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## The American Conference for Irish Studies

*An Chomhdháil Mheiriceánach do Léann na hÉireann*



Fall 2005 Newsletter

Except in private, ACIS members devote little time to discussions of organizational purpose and this is probably a good idea – we want to examine the works, ideas, events and conflicts that have been occurring through the centuries, in an interdisciplinary manner, rather than engage in precious discussions of our own worth and, dare I say it, our values. Even though others have ascribed various ideologies to ACIS, my own experience has been that the organization has provided venues and welcomes for all views and this is why it has retained its energy.

At the same time, it is probably a good idea to occasionally reflect a little on where we are as an organization and this brings me to the roundtable discussion entitled “ACIS Past Presidents On Organizational Issues and Opportunities” that John Harrington chaired at the April national meeting at the University of Notre Dame. This fascinating roundtable was an opportunity for us to tap into the institutional memory of the organization in a public forum. Maureen Murphy’s focus was on the importance of mentoring—in helping young scholars to find teaching positions and other forms of employment, and in helping them as they strive to turn their dissertations into publishable manuscripts. Maureen also reminded us of the importance of teaching and the necessity of mentoring in this area. Michael Gillespie spoke of the need for the organization to renew its membership. One method of achieving this would be to retain everyone who had attended the Notre Dame conference. He also suggested that the small numbers of those who vote in ACIS elections should be addressed. He urged greater participation in governance. Jim MacKillop noted that even though he occasionally had heard sessions of “mind boggling obscurity” at our conferences, he felt that the papers he had heard at Notre Dame were of a high quality and that this reflected well on the organization and boded well for the future of scholarship. He noted that the recent move to online elections had resulted in the loss of many members who were not computer savvy, and suggested that the issue be revisited.

Emmet Larkin noted a discrepancy between governance and membership and found that the make up of the executive is cosmetic and not reflective of membership. He urged that the executive be reformed. Larry McCaffrey reiterated the need for the organization to retain its identity as an interdisciplinary organization. He also said that more members need to vote in elections. Tom Hachey addressed the need to preserve academic lines in universities so that young scholars will be able to find employment. He urged university faculty members to encourage young scholars to attend our regional conferences, and suggested that conferences include fewer traditional panels in favor of more roundtable discussions. After the past presidents had concluded their brief remarks, a lively discussion followed. Everyone who had heard the past presidents’ remarks and the discussion that followed left the room with a renewed sense of purpose. In addition, we all felt a deep sense of gratitude for the service and leadership the panelists had provided us with.

Already, the new executive has taken on board some of the suggestions raised at the roundtable and at the annual business meeting. John Harrington is chairing a committee that will report on membership issues and this report will be ready for discussion at the St. Louis meeting next April. To make sure that the organization retains its interdisciplinary focus, the discipline representations are committed to attracting new members from their

disciplines to ACIS. As outgoing treasurer David Gardiner pointed out in his report to the business meeting, we need to make sure that everyone who speaks at our conferences is a member of the organization. If speakers do not pay membership dues, ACIS will end up in the red each year. From my perspective, the enforcing of this requirement is the responsibility of the executive and not the conference host. Over the next few months, we will develop strategies to deal with this problem. Already, we have made a beginning: Kristine Byron and Matthew Jockers are currently in the middle of a comprehensive audit of our database to make sure that our paper and digital records match.

Let me pay tribute to our outgoing president John Harrington, outgoing treasurer David Gardiner, secretary Katie Conrad, and the members of the 2003-05 executive, for paying such careful attention to the needs of the organization and for the vast amounts of time they devoted to their respective, and interdisciplinary, watches. Finally, we celebrated 25 years of the *Irish Literary Supplement* and Bob Lowery's continuing editorship this year with a reception during the national conference. Bob's contribution to ACIS and Irish Studies has been enormous. He continues to be a generous and inspiring editor. For many scholars, research on a new project begins with the *Irish Literary Supplement*. It is the publication where the serious evaluation of new scholarship begins. We depend on it and we depend on Bob Lowery.

The next year will be an exciting one. I look forward to meeting old friends and new at our national and regional conferences.

Eamonn Wall

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

### ACIS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2006

The University of Missouri-St. Louis will serve as host for the 2006 American Conference for Irish Studies national conference. The conference will begin with a plenary lecture and reception on the evening of Wednesday, April 19, and conclude with a banquet the evening of Saturday, April 22. The conference site will be the Sheraton Hotel in Clayton, Mo., convenient to St. Louis Airport and midtown and downtown St. Louis. A feature of the conference will be a "Blues Cruise & Dinner on the Mississippi" on April 21. Michael Coady will be the featured conference writer and plenary speakers will include Marianne Elliott (University of Liverpool), Ríonach Uí Ógáin (University College Dublin), and Joan FitzPatrick Dean (University of Missouri-Kansas City). St. Louis Irish Arts will be the

conference's special guest performers. The conference's unifying theme will be "Old Age Pipers to New Age Punters: Ireland Through the Ages." The organizers will be delighted to receive panel proposals, roundtable proposals, and individual paper abstracts on the conference theme or any other aspect of Irish Studies. Graduate students are encouraged to submit abstracts. Send completed abstracts of no more than 200 words by mail to Eamonn Wall, Center for International Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis, One University Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63121 or by email to [walle@umsl.edu](mailto:walle@umsl.edu). Deadline: Nov. 15, 2005. To present a paper or participate on a panel, you must be a member of ACIS. Membership forms can be downloaded from the ACIS website [www.acisweb.com](http://www.acisweb.com) or requested by mail from Kristine Byron, ACIS Treasurer, Dept. Of Spanish and Portuguese, Michigan State University, 329 Old Horticulture Building, East Lansing, MI 48824-1112.

**ACIS SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING** will be held Feb. 23-26, 2006, at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S. C. Some sessions and speakers will be coordinated with the regional women's studies conference, which will be held the same weekend at USC. Deadline for proposals is Nov. 15, 2005. Send proposals for papers and panels (250 words) to [emadden@sc.edu](mailto:emadden@sc.edu) or to [leemj@webmail.sc.edu](mailto:leemj@webmail.sc.edu). For information and inquiries, contact Ed Madden, English Department, University of South Carolina, Columbia SC 29208, 803-777-2171.

### SIXTEENTH BIENNIAL ULSTER-AMERICAN HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM CONFERENCE

Theme: Three Centuries of Ulster-American History, Tradition, and Shared Experience.

Wednesday, June 28 - Saturday, July 1, 2006.

The East Tennessee History Center is pleased to announce that it will host the Sixteenth Ulster-American Heritage Symposium in Knoxville, Tenn. Since 1976 the Symposium has met every two years at a university or museum in Northern Ireland or the United States in order to encourage and promote the scholarly study and public awareness of connections between Ulster and North America in all their dimensions. While programs in the past have provided the premier forum for historians to discuss the colonial-era immigration from Ulster and the settlement of the American interior and Southeast, the Ulster-American Heritage Symposium is by tradition and design interdisciplinary, featuring papers on history, language and literature, folklore and folklife, archaeology, economics, religion, social and political relations, and music. This year's Symposium seeks to broaden the program offerings further by seeking scholarly papers on artistic traditions of all kinds, travel and tourism, and the American GI experience in Northern Ireland in the World War II, among other topics. Original

papers from any field that concern relations, links and parallels between Ulster and North America over the past 300 years are invited for presentation.

Special events planned for the Symposium will include:

- Plenary address "Ulster Immigrants and the Settlement of Tennessee," by Walter Durham, Tennessee State Historian
- Tour and banquet at Ramsey House, a late-18th-century historic home and grounds in Marbledale, Tenn.
- Plenary address on early architecture: "Stone Houses of Bluegrass Kentucky: Dwellings of the Ulster Gentry, 1780-1830" by Carolyn Murray-Wooley
- Plenary session on the American GI experience in Northern Ireland in World War II
- Bluegrass concert at Jubilee Community Arts Center in Knoxville

To propose a paper at the conference, please send by Dec. 1, 2005, three copies of a 250-word abstract with a cover letter indicating your name, postal and email addresses, institutional affiliation (if any), equipment needs, and a one-sentence biographical note, to: Program Committee, 16th Ulster-American Heritage Symposium c/o East Tennessee Historical Society PO Box 1629, Knoxville, TN 37901-1629. Address inquiries to the Co-Chairs of the Program Committee: Michael Montgomery (ullans@yahoo.com) or Michael Toomey (toomey@east-tennessee-history.org). Notice of acceptance will be made no later than January 15, 2006, at which time presenters will also receive information on hotels and local arrangements. Conference updates will be posted at: [www.east-tennessee-history.org](http://www.east-tennessee-history.org).

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

No proposals were submitted by the original deadline, Nov. 1, 2003. At its 2004 meetings, both the Executive Committee and the General Business Meeting voted to repeat the call for proposals. No proposals were submitted. At the General Business Meeting in 2005, the membership voted to increase financial support to \$10,000. A new call for proposals seeks submissions by Nov. 1, 2005.

Proposals and inquiries should be directed to the past president, John P. Harrington (harrij2@rpi.edu), who will present to the Executive Committee. Proposals should indicate the form of the project (narrative history, collection of essays, archival materials), a timetable for completion, and a plan for use of the ACIS supporting funds.

## AMERICAN CONFERENCE FOR IRISH STUDIES 2004 BOOK PRIZES

ADELE DALSIMER PRIZE FOR DISTINGUISHED DISSERTATION  
(Chair, Maria Tymoczko)

Audrey Scanlan-Teller. "Bishops, Abbots, Kings, and Crosses: Twelfth-Century Irish High Crosses in Munster as Monuments of Ecclesiastical Reform," University of Delaware, 2004

Audrey Scanlan-Teller has written an exemplary doctoral dissertation, a brilliant synthesis of art history, secular history, and Church history. She offers a superb analysis of artifacts and textual evidence, working across Irish, English and Continental materials in crafting her argument about twelfth-century high crosses in Ireland. She clearly defines the complex area of investigation and systematically relates a close examination of four twelfth-century high crosses to the local history of each site selected. She demonstrates the connection of this significant and puzzling group of crosses to ecclesiastical reform in Ireland which, among other things, relocated authority from abbot to bishop, and she shows how political figures used that movement to consolidate their own power.

Dr. Scanlan-Teller has made a significant contribution to discourses about twelfth-century Irish politics, ecclesiastical developments and art, enlarging scholarly understanding of all these fields. Her thesis is impeccably researched, convincingly argued and elegantly written, showing the greatest professional finish. Her careful presentation of the difficult subject matter transforms a technical topic into a graceful work of scholarship that will appeal to and enlighten any reader interested in Irish Studies.

JAMES S. DONNELLY, Sr., PRIZE FOR BOOKS ON  
HISTORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

(Chair, Timothy J. White)

Co-winners:

Sean O Riain. *The Politics of High-Tech Growth: Developmental Network States in the Global Economy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004.

This book represents the best of work to date explaining the economic development of Ireland in the past decade. O Riain builds upon previous social science research and successfully develops and employs the concept of the Developmental Network State to decipher the effective role of the state in connecting international and local capital and enterprise. O Riain contrasts the pattern of development with that of the bureaucratic developmental state in offering a compelling theory of the high-tech growth Ireland and other states have experienced since the mid 1990s.

Michael de Nie. *The Eternal Paddy: Irish Identity and the British Press, 1798-1882*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2004.

Relying on portrayals from the British press from the late 18th to the late 19th century, de Nie contends that Irish identity in British eyes was based on conceptions of race, religion and class. These collectively differentiated the Irish and explained failed efforts at Anglicization in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This volume is exceedingly well-researched, organized and written. It compellingly demonstrates that the British came to recognize the Irish as a separate ungovernable group. Thus, British policy toward home rule was an admission of defeat, an acknowledgement that the Irish could never be British.

MICHAEL J. DURKAN PRIZE FOR BOOKS ON  
LANGAUGE OR CULTURE

(Chair, Eileen Kearney)

Philip O' Leary. *Gaelic Prose in the Irish Free State* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 2004)

*Gaelic Prose in the Irish Free State 1922-1939* is an illuminating and provocative work, a masterpiece of literary history, and a major contribution to the history of ideas in Ireland, particularly those of the often neglected mid-twentieth century, which to date has received far less critical attention than the early part of the century. Its value to scholars within the field of Irish-language studies is unquestionable; it is also certain to inspire anyone interested in broadening their appreciation for what Irish studies encompass. Here is a book that will change the field.

DONALD MURPHY PRIZE FOR DISTINGUISHED  
FIRST BOOK

(Chair, Timothy Meagher)

Joseph Lennon. *Irish Orientalism: A Literary and Intellectual History* (Syracuse University Press, 2004)

Joseph Lennon's *Irish Orientalism* is a groundbreaking study in which the author, drawing on a wide range of primary sources, shows that Irish interest in the East did not begin with Thomas Moore, much less Yeats and AE, and that Irish ambivalence about the nation's colonial status has long roots.

ROBERT RHODES PRIZE FOR BOOKS ON  
LITERATURE

(Chair, Jose Lanteris)

Elizabeth Grubgeld. *Anglo-Irish Autobiography: Class, Gender, and the Forms of Narrative* (Syracuse Univ. Press, 2004).

The committee felt that Elizabeth Grubgeld has written a readable, broadly appealing, and at the same time scholarly book that reflects a great deal of research and ventures into previously unexplored territory.

## PROMOTING IRISH STUDIES

The field of Irish Studies still remains underrepresented in American colleges and universities. Few fellowships, grants, academic positions and courses are made available to those professionals and students who wish to pursue or expand their interests in the field. An organization is being formed to promote Irish Studies as a beneficial addition to American college and university programs. Three foundation missions are:

1. To encourage the expansion and inclusion of Irish subject courses and/or departments in colleges and universities across the United States.
2. To develop and promote Irish Studies as a relevant and vibrant field which can contribute valuable material to other interdisciplinary programs.
3. To ensure that institutions have sufficient Irish subject resources for students to engage in successful research.

The assistance of the Irish Studies community is requested. Contact Dr. Andrea Martin for further information, [BlackThistle@celticweb.com](mailto:BlackThistle@celticweb.com).

**In Memoriam: Alexander Norman (Derry) Jeffares  
(11 August 1920 - 1 June 2005)**

It is with great sadness that we have learned of the death of A. Norman Jeffares, the founder of IASIL. Professor Jeffares was renowned for his work on Yeats, and published widely on Irish, English, American and other Anglophone literatures. He lectured throughout the world, at universities in Groningen, Edinburgh, Adelaide, Leeds, and Stirling. He held many posts during his career, with such organizations as PEN Scotland, the Scottish Arts Council, the Arts Council of Great Britain, the Royal Society of Literature, and the Australian Academy of the Humanities. He was Honorary Fellow of Trinity College Dublin, and honorary Doctor of the Universities of Stirling and Lille. Among his many influential publications are *W.B. Yeats. Man and Poet, Letters to W.B. Yeats and Ezra Pound from Iseult Gonne, A Pocket History of Irish Literature, The Poems and Plays of Oliver St John Gogarty*, and countless others. In recent years he had been co-editing a four volume anthology of Irish Literature from the 18th and 19th centuries.

He founded IASIL, and organized its inaugural conference in 1970, and has been a major influence on the development of the association since that time. He will be sadly missed.

Dr. Riana O'Dwyer, IASIL president

**NOTE FROM THE NEW TREASURER**

Greetings to all ACIS members from East Lansing!

First, let me say that I am delighted to serve as treasurer for ACIS. Second, let me thank everyone for their patience (both past and present) as we continue to work to update our records. Secretary Matt Jockers and I have spent many long hours this summer to ensure that our membership database is as accurate and as current as possible as we begin the new year.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find a somewhat different-looking membership renewal form. We have tried to make it more user-friendly, as well as easier for the treasurer(s) and secretary to process. Please fill out the form completely, and remember to print legibly (preferably in block letters). Note the boxes where we ask that members indicate if their contact information has changed, as well as the appropriate membership category. We also have added a space in which we ask members to record the total amount enclosed, and the check number of their dues payment.

Matt and I are also working on implementing a standardized procedure for acknowledgement of receipt of

dues. After dues are received and processed by the treasurer, a member's information is forwarded to the secretary, who maintains the member database. We ask members to allow about a month for this whole process to be completed. (Reminder: members with Internet access can also log in on the website to update their contact information, check their membership status, and so on).

Our membership year runs from Sept. 1-Aug. 31. To adapt an old political phrase: "Renew early and renew often." ☺ Actually, early would suffice. Since we are unable to prorate memberships, I encourage everyone to renew as early in the membership year as possible—though renewals are accepted throughout the year. To avoid renewing "often" (annually) remember that members have the option of a three-year renewal as well.

Should you have questions in the future, please feel free to contact me or Secretary Matt Jockers. Thank you!

Best Regards,  
Kristine Byron  
Treasurer

**A Note from the ACIS secretary, Matthew L. Jockers:**

In addition to the new membership renewal form (that you will find enclosed with this issue of the newsletter), please also note that there are now two ways that you can check on your membership status. Members with Internet access can login and check their status online at the ACIS website. And all members can simply look at the mailing label of this newsletter and other official mailings from ACIS in order to find their four-digit membership expiration year in parentheses. For example:

Leopold Bloom (2006)  
7 Eccles Street  
Dublin, Ireland

Memberships run from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31, so this label shows that Leo's membership expires on Aug. 31, 2006.

**EDITOR'S CORNER**

I want to thank Matt Jockers for his help during the transition. He and Eamonn Wall have been very helpful. This is my third time as newsletter editor for a professional organization – the first was about 20 years ago. A lot has changed during that period; one thing that has not changed is the importance of information in all professional groups. I suspect that paper newsletters like this have nearly run their course. The Internet with websites and list serves provides a powerful forum for the instant transmission of all the things newsletters have traditionally provided. In the course of preparing this newsletter there were several

items that were submitted but not included because they had "expired." Calls for Papers and other announcements can be posted by members on the ACIS website – [www.acisweb.com](http://www.acisweb.com). Check the website regularly for up-to-date news and information on Irish Studies activities.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies** has 16 public events scheduled for Fall 2005 in addition to three distance education courses. Speakers will include Fr. Colm Campbell, Meaghan Dwyer, Declan Foley, Jane Hannon, Thomas Lynch, Colum McCann, Edmundo Murray and Robert O'Neill. There will be an all-day symposium on Documentaries of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Great Irish Famine including a North American premier of Louis Lentin's *Bóthar an Bhais* (subtitled). A concert with Cathie Ryan, Greg Anderson, Brian Conway, Brendan Dolan and Joe Dwyer is also being organized by Earle Hitchner. Lastly, we will have a screening of Jim Sheridan's "In America." Venues include Baruch College, CUNY Graduate Center, Lehman College, Queens College and the Rambling House in the Irish immigrant community of Woodlawn. For dates and more information, visit [www.lehman.edu/cunyias](http://www.lehman.edu/cunyias) or phone 718-960-6722/e-mail [cunyias@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:cunyias@lehman.cuny.edu).

The **CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies** will be organizing a three-day weekend focused on Great Irish Famine immigration to New York City (Columbus Day Weekend, Oct. 8-10, 2005). Prof. Maureen Murphy, Hofstra University, will be leading participants to sites including Irish Hunger Memorial at Battery Park, Ellis Island, and the Irish immigrant apartment in the Lower East Side Tenement Museum. Murphy will also present workshops concerning the New York State Great Irish Famine Curriculum of which she was the primary author. This three-day weekend is being offered to ACIS members only at a special price of \$350 which includes two nights accommodations at the Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel, two continental breakfasts and one dinner, and a copy of the NYS Great Irish Famine Curriculum. Spaces are limited. Phone 718-960-6722 or e-mail [cunyias@lehman.cuny.edu](mailto:cunyias@lehman.cuny.edu).

### **Kings River Valley Research Program - A New Summer Field School in Irish Archaeology at Dublin/Wicklow University College Dublin**

The School of Archaeology, University College Dublin, has recently established a multidisciplinary landscape archaeology research project exploring prehistoric, medieval and post-medieval settlement and landscape in the Kings River Valley, Co. Wicklow, Ireland, [www.ucd.ie/archaeolo-](http://www.ucd.ie/archaeolo-)

[gy/krvp](http://www.ucd.ie/archaeology/krvp). The project, specifically designed as an integrated UCD teaching and research program aims to investigate a range of themes: permanent/temporary settlement and economy in the west Wicklow uplands; continuity and change in movement and travel across the mountains; and core/periphery relationships between peoples of the mountains and wider regions (e.g. Kildare Plain, River Liffey Valley, Dublin).

It is proposed to open the program to visiting students in the summer of 2006. The program will comprise three modules as follows:

- **Module I - An Introduction to Irish Archaeology** (100 hours = 32 hours lectures, 8 hours museum visits, 24 hours assignments, 16 hours field trips and 20 hours self learning).
- **Module II - Practical Skills in Archaeology** (100 hours = 16 hours lectures, 46 hours seminars, 8 hours field visits, 46 hours field work and 20 hours self learning).
- **Module III - Archaeological Excavation** (100 hours = 4 hours lectures, 20 hours on-site learning, 8 hours seminars, 52 hours field work and 16 hours assignments).

Each module will count for 5 credits, and will be two weeks in duration. The modules will run consecutively, and student may opt to take one, two or three of the modules in any academic year.

The program will be based in University College Dublin, with field studies and excavation undertaken in the Kings River Valley, Co. Wicklow. Students will be housed at the UCD Halls of Residence on the Belfield Campus. For further information, contact The School of Archaeology, John Henry Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Ireland (Tel: +353-1-7168312; Fax: +353-1-7161184; email: [archaeology@ucd.ie](mailto:archaeology@ucd.ie))

## Annual Meetings

2006: April 19-22 St. Louis  
2007: April 18-21 New York City