LIMERICK 2000

Arrangements for ACIS Limerick 2000 are being finalized. As of now, over 170 people have registered for the conference. The local organizers wish to stress that registrations are still being accepted; however, rooms in the selected hotels at the specially negotiated rates cannot be guaranteed after April 1. Unreserved rooms will be released to the hotels on that date or shortly thereafter.

The President of Ireland's office has confirmed that Mary McAleese will open the conference officially on Tuesday evening, June 27. The official opening will be followed by a gala concert in the University Concert Hall featuring, in the first half, songs associated with the life and writings of James Joyce to be introduced by Senator David Norris. The songs will be sung by Sinéad Blanco (one of the "three Irish sopranos") and Declan Kelly (tenor). The second part of the concert will feature contemporary arrangements of Irish music played by Micheál Ó Súilleabháin and a chamber ensemble drawn from members of the Irish Chamber Orchestra. Poetry Ireland/Eigse Éireann have confirmed that Dermot Healy, Ciaran Carson and Moya Cannon will be reading from their work on Thursday evening, June 29. Other poets or musicians may be added to the line-up and the poets/musicians will be introduced by Theo Dorgan, director of Poetry Ireland/Eigse Éireann. The most popular destinations for excursions listed by those who have registered so far are the Burren, followed by South Galway, with the Cork Gaeltacht and Monastic Midlands an equal third.

There will be book displays by Irish and US publishers throughout the week. There will also be an "Old, Rare and Secondhand Bookfair" all day on Thursday, June 29. Secondhand booksellers from all over Ireland will be invited to have stalls at this bookfair. Those attending the conference should note that the award-winning play, "Pigstown" by Mike Finn, giving a vivid portrayal of life in Limerick from the beginning of the 20th century to its end, will be returning to the Belltable Arts Centre, O'Connell Street, Limerick (Tel. 011-353-61-31 9866) in June and will be running during the week of June 26 to July 1. The conference will conclude with the banquet in the Bunratty Fitzpatrick Hotel some six miles from Limerick on Saturday, July 1. Bus transfers will be arranged between the University and Bunratty before and after the banquet. As previously announced, Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh will be the guest speaker and ACIS Limerick 2000 will conclude with dancing to the music of Brass & Co. from Waterford, a very popular band for dinner dances and other functions, who trace their origins back to the showband era in the '60s and '70s.

Further details will be available on the ACIS Limerick 2000 Web site <http://www.ul.ie/~acis2000/> which will be updated in March and May. Further copies of the Final Notice for the conference can be requested from Lucy Imbusch, Conference Secretary, at imbusch@iol.ie The conference organizers look forward to welcoming ACIS to Limerick on June 26.

IN MEMORIAM ADELE DALSIMER

It was with considerable sorrow that we learned of the passing Feb. 13 of Professor Adele Dalsimer, who co-founded and co-directed Boston College’s Irish Studies program. In 1978 Adele and Prof. Kevin O’Neill created the program, “believing that Irish culture, history and literature should be taught and viewed as an integral academic discipline. The ground-breaking program provided opportunities for both undergraduates and graduate students to study in Ireland, thanks to Irish Studies’ collaborations with the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, and at universities in Cork, Dublin, Galway and Belfast, among others” (from The Boston College Chronicle, 2/17/2000, obituary). Prof. Dalsimer’s books included The Unappeasable Shadow: Shelly’s Influence on Yeats (1988) and Kate O’Brien: A Critical Study (1990).

In recent years she had begun to focus on Irish visual arts, contributing to exhibitions at the McMullen Museum of Art, and editing several volumes dedicated to interdisciplinary analysis of the Irish arts. All of us in Irish Studies owe a tremendous debt to her painstaking work, and those of us privileged to know Adele will miss her greatly.
Area 3. Slating
A. Nominations are due on 1 December. Ballots will be mailed to current ACIS members by 31 January.
B. Members of the Nominating Committee may nominate candidates.
C. Any current member in good standing may be nominated for any of the elected positions. D. It is not possible to find at least two candidates for an elected office. The ballot will be run by only one. Before publishing the ballot, however, the committee shall begin on 1 December when nominations have been closed, and solicit more candidates for any office for which only one was nominated.
E. The Committee shall rank candidates for each elected office. The ranking and the reasons shall be confidential. F. The Committee shall slate two candidates for all offices. The Committee may slate one candidate for an office if all the procedures listed in 3.H.1.D. have been followed and no other acceptable nominee is found. The vice-president shall vote to break a tie.

Area 4. Election Procedures
A. The information about candidates that is printed on the ballots shall be taken exactly as typed on the Form for Candidacy by candidates themselves. The candidates shall be informed of the deadline after which the information on the Form for Candidacy shall be printed on the ballots.
B. The vice-president shall prepare ballots based on the committee's slating. Each ballot shall be marked in some way to prevent photocopying or other tampering. (Colored numbering has been used in the past.) Before mailing the ballots, the vice-president shall give the members of the Nominating Committee a final opportunity to examine the complete test of the ballots, in case there are any errors or omissions.
C. No later than January 31, the vice-president shall mail ballots, and copies of the brochure with the Form for Candidacy by candidates themselves, as set forth in their entries on the Form for Candidacy, to all current ACIS members.
D. Current membership shall be determined by the ACIS treasurer who will provide mailing labels with the names and addresses of current members.
E. Ballot papers will be machine-readable, and when completed will be returned no later than March 15 to the appropriate and designated technological office at the university, where the computer will vote on the results of this count, and transmit those results to the vice president. The technological office shall retain all ballots until directed by the president of ACIS to send them to the ACIS archives.
E. After all ballots, both winners and losers, have been notified of the results by the vice-president, those results shall be published on the ACIS website. No results shall be published in the Executive Committee, recorded by the secretary in the Executive Committee minutes, and held as confidential information.

17 November 1999
The motion to adopt the Elections Committee report was approved.

2. With that obligation fulfilled we do not recommend renewing the ACIS/U Mass Press contract. The following reasons have contributed to our decision:
A. To begin with the annualization history, the union will take approximately two years to bring an edition into print.
B. With no one other than Tymoczko around coming forward with a proposal, it is difficult to believe that we could motivate ourselves to an additional prescribed number of volumes.
C. We do not believe the benefit of maintaining a program of publication, and we offer the following proposal to do so.

A. The ACIS Executive Committee should announce our willingness to negotiate the volume schedule for such a volume has been approved by the Executive Committee.
B. Whenever such a proposal is approved, the proposal's author will be responsible for negotiating the volumes for ACIS.
C. The editor will be responsible for:
   1. Soliciting contributions of top notch essays for the volume.
   2. Preparing a in timely fashion a manuscript of an appropriate length.

Supervise the desktop publication of the volume and mail it to all ACIS members.
30 November 1999
The motion to adopt the Publications Committee report was carried by the following vote. YES: Gillespie, Brennan, Watt, Moran, Conard, Eyler, Batten, Miller. NO: none
ABSTAIN: Mahony, Johnston (2)
NOT VOTING: McDermid, Owens (2)
papers outside of its formal theme and encourages the participation of graduate students. The organizers are hoping to publish the proceedings of the conference in the future.

Oakland University is located in the northern suburbs of Detroit. The site of this year's meeting is Oakland University's historic Meadowcroft Hall, a 106-room mansion once belonging to the wealthiest woman in the United States, Matilda Dodge Wilson. A national historic landmark, the house is widely recognized as an architectural masterpiece, and has been featured on national television as one of "America's Castles." It also contains a gourmet restaurant which will house the meeting's banquet on Friday evening. Presentation spaces should not exceed 100 seats. Exhibition stands formed panels are encouraged. If you wish to participate, please send a title and an abstract of not more than 100 words, before July 15, 2000, to Dr. Deen Farrel Morgan, Center for History, Rochester, MI 48303-4401; tel: (248) 370-3533; fax (248) 370-3528; moran@oakland.edu

Mid-Atlantic The Fall 2000 meeting will be held at the College of Mount St. Vincent in New York City next October 27-28. The keynote speaker will be Prof. Nicholas Greene of Trinity College, Dublin, on "Youths and Dames," and the general theme of the conference will have to do with "The Irish and Unionists: e.g., the Union with Britain (200 years old on January 1, 2001), the Irish in the Union Army in the American Civil War, in the labor movement on both sides of the Atlantic, in the European Union, and Irish Unionism (including the UUP, DUP, UKIP, etc.). Proposals on the theme of "unions," broadly defined, are welcomed from all perspectives, as well as historical/political perspective. In terms of literature, this theme would embrace papers on the themes of love, family, attachment to place or to political landscapes, and related topics.

Saturday's opening session honored Berkshire professor emeritus Robert Tracy for his long, distinguished career in Irish studies and his enduring contribution to the field. A panel of Bob's colleagues gave celebratory papers from selected essays in his latest publication, The Unanswerable Host. In addition to a dozen other academic papers, we heard many other papers in dealing with questions of Irish identity. Several papers featured a dramatic reading from Damin Gorman's Loved Ones, performed by Charlotte Headrick and Trisha Goodnow of Oregon State University.

Among the agenda at the business meeting, members discussed ways to promote the participation of graduate students at regional ACIS meetings. These included sending representatives to the annual Irish Graduate Students Conference in March. Charlotte Headrick was elected to the office of secretary, replacing Audrey Eyrey, who moved into the presidential chair vacated by the departing Kathryn Wester, who was applauded for her superb leadership over the past two years. This year's officers are Co-Chairs - John Harber, WA, and on the campus of Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. The theme will be "Ireland's Children." Among the featured participants will be Irish children's literature specialists, Robert Durber and Caelainn

Andrewson, and writer Laurel Holliday. Abstracts or drafts should be sent by July 25 to Audrey Eyrey, Dept. Of English, Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA 98447-0003 (eyrey@plu.edu). Graduate students are welcome at discounted prices.

Southern The tenth annual meeting of the Southern Region of the ACIS was held February 4-7, 2000, aboard the Carnival Elysium, sailing from Miami, FL, to Nassau in the Bahamas and back. The group consisted of 71 individuals, including a number of partners and children who came from 38 states as well as the Bahamas and Mexico. Most of the panelists were invited in seven sessions (none of them concurrent), pertained to the conference theme, "The Irish in the Atlantic World: A Celtic-Caribbean Odyssey," focusing on the Irish diaspora. Highlights of the meeting includes a poetry reading by Kathal O'Searcaigh; a song performance by Lillis O'Laor; a dramatic reading of Gerard McKay's Sea Marks by Mark Countryman and Charlotte Headrick; a poetry reading by Nathalie Anderson, Kathryn Kirkpatrick, David Lloyd and John Menahan; and a tour of Nassau and Paradise Island, including several 17th century forts and the new Atlantis Hotel, with a marvellous built-in aquarium. The meeting was organized by Jim Doan, and the program was organized by Mary Donnelly.

AHA The ACIS session in Chicago went very well. The session attracted close to 50 people. Raymond Gillespie was not able to make it, but James Donnelly gave a superb paper and Ellen Skerrit an equally good slide show presentation. A lively discussion followed. Emmett Larkin presided with grace, charm and good humor. The session's success is a testament to the participants, but also to Gary Gowans for the social casta, and the ACIS officers, to the credit of May 15: Robert Mahony, Irish Studies, Catholic University, Washington DC 20064, or by email to MAHONYcu.edu.

Western Central Washington University hosted the Western Regional meeting, October 22-24, 1999. Organized by Virginia Mack and her colleague from Yakima Community College, Shannon Hopkins, various organizations and groups read modified versions of papers. Tens Gallagher and Siobhan Campbell to large and appreciative audiences. Ireland's Consul to San Francisco, Kevin Conney, disarmingly sponsored a reception.

Research presented at the Fall 2000 meeting of the ACIS to Secretary Katie Conrad (konrad@ukans.edu). Check the ACIS Web site (http://www.acisweb.com/guide.html) and the format before suggesting changes.

ILS E-MAIL SERVICE Pleased to receive reviews and noteworthy items for the Irish Literary Supplement should be sent to the Editor, Robert Lowery, at ritlLitSup@ex.com.

CONFERENCE NEWS Irish Fiction in Transition A one-day conference on contemporary Irish fiction will be hosted by the Centre for Irish Studies, St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill on Friday, April 15, 2000. Participants will include Eileen Batterie, Anne Enright, Robert Welsh, Colin Tuite, Hughlings Hughes, Seamus Deane, Emma Donoghue and Bernard MacLaverty. For further information, visit http://www.smuc.ac.uk/dept/lhs/teams/index.htm/
The Irish Seminar 2000: International Graduate Program in Irish Studies
Keough Notre Dame Centre, Dublin, July 3-28, 2000
The University of Notre Dame and University College Dublin will jointly run the Irish Seminar 2000 under the directorship of Seamus Deane, Thomas Bartlett and Kevin Whelan. This year’s theme is: "Modern Ireland 1880-1930." The Seminar is interdisciplinary and open to all graduate students and faculty in Irish Studies. This year’s faculty members include: Thomas Bartlett, Joseph Buttingie, Joe Cleary, Seamus Deane, Terry Eagleton, Christopher Fox, Luke Gibbons, Seamus Heaney, Marjorie Howes, Frederic Jameson, John Kelly, Declin Kiberd, Joe Lee, David Lloyd, Emer Nolan, Margaret O’Callaghan, Derek Walcott and Kevin Whelan. For further information, contact: The Irish Seminar, Summer Session Office, University of Notre Dame, 510 Main Building, Notre Dame, IN 46556 e-mail: sumsess.1@nd.edu. Internet: http://www.nd.edu/~sumsess/

John Hewitt International Summer School: A Well-Kept Secret
St MacNissi’s College, July 24-29, 2000
Those who have attended the John Hewitt International Summer School, beginning its thirteenth year, recognize it for the gem it is. Held at St. MacNissi’s College, Garron Tower Road in the Glens of Antrim, it offers views of the North Channel, some of Scotland, and the hills and vales, themselves. While lodging is dormitory rooms, the food approaches gourmet quality and there is a pub on the premises. The program is varied, with only the occasional lecture on Hewitt’s own works, but always reflects Hewitt’s broad interest in the Arts, social sciences, and active politics. Poetry readings and workshops, plus readings from fiction, theatrical presentations, and a sizable book display supplement the more academic parts of the program. Each day has plenary sessions conducted by well-known scholars, performers, and artists and also allows for smaller discussion groups conducted by specialists, as well. Each year’s program is built around an imaginative topic. In 1999, it was “Dancing With Hewitt”; in 2000, it will be “Across A Roaring Hill: Strangers, Neighbours and the Arts of Communication” -- inspired by two of Hewitt’s important poems. The main themes will be cultural diversity in Ireland (taken in its broadest sense), the mechanisms of creative, interpretative and communicative media; and “The Arts at the Margins -- The art that cannot speak its name.” Invited speakers for plenary sessions include Patrick McCabe, Andrew Motion, Maurice Leitch, Declan Kiberd, David Marcus and Arundhati Roy (1997 Booker Prize winner) and others too numerous to mention. Costs are reasonable. Attendance averages 200 but there is room for more. Further details may be secured from the school’s Web site: http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/John_Hewitt_InternationalSS