

ACIS NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL MEETING:

The next ACIS annual conference will be hosted by the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool and its Director, Marianne Elliott. The dates of the conference are July 12-16, 2004. The university is situated in the center of a city with great historical links to Irish culture, and the Institute, founded in 1988, is unique as the national center for the study of Ireland in Britain. Liverpool has been nominated as a future European City of culture, and many of its institutions, such as the Maritime Museum and the Everyman Theatre, will be developing new programs and activities available for our visit. A broad range of housing options from university accommodations to nearby hotels will be available. The conference, opening with a reception on Monday, July 12 and closing with a banquet on Friday, July 16, will allow time for field trips of Irish interest in the city and the region.

In keeping with the international setting, and at the invitation of the Institute, ACIS will meet jointly with the British Association for Irish Studies, the Canadian Association for Irish Studies, and the European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies. Membership in any one organization will suffice for participation. A single program will be prepared for all participants, and individual organizations will be able to schedule separate meetings for organizational business. Registration fees will be collected by the Institute of Irish Studies.

A draft program to be processed by all participating organizations in accordance to their own governance will be prepared by ACIS Vice President Eamonn Wall, Center for International Studies, University of Missouri--St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 63121, USA (acis@umsl.edu).

Given the diversity of participants, no single theme has been selected for the conference. Papers on all dimensions of Irish studies are solicited. However, the setting will provide a unique opportunity to examine different conceptualizations of Irish Studies, different institutional histories associated with Irish Studies, and differing relations of Irish Studies and Internationalism. One-page abstracts for twenty-minute papers and proposals for complete panels of three to four papers must be submitted to Eamonn Wall at his conference address by December 1, 2003. Further details about the conference will be forthcoming.

CALLS FOR PAPERS/CONFERENCES:

Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland and Midwest Victorian Studies Association Joint International Conference, De Paul University, Chicago, April 16-18, 2004.

Structures of Belief in Nineteenth-Century Ireland--in British and Irish Perspective will explore the histories of nineteenth-century Britain and Ireland which are often thought of as asymmetrical, with religious faith as a key marker of difference between the two cultures. How did religion and other systems of belief operate in the relationship between the islands? Did religion increase in importance in Ireland as it diminished in Britain? This conference invites papers that explore belief systems in nineteenth-century Ireland. It especially welcomes contributions that probe the relationship of such systems to British action, perception and articulation. The impact of Catholic emancipation on Britain, the presence of the Catholic masses in British cities, the ideology of evangelical activity, the relationship between religion, gender and subjectivity in literature, and the interaction of religion and material culture are among the many topics that might be explored. All systems of belief are of interest to the conference. Hard copy proposals (200-400 words) should be submitted, along with a one-page CV and mail, email and phone contact details by 1 November, 2003 to Prof. James H. Murphy, Dept of English, De Paul University, McGaw Hall, 802 West Belden Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614-3214, USA. Further information concerning conference registration will be found at: www2.ic.edu/MVSA/ and at www.qub.ac.uk/english/socs/ssnci.html

JAMES PLUNKETT (KELLY), 1920-2003: AN APPRECIATION

When James Plunkett died in Dublin on May 28, one week after his 83rd birthday, we lost one of the most versatile Irishmen of the past century. For those of us who appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of Irish studies, consider his career. Plunkett worked as clerk in the gas company, as secretary to Big Jim Larkin in the Workers' Union of Ireland, and as violist in the Radio Éireann Symphony Orchestra. After establishing himself as author of *The Trusting and the Maimed* (1955)—acclaimed as the best collection of stories about Dublin since *Dubliners*—Plunkett worked full-time on the airwaves, first for Radio Éireann, for which he wrote several radio plays, and then (beginning in 1960) as one of Ireland's first television producers, with Telefís Éireann. In one accomplished lifetime and without the aid of a university education, he was thus far more interdisciplinary than any of us—intertwining writing with music, socialist trade union service, and pioneering media work.

Yet Jim was the most modest of men, a fact noted by all of the obituaries in Ireland and England, with the *Irish Examiner* quoting his typically self-disparaging explanation of why he quit the RTÉ orchestra: "I was a bit of a fraud. I felt I wasn't good enough and got out." He always recognized his formative influences, some of whom he knew personally and who make up something of an Irish hall of fame: Larkin, of course; Joyce and O'Casey, between whom he steered a middle course in his panoramic characterizations of Dubliners; his Synge Street teacher and fellow historical novelist, Francis MacManus; his first important editor, Sean O'Faoláin at *The Bell*, who encouraged him to write about what he knew best; and Frank O'Connor, to whom he paid tribute in *The Gems She Wore: A Book of Irish Places*.

Jim was both quietly courageous and, in the best Dublin tradition, cleverly laconic. When he went to Moscow on a cultural trip organized by Peadar O'Donnell in 1955, during the depths of Ireland's own kind of McCarthyism, he was shocked to find himself attacked in the Dublin press, with some urging that he be fired from his job at the Workers' Union of Ireland. One of his attackers demanded to know what he could possibly learn about the Soviet Union in four weeks—to which he replied, "Not much—but I learned a hell of a lot about Ireland."

Plunkett's most celebrated book, *Strumpet City* (1969), his epic novel of the Dublin lockout years, was adapted by Hugh Leonard in a seven-part TV series (1980) starring Peter O'Toole as Larkin and also featuring Donal McCann and Cyril Cusack. It was sold to 56 countries and dubbed in many different languages. Plunkett also wrote the stage play *The Risen People*, several television plays, *Collected Short Stories*, *The Boy on the Back Wall and Other Essays*, and the novels *Farewell Companions* and *The Circus Animals*. In the 1960s after *When Do You Die, Friend?* (his ambitious TV play about the 1798 rising) put him out of favor with his RTÉ bosses because it had run over budget, Plunkett turned instead to *Strumpet City*, composing his long masterpiece while working full-time. Dubliners recognized themselves unmistakably, because Plunkett captured their voices truly, from the employers and priests to the workers and tramps. Plunkett never caught on in the U. S. to the extent of many other Irish writers, partly because he stayed home after 1955 and devoted himself so scrupulously to Dublin's past from such a progressive yet quiet perspective. Yet Dubliners knew him as one of their own and as their champion. David Kelly, who played Plunkett's most memorable tramp in *Strumpet City*, remembered schoolboys spotting him on the bus: "There goes Rashers Tiernay!"

Why did this successful novelist and very busy TV producer, at the height of his career in 1975, respond so kindly to a phone call from a twenty-two-year-old American graduate student? He could easily have brushed me off. Instead, my UCD M.A. thesis was researched not just in the library, but over lunches and pints and with the help of his private manuscripts. In 1986 I scheduled Jim to give a talk at Trinity College to my summer study-abroad students, who had just read *Strumpet City*—but then I learned, only after I arrived in Dublin, that his wife, Valerie, had just died. Though I repeatedly offered to let him off the hook at such a difficult moment, he insisted on keeping the engagement, and as we sat together over lunch after his talk, I consoled myself with the realization that he needed to keep busy, to have some work to do. Just a couple of weeks before Jim's death, one of my students from seventeen years ago emailed me that she still vividly remembered how bravely he had delivered that talk.

During my last trip to Ireland, in 2001, I was glad to take Jim to lunch in Bray, having been the recipient of his hospitality so many times in the past—but it was bittersweet, because I knew that I might not see him again. Before we left his flat, he selected a blackthorn stick from his collection of canes, and I asked him how I might convince my elderly father to use a cane. "Tell him he'll bloody well break his neck!" When I asked him how he was doing, Jim lamented, "The little man in my head who tells me which words to use is often on strike." I thought this such a pithy description of vocabulary loss that I didn't believe him (until speaking of another's misfortune, he blocked on a word essential to Irish life, "alcoholism").

James Plunkett had the words when we needed them. Never forgetting, I leave him as he leaves us at the end of *Strumpet City*: "The wasps were still busy about the hedges, the blackberries shone in the evening light. He could hear still the never-ceasing movement of the sea."

--Jim Cahalan, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

American Conference for Irish Studies, Southern Regional Meeting, Emory University, Atlanta, GA March 4-7, 2004.

The conference organizers welcome proposals (250 word abstracts) for papers, which investigate the issue of representation — the real, the invented, the re-imagined — all key terms in recent Irish Studies. What does the popularization of such terms suggest about the present state of Irish Studies? What is the relationship between the real, the authentic and the invented across many disciplines? Have these terms exhausted their usefulness or do they still have critical currency?

The conference organizers invite proposals for papers (20 minutes) and panels from all disciplines within Irish Studies. As always, the Southern Regional encourages the participation of graduate students, for whom there will be discounts available in conference fees. Already formed panels, discussion group proposals, and alternative presentation formats are encouraged. Papers topics may include but are by no means limited to the following: The idea of the real in biography and the literary life • Real Ireland and the Heritage Industry • Documentary/Docudrama • "Journalistic Entities": Ireland and the media • Hyper-realism • "History is what hurts": Irish History and the Real • Stage Irishness and the Real • America and the real Ireland • Language and Translation • The Irish Novel and the real • "No lyric ever stopped a tank": Poetry and Violence • Inventing the Troubles • Commemoration • Cartography • Gender, sexuality and the real • The archive and authenticity • Is there a real Ireland and how do we get there?

Electronic proposals are preferred and should be submitted as MS Word attachments with the subject line "Southern ACIS" to ghiggin@emory.edu by October 7th, 2003. If email is not available, please send your 250 word abstract to: Geraldine Higgins, English Department, 302 North Callaway Center, 537 Kilgo Circle, Atlanta, Georgia 30322.

American Conference for Irish Studies, New England Regional Meeting, Bridgewater State College, MA, October 18, 2003.

The theme for the 2003 Conference is: "Green Cards and Green Dreams: Irish/America in the Twentieth Century." Organizers invite proposals for papers and panels on any topic from all time periods and disciplines within Irish and Irish-American Studies. Topics focusing on the twentieth century as well as interdisciplinary panels and perspectives less frequently heard from including (but not limited to): economics, psychology, sociology, folklore, Canadian Studies, Latin American Studies, Irish-American literature, art, film, music, and popular culture are particularly encouraged. Paper and panel proposals should be sent by August 15, 2003. Please include a short vita. Proposals can be emailed to panning@bridgew.edu; faxed to 508-531-1761; or mailed to: Patricia Fanning, Coordinator of Irish-American Studies, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, Bridgewater State College, Hart Hall, 301 Summer St., Bridgewater, MA 02325.

Fourth Galway Conference on Colonialism: India and Ireland, June 2-5, 2004

In the nineteenth century, Ireland and India, though not technically defined as colonies, were both treated as such by Britain. Ireland, constitutionally a part of the imperial power, was both colonized and colonizer. Irish soldiers contributed massively to the building of the Raj and were at least as enthusiastically brutal as other colonizers; Irish doctors, engineers, lawyers, administrators, missionaries serviced the

empire in India, while the Anglo-Irish aristocracy and gentry provided several viceroys and governors-general. The substantial Irish involvement in the Indian Civil Service has scarcely been studied, not to mention the extraordinary contribution (for better and worse) of Irish scholars to orientalism, in such areas as philology, lexicography, history, religion, law.

Papers might address such issues as differing imperial modes of governance in India and Ireland, land ownership and tenancy, custom and law, status and contract, nationalism and imperialism, Irish nationalism and India, borders and partition, modes of resistance, neutrality and non-alignment, the suffrage movement, race and colour, caste and class, religion, theosophy oriental and occidental, sport and empire, literacy and education, novel and nation, utilitarianism and empire, ordnance surveys, the production of knowledge, Indian and Irish historiography, postcolonial critical perspectives, the non-modern, ideology and masks of conquest, strategies of divide and conquer, meat-eating and monotheism, famines, hunger strikes, boycotting, Burke and Warren Hastings, Nivedita (Margaret Noble), Annie Besant, Ram Mohun Roy, Yeats and Tagore, Margaret and James Cousins, Max Arthur Macauliffe and Sikhism.

Papers will be particularly welcome which address the relationship between India and Ireland in the context of other colonies of the British Empire and other colonial dispensations. Papers should be no longer than 20 minutes. Please send 300 word abstract to: irishstudies@nuigalway.ie before January 15, 2004.

The 6th Annual GRIAN Conference on Irish Studies, Glucksman Ireland House, New York University, NY, February 27-29, 2004,

"Anthologizing Ireland": Collection, Curation, Dissemination. How is Ireland being collected, exhibited, represented? And for whom? What of collection itself? If "everything is a text," then what formations other than the canonizing book can be understood as "anthology": the syllabus, the gallery, the department curriculum (or even its mission statement)? Furthermore, is this multiplicity generative or does it actually perpetuate the delimiting power of discourse? Is the anthology or the exhibition, inevitably, an enterprise of closure? And, if so, why do we continue anthologizing at all?

For Ireland and Irish studies—for culture and academia in general—how representations are packaged and disseminated is of the utmost importance, yet the focus often remains with the objects represented. Hence, we ask that for this conference, we step back and consider the enterprises of anthologizing and curation themselves.

"Anthologizing Ireland" invites work from all areas and disciplines, focusing on texts, objects, as well as methodological and theoretical approaches. We also encourage prospective presenters to submit other types of documents in addition to paper abstracts, such as: innovative curricular documents or interesting departmental policies, syllabi of adventurous courses either taught or proposed, important archival management documents, experimental treatises or manifestoes, etc., for posting on our website prior to the conference. Anonymity can be preserved where tact proves the better part of valour.

Email submissions to Will Hatheway at grianconference@hotmail.com, by December 1st. All selected presentations will be considered for publication in *Foilsiu*.

For more information about GRIAN, visit www.grian.org. GRIAN is a New York-based nonprofit organization devoted to collaboration between academia and the arts.

AHRB Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Aberdeen, Scotland, March 26-28, 2004

What Rough Beasts? Irish and Scottish Studies Conference. The key disciplines covered in this conference are Language and Literature, History, Celtic Studies, Film and Media Studies and Cultural Geography.

Suggested topics: Migrations • The Tourist's Gaze • Forgotten/Hidden Narratives • Memory and Commemoration • (Re)mapping the City • Representing the Troubles • The Future of Irish and/or Scottish Studies • Language and Region • Minorities • Nation and Text • Nationality Yet Again • Screening Identities • The Politics and Poetics of Translation • Celticism.

We would not only welcome submissions for individual 25-minute papers, but also proposals for panels and round-table discussions. 250-word abstracts are to be posted or e-mailed by January 12, 2004 to: Shane Murphy, *What Rough Beasts?*, English Department, King's College, University of Aberdeen, AB24 2UB sam@abdn.ac.uk; Tel.:+44 (0) 1224-272630. A selection of papers will be published.

Working Papers in Irish Studies

Invites submissions for the 2004 volume, which will focus on regional Irish settlements in the US. In particular, papers are sought that discuss contributions of Irish in various geographical locations (in literature, art, music, politics), as well as the impact on American culture which we may attribute to the Irish who settled those regions. Please send hard copy in triplicate, using MLA Style, to the editor: Marguerite Quintelli-Neary, Dept. of English, Bancroft 250, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC 29733 (e-mail: nearym@winthrop.edu). Contributors whose work is accepted will be asked to submit the material on diskette, in Microsoft Word.

Working Papers in Irish Studies, began over 20 years ago at Northeastern University, and was later edited and published by Jim Doan at Nova Southeastern University. The Publication will now be edited and published by Marguerite Quintelli-Neary, at Winthrop University, in Rock Hill, SC.

ACIS BOOK PRIZES

ACIS sponsors five prizes for books on Irish subjects published worldwide. The Chair of the Book Prize Committee for works published in 2003 is: Eamonn Wall, Center for International Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis, St. Louis, MO 63121; walle@msx.umsl.edu.

The individual prizes, and the current chair of committees in formation, are:

- Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation (Chair, Maria Tymoczko; tymoczko@complit.umass.edu)
- James S. Donnelly, Sr., Prize for Books on History and Social Sciences (Chair, Jerrold Casway; jcasway@howardcc.edu)
- Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language or Culture (Chair, Eileen Kearney; ekearney@neo.tamu.edu)
- Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature (Chair, Jose Lanters; lanters@uwm.edu)
- Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book (Chair, Timothy Meagher; meagher@cua.edu)

To be considered, works must be submitted to each of the

committee members by February 1, 2004. Works should be entered for one prize only, although an author's first scholarly monograph (or collection of original essays) may be additionally submitted to the Murphy Prize. Prize chairs may choose to reassign entered works. Prizes will be announced May 1, 2004. Past winners and current information can be found at the ACIS website: acisweb.com.

ACIS HISTORY

The Ad-Hoc Committee formed in 2001 to study prospects for a new ACIS history made the following recommendation in its 2002 report, which was approved and reported by the Executive Committee at the open business meeting in 2003.

The Executive Committee will search for a suitable author, who need not necessarily be a professional historian, with a substantial personal and professional association with ACIS. ACIS will support the project with a subsidy of \$5,000 and cooperation of all current and past ACIS officers.

The author will have complete control over questions of coverage and characterization, and ACIS waives any claim to final approval or choice of terms of publication.

Proposals should be submitted to the current President, John P. Harrington (harrij2@rpi.edu), by November 1, 2003.

A complete copy of the Ad-Hoc Committee report can be found in the June 2002 minutes posted at the ACIS website.

FELLOWSHIPS

Two fellowships are available for one year to commence as soon as possible. Applicants must possess a doctorate, have publications in print or in press and have a viable research proposal. Preference may be given to those conducting research of relevance to the Institute's Research programme and that of participating Schools.

Informal enquiries may be made to Dr. Dominic Bryan, Institute of Irish Studies, Tel: 028 9027 3386 or e-mail: d.bryan@qub.ac.uk. An online application pack may be downloaded from the Queen's University website: www.qub.ac.uk/jobs. Alternatively an application pack can be obtained by contacting the Personnel Office at Queen's University. Please quote Ref: 03/W046B. Applications must be submitted to the Personnel Office and not to the Institute of Irish Studies. Closing date 5:00 pm, Friday, August 29, 2003. Salary: 18,267 per annum. ~Catherine Boone

ON THE WEB

The online journal *Hypermedia Joyce Studies* is now based in Prague. The web address is www.geocities.com/hypermedia_joyce/about.html. Submissions on Joyce related topics are always welcome. Contact the editor, Dr. Louis Armand at lazarus@ff.cuni.cz, for further details. ~Clare Wallace

QUERIES

I am an art historian at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin, Ireland. I am working on late nineteenth century Irish-American art. Currently, I am researching the life and work of John Mulvany for a forthcoming exhibition. I would be pleased to hear from anyone who may know the whereabouts of his work. Contact: Dr. Niamh O'Sullivan, National College of Art and Design, 100 Thomas Street, Dublin 8, Ireland Tel: +353 1 6364350

ACIS NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I am delighted to introduce the new Editor of the ACIS Newsletter, Matthew Jockers, to the membership. With extensive credentials in Irish Studies and in new electronic media, he is certain to help improve ACIS communication in several areas.

Jockers is currently Consulting Assistant Professor and Academic Technology Specialist in English at Stanford University. He divides his time between literary research, which is focused on Ireland and Irish-American, and computing technology, where his focus is on the uses of technology for the study and teaching of literature. His most recent published work explores Irish-American literature from a regional perspective, especially the American West. He is also the Director of an online resource, *The Irish-American West: A Hypertext Corpus of Texts and Research*. This project, funded by a grant from the Stanford Humanities Lab, brings out-of-print and out-of-copyright works of Irish-Americans in the West to the Internet in a fully searchable format. The site also offers a comprehensive, searchable database of Irish-American literature with search fields that include state, region, author, biography, and abstract (see

<http://shl.stanford.edu/IAW>).

Jockers is teaching a regular undergraduate course on Irish-American literature and a new course on "Electronic Data; Literary Theory." His current book project draws on expertise in computing, mathematics, and science to examine the role that scientific inquiry and quantitative methods can play in literary study.

Previously, he has been Assistant to the Director of Irish Studies at Southern Illinois University, where he earned his Ph.D. Jockers was Assistant Coordinator of our national conference held in Carbondale in 1996. You can visit his personal site at: www.stanford.edu/~mjockers and contact the editor at mjockers@stanford.edu. ~John P. Harrington

The deadline for the Fall issue of the Newsletter is *Aug. 15*; for the Winter issue *Nov. 15* and for the Spring issue *Feb. 15*. We encourage submissions from all ACIS members (please send to mjockers@stanford.edu). Changes of address or status should be sent to the Treasurer, David Gardiner (gardiner@creighton.edu).

Irish History Opening: The Department of History at Fordham University is seeking to hire a tenure-track assistant professor with a research specialty in Irish History (from early Ireland to the present). Teaching responsibilities will consist of introductory courses in European History, and advanced undergraduate and graduate courses in the candidate's field. The position includes opportunities to work in the university's interdisciplinary programs; e.g. Irish Studies. The position will begin September 1, 2004. Send a letter of application, C.V., and three letters of recommendation to Nancy Curtin, Chair, Department of History, Fordham University, 441 East Fordham Road, Bronx, NY 10458-9993, by 1 December 2003.