A MUSICAL NOTE

The Ms. of Robert L. Wright's *Irish Emigrant Ballads and Songs* received the (MSU) University College Book Award, a subsidy of one thousand dollars toward publication, this June past. Members who might have suggestions about publishers for this collection of four hundred songs should write the author at the University College campus in East Lansing; he is in the department of American Thought and Language.

DUES NOTICE

Just a reminder that you owe dues for 1969. Payment now will cover this academic year. The next dues notice will be sent out in the fall of 1970. Would you please send your check for $4.00 to our secretary: Professor Robert E. Rhodes, Department of English, State College at Cortland, Cortland, New York 13045.

He will then forward your check to me after he adds your name to the paid-up membership list. Please make the check payable to "American Committee for Irish Studies."

Sincerely yours,
Joseph M. Hernon, Jr.
Treasurer, ACIS

BOOK NOTE

The Irish Drama Series, under the general editorship of William J. Feeney of DePaul University, continues with *The Bending of the Bough*, the third issue in this worthwhile project. Price of this handsome booklet is $2.00. Please send remittances to Mr. Feeney in care of the Department of English.

THESSES CATALOGUE

The Institute of Irish Studies at the Queen's University of Belfast has recently published a listing of postgraduate theses on subjects relating to Ireland for the years 1950 to 1967; all faculties of the University are represented. Professor E. E. Evans was the director of the operation and all inquiries regarding copies of the listing should be addressed to him at Queen's.
NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Be reminded again that this year’s ACIS meeting will be sponsored by Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The meetings are Thursday, May 7, through Saturday, May 9, and the theme is the "Roots of Ulster". Directing the program will be Carroll L. Riley of the Department of Anthropology. Those who wish to volunteer papers or ideas should write Thomas Kinsella, Department of English, S.I.U., Carbondale, Illinois, 62901.

Those who have items of business to bring up at the business meeting should notify Robert Rhodes of the State University of New York at Cortland. The time and place of the business meeting will be announced by the secretary later in the season. It is imperative that he have advance notice.

DENVER MEETING OF MLA

The Modern Language Association has given the ACIS time and space at the meetings in Denver for its program. It will be held in the Georgetown Room of the Brown Palace on Tuesday, December 30th, from 8:45 to 10:00 a.m. The program will consist of three papers, Zack Bowen (Harpur) on Padraic Colum, Marilyn Gaddis Rose (Harpur) on Beckett, and William M. Murphy (Union) on Yeats.

There will be a daily newsheet at the MLA meetings edited by John Hurt Fisher to which ACIS members have been invited to send notices.

ACIS PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

The annual report from Joseph Curran included a listing of ACIS works during the year past. Your editor includes these here for new members who may not have been on the mailing:

History and related papers read at the Annual ACIS Conference, May, 1969

**The Irish American Experience (two sessions)**
- "Pioneers of the American Ghetto"
  - Lawrence McCaffrey, Marquette University
- "Irish American: The Literary Expressions"
- "The Varieties of the Irish-American Experience"
  - James P. Walsh, San Jose State College
- "The American Irish—First Emigrants from a Ghetto"
  - Rev. Andrew M. Greeley, Program Director
  - National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago
- "From Shanties to Lace Curtains: Graphic Images of the Irish in American Magazines"
  - John Appel, James Madison College
  - Michigan State University

**Irish History**
- "The Cromwellian Settlement of County Dublin"
  - Lawrence Arnold, Pitchburg State College
- "Law and Order in Eighteenth Century Ireland"
  - Joseph Starr, Wisconsin State University at Oshkosh
  - "The Irish Peasant in History and Literature"  
  - "Secret Agrarian Societies in Nineteenth Century Ireland"  
  - Galen Brooker, University of Tennessee  
  - "The Peasant in Irish Literature"  
  - Benedict Kiely

There was also a literature session on Joyce's *Ulysses* and Moore's *Easter Waters*.

Papers read at the ACIS Session of the AHA Convention, December 28, 1968

**Protestant Nationalism in Modern Ireland**
- "Protestant Patriotism and Anglo-Irish Politics in the Reign of Queen Anne"
  - Robert E. Burns, University of Notre Dame
- "Irish Protestant Nationalism in the Home Rule Period"
  - John W. Boyle, Mount Allison University

**ACIS papers appearing in Eire-Ireland (Autumn, 1968)**

Robert E. Rhodes, Editor
- "Image of Nationhood"
  - Mary C. Bromage, University of Michigan
- "Types and Causes of Disputes in an Irish Community"
  - John C. Messenger, Indiana University
- "Swift of Dublin"
  - Denis Johnston
- "The Three Faces of Brian Nolan"
  - Bernard Benstock, Kent State University
- "Crisis and Ritual in Brian Moore's Belfast Novels"
  - John Wilson Foster, University of Oregon
- "The Roman Catholic Church in Ireland: 1898-1918"
  - David Miller, Carnegie-Mellon University
- "The Irish Question: The British Foreign Office and the American Political Conventions of 1920"
  - Thomas E. Hachey, Marquette University

Reprints in ACIS Reprint Series (1969)

Number 4 *The Native Irish Grammarian* by Osborn Bergin
Number 5 *The Archivist of Irish Tradition* by Nyles Dillon
Number 6 *The Gaelic Story-Teller* by J. H. Delargy

IRISH STUDIES PROGRAM: PRESENTATION COLLEGE

Sister Weinreb, Dean of Presentation, is interested in sponsoring an Irish Studies program in the summer of 1970. She would like to hear from teacher members of ACIS who might be interested in contributing to a program in 1) Irish History and Literature, 2) Irish Music or Fine Arts, and 3) Irish Dance. This is an academic program which would be awarded six hours of college credit; each lecture course would run 50 minutes a day for six weeks. Members who are interested or those who have suggestions for shaping the program should write the Dean, c/o Presentation College, Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401.
BOOK NOTICE

The biography editor, Jim Ford, would like to bring to the notice of the membership the (1976) edition of the Administrative Yearbook; it is published in Dublin by the Institute of Public Administration, 57-61 Landowne Road, Dublin 4; cost is £24. It is an excellent reference source of people in government, business, research, and many other fields, and it is very well accomplished. The biography editor notes that editions usually run out soon after publication, and encourages anyone interested to place their order now. Publication was scheduled for November 1.

CONFERENCE ON BRITISH STUDIES

The CBS announces that the first annual WALTER D. LOVE MEMORIAL PRIZE has been awarded to J. F. C. Harrison for his Quest for a New Moral World: Robert Owen and the Owenites in Britain and America, Charles Scribners and Sons, 1969.

Nominations for the second annual prize may be sent to Professor Cynthia Behrmann, Secretary to the Prize Committee, Department of History, Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio.

BOOK REVIEWS

As The Irish Saw It. By W. H. A. Williams. (CELTs, CATHOLICS, AND COOPERHEADS: Ireland Views the American Civil War. By Joseph M. Hernon, Jr., Ohio State University Press. $6.25)

Dr. Hernon seeks to use the Irish reactions to the American Civil War as a means of illuminating the state of political opinion in Ireland of the 1860's. While Ireland could have had little influence upon the conduct of the war, Irishmen took a deep interest in it. There were 150,000 Irish-born soldiers in the Union armies and perhaps as many as 40,000 under arms for the Confederacy. Beyond the factor of emigration, however, there lay another reason why the Civil War seemed so important to Ireland. For many ardent nationalists America had become the overseas Redeemer of Irish freedom.

Both the Northern and Southern states presented particular problems for the sympathetic Irish observer. Although most Irish immigrants living in the North were loyal to the Union, the image of the North was not an attractive one for many here at home. They were well aware of the low economic and social status assigned to their relatives in Northern cities, and they had not forgotten the Yankees' anti-Catholicism and nativism of the previous decades.

On the other hand, Irishmen sympathising with the South were confronted with the unpalatable fact of Negro slavery. As Hernon points out, the uncompromising anti-slavery stand taken by O'Connell had weakened considerably in Ireland by the 1860's. By then, many Catholics here looked upon the Yankee abolitionists as representatives of a Protestantism that was both dangerously liberal and inherently anti-Catholic. Others recognised that the freed slave would be competing with the American Irish for the bottom rung of the economic ladder. Finally, nationalists feared that the abolitionist controversy would divert attention away from the cause of Irish freedom.

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It was one thing to condemn abolitionism; however, it was another to justify slavery, and most Southern sympathisers in Ireland sought to disassociate the slavery question from the issue of Southern independence. Yet, as the Irish poem, "Song of the South", reveals the difficult paradox remained.

Cheers for the South, her Irish press
Her freedom and her slaves!

One thing which Hernon shows quite clearly, is that Ireland did not follow the majority of the Irish-Americans in supporting the Northern cause. Most of the supporters of the Act of Union were, with the exception of a small group of Protestant Radicals, pro-Southern. Even the bulk of the constitutional nationalists, according to the author, sympathised with the South on the grounds that all "manacled unions" should be dissolved.

The group most fragmented in its reactions to the war was the revolutionary nationalists. "England's difficulty, Ireland's opportunity" was not, in this case, a useful guide to a coherent and unified policy. While many revolutionaries argued that a divided America would be too weak to cope with British imperial power, the mounting casualties among the Irish participants convinced others that Irish blood was being wasted on foreign fields and that the war must end, even if it meant an independent South.
The main problem, according to Hennon, was the "increasing provincialism among the nationalists, a narrowed concentration upon the single issue of independence for Ireland". And why not? except that in reducing all events to the scale of Irish nationalism, events tended to become grossly distorted.

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This is an important, well-written and well-documented study. Nevertheless, one is left wondering how broad a corridore opens into our understanding of this period. Careful weighing of the opinion of this dramatic, yet for Ireland, peripheral event, take up to the heart of the question of Irish politics in the 1860's? Hennon tells us that the American Civil War coincided with "the nadir of constitutional nationalism" in Ireland. It was a time in which "tempered, disciplined, and articulate nationalist thought was nearly absent," and opinions on complex issues "were perhaps doomed to confusion and sterility." This may be, but the Civil War was in its very nature complex and confusing.

Hennon's conclusion that Irish opinion shows the collapse of the "old moral unity", of the "O'Connellite vision of the early 1840's -- abolitionism, national autonomy, the larger reform spirit of an enlightened century"', is provocative. It needs, however, to be seen in the broader context of specially Irish events of the decade. Does Irish public opinion on issues nearer home show the same patterns Hennon has discovered? Like all good histories, "Celts, Catholics and Copperheads" answers some old questions but leaves us with some fascinating new ones.

Reprinted from The Irish Times, September 1, 1968.


Whatever follows in the way of minor professional qualification let it be immediately established that this is a rare book. It is more than a historical biography. It is a literary work in which Professor F. S. L. Lyons had to work. The life of John Dillon, -- a sensitive man, deeply committed to heroic purposes, nobly intemperate, capable of deep private loves, -- provided the biographer with the opportunity to recreate the work of a good and decent man against the panorama of the imperial crisis caused by the Home Rule movement. John Dillon participated as a central figure in every important aspect of the Parnellite movement in a career spanning five decades from the revolt of the 1870's against Isaac Butt's conservative parliaments in his stead and responsibility in presiding over the interment of the Parliamentary Party following its virtual annihilation in 1918. Professor Lyons makes exhaustive use of the rich documentary material available, including the apparently voluminous Dillon Papers in the personal possession of John Dillon's son, Nyes Dillon, of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. The biography represents the culmination of twenty years work devoted by many to the history of the Nationalist Party and the constitutional movement and is by far the most successful effort in the field in which Professor Lyons has with his earlier work, The Irish Parliamentary Party 1890-1910, pioneered.

Many involved in Irish studies have recently argued that too much emphasis has been placed on the personalities involved in the Irish question and insufficient attention

directed towards the socio-economic reality that affected their policies. While the need for accelerated research in social and economic history can scarcely be denied, adequate biographical studies of most major political figures of the past century and a half remain to be written. This biography illustrates the necessity of continued work in both areas.

John Dillon began his parliamentary career in 1880 with a record of Land League agitation already established. His early flirtation with Fenianism was brushed aside. His early flattery with the "Chief" from becoming one of the chief initiates of so much the engaged man to be perfectly comfortable with Parnell's methods. While Dillon's support of the militant activism expressed in the 'Plan of Campaign' and became a devoted House of Commons man in his later years, possessing both the talent and dignity to have held any position in an English government, he retained elements of a temperament moved to fiery anger by injustice throughout his career. However, Lyons' work, somewhat unintentionally, conveys another Dillon's characteristic temperamental that his temperament nor his belief that any compromise could be a legitimate part of the parliamentary process were political constants. One study with interest Lyons' handling of Dillon's dominance of the anti-Parnellite party (the Healyites excluded) in the 1890's and the period of his chancellorship commencing in 1896. Dillon in power was preoccupied with the preservation of the Liberal-Nationalist alliance even after the debacle of the Home Rule Bill of 1893. Lyons holds that Parnellites and Healyites were "prepared to consider Irish reforms on their merits, and held themselves equally free to attack the government of the day, whether Liberal or Conservative...." (p. 161). He continues, that Dillon "did not share this opportunist outlook. For him ... the Liberal alliance was still the foundation of his political system, because only the Liberals could or would concede Home Rule." (p. 161). It is not clear if the term 'opportunist' is used perjoratively or not. If not, 'pragmatic' would be more suitable for there is much more to be said for the Parnellite position, and, for a policy of greater parliamentary flexibility, than Lyons conceives it. Perhaps, this is of an enlightened conscience. What is important is that after the Home Rule defeat Dillon was not yet ready to reconsider the anti-Parnellite relationship with the English Liberals. The emergence of Rosebery could have made such a reconsideration a pleasure. The disarray of English Liberalism necessitated such a reconsideration. None was forthcoming. At the moment when the Liberal relationship had proven its sterility, Lyons maintains that Dillon could not afford the luxury of denouncing Rosebery. While speaking of the hard necessity of clinging to the alliance, Lyons admits that "the failure of Rosebery's Government to produce any constructive social legislation for Ireland weakened still further the position of those who held, like Dillon, that the Liberals and Nationalists were indissolubly wedded..." (p. 161). It is significant that it is in the latter fact it is difficult to discern a marked change in Dillon's moderation. It is true, as Lyons indicates, that the anti-Parnellite party suffered from internal weakness created by the strength of the Healyites and, also, from that resulting from the ineffectual chairmanship of Justin McCarthy. It is finally thought that if the Liberal Party had to persevere through such circumstances it may be possible to indicate that Dillon was remotely ready to reconsider the wisdom of the alliance. This position is interesting in that it reveals that in order his interests could be held in check by the practical necessities and the dictates of responsibility. This is our only opportunity to observe Dillon the leader, rather than Dillon the chief lieutenant and one is impressed by the restraint shown under provocation. Such restraint
was to be later shown in his relationship with Redmond. It does allow one to question the sometimes voiced assumption (not by Lysons) that a Dillon chairmanship of the reunited party would have been more aggressive than that of Redmond.

Lyons finally argues that Dillon's position was one of trying to prevent the movement from losing sight of the basic objective of Home Rule. That the party could not have more aggressively entered the social arena, at the same time that it held fast to its political objective as primary, is an argument that remains to be proven. While, no doubt, it was not possible to recreate the system "ambiguity" of objective "crystallized in terms of personality" which Conor Cruise O'Brien considers the basis of Parnell's achievement, one must note the continued work of the social part of the early Parnellite balance. Professor Lyons is a little too kind regarding the anti-Parnellite position on legal legislation. Dillon's refusal to participate in Horace Plunkett's economic projects, admittedly intended to blunt the demand for Home Rule, pressed his attitude towards the Land Act of 1903. Fears that such legislation would undermine the constitutional movement showed little understanding of the populace's inevitable long-range adherence to nationalism as an enduring demand. Dillon's position reflected an attitude the party had inherited from the latter period of Parnell's dominance. It was a position not unattractive to much of the party's essentially bourgeois leadership. For all of the party's admitted social accomplishments under Redmond, the predominance of political considerations was to remain. Dillon did not invent the system. Redmond in power only slightly adjusted the balance. It is, perhaps, the most questionable part of the heritage transmitted by the party to contemporary Irish politics.

The Ulster question and its impact on the passage of the Home Rule Bill of 1914 along with the party's wartime role and its post-Easter uprising position occupies Professor Lyons' attention in the last one-third of the study. A scrupulous fairness and objectivity characterizes his assessment of personalities and problems involved in this highly emotional period. Professor Lyons carefully examines Dillon's late 1913 position on the possibility of the temporary exclusion of Ulster. Some problems remain, although the confusion seems to lie in Dillon's own distinction between a publicity in interpretation. It is clear that Dillon's willingness to Lloyd George a willingness to accept temporary exclusion of Ulster, at the last moment, if necessary to secure passage of the measure. Dillon subsequently wrote to Lloyd George directly maintaining that he had committed himself to nothing more than to keep "a perfectly open mind." Lyons' conclusion that Dillon was far more uncommitted than Lloyd George had represented him to be appears accurate. But that temporary exclusion was now an ultimate possibility in Dillon's mind is clear and far more important than the extent to which he had committed himself to Lloyd George. Lyons recounts that Lloyd George felt that Redmond was not amenable on the question of exclusion as was Dillon. The picture that emerges is one that troubles the author for it would seem to indicate that on this crucial issue of the war Dillon was intrinsically more flexible. While Redmond, usually considered the more flexible, appears the firmer. It could be argued that the roles assigned to the two leaders in the popular mind is a somewhat exaggerated one. Redmond was quite capable of firmness, especially on the issue of exclusion. Dillon could be no less firm but was quite capable of indicating a willingness to negotiate. That he was temperamentally more militant is true. However, the renewed expression of that militancy falls into the post-1915 period.

Professor Lyons points out that Dillon's attitude towards the war and recruiting were "in reality profoundly different" from Redmond's (p. 360). That Redmond viewed the conflict as a crusade against German barbarism is clear. Dillon, more sophisticated in the arena of realpolitik, felt more keenly Britain's share in the holocaust. However, Dillon also felt that the passage of Home Rule imposed a debt of honor upon Irishmen. It was in repayment of that debt that Dillon plaited his guaranteed recruiting platform in the early years. But recruiting platforms in the early years or the war were to be understood. In this concept of a debt of honor, Dillon's position did not differ substantially from that of Redmond's. The difference was in the enthusiasm with which Redmond could encourage enlistment in a struggle that Redmond felt the civilization that he considered Germany to be undermining. Establishes Dillon's growing doubts about the wisdom of England's policy as 1914 shaded into 1915. Lyons' account, however, clearly establishes that in 1915 and early 1916 nothing approaching a break is evident in Dillon's relation with Redmond. Dillon's doubts were transformed into a deep bitterness and pessimism as a result of English policy following Easter Week. Yet, reluctantly, he cooperated in the final attempt to reach an immediate understanding on the implementation of Home Rule. His continued cooperation is of great significance and must modify the widely held picture of a Dillon now marching out of step with the party. That he had doubts is true. That he wished later the party had acted otherwise is equally true. But that he acted responsibly in a moment of supreme peril is not to be underestimated. It was not until the defeat of these efforts became apparent that Dillon totally despaired of British policy. Even then there was no party schism. Redmond withdrew from contact with the architects of the fiasco and while Dillon might have longed for greater militancy at this point it is difficult to see what the party might have done short of adopting the tactics of Sinn Fein. For a party historically committed to constitutional representation, withdrawal from parliament was inconceivable. It is perhaps uncharitable to point out that Dillon's refusal to participate in Redmond's ill-conceived Irish Convention in 1917 that Dillon finally diverged from Redmond's position on a matter of substantial import.

This reviewer has always found accounts of Redmond's war speech to the House of Commons on August 3, 1914 troublesome in one way or another. Quite often, echoing contemporary enthusiasm, it is concluded that Redmond pledged more than is actually the case. Lyons does not make this error. His account is quite similar to that of Redmond's biographer. Both conclude that the speech created difficulties with Dillon. Unquestionably in later years Dillon looked back upon it as an error. And yet there is no contemporary evidence to that effect save an admittedly unreliable memorandum written a year later by the unknowledgeable Roin MacNeill. MacNeill wrote that gossip at the time had it that immediately after the speech Redmond had been met by reproaches from Dillon. Lyons points out that, since Dillon was at Killiney, immediate reproaches were impossible. Since there is no contemporary evidence of Dillon's disapproval one wonders why silence on Dillon's part in his correspondence (publicly he described the speech as "most courageous") cannot be interpreted as acquiescence or at least not disapproval?

A poignancy attaches itself to most last causes. Professor Lyons has written an unsentimental work, of great compassion and understanding that captures that poignancy. Such emotions are compounded when the hero is so clearly a man of nobility and virtue such as Professor Lyons reveals John Dillon to be. Lyons is "fiercely honest, very loyal, who loved his country, but learned, through harsh experience that patriotism was not enough." (p. 484). Professor Lyons has written a beautifully moving chapter on John Dillon's all too brief marriage. Lyons writes that chapter's title:--A Short Happy Life--"written by John Dillon shortly after the death of Elizabeth Dillon in 1907, the last lines of which were that he had tasted a "happiness which I did not believe was in the world for me. And now it is over -- and I am alone."
In 1918 it was again over—and he was again alone. This time the loss was not only his but Ireland’s for with the Nationalist Party perished a humanism, an urbanity and, indeed, a liberalism which contemporary Irish politics still struggles to recover.

Edmund W. Kearney
Chicago State College

CURRENT BOOKS OF IRISH INTEREST

REFERENCE

ART

BIOGRAPHY
Hurst, Michael. Maria Edgeworth and the Public Scene. London, Macmillan, 1969. 50s. A study of Maria Edgeworth’s involvement in social, political, intellectual and economic questions of the Ireland of her time.

BIOGRAPHY-MEMOIRS

CURRENT AFFAIRS
Bestic, Alan. The Importance of Being Irish. N. Y., Morrow, 1969. $5.95. Critique of present day Ireland by newspaper writer now living in England who compares the Ireland of fifteen years ago and now.

Boyd, Andrew. Holy War in Belfast. Tralee, Anvil Press, 1969. 8s 6d. (paperback) Reprint with three additional chapters bringing it up-to-date.

CURRENT EVENTS


DESCRIPTION AND TRAVEL


**DRAMA**

Galley, Alan. *Irish Folk Drama*. Cork, Mercier Press, 1969. 8s 6d. This study of seasonal festivals, mummers and wrenboys contains complete text of five mummer's plays.


**DRAMA-CRITICISM**


**FOLK LIFE STUDIES**


**FOOD AND DRINK**


**HISTORY**


**INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE**


**IRISH LANGUAGE**


**LITERATURE**


**LITERATURE-CRITICISM**


**LITERATURE-ESSAY**


**LITERATURE-FICTION**


**LITERATURE-POETRY**


Heaney, Seamus. *A Lough Neagh Sequence*. Didsbury, Manchester, Phoenix Pamphlet Poets Press, 1969. 3s. (16 Dundonald Road, Didsbury, Manchester). This separate printing has introductory notes not included with the poem as it appears in *Door into the Dark*.


**MUSIC**


**TRANSPORTATION**
