

AMERICAN CONFERENCE *for* IRISH STUDIES, INC.

formerly AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR IRISH STUDIES

NEWSLETTER

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Madison, Wisconsin 53706

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Swarthmore, Penn. 19081

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Irish Language Committee

Kenneth E. Nilsen, chair
St. Francis Xavier University

Editor, Research Report

Yvette Sencer
Fashion Inst. of Technology

Editor, ACIS Newsletter

Robert G. Lowery

Fall 1988

Established 1962

Upcoming Regional Meetings

MIDWEST: September 30-October 1, 1988. University of Missouri-St. Louis. The theme of the conference will be "The Irish Abroad." Inquiries to: Blanche Touhill, 408 Woods Hall, University of St. Louis-Missouri, 8001 Natural Bridge, St. Louis, Missouri 63121.

NEW ENGLAND: October 7-9, 1988. Salve Regina College, Newport, Rhode Island. The theme will be "The Irish and New England." In addition to the papers, there will be a buffet dinner at Ochre Court, the administration building of the College, which is a replica of a French chateau. Note: the Monday following the conference is Columbus Day, so there will be time for touring. Inquiries to: Robert J. McKenna, Salve Regina College, Newport, Rhode Island 02840.

WESTERN: October 14-16, 1988. Saint Mary's College, Moraga, California. There will be literature and history papers plus a special session on Eugene O'Neill; a reading by Belfast poet Ciaran Carson; and a viewing of "The Belfast Series"—relief sculptures by Douglas Holmes. Conference registration is \$30; banquet is \$25. Inquiries to Brother Ronald Gallagher, Box 3526, Saint Mary's College, Moraga, California 94575.

ATLANTIC: November 4-5, 1988. Philadelphia. The theme of the conference will be "Cities and Towns." The Rosenbach Museum and Library will hold a sherry reception, and the Rosenbach is mounting an exhibit of their Anglo-Irish manuscripts, including the original *Ulysses*, a *Salome*, and some selected Yeats papers, among others. Inquiries to: Lucy McDiarmid, Department of English, Villanova University, Villanova, Pennsylvania 19085.

Call for Papers

The theme of the Twentieth Annual Conference of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, to be held in New Orleans March 29-April 2, 1989, is "1989/1789/1689: Reflections on the Revolution." Paper proposals for the interdisciplinary panel "Ireland, The French Revolution, and Its Irish Aftermath: 1789-1803" are invited. Send proposals to: Maureen Hawkins, English Department, Loyola University, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118.

MLA - ACIS Panels

ACIS sessions at the December MLA meeting in New Orleans are as follows:

DECEMBER 28: "Landmarks in the Anglo-Irish Literary Tradition." Chair, Christopher Griffin, Strayer College, Washington, D.C.

"Anglo-Irish Ideology and the *Dublin University Magazine*," Wayne Hall, Univ. of Cinn.

"Realism as Exposure and Indictment: Maria Edgeworth and William Carleton," Elizabeth Harden, Wright State Univ.

"Laying the Ghost: Elizabeth Bowen's *A World of Love*," Robert Tracy, Univ. of Calif., Berkeley.

"*The Real Charlotte*: Fractured Worlds," Ann Owens Weekes, Univ. of Arizona.

DECEMBER 29: "Irish Writing in the Post-Colonial Era." Chair, Michael Kenneally, Marianopolis College, Montreal.

"Schizophrenia and the Politics of Experience in the Plays of Brien Friel," Maureen Hawkins, Loyola Univ.

"The Poetic Colony of Ulster," Dillon Johnston, Wake Forest Univ.

"Speaking of Miracles: Peripheral Religious Discourse in post-Vatican II Ireland," Lawrence Taylor, Lafayette College.

New U.S. Distributor

Blackstaff Press has announced that they have switched their distribution from Longwood to Irish Books & Media in St. Paul.

Upcoming Poetry Reading

The Irish poet Medb McGuckian will be giving a reading at Swarthmore College on Monday, October 3 at 8:00 p.m. Details from Michael Durkan, Swarthmore College Library, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081.

Requests for Information.

Ellen Moore Quinn is collecting the verbal folk memories of Irish-Americans for her M.A. degree at Harvard University. The verbal collection includes Gaelic survival expressions, proverbs, expressions and lore about daily life, and idioms, toasts, riddles, etc. Write to her at Sherrbert Road, RR 2, Ashburnham, Mass. 01430.

ACIS Members Tour Northern Ireland Research Facilities

NINE ACIS members attended a study tour to Northern Ireland for American librarians from June 30 to July 9, 1988. The tours, sponsored by the British Council and subsidized by individual grants to the attendees, consisted principally of visits to the major libraries, archives and museums of Northern Ireland. Additionally, there were evening receptions hosted by two antiquarian book dealers and a professor/physician who collects rare Irish nautical charts and maps.

The guided tour focused on the most significant depositories and resources of Irish local history or special Irish collections in Northern Ireland. Among the institutions visited in Belfast were the Public Record Office, the Ulster Historical Foundation, the Ordnance Survey Office, the Linen Hall Library, the Belfast Central Library, the library at Stranmillis College of Education, the library at Queen's University, the Department of Celtic at Queen's University, and the Institute of Irish Studies.

The group also went to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum (Holywood, Co. Down); the Ulster American Folk Park (Omagh, Co. Tyrone); the Armagh Museum and the Roman Catholic Cathedral Library (Armagh, Co. Armagh); the Library Headquarters of the Western Education and Library Board (Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh); and the South East Education and Library Board, and the Down Museum (both in Downpatrick, Co. Down).

ACIS members on the tour included Marie Daly, New England Historic Genealogical Society; Patrick Dempsey, Library of Congress; James Ford, Boston Public Library; Emmet Larkin, University of Chicago; Eileen McConnell and Barbara O'Brien, Washington, D.C.; Patricia McGovern, New York City; Maurice Rahilly, Northeastern University; and Judith Walsh, Prince George's County (Maryland) Memorial Library System. John Davenport, College of St. Thomas in St. Paul and host to the last ACIS national conference, also attended.

PATRICK DEMPSEY

Transitions

Thomas F. Staley, formerly of the University of Tulsa, is presently director of the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin, P.O. Drawer 7219, Austin, Texas 78713.

Treasurer's Report

May 15, 1987 — April 15, 1988

INCOME

Balance as of May 15, 1987	\$14,605.00
Membership Dues	32,855.00
Sale of pins and paperweights	921.00
Sale of labels and mailing lists	300.00
Dublin Conference Refund	700.00
Bank Interest	279.00
Other Income	100.00
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$49,760.00

EXPENSES

Executive Committee	\$1,037.86
Publications	1,870.45
Newsletter	5,222.45
Guide to Irish Studies	3,495.35
Irish Literary Supplement	9,216.64
Membership	211.63
Relations with Learned Societies	30.15
Regionals	200.00
Florist	100.00
Awards	100.00
Legal Services	14,183.00
Printing, Duplicating	2,227.54
Bulk Mailing	4,667.30
Bank Fees	12.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$20,347.82

BALANCE (including \$9,000 in CD's) \$21,550.97

Annual General Meeting

Excerpts from the Minutes
Mary Helen Thuente, ACIS Secretary

Secretary Mary Helen Thuente reported that there were 1775 dues-paying members in 1987-88 and that there had been 655 dues-delinquents (a delinquency rate of 37%). As of April 15, there were 1829 members.

Treasurer Michael Durkan issued a report on expenses and revenue (see above).

Jim Donnelly reported that 715 members had been recruited during the past year.

Tony Cahill summarized the Committee on the Future Report and its recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Executive Committee. A copy of the Report will be mailed to each member this fall.

Tom Hachey introduced a motion from the Executive Committee that the decision to launch an ACIS journal be rescinded. Passed unanimously. A motion was passed to refund the \$4.00 dues increase in 1987-88 to support the journal through a dues rebate.

Conor Johnston reported that the effort to have the word "Irish" added to the title of the second volume of the MLA bibliography had resulted in "British" being changed to "British Isles."

Emmet Larkin moved the acceptance of the Executive Committee recommendation that ACIS make a \$500 annual contribution to the Friends of the National Library of Ireland. Passed unanimously.

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

The Boston College English Department will make a tenure track appointment for the Fall of 1989. One of the fields to which the Department has given priority is Irish Literature, particularly within an interdisciplinary context. Full details will be published in the MLA Job Information List in October 1988.

1988 ACIS RESEARCH REPORT

Compiled by Yvette Jayson Sencer

PUBLICATIONS

- Billigheimer, Rachel V., "Tragic Joy: Art and Violence in Yeats's 'Last Poems,'" *The U.S.F. Language Quarterly*, Fall / Winter 1987
- Chapman, Wayne K., "Yeats and the English Literary Renaissance: Adaptations and Development in the Craft of Poetry," Diss., Washington State Univ., 1988
- Clark, Dennis and James Flynn, "Teaching and Researching Irish and Irish-American History: Case Studies from Philadelphia and Worcester, MA," WPIS 88-3
- Doan, James E., "Woman and Goddesses in Early Celtic History, Myth and Legend," WPIS 87-4/5
- Gonzalez, Alexander G., "The Achievement of Darrell Figgis's *Children of Earth*: Realism and Folk Culture," EI 22,3
- Harris, Ruth-Ann M., "Characteristics of Irish Immigrants in North America Derived from the Boston Pilot 'Missing Friends' Data, 1831-1850," WPIS 88-1
- Huber, Werner, "Autobiography and Stereotypes: Some Remarks on Brendan Behan's *Borstal Boy*," in Wolfgang Zach and Heinz Kosok, eds., *Literary Interrelations: Ireland, England and the World. Vol. 3: National Images and Stereotypes*, Tübingen: Narr, 1987
- _____, "Beckett und Athol Fugard," in Martin Brunkhorst, Gerd Rohmann and Konrad Schoell, eds., *Beckett und die Literatur der Gegenwart*, Heidelberg: Winter 1988
- _____, "Irish Writers and the English Romantics," in Michael Gassenmeier and Norbert H. Platz, eds., *Beyond the Suburbs of the Mind: Exploring English Romanticism*, Essen: verlag die blaue eule, 1987
- Mahony, Robert, "Muiris Ó Gormáin and the Lords Lieutenant of Ireland," *Éigse*, XXII
- _____, "The Pamphlet Campaign against Henry Grattan in 1797-99," *Eighteenth Century Ireland*, II
- Malcolm, Elizabeth, "Asylums and Other 'Total Institutions' in Ireland: Recent Studies," EI, Fall 1987
- McNamara, Leo F., "The Place of *The Street* in John Boyd's Collected Plays," *Threshold*, Spring 1988
- Morrison, Kristin, "William Trevor's 'Systems of Correspondences,'" MR, Autumn 1987
- Patterson, Nerys, "Early Irish Kinship: The Legal Structure of the Agnatic Descent Groups," WPIS, 1981-2
- Swartzlander, Susan, "The tests of reality: The Use of History in *Ulysses* and *Gravity's Rainbow*," *Critique*, Winter 1988
- _____, "To learn to respect reality: Bernard Shaw's *John Bull's Other Island*," *Shaw: The Annual of Bernard Shaw Studies*, 1988

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Chapman, Wayne K., Yeats and 17th-century Cambridge platonists and English Renaissance occult writers. Textual/bibliographic study of copy texts by Yeats.
- Eyler, Audrey S., "The Fiction of Anthony West."
- Fitzgerald, Margaret E. and Joseph A. King, *The Uncounted Irish in Canada and the United States*.
- Gonzalez, Alexander G., "The Novels of Brinsley MacNamara's Later Period." "Peadar O'Donnell's Short Stories." "The Symbolism of Paralysis in George Moore's *The Lake*."
- Kennedy, Brian, Biography of Irish artist Paul Henry.
- MacKillop, James, *A Dictionary of Celtic Mythology* for OUP.
- Mahony, Christina Hunt, "John Todhunter: An Examination of his Works and his Place in the Irish Literary Renaissance."
- Malcolm, Elizabeth, "Swift's Hospital." "Women and Madness in Ireland, 1700-1850." "Royal Irish Constabulary, 1836-1922."
- Moran, Seán Farrell, "Patrick Pearse and Patriotic Soteriology: The I.R.A. and the Sanctification of Self-Immolation." With Terence R. Murphy, general Irish history text.
- Morrison, Kristin, "Liam O'Flaherty's Hairy Ape: Connections with Eugene O'Neill." "William Trevor's Fiction."
- Owens, Gary, "Remembering '98: The Centenary Movement and the Development of Irish Nationalism, 1897-1903."
- Radner, Joan N., Translation and edition of Egerton's 1782 chronicle *Mionannála*. Translation of *The Tragic Diarmait and Muirchertach*. With Cólín Owens, *Anthology of Modern Irish Drama* for CUAP.
- Sheehan, Elizabeth A., "Irish University Intellectuals and Images of National Culture."
- Swartzlander, Susan, Irish novelist Norah Hoult.

FORTHCOMING

- Krause, David, ed., *The Letters of Sean O'Casey*, vol. 3, from CUAP, 1989.
- McDiarmid, Lucy, *Auden's Apologies for Poetry*, from Princeton Univ. Press., 1989.

REQUESTS

- For information about the Irish painter Dermod O'Brien (1865-1945), his training and development, drawings and paintings in private and public collections, letters, photographs, etc. Dr. Yvette J. Sencer, History of Art (B-634), SUNY-FIT, 7th Ave. at 27th St., New York City 10001-5992.
- Information, letters, archival material, examples of work relating to Irish artist Paul Henry (1876-1958). Brian Kennedy, Institute of Irish Studies, Queens Univ., 8 Fitzwilliam St., Belfast BT9 6AW, Northern Ireland.

ACIS Regional Conventions

MIDWEST — September 30 - October 1

NEW ENGLAND — October 7 - 8

WESTERN — October 14 - 16

ATLANTIC - November 4 - 5

ACIS Elections for the Next Two Year Terms

AT THE ACIS CONFERENCE at the College of St. Thomas in St. Paul in April 1988, the Executive Committee appointed the following persons to serve on the nominations committee: Jim Donnelly (Chair), Martha Caldwell, Dot Finnegan, Joyce Flynn, Tom Hachey, Lucy McDiarmid, and Catherine McKenna.

The following positions are to be elected by the entire membership: Vice-President, who automatically becomes President at the 1991 national meeting, and six Discipline Representatives: History, Literature, Social Science, Celtic Studies, The Arts, and Irish Language. (Note the increase from three to six in the number of elected Discipline Representatives.) Beside the Secretary and Treasurer, who are appointed by the Executive Committee, the other members of the Executive Committee are the immediate Past President, one representative from each of the four established regionals (New England, Atlantic, Midwest, and Western), each conducting their own elections before the 1989 annual conference; and the ACIS Newsletter Editor.

Currently, the Executive Committee is composed of the President, Maureen Murphy, who will remain on the new Executive Committee as immediate Past President; Vice-President James Donnelly, who will succeed to the Presidency in Spring 1989; Secretary, Mary Helen Thuente; Treasurer, Michael Durkan; History Representative, Kevin O'Neill; Literature Representative, Michael Kenneally; Other Disciplines Representative, Philip O'Leary; Irish Language Representative, Ken Nilsen; Past President, Robert Rhodes; ACIS Newsletter Editor, Robert Lowery; and the four regional representatives: Catherine Shannon (New England), Lucy McDiarmid (Atlantic), Thomas Hachey (Midwest), and Willard Potts (Western).

Those eligible to vote must be dues-paying members of ACIS as of December 1, 1988.

Any ACIS member eligible to vote may nominate any other eligible member, including Executive Committee members, for the positions of Vice-President or any of the Discipline Representatives. Nominations and elections for regional representatives will take place in accordance with the relevant regional bylaws.

ACIS members wishing to make nominations are to observe the following procedures: — Nominations should be made to the Chair of the Nominations Committee, but they may be submitted to any member of the committee.

— Though a letter of nomination is not essential, it is preferred; some brief statement of the nominee's qualifications will be helpful to the committee in making its decisions.

— Secure the permission of the nominees before submitting a nomination.

Nominations should reach any of the members of the committee by December 15, 1988:

— James Donnelly, Jr., Dept. of History, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison WI 53706.

— Martha Caldwell, Dept. of Art, James Madison Univ., Harrisonburg VA 22807.

— Dorothy Finnegan, LaRoche College, 9000 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh PA 15237.

— Joyce Flynn, Harvard Univ. Celtic Dept., Cambridge MA 02138.

— Thomas Hachey, Dept. of History, Marquette Univ., Milwaukee WI 53233.

— Lucy McDiarmid, 1931 Panama St., Philadelphia, PA 19103.

— Catherine McKenna, Dept. of English, Queens College, Flushing NY 11367.

Early in 1989, the Nominations Committee will post to every eligible member a letter carrying notices of the nominees and other election information, and a ballot on a postcard addressed to the Chair of the committee. The deadline for the receipt of ballots will be April 1, 1989.

Any questions about eligibility, procedures, or other matters should be directed to Jim Donnelly at the address above.

ACIS to Support National Library

The following letter was sent by ACIS President Maureen Murphy to An Taoiseach Charles J. Haughey on July 20, 1988.

Dear Mr. Haughey:

At our annual general meeting, the American Conference for Irish Studies voted to appropriate the sum of \$500 to the National Library of Ireland Society as a collective gift of thanks for the supportive role the Library has played in the development of Irish Studies in the United States and for the many kindnesses to our members over the years. In addition to the ACIS gift, many individual members are pledging their own gifts following the example of Past ACIS President Emmet Larkin who opened the list with his gift of \$50. These gifts are a measure of the value we place on the National Library as Ireland's most vital scholarly resource.

It is, then, with real distress that we learned

of the Library's staffing crisis, a crisis that may result in curtailing services during the evening and on Saturdays. For most of us, research time in Ireland these days is a matter of a few weeks during the summer or as part of a short research trip during an academic leave. Curtailed hours at the National Library would constitute a real hardship to scholars whose time is limited.

We realize the demands from all quarters on national finances; however, we feel the National Library of Ireland is in a class of its own and deserves special support to keep its resources available to the Irish people as well as to the international community of scholars.

Yours sincerely
Maureen Murphy, President

American Conference for Irish Studies
114 Paula Blvd.
Selden, New York 11784

First Class Mail

