



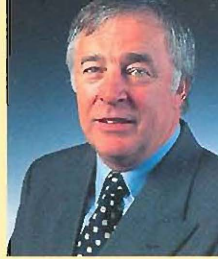
HM Customs & Excise Northern Ireland

COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY
10 May 2001



Custom House, Belfast.





Foreword

Today we take the opportunity to recognise the service of all Customs & Excise staff who served in Northern Ireland during the period of time which has become known as "the troubles".

While none of us emerged unaffected from this period in our history, I am conscious that the families of those colleagues who lost their lives during that time have undoubtedly suffered the most.

Now seems a particularly appropriate time for reflection. We want to acknowledge the contribution made by everyone in the past but also to look forward, as individuals and as a department that serves the whole community.

I am very pleased to be associated with the unveiling of a sculpture which remembers the service of all staff and honours those who gave their lives in the past. It is a fitting tribute in a magnificently restored Custom House which stands as a symbol of hope and confidence in the future.



Commemorative Ceremony

Bill Logan CBE
Collector, HM Customs & Excise, Northern Ireland

Richard Broadbent
Chairman, HM Customs & Excise

The Paymaster General, the official party and a selection of guests will move to the second floor landing where the sculpture is located. This section of the proceedings will be relayed by video link-up to guests in the Conference Room.

Dawn Primarolo
Paymaster General

Ray McAfee
Director Outfield, HM Customs & Excise

Followed by One Minute Silence

Opportunity for all guests to view the sculpture

Buffet Lunch in Lagan Room





The Sculpture

The title of the sculpture unveiled today - "Anastomosis" - means the union or connection of branches as of rivers, veins of leaves or blood vessels. The sculpture represents the layers of history from which we have emerged, and also the connection between this past and the future which is yet to come.

Fittingly, the sculpture is dedicated to yesterday - today's memory, and tomorrow - today's dream.

Salah explains his thinking behind the sculpture

We have chosen our priorities clearly - "surfaces" - so it is no surprise that "centres" hold no interest. Yet whether we believe in depths or not, there can be no surfaces without them...

We will continue to polish our personalities (our surfaces) long after the rest of real life is over. At the deepest stages of language there are no concepts, merely directions, fear and longing, needs and apprehensions. However we will all get things mixed up anyway, and who am I to teach? Who can guess tomorrow's weather? If only we could choose our own skin colour.

The Sculptor - Salah Kawala

Salah Kawala, the artist commissioned to produce the commemorative sculpture, is an Egyptian-born sculptor who first exhibited in Cairo in 1956.

Salah is currently listed among the top glass artists working in Ireland, and works from a studio in Rathfarnham, Dublin.

Customs and Excise is proud to have worked with Salah on this commission, and feel that his empathy with the spirit of our commemorative ceremony has produced a sculpture which will be reflected upon and appreciated for many years to come.

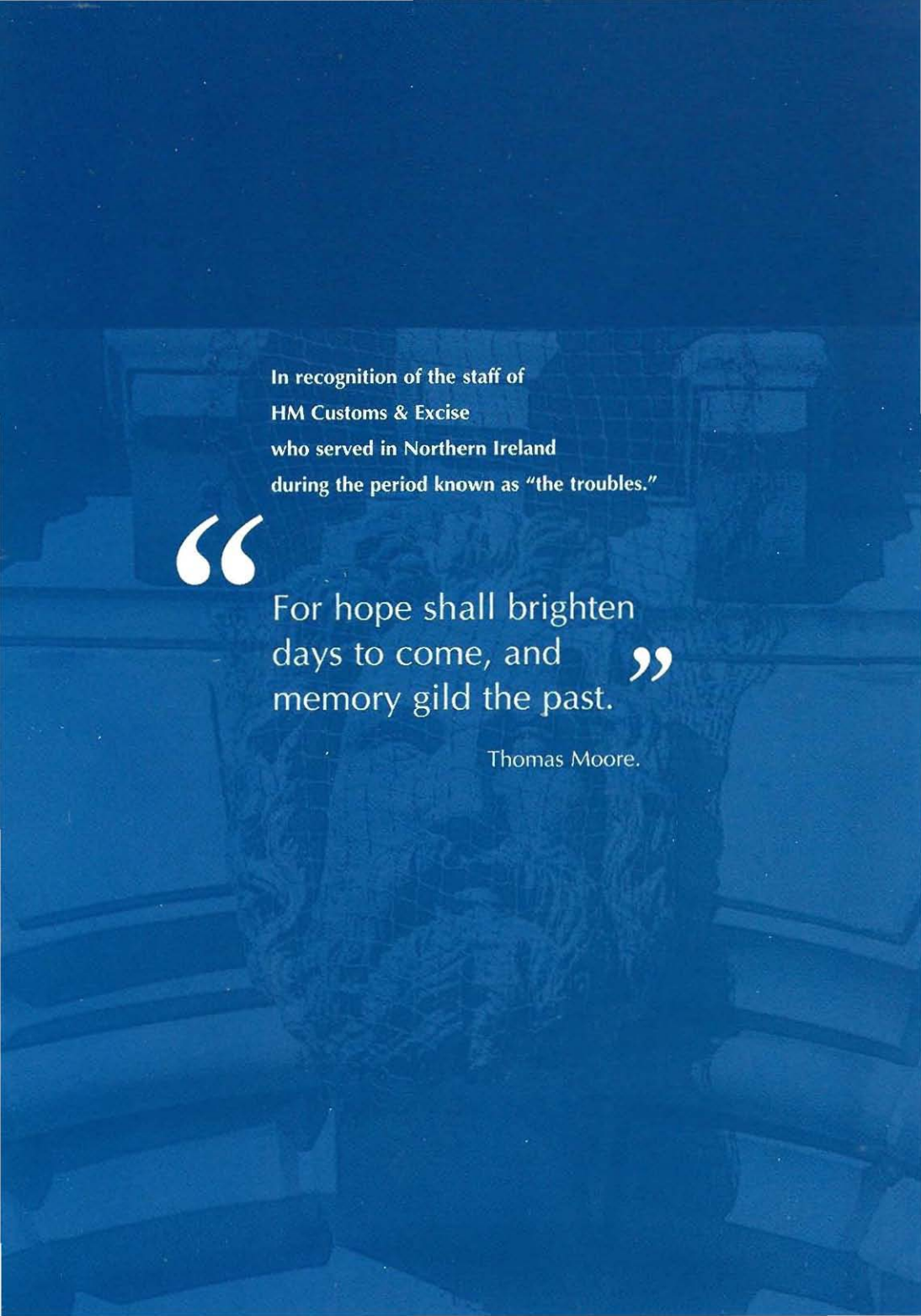


In Memory

Colleagues Remembered

Ian Hankin	27	November	1971
Jimmy O'Neill	27	November	1971
Marshall Lawrence	22	August	1972
Patrick Murphy	22	August	1972
Frank Quinn	22	August	1972
Michael Gilleece	22	August	1972
Ivan Toombs	16	January	1981
Charles Spence	10	November	1982





In recognition of the staff of
HM Customs & Excise
who served in Northern Ireland
during the period known as "the troubles."

“

For hope shall brighten
days to come, and
memory gild the past. ”

Thomas Moore.

