



# American Committee for Irish Studies

An Coiste Meiriceánach ar Léann Éireannach

## News

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**Editor, ACIS Newsletter**  
Robert G. Lowery

December 1983  
ISSN: 0374-6204  
Established 1962

### Eoin McKiernan to Retire

After twenty years at the helm, Dr. Eoin McKiernan, founder and president of the Irish American Cultural Institute, is stepping down as executive director. The IACI has a search committee for a person to succeed Dr. McKiernan. Interested parties may contact: Thomas Rosensteel, attorney, 325 South Sixth Street, St. Charles, IL 60174.

### IASAIL Conference

The 1984 annual conference of the International Association for the Study of Anglo-Irish Literature (IASAIL) will be held on July 16-19 in Austria. The theme will be "Literary Crosscurrents, Ireland, England and the World." Registration forms may be obtained from: Dr. Wolfgang Zach, English Dept., Graz University, Heinrichstrasse 26, A-8010 Graz, Austria.

### Annaghmakerrig Birthday

The Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Annaghmakerrig celebrated its second anniversary in October with the publication of a newsletter. Titled "The Annaghmakerrig Gazebo," the four-page newsletter recapped some of the Centre's achievements. In 1982, more than 200 guests from a wide range of disciplines used the facilities of the retreat to write plays, books and poems and to plan projects and art exhibitions. For non-Irish citizens and/or residents, the Centre charges IR£500 per month, although the director, Bernard Loughlin, stated that they are seeking to build up a fund from which grants to overseas applicants could be offered. Write him at the Centre, Newbliss, Co. Monaghan, Ireland.

### MLA 1984 Convention

Members interested in participating in an ACIS session at the 1984 MLA Convention in Washington D.C. should send proposals for papers and suggestions for panel topics to Mary Helen Thuente, Dept. of English, Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ., Fort Wayne IN 46805, by 1 February 1984.

### Somerville and Ross Remembered

A festival to honor Edith Oenone Somerville and Violet Martin Ross is being planned for 5-9 September 1984 in Castletownshend, Co. Cork, Ireland. Write to Somerville and Ross Committee, Irish Tourist Board, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.

### Bargain Days at Altman's

Altman's department store in New York City ran an ad in the *New York Times* (11/5) for a Charles Dickens letter, dated May 3, 1860, which accepted for publication a John O'Donnell poem. O'Donnell was an Irish poet who became editor of the weekly *Universal Party*. Price: a mere \$950. Didn't know that O'Donnell was worth that much. The same ad had an Elizabeth Bowen letter for \$35.

### Book Reviewers Needed

The *Irish Literary Supplement* editors remind ACIS members that new book reviewers are always needed. Those interested should send a 3 x 5 card with their name and address and their area of interest to: 114 Paula Blvd., Selden, New York 11784. Reviewers in Canada should contact the Canadian editor, Michael Kenneally, at Marianopolis College, 3880 Cote Des Neiges, Montreal, Quebec H3H 1W1. Reviewers in Ireland should contact Richard Kearney at 75 Pembroke Cottages, Donnybrook, Dublin 4. The spring 1984 number of the *ILS* will be sent to all ACIS members who have paid their 1984 dues.

### Modern Irish Criticism Journal

Michael Kenneally is asking for essays of criticism on post-World War II Irish writers which will be published in a new journal of modern Irish criticism. Essays should be about 25-30 pages in length, double-spaced typed, and should pertain strictly to the subject of modern Irish writing. Publication and payment details will be forthcoming. Write him at: English Department, Marianopolis College, 3880 Cote Des Neiges, Montreal, Quebec H3H 1W1, Canada.

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Next Issue: April 1984  
Deadline for Copy: 1 March 1984

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*Books in Brief, page 2*  
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*Your Dues: An Important Notice, page 4*

# Books

• If Oxford University Press weren't so tight with their review copies, a proper review of volume eight of *A New History of Ireland* could be written. Since they are, and since the book retails for the astonishing price of \$89, whoever has the book should say something about it, if only to let people know that it exists. That "whoever" is the editor, who had to do some fancy horse-trading to get a copy.

Volume eight (1982) is *A Chronology of Irish History to 1976*, edited by T.W. Moody, F.X. Martin, and F.J. Byrne. To say that historians need this book is an understatement. For too long, they have had little more than the equivalent of calendars and newspaper columns from which to glean a year-by-year chronology. Scholastically, historians have had to rely on the work of their British counterparts, and there are several excellent British books which contain valuable Irish material (such as, for instance, Powicke and Fryde's *Handbook of British Chronology*).

Moody is Fellow Emeritus of Trinity College, Dublin, and Martin and Byrne are at UCD. Together, they have compiled a masterful 600-page book of the most important historical dates. (No modesty here; they even include the publication date of their *New History of Ireland*, vol. seven: August 5, 1976). The index is over 125 pages long, and finding anything is a snap. The material is, properly, historically oriented, but there are literary dates, too. The dates begin at 2,000,000 B.C., but don't be put off by that. In only a few pages, they're up to 432 A.D., the traditional date of St. Patrick's mission.

This book is not for amateurs or genealogists. It's for the professional historian and for every library that is visited by one.

• Genealogical Publishing Co. Inc. (111 Water Street, Baltimore, Md. 21202) announces that volume three of *The Famine Immigrants* and a reprint of *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies of Ireland* will be available in January. The latter is a reprint of the 1861 edition and is said to be quite scarce.

• Irish Books and Media (683 Osceola Ave., St. Paul, Minn. 55105), headed by Ethna McKiernan, is now the exclusive U.S. distributor of Blackstaff Books (Belfast).

• Merrimack Publishers Circle (99 Main Street, Salem N.H. 03079) is the distributor of a new edition of William Thompson's long out of print and longer titled classic *Appeal of One-Half the Human Race, Women, against the Pretensions of the Other Half, Men, To Retain them in Political and Then in Civil and Domestic Slavery* (\$5.95), first published in 1825. Thompson was an Irish Protestant landlord who was influenced by Jeremy Bentham and Robert Owen.

• Macmillan (N.Y.) have brought back into print (paper) Yeats's *Fairy and Folk Tales of Ireland*, with an introduction by Benedict Kiely, and *The Book of Irish Verse*, selected and edited by John Montague, first published in 1974. Both sell for \$7.95 each.

• O'Neill's Five Points Press (1742 Second Ave. Suite 225, New York City 10128) have produced a very readable "Pocket Guide to Irish New York," which includes everything from artists to travel categories. You'll find lists of Irish bookshops, newspapers, small presses, restaurants, radio programs, and much more.

## Treasurer's Report

September 15, 1982 — September 14, 1983

<b>Balance as of September 15, 1982</b>	<b>\$7,074.02</b>
Plus dues received	4,240.86
Plus sale of membership list	180.00
Plus Ireland Fund Subsidy to Guide	2,000.00
Plus Irish Tourist Board Subsidy to Guide	1,000.00
Plus Ireland Fund Subsidy for Columbus Exhibit	300.00
Plus Valpariso University Refund (1981)	175.00
Plus compounded interest	317.13
	<b>\$15,287.01</b>
<b>Minus Expenses Following:</b>	
<i>Fall Conference Subsidies:</i>	
Midwest Conferences, 1982 and 1983	\$ 350.00
New England Conference, Univ. of Mass.	250.00
Mid-Atlantic Conference, Lafayette	100.00
S.E.A.C. at James Madison Univ.	96.56
<i>Other Subsidies</i>	
Univ. of Vermont, 1982	66.00
Irish Language Committee	150.00
<i>National Conference, Ohio Dominican, Spring 1983</i>	
Ohio Dominican	500.00
Local Guests	584.75
Transportation Subsidy for Speakers	369.50
Exhibit, Shipping Costs	116.95
<i>A.C.I.S. Newsletter Expenses</i>	
Univ. of Miami (1981-82)	2,021.00
Dec. 1982 and Mar. 1983 printing and postage	1,343.64
	542.55
<i>Guide to Irish Studies, 2nd Edition</i>	4,700.00
A.C.I.S. Election Expenses	192.00
A.C.I.S. Research Report	138.00
Incorporation Costs	112.50
Stationery, Labels and Postage	161.35
Executive Committee Telephone Expenses	347.29
A.C.I.S. Hospitality, A.H.A. and M.L.A.	95.01
Gifts to Friends of A.C.I.S.	155.18
Bank Charges	18.50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,410.78</b>
Leaving Balance as of September 15, 1983	<b>\$2,876.23</b>

Submitted by Catherine B. Shannon, treasurer

### From the Times

An intensely dedicated American professor of linguistics was on a study tour of Connemara. Towards the end of his visit, fascinated by the Irish way of life, he was in a pub one night drinking with an elderly Gaelic speaker.

The professor asked: "Is there any Irish word equivalent to the Spanish word *manana*?"

The native speaker pondered for a while and replied: "I'm afraid there's nothing in the Gaelic that expresses the same sense of immediacy and urgency."

*Irish Times, 28 May 1983*

### SCHOOL OF IRISH STUDIES

International Residential Summer Schools  
Trinity College, Dublin

July 2-14: *The Irish Character: Relationships*

Directors: Nessa Doran, M.A., and Declan Kiberd, Ph.D.  
An interdisciplinary appraisal of interpersonal relationships in Irish society from earliest historical evidence to contemporary life.  
Fee: £334 (Tuition, tours, entertainment and campus accommodation)

July 2 - August 10: *Orientation in Irish Studies*

A 5-day interdisciplinary introduction to Irish civilisation with 5-week seminar options: Archaeology, Crafts, Traditional Music, Drama or Literature.

July 30 - August 18: *Aspects of Celtic Ireland*

Undergraduate programme in Irish Studies, history, economic development, literature and the arts.

Fee: £475 (Tuition, tours, entertainment and campus accommodation)

Noelle Cleary, Director,  
9 North Great George's Street  
Dublin 1. Tel: 01-744553

## Travel Free\* to the Convention

Go to Wake Forest in Comfort and Style

With Your Friends and Colleagues

Next year's annual ACIS convention will be in Wake Forest, North Carolina, on May 3-5, 1984. As part of an effort to save money as well as to have some fun, a group of ACIS members are renting a full car on AMTRAK. A minimum of 15 fares will reduce the regular \$174 round-trip price by 25%, down to \$131 at present rates. (By comparison, flights from N.Y. to Winston-Salem are about \$260; from Boston about \$280; and from Chicago about \$310.) Forty-four fares will give us a full car to ourselves. With a full car, we will get one free ticket\* which will be awarded in the time-honored draw-the-name-out-of-a-hat tradition. For every 20 tickets after that, there will be another free ticket\* awarded.

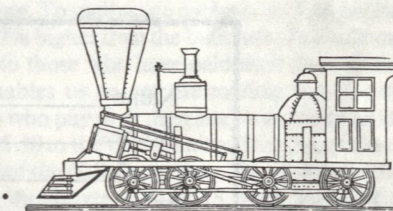
The train will leave Manhattan's Penn Station on Wednesday, May 2, at 2:30 p.m., and will arrive in Greensboro, N.C., around midnight. Dillon Johnston, organizer of the conference, will greet us at the station with transportation to the hotel and either a ceiling band or church choir, whichever is available. The conference will begin the following afternoon (Thursday), thereby en-

suring rest for all of us. The return trip will arrive back in Penn Station around noon, Sunday, May 6. AMTRAK has agreed to provide us with a separate lounge at Penn Station on May 2, and we expect there to be a free bar in the lounge to fortify us for the journey.

The train will have complete dining facilities as well as a cafe car, and it will handle checked baggage (2 carry-ons and 3 more up to 150 lbs.). If there is enough interest for a full car, it will be separated into smoking and non-smoking sections. The train will make stops in New Jersey at Newark and Trenton; at Philadelphia, Pa.; Wilmington, De.; Baltimore, Md.; Washington, D.C.; and in Virginia at Alexandria, Manassas, Culpepper, Charlottesville, Monroe, Lynchburg, and Danville. Members may board the train at any of these stops, but they will not be eligible for the group-fare ticket. Instead, they should purchase the Excursion fare which is 15% off the regular round-trip. They can ask the conductor to direct them to the ACIS car (the one with the tattered tri-color).

As is well known, airline fares into New York are substantially lower than fares for similar or shorter distances. Members may find it cheaper to fly into N.Y. and board the AMTRAK rather than to negotiate the several stops it may entail to fly to Wake Forest. Those arriving at LaGuardia Airport (preferred) or JFK on the day of departure should arrive by noon for transportation to Penn Station. New York-area ACIS members will assist those arriving by air.

Those interested should formally contact Robert Lowery, editor of the ACIS newsletter, at 114 Paula Blvd., Selden N.Y. 11784, as soon as possible. It is expected that the fare will have to be paid in full by March 1. Follow-up detailed instructions will be sent before the departure date. Additional information and an update will be published in the April issue of the Newsletter.



Xerox and/or detach and send to: 114 Paula Blvd., Selden, NY 11784.

- Sign me up! I'll send you a check before March 1.  
 I'll be flying into  JFK  LaGuardia airport (check one) and will need transportation.  
 I might be interested and will let you know later.  
 I live in the New York area and can help with transportation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# ALL ABOARD AMTRAK



The ACIS NEWSLETTER is published three times annually: April, September and December. The editorial address is: 114 Paula Blvd., Selden, New York 11784.

Editor: Robert G. Lowery  
Bibliographer: Jim Ford,  
Boston Public Library

## SEASON'S GREETINGS





# Dues Notice

This coupon is your dues notice for 1984.  
In order for you to continue receiving ACIS benefits  
(Newsletter, ILS, etc.) it is necessary that your dues be paid by

**March 1, 1984**

Please xerox and/ or detach and send with your check to:

**Prof. Catherine B. Shannon, ACIS Treasurer,  
Department of History, Westfield State College, Westfield MA 01086**

**Check One:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Individual and U.S. Institutional Rate . . . . . \$14.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Couple's Joint Rate . . . . . 21.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retiree and Student Rate . . . . . 11.00
- \_\_\_\_\_ Foreign Rate, *to be paid only in U.S. currency or by International*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Postal Money Order* . . . . . 18.00

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Address _____	<b>Check One Only</b>
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Academic affiliation _____	<b>Check one</b>
_____	Renewal _____
Major academic interests: _____	New member _____

**Return by March 1, 1984. No other notice will be sent.**

**AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR IRISH STUDIES**  
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