

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE OF BAIS

Since the last meeting of the Executive I have conducted the day-to-day administration of the Association, and made the arrangements for two Officers' meetings and one meeting concerned with fundraising. I also completed the arrangements for the third series of 6th form history conferences in Northern Ireland and supervised the conduct of those conferences.

One bulk post has been distributed from the BAIS office containing the ILS and the report of the Soar Valley Conference. The cost of this will be partly met through the income from the distribution of leaflets for USIT. A number of advertisements have been secured for the Newsletter. The Association should aim to defray the costs of publications such as the Newsletter and the Survey of Irish Studies, as well as the cost of bulk mailouts, as far as possible, by such means.

In consultation with the Honorary Secretary and the Treasurer, I have drawn up recommendations designed secure the existence of the Association through a difficult financial period. These have been accepted by the Officers. If accepted by the Executive, they will require either the termination of my employment by the Association or the renegotiation of the terms and conditions of that employment.

My commitment to Irish Studies predates both my membership of BAIS and my employment by the Association. I have not achieved all that I would wish to have achieved in the three years since my appointment as Executive Secretary (then becoming Executive Director). However, during that period I have sought to administer the affairs of the Association to the best of my ability, within the limits of the resources available to me. I have also argued very strongly for a number of positions which I believe to be important in relation to the longerterm development of the Association. Among these are the need for (i) a structured approach to fundraising, (ii) a functioning system of subcommittees, (iii) a broad and inclusive strategy in terms of the Association's relationship to individual institutions and its involvement with initiatives relevant to the needs of different levels of the education system.

It is clear, also, that greater participation by the membership is required; and the Association needs to look to strategies to bring this about.

It is only by tackling these issues successfully that the Association can hope to continue to function in its present form. In terms of activities, I reiterate my own belief that the Association needs to (i) to streamline services to members in terms of bulletins, newsletters, etc., and (ii) identify one or two activities which each functioning or putative subcommittee can offer within the next year, which meet the terms of the criteria contained in my paper to the last meeting of the Executive.