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The American Conference for Irish Studies

An Chomhdháil Mheiriceánach do Léann na hÉireann



Fall 2006 Newsletter

Message from the President

At our business meeting in St. Louis, the membership accepted the recommendations of two Ad Hoc Committees—the Membership Committee, chaired by John Harrington, and the Mini-Grant Committee, chaired by Joan Dean. For those of you who were not present, let me summarize these recommendations. The Membership Committee recommended that ACIS create and print a brochure to publicize the organization, foster relationships with graduate organizations, consider a formal affiliation with a journal, or journals, associate more closely with other organizations, and enforce the ACIS policy of requiring all conference presenters to be members in good standing. The Mini-Grant Committee urged on us a complete overhaul of the mini-grant scheme. To date, we have completed work on the updating of the Grants scheme—the newly created application form, including revised rules and conditions, is available on the website. During the year, we will work on the recommendations of the Membership Committee and hope to have everything in place when we meet in New York.

This year is also an ACIS election year. I would ask all members to give this election some thought: consider standing for one of the positions on the executive, or take a moment to persuade a colleague to stand.

Finally, Jim MacKillop has been commissioned to write the official history of the organization. Please get in touch with him if you have information or documents that will help him move forward with his job.

Eamonn Wall

CALLS FOR PAPERS

Call for Future Conference Hosts

At present, the location of the 2008 national ACIS meeting is still undetermined. If you have always wanted to host an ACIS conference but were afraid to ask, please consider this opportunity. As previous organizers will tell you, putting together a national meeting involves work, but also brings many personal rewards, and focuses a great deal of positive attention on your programs and your institution. At their last meeting, the Executive Committee voted to raise organizational funding for the national conference to \$4000.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact ACIS Vice President José Lanter (lanter@uwm.edu).

“George Moore: Across Borders” March 30-31 at Université Charles de Gaulle in Lille, France. Proposals (200-300 words) on any facet of Moore’s work, together with brief CV (max 1 page), should be sent to Fabienne Dabrigeon-Garcier (fabienne.garcier@univ-lille3.fr) or Christine Huguet (cemhuguet@hotmail.com) before October 15, 2006.

ACIS Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting

October 27-28, 2006, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. “Which Direction Ireland?”

Papers are sought touching on any aspect of the idea of direction and Ireland...Especially welcome are presentations addressing questions of modernization and technology, Ireland in the international sphere, immigration and emigration past and present, even projections for the future. These areas can be considered in light of literature, history, language, social science, geography, or any other heading appropriate to the topic of Ireland and direction. In addition, any paper proposal relevant to Irish studies will be considered.

Proposals/abstracts of no more than 200 words may be submitted to Dr. Donald McNamara, Department of English, Lytle Hall, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA 19530, or mcnamara@kutztown.edu no later than July 28, 2006.

The ACIS Mid-Atlantic Region is proud to announce that Dr. Catherine Nash of Queen Mary University of London will be featured as the plenary speaker at the 2006 meeting. Dr. Nash’s research has explored the points of collective identity and belonging, focused on changing constructions of Irish national identity, and engaged with recent debates in geography about postcolonialism, landscape, the body, visual representation, gender and nationhood. Over the

past five years she has been building on this work through new research that engages with recent theoretical concerns in geography and related disciplines, contemporary cultural practices and new configurations of identity and belonging. Her publications include “‘They’re Family!’: Cultural Geographies of Relatedness in Popular Genealogy” in *Uprootings, Regroundings: Questions of Home and Migration*, Oxford; “Genealogical Identities” in *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 20(1); “Irish Placenames: Post-Colonial Locations” in *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 24(4); and, co-editing with Brian Graham, *Modern Historical Geographies*, Prentice Hall. For information about the Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting, please check <http://faculty.kutztown.edu/mcnamara/> For information about the American Conference for Irish Studies, please check www.acisweb.com For information about Kutztown University, please check www.kutztown.edu

ACIS Southern Regional Meeting

The ACIS Southern Regional Meeting for 2007 will be held at Winthrop University from March 8-10, 2007. The conference host is Marquerite Quintelli-Neary (nearym@winthrop.edu). Selected Conference papers will be published in forthcoming issues of *Working Papers in Irish Studies*, published by Winthrop University. Featured Conference speakers will include Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill and Fintan O’Toole. In the recent Newsletter, the Irish in the Atlantic World Conference was misidentified as a second Southern ACIS Regional Conference: it is an Irish Studies conference that is taking place in the South; however, it is not the Southern Regional. The Southern Regional is being hosted by Winthrop University. Apologies for the confusion. Eamonn Wall.

ACIS Western Regional Conference

George Fox University

Newberg, Oregon

October 27-29, 2006

“Conflict and Peace in Ireland”

Irish history is filled with stories of political, religious, cultural or ideological conflict. Conflict takes place between regions, groups, or family members. Irish history is also filled with efforts to achieve peace in these conflicts, efforts that have met with varying levels of success. This conference will explore both the conflicts and the efforts at peace to illustrate the great diversity in approaches to achieving peace. Guest speakers will be novelist and poet Gerard Donovan and Trinity College Dublin professor Ronit

Lentin. Contact Kathy Heininge for further information at kheininge@georgefox.edu or 503-554-2606.

The Irish Atlantic World Conference

The Program in the Carolina Lowcountry and Atlantic World (CLAW) at the College of Charleston will host an interdisciplinary conference on the Irish in the Atlantic World. The conference will take place in Charleston, South Carolina, from Feb. 27 to March 2, 2007. It will examine the experience of Irish of all denominations and traditions around the Atlantic as well as the Irish impact on the Atlantic World as a whole, from the sixteenth to the twentieth centuries; from the United States and Canada, to the Caribbean, Latin America and Africa. Major scholars in the field have committed to participate, include Kerby Miller, Janet Nolan, Bernadette Whelan, John Waters, Patrick Griffin, Eamonn Wall, Mick Moloney, Edmundo Murray, Donald MacRaild and Kieran Quinlan. A volume of selected papers from the conference will be published in our Carolina Atlantic World Series by the University of South Carolina Press. Charleston is a prime location for this conference. It was a major city in the Atlantic World with strong connections to Europe, Africa, and the Caribbean as well as other parts of North America. It was also a major entrepot for Ulster immigrants and boasted a sizable Irish Catholic population in the nineteenth century. Among its famous Irish-Americans were John and Edward Rutledge, signers of the Constitution and Declaration of Independence, Pierce Butler (South Carolina's first U.S. Senator), John England (first bishop of Charleston and founder of the first Catholic newspaper in the United State), noted etcher and artist Elizabeth O'Neill Verner and James Jimmy Byrnes (Secretary of State under President Harry Truman). The city boasts an active Hibernian society, founded in 1799, as well as other Irish ethnic organizations. For more info. visit www.cofc.edu/atlanticworld

Irish-Native American Symposium

The Center for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas (Minnesota) will host "Irish Voices, Indian Voices," a oneday symposium on Irish and Native American interactions on March 10, 2007, at its St. Paul campus. The organizers welcome proposals, from any discipline, that examine the overlap and complementarity of the Irish and Native American experience in both in Ireland and the United States. Eamonn Wall, president of ACIS, will be the keynote speaker. Arrangements are still in development as this issue goes to press, but please contact James Rogers at:

jrogers@stthomas.edu for more information.

The 2007 IASIL Conference

takes place at University College Dublin
Monday 16 July - Friday 20 July

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

Deadline 20 January 2007

Varieties of Irishness

The International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures invites you to attend the 2007 conference at University College Dublin. The Conference theme is designed to highlight the diversity which has always been at the heart of Irish writing and to accommodate the widespread interests of IASIL delegates.

The Conference activities will take place on the extensive campus of University College Dublin located at Belfield, Dublin, 4, four miles from the city centre. The conference activities will chiefly take place in the Global Irish Institute Building near the entrance to campus; the closing dinner will be held in the O'Reilly Hall. Accommodation choices will include five-star student accommodation in the Glenomena Residences and the Montrose Hotel beside the campus, which will be offering a special rate to delegates.

Proposals for papers of twenty minutes' duration (i.e. papers that, when completed, will be approx. 2,800 words in length) are welcome on any aspect of the literatures of Ireland, especially those on the conference theme. Please include the following information with your proposal:

- * A 300 word description of your paper;
- * The full title of your paper;
- * Your name, postal address and e-mail address;
- * Your institutional affiliation and position (e.g. Professor, Lecturer, Postgraduate Student, etc.);
- * Any AV requirements you might have;
- * Your IASIL membership status (i.e. present member, membership to be renewed, membership application submitted/to be submitted).

Most participants in the conference will submit individual papers and be allocated to panels by the conference organisers.

We are also offering participants the opportunity to form their own panels. Panel proposals are being accepted from:

- * Groups of 3 or 4 people who wish to deliver papers around one theme;
- * Individuals who will issue their own calls for papers for the conference.

At present, we are asking the latter to submit proposals only.

Details of speakers, when available, are welcome - but these need not be finalised until a later date. All speakers must be members of IASIL. To join IASIL, go to the membership page. All speakers must pay the conference registration fee in advance. Registration details will be posted online in April 2007. All speakers are responsible for their own registration, travel and visa arrangements, and accommodation. We will provide relevant information on this site. If you are making your submission by e-mail, please do so the conference organiser, Professor Anthony Roche, at avroche@eircom.net. Please send your proposal in plain text in the body of your e-mail and as an attachment in a Word document. Emailed confirmation of receipt of all e-mails will be sent within 10 working days.

If you are making your submission by post, please do so to: Professor Anthony Roche, School of English and Drama, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin, 4, Ireland. Organising panel: Dr. John Brannigan; Professor Andrew Carpenter; Professor Anne Fogarty; Professor Gerardine Meaney.

IASIL 2007 is hosted by the School of English and Drama and the Global Irish Institute at University College Dublin. Keynote Speakers: Professor Anne Fogarty (University College Dublin), Professor Nicholas Grene (Trinity College Dublin), Professor Cheryl Herr (University of Iowa), Professor Declan Kiberd (University College Dublin)

The 45th Annual Meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies

This event will be hosted by the CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies from April 18-21, 2007 at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. Posters with the call for papers were handed out last year in St. Louis. At the beginning of the summer, the call and information concerning hotels were mailed to all ACIS members. The deadline for the CFP is November 15, 2006. The CFP can be found at www.acisweb.com and www.lehman.edu/cunyias.

The theme of the conference is "Ireland and the Americas." Highlights from the conference include plenaries by Elizabeth Cullingford, Kevin Kenny, Mick Moloney, and Kenneth Nilsen. Wednesday evening will feature a reception hosted by the Irish Consulate. Thursday evening participants will be treated to a performance of traditional Irish-American music organized by the Ph.D. Program in Ethnomusicology at the Graduate Center. Saturday evening we will close the conference with a banquet at the Harbour Lights Restaurant on Pier 17, South Street Seaport. Frank McCourt will be the dinner speaker.

We remind those planning to attend to make their hotel reservations as soon as possible directly with the selected hotels. Any questions can be directed to cunyias@lehman.cuny.edu or by calling 718-960-6722.

Louis MacNeice: Centenary Conference & Celebration 12-15 September 2007

Seamus Heaney Centre, School of English, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland

Deadline for Papers: 31 May 2007

The poet Louis MacNeice (1907-1963) was born in Belfast on 12 September 1907. He is central to the history of modern poetry in Ireland and Britain. His life and work also exemplify the complexity of literary, cultural and political intercourse between Ireland and Britain during the Twentieth Century.

In September 2007 leading critics and poets will gather in Belfast to explore and celebrate his achievement. They include: Jonathan Allison, Simon Armitage, Terence Brown, Neil Corcoran, Valentine Cunningham, Paul Farley, Michael Longley, Peter McDonald, Medbh McGuckian, Sinead Morrissey, Paul Muldoon, Don Paterson, Jon Stallworthy and Clair Wills. Papers are invited on MacNeice's poetry, prose and plays; his place in modern poetry and relation to Modernism; his literary, cultural and political contexts in Ireland and Britain; his relation to precursors such as W.B. Yeats and T.S. Eliot; his relation to contemporaries such as W.H. Auden; his influence on later poets; his intellectual world; his literary criticism; his role as a broadcaster.

To propose a paper (time limit: 20 minutes), please send a 200-word summary and a short biography to:

Dr Leontia Flynn (l.flynn@qub.ac.uk).

For general enquiries, contact Professor Edna Longley (e.longley@qub.ac.uk).

Postal address:

Seamus Heaney Centre
School of English, Queen's University,
Belfast BT7 1NN.

For further information see the Seamus Heaney Centre website (www.qub.ac.uk/heaneycentre) where details of the conference will be updated as appropriate.

JOURNALS, ETC.

Celtic Cultural Studies (an on-line journal)

Celtic Cultural Studies is an independently published and peer-reviewed interdisciplinary academic journal. Its aim is to publish papers on diverse subjects relating to all cultures from the Celtic territories and their diasporas, from all historical periods and geographical locations, within a

broadly Cultural Studies perspective. As such, the journal does not limit itself to traditions specifically associated with Celtic languages per se, but embraces consideration of issues in Scottish Studies, Cornish Studies, Welsh Studies, Irish Studies, and so forth.

The Editorial Board has no specific political, ideological, or disciplinary bias and welcomes proposed contributions from all interested parties. The journal considers papers written within any of the humanities (and other) disciplines. Celtic Cultural Studies was fully launched on 1 May 2000 and is only available on-line, without subscription, and free of charge.

Celtic Cultural Studies has recently published Lars O. Erickson's "Emerging Diversity: Brittany's Diwan Schools," Linda Holland-Toll's "Hrim Cealde Anglo-Saxon Versus Ice-Bound Swans: Birds in Early Old English, Early Irish, and Early Welsh Poetry," and Toby D. Griffen's "The Great Famine and the Collapse of the Pax Britannica." Celtic Cultural Studies will soon publish the papers from "Celtic Science Fiction and Fantasy," a panel arranged by Brian O Conchubhair for the Discussion Group on Celtic Languages and Literatures of the Modern Language Association and presented at the December 2004 meetings of the MLA in Philadelphia, PA.

Please visit <www.celtic-cultural-studies.com> and consider submitting appropriate materials for publication. Essays must conform to MLA in-text referencing and works cited style. Any and all queries may be sent to:

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German-Speaking Exiles in Ireland 1933-1945

Edited by Gisela Holfter

The island of Ireland, north and south, has produced a great diversity of writing in both English and Irish for hundreds of years, often using the memories embodied in its competing views of history as a fruitful source of literary inspiration. Placing Irish literature in an international context, these two volumes explore the connection between Irish history and literature, in particular the Rebellion of 1798, in a more comprehensive, diverse and multi-faceted way than has often been the case in the past. The fifty-three authors bring their national and personal viewpoints as well as their critical judgements to bear on Irish literature in these stimulating articles. The contributions also deal with topics such as Gothic

literature, ideology, and identity, as well as gender issues, connections with the other arts, regional Irish literature, in particular that of the city of Limerick, translations, the works of Joyce, and comparisons with the literature of other nations.

The contributors are all members of IASIL (International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures). Back to the Present: Forward to the Past: Irish Writing and History since 1798 will be of interest to both literary scholars and professional historians, but also to the general student of Irish writing and Irish culture.

The editors of the volumes, Dr Patricia A. Lynch, Dr Joachim Fischer, and Dr. Brian Coates are all members of the Department of Languages and Cultural Studies of the University of Limerick, Ireland. Their fields of expertise lie in the literature, language and cultural aspects of Ireland, Germany, and Britain, and to the connections between these areas. (see cvs above for details of publications)

Back to the Present: Forward to the Past Irish Writing and History Since 1798

Edited by Dr. Patricia Lynch, Dr. Joachim Fishur, and Dr. Brian Contes

Volume I

Amsterdam/New York, NY 2006. IX, 351 pp. (Costerus NS 161) ISBN-10: 90-420-2037-7 Bound € 75.-/ US\$98.- ISBN-13: 978-90-420-2037-5 (ACIS members € 52,-/ US\$ 69.-)

Online info:

<http://www.rodopi.nl/senj.asp?BookId=Cos+161>

Volume II

Amsterdam/New York, NY 2006. VII, 401 pp. (Costerus NS

162) ISBN-10: 90-420-2038-5 Bound € 85,-/ US\$111.- ISBN-13: 978-90-420-2038-2 (ACIS members € 59,-/ US\$ 78.-)

Online info:

<http://www.rodopi.nl/senj.asp?BookId=Cos+162>

Vol. I + II

ISBN-10: 90-420-2036-9 ACIS members Bounds € 110,-/ US\$ 143.- ISBN-13: 978-90-420-2036-8

SUPPORT

The American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) welcomes this opportunity to offer strong support for the Queen's University, Belfast proposal to digitise a Digital Library of Core Materials on Ireland. Founded in 1960, The American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS) is a multidisciplinary

scholarly organization with approximately 1500 members in the United States, Ireland, Canada, and other countries around the world.

This project will provide access to valuable primary and secondary resources to support teaching in the scores of Irish Studies programs in universities worldwide and to enhance the research opportunities for post-graduates and university scholars. These materials will also prove useful to researchers in allied disciplines across the humanities and social sciences.

The value of this digitisation project may also be realized by secondary students. In New York State, for instance, a curricular unit on the Irish Famine is an approved component for secondary students. (See <http://www.emsc.nysed.gov/nysssa/gif/resources.html>) We are especially enthusiastic about the possibility of developing a multidisciplinary bibliographic database. Our organization includes scholars from many disciplines for whom an integrated Irish Studies bibliographic resource will be a welcome asset for teachers and researchers alike. The American Conference for Irish Studies exists to encourage research and writing in Irish Studies by establishing a means of communication between scholars interested in Irish Studies in all disciplines, and to promote Irish Studies as a legitimate and distinct course of studies in American colleges, universities and secondary schools, and to further the development and dissemination of research, teaching and scholarly and critical inquiry in Irish Studies. ACIS holds an annual national meeting each spring and regional meetings in the fall or winter. ACIS also sponsors joint sessions with the American Historical Association and the Modern Language Association at their annual conventions. For additional information on ACIS, please consult the website: <http://www.acisweb.com/index.php>.

GENERAL INQUIRY

Appeal for Entries for ARK's Qualitative Catalogue and Archive on the Northern Ireland Conflict
The ARK (Northern Ireland Social and Political Archive) team at the Queen's University of Belfast is working to create an online, searchable catalogue of qualitative materials relating to the Northern Ireland conflict. This will include records of materials such as: fieldwork data (audio recordings of interviews; interview transcripts; participant observation diaries; etc.) photographs, video recordings, conflict related literature (political pamphlets, magazines, etc.)
Researchers who have generated or collected such materials that they would be willing to have catalogued should

contact Dr. Robert Miller at ARK (contact details below). Descriptions of all material that is listed will be indexed in a database that researchers and other interested parties will be able to freely access as a section of the ARK website:

www.ark.ac.uk/qual/conflict/search.html.

Catalogued material will stay with the holder and entirely under their control. However, as part of the same project, ARK is also offering help with archiving materials for those who wish it. If (and only if) holders have significant collections of materials that are not secure or are otherwise 'at risk' of being lost or damaged, or if there is any other reason that holders wish to have their material (or copies of the material) archived, ARK can help holders deposit it with the Qualidata Archive (<http://www.esds.ac.uk/qualidata/about/introduction.asp>). Qualidata, located at Essex University, has particular expertise and facilities for preserving qualitative material securely and works to strict ethical and access guidelines to preserve confidentiality. Anyone who deposits qualitative material with Qualidata can set their own conditions of access. ARK is offering its assistance in this in order to secure and preserve such material for the potential use of researchers in the future.

All queries should be directed to:

Dr. Robert Miller,
School of Sociology,
Queen's University Belfast,
Belfast, BT7 1NN,
Northern Ireland
Tel: +44 (0)28 9097 3275
E-mail: r.miller@qub.ac.uk

BUSINESS OF ACIS / CALL FOR NOMINATIONS / ELECTION PROCEDURE

ACIS Elections 2007

ACIS members in good standing will be able to vote electronically in the 2007 election of members of the Executive Committee, which will take place in January. To prevent last-minute glitches, please take a moment ahead of time to check that your membership is up to date, and that you can access the "Members Only" section of the ACIS website. If you have never accessed the member area of the site, you will need to follow the instructions to "Register Now for Access." If you have forgotten your password, please follow the "Forgot Password?" link. If you attempt to register and the site reports that your email address was not found in the ACIS database, it is because we do not have your current email address on file. To remedy that situation please notify the ACIS Secretary, Matthew Jockers (mjockers@stanford).

edu) of your new email address. Candidate information and voting instructions will be sent to members in good standing by regular mail. Those who do not wish to use the electronic voting system will be able to print out a ballot with a voter ID, or request a paper ballot from the Secretary by email, regular mail, or phone. A deadline by which to request a paper ballot will be announced nearer the time of the election.

CALL FOR ACIS NOMINATIONS

The Nominations Committee requests nominations for candidates to serve on the ACIS Executive Committee for a two-year term, 2007-09. 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, 2006. Members of ACIS are urged to participate in this process and to serve as officers. The Nominations Committee members are: José Lanter, Chair (lanter@uwm.edu), Paul Townend (townendp@uncw.edu), and Michael Patrick Gillespie (michael.gillespie@mu.edu).

ACIS Book Prizes for Works Published in 2005:

Adele Dalsimer Prize for Distinguished Dissertation (Chair: Colin Ireland. Members: Joanne Findon, C oil n Owens) Not awarded.

James S. Donnelly, Sr. Prize for Books on History and Social Sciences (Chair: Timothy J. White. Members: Nancy Curtin, Kerby A. Miller)

David Dickson, *Old World Colony: Cork and South Munster 1630-1830*. University of Wisconsin Press, 2005.

This is a magisterial book, twenty years in the making. It links colonial ambition, indigenous response with the economic and social development of South Munster for two centuries. The research and analysis are first rate. Dickson has analyzed the social, political, economic, and religious motivations of those who came to Munster and how they interacted with the Old English and the Irish. This book represents a level of scholarly research and achievement not found in many books. It is a very worthy winner of the 2005 Donnelly Prize.

Michael J. Durkan Prize for Books on Language and Culture (Chair: Joan F. Dean. Members: Mary Trotter, James Doan) Tony Crowley, *Wars of Words: The Politics of Language in*

Ireland, 1537-2004. Oxford University Press, 2005.

This book offers a simultaneously sweeping and subtle view into the ways language has been inextricably linked with notions of cultural, political, and personal identity throughout modern Irish history. Using a range of evidentiary texts in English and Irish (or, more accurately, a range of English and Gaelic dialects) from each period, Crowley creates a complex picture of language debates in Ireland that escapes a strictly binary understanding of the language question in each period, or devolving into a purely evolutionary history of the issue. As impressive as the breadth of Crowley's research is the beauty and accessibility of his prose: the book proves enjoyable to the historian or critic as well as the linguist. Indeed, *War of Words* will encourage scholars in all aspects of Irish Studies to recognize the centrality of the language issue to nearly all aspects of Irish culture and politics.

Honorable Mention: James MacKillop, *Myths and Legends of the Celts*. Penguin, 2005.

MacKillop's study offers a wide-ranging analysis of the history and evolution of Celtic mythology that will be a valuable resource for students and teachers of all periods of Irish Studies. Informed by a confident command of the breadth of its subject, MacKillop's book will appear in paperback as *The Penguin Guide to Celtic Mythology* later this year.

Donald Murphy Prize for Distinguished First Book (Chair: Timothy McMahon. Members: David T. Gleeson, Katherine Parr) Kyla Madden, *Forkhill Protestants and Forkhill Catholics, 1787-1858*. McGill-Queen's University Press, 2005.

This book is an intensive parish history of Forkhill, County Armagh, that challenges the notion that Protestants and Catholics were forever locked in sectarian conflict. Discussions of Forkhill's social structure, Ribbon activities, educational institutions, the Tithe War, and the Famine inform Madden's argument, which is cogent, coherent, and persuasive.

Honorable Mention: George Cinclair Gibson, *Wake Rites: The Ancient Irish Rituals of Finnegans Wake*. University Press of Florida, 2005.

This book unlocks James Joyce's *Finnegans Wake* through a discussion of the medieval *Teamhair Feis*. Gibson argues that Joyce's familiarity with this festival, through the writings of R.A.S. MacAllister, served as a metanarrative for the *Wake*. Robert Rhodes Prize for Books on Literature (Chair: Joseph Lennon. Members: Elizabeth Grubgeld, Daniel Tobin) Deana Rankin, *Between Spenser and Swift: English Writing in Seventeenth-Century Ireland*. Cambridge University

Press, 2005.

Deana Rankin has opened new ground in this book, in which she builds upon the work of other scholars in arguing for a pervasive hybridity in seventeenth-century English writing in Ireland. The rich and careful historical scholarship elucidates a range of texts, both canonical and non canonical.

The impressive number and range of texts discussed allows the author to draw solid conclusions about the literary and cultural territory of the time. She brings forgotten details to light and rescues more than a few texts from obscurity—a fine, original scholarly contribution.

Honorable Mention: A.M. Gibbs, Bernard Shaw: A Life. UNSW Press, 2005.

A.M. Gibbs has written a refreshing new biography. Having unearthed new materials of G.B. Shaw's life, Gibbs weaves a superb novelistic account of the life of this prolific author and public man. The biography unfolds through a careful presentation of facts, and Shaw is presented as fleshier and more complex than the Shaw given in other biographies. Most impressive, however, are the lively prose, sensible conclusions, and compelling storytelling in this first-rate biography.

Deadline for submission for 2006 Awards is Feb 1, 2007

400 years of Wicklow Songs

by Mattie Lennon

County Wicklow inspired John Millington Synge, gave refuge to freedom fighters, welcomed lovers to its hills and valleys and continues to provide tranquillity, peace and relaxation for its many visitors.

The loves, battles, disputes and matches of the Garden County have been commemorated in songs (some almost forgotten), which have long been part of the oral tradition of mountain men and mountain women.

Wicklow was the last county in Ireland to be instituted, 400 years ago. And on the four-hundredth anniversary of the foundation of our beautiful County I hit on the idea of making a DVD to remember, honour and preserve some of its precious stories and legends as told through its ballads. The result is 57 minutes of footage, which -- along with old photos and sketches -- depicts some of the most beautiful scenery in the world.

Some audio tracks include:

*SUNRISE ON THE WICKLOW HILLS - This is a classical song, which combines "drawing-room splendour" with the feelings of everyday life.

*THE WICKLOW ROVER; - Cork had The Bould Thady

Quill, its neighbouring county boasted of "The Limerick Rake" and Roundwood songwriter, Pat Molloy, felt compelled to immortalise our very own colourful Wicklow character.

*THE VALES AROUND CLOUGHLEA - A thumbnail sketch of West Wicklow life in the early days of the last century drawn, in words, by local songwriter Frank Farrelly. Priests, patriotism and pranks, they are all there.

*DERRYBAWN - This beautiful ballad indicates that Wicklow men are still as capable of love, loyalty and valour as were their ancestors.

*THE BLACKBIRD OF SWEET AVONDALE - The sad and moving tale of? "the uncrowned king of Ireland" is given a new lease of life by award-winning singer Peggy Sweeney.

*THE FLOWER OF LUGNAQUILLA - One of our highest mountains is immortalised by this slow jig composed and played, on fiddle, by gold-medallist musician Rachel Conlan.

*MY WICKLOW HILLS SO GAY - An emigrant story from our own time told by a Ballyknockan songwriter.

*THE BANKS OF AVONMORE - The story of death on an alien battlefield and broken hearts in Wicklow, written by the late Peter Cunningham-Grattan (The Roving Bard)

*THE ROSE IN THE HEATHER/PAIDIN O'RAFFERTY (JIGS) - Played by Fuinneamh, under the direction of John McNamara.

The artists featured include:

Celtic Mist

Shay Eustace

Fifthgenerationtenor

Denis Molloy

Pianist Bill Kearney

Billy Meade

Fiddle player Rachel Conlan

Songwriter/Singers Partsy McEvoy and Mick Brady

A nine piece band Fuinneamh (Fuinneamh is the Irish for "energy" and when you hear them play, you'll agree with the choice of name.)

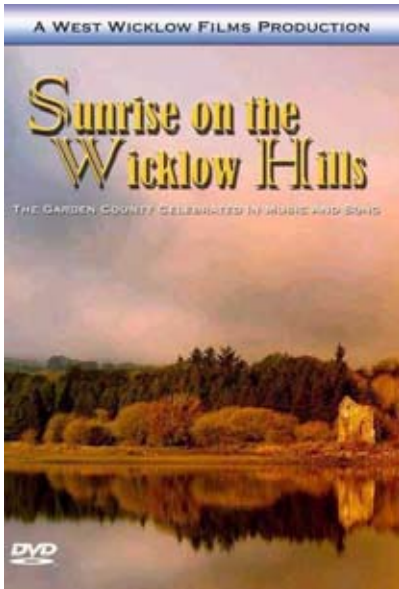
Also featured are a number of interviewees who know anything that's worth knowing about County Wicklow, its songs and songwriters. These include 94-year-old Mona Power recalls her memories of Peter Cunningham-Grattan (The Roving Bard) an enigmatic songwriter and musician who travelled the roads of Wicklow until his death in 1956.

Father Padraig McCarthy tells us about the fruits of his research into this prolific man-of-the-roads who kept his cards close to his chest as far as his origins were concerned. Senator Labras O 'Murchu, Director General of Comhaltas

Ceoltoiri Eireann, gives us the benefit of his knowledge of songs and song-writing in Wicklow and beyond.

Seamus MacMathuna, a great authority on the Irish ballad regales the viewer, from a cheery fireside, with stories of composers past and present.

Mick Brady, reveals where he got the inspiration for an emigration song and singer, writer and historian, Shay Eustace tells some lesser-known facts about Ann Devlin.



"Sunrise On The Wicklow Hills" is available from
Mattie Lennon,
15 Weston Heights,
Weston Park,
Lucan, Co.Dublin,
Ireland.
lennonaspect@iol.ie
Price; €22 (including P&P)

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2006-7 ACIS EVENTS

2006

October 12-14

Midwest Regional Meeting

Northern Illinois University – DeKalb

Contact: Sean Farrell:

SFARREL1@niu.edu

October 21-22.

New England Regional Meeting

University of Connecticut at Storrs

Contact: Mary.2.Burke@uconn.edu

or Rachael.Lynch@uconn.edu

October 27-29

Western Regional Meeting

George Fox University - Newberg OR

Contact: Kathy Heininge:

kheininge@georgefox.edu

October 27-28

Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting

Kutztown University – Kutztown, PA

Contact: Donald McNamara

mcnamara@kutztown.edu

2007

March 10

Southern Regional Meeting

Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC

Contact:

April 18-21

Annual General Meeting

CUNY Graduate Center, New York City

Contact: Tom Ihde

cunylia@lehman.cuny.edu

MESSAGE FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tyler Farrell

Assistant Professor of English

University of Dubuque

Tyler Farrell is the new newsletter editor.

Please continue to send materials to: tfarrell@dbq.edu.

The next deadline for submissions is Feb. 15, 2007

AMERICAN CONFERENCE FOR IRISH STUDIES
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