

# American Conference *for* Irish Studies

*formerly* American Committee for Irish Studies

## NEWSLETTER

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Robert G. Lowery

Spring 1989  
Established 1962

### D.C. Discussion Group

The topic for the 1990 MLA Anglo-Irish Discussion Group in Washington D.C. is "Authority and the Canon in Irish Studies." Discussion will center on experimental canon arrangements, the role of the university in canon formation, and the conventional and the unconventional. Papers or proposals should be submitted by March 30 to Cheryl Herr, N134 Oakdale, University of Iowa, Iowa City IA 52242.

### ACIS Research Report

Members interested in submitting material for the next ACIS Research Report should send it to Yvette Jayson Sencer, Fashion Institute of Technology, 227 West 27th Street, New York N.Y. 10001, by June 15. An index card should be used for each entry in literature and history, with your name on each card.

### Museum Gains Donation

The new Irish American Heritage Museum has received a donation of \$1000 from the American Irish Association of Westchester County. The Irish American Heritage Museum is located jointly in East Durham, New York, and at the College of St. Rose in Albany. Actively under renovation, the 1850s East Durham farmhouse is being prepared for an opening this summer. For more information, write to the Museum at 19 Clinton Avenue, Albany, N.Y. 12207.

### Irish Universities at Seven

Ireland is to have two new universities, one in Limerick and the other in Dublin, the Minister for Education, Mary O'Rourke, recently announced. The National Institute for Higher Education in Limerick will become the University of Limerick while the NIHE in Dublin would also become a fully fledged university.

### For Rent

Family-size house for rent in Blackrock, Dublin, for July and August. Five bedrooms, front and back gardens, 3/4 hour by bus from city center. Reasonable rent to suitable tenant. Other rentals include a house in Kerry for a year and another house in Dublin for the summer. Write to Michael Kenneally, Department of English, Marianopolis College, 3880 Cote des Negres, Montreal, Que. H3H 1W1 Canada.

### BC-NEH Library Grant

Boston College recently received a \$700 million challenge grant from the NEH to build the humanities holdings and found a scholar-in-residence program tied to the library's Irish Collection. BC must raise \$2.8 million over the next four years.



Among the attendees at the IACI Awards luncheon (see next page) in Dublin were (left to right) poet Thomas Kinsella, Irish language author Alan Titley, Irish American Cultural Institute CEO John P. Walsh, poet Seamus Heaney, and IACI administrator Patrick Long.

## John Hewitt Summer School

The second John Hewitt Summer School is accepting applications for this summer's sessions. The School will explore aspects of John Hewitt's interest in regionalism and cultural and political topics arising out of that interest. Lecturers and writers include Paul Arthur, Mary Beckett, Tom Clyde, Cahal Dallat, Gerald Dawe, T.P. Flanagan, John Wilson Foster, Alasdair Gray, Seamus Heaney, Tom Nairn, Greágoir Ó Duíill, Britta Olinder, Frank Ormsby, and George Watson. For information, write to the The Director, John Hewitt International Summer School, The Post Office, Carnlough, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

## Simmons Appointment

James Simmons has been appointed writer-in-residence at Queen's University of Belfast to the post previously held by John Hewitt, William Wisser, Graham Reid, and Medbh McGuckian.

## Love of Language

Ann Keane's Face and Body Clinic in New York has the following copy in her advertisement: "In New York, even the best skins err and go blah." It's come to this.

## Use of Language

William Safire's column in the *New York Times Magazine* (6 Nov. 1988) notes that Joyce's *Ulysses* was the first use of the word *damn-all*: "Proud possessor of damnall," and again in his 1934 poem "An Epilogue to Ibsen's 'Ghosts'."

## Marathon Readings

"Perhaps it's best to read books like *Ulysses* . . . all in one swoop, because the evidence suggests that, once the reader stops, he doesn't necessarily go back. It's like moving into a house: after the first rush of enthusiasm and adaptation, nothing more ever gets done. . . . What would Joyce say about these marathons, in which students sometimes huddle under quilts? Would he see them as wake, like *Finnegans Wake*? He once said, only half-ironically, that he expected people to devote a lifetime of reading of his works. Eighty hours is a lifetime in the attention span of today's student. . . 'Actually,' one student said, 'the book doesn't matter. You do this for the bonding experience. And, of course, for the souvenir T-shirt'."

Anatole Broyard  
*New York Times Book Review*  
13 Nov. 1988

## Obituaries

- John Unterecker, 66, poet and ACIS member. University of Hawaii.
- Michael Scott, 83, actor and architect of the Irish Pavilion at the 1939 World's Fair and the modern Abbey Theatre. Dublin.
- Stewart Parker, 47, playwright. Author of *Spokesong* and others. London.



YEATS

## 30th Yeats Summer School

The International Yeats Summer School will commemorate the 50th anniversary of W.B. Yeats's death in their sessions from August 12-26, 1989. The themes will be "Yeats's Poetry, Prose, Plays"; "Yeats and the Other Arts: Theatre, Music, Painting, Printing"; "Ireland: History, Politics and Folklore"; and "Joyce, Beckett, Synge." There will be poetry readings by Donald Davie, Eamon Grennan, Michael Longley, Medbh McGuckian, and Jon Stallworthy. The Drama Workshop will be run by Patrick Mason. Lecturers this year include H. Porter Abbott, Terence Brown, Liz Butler Cullingford, Terry Eagleton, Jim Flannery, Eamon Grennan, Richard Kearney, Declan Kiberd, Karen Lawrence, Beth Loiseax, Edna Longley, Ann Mann, Maureen Murphy, Hilary Pyle, Tony Roche, Jon Stallworthy, Helen Vendler, and Eric Bentley. For more information, contact Mrs. Georgina Wynne, Yeats Society, Douglas Hyde Bridge, Sligo.

## Correction

John Messenger of Ohio State University writes the following: "In the just-received ACIS NEWSLETTER on p. 3 titled "Recently Published" there are two errors. THE IRISH COUNTRYMAN was done by Conrad Arsenberg—a classic—and has been out of print for several years until Waveland Press, Inc. republished it. Sheffield Publishing Company has just done my INIS BEAG REVISITED: THE ANTHROPOLOGIST AS OBSERVANT PARTICIPATOR, which isn't mentioned. Waveland republished my INIS BEAG: ISLE OF IRELAND in 1983."

## Abbey Theatre School of Drama

The first full-time Abbey Theatre School of Drama will open in September 1989. There are fifteen vacancies for overseas students to do study abroad. In rare cases, they will accept a student for the full three-year diploma course. For further information, write to Vincent Dowling, Artistic Director, Abbey Theatre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1.

## IACI Awards \$63,000

The Irish American Cultural Institute announced grants and awards totalling \$63,000 in ceremonies at Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel. Among the recipients of the Butler Award was Seamus Heaney (\$10,000), who accepted the award on behalf of *The Field Day Anthology of Irish Literature*, a comprehensive project for which publication plans are well advanced. A second Butler Award was shared by novelist Francis Stuart and short story writer Alan Titley. Other awards went to Thomas Kinsella, Nuala Ní Dhomnaill and Michael Hartnett. An additional poetry award was shared by Derek Mahon and Máire Mhac an tSaoi.

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