



## BAIS Newsletter

December 1989

A full report on the work and progress of the Association will appear in the printed Newsletter, which will appear early in 1990.

### BAIS LECTURES

Previous series having been given in London and Liverpool, the BAIS Lectures now move to Manchester, where the third series will be given between 2 February and 16 March 1990. The general title of this series will be "Ireland: Past and Present". The following programme has been arranged: 2 February, Frank Harte, "Songs of the People: the Expression of the Irish People in their Songs"; 9 February, Marianne Elliott, "Tone and the Idea of an Irish Republic"; 16 February, Archbishop R H A Eames, "Irish Anglicanism: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow"; 23 February, David Hill, "An t-Slighe Mhór: the Great Road from Galway Bay to Dublin 800-1987"; 2 March, Brendan Mac Lua, "The Irish in Britain"; 9 March, James Milroy, "The English Language in Ireland"; 16 March, Open Evening: Viewing of Some of the Irish Treasures of the John Rylands University Library / Ceilidh.

Lectures will take place at 7.30 p.m. in the Muriel Stott Conference Centre at the John Rylands University Library, Oxford Road site. The Open Evening on 16 March will take place at the Deansgate Building of the Library at 7.00 p.m.

The series will be run in association with the John Rylands University Library of Manchester. The thanks of the Association are due to George Watson, of the Executive, and Janet Wallwork, of the John Rylands University Library and the Manchester Irish Education Group, who set up the programme.

### MEMBERSHIP

Those members whose subscriptions are now overdue will receive a reminder with this post. It will be appreciated if the members in question renew promptly by sending the appropriate sum to the Treasurer.

Members who are based in institutions can assist the Association greatly by persuading their institutions to take out Corporate Membership. Every such subscription taken out will assist the finances of the Association. If you are in a position to do so, please encourage your institution to take out such a subscription.

### EVENTS

Cumann Merriman - An Scoil Gheimhridh (Winter School): West County Inn, Ennis, Co Clare, 2-4 February 1990, "Dónall Mac

Amhlaigh, 1926-1989". (Irish language event) Information: Máire Ní Mhurchú, Rúnaí, 6 Cúirt Aravon, Bré, Co Cill Mantáin (Fón: 0001-869305).

Irish Dimensions in British Education - 7th National Conference, Saturday 10 February 1990 - brochure included with this post.

Association of Art Historians - Sixteenth Annual Conference: Trinity College, Dublin, 23-26 March 1990, "Regionalism: Challenging the Canon". Information: Fintan Cullen, Conference Organiser, Department of the History of Art, Trinity College, University of Dublin 2 (Tel: 0001-772941 x 1012/1995).

The Irish Association for Research in Women's History held its first annual conference at Queen's University, Belfast, in September. Contact: Dr Mary O'Dowd, Department of Modern History, The Queen's University of Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN.

#### PUBLICATIONS

Pam Schweitzer, Across the Irish Sea (London, Age Exchange Theatre Trust, 1989) ISBN 0-947860-12-6. This is a book based on memories of London Irish pensioners and produced in conjunction with Age Exchange's theatre production of a musical play of the same name. No price stated.

Britain and Ireland (ILEA Learning Resources Branch, 1989) ISBN 0-7085-9825-0: an information book, a teacher's book and a work book on the relationship between Britain and Ireland from the seventeenth century to the present day - will be reviewed in the printed Newsletter.

Irish Heritage/Oidhreacht Ghaelach, Autumn 1989 - The Independent magazine of Manchester Irish Education Group and The World Irish Heritage Centre. Published quarterly; 60p per issue; subscription: £3.80 p.a. UK; £4.80 p.a. overseas. Current issue has a Christmas quiz for £20 book-token prize. Contact: Irish Heritage Magazine, Irish World Heritage Centre, 10 Queens Road, Cheetham Hill, Manchester M8 8UQ.

James Joyce Broadsheet, no 29 June 1989. Subscription: £5.00 p.a. (£4 students) throughout Europe; £6.00/\$12 p.a. (£5.00/\$10 students) overseas (airmail). Contact: The Editors, James Joyce Broadsheet, The School of English, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, England.

Netword News, no 6, Autumn 1989. This magazine, for those teaching a language in Adult Education, is distributed free to Adult Education Centres. The current issue carries an article by Kate Thompson, Convenor of the BAIS Adult Education Advisory Subcommittee, on the teaching of Irish to adults in the United Kingdom. Contact: Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research, Regent's College, Inner Circle, London NW1 4NS.

## THEATRE GROUPS

Armagh Rhymers are based in Co Armagh and are a Theatre in Education Group receiving support and encouragement from Education and Library Boards, Northern Ireland Arts Council, Town Councils throughout Northern Ireland and the National Trust. Their aim is to revive traditional games, dances and songs. They have performed in Great Britain and in the USA. Among their plays are "All Silver and No Brass" (A Mummers' Play), "Táin Bó Cuailnge" and "The Turnip" (Irish-language and English versions). Contact: Armagh Rhymers Workers' Co-Operative, 76 Meadowbank, Craigavon BT65 5AB (Tel: (0762-344350)

Electric Theatre Company is a Theatre in Education Group. They have two plays, "Where's Your Daddy Gone: The Conflict in Ireland" and "Homeland" on the Arab/Israeli conflict. "As the presentation unfolds, so the ambiguities increase...leaving nobody in any doubt that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is not the black-and-white issue they may have thought it was. The accompanying teachers' resource pack...further reinforce[s] this." (From a review of "Homeland" in the TES.) Contact: Electric theatre Company, 21 Slagrove Place, London SE13 7HT (Tel: 01-690 6164).

Lynx Theatre and Poetry was formed in 1987 to take plays and poetry to schools. They have presented two plays: "Sylvia", a dramatisation of the life of Sylvia Pankhurst, and "Rebels and friends", a play about Constance Markievicz and Eva Gore-Booth. Contact: Lynx, 1 Queen's Gate Villas, Victoria Park Road, Hackney, London E9 7BU (Tel: 01-986 5477).

## AUDIO-VISUAL

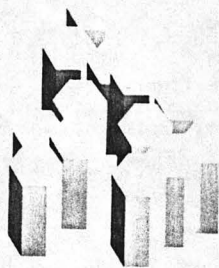
"A Feast of Irish Set Dances" (50 minutes), with an accompanying booklet, £19.95. Contact: Oileán Productions, 19 Temple Lawns, Celbridge, Co Kildare (Tel: 0001-272274).

"The Irishmen: An Impression of Exile", a film on video, (50 minutes) by Seamus Ennis and Philip Donnellan, "which shares the life of the working Irish in Britain and celebrates their strength, skills, and their contribution to the building of this island." On VHS/Beta £15 incl. VAT, packing and postage. Contact: FORUM TV (The Irishmen offer), 11 Regent St, Clifton, Bristol BS8 4HW.

With best wishes to all members for 1990!

Autumn 1989

BAIS Chairwoman, Ruth Dudley Edwards, and Dr Niall Crowley, retiring Chairman of Allied Irish Bank, pictured at the reception to announce the appointment of the AIB Director of the Joint Education Programme at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool earlier this year.



# IRELAND FROM ALL ANGLES

**T**he rich heritage of Ireland - its culture, history and people - are being promoted by an independent organisation founded three years ago to highlight the value of Irish studies. The British Association for Irish Studies has no political allegiance, is non-sectarian and has quickly gained status through the patronage of many notable people in business, the Arts and education.

From its offices in London's West End - courtesy of the Rowntree Trust - the association seeks to persuade those in all areas of education to develop courses in Irish studies. Seán Hutton, who came to Britain in the 1960s and has a background in teaching as well as being a writer in the Irish language, is full-time executive director for BAIS.

Other prominent professionals supporting the association include Chairwoman, Ruth Dudley Edwards - the biographer and historian; businesswoman Detta O' Cathain; Seamus Heaney, Professor of poetry at Oxford University; the historian Robert Kee and retiring chairman of Allied Irish Bank, Dr Niall Crowley. Government Ministers from Britain and Ireland, as well as the Irish Ambassador in

London, have also attended functions organised to promote BAIS.

As part of its education programme, BAIS has held several conferences for sixthformers in Northern Ireland in conjunction with the province's education department. The conferences, which included students from all religious backgrounds, were hailed as a great success, addressing difficult chapters in Ireland's history, particularly the period 1912-1923. With sufficient funding, it is planned to repeat the conferences next Spring.

Liverpool University and the Polytechnic of North London are the first British seats of higher education to offer a degree course in Irish studies with another subject, to be followed in 1990 by St. Mary's College, Twickenham. "Higher education is a very important part of our strategy in promoting Irish studies. Our research has shown that there is a lot of interest from people of many nationalities - not necessarily those with Irish connections," said Seán Hutton.

At the schools level, BAIS is involved in the Joint Education Programme with Liverpool University which has set up 'A' level courses in Irish modern history and is working on a

syllabus for a GCSE in the Irish language and Irish studies. Training for primary and secondary teachers is provided under the Joint Education Programme, and BAIS has developed a series of Irish language examinations in conjunction with the Institute of Linguists for adult education classes.

BAIS produces a twice-yearly newsletter and publishes a survey of Irish studies in Britain, as well as organising conferences, seminars and public lectures. If you would like to join BAIS, or can help in raising funds to support any of its projects, please contact Seán Hutton at BAIS, 9 Poland Street, London W1V 3DG, telephone 01- 439 3043.

● Allied Irish Bank is the founding corporate patron of BAIS. This summer Dr Roger Swift was appointed AIB Director of the Joint Education Programme at Liverpool University, which was announced before an audience of representatives from the teaching profession at a reception at the Tate Gallery in Liverpool. Dr Swift is one of the leading scholars on the history of the Irish in Britain.