



The Irish Met Society would like to thank Felicity Gaffney and Matthew Jebb of the National Botanic Gardens for kindly providing their lecture theatre and gallery.



"Minus Ten"

**Photograph taken by
Tomasz Szumski**

Irish Met Society's Celebration of Met Éireann's 75th Anniversary

by Aidan Kelly, IMS member and Met Éireann



Audience shot. Photograph taken by Brendan Noonan.

For many weeks before, the Irish Met Society's series of lectures to mark the 75th anniversary of Met Éireann had been booked out and had an ever-increasing number on the waiting list. After registration, the visitors had an opportunity to view the exhibition covering the history of meteorology in Ireland (which had opened to the public that morning and had as its first visitors, two Buddhist monks!) and which would run for the following 8 days.

The winning entries from the Society's photo competition were there, along with a large variety of posters depicting many aspects of meteorology from the past to the present, and some looking to the future as well. A selection of

instruments, photos of scenes and people from times past (and of some people thankfully still present) were on display and evoked some interesting recollections for many present.

Master of Ceremonies was the Society's President, Paul Halton, and the evening started on a somewhat poignant note with Prof. Ray Bates paying tribute to the late Dr Aodhagán Roddy on his life, his work and his contribution to the Society; the event itself was dedicated to Aodhagán.

Then, following words of welcome from Met Éireann Director, Liam Campbell, the first lecture began with Keith Lambkin giving us an interesting history of Valentia Obser-

vatory through the years and demonstrating the important role the Observatory plays both nationally and internationally.

For the second lecture, Tom Keane delivered the story of the Foyne's years which were a significant part of Met Éireann's early years when weather services were provided for flying boats arriving and departing the base on the Shannon Estuary.

Paul Halton then called an intermission to allow time for the assembled masses to digest the information delivered so far and to enjoy the refreshments kindly sponsored by the Met Éireann Staff Associations.

Having been refreshed, our host for the evening, Matthew Jebb of the National Botanic Gardens, formally welcomed us to the Centre and we prepared for the third lecture delivered by Prof. Peter Lynch on the development of Numerical Weather Prediction which brought us through LAPEM, C4I, HiRLAM and HARMONIE.

To conclude the lecture series, Gerald Fleming charted the history of fore-

casting in Met Éireann, from (initially) its services to the aviation sector right up to the present day with the wide range of forecast products and services now being provided.

Paul Halton brought the evening to a close by acknowledging and thanking all who had contributed to its success, in particular highlighting the role played by Emily Gleeson in being the driving force behind the evening's lec-

tures and the 9-day exhibition.

The evening's series of lectures and the 10-day exhibition were organised by the Irish Met Society (which is a separate entity to Met Éireann), and a selection of the Society's material will be on display at Met Éireann's stand at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in the RDS in January 2012.



Montage of photographs taken by Brendan Noonan.