AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR IRISH STUDIES NEWSLETTER

WINTER 1986

The Buile Suibhne
There will be a "working seminar" on the Buile Suibhne at the Plymouth Forum, to be held in Plymouth, New Hampshire, on April 10-11, 1987. The seminar will use the tale to study the wider problems of translation. The basic texts for the session will be J.G. O'Keeffe's edition of the Irish text (Dublin Inst. for Advanced Studies, 1975), and the recent English version Sweeney Astray by Seamus Heaney (Farrar Straus Giroux, 1983), for further information and registration materials on the Forum, contact Prof. Manuel Marquez-Sterling, Director, Medieval Studies Council, Plymouth State College, USNH, Plymouth NH 03264. For information on the seminar, contact Dr. James Doan, Dept. of Humanities, Chamberlayne Junior College, 128 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston MA 02116.

Appreciation to James Ford
Jim Ford of the Boston Public Library has been doing the "Current Books of Irish Interest" report for the ACIS Newsletter for the last eighteen years, beginning in 1965. Because of personal commitments, Jim will not be able to continue this column. He has the thanks of the entire membership of ACIS, past and present, for his first-rate scholarship and consistency. Anyone interested in continuing the column should contact ACIS President Robert Rhodes.

IASAIL Conference
The 1987 International Association for the Study of Anglo-Irish Literature Congress will be held at the University of Caen (Esplanade de la Paix, 14032 Caen Cedex) from Monday July 13 to Thursday July 16, 1987. The theme is "The Irish Theatre"; papers on other subjects will not be accepted. All paper proposals should be submitted by April 30, 1987, to Jacqueline Genet, Secretariat IASAIL, Institut d'Anglais, at the address above.

James T. Farrell Meeting
The first annual meeting of the Friends of the James T. Farrell Collection will be held Saturday, May 2, 1987, at the Charles Patterson Van Pelt Library and the University Sheraton Hotel in Philadelphia. Papers for the meeting should be submitted to Prof. Edgar Branch, 4810 Bonham Road, Oxford OH 45056. For information about the Friends of the James T. Farrell Collection, write to Prof. Dennis Flynn, Dept. of English, Bentley College, Waltham MA 02254.

Dublin Update (page four)

CAIS Conference
The Canadian Association for Irish Studies will present their annual conference at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon on February 18-21, 1987, on the theme of "Irish Poetry: Regional and International Contexts." On hand will be poets Paul Durcan, Frank Ormsby and Medbh McGuckian. Contact Ron Marken at the Dept. of English for more information.

ACIS-MLA Party
There will be a party in Dillon Johnston's room at the Marriot Marquis Monday evening, December 29, immediately after the second ACIS panel, "Catholicism and the Anglo-Irish" (9:00 - 10:15 p.m., Winter Garden, Marriot). The first ACIS panel, "New Approaches to Recent Irish Literature," will meet 1:45-3:00 p.m., Monday, December 29, Suite 3748, Marriot.

Call for Papers
Tina Mahoney is organizing a panel on "Irish Verse Drama" for the 1987 MLA. Those interested should send topic and brief description to her at Dept. of English II, Arts Block, Trinity College, Dublin 2.

Fulbright Appointment for ACISer
Ruth Ann Harris, History Dept., Northeastern University, Boston, has been appointed to serve as a member of the Area Advisory Committee for Western Europe, subcommittee for Ireland and the U.K., with responsibility to nominate candidates for senior Fulbright awards abroad and "to address problems and issues in academic exchange related to their geographic area." The other committee members have expertise in comparative politics, English literature, and cell biology, but this is the first appointment of a person with knowledge of Ireland. Of the 57 applications for Fulbrights for Ireland last year, only one was from a member from ACIS. Where are you, guys?

Tribute to McNamara's Band
Here's a reverse twist on the old stereotype. It's from Dave Anderson's "Sport of the Times" column in the New York Times about the manager of the Boston Red Sox.
"He's an Irishman with the map of Boston on his face. John McNamara's noble nose is now as famous as the steeple of the Old North Church, his blue eyes are as serene as the Charles River, his managerial manner is as old-fashioned as Fenway park itself."
Dublin Update
Sit tight members; you'll soon be receiving all sorts of mailings about travel arrangements, hotel accommodations, tours, receptions, side-trips, perhaps even boutiques and circuses. All this, of course, in preparation for the big ACIS conference in Dublin next June-July to celebrate our 25th anniversary. Gus Martin and Sean White, the Dublin coordinators of the event, will be sending letters to everyone explaining what’s what, where, when, why, and how. In the meantime, the committee on papers met at the ACIS Atlantic Regional conference in Columbia, Maryland, in October to sort out the proposals. Look for notification of that as well in your mail.

Plans are being finalized for a scheduled tour of selected universities and cities in Ireland and Northern Ireland following the week of the ACIS conference. This will enable you to spend the week fruitfully between the ACIS and IASAIL conferences (see page one).

On July 5, there will be a “City Reception” in Galway for ACIS members. On July 6-7, there will be a lecture about Galway, readings by local writers, a field trip to the Burren, and a reception at University College Galway. On July 8, the group will journey to Enniskillen. On July 9, the trip will move to Belfast via Irish American Folk Park. Registrants will stay at Queen’s University where there will be a reception that night. On July 10, there will be tours to the Ulster Folklore Museum, the Public Records Office, the Linenhall Library, and the Ulster Art Museum. That evening will be a “Theatre Evening,” with a visit to either the Lyric or another Belfast theatre. On July 11, the group will return to Dublin via Armagh and Navan Fort. On July 12, when the drums begin to roll up north, you can travel to France for the IASAIL conference.

Don't ask for too many details now. Just watch your mailbox. All paid up members will get all the information in plenty of time.

Ruth Dudley-Edwards, author of “Patrick Pearse, The Triumph of Failure,” and her husband John Mattock, at the Atlantic Regional Conference in Columbia, Maryland, in October.

The Executive Board of The American Committee for Irish Studies wishes every member a joyous holiday season and a peaceful 1987