

# *Manchester Irish Education Conference*

*organised by  
Manchester Irish Education Group  
in conjunction with*

*The British Association for Irish Studies  
and Manchester City Council Education Department at  
Manchester Polytechnic , All Saints Building, Oxford Road,  
Manchester on :*

*Saturday 19th  
March 1988.*

*Manchester Irish Festival Week*

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Dear Friend,

You are warmly invited to the Manchester Irish Education Conference, an event that has been timed to coincide with the City's Festival celebrating the Irish.

The Conference seeks to bring a Northern focus to the movement to promote Irish Studies in Britain. It is appropriate that this should happen in Manchester, a city of more than 40,000 Irish people, whose history of settlement here spans two vivid centuries and whose contribution to the fabric of life cannot be understated.

Great things are happening here, marking a resurgence of interest in Irish culture, a pride in Irishness in a city that officially avows equality and diversity of culture. The thriving number of Irish clubs, groups, language and study classes, the ambitious new Irish World Heritage Centre, all bear witness to a renewed sense of identity, living tradition and, occasionally, unity, in Manchester as elsewhere.

The conference is a means of making sense of and orchestrating such developments, looking for children of Irish parents, indeed all children and young people, to be aware of and take a pride in their culture.



**Manchester Irish**

**Education Group**

*A Welcome from Manchester's  
Chief Education Officer*

~\*~

*If you wish to see some of Ireland's greatest achievements it is true you must often travel some distance and take some time in the wonder of it all. There is much in Manchester that was made by Irish hands, not least our railways and canals, but there is also much that we say and think enriched by the language and literature of Ireland. We are immeasurably richer for our Irish experience and for our Irish friends. I take the greatest pleasure in adding my welcome to you on this happy occasion. I have every confidence that you will find yourself at home here in Manchester.*

~\*~

*Gordon Hainsworth,  
CEO, Manchester,  
January 1988.*



*.....And from the Irish Ambassador:*

*I wish to extend my support and offer my congratulations to the Manchester Irish Education Group on setting up the Conference on Irish Studies as part of Irish Festival Week. It is a source of great joy to see the emergence of so many groups in Britain today, who are determined to promote the richness of Irish culture and tradition. To the MIEG, BAIS and all those concerned with the Conference, we offer our best wishes for a successful day.*

*Andrew O'Rourke,  
Ambassador,  
Irish Embassy, London  
Januaru 1988.*



# The Manchester Irish Education Group

was formed in 1986 to promote the interests of the Irish Community within the educational system, in the belief that an understanding of Irish history & culture would enhance existing multicultural studies & help all young people towards a clearer diagnosis of their society. It might also help counter anti Irish racism.

It was recognised that the prejudice and disadvantage faced by the Irish today did not approach the levels experienced by the Asian & Black Communities but the long tradition of stereotyping clearly still had untold influence upon the Irish & their children.

The group's aim then is to promote a positive image of Ireland in our schools & colleges at all levels. To this end it has, among other things,

- piloted** Irish Studies in schools & adult centres,

- lobbied** successfully against Irish jokes & for more Irish books in libraries

- networked** with other groups

- held** literature & art competitions on Irish themes in local schools

- analysed** the equivalence of Irish educational qualifications in the British system

- conducted** a large-scale survey of the views of the Manchester Irish Community regarding the education of its children

- presented a report of the survey findings to Manchester City Council & Manchester Education Committee

**The group meets fortnightly, on Mondays, at the Irish World Heritage Centre, Queens Rd, Cheetham Hill, at 8.30pm.**

**If you care about the education of our children & you live in the Manchester area, why not come & join us?**

# *The University of Liverpool and Irish Studies*

## *The New Institute of Irish Studies*

*A major breakthrough is about to occur in Anglo-Irish relations. The University of Liverpool is establishing an Institute of Irish Studies (IIS) which will help make the study of Ireland & Anglo-Irish relations an integral part of the educational system in England & Wales.*

*The IIS draws on academic staff in the Faculties of Arts, Law, Science & Social & Environmental Sciences in the University as well as on Irish specialists in the neighbouring colleges, particularly Chester College & Liverpool Institute of Higher Education.*

### *The Institute's Programme*

*This is an ambitious but realistic response to a widely-felt need to put the development of Irish Studies in Britain on a firm basis, as most clearly articulated by the energetic British Association for Irish Studies (BAIS). Key elements in the programme include half a BA degree in Irish Studies, a part-time MA in Modern Irish Studies, and a development plan for Irish Studies in schools & colleges.*

### *Degree Courses*

*Both the BA & MA programmes will encourage the systematic & scholarly study of Ireland & its relations with the wider world, past & present. The approach will be multidisciplinary & comparative, thus enabling students to distinguish between enduring & temporary features of the Irish experience & to identify what is distinctive about Ireland & what Ireland has in common with other societies.*

### *Irish Studies in Schools*

*Perhaps, however, the most exciting innovation is the establishment of a joint education programme with BAIS.*

*The intention is at first to exploit the public examination system in England & Wales. Groups are already developing a GCSE syllabus in Irish suitable for England & Wales; a modular GCSE in Irish Studies, encompassing archaeology, economics, history, literature & language, politics, religion & social studies; & an AS level in Irish history & literature.*



## Research

All these developments are underpinned by wide-ranging research activity of the highest calibre, which will foster new developments & encourage, where appropriate, collaborative work.

## Timetable

The joint education programme & some of the major research initiatives are already under way. In October 1988 the first undergraduates for the Irish pathway in the BA in combined Honours, & the post-graduate students for the part-time MA in Irish Studies, will start their courses.

## Need for Private Funds

Liverpool University is committed to the development of Irish Studies, but the full development of the Institute depends upon adequate funding. Public funding may become available, as the British government is concerned to develop Irish Studies in Britain, & the UGC has described as 'admirable' Liverpool's proposed Institute. However, the IIS is determined to make itself independent of the vagaries of the public funding of higher education in Britain & is actively seeking private funding from individuals & organisations with an enduring & benevolent interest in Ireland & Anglo-Irish relations.

## Ireland's Opportunity

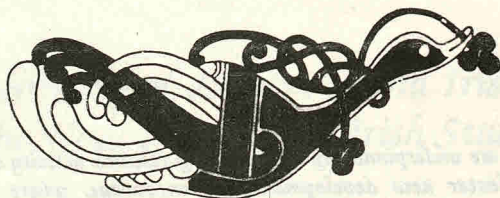
The development of the IIS must be a matter of urgency for all concerned with Ireland & relations between Britain & Ireland. The moment must be seized. Sufficient funds must be raised to secure the place of Irish Studies in the British education system & thus promote the mutual understanding & respect which are so vital to the peace of both Britain & Ireland.

## Enrolment for courses at Liverpool University

The IIS is now considering applications for admission in October 1988 to courses leading to the BA (Combined Honours) & the part-time MA in Irish Studies.

## Further Information

For further details of the degrees & the work of the IIS, please contact Dr. Patrick Buckland, Director-Designate, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX; {tel: (051) 709 6022, ext: 2944.}



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## *A National Framework for Irish Studies in Schools & Colleges?*

*A high profile for Irish Studies in schools & colleges is the exciting prospect offered by the emerging Institute of Irish Studies (IIS) at Liverpool University. IIS is developing, in conjunction with the British Association for Irish Studies (BAIS), a Joint Education Programme (JEP) aimed at putting the study of Ireland & its relations with the wider World on a systematic footing in the education system of England & Wales.*

*Irish Studies cannot claim a place in the school curriculum by right or out of sentiment. The study of Ireland must be interesting & exciting, stimulating enquiry & imagination. It must also be justified in contemporary educational terms- & it can be justified. In the first place, Ireland & its relations with Britain form an important, often neglected, part of the 'British Experience', which is an object of study in schools. Secondly the study of Ireland illustrates a number of general concepts & issues of intellectual & contemporary concern, not least, for example, multi-culturalism & the role of religion in society.*

*The JEP will eventually embrace all age ranges, but will first concentrate on the public examinations system, where there are new opportunities to be exploited. Various groups, drawing together teachers from all sectors of education, are devising new syllabuses which will be submitted for approval to the Northern Examining Association & the JMB - a GCSE in Irish, a modular social sciences/humanities GCSE in Irish Studies, & an inter-disciplinary A/S in Irish history & literature, probing the Irish identity in the late 19th & early 20th centuries. They will be quality syllabuses, aiming for widespread acceptance of the notion of Irish Studies, & enabling pupils & teachers to learn or teach about Ireland even when they change areas or jobs.*

*A start has also been made in developing support material & planning in-service training. Here, the highest priority will be given to the study of the Irish in Britain & to the development of flexible resource packs on migration & settlement.*

*The JEP is being overseen by a steering group nominated by the Institute & BAIS. Based on the IIS, the Steering Group consists of school & university teachers & members of the Schools Inspectorate & Irish organisations in Britain. A flexible & responsive body, it welcomes comments & suggestions & will gladly assist any worthwhile Irish Studies enterprise. The JEP is intended to provide a structure & framework to assist all who are genuinely interested in promoting the study of Ireland in schools & colleges in England & Wales.*



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## *Irish Education Conference Programme*

*9.30: Registration, Coffee and Bookfair.*

*10.00: Welcome by Mr. Gordon Hainsworth, Chief Education Officer*

*10.15: Keynote speech by Emrys Evans, Professor of Irish, University of Wales.*

*10.45: Introduction of seminar leaders.*

*11.00: Seminar session 1.*

*12.15: Lunch in licensed staff restaurant. Entertainment by Manchester schoolchildren.*

*1.45: Seminar session 2.*

*3.00: Plenary session in staff restaurant.*

*TEA / COFFEE*

*3.30 : Bookfair*

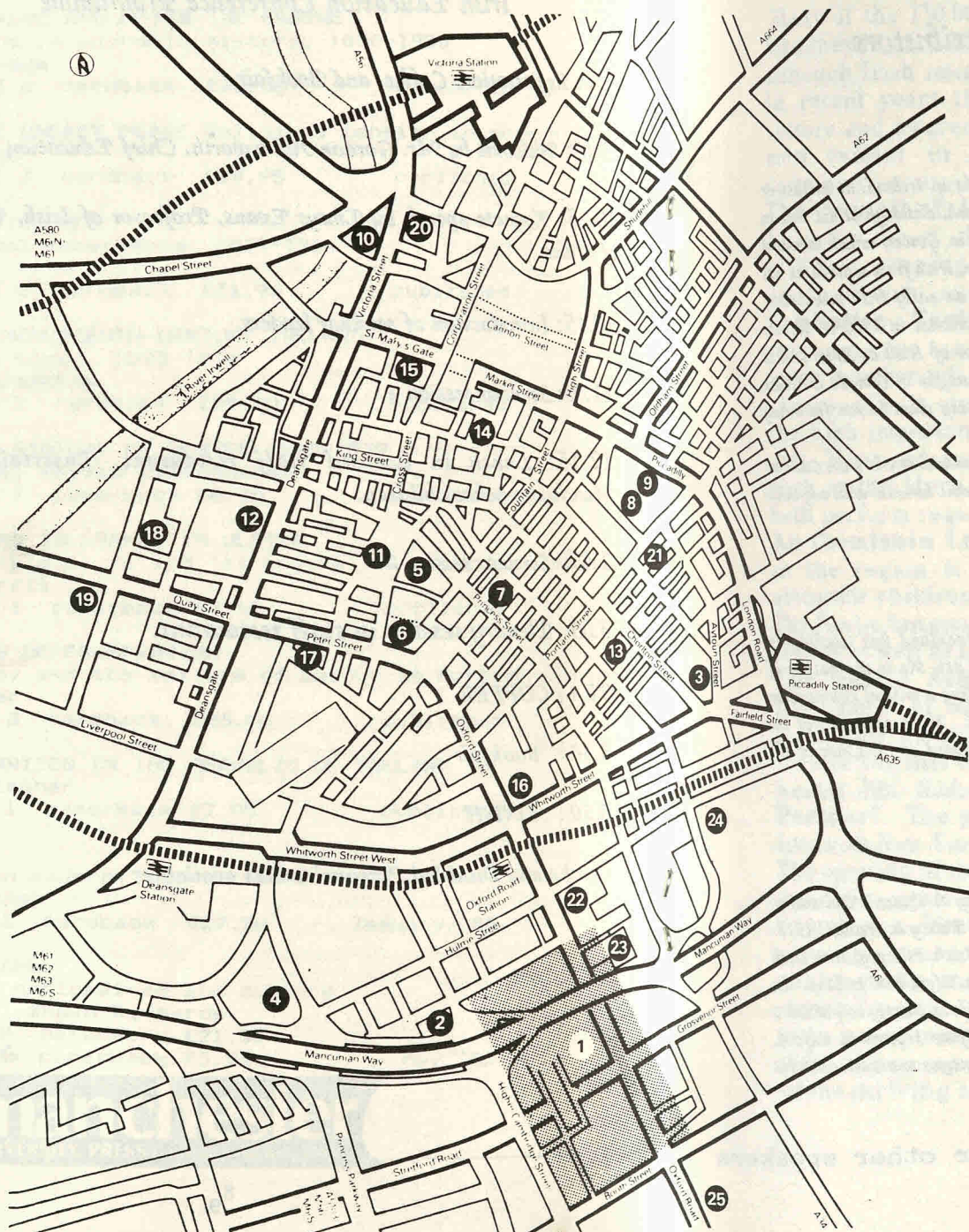
*5.50 : FINISH*

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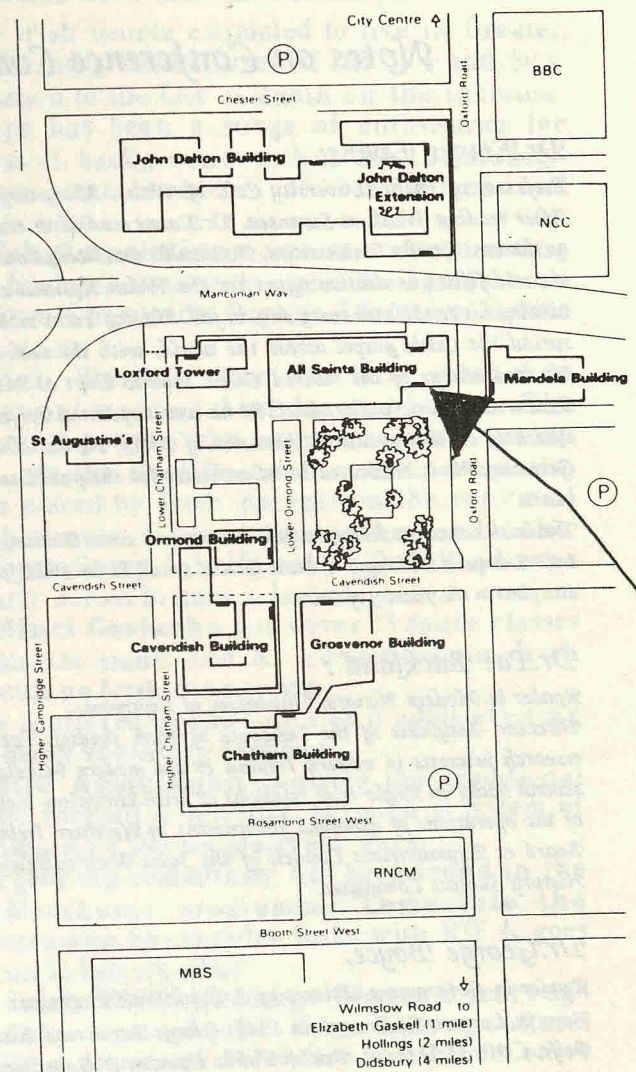
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## Notes on Conference Contributors

### *Dr. Emrys Evans:*

*Professor of Irish, University Coll. of Wales, Aberystwyth.*

*After reading Welsh at Swansea, Dr. Evans studied & taught in Ireland, at Belfast & at the two Dublin Universities. By then he was hooked on Irish, although he did time in the mid-fifties as election agent for the Welsh Nationalists in Gower, which involved visiting his candidates every day, in jail. Having learnt modern Irish from scratch, he has spread the Celtic gospel across the world, with the zeal of an early Irish missionary. He took charge of the revived Celtic Studies Dept at Manchester in 1960 & became Reader in Celtic Studies. In 1980 he was appointed Professor of Irish at Aber, and is currently on the executive committee of BAIS. He has also taught in Canada & West Germany. He is celebrated in Manchester for the public evening class he ran for many years.*

*The Irish course at Aberystwyth is unique: it covers Modern, Classical & Old Irish, Celtic & Indo-European Philology, & Scots Gaelic. It can be combined for joint honours with any other discipline in the Faculty of Arts.*

### *Dr. Pat Buckland :*

*Reader in Modern History, University of Liverpool.*

*Director-designate of the Institute of Irish Studies, Pat Buckland has teaching & research interests in modern Ireland & the modern Middle East. He is the author of several books on Anglo-Irish relations & Irish Unionism, including a critical examination of the operations of devolved government in Northern Ireland. He is a member of the Board & Examinations Council of the Joint Matriculation Board & is Chair of the History Subject Committee.*

### *Dr. George Boyce,*

*Reader in Government, University Coll. of Wales, Swansea:*

*Born in Lurgan, Co. Armagh in 1942, George Boyce read History at Queen's University, Belfast. His PhD thesis, British Public Opinion & Government Policy in Ireland, 1918-1922, was published in 1972. He has written on modern Irish History, inc. Irish Nationalism, the Literary Movement in the late 19th century, Northern Ireland, the Roman Catholic minority in the North, & Sir Edward Carson. He is shortly to publish a book on the Irish Question & British Politics 1868-1986. After 3 years in Oxford, George has lived & worked in Swansea since 1971, but still manages to return with his family to his favourite part of Co. Down every summer.*

We regret that information on our other speakers arrived too late for publication.

# The Irish in Manchester

Many of the 150,000 Irish people estimated to live in Greater Manchester arrived in the great influxes of the 50's and 60's although Irish immigration to the City is again on the increase. In recent years there has been a surge of enthusiasm for culture and awareness of background within the Community, most evident in the large numbers of associations and community groups now active.

**The Council of Irish Associations** acts as a co-ordinating force for almost all Irish groups with over 30 organisations affiliated ranging from Community Care to Education, Drama and the County associations.

**Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann** has 5 local branches promoting the teaching of traditional set dancing & music. The large number of young people who attend regular weekly classes reflects, not only the need for such a service, but also the high importance placed by Irish parents on the convivial arts. Many independent music & dance groups flourish besides, such as the Mayo Youth Group & St Malachy's Ceili Band, who both perform regularly across Britain & Ireland.

**An Coimisiun Le Rinci Gaelacha** runs over 35 dance classes in the region & attracts many 2nd & 3rd generation Irish alongside children with no Irish connection.

The Gaelic language is offered in the City's own adult evening classes as well as in many voluntary sessions.

**The Gaelic Athletic Association** controls the traditional Irish games of Gaelic Football & hurling through a system of local clubs involving some 1,500 people every week.

A voice for this burgeoning community has been found in the weekly BBC Radio Manchester programme "**Come into the Parlour**". The programme has regular links with RTE & goes live with New York on St Patrick's Day.

The opening of the **Irish World Heritage Centre** 2 years ago was the most visible sign of the Community's cultural resurgence. Literally a labour of voluntary love, the Centre plans this year to extend with a library, an educational resource centre and a theatre. There is of course a large network of parish & private clubs which provide Irish entertainment. Irish pubs too abound. Delegates to the Conference should have no difficulty in sampling the many delights which are a reflection of the thriving and vibrant Community here.



## John Rylands University Library of Manchester

The present library was the result of a merger, in 1972, between the Library of the University of Manchester and the John Rylands Library. The combination of one of the largest University libraries in the country, and a famous rare books library, created one of the most important research libraries in Great Britain.

The Deansgate Building now holds the combined manuscript and rare book collections of both the original John Rylands Library and the University. It is impossible to do justice to this internationally famous collection here, so only a few of the most important items of Irish interest are mentioned.

There are over 130 items in the Crawford Irish Manuscripts collection, perhaps the most interesting being a valuable 15th century medieval treatise written on vellum in the Irish language. This 'Materia Medica' discusses the nature & medicinal properties of herbs, & contains many fascinating scraps of folklore. This collection also includes many transcripts, by well-known 19th century scholars, of important early manuscripts such as volumes of Fenian tales, texts of poems, genealogies and collections of annals. These are of great scholastic interest as in many cases the original manuscripts no longer exist.

One of the Library's most beautiful, and precious, manuscripts is the Trier Psalter, dating from the latter half of the 9th century, once housed in the Abbey of St. Maximin in Trier. The illumination is in the 'Continental Celtic' style and bears witness to the influence of those Irish monks who bore the art of manuscript illumination as they spread Celtic Christianity & culture throughout Europe.

The Library's collection of Early Printed Books contains examples of the earliest printing in the Irish Language. There are copies of the first Irish New Testament (1602) & Old Testament (1685) as well as an Irish catechism printed by the Jesuits in Rome in 1678. There are also many early dictionaries and grammars, some of which come from the Strachan Collection, the private library of Professor John Strachan. This was presented to the University on his death in 1907 as a lasting tribute to one of the truly great Celtic scholars of the 19th century. In 1946 the Library purchased the Cassedy Collection, of the Celtologist and bibliographer James Cassedy. This contains over 1200 items, periodicals, newspapers, directories, almanacs and chapbooks. The books mainly date from the late 18th & early 19th centuries & include works of genealogy, local history, religion, Irish dictionaries, grammars & travels. There is a special section devoted to Patrick Lynch (1754-1818) the Secretary of the Gaelic Union of Dublin, as well as much important material relating to the various 19th century attempts to revive the Irish language.



*The papers of Annie Horniman (1860-1937) include correspondence relating to her work in the theatre, & there are volumes of newspaper cuttings relating to the Irish National Theatre. The Hugh Hunt Archive (located in the main library building) contains scripts, correspondence, production notes & cuttings on productions at the Abbey Theatre Dublin & elsewhere.*

*Finally, a recent acquisition has been the Tynan/Hinkson collection, still being catalogued. This consists of the personal library of the noted Irish poet, Katharine Tynan (1858-1931), with diaries, manuscripts & much of her personal correspondence. She was a leading member of the Irish Literary Revival & a well-known figure in Dublin Society, so the collection contains letters from such close friends as W.B. Yeats & George Russell (A.E.) as well as prominent contemporary figures including Douglas Hyde, George Bernard Shaw & Eva Gore-Booth.*

*The Main Library has a comprehensive & wide-ranging collection relating to all aspects of Irish Studies., built up over many years, by the efforts of the Celtic Studies Department & of other departments with interests in common (History, Archaeology, Linguistics, Theology etc.) This covers all aspects of Irish History, life & culture, reinforced by substantial periodical holdings, & a superb reference & information service.*

*Together, these 2 buildings contain 3,400,000 printed books, over 1,000,000 manuscripts & archival items & 750,000 titles in microform, as well as maps, photographs & slides. The Library acts very much as the research library of the region, & although the actual student population numbers 18,000 & the teaching staff 1,800, there are over 40,000 registered readers. For bona-fide researchers who are not members of the University & corporate institutions, the Library offers reference-only membership.*

*In honour of the Manchester Irish Festival the Library is mounting a special exhibition entitled 'Aspects of Ireland' from 7th March- 27th April, displaying in 32 cases a selection of books & manuscripts from the above-mentioned collections. This is being held in the Main Library building.*

*Although it is not usually open to the public, special arrangements have been made to admit those who wish to view this exhibition.*

*J.L.Wallwork*

*J.R.U.L.M.*

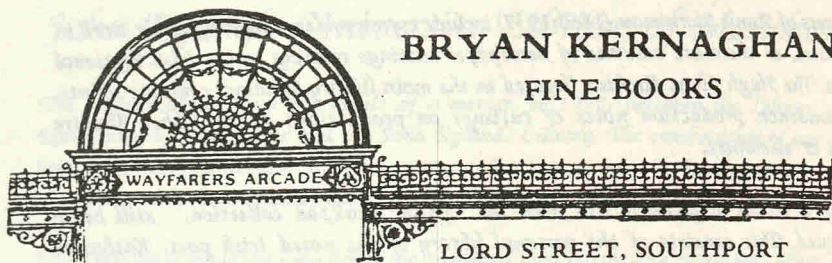


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## Celtic Studies in the University of Manchester

Celtic Studies in the fullest sense implies the study of the language, literature, folklore, law, art, palaeography, epigraphy, and archaeology of the Celtic peoples. The word Celtic is a linguistic term, like Germanic, Hispanic or Italic, that brings to mind Irish, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Breton, Cornish and Manx. But it is as well to remind ourselves that we in fact have written evidence of considerable antiquity for several continental Celtic languages: Gaulish (France), Lepontic (Northern Italy), Celtic-Iberian (North-east Spain) and Galatian (Turkey).

The Celtic languages have the oldest vernacular literatures north of the Alps and can thus lay claim to be among the earliest contributors to the development of western European culture and civilisation. It was the Celtic peoples of the Continent who carried the skills and crafts of the Iron Age throughout the length and breadth of Europe, and it is all too often overlooked that it was another Celtic people, the Irish, who first introduced the Anglo-Saxons to the art of writing and who were amongst the greatest exponents of manuscript illumination in early medieval times.

Of the ten languages listed above, four are still the daily speech of a surprisingly large number of people in Ireland, Wales, Scotland and Brittany, despite cultural and political pressures. Irish, along with English, is the official language of the political and educational administration in Ireland, and has also received a certain recognition in the EEC. Moreover there is a growing awareness of and interest in the languages and cultures of those countries whose long and unbroken traditions of literature and learning have their roots in the pre-Roman civilisations of Celtic Europe.

Although Irish language courses for undergraduates are not at present available, the department still offers postgraduate degrees by thesis for anyone interested in doing research into Irish Studies. Library facilities at the University, for research into the language, literature and history of the Celtic nations are exceptional.

Enquiries to:

Mrs. K.P. Williams, Department of Celtic Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Manchester, Manchester M13 9PP.

# Celtic Studies –



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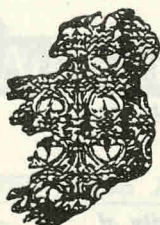
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**IRISH EDUCATION CONFERENCE, 19th March 1988**

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## SEMINAR DETAILS (Please tick)

The Irish Cultural Studies Pack (Ed. Tom Arkell;  
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Its use in a rural school: Speaker Teresa Quick and  
in inner-city schools: Les Hankin/Joe Flynn

☐

G.C.S.E. Irish Studies: opportunities for Irish Studies  
through the Modular Approach of G.C.S.E., esp in  
Manchester Modular Humanities & Leicester Modular  
Scheme: Speakers Chris Warn, Roger Swift, and  
Nessan Danaher

☐

Irish Studies in the 6th Form: A look at A/S in Irish  
History & Literature. Speaker: George Boyce

☐

Irish Language Examinations New courses at G.C.S.E.  
& Institute of Linguists. Speaker: Siobhan Ui Neill

☐

The New Irish Studies Institute, University of Liverpool  
Speaker: Pat Buckland

☐

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