

ACIS Newsletter

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ACIS Elections

It would seem that the Committee elections manifest a national symptom: the Secretary has informed me that several places are in doubt because of ties and near-ties and a few ballots which had been mailed and not yet received.

The results will be published in a few weeks.

Work in Progress

Frank Kersnowski of Trinity College, San Antonio will be visiting Ireland this summer to continue his study of contemporary Irish literature. He would appreciate correspondence from any of the membership who could help him in meeting the newer poets.

Yeats International Summer School

The Director for the tenth session will be A. Norman Jeffares, and the School will run from 9th to 22nd August. Lecturers this summer include: Eavan Boland, Brendan Kennelly, Sybil Le Brocq, Vivian Mercier, and Jon Stallworthy. A brochure and full information may be obtained in January from Mrs. Kathleen Moran, Secretary, Yeats International Summer School, Stephen Street, Sligo, Ireland. Telephone: 2680.

James Joyce Symposium

The Second International Joyce Symposium will be held in Dublin from 10 June to 16 June, 1969. The sessions will include papers, panels, and discussions by Joyce scholars from all over the world. Some of the panels include the following: "The Nature of Symbolism in Joyce," "The Definitive Text of Finnegans Wake," "The Problems of Translation," "The Issy Figure in Finnegans Wake," and "The Oxen of the Sun Episode." Also included this year will be a day-long trip to Galway, a walking seminar on the Lotus-Eaters episode and the traditional Bloomsday pilgrimage through Dublin to the Joyce Tower at Sandycove. Additional entertainments are also planned, including films, a Joyce musicale, an evening performance of Joyce's works by Merle Gorley, and a new play based on Joyce's letters, Night Boat from Dublin, by Harry Pollock. Every evening at 5:30 there

will be a social gathering at the Bailey in Duke Street, which now houses an interesting old door, all that is left of 7 Eccles Street.

For registration information, write to David F. Ward, 1823 South Carson, Tulsa, Oklahoma, or to the James Joyce Quarterly, University of Tulsa.

Cataloging of Celtic MSS.

As announced last year in this newsletter, Stephen M. Agli, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Celtic Languages and Literature at Harvard, wishes to find out the location and character of Irish language manuscript material in the United States and Canada. This semester past, Mr. Agli has contacted the librarians associated with ACIS members. If you are aware of any new or special holdings in Irish language material from your own travels and researches on this continent, please inform Mr. Agli at 3 Felton Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. There may be societies or private persons in possession of such material that Mr. Agli is unaware of, and a postcard from you would be a great help in completing an important project.

Attention: Historians

Stephen Bancroft of 59 Whitethorn Road, Clonskea, Dublin, has begun a doctoral project for Trinity College which is within the general area of the relationship between the United States and Ireland from 1922 to 1963. He would be interested in any information on unpublished theses or articles within this period and topic.

Dolmen Press and Dufour Editions

Because your editor has confused the matter some, he wishes to bring to your attention again that the Dolmen Press books are distributed in this country by Dufour Editions of Chester Springs, Pennsylvania. This writer unwittingly listed the shilling prices next to some Dolmen editions and furthered the misapprehension that there is no American distributor for this Dublin house. There is a most efficient one in the person of Jeanne H. Dufour. If you wish to be placed on her mailing list for current Dolmen items, please contact Dufour Editions. The zip is 19425.

One item on the Dufour list is The Dolmen Press Yeats; Centenary Papers: MCMLXV. During the anniversary year, the Press commenced the issue of a series of papers devoted to various aspects of his life and work. The twelve monographs are now bound in one attractive volume, with an introduction by Jon Stallworthy. General editor is Liam Miller, head of Dolmen. The whole work extends the literature about W. B. Yeats into new areas of interest; there are over five hundred pages in Royal octavo and there are seventy-one illustrations, many of these shown for the first time in a Yeatsian context. Printed on a fine Irish paper from the mill which provided the paper for the Cuala Press, the book has a solid buckram binding. Only four hundred sets are available for sale in the United States; the price is \$22.00.

The twelve papers are:

- I Yeats and the Easter Rising, by Edward Malins. With twelve illustrations.
- II Beulah to Byzantium, by Raymond Lister. With fifteen illustrations.
- III Yeats and Inisfree, by Russell K. Alspach.
- IV Yeats's Idea of the Gael, by Giles W. L. Telfer.
- V Yeats and the Irish Eighteenth Century, by Peter Faulkner.
- VI Yeats and the Noh: Types of Japanese Beauty and their Reflection in Yeats's Plays, by Hiro Ishibashi. Edited by Anthony Kerrigan. With thirty plates.
- VII In ... Luminous Wind. Essays assembled for the Yeats Centenary by George Brandon Saul.
- VIII Yeats's Last Poems Again, by Curtis Bradford.
- IX Yeats's Quest for Eden, by George M. Harper.
- X Yeats and Patrick McCartan. A correspondence edited by John Unterecker, with a paper by Patrick McCartan on Yeats the Fenian. With six illustrations.
- XI Yeats and Joyce, by Richard Ellmann.
- XII Yeats and Music, by Edward Malins. With seven illustrations.

R.I.A. Committee

In September of this year, the following letter was received from Alan J. Bliss at the Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2:

"I am writing to you on behalf of the Committee for Anglo-Irish Studies which has recently been established by the Royal Irish Academy. The function of this Committee is to promote and facilitate research connected with Irish literature in the English language, and with the vocabulary and idioms of English as it is spoken in Ireland.

"Our first aim is to compile and maintain an index of work in progress all over the world in the field of Anglo-Irish literature -- in which of course we shall include work being done on the Anglo-Irish dialect; and for this purpose we are now seeking your help.

"The utility of such an index needs no stressing; it will help to avoid wasteful duplication of effort, and it will also show up outstanding lacunae which may be of interest to those choosing fresh fields of research. The index will be available in Academy House for consultation by scholars visiting Dublin, and we shall be glad to answer enquiries by letter. We also hope in due course to circulate to those who have indicated their interest in this project an annual handlist similar to those already being compiled and circulated for some other fields of study.

"We feel that for the time being we shall have to content ourselves with listing work as yet unpublished, but in due course it may prove possible to issue an Annual Bibliography of Anglo-Irish Studies.

"We cannot hope to achieve our aims without the cooperation of universities all over the world, and we should therefore be very grateful if you would let us have details of work which is being undertaken by you and your colleagues, members of your staff, or your graduate students. We should be grateful for any suggestions or advice that you may feel inclined to offer."

N.B. The R.I.A. Committee is interested in theses, articles, books, reviews, and bibliographical projects. Where pertinent, the following kind of information is needed: author, title, director, degree for which submitted, whether in preparation or completed, publisher, date of publication, and, in the case of reviews, author and title of item reviewed. Correspond directly with Mr. Bliss.

Proscenium Press

This Fall, the Press, headed by Robert Hogan, has launched an Irish Play series. The first four titles are: "North City Traffic Straight Ahead" by James Douglas; "Hut 42" by John B. Keane; "The Fooleen" by Thomas Murphy; and "The End of Mrs. Oblong" by Seamus de Burca.

These booklets run to fifty pages and cost \$1.25 each. Although one would have to consult the authors for permission, they make attractive acting scripts; as well, of course, are they convenient ways of keeping in touch with recent dramatic undertakings in Ireland. There is a biographical sketch in each book along with a mention of the author's other works.

The Proscenium Press is also now printing the first volume of Joseph Holloway's Irish Theatre, edited by Hogan and Michael J. O'Neill. It shall begin where the Press's previous volume, Joseph Holloway's Abbey Theatre, left off (1926) and continue to Holloway's death in 1944. It will be issued in three volumes, stiff-paper, wrappers, sell for \$2.00 each, and be about twice as long as the earlier Holloway book. It will be available in early January. For information, write the Proscenium Press, P. O. Box 561, Dixon, California 95620.

AHA/MLA/ACIS: Seasonal Diversions

After Christmas, the historians and literary types will be converging for their various conventions in New York City. Messrs. McCaffrey, Curran, and Cahill will be happy to meet and cheer any and all ACIS members in their Statler Hilton suite on the evening of 28 December. Again, all are welcome.

British Studies Prize

The Conference on British Studies announces an annual prize in honor of Walter D. Love to be awarded for a published work in the field of British, Irish, or Commonwealth studies. Nominations should be sent by 1 April 1969 to the Prizes Committee member for languages and literature, Leland Miles, Alfred University, Alfred, New York 14802.

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The Scriblerian

The first issue of The Scriblerian, a semi-annual newsletter devoted to the lives and works of the original members of the Scriblerus Club, has now been published. Because of the Irish connection some of these men had with Ireland, your editor brings this publication to your attention; though he is unaware of the contents of this issue. The subscription rate is \$2.00 for two issues. Money and request for information should be sent to The Scriblerian, c/o Peter Tasch, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19122.

Request: Irish Tourist Board

Because there is no current compilation of the information sought, this is passed along for the membership's information and help. The Tourist Board of 590 Fifth Avenue, New York 10036, would like brief descriptions of Irish Studies programs and courses operative in this country. Please send any information to Miss Joan Ennis at the above address. It would help if you included some general outline of special qualifications when necessary and an approximation of students enrolled.

Bulletin of the Department of External Affairs

Number 788 of the Irish Government's External Affairs organ (September 24, 1968) is devoted to the life and works of Countess Markievicz, as part of the centenary celebrations of her birth. There are several fine illustrations. Those interested in obtaining a copy should write to the Department at Stephen's Green, Dublin, Ireland. Subscription to the Bulletin is free.

Dues

Those of you remiss in your annual dues should send them to Joseph M. Hernon, Department of History, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742.

Higher Education Authority Established

On August 15, the Minister of Education, Mr. Brian Lenihan, announced that the Government has set up a permanent authority to deal with the financial and organisational problems of higher education. The Authority is to be known as the Higher Education Authority, and it will have statutory powers. The Minister said the Authority would act on an ad hoc basis pending the framing of necessary legislation.

In the meantime, the Authority will advise the Minister on the nature and form of legislation required to implement recent government decisions, including that to merge University College, Dublin, and Trinity College into one university. It will also advise the Minister on how best to achieve the dissolution of the National University of Ireland and the giving of separate university status to University College, Galway, and University College, Cork, and on the formation of a Conference of Irish Universities to deal principally with academic problems common to all university institutions.

Higher Education Merger: NUI Club Meeting

The last issue of the Newsletter reported on an October discussion to do with issue of the Trinity and UCD merger as well as the question of higher education in Ireland generally. The following report was drawn from remarks made by one of those in attendance at the National University of Ireland Club meeting at the Princeton Club in Manhattan:

The meeting was crowded, with 175 people in the audience, each of them having paid \$5.00 for the privilege of coming. The Minister of Education, Mr. Brian Lenihan, made a half hour speech in defense of the merger bill. A letter was read from Jeremiah Hogan, President of University College, Dublin, protesting about the way in which the merger is being carried out, but speakers on the panel were, unfortunately, all on one side of the argument. Professor John O'Meara, of the Classics Department of UCD and currently at the Institute for Advance Studies in Princeton, substituted for President Hogan. However, he disagreed with President Hogan and defended the merger. The other two panelists were Kevin Sullivan and D. H. Greene. Each of the panelists spoke for 15 or 20 minutes and took part in the lively and heated discussion which came from the audience afterwards. The audience was, of course, almost entirely made up of graduates of UCD, and they were obviously moved by President Hogan's expression of disapproval.

One UCD graduate asked the Minister why he thought the United States' system of education should serve as a model in any way for the Irish universities and demanded to know in what way American education equalled, much less surpassed, the Irish system. The Minister pointed out that the two most powerful nations in the world today were Russia and the United States and that each of them spent far more of public money on education than any country in Western Europe. He pointed out that he was not holding a brief for any particular aspect of American education but that he admired the American people for being willing to spend so much to build universities and to keep them strong. Specifically, he pointed out that the American system of establishing equality in teacher's salaries throughout the grades of the primary and secondary schools was something which he hoped to duplicate in Ireland.

One interesting sidelight of the meeting was that it was picketed by three members of the IRA. Since the meeting was held in the Princeton Club, the picketing was done on the sidewalk outside, and of course the three picketers were invited to attend the meeting. They seemed to be not the slightest bit interested in the university question -- they merely wanted to place before the Minister and the Irish ambassador to the U. N. their objections to the partition of Ireland.

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A separate mailing of a current bibliography of books of Irish interest will follow.

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Your editor and the Executive of ACIS send out their best wishes to all of you and your families for a happy Christmastide filled with all the promise of the season.