

B.A.I.S. HIGHER EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Report

The best way forward for the HESC in the near future is, I think:

1. To act as a publiciser and propagandist for Irish Studies in British Universities.
2. To promote publications which advance the subject area and which (hopefully) will earn some money for B.A.I.S.

1. I am thinking here of a guide to Irish Studies in British Universities. I have most, if not all, of the relevant information; but I need advice on the best means of publishing this information. We must keep the cost as low as possible. I could ask our own Students' Union publishing section for an estimate. But I need some technical advice.

2. I have in mind two projects here:

(i) A series of B.A.I.S. sponsored pamphlets on modern history and modern literature (these are chosen on the basis of academic significance and also popular appeal.

I have written to 8 publishers. Two have so far replied: Sage Publishers say no; Harper-Collins do not want to take this up themselves, but recommend an 'in-house' publication programme marketing through the Specialist Journals. Alternatively, they suggest that we could put together two books, and direct these at the smaller, specialist houses. We should discuss these alternatives.

(ii) A company called Microform are interested in making microfilms of research material relating to Ireland. They publish a catalogue of these, which has the B.A.I.S. name on it; the Company bears the cost of microfilming etc., and the B.A.I.S. would get a royalty payment on the sale of the title.

I had two telephone conversations with them. We need to nominate a general editor to supervise all publishing activity. The General Editor selects specialist editors for each title.

I feel strongly that we should pursue this initiative.

D. G. Boyce.