

Minutes of the ACIS General Business Meeting, April 20, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Eamonn Wall called the meeting to order and thanked the conference host Thomas Idhe and CUNY. He thanked the ACIS executive and Boston College for their ongoing support of the ILS.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Wall noted that the 2006 MINUTES from the General Business Meeting had been circulated and called for a motion to accept and approve the minutes. The Minutes were unanimously approved by the membership in attendance.

Wall reported on the past year's ACIS GRANTS. The number of applications doubled from the previous year. Wall noted that the executive had made minor modifications to the grant application guidelines to clarify certain areas. Wall ended the discussion of grants by encouraging the membership to consider submitting applications.

Wall noted that ten Past Presidents were signed up for the PAST PRESIDENTS' LUNCH MEETING to be held April 21.

**PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Tim McMahon reported that the committee had recommended against continued publication of an ACIS Annual. Discussion followed and Seamus Blake inquired about the fact that publishing a journal was required if ACIS wished to be part of the American Council of Learned Societies. McMahon noted that while this might be desirable, efforts to publish an annual were unsuccessful.

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Jose Lanter reported on the ACIS ELECTIONS and announced the results as follows:

Vice President, Jim Rogers  
Literature Representative, Ellen Crowell  
Arts Representative, Joan Dean  
History Representative, Sean Farrell  
Irish Language Representative, Brian Ó Conchubhair  
Celtic Studies Representative, Irene Whelan  
Social Science Representative, Timothy White  
Graduate Student Representative, Kelly McGovern

Lanter THANKED Jockers and Byron for their continued support.

Lanter noted the NECESSITY for members to be sure their email addresses in the ACIS database are up to date and recommend that members log on to the ACIS site and check their contact information.

Lanters Announced the Winners of the ACIS BOOK PRIZES (attached).

Lanters reported on FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES for the ACIS National meetings as follows:

2008-St. Ambrose University, Davenport Iowa

2009-NUI Galway, Ireland

RYAN DYE of St. Ambrose gave a brief overview of the Davenport venue.

PATRICK LONERGAN of NUI Galway noted that June was the month under consideration for the Galway meeting in 2009.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Kristine Byron circulated copies of the BUDGET and noted that the year was not yet complete and that the figures from the European account needed to be converted from Euros. After an unanswered call for questions, the Budget was unanimously approved by the membership.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Jockers reported on the importance of PAYING DUES in order to present at ACIS conferences. He encouraged the members present to check their dues status by logging into the ACIS web site. Jockers reported on the executive decision to move the dues renewal date from 9/1 to 1/1 thus giving all current members an additional 3 months of membership free! A question was raised regarding the possibility of linking membership to a Journal subscription. President Wall answered by noting that though the executive had given this idea their consideration, they had not reached a conclusion and would continue to consider the matter in the coming term.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

A call was made for new business and there was none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Following a seconded motion to adjourn, the membership voted unanimously to adjourn.

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 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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, Cólín 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.