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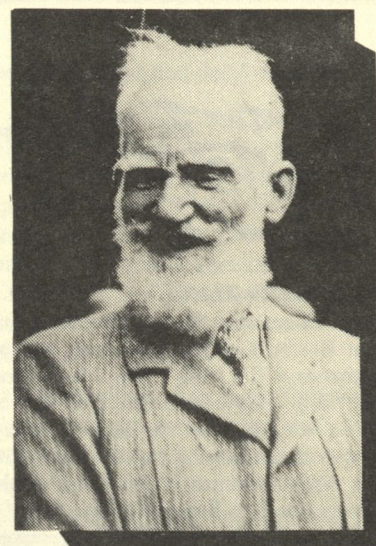
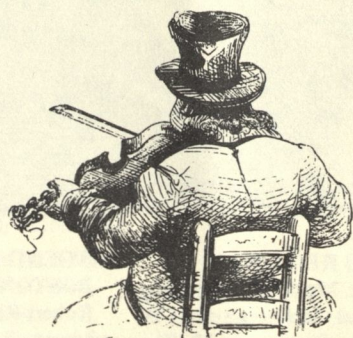
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*All Your  
Friends  
Will Be  
in Boston  
for the  
Annual ACIS  
Conference  
May 8-11.  
See you there!*



**EASTER WEEK PLAY**

Among the features at the ACIS Annual Conference at Boston College, May 8-11, will be a performance of T.H.Nally's play, *The Spancel of Death*. Nally's play was scheduled to have been presented in the night of the Easter Rising, but the Abbey closed and the play seemingly disappeared. Adele Dalsimer, co-director of the Irish Studies program at Boston College, found the players' parts for the play while doing research at the National Library, Dublin, and put it into publishable form. The play had its world premiere at Boston College on February 20 under the direction of Tomas MacAnna. It will be performed again especially for ACIS members during the conference.

**27th YEATS SUMMER SCHOOL**

This year's Yeats International Summer School will be held August 10-22 in Sligo. Among those invited to speak are Denis Donoghue and A. Norman Jeffares. A new feature of the School will be a weekly panel: the first on Yeats's personal poems; the second on literature and politics in Ireland since Yeats. Panelists will include Conor Cruise O'Brien, Mary Holland, Seamus Deane, and Elizabeth Cullingford. There will be a poetry workshop conducted by Desmond Egan and readings at the Hawk's Well Theatre by John McGahern, Donald Davie, Karl Stead, and Des Egan.

**NORTHERN IRELAND REPORT**

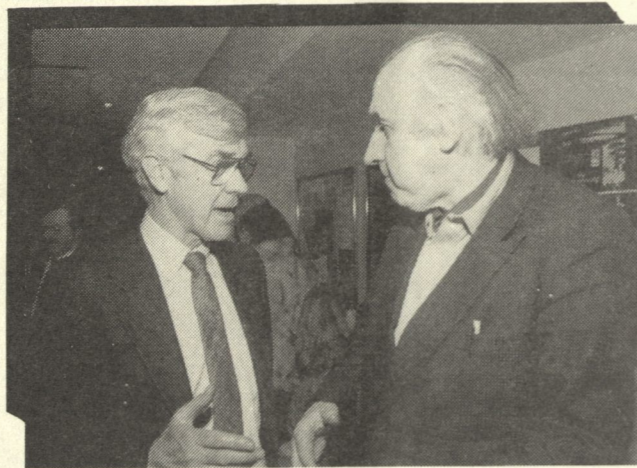
The Office of the New York City Comptroller has released a report on the employment practices of American companies operating in Northern Ireland. The report was requested by the trustees of the New York City pension systems. The report, which Paul O'Dwyer described as "the most definitive and extensive report of its kind on Northern Ireland," is available from Harrison J. Goldin, Office of the Comptroller, Municipal Building, New York, NY 10007. You won't be surprised by the report's findings.

**25th ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**

As the 25th anniversary of ACIS draws near, members will want to begin planning for the monumental conference to be held in Dublin, June 29-July 4, 1987. Suggestions for papers and panels should be sent to the co-chairs of the conference, Gus Martin and Sean White, at School of Irish Studies, Thomas Prior House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4.

**INVITATIONS WELCOME**

ACIS is now accepting proposals for the 1988 ACIS annual conference. Contact Robert Rhodes, ACIS President, English Dept., SUNY at Cortland, Cortland NY 13045.



Thomas Flatley, left, chairman of the Boston College Friends of Irish Studies, chats with Abbey Theatre Director Tomas MacAnna at a reception at Boston College's Robsham Theatre, Feb. 20, following the world premiere of "The Spancel of Death" which MacAnna directed at Boston College.  
PHOTO: Lee Pellegrini

**NEW ENGLAND ACIS REGIONAL**

Elms College in Chicopee, Mass., will be hosting the New England Regional Conference of ACIS on Friday and Saturday, October 24-25. The theme is a reexamination and reassessment of the two major strains in modern Irish nationalism: the constitutional tradition which emphasizes the normal political processes as a means of achieving its goals, and the physical-force tradition which sees the need for revolution to secure its ends. The theme recognizes a landmark for each tradition: the centennial of the first Home Rule Bill and the 70th anniversary of the Easter Rising. Proposals for papers should be sent to Thomas F. Moriarty, History Dept., Elms College, Chicopee MA 01013 or to Catherine Shannon, History Dept., Westfield State College, Westfield MA 01085 by May Day, which is also celebrating its centennial.

**OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY OFFERS SUMMER STUDY AT TRINITY**

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, Virginia, is offering history and literature courses this summer at Trinity College, Dublin, from June 28 to July 25. Cost is \$2095, which includes tuition, round-trip air fare between Norfolk and Dublin, accommodations, program travel, and some meals. Write their Center for International Programs.

**ANOTHER PROGRAM AT TRINITY**

USIT has announced a summer program in Irish Studies at Trinity College. Students may take courses in literature, history, politics, and sociology. The program includes homestay and travel. The course director is Terence Brown. Write to Gregg Posey, CIEE, 205 East 42 Street, New York NY 10017.

**CHRONICLE'S FACULTY POLL**

Perhaps you participated in the *Chronicle of Higher Education's* poll. Here are some of the results, as found in the December 18, 1985 issue: 24% are between the ages of 50-59, the largest age group. 73% are male, 93% are white, 61% are Protestant, 34% are full professors, 70% have tenure, 32% have published no articles in professional journals, 60% have not published a single book, 60% are currently doing research which will lead to publication, and 52% would seriously consider a different job offer. So would I.

**AGENDA ITEMS FOR BOSTON COLLEGE MEETING**

Robert Rhodes, president of ACIS, asks that all items to be discussed at the National Conference at Boston College should be sent as soon as possible to him at Dept. of English, SUNY Cortland, Cortland NY 13045.

**IRISH SUMMER SCHOOL DIRECTORY**

*Inside Ireland* has published a 32-page *Irish Summer School Directory* that carries comprehensive information about courses, prices, details of credits obtainable, accommodations (campus, homestay, etc.), extracurricular activities, etc. It is available from the publishers (Inside Ireland, Rookwood, Stocking Lane, Ballyboden, Dublin 16) for \$7.50 (US)/\$12 airmail; Canadian \$10/\$16 airmail.



The *American Committee for Irish Studies Newsletter* is published three times yearly, Winter, Spring, and Fall. Editorial correspondence should be addressed to 114 Paula Blvd., Selden, New York 11784. Change of addresses should be sent to the Secretary, Mary Helen Thuente, English Department, Indiana University, Fort Wayne, IN 48605. Information about dues payments may be obtained from the Treasurer, James Donnelly, Jr., History Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI 53706. Those wishing to join ACIS should send a check for \$14.00, made payable to the "American Committee for Irish Studies," to the Treasurer. Canadian rates are \$15.00 U.S.; all other rates are \$18.00 U.S. Membership runs from September to August of each year.

**GILBERT A. CAHILL**

1912 - 1985

Co-Founder, American Committee for Irish Studies

I'D LIKE TO READ A POEM AND say a few words. I'd rather read a poem by an Irish poet, W.B. Yeats for choice, but Welsh bard Dylan Thomas comes close to what I have in mind. Not in a poem you're thinking I might read such as "And Death Shall Have No Dominion" or "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night," good, serviceable, all-purpose elegies both, but in a poem called "After the Funeral," written in particular memory of the poet's beloved aunt, Ann Jones. I'm going to resist the temptation I always have with a captive audience to teach you the poem, saying only that it's about the essential brevity of conventional praise and the immortality of love and what makes us love someone.

**AFTER THE FUNERAL**

(In memory of Ann Jones)

After the funeral, mule praises, brays,  
Windshake of sailshaped ears, muffle-toed tap  
Tap happily of one peg in the thick  
Grave's foot, blinds down the lids, the teeth in black,  
The spittled eyes, the salt ponds in the sleeves,  
Morning smack of the spade that wakes up sleep, . . .  
That breaks one bone to light with a judgment clout,  
After the feast of tear-stuffed time and thistles  
In a room with a stuffed fox and a stale fern,  
I stand, for this memorial's sake, alone  
In the snivelling hours with dead, humped Ann  
Whose hooded, fountain heart once fell in puddles  
Round the parched worlds of Wales and drowned each sun  
(Though this for her is a monstrous image blindly  
Magnified out of praise; her death was a still drop;  
She would have me sinking in the holy  
Flood of her heart's fame; she would lie dumb and deep  
And need no druid of her broken body).  
But I, Ann's bard on a raised hearth, call all  
The seas to service that her wood-tongued virtue  
Babble like a bellbuoy over the hymning heads,  
Bow down the walls of the ferned and foxy wood  
That her love sing and swing through a brown chapel,  
Bless her bent spirit with four, crossing birds.  
Her flesh was meek as milk, but this skyward statue  
With the wild breast and blessed and giant skull  
Is carved from her in a room with a wet window  
In a fiercely mourning house in a crooked year.  
I know her scrubbed and sour humble hands  
Lie with religion in their cramp, her threadbare  
Whisper in a damp word, her wits drilled hollow,  
Her fist of a face died clenched on a round pain;  
And sculptured Ann is seventy years of stone.  
Those cloud-sopped, marble hands, this monumental  
Argument of the hewn voice, gesture and psalm,  
Storm me forever over her grave until  
The stuffed lung of the fox twitch and cry Love  
And the strutting fern lay seeds on the black sill.

Gil would be pleased but secretly embarrassed — or maybe it would be the other way around — at a recital of the qualities I think he embodied: loyalty, flinty integrity, generosity, compassion, the keenest intelligence tempered by a marvelous common touch. You will all be able to echo that litany with your own, though this for him, to paraphrase, "is a monstrous image blindly/ Magnified out of praise; his death was a still drop;/ He would not have us sinking in the holy/

Flood of his heart's fame; he would lie dumb and deep/ And need no druid of his broken body."

I will not pretend, nor would Gil have me, that he was without fault, but he would puckishly add, as the Irish do, that his failings were those of a good man. Nor will I pretend that, in a close and enduring friendship of over twenty-five years, we never quarrelled; we would not have been Irish brothers under the skin had it been otherwise. But twenty-five and more years of personal and professional friendship shaped my life in ways I cannot even begin to measure, and I suspect that I am only one of hundreds whose lives he touched.

After today, I'll remember those things about him, but I may take the keenest pleasure in recollecting a great many things that didn't seem very important at the time: how he loved to cook; how he came to our Irish class brandishing a shillelagh; how he loved to play softball; the hours he and I spent singing — I won't ask you to try to imagine it — all the golden oldies of the '30s and '40s as we drove to and back from the old college extension courses; the Irish conferences where we were known for years as the Odd Couple. I may remember most a whimsical bent to his humor; for example, in the earliest days of our friendship when we were on the same cocktail party circuit, we developed a routine with people who didn't know us — I played the just-retired Golden Gloves lightweight champion of the United States, Packy Rhodes, and he deadpanned the role of my manager, Cuffy Cahill. The last night I talked with him, I mentioned this little charade of ours, and he remembered it and brought up the ghost of a grin.

The Irish have a saying about which we might make an appropriate variation: Take a good look at me now, for you won't look on the like of me again. Gil let us take a good look at him; we won't look on his like again.

Robert Rhodes, ACIS President  
Cortland, New York  
13 December 1985

Contributions may be made in Gil Cahill's memory by sending checks payable to the "Gilbert and Mary Cahill Foundation," College Development Foundation of Cortland, Inc., College Relations and Development Office, SUNY at Cortland, Cortland NY 13045.

**DONALD H. MURPHY**

Donald H. Murphy, 51, husband of ACIS Vice-President Maureen Murphy, died of heart attack on March 1, 1986. Mr. Murphy was an associate professor of engineering and of computer science at Hofstra University.

Mr. Murphy worked for both Grumman and Fairchild Republic as an aerospace electrical engineer. Later he switched to bio-medical engineering, working at Long Island College and St. Francis Hospital. He was a research associate at St. Francis at the time of his death. Mr. Murphy was a member of the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Heart Association, and the American College of Cardiology.

Contributions may be made in his memory to the Donald H. Murphy Scholarship Fund, Development Office, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York 11550. ACIS has made a donation to the fund.

The membership of the American Committee for Irish Studies offers its sympathies to Dr. Murphy.

## An Appreciation

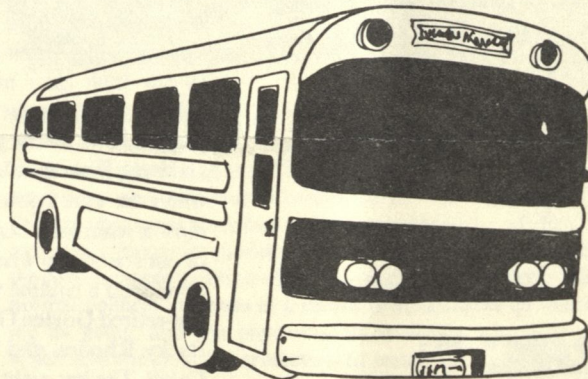
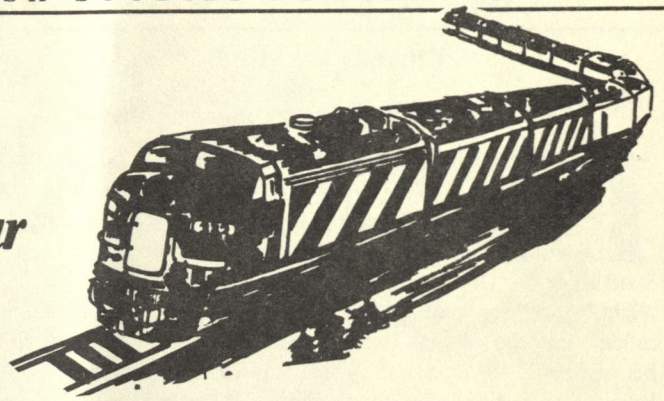
**T**HE TIMES ARE changing, goes the old song. And ACISers will begin to see some changes if they attend a few conferences. AICS is literally undergoing a face-lift. Since May 1985, there have been over 500 new members recruited into the organization. That's nearly a 100% increase in membership in less than twelve months. Some are mature faculty who have heard of us in the past but never took the time to join. Others are young, fresh faces on the tenure track, just starting out. They don't know anyone and you won't know them. But they looking at the organization with an eye to staying a long time and playing a role in its operation. All new members need encouragement. ACIS doesn't meet that often, and it takes time to get to know everyone. It behooves all of us to welcome these new members with a smile and a handshake whenever you see them. Introduce them to one or more people, and, Who Knows? they may find they went to the same school, shared the same feelings, or other things that will create a mutual bond.

The credit for this astounding increase in membership goes to the ACIS treasurer, Jim Donnelly, Jr. Almost singlehandedly, he has compiled mailing lists and organizing mailing campaigns. As one would expect from reading his articles and books, the recruitment campaign has been orderly and methodical, as a good historian often is. Recruitment campaigns are rarely inspirational; they require a lot of donkey-work, and less dedicated members would have given up after a few hundred successes, content that they did their bit for the cause. But the end is not in sight, and don't be surprised if the old guard is outnumbered one day (it probably already is; most members have been in ACIS less than five years).

So, when you see a new face at the conferences, thank Jim Donnelly. And, remember, you're also a new face to that person.

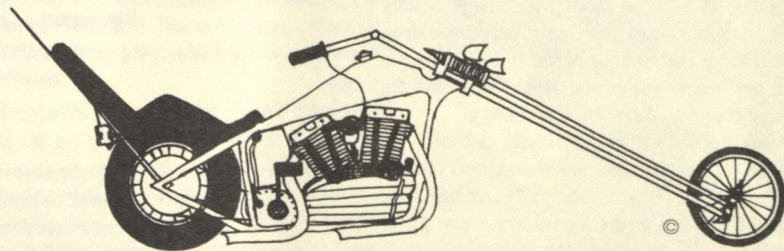


*Make Your  
Way to  
Boston*



*For the  
May 8-11  
Conference*

*By Any Means Possible!*



*Conference details are being mailed to all members from Boston College. If you don't receive yours by April 15, write or call Adele Dalsimer or Kevin O'Neill, Irish Studies Program, Boston College, Chestnut Hill MA 02167.*

**AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR IRISH STUDIES**

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*First Class Mail*