



THE SHELBOURNE DUBLIN

A RENAISSANCE HOTEL

In 1956, the ballroom was added to the hotel and immediately became the premier venue for Dublin's society events. During this time, The Shelbourne's international guest list read like a cast list of a Cecil B. de Mille movie - James Cagney, Maureen O'Hara, John Wayne, Stan Laurel, Oliver Hardy, Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Rock Hudson, Burl Ives, Orsen Welles, Robert Taylor and Rita Hayworth.

In 1958, John and Jacqueline Kennedy stayed in the Tonga Suite named after Queen Salote of Tonga who had stayed there five years previously and she had a special bed constructed for her visit. John F. Kennedy was to return again on an official visit in June 1963 as President of the United States, only a few months before his assassination.

The Shelbourne also provided a meeting venue for many of Ireland's musical and literary geniuses, including Count John McCormack, Sean O Riada, Patrick Kavanagh, Brendan Behan and Seamus Heaney, to name but a few. In fact, one of Ireland's greatest traditional musical groups, The Chieftains, was formed after Sean O Riada suggested it to Paddy Moloney in The Horseshoe Bar.

As an institution, The Shelbourne Hotel developed an uncanny sense of moving sensibly with the times and, throughout its history, it was accustomed to having its calm daily routine turned on its head to facilitate whatever was happening in the world outside its doors. The hotel experienced several changes of owners and extensive refurbishment programmes, but The Shelbourne Hotel retained its position as a landmark in Irish society, playing a role in many of the country's political and social events.

The Restoration of The Shelbourne Hotel

In March 2005, The Shelbourne Hotel closed for an extensive restoration project. The last time the hotel undertook such a large project was in 1867. During this work gas lighting was installed in The Shelbourne Hotel.

The hotel has been magnificently restored throughout to ensure the wonderful heritage and tradition of The Shelbourne has been retained.

The luxurious guestrooms have been designed by award-winning designer Frank Nicholson and the Horseshoe Bar, The Lord Mayor's Lounge and The Constitution Room have all also been elegantly restored. A new restaurant, The Saddle Room and No. 27 Bar & Lounge have been added to take The Shelbourne Hotel on its new journey.