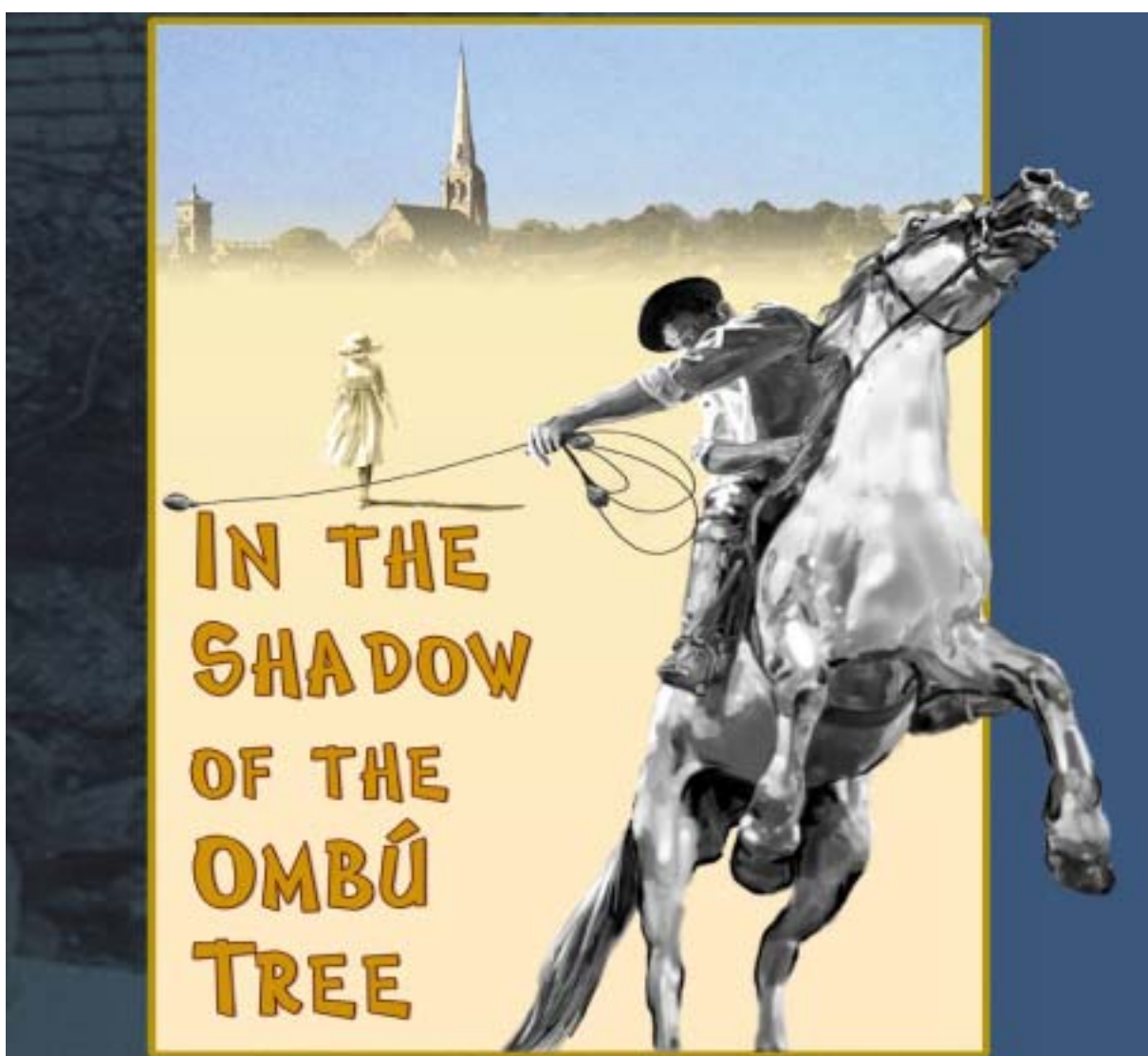


Book: from Uruguay with love.....



The novel by Hugh Ryan from Skerries

Skerries writer launches a stunning new novel

BY HUBERT MURPHY

A Skerries writer has been acclaimed for his latest novel that is set to hit the bookshelves in the next week.

Hugh F. Ryan from Holmpatrick this week launches his epic tale of love, travel and intrigue in the Chester Beatty library and Skerries RFC.

The book, 'In the Shadow of the Ombú Tree' has proved remarkably personal to Hugh as it centres on a story from almost 150 years ago and concerns a member of his family.

In 1864 Catherine Doyle from Wexford ran away from boarding school to elope to South America with a man called John Cardiff. The book details their life and times and is a most remarkable read.

What's more, Hugh is Catherine's great-grandson!



Hugh Ryan

'The story of my great-grandparents as told to me by my mother, a Wexford woman, flittered in the background of my imagination

for more than half a century,' remarks Hugh, who is also a talented artist.

Finally, he went off in search of the story and found it, amidst the very pampas that Catherine and John had ventured to over a century earlier in Uruguay.

Indeed, such was the esteem that the Cardiff family were held in, to this day there is a village of 800 souls dedicated to Catherine Cardiff, Santa Catalina.

My greatest debt in bringing this novel to completion is to my wife, Margaret,' continues Hugh. 'She was a tolerant supporter and indefatigable companion.'

The book has a vision all of its own, a modern day eye exploring the past like a visitor from another world....