

A.C.I.S. NEWSLETTER

April 1966
Hollins College
Virginia 24020

Dear Member:

There is only a week remaining before the annual meeting of the Committee, this year at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Mr. Keith Bray, Coordinator of the meeting, has asked that all forms be sent in immediately so that no one will be disappointed in his reservation. If you have not received notice of the meeting and wish to go, write Mr. Bray and request that he make reservations for you; you may also request the shuttle bus service which will leave Kansas City Airport at 7:30 p.m., May 5; the charge of \$5.00 includes a return trip.

Papers and topics for discussion include the following:

"The Origins of Ulster Unionism" - D. Savage, Loyola College, Montreal.

"Inter-Disciplinary Approaches to Irish Studies": Panel Discussion.

"James Joyce and the New French Novel" - Vivian Mercier, University of Colorado.

"Irish Sympathy for the Southern Confederacy" - J. Herson, Catholic University.

"The Status of Yeats Scholarship" - Richard Kain, University of Louisville.

"Modern Poetry in Irish" - Frank O'Brien, Hollins College.

The guest speaker will be Conor Cruise O'Brien, Albert Schweitzer Professor of Humanities, New York University, and the program promises to be well-balanced as well as exciting.

Information Requested

Alan J. Ward, Department of Politics, University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, has been making a study of Anglo-American relations for the period 1899-1921, with particular reference to the Irish Question. He would be interested in writing to anyone who has an interest in that subject and who wishes to exchange information about it.

Yeatsiana

The following journals have had issues devoted to William Butler Yeats; those wishing copies should write their Dublin bookman or the address in parentheses:

Threshold, Autumn 1965 (11 Derryvolgie Ave., Belfast 9)

University Review (University College, Dublin)

If any of the membership is aware of issues devoted to Irish matters in journals which do not have wide circulation, please notify Frank O'Brien, Hollins College, Virginia 24020.

History Notes

The A.C.I.S. and the American Jewish Historical Society met in joint session with the American Historical Association in December 1964. The theme of the session was "Acculturation and Identity in American Society: Irish and Jewish Separateness 'Beyond the Melting Pot.'" The Proceedings of the joint session are available for \$.50 from the A.J.H.S. at 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011.

The articles which should be of special interest to the membership are "Adventure in Freedom" by Irving Greenberg of Yeshiva and "The Irish" by William Shannon of the New York Times. Both gentlemen were concerned with the virtues and vices inherent in becoming an acceptable member of the amorphous organism of American society. Neither man attempts to present any final answer. Indeed, each is concerned with the dilemma of maintaining some older cultural identity in a welter of other cultural forces which seem often antithetical to the spirit of the group in question, Jew and Irish Catholic.

"For the moment, it appears then that most Jews remain with residual Jewish identity and the identity is vulnerable to the forces described above which constitute a formidable and ongoing melting pot. It appears quite possible then that the Jewish population will decline in absolute and relative terms and that much of its present visibility will disappear as it melts into the background of general America. It is entirely possible that the smaller surviving group would be considerably different in shape and values from the present Jews. One guesses it would be more pious, more committed Jewishly, more unabashedly particularistic while still trying to participate in general American culture." (Greenberg)

"The Irish Catholics in the United States have developed an ethnic-and-religious identity. Although the ethnic side of that identity has shown astonishing staying power, it is gradually dwindling in force. However, as long as the Irish remain in the vanguard of the Catholic community in this country, the religious side of that identity will tend to keep the Irish Catholics alive as a discernible sub-group in the larger American society." (Shannon)

Those members who wish to do more reading or research in the area of ethnic and religious identity will be aided considerably by the footnotes in this offprint. And I draw particular attention to Glazer and Moynihan's Beyond the Melting Pot and Shannon's The American Irish.

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The Conference on British Studies has announced a new monograph series to be published by the Conference at the University of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The editors plan to publish scholarly works [from 30,000 to 50,000 words] which are too long for an article in a journal and are usually prohibited by present practices from being published as a book. Authors who have MSS. planned, completed, or in progress are urged to submit descriptions to the Managing Editor, Walter D. Love, 124 Dana Hall, University of Bridgeport, Connecticut, 06602. The editors are looking for "studies which combine rigorous research with speculative generalizations and integrate particular events with larger themes." The first volume of the series, tentatively scheduled for publication in December 1966, will be selected from those MSS. under examination as of March 31, 1966. Manuscripts received later than March 31, 1966, will be considered for succeeding volumes, to be published at the rate of at least one a year.

Gráinne Yeats

As part of its Yeats Centenary last fall, Hollins College sponsored a harp concert by the daughter-in-law of the late poet. Mrs. Yeats is an accomplished musician and knows considerable about the history of harp music in Ireland and on the Continent. Michael B. Yeats has written to say that he and his wife will be touring this country again in April of next year. Anyone wishing to contact them about a concert should write "Cliff House," Colliemore Road, Dalkey, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Works Completed

The University of Washington Press in Seattle has just published Bernard Benstock's Joyce-Again's Wake: An Analysis of Finnegans Wake. Starting with a discussion of the problems and confusions of interpretation, Benstock goes on to summarize Joyce's statements in the fields of politics and religion, and the ways in which these statements have been distorted. He proceeds to analyze the poetic qualities of Joyce's language, the types of comedy employed, and the use of various epic conventions in parallel and parody, concluding with an assessment of Joyce's attitude toward his material, his involvement with his characters, and his feeling toward society. An appendix provides certain techniques for unraveling some of Joyce's inexhaustibly complex language play. The author has intended a work which would be understood by readers of Joyce who have been puzzled and frustrated by other published studies which seem esoteric and idiosyncratic in the extreme.

John Moore, another member of the Committee, has had his "The Idea of a Yeats Play" appear in W. B. Yeats: Centenary Essays (Ibadan University Press, Ibadan, Nigeria 1965). Two other members of the Committee, Richard Kain ("Yeats and Irish Nationalism") and G. B. Saul ("Yeats' Dramatic Accomplishment") also appear in this volume along with other American, British, and African writers.

Your editor will be pleased to note other items of members' works finished or in progress.

Obituary

The Committee notes in sorrow the deaths of Frank O'Connor, Briar O'Nolan, and Francis MacManus. All three men have made distinctive contributions to the literature and cultural character of modern Ireland. Your editor met Francis MacManus briefly in Ireland and knew him for an extremely gracious and sensitive person.

Dues

For those few of you who have not received Emmet Larkin's letter, please note that annual dues (\$4.00) are to be sent immediately to his M.I.T. address. After September 1, the honorable treasurer will be in the Department of History at the University of Chicago. Those special few who have neglected to post last year's dues are asked to forward the extra amount as well. The Committee has no bankroll to speak of, and it depends on dues to pay for mailing and the costs of monographs, bibliographies, or books issued yearly to the membership.

Donations

Anna Russell, a member of the Committee, has very graciously made the following donations to the Smithsonian Institute: Daniel O'Connell Medal issued in 1875 to commemorate the centenary of his birth and an Irish Republic Bond [Fenian Bond] 1866.

The art collection housed in the Yeats Room of Sligo County Museum was handsomely enriched in the course of the year past when James A. Healy presented nineteen works by John Butler Yeats, his son Jack B. Yeats, and an early portrait of the poet by AE. The gift will be known as the John and Catherine Healy Collection in memory of the donor's parents. Since 1959 Mr. Healy has also been making gifts of Cuala Press and other rare books and magazines to the Yeats Memorial Collection in the Sligo Museum. He is still adding to the book collection and hopes in time to fill in the very scarce items which are still needed to complete the set of Dun Emer and Cuala Press publications.

Mr. Healy is also responsible for the well-known Irish collection at Colby.

Positions

Your editor has no wish to begin an employment column in this Newsletter, but the following request from Connor R. Hartnett of St. Peter's in Jersey City is viewed as an exception because of the distance of the post seeker from his market:

"Mr. Gordon MacLennan, who is a friend of mine, wants to make a dialect study of what survives of Gàidhlig in Nova Scotia and in order to do that would like to get a position in a college or university in eastern Canada or northeastern United States. He teaches at University College at present. . . If anyone has information, they can write either to me or directly to MacLennan at U.C.D."

MacLennan's vita indicates that he has had considerable experience in teaching and dialect study; he is a graduate of Edinburgh and, excepting 1963, he has taught in the Department of Modern Irish at U.C.D. since 1957. Among other activities, he has published in Éigse, Celtica and Comhar.

Articles of Interest

John Messenger has forwarded a list of very informative articles by Aubrey Gwynn, S.J., on the subject of Irish Emigration. They can be obtained from the Library, Trinity College Dublin at nine pence the double page xeroxed:

"Early Irish Emigration to the West Indies (1612-1643)," September, 1929 pp. 377-393.

"Early Irish Emigration to the West Indies, Part II," December, 1929, pp. 648-663.

"Indentured Servants and Negro Slaves in Barbados (1642-1650)," June, 1930, pp. 279-294.

"Cromwell's Policy of Transportation," December, 1930, pp. 607-623.

"Cromwell's Policy of Transportation, Part II," June, 1931, pp. 291-305.

"The First Irish Priests in the New World," June, 1932, pp. 213-228.

Analecta Hibernica:

"Documents Relating to the Irish in the West Indies," October, 1932, pp. 139-286.

From: Dublin Public Record Office, London Public Record Office, British Museum Manuscripts, West Indian Archives, Virginia Archives, Archivo de Indias Seville, Portuguese

Archives, French Archives, Propaganda Archives Rome, Jesuit Archives, Franciscan Archives, Other Printed Sources.

The Swift Tercentenary Committee

The following was sent by the Swift Tercentenary Committee in Dublin:

"A committee was formed in Dublin in the summer of 1965 to make arrangements for the three-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Jonathan Swift in 1667.

"The patron of the committee is the President of Ireland, His Excellency Éamon de Valera, and its activities are under the joint auspices of Trinity College, Dublin, and University College, Dublin. The chairman of the committee is the Chief Justice of Ireland, Cearbhall O Dálaigh, and the members include the present Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the superintendent of the hospital Swift founded (St. Patrick's), the professor of history at Swift's university (Trinity College), the Librarian of the National Library; Mrs. Sybil Le Brocquy (from whom the suggestion for forming a committee first came), Dr. C. S. Andrews, Miss M. Pollard. The joint secretaries are the professors of English of Trinity College and University College, Dr. Philip Edwards and Dr. Roger McHugh.

"The committee is arranging a four-day commemoration of Swift to be held in Dublin from Tuesday, April 25 to Friday, April 28, 1967. About two hundred visitors from Europe, America and elsewhere will be invited. These visitors will include scholars who have contributed to the study of Swift's writings and the history of his time, and representatives of universities and other institutions. There will be a series of lectures by leading Irish, English and American authorities. Exhibitions at Trinity College and the National Gallery will be opened during the symposium. There will be a special service at St. Patrick's, with an oration in 'Swift's corner'--- the site of his tomb. Visits will be made to places which have special associations with Swift. It is hoped that a special repertory of plays--perhaps those that were produced in Swift's Dublin--will be in performance at the theatres. Special programmes on radio and television are being planned, and a concert is to be arranged. About this time, too, a commemorative postage-stamp will be issued.

"Before the end of 1967 (Swift's birthday was actually November 30th) the Dolmen Press will publish a book of studies, the substance of which will be the lectures delivered during the April symposium. The historians, scholars and critics contributing include Mr. Austin Clarke, Mr. Herbert Davis, Professor Irvin Ehrenpreis, Professor Louis Landa, Dr. R. B. McDowell, Professor Vivian Mercier, Professor R. Quintana, Dr. J. G. Simms, Professor T. R. Sutherland. The book as a whole will serve as a valuable interpretation of Swift's achievement and of the Ireland of his time."

Film Notes

"Yeats Country" was awarded a diploma of merit by the Film Festival Council of the 1965 Edinburgh International Film Festival. Of the 146 films screened during the Festival 19 were awarded diplomas. The same film was chosen one of the ten best of its kind during the Council of Europe Film Week last year. For information about this film and others to do with Ireland, please contact the Department of External Affairs, St. Stephen's Green in Dublin, or write the Irish Embassy in Washington. In all such requests, be sure to specify the film width your projection equipment can handle.

Visitor

The Irish novelist and short-story writer Benedict Kiely, formerly a writer in residence at Hollins, is completing his school year at the University of Oregon in Eugene.

Yeats Festival

Hollins celebrated a Yeats anniversary festival last November. Louis Lentin of Irish Television produced and directed two Yeats' plays and Gráinne Yeats gave a harp concert. George Harper of Chapel Hill and John Moore gave papers on Yeats and the drama. John Moore's essay has since appeared in centenary essays published by the University at Ibadan, Nigeria.

Change of Address and News Items

Please continue to forward change of location notice to your editor. Please notify me of any publications or awards concerning the membership. It is impossible for the Committee to support a clipping service, a bibliographical staff, or national communications facility. In short, the only way in which the membership can be apprised of what is going on is if each of you forward information you come upon.

Frank O'Brien

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