The beautiful portrait by John Butler Yeats, on the cover of this year's Apollo Irish Art & Antiques Feature, depicts the singer, Maire Nic Shiuubhlaigh and provides a foretaste of an exhibition that celebrates the centenary of the Abbey, Ireland's national theatre. This exhibition in the National Gallery of Ireland's Milltown Wing (19 October-16 January) will bring together a choice selection of portraits and busts from two collections: the Irish National Portrait Collection and that of the Abbey Theatre itself. When it opened in 1904 the theatre's foyer was hung with portraits by John Butler Yeats and since that time the collection has grown to over sixty works by several renowned artists. One exhibit is William Orpen's strong portrait of the dramatist, Lady Augusta Gregory, who with W B Yeats and others established the Irish Literary Theatre in 1899, which five years later became the Abbey Theatre. The National Gallery's main international show this autumn is in the Millennium Wing and is the first ever wide-ranging survey of German Romanticist painting to appear in Dublin. "A German Dream: Masterpieces of Romanticism from the Nationalgalerie Berlin" (16 October-30 January) comprises some sixty works that document the development of this movement (1800-60) from portraits and idealized landscapes of the Goethe period to the literature inspired narratives of the later years. Artists include Carl Blechen, Caspar David Friedrich (see illustration), Karl Friedrich Schinkel and Moritz von Schwind.

Last of this autumn's displays at the National Gallery, but not at all least is an exhibition that highlights 150 years of the Watercolour Society of Ireland. The society evolved in the late 19th century from an amateur drawing society set up in Lismore, Co. Waterford. Since its foundation there have been over a thousand members of the society, many of whom have made a valuable contribution to the history of Irish art and the promotion of works on paper. Over forty of the best examples of work by past members are exhibited, including the following artists, well-known to Irish collectors: Walter Osborne (see illustration), William Orpen (see illustration), Sarah Purser, Jack Hanlon, Letitia Hamilton, Harry Clarke, Mainie Jellett, Anne Yeats and Rose Barton. The exhibition is drawn from the Gallery's permanent collection as well as loans from both public and private collections in Ireland. Also illustrated in this article is a new watercolour acquisition for the gallery by Samuel Frederick Brocas (1792-1847). They have also acquired: a Portrait of James FitzGerald, 20th Earl of Kildare, later Duke of Leinster by Robert Hunter (c.1715/20-c.1803); Walter Osborne's The Dublin Streets: A Vendor of Books,...
Dublin. Ireland. Names of areas like Donnybrook, Ballsbridge, Rathmines, Artane, Cabra, Inchicore and many others could easily be put on a letter and still have the particular address found by the postal service without the postal district. So something like these would work: Mr J. Smith. 1 Main Street. Donnybrook. Dublin. Ireland. Mr J. Smith. 1 Main Street. Donnybrook. Dublin 4. Ireland. Letter From Dublin. Ben Tonra. Despite two major institutional constraints, Irish foreign policy has ambition. Strategic Europe continues its series devoted to explaining the foreign and security policy ambitions of the 28 EU member states. We have asked our contributors from each capital to give a candid assessment of their country’s perception of security and strategy, with a ranking on a scale from 0 (the laggards) to 5 (the ambitious). This week, the spotlight is on Ireland. Letter from Dublin. A pub’s-eye view of Ireland’s recent run of leaders. Gabriel O’Malley n+1 Nov 2011 20min Permalink. A Letter from Dublin. 7 years ago. Comment must not exceed 1000 characters.