BEGINNING THE BICENTENNIAL

_Ireland and America_ is the theme of the 1975 ACIS Conference to be held April 24-26 at Stonehill College, North Easton, Massachusetts. An all-inclusive conference fee of $18.50 will cover admission to all academic sessions, buffet supper, banquet, and receptions. Full details, including information concerning housing, transportation to and from airports, etc. are in the conference mailing sent to the membership in March; additional copies are available from Fr. Francis Phelan, Stonehill College, Conference Coordinator.

In addition to events noted in the program, _Irish Directions_, an exhibit of Irish art, will be on display.

IRISH SESSIONS AT ACHA

Boston College will host the 1975 Spring Meeting, April 4-5, of the American Catholic Historical Association.

On April 4, Jocelyn Hillgarth, Boston College, will chair a session on “The Irish Abroad in the Early Middle Ages.” Participants will include Joseph F. Kelly, John Carroll University, “Irish Influence in England from the Synod of Whitby to the Viking Invasions,” and Robert E. McNally, S. J., Fordham University, “The Irish in Early Medieval Bavaria: St. Virgilius of Salzburg.” John F. Contreni, Purdue University, and Glenn W. Olsen, University of Utah, will serve as commentators.

On April 5 Lawrence J. McCaffrey, Loyola University, will chair a session on “Heritage of Conflict: Religious and Political Tension in 20th Century Ireland.” Participants will include Maurice R. O’Connell, Fordham University, “The Catholic Nationalism of Thomas Davis”; William D. Griffin, St. John’s University, “The Attitude of the English Military Toward the Irish People”; and Marie V. Tarpey, Wilmingtone College at New Castle, “Joseph McGrartry and the I.R.A.” Commentators will be Gilbert A. Cahill, SUNY College at Cortland, and Albert J. Hamilton, John Carroll University.

IRISH SESSIONS AT NEMLA

April 3-5 are the dates of the Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Conference, to be held in Montreal at the Sheraton-Mt. Royal Hotel.

Maureen Murphy, Hofstra University, will chair the NEMLA-ACIS session on Irish Literature (Friday, April 4, 9-10:30 a.m., Alpine): Joseph Browne, West Chester State College, will serve as secretary. Participants will include Basil Payne, Continued on page 2

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PROGRAM: 1975 ANNUAL MEETING

_Thursday, April 24_

2 - 6 p.m.: Registration, Stonehill College Center.
2 p.m.: Executive Committee Meeting, Duane Hall Conference Room.
6 p.m.: Buffet Supper, Stonehill College Center. Guest Speaker: Risteard O’Brien, Director, The Galway Irish Language Theater (Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe).
8:30 p.m.: Irish films, including “The Cuckoo Spit” by Mary Lavin (RTE), Hemingway Auditorium.
10:30 p.m.: An Evening at Brother Mike’s Pub. Paddy Maloney, Uillean Pipes; David O’Docherty, Pipes.

_Friday, April 25_

9 a.m.: Coffee and doughnuts, Duffy Academic Center.
11:15 a.m.: Session II. _Finley Peter Dunne_. Charles Fanning, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
3:45 p.m.: Business Meeting, Hemingway Auditorium.
7 p.m.: Banquet, Stonehill College Center. Guest Speaker: A Minister of Ireland.
9:30 p.m.: Entertainment at Brother Mike’s Pub: David O’Docherty, Pipes; Norwood Irish Dancers.

_Saturday, April 26_

8:30 a.m.: Coffee and doughnuts, Duffy Academic Center.
9 a.m.: Session IV. _Myth and Invention_. Charles Bowen, University of Massachusetts.
11:45 a.m.: Session VI. _Ireland and America_. Alan Ward, College of William and Mary.
reviews


Richard M. Kahn’s Susan L. Mitchell is a perfect match of a writer, a subject and an occasion. Of the author—one of the earliest and still one of the finest scholar-critics of Anglo-Irish literature—one need not speak. The subject, while admirable, is not in the first rank of literature. But the minor writers of the Revival, deserves to be remembered as an active participant in the Dublin literary scene for more than twenty years and in the literary center of a community which has always enjoyed the sates. Thus the format of the Bucknell University Press Irish Writers Series (approximately 100 pages, no footnotes) is ideal for a sketch of Kahn.

Kahn begins with a general survey of her work, stressing the different genres in which she wrote, and brings together the scanty biographical facts. He quotes many of the accounts by her contemporaries (John Eglinton, Seumas O’Sullivan, and others) and tries to give the flavor of her voluminous articles and reviews in The Nation and The Irish Monthly. She was active in chapter two Kahn treats Aims to the Immediatly Certain of Robert Shaughnessy in Ireland, noting the superiority of the 1908 pamphlet over the 1913 enlarged printing in book form. Many of the topical allusions in the Aims are cogently elucidated. Kahn also prints a manuscript portrait of “The Lake of Innisfree” from his own collection.

The third chapter centers on The Living Chaise, also published in book form in 1908 and enlarged in this, more successfully, for the Maunsell hardcover of 1913. Kahn suggests that “her themes are those of traditional religious devotion, in which there appears a very real sense that between natural and supernatural alliances.” After a discussion of her George Moore (1916), "more careless than criticism," Kahn concludes by commenting on some of her uncollected or unpublished writings.

Susan L. Mitchell contains numerous aids, on topics ranging from the critical reception of Newes (1804) to the Lane affair. Although informative, one or two of these might have been eliminated in favor of an examination of Mitchell’s Protestantism and Burke, for which the book provides a useful introduction with a frontispiece by Jack B. Yeats (not reissued by the Irishlight).

American embassy for Irish studies

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is the best of the purely creative work—a little set of plays and at least two volumes of short stories fine enough to stand in the front rank of their category.”

David H. Greene
New York University


A good monograph should inspire confidence not only that the writer is in command of his materials, but that the materials were worth treating in the first place. On both counts this abbreviated treatment of Douglas Hyde scores handsomely. Gareth Dunleavy’s command of primary sources is impressive. Particularly welcome is a straightforward summary of the little-known 194-page dream-allegory manuscript (now at the National Library of Ireland) that signaled the development of Hyde’s decision not to become a Protestant minister, as his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather had been. For Hyde politics and religion were to be “the two fruitful springs of pain and cruelty and heart scalding all over this earth,” and in later years he would carefully avoid “the day’s political disputes.” Dunleavy also calls our attention to the six important “Notes” appended to the Gaelic texts of Leabhar Sgealaih-eachta (1889), the twenty folk tales that introduced Hyde’s talents to a wider audience. They were written in English to help those who might use the stories to learn Irish, and they argued eloquently the reasons for keeping Irish alive while they defended deviations from philological niceness. In his next book, Beside the Fire (1890), he carried on the fight against those who traduced the Irish past to make their tales “more palatable for English readers, and not telling readers who gave them their stories or where” (Crofton Croker, Kennedy, Lady Wilde, and the American Jeremiah Curtin). It is refreshing to see how much of a piece Hyde’s writings were. From the beginning he was a scholar propagandizing the Gaelic-language faith, with erudition based upon wide readings in a rich but neglected language, countless conversations with Irish speakers in Roscommon, Galway, and Sligo, and a bottomless well of common sense. It is difficult not to respond sympathetically to the openness and diffidence contained in Hyde’s Preface to Ublha De’n Caoith (Apples from the Branch), a gathering of thirty-three Irish poems written by Hyde and published in various weekly newspapers: “I would like better to make even one good verse in the language in which I am now writing, than to make a whole book of verse in English. For if there should any good be found in my English verses, it would not go to the credit of my mother Ireland, but of my stepmother England.”

As for Hyde’s importance and literary merits: Dunleavy moves beyond the usual stereotyped notations on Hyde’s seminal speech “The Necessity for De-Anglicising Ireland,” the influential Love Songs of Connacht, the still-respectable judgments contained in A Literary History of Ireland, the trail-blazing Irish plays (Casadh an tSugan was the first Irish play produced in any theatre), the presidency of the Gaelic League, the distinguished academic career at University College, Dublin, and then the political years as Senator in the Irish Senate and as the first President of Eire. We knew all that before, but we knew it largely in terms of Hyde’s impact on Moore, Lady Gregory, Yeats, and Synge; we have not seen it clearly from Hyde’s point of view until now; and Dunleavy’s book, crammed with useful information, written in a lean style, contains a number of critical insights — those of contemporary reviewers and of his own devising — that stimulate our desire to read Hyde’s creative work and to judge for ourselves. Hyde, who retrieved legends, songs, and dramatic confrontations from “the detritus of monastic Ireland,” was a literary figure of some importance in his own right, and is well worth getting to know. Altogether, a splendid tribute to a great and wise man, and one of the better monographs in the Series.

Harold Orel
The University of Kansas

IN MEMORIAM: ACIS members regret the loss of our long-time friend and colleague, John P. Hughes, distinguished linguistic scholar, teacher of Gaelic, professor of linguistics at St. Peter’s College (New Jersey), who died on October 26, 1974. Our sympathies to his widow, the former Patricia Conway, who continues with us.