

ACIS NEWSLETTER

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE MEETING:

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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 or terms of publication." No proposals were submitted by the original deadline, November 1, 2003. At its 2004 meetings, both the Executive Committee and the General Business meeting voted to repeat the call for proposals. As before, proposals should be submitted to the current President, John P. Harrington (harrij2@rpi.edu), by November 1, 2004. A complete copy of the Ad-Hoc Committee report can be found in the June 2002 minutes posted at the ACIS website.

Ad-hoc Committee: On the motion of the Executive Committee and the General Business meetings at Liverpool in 2004, the President has formed an Ad-Hoc Committee on the Membership of the Executive Committee. Discussions that predicated this committee include the status of the Newsletter editor as that role has taken on broader communications responsibilities and the representation of disciplines decades after the membership was originally defined. The committee is asked to report on issues and opinions in a brief statement for consideration at the 2005 meeting at Notre Dame. Any change in membership on the committee would be a change in ACIS By-Laws, which can be found at the ACIS website, and would require a mail ballot. ACIS members are encouraged to contact the members of the committee: Michael Patrick Gillespie [Chair] (gillespiem@marquette.edu), David Miller (dwmiller@cmu.edu), and Jose Lanters (lanters@uwm.edu).

Call for Proposals: At its Executive Committee and General Business meeting at the University of Liverpool, the memberships approved a line movement of the expenditure budget that does not increase the total. Expenses of \$3,000 allowed to the Secretary and Treasurer have not been used in several years; the motion was to make that sum available as one-time gift support for conferences related to Irish studies not already supported by ACIS. Maximum amount of support is \$500. Requests can be made to the President, John Harrington (harrij2@rpi.edu) and will be considered for approval by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer report in 2005 will include itemized accounting for these grants.

Call for Proposals: With publication of *Language and Tradition in Ireland: Continuities and Displacements*, edited by Maria Tymoczko and Colin Ireland, which all active members received, ACIS has concluded its contract with University of Massachusetts Press to produce three volumes of criticism in Irish Studies. Members are encouraged to propose new activities in scholarship, in print or in electronic communication, that fulfill the mission of ACIS. The Chair of the ACIS Publications Committee, Thomas Ihde (tihde@lehman.cuny.edu) will report on proposals at the 2005 meeting at Notre Dame.

Electronic Communications: In response to membership suggestion, rising costs of printed mailings, and efforts to increase membership and participation in organizational affairs, ACIS will gradually increase its ability to communicate electronically. Announcements will be sent by email to members with expiring memberships, options to choose an electronic newsletter as replacement of the printed copy, and introduction of optional electronic voting for the next ACIS elections. In all cases, electronic options will require member action; otherwise, membership renewals, newsletter copies, and voting will continue as before. Further details about electronic communications will appear on the website and also in this newsletter (see insert) and other mailings.

ACIS ANNUAL CONFERENCE:

The 2005 annual meeting is being hosted by the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, April 13-17, 2005

The conference theme, "Ireland Beyond Borders," hopes to explore new conceptions of Ireland, Irishness, and Irish Studies that challenge the boundaries that politics, the academy, and culture have set for them. The theme is intentionally open-ended. Topics might include, for example, globalization, partition, the Internet age, gender and sexuality, critical race theory, popular culture, music, dance, the visual arts, contemporary literature, the Irish language, or Irish studies as an academic discipline; however, that list is not intended to be prescriptive or exclusive. We encourage submissions that reach across traditional disciplinary boundaries, and submissions on topics outside the areas of history and literary criticism. The deadline for submitting proposals is October 15, 2004. Participants must be members of the American Conference for Irish Studies. Visit www.acisweb.com to become a member.

We will mark the 25th anniversary of the Field Day Theater Company with appearances by founding members Seamus Deane and Stephen Rea. Other featured speakers include Nuala O'Faolain, Angela Bourke, Tom Kilroy, Joep Leerssen, Cathal O Searcaigh, David Roediger, James R. Barrett, and Katie Trumpener. There will also be performances by Irish dancer Jean Butler and musical group Altán. Margaret Corcoran's show *An Enquiry* will be on display in the Snite Museum of Art and the Special Collections department of the Hesburgh Library will mount an exhibit highlighting the recently-acquired Loeber Collection of Irish Fiction. An Irish film series will run at the Performing Arts Center throughout the conference.

We encourage participants to submit panel proposals. We will give equal consideration to individual proposals. However, we have found that panels organized by the participants are often more coherent and generate better discussions than those put together by the conference organizers. We recommend three participants per panel. We will be happy to accept proposals written in Irish.

Panel Proposals: Submit one 250-word abstract from each participant along with a cover letter giving the title and a brief description of the panel. Individual Proposals: Submit one 250-word abstract, including a title, your contact information, and a brief description of the paper.

Electronic Submission: Email proposals to irishstu@nd.edu. Include "ACIS 2005" in the header. Surface Mail: Send proposals to: ACIS 2005, Keough Institute for Irish Studies, 422 Flanner Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

For more information, visit the Keough Institute website at <http://www.nd.edu/~irishstu/> or contact Susan Harris at sharris2@nd.edu or Sarah McKibben at smckibbe@nd.edu

IRISH STUDIES ON THE INTERNET: News and Reviews of Irish Resources in Cyberspace—by Susan Schreibman.

It is fitting to begin this column by writing about one of

the oldest and richest resources in Irish studies, Corpus of Electronic Texts (CELT) <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/>. CELT is a fully-searchable electronic database of some 5.8 million words. Texts are available in Irish, English, French, and Latin. CELT is rich in early Irish texts: for example, one can find the Annals of the Four Masters, as well as many accounts of battles, and poetry. English texts range from the 13th through 20th centuries, with a particular strength in the texts of Oscar Wilde. CELT's texts are fully-TEI compliant. TEI, or the Text Encoding Initiative <http://tei-c.org> is the standard encoding language for humanities texts.

The TEI provides guidelines to aid humanities scholars in marking up their texts for electronic delivery via a database. The texts are wrapped in metadata, which contains bibliographic information and keywords, as well as structural encoding, i.e. the ability to mark chunks of a text as paragraphs or verse, for example. This allows more targeted searching. For example, one could restrict a search to find the word 'priest' only in verses of poetry. It also provides a rich way to encode content, allowing for the identification and regularization of place and personal names, dates, and events. CELT is only one of several Irish web-based resources which follow the TEI Guidelines, others include The Thomas MacGreevy Archive <http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/macgreevy/> and The Irish American West Project <http://www.stanford.edu/group/shl/IAW/>.

The CELT interface provides many ways of accessing texts, and it is one of the few archives that allow users to download both the HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) or the fully-encoded SGML (Standard Generalised Markup Language) texts, i.e. the versions in which one can see the complete TEI encoding.

Two of the newest entries to IRITH are Cois Life, a resource dedicated to Irish language writing <http://www.coislife.ie/>, and Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland, 1801-1922 from the University of Southampton. Through the Cois Life site, it is possible to purchase Irish language books. It also, however, provides a wealth of information about contemporary authors writing in Irish, including biographical notes, a bibliography of published and forthcoming work, extracts, and downloadable audio interviews.

Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland, 1801-1922 <http://www.eppi.ac.uk/> has recently released phase I of their project which includes a comprehensive searchable database of bibliographic information, Library of Congress subject descriptors and, for a significant number of items, abstracts. Phase II of the project, which they expect to complete in 2005, will provide users will full-text versions of the parliamentary papers. But even with Phase I available, this is a rich resource.

Interested in seeing what the web offers for a particular writer you may be covering in class this autumn? Go to IRITH and type the author's name in the search box on the home page. For authors who could have several ways of listing their names (for example, WB Yeats, William Butler Yeats), try typing in just the surname.

Note from the column editor -- *In 1997, as a way of further promoting digital resources in Irish studies, connected with my Newman Fellowship at University College Dublin, I*

created an online resource "Irish Resources in the Humanities" (IRITH). I sat down with the assistant I was working with at the time, Paula Murphy, and we hashed out a set of criteria. Only those sites that met all the criteria, would be included. About a fortnight later Paula came back to me and reported that only seven sites qualified to be linked.

I'm delighted to say that seven years later, hundreds of sites are now linked in IRITH <http://irith.org> following the same criteria. They are: 1) substantial content; 2) not exclusively commercial; 3) relating to Irish studies in the most inclusive sense (both Irish and diaspora studies); 3) the content be freely available; 4) the source of the data be reputable. IRITH began as a set of hand-constructed HTML pages. In 2003, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH) assisted me with the conversion of the content into XML so that it could be dynamically delivered via a database.

IRITH is the basis for this column. All the sites talked about here are listed in the database. In future issues, I'll cover new web resources as well as old ones. Suggestions for new links are very welcome (see the "Contact" link for information about how to submit a link).

CALLS FOR PAPERS/CONFERENCES:

ACIS New England, October 15 – 16, 2004:

The annual fall meeting of the New England chapter of the American Conference for Irish Studies will be October 15 – 16, 2004 at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. ACIS-NE welcome submissions that speak to the theme of the meeting, "Performing Ireland, Reforming Ireland: Celebrating the Centenary of the Abbey Theatre 1904-2004." As is customary at ACIS meetings, all topics are welcome and will be considered for selection. However, to help develop the theme of this year's meeting, presenters may wish to submit proposals for papers on the following topics: The Abbey Theatre: The National Theatre of Ireland, its history, dramaturgy, key literary / social figures, social policy and influence, politics and influence, European influence and impact; Irish theaters and spaces of the past, present and future; performing Ireland at home and abroad; modern Irish drama and dramatists; contemporary Irish theater companies; Diaspora Irish theaters: impact, influence, etc.; television and cinema; performance artists and studies; modern Irish dramatic theory and its influences; performance elements in Irish literature; museums and exhibitions as stages for "Irishness," etc. To encourage young scholars in Irish studies, a special panel for college/university undergraduates will be arranged.

Please send a 250-word proposal for a 15-20 minute presentation and CV by July 15, 2004 to the Rev. Jerome Joseph Day, O.S.B., Ph.D., ACIS-NE Fall Meeting 2004 Chair, Department of English, Saint Anselm College, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, NH 03102-1310 U.S.A. Tel.: 603.623.2604. E-mail for conference paper proposals, etc.: acis@anselm.edu; E-mail for chair: jday@anselm.edu; Completed manuscripts are requested by 1 September 2004.

Éire Ireland: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Irish Studies:

Éire Ireland is seeking contributions for a special issue on Ireland and gender, scheduled for publication in spring 2006.

Submissions should be mailed to the guest editors: Nancy Curtin (for history and the social sciences), Department of History, Fordham University, Bronx, New York 10458, nancy.curtin@verizon.net or Marjorie Howes (for literature and the arts), Irish Studies, Connolly House, Boston College, 300 Hammond Street, Chestnut Hill, 02467 MA, howesmb@bc.edu

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Fellowship Announcement: The Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies are pleased to announce the 2005 competition of the International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship (IDRF) program, which is designed to support distinguished graduate students in the humanities and social sciences conducting dissertation field research in all areas and regions of the world. Fifty fellowships of up to \$20,000 will be awarded in 2005 with funds provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The IDRF Program is committed to scholarship that advances knowledge about cultures, societies, aesthetics, economics and/or politics outside the United States. The program promotes work that is relevant to a particular discipline while resonating across other fields and area specializations.

The program is open to full-time graduate students in the humanities and social sciences – regardless of citizenship – enrolled in doctoral programs in the United States.

Applicants must have completed all Ph.D. requirements except fieldwork and dissertation by the time the fellowship begins or by December 2005, whichever comes first. Fellowships will provide support for nine to twelve months in the field, plus travel expenses. The fellowship must be held for a single continuous period within the eighteen months between July 2005 and December 2006.

For further information on application procedures, visit the IDRF website at www.ssrc.org/programs/idrf or contact program staff at idrf@ssrc.org. Submissions deadlines: Step 1 – November 1, 2004 (online); Step 2 – November 8, 2004 (mail-in).

2004 ACIS MLA SESSIONS:

Tuesday, December 28, 1:45-3:00 p.m., 406, Philadelphia Marriott

Ourselves Alone? Irish Geographies of Difference
Presiding: Josepha C. Lanter, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

1. "No Space for Change? Intimacy, Narrative, and the Failure of Political Transformation in Northern Irish Political Fiction." Kathryn A. Conrad, Univ. of Kansas
2. "Amphibian Position: Paul Muldoon and Cultural Identity." Gloria Farler, Univ. of Denver
3. "'Is that not German?' The Geographies of James Clarence Mangan's Supernaturalist Fiction." Richard John Haslam, Saint Joseph's Univ.

Thursday, December 30, 12:00 noon-1:15 p.m., 406, Philadelphia Marriott

Irish Writing and the Public Sphere
Presiding: John P. Harrington, Rensselaer Polytechnic

1. "The Irish Poetry-Reading Poem." Lucy McDiarmid,

Department of English
Stanford University
Stanford, California 94305-2087

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Villanova Univ.

2. "Spectacles for Public Consumption: The Performance of Sacrifice and the Sacrifice of Performance in Depictions of the IRA in Irish Theater." Mary Ann Ryan, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

3. "'Siberia' or 'Green Fields'? The Suburbs, the Public Sphere, and Irish Writing." Andrew Kincaid, Univ. of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

CALL FOR ACIS NOMINATIONS

The Nominations Committee requests nominations for candidates to serve on the ACIS Executive Committee for a two-year term, 2005-2007. The regular two-year election

process determines the next Vice President (and incoming President), six discipline representatives (History, Literature, Social Science, Irish Language, Celtic Studies, and Arts), and graduate student representative. Nominations, with permission of nominees, can be made to any member of the committee, which will request further information. Nominations must be made by December 1, 2004. Members of ACIS are urged to participate in this process and to serve as officers. The Nominations Committee members are: Eamonn Wall, Chair (walle@umsl.edu), Maureen Murphy (Maureen.O.Murphy@Hofstra.edu), and Geraldine Higgins(ghiggin@emory.edu).

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 submissions as plain text files to mjockers@stanford.edu).

ACIS BOOK PRIZES FOR BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2003

Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation (Chair, Maria Tymoczko)

Sarah E. McKibben. *Endangered Masculinities: Political Rhetorics of Gender in the Irish Colonial Context*. Cornell University, 2003. Dr. McKibben's dissertation is a sophisticated study, applying contemporary theoretical materials (including postcolonial and gender theory) to (primarily) Irish-language texts responding to English colonialism, stretching into from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries. She breaks new ground in her close analysis of these texts, integrating contemporary and traditional scholarly approaches and identifying new strands in the Irish literary tradition.

James S. Donnelly, Sr., Prize for Books on History and Social Sciences (Chair, Jerrold Casway)

Kerby A. Miller, Arnold Schrier, Bruce D. Boling, and David N. Doyle. *Irish Immigrants in the Land of Canaan: Letters and Memoirs from Colonial and Revolutionary America, 1675-1815*. Oxford University Press. *Irish Immigration in the Land of Canaan* is a significant and enduring contribution to the literature of the migration experience. It is very much worthy of the Donnelly Prize. This collection of readings is a monumental contribution to Irish, Irish-American and immigrant studies. It is a thoughtful and extremely well organized and appended book. The text will be a valuable teaching tool and research guide for students at all levels.

Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language or Culture (Chair, Eileen Kearney)

Helen M. Burke. *Riotous Performances: The Struggle for Hegemony in the Irish Theatre, 1712-1784*. University of Notre Dame Press. In her richly researched and lucidly written *Riotous Performances*, Helen Burke challenges assumptions about the eighteenth-century Irish theatre as a static colonial institution, and instead proves it to be a deeply contested area of intense ethnic, religious, and class struggle. In her widely accessible, jargon-free style, she examines a wide array of primary materials (including dramatic texts, newspapers accounts, pamphlets, broadsides, and songs), placing the riotous performances she so thoroughly describes in their social and political context.

Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature (Chair, Jose Lanthers)

Helen Lojek. *Contexts for Frank McGuinness's Drama*. Catholic University of America Press. The committee agreed that the strength of the study lies in Lojek's direct contact with the playwright and her extensive use of his papers, which allows her to fill in the developmental history of the plays, and locate influences and personal connections, without losing sight of the fact that the works have an existence apart from the author's personality.

Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book (Chair, Timothy Meagher)

Colin Barr. *Paul Cullen, John Henry Newman, and the Catholic University of Ireland, 1845—1865*. University of Notre Dame Press. Thoroughly researched, forcefully argued and clearly written, it addresses in an original way the history of one of nineteenth century Ireland's most important institution's significant figures.

ACIS sponsors five prizes for books on Irish subjects published worldwide. The Chair of the Book Prize Committee for works published in 2004 is: Eamonn Wall, Center for International Studies, University of Missouri-St.Louis, St. Louis, MO 63121; walle@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, Timothy White; whitetimothy@hotmail.com)

Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language or Culture (Chair, Eileen Kearney; Kearney621@aol.com)

Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature (Chair, Jose Lanthers; lanthers@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 15, 2005. 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 April 15, 2004. Past winners and current information can be found at the ACIS website: acisweb.com.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACIS WEB SITE AND THIS NEWSLETTER

Members are strongly encouraged to visit the ACIS web site and login to the “member’s only” area where they can check on their membership status, update their address information, submit calls for papers, submit announcements, and vote in upcoming ACIS elections.

Access to the site requires entering your email address, which is then checked against the member database. If your email has changed since you became a member or if you never listed your email address with the ACIS, you will need to send your current email address to the site administrator (mjockers@stanford.edu) who will then update your membership record in the database. Once your email is in the system, you will be able to create a “Member ID” and password for future access to the site.

Among other features of the site, one of the most valuable and important is your member profile where ACIS keeps your contact information. Your address, as listed in the database, is where your newsletter and other correspondence from ACIS are sent.

In addition to being able to update your contact information, you can also choose to make certain elements of your ACIS “profile” open to the public. Should you choose, you may enter information about your research interests, areas of specialization and other items that may be of interest to the ACIS community and to others in the Irish Studies community. Visitors to the site are then able to search the public profiles. This provides an excellent way for scholars and researchers to locate colleagues with similar interests and expertise as well as a way for potential students to identify scholars under whom they might wish to study.

Beginning this fall, members will also have the opportunity to sign up for various electronic services. One such service is electronic delivery of the ACIS Newsletter as a PDF file. Members who opt to receive the newsletter via email attachment will receive it two to three weeks in advance of the print copy that is sent via regular mail. International members will find this especially appealing since overseas mail is frequently slow and unreliable.

Another new service being added this fall is the ability to sign up for automatic email notification when new announcements and cfps are posted to the ACIS web site. Instead of having to check the site for new information, members who select this will receive announcements and cfps as they are posted to the ACIS website. (Members who may be reluctant to sign on to this service because of concerns over email overload, should bear in mind that only ACIS members are able to post to the site and in a typical year the site gets only ten to twenty announcements and cfps combined.) This really is a great way to keep up-to-date with the goings on in the organization without the burden of having to visit the site and follow the links to the various pages.

This year the ACIS will also offer members the opportunity to vote in the ACIS election online. This will be optional and those wishing to register their vote on paper will still be able to download a paper ballot from the site and send it in via regular mail. Unlike past years, however, ballots will not come via regular mail unless specifically requested. Instead, members wishing to vote by regular mail will need to download a ballot via the web site. Keep in mind that the online system is far more efficient in terms of protecting voter privacy than paper ballots sent thorough the mail—votes are kept completely separate from member information and the only way to connect a voter to a vote is via a “vote id number” that is generated during the voting process and is only available to the voter at the time when the vote is cast. Where paper ballots are sent from a post office that marks the location of posting, the electronic votes are completely free of any identifying information. Not even the database administrator is able to associate a vote with a voter. Over the past few months the ACIS Executive has tested and approved the system. Those wishing to know the technical details of how the system is constructed will find that information available on the web site as we get closer to the election. More specific instructions on how to vote online will also be forthcoming in the Winter issue of the Newsletter and online at the ACIS web site.

Please direct questions about these ACIS electronic initiatives to:

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