

AMERICAN CONFERENCE *for* IRISH STUDIES

formerly American Committee for Irish Studies

NEWSLETTER

25th
Anniversary

Finally! An ACIS Journal

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Established 1962

AFTER TALKING FOR YEARS about launching an ACIS journal, we are now going to do it. Though this momentous step is not without its risks, the foundations have been carefully laid. The views of members were solicited in the summer of 1986, and the responses were overwhelmingly favorable. The rapid growth in the size of our organization during the last two years has made such an undertaking financially feasible. The dues will rise, but the increase will be moderate, and as explained below, we have good insurance against costs getting out of hand in the future.

The special committee that examined the subject of a journal during the past year drafted a comprehensive report and a set of recommendations, and after lengthy discussions these recommendations — somewhat modified — were adopted unanimously by the ACIS Executive Committee and accepted without dissent in a vote taken at the business meeting of the Dublin conference early in July.

The centerpiece of the project is an agreement between ACIS and McGill-Queen's University Press in Montreal under which that press will publish a journal of 140 pages twice a year in return for an annual subvention of \$20,000 from ACIS. The initial agreement is to last for three years, after which it could be renewed, changed or cancelled. The amount of the annual subvention (fixed at \$20,000 in the first year) will be adjusted in the second and third years in accord with any upward movement in the U.S. Consumer Price Index.

ACIS payments to McGill-Queen's will cover not only the costs of composition, printing, binding and distribution, but also the costs of editorial work (copyediting, proofreading and makeup) as well as the expense of the full range of business services that are to be provided. From independent analysis of the production expenses and of the costs that might be charged by other university presses, we are certain that we are getting our money's worth from McGill-Queen's.

One clause in the agreement is of special advantage to ACIS financially. It stipulates that McGill-Queen's will provide copies of the new journal to ACIS members beyond the number 2000 at the simple cost to the publisher of manufacturing plus postage, which together currently amount to about \$1.60 per copy. The practical significance of this clause may easily be ex-

plained. In the coming year (1987-88), a new ACIS member residing in the U.S. will pay annual dues of \$18. It will cost ACIS about \$10 to provide that new member with the *ILS, Newsletter* and (eventually) the journal. Most of the remaining \$8 is an unencumbered addition to the ACIS treasury. To the extent that ACIS adds new members over the next three years (almost 1000 were added in 1986-87), a substantial portion of their dues can be used to reduce the financial burden of the journal to the membership as a whole.

As for the journal itself, it will be as interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary as the editors and contributors can make it. At least one in every three issues will be devoted to a single theme or subject, and the first issue of the journal, planned to appear early in 1989, will probably be a theme issue. The subjects of theme issues will be publicized well in advance so that members may consider submitting relevant articles. There will be a board of advisors, to include the ACIS Discipline Representatives and others, to assist the editors in selecting the manuscripts for publication.

The main criteria for acceptability will be the quality and significance of any article, together with its readability and broad interest to the membership. The new journal will not include reviews of individual books, but it will periodically contain review articles and bibliographical essays surveying significant bodies of scholarly literature. Though in nature scholarly, the new journal will not be a publication for narrow specialists, nor will it be heavily academic in style. The editors intend to take seriously the point urged repeatedly by ACIS members that the articles should be well written, free of jargon, genuinely interesting and accessible to a broad, nonspecialist audience.

As editors of the new journal, the ACIS Executive Committee has appointed the following to serve three-year terms: Donald Akenson of Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario; Anthony Bradley of the University of Vermont; and James Donnelly of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Planning by the editors is already underway, and they hope to make important announcements to prospective contributors and readers in the near future. Further details will be forthcoming in the December issue of the *Newsletter* and elsewhere.

**Kevin Sullivan
1918 - 1987**

ACIS members who knew him or his work will be saddened to hear of the death on March 29, 1987, of Kevin Sullivan, a member of the organization since its inception. He was 68 years old.

Jesuit-educated in his early years, he went on to graduate work at Princeton and then at Columbia, where he studied under William York Tindall. Soon after taking the Ph.D. in 1957, he published *Joyce Among the Jesuits*, which established his reputation among Joyce scholars. He remained at Columbia for a number of years, first as Instructor in English and later as Associate Dean of the Graduate Faculties. In 1973, he moved to Queens College of the City University of New York as Professor of English and the first Director of Irish Studies. There he developed an interdisciplinary undergraduate program in Irish and Anglo-Irish literature, as well as Irish history and language. He retired in 1985.

He wrote a monograph, *Oscar Wilde*, for Columbia University Press as well as numerous essays and reviews. At the time of his death, he was serving as editor of *The Recorder*, a publication of the American Irish Historical Society, which he transformed into a scholarly journal of Irish and Irish American literature and affairs.

He is survived by his wife, Frances Murphy Sullivan.

— Catherine A. McKenna
Queens College, CUNY

In Memoriam
RICHARD ELLMANN
1918 - 1987
MÁIRE MAC NEILL
1904 - 1987
LIAM MILLER
1924 - 1987
DENIS LARKIN
1908 - 1987
JOHN HEWITT
1907 - 1987



The Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, Dr. T.K. Whitaker (center), after conferring honorary degrees on two of the founders of ACIS, Lawrence McCaffrey (left) and Emmet Larkin. The awards were presented at the 25th anniversary conference of ACIS this summer at UCD.

1988 CAIS Conference in Montreal

IN MARCH 1988 MARIANOPOLIS College in Montreal will host the 21st annual conference of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies. The conference title is "Irish Literature: Cultural and Artistic Contexts," and the proceedings will explore the relationship between Irish writing and the other arts, such as theatre, film, music, painting and architecture. Distinguished scholars from Canada, Ireland, England, France, Austria, Italy, Japan, Monaco and the United States will lecture. Among them are Zack Bowen, Andrew Carpenter, Richard Cave, John Wilson Foster, Richard Kearney, Declan Kiberd, Edna Longley, Des Maxwell, Kevin Nowlan, Fintan O'Toole, David Norris, Patrick Raffroidi and Wolfgang Zach. In addition, Jennifer Johnston, Brian Moore, Pauline Bewick, Michael Longley, Paul Durcan, Frank McGuinness and Joe Dowling will participate.

Supplementing the lectures and panel discussions of the academic program are several significant cultural events, to be held in conjunction with the conference. Montreal Centaur Theatre will include in its 1987/88 season a seven-week run of Frank McGuinness's play *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*, which will be directed by Joe Dowling. McGill University's drama department will stage a Brian Friel play. There will be an art exhibition of works by Pauline Bewick. A film on her career will be shown, after which

Ms. Bewick will give a talk and slide-presentation of her work. An ensemble of professional singers will give a concert of songs from Joyce's *Ulysses*. Canadian soprano Joanne Bentley will give a recital of Yeats's poetry adapted for music. In addition, Quebec's Mackinaw Folklore Ensemble will perform folk tales and legends set to music and dance. There will be screenings of contemporary Irish films such as Neil Jordan's *Angel*, Pat Murphy's *Maeve* and *Anne Devlin*, Pat O'Connor's *Cal*, as well as film and television adaptations of novels by Brian Moore and Jennifer Johnston. *The Lonely Passion of Brian Moore*, a film by the National Film Board of Canada on the life and writings of Brian Moore will also be screened.

While the official opening of the conference will be Wednesday, March 2, several events will take place prior to this. On Saturday, February 26, Concordia University's theatre department will stage an evening of Irish theatre. The Moe and Freda Levine Institute of Public Affairs will sponsor an Irish lecture on Sunday, February 27, and McGill University's Irish Lecture Series will sponsor literary evenings on the two days before the conference begins. Several receptions, a formal banquet and a Quebec-style sugaring-off brunch are also planned. For further information, write to Prof. Michael Kenneally, Department of English, Marianopolis College, 3880 Cote des Neiges, Montreal, Quebec H3H 1W1. That's in Canada, folks.

Upcoming Conferences

• "Irish Destinations: America, Canada, Britain, Australia," Galway, Ireland, June 11-15, 1989. Themes include "Nationalism and Catholicism," "Protestantism and Orangeism," "Labor and Politics," "Ethnic Community and Assimilation," "Urban Settlement," "Rural Settlement," "Women and Family," "Images of the Irish." For more information, write to: David Boyle or Bob Reece, Dept. of Modern Irish History, Arts-Commerce Bldg., University College, Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.

• Call for Papers: 1988 conference to be held in conjunction with the Western Assn. of Women Historians at San Francisco State University. Papers in all areas of history are invited. Deadline: December 15, 1987. For more information, write to: Jess Flemon, Program Chair, PCB, Dept. of History, San Diego State University, San Diego CA 92182.

• "Victorian Belief and Unbelief" will be the topic of the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Midwest Victorian Studies Assn. to be held at Indiana University-Bloomington on April 29-30, 1988. For more information, write to: Kristine Ottesen Garrigan, MVSA Executive Secretary, Dept. of English, DePaul University, 802 West Belden, Chicago IL 60614.

Synge Notes

The first issue of *Synge Notes* will appear in spring 1988. The biannual periodical deals with all aspects of Synge's life and works, with emphasis on notes that have a maximum length of 1500 words. News items are especially welcome. All submissions should conform to the new (1985) *MLA Style Manual* and must be accompanied by a SASE to insure acknowledgement. Yearly subscriptions are \$4.00 for individuals, \$6.00 for U.S. and Canadian institutions, and \$7.00 for foreign institutions. Address all correspondence to: Edward A. Kopper, Jr., P.O. Box 69, Lyndora PA 16045.

Transitions

• Our congratulations to member Blanche Touhill on her promotion to Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

• A future ACIS member was born to member Susan Fisher Miller and husband Lee. Look for Peter Nathaniel Miller to give a paper in 25 years or so. On Yeats, Susan?

From a Galway Prof

Professor B.E. Leonard in Moycullen, Co. Galway, asks: "Would it appear mischevious to expect the Senate of the [National University of Ireland] to consider ways in which the award of the Honorary Doctor of Laws (!) degree to President Reagan may be rescinded in view of his involvement in Irangate and his deception of Congress?"

**Second Annual
James Joyce's Birthday Conference**
Sponsored by the English Graduate Program
of the University of Miami
January 31 - February 2, 1988

PROGRAM

January 31
February 1

7 - 9 p.m., Registration and welcoming party.
9:30 - 11:15 a.m. *Dubliners* panel and general discussion

1 - 2:45 p.m. *Portrait* panel and general discussion.
3 - 5 p.m. *Finnegans Wake* panel and general discussion.

6 - 7 p.m. Cash bar and general discussion.
7 p.m. Dinner

February 2

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. *Ulysses* panel and general discussion.

1 - 3 p.m. Panel and audience joint reading and interpretation of selected passages from *Finnegans Wake*.

The program is planned for as much general participation as possible. There will be no prepared papers. Panelists will come ready to address a list of prearranged topics. Discussions will be freewheeling, proceeding from one topic to the next as the discussion among panelists and audience warrants.

Interested Joyceans should address inquiries to Zack Bowen, English Department, University of Miami, P.O. Box 248145, Coral Gables FL 33124. Please state your interest in participating in a specific panel or whether you prefer to address all your remarks from the floor. Also indicate whether you need a formal letter of invitation to obtain funding.

The general meetings will be held at the Holiday Inn across the street (US1) from the campus. Special accommodations are available to conferees at the Holiday Inn for \$65 per night, single or double occupancy. The preregistration fee will be \$25 and dinner, to be held at the University of Miami Faculty Club, will be an extra \$15. Those desiring rooms should write directly to the Holiday Inn, 1350 S. Dixie Highway, Coral Gables FL 33146 (singles and doubles \$60) or The Hyatt Regency Hotel, 400 S.E. 2nd Avenue, Miami FL 33131 (singles and doubles \$85). The Hyatt Regency is on the monorail, as is the Holiday Inn. Please make reservations well in advance. February is high season in Miami, and, believe it or not, the rates quoted represent substantial discounts. Only 50 rooms are reserved at the Holiday Inn and 75 at the Hyatt Regency. The reservations cutoff date is December 25. When making arrangements, tell them you are attending the conference.

The ACIS Conference, Dublin

HERE ARE SOME OF the most important decisions taken by the ACIS Executive Committee and by the membership at the annual business meeting in Dublin or as a result of earlier mail ballots.

1) Henceforth the official name of the organization will be the *American Conference for Irish Studies*.

2) Beginning early in 1989, ACIS will publish twice a year an interdisciplinary journal of Irish studies in association with McGill-Queen's University Press. Appointed to serve as co-editors of the new journal for three-year terms were Donald K. Akenson, Anthony Bradley, and James S. Donnelly, Jr.

3) ACIS accepted the invitation of Dean John Nemo to hold its 1988 conference at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., on April 21-23, 1988. The Irish American Cultural Institute will serve as co-host of the conference.

4) The ACIS regional conferences in the fall of 1987 will be held as follows: the New England at Fitchburg State College, Mass., October 23-24, hosted by William Casey; the Atlantic at Hofstra University, N.Y., Nov. 6-7, hosted by Maureen Murphy; the Midwest at Marquette University, Wis., Oct. 10, hosted by Thomas Hachey; and the Western at the University of Washington, Seattle, Oct. 23-24, hosted by Hazard Adams.

5) The revised 3rd edition of *A Guide to Irish*

Studies in the United States, compiled by Maureen Murphy, will be published in the fall of 1987, with the help of generous subventions from the American Ireland Fund and the Irish Tourist Board.

6) ACIS has accepted an offer from the Boston College Library to house and administer the archives of the organization, including business records, newsletters and conference papers.

7) The past president of ACIS (currently Robert Rhodes) was assigned the responsibility of presiding over the international membership of ACIS (outside the U.S.) and of attending to its special concerns.

8) Initial steps have been taken to establish a new regional organization in the Southern U.S. as well as a new regional of ACIS in Ireland.

9) Discipline representation on the ACIS Executive Committee will be expanded at the next election for national offices in 1989 from the current three to six, with one representative each for literature, history, arts, social sciences, Irish language, and Celtic studies.

10) The recruitment committee was authorized to continue its successful campaign, which led to the addition of nearly 1,000 new members in 1986-87, bringing the total membership to about 2,100.

JAMES S. DONNELLY, Jr.
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Recruitment, Retention and Organizational Change

THE ADDITION OF NEARLY 1,000 new members since May 1986 has raised the total membership of ACIS to about 2100. This represents a tripling in the size of the organization in a little more than two years. Between September 1986 and May 1987, the average monthly increase in the number of new members ranged from 80 to 100. This rapid rate of growth has been achieved mainly by using the direct-mail technique, in which people belonging to organizations or subscribing to publications with Irish interests have been invited to join ACIS. Last year, over 30,000 pieces of mail were distributed in our intensive efforts at recruitment.

The costs of such a large-scale campaign are considerable, but so too are the benefits in terms of added revenues. Recruitment on the scale that we have achieved easily pays for itself and places ACIS in a stronger financial position, to say nothing of the increased range and depth that it gives to Irish Studies in North America and abroad. All of the existing ACIS regional organizations have been substantially enlarged, and initial steps have been taken to establish a Southern regional as well as a division in Ireland itself.

The number of overseas members in general has expanded to the point that the ACIS Executive Committee decided at the Dublin conference to make the outgoing president (currently Robert Rhodes) responsible for coordinating the concerns of our international members. In recognition of the diverse interests of our enlarged membership, arrangements have also been made to increase the disciplinary representation on the Executive Committee from three members to six, with one each for Literature, History, Arts, Social Sciences, the Irish Language and Celtic Studies.

Obviously retention of existing members is just as important as recruitment of new ones, and in this department the record is quite good. After adjusting for the increasing size of our membership, the dropout rate has remained fairly stable over the last three years: 7.9% in 1984-85, 6.8% in 1985-86 and 6.8% again in 1986-87.

25th Anniversary Pins and Paperweights Available

The ACIS 25th Anniversary lapel pin and paperweight set is available together or separately. The set sells for \$10; the pin alone is \$5.00 and the paperweight by itself is \$7.50. Make your check payable to "ACIS" and mail it to the treasurer.



JJQ Celebrates Its 25th

The James Joyce Quarterly, headquartered at the University of Tulsa, will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. One of the best.

ILS Overhauls System

The editor of the *Irish Literary Supplement* is planning a reorganization of its reviewing apparatus. Members of ACIS who would like to be placed on the list of possible reviewers should send in a 3x5 card with their address and subjects of expertise.

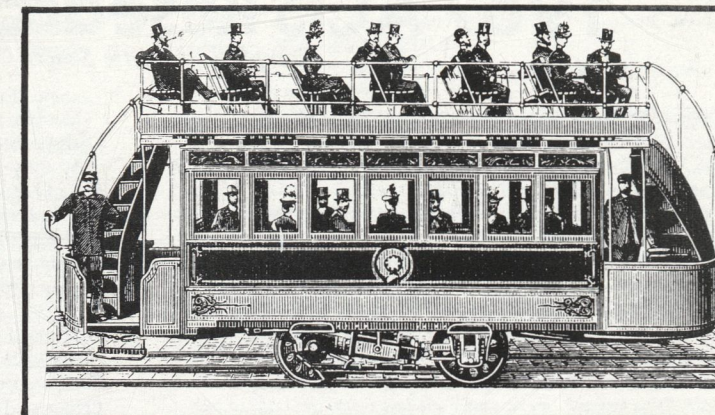
Censorship Makes Comeback

The Irish Censorship Board has reared its ugly head again, but this time there is a determined fight to oppose it. At the 8th European Writers' Congress, held in Madrid on May 7-10, the following motion was proposed by the Society of Irish Playwrights, seconded by the Irish Writers Union, and passed (unanimously): "That, in view of the disturbing efforts at present being made to erode the freedom of artistic expression in many countries, including Great Britain, the Federal Republic of Germany, France, and Ireland, this congress condemns all forms of artistic censorship and urges all governments to rescind any legislation which infringes on the right of freedom of artistic expression." Amen.

"Skerrett" on the Screen

A new Irish feature film, *Skerrett*, based on the novel of the same name by Liam O'Flaherty, will begin production on the west coast of Ireland, next May. It is to be directed by John Lynch, who has directed several television dramas, and will star Liam Neeson, Aidan Quinn and Ray McAnally.

The *ACIS Newsletter* is an internal newsletter of the American Conference for Irish Studies. It appears three times yearly, in fall, winter, and spring. Editor: Robert G. Lowery. Send changes of address to: Mary Helen Thuente, English Department, Indiana University, Fort Wayne IN 46805.



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Maureen Murphy (second from right), the first woman and the first Irish-speaking president of ACIS, with (left to right) Augustine Martin of UCD; Ambassador to the U.S. Padraic MacKiernan; Robert Rhodes, former president of ACIS; and Sean White of the School of Irish Studies, at the 25th anniversary conference of ACIS in Dublin, hosted and coordinated by Martin and White.

1987 ACIS Research Report

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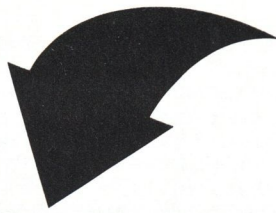
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New Dues Structure Incorporates Raises for ACIS Journal

IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE financial support for the new ACIS journal, a resolution to raise the annual dues was adopted unanimously at the business meeting of the Dublin conference on July 3, 1987. In each of the existing categories of membership, the dues for 1987-88 will be increased by \$4, and in 1988-89 an additional increase of \$4 will be levied.

Since the first issue of the journal will not appear until early in 1989, it will be feasible to implement the total increase of \$8 in two stages, as indicated above, but costs that will be incurred well in advance of actual publication require that dues rates be raised by \$4 in 1987-88. Revenue from the dues increases will be devoted exclusively to meeting the costs of the journal.

The first of the two increases became effective on September 1, and renewal notices specifying the new rates in each category of membership have been mailed to all ACIS members. Kindly return the renewal notice with your dues to the new ACIS treasurer:

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Reported balance of May 7, 1986 (date of last report)	\$17,900.20
Dues received as of May 15, 1987	\$19,297.80
Ireland Fund donation	2,000.00
Irish Tourist Board donation	2,000.00
Other gifts	75.00
Sales of labels and lists	445.00
Sales of ACIS reprints	170.50
Sales of lapel pins and paperweights	405.00
Sales of microfilm <i>Newsletter</i>	50.00
Interest	1,469.84
Total Receipts	\$43,813.34

EXPENSES

Payments for <i>Newsletter</i> , <i>ILS</i> , printing	\$15,142.69
Conference subsidies	1,202.60
Donations	901.94
Purchases of mailing labels, advertisements & directories	845.10
Duplication services	2,843.27
Postage & handling, supplies, telephone	6,865.38
Treasurer's other expenses	956.47
Legal expenses: IRS 501 (c) (3) application	245.17
Miscellaneous	205.35
Total Expenses	\$29,207.97

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