All Out For Roanoke!
It Looks Like a Great Conference!
And the Setting is Perfect!

INFORMATION
ABOUT THE ACIS
BUSINESS MEETING
IN ROANOKE

THE ACIS Business Meeting will take place Saturday 15 May 12:45 at 3 p.m. All members attending the conference are urged to attend. The Executive Committee has voted (12 yes, 3 abstentions) to have the following items placed on the Agenda:

- ACIS Elections, national and regional
- Conference Programs
- The Newsletter
- The Annual
- Governance and Structure of the ACIS
- Miscellaneous Issues relating to general conduct of business

For most of the agenda items listed above, the discussion may begin with a summary of reports presented to the Executive Committee by various ad-hoc committees. See also the report on Program Procedures in the fall Newsletter.

AAUP REQUEST

The ACIS has received a request from the AAUP that we endorse the 1940 “Statement of Principles.” This statement has been endorsed by many other academic organizations, and copies of the statement will be distributed in Roanoke for a vote by the membership at the meeting. The statement may be found on the AAUP website at [www.aaup.org].

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MONG the groups that will appear at the ACIS conference in Roanoke is Shillelagh Law, from Youngstown State University (a local group, “No Strings Attached,” will also appear.) Although all are English professors and published poets, the members of Shillelagh Law come together from different places and with different musical backgrounds.

- Phil Brady grew up in Flushing, New York, listening to his mother’s Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem albums. Today, he’s known among the members of Shillelagh Law as the “walking Irish music juke box,” including some songs collected in pubs when he was living in Cork, Ireland. A self-taught bodhran player, he’s also the group’s lead storyteller and responsible for some of their funniest moments on stage.

- William Greenway has played American and Scottish folk music since he was in high school in Georgia. William has collected many Scottish and Welsh songs during his extensive travels in the British Isles. He is a particular fan of the songs of Robert Burns as well as Scottish fight songs. He brings strong guitar playing and an expressive lead baritone to the group’s performances.

- Sherry Linkon learned Irish music at MacCafferty’s pub in St. Paul, Minnesota, and her interest grew when she became active in the folk music and dance scene in Boulder, Colorado. Her music interests range from folk to opera, and she has ever served as an amateur cantor for several Jewish groups. She adds high, clear vocals and guitar to the group’s sound.

- Steve Reese has performed popular and folk music in bars and coffeehouses since his college days at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. The group’s most accomplished guitar picker, he also sings lead on many of the group’s ballads, including the songs he has written. Steven also serves as the group’s harmony coach, arranging many of the songs Shillelagh Law performs.

“IT'S OFTEN SAID THAT ACADEMIC POLITICS ARE PARTICULARLY NASTY BECAUSE THE STAKES ARE SO LOW.”
-David Price, WSJ
A.C.I.S. REPORTS

Re: Mid-Atlantic Regional Report

Sender: mkealy2@glc.immaculata.edu

The annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Region was held at the Lincoln Center Campus of Fordham University on October 30 and 31, 1998. The theme "Fin de siècle Ireland" resulted in 10 panels, which discussed topics ranging from Oscar Wilde to contemporary literature and social studies. The plenary address by Elizabeth Butler Cullinford focused on "Yeats, the Apocalypse and Popular Culture." At the business meeting the following officers were elected: Robert Mahony (regional representative), Monica Brennan (treasurer), Christina Hunt Mahony and Vivian Valvano Lynch (delegates at large). The conference attendance was 106 and special thanks are due to Nancy Curtin who convened the event. We are also grateful to Fordham University, the Consul General of Ireland, and the societies that supported the regional meeting.

--Sister Marie Hubert Kealy
Mid-Atlantic Representative

Re: Western Regional Report

Sender: aweekes@arizona.edu

Robert Garratt and Audrey Eyler hosted the Western Regional Conference at the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Washington, October 2-4. Titled "Ireland and Europe 1798-1998," the conference attracted 45 participants and a broad range of excellent papers, which included a strong selection of history as well as literature papers. The wealth of papers allowed us to start our conference on Friday and continue it through Sunday morning. The excellent drama session which opened the conference was followed by equally stimulating sessions on Fiction, Contemporary Perspectives, Intersects of Irish and European History, and a Forum on Northern Ireland. Papers were challenging, prompting lengthy and lively audience participation. The poet and fiction-writer Mary Dorcely delighted the audience with her reading of familiar and many new, yet-to-be-published poems. She also participated in a public interview on Sunday morning and answered many questions on the writing process and on writing in Ireland. Thanks to Robert Garratt, we were also entertained with another delightful performance, music from the works of James Joyce, featuring two tenors, a baritone, and a soprano. And Audrey Eyler to be credited with bringing us Molly Lyons' production and performance of "Graumali," the story of Grace O'Malley. Participants were very positive about the packed, smooth-running 1998 conference; for this we were indebted to Rob and Audrey's friendly and courteous organization. We look forward to our next meeting at Colorado State University in October 1999.

--Ann Wekes
Western Regional Representative

Re: Southern Regional Report

Sender: cwayne@CLEMSON.EDU

"Ireland in the Arts and Humanities, 1899-1999," the Tenth Annual Southern Regional Conference, was organized by Wayne Chapman and hosted by Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina. Besides ACIS, co-sponsors included the South Carolina Humanities Council; the Clemson University Vending Committee, Department of English and Performing Arts as well as the College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities; the Irish Club of Clemson; and Southern Wine and Spirits (for a quaffing gift in kind). The theme of the meeting tells all: the conference especially emphasized scholarship with perspective on Irish Drama, Fiction, and poetry in historic, political, and cultural context. An exciting century of renaissance in Irish arts and letters. Papers ranged in topics from individual writers such as James Joyce, W. B. and Jack Yeats, Lady Gregory, Seamus Heaney and Carson, and others, to topics such as "Shaping and Packaging the Nation: Maps, Myths, and People," "Ireland and the USA," "Creative Writing and Performance Art" and recitations of J. M. Synge's "Riders to the Sea and Damian Gorman's "Loved Ones.

Particularly interesting were Frederick and Emily Lapiard's scenes from Yeats' "Queen of the Pope" puppet presentation and presentations by Tom Redshaw, Dillon Johnston, and Elizabeth Crudgel in one staged reading of the Healy, Brian Friel, and Carson plays. Members who click on that heading will find the new research report form and, by following directions there, may submit information for the annual report without touching a piece of paper. (Research reports may also be submitted in the traditional manner: on paper.) The other significant change is the addition of four research fields: Cinema, Cultural Studies, Folklore and Irish Language. These changes come about as a result of recommendations made by a subcommittee of the ACIS Executive Committee and submitted to the Executive Committee as a whole. The subcommittee consisted of Richard Bizot (chair), Cheryl Herr and Gary Owens. Robert Brindley, who oversees the ACIS website, has set up the report form there, adjusting it many times to accommodate recommendations from the subcommittee and the Executive Committee as a whole.

Research report information, whether submitted electronically or on paper, will still be compiled by DeeGe Lee. The printed (paper) version of the report form, identical with the electronic one, will be available on the ACIS website. Members should report by one or the other means, but not both.

--Richard Bizot
Professor of English
Coordinator of Irish Studies
University of North Texas, First President, Southern Region, American Conference for Irish Studies

Last Call

Sender: doan@polaris.acast.nova.edu

The deadline for receipt of deposits for the 2000 Southern ACIS Cruise Conference, "The Irish in the Atlantic World," on board the Carnival Ecstasy, and sailing from Miami to Nassau (Feb. 4-7, 2000), has been extended to March 30, 2000. Berths are available for $425.00 per person (inside cabin) or $475.00 p.p. (ocean-view cabin) based on double occupancy. Single occupancy is $755.00 or $880.00, respectively. Indicate whether you wish to share a cabin, and with whom. Final payment due is by October 1, 1999. Deposits and remaining payments should be sent to payable to: James E. Doan, Dept. of Liberal Arts, Nova Southeastern Univ., 3301 College Ave., Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314. Abstracts should be sent to Mary Donnelly (Mangniss@aol.com) as soon as possible. Five-minute paper panels, organized around a common theme or round table discussions are encouraged. For further information contact either Donnelly or Doan at: (doan@polaris.nova.edu).

Re: Midwest Regional

Sender: lpmcc@email.msu.edu

The 1999 Midwest Regional will take place on October 8 and 9 on the campus of St. Ambrose University, Davenport, Iowa. The main theme of the conference is "Symbolic Relationships in Irish Studies." Paper proposals should be submitted by July 15 to Larry McCaffrey, 1227 Maple Ave., Evanston, IL 60202. Gary Nolan, Director of Professional Development, at St. Ambrose is organizing local arrangements and program publication and mailing.

--Larry McCaffrey

Re: Call for Articles, "Women's Studies"

Sender: maureeneryearlthink.net

Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal invites contributions to an upcoming special issue (to appear in 2000) on Irish women writers after 1798. Forward submissions (in duplicate, conforming to MLA style, and no longer than 25 pages) to Associate Editor Maureen O'Connor, Department of English, Claremont Graduate University, 143 East Tenth Street, Claremont, CA 91711.
CA 97117-6163, by 1 October 1999. Forward inquiries to
wmsstdj@gsu.edu, or call the journal's offices at 909.607.2974.

Re: Brian Fried Conference

Sender: dhand@maccalum.ucd.ie

A Conference on Brian Fried will be held in University College,
Dublin's Newman House, May 11 - 20, 1999. Speakers will include
Declan Kibber, Katherine Worth, Fintan O'Toole, Richard Pine.
Productions of Friels' Freedom of the City: Living Quarters and
Frontier Jails will be included in the series, making it a comprehensive
contribution to the field.

- Studies which interrogate the political or ideological conse-
quencies of texts, and their readings, and which view the works of
Irish literature as constitutive of different notions of Irishness, and
Irish identity.
- Studies which examine the different emunciations of Irishness
republican, nationalist, unionist, loyalist, religious, pluralist—or
the intersection of any of these.
- Studies which examine the influence of Europe on constructions of
Irishness; or which examine diasporic influences on Irishness in
all its facets. Hyphenated notions of identity, or borderline notions
of Irishness, either literary or political are also encouraged.

The series is open to any of these approaches, or to any
interrogation the way in which the notion of Irishness has been
centered, is being enculturated or might possibly be encultur-
ated in the future.

Please send abstracts, proposals or inquiries to: Dr Eugene
O'Brien, Editor Ireland in Theory, Department of Languages and
Cultural Studies, Department of English, College of Humanities,
Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, Limerick,
Ireland.

-Eugene O'Brien

Summertime in Dublin

Sender: forourke@ollamh.ucd.ie

A printed souvenir program marking the 50th International
Summer School in Irish Studies held at University College Dublin
in June is available free of charge on request. It includes an
unpublished sonnet by Seamus Heaney as well as drawings of
Seamus Heaney and musician Derek Bell by Irish artist Paul Funge.
Email: summer-school@ucd.ie The 51st International Summer
School will take place 30 June - 6 July 1999. Details: International
Summer School, UCD, Dublin 4.
Website: www.ucd.ie/summerschool

-Dr. Fran O'Rourke
Director, International Summer School
Philosophy Department
University College Dublin, Dublin 4
Tel: 353-1-706 8124; Fax: 353-1-269 3469

Celebrating William Kennedy

Sender: Vlyshn@aoil

The Associated Writing Programs (AWP) Annual Conference
will take place at the Omni Hotel, Albany, New York, April 14-17, 1999.
Frank McCourt is the Keynote Speaker. "William Kennedy: A
Celebration," a symposium co-sponsored by the University at
Albany, the New York State Writers Institute, and the Associated
Writing Programs, will be part of the proceedings; invited to
present papers are Viviano Valvano Lynch, Benedict Giamo,
Christian Michener, Michael Patrick Gillespie, and Neila C.
Seshachari. Conference program can be viewed at
www.albany.edu/writers-inst; for registration and further infor-
mation call (703) 993-4301 or e-mail awp@gmu.edu.

Jefferson Smurfit Corporation
Professorship in Irish Studies

The University of Missouri-St. Louis is pleased to announce the
establishment of a Chair in Irish Studies. The chair is called the
Jefferson Smurfit Corporation Professorship in Irish Studies. The scholar
will be expected to play a leadership role in the development of
Irish Studies at the University at St. Louis. The professor will be
expected to take an interdisciplinary approach and exhibit, in his
or her scholarship, both intellectual rigor and accessibility to a wide
audience. The professor will teach courses and conduct research in
his/her academic discipline. Preference will be given to a scholar
in the arts, humanities or history.

Working with the Center for International Studies, the Irish-
American community and the community at large, the professor will
develop programs for campus and community audiences about
Ireland and the Irish expatriate experience. The professor will also
coordinate with other international professorships and
Center programs to develop a comprehensive international program
highlighting the diversity of St. Louis's ethnic heritage.

Qualifications: Candidates must have a distinguished record
of research/creative activity, teaching, and service. Experience work-
ing with the community is desired.

Rank and Salary: Rank is open for this tenured appointment,
but preference will be given to applicants who can be appointed
at the associate or full professor level. The position will be
commensurate with the qualifications of the candidate; endowment
funds will be used to support the activities of the professor.

Applications: The appointment may be made for Fall 1999 or
as soon as possible and will begin in the Fall of 1999. Review of materials will begin on
April 1, 1999, though nominations and applications will be
accepted until the position is filled. Applicants should include a
letter describing how their background and experience prepares
them for this important position. Applications should also include
a curriculum vitae and names, addresses and telephone numbers of
four references. (Candidates will be notified before references are
contacted.)

Please address application materials to: Jefferson Smurfit
Professorship in Irish Studies Search Committee, Dr. Joel
Glassman, Committee Chair, Center for International Studies,
University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 63121-4499.
Applications and materials must be
made electronically to the following e-mail address:
intinstd@umsystemums.edu.

George J. Mitchell Scholarships

Sender: vargo@usirlandia.org

In September 1998, Taosche Berti Ahern announced that the
Irish Government would provide $3 million endowment for the
US-Ireland Alliance for the establishment of the George J.
Mitchell Scholarships. Named in honor of the former Senator's
political contribution to the Northern Ireland peace process, these
scholarships will allow Americans to pursue one year of postgraduate study at institutions of higher learning in Ireland, including the
seven universities in Ireland and the two universities in Northern
Ireland. The Crucible Corporation of Dublin has also committed to
funding a Mitchell Scholar. The first scholars will be selected in
fall 1999 and will begin their studies in fall 2000. It is anticipated that
between three and five scholars will be selected the first year.
Trina Vargo, who launched the US-Ireland Alliance, a Washington-
based, non-profit, non-party organization dedicated to educating
Americans about Ireland and to consolidating existing relations
between the U.S. and Ireland (see Washington Post, July 19, 1998),
will be at the national A.C.I.S. conference in Roanoke to provide
information on the scholarship website being designed and
will be found at www.MitchellScholar.org. If you are interested in
further information, Ms. Vargo can be contacted at US-Ireland
Alliance, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, 9th floor, Washington
D.C. 20004. Telephone 202-434-7467; email address is vargo@us-
irelandianscience.org.

Ms. Vargo is working with the National Distance Education
Center at Dublin City University to develop the use of
distance learning in Irish Studies programs. The National Center
in co-operation with all the Irish Universities has developed
a Humanities degree, which is awarded through Dublin City
University; National University of Ireland, Maynooth; University
of Dublin, Trinity College; University College Cork, National
University of Ireland, Galway; and the University of Limerick.
Ms. Vargo and Professor Curran (Director of the National
Center) would like to meet with professors at the conference to
discuss ways in which the programme might be made available, in whole
or in part, to students in the United States. If you would be interested
in discussing this with Ms. Vargo and Professor Curran, please
look for them at the conference.

Re: 1999 J.C. Beckett Prize

Sender: ronan.gallagher@four-courts-press.ie

This message is intended for those working in colleges
and universities where there are students completing PhD and major
MA courses on Samuel Beckett. It is taken from the
new Four Courts Press catalogue (page 22 to be precise) that we
have inaugurated an award for students working in the fields of
medieval and modernist literature. We are inviting
students to submit an essay of 12,000-15,000 words based on
their dissertation, and to do so before 31 May 1999. (The dissertation
should have been awarded before 31 March 1999.) The winner will
receive a beautiful medal plus £500 in cash and the possibility
that the dissertation will be published. Subsequently, the Press also
intends publishing an annual (or biannual) volume of essays called
Beckett Essays in Irish History. The judges are: Raymond Gillespie,
Thomas Bartlett, S.J. Connolly, Nancy Curtin and Roy Foster. They
will also call upon an advisory panel of judges for essays that fall
outside their extensive knowledge and wisdom. If you have any
questions please do not hesitate to contact me. However, entries
should be addressed to Martin Fanning at Four Courts Press,
Fumbally Lane, Dublin 8. Tel. (Int+353-1) 453 4668. Fax:
(Int+353-1) 453 4672. E-mail: ronan.gallagher@four-courts-press.ie
Visit our web site: http://www.four-courts-press.ie
The following is the response of the Midwest and New England Regional Representatives of ACIS to the report of the Committee on Mission and Procedures (the so-called CAMP Report) which was published in the last edition of the ACIS Newsletter.

The establishing of the five-person Committee on Mission and Procedures was proposed by Conor Johnston on 18 April 1998 at the Fort Lauderdale business meeting of ACIS. Following an irregular election of the last Vice-President of ACIS and the unauthorized change of direction taken within the organization as regards the acceptance of papers for national conferences, Johnston’s hope, in successfully proposing the establishment of this committee, was that the committee would examine these two issues and would also make a fresh, objective examination of our 37-year-old organization, with a view to making some positive recommendations that would guide us into the new millennium.

Sadly, both the committee and its work turned out to be disastrous. The committee was heavily influenced by the ACIS executive committee, in accordance with Johnston’s motion and ACIS bylaws 4D and 5C. Instead, ACIS President McDermid set up a secretive and Byzantine process which resulted in the election of a committee that is grossly unrepresentative of the ACIS membership. (Four of the committee are in literature; one is in history; all five are female.) Not only is this committee unrepresentative, but it is illegal, having been formed in a manner that violated both the Fort Lauderdale motion and the ACIS bylaws, specifically bylaws 4D and 5C.

Once formed, the committee proceeded to survey the ACIS membership by means of a questionnaire designed to elicit responses suited to the committee’s own preconceptions. It is a tribute to the intelligence of our membership that the vast majority ignored the survey. Fewer than 9% responded (8.71% to be exact), and it is a travesty that the so-called CAMP Committee would issue a report based on such pathetically sparse returns.

For the committee to claim, as it did in its report, that these meager returns indicate a general level of satisfaction among the ACIS membership, is as insane as it would be for the low turn-out in U.S. Congressional elections indicates voter satisfaction with U.S. politicians.

A prime characteristic of any mature organization is tolerance of informed dissent among its members. This so-called CAMP Committee would, however, allow for no such dissent. Thus those of us—there are many—who were concerned at the irregular nature of the last vice-presidential election and at the ACIS’s turning its back on the concept of inclusiveness mandated in its charter, were characterized in the CAMP report as being “unprofessional, squalid, childish, sexist, and homophobic,” as having acted in an “unprofessional and destructive manner” towards ACIS, and as having engaged in “undemocratic and personal harassment.” Is this outrageous calumny the price one has to pay for asking that ACIS elections be properly conducted and that our scholarly organization remain true to its charter? We would also point out that the unpleasant atmosphere at the Fort Lauderdale business meeting, which the CAMP report blames on us dissenters, was actually the result of the mishandling by the ACIS President of both the business meeting and the Executive Committee meeting which preceded it.

Further, we regard as ominous the authoritarian references in the so-called CAMP report, first to the “collective authority of the majority of the Executive Committee” (a concept which exists neither in the ACIS charter nor in the American political system), and second, to the notion that there should be a procedure for censuring those who challenge so-called “collective authority.”

The CAMP report is, in our view, a gratuitous, distorted, inflammatory, and destructive piece of nonsense, based on statistically nightmarish responses to a slanted questionnaire issued by an illegally constituted committee. As we stated in the last newsletter, the so-called “CAMP report” is not a report at all, but “an attack, an irrational, distorted, unrepresentative attack, against reasoned dissent within this organization.

At the upcoming ACIS business meeting at Roanoke—at which we demand the presence of a parliamentary officer, in order to avoid a repetition of the mishandled Fort Lauderdale business meeting—it is our intention to call for the rejection, in toto, of the so-called CAMP report.

We thank you for your attention to the concerns expressed here. Please make every effort to attend and contribute to the annual business meeting at Roanoke. Remember, it is the business meeting, and not the Executive Committee, that is the governing body and court of last resort of ACIS.

Charles Fanning, Midwest Regional Representative, ACIS
Conor Johnston, New England Regional Representative, ACIS

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Mr. W.B. Yeats said that he was astonished at the change which had taken place in Trinity College.

Ten years ago he addressed a meeting in favor of some movement toward Irish Studies.

They had on that occasion about 20 people present, and the discussion was one of a very unreal character.

assuming in other countries. Settled conditions were wanting to allow its development from the forms of lyric and epic poetry and the mere chronicles and the religious records to which it had already attained. The advent of Cromwell, the turmoil of civil war, and the plantations broke up for ever the centres of Irish learning. But still, up to 1600, much real literature had been written in the native tongue. It was their duty, therefore, to take up across the intervening centuries, before it was too late, the threads of history and of Irish literature from the hands of the Four Masters and of the professional Keating.

Mr. John McNeill, in proposing "That Irish studies deserve deeper attention than they have hitherto been accorded to them," said that the auditor had placed before them a plea for Irish studies, and that he was certain Irish studies would be worthy of attention. There had been a great deal of argument in recent centuries over the thesis that the auditor had placed before them, for he had argued out the question from the point of view of enthusiastic partisans or almost equally enthusiastic opponents of the study of Irish. Quoting impartial judgments upon this question, he said that most learned and most distinguished writers of Trinity College, Bedel, immediately after his appointment, wrote, "My first endeavor shall be to understand the tongue of this country, which, I say, though it be accounted other- wise, is a learned language and full of difficulty." (Laughter.) The judgment of Lynch, written a generation later, was also quoted. "Such is the elegance of the Irish language that little so ever a person sips of it, he is drawn on to acquire a more profound knowledge." That statement had been, he thought, the expression of thousands in the present age. The Irish language was a language honied from study, a language with worth, because it was what they might call a thoroughbred language, because it contained a literature, and because the knowledge spoken of by Lynch the knowledge of a thoroughbred quality and state of society.

Ireland was the one country in Europe containing a wide and copious early tradition and literature which stood outside of the pale of the Roman Empire, the one country in Europe whose institutions were not deeply affected and changed by Roman civilisation. The Irish maintained their ancient social and political systems to the earliest times of which they had any record down to that event mentioned by the auditor, the Battle of Kinsale. Those systems were set forth clearly and abundantly in the literature which had been preserved to them, and it was not too much to say that...
one-tenth part of the knowledge of that ancient state of society that this literature afforded them. They heard that knowledge could be got from books, but there was a whole world of objects before those institutions could be got in this country which give so much power to the national spirit, they had to bring back intellect to the national movement itself.

The vote of thanks, on being put to the meeting, was carried by acclamation.

Dr. Sigerson moved:—

The Dublin University Gaelic Society

deserves the support of all Trinity stu-

dents. He said they had not only a great

cause to rejoice in, but they were heirs of

nobler civilisations, because it was instinct

with chivalry from its origin, and that chiv-

alry had led it to never abandon the perse-

cution of its foes, even to the point of ris-

ing against overwhelming prejudice and

overwhelming force. These were the les-

sons taught in the works of their predeces-

sors and their ancestors, works of which the

Brehon Laws gave the standard, but not the

entire spirit. But that spirit the world of Europe tested, because this was a country where nations had the predominant voice which did not recognise that their chivalry was to be played down, while the

Roman tyranny was due to the leaders of the thought, of education, and of science, as it was, which proceeded from Ireland. When fight-

ing was the only synonym for chivalry in

other countries, this country had a higher

and a more ideal conception of chivalry, and

their knightly virtues were not merely for the

fight in the field, but for the fight in the

school, in the study, and in the Church.

Their knights went forth with course of souls, and by their learning, their

highly educated intellects, and by their ambition and zeal, had evangelised from

as well as Paganism, the central and con-

trolling parts of Europe. These were the

things admitted. They were then the

apostles of chivalric love, if they must

be regarded as such. They had five million minds that was a most noble characteristic of those ancient people. In other countries men had re-

course to force to subdue their opponents,

yet the Irish scholar was not so daunted, because he delighted in having an intellec-

tual fight, and knew that he could come out in the end. If he did not, he would be beaten where intellect was the arm used

against him. That was intellectual chivalry;

that was the prevailing characteristic when Ireland could display her characteristies

fully. It was different in other countries. It had been different when Rome spread like a fierce lava over the conquered countries and

began to take territory and the music of, of which nothing remained but some wretched remnant of the over-

coming king, and in the new age escaped it. Ireland did not seek when she had

power, and great power, to destroy the

language of other nations. The monopoly was broken, and he rejoiced in the

triumph of the intellect because it imposed upon it commonplace of seconds thought, and was carried along in flow to reaching

what was used, and never overflowed to fertilise untrodden ground. Had the Ireland of to-day no duty to Ireland of to-day? It was to say to the

obligation to those men of old, the great

minds, the generous and free, the knightly

intellect of the past, who made Ireland in

their day the university of Europe? Men

came here then for knowledge. Now from

here they sent men abroad. Had they none of the sap that moved the hearts of their

forefathers, had their minds degenerated to

such an extent that they could not revive the glories of ancient days? That certainly was not the thought of the meeting, the will and that would not

wanting. (Applause.)

Rev. Dr. Mahaffy, S.T.C.D., in sec-

onding the resolution, said Mr. Yeats had

turned to him and said he did not know

whether he came there as an opponent or as a friend. He did not know himself. (Laughter.) He had heard a great

many things with which he thoroughly

agreed, and a great many things, especially from Mr. McNeill, which so far as he (Dr. Mahaffy) understood history, were not at all true; but that was only his opinion, and he was not so good as Mr. McNeill's opinion. (Laughter.) Nevertheless the great good of having the

society in the College was that they got free

discussion, and he was very much

obliged to Mr. Yeats for having put that

point that they would not carry out any

great movement without criticism, and that they must profit by that criticism. When he first ventured to criticise that movement

some years ago he was met with a perfect

howl of execration. Every now and then he could tell them of many men who professed
to support the Gaelic movement in its entirety but who had assured him in private that they

had a great deal of sympathy with the ob-

jections he made. For some reason—

he could not say why—men who were

very high up in the Government, who had never received nothing more, and who were also

sure of a high place in the next, seemed to be so afraid of losing popularity that they would not hear the criticism or even have opinions in public. That, he believed, was one of the great dangers in Irish society the fear of many men to speak out their minds. This was the experience of many papers. (Laughter.) He did not suffer from that dread. Nobody was likely to take from him anything that he had, and he did not think anyone was going to give him any-

thing that he had not—(laughter) so he considered he was perfectly safe. Well, now, he thought the time had arrived that the movement began, he confessed he was wrong, he was at fault, he did not judge the strength of it or the permanence of it. He thought it was so difficult to resist a language which was nearly gone, that the youth of Ireland were too busy trying to earn their bread, and that so little had been shown of great literature in the old writings of Ireland, that he must say he never ex-

pected to see the movement so great and so strong rising up in Ireland. Emerson had

been a good deal due to Mr. John McNeill.

(Applause.) The arguments used in its

favour were not always consistent. As a

Commissioner of National Education he

had been constantly assailed with two

distinct arguments. The first was that there was such an enthusiasm for Ireland that noth-

ing could stop it. That was true, the

Commissioners said it would not be neces-

sary to give prizes for its study, and then

there was a perfect howl, and they were
told that unless they encouraged it with

endowments it was sure to die out. He
did not think that that was the case. The
central system of Intermediate education had

been so disturbed by the attempt of many of

its promoters to give it an importance far

above what it really was entitled to that he

was not sure that it would not, in the course

of a few years, upset the whole system of

education in Ireland. He was sure there

were some people who would say that

would not be the least harm. It was not

for him to say whether or not he agreed

with them, but he was sure he would go
to the New Yorkers in 1946, as their story-

teller, and say that not to be the least harm.

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See You in Roanoke for the Annual Conference!

Robert G. Lowery
American Conference for Irish Studies
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