



# American Committee for Irish studies newsletter

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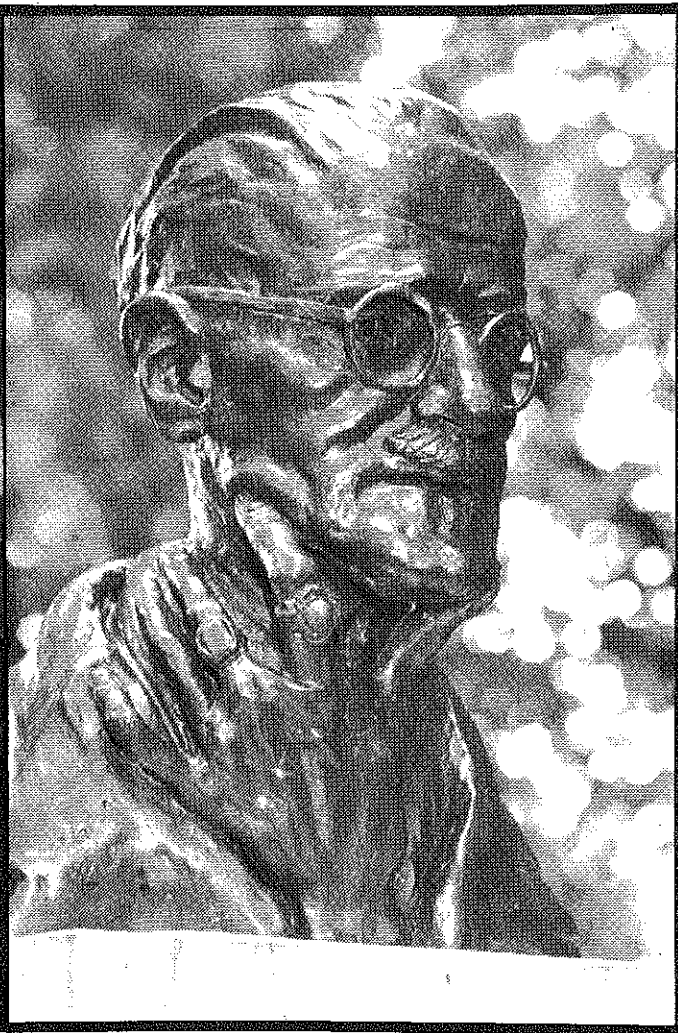


## HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

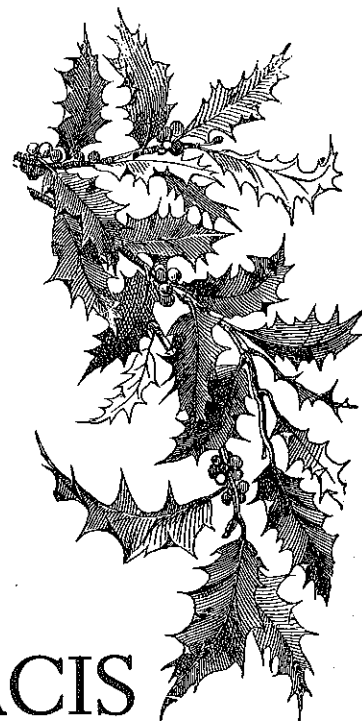


*It's dues time again!  
You know the rules;  
\$6 to your treasurer*

Catherine Shannon, 6 Apple Orchard Heights, Westfield, MA 01085



Top: L-R, Diana Ben-Merra, cutout of Joyce, and Maureen Murphy, directors of the recent conference, "Joyce and His Contemporaries," Hofstra University; Victor Talmadge as Harry Heegan in O'Casey's play, *The Silver Tassie*, recently revived in New York (see page four). Middle: Ray Shanks of American Express, Ms. Marjorie Fitzgibbon, sculptor; and David Griffiths with the bust of Joyce in St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Right, a close-up of the bust. Bottom: Sculptor Yann Ranarch-Goulet with his bust of John Field (see page four). Photos compliments of: Hofstra Public Relations, Irish Consulate and the *Irish Times*, and Wilson Hartnell Public Relations, Ltd., Dublin, and Gus Martin.



The Executive Board of ACIS  
extends warm and affectionate

**SEASON'S GREETINGS**

to the membership and to our  
friends around the world.



# NEWS



**A Catalog of Irish Music** at Westfield State College is now available. The bibliography includes Irish music, music literature, recordings, tapes, and cassettes collected in Ireland and compiled by Prof. Catherine A. Dower. All materials are available for study in the music department (Bates Hall, Room 118). For further information contact Dr. Dower, Music Department, Westfield State College, Westfield Massachusetts 01086 (Telephone 412-568-3311 ext. 357). (There will be copy and shipping charges for the music.)

## The Poetry of Joyce and Beckett

Patrick Colm Hogan (Department of English, SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y. 14260) will be considering papers for a session he is chairing on "The Poetry of Joyce and Beckett" at the Provincetown Joyce Symposium (12-16 June 1983). Those interested are invited to submit papers to Mr. Hogan at the above address.

## Reith BBC Lectures

Professor Denis Donoghue, who holds the Henry James Chair at New York University, will be giving the BBC Reith Lectures this fall. He is the first Irishman to do so in their 34-year history.

## McGovern at UCD

Former South Dakota senator, George McGovern, has been appointed to the Chair of American History at UCD. His appointment has met with opposition from, *inter alia*, Right-to-Life groups because of his stand on abortion. Des Hickey, columnist for the *Sunday Independent*, railed against McGovern's appointment because McGovern "represents the views of those who support the homosexual lobby and lean sympathetically toward Castro's Cuba." Tom McFadden, of the Couple to Couple League in Ireland, said, "The idea is about as sensible as inviting Ian Paisley to lecture on the history of Irish Republicanism." Says Hickey, "There must surely be many American academics who are far better qualified?"

## Drama at the Abbey

September saw some new directors appointed to the Abbey Theatre board. Gone are Michael O hAodha, chairman for twelve years, and in his place is Charles McCarthy. Also replaced is Margaret O Dalaigh, whose seat will be taken by Ulick O'Connor.

## Irish Theatre Elsewhere

- In New York, the Irish Rebel Theatre at the Irish Arts Center (553 W. 51 St.) has just completed a successful run of *The Interrogation of Ambrose Fogarty*, directed by Jim Sheridan, formerly of the Project Arts Theatre, Dublin. The Center is continuing to produce the best Irish theatre in the U.S., and it's worth a visit if and when you come to New York. Write to Nye Heron for a schedule.
- The Soho Rep, also in New York, did a three-week run of O'Casey's play, *The Silver Tassie*, in October and November. It was the first time New Yorkers had seen the play since 1949 when the Interplayers put it on at Carnegie Hall. In that production, there were a few actors who would soon become famous, including Jack Palance, Anne Meara, and Dennis Weaver.
- In Brussels, Belgium, the Irish Theatre Club, performed *Juno and the Paycock*. The Taoiseach sent a telegram of congratulations on opening night.

## Television in Connecticut

- The Connecticut Humanities Council has awarded a \$7,500 grant to Professor Raymond James Raymond (Department of History, University of Connecticut) and Dr. Philip Sleaman (Head, Center for Instructional Media and Technology) to begin scripting a one-hour television documentary on the Irish heritage in Connecticut. This is the first stage of a \$25,000 CHC grant. It is envisaged that the program will be broadcast both on cable television and on Connecticut Public Television.
- The first of the University of Connecticut's programs in Irish history will be broadcast on Cable television throughout Southern New England beginning the week of October 29, 1982. It is entitled "Ireland the Present Crisis" and the role of Irish-America. The program was written and presented by Professor Raymond James Raymond of the UConn. History Department, and directed by L.C. Maxfield of the Center for Instructional Media and Technology, University of Connecticut.

## Highest and Lowest

Ireland had the highest birth rate in the EEC last year, with 21 births per 1000. Germany, with 10.1 births per 1000, had the lowest.

## Yeats' Summer School

The Yeats' Summer School in Sligo has a new director, the first non-Irish director in the school's history. Professor Donald Davie, professor of English at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, assumes the post after being associated with the school for the past twenty years. Born in Yorkshire in 1922, Prof. Davie taught at Trinity College, Dublin, in the 1950s, and moved to Cambridge in 1958, where he stayed until 1964. He moved to the New University of Essex, and, in 1968, to Nashville. Davie has established a reputation as a poet and literary critic. In the 1950s, he was prominently associated with a group of English poets called "The Movement," which included figures such as Philip Larkin and Thom Gunn.

## John Field

A bust of John Field, was unveiled at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, by Charles Haughey on July 16, the bi-centenary of Field's birth. The bust is the work of sculptor Yann Ranard-Goulet. That same night, RTE broadcast a special program on Field, which was written and presented by Terry de Valera, and played by Charles Lynch.

## De Valera Exhibition

The American Irish Historical Society, 991 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10028) is presenting an exhibit to mark the centenary of the birth of Eamon de Valera.

The exhibit entitled, "EAMON DE VALERA, 1882-1982," opens October 22, 1982 and runs until January 29, 1983. The American Irish Historical Society is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6pm. Call 288-2263 for more information.

## What's in a Name?

The ten most numerous surnames in Ireland, according to Brian de Breffney's *Irish Family Names*, are: are you ready? Murphy, Kelly, Sullivan, Walsh, Smith, O'Brien, Byrne, Ryan, Connor, and O'Neill. The second string is: Reilly, Doyle, McCarthy, Gallagher, Doherty, Kennedy, Lynch, Murray, Quinn, and Moore. Not a Norstedt among them.

## Information Needed

- Emanoel Lee (23 Banbury Road, Oxford, England) is looking for details of Irish-Americans who fought in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902). Interestingly, he has a photo of a contingent of Irish-Americans from the Chicago area.

# NEWS

Oy!

Michael Mann, founder and current resident of the Loyal League of Yiddish Sons of Erin, served as grand marshal of the 100th anniversary Labor Day parade in New York. Mann, who is also regional director of the AFL-CIO, was born in Dublin, and is on the board of the American Irish Labor Coalition and the American Irish Historical Society.

## Equal Time

Ireland's first traditional mosque will be built in Dublin by 1984 at a cost of about \$2 million. There is a 4200-strong Islamic congregation in Ireland, mostly students. In Britain, where it is the second largest religious group (next to Catholicism), there are over 2000 mosques.

## Centenary Doings

- Cyril Cusack, the last surviving cast member of *Knocknagow*, the film based on Charles Kickham's famous novel, visited Mullinahone, Co. Tipperary, in August for the Kickham centenary celebrations.
- The New York Public Library's Berg Collection has been featuring an exhibition of James Stephens material since July. "James Stephens: 1882 - 1950" will run until February 28, 1983. Remember, it's closed on Thursdays.

## New Journal

*Tracks* is a new Irish journal of stories and poetry which will focus on, *inter alia*, translations from other languages. The first issue features an article on contemporary Danish poetry and poems in Danish by Uffe Harder. Future issues will have translations of Swedish and Hungarian poetry. Inquiries to: John F. Deane, The Nook, Mornington, Co. Meath.

## Plus ça change . . .

Q. As a matter of fact, I suppose the Irish are not great theatre goers?

A. They are.

Q. But there are only two theatres in Dublin.

A. Yes.

*Parliamentary Papers*, 1892, no. 240

"We are not a nation of great theatre-goers, though Irish people have made notable and noble contributions to the stage, as playwrights and players. Indeed, they nearly always have been better at writing plays and performing in them than going to them: they make poor audiences."

*Irish Times* editorial  
14 August 1982

# For Want of a "Nail" . . .

The story of how the badly battered statue of King Billy saved Dublin during the second World War was revealed for the first time yesterday. "King Billy" was blown off his horse in College Green in 1929 by Republicans who found his presence hard to stomach. He had proudly stood there since 1701.

The statue—or what remained of it—was unceremoniously carted off to a Corporation junkyard, where it was forgotten.

However, a decade later—during the second World War—when things were hard and when ration books were foremost in everybody's mind, King Billy came back into prominence. He rowed in to play his part in helping Dublin's populace.

At that time there were considerable problems with the city's waterworks. The old water system was literally creaking at the seams. There were many leaks and Dublin was losing a lot of valuable water. The Corporation was trying to get supplies to patch up the leaks but without much success.

Then a bright young Corporation engineer came on the scene. He happened to be in the old junkyard, which was used as the graveyard for old monuments, and came upon the solution to Dublin's problems. He noticed that the scrotum of Billy's horse was made of lead—about a stone and a half to be precise—and he rushed back to his masters with the news.

The result was that the lead was melted down and helped to block many a leak in the city's water system.

A Corporation spokesman, who related the story yesterday, said they had been asked by a reporter 10 years ago whatever happened to the monument. "We were too embarrassed to tell. We did not know how to describe it to the fellow."

The statue, which was the only example of the work of Grinling Gibbons in Ireland, had a hectic life. It was often defaced and three efforts were made to blow it up.

Reprinted from the *Irish Times*, 10 Feb. 1982.



## Number Please?

Irish telephone service is worsening, if that's possible. In a letter-to-the-editor of the *Irish Times*, D. Hugh Sheridan suggested the following: "I have just scanned the back page of today's *Irish Times*, and I note the existence of five personal advertisements from firms and companies announcing that their telephones are out of order. Perhaps it's time for the *Irish Times* to consider having a special classified category known as 'Phones Out of Order,' so when subscribers find that they are unable to get on to the number of their choice, they could check their *Irish Times* to see what the latest state of play is on the dud telephone front."

## Obituary

Michael J. Tutty, editor of the *Dublin Historical Record* (from 1971), in Dublin, July 1982.  
Seamus Ennis, traditional piper, in Dublin, October 1982.

## They Said It

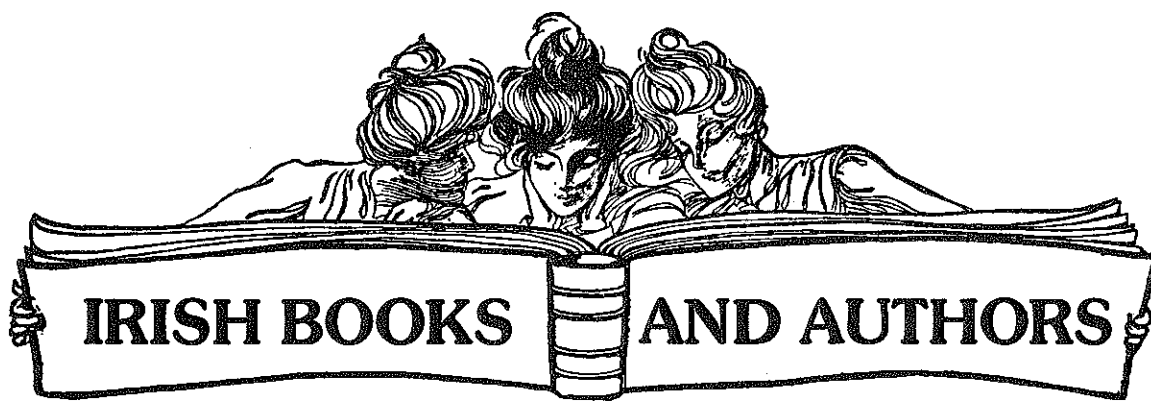
"They are turning this place into another Dallas." Richard Harris, film star, on revisiting Dublin, and noticing the demolition of landmark buildings.

"Apart from being able to act you off the screen, they can also drink you under the table." Stewart Granger, on acting with the Abbey players.

"If I were Taoiseach of Ireland tomorrow, my first official act would be to declare July 12 a legal and national holiday in the Republic." Vincent Dowling, former Abbey actor, now director of Lakewood, Ohio, Shakespeare Festival.

"I'm proud to be his grandson, but I don't make my life out of it." Stephen Joyce.

"It is not Dublin which is dirty, it is the Dubliners who indiscriminately throw the litter who are dirty." Dublin Corporation spokesman.



D.J. Hickey and J.E. Doherty. *A Dictionary of Irish History since 1800*. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1980. Totowa, NJ: Barnes and Noble, 1981. 615 pp. 20 pounds, \$38.50

**A**S A WORK of reference Hickey and Doherty's *Dictionary* provides nearly 2000 entries, crossreferenced and with few obvious errors or misprints. As a book for browsing it is addictive for scholars and general readers alike.

A very large proportion of the entries are biographical, from the first duke of Abercorn, who served as Lord Lieutenant in the 1860s and 1870s, to "Zozimus," the blind Dublin street singer and ballad writer who died in 1846. Britishers appear when they played a role in Irish history, even if like Gladstone and Lloyd George they held no appointment in Ireland. There are no bibliographies, but the entries for writers list their books.

Public affairs dominate, with numerous entries for politicians, political organizations, government bodies, statutes, newspapers, and events. The longest entries in the book are political or military, such as the eight pages on Northern Ireland. There are lists, for instance, of the Chief Secretaries under the Union, and of Cabinet members afterwards. There are chronologies, notably in the article on the War of Independence. There are statistics, for example, of post-independence elections listed under the various parties. Somewhat surprisingly, the *Dictionary* also gives the texts of many documents, such as the Solemn League and Covenant of 1912 and the Treaty of 1921.

Literature and religion are presented largely through biography. Social history depends mainly on the explanation of terms, such as the "American wake," for prospective emigrants, and "sleeping in stradogue," a procedure by which a peasant family and any strangers—a pedlar, a beggar—preserved propriety while sleeping naked in a one-room cottage. Only occasionally, as in the article on "Railways in Ireland," do Hickey and Doherty provide an entry which is not a proper name or a technical term. Consequently, the *Dictionary* is least satisfactory for social and economic history. For instance, there are no general articles on drink and temperance, only biographies of the Guinness family and Father Mathew, explanations of poteen and shebeen, and an entry for the Local Option Party in Northern Ireland. Despite these limitations, Hickey and Doherty's book is more than welcome. For any self-respecting library it is indispensable.

David M. Fahey  
Miami University



### Glassie and Heaney Win Awards

- Henry Glassie, professor of folklore and American civilization at the University of Pennsylvania, has won the 1982 Haney Prize for Social Science for his book, *Passing the Time*, the folklore and history of an Ulster community.
- Seamus Heaney, widely acclaimed as Ireland's greatest living poet, was awarded the 1982 Bennett Award from the Hudson Review "in recognition of his distinguished achievement in the art of lyric poetry." The award carries a prize of \$12,500.

## Books in Brief

### John Field

One searches in vain for anything on John Field, the Irish composer, whose bicentenary was celebrated in 1982. The Irish government issued a stamp in tribute, but there aren't many books to read about him. Thanks, then, to Musical Scope Publishers (P.O. Box 125, Audubon Station, New York City 10032) for keeping in print its translation (by Harold M. Cardello) of *John Field* by A.A. Nikorlayev. The book was first published in Moscow (where Field died) in 1963 and in English in 1973. Of particular value is a bibliography of Field books. The publisher also has a reprint, "John Field of Dublin, The Inventor of the Nocture," by W.H. Grattan.



### The Irish in Philadelphia

Temple University Press has re-issued Dennis Clark's significant study, *The Irish in Philadelphia*, in paper (\$9.95). When it appeared in 1973, Oscar Hanlin commented that it was "a valuable contribution that will prove interesting not only to historians but also to sociologists and students of urban problems." Clark's newest book is *The Irish Relations, Trials of an Immigrant Tradition* (Farleigh Dickinson University Press), which "records the struggles of Irish workers in brutal industrial settings, analyzes enterprises that the Irish built that became part of the urban fabric of the nation, and reveals the repeated adjustments they had to make in confronting blacks, Jews, and others in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Philadelphia." Of particular interest is the chapter, "Woman of the House," in which Clark (though he has a fondness for the word "girls") details quite convincingly the struggles of Irish women in textile mills and at home, a subject which is gaining more interest from social historians.



### Joyce Studies

Another valuable reprint comes from the University of North Carolina Press, and at an affordable price. Weldon Thornton's *Allusions in Ulysses*, first published in 1961, is available in paperback for \$12.95. The reviewer for the *Washington Post* described it as "A very thorough index of references to literature, philosophy, theology, history, the fine arts and popular and folk music in Joyce's masterpiece." The only thing missing is an update or a new introduction from the author. Has the book really stood the test of twenty years of scholarship? The publishers think so.

Stein and Day, through Scarborough House (Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. 10510), think that Stan Gebler Davies' 1975 biography, *James Joyce, A Portrait of the Artist*, is worth reprinting, and they've re-issued it in paperback. One is leary of a book which gives a one-word blurb from the *Library Journal* ("Lively") as an endorsement. Another endorsement is printed on the cover, from *Kirkus Reviews*. Neither publication carries that much weight with critics, and one wonders what others have said about it. One also wonders what came after "Lively."



## The Book of Irish Books

If the "Book of Books" is the Bible, then the Bible of Irish books must be *The Book of Irish Books*, compiled and distributed by Tom Kennedy of Albertine Kennedy Publishing (Woodhouse, Leixlip, Co. Kildare). It is a grand venture, listing every Irish book published and in stock in Ireland. There are nearly 1300 books listed by subject, with each entry listing the title, author, publisher, price, and a paragraph or two of the contents. Lacking, as with so many Irish book catalogues, is the date the books were published. It has a comprehensive index, and is printed on excellent paper stock with a glossy cover. It is attractively illustrated with amusing graphics and photographs, and sells for \$9. Worth a try.

## The Arts in Ireland

Those who get their kicks from centenaries, bi-centenaries and other such marked occasions will want *The Arts in Ireland: A Chronology* by Christopher Fitz-Simon (Humanities Press, \$30). Essentially, it's one of those chart books which tells at a glance what was happening in Ireland and the world in any given year, in this case from 20 B.C. to 1970. For each year (and it skips a few until the 16th century when it gets down to details), there is a list of those born and died, what happened in the visual arts, performing arts, literature, Irish events, and world events. As an example, the centenary scene looks pretty bleak for the rest of the 1980s. There's St. John Ervine and Padraic Ó Conaire in 1983, John McCormack in 1984, Lennox Robinson in 1986, and Sean Keating in 1989. One might want to celebrate the 100th birthday of the G.A.A. in 1984, but it's not going to shut down O'Connell Street. For bi-centenaries, you may look forward to Anthony Raftery's 200th in 1984, or if you're really a long-range planner, be in Paris in 1989. If you have to ask, don't go.

## Celtic Christians

The *Lindisfarne Letter* is a publication of the Lindisfarne Association (R.D. 2, West Stockbridge MA 01266), which emphasizes the emergence of a new global culture and other humanist goals. The book features two sections: "The Heritage of Celtic Christianity" by Christopher Bamford, and "An Anthology of Celtic Christianity," edited by William Parker Marsh. If you're into this, write the publishers for details.

## Histories of Ireland

Helicon Limited of Dublin has printed a ten-part history of Ireland which includes the following books: *Early Medieval Ireland*, Charles Doherty; *Colonial Ireland 1169-1369*, Robin Frame; *Late Medieval Ireland 1370-1541*, Art Cosgrave; *The Catholic Community in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, Patrick J. Corish; *New Foundations—Ireland 1660-1800*, David Dickson; *The Dawning of Democracy: Ireland 1800-1870*, Donal McCartney; *Statements and Divisions: Ireland 1870-1922*, M.A.G. O'Tuathaigh; *Independent Ireland: the First Fifty Years*, Ronan Fanning; and *Northern Ireland since 1920*, David Harkness. Inquires to: P.O. Box 43A Ballymount Road, Walkinstown, Dublin 12, Ireland.

## 1913 and All That

O'Brien publishers in Dublin have re-issued *Dublin 1913, A Divided City* in paperback. It was originally published in 1978 by the Curriculum Development Unit as simply an authorless *Divided City*. It rates all the accolades it has received if one remembers that it is not by any means the definitive book on the strike/lockout. Dublin wasn't divided during the event; in fact, there was great unanimity; more, one might add, than was shown during the Easter Rising or any subsequent event. There were 404 employers oppressing 100,000 men, women and children. That's not division; that's tyranny. The book is distributed by Irish Books and Media (683 Osceola, St. Paul MN 55105), and is recommended for courses in 20th-century Irish history.

## The Annuals

The *Yeats Annual*, published by Macmillan (UK) and Humanities (US), has a new editor: Warwick Gould of Royal Holloway College in England. Richard Finneran, the former editor, will edit *Yeats: An Annual of Critical and Textual Studies*, published by Cornell University Press. An *O'Casey Annual* will continue to be edited by Robert G. Lowery.

## Belfast Bookseller

One of the nicer catalogues produced in Ireland (or anywhere else for that matter) is from Emerald Isle Books (539 Antrim Road, Belfast 15, Northern Ireland). The proprietor, John A. Gamble, is out to prove that Belfast is not all guns and drums. His most recent catalogue (#78) lists exactly 1700 items for sale, most at reasonable prices. As an example, there are complete runs of the *Capuchian Annual* for 170 pounds and the *Irish Sword* for 250 pounds. Most of the books are priced much lower. They also have a fairly extensive set of antique maps. If you dread going to Belfast in these worst of times, here's a way to shop by mail.

## Book Newsletters

Two New York bookstores offer regular newsletters to those on their mailing lists. Keshcarrigan Bookshop (90 West Broadway, New York 10007) has a good selection of Irish-language and second-hand as well as newer books. Facsimile Bookshop (16 West 55th Street, New York 10019) offers a monthly listing of a variety of books. Both newsletters are free.

### TREASURER'S REPORT - A.C.I.S.

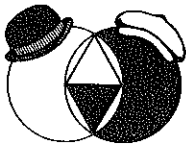
July 30, 1981 - September 15, 1982

Submitted by Catherine B. Shannon, Treasurer

Balance as of July 30, 1981	\$	5,637.33
Plus dues received		3,715.70
Plus sale of membership list		25.00
Plus sale of A.C.I.S. Reprints		120.00
Plus Shannon Development Subsidy to Guide to Irish Studies, 2nd ed.		300.00
Plus compounded interest		282.40
	\$	10,080.43
<u>Minus Expenses following:</u>		
Conference Subsidies:		
University of Vermont	\$	233.15
New England Conference at Colby-Sawyer		200.00
Midwest Conference		100.00
Mid-Atlantic Conference		100.00
University of Delaware-Blue and Gold Club (1980)		313.50
Pittsburgh-Carnegie Mellon - 1981		275.00
Previous Treasurer's Final Expenses		50.00
Stationery, labels, postage		491.34
Phone Expenses - Executive Committee		42.55
Irish Literary Supplement Advertisement		200.00
A.C.I.S. Contribution to Symposium on Northern Ireland at John F. Kennedy Library, March, 1982		200.00
Midwest Registration Credit		10.00
September 1982 A.C.I.S. Newsletter printing		628.39
Executive Committee Expenses at Burlington		70.00
A.C.I.S. - M.L.A.		72.13
Bank Charges		10.35
Loss on Foreign Exchange		9.30
		<hr/>
Total Expenses	\$	3,006.41
Total Balance of A.C.I.S. Funds as of Sept. 15, 1982	\$	7,074.02

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Robert G. Lowery, Editor

An important new forum for criticism and scholarship on Sean O'Casey, whose reputation has grown since his 1980 centenary: commissioned articles, reviews and bibliography.

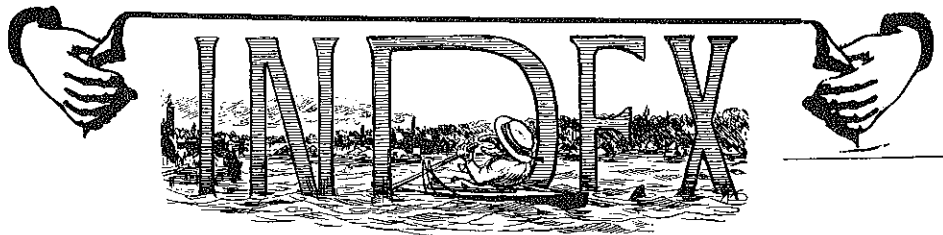
1982 233 pages  
ISSN 0278-5641 cloth \$30.00

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Richard J. Finneran, Editor

Includes a critical edition of the unpublished Yeats manuscript, "Leo Africanus"; essays by six distinguished Yeatsians; and all Yeats items from *Dissertation Abstracts International* 1980.

1982 259 pages  
ISSN 0278-7678 cloth \$30.00

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The following is an index to all the articles in the newsletter from its inception to April 1982. A separate index to the book reviews will be published shortly. Ed.

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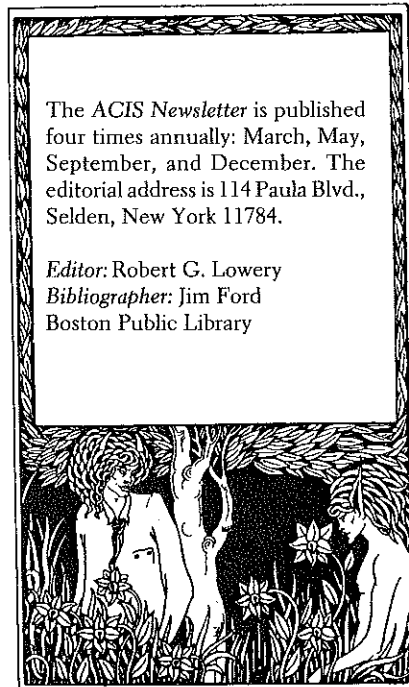
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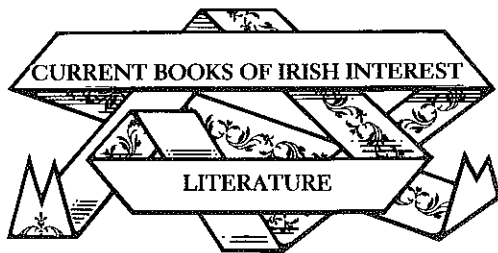
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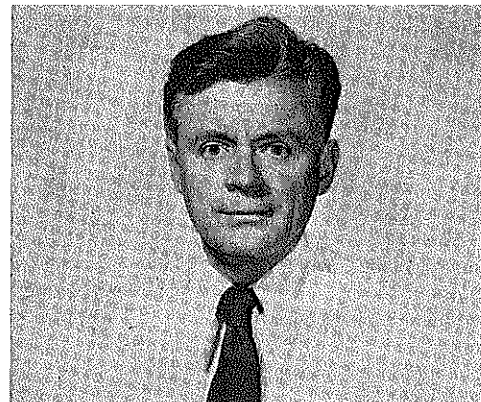
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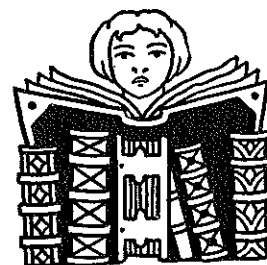
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