MEDIEVAL INSTITUTE TO SCHEDULE TWO SESSIONS IN IRISH STUDIES

Two sessions in Irish Studies have been scheduled for the Eleventh Conference on Medieval Studies to be held at The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, May 2-5, 1976.

Attracting the largest gathering of medievalists in the United States, the conferences sponsored by The Medieval Institute are interdisciplinary.

Dennis W. Cashman, Department of History, Quinnipiac College, will chair a session on "Medieval Ireland: Politics and Government," featuring papers by Frederick H. Russell, Rutgers-Newark; James Muldoon, Rutgers-Camden; J. R. S. Phillips, University of British Columbia and University College, Dublin; and Mary Hayes Somers, New York City.

Edward A. Peters, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, will chair a session on "Medieval Ireland: Saints and Scholars," featuring papers by Joseph F. Kelly, John Carroll University; Thea Lawrence Browne, New York City; and Joseph Szoverfy, SUNY-Albany.

For further information about these sessions, readers are advised to write to the chairmen; information about the conference may be obtained from Otto Grundler, Associate Director, The Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001.

NEW PRESS TO PUBLISH IRISH POETRY

First project of a Wake Forest University Press, to be established on a limited, trial basis, will be the cooperative publication of the work of several outstanding Irish poets, according to Dr. James Ralph Scales, president of the university. The first books will be copublished with Dolmen Press in Ireland and Oxford University Press in England; first publication will be "The Selected Poetry of Austin Clarke," edited by Thomas Kinsella. Dr. Dillon Johnston, associate professor of English at Wake Forest, will direct the project.

Scales declared that "initiating our press with poetry from Europe not only involves us with literature on an international level but also provides us with a relatively inexpensive method of publishing books of permanent value." If after two years, the project proves to be a solid basis for an expanded or permanent press, an editorial board will be appointed.

Kinsella's book will be printed in Ireland early next spring. The Wake Forest University Press will be listed as the North American publisher and the Oxford University Press as the British publisher.

American Committee for Irish Studies

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

Volume 5

December, 1975

IRISH STUDIES BURGEONS

AT SAN FRANCISCO MLA

A funny thing happened on the way to San Francisco. Last spring MLA staff members reported that, in their opinion (notwithstanding high attendance at all Irish studies sessions), interest in Irish studies had declined. But in addition to the Group Meeting of Celtic Languages and Literature, twelve program items for December 26-29 concern Irish or Irish-American literature and Irish or Irish-American writers. Like the frequently reported death of Mark Twain, reports of declining interest in Irish studies seem to have been greatly exaggerated.

ACIS members attending the MLA Annual Meeting in San Francisco are urged to take full advantage of the opportunities to meet other scholars in Irish studies and to discuss the variety of topics listed below in these scheduled sessions:

Friday, December 26, 7-8:15 p.m.: Celtic Languages and Literature, Elizabeth C. St. Francis, Chairman, Hugh B. Staples, University of Cincinnati; secretary, William F. H. Nicolaansen, SUNY-Binghamton; “The Death Tales of the Ulster Heroes,” Daniel F. Melia, University of California, Berkeley; “Irish Literary History since 1922,” Vivian Mercier, University of California, Santa Barbara.

Friday, December 26, 7-8:15 p.m.: Seminar 23, Celtic Studies: Research Directions. Edgar M. Slotkin, University of Cincinnati. Olympic North, St. Francis.

Saturday, December 27, 8:30-9:45 a.m.: Seminar 54, The Enduring O’Neill: Which Plays Will Survive? Frederick C. Wilkins, Suffolk University. Participants: Travis Bogard, University of California, Berkeley; Doris Fark, Douglass College, Rutgers; Esther Jackson, University of Wisconsin; Jordan Miller, University of Rhode Island; Henry Popkin, SUNY-Buffalo; John Henry Raleigh, University of California, Berkeley; Daniel Seltzer, Princeton. Continental 3, Hilton. Also Seminar 61, Nineteenth-Century Irish Novelists. Eileen Sullivan, University of Florida. Participants: Joseph Browne, West Chester State College; Daniel Casey, SUNY College, Oneonta; Grace Eckley, Drake University; Mark Hawthorne, Madison College; Robert Meredith, Georgia Institute of Technology; James Newcomer, Texas Christian University; Thomas Flanagan, University of California, Berkeley. Walnut B, Hilton.

Saturday, December 27, 10:30-11:45 a.m.: Seminar 72, Bernard Shaw: Scholarship of the Past 25 Years and Future Priorities. Charles A. Berst, University of California, Los Angeles. Participants: Charles A. Carpenter, SUNY-Binghamton; Louis Crompton, University of Nebraska; Frederick P. W. McDowell, University of Iowa; Stanley Weintraub, Pennsylvania State University. Continental 3, Hilton.


Saturday, December 27, 2:30-3:45 p.m.: Seminar 113, Current Research Problems in Anglo-Irish Literature. Richard J. Finneran, Tulane University. Participants: Mary M. Fitzgerald, Fordham University; George M. Harper; Florida State University; Robert Scholes, Brown University. Continental 1, Hilton.

Saturday, December 27, 4:50-5:15 p.m.: Seminar 133: The Workshop of Ulysses. John MacNicholas, University of South Carolina. Participants: James Van Dyck Card, Old Dominion University; Michael Groden, University of Western Ontario; A. Walton Litz, Princeton; Myron Schwartzman, Baruch College, CUNY; Diane Tolomeo, Uni-

Continued on page 2
current books of irish interest

Compiled by Jim Ford, Boston Public Library

irish reviews


MacDonagh and MacBride

The attempt to define the third was least well cast in the role of Irish nationalist martyr. Temporarily perhaps more a Scot than an Irishman, he lived in Edinburgh and devoted his life to trade unionism and a rather doctrinaire Marxism. He had also lived in the United States where IWY syndicalist influence had infected his politics. His Irish nationalism thus was joined if not actually subordinated to his socialist internationalism. (Any one with a special interest in the Marxist problem of how nationalism and class struggle are to be reconciled in the framework of international dynamics of history, will find some footnotes here in Connolly.) His participation in the ill-fated Easter Rebellion, just one of the factors that led to his execution, was not of the revolutionary workingclass cause, more than from a yearning for Irish freedom per se. The great majority of the Irish had followed Redmond in supporting the war, bringing Connolly immense frustration.

The present collection of his writings has an excellent introduction, not basically marred by the editors' enthusiastic commitment to leftwing causes (as is the recent ill-written piece of hagiography by Samuel Levenson, James Connolly, London, 1973). It chooses to reprint many of Connolly's occasional pieces, which appeared in various radical journals of the 1899-1915 period. For a more extensive reprinting of Connolly's works the apparatus that usually is churlish to those volumes edited by Desmond Ryan and published in Dublin 1948-1951 (Three Candles). What is presented here reveals a modest talent for political debate. Connolly was more a man of action than a theorist, and the claim in the first sentence of the Introduction that he was "possibly the most significant contributor to left-wing thought in English that the British Isles in the last hundred years" is not borne out in what follows (or if so it is a sad commentary on the state of that art?). Yet despite this somewhat humorless social-crusader personality, Connolly was an interesting and attractive person, an energetic organiser and camp propagandist such as the trade union movement produced in Ireland in the socialist youth (days long since faded), a fairly good prose stylist, and one whose courage was never in doubt as in the end, of course, he proved so convincingly. One interesting revelation of this useful paperback (see especially pp. 38-39) is that Connolly was at bottom a libertarian, who could never have been what he is occasionally called, "the Irish Lenin."

Roland Strowberg

The University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee

American committee for irish studies

The ACIS Newsletter is published four times annually in February, April, October, and December, at The University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201, Vol. V, Serial No. 4.

Editor: Janet Egleston Dunleavy
Book Review Editor: Nancy M. Walczyk
Editorial Assistant: Garth Wagemann
Bibliographer: Jim Ford, Boston Public Library


For some years there has been a need of a general account of the Celtic churches to replace Louis Gougaud's Christianity in Celtic Lands, now long out of date and out of print. This work fills that need as a semi-popular introduction to the topic.

Meenich accepts the standard definition of Celtic Chris-

antes, that is, the Christianity which developed in the Roman province of Britannia, in Ireland and in Britain. (There is also a brief reference to Brigantia in Spain.) Gallic Christianity is not treated as a Celtic phenomenon. The author concentrates on Ireland because it was the most important of the Celtic countries and the one area where Christianity was free to develop, uninhibited by its neighbors as was, for example, the British church via its-the Romanized Anglo-Saxons.

In his approach to the subject, Meenich begins with the pagan Celts, moving to British and then Irish Christi-

Continued on page 4

Arcana


Architecture


Bibliography

Tidy, Alan, Martin O'Cuaidhla: Clair Saoirse. Baile Atha Cliath: Clochmhar, 1975, £1.50.

Biography, Letters, Memoirs

Bonner, Brian, That Audacious Traitor. Dublin: Folksainne Na Fianna, 1975, e.g., The Methuen Memorial lectures. O'Doherty, who defeated the English at Derry in 1608.


Costa, Sydney Gifford, The Years Flew By: Recollections, Dublin Gifford and Craven, 1975, £1.20, Gifford worked on Arthur Griffin's Sinn Fein.

IRISH STUDIES, continued from page 1

university of Victoria. Continental 1, Hilton. Also Seminar 141, Annotated Secondary Bibliography: Shaw, Helmut G. Gerber, Arizona State University; Walter A. Hamilton. Wednesday, December 27, 9:00-10:15 p.m. American Committee for Irish Studies. Interestingly listed in MLA as discussion of Theosophy and the Irish Literary Revival, this session will bring ACIS members and friends together for a brief business meeting, followed by an ACIS--IRLF reception in room B to be announced. Tufted A. Hilton. Also Seminar 102, O'Neill and His Critics, Winfred Frazer, University of Florida, and James Highsmith, Lone Mountain College, Toyon Suite, Hilton.

Sunday, December 28, 10:30-11:45 p.m. Seminar 200 (ACIS--MLA Seminar), Theosophy and the Irish Literary Revival. Mary E. Bryson, Montana State University, Participants: William A. Dumbbett, SUNY--Albany; Bonnie K. Scott, University of Delaware; Niall F. O'Briain, Amherst; Richard Falls, Bryn Mawr University; Walter B. Hilton. Note: This program listing occurs twice in MLA--under this time and date and on Saturday, December 27, 9:00-10:15 p.m. Sunday evening, December 27, 9:00-10:15 p.m. The American Committee for Irish Studies, as noted above, will convene at 8:00, followed by a brief business meeting followed by a reception; seminar will meet Sunday morning. Correct your program copy now!

Wednesday, December 27, 4:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Seminar 224, Women in Joyce, Elaine Unkeless, Boston University. Participants: Florence L. Waltz, University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee; Margaret Church; Purdue University; John Van Dyck Card, Old Dominion; Susette Herkst, University of Virginia. Continental 3, Hilton.


Mac Siotrasa, Sean, Revolutions in Ireland. New York: Saxon House (distributed by Atheneum), 1975. £11.95.


Mac Fhionn, Padraic E. An Archar Micheal P. O Iadaidh, Baile Atha Cliath: Sirdaal, 1975. £2.00.

Plunkett, Oliver. Oliver Plunkett in His Own Words. Edited by Desmond Forrestal. Dublin: Veritas, 1975. £6.00.


Continued on page 5

ACIS members who wish to review books or special issues of journals should write to the editor, stating specific areas of academic interest.
of poems by Seamus Heaney, three essays by Irishmen, to-
gather with an article on Stephens and a review of the new
writings by Richard Finnigan. Since Irish voices are often
losted in the strident American brouhaha, it is worthy of men-
tion that six of the nine items are on Ireland itself.

The Heaney poems have a melancholy appeal, being
reflections on early Danish graves which are illustrated by
marte photography. J. C. Mays, in a belligerent note,
brates Brian O'Nolan not only to Joyce, but to the self-reflect-
king-mirror-beyond-mirror tradition of the romantics and
their exponents. J. B. L. Toland has success stounded for
"The Sisters" as a rapper to attack American extremes of
symbolic readings, described as "an academic game played
without a conscious" in which he sees the "scorn of the
crowd even though the direction is away and he makes
it no attempt to retreat." An image worthy of Beckett, with
the argument buttressed by deftly handled philosophical
speculations and downright errors. To all Joyceans, case
made, even if the animal be an Irish wolfhound in short
jacket. John Garring, professor as "Andrew Caa" in the
Irish Times years ago, remembers more Irish
love than Americans can ever forget, and notes that
local allusions which, again, have been missed by these
who know not the difference between Ath Chlith, Eolan-
a, and Saran, and the slovenly distinction he made in
1970 that the pleasant recollections I enjoyed with John Garring as
a Wake trio, with Roger McHugh, at a U.C.D. seminar three years
ago. Mr. Garring's knowledge of anecdote and song is
unrivalled.

No summary can do justice to the range and acuity of
the two cinemas by the two directors. John Boorman's The
First PartITION, the language movement, the role of the church,
politics past and present, and convey some sense of the Irish
gift for satire and sneer, and, what is often overlooked, Irish
sharpen of insight.

Richard M. Kain
University of Louisville
Aiding: A Quarterly of Irish and American Poetry. Edited by
Paul Shortisworth at 2226 42nd Avenue, New Orleans, 70118.
One year, $4.00; two years, $7.00; single issues, $1.00.

Aiding is a welcome addition to the little magazine
scene and should be of special interest to anyone who wants
to keep one with the international Irish-American
movement. In the May-June 1975 issue there is a
fixure on Mississippi Irish poetry. In addition, it includes a
fixure on the more international Irish periodicals (Henday
Mimeograph, Breadboard, and the Irish Literary Quarterly
come to mind). There is, also, a mix of newcomers and the
well established. Issue No. 1, for example, has the Irish poets
Martin Connolly and John Borrows. The second issue includes
the American poets William Dickey and Thomas HILL.
It is, of course, the Irish poets that will likely find
interest with the editors of the U.S. world. Dickey and Liddy.
Aiding has published Sydney Bernard Smith, Maurice Scully,
Bail Pauline, Leland Bardwell, James J. McAuley, Sean
Lucy, James Matthewson, and O'Casey. Dickey states,
"I may have overlooked some names, as some of Aiding's poets
are now too me and the contributors are not reliable."
I don't think this is true, among these are some very
young poets, O'Casey and Wall for example, whose
work is just becoming known in Ireland, and this section
merits more attention than it gets. This is, overall, a
well done, a very fine publication, and deserves credit
for bringing this Irish poetry to a wider audience.

Each issue has a large cover photograph of a featured
poet. Dickey is on one of the most of the US. It contains
good work by its Irish poets and it features a generous sampling of
Corcoran Statutes, a book of Liddy's "I Love You" which
comes from Dickey and is a poet too little known in America. Unlike Kinella
and Montague, he hasn't been published here by a major firm, but like them he is an important poet. The poems in Aiding
suggest a departure from the work in Liddy's previous volumes,
poetry which was addressed in large part to human relationship-
s, a noble subject (called "She Liddy lamp") and the
origins of poetry ("Beach I laid my heart down/
for the sand for the invisible shape") but also responds to the images:

Complex structure is a disadvantage.
See Americans with nothing corresponding to a brain
The red starfish purple starfish the barren star of fame.

Ghosts of the mere rise
My name is William Liddy, but as it is I must pass
over without individual comment most of the good poets in this
other issues and James Simmons, another poet too little
known, has a satirical piece juxtaposing fast food and
Three crops for while a pair of lovers foricate over their heads; and
there are other poets I ought to single out. I must at least
mention the American poet who has been reading. William Dickey
and Dave Kelly, to mention only two, have contributed
extraordinarily well to Aiding. And there's a young Washington
poet, Seven House, whom several issues have looked
in County Clare, which seems to have influenced him
"The gate no longer opens/ to that familiar cold/ where
Kenny of the mule/ roll his reins of nettles/ to half disintegrate." I
pleased that Aiding makes me think his work and look forward to seeing more of it.

Kaye Skinner
Washington State College

INFORMATION ON COURSES REQUESTED BY MANY

Increasingly, ACS members are writing
to the Secretary and to the Editor of the ACS Newsletter for more information about
Irish Studies courses in the States. In addition, this information is requested by the Subcommittee on Course
Offerings ofthe Irish Literary Association
International Association for the Study of Anglo-Irish Literature, for a report to be
made at the Trinity University Symposium on IASAL in Galway, July 26-30. Our
ACS archivist, Robert Davis of Tarkio College, Tarkio, Missouri 64651, has been collecting
such information as has been sent, but
in order for our archives to be complete and up to date to serve ACS members, all

who teach courses devoted in whole or in
significant part to Irish topics are urged to
send Professor Davis the following in
formation for each course:

Title of course and department and
institution in which course is taught.
The name of the instructor(s) and
(undergraduate, advanced, com-
bined undergraduate-graduate, graduate
degree and/or certification).
Frequency of course offering.
Name of instructor(s) (usually those teaching or co-teaching, and particip-
antes, if course is team taught).

Since, as one ACS member urging this
survey has said, reliability is preferable
to no information, ACS members are urged to submit information not only
about their own courses but also about
those taught by non-members (by
non-ACs members) about which they
have some knowledge, even if their
information is incomplete. Incomplete
information, the ACS archivist will attempt to obtain
missing data.

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**Literature:** Poetry Collections


**Music**

Star of Erin Music Hall (later the Olympia) from 1879 to 1897.

**Politics and Government**


**CORRECTION**

The 1976 Annual Meeting of the American Committee for Irish Studies will be held April 22-24, not April 28-30, at the University of Missouri—St. Louis.