NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR IRISH STUDIES

April, 1965

Professor Kersnowski, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Trinity University, Texas, has undertaken the responsibility for organizing the Modern Language Association Conference of A.C.I.S. in Chicago for December, 1965. The topic has not yet been selected. Professor Cahill, State University College at Cortland, New York is completing arrangements for the joint session of the American Historical Association and A.C.I.S. in San Francisco for December, 1965.

A copy of John C. Messenger's excellent bibliography on Irish Folk Culture can be had by writing him at Folklore Institute, University of Indiana, Bloomington, Indiana.

Releases of the Irish-American Cultural Institute (I.A.C.I.)—a competition for literature in Irish with annual awards totaling $9,800 and the announcement of a new scholarly quarterly devoted to matters of Irish interest—can be had by writing Dr. John McKiernan, College of St. Thomas, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

Enclosed are copies of newspaper releases forwarded to me by John Appel who arranged last December's joint session of the A.C.I.S. and American Historical Association—"Beyond the Melting Pot: Irish and Jewish Separateness in American Society."

I want to thank the members of the Committee who responded so thoughtfully and fully to my request for newsletter items. There is so much that is important and suggestive that in many cases I am passing along the full response.


Mary C. Bromage's (University of Michigan) Churchill and Ireland was published by the University of Notre Dame Press this past fall. The Sunday Press in Dublin serialized a large portion of the book, beginning in September, in weekly installments.

Gilbert A. Cahill is completing a Heath pamphlet on The Great Reform Bill of 1832 - Liberal or Conservative?

William S. Clark's (University of Cincinnati) second volume on Irish theatricals in the eighteenth century will be published by the Clarendon Press. It will be entitled The Irish Stage in the County Towns, 1720-1800.

Ann B. Costello (General Delivery (1), Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin) writes of an interesting document she found in the letters of the late John Godby Gregory, author of The History of Wisconsin (4 vol.). The document concerned an American Emigration Cooperative Association 1849. G. Richard Gregory was the Dublin representative who selected and signed up the Irish for residence in Wisconsin on his father's tracts of land.
Robert B. Davis (Parsons College, Fairfield, Iowa) writes "From August 20 to September 2, 1961, my wife and I with our younger son Charles toured Ireland, covering over 2500 miles. This tour came at the end of a four month trip which took us to England, Switzerland, England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. We attended the Eistedffod in Wales, and the Edinburgh Festival in Scotland. In Ireland, our base was Dublin, where I worked at the National Library of Ireland and the Library of Trinity College. Jim MacMahon, son of Bryan MacMahon, was our constant companion, and with him we visited Bryan and Kitty at Listowel. I was gathering material for a book on AE, and as a result also visited his birthplace in County Armagh and the places in Donegal where he used to visit."

The book on AE will be in the Twayne English Authors Series. As I am on leave this semester, I should be able to make considerable headway. My deadline at present is October 1.

I am interested in leading a tour to the Sixth Yeats Summer School at Sligo, if we can make necessary arrangements and find enough interested people. It will be also very interesting for Yeats's birth and should be very festive. (Do you know if anyone is planning such a trip?)

The Dolmen Press announces a series of papers to be published during the centenary of Yeats's birth. The pre-publication subscription is fifty two shillings and sixpence ($7.50 U.S.). A series of ten issues is planned. Address: The Dolmen Press Limited, 23 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2, Ireland."

Mr. Davis notes that Mr. Alan Denson, English author and reviewer, editor of Letters from AE and Printed Writings of George W. Russell (AE), is interested in securing a position in the United States. He is an excellent bibliographer, and should be valuable in a library position. The unfortunate thing is that he has no university degrees. Professor Davis has Mr. Denson's vita and if anyone is interested, he can get in touch with Professor Davis.

Mrs. Samuel S. Duryee (333 E. 68th Street, New York 21, N.Y.) writes "My husband and I have been every summer to the Yeats International Summer School in Sligo and plan to be there again this summer. In this country I have given several informal talks about the School, adding a few of Yeats' poems at the end and some of my own ideas about the poems and Yeats' position in Ireland today. Places I have lectured include: the English Club at Hunter College, Seton Hall University, College of the School, Groton School and Westover School. Also the Cosmopolitan Club."

Owen Dudley Edwards' "American Diplomats and Irish Coercion, 1880-1893" will be one of two papers at the session on Irish-Americans and American Diplomacy—55th annual meeting of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association. Richard S. Duff's "Irish-American Opposition to the Versailles Treaty" will be the second paper. Joseph F. O'Ready of La Salle College chaired the session and Milton Plester, State University of New York, Buffalo and David Fletcher, Hamline University will be the commentators.

At the request of Frank O'Brian, Philip Edwards (Trinity College - this year at the University of Michigan) has sent along this interesting report, and at the moment, a visiting professor here, and I am trying to make known to interested people in the States a proposed new degree course in Irish Studies that we very much hope it will be possible to start at Trinity College, Dublin, in the Fall of 1965."

The idea for the degree course really came from Frank O'Connor. I had arranged for him to act as "Special Lecturer in the Literature of Ireland," and in 1963/64 he gave a brilliant series of lectures on the growth of literature in Ireland from earliest times to the present day, but he felt the isolation of these lectures, and proposed to the board of Trinity College that they should consider establishing a professorship in the literature of Ireland, with a curriculum for students. We set up a committee which produced a scheme for a four-year undergraduate course in Irish Studies. Its contents would be Irish History, Irish Literature in both languages - and therefore, of course, the study of the Irish language - and the sociology and culture of Ireland as a whole. The proposed four-year course would be used by graduate students to enable them to take a Masters Degree in two years.

The establishment of this degree course means an enlargement of the faculty, which Trinity could not possibly afford by itself, and we must therefore depend upon the Government's agreement that this course, with the financial implications, should be begun. If we get a Government grant, and the course is established, we hope very much that a number of American students will offer themselves for the two-year graduate programme. I should also very much like to think that we could count on having in our school regular an American scholar anxious to continue some of his work in Ireland, and prepared to do a small amount of teaching as well.

Once the degree course in Irish Studies is established, I believe it will be easier to make better progress with a number of research programmes which have been in mind for many months. The first is the creation of a "Dictionary of the Literature of Ireland." Such a dictionary, containing biographical and bibliographical entries and a good deal of information on the history and topography of Ireland as it is relevant to a reading, especially of Anglo-Irish literature would, I believe, be invaluable. Even entries guiding the beginner on the pronunciation of Irish names would be a useful thing.

The second research programme would be the publication of Texts of the Irish Drama. Modern reprints of older plays, going as far back as Langlands and including St. Stephen's Green and Charles Shadwell's plays again seem to me very necessary.

There is no question in my mind that there is any point in trying in Ireland to emulate the intensity of study which the culture of Ireland is now receiving in the States; we just do not have the resources, but I believe that we could help the American interest in Irish studies by being, not merely a passive archeological subject, but a more vital centre of study."

James Ford (Boston Public Library, Boston 17, Massachusetts) is compiling bibliographies of Mary M. Coles and Padruic Colum.


William D. Griffin (Queens College - 83-45 Victory Ave., Elmhurst 73, New York) is "gathering material for a book on Dublin in the era of Grattan's Parliament." He would be pleased to hear from anyone who is working in the same general field and to receive any information or suggestions."

James C. Heney (760 Elliott Square Building, Buffalo 3, New York) writes to advise our membership of the formation of a new Irish American Historical group, the Committee of Irish Americans. The stated objective of the Council is to acquaint Irish Americans with their Irish heritage and familiarize them with the great contribution played by the Irish in the building of America. It is our feeling that too few Americans of Irish descent really know about the contributions made by our people since arriving on these shores and it is the intention of the Council to publicize these facts. For instance, few Americans realize that about forty percent of George Washington's army was made up of Irishmen or that Columbus had Irish among his crew or that there is considerable historical support for the claim that the Irish were actually the first to discover America. We hope to put out a publication containing historical items of interest to Irish Americans and welcome any contributions from members of the American Committee for Irish Studies. Any articles to be submitted should contain no more than two thousand words. The Council is a non-profit, non-sectarian organization and we welcome new associate members. Applications for membership can be made by writing to the National Council of Irish Americans, Elliott Square Building, Buffalo, N.Y. 14210. In view of the fact that many of your members are history professors, possibly our organization may be of interest to some of them."

Richard M. Kein (Louisville) is on sabbatical leave and plans to spend the late spring and summer in Dublin on further research. He participated in a symposium on Yeats with Roger McNich (University College, Dublin) and David Greene (New York University) at the University of Indiana in January.

Israel Kaplan (State University College at Potsdam, New York) is teaching The Irish in England and also conducting other research including an airing "the Yeats, Moore, Gregory, Synge, "the 1916 poets," Stephens, O'Casey and Joyce."

The American edition of The Dolmen Boudica, edited with an Introduction by David Krouse (Brooklyn Edition) will be published this spring by DuBose Editions, Chester Springs, Pa. The book was published last year by the Dolmen Press of Dublin and Oxford University Press of London.

Helen Landreth (Curator Special Irish Collection, Bapst Library, Boston College) has published The Mind and Heart of Mary Chaundler -as Shown in Selections from a personal correspondence with Helen Landreth.

Emmet Larkin and Cormac K.H. O'Malley forwarded the following release of the Office of Public Relations, Massachusetts Institute of Technology- "An Irish Arts Festival was presented in the Little Theatre of Kresge Auditorium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, from Friday, February 12 through Sunday, February 14. The Festival, sponsored by the MIT Humanities Department, Course XII Society, the Lecture Series Committee and the American Committee for Irish Studies in conjunction with the exhibition of paintings by Jack Butler Yeats, exhibited in Hayden Gallery through February 17. Dr. Emmet J. Larkin, assistant professor of history in the MIT Department of Humanities, was instrumental in arranging both the exhibition and festival."

The weekend's program included: the presentation of three one-act plays, "Pull Moon in March" by William Butler Yeats, "A Fourth for Bridge" by Denis Johnston and "Rapunzel" from "The Voice of Shame" by Mary Manning, at 6:30 p.m., February 12 and 13; a talk on De Derga's "Hostel" by James Joyce's "The Dead" by John Kelleher, professor of Modern Irish Literature and History, Harvard University, at 3 p.m. following the three-one act plays at 6:30 p.m., February 13; a talk on the paintings of Jack B. Yeats by Russell B. Conroy, artist and lecturer, Boston Museum of Fine Arts at 2:30 p.m. followed by a talk on the Gate Theatre by Denis Johnston, on February 12.

Emmet Larkin's "Socialism and Catholicism in Ireland" reprinted from Church History appeared in Publications in the Humanities Number 67 from the Department of Humanities Massachusetts Institute of Technology. This article is Emmet's third publication and more importantly, his book James Joyce's "The Dead" by John Kelleher, professor of Modern Irish Literature and History, Harvard University, at 3 p.m. following the three-one act plays at 6:30 p.m., February 13; a talk on the paintings of Jack B. Yeats by Russell B. Conroy, artist and lecturer, Boston Museum of Fine Arts at 2:30 p.m. followed by a talk on the Gate Theatre by Denis Johnston, on February 12.

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Alfred McClung Lee (Brooklyn College) writes that Professor E.R.R. Green, Department of History, University of Manchester, spoke on "Ireland and America" on March 23 in Brooklyn College of the City University of New York.

Reverend J.C. Lehane notes that the British Museum is holding an exhibition of Yeats' writings and that Southern Illinois University at Carbondale is planning a Yeats' centenary. He calls the attention of the members of the Committee to the publication of two books by Lennox Robinson by Michael J. O'Han. "Twayne Publishers, N.Y. I collected Poems by Patrick Kavanagh. Devin-Adair: A Second Consensus of Finnegan's Wake by Adaline Glasehe, Northwestern University Press; Nationalism in Modern Anglo-Irish Poetry, Richard J. Loftus, The University of Wisconsin Press; Time Around the Black Church: Early Memories of Ireland and England by Austin Clark, DuBois Editions; Vice Not by Jean O'Fallon, Atlantic, Little, Brown."

Laurence McCaffrey's book on Daniel O'Connell and the Repeal Year will be published by the University of Kentucky Press.

William F. McCarthy (5th Ashland Ave., River Forest, Illinois) writes "I am now, and have been for some time, engaged in gathering material regarding the Lordship of Muskerry in County Cork, Ireland. Based on the research gathered to date, I have published two articles, The First, "The Royalist Collapse in Munster, 1652-1654," and the second, "The Lordship of Muskerry in the last phase of the Confederate Period in Ireland. The First is to be published in the next number of the Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, and the second, "The Life of Michael O'Callaghan, third Earl of Glancarthy, son of the above mentioned Lord Muskerry,"

I should also be interested in determining whether or not any other members of the ACIS would be able to furnish me with any possible material relating to this area of study.

Finally, in connection with Professor McCaffrey's remarks about the need to compile lists of holdings of Irish material in American libraries, I should like to say that, if such a program is organized, I should be willing to assist in the Chicago area libraries."

John McKiernan (College of St. Thomas) is giving a weekly TV series (September 11-June 11, 1965) shown in 15 cities. The College of St. Thomas sponsors an annual Collier Lecture Series. Last year Denis Donoghue (UCD) gave a brilliant lecture on Yeats. The formation of the IACI - Irish-American Cultural Institute will be of interest to our members as well as their new scholarly quarterly, devoted to...
matters of Irish interest, which will be initiated before the end of the year.


"In the Fall Seminar, 1963-64, I taught the first Ph.D. seminar in English at the City University of New York to be exclusively concerned with Irish literature. To this seminar, at the University of Colorado, I am giving a seminar in Irish-French (or French-Irish) literary relations under the auspices of the Department of French. Does anybody know if such a course has ever been given before?

ACIS Fellowship, mentioned above. Since this is for work in French literature, probably not, except insofar as I will be dealing with a similar set of issues and with the influence of Joyce on the French New Novelists as a whole. Incidentally, my "James Joyce and the Irish Tradition of Parody" is to appear in French translation soon in Configuration critique de James Joyce, II, edited by David Rayman.

I have agreed to edit a Galaxy Book for Oxford University Press, New York, consisting of essays on Irish literature, mainly of the twentieth century. I wish members of the ACIS would send me suggestions for inclusion, other than the classic pieces of criticism on Joyce and Yeats. I would be particularly grateful for pointers to good critical writing about the less widely known writers of the Irish Literary Revival and their successors.

Since the opening number in Fall, 1963, I have been an advisory editor of James Joyce Quarterly..."

John Messener writes "I am now an associate professor in the Folklore Institute, Department of Anthropology, and African Studies Program. What it amounts to is being a part-time Specialist in the Department of Anthropology on the African Studies Program (which does not have its own faculty) and the Irish specialist in the Folklore Institute. During the spring semester I will teach a course entitled "Irish Folk Culture," which may be the first of its kind in this country. I am using books by Arendzen, Danaher, English, O'Sullivan, syme, Yeats, Greene, O'Sullivan, etc., and the course has the following divisions: fields of folklore and ethnology, collection of Irish folklore, Irish history, Irish folk culture and personality, the Irish islands, forms of Irish verbal art in Irish society (folk society and emergent nation), influence of folklore on Irish literature (also drama, music, and the arts), and the use of verbal art in reconstructing Irish history."


James Maxwell Moore (Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont) has published The Role of the Irish Mechanic (New York, 1960) and has completed a research project entitled "Population Increase and Economic Potential in Latin America" (University of Vermont, non-Western culture series, 1963). His "South Viet-Nam: A Western Problem?" appeared in the Norwich alumni magazine The Record. He is presently doing research on General de Gaulle's France and French constitutional development.

Helen Mulvey (Connecticut College) has been promoted to Professor and learns that her bibliographical article on work in Irish History (one of the British Conference Series) will be published later this year by The Historian.

William M. Murray's (State University of Iowa) novel "Michael Joe: A Novel of Irish Life" has been awarded a $2,500 Meredith Prize for 1964. Publication date is March 1967 and this is his first published novel.

James Newcomer (Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas) has published "The Disenhumanizing Thady Quirk," Studies in Short Fiction, Fall, 1964, and "Maria Edgeworth and the Critic," College English, December, 1964. A book length study of Maria Edgeworth's novels is nearing completion.

Michael J. Durkan (Assistant Librarian, Wesleyan University) writes that Wesleyan hopes to publish a catalogue of the Yeats materials at Wesleyan. The Catalogue will not be available until October 1966. At that time, Wesleyan will arrange to make it available to any ACIS member who is interested.


Harold Orel (University of Kansas) is writing a critical study of the writings of Yeats in the 1900's. He notes that Professor Frank C. Hellick (English) is editing 130 letters of P.S. O'Brien to the P.S.O.Hegarty Collection in the Ann Arbor Public Library. Professor A.C. Edwards (English) is editing a collection of recently purchased letters of Lady Gregory. In the History Department Henry L. Snyder is teaching a new course, History 115, History of Ireland, 1105 to present (3 hrs.). Professor Lynn H. Nelson is extending the range of the subject matter of his two courses on Medieval Britain, History 110 and 111, to include Ireland. The Library has acquired during the last few years 373 letters from, to, and about George Moore. They are dated all through his career. It is adding texts and criticisms to its present holdings of a set of Yeats. It has acquired and made available to the press a series of books by Sean O'Casey, including several proofs copies of works personally sent by O'Casey, before he left to take over at UCLA. The
For Celtic Philologia, the Revue Celtique, Érul: the Journal of the School of Irish Learning, Irish Texts (London), as well as in Speculum and various other journals in this country. He has served as an editor of the Journal of Celtic Studies since 1949, as cooperating editor of the Journal of English and German Philology since 1967, and as reader for MLA and other journals. He has taught Old Irish in addition to graduate courses in Old English, Middle English, the History of the English Language, Chaucer, Arthurian Romances, and Spenser. At present he is engaged in completing an edition of 59 unpublished documents written (all in Ireland) between 1780 and 1890 in the hand of Edmund Spenser, for which he received an appointment in 1962 as associate member of the Center for Advanced Study at the University of Illinois.

Charles T. Sullivan (229 East 79th Street, New York, N.Y.) forwards the following information—"Members interested in developing a project to study the psychological characteristics of contemporary Irish-American individuals, as compared with individuals in Ireland, are invited to write to Charles T. Sullivan, Research Center for Human Relations, Department of Psychology, New York University, New York, N.Y. 10003. Members interested in exchanging recent photographs and historical information about Irish castles are invited to correspond with Charles T. Sullivan, 229 East 79th St., New York, N.Y. 10021. Biographical data on the American psychiatrist, Harry Stack Sullivan, M.D. (1892-1949), has been requested by Helen Swick Ferry, 2070 Pacific Ave., San Francisco 9, Calif."

Timothy Sullivan (Villanova University) writes "Rev. Colman O'Huaillean will be opening a language laboratory at Gormanston College, Gormanston in County Meath. It will participate in exchanges of language teachers between France, Germany and Spain, and work closely with their cultural institutes in Ireland. Its importance to those interested in Irish Studies in this country lies in its hopes to do research on the linguistic and phonetic aspects of the Irish language."

The laboratory being built for that purpose will be built on the grounds of Gormanston College. The opening date will be in March of this year. It will be tendered and both President De Valera, and ex-president Sean T. O'Kelly are expected to attend along with the Minister for Irish Education and the heads of the major political parties. Representatives of cultural institutes of major European countries are also expected."

Mabel P. Worthington (Temple University) notes "Expanding Cinema, 729 7th Ave., New York City, has made a film called Passages from Finnegan's Wake, previewed at the Museum of Modern Art in New York on February 14th. The cast is largely Irish, and much of the film was shot in Ireland. Professor John V. Kelleher has a part, that of the TV commentator."

Brother C. B. Quinn (Iona College) calls the attention of ACIS members to the 33rd Annual New York Irish Fels, sponsored by the United Irish Counties Association of New York, to be held on June 20, 1965 on the campus of Hunter College in the Bronx.

Robert T. Reilly (Cresighton University) and Anna Russell (210 East Magnolia St., Arcadia, Florida) both call attention to Dr. Thomas J. Kiernan's efforts on behalf of the American Irish Foundation. The address of the American Irish Foundation is 207 East 77th Street, New York, N.Y. Dr. Kiernan delivered the annual Alpha Sigma Nu Lecture at Creighton University in Omaha on March 24.

Robert Rhodes (State University College at Cortland, New York) will spend a summer and a sabbatical semester researching in Ireland. He has received a State University Grant-in-Aid to study the irony in the editorials of Arthur Griffith. This past year, Rhodes and Gilbert Cahill offered an inter-disciplinary course in which Cahill traced the historical development of Irish nationalism 1800-1930 and Rhodes related the literature of Joyce, Yeats and O'Casey to this developing nationalism. Mr. Rhodes calls attention to The World of William Yeats (University of British Columbia, March 1965) part of the University of British Columbia Festival. He is also studying the poetic reaction to the Easter Rebellion of 1916 and requests the names of authors, titles, and sources of poems and ballads illustrative of this reaction.

George Brandon Saul (University of Connecticut) writes "my most recent book is the edited age of Yeats (Bell, 1964). Articles published during the past year include "The Short Stories of George Moore" (Post-Lore, LXXX, 1, 61-68), "Minor Irish Miscellany" (N.Y. Public Library Bulletin, 5 May), and "A Premise of Concentration: Yeats's Verse from Responsibilities to The King of the Great Clock Tower" (Arizns Q., XX, 2, 101-16). Invited and forthcoming work includes "Summary Notes on Yeats's Dramatic Accomplishments" in the Yeats Centenary volume being published by the University of Ibadan, as well as "Early Irish Poetry," "The Irish Renaissance," and "Later Irish Poetry, Gaelic and English" (the last with Padric Colum) in the warme-McMinnor Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics (Princeton). Other forthcoming articles include "The Brief Fiction of Sean O'Faolain," in the Colby Library Quarterly, and "The Short Stories of Elizabeth Bowen," in the Arizons Q. I have also delivered to the Dolmen Press Forsyth Honors two of my essays on Irish short-story writers) and a pamphlet of essays on Yeats requested for the Centenary series."

Roland M. Smith, Emeritus (University of Illinois),..."after teaching more than 45 years (following service as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1917 to March, 1919), became professor emeritus at the University of Illinois on September 1, 1964. After writing his Ph.D. dissertation on the Irish teacres (A Study of Hettie in 1922-24), he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship (1928-29), renewed in 1933 to study "the historical and legal literature of ancient Ireland," and read Irish law texts with Rudolf Thurneysen in Bonn, Germany, and later in Dublin for 6 months. He served as 'organising secretary' for the Celtic Group which was formally accepted into the Modern Language Association of America at Philadelphia in 1934, and was active in its affairs thereafter. Since 1921 he has published in the Zeitschrift