

Cornmarket Science Exhibition

In 1889, an International Science Exhibition was organised by the Christian Brothers, in Cork and a significant feature was the presence of an electric tram, carrying 8 passengers for a distance of 400 feet. It was the first time an electric vehicle was shown to the public.

It was 9 more years (1898) before an electric tramway system was introduced to Cork City with 3 main routes: Blackpool to Douglas, Summer Hill North to Sundays Well & Tivoli to Blackrock.



Shining a Light

Burke introduced Cork people to their first experience, of the practical use of electricity, for illumination purposes in 1877. Br Burke, based at the North Monastery, had met with many influential people in the City, including Gerard Percival, who was the founder of Cork's first firm of electrical contractors.

To celebrate the Episcopal Jubilee of Pope Pius IX Burke fixed an Arc Light to the top of the school and shone a light out over the City of Cork. It was said at the time that the people of Cork City "*gazed with wonder at the great beam of white light which, crossing the City, brightened up the hills far across the Lee*"

Photo (Left): Br Burke in his Laboratory at the North Mon.

International Exhibitions

Br Burke and the students of the North Monastery also had a significant impact at the Cork International Exhibition of 1902/1903, at Fitzgerald's Park, Cork.

It was said by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction that "*it was worth a journey to Cork to see the radiant benevolence of Brother Burke's countenance as he and his colleagues preside over the little band of youthful Irish students in the model school workshop, school laboratory and schools gardens*".

The North Mon would later take to the world stage, where it was represented at the International Exhibition, in St Louis, in 1904.

Br Burke died on the 23rd of March 1904, and he is buried in the Brothers' Cemetery, at the Mon.

John Phillip Holland

Another famous North Mon alumni. Br Holland is best known as the creator of the modern submarine, but without his inspirational teacher Br Burke, he may not have succeeded.

Br Burke supported his student's experimentation, by constructing a wooden model of a submarine. Experiments, using the model submarine, were carried out in the school ornamental pond. Explosives were used in some of the experiments.

Burke also assisted Holland with these experiments.



Photo (Left):
John Philip
Holland
emerging
from his
submarine

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The North Monastery's Technical Genius

1834 – 1904

