

TRIBUTE TO O RIADA

by Sean Lucy

The death of Sean O Riada last October at the age of 40 was a loss to music, particularly to Irish music, but it was something wider than this, for by his death Irish life as a whole has lost forever a certain light and warmth.

Since the early sixties Sean O Riada had lived with his wife and growing family in Coolea in the west Cork Gaeltacht. He was deeply committed to what he called "The Gaelic Nation": to the cause of the Irish speaking Irish; to their language, culture; to their social and economic survival. From Coolea he drove to lecture in University College Cork, or journeyed out through Ireland and overseas, spreading his music, his knowledge, his gaiety and his wit generously wide.

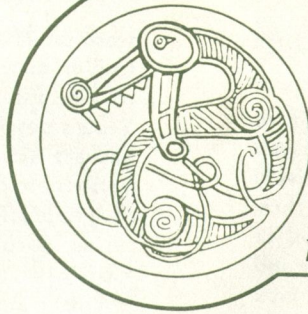
His body was brought back to Coolea after his last illness in London and taken to the church-yard of St. Gobnait in nearby Ballyvourney. The gathering of people showed that he who had died had touched, even changed the consciousness of a whole nation.

As a musician Sean O Riada had three overlapping areas of achievement: his works in the modern European musical tradition; the creative rearrangement and presentation of Irish traditional music both vocal and instrumental, most of which he undertook with his group of traditional Irish musicians, Ceoltoiri Cualann; and his music for films.

His feeling for tradition as a living thing enabled him to give back to Ireland a sense of the rich and even sophisticated excellence of the Irish musical heritage. But also a sense of living historical and musical process is one of the main elements and deep strengths of his works in the European tradition. *Nomos No. 2*, more than any other of his orchestral compositions, seems to incarnate a deep tragic vision of the history and present agony of Western Man. In its own way it is as controlled, as passionate and as unrelenting as King Lear or as the Theban plays of Sophocles from which it takes its choral themes. His commercial recording in the European tradition is *Vertical Man* (Ceirini Cladaigh), which consists of *Nomos No. 1* ('Hercules Dux Ferrariae') and ten songs. His records of film music and Irish traditional music are published by Gael-Linn.

A memorial fund has been established to further O Riada's work for Irish music and culture and to help in the preservation, performance and recording of his own music. Details can be had from Funduireacht an Riadaigh, 71 Grafton Street, Dublin 2.

american committee for



íRISH STUDIES

newsletter

Published at the Department of English, The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee

Volume II

October 1972

ACIS Members on MLA-AHA Programs

"*Ulysses: 1922-1972*" is the topic of the annual MLA Celtic Group Meeting for 1972. Chairman is Richard J. Finneran, Newcomb College, Tulane University; Secretary is Michael C. Hennessy, University of Hartford. Papers presented will include "The Thematic Unity of 'Telemachus,'" Weldon Thornton, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; "The 'Cyclops' Chapter in *Ulysses*," Brendan P. O. Hehir, University of California at Berkeley; "Epiphanies on Green Oval Leaves": Notes on Joyce's Occult Sources, George M. Harper, Florida State University; "Molly Bloom in Gibraltar," Anthony Burgess, by special invitation. The meeting will be held from 10:30-11:45 on 27 December in the Trianon Ballroom, New York Hilton.

"Douglas Hyde: Oral Tradition and the Literary Renaissance" is the topic of the annual MLA-ACIS seminar in Irish Studies. Chairman is Gareth Dunleavy, The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. Participants are Bruce Rosenberg, Penn State and Lester Conner, Chestnut Hill, also Associate Director of the Sligo Yeats Summer School. Commentator is David Greene Director of the School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and Visiting Professor at Harvard, 1972-73. Saturday, December 30, 10:30 a.m., Hilton 520.

The second MLA seminar on Swift and His Heirs will explore Swiftian humor in Joyce and Beckett. Chairwoman is Janet Egleson Dunleavy, The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. Participants are Bernard Benstock, Kent State, and Marilyn Gaddis Rose, SUNY—Binghamton. Friday, December 29, 8:45 a.m., Vendome 9.

"Catholic Identity and Nationalism in the 19th Century" is the topic of the annual AHA-ACIS session in Irish Studies. Chairman is Edmund Kearney. Participants are Emmet Larkin and Lawrence McCaffrey. Commentator is Maurice O'Connell.

ACIS REPRINTS AVAILABLE

Emmet Larkin, Editor of the ACIS Reprint Series, reports that the following titles may be purchased from The University of Chicago Bookstore.

Early Irish History and Literature:

1. "Satirists and Enchanters in Early Irish Literature," by Fred Norris Robinson, reprinted from *Studies in the History of Religions*.
2. "Prolegomena to the Study, of the Later Irish Bards 1200-1500," by E. C. Quiggin, reprinted from *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Volume V, 1911.
3. "Bardic Poetry," by Osborn Bergin, reprinted from the *Journal of Ivernian*

Society, Volume V, Numbers 19-20, April-July, 1913.

4. "The Native Irish Grammarian," by Osborn Bergin, reprinted from *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Volume XXXIII, 1947.
5. "The Archaism of Irish Tradition," by Myles Dillon, reprinted from *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Volume XXXIII, 1947.
6. "The Gaelic Story-Teller," by J. H. Delargy, reprinted from *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Volume XXXI, 1945.

Continued on p. 4

reviews

Yeats Studies: An International Journal, Vol. I, no. 1. Irish University Press, Shannon, Ireland. 210 pp; \$5.30.

While in the opening sentence of their introduction to the first number of *Yeats Studies: An International Journal* the editors speak of the journal as being "devoted exclusively to the work of W. B. Yeats," they make it clear that their subject will be interpreted in a wide sense—to include, in effect, much of the cultural milieu affecting the poet's life and work. Thus future issues will be devoted to John B. and Jack B. Yeats, and the present number includes articles on the ancestry of W. B. Yeats, his friends and associates, and Yeats's organizational occult activities.

The heading given to the critical section of the issue, in fact, is "Ancestors and the Age," and the articles which comprise it, generally giving much more attention to Yeats's less known associates than to himself, provide a decidedly oblique, though important focus on Yeats. But a perspective exists in the opposite direction as well, illuminating Yeats's influence on his milieu, and I hope that future issues of the journal, while keeping Yeats in the central position that he rightly occupies, would continue dealing with his overall cultural achievement. Although there appears to be a never ending flow of new and revealing material by and about Yeats himself (and, indeed, Senator Michael Yeats has made available a considerable number of hitherto unpublished manuscripts), if *Yeats Studies* is to maintain an ongoing interest and vitality it must insure itself against a danger of dealing with ever more insignificant minutiae that would be inevitable under a rigidly narrow concentration. As it is, the wide view provides possibilities of publishing important and sometimes basic material on people associated with Yeats who have also made considerable contributions, artistically and intellectually, in their own right.

Another important function of the journal—it may be argued it is the most important function—is the publication of previously unpublished primary material and variorum renderings, included in the second section, "Editorial." It is sometimes difficult to determine precisely the literary value of certain editorial projects. Robert O'Driscoll's highly competent

ACIS members who wish to review books or special issues of journals should write to the Editor, stating specific areas of academic interest.

work on *The Tables of the Law*, for instance, does not appear to illuminate the work itself, but it is undoubtedly important to establish the variorum text for future scholars studying Yeats's developing prose style or his expanding sense of ritual. Michael Sidnell's "Versions of the *Stories of Red Hanrahan*" is still more complex project involving a more extended history of publication. George Mills Harper's combined essay and edited documents, "Meditations upon Unknown Thoughts: Yeats's Break with MacGregor Mathers," provides a fascinating, and often amusing account of a facet in Yeats's life that always arouses interest and has tended to be somewhat enigmatic, and bears heavily on his work.

In short, *Yeats Studies* is an invaluable journal, not only to people with a special interest in the age's greatest poet, but to anyone concerned with modern Anglo-Irish literature. It combines in good proportion critical articles and newly edited material, and, in future numbers we are told, reviews and bibliography. *Yeats Studies* is to be an organ of the newly formed Canadian Association for Irish Studies, and is noteworthy for its high level of competence.

Joseph Ronsley
McGill University

N. B. Yeats Studies is now published by McGill-Queens University Press.

Irish Historical Studies, Vol. XVII, no. 67 (March, 1971), Dublin University Press. £ 1.50/year.

Irish Historical Studies for March, 1971 contains four articles and an essay in historical revision. In "An Irishman before the Mexican Inquisition, 1574-5," P.E.H. Hair uses transcripts of Mexican National Archives to describe the plight of a sea-man, John Martin, captured by the Spanish in the aftermath of John Hawkins' fiasco at San Juan de Ulua (1568). In "The State of Ireland in the 1820's: James Cropper's Plan," Kenneth Charlton discusses the ideas of a prosperous Quaker merchant from Liverpool. Cropper's central proposal was the removal of restraints on Irish trade and the develop-

ment of a major cotton manufacture in southern Ireland. The reception accorded Cropper's ideas was mixed, and such cotton mills as were established in southern Ireland fared badly. William Cobbett derided the scheme "to make Ireland as happy as England . . . simply by introducing cotton factories, steam engines and power looms."

Pamela Horn in "The National Agricultural Labourers' Union in Ireland, 1873-9" documents the failure of the effort to unionize agricultural laborers in Ireland. The English organizers encountered little enthusiasm for the concept of worker solidarity, and it was the Land League with its more widely understood opposition to Anglo-Irish proprietors which eclipsed and absorbed the N.A.L.U. in Ireland. Michael Laffan in "The Unification of Sinn Fein in 1917" examines "how the different Sinn Fein elements combined to form a single party and how they overcame problems which nearly undermined its unity." The author's thesis is that Sinn Fein was not instantly united by the wave of revulsion from the execution of the Easter Rising leaders, but that a coalition was only slowly and painfully achieved in 1917, bridging the largely personal gulf between Count Plunkett and Arthur Griffith.

In Historical Revision XVI, "The Flight of the Earls, 1606" by Nicholas P. Canny, the editors have broadened the concept of "revision" to include a 20-page re-interpretation of a storied event. Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, greatest of the Ulster Earls, is revealed more as a victim of circumstance than as the heroic refugee of legend. Canny argues that O'Neill did not have to flee but, finding that he could not restrain O'Donnell and the other Earls, he refused to be left behind where unendurable suspicion would be focused upon him.

This number also includes the annual report on "Research on Irish History in Irish Universities, 1970-71," as well as reviews and short notices of recent publications.

Karl S. Bottigheimer
State University of New York at Stony Brook

Carleton Newsletter, Vol. I, no. 1-3 (1971), Gainesville, University of Florida. 6 pp./issue; \$2/year.

The *Carleton Newsletter* is what its title implies: a four page repository, published thrice annually (at least in 1971), for notes, anecdotes, bibliographical data, scholarly jottings, and in one number even fragments from his (mercifully) forgotten corpus of verse, devoted to resurrecting the reputation of William Carleton. Each issue consists of an editorial (usually stating the rationale for what is to follow), letters to the editor (mainly testimonials to Carleton's importance and requests that the correspondent's subscription be renewed), and brief commentaries on parts of Carleton's career. The numbers I surveyed (1-3, 1971) included checklists of Carleton holdings in the National Library of Ireland, the Georgia and North Carolina academic and research libraries, and the libraries of Arizona State, the University of Arizona, and the University of New Mexico; and articles on "The Death of William Carleton" by Terence Brown and "Carleton and Columcille" by Maureen O'Rourke Murphy. Each of these pieces contains worthwhile information for the student exploring Carleton's largely uncharted body of work.

But the most interesting contribution to the *Newsletter* was, for me anyway, Carleton's own, the excerpt from "Retrospections" and the complete text of "A Song of Sorrow" published in Volume II, Number 1 (July 4, 1971). While the editors emphasize Carleton's nostalgia for the countryside

around his native Tyrone, and offer Yeats's "terrible beauty" as a parallel to Carleton's "awful beauty," the poet behind this verse is clearly Shelley. The pronounced rhythmic pattern of "Retrospection" accentuated by its internal rhyme—"Sweet the bright gale, which through the vale/ Of deep Glenlorin blew"—is borrowed from "The Cloud": "I bring fresh showers for the thirsting flowers,/ From the seas and the streams." And this borrowing reflects aesthetically an aspect of Carleton's mind with which almost all students of his art have felt obliged to cope, his eclecticism. In his examination of Carleton's religion, Dr. Brown concludes that his faith "was broad enough to include both Catholic and Protestant," a view confirmed dramatically by, say, *Willy Reilly and His Dear Colleen Bawn*, where a Catholic and Protestant wed and live happily after. In her examination of Carleton and Columcille Ms. Murphy quotes Carleton himself proclaiming as his aspirations for the Irish peasantry that they "may . . . become the pride, the strength and support of the British empire, instead of, as now, forming its weakness and its reproach."

All of which is to say that the *Carleton Newsletter* is defining valuable guidelines for further study of an important figure in Irish culture. The question I would raise is whether Carleton is important enough to warrant a journal devoted exclusively to him. I wonder if writers like John Banim and Gerald Griffin are not almost equally important, and more than equally neglected. Perhaps we need a journal devoted to the whole scope of Irish literature in the nineteenth century. After all, that literature anticipates and contributes to the blossoming we call the Irish Revival: "Gay bells or sad, they bring you memories/ Of half-forgotten innocent old places:/ We and our bitterness have left no traces/ On Munster grass and Connemara skies."

Barton R. Friedman
The University of Madison

Wisconsin

PROFESSOR CONDON DIES

ACIS member Maire D. Condon, Associate Professor of History, San Jose State College, died October 28, 1971. Born and educated in Los Angeles, she took her B.A. degree in 1937 at UCLA and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Southern California in 1950 and 1960. Miss Condon served as a lieutenant in the Navy during World War II and taught at East Los Angeles City College before she joined the faculty of San Jose State College in 1963. Within her general area of British history she specialized in early nineteenth-century Ireland. At the age of fifty-four she lost a twenty-year battle against cancer. San Jose State College has set up an Irish collection of books and pamphlets in her memory. Checks may be sent to the *Maire Condon Memorial Fund*, Department of History.

NOTE IMPORTANT DATES

October 1: Send ACIS dues to Thos. Hachey, History, Marquette University.

October 15: Submit program proposals for NEMLA (Boston, April 5-7) to Wm. Dumbleton, English, SUNY-Albany. Focus: Irish Writing After 1900.

November 1: Submit program proposals for ACIS (Ann Arbor, May 3-5) to Leo McNamara, English, Univ. of Michigan.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING, 5 MAY 1972

The Secretary reported a dues-paying membership of more than at any time previously. The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$2241.14. Harold Orel reported that the Executive Committee sees no need to raise dues at this time.

Harold Orel announced that the 1973 meeting will be held at The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and will be directed by Leo McNamara, English. Orel also reported that the Executive Committee had considered a variety of alternatives for the structure of the annual conferences and, in view of local problems, financial limitations, etc., decided to retain essentially the present plan. Furthermore, the Executive Committee re-affirmed the traditional role of the host institution and the conference coordinator, and re-

affirmed the role of the advisory committee in planning the conference.

Harold Orel announced that the Executive Committee has appointed Emmet Larkin and Lawrence McCaffrey to draw up a constitution and appropriate by-laws, which the Executive Committee will review before the 1973 meeting and submit to the general membership.

Janet Egleson Dunleavy, Editor of the *Newsletter*, reported briefly on its reception this year. She announced deadlines for submission of material for 1972-73 numbers. With the approval of the Executive Committee, she also announced that, for a variety of reasons, it appeared advisable to discontinue the exchange of

Continued on p. 4



The *ACIS Newsletter* is published four times annually in February, April, October, and December, at The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201. Vol. II, Serial No. 3. Application to mail at second-class postage rates is pending at Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201.

Editor: Janet Egleson Dunleavy
Bibliographer: Jim Ford
Book Reviews: Patrick McCarthy
Editorial Assistant: Susan Munley

Newsletters with IASAIL on an organizational basis, though it is expected that the officers of both organizations will participate in the exchange and that major items will be re-printed in each newsletter. ACIS members who are also members of IASAIL will, of course, continue to receive IASAIL's *Newsletter*.

Emmet Larkin, reporting for Edmund Kearney, announced the topic of the ACIS session at the 1972 AHA meetings. Harold Orel announced that the ACIS session at the 1972 MLA meetings would be headed by Gareth Dunleavy.

Robert E. Rhodes announced that the Executive Committee has appointed Albert Hamilton (John Carroll University) and Robert Davis (Tarkio College) as archivists and cataloguers of resources available to ACIS members; ACIS will cover annual expenses up to \$100.

Re a proposed resolution on the situation in Northern Ireland, Harold Orel announced that by tradition and precedent ACIS does not take stands on political issues as an organization; of course, members may act as they wish as individuals.

David H. Greene, Chairman of the Nominations and Election Committee, announced the election of the following officers, who will serve until May 1975: Chairman: John R. Moore (former Vice-Chairman, who moves to Chairman); Vice-Chairman: Lawrence McCaffrey; Secretary: Janet Egleson Dunleavy; Treasurer: Thomas Hachey; Literature Representatives: Leo McNamara and Richard M. Kain; History Representatives: Emmet Larkin and Gilbert Cahill; Other Disciplines Representative: Alan Ward. Robert Rhodes, retiring Secretary, Joseph Curran,

Modern Irish History:

1. "Nationalism and the Irish Peasant 1800-1848," by Thomas N. Brown, reprinted from *The Review of Politics*, Volume XV, No. 4, October, 1953.

2. "A Glimpse of Town and Country in Eighteenth-Century Ireland," reprinted from *Irish Historical Studies*, Volume XI, No. 42, September 1958.

Modern Irish Literature:

"Matthew Arnold and the Celtic Revival," reprinted from *Perspectives of Criticism* (Harvard University Press: 1950)

retiring Treasurer, and Harold Orel, retiring Chairman, serve as *ex officio* members of the Executive Committee.

In related actions, the membership present approved (a) the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the Executive Committee be enlarged to include a fourth *ex officio* member and that John Messenger be the appointee; and (b) the re-appointment of Maurice Harmon as Irish representative to the Executive Committee.

David H. Greene moved a resolution of thanks to The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the host institution, and the Chairman was directed to communicate thanks and appreciation to the appropriate University official with copies to other appropriate groups and individuals.

Submitted by Robert E. Rhodes, ACIS Secretary, 9 May, 1972.

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1971-72

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

<u>Deposits</u>	
May, 1971 J. Hernon	\$1,335.98
July, 1971 checking account	1,000.00
Oct.-Nov., 1971 dues	892.22
May, 1971-April, 1972 interest	89.94
	<u>\$3,318.14</u>

<u>Withdrawals</u>	
Oct., 1971 <i>Newsletter</i> subsidy	\$ 250.00
Nov., 1971 bad dues checks	16.00
Feb., 1972 Reprint Series subsidy	1,000.00
	<u>\$1,266.00</u>

Balance, May, 1972	
plus month's interest	\$2,052.14

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance, May, 1972	\$1,310.00
--------------------	------------

<u>Deposits</u>	
May, 1971-May, 1972 dues	414.00
	<u>\$1,724.00</u>

<u>Withdrawals</u>	
May, 1971	\$ 90.00
June-Sept., 1971	
Conference costs	112.00
July, 1971 dues, <i>Newsletter</i> notices	1,000.00
Nov., 1971-Jan., 1972 savings	7.00
Jan.-April, 1972 dues refunds	39.00
Jan., 1972 telephone	142.00
Jan., 1972 <i>Newsletter</i> costs	100.00
Feb., 1972 Secretary's expenses	35.00
May, 1971-May, 1972 bank charges	10.00
	<u>\$1,535.00</u>

Balance, May, 1972	\$ 189.00
--------------------	-----------

<u>TOTAL BALANCE</u>	<u>\$2,241.14</u>
----------------------	-------------------

plus one month's interest

Submitted by Joseph M. Curran, ACIS Treasurer, 5 May 1972

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
Department of English
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Address Correction Requested.
Return Postage Guaranteed.

Deadline for December issue: October 25