

Minutes of the ACIS Executive, April 19, 2007

PRESIDENT EAMONN WALL'S REPORT

WELCOME: ACIS President Eamonn Wall opened the meeting with a general welcome and special thanks to John Harrington, Jose Lanthers, Matthew Jockers and Kristine Byron.

ACIS GRANTS: Wall offered a summary of the past year's ACIS Grants. He noted that clarification of the guidelines is warranted. Discussion followed and new language was proposed. The new guidelines will be altered to include biannual submission dates (rather than a rolling deadline). The due dates will be October 1 and March 1. ACIS will notify grant applicants within 3 weeks of the submission deadline. Preference will be given to new applications but prior applicants are encouraged to reapply.

PAST PRESIDENTS: 10 Past Presidents were planning to attend the Past Presidents meeting.

SUPPORT FOR SECRETARY AND TREASURER: Wall proposed offering up to \$500.00 each to the Secretary and Treasurer in discretionary funds. Discussion followed and it was agreed that the Executive seek the advice of the Past Presidents. The matter was thus tabled for the new executive to consider after consultation with the Past Presidents.

LITERATURE REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH LENNON'S REPORT:

Lennon reported on and thanked those who supported the ACIS sessions held at the past year's MLA meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT JOSE LANTERS' REPORT:

ELECTION RESULTS: Lanthers reported on the very strong slate of candidates and the 32% voter turnout which surpasses both last elections 10% e-vote and the 2003 paper ballot turnout of 10%. The surge was attributed to better communication via first class mail and via email.

BOOK PRIZE RESULTS: Lanthers announced the winners of the 2006 book prizes (see attached).

FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES: Lanthers reported that ACIS 2008 will be in Davenport Iowa and 2009 in Galway.

TREASURER KRISTINE BYRON'S REPORT:

OVERVIEW OF FUNDS: Byron reported that ACIS is healthy

REQUEST TO HIRE AN ACCOUNTANT: The Executive approved the hiring of an accountant to review the ACIS financials and ensure that we are in compliance with US tax laws for a non-profit organization.

NEW BUDGET: The budget was circulated and approved.

SECRETARY MATTHEW JOCKERS'S REPORT:

DUES COLLECTION ISSUES: Jockers reported on the problems with lapsed members presenting at the conference and the executive agreed that we should pursue an online, credit card based, payment system. The executive also agreed to move the renewal date from September 1 to January 1.

NEWSLETTER: It was agreed that members should continue to receive the newsletter for one year after their membership expiration date. Newsletters contain membership renewal forms.

PAST PRESIDENTS AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS: It was agreed that Past Presidents will all receive lifetime memberships in ACIS. It was further agreed that Bob Lowery should receive a lifetime membership for his long service to the organization.

TIM MCMAHON'S PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:

The committee recommends against continued publication of an ACIS Annual. Though dues were raised in 1990 to support an Annual, there will be no change (lowering) of dues given that dues have not been raised in 17 years.

NEW BUSINESS:

Clarification was made that it is a matter of policy to annually donate \$1000 each to Linen Hall Library and to the National Library of Ireland.

REGIONAL REPORTS:

The new president of the SOUTHERN region will be Marguerite Quintelli-Neary and the new Secretary/Treasurer will be Howard Keeley. Georgia Southern in Savannah will host the ACIS South conference in 2008

Jim Rogers passed around a summary for the MIDWEST region.

The WESTERN regional held a successful meeting at George Fox University in Oregon and the forthcoming meeting will be held in Tacoma. Kathy Heining will take over as President of the Western region.

The MID-ATLANTIC held its regional at Kutztown University and will hold its 2007 meeting at LeMoyne.

The NEW ENGLAND had a good meeting at the University of Connecticut

DISCIPLINARY REPORTS:

HISTORY reported on the ACIS panel at the AHA meeting and the support of ACIS in sponsoring a small gathering in the way that ACIS does at the MLA.

IRISH LANGUAGE reported on four Fulbrights in Irish Language coming to the US and on the new department at Notre Dame that will contribute to Irish Language efforts in the US.

ARTS reported on the need for more readers for the Durkan Prize.

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING:

The agenda for the GBM was circulated by Wall.

A motion to adjourn was approved and the meeting ended at 2:00

Submitted by ACIS Secretary, Matthew Jockers.

ACIS BOOK PRIZES 2006

James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize for Books on History and Social Sciences

Chair: Timothy White; members: Bill Williams, Kerby Miller

Co-Winners:

William J. Smyth, University College Cork

Book: *Map-Making, Landscapes and Memory: A Geography of Colonial and Early Modern Ireland c. 1530-1750* (Cork University Press / University of Notre Dame Press)

This monumental work by a geographer weaves the story of the development of Ireland as a colony in early modernity by focusing on a variety of sources. It tells a history of map-making and colonial conquest. Its regional case-studies (Dublin, Kilkenny, and Tipperary) highlight the themes of the book. This is a work of rare intellectual and professional achievement, most worthy of the Donnelly Prize. Maps, other visual aids, notes, and bibliography are all outstanding!

Cormac O'Grada, University College Dublin

Book: *Jewish Ireland in the Age of Joyce: A Socioeconomic History* (Princeton University Press)

This meticulously researched book tells the story of the small number of Jews who immigrated to Ireland and lived there in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. O'Grada relies on extensive and differing resources to explain their demographic place as a minority in Irish culture. This is an impressive account of the historical position of Jews in Irish society at the beginning of the 20th century.

Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language and Culture

Chair: Joan F. Dean; members: Danine Farquharson, James Doan

Winner: David Stifter, University of Vienna, Austria

Book: *Sengoídelc: Old Irish for Beginners* (Syracuse University Press)

David Stifter's accessible and engaging lessons allow the diligent reader to develop basic skills in Old Irish. The real importance of Stifter's work may lie in not only fostering study of Irish languages but in advancing the study of Old Irish texts and culture.

Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book

Chair: Timothy McMahon; members: Michael de Nie, Katherine Parr

Winner: Heather Clark, Marlboro College

Book: *The Ulster Renaissance: Poetry in Belfast, 1962-1972* (Oxford University Press).

The committee was impressed both with Clark's demonstrated strength as a researcher and a communicator. She has full command of her various sources and weaves together a clear narrative of how the men and women associated with the so-called Ulster

Renaissance developed as writers, friends, and rivals. This well-organized and concise work will become a must-read for the study of contemporary Irish poetry and of the Irish Troubles' influence on Northern poets, including Michael Longley, Derek Mahon, Seamus Heaney, and Paul Muldoon. Equally important, it addresses the production of art through the skillful interweaving of personal correspondence, journalistic sources, interviews with participants in Philip Hobsbaum's Belfast circle, and drafts of the poems themselves. Moreover, by showing how the generation of artists that emerged in the '60s and '70s drew on the inspiration of writers such as Louis MacNeice, Clark's work of literary criticism will be an invaluable resource for students of the cultural history of Northern Ireland in the mid- to late twentieth century.

Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature

Chair: Joseph Lennon; members: Elizabeth Grubgeld, James Rogers

Winner: Heather Clark, Marlboro College

Book: *The Ulster Renaissance: Poetry in Belfast, 1962-1972* (Oxford University Press)

In *The Ulster Renaissance*, Heather Clark has produced an immensely readable and meticulously researched literary history. This fascinating study fills a significant gap in scholarship, being the first full-length study of this intense and influential circle of poets in Belfast, which included Seamus Heaney, Derek Mahon, Michael Longley, James Simmons and Paul Muldoon. Clark argues for understanding this group as a poetic coterie and explores both their influence on one another and the distinct directions each eventually took. The study clarifies these literary interactions, especially Derek Mahon's, within this group, and offers valuable insights on the complex nature of literary coteries and collaboration. Building on previous scholarship, and coalescing readings taken from letters, interviews, archival materials, and interviews, Clark offers an original and careful study of both texts and contexts. This commendable work should influence discussions on the nature of literary collaboration and is bound to become essential reading for anyone studying these authors.

Honorable Mention: Margaret Mills Harper, Georgia State University

Book: *Wisdom of Two: the Spiritual and Literary Collaboration of George and W.B. Yeats* (Oxford University Press)

Margaret Mills Harper assembles complicated ideas and theories of authorship in her study *Wisdom of Two*. She admirably guides the reader through many of Yeats's most esoteric writings, creating a valuable new discussion about the collaboration of W.B. and George Yeats that pays close attention to George's automatic writing. In an area of textual scholarship that can often be daunting to those outside the field, Harper manages to create an intensely interesting and inviting study. Harper does not try to overstate the importance of her findings, yet in the end, this study yields a major reconsideration of a major figure.

Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation

Chair: Colin Ireland; members: Joanne Findon, Cóilin Owens

Winner: Douglas Kanter, Florida Atlantic University

Title: “British Unionism: Politics, Public Opinion, and the Government of Ireland, 1740-1848.”

This impressively researched dissertation discusses the evolution of the British union with Ireland over the course of the long century from 1740 to 1848. Its approach is to examine the philosophies and public pronouncements of political figures of the age against the background of historical events that shaped British public policy and opinion. It does this through detailed research in primary sources such as parliamentary records, newspaper reports, letters and other writings of British political figures and policy makers of the age. This study of the politics and policy of empire and colonialism demonstrates clearly how Ireland’s political fate during the period was often dictated by worldwide circumstances over which it had no control and alternated between Britain’s perceived need both to appease and control Ireland in turn.