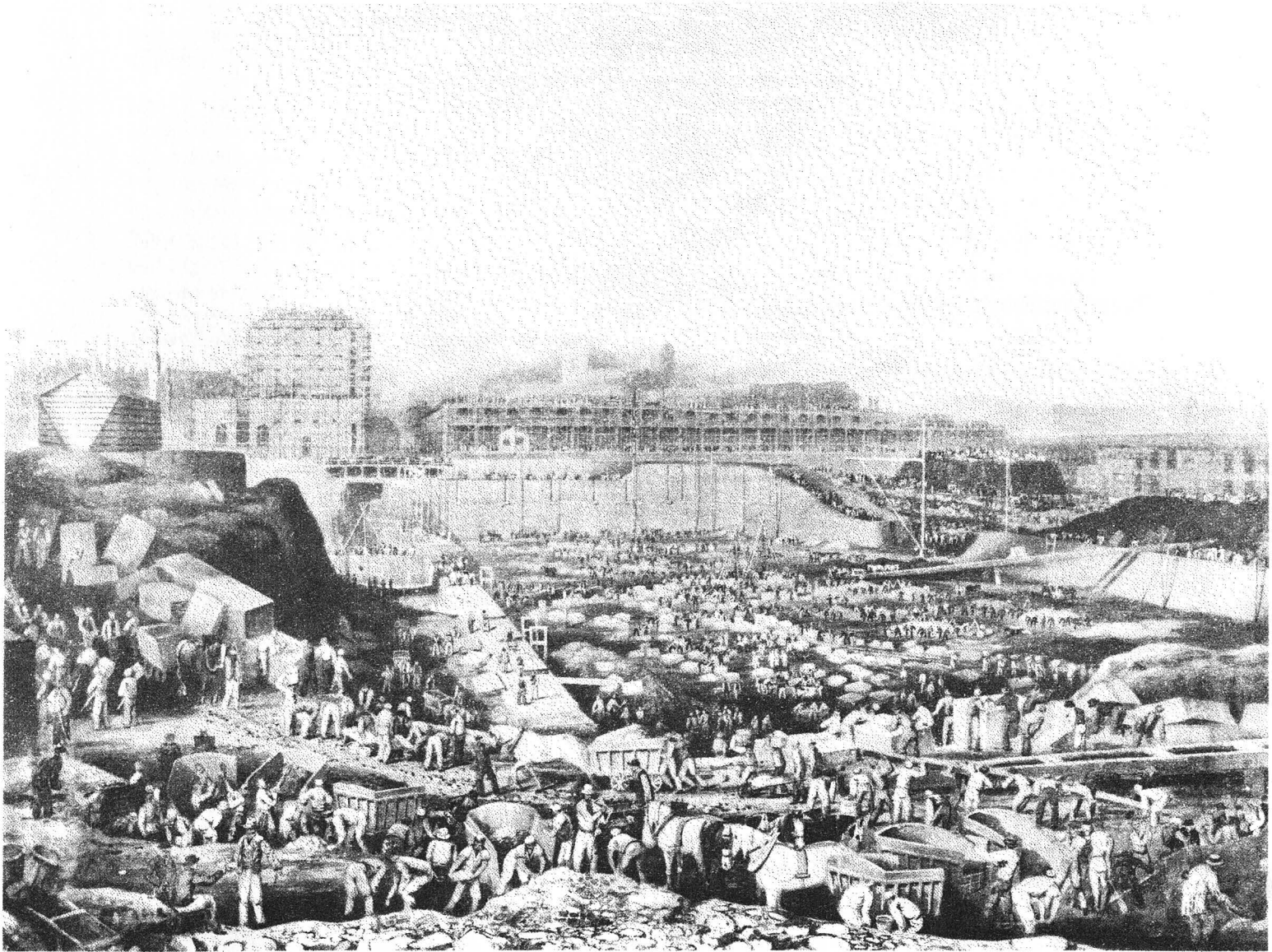


# British Association for Irish Studies *Newsletter*



## **THE PEOPLING OF LONDON**

**15,000 years of settlement from overseas**

at the Museum of London 16 November 1993 - 15 May 1994

### **Image No (13)**

The building of St. Katharine's Dock, 1828. A high proportion of the labour force would have been Irish. Watercolour by W. Ranwell. 540 mm x 665 mm.

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***The British Association for Irish Studies Newsletter exists to provide a voice for, communication between and information to the membership. Apart from reports by the Officers of the Association, the views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the British Association for Irish Studies.***

# Introduction

The cover picture for this issue is taken from an interesting new exhibition at the Museum of London, entitled *The Peopling of London: 15,000 years of settlement from overseas*. The exhibition is open from 16th November 1993 until 15th May 1994. Seán Hutton has written the commentary on the Irish among the peoples of London. An extract from the commentary is included with details of the exhibition.

It is a matter of some academic debate whether the Industrial Revolution in Britain would have progressed as it did in the absence of thousands of Irish migrants. English rural labourers, who were 'crowded out' by the Irish, would apparently have stepped into the breach.<sup>1</sup> What cannot be in dispute is that the contracts for the building of docks and railways included substantial numbers of Irish labourers.

Nessan Danaher has sent in a report from Leicester on the activities at Soar Valley that, apart from the conference in the spring, continue all the year round. Following the great success of the 10th annual conference in 1993 which was organised as a two-day event for the first time, the pattern is set for the future. Next year's conference, to be held on 26-27 March 1994, has a theme of 'Exiles and Erin: Images and Realities.'

Jim O'Hara reports on the very healthy state of Irish Studies at St. Mary's College, Twickenham. It is very gratifying to see the first students graduate this year and some proceeding on to postgraduate programmes in Irish Studies. The visit of the Irish Ambassador, Joseph Small, to the graduation ceremony was an obvious high point of the year. The grant received from the Irish government recognises the achievement to date and supports future development at the College.

Irish Studies at Bath College has only had an official presence this year with the start of the MA in Irish Studies. The programme builds on the experience of publishing *Irish Studies Review*, edited by Paul Hyland and Neil Sammells. Supporting ISR is the Irish Studies Lecture Series, now in its third year, which continues to attract interest and controversy.

Following a study visit to Cork in March three poems were written by Bryor Armstrong, an MA Creative Writing student at Bath College. These are included with photographs from the trip.

Maureen Carter has obligingly written a short piece on the successful evening of Irish Poetry held at the Irish Club in London. BAIS, Trinity Link and the Federation of Irish Societies cooperated in the organisation of the event.

The Institute of Irish Studies at Liverpool has sent information on workshops to be held on a theme of Ireland and Europe.

Kate Thompson has enjoyed the success of obtaining a grant from Dublin to support her Irish language work and reports on an enjoyable conference on Irish Language and Culture held at Coventry earlier this year.

Green Ink, the specialist Irish book and music shop in London, has sent information on the book fair in March 1994.

Finally, some publicity for the establishment of a new Irish Studies Centre at the University of Edinburgh that has grown out of the tradition of Celtic Studies. It appears to have the full support of the University in extending the provision of Irish Studies in British higher education. BAIS members will wish it well.

Graham Davis

<sup>1</sup> R. Swift and S. Gilley, *The Irish in Britain 1815-1939* (1989), pp 134-162  
G. Davis *The Irish in Britain 1815-1914* (1991), pp 83-123



# Irish Studies News from Soar Valley Community College 1993-4

The Irish Studies Workshop celebrated its tenth year of existence in 1993. At a specially organised two-day Conference on 3/4 April, the Workshop welcomed 300 guests, 4 main speakers and 20 workshop/seminar leaders. In a brief report it is impossible to do justice to all - only the main outlines can be sketched in.

Maureen O'Rourke-Murphy (ACIS) of Hofstra University, New York, delivered a sparkling illustrated lecture on the Irish servant girl in 19th Century America; Mary Hickman, of the Irish Studies Centre at UNL, tackled the 'revisionist' interpretations beginning to infiltrate the study of the Irish in Britain; Christopher Morash, a Canadian working at St. Patrick's (Maynooth) led a stimulating foray into the area of the Great Famine and the literary imagination; Jim O'Hara of St. Mary's (Strawberry Hill) dealt with the topical issue of the Anglo-Irish relationship in the European context.

All of the 21 workshops on offer attracted participants; virtually every aspect of current interest in Irish Studies was touched on. It was pleasing to be able to welcome John Walsh, an American High School vice-principal, to talk about the work of the community-based Irish Cultural Society of Garden City, New York.

This 10th Conference was truly international in both agenda and participants. The Irish experiences in Wales and Scotland were addressed directly - areas often overlooked. The two-day event was possible only because of the magnificent and generous level of sponsorship from the Ireland Fund, Aer Lingus, The Bank of Ireland, BAIS, Leicester City and Leicestershire County Councils and the Irish Government. We were particularly pleased to receive a formal acknowledgement of the Irish Studies Workshops' efforts over ten years in the form of a special message to the Conference from Mary Robinson, President of Ireland, who remarked that the Workshop's "pioneering work ..... over the last 10 years has helped to secure a more permanent and important place for Irish Studies across a broad spectrum of educational establishments in Britain."

Equally welcome was the presence of H.E. Joseph Small, the Irish Ambassador, throughout the weekend; his contribution of a formal speech after the Conference dinner on the Saturday evening was a positive and friendly experience. The event was successful socially as well as professionally. Our thanks go to our usual local sponsors, to the College staff and its students who assisted at the dinner and, of course, to the many participants of all ages, cultural backgrounds and political traditions. It was most pleasant to receive the many messages of appreciation from colleagues around the country after the conference weekend.

The Conference may be the annual highlight of the Workshop programme, but of course a 40-week annual programme of Irish Studies is maintained - in the areas of weekly sessions in Irish Language (beginners and advanced), Irish Studies (interdisciplinary), set/ceili dance and traditional music for adults. The Workshop was pleased to succeed in developing two new modules for the Open College Network (dealing with the last two areas listed above). In January 1994 we offer a new media studies course on Cinema and Conflict in Northern Ireland.

Plans are afoot, needless to say, for the 11th Annual Conference, which will again be a weekend event, due to take place on 26/27 March 1994. The programme has almost been finalised. The main theme will be 'Exiles and Erin: Images and Realities', and topics to be covered include:

- issues concerning social services provision for the Irish in Britain;
- the impact of 'The Troubles' in contemporary culture;
- the role of women in migration and the settlement process;
- Irish language workshops (in both English and Irish);
- the historical and cultural significance of migrant settlement patterns in Britain;



- media studies, film, drama and Celtic Art;
- the place of traditional music on the Irish Studies agenda..

Genuine students and enthusiasts of all levels, interests and abilities are welcome.

Please write for further information to:  
Mr. N. Danaher, BA, MEd,  
Irish Studies Workshop, Soar Valley College,  
Gleneagles Avenue, Leicester, LE4 7GY.

BAIS members receive invitations as part of their normal mail-shot.

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# **St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham**

## **Irish Studies Centre: New Appointments**

The teaching strength of the Irish Studies degree has been strengthened by the appointment of two new members of staff. Dr. Liam Harte from County Mayo is a graduate of University College, Galway, and of Trinity College, Dublin. His main research has been on the life and work of Louis MacNeice and he is teaching courses on the language and literature of Ireland, the Literature of the Troubles, the relationship between writer and society in modern Ireland, and Irish drama. Dr. Lance Pettitt from Buckinghamshire, a graduate of Sussex University and University College, Dublin, was previously lecturing at North Staffordshire University and has been researching into representations of Northern Ireland on British television. He is teaching courses on the media and Ireland, popular culture, emigration and Irish writing, and post colonialism. The addition of these two members of staff has greatly increased the range and breadth of the Irish Studies degree.

## **First Irish Studies Graduates**

This summer saw the emergence of the first group of students to graduate from St. Mary's with a degree in Irish Studies. The graduation ceremony in Guildford Cathedral was attended by a large number of guests from the Irish community, including the Irish Ambassador to Britain, Mr. Joseph Small. Four students have been accepted on postgraduate programmes in Irish Studies, and two of these were particularly successful in achieving First Class

Honours degrees. One of these students subsequently won a prestigious scholarship from the Department of Education in Northern Ireland to pursue postgraduate work at Queen's University, Belfast.

## **Additional Funding**

During the summer, the Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Dick Spring, announced that the Taoiseach had awarded a number of grants to projects and institutions which were promoting the development of Irish Studies in Britain. The Irish Studies Centre at St. Mary's was very pleased to have been allocated £16,400 and for the general recognition that was given to the importance of Irish Studies in Britain. The money will be spent on the further development of the Irish Studies Centre, on the acquisition of additional books and archive material, and on conference expenses. It will be most useful in assisting us with our future planning.

## **Irish Studies Society**

The Irish Studies Society at the College is the biggest society in the College, and is run mainly by the students. It organises a most varied programme of talks from guest speakers, debates, traditional music evenings, play readings and theatre visits. Many of these activities are open to the public and anyone seeking further information should contact the President, Madeleine Casey, P.L. 1466, Irish Studies Centre, St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 4SX.

*Jim O'Hara*

# Irish Studies at Bath College of Higher Education

## MA in Irish Studies

Irish Studies at Bath College began an official existence in September 1993 with the start of the MA in Irish Studies. The planning of the MA courses built on the experience of teaching undergraduate courses in English, History and Sociology. Recruitment of Irish students and study visits to Dublin and Cork have provided a strong focus of interest on Ireland. Most importantly, the publication at Bath of *Irish Studies Review*, edited by Paul Hyland and Neil Sammells, and the *BAIS Newsletter* has concentrated energy into the developing of contacts in Britain, Ireland and overseas. Bath College has been awarded £10,000 from the Irish government in support of the MA in Irish Studies. It is a recognition that Bath is one of the centres of Irish Studies in Britain. The money will pay for library stock and research materials.

Two new appointments have strengthened the team of History staff available to teach Irish Studies at undergraduate and postgraduate level. John Newsinger joined the History department from Simon de Montfort University in 1992 and became full-time in 1993, offering courses in Irish, British and European political history. Margaret Ward has been appointed a Research Fellow in Irish History, joining Bath from the University of the West of England and teaching courses in nineteenth-century Ireland and on Irish women. Both have a key role in the teaching and development of the MA programme.

## Research and Publications

The recent Research Selectivity exercise revealed that Irish Studies publications form an increasingly important area of the College's research output. In 1993 the following book, journal and articles were published:

Alan Marshall, *The Ruffian's Trade: Intelligence and Espionage in the Reign of Charles II 1660-1685*, Cambridge University Press.

Paul Hyland and Neil Sammells (eds), *Irish Studies Review* No. 3, No. 4 and No. 5.

Tracey Hill, *Humanism and Homicide: Spenser's A View of the Present State of Ireland*, *Irish Studies Review* No. 4.

John Newsinger, *The Liberator, Larkinism and the Great Lockout*, Saothar, No. 18.

Margaret Ward, 'Maud Gonne' in *Missing Persons: Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press.

Margaret Ward, *Suffrage First - Before All Else! - An account of the Irish Suffrage Movement* in Ailbhe Smyth (ed) *Irish Women's Studies Reader*, Attic Press.

Graham Davis and Eugenia Landes, *Talking of Paradise: Irish Pioneer Settlers in South Texas*, *Irish Studies Review* No. 5.

Graham Davis was awarded a research grant from the Nuffield Foundation for a project on the Irish in Texas. Bath College continues to provide financial support for the publication of *Irish Studies Review*.

Sarah Briggs has been appointed as graduate editorial assistant for *Irish Studies Review* and is a registered PhD student working on Mary Lavin and the exclusion of women writers from the Irish Literary Canon.

## The Irish Lecture Series

Supporting the growth of Irish Studies at Bath, the annual lecture series has completed its third year in 1993. In 1991 the theme was Irish Writers, in 1992 it was Ireland: Issues and Controversies and this year the theme has been the Irish Abroad: migration and settlement. Staff, students and members of the public engage in lively debate in response to the papers from invited speakers. This year Patrick O'Sullivan, Donal Lowry and Maurice Goldring were visiting lecturers. Alan Marshall, John Robb and Graham Davis represented the home team. In 1994 the theme will be Ireland and the Media.

Graham Davis



# Irish Language 1993

In June of this year a grant of IR£1000 was received from the Department of Arts, Culture and Gaeltacht in Dublin to enable the work of the Irish Language subcommittee to continue. This money was a great financial boost as well as being a mark of recognition of this work by the Irish Government. It gave encouragement to those actively involved in all aspects of Irish Language teaching and learning in Britain and should further enhance the status of the language both here and in Ireland. The grant will be used for the production and distribution of Newsletters and for the purchase of Irish Language teaching resources.

At the weekend of October 16th/17th a Conference of IRISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE was held at the Lady Godiva Hotel in Coventry. The language workshops catered for three levels of participants from absolute beginners to fluent speakers. Three competent and experienced tutors were in charge on both days.

Jackie Wardlaw (London/Dublin) addressed the beginners and used interview techniques, songs, etc, to stimulate people's interest in the language.

Nóirín Ní Nuadháin (Limerick) was in charge of the intermediate group and used audio-visual methods to demonstrate new and exciting ways of teaching a language.

Liam Ó Cuinneagáin (Oideas Gael) presented the top group with topical subjects for discussion, provoking much lively conversation.

The famous Irish language poet, Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill, read and discussed her poetry while Dr. Mairéad Ní Craith from Liverpool University delivered a most informative talk about the Blasket Islands writers with special reference to Tomás Ó Criomhtháin. She illustrated her words with slides and poetry readings.

After dinner on Saturday there was a choice of three activities. One was a discussion forum chaired by Liam Ó Cuinneagáin when the subject was "Could Irish survive without the Gaeltachts?" This provoked much debate from an enthusiastic audience of both young and old. Set dancing was led by a highly qualified Midlands teacher, Joseph O Hara, and proved to be the most popular activity of the evening. Music and song was provided by Carmel Cummins and intellectual conversation continued in the bar into the small hours!

Pól Cummins - Managing Director of the Irish Language TV Company "Telegael", based in Spiddal, Co. Galway - and his colleague, Colmán Ó Raghallaigh, presented a two hour workshop on Sunday. They explained the kind of programmes they produce, which are mainly cartoons in Irish for RTÉ. They showed a sample of these films and gave an entertaining insight into the valuable work done in their studios and talked of their future plans. The audience was impressed and encouraged to discover that so many valuable resources were available in Irish.

The guest speaker at the dinner was Breandán Ó Caollaí from the Irish Embassy, who welcomed the guests and spoke of his wonder at so many people coming together with one thing in common - their love of and interest in their culture.

Two Newsletters have been distributed - the current one is a tribute to the centenary celebrations of the Gaelic League from the Irish Language subcommittee of the B.A.I.S.

The number of Irish classes is growing as are other language-orientated activities throughout the country.

*Kate Thompson*



# Three poems by Bryher Armstrong

## Famine Grave at Skibbereen

*The gorse was in flower  
And its coconut balm  
Insulted my senses  
The day I buried  
My father with my mother  
And my three sisters and infant brother.*

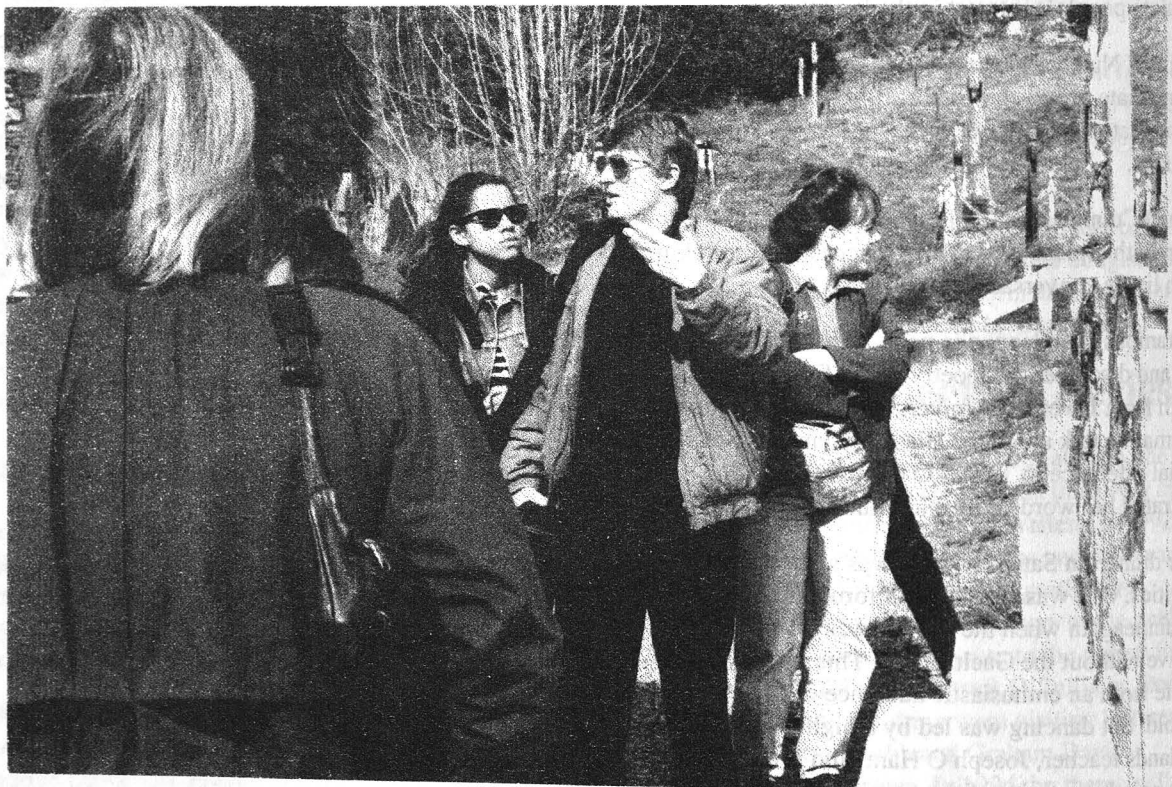
*Suffocating the land with a  
Forest of thorns,  
Your yellow hurt my eye.*

*It was all I could do  
That day  
To hold back from  
Throwing myself against you,  
Allowing your prickles  
To taste my grief.*

*Your fertility sickens me.  
How can you decorate land  
That folds around the decay  
Of its people?*

*I was offered a passage  
To the Caribbean,  
I could have feasted on  
That nut from which you steal your smell  
Tasted the white flesh  
Of new beginnings.*

*Instead, I watch potato and people  
Rot,  
And wait to join  
My father with my mother  
And my three sisters and infant brother.*



*Study visit to the Abbey Graveyard at Skibbereen*

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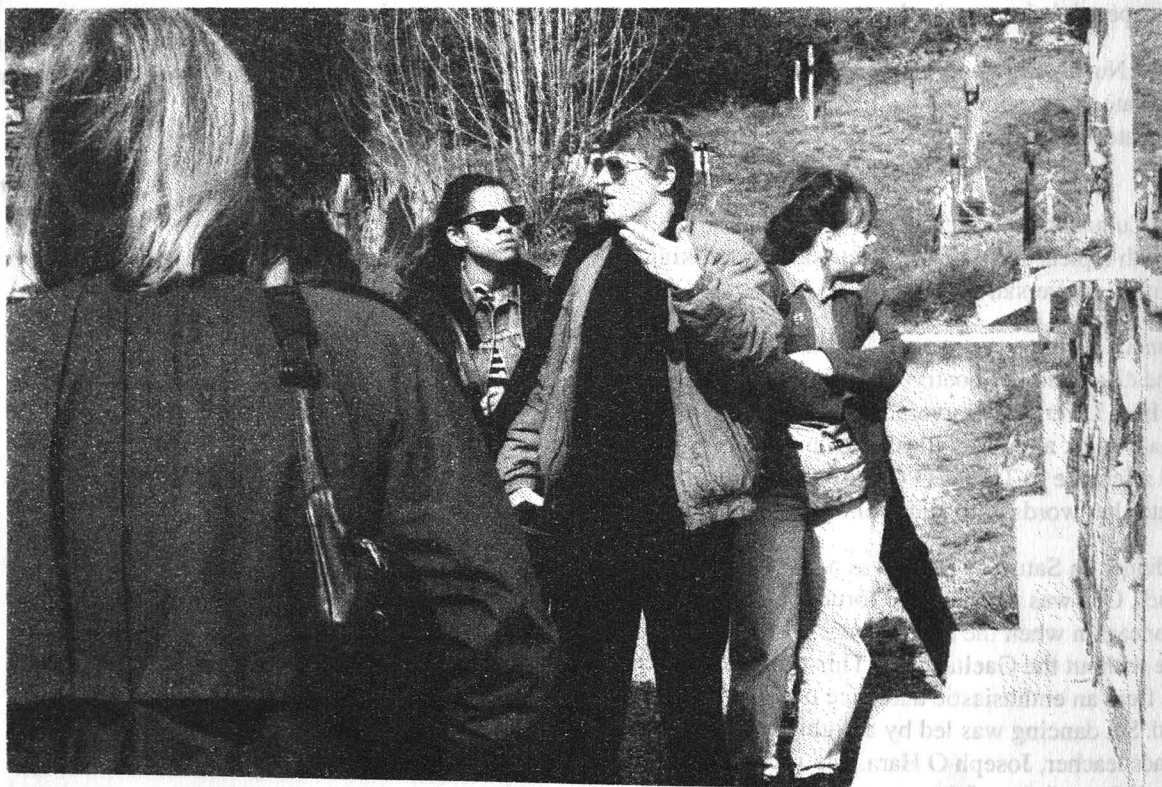
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Your yellow hurt my eye.*

*It was all I could do  
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To hold back from  
Throwing myself against you,  
Allowing your prickles  
To taste my grief.*

*Your fertility sickens me.  
How can you decorate land  
That folds around the decay  
Of its people?*

*I was offered a passage  
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That nut from which you steal your smell  
Tasted the white flesh  
Of new beginnings.*

*Instead, I watch potato and people  
Rot,  
And wait to join  
My father with my mother  
And my three sisters and infant brother.*



*Study visit to the Abbey Graveyard at Skibbereen*



## Shandon Streets

*Shandon, a part of Cork that seems  
Half asleep and not fussed,  
But listen carefully  
To the whisper of the back streets.*

*Turn right at the church  
Down Bob and Joan's walk  
And you will hear  
The bubbling brook of lovers' talk;  
But turn around and you will see  
Nothing more than last night's chip wrapper  
Scurrying up the street.*

*And there's the chip shop  
Where skinned fish lie in the backroom sink of batter  
And the woman serving says nothing  
As she chases the last pickled egg round the jar.*

*Some kids make a fire in the graveyard  
Just for the hell of it  
And an old drunk shouts through the railings  
For them to show some respect.*

*Later, men meet in the same graveyard  
With pit-bull terriers  
And bet on which one  
Will rip the other's throat.*

*Even the church clock can't be bothered  
To keep to the rules,  
Striking when it feels like it,  
Laughing in the face of time.*

*Shandon Streets -  
Where a promise  
Waits on the corner,  
To let rip after you've gone.*

**Bryher Armstrong is an MA Creative Writing student  
at Bath College who went on the trip to Cork.**

## From Scilly to Inishmore, Aran Islands

*I'm on a boat to an unfamiliar island  
(Although the weather means much the same).  
Arriving, low voices seem to say, "Banned -  
Not wanted here." And then, almost with shame,  
A group of men approach, offering tours of Inishmore  
In Sea-rain rusted minibuses and cars.  
The chill of resonance begins to gnaw  
(I know his feeling of invasion and it jars  
To think that now I visit, gawp, intrude).  
And as others fall for reluctant charm  
I recognise that it is as if I am chewed,  
And spat out by men who no longer fish and farm.*

*All you see is English woman come to look and stare  
And because of this, there is nothing that we can share.*



*Statue of Annie Moore and her brothers,  
Queenstown Emigration Centre, Cobh, Co. Cork.*

# An Evening of Irish Poetry

## The poets

Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill is one of Ireland's leading women poets. She has published three collections in Irish, *An Dealg Droighin*, *Fear Suaithinseach* and *Feis*. Her work has been widely translated. Among the bilingual selections of her poems are *Selected Poems* (1986) - translations by Michael Hartnett - and *The Astrakan Cloak* (1992) - translations by Paul Muldoon.

Gabriel Rosenstock, who is chair of Poetry Ireland, is author of a number of collections of poetry in Irish for adults and children, including *Susanne sa Seomra*, *Folctha*, *Om* and *Nihil Obstat*. An accomplished translator, Seamus Heaney is among the poets whose work he has translated into Irish. A bilingual selection of his own poems, *Portrait of the Artist as an Abominable Snowman*, was published in 1988. The Irish Club in Eaton Square hosted a most unusual event on 19 November - a highly successful and memorable poetry reading in Irish and English by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Gabriel Rosenstock.

## The evening

The prospect of such an evening is likely to cause apprehension among those who are language

enthusiasts but not poetry lovers, or vice versa. In the end Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Gabriel Rosenstock succeeded in converting any doubters there might have been in the audience.

A happy combination helped to make the event so successful. We were given enough background information to make sense of the poetry without spoiling it; the poems chosen were both entertaining and personal; the contrast between the poets was marked - Rosenstock seeking other strange new worlds to explore and Ní Dhomhnaill finding both inspiration and expression in her own internal life and cultural background. Above all, their conviction of the bard's duty to entertain created an atmosphere of sheer enjoyment.

The evening was organised by the Federation of Irish Societies, the British Association for Irish Studies, Trinity Link and the Irish Literary Society and was kindly sponsored by Bord na Gaeilge.

*Maureen Carter*

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# Institute of Irish Studies

## Workshops on Ireland and Europe in association with Centre for Interdisciplinary German Studies

Following the large success of the first series of research workshops hosted by the University of Liverpool's Institute of Irish Studies during 1989-91, a second series is being launched in the 1993/94 academic year. Workshops will be held approximately every nine months at the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, 11 Abercromby Square, Liverpool 7.

The general theme for this new series will be the relationship between Ireland and Continental European countries.

A first meeting took place on 4th-5th December in conjunction with the University's Centre for Interdisciplinary German Studies.

The main purpose of this series of informal meetings is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for research on Ireland's links with Continental Europe. Graduate students are particularly encouraged to contribute.

## Ireland and Germany

The cultural relationship between Ireland and Germany has, for a long time, been close - a fact which people in Britain tend to find rather peculiar. The workshop tries to draw together a diverse range of issues which have been explored to a greater or lesser degree, in order to take stock of existing research, and identify points of departure for a closer investigation of this rather curious relationship in the context of the cultural development of both countries over the centuries.



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## Shandon Streets

*Shandon, a part of Cork that seems  
Half asleep and not fussed,  
But listen carefully  
To the whisper of the back streets.*

*Turn right at the church  
Down Bob and Joan's walk  
And you will hear  
The bubbling brook of lovers' talk;  
But turn around and you will see  
Nothing more than last night's chip wrapper  
Scurrying up the street.*

*And there's the chip shop  
Where skinned fish lie in the backroom sink of batter  
And the woman serving says nothing  
As she chases the last pickled egg round the jar.*

*Some kids make a fire in the graveyard  
Just for the hell of it  
And an old drunk shouts through the railings  
For them to show some respect.*

*Later, men meet in the same graveyard  
With pit-bull terriers  
And bet on which one  
Will rip the other's throat.*

*Even the church clock can't be bothered  
To keep to the rules,  
Striking when it feels like it,  
Laughing in the face of time.*

*Shandon Streets -  
Where a promise  
Waits on the corner,  
To let rip after you've gone.*

**Bryher Armstrong is an MA Creative Writing student  
at Bath College who went on the trip to Cork.**

## From Scilly to Inishmore, Aran Islands

*I'm on a boat to an unfamiliar island  
(Although the weather means much the same).  
Arriving, low voices seem to say, "Banned -  
Not wanted here." And then, almost with shame,  
A group of men approach, offering tours of Inishmore  
In Sea-rain rusted minibuses and cars.  
The chill of resonance begins to gnaw  
(I know his feeling of invasion and it jars  
To think that now I visit, gawp, intrude).  
And as others fall for reluctant charm  
I recognise that it is as if I am chewed,  
And spat out by men who no longer fish and farm.*

*All you see is English woman come to look and stare  
And because of this, there is nothing that we can share.*



*Statue of Annie Moore and her brothers,  
Queenstown Emigration Centre, Cobh, Co. Cork.*

# An Evening of Irish Poetry

## The poets

Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill is one of Ireland's leading women poets. She has published three collections in Irish, *An Dealg Droighin*, *Fear Suaithinseach* and *Feis*. Her work has been widely translated. Among the bilingual selections of her poems are *Selected Poems* (1986) - translations by Michael Hartnett - and *The Astrakan Cloak* (1992) - translations by Paul Muldoon.

Gabriel Rosenstock, who is chair of Poetry Ireland, is author of a number of collections of poetry in Irish for adults and children, including *Susanne sa Seomra*, *Folctha*, *Om* and *Nihil Obstat*. An accomplished translator, Seamus Heaney is among the poets whose work he has translated into Irish. A bilingual selection of his own poems, *Portrait of the Artist as an Abominable Snowman*, was published in 1988. The Irish Club in Eaton Square hosted a most unusual event on 19 November - a highly successful and memorable poetry reading in Irish and English by Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Gabriel Rosenstock.

## The evening

The prospect of such an evening is likely to cause apprehension among those who are language

enthusiasts but not poetry lovers, or vice versa. In the end Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Gabriel Rosenstock succeeded in converting any doubters there might have been in the audience.

A happy combination helped to make the event so successful. We were given enough background information to make sense of the poetry without spoiling it; the poems chosen were both entertaining and personal; the contrast between the poets was marked - Rosenstock seeking other strange new worlds to explore and Ní Dhomhnaill finding both inspiration and expression in her own internal life and cultural background. Above all, their conviction of the bard's duty to entertain created an atmosphere of sheer enjoyment.

The evening was organised by the Federation of Irish Societies, the British Association for Irish Studies, Trinity Link and the Irish Literary Society and was kindly sponsored by Bord na Gaeilge.

*Maureen Carter*

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# Institute of Irish Studies

## Workshops on Ireland and Europe in association with Centre for Interdisciplinary German Studies

Following the large success of the first series of research workshops hosted by the University of Liverpool's Institute of Irish Studies during 1989-91, a second series is being launched in the 1993/94 academic year. Workshops will be held approximately every nine months at the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, 11 Abercromby Square, Liverpool 7.

The general theme for this new series will be the relationship between Ireland and Continental European countries.

A first meeting took place on 4th-5th December in conjunction with the University's Centre for Interdisciplinary German Studies.

The main purpose of this series of informal meetings is to provide an interdisciplinary forum for research on Ireland's links with Continental Europe. Graduate students are particularly encouraged to contribute.

## Ireland and Germany

The cultural relationship between Ireland and Germany has, for a long time, been close - a fact which people in Britain tend to find rather peculiar. The workshop tries to draw together a diverse range of issues which have been explored to a greater or lesser degree, in order to take stock of existing research, and identify points of departure for a closer investigation of this rather curious relationship in the context of the cultural development of both countries over the centuries.



# IONAD na GAEILGE Centre for Irish Studies at The University of Edinburgh

Ionad na Gaeilge / The Centre for Irish Studies at the University of Edinburgh has been set up to exploit and develop the Gaelic dimension within the field of Irish Studies and is unique in this respect. The Centre has the support of the Irish Government, academic institutions in Ireland, Bord na Gaeilge, Comhdháil Náisiúnta na Gaeilge and centres for Irish Studies in Britain.

The Centre aims primarily to focus on the Gaelic dimension of Irish Studies and is therefore to a large extent complementary to existing centres or institutes of Irish Studies in Britain. It seeks to encourage, direct and conduct research in this field by:

- establishing reciprocal links with similar institutions, universities and relevant bodies both in Ireland and Britain;
- promoting collaborative research between Irish and British scholars;
- offering scholarships to enable Irish and British researchers/students to conduct research and make contacts in Scotland and Ireland respectively;
- holding conferences, colloquia, seminars, workshops, etc.
- publishing or assisting in the publication of research work carried out at the Centre.

The Centre also aims to establish cooperative links with parallel organisations in Ireland and Britain, particularly those involved in the maintenance and promotion of Gaelic language and culture.

The Centre for Irish Studies aims to provide a unique and much needed resource for students of Irish Studies. Holdings include materials relating to various aspects of Irish Studies. It is hoped that in time the Centre will become a major archive, covering all aspects of Irish Studies including linguistics, literature, history, sociology, etc. Substantial donations have been received or promised from institutions, public agencies and individuals. The Centre aims to provide the stimulus for the development of Irish-related courses and research within the University of Edinburgh.

The Centre is located and managed from within the Celtic Department under the directorship of Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh. An Advisory Committee reflecting the various disciplinary and cultural interests of the Centre advises on general matters and on the future development of its activities.

Initial funding has come from a Memorial Trust within the University of Edinburgh whose aim is to further Irish-UK cooperation within the university. It is intended that research activities initially funded by the Centre will in time attract and secure external funding from public and private sources.

The Centre for Irish Studies will be offering two scholarships, one to Ireland and one from Ireland, in the academic year 1993/94. These scholarships will be open to students of Irish Studies whose research interests include a Gaelic dimension. The Centre's first visiting scholar is Liam Lillis Ó Laoire, lecturer at the University of Limerick and renowned sean-nós singer. During his stay in August and September 1993, he researched Gaelic song at the School of Scottish Studies.

Gaelic literature, language and history have always figured centrally in the teaching and research of the Celtic Department at the University of Edinburgh. The important links which have been established over the years with Irish scholars and universities will greatly benefit the new Centre in its work. Edinburgh's attractiveness and importance as a resource centre for students of Irish Studies is enhanced by the presence of the National Library of Scotland and the facilities of the University of Edinburgh. The existence of a sizeable Irish community in and around Edinburgh is an additional reason for an Edinburgh Centre for Irish Studies.

For further information, contact:

IONAD na GAEILGE, CENTRE for IRISH STUDIES, Department of Celtic, The University of Edinburgh, David Hume Tower, George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9JX. Telephone: 031 650 1000 or direct dial 031 650 3622/23. Fax: 031 650 6536, Telex: 727442 (UNIVED).



## **GREEN INK Bookfair '94**

8 Archway Mall  
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Tel: 071 263 4748

## **GREEN INK Bookfair '94 18th - 20th March 1994**

Brian Moore, Maeve Binchey, Alice Taylor, Frank Delaney, Tom Paulin, Neil McCafferty ...

...Just some of the names who have appeared over the past nine years.

**GREEN INK Bookfair** has become one of the major events in the London cultural calendar, promoting the best in Irish writing and attracting thousands of people every year.

### **HIGHLIGHTS THIS YEAR**

- ★ **Comedy Opening Ceremony** with Sean Hughes whose programme 'Sean's Show' attracts millions on Channel 4
- ★ **Sport** Roddy Doyle in conversation with Jack Charlton
- ★ **Poetry Readings** from 'Pillars of the House', the first ever anthology of verse by Irish women
- ★ **History Appearances** by Robert Kee and Tim Pat Coogan
- ★ **Theatre** with the acclaimed Bridge Theatre Company
- ★ **Travel** featuring Dervia Murphy
- ★ **Art Exhibition** of Contemporary Irish Artists
- ★ **Design Workshops** in Celtic Design

The Bookfair includes **drama** and **music** for the family, **storytelling** and **puppets** for children, **nonstop readings** and **signings** from well known and up and coming writers as well as two keynote **debates** on aspects of Irishness by leading writers and academics.

Both the **bar** and a **cafe** will be open throughout selling good Irish food and drink - whether it's barm brack and Bewleys coffee or Irish Stew and a pint of Guinness.

The Book fair is advertised throughout the national and London press and expects to attract media coverage on national and regional TV and radio.

With Roddy Doyle a Booker prize winner and Irish writers regularly filling the best sellers list, Green Ink continues to bring the best of Irish writing and publishing to wider public attention in a **packed weekend celebration of Irish culture**.

If you would like **more information** please contact: Marion Urch.

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# London's Irish Community helps Museum with new Exhibition

Members of London's Irish Community have been helping the Museum of London with a major new exhibition, **THE PEOPLING OF LONDON: 15,000 years of settlement from overseas**, which opened on 16 November. The exhibition looks at the contributions made by settlers from overseas to the economic and cultural growth of London. These often forgotten facts are of particular relevance in today's climate of rising racism and nationalism.

An important part of **THE PEOPLING OF LONDON** project has been the recording of memories of recent settlers by the Museum's Oral History Curator, Rory O'Connell, and these are included in the exhibition, together with personal documents, photographs and objects.

Irish residents in London have been recorded since at least the 13th century. Their story is included in both the exhibition and the accompanying book. Seán Hutton, author of the chapter on the Irish in London, reads from the book *Exile* on 9 March.

Tòin Le Gaoth performed on Sunday 21 November as part of a weekend World Music Festival to launch an exciting programme of events which runs for the duration of The Peopling of London exhibition. Irish poet Matthew Sweeney leads a special Children's poetry workshop on Saturday 11 December.

Highlights of The Peopling of London programme will include special focus weeks, when London's communities present their own exhibitions and events at the Museum. Irish focus week from 8 to 13 March is supported by Guinness Brewing. Events include films, lecture and food tastings as well as an exhibition of paintings and an oral history project.

The Peopling of London is at the Museum of London from 16 November 1993 to 15 May 1994.

For further details about the exhibition, events and oral history project, please contact: Frances Rivers, Press Office, Museum of London, London Wall, London, EC2Y 5HN. Tel: 071 600 3699 ext 280/240.

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## The Irish in London

Significant Irish settlement in London began in the eighteenth century. The Irish were mostly part of the unskilled, casual labour force of the metropolis, finding employment as builders' labourers, chairmen, porters, coal-heavers, ballast men, weavers, milk sellers, street hawkers, publicans, lodging-house keepers and professional beggars. They lived in all areas of London, but the census of 1851 shows most concentrated settlement in the parishes of St. Giles, Whitechapel and Southwark. Particular areas like 'Little Dublin' in St. Giles, had streets and courts with exceptionally high numbers of Irish. A mid-nineteenth century description of St. Giles 'rookery' reinforces a widely perceived connection between Irishness and poverty:

Rows of crumbling houses flanked by courts and alleys ... You seem ... to leave ... the habits of your fellow-creatures behind you ... squalid children, haggard men with long uncombed

hair, in rags, with a short pipe in their mouths, many speaking Irish, women without shoes or stockings - a babe ... at the breast ...; wolfish-looking dogs; decayed vegetables strewn the pavement, low public houses, linen hanging across the street to dry ...<sup>1</sup>

Lynn Hollen Lees' *Exiles of Erin: Irish Migrants in Victorian London* shows that Irish settlement in St. Giles reflects the complex pattern of Irish settlement in other British cities at this time. For instance, the more respectable northern part of the parish contained some Irish professionals and artisans and many Irish domestic servants, while in other parts of the south of the parish Irish settlement was less concentrated.<sup>2</sup> However, the fact that concentration of Irish settlement was greatest among the poorest meant that it was the Irish poor who were most visible in London.

Seán Hutton

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<sup>1</sup> Montague Gore, *On the Dwellings of the Poor in London and the Means of Improving Them*, James Ridgway, London, 1851, pp vii-viii

<sup>2</sup> Lees, 1979, pp 66-7



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**Please note**

For reasons of space the text of the exhibition has been produced in English only.

**Museum opening times**

Tuesday to Saturday 10.00am to 6.00pm

(last admission 5.30pm).

Sunday 12.00 noon to 6.00pm

(last admission 5.30pm).

Closed every Monday except bank holidays

(10.00am to 6.00pm).

**How to find us**

The Museum is situated at the junction of London Wall, Aldersgate Street and St Martins-Le-Grand.

The main entrance is located on the pedestrian highwalk.

**Nearest tube stations:**

Barbican, St Paul's, Moorgate, Bank.

**Museum of London**

London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN

Telephone: 071-600 3699

**Information line: 071-600 0807**



16th November 1993  
- 15th May 1994



  
museum of  
LONDON