

# **British Association for Irish Studies** *Newsletter*

ISSUE NO. 20 OCTOBER 1999



**CHRISTINE KINEALY ON THE UNITED KINGDOM**

**SEE FOCUS INTERVIEW ON PAGE 2**

**BAIS CHAIR'S REPORT 1999**

**SECOND GENERATION IRISH PROJECT**

**IRISH STUDIES IN FINLAND**

***ERIN'S BLOOD ROYAL***

**NOTICEBOARD**

## BAIS NEWSLETTER NO. 20

October 1999

## Contents

Focus Interview: Christine Kinealy	1	<i>Erin's Blood Royal</i> at the ILS	10
A Personal Tribute to Mary Brolly	5	Noticeboard	11
BAIS Chair's Report 1999	6	BAIS National Council	13
Second Generation Irish Project	8	BAIS Membership Application Form	14
Irish Studies in Finland	8	BAIS Research Register Form	15

## EDITORIAL

The BAIS Conference on *Margins, Mainstreams and Moving Frontiers* was hosted, over a weekend of perfect weather in an arcadian landscape, by the Irish Studies Centre at Bath Spa University, from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1999. There were lively plenary morning sessions from Ailbhe Smyth, of University College Dublin, on 'Making for the Future: Thinking about Contemporary Feminism in Ireland'; and from Kate Fearon, of the Northern Ireland Assembly Women's Coalition, on 'Implementing the Good Friday Agreement'. There was a vast assortment of papers presented and discussed in small groups. Irish writers such as James Joyce, Sean O'Casey, Elizabeth Bowen, Sean O'Faolain, Trevor Joyce, Dirdre Madden, Bernard MacLaverty and Desmond Hogan were featured. There were case studies of the Irish as an ethnic minority in Britain, Irish Film studies, analyses of the Northern Ireland Peace Process, a most intriguing paper about Buddhism growing on the margins of contemporary Ireland. There were exciting examples of Irish historical local studies: the Owenite community at Rahaline in County Clare, the landlord family of Caldwell in County Fermanagh, the 'Cattle King' of Texas (Thomas O'Connor), case studies of women in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries which ranged from some relatively independent prostitutes to some formidable political wives. The Conference was a great melting pot of perspectives which must have reminded all participants of just how diverse and surprising Irish Studies have become. We branch out in so many directions!

The BAIS AGM was held during the Conference. The comprehensive Chair's Report from Sean Hutton appears in this Newsletter for all members to read. The other item in this issue which all members should note in particular is the request to fill up the new entry form for the BAIS Research Register which appears for convenience on the back page. Only if you return this completed form can the excellent BAIS Research Register 1999 be extended and updated by Mary Doran in the new edition planned for later in the year 2000.

The Focus Interview with Christine Kinealy is No. 10 in the series. Christine's hard-hitting analysis of the United Kingdom is a great way of celebrating the milestone and an occasion to remind our readers of the range of subjects covered in Focus Interviews since Summer 1997.

1. Mary Kenny about *Goodbye to Catholic Ireland*
2. Geroid O'Cairleallain about the modern Gaelic League
3. Mary Hickman about *Discrimination and the Irish Community in Britain*
4. Margaret Ward about Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington
5. Richard English about Ernie O'Malley
6. Jim O'Hara about *Drawing Conclusions: A Cartoon History of Anglo-Irish Relations*
7. Don Akenson about Irish Migrations
8. Bruce Stewart about Declan Kiberd's *Inventing Ireland*
9. Ray Stagles about the Blasket Islands
10. Christine Kinealy about the United Kingdom

Copy and/or discs (Word 6/95) with articles, reports, notices, letters etc. to be included in No. 21 should be sent to Jerry Nolan, 8 Antrobus Road, Chiswick, London, W4 5HY by January 14th 2000.

## 10 FOCUS INTERVIEW: CHRISTINE KINEALY

Christine Kinealy is Senior Lecturer in the University of Central Lancashire. Christine's major historical work (so far) is to be found in two studies of the Great Hunger in the nineteenth-century Ireland: *The Great Calamity: The Irish Famine 1845-52* (Gill & Macmillan, 1994) and *A Death-Dealing Famine: The Great Hunger in Ireland* (Pluto Press, 1997). Recently she wrote *A Disunited Kingdom? England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales 1800-1949* (Cambridge University Press, 1999). This book is part of a series 'Cambridge Perspectives in History', primarily aimed at 'A' Level students of history; but the book's concise, lucid and thought-provoking text explores the historical creation of the United Kingdom in ways which ought to interest all students of Irish and British history, at every level. Christine was kind enough to agree to discuss some of the main issues arising from her study of the United Kingdom, with a special focus on the case study of Ireland as we approach the bicentenary of the Act of Union.

**JN:** Why do you describe the United Kingdom as plagued by a disastrous disunity, especially in the case of Ireland?

**CK:** The blanket term 'disastrous' is misleading because the United Kingdom brought many benefits to Wales and Scotland. Wales was first united to England in 1356. By the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a politically assimilated Wales was subject to most English legislation but a separate Welsh identity survived, helped on by a strong tradition of Welsh culture and language. The case of Scotland is more tangled. In 1603 King James VI of Scotland became King James I of England. The kingdoms were united at monarchical level. Yet a Scottish parliamentary tradition flourished with a high level of Scottish autonomy in areas such as poor relief, welfare and education. The political union of 1707 formalised on paper the absorption of Scotland into the British state. The Stuart line, which had been deposed by Cromwell, re-emerged in 1745 when there was a Scottish invasion of England with the intention of placing a Scottish monarch on the English throne. The Scottish defeat at Culloden meant that Scotland lost its role in the English monarchy. Yet during the 18<sup>th</sup> century Scotland greatly benefited from the economic link with the British Empire. Scottish confidence and prosperity led to the period of cultural activity known as 'the Scottish Enlightenment'. However the English view of the Highlands and Islands remained quite negative and led to the Clearances of people who were regarded, even during the reign of James I, as having 'Irish manners'. The Irish Act of Union of 1800 has to be understood in the context of the religious conflict of the day. Linda Colley has argued convincingly that it was the shared Protestantism that forged the close links between England, Wales and Scotland under George III. In 1796 Ireland sought military assistance of Catholic France. The subsequent Act of Union was part of

a knee-jerk reaction from the British government – the fact that it was brutally forced through in an atmosphere of fear was not an auspicious beginning for Ireland as part of the United Kingdom. Moreover, the refusal of George III to allow Catholic Emancipation which had been part of the Act of Union Agreement meant that there was the King's broken promise at the heart of the Irish Union.

**JN:** New Labour seems to be suggesting that current devolution plans will lead to a strengthening of the United Kingdom. Is there any historical basis for such optimism?

**CK:** The United Kingdom of England, Scotland and Wales was very short-lived. It lasted a mere 120 years as a political entity. The Irish Treaty of 1921, which set up the Irish Free State, was the beginning of the break-up. Tony Blair should study the history of Irish devolution. Ireland's past provides the example of Grattan's devolved Parliament in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century which was not enough for Irish nationalists. What Tony Blair does not seem to understand is the thrust of nationalism within the United Kingdom. There is a paradox in the phenomenon that alongside economic globalisation and European unity, there is a growth of nationalism in the quest for identity. The most positive aspect of the New Labour devolution plans is that all is being done on the democratic basis of consensus. Given the opportunity, both Wales and Scotland have voted significantly for the nationalist parties. It looks increasingly likely that New Labour's devolution plans will continue the political unravelling of the United Kingdom, a process which was begun by the Irish in 1921. Without quite realising the implications, Tony Blair has opened the Pandora's Box of disunities within the United Kingdom.

**JN:** You argue that the Union with Ireland from 1800 considerably changed the whole British political scene. For what contributions should the

'Mother of Parliaments' feel most grateful to the Irish?

**CK:** Ireland after the Act of Union constituted about 50% of the population of the United Kingdom. Only after the famine, during the 1840s, did the size of Ireland's population greatly decline. Irish leaders emerged who created a dynamic energy in British politics which was not apparent before the arrival of the Irish. Daniel O'Connell's campaign for Catholic Emancipation during the 1820s was a spectacular success. O'Connell's agitation for reform was underpinned by threats of physical violence; but his incredible victories were achieved solely through constitutional means. O'Connell established the most important political point that the power of people working within the political framework can bring about reforms, even when the government of the day is against reform. There is no doubt that O'Connell's strategy became a model for nationalist movements throughout Europe. Remember that the Belgians wanted O'Connell to become King of an independent Belgium in 1830-1. In the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Home Rule Movement had tremendous effects in the Westminster Parliament. The clever use of the balance of power between parties by Parnell showed how minorities can help to shape government policy. The Irish Home Rule Movement encouraged Home Rule Movements in Wales and Scotland. Nationalist movements in countries like South Africa and India became interested in the ways in which the Home Rulers operated in the British Parliament. Most certainly the Mother of Parliaments should feel grateful to the Irish for showing how a long established institution can be made to respond to the wishes of the people who have elected its members.

**JN:** You discuss the pan-Celtic movements in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Why did the pan-Celtic movements in Ireland, Wales and Scotland fail to unite and make much of a political impact?

**CK:** The pan-Celtic movements amounted only to shared forms of cultural nationalism. The countries simply did not share a common ground in political nationalism. It was the success of the economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century which made the Union popular in Scotland and Wales. Indeed the growth and commercial success of Glasgow became the justification of Scotland's integration into the British economy. While the Scottish language died out, a popular view of Scotland's past grew out of the Romantic novels of Walter

Scott and was subscribed to by no less a person than Queen Victoria who had her house at Balmoral designed in traditional Scots style and decorated in tartan. Welsh protest which centred on the demand for the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Wales found its main outlet in the Liberal party whose leader, the Welsh-speaking Lloyd George, managed to combine Welsh national concerns with British imperial policies. In Ireland there was a promising affinity for a while between cultural and political nationalism. Then the strident emergence of Ulster Unionism complicated national development, particularly after the Sinn Fein General Election victory in 1918. Political nationalism in Wales and Scotland, often voiced by socialists and communists, has never commanded the widespread support which the political independence movement commanded in Ireland post 1918. Yet the Irish model still remains as something of an inspiration to independence movements in the countries still within the United Kingdom.

**JN:** How do you explain the conundrum that throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century nationalism became associated with Roman Catholics and unionism became associated with Irish Protestants?

**CK:** There are tragic ironies in all of this. In 1798 radical Presbyterians and radical Catholics found common ground by putting Ireland first. The Orange Order represented an exclusive approach. At first some Orangemen were opposed to the Act of Union; but it soon became clear that the best guarantee of Irish Protestant ascendancy was their majority status within the United Kingdom. O'Connell's campaign excluded Protestants, largely because the Liberator tended to use the existing structures of the Irish Catholic Church to boost his political campaigning. The key figure in the promotion of a separate and anti-Catholic Protestant identity was Henry Cooke, an influential Presbyterian minister in the Calvinist tradition and a political agitator who was strongly pro-Union and anti-Catholic Emancipation. Cooke's theological and political conservatism encouraged sectarian clashes after 1829. While O'Connell made much of taking his religion from Rome and his politics from Ireland, Cooke did much to establish the idea of loyal Protestants and disloyal Catholics. Peel's decision to establish non-denominational and secular university colleges in Belfast, Cork and Galway angered all religious leaders in Ireland. The Catholic Bishops denounced the colleges as 'godless'.



The Queen's Colleges were supported by the Young Irelanders who believed that if Ireland were ever to achieve political independence, religious differences had to be set to one side. John Mitchell (who, by the way, was married in Drumcree Church) advocated a non-sectarian approach in Irish politics, as did later the Unionist Isaac Butt and the Protestant landlord Parnell. All such attempts from the Protestant side failed to prevent the polarisation of Ireland into Catholic nationalists and Protestant unionists. Yet in both the Catholic and Protestant Irish memory, there persist the glimmerings of a common national ground which has never proved firm enough to accommodate both sides of the tragic division.

**JN:** You analyse Irish involvement in the British Empire. How influential was that Irish contribution?

**CK:** Any comprehensive study of the British Empire has to take into account the important part which Irishmen played in its establishment. In 1830, some 40% of the British army were Irish Catholic recruits, many of whom were probably fleeing from extreme rural poverty. Many of the imperial administrators were drawn from Irish middle class families. Many Irish missionaries followed in the wake of the soldiers into the colonies. Irishmen were to be found in unexpected places as in the case of Lord Kitchener – veteran of the Boer War, Secretary of State for War in 1914, the military face of the British Empire during the First World War – who was born as a member of the Anglo-Irish ascendancy in County Kerry. The great problem was that successive British governments treated the Irish as colonials who were unready for self-government. In response to that, the Irish grew less convinced by the 'civilising' role of the British Empire and were increasingly attracted to Irish political nationalism. Before 1916 less than 4% of the total recruitment for the First World War came from Ireland (90,000 men). After 1916, Irish enlistment fell to 2% of the total. Proportionately more Protestants than Catholics fought in the war. Catholics were forbidden to have their own flags and regiments. The high number of Protestant casualties in the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster division at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 was used after the war as the ultimate symbol of Protestant loyalty, in sharp contrast to the Easter Rising, also in 1916, which became the ultimate symbol of Irish republicanism. The unacknowledged Irish contribution to the British Empire for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was totally

at odds with the vicious caricatures of the Irish as sub-human that often appeared in the British Press. One can only conclude that the British need to ridicule the Irish grew as Irish nationalists demanded a greater measure of political independence.

**JN:** You suggest that a separate English identity has been swamped by the British Imperial role. Is English nationalism doomed to be little more than peripheral activity in the foreseeable future?

**CK:** Recently there has been more talk about English nationalism. Waving St. George's flag is more common. A popular form of English nationalism is often associated with the support of English sports teams and the hero-worship of English sports stars. The link between national sports and nationalism has been an important factor in the United Kingdom. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, soccer emerged as Scotland's national sport. By the 1890s, one in four males in Scotland aged between 15 and 30 belonged to a football club. In 1903 Hampden Park, then the largest football stadium in the world, was opened. Yet the overarching sense of Scottishness being generated by soccer mania did not prevent outbreaks of bitter sectarian rivalry at local club level between Rangers (established in 1872) and Celtic (established in 1887). In the same period in Ireland, soccer was regarded as an English sport and actively discouraged by the Gaelic League. English nationalism through football too often asserts itself in jingoistic and destructive ways. Norman Tebbit's infamous test of English patriotism as support for the English cricket team was a crude and clumsy way of asserting English identity. English nationalism, along Tibbet lines, is deeply resistant to cultural development and right-wing in its approach to social and political reform. There are possibilities for the development of English cultural nationalism through the arts of literature, music and art. Such a development would depend very much on the education system fostering a sense of such possibilities in the popular consciousness. Is this actually happening? I doubt it.

**JN:** You describe the holocaust-like consequences in Ireland of the potato blight during the 1840s. Were such appalling consequences the direct result of the Act of Union?

**CK:** In the subsistence crisis of 1782-3, the Lord Lieutenant had ensured food for distressed people by closing the ports in the face of merchant opposition. The policies of Lord John

Russell's government between 1846 and 1852 utterly failed to prevent what should have been the first duty of the British government – a humanitarian response to the escalating mass mortality among a starving people who should never have been seen as marginal within the much trumpeted United Kingdom. Unemployed factory operatives in England during 1847 were regarded as deserving of support but the plight of the Irish peasants was ignored. During the famine years in Ireland, relief was always conditional and punitive by being related to employment or to the giving up of land. The British Treasury operated a system of relief which increasingly became a mixture of minimal relief, punitive qualifying criteria and preferred free enterprise. Famine problems in Ireland were a low priority to a government at the centre of a large and still expanding empire. The British Government contributed in the region of £10 million to relieve Irish distress, mainly in the form of interest-bearing loans which have been

estimated as about 0.3% of the annual gross national product of the United Kingdom. The depopulation of Ireland by means of death and exodus mocked the aims of the Act of Union. Yet a complacent British Government declared in 1851 that Ireland had actually benefited from the decrease in population and the increase in agrarian reform. The Irish folk memory in Ireland and throughout the Diaspora associated the Famine not with any benefit whatsoever but with massive suffering, appalling mortality, widespread emigration and imperial misrule: so much so that Queen Victoria is still remembered in Ireland as the 'Famine Queen'. A sense of the massive injustice in the British Government's mismanagement of famine relief was one of the most potent factors in the growth of the Irish republican nationalism which took most of Ireland out of the United Kingdom in 1921, thereby becoming the precedent for the dissolution of the United Kingdom itself.

#### A PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO MARY BROLLY (1948-1999)

I first met Mary in 1993, when we both began to study for an MA in Irish Studies at Bath College of Higher Education. Mary was the only Irish born student on the course and provided us with a sense of authenticity. Mary's contribution to the group was, like her contribution to all areas of her life, warm, humorous and grounded in sound common sense. As our friendship developed my affection and respect deepened, especially my delight in her sense of humour. Her love of Ireland was evident, but was mercifully free of any sanctimonious exclusivity. While writing her dissertation Mary experienced the first intimations of the cancer which was to kill her. Despite the stress of an operation to remove a breast and the subsequent debilitating radio and chemotherapy, Mary merely paused in her research, and as soon as she could, resumed work and completed her dissertation on *The Impact of the War of Independence 1919-1921* in parts of County Tipperary. Though historically well grounded, it was not an exclusively library based work, she was able to discuss delicate topics with people whose memories went back a long way. It was this which gave it its immediacy and authenticity. No other member of the group, with our English backgrounds and accents, could have carried out this work.

Owing to her illness Mary required an extension to complete her work. I was delighted that when the fine day came for graduation we were together, joined by friends and family. The sun shone, the grounds of Bath College were resplendent, the city beautiful, the evening meal fine, it was a very happy day and all seemed well. Alas, all too soon, the cancer returned, with further distressing treatment, but slowly hope faded and only a year and a half after graduation, Mary died. Visiting her during that final period was not so harrowing as I had feared, entirely due to Mary's courage and the integrity of her personality, which remained untouched. Thanks to the devotion of her family she was able to remain at home for the entire duration of her illness, and she died at home surrounded by those closest to her.

At her funeral Father Pashcal Berlinson's memorial tribute was impressive and inspiring. Father Pashcal spoke of the ideal of motherhood in the concept of God, and related this to Mary's role as a mother in the home. He drew the attention of the large congregation to Mary's work at The Gatehouse, a drop in centre for homeless people in Oxford. Mary had tackled this difficult work with characteristic compassion, interpreted with robust common sense and good humour. The Gatehouse is funded and organised by an ecumenical co-operative which works to serve the needs of homeless adults. I came to know the Gatehouse, through Mary, not as a place of despair, but as a place of hope. Sean O'Casey said of Lady Gregory 'she was a robin with the eye of a hawk', a description which I began to apply to Mary Brolly, as our friendship developed from being Irish Studies students together at Bath. I loved her, I miss her, it was a great privilege to have known her.

**Elizabeth Hazlehurst**

## BAIS CHAIR'S REPORT TO AGM – BATH SPA UNIVERSITY – 10 September 1999

### BAIS BURSARIES

The most significant development of the year was that of the BAIS Bursaries. During the year the project was developed, launched and promoted. Applications were invited for the first four Bursaries, applications were assessed, and the bursaries were awarded at a ceremony which took place at the Irish Embassy. I want to thank a number of Members of Council in connection with this project: Neil Sammells who suggested the idea, John Brannigan who took the lead role in developing the project, and Mervyn Busteed who carried out a large part of the administration. BAIS Council had the support of a committee convened by John Brannigan, which consisted of the following representatives of centres of Irish Studies: Mervyn Busteed, Roy

Foster, Mary Hickman, Cormac McCarthy, Shaun Richards, Richard Kirkland and Neil Sammells. These met a number of times during the year, at the planning and assessment stages, and gave their time to grading the applications, and I wish to thank them on behalf of the Association for their contribution. On behalf of the association I submitted a number of funding applications, and we have raised £14000 to support and develop the project in the initial stages, and now need to consider its more long-term funding. I wish to thank, on behalf of the Association, the funder of the project for 1999 – the Irish government and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain.

### BAIS RESEARCH REGISTER

The second important new development of the year was the publication and distribution of the BAIS Research Register. The compilation, printing and distribution of the Register was carried out and overseen by Mary Doran. We are committed to updating and republishing this

publication on a regular basis. One way the general membership could assist us in achieving a greater completeness for the Register is to suggest to Mary the names of people who are not included in the present issue to whom we might send registration and membership forms.

### IRISH STUDIES REVIEW, BAIS NEWSLETTER

I turn now to two major benefits of membership of the Association. On behalf of the Association, I wish to thank the *Irish Studies Review* editorial team for making available a publication of such a high standard and interest to the Irish Studies community. I wish also to thank them, and the publishers Carfax, for the arrangement by which we buy in copies of the Review and distribute them as a benefit of membership.

Equally, I want to thank Council Member Jerry Nolan for all the work he has done during the year in soliciting, collating, DTO-ing, overseeing the printing of, and distributing four issues of the

BAIS Newsletter. Personally, I think that the regular 'Focus Interview' feature, which he has made a centrepiece of the newsletter, is a most interesting addition. I would encourage the members to support Jerry's vigorous efforts by submitting ideas and material for publication to him and their constructive criticism. I would also encourage members to use the Newsletter as a medium for advertising events, projects, and publications – and I would ask them to draw its value in this respect to the attention of their colleagues, thus increasing its value as a networking tool.

### HONORARY TREASURER, HONORARY SECRETARY

We have cause to be grateful for the voluntary services of Domhnall Mac Suibhne, our Treasurer. He constantly reminds us of our

responsibilities as a registered Charity and as administrators of funding entrusted to us by donors. He has an eye for detail and a

commitment to his responsibilities which makes him a challenging colleague, but he is exactly the type of questioning colleague needed by organisations entrusted with the administration of trust and statutory funding.

Domhnall and Mervyn Busted are the two colleagues with whom I need to work most

### **RESIGNATIONS FROM THE COUNCIL**

There have been three resignations from Council during the year. Two of these were caused by members relocating to Ireland, and one by the resignation of a long-standing member.

I have already acknowledged in the Newsletter – as Chair and, personally, as an Irish speaker – of Cáit Thompson's contribution to BAIS over a number of years as our Irish language officer. She developed the Irish language services of the Association considerably, in terms of services to teachers and the 'Cultúr agus Teanga' conferences which she organised. She was also an effective fundraiser on behalf of the Irish-language activities of the Association.

Margaret Ward, who was Vice-Chair of the Association, took a special interest in membership issues and had designed a new recruitment leaflet and poster for BAIS before

### **OTHER THANKS**

To all those members of Council who have given their time voluntarily to the affairs of the Association during the year.

To the main funder during the year: the Irish government (CRC and Irish Sailors & Soldiers Land Trust) and the Ireland Fund of Great Britain.

To the Irish Embassy and, at the Embassy, to the Irish ambassador, Ted Barrington and Clair Barrington and to Geoffrey Keating, Cultural Attache at the Embassy.

**Sean Hutton**  
**Chair BAIS**

closely as Chair. Mervyn has made a valuable contribution to the association not only by his support for the meetings of Council, in terms of Minutes and Agendas, but also because of his wise judgement and knowledge of procedures. He remains closely in touch with all aspects of the Association's work through contact with members of the Council.

returning to Northern Ireland. She represented BAIS at various functions during her period as Vice-Chair, and, of course, she was our local organiser at Bath Spa University for the organisation of this year's conference. We are grateful to Margaret for her contribution to BAIS during her period of office.

John Brannigan was a relative newcomer to Council, but he made a very substantial contribution during that period in terms of his convening of the Bursaries Committee and his development work on the project itself, to which he brought great enthusiasm and energy. Again, we are very grateful to him for his substantial contribution to this innovatory aspect of the Association's work.

We shall be seeking to recruit active members to Council for the coming year through co-option.

To Bath Spa University for hosting this year's conference and to Brian Griffin, who took over from Margaret Ward as conference organiser at the University.

To Bath Spa University for hosting our site on the internet, which we need to develop further at

<http://www.bathspa.ac.uk/hmn/bais/index/html>



## THE SECOND GENERATION IRISH IN BRITAIN: NEW RESEARCH GRANT

The Economic and Social Research Council has just announced that it will provide £163,000 to fund a new project entitled 'The second generation Irish: a hidden population in multi-ethnic Britain'. The proposal was drawn up by Dr. Bronwen Walter, Anglia Polytechnic University and Dr. Mary J. Hickman, University of North London. We start work in February 2000 and will take two years to complete the research. Dr. Sarah Morgan, University of North London, is the research assistant.

The project will investigate the socio-economic circumstances and identities of people with one or two Irish-born parents. It builds on research now being completed at the Irish Studies Centre, University of North London with DION funding which is collating statistical material currently available on the second generation Irish. The new research will use qualitative methods to provide a much more detailed understanding of people's experiences. It will take into account differences of location in Britain by choosing five centres: London, Glasgow, Manchester, Coventry and Banbury. This allows us to examine some of the effects both of national/regional variation and small and large community size. In total, we will carry out twelve focus group discussions and interview 120 people, using semi-structured interviews and timelines to record details of family histories.

The theoretical importance of the project lies in its contribution to debates about inclusion and exclusion in multi-ethnic Britain, and to the problematisation of black/white 'racial' divisions. In particular, it will allow us to interrogate notions of assimilation which have been the common sense understanding of Irish experience in Britain after the migrant generation. The small number of publications addressing second generation Irish population

### IRISH STUDIES IN FINLAND

In virtually every large city in Europe there is now a very visible Irish presence in the form of off-the-peg theme pubs and Guinness advertisements and the cities of Finland are

suggest that social outcomes and identifications are mixed, and it is this complexity we aim to explore.

This is a particularly timely piece of research since the findings will be completed at the same time as the 2001 Census results will be published. They will enable policy makers and welfare groups to interpret the responses to the new 'Irish' category in the Ethnic Group Question. It also comes at a time when anti-Catholicism in Scotland is being publicly debated. Dr. Joe Bradley of Stirling University will be responsible for carrying out the research in Glasgow which should throw much more light on this issue. Another key contribution will be helping to unravel some of the complexities of poorer than average health amongst children of Irish-born parents.

The success of the proposal was undoubtedly helped by expressions of strong support from Irish community and welfare groups, the All Party Parliamentary Irish in Britain Group, local and health authorities and the Commission for Racial Equality. It was one of the recommendations of the CRE report *Discrimination and the Irish Community in Britain* (Hickman and Walter, 1997). This is the first time that the ESRC, the major public funding body for social science research in the United Kingdom, has made a large grant to a topic related to the Irish community in Britain and is therefore especially to be welcomed.

The project will be based at Anglia Polytechnic University. Anyone who would like more information or can contribute in any way is welcome to contact **Dr. Bronwen Walter, Geography Department, Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge CB1 1PT.**

certainly no exception. However there the links with Ireland seem to be developing at a far deeper level. An interest in traditional and contemporary national music has provided one

of the strongest links, and Irish musicians were a leading feature of this year's national music festival in Kaustinen. But the coming together may also be partly a question of national temperament. The films of the Kaurismaki brothers have demonstrated to the world that Finns can sometimes show an ironic approach to life that is not often found in other Nordic countries and Bob Geldof is only one visitor who has said of them, 'They seem very Irish to me!'

Clearly there are compelling similarities of history that can produce academically fruitful comparisons. Two countries on the edge of Europe with populations of similar size, they both seized their independence from a powerful Eastern neighbour at roughly the same time and in each case the achievement of that independence was followed by a bitter civil war that was to shape the country's political life for decades. These similarities have for long created an interest in Irish topics among Finnish historians, and more recently the impact of the women's movement on politics has also brought the two countries closer together. The election of successive women presidents in Ireland caught the imagination of a Finland where women have now also come to dominate the field in the run-up to next year's presidential election and the Finnish Academy has recently financed a comparative Irish-Finnish research project on this very topic to be conducted by a Tampere historian, Sari Oikarinen, whose own doctoral thesis was concerned with Countess Markievicz.

Against this background it's not surprising that Ireland increasingly proves an attractive study topic for many other Finnish students, sometimes on a scale which surprises the organisers. In the central city of Jyväskylä, for example, an Irish lecturer in American Studies, Michael Coleman, on his own initiative, recently decided to mount, for the first time, a 'side' course of Irish Studies in a university with no previous commitment to the subject. Somewhat to his surprise, over fifty students turned up.

Other students from Jyväskylä and elsewhere, are travelling to Helsinki to enrol on courses in the Renvall Institute, a centre for Area and Cultural Studies at the University of Helsinki. It now provides the widest set of courses on Irish topics available in Finland. Somewhat surprisingly, however, these are embedded in a wider programme of British and Irish Studies;

even so, they are far from swamped given that the general aim of the programme, as summed up in the prospectus, is that of covering English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish identities. This means that the interests of non-England are safeguarded in a way that is not always the case in 'British' Studies courses elsewhere and the history of the Celtic languages forms a course on its own.

Many of the other courses in the programme are in fact purely concerned with Ireland dealing *inter alia* with the Irish language, the Irish novel and Irish History since 1600 while some of the courses covering both islands, such as one on the British and Irish churches, study the process of Anglo-Irish interaction in a way that doesn't always happen in such detail elsewhere.

The coordinator of the Helsinki courses is Pirkko Hautamaki who worked until recently in the Finnish Institute in London, a body which also operates in the Republic of Ireland. She has, therefore, a knowledge of recent events that very much helps to keep the programme in close touch with current approaches. This year some 150 students have enrolled on these Renvall courses, all of them studying Irish matters to a greater or lesser extent.

Other Finnish universities have similar interests. As long ago as 1983, I was invited by the History Department in Tampere to a seminar for students preparing Master's and Doctor's theses on Irish topics and when I visited the Department again in the autumn of 1998 I found the tradition very much alive. There is no formal Irish Studies course in Tampere but I attended three lectures on Irish topics in the space of a few days while students approached me to discuss their own research plans dealing with topics as wide-ranging as de Valera's foreign policy in the 1930s and the work of Bord na Mona.

Oulu University, in Northern Finland and much nearer the Arctic Circle, is also launching an Irish Studies programme. This is still in its early stages but, unlike much of other Finnish activity, it is based not in a Historical Institute but in a Department of English and is, therefore, likely to be more concerned with nineteenth and twentieth century literature than are the courses elsewhere.

The general opinion of those organising the existing courses is that the demand is not yet

satisfied. The students are certainly there, many of them with trips to Ireland behind them, but the finance is not yet available to provide the necessary staffing. As one person put it, if Ireland and her culture are to become even more widely studied not just in Finland but in the

European Union, then a modest equivalent of the British Council or Goethe Institute is needed and Irish money will need to go into more than the theme bars.

**Bob Bell**

### ***Erin's Blood Royal* at the Irish Literary Society London**

Peter Berresford Ellis introduced his newly published book *Erin's Blood Royal: the Gaelic Noble Dynasties of Ireland* (Constable, 1999, hb at £20) to a crowded meeting of the Irish Literary Society held at the Irish Club, Eaton Square, London on Tuesday 28 September 1999.

The meeting began with a bombshell. The Mac Carthy Mór, Prince of Desmond who has written the foreword to *Erin's Blood Royal* was reported as having fallen foul of the Chief Herald of Ireland who recently decided to assign the courtesy title of Prince of Desmond to another claimant. The controversy centres on the difference between English primogeniture recognition favoured by the current Chief Herald of Ireland and the Brehon successional law advocated passionately by Mac Carthy Mór who has the support of international law which has ruled that no claimant to a Gaelic title has the authority to use it without a recognition of the Brehon law. Peter Berresford asked the meeting: 'How can Ireland be free and Gaelic as well when the Irish state is now trying to force the few survivors of the old Gaelic noble families to follow that same English law which destroyed the culture of their illustrious ancestors?'

Peter's talk was a graphic account of the Irish aristocratic families spanning some three thousand years of Irish experience, folklore traditions and was a reminder of the primordial roots of the Irish nation. The destruction of those Gaelic noble families was the declared colonial policy of the Tudors from 1541 onwards. Two remarkable results of the destruction were that monarchy in Ireland quickly became synonymous with English monarchy and that the fate of the Gaelic dynasties was to become a forgotten history.

That history has now been outlined by Peter Berresford Ellis in his book – the struggle against foreign kingdoms, survival against incredible odds, the destruction of books and records, the English policy of genocide, the enforced dispersal of the Irish princes and their followers throughout the world in a manner as poignantly tragic as the Jewish Diaspora.

Once the story of the destruction of the oldest traceable nobility in Europe has been told, there remains the question of the role which the few survivors of the ancient princes should now play in the modern Irish state. In 1937 Eamon de Valera thought about installing a direct descendant of the last High King of Ireland as Prince President under the new Irish Constitution. In 1943 the Irish state began giving 'courtesy recognition' to the surviving chiefs but mainly not according to the Brehon laws of title and succession. By 1999, some twenty heads of Gaelic aristocratic houses have been recognised. The MacCarthy Mór, now rejected by the Chief Herald of Ireland, writes in the foreword to Peter's book: 'It is a fact that some of our dwindling numbers are not Irish, but Spanish, Portuguese, Welsh and even English... We are Gaelic Chiefs. Our chieftainships are defined by Gaelic perceptions, by Milesian descent... patronage of the arts, promotion of our Gaelic language and culture...'

After Peter's talk, the vote of thanks was proposed by the O'Ruairc of Breifne who said how remarkable it was that a historian like Peter Berresford Ellis, well known for his republican sympathies, has written such a pioneering study of the legacy of the forgotten Irish princes.

NOTICEBOARD

**CAPITAL  
& CLASS**

Journal of the Conference of Socialist Economists

Autumn  
1999  
**#69**

**SPECIAL ISSUE**  
**NORTHERN IRELAND  
BETWEEN PEACE AND WAR?**

*with contributions from*  
Paul Stewart, Peter Shirlow,  
Denis O'Hearn with Sam Porter and Alan Harpur  
also Ian Shuttleworth, Alan Finlayson, Colin Coulter,  
Jim Smyth, Alan Bairner and Linda Connolly,  
plus the usual full quota of reviews.

*Available NOW*

£7.00 from CSE, 25 Horsell Road  
London N5 1XL  
Tel/Fax: 0171 607 9615

Visa, Access/Mastercard accepted.

Ask about subscriptions and back issues.  
Email: cseoffice@gn.apc.org

**TWO RECOMMENDED NEW BOOKS**

***IRELAND IN PROXIMITY*** History, Gender and Space

Edited by Scott Brewster, Virginia Crossman, Fiona Becket and David Alderson, all at Staffordshire University College, UK

Tackling issues such as historiography, nationalism, postcoloniality, traumatic remembering, gender identity and the politics of space *IRELAND IN PROXIMITY* explores many of the issues that are shaping debates surrounding Irish history, culture and identities. There are chapters on revisionism, 18<sup>th</sup> century Protestant 'patriotism', the legacy of Oscar Wilde, cinematic representations of Northern Ireland, community activism in Derry, women dramatists and poets, women in politics and prisons.

Routledge August 1999 Hb: £45.00 & Pb: £14.99

Information from Tracy Perry, Routledge, Andover, Hants. SP10 5BR

***JOYCE'S BOOK OF MEMORY: THE MNEMOTECHNIC OF ULYSSES***

by John S. Rickard, Bucknell University

J.S. Bucknell demonstrates how Joyce distilled subjectivity, history, and cultural identity into a text that offers a panoramic view of the modern period. 'Mnemotechnic' is Joyce's technique of preserving and remembering the personal, social, and cultural pasts.

Combined Academic Publishers March 1999 Pb: £11.95

Information from Plymbridge Distributors Ltd., Plymbridge House, Estover Road, Plymouth, PL6 7PZ



## CONFERENCES

### IRELAND ABROAD

Hosted by the Society for the Study of Nineteenth-century Ireland, the Department of History, and the research Institute of Irish & Scottish Affairs

University of Aberdeen: 14-16 April 2000

Papers on subjects such as Migration Studies, Irish enlistment in foreign armies, Irish missionary workers, the exportation of literary and artistic influences and political philosophy, cultural contributions to the development of other cultures.

Plenary Speakers: Professor David Fitzpatrick, Trinity College, Dublin

Professor Declan Kiberd, University College, Dublin

Information from **Dr. Oonagh Walsh**, Dept. of History, University of Aberdeen, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3FX Tel: (01224) 273884 Fax: (01224) 272203 E-mail: [o.walsh@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:o.walsh@abdn.ac.uk)

### TERMS OF EMPIRE: LANDSCAPE & WRITING, 1800 TO THE PRESENT

Hosted by the Research Institute of Irish & Scottish Studies

University of Aberdeen: 9-11 June, 2000

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, writers of Empire have variously interpreted landscape. Sometimes exoticised, sometimes domesticated, landscapes were frequently open to contradictory impulses and interpretations. This conference will explore the relationship between landscape, writing and empire at a time of intense political and historical change. Themes will include: cities and settlements; the politics of locale; regional rivalry; terror and territory; landscapes of desire; cartography and writing. There will be papers on Ireland and Scotland.

Information from **Dr. Glenn Hooper**, Institute of Irish & Scottish Studies, Humnity Manse, University of Aberdeen, 19 College Bounds, Aberdeen, AB24 3UG Tel: (01224) 273683 Fax: (01224) 273677  
E-Mail: [g.hooper@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:g.hooper@abdn.ac.uk)

### IRISH FICTION IN TRANSITION

Hosted by St. Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, London  
Friday 28 April 2000

To include Readings by:

**Seamus Deane**

**Bernard MacLaverty**

**Colm Toibin**

Information : **Dr. Liam Harte**, Centre for Irish Studies,  
St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham TW1 4SX. Tel:0181 240 4091  
Email:[hartel@smuc.ac.uk](mailto:hartel@smuc.ac.uk)

## **BAIS NATIONAL COUNCIL**

Principal Officers

**CHAIR**

**Sean Hutton**, 69 Balfour Street, London SE 17 1PL. Tel: 0171 9162733 Fax:0171 9162753

**HONORARY SECRETARY**

**Mervyn Busted**, Dept. of Geography, University of Manchester M13 9PL TEL:0161-2753623 Fax: 0161-2734407

**HONORARY TREASURER**

**Domhnall Mac Suibhne**, 53a Hartham Road, London N7 9JJ Tel: 0171-6077771

**OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**Eleanor Burgess**, Mulberries, Boreham, Chelmsford, Essex CM3 3DS TEL: 01245-467287

**Mary Doran**, Modern Irish Collections, The British Library, 96 Euston Road London NW1 2DB  
Tel: 0171-4127538

**Dr. Eibhlín Evans**, University of Hertfordshire, Wall Hall, Aldenham, Herts. WD2 8AT  
[e.evans@herts.ac.uk](mailto:e.evans@herts.ac.uk).

**Jerry Nolan**, 8 Antrobus Road, Chiswick, London W4 5HY Tel/Fax 0181-995-1532

**Marie Ryan**, 89 Everton Drive, Stanmore, Middx HA7 1EA Tel: 0181-2060748

**Dr Neil Sammells**, Bath Spa University College, Newton Park, Bath BA2 6BN Tel: 01225-873701

**DATE FOR NEXT BAIS COUNCIL MEETING SATURDAY 13.11.99**

### **BENEFITS OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP:**

- 3 issues of Irish Studies Review and BAIS Newsletter posted to you
- Network of nearly 300 members with Irish Studies interests.

### **ADVICE TO APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

All overseas applications should include a £2-00 supplement to cover postage costs. Overseas remittances should be sent in the form of a Sterling Money Order only. For further information about subscription rates please see application form on the next page. Membership runs for twelve months. Members will receive a reminder of renewal prior to membership lapsing. **IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER FILL UP THE APPLICATION FORM NOW.**

**BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL FORM**

**(A) NEW MEMBER**

Please enrol me as a member of the BAIS (tick box)

**(B) RENEWING MEMBERSHIP**

Please renew my membership of the BAIS (tick box)

**PREFERRED TITLE** (e.g. An tUasal,,Dr, Mr, Mrs, Ms, Professor)

Surname.....Initials.....

Address.....

Town.....Postcode.....

PLEASE TICK ONE BOX TO INDICATE STATUS AND SUBSCRIPTION: Individual Waged £20  
Full-time Student £12  
Unwaged £12

**PLEASE COMPLETE:**

either

**CHEQUE OR ORDER (NO CASH) PAYABLE TO: BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES**

or

**STANDING ORDER PAYMENT FOR ANNUAL SUSCRIPTION** (please fill in details below)

Surname.....Initials.....

Address.....

Town.....Postcode.....

To: The Manager.....Bank plc Branch .....

Address.....

Town.....Postcode.....

Please pay to the BAIS Current Account (No.40196071) Sort Code No. 23-84-87  
at Allied Irish Banks (GB), City Office, 48-50 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9NE the  
sum of £.....now and the same amount on the same day annually hereafter, and debit my

Account No.

Sort Code No.

This standing order supersedes any existing order in favour of BAIS

Signed.....

Dated.....

Please send completed form to:

**THE TREASURER, BAIS, c/o MRS SANDY TROTT, 10 WHITE BARNS, FORD END,  
CHELMSFORD, ESSEX, CM3 1LT**

**TEL: 01245-237590**

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES

Entry Form for the BAIS Research Register

If you are currently a paid-up member of BAIS and you would like to have an entry in the BAIS Research Register, or update your existing entry, please fill in the details below and return it to the address at the end. The extent of the information you supply is at your discretion but please only supply information you want published. Members with entries in the 1999 Register which require no updating do not need to send in a completed form. Please print clearly.

Surname.....First name (s) .....

Preferred Title(e.g. Ms, Dr, Mr, Mrs, Miss etc.).....

Address.....

.....

Tel.....Fax.....E-mail.....

Research Interests:

.....

.....

.....

Teaching (please indicate level: Primary, Secondary, FE, Adult, Higher)

.....

**Publications:** (no more than 4 please). Please supply FULL DETAILS e.g.

**Book:** Title, Place of Publication, Publisher, Date

**Periodical:** Title of article, Title of Periodical, Volume number, Date, Page numbers

1.....

.....

2.....

.....

3.....

.....

4.....

.....

Please return completed form by 1 MARCH 2000 to: **Mary Doran, Modern Irish Collections, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB** Tel:0171-412-7538 Fax: 0171-412-7557

E-Mail: [mary.doran@bl.uk](mailto:mary.doran@bl.uk)