ACIS FUNDS ARCHIVES, SEEKS BETTER BOOK DISTRIBUTION

At the annual meeting of the ACIS Executive Committee on May 2, 1974, funds were approved for continuation of the ACIS Archives for a third year, 1974-1975. The Archivists have been requested to submit a report of their work prior to the 1975 Executive Committee meeting in order that the value and purpose of the Archives may be reviewed. Meanwhile, members are asked to communicate suggestions and comments to Albert J. Hamilton (Department of History, John Carroll University) and Robert B. Davis (Language and Literature, Tarkio College) in order that they may continue to redefine their methods and the ways in which this comparatively new phase of ACIS operations continues to serve the organization.

Members who did not receive the 1973 report of the Archivists should write to the Secretary, Janet E. Dunleavy (English Department, The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee).

In response to numerous complaints concerning the difficulty of obtaining copies of paperbacks published in Ireland for class use in the United States, the Executive Committee directed the Secretary to note our difficulties to the Irish Publishers Association and to individual publishers suggested by ACIS members. Mercier Paperbacks are available, of course, as announced in the April, 1974 ACIS Newsletter, from the Irish-American Cultural Institute, St. Paul, Minnesota. It is hoped that other publishers might also arrange distributorships.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE TO SUBMIT SLATE

Lawrence J. McCaffrey (Loyola), Maureen Murphy (Hofstra), and Betty Messenger (Ohio State) have been appointed, with the approval of members voting at the May 3 General Business Meeting, to draw up a slate of nominees for the 1975 ACIS elections. Vacant will be the posts of vice president, secretary, treasurer, and representatives from the disciplines as specified in the ACIS By-Laws. As Vice President for 1972-1975, Professor McCaffrey automatically succeeds John R. Moore (Hollins College) as president; Professor Moore remains on the Executive Committee, ex-officio, as do the present Secretary and Treasurer. Communications to the Nominating Committee may be addressed to any member.

IUR DISCOUNT AVAILABLE TO ACIS MEMBERS

Dr. Maurice Harmon, editor of the Irish University Review, has announced a special annual discount subscription rate for ACIS members of £3.00. Regular price is £1.75 per issue, £3.50 annually (two issues are published each year). Subscribers must be ACIS members in good standing to be eligible for the discount.

Dr. Harmon asks that ACIS members check their university libraries to make sure that their institutions are receiving the Irish University Review. A limited number of back copies are available for new subscribers who wish a complete run.

IS YOUR LIBRARY ON OUR LIST?

Many university libraries now subscribe to the American Committee for Irish Studies Newsletter. If your library is not subscribing, please recommend us to your librarian. Note that the ACIS Newsletter not only carries interdisciplinary news of interest to specialists in Irish studies but also reviews and an annual bibliography.

KELLEHER ESSAY TO BE REPRINTED

In response to many requests, the next title to be issued as an ACIS Reprint, according to Reprint Editor Emmet Larkin, will be John V. Kelleher's essay entitled "Irish History and Mythology in James Joyce's 'The Dead.'"

Originally published in The Review of Politics, Vol. 27, No. 3 (July, 1965), pp. 414-433, this essay meets all the criteria for ACIS reprint publications: it last appeared in print more than one year ago; it has been recognized as a significant contribution to one or more disciplines served by ACIS; it is not now available.

Professor Larkin also announced that at this time funds in the reprint account total $1,003.00. However, all reprint expenses have not yet been billed, and the cost of reprinting the Kelleher essay has not yet been estimated.
Lyrics” discusses the achievements in the 1938 volume, Night and Morning, which Mercier ranks at the top along with Mme Benzime Levy in Dast (1967). Garrett’s “Austin Clarke in Transition” analyzes where the popular image of Clarke’s imagery and diction as he moved to realism and shows how the poet took Dublin, rather than the countryside, as the setting for his later poems. Kinsella’s “Cogan’s Career of Austin Clarke” explains just how dreary the scene was before Cogan’s poetic re-emergence in Ancient Lights. With characteristic candor Kinsella confronts the unweaverness of Clarke’s “flawed” career, but he concludes that the best work is a notable contribution to modern poetry.

These comments hardly do justice to an absorbing and substantial group of contributions. The issue is fascinating for insights into Clarke’s methods and achievements and also for the many references to the relationship of his work to that of Yeats and Joyce. For extra good measure we have Clarke’s one-act comedy, The Visitation, set in the parlour of the Austin Clarke Guest House with velvet and pearl wall hangings.

Knute Skinner

Western Washington State College


Since Malcolm Brown’s George Moore: A Reconsideration was published in 1955, very little of any importance of interest has appeared on George Moore. Several collections of Moore’s letters have appeared, some of his friends have found their way into print, Nancy Conimir’s 1956 memoir is mostly personal reminiscence, and Norman A. Jeffares’s George Moore (1965) is an abbreviated and understated consideration. It is a pleasure, then, to read through Janet Egleson Dunkley’s new book and to discover, short as it is, that Moore is at home, that his analysis less by key and contemporary theories of literary construct than by the painters and the painting styles he studied throughout his life—
as an art student in Paris in the 1870s, and long afterward. His writing was a verbal expression of the canvas in his mind’s eye. Professor Dunkley argues convincingly too that Moore’s own life history figures strongly in his memories of Ireland than out of the naturalist’s notebook: Moore’s essential Irishness (a way of thinking and looking at things that never really left him) color his books more than we have been aware, perhaps, in particular, her argument that Esther Waters is less an "English Story," as Moore called it, than an Irish one deserves attention and may prompt, as it should, the expansion of a novel.

We do not learn much about Moore’s private life (do we really want to?) from Professor Dunkley, nor do we see very deeply into any literary relationships that may have been formed during the two great decades of artistic productivity he lived through—1890s and 1920s—but this is not a biography (though helpful Chronicle attention to Moore’s life is included). Indeed, one of the merits of this book is that it discusses Moore’s life and work without the constant nit-picking interruptions of the usual biographical format. For Moore, as for any other writer, no notes, it does contain two very useful bibliographies; the selected bibliography of Moore’s published works should prove particularly valuable to students of the novelist.

In short, George Moore: The Artist’s Vision, The Storyteller’s Art is the most sensible, readable, and illuminating discussion of its subject published in the last twenty years. It is certainly an important contribution to Moore studies; and it should appeal to the lay reader as well.

John Halpern
University of Southern California


"Few writers in our time have had as clear a shot at fame, and missed it, as Francis Stuart has had."—thus David H. Greene, in A Festschrift for Francis Stuart. More than twenty years have passed since Professor Greene made this observation, and unhappily it is still true. The Irish poet Francis Stuart, professor of English at the University of Michigan, distinguished admirer: among fellow writers there have been W. B. Yeats, Crompton Mackenzie, and most recently Lawrence Darrell, and among critics, Professor Greene, Bertrand d’Astorg, Vivian Mercier, and Harry T. Moore. Still, general recognition has never come. Stuart remains an obscure novelist.

With the ever-increasing climate of neglect, it is reassuring to see A Festschrift for Francis Stuart appear at all and more reassuring to see it published in Ireland, where Stuart has

Continued on page 4

In Memoriam: Austin Clarke (1896-1974)

Maurice Harmon, University College Dublin

Austin Clarke’s work touches upon many facets of Irish life. Born in the closing years of the nineteenth century, he grew up in the Dublin of the horse-drawn cab and the first motor cars. Deeply affected by the nationalism of the early decades of the twentieth century, he was also stirred by the work of the Irish Literary Revival, as he found it in Yeats and AE, George Moore and James Stephens. An admirer of Robert Browning, the rest of his Irish language. He learnt Irish voluntarily at Belvedere College and was inspired by the enthusiastic teaching of Douglas Hyde at the university. Inevitably, he began to write epic narratives about the Old Irish past and was acclaimed as another Yeats. But he separated from the pagan, aristocratic past, preferring the mockenetic Celt-Romanesque period which he explored extensively in poetry, drama and novel. In fact, he has revitalised many areas of the Irish past so that his work has become an inspiration to the new generation of Irish novelists. As an imaginative poetic artist, Moore produced the first work of the new Irish Catholic experience. Accepting the painful conflict in himself between authority and individual freedom, he has illuminated the drama of the racial conscience. That decision to face up to himself and to the realities of post-revolutary Ireland is fundamental to his later stage. In the Fifies, after more than a decade of silence, he re-emerged as a major modern poet, producing volumes after volume of poetry and short stories, all life-affirming, and finally, a collection of poems which he was concerned for the disciplines of his craft and undeterred either by public neglect or private misfortune. Inspired in his youth by the romanotic work of the Revival, he became the most classical of Irish poets and the most humane.
December 1971, not early in 1972), but these are few and comparatively minor. Taken together, Mr. McCormack's two contributions provide a useful starting point for anyone beginning a study of Stuart's writing.

J. H. Natterstad
Framingham State College

TREASURER'S REPORT

Submitted by: Thomas E. Hachey, ACIS Treasurer

Total balance as of May 1, 1973: $2,855.78
Plus dues collected from 325 members 1,916.52
Plus interest through December, 1973 117.21
Plus anonymous contribution 75.00

$4,964.51

Minus following expenses:

ACIS Research Project Study $106.36
(Robert B. Davis) archives
ACIS Treasurer's expenses incurred in preparation, mailing, collection, and correspondence involved in record keeping and dues 159.92
1973 ACIS Conference expenses (Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor) 533.85
ACIS Newsletter subsidy 250.00
ACIS Secretary's expenses, including cost of duplicating and mailing membership list 165.06
ACIS telephone calls 14.00
ACIS miscellaneous expenses 12.50
One bad dues check 4.00
ACIS reception, 1973 ACIS-MLA meeting 75.00

$1,320.69

Total balance of ACIS funds as of May 1, 1974 $3,643.82

NOTE: Outstanding obligations and bills not yet rendered include 1974 conference expenses and anticipated expenses for planned reprints.

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

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