

The fourteenth annual ACIS convention, coordinated by Dean Blanche Touhill, took place at the University of Missouri/St. Louis on 22-24 April 1976. A variety of issues were discussed at the Executive Committee meeting on Thursday, April 22, including a suggestion from the Canadian Association for Irish Studies (CAIS) that our two organizations cooperate in some fashion; the possibility of an ACIS summer school in Ireland; and future convention sites.

As announced in the April and October *ACIS Newsletter*, the 1977 meeting will take place at Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado, with Dr. Peggy Walsh, Department of History, serving as coordinator. ACIS members with suggestions for future conference sites should write to Johann Norstedt, ACIS Secretary, English Department, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA 24061

Among the decisions taken by the Executive Committee (and later ratified by the membership) was the establishment of a joint husband/wife dues payment of \$9 per year, with the stipulation that such joint memberships will receive only one copy of the Newsletter and other ACIS publications. The Executive Committee voted also to contribute \$100 to the memorial fund being established at Cooper Union for the late Martin Waters.

Emmett Larkin, Editor of the Reprint Series, asked for more membership participation in the series; members with suggestions of titles worthy of reprinting should write to him at the History Department, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois 60637. He also advises that most back titles are still available to new or recent members at \$1.25 each.

The Secretary reported that job information exchange is proceeding rather slowly, a reflection of the general state of the job market. He has had eleven enquiries about jobs, but only one or two hints about possible openings. He urges the membership to be more alert to openings and stresses that they need *not* be in Irish studies; many of those seeking jobs are willing to serve as generalists.

IMPORTANT REMINDER!

Individuals and organizations not in good standing as of December 31, 1976 will be removed from the ACIS mailing list by the computer. Extra costs are incurred to restore lapsed members to the list after that date. Please renew now. Send check or money order to Professor Thomas Hachey, History Department, Marquette Univ., Milwaukee, WI 53233.

american committee for



irish studies

newsletter

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Volume VI

December, 1976

IRISH SESSIONS AT NEW YORK MLA

Yeats and Modernism, December 27, 8:30 a.m., Chelsea A, Americana. James Lovec Allen, University of Hawaii at Hilo, discussion leader; Maurice Beebe, Temple University; Donna Gerstenberger, University of Washington; Marjorie Perloff, University of Maryland, College Park; Donald Torchiana, Northwestern University, participants.

Celtic Language and Literature: Celtic Studies in North America, December 27, 10:30 a.m., Nassau B. Hilton. W. F. H. Nicolaisen, SUNY—Binghamton, Chairperson; P. K. Ford, University of California—Los Angeles, secretary. Panel to be announced.

Anglo-Irish Literature: Concerning Dogs and Their Fleas, Yeats's Debts and Debtors. December 27, 1:00 p.m., Royal B Americana. George M. Harper, University of Florida, Chairperson; James F. Kilroy, Vanderbilt University, secretary; George Bornstein, University of Michigan; Jack W. Weaver, Winthrop College; James F. Carens, Bucknell University; Richard J. Finneran, Tulane University, participants.

American Committee for Irish Studies Seminar: December 27, 4:00 p.m., Vendome 11, Americana. Johann A. Norstedt, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, executive secretary of ACIS; Zack Bowen, University of Delaware, program chairperson. Marguerite Harkness, Virginia Commonwealth University; Dan O'Hara, Princeton University; Daniel Poeteet, University of California; Patrick A. MacCarthy, University of Miami, participants.

Irish-American Writers, December 27, 9:00 p.m., Vendome 11, Americana. Joseph Browne, West Chester State College, chairperson; Maureen Murphy, Hofstra University; Richard A. Betts, Pennsylvania State University; Johann Norstedt, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; Eileen O'Sullivan, University of Florida; and James O'Brien, Western Washington State College, participants. Lawrence J. McCaffrey, Loyola University, commentator.

Brian Moore and Thomas Kinsella, December 28, 8:30 a.m., St. James A, Americana. James D. Brophy, and Raymond J. Porter, Iona College, discussion leaders.

Images of Women in Irish Literature. December 28, Chambord 14. Bonnie Kime Scott, University of Delaware, chairperson. Mary Lou Stevenson, University of North Carolina; Shari Benstock, University of Illinois; Grace Eckley, Drake University; Janet E. Dunleavy, The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, participants.

Irish-Catholic, New England Puritan, and Humanistic Aspects in the Plays of Eugene O'Neill, December 28, 4:00 p.m., Royal A Americana. Virginia Floyd, Bryant College, discussion leader. John Henry Raleigh, University of California at Berkeley; Esther M. Jackson, University of Wisconsin at Madison; Frederick C. Wilkins, Suffolk University; Albert Bermel, Lehman College—CUNY, participants. Louis Scheaffer and Leonard Chabrowe, Lehman College—CUNY, discussants.

Eugene O'Neill: Critical and Theoretical Approaches to the Plays. December 28, 7:00 p.m., Chelsea B, Americana. Charles R. Lyons, Stanford University, and Frank R. Cunningham, San Jose State University, discussion leaders; Joseph Petite, Kansas State University; Frank R. Cunningham, San Jose State University; Mara Lemanis, San Francisco, participants.

Current Research Problems in Anglo-Irish Literature, December 28, 7:00 p.m., Buckingham B, Americana. Mary FitzGerald, Fordham University, discussion leader; David R. Clarke, University of Massachusetts; Robert O'Driscoll, University of Toronto; Narayan Hegde, SUNY—Stony Brook, participants.

Samuel Beckett: The Last Decade, December 29, 9:00 a.m., Vendome 10, Americana. Calvin Israel, SUNY College, Geneseo, discussion leader.

Aspects of Oscar Wilde, December 29, 11:00 a.m., Buckingham B Americana.

Continued on page 2

O'Hanlon, John. *The Irish Emigrant's Guide for the United States: A Critical Edition*. Edited, with an introduction and commentary by Edward J. Maguire. \$17.00.

Rodechko, James Paul. *Patrick Ford and His Search for America: A Case Study of Irish-American Journalism, 1870-1913*. \$20.00.

Roney, Frank. *Irish Rebel and California's Labor Leader: An Autobiography*. Edited by Ira B. Cross, \$37.00. First published in 1931.

Roohan, James E. *American Catholics and the Social Question, 1865-1900*. \$28.00.

Shannon, James. *Catholic Colonization on the Western Frontier*. \$20.00. First published in 1957.

Shaw, Douglas V. *The Making of an Immigrant City: Ethnic and Cultural Conflict in Jersey City, New Jersey, 1850-1877*. \$15.00.

Sylvester, Harry. *Moon Gaffney*. \$18.00. First published in 1947.

Tarpey, Marie V. *The Role of Joseph McGarrity in the Struggle for Irish Independence*. \$22.00.

Vinyard, JoEllen McNergney. *The Irish on the Urban Frontier: Detroit, 1850-1880*. \$25.00.

Walsh, James P., ed. *The Irish: America's Political Class*. \$31.00. An anthology of 23 essays chronologically arranged from the early days of our country to the present.

Weisz, Howard R. *Irish-American and Italian-American Educational Views and Activities, 1870-1900*. \$30.00.

McCaffrey, Lawrence J. *The Irish diaspora in America*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1976. \$8.50.

Neidhardt, W. S. *Fenianism in North America*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University, 1975. \$10.00.

Wakin, Edward. *Enter the Irish-American*. New York: Crowell, 1976. \$9.95.

Irish Language

O Muimhneachain, Aindreas. *Dochas agus Duaineis: Sceal Chonradh na Gaeilge, 1922-1932*. Corcaigh: Clo Mercier, 1976. \$3.10.

Literature: Criticism

Benstock, Bernard. *Paycocks and Others: Sean O'Casey's World*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1976. \$25.00.

Bornstein, George. *Transformation of Romanticism in Yeats, Eliot and Stevens*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, \$15.00.

Bradford, Curtis, ed. *W. B. Yeats: The Writing of the Player Queen*. De Kalb: Northern-Illinois Press, 1976. \$30.00.

Brown, Homer O. *James Joyce's Early Fiction: The Biography of a Form*. Hamden, Conn.: Shoe String Press, 1976. \$9.50.

Clissman, Anne. *Flann O'Brien: A Critical Introduction to His Writings*. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1976. \$25.00.

Davies, Stan Gebler. *James Joyce: A Portrait of the Artist*. New York: Stein & Day, 1976. \$10.00.

Dougherty, Betty J. *A Study of the Rhythmic Structure in the Verse of William Butler Yeats*. New York: Humanities Press, 1975. \$15.25.

Flannery, James W. *W. B. Yeats and the Idea of a Theatre: the Early Abbey Theatre in Theory and Practice*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976. \$22.50.

Frayne, John P. *Sean O'Casey*. Columbia Essays on Modern Writers, 73. New York: Columbia University Press, 1976. \$1.50.

French, Marilyn. *The Book as World: James Joyce's Ulysses*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976. \$12.50.

Greene, Nicholas. *Synge: A Critical Study of the Plays*. London: Macmillan, 1976. \$7.95.

Hart, Clive, and David Hayman, ed. *James Joyce's Ulysses*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1975. \$5.95. (Eighteen critics for the eighteen episodes.)

Hart, Clive. *A Topographical Guide to James Joyce's Ulysses with an accompanying folder of maps and drawings by Leo Knuth*. Colchester: A Wake Newsletter Press, 1976. £2.50.

Henn, T. R. *Last Essays*. Gerrards Cross: Colin Smith, 1976. £5.50.

Jones, James Land. *Adam's Dream; Mythic Consciousness in Keats and Yeats*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1976. \$9.50.

Kersnowski, Frank. *The Outsiders: Poets of Contemporary Ireland*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1976. \$5.00.

Krause, David. *Sean O'Casey and His World*. New York: Charles Scribners, 1976. \$8.95.

McHugh, Roland. *The Sigla of Finnegans Wake*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1976. \$14.95. (New approach to the Wake using ciphers taken from Joyce's notebooks.)

O'Driscoll, Robert and Lorna Reynolds, ed. *Yeats and the Theatre*. Yeats Studies series, London: Macmillan 1975. £10.00.

Peake, C. H. *James Joyce: The Citizen and the Artist*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1976. \$15.00.

Rafroidi, Patrick and Maurice Harmon, ed. *The Irish Novel in Our Time*. Lille: Publications de l'Universite de Lille, 1976. F65.

Rosen, Paul. *Samuel Beckett and the Pessimistic Tradition*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1976. \$12.50.

Seidel, Michael. *Epic Geography: James Joyce's Ulysses*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976. \$13.50.

Sherrard, Philip. *W. B. Yeats and the Search for Tradition*. Ipswich: Golgothoza Press, 1976. £0.90.

Taylor, Richard. *The Drama of W. B. Yeats: Irish Myth and the Japanese No*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1976. \$15.00.

Tuohy, Frank. *Yeats*. New York: Macmillan, 1976. \$19.95.

Worth, Katherine, ed. *Beckett the Shape Changer; A Symposium*. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1975. \$4.95.

Yeats, William Butler. *Uncollected Prose*, edited by John P. Frayne and Calton Johnson. Vol. 2. New York: Columbia University Press, 1976. \$25.00. (Reviews, articles, etc. written between 1897-1939; volume 1, 1886-1896, was published in 1970.)

Young, Dudley. *Out of Ireland: The Poetry of W. B. Yeats*. Chester Springs: Dufour Editions, 1976. \$10.00.

Literature: Drama

Beckett, Samuel. *Ends and Odds; Dramatic Pieces*. New York: Grove Press, 1976. \$6.95 (\$1.95 paper) (Includes "Footfalls," "Not I," "That Time; and "Tryst.")

Galvin, Patrick. *Three Plays: The Last Burning, Nightfall to Belfast and We Do It for Love*. Belfast: Threshold, 1976. \$2.50. (Address: Ridgeway Street, Stranmillis Road, Belfast 9.)

Literature: Fiction

Beckett, Samuel. *Fizzles. Prose by S. Beckett*. New York: Grove Press, 1976. \$6.95 (\$1.95 paper)

Beckett, Samuel. *I Can't Go On, I'll Go On; A Selection from Samuel Beckett*, edited by Richard W. Seaver. New York: Grove Press, 1976. \$15.00.

Boyle, Patrick. *A View From Calvary*. London: Gollancz, 1976. £4.25. (Short stories.)

Broderick, John. *The Pride of Summer*. London: Harrap, 1976. £3.25.

Continued on page 5

Joyce, James. *Ulysses. A Facsimile of the Manuscript*. Critical Introduction by Harry Levin, bibliographical preface by C. Driver. New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1976. 3 volumes. \$150.00.

Marcus, David, ed. *Best Irish Short Stories*. London: Paul Elek, 1976. £3.95.

_____. *New Irish Writing, 1976*. London: Quartet Books, 1976. £1.50. (Selected from the literary page of the Irish Press.)

Moore, George. *The Untilled Field*. Gerrards Cross: Colin Smith, 1976. (First published 1903.)

O'Faolain, Sean. *Foreign Affairs*. Boston: Little Brown, 1976. \$8.95. (Short stories.)

O'Flaherty, Liam. *The Pedlar's Revenge*. Dublin: Wolfhound Press, 1976. £3.60. (Short stories.)

O hEithir, Breandan. *Lig Sinn i gCathu*. Baile Atha Cliath: Sairseal agus Dill, 1976. £2.50.

O'Nolan, Brian. *At Swim-Two-Birds*. New York: New American Library, 1976. \$3.95.

_____. *Stories and Plays by Flann O'Brien*. New York: Viking, 1976. \$8.95.

_____. *The Third Policeman*. New York: New American Library, 1976. \$3.95.

Pfevor, William. *Angels at the Ritz*. New York: Viking, 1976. \$7.95. (Short stories.)

reviews

Patrick Rafroidi, Guy Fehlmann, Maitiu Mac Conmara, eds. *France-Ireland: Literary Relations*. Lille: Editions universitaires, 1974. (*Cahiers irlandais*, nos. 2,3.) 265 pp. N.p.g.

A very uneven anthology. "The Modern Age" has informative and incisive essays. "The 1790's and After," except for Fehlmann's extremely good comparative piece on Somerville and Ross, reads like a set of competent term papers. "General Background" contains three substandard essays. Unfortunately for the well-meaning reader, the three sections are in chronological order, i.e., "General Background," "The 1790's and After," and "The Modern Age," and he may be too exasperated to reach the Celtic Renaissance. The style up to this point is so gallicized, the typographical errors so numerous, and the translations so execrable that the reader will have little confidence that the writers could read the material well enough to have reliable remarks about it. In short, it was a serious miscalculation on the editors' part to rule that English would be the medium of all essays (and a curious miscalculation as well, for surely scholars of French-Anglo/Irish literary relations can read both French and English) an incalculable blunder, once that misguided decision was made, not to have them professionally translated.

Still, schools with programs in either Irish studies or comparative literature will find the anthology a useful source book, even in its mediocre parts. (I.e., there is more on Wolfe Tone here than in the Encyclopedia Britannica.) And the better parts are very illuminating, e.g., Margaret Stanley's

Uris, Leon. *Trinity*. New York: Doubleday, 1976. \$10.95.

White, Terence De Vere. *Big Fleas and Little Fleas*. London: Gollancz, 1976. £3.50.

Literature: Poetry

Carson, Ciaran. *The New Estate*. Winston Salem: Wake Forest University Press, 1976. \$3.25.

Clarke, Austin. *Selected Poetry*. Winston Salem: Wake Forest University Press, 1976. \$10.00 (\$5.00 paper).

Longley, Michael. *Man Lying on a Wall: Poems 1972-75*. London: Gollancz, 1976. £2.50.

Montague, John. *A Slow Dance*. Winston Salem: Wake Forest University Press, 1976. \$4.25.

Poetry Now: *New Voices in Contemporary Irish Poetry*. Castleknock: Goldsmith Press, 1975. £1.50.

Music

Cuthbert, Sheila Larchet. *The Irish Harp Book: A Tutor and Companion*. Cork: Mercier, 1975. £7.50.

Maguire, John. *Come Day, Go Day, God Send Sunday*. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1976. £1.50. (First published in 1974.)

Wright, Robert L. *Irish Emigrant Ballads and Songs*. Bowling Green: Popular Press

Bowling Green State University, 1976. \$25.00.

Politics and Government

Lebow, Richard. *White Britain and Black Ireland: The Influence of Stereotypes on Colonial Policy*. Philadelphia: Institute for the Study of Human Issues, 1976. \$10.95. (An analysis of British policy toward Ireland in the 19th century.)

Rumpe, E. and A. C. Hepburn. *Nationalism and Socialism in 20th Century Ireland*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1976. £9.50 (Updated and expanded edition.)

Research: Interdisciplinary

Dunleavy, Gareth W. and Janet E. Dunleavy. *The O'Connor Papers: A Descriptive Catalog and Surname Register of the Materials at Clonalis House*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1976. Until December 31, 1976, \$30.00 U.S.A., \$33.00 Canada and Mexico, \$34.50 other countries. 1977 prices to be announced.

Sociological Studies

Gmelch, Sharon. *Tinkers and Travellers*. Photographs by Pat Langan and George Gmelch. Irvington, New York: McGill-Queens University Press, 1976. \$12.50.

White, Jack. *Minority Report: The Protestant Community in the Irish Republic*. Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 1976. £6.50.

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

thoughtful itemizing of Yeats's use of French painting, Mark Mortimer's and Gerard LeBlanc's descriptions of Synge's debt to French and Breton culture, E. J. Dumay's informative report on the O'Casey revival in France.

Marilyn Gaddis Rose
State University of New York at Binghamton

Irish University Review, V (Spring 1975), 207 pp. Brian Coffey Special Issue. \$4.75

Yeats is rumored to have once said of poets, as Father Time had said of himself and his siblings, that "we are too many": meaning I suppose that in our time too many talented writers vie for the attention of too few attuned readers to allow more than a handful to survive. The *Irish University Review's* Brian Coffey issue is an attempt to rescue one of the less favored among Ireland's writers from the Limbo to which the process of critical selection (however unreliable) sentences the unread. To that end, the issue includes three of Coffey's recent works: his long poem, *Advent*; a series of translations, which Coffey calls *Versions*; and an experiment in mixed media, with drawings by Geoffrey Prowse, entitled *Leo*.

Of these works, *Advent* is, as James Mays declares in his appreciative "Introductory Essay," "the culmination of Brian Coffey's career to date and the centrepiece of this special issue." As such, it reflects the strengths and (I think) weak-

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REVIEWS, continued from page 5

nesses of his poetry. Part I of the eight comprising *Advent* confronts the state of modern man who, having rejected the Edenic way, the natural way, lives trapped in the nightmare of his modernity:

In the darkhouse They ask "Who are you"
Who are they and you say perhaps so to please
"I am Flea Ghost" and They say Who are They
"Not ghostly but wit" and you answer
Are They Who "You're funny today" and you turn
to file-bank flick tabs enquire
"Do you like me" and They say "Call again
when you trust" "We" They say "care"

The concatenation of these voices pits the bureaucratic leveling world ("They") against the individual's two selves: one public, seeking to conciliate without surrendering; the other private, resisting with satiric irreverence the insidious appeal attached to being comfortably filed.

The world's question expresses the need of bureaucracy to categorize, to reduce; as the poem repeatedly puts it, to program. The self's answer, uncategorizable and so incongruous as to seem joking, if not mad, recalls a figure from the mythology of the first artist to rebel against the oppression of modern life, Blake; and Blake in his quest for the road back to the Universal Brotherhood of Eden emerges as one of the heroes of Coffey's poem. The darkhouse in which the voice of the world is heard, a recurring symbol in *Advent*, thus images in its various permutations the fallen condition itself: from the room in which Coffey's sleeper, like Blake's Albion, sightless sleeps, or stares through a wall to meet "a staring eye"; to the mortal body afflicted by its mortality; to the grave. It is like the brown concrete windowless box in which Leo, erstwhile administrator in the Office of Education, lives

his withdrawal.

This scene, like some of *Leo*, shows Coffey at his satiric best. But he can lapse into irony so heavy-handed that it borders on mere invective:

Moments of visitation flash from east to west
we see as man like cobra trained to strike at sight
come spots of rising light on screen a "They've started"
and off our "nukes for freedom" blast to overkill
and other game scenarios of power-stoned soldiers

And sometimes his ear simply fails him: "What have they done to Klio, what have they done to our Muse . . ."

While these lapses are, I think, sufficient to deny Coffey the first rank that Mays would claim for him among modern poets, they undermine neither the energy of his verse nor the urgency of his vision. The thrust of *Advent* is, finally, away from the negativism inherent in satire and complaint toward prophecy, a profoundly Christian meditation on life and death. The poem compresses into its mythic frame a history of the cosmos from creation, "Eden just come to be/ fruitful the openarmed," to Judgment. And much of Coffey's most powerful verse unfolds from these prophetic moments.

Advent seems to me, nonetheless, uneven. While I know that Mays and suspect that Coffey would dispute my view, I find *Versions* to be at least technically a finer achievement. Coffey appears to profit from the discipline imposed on him by an independently existing model. Some of the most successful passages in *Advent* itself are in fact parody. And in "El Desdichado," from Gerard de Nerval, and "My Familiar Dream," from Paul Verlaine, the opening lyrics of *Versions*, he attains an economy and intensity suggestive of the translations of Ezra Pound—which is a major achievement indeed.

Barton R. Friedman
The University of Wisconsin—Madison

REPRINT, continued from page 2

4. "The Native Irish Grammarian," by Osborn Bergin, reprinted from *Proceedings of the British Academy*, Volume XXIV, 1938.
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 XXI, 1945.

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.
3. "Irish Agricultural Production: The Historical Background," by Raymond D. Crotty, reprinted from *Irish Agricultural Production: Its Volume and*

its Structure (Cork University Press)

Modern Irish Literature

1. "Matthew Arnold and the Celtic Revival," by John Kelleher, reprinted from *Perspectives of Criticism* (Harvard University Press: 1950).
2. "Irish History and Mythology in James Joyce's 'The Dead,'" by John Kelleher, reprinted from *The Review of Politics*, Volume 27, No. 3, July, 1965.

The University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee
Department of English
P. O. Box 413
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