

# British Association for Irish Studies *Newsletter*



- Education and the BAIS
- Festival of New Irish Cinema
- Research Initiative on the Irish Community in Britain
- Adult and Postgraduate Courses
- Green Ink Book Fair

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## **Next Issue: January 1995**

**Deadline for material to editor: Friday October 14th 1994**

- Conference and Summer School 1994 Reports
- The European Federation of Irish Associations and Centres of Irish Studies
- Homosexual Law Reform in Ireland and Britain compared
- Details of the BAIS Biennial Conference

### **NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS**

Eleanor Burgess is the BAIS Conference Organiser and Editor of the Butler Society's Journal;

Donald Cape is of the Secretariat of Encounter;

Maureen Carter works as a conference organiser and is the convenor of the BAIS Standing Committee on Fund Raising;

Anthony Coughlan is a Senior Lecturer in Social Policy, TCD;

Nessan Danaher is a teacher, a PhD student and organiser of Irish Studies courses at Soar Valley College;

Tom Dooley is a Senior Lecturer in Business Studies at Ealing Tertiary College and the Treasurer of BAIS;

Seán Hutton is Co-ordinator of the Federation of Irish Societies and Chair of BAIS;

Jim McAuley is Sociologist at the University of Huddersfield and BAIS Secretary;

Jim McCool is a Research Assistant at the University of North London;

Tina O'Toole is a recent graduate in Women's Studies at University College Dublin;

Lance Pettitt is a Lecturer in Irish Studies at St. Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill;

Pat Ryce is a graduate of Irish Studies and now a Research Officer at the Centre for Irish Studies at St. Mary's University College;

Kate Thompson is an Irish language teacher and convenor of the BAIS Standing Committee on Language and Culture;

John Woodhurst is a lecturer at Newark and Sherwood College, Nottingham, and convenor of the BAIS Standing Committee on Education.

**Photo Credits:** Green Ink Book Fair, Sass Tuffin, 77 Mount Pleasant Road, Lewisham, London SE13 6RG. Tel: 081-690-5062;

United International Pictures for *In the Name of the Father* and First City for *High Boot Benny*. These were supplied by Ros Scanlon.

Bullán launch, thanks to Paul Gribben at *The Irish Post*.

## Chair's Report

I wish, at the outset, to thank Lance Pettitt on behalf of the Council and the membership of the Association for his work in producing this issue of the BAIS *Newsletter*, and to thank all those who have submitted material for this upgraded issue of what we hope will become an increasingly valuable source of news and information for the membership on developments in Irish Studies.

Since the new Council took office, we have given much thought to ways in which the Standing Committees can deliver a worthwhile service to the membership, while effectively promoting the objectives of BAIS. Some of the outcomes of this process are contained in the reports which follow. The *Newsletter* will clearly be one element in this package. As will be clear also, the £4,000 allocated by a previous Executive to the foundation of *Irish Studies Review* has borne fruit in the shape of a lively, independently edited and managed magazine. The fact that this will now appear four times a year means that its distribution free to members of the Association is a valuable benefit of membership.

The BAIS Biennial Irish Studies Conference has been a feature of the Association's activities since its inception. Eleanor Burgess, co-ordinator of the Conference and Culture Committee, and her committee are already beginning to make arrangements for 1995. Members of the Council are considering ways of making the event more attractive to a greater number of people: among the suggestions which have been made is that of abandoning the single-strand format for one involving a number of parallel strands. This would allow us to give greater representation to the different subject areas within Irish Studies. Members of the Association will receive preliminary information on the 1995 Conference from Eleanor following the June meeting of the Council.

Each year the Association looks to members in a particular locality to host a series of BAIS lectures. Previous series have been held in Bath, Liverpool, London and Manchester, and have been held in conjunction with a variety of local institutions and

societies, eg, Bath College of Higher Education, Manchester Irish Education Group. Each series offers a local service to members and serves to raise the profile of Irish Studies and the Association. Offers to host a series should be conveyed to Eleanor.

A primary objective of the Association is the promotion and support of Irish Studies within the education system of the United Kingdom. The BAIS Education Committee has an important role to play in developing strategies in this area. John Woodhurst, co-ordinator of the Committee, has produced a valuable paper for this issue of the *Newsletter* which discusses a number of possible lines of development. The paper is set out as a discussion document, and, as John has made clear, we would very much welcome the comments of the membership on his proposals.

We attach considerable importance to Irish Studies representation within the curriculum as a means of

- a) promoting a greater understanding among the general population of historic and contemporary relationships between Britain and Ireland, and of the experiences of Irish people in Britain and of their positive contribution to British society, and
- b) making available to those many Irish people and people of Irish descent in Britain an appreciation of the Irish element in their cultural heritage.

We have formulated a major project focused on the promotion of Irish Studies in the compulsory and further education sectors, for which funding will be sought.

The work of the Association's Irish Language Committee, co-ordinated by Kate Thompson, is directed towards teachers of the Irish language through the organisation of day-courses and the production of a regular newsletter. The recognition earned by this work has drawn financial support from agencies in Ireland and Europe and the Committee has been able to

attract sufficient funding through grants and contributions to make its work self-financing. Go raibh míle maith agat, a Chaít, duit féin agus dod' chuntóirí thar ceann BAIS as an obair seo!

Funding must be a major concern of the Association at the present time, as our Treasurer, Tom Dooley, makes clear in his report. Tom has already contributed greatly to the planning process with the Association, having consulted on, and drawn up, an impressive but realistic business plan for the Association. Issues around recruitment and retention of membership are also being prioritised by Council. A revised brochure will soon be available and we would ask you to assist Val Smith and the Membership Committee by requesting a supply of brochures from Val and by distributing them to interested colleagues and friends at conferences which you attend.

We hope that you enjoy this edition of BAIS *Newsletter* and find it useful; and that you will contribute to its success by responding to Lance's request for material for future issues. We hope also that you will respond to the various requests which are made in this and the reports which follow - and which will be made in the future - for your opinions on proposed developments for your participation in the activities of the Association. Finally, I would like, on behalf of the Association, to welcome the recent successful launch in Oxford of the Irish Studies magazine *Bullán* and the impending formation of a European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies, which will be inaugurated in Paris in July.

*Seán Hutton*

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## Treasurer's Report

BAIS, like other charitable organisations with which it has to compete for funds, has not escaped the consequences of recession. We cherish our members, but in striving to achieve our aims and objectives, membership subscriptions alone cannot finance the Association's activities. Survival depends on its ability to attract funds and manage its finances prudently.

As part of our plan to save costs, we have vacated our central office in the Docklands Enterprise Centre. With the adoption of the new constitution, business previously done centrally will be spread among the standing committees.

However, committee members are dispersed nationally, and there are, therefore, temporary liaison difficulties between the finance and the membership committees. This has given rise to some problems in processing membership applications, and in dealing with membership enquiries, but please bear with us - they will be solved! It will take a little time before mechanisms for dealing with Association business are in place and running smoothly.

Other cost-cutting measures will include reducing the cost of council meetings.

Much more challenging than cost-cutting is the need for fund-raising. The Irish government has promised us a grant of approximately £18,000 conditional upon the receipt of a detailed and acceptable business plan. The plan has already been submitted, and we await Dublin's final decision.

Members of the finance committee are busy putting a fund raising strategy into place. Maureen Carter is very much involved in creating the fund-raising group envisaged in the new constitution, and Val Smith is working on a marketing plan.

Everything will be done to keep the full membership subscription pegged at the current £18, but it may be necessary to increase the unwaged subscription (currently £7.50).

In conclusion, if any member has any ideas how to raise funds, would like to make a donation to the Association, or wants to contribute in any way to our fund-raising efforts, I would very much like to hear from you.

*Tom Dooley*

## The Irish Language

After an active and rewarding year for Irish Language teaching in 1993, there was a lull at the start of 1994. More new classes were set up and social activities continued to thrive. Requests for information about examinations increased as more candidates decided to enter for them.

In February a grant of ECU8249 was granted by "LINGUA" to fund the attendance of ten teachers at the intensive course in Glencolmille, Co. Donegal. This refresher course lasts a fortnight and updates teaching skills and familiarises those present with new resources available for Irish language teaching. The benefit to teachers and to learners is very important and gives encouragement to all concerned.

An excellent workshop on language teaching was presented by Liam O Cuinneagain of "Oideas Gael" at the recent Irish Studies Conference at Soar Valley College, Leicester. A team from Telegael in Spiddal were also there to demonstrate new videos in Irish which they produce for RTE.

Plans are afoot for another Language and Culture Conference in Coventry on the 15th/16th October. The next newsletter will be distributed in May and will contain details of the weekend.

*Kate Thompson*

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## EDUCATION AND THE BAIS

### An Outline of Proposed Work

The BAIS Education Standing Committee has this year taken over from three former committees - Higher, Further/Continuing, and Compulsory - so the work of the new committee is by definition substantial. This, coupled with the expressed view of the BAIS Council that more emphasis should be placed in future on developments in the secondary and further/continuing sectors, means that clear aims and objectives need to be defined for the standing committee in order to ensure its effective working. Outlined here are some of the issues which the committee needs to address.

Within the further/continuing sector the development of a standard Irish Studies syllabus/curriculum sufficiently flexible to cope with the needs of a wider audience - first and second generation Irish, English with an interest in things Irish, different age backgrounds and educational attainments and expectations - seems to be of paramount importance. Various Irish Studies

classes currently operate around the country in a range of delivery styles - some incorporate a series of expert speakers on specialist topics; others focus on particular areas, eg, history, literature, politics.

Attempts have also been made in various institutions to develop an Irish Studies type syllabus eg, via Open College Networks around the country (especially Leicester, Manchester and Liverpool), and also via the Royal Society of Arts. We have also seen the advent of the A/AS level in Irish History, though this by definition is perhaps a little too 'academic' and specialist in subject content to serve the purposes of a broader audience. Other interesting developments which need to inform discussion around this area include the potential impact of developing Access Irish Studies courses (eg, at the University of North London), and the modularisation of Irish Studies degree courses (eg, at the University of Liverpool and at St. Mary's University College).

The potential market at the further/continuing level spans:

- people who just enjoy listening to speakers on aspects of Irish Studies;
- those who would like to get some accreditation in addition to a), providing it was not of a too formal nature;
- those who might wish to gain accreditation out of interest and to further their general education;
- those wishing to apply specifically for Irish Studies courses at the higher education level.

How the various strands of the Irish Studies movement outlined above, which have developed in a fairly haphazard and uncoordinated way, are pulled together to create a coherent syllabus/curriculum which meets the needs of such a diverse market is a major task ahead for the committee. Rigour at the level of curriculum/syllabus needs to be tempered so as not to lose the best of the more traditional "informal" Irish Studies sessions.

In addition the implications for resources, materials, texts, study packs etc. are enormous, and a focused curriculum might well also provide a stimulus for developments in these areas.

At the secondary level there is an urgent need to identify opportunities within the National Curriculum, especially at Key Stages 3 and 4, for developing an Irish Studies perspective. History, geography and related disciplines perhaps lend themselves most readily to the identification of themes which could enhance an Irish context to the curriculum. Nessian Danaher has already carried out some work on this at Soar Valley College in Leicester, and it is important that an Irish dimension should where possible be encouraged to develop. However work on the National Curriculum by the committee should not perhaps be over emphasised for two main reasons:

- 1) opportunities for developing Irish themes may well become more restricted given the curtailment of time spent on such subjects as history and geography (especially at Key Stage 4 leading to GCSE);

- 2) the pressures placed on secondary teachers in delivering the National Curriculum make it extremely difficult to find time to explore such developments.

It may well be that a focus for the BAIS Education Standing Committee at the secondary level might well be in developing a checklist of appropriate themes and relevant materials which could be cross-matched with the National Curriculum. This might possibly lead on to linking with a publisher to produce a 'catch-all' handbook at this level. One possible model might be the award-winning 'Discovering Welsh History' from Oxford University Press which links to Stage 3 of the National Curriculum.

To sum up then in terms of some working aims and objectives for the Education Standing Committee:

- 1) at the further/continuing level, a nationally established Irish Studies certificate/diploma accredited by one of the major examining boards;
- 2) at the secondary level the development of a handbook of Irish Studies themes, ideas and materials for linkage with the National Curriculum, possibly in conjunction with an educational publisher.

It is essential that developments take place in these directions if Irish Studies is to offer a more coherent profile in the increasing harsh world of vocationally-led education. It would also provide a focus for developing a progressive structure for Irish Studies education from secondary/compulsory/National Curriculum through certificated Irish Studies at further/continuing level to Access courses and Irish Studies at degree level and beyond.

However, a Standing Committee of five members meeting irregularly and at long intervals is not capable alone of proceeding without the help of expertise within the BAIS membership. If you feel you have something to offer the committee in terms of ideas, experience, etc. please do not hesitate to contact me at the address printed at the back of the *Newsletter*.

Two final points:

- 1) With regard to higher education it is important to remember that because the membership of BAIS remains disproportionately from this sector, the Association offers an important networking system for developing and exchanging information at this level. Whilst the remit of the Education Standing Committee has slightly changed, higher education will continue to play an important role, especially given the make-up of the membership of the committee (see inside back cover).
- 2) Next year represents the 150th anniversary of the Great Famine. Commemorative events will be held in both Ireland and Britain, and it is the intention of the committee to develop an educational initiative at a national level to ensure that the events and lessons of 150 years ago are brought to new generations. Ideas are currently being considered and discussed, and it is hoped to report on developments in this area in the next *Newsletter*.

John Woodhurst

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## Gendered Narratives: 'Aspects of Irish Cultural Identity'

Magee College, University of Ulster, March 25-27th

*'Feminism is a category which we have all come under, but we're from an incredible range of disciplines.'*

Thus, E. Ann Kaplan opened her keynote speech to the conference which took place at Magee College in Derry from 25th-27th March. The conference gathered speakers from a wide range of disciplines and locations, not to mention cultural identities. Mary Robinson, in her opening speech to the conference, stressed the importance of pluralising notions of identity and the value of bringing narratives from different sites together in this way. She spoke of receiving Peruvian women at the Aras, commenting on their confidence in telling their own stories. This later underlined the need for work such as that of Clodagh Harvey (Queen's University), who examined women's role in Irish oral culture. She noted the lack of confidence exhibited in the telling of their tales, told in private to women-only audiences, and often lost or ignored by collectors.

E. Ann Kaplan's paper dealt with representations of motherhood in dominant cinema. She spoke of

the way in which the mother's centrality has been displaced in the recent spate of 'cult of the father' films, and even replaced by the foetus itself in films such as *Look Who's Talking*. Similar issues were analysed, albeit not on-screen this time, by Ruth Fletcher (UCC) in a paper entitled *Silences: Irish Women and Abortion* and Jeanette Boyne (UCD) with *Of Motherhood and Madness* which dealt with the Joanne Hayes case. Jackie Morrissey (UCD) considered obstetrics morality in Ireland 1850-1922, discovering that women had been excluded from all debates about obstetrics. More punitive still were the views expressed by those such as J M Harty in 1908 that the mother's life must always be sacrificed in favour of the child.

Moving onto the realm of broadcasting, Barbara O'Connor (DCU) questioned the construction of national identities within a state. Examining the formation of the Irish Free State and the development of the broadcast media at the same

time, she traced the progress of these strands of cultural construction in tandem. An example of the process of cultural construction by the media, she suggests, is the role recently played by televised soccer in the definition of national unity.

Sarah Edge (University of Ulster) discussed Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game* in a paper entitled 'Gender Disorder', asking how free is Jordan's text from traditional representations of women? Using Jude as an example, she illustrated the threat to the paternal order posed by women who kill. Noel McLaughlin, positing Daniel O'Donnell as an example of how-not-to-be-a-rock-icon, provided a roller-coaster ride through all the major rock poses (and posers) of contemporary culture. Meanwhile, Anna McMullan (Reading) examined the broad scope and diversity of Irish women playwrights, another forgotten tradition in Irish culture.

Historians Mary Cullen (Maynooth), Margaret Ward (Bath), Rosemary Raughter and Myrtle Hill (Queen's) came together under the banner 'Historical Representations of Women', at which point your dear reviewer must admit that this was one session she did not attend. The very scope of the conference made it quite impossible to attend everything - each excellent paper was attended always at the cost of missing one or maybe two others.

Ethel Crawley (UCC), discussing feminism and cultural theory with regard to the Middle East, linked the experience of religious fundamentalism there with religious systems in Northern Ireland and their effect on women. She reminded us again of the value of heterogeneity to feminism, considering the criticism made by Eastern feminists that we in the West tend to make universalist assumptions about women's experience.

Clearly, questions of political divisions and cultural identities were central to this conference.

Following papers from Margaret Woods and Honor Fagan (University of Ulster) which analysed the specific relationship between women and the state, the plenary session on Saturday evening opened such questions to the floor. Margo Harkin and Anne Crilly discussed the documentation of women's lived experience in Northern Ireland on film, while Margaret Ward considered the defining of cultural identity as occurring only when the individual is placed in an alien cultural context. Monica McWilliam reminded us of the actuality of growing-up in the segregated society of Northern Ireland. The contribution of questions and comments from the floor served to underline the differences between women's experiences, while endorsing the value of such a forum for their expression.

Running alongside the more formal and academic papers, were sessions allowing for the diversity of women's creative expression. Eibhlis Farrell discussed Irish Women Composers, while Women's Writing Groups were considered by Joan Newman and Ruth Hooley. Sunday morning saw contributions by artists Deirdre Blundell and Rita Duffy, whose work comments directly on the lived experience of women in the divided state. The Foyle Arts Centre hosted an exhibition also titled *Gendered Narratives*, which was opened with poetry readings by Medbh McGuckian and Kathleen McCracken.

'Gendered Narratives' proved the point made by Ethel Crawley, that academic enquiry, by introducing such an inter-disciplinary approach, can help the development of a matrix of philosophical and intellectual concerns, closely linked with women's specific experience. As such, it not only initiated an investigation of heterogeneity, but also constituted a celebration of difference.

**Tina O'Toole**



# The Peopling Of London Exhibition, Museum Of London, 10 November 1993-15 May 1994

Subtitled, '15,000 Years Of Settlement From Overseas', this exhibition was an exciting and timely venture by the Museum of London designed to show 'how London's different communities have, over the centuries, made a vital contribution to the development of the capital'. In addition to the compact and user-friendly permanent exhibition, there was an attractively produced and reasonably priced publication *The Peopling of London* (Museum of London, 1993) edited by Dr Nicky Merriman, containing useful bibliographies and a guide to sources for researching the histories of communities in London from overseas. An events programme accompanied the exhibition, the core of which was a series of focus weeks in which London

communities presented programmes around their own cultures and experiences. The contribution of the Irish community was represented throughout: in the permanent exhibition, by my own chapter in *The Peopling of London*, in an Irish Focus Week, and in other areas of the programme - in 'World Music from the Communities' and in the day-school 'Living in London: experiences of settlement', for example.

The Irish Focus Week, which ran from 8-13 March, was opened by a reception, attended by the Irish Ambassador and co-hosted by the Federation of Irish Studies. Permanent features of the Focus Week were 'Now We're Talking', a display (with photographs by Joanne O'Brien) arising from an oral history/storytelling project by Morley College Community History Project, and 'London Irish Artists in Vision', an exhibition of work by 35 members of Irish Artists in Britain. It also included a showing of Philip Donnellan's 'The Irishmen: an impression of exile' (1965), lectures by Angie Birtill, on 'Irish Women in London', and Pat Reynolds, on 'Reality versus Stereotype - Irish images in the Media', readings from Padraic O Conaire's *Deoraíocht* (1910) in Irish and English translation by Maureen Carter and Shaun Traynor, readings and bookstall with the Green Ink Writers Group, Yeats' 'Pot of Broth' presented by Gagile Theatre, and storytelling with John Maher. It was good to see the Irish experience presented in the context of that of other migrant communities in London, and as part of such a lively and successful programme.



Opening *The Peopling of London's* Irish Focus Week at the Museum of London: (left to right) Irish Ambassador to Britain, Joe Small, Seán Hutton and Liam MacNally of the Federation of Irish Societies, Nick Merriman, Head of the Museum's Early London Collection Department and Max Hebditch, the Museum's Director.

Seán Hutton

## Green Ink Book Fair

This year's Green Ink Book Fair which was held at the London Irish Centre in Camden was the ninth and by all accounts the most successful to date. Lovers of Irish literature gathered in their multitudes to browse amongst an impressive collection of books ranging from political and historical works to collections of Irish Pub Ballads and Cookbooks. Music was provided by Stefan Hannigan at the opening and by a number of traditional session players during the weekend. Children had the chance to listen to Kevin Graal

the 'seanchai' who kept the 'little darlings' spellbound. Visitors were also treated to a tremendous selection of talks and discussions covering wide-ranging topics.

As Daniel Day Lewis and Gerry Conlon were otherwise engaged at the Oscar ceremonies in Hollywood, Niamh Cusack and Hugh Callaghan performed the task of officially opening the fair on the Friday evening.



*The Green Ink Book Fair: 'Four Irish Writers' (left to right) Eoin McNamee, Pat McCabe, Dermot Bolger, Colm Toibin*

Saturday kicked off with a selection of readings from Pat McCabe (*Butcher Boy*), Eoin McNamee (*Resurrection Man*), Colm Toibin (*Heather Blazing*) and Dermot Bolger, who as well as having written a number of plays and novels more recently edited the *Picador Book of Contemporary Irish Fiction*, an impressive medley of tasters from a number of new as well as more familiar Irish writers.

Tim Pat Coogan and Robert Kee discussed the political legacies of de Valera and Parnell having both recently written biographical reassessments of these 'old idols' of Irish Nationalists.

Cherry Smyth (*Queer Notions*), Emma Donaghue (*Stir Fry*) and a spokesperson for Tom Lennon (*When Love Comes to Town*) read extracts from their works which deal with the isolation which is often felt by the Irish Gay and Lesbian community.

Gaeilgeoirs heard Gearoid o hEara agus Eoghan MacCormac discuss the growth of the language in 'Northern Ireland' and its use amongst members of the Nationalist community held within the prison system.

Then finally in the evening Hugh Callaghan recounted his harrowing experiences as told in his recently published *Cruel Fate*. In a moving dialogue with his local MP Jeremy Corbyn he described the frustration and pain he endured during the fifteen year period of his wrongful imprisonment and told of the on going struggle for the 'Birmingham Six' to clear their names in the face of hostility from the West Midlands community incited by a misinforming media.

On the Sunday Peter Beresford Ellis and Father Joe McVeigh considered the upsurge of interest in all aspects of Celtic life. In particular they noted

the attraction of pre-Christian religion and the spirit of 'meitheal' which the Celts enjoyed. While new writers Colm O'Gaora (*Giving Ground*), Bridget O'Connor (*Here Comes John*), Robert Welch (*The Kilcolman Notebook*) and Edward Toman (*Shambles Corner*) read from their works indicating the wealth of literary talent to be found amongst the Irish.

Fionnuala O'Connor (*In Search of a State*) and Jonathan Bardon (*History of Ulster*) held a discussion with a vibrant audience answering questions relating to their books. While Jonathan Bardon would prefer to see his work as a comprehensive guide to the history of the province, Fionnuala's book assesses, through her own research, the attitudes of the Catholics in the province.

On the Sunday night a queue had formed outside to hear the political talk. So big was the crowd that the Green Ink volunteers had to hastily pack away any remaining books and stack the tables so that the eager public could move into the larger McNamara Hall. Bernadette McAliskey, Gareth Pierce, Liz Curtis and Alistair Renwick captivated their listeners. 'Twenty-Five Years and the Peace Process' was a subject that could have been debated for hours but alas the fair had already over run its schedule.

Green Ink Bookshop provide a wide range of Irish Books, CDs and Tapes, videos, gifts and paraphernalia and can be found at 8 Archway Mall London N19 5RG (tel 071 263 47480). Open from 9.30-5.30 Tuesday to Saturday.

**Pat Ryce**

# Exiles and Erin : Images and Realities

The 11th Annual International Conference  
on Irish Dimensions in British Education at

Soar Valley College, Leicester, 26-27 March 1994

After the success of the first two-day event in 1993, it was decided to retain the full weekend model, despite the very considerable extra work, and cost involved. This optimism was repaid, with an attendance figure of over 180 participants from all sectors of education across the country. It was particularly pleasing to be able to welcome Professor Toshi Matsuoka, of Hosei University, Tokyo, who organises and lectures on Irish Studies and Language programmes in Japan.

No doubt the wide-ranging nature of the 1994 programme encouraged the good attendance. Our four main speakers addressed some key issues:

Liam Greenslade, Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, spoke on 'Lightning in the Blood: Issues in the health of Irish people in Britain' which examined the cultural, historical and political background to high rates of mortality and mental illness of Irish migrants in Britain.

Seán Hutton, Community Care Development Co-ordinator of Federation of Irish Societies, gave a paper: 'Meeting the needs of the Irish Community in Britain' which examined the needs of the Irish community especially in the field of community care and the ways in which these are met through statutory provision and by the Irish voluntary sector.

Professor James O'Connell, Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford, presented a paper which asked: 'Can Small Cultures Survive?' This was a comparative study with special reference to the Irish against the background of contemporary developments in Europe and the wider world.

Dr Mary Harris, Irish Studies Centre, University of North London, gave a paper: 'Internal Exile: Belfast Catholicism, poverty and politics in the

inter-war years' which examined contemporary interpretations of Catholic poverty in Belfast, the search for solutions within the framework of Catholic social teaching and the increasing detachment of Catholics from the state and the Protestant poor.

These central core inputs were complemented by a range of 20 seminar workshops, from which participants chose any four. Historical concerns were well covered. Raynor O'Connor (RIA) discussed the Limerick Soviet and the early Irish Labour Movement, whilst Brian P Murphy (Glenstal Abbey) analysed 'revisionist' trends in historiography as exemplified in Roy Foster's writings and added a diasporic element with his analysis of Hiberno-American interactions, circa 1916-1940. Patricia McCarthy (Cork County Archivist) produced a fascinating session on primary source evidence for budding researchers as well as professionals.

The arts and media were also well served. Gavin Murphy, who lectured here at Soar Valley before moving on to Queen's University, Belfast, explored the representation of women in Irish cinema; he also analysed the relationship of modern artists to the conflict in the North. This latter issue was addressed by Michael Parker (Liverpool Institute of HE) who looked at the politics of language as exemplified in Brian Friel's *Translations* and in the poetry of Seamus Heaney. The topic of Celtic Art was a popular illustrated workshop, led by Lloyd Laing (Nottingham University), a prolific writer in this field.

An area of ever-popular interest concerned the migration experiences of the Irish in Britain. Women's perspectives in particular were highlighted by Pauline Roche (Birmingham Irish Forum) and Kate Joyce (Liverpool Institute) who

considered issues of identity vis-a-vis Irish women in Merseyside. Noel Coughlan (until recently a health officer for Coventry City Council) spoke of his work regarding action on Irish people's health, especially concerning HIV research and development, and attitudes in the community towards sex and sexuality.

Other aspects of Irish migration identity covered included a fascinating historical insight into the almost forgotten London Irish shoemaker, John O'Neill (1788-1858) by John Egan (a London-based BBC consultant). The central importance of Irish traditional music and dance to the migrant identity was examined by two speakers. Seán Quinn (St. Mary's College, Belfast) introduced his new Traditional Music Educational Pack for schools (it is, indeed, relevant to adult and community education likewise). Marie O'Reilly (a junior-school teacher in London) explored the use of Irish music, song, dance and folklore in the Primary Classroom. She also proved an adept harpist and solo singer at the late night 'craic' on the Saturday after the Conference Dinner. She was ably assisted by the Soar Valley College's music tutors, Beverley Whelan and Mike Feely, on flute, fiddle and concertina.

Despite its constant marginalisation in the mainstream curriculum, drama found its place. Gerri Moriarty, a free-lance drama specialist, explored image and reality through drama, and in addition gave an account of her work in Belfast, Dublin and Manchester with a variety of community groups.

It would be fatal to ignore Irish language concerns: they were ably addressed in three separate sessions.

Liam O'Cuinneagain, of the Oideas Gael Irish Language Summer School in Glencolumbkille, provided a specialist in-service training for language teachers, as did Kate Thompson of BAIS, who concentrated on the teaching requirements for the NIEAB language GCSE. Of particular appeal was the audio-visual language workshop presented by Paul Cummins and Colman O'Raghallaigh of Telegaél, which is based in Spiddal, Co. Galway.

A conference such as this succeeds only because of the support of the participants and the largesse of sponsors. Key supporters included the Leicester City and County Councils, the Bank of Ireland, the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Aer Lingus. Several local sponsors acknowledged in the full Report are to be published. Crucial to a successful outcome was the friendship and advice of Brendan O'Caolai, Third Secretary of the Irish Embassy, who also served as a guest speaker at the Dinner. Copies of the 1993, and previous reports, can be had from me, Nessian Danaher, at £1.00 each (to cover P&P). The 1993 Report has some excellent and topical pieces by a distinguished group of scholars, including Mary Hickman, Maureen O'Rourke-Murphy, Mary McHugh, Paul O'Leary, Mervyn Busted, Rod Hodgson, Patrick O'Sullivan, James McAuley, John Walsh and Seán Hutton. Orders to: Nessian Danaher, Co-ordinator, Irish Studies Workshop, Soar Valley College, Gleneagles Avenue, Leicester, LE4 7GY Tel: 0533 669625 Ext 246.

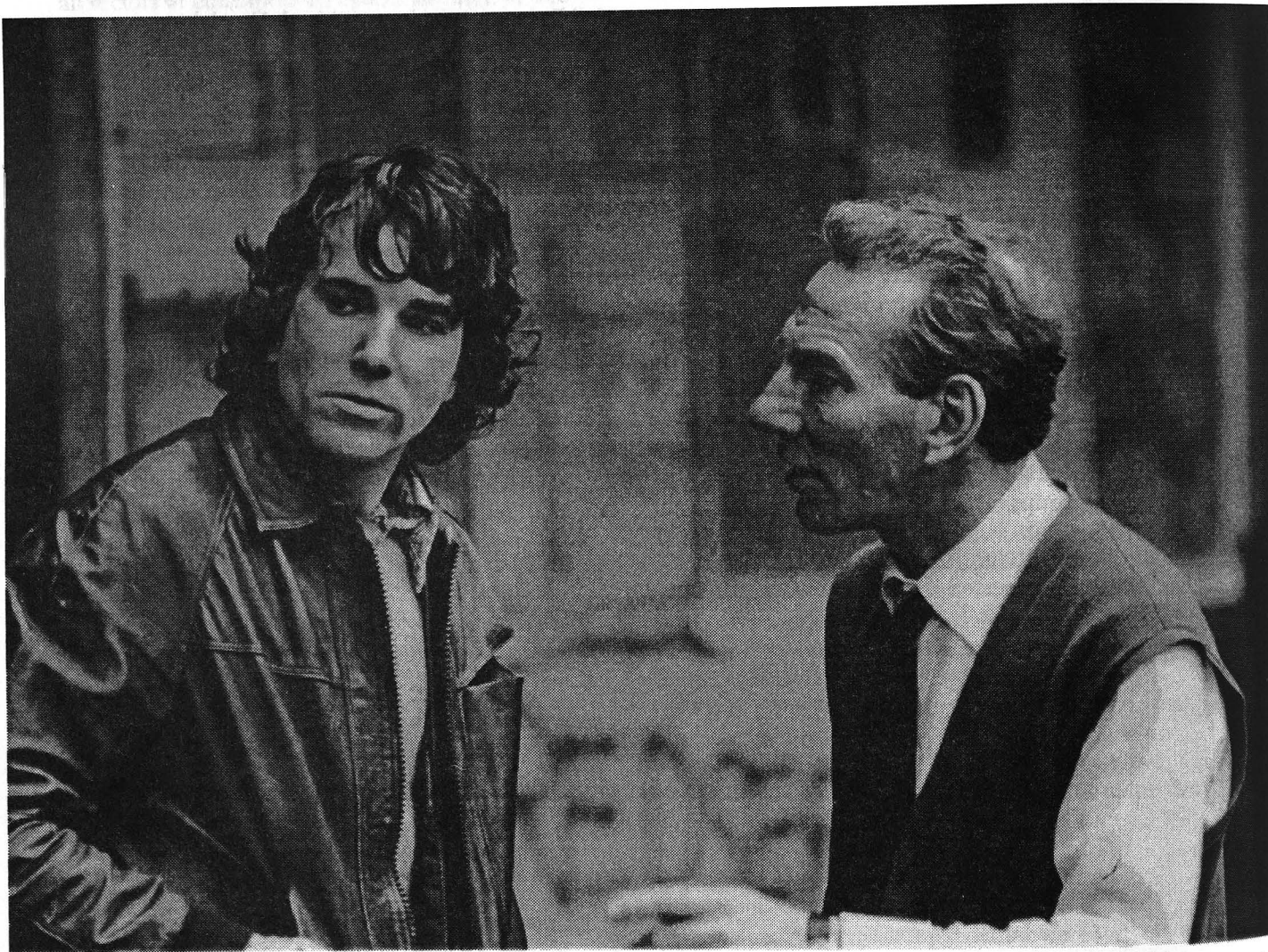
*Nessian Danaher*

## Festival of New Irish Cinema

### Riverside Studios, Hammersmith 8th - 19th April

Ros Scanlon, her team and Riverside Studios are to be congratulated on organising an enjoyable, worthwhile and timely weekend film festival. The format of the programme allowed for a combination of viewing and discussion which was at times exciting, frustrating and pleasantly exhausting. It was a particularly good feature of the weekend that so many film-makers and producers were present to introduce, or comment

after, the film showings. The programme presented a diverse mix of 'commercial' features (*In the Name of the Father*, and *Widow's Peak* - the sneak preview on Sunday night), documentaries (like John T Davis's brilliant *Hobo*) and new short films some of which had not been seen here before (*Shooting to Stardom*, *The Visit*, *Boys to Rent*, *Three Joes* and *After '68*). The festival also featured the world premiere of Paddy Breatnach's *Ailsa* and



Daniel Day-Lewis and Peter Postlethwaite in *In the Name of the Father*

two British premieres in Joe Comerford's *High Boot Benny* and Bob Quinn's *The Bishop's Story*.

Even from this brief resume it is apparent that 'New Irish cinema' is a disarmingly simple label for a complex, diverse and shifting phenomenon. As Ros Scanlon pointed out: 'The festival set out to recognise the wealth of recent Irish initiatives in film and the fact that film production has become one of the biggest growth industries in Ireland'. The re-launch of the Irish Film Board, the work of the Northern Ireland Film Council, the pressure from charismatic political figures like Michael D Higgins (and changes in tax laws!), the widely-acclaimed success of Irish talent in Hollywood and popularity of British-Irish television film adaptations have certainly produced a great deal of film activity in Ireland. On a recent trip to Dublin I found it difficult to move around the city without walking through a film set!

The discussions and seminars set out to evaluate the significance of these developments. Attending the 'Forum' discussion on Saturday afternoon was both enlightening and frustrating. It was extremely interesting to hear what people with experience of producing films (like Tom Collins) had to say alongside film makers young (Kieron Walsh) and old(er?) (Bob Quinn and Joe Comerford). They expressed differing views on how film production could best be funded and supported in Ireland. Quinn made the point caustically that there was film activity in Ireland but not a film industry, referring to the continued pressure of US and British money in Ireland. Comerford commented (as I have heard him elsewhere) that there was not an organised industry infra-structure, questioned the nature and permanence of employment in film in Ireland, and the effects of the so-called 'spin-off' work associated with film, like tourism. Collins seemed more open to the idea of taking money from where ever and from whom ever he could get it, rather than relying on a single (state) source. He said that having a film financed from several

sources actually strengthened his own control and felt that going around Europe was useful to keep abreast of developments and publicise. Walsh did not add much to this part of the debate except to say that he just wanted to make films: a naive if understandable desire. The discussion, it has to be said, was ineptly chaired by Peter Lydon who flummoxed some speakers with his direction, asked some inane questions and did not seem to be able to control the questions from the audience. He was at times shown up by better informed points and questions from them. There was general disagreement amongst panellists and audience on the question of which themes should (or should not be) tackled by Irish film makers. Walsh attracted the ire of the audience when he made a remark suggesting that topics like 'The Troubles', abortion and women were boring and clichéd subjects for Irish films. One speaker eloquently contested this by pointing out that these topics were not inherently 'boring' and that it was the treatment they were given by certain film makers and commissioning editors which resulted in clichéd films. To me, this speaker clinched the point when he said that these topics were ones that concerned people precisely because they remained unresolved and that's why films were being made. From another strand of the debate an interesting distinction began to emerge, between differing ideas of first and second generation Irish people as to what an 'Irish' film should address, but unfortunately there was not enough time for this to develop fully. I found this a stimulating discussion that was well-worth attending. It set a model for the whole enterprise of the weekend, encouraging a critical interaction between film makers, their films and the members of the audience.

*Lance Pettitt*

*[With thanks to Ros Scanlon for providing information and photograph]*

# Cumann na Sgríbhéann nGaedhilge The Irish Texts Society

The Irish Texts Society was founded in London in 1898 with the object of promoting the publication of Irish-language texts, accompanied by English-language translations, introductions, notes and glossaries. Among the 57 volumes published by the Society to date are *Cath Maige Tuired*, editions of the poems of Aogán ó Rathaille and Daibhí ó Bruadair, and Humphrey O'Sullivan's diary (*Cinn-Laé Amhlaoibh Uí Shuilleabháin*). The most recent volume in the Society's series is Dr Caoimhín Mac Giolla Léith's edition of 'The Deirdre Story', *Oidheadh Chloinne hUisneach*. Reprints of some earlier volumes have been

accompanied by new and up-to-date introductions, such as Professor Breandan á Buachalla's introduction to Seathrún Céitinn's *Foras Feasa ar Éirinn* or Dr John Carey's to *Lebor Gábala Éirenn*.

The Society also publishes Rev P S Dinneen's *Irish-English Dictionary*.

A full list of publications is available from: The Honorary Secretary, Irish Texts Society, c/o Royal Bank of Scotland, 49 Charing Cross, London SW1A 2DX.

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## The Commission For Racial Equality/ University of North London Research Initiative On The Irish Community in Britain

The Commission For Racial Equality is funding a study by the Irish Studies Centre at the University of North London into 'Racism, Distribution and the Irish Community'. The overall objective of the study is to establish the extent to which Irish people in Britain experience various forms of racial discrimination and to evaluate existing and new evidence in this area. Besides collating and interpreting existing statistical evidence of social disadvantage, the Irish Studies Centre will collect new data on the extent and findings of ethnic monitoring which includes the Irish. The project will also identify areas of discrimination drawn from issues brought to Irish community welfare and advice centres, and will interview community centre personnel, as well as a wide cross section of the Irish population in Britain.

Dr Mary Hickman is head of the research team, with Dr Bronwen Walter, of the Anglia Polytechnic University, as Senior Research Associate. Jim McCool is Research Assistant on the project. The Research Initiative is funded by a grant of £51,353, which has been awarded to the Irish Studies Centre by the Commission for Racial Equality.

*Jim McCool*



## The Butler Society

In 1967 the 6th Marquess of Ormonde generously gave Kilkenny Castle to the people of Kilkenny. The formal ceremony, when he handed over the key, took place during the first rally of the Butler Society. Two years previously Hubert Butler had invited his cousin, Lord Dunboyne, to give a talk on the history of the Butler family in the courtyard of the Castle. This led to the birth of the Society. Since then its membership, which is open to anyone interested in, or connected with, any Butler family, has spread worldwide. Rallies have been held regularly every three years in Kilkenny as well as occasional ones in various parts of the world. Sixteen numbers of its Journal have been published, they contain a wealth of information on Butler history and genealogy. But the sources are

far from exhausted, for throughout the ages people called Butler have played an active and notable role in numerous and very varied walks of life. Indeed for over six hundred years the history of Ireland was inextricable from that of the Butlers. This is particularly true of the area covered by the Butler lordship which Theobald Walter founded at the end of the 12th century. There they have left their mark in many ways from poetry to castles. The avenues for research are endless and as editor of the journal I would be pleased to receive any relevant articles with a view to publication [see inside back cover for address].

*Eleanor Burgess*

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## Postgraduate Courses in Irish-related subject areas in Ireland

Following the *Newsletter's* recent survey of Irish Studies-related postgraduate courses in Britain, here are brief details of those colleges in Ireland who responded to requests for information. It would be useful to us if you mentioned the BAIS *Newsletter* when contacting these institutions.

### **University College, Cork**

#### *MA in Anglo-Irish Literature*

A two-year degree of coursework and dissertation. In the first year students take a course in Research Methods and a survey in Anglo-Irish Literature course plus two special-study courses. Dissertation (12-15,000 words) is submitted in mid-May of second year.

### **University College, Dublin**

#### *MA Anglo-Irish Literature*

A one-year degree (coursework and examination).

It also includes a dissertation of 15,000 words. The MA may also be taken by major dissertation (25,000). The MA programme explores Irish experience expressed through the English language over three centuries. While concentrating on the main literary genres it provides a background in Irish history, folklore and mythology, as well as a thorough course in Hiberno-English. Enquiries to: Helen Gallagher, Department of Anglo-Irish Literature, Arts Building, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4. Tel: 2693244.

#### *MPhil Irish Studies*

A two-year interdisciplinary degree with a compulsory Irish language element. Candidates choose two major specialisations from the following: Early Irish Language and Literature, Anglo-Irish Literature, Modern Irish Language and Literature, Irish Folklore, Early Irish History, Celtic Archeology and Modern Irish History. Further enquiries and applications to: Mr Brian

Donnelly, MPhil (Irish Studies) Board, UCD, etc.  
Tel: 01-7068160.

**MA Women's Studies and MA Film Studies**

Both contain a variety of specialised courses which deal with a topics specifically relating to an Irish context. For instance, 'Women in Early Irish and Medieval Sources', 'Contemporary Irish Women: Creativity and Culture' and 'Gender and the Legal System' are part of the Women's Studies degree. Contact: Dr Ailbhe Smyth, MA Director, WERRC Library Building, Belfield, UCD. Tel: 01-706-7002.

The Film Studies MA deals with the history, theory and practice of European and US film-making, but it makes particular reference to Ireland. Students on the course will have the scope to explore archive sources deposited in the premises of the Irish Film Institute's archive. Contact: Dr Patrick Marsh, Centre for Film Studies, Room 506, Library Building, Belfield, UCD. Tel: 01-706-7621.

**University College, Galway**

**MPhil Irish Studies**

A two year, full-time interdisciplinary course. It combines elements of history, Anglo-Irish Literature, Gaelic culture, Irish language, Sociology and Politics. Assessment in first year is by essays and presentations while in the second year a dissertation is written (15,000 words). For further details: Dr Thomas Bartlett, Director. Tel: (work) 091-24411 Ext. 2551 (home) 091-85258.

**MA Culture and Colonialism**

A multi-disciplinary taught programme (assessed by examination and dissertation), it is a highly innovative new course which investigates colonialism in various forms. It is theoretical and comparative. The core courses examine colonialism at different historical periods and from diverse perspectives (focusing on gender, political economy, imperialism and cultural theory). The options offered include: 'Literature and Colonialism', 'Gender and Nationalism in Ireland', 'Colonialism and the Irish Theatre', 'Cinema and Colonialism'. Enquiries to: Dr Lionel Pilkington, Department of English, UCG, Tel: 091-24411 Ext. 2567.

**The Queen's University of Belfast**

**MSSc in Irish Studies**

Run by the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, this offers a comprehensive course of study which seeks to develop a social scientific understanding of Irish society. It is taught in the evenings over 24 months. It is assessed by examination. 'Culture and Community', 'Irish Economies', 'Politics in Northern Ireland', 'Public Policy in Ireland' and 'Sociology of Modern Ireland' are offered (some are compulsory cores). Further details from: Mr J Bradley, Department of Economics: Tel 0232-245133.

**MSSc in Irish Politics**

Run by the Department of Politics, this course focuses mainly on modern politics. It is examined by a combination of assessed essays and 15,000 word dissertation. Options offered include: 'Politics of Northern Ireland', 'The Politics of the Republic of Ireland', 'Nationalism, Regionalism and Identities in the New Europe', 'The Political Thought of Ireland', etc. Enquiries to the Postgraduate Tutor: Dr Richard English. Enquiries about doing research degrees to Dr Klaus Larres, Department of Politics, QUB.

**MA in Irish Studies (by examination)**

1 Year full-time/2 Years part-time. Components range from archaeology, literature, social and economic history, to sociology and politics. Examination and 20,000 word dissertation. Enquiries to: Institute of Irish Studies, QUB, BT7 1NN. Tel: 0232-335137.

**MA in English (Irish Writing)** is offered by the School of English. The degree is by coursework over one year (with a two-year part-time path). At present, eight courses are offered (some, like Research Methods and Introduction to Irish Literary Issues, being compulsory). These options are largely divided by genre (poetry, prose and drama) spanning mostly the twentieth century. A dissertation of 15,000 words is a compulsory component. Enquiries to: Chair of Graduate Studies, School of English, QUB.

In addition, all the above universities also offer MA, MPhil and PhD degrees by research. You should write to the particular Department or Faculty directly to enquire about procedure.

## Encounter

Encounter was initiated in 1983 by the British and Irish Governments to work for greater understanding and closer relations between their peoples through the holding of conferences and seminars on questions of common concern.

Since then it has held two or three conferences each year. These included a conference on Irish Studies in Britain in 1985 organised in conjunction with the Interim Committee for the creation of the BAIS, and conferences on the European Community and Education in Britain and Ireland (1990), on Vocational Education and Training for Europe (1991), School Links between Britain and Ireland (1992), a conference for young Politicians on Europe and its Regions (1993) and several Youth Conferences.

On 5th-7th April 1994 it held a Sports Encounter at Stranmillis College, Belfast for 54 trainee teachers with an especial interest in sport drawn from 24 universities and colleges in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The programme included lectures and workshop discussions on questions connected with sport, a panel of distinguished sports personalities and sporting and social events.

It was clear from the enthusiasm of the participants and the evaluation reports which they completed that the contacts made during the three days of the Encounter led to the creation of friendships and better understanding between participants drawn from all parts of these islands. Encounter hopes that in their future role as teachers they will be able to promote Encounter's objectives of creating better understanding and closer relations between the peoples of Britain and Ireland.

Copies of the reports of this or of earlier conferences or further information about Encounter can be obtained from:

Donald Cape, Hilltop, Womersley, Guildford GU5 0QT. (Tel: 0483-893407).

Mrs Caroline de Souza, Flat 9, 92 Elm Park Gardens, London SW10 9PE. (Tel: 071 352 8060).

or Miss Mary Clear, c/o Institute of Public Administration, 57 Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4. (Tel: Dublin 6686233).

*Donald Cape*

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## Summer Schools and Conferences

### **Synge Summer School**

'Irish Theatre and Cinema' 25 June - 2 July Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. Further information from: Mrs Irene Parsons, Whaley Lodge, Ballinaclesh, Rathdrum. Tel: (353 404) 46131.

### **The Jonathan Swift Seminar**

'The Legacy of Swift' 30 June - 2 July St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Full details from: Aoife Kerrigan, Department of English. Tel: 7083667.

### **Irish Labour History Society Annual Seminar,**

'Working for Progress: a Hundred Years of the Irish Congress of Trades Unions' being held at UCD 9th-11th September. For further information contact: Theresa Moriarty, ILHS-ICTU, Beggar's Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4 Tel: 681071.

### **John Hewitt Summer International School**

St Mac Nissi's College, Garron Tower, Co. Antrim 25-30 July 1994 'The City and its Authors'. For further information ring: Ballymena (0266) 44247 or Cushendall (02667) 71349.

### **Scoil Shamhraidh Mherriman 1994**

'Saol na tuaithe in Eirinn: bas no beatha?' The Merriman Summer School 20-27 August is held at Ballyvaughan, Co. Clare. The title this year is: 'Rural Ireland - living or dying?' Director: Dr Kevin Whelan. Eoghan O hAnluain, Cathaoirleach, Cumann Merriman, Seomra B 202, An Colaiste Olloscoile, Baile Atha Cliath 2, Republic of Ireland, or Maire Ni Mhurchu, Runai Chumann Merriman, 6 Cuirt Aravon, Bre, Co. Chill Mhantain. Tel: 2869305.

### **University College, Galway Summer School**

Offers a comprehensive range of accredited courses in language, literature, Gaelic Culture and the visual arts. For further information, contact: Seamus O'Grady, Administrative Director. Tel: (91) 25051.

### **Desmond Greaves Summer School**

Friday 26 - Sunday 28 August, Irish Labour History Museum, Haddington Road Dublin 2. Bookings to: C MacLiam, 24 Belgrave Road, Dublin 6 Tel: 4973154.

### **2nd Annual Kenny/Naughton Autumn School**

Friday 28 - Sunday 30 October, Achadh Mor, Ballyhaunis and Knock, Co. Mayo. Speakers include: Irving Wardle, drama critic of *The Independent* and author of *Theatre Criticism*, Richard Douthwaite, author of *The Growth of Illusion*, and Dr Liam Harte, Lecturer in Irish Studies at St Mary's University College, Strawberry Hill. A commemorative plaque will be unveiled at the birthplace of Bill Naughton. Contact: Seosamh O'Broin, Archedh Mor, Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo. Tel: 094-67189.

### **The Bailey's James Joyce Summer School**

17 - 29 July Newman House, St Stephen's Green. International line up of lecturers and seminar leaders, plus theatre visits, Irish music and cultural

tours in the social programme. Director: Prof Augustine Martin. Contact: Helen Gallagher, Dept. of Anglo-Irish Literature, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4 Tel: 7068480 or 7067777.

### **33rd International Summer School, The Institute of Irish Studies, held at TCD.**

Residential courses in Irish history, folklore and drama and contemporary culture. For details of dates in July contact the Director, Noelle Cleary, 6 Holyrood Park, Dublin 4. Tel: 2692491.

### **University College, Cork, 15th International Summer School in Irish Studies**

'The Formation of Irish Cultural Identity' 10 July - 5 August, Centre for Adult and Continuing Education. Details from Dr Mairtin O'Fathaigh, Director. Tel: Cork (21)-276871.

**USIT** runs two 'schools':

### **Ireland in Europe Summer School**

between 17-30 July, held at TCD, offering a variety of homestay and residential courses in theatre, politics, education, literature and history;

### **The Irish Theatre Summer School**

run in conjunction with Joe Dowling's Gaiety School of Acting between 3-30 July, is held at UCD.

For leaflets and further details write to Seona Mac Reamoinn, Ireland in Europe Programme, USIT, Aston Quay, O'Connell Bridge, Dublin 2 Tel: 677-8117.

### **Baileys James Joyce Pubic Lecture Series 1994-5**

presents a number of speakers: Maria Vagas Llosa (30 Sept), Hélene Cixous (28 Oct), Michael Ignatieff (2 Dec) and David Lodge (3 Feb). All lectures are held at UCD's Earlsford Terrace Building, Dublin 2.

# Irish Studies Adult Courses in Britain

This is by no means a comprehensive list. If you would like a course mentioned in the next issue, please send me the essential details.

## Hackney Working Men's College for Men and Women

### *A Level History (NEAB Syllabus)*

This course runs for 30 weeks over three terms beginning on Monday September 26th 1994. It covers Irish politics and identity in the early twentieth century and the Irish in Britain 1815-1914. No formal qualifications are required. Students may enrol from June 1994. Fees: Employed £150 (concessions £75). For further information, contact Jon Parry, Deputy Warden, 44, Crowndale Road, London NW1 1TR Tel: 071-387-2037.

## Kensington and Chelsea College

### *A Level History*

NISEAC syllabus (British and Irish History 1900-1964 and Ireland 1911-1923) Wednesdays 10.00-12.30 and 1.30-4.00 from 19 September (1 Year course) Fee: £117 (£15 concessions). Tutor: Ivan Gibbons.

### *Introduction to Irish History*

Tuesday 1.00-4.00 for 11 weeks from 27 September. Fee: £38 (concessions £5) Tutor: Ivan Gibbons.

### *Social History of Ireland*

Tuesday 7.00-9.00 for two terms (20 weeks) from 27 September. Fee: £75 (concessions £10) Tutor: Bernard Canavan.

### *Women in Irish History*

Monday 7.00-9.00 for 10 weeks from 26 September. Fee: £38 (concessions £5) Tutor: Liz Curtis.

For further details on course content, enrolment procedures, etc. call: Ivan Gibbons on 071-351-7127. Alternatively call the Course Information Unit on 081-964-1311 or write to Student Services, Kensington and Chelsea College, Wornington Road, London, W10 5QQ.

## Newark and Sherwood College

### *Irish Studies*

A ten-week course: 13th September - 22nd November 1994. Tuesdays 7-9 pm. Tutor/Organiser: John Woodhurst. For fees (concessions available) and further details about enrolment, contact John Woodhurst, School of General Studies, Newark and Sherwood College, Friary Road, Newark, Notts, NG24 1PB. Tel: 0636 705921.

## Soar Valley College, Leicester: Irish Studies Workshop 1994-95 Programme

### *Irish Studies (interdisciplinary)*

Autumn and Spring Terms; 15 weeks

### *Irish Language (Beginners and GCSE)*

All the year round

### *Set/Ceili Dances (All ages and abilities)*

All the year round

Dates: as per LEA term times locally

All of the above courses run Wednesday 7-10 pm

### *Traditional Music (Adults)*

Mondays (8-10 pm) to be confirmed

Fees: approximately £2 per session, large reductions for concessions, paid termly in advance.

Enquiries to: Nesson Danaher on 0533-669625 Ext. 246.

## NEWS ITEMS

**Tom Barclay: The Autobiography of a Bottle-Washer** is planned for a re-print by Coalville Publishing Company. Barclay (1852-1933) was a self-taught, second-generation Irish Catholic. He was a poet, linguist, social reformer, litterateur, and friends with William Morris and GB Shaw. The book is introduced by Nesson Danaher and David Nash. The publishers are seeking funds, offering a £5 subscription price as compared to the published price of £7.50. Those interested should send a cheque to Coalville Publishing Company, The Springboard Centre, Mantle Lane, Coalville, Leicester LE67 4DW or Telephone 0503- 839531 for further information.

### **The Anthony C. West Archive, St. Mary's University College**

Jim O'Hara, Director of the Centre for Irish Studies at Strawberry Hill, recently acquired the letters, papers and unpublished manuscripts of Anthony C. West, the Co. Down-born novelist. West's novels included: *The Ferret Fancier*, (1963) *The Native Moment* (1961) and *As Towns with Fire* (1968). On behalf of the Centre, Jim O'Hara gratefully acknowledges the donation by the late-author's widow, Mrs Olive West. The Archive will provide a valuable research resource for work on a neglected Irish writer.

### **University of North London: Irish Studies Centre**

**Paul Sheehan**, from Dublin, joined the staff of the Irish Studies Centre in September 1993 as a lecturer in Irish Literature and Cultural Studies. He studied English at the Polytechnic of North London and did an MA in English Literature at the University of Sussex. He has taught at Wandsworth Prison, tutored at the University of Sussex and on the Waltham Forest Irish Project. He now teaches various pathways including Representations of Irishness, Post modernism, Post colonialism and Irish Culture and James Joyce. He has been involved in the London Irish Theatre, written a play based on women in Joyce's work and published a collection of his own poetry.

**Jonathan Moore** teaches Irish history and politics at UNL. He is currently completing a book on the IRA and extradition and is a regular contributor on Irish affairs to *The Irish Post*, *Fortnight*, *Irish Studies Review*, *Books Ireland*, *The Linen Hall Review* and *Sky News*.

In early May, **Dr. Mary Harris**, Lecturer in Irish Studies, officially launched her impressive book: *The Catholic Church and the Foundation of the Northern Irish State* (Cork University Press, 1993). at the Irish Studies Centre.

'**Books in Irish in the Language and Literature Library**' is a small pamphlet listing the holdings of books in Irish at The Central Library in Manchester. For more information call 061-234-1972 or write to the Library at St. Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD.

**Irish Diaspora Project** is collecting data to produce a Directory of Irish organisations world-wide. It is envisaged as a tool for marketing purposes, a data base for those proposing to emigrate from Ireland to live and/or do business abroad, and as a source for Irish people already living abroad, both Irish born and of Irish heritage. Information is also sought and may be forwarded to The Irish Diaspora Project Newsletter. The Newsletter will be a means of facilitating organisers and promoters of events abroad who are seeking participation from Ireland. Contact: Stephen McWhite, Irish Diaspora Project, PO Box 3884 Dublin 4 Ireland.

**Frank Neal, University of Salford**, announces that he has received financial support from HMV Group Ltd. for a census based study of the Irish in the North East. This covers the two census years of 1851 and 1861 and involves a database of some 30,000 records of Irish-born persons and their British-born children, including Newcastle, Gateshead, Tynemouth, Sunderland and a number of Durham pit villages and towns.

### **A New Irish Studies Journal Launched**

Published by Willow Press and edited by Ray Ryan, *Bullán* was launched in March 1994. *Bullán* is a twice yearly, interdisciplinary journal of Irish

studies. It seeks to make available in an accessible form new work from established and emerging academic figures. Aimed at a student and academic audience and the interested general reader, *Bullán* is committed to challenging the ways in which we view all aspects of Irish culture through a deliberately eclectic and cross-disciplinary approach.' Issue No.1 includes essays from established names like Seamus Heaney,

Charles Townsend and Terry Eagleton and previously unpublished academics like Gerard McCoy of Reading University. There are also a number of in-depth reviews and the journal is well produced. The annual subscription is £10 (two issues + £1.50 post), please write to Mr. R. Ryan, St. John's College, Oxford OX1 3JP.

## Obituary

The funeral of Flann Campbell, educationalist and historian, took place on March 11th. Campbell was the son of the well-known Belfast poet and nationalist Joseph Campbell. Throughout his life he sought to encourage the political coming-together of Protestants and Catholics in Ireland.

Flann Campbell was born in 1919 at Glencree, Co. Dublin and educated at the Sandford Park School and Trinity College. He did his doctorate at the London School of Economics. He went to England in 1943 and spent most of his adult life teaching there, becoming Senior Lecturer in Education at Middlesex Polytechnic. His book, *The Eleven Plus and All That*, was an influential study of the adverse social effects of school segregation and streaming in post-war Britain.

Between 1946-47 he edited *The Irish Democrat*, the monthly newspaper of the Connolly Association. Well before the late 1960s, Campbell encouraged labour to take a greater interest in Irish affairs and in particular the deplorable civil liberties situation that prevailed under the Stormont regime. In 1979 he wrote a short study of Orangeism, *The Orange Card*, published by the Connolly Association. On his retirement from teaching, Campbell returned to Dublin with his wife, Mary, whom he had married in 1947. He wrote a book on Ulster Protestant radical thought from the original Plantation to Partition. This was published as *The Dissenting Voice* in 1991. It challenges the popular belief that Northern Protestants have formed a monolithic bloc, all holding the same political, social and religious views, and is an incisive and timely reminder of a hidden but powerful undercurrent in Irish history. It led to its author receiving several lecturing invitations from Protestant colleges and local history societies around Northern Ireland. In his introduction to *The Dissenting Voice* he wrote: 'I make no apology for being on the side of Irish freedom as against British imperialism; of democracy against all notions of aristocracy and ascendancy; of small tenant farmers against big landowners; of ecumenicists against sectarians, and of Dissenters of all faiths against Church establishments'. They were sentiments which well became him.

*Anthony Coughlan*

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British Association for Irish Studies,  
142 Rydal Crescent,  
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Back Cover: *The Bullán Launch*: (left to right) Ray Ryan, Terry Eagleton, Seamus Heaney

Photo: Brendan Kelly

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# Application for Membership of BAIS

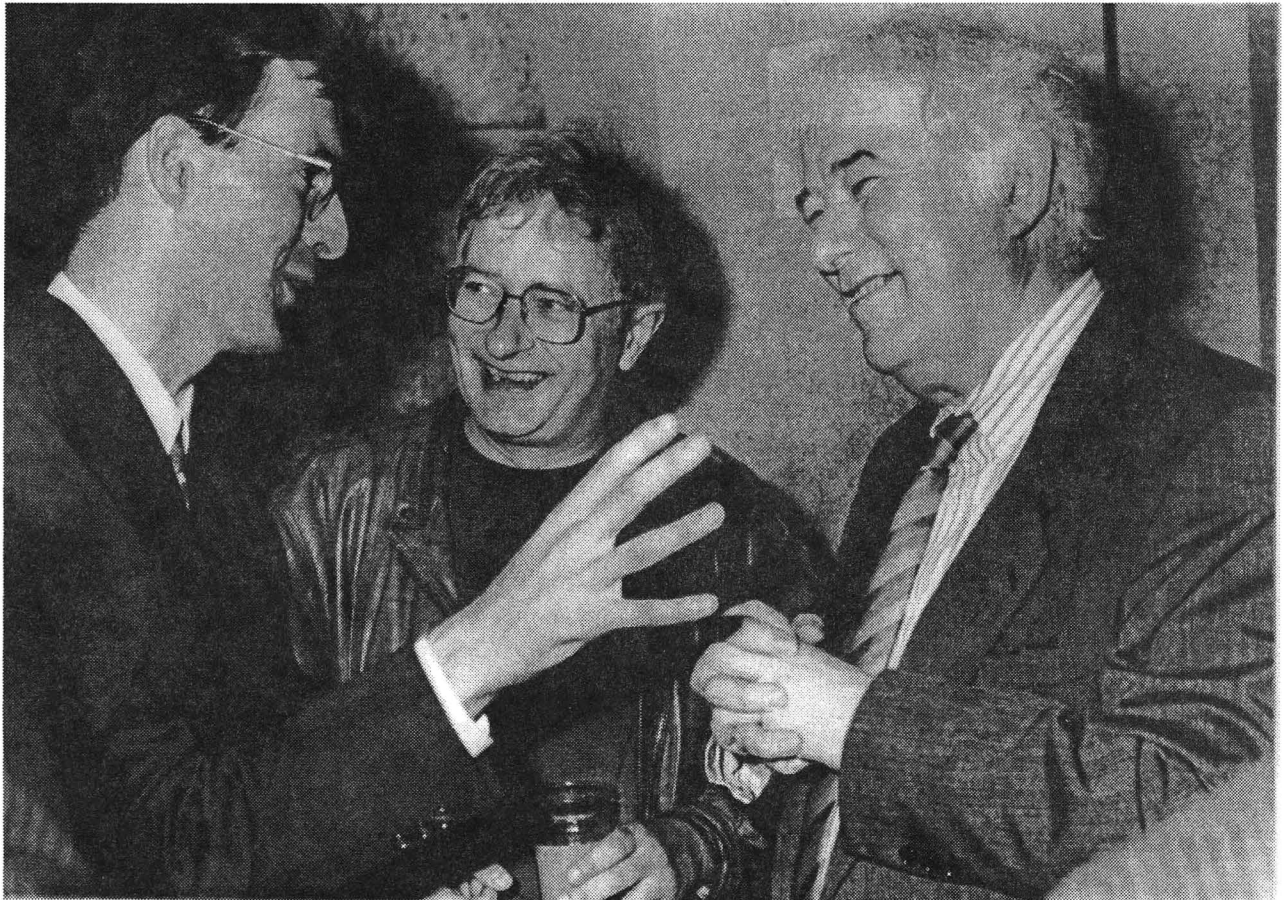
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