IN THE JOURNALS

Recently published journals of interest to specialists in Irish studies contain the following articles, many by ACIS authors. Editors of journals not represented below are invited to submit notice of contents of forthcoming issues for future notice.


American Committee for Irish Studies Newsletter

Volume III

February 1973

ACIS MEETING IN ANN ARBOR

by Leo Macnamara

The eleventh Annual Meeting of ACIS will be held at the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor, May 3-5, 1973. Major addresses at the meeting will be given by John V. Kelleher, Harvard University Professor of Irish History, and former Chairman of ACIS, and Mr. Dermot Foley, head of the Library Council in Ireland. Foley’s long and distinguished career in the Irish library service has brought him into close acquaintance with many of the nation’s leading scholars, writers, and artists, and gives him unique authority for comment upon cultural and political affairs in the past half-century. The program will also include presentation of papers in literature, history, and politics both by newer members of ACIS and by members of long standing such as Professors Eileen Ibarra and Alan Ward. Honorable William S. Warnock, Ireland’s Ambassador to the United States, has indicated that he hopes to be with us for the meeting.

Exhibits of Irish material in the University of Michigan libraries have been arranged, and the local committee hopes to arrange for the showing of recent films of interest to the membership. Those planning to attend the meeting may wish to know of the concurrent presentation of the annual May Festival which brings to Ann Arbor the Philadelphia Orchestra with pianists Rudolf Serkin and Van Cliburn and violinist Isaac Stern. Tickets for a Festival performance should be ordered in advance from the University Musical Society, Burton Tower, Ann Arbor 48104.

Full details of the ACIS program will appear in the next Newsletter. Meanwhile, all members are urged to plan to attend.

SPRING EVENTS IN IRISH STUDIES

Professor William Dumbleton of SUNY-Albany announces that the second NELMA session on Irish Studies (Boston, April 5-7) focuses on 20th century writers. Maureen Murphy of Hofstra will discuss “O’Flaherty’s Double Vision” in a comparison of his Irish and English stories; Raymond Porter of Iona will present “Behan’s The Quare Fellow: A Jocose View of Man”; and Anthony Farrow of Cornell will analyze Beckett’s wordless plays.

Meeting at the same time as the NELMA, a seminar on “Conversations in the Disciplines: The Irish Peasant 1800-1916” at the State University of New York College at Oneonta will feature papers by K. H. Connell of Queens University, Belfast; Maurice Harmon of University College Dublin (visiting professor, spring 1973, Ohio State University); Thomas Brown, University of Massachusetts; D. K. Wilgas of UCLA; Maurice O’Connell of Fordham; Martin Waters of Cooper Union; James MacKillop of Onondaga Community College, Gerald O’Donahue of Hartwick, and John Unterecker of Columbia University. Directors of the seminar are Daniel Casey of SUNY College at Oneonta and Gilbert Cahill of SUNY College at Cortland.

The newly founded Irish Arts Theatre directed by Robert O’Driscoll of St. Michael’s College, University of Toronto, announces the following program: January 16-21, Here Are Ladies: Siobhan McKenna’s presentation of women of modern Irish literature; January 23-28, Confusion, humour and sardonic commentary on social, religious, and political subjects by Niall Tobin; January 30-February 18, O’Casey’s Juno and the Paycock; March 13-18, Beckett, a one-man show by Jack MacGowan.
This work forms a fitting conclusion to Keith Middlemarch's three-volume edition of the Jones diaries from 1916 to 1930, and he is to be congratulated on the selections he has made and on the very fine job of editing. His introduction is excellent, and his notes are scrupulous and informative, and his lucid commentary links together Jones's entries to form a continuous narrative. Errors are few and minor; probably the most glaring

Irish Pamphlet Collection

Students of Irish history may be interested to learn that the library of the University of California, Berkeley has recently acquired an important collection of Irish pamphlets dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. The collection contains some 2,500 separate items, this acquisition covering the period 1700-1900 with an occasional foray into the eighteenth century. The collection is especially useful for students of the last eighty years of the eighteenth century and for those interested in the Irish question, relief of distress, Catholic emancipation, education, American affairs, and Home Rule movements, and Church and State affairs. There are almost 200 pamphlets andleaflets published by the Irish Loyalty and Patriotic Union in the 1880's and by the Irish United Alliance in the 1870's. The collection contains several hundred Acts of Parliament relating to Ireland, the papers belonging to them between the years 1800-70.

In his preface to the catalogue of this collection Professor F. L. Lyons of the University of Kent emphasized the "mark of trade mark—series—chronological as well as topical--of the sources" in which the "grain greatly outweighs the chaff." This is true of the pamphlets and leaflets, the collection being in general useful to students of the history of Ireland, the Irish question, relief of distress, Catholic emancipation, education, American affairs, and Home Rule movements, and Church and State affairs. There are almost 200 pamphlets and leaflets published by the Irish Loyality and Patriotic Union in the 1880's and by the Irish United Alliance in the 1870's. The collection contains several hundred Acts of Parliament relating to Ireland, the papers belonging to them between the years 1800-70.

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are sober and objective, they might be construed as hostile by some. Messenger is aware of this situation, for he points out that his views will be contested by primitivists and nativists. Moreover, Messenger's somewhat astringent observations and comments about the preservation and restoration of the Irish language will not endear him to those who support it.

Religion is another subject which Messenger discusses with a candor rare in the social science literature on the Irish, and his section on religion and personality is a succinct analysis in which he points out that sexual puritanism is the most prominent personality trait. Moreover, he discusses this trait and others in relation to religion as a causal factor. In this respect it is interesting to compare the earlier study of the rural Irish by Arensberg and Kimball. These authors mention the modesty and puritanism, and the rigid social control exercised over sex among the small farmers they studied. But no mention is made of the consequences of these patterns for personality and mental health.

One must ask two fundamental questions: Are Messenger's observations and interpretations based upon well grounded facts? Is he judicious in marshalling his evidence? The answer to both questions is yes. Messenger and his wife spent a total of 19 months residence on Inis Beag as participants and as observers, not only residing in the community for a sustained period, but also returning a number of times over a period of five years to check their observations. This attention to field observations is commendable and is not adhered to in many "one-shot" social science investigations.

Mr. Messenger has pierced the "veil of shamrock" which some observers of the Irish cherish—and thus he may displease a few readers. But he has presented informations and observations which have heretofore been unavailable in the social science literature. As a teaching text the book is enhanced by a dozen photographs, a map of the island, and an annotated list of readings. It is worth reading not only for those in the social sciences, but also for persons interested in Irish literature, history, folklore and the theater.

Gordon F. Steib
Cornell University


In this statistical analysis of the 'Adventurers' who financially invested in what ultimately resulted in the Cromwellian settlement of Ireland, Karl Bottigheimer has contributed materially to our understanding of the events in question. The author has shed new light on the investors who received lands in Ireland in return for their loans which were intended to enable Parliament to suppress the Irish Rebellion. In this brief study a much needed balance has been given to the emphasis in Dunlop's *Ireland Under the Commonwealth* and Prendergast's *The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland* on the military aspects of land distribution following the Lord Protector's successful suppression of the Irish rebels.

Although others, such as MacCormack and Hazlett, have dealt with the activities of the 'Adventurers', Bottigheimer's computer analysis (over 2,000 individuals are reflected in the statistics and tables included in the study) sums up and convincingly analyzes the contribution to and influence on Ireland, under the Commonwealth and Restoration, of these English Capitalists. The study covers the patterns of investments, the kinds of persons who invested, the actual amounts subscribed, and the type of schemes advanced for investors. The legislative history of this background history of the Cromwellian settlement is carefully presented.

In this generally satisfactory historical study it is to be regretted that the style of presentation was not more satisfactory. Historians, even when dealing with a topic of admittedly limited interest, have an obligation to present their material in a readable form. Granted that there is no easy way to present statistics in the body of an historical narrative, Bottigheimer could have done better, although when the author allows himself to become caught up in the real drama of his presentation, as he does in chapter five, he is first rate. Even the history of the financial labyrinths of Cromwellian England deserve a more stimulating treatment at our hands than is given in this presentation.

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**Deadline for April issue: February 25**

JA14317