1976 SECRETARY REPORT

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 should 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 University, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

American Committee for Irish Studies Newsletter

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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 Bernstein, 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. Margaret Harkness, Virginia Commonwealth University; Dan O’Hara, Princeton University; Daniel Poore, 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 Norsted, 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.


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 Chaprowe, 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, Geneveo, discussion leader.

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

Continued on page 2

Rodrick, John. James Joyce and His Search for America: A Case Study of Irish-American Journalism, 1870-1912. $20.00.


Roohan, James J. American Catholics and the Social Question, 1865-1930. $28.00.


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

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

Tallon, Marie V. The Role of Joseph McCarrick in the Struggle for Irish Independence. $22.00.

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

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


Irish Language


Literature: Criticism


French, Marilyn. The Book as World: James Joyce's Ulysses. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976. $15.00;


Krause, David, Sean O'Casey and His World. New York: Charles Scribner, 1976. $7.95; on the edition with the note on the editors' rule that English would be the medium of all essays (and a curious misausculcation as well, for scrupulously of French of Shannon's works: hibernian, adonidh, French, French) an incalculable bender, once that mingled decision was not, to set them professionally translated. (First published in 1935.)

Of these works, O'Hanlon's 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 English and British, and some dramatic illuminations, especially Margaret Starrett's continued.)
REVIEWs, continued from page 5
nesses of his poetry. Part I of the eight comprising Adven
t 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 The 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 must"
"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 pro-
gram. The self's answer, unaccountable and so inco-
gruous 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 Adven
t, 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 stirs through a wall to meet "a staring
eye"; to the mortal body afflicted by its mortality; to the
gate. 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 bor-
ders 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 Adven
t is, finally, away from the pessimism inherent in satire and complaint toward
prophecy, a profoundly Christian meditation on life and death.
The poem compresses into its myopic frame a history of the
cosmos from creation, "Eden just come to be/ fruitful the
openarmed," to Judgment. And much of Coffey's most power-
ful verse unfolds from these prophetic moments.

Adven
t 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 suc-
cessful passages in Adven
t 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,
the attains an economy and intensity suggestive of the trans-
lations of Ezra Pound—which is a major achievement indeed.

Barton R. Friedman

The University of Wisconsin—Madison

REPRINT, continued from page 2

Osborn Bergin, reprinted from Pro-
cedings of the British Academy,
Volume XXIV, 1938.
5. "The Archaisms of Irish Tradition,
" by Myles Dillon, reprinted from Pro-
cedings of the British Academy,
Volume XXXIII, 1947.
Delargy, reprinted from Proceed-
ings of the British Academy, Volume XXI,
1945.

Modern Irish History
1. "Nationalism and the Irish Pea-
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," reprint-
ed from Irish Historical Studies,
3. "Irish Agricultural Production: The
Historical Background," by Raymond
D. Crotty, reprinted from Irish Agricul-
tural 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
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.

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