
British Association for Irish Studies

NEWSLETTER

May 1989

In March the Association ran an initial series of Sixth Form History Revision Conferences in Northern Ireland. The period of Irish history chosen was 1912-1925 and the feedback from these conferences has been most satisfactory. In March, also, the first candidates - from Birmingham, Coventry, Leeds, London and Wolverhampton - took the Irish language examinations which have been developed by BAIS in co-operation with the Institute of Linguists. On 3 May, at the Irish Embassy in London, the institution of three BAIS/GAEL-LINN scholarships was announced. These are designed to send adult learners of Irish, resident in Great Britain, on a fortnight's course in a Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area). At the moment we are also associated with Bórd Fáilte Éireann and Leicester Irish Society in the promotion of an essay competition for undergraduates on the theme "Understanding Ireland".

In addition to the sponsorship of £50,000 a year for three years which BAIS received from the Allied Irish Bank in February to support the posts of Executive Director of BAIS and AIB Director of the Joint Education Programme, BAIS has recently received a grant of £8,500 from the American Ireland Fund to assist with the organisational and fundraising work of the Association.

BAIS has recently acquired two new patrons: Dr Niall Crowley and Dr A J F O'Reilly.

In February the Sixth National Conference on Irish Dimensions in British Education took place at Soar Valley College, Leicester. This conference, organised by Nesson Danaher and financially supported by BAIS, was among the best of the six Irish Studies conferences to have been held at Soar Valley.

In-service training for teachers continues under the Joint Education Programme which we share with the Institute of Irish Studies at the University of Liverpool. On 18 March a day-conference took place at the Institute for Irish Studies, Liverpool University, on the theme "Separation or Integration? The Irish in British Society 1815-1914". On 10 June a day-conference, "Introducing Irish Studies for 9-13 Year Olds", takes place at St Mary's R C Middle School, Grange Road, Northampton. This conference will involve teachers from the school, HMIs and LEA Teacher/Advisers, and it is important that it is well supported. A publicity leaflet is included with this post. Please register quickly if you wish to attend.

Events

"ACROSS THE IRISH SEA" by Pam Schweitzer, for Age Exchange Theatre. Research by Maxine O'Reilly and Pam Schweitzer. This new musical show is based on the reminiscences of Irish pensioners now living in London. It traces the story in their own words and in the songs they remember, of their childhood and

youth in Ireland, of their decision to cross the water, and of how they fared finding work and homes over here. All the interviews have been transcribed for inclusion in a publication also called Across the Irish Sea which is available at every performance of the show and also from Age Exchange, 11 Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LA. Remaining performances as follows:

16 May	8.00 p.m.	Milton Keynes Irish Club	0908-503331
17 May	2.30 p.m.	Clock House Community Centre	
		Woolwich, London SE18	01-855-7188
	8.00 p.m.	Grefta, Woolwich	01-854-2517
18 May	8.00 p.m.	Liverpool Trade Union Centre	051-7093995
19 May	2.30 p.m.	Liverpool Irish Centre	051-7094120
	8.00 p.m.	Runcorn Library	0428-715351
20 May	7.30 p.m.	Old Trafford Community Centre	
		Manchester	061-4348666
21 May	2.00 p.m.	Irish Centre, Manchester	061-2734511

THE FRENCH SOCIETY OF IRISH STUDIES (SOFEIRI) is organising a symposium "Ireland and the French Revolution" to take place in Paris, 25-27 May. Papers include: "Regard d'Edmund Burke sur la Révolution Française", "Les Régiments irlandais et la Révolution, 1789-1799", "L'épouvantail de la Révolution: "The Croppy, a tale of 1798" de Michael Banim", "L'expédition d'Irlande de 1796", "The French Revolution and Ulster". Details from Dr Pierre Joannon, 152 Bd J F Kennedy, 06600 Antibes, France (Tel.: 93 61 50 73).

THE XIXth IRISH CONFERENCE OF HISTORIANS takes place at Trinity College, Dublin, 8 - 10 June 1989. Papers include "History as a scholarly discipline and magistra vitae" by Ivan Berend, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, "Genealogies of Nationalism in twentieth century England", by Stefan Collini, Clare Hall, Cambridge, "1798: The tedium of history", by W J McCormack, and "The first century of the Reformation - success or failure? A historiographical debate", by Geoffrey Parker, University of Illinois. Details from Dr Ciaran Brady, Modern History, Trinity College, Dublin 2. Closing dates for applications: 30 May 1989.

Siobhán Uí Néill has asked me to mention that there will be a Dianchúrsa (INTENSIVE COURSE) IN THE IRISH LANGUAGE at the John Harvard Centre, Morley College, Union Street, London SE1, on 19-23 June. This course is suitable for beginners or for people whose Irish is "rusty". For further information, please ring 01-928-4601 or 01-928-6746.

Irish Local History Project: THE IRISH COMMUNITY IN NORTH LAMBETH AND NORTH SOUTHWARK - C19 to present day. 21 June - 14 July at Morley Gallery, King Edward Walk, London SE1, a series of events including exhibitions, audio tapes and workshops. Themes include: "Irish parents and British born children", "Irish pensioners speak", "An Ghaeilge (the Irish language)", "Irish women in London". Further information from: Cass Breen, Liz Mellon (01-928-8501 x 154) or Morley College Community Education Department, King Edward Walk, London SE1.

THE SECOND JOHN HEWITT INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL 1989 takes place 31 July - 7 August at St Mac Nissi's College, Garron Tower, Co Antrim. "Roots and Horizons" is the theme of this year's conference which will explore aspects of John Hewitt's interest in Regionalism, as well as discussing cultural and political topics arising out of that interest. Contributors to the conference include Paul Arthur, Gerald Dawe, Mary Beckett, Tom Nairn and George Watson. Details and registration forms available from: The Director, John Hewitt International Summer School, The Post Office, Carnlough, Co Antrim. Telephone contacts: 0504-265621 x 5305, 0266-656773.

THE BIENNIAL IRISH STUDIES CONFERENCE OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES will take place at the University of Liverpool, 8-10 September. Full programme available shortly. Information from local conference secretary: Mr Harvey Cox, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, PO Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX (Tel.: 051-749-3831).

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION FOR RESEARCH IN WOMEN'S HISTORY will hold its first annual conference in Belfast in September 1989. Details from Dr Mary O'Dowd, Department of Modern History, The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland (Tel.: 245133 x 3423/3424).

Publications

BAIS Newsletter: The Newsletter Editor has asked for the following to be published: "After discussion at the AGM and an executive committee meeting it has been decided that the publication dates of the Association Newsletter should be altered so that members receive a better spread of publications throughout the year. From this year the Newsletter will appear in June and December. The deadlines for the two issues are 1 May and 1 November respectively. The Newsletter exists to provide members with information and to provide a forum for members. Any member who wishes to publicise Irish Studies related events for members or to put forward ideas for discussion should supply the editor with information by the appropriate date. The editor apologises to anyone who has recently written to him and has not yet received a reply." (Occasional duplicated newsletters are issued in the intervals between Newsletters. Events, publications, etc., will be advertised in this where possible.)

HISTORY WORKSHOP JOURNAL Irish issue - call for papers: Issue 30 will focus on the exploration of Irish themes. As well as articles which deal with the central concerns of land, national identity and religion, the editors invite submission of work on some of the less examined areas of Irish life, including minority cultures in Ireland, women's history and the Irish abroad. Contributors are asked to note the guidelines printed in the inside back cover of HWJ. Correspondence for this issue should be addressed to 73 Balfour Street, London SE17 1PL.