

AMERICAN CONFERENCE *for* IRISH STUDIES

formerly AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR IRISH STUDIES

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NEWSLETTER

ACIS ELECTIONS: A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Chair of the Nominations Committee, Blanche Touhill, has issued a call for nominations for the positions of Vice-President, and the six Discipline Representatives. Any ACIS member eligible to vote (dues-paying members of ACIS as of 1 December 1992) may nominate any other member, but the nominee's permission must be secured before submitting his or her name. The Committee does not require a formal letter of nomination, but some statement of the nominee's qualifications will help the committee in forming a slate of candidates. Nominations should be submitted by 1 December 1992 to any of the following members of the committee:

Blanche Touhill (Chair), Chancellor's Office,
University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO
63121

Maureen Murphy, Student Center, Hofstra University,
Hempstead, NY 11550

Thomas Hachey, History Dept., Marquette University,
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Michael Durkin, Swarthmore College Library,
Swarthmore, PA 19081

James Doan, Dept. of Liberal Arts, Nova University,
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

Early in 1993 the Nominations Committee will post to every eligible member a letter carrying notices of the nominees, other election information, and a postcard ballot addressed to the Chair of the Committee. The deadline for the receipt of ballots will be 1 March 1993. The new officers will take office in the course of the national meeting at Villanova University 15-18 April 1993.

Fall 1992

Conference Announcements

ACIS NATIONAL MEETING AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE GALWAY 5-10 JULY 1992

Over 500 delegates attended the joint ACIS/CAIS Conference at University College Galway. Irish President Mary Robinson officially opened the conference with an address to the delegates. Plenary addresses by Garrett Fitzgerald and Terry Eagleton, readings by John McGahern, Michael Davitt, and Jennifer Johnston, several receptions and tours to the Burren and Connemara enriched the impressive academic program of 64 sessions.

NEWS FROM THE ACIS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

The five year slide in membership has been halted. Dues payment for 1991-92 was up to 90% from last year's 81%. Riana O'Dwyer as European Treasurer has greatly facilitated matters. ACIS currently has over 1500 members.

ACIS has secured a renewal of its certification as a Modern Language Association Allied Organization.

ACIS has been invited to hold its 1996 or 1997 national conference at The Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University Belfast. The invitation will be brought before the ACIS Business Meeting at Villanova.

The ACIS Newsletter will begin a "Features" column. Members interested in preparing articles should contact Patricia Haberstroh, English Dept., LaSalle University, Philadelphia, PA 19141.

ACIS President Mary Helen Thuente named Tony Bradley and Jim MacKillop as a sub-committee to explore the possibilities and alternatives to starting an ACIS journal. Members are urged to send their suggestions to them.

The Executive Committee approved the following donations: \$400 to bring the ACIS membership contribution to the National Library of Ireland to \$1,000; \$250 to the Linen Hall Library; a one-time donation of \$1,000 to the James Joyce Cultural Centre, Dublin, to buy books.

Sean White has been authorized to institute an Irish-European ACIS region. ACIS now has approximately 135 members in Ireland and Europe. The first regional meeting will be at the University of Limerick in 1993 or 1994.

Conor Johnston has succeeded in his efforts to have Volume II of the MLA Bibliography appear under the title English

and Irish Literature.

A call was issued for formal proposals to host future national conferences. Interested members who would like preliminary information about what is involved should contact Mary Helen Thuente or Blanche Touhill.

The delegates offered a vote of thanks to the Galway host committee, Nicholas Canny, Gearoid O'Tuathaigh, and Seamus O'Grady, for the time and energy they devoted to making the UCG conference so successful.

IRISH LITERATURE PAPERS AT THE MLA CONFERENCE, NEW YORK 27-30 DECEMBER 1992

Celticity in 20th-century Poetry

Chair: James Doan, Nova University

"To Wales in My Arms": Dylan Thomas's Celtic Debt," William Greenway, Youngstown State University

"Seanchaidh and Druid: Celticity in Muldoon's Madoc and Heaney's Seeing Things," Jacqueline McCurry, University of Connecticut.

"Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill's Reading of Tain Bo Cuailnge," Tomas O'Cathasaigh, UC-Dublin.

"Cyclic Celticity in the Writings of Alistair MacLeod," Leon B. Litvack, Queen's University Belfast.

Irish Drama and Irish Nationalism

Chair: Kevin T. McEneaney, Marist College

"The Making of an Irish National Theater: Dublin Playwrights of the Early 18th Century," Helen Burke, Florida St. University

"John Arden and Margaretta D'Arcy: Women's Work and the Irish Revolution," Tramble Turner, Pennsylvania State University--Ogontz.

"Irish Cultural Politics and the New Nationalism," F.C. McGrath, University of Southern Maine.

FEATURES: STUDY TOUR TO NORTHERN IRELAND: 19-23 JULY 1992

By James Doan, Nova University

On Sunday, July 19, following the Galway ACIS and Dublin IASAIL conferences, I and Thirty-two fellow academics made our way to the Kilkenny Design Center on Nassau Street, where, with British Council Officer Lila McConnell, we proceeded north to Belfast. There we were met by another five members of our party. To say it was a full program of events would be an understatement. Within four days we

managed to see enough castles, churches, folk and archaeological parks, libraries and archives to satisfy the most demanding traveller. We were particularly struck by the hospitality of our hosts from the British Council, Director, Peter Lyner, and Lila McConnell, who accompanied us on many of the tours, and from the Institute of Irish Studies, particularly Brian Walker, the Acting Director, who also frequently met with and accompanied us. The accommodations, food and receptions were excellent, far more than we had expected.



Galway Conference: Mary Helen Thuente presenting Irish President Mary Robinson with Lawrence J. McCaffrey's book, Textures of Irish America.

Mount Stewart, on the other hand, reflected more the power and majesty of the British Empire in the early 19th century, with its chairs and documents from the Congress of Vienna, as well as other memorabilia.



Galway ACIS/CAIS Conference: Nicholas Canny, Mary Helen Thuente, and Michael Kenneally presenting Mary Robinson with a handmade Amish quilt.

It would be difficult to give a full account of our tour, but let me mention a few of the high points. On Monday, 20 July, we journeyed to Co. Down, viewing an 18th-century jail, well restored as the Down County Museum, as well as the cathedral erected near the site of Patrick's grave. That afternoon we visited two architectural gems: the 18th-century Castle Ward and Mount Stewart, restored in the 1920s. Castle Ward will remain particularly memorable to us for its rather quaint details, such as the display of stuffed squirrels, arranged to represent two boxers, as well as the record of 200 villagers sent to America aboard the Rose in October 1852 so that their cottages would no longer obstruct the view of Stranford Lough.



Galway Conference: Irish President Mary Robinson addressing the delegates at the ACIS/CAIS Conference.

Tuesday and Wednesday were filled with visits to the Ulster-American Folk Park (which contained 19th-century originals or replicas of the Mellon family's houses in both Ulster and the United States), the Ulster History Park (with exhibits of Irish buildings ranging from the neolithic to the medieval period), and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, with exhibits on the Titanic, the Irish harp (commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Belfast Harp Festival), Ulster wedding costumes, and a superb collection of vernacular architecture. Visits to the Public Record Office, the Ulster Historical Foundation and the Linen Hall Library provided insights into the rich stores of material awaiting researchers, ranging from genealogical and emigration data, to 18th-century manuscripts and publications, to full microfiche records on the "Troubles."

On Thursday, the final day of the tour, we drove south to Armagh, where we viewed the medieval Church of Ireland cathedral; the Armagh County Museum; the Public Library with its 16th-century Bible and first edition of *Gulliver's Travels* with Swift's marginal emendations, and the 19th-century Roman Catholic cathedral, where we were treated to a short concert by the organist. After lunch we travelled to Navan Fort, site of Emain Macha, the legendary Iron Age capital of Ulster mentioned in the sagas, where James Mallory, an archaeologist from Queen's University, gave us a short but intriguing tour. Finally, we returned to Dublin just in time for tea. Let me add that we all felt comfortable during our time in the North, including a few evening sojourns to the pubs of Belfast, and would certainly have no qualms about returning for a future tour or ACIS conference. --James Doan, Nova Univ.



Members of Study Tour at the Crown, Belfast.

American Conference for Irish Studies Newsletter

The Irish Art of Personality: Shaw, Wilde, Moore

Chair: Anthony Bradley, University of Vermont

"Making a Scene: Shaw's Oppositional Politics," Lucy McDiarmid, Villanova University

"Oscar Wilde's *Earnest* Dandy," Michael Patrick Gillespie, Marquette University

"Good Copy: George Moore and the Art of the Literary Causerie," Adrian Frazier, Union College.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS

New England Region Conference. Myths and Realities of Oppression: Church, Family, State, and Colonization. 30-31 Oct. 1992 at Fairfield University. For further information, contact Dr. Michael McDonnell, English Dept., F.O.B. 111, Fairfield University, Fairfield, CT 06430.

Mid-Atlantic Region Conference. Constructing Ireland: Images in History, Literature, and the Arts. 6-7 November 1992 at the Fashion Institute of Tech. SUNY, NYC (n.b., sessions will begin on Friday afternoon). For further information write to Tramble Turner, English Dept., Penn State--Ogontz, 1600 Woodland Rd. Abington, PA 19001.

Midwest Region Conference. 22-24 October 1992 at Southern Illinois University (n.b., registration on Thursday evening and sessions all day Friday and Saturday morning). For further information, contact Richard Peterson, English Dept., or Edward O'Day, History Dept., Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL 62901.

Southern Region Conference. The Consciousness of a Race: Irish Studies in the 90s. 26-27 February 1993 at the University of Tulsa. Send two-page abstracts or inquiries to Prof. Robert Spoo, English Dept., University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK 74104, (918) 631-223. Deadline for abstracts 30 October 1992.

Western Region Conference. 9-11 October 1992 at Loyola Marymount University. For further information, contact Prof. John M. Menaghan, English Dept., Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles CA 90045.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

The California Joyce 1993 Conference will be held 27 June-2 July 1993 at the University of California-Irvine. Paper and panel proposals or general inquiries should be sent to

Kimberly J. Devlin, English Dept., University of California-Riverside, Riverside, CA 92521. Deadline for proposals is 15 January 1993.

As part of its year-long sesquicentennial celebration, Villanova University will host the 1993 national ACIS meeting. The conference, entitled "Ireland and America: From Famine to Cultural Renewal," is scheduled for 14-17 April 1993. While papers will be welcome on a full range of subjects, members should note that one part of the conference will be a symposium on the Famine, reassessing its impact on both Irish and American history and culture. One-page paper proposals should be submitted by 15 September 1992 to Prof. James J. Murphy, Director of Irish Studies, Villanova University, Villanova, PA 19085. FAX: (215) 645-7910. *645-4500 direct 4647*

CALL FOR PAPERS

Mulvihill 215 527-0200
Current World Leaders is accepting papers of 4,500-10,000 words on selected topics. For information write Thomas S. Garrison, Editorial Director, 800 Garden St. Suite D, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The *Irish Literary Supplement* is now available on microfilm in two reels. Volumes 1 through 5 and Volumes 6 through 10 are available for \$32.50 each prepaid. All orders must be accompanied by a check made payable to Irish Literary Supplement. Reels will be sent via UPS insured. For further information write Robert G. Lowery, Editor *ILS*, 114 Paula Blvd., Selden, NY 11784.

Maureen Murphy is still soliciting information for inclusion in the revised edition of *A Guide to Irish Studies in the United States*. Consult the previous edition or the Fall 1991 Newsletter for the type of information needed and send any relevant information to Maureen Murphy, Dean of Studies, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11550.

The Irish Film Association will be holding a festival in New York City in October. For further information write Mary Doran, 35 Bedford St. Suite 14, New York, NY 10014.

Professor Patrick Buckland, Director of the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool, sends word of the academic growth of its graduate and undergraduate programs over the last four years, highlighted by "Britain's first ever M.A. students in Irish Studies" taking their degrees in December 1990. Those interested in further information should write directly to Prof. Patrick Buckland, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3BX UK.

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The Irish Review is offering a year's subscription at the reduced rate of \$18 to ACIS members. (The usual rate is \$25/year). Send subscriptions to The Editors, The Irish Review, Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University of Belfast, 8 Fitzwilliam St., Belfast, Northern Ireland.

British Council Travel Grants to Northern Ireland: ACIS has been asked to nominate two members for British Council Travel Grants to Northern Ireland. Travel must take place before March 1993 and involve research in Northern Ireland. For information contact Mary Helen Thuente IMMEDIATELY because nominations must reach the British Council by 15 Sept. 1992. Phone: (219) 481-6841 (off.); (219) 486-2234 (home). FAX: (219) 481-6985.

British Council Fellowships are available for research and post-graduate study at museums and universities in Northern Ireland. Applications for 1993/94 are currently being accepted. For further information write to: Ms. Carmel McGill, British Council, 3100 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C., 20008.

A recent unofficial study has shown a 100% increase in Harley-Davidson motorcycle ownership among ACIS members.

Janet Harbison, Curator of Music at The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, and Dr. Anne O'Dowd, a folklife specialist at the National Museum of Ireland will both tour the United States this autumn as part of the twenty-first annual Irish Perceptions series of the Irish American Cultural Institute. For more information on either tour contact the Irish American Cultural Institute, 2115 Summit Ave., University of St. Thomas (5026), St. Paul, MN 55105. (612) 647-5678.

Edward A. Kopper, Jr. has announced the publication of ACIS member Alexander Gonzalez's Darrell Figgis: A Study of His Novels. Gonzalez's monograph can be obtained for \$8.00 by writing to Kopper at 108 Farmington Dr., Butler, PA 16001.

Thesaurus Linguarum Hiberniae, a computer based data bank of medieval Irish writing--in Latin, Irish, Old Norse, Norman French, and Hiberno-English--is now being compiled. The project is called CURIA, and collaboration is invited from scholars throughout the world. For further information on the project contact: Dr. Patricia Kelly, Editorial Secretary CURIA, Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St., Dublin 2, IRELAND

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First Class Mail

Deadline for submissions for the next issue, 11 November, 1992.
Fax: (414) 288-3300

