AMERICAN CONFERENCE for IRISH STUDIES
formerly American Committee for Irish Studies

NEWSLETTER

Finally! An ACIS Journal

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 subscription 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 subscription (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-
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 Sulli-
vian, 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 estab-
lished his reputation among Joyce schol-
ars. He remained at Columbia for a number of years, first as Instructor in English and later as Associate Dean of the Graduate Faculty. 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 interdis-
clipinary 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 Reviser, 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 1915 - 1987

MAIRE MAC NEILL 1904 - 1987

LIAM MILLER 1924 - 1987

DENIS LARKIN 1909 - 1987

JOHN HEWITT 1907 - 1987

1988 CAIS Conference in Montreal

In March 1988 MARIANOPOULOS 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 Kibbey, Edna Longley, D. Maxwell Kevin Nowlan, Fintan O’Túill, David Norris, Patrick Rafalson and Wolfgang Zach. In addi-
tion, Jennifer Johnston, Brian Moore, Pauline Bewick, Michael Longley, Paul Durnan, Frank McGuinness and Joe Dowling will participate.

Supplementing the lectures and panels discus-
sions of the academic program are several sig-
nificant cultural events, to be held in conjunc-
tion with the conference. Montreal Centaur Theatre will include in its 1987-88 season a seven-week run of Frank McGuinness’s play Observer the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme, which will be directed by Joe Dowling. McGill University’s drama depart-
ment 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-presenta-
tion of her work. An ensemble of professional singers will give a concert of songs from Joyce’s Ulysses.

Upcoming Conferences

* Irish Destinations: America, Canada, Brit-
ain, Australia, Galway, Ireland, June 11-15, 1989. Themes include "American Catholicism and Cath-
oblicism," "Protestantism and Orangism," "Labor and Political Life," "Ethnic Community and Assimilation," "Urban Settlement," "Rural Set-
dlement," "Women and Family," "Images of the Irish." Information to: Sarah Boyd or Bob Reeve, Dept. of Modern Irish History, Arts-Commerce Bldg., University Col-
lege, Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland.
* Call for Papers: 1989 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. Dead-
line: December 15, 1987. For more information, write to: Jene Fleming, Program Chair, PCB, Dept. of History, San Diego State Uni-
versity, 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: Kris-
line Onions G hartigan, MAVA Executive Sec-
tary, Dept. of English, De Paul University, 802 West Belden, Chicago Il. 60614.

Syne Notes

The first issue of Syne Nover will appear in

spring 1988. The biannual periodical deals with all aspects of Syne's life and works, with emphasis on notes that have a maximum length of 1500 words. News items are especially wel-
come. All submissions should conform to the new (1985) MLA Style Manual and must be accom-
panied by a SASE to insure acknowledgment. Royalty subscriptions are $4.00 for indi-
viduals, $6.00 for U.S. and Canadian insti-
tutions, and $7.00 for foreign institutions. Addres-
s All correspondence to: Edward A. Kopper, Jr., P.O. Box 69, Lyndora PA 16045.

Transitions

Our congratulations to Member Blanche Toshill on her promotion to Vice Chair 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.

From a Galway Prof

Professor B.E. Leonard of Mayocoff, Co. Galway, asks: "Would it appear mischievous to expect the Senator of the [National University of Ireland] to consider ways in which the award of the Honorary Doctor of Laws (Hon.D.L.) degree to President Reagan may be rescinded in view of his involvement in Iranfrate and his conception of Congress?"
The ACIS Conference, Dublin

H ere are some of the most important events 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 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 William Hacche; 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 subscriptions 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, membership lists, 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 officers in 1989 from the current three to six, with one representative each for literature, history, arts, 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 and the bringing of the total membership to about 2,200.

JAMES S. DONELLY, 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 2,100. 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.

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 networks of our international members. In recognition of the diverse interests of our enlarged membership, arrangements have also been made to increase the discipline representation on the Executive Committee from three members to six, with each one for Literature, History, Arts, Social Sciences, the Irish Language, and Celtic Studies.

Unquestionably the most important event of the past year is that new members have joined ACIS. After adjusting for the increasing size of our membership, the dropout rate has remained fairly stable over the past 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.

JQQ Celebrates in 25th

The JIQ Journal of Irish Studies, published at the University of Tulsa, will celebrate its 25th anniversary this year. One of the books

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 a 3x5 card with their address and sub-

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: "We believe that, in view of the disturbing efforts at present being made to curtail 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 ren-

Skerritt on the Scene

A new Irish feature film, Skerritt, based on the novel of the same name by Liam O'Flaherty, will begin production next March on the west coast of Ireland, next year. It is to be directed by John Lynch, who has directed several television drama-

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF AMERICAN CONFERENCES FOR IRISH STUDIES

The ACIS Newsletter is a national newsletter of the American Conference for Irish Studies. It appears three times yearly, in fall, winter, and spring. Editions are distributed by Robert G. Lowery. Send changes of address to: Mary Helen Thurm, English Department, Indiana Uni-

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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:

Michael Durkin
Treasurer ACIS
Swarthmore College Library
Swarthmore, PA 19081.
Checks should be made payable to “ACIS.” Canadian residents should specify “U.S. funds” when paying by check. Overseas residents should pay their dues with a check or draft payable on a U.S. bank.

The rates are as follows:

- U.S. Residents
  - Individuals: $18.00
  - Spouses or couples: 25.00
  - Institutions: 18.00
  - Students: 15.50
  - Retired/Senior Citizens: 15.50
- Canadian Residents: $19.00
- Overseas Residents: $22.00

ACIS Treasurer’s Report

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 Newsletter 50.00
Interest 1,469.84

Total Receipts $43,813.34

EXPENSES

Payments for Newsletter, ILS, 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

BALANCE AS OF MAY 15, 1987 $14,605.37

American Conference for Irish Studies
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