

BOOKS IRELAND

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Glenveagh Mystery: the life, work and disappearance of Arthur Kingsley Porter.

Lucy Costigan, *Merrion*. 336 pp €16.99, pb 22cm +1-908928-11-5. The story of one of those events which was a sensation at the time but has since faded into obscurity—and which nevertheless has some things to say to us today about that time. Costigan has previously written a biography of Harry Clarke, the artist, in *Strangest Genius*, but turns to quite a different subject in this study of Arthur Kingsley Porter, an American professor and owner of Glenveagh Castle, county Donegal. In 1933 he disappeared from Inishbofin Island and left behind a mystery. Rumours of foul play and an engineered disappearance abounded. Costigan looks at Ireland and America in the early twentieth century to explain just who Porter was and why he was significant. Behind the façade of a happy and successful life and marriage she uncovers a dark secret that may lie behind his disappearance. A fascinating insight into a genuine mystery which also throws light on forgotten aspects of Ireland in the 1920s and 1930s. Biography. Ireland.