

## British Association for Irish Studies

310 The Chandlery  
50 Westminster Bridge Road  
London SE1 7QY  
Tel 071-721-7579  
Fax 071-721-7409

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Dear Executive member,

I said at the recent Executive meeting that I would supply members with some information re the type of enquiries which reach the office from persons seeking information pertaining to Irish Studies. The following categories cover the bulk of those enquiries:

(a) Enquiries from those at various levels of the education system (but most usually adult and continuing education (both Irish Studies and specifically Irish language), compulsory sector + 6th form) who are interested in setting up courses and who want information on how to do this.

What I most require here is any information about what is happening in the compulsory sector, since I have a fair idea of what is happening in third level and adult and continuing sectors. (I do have information on the A and A/S levels and the general progress of the Joint Education Programme.)

In re primary and secondary schools information re teachers who have developed courses, who are prepared to share their experience with other teachers would be useful. (And the most economical way to share the information would be a series of regional conferences for interested parties.)

(b) Enquiries from schools engaged in project work and from students doing minor dissertations concerning bibliographies and resources on topics such as:

- (1) the Irish in Britain;
- (2) twentieth century Anglo-Irish literature;
- (3) Northern Ireland;
- (4) Irish language.

I can deal with general enquiries on these topics and have prepared a short bibliography on (1). Kate Thompson's newsletters and the Gaelic League's bibliography of resources mean that there is something to hand out on (4).

Bibliographies on twentieth century Ireland (one for history and another for social studies) and on twentieth century Anglo-Irish literature would be useful.

I feel that these bibliographies need to be at different levels, suitable for:

- (1) undergraduates and sixth formers;
- (2) teachers wanting to guide their pupils in project work below sixth form.

I also feel that it is necessary to have the assistance of practising schoolteachers in preparing bibliographies for schools.

Resource lists for schools (a/v materials, resource packs, etc.) would be useful.

(c) Enquiries from those wishing to follow courses in Irish Studies at various levels.

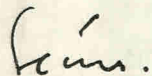
The position on degree courses is clear. Also we have a fair idea of where optional courses are taught: although this information needs to be updated.

An area on which I do need information concerns post-primary degree study. I know there is a taught MA at Liverpool; are there any others which would be relevant.

Kate Thompson has a good database for Irish language, which she updates, so that situation is satisfactory. And I hope that we will have a more comprehensive idea of where Irish Studies courses exist in adult education once the Ad Ed questionnaire has been processed.

I would appreciate any possible help members of the Executive can give in these matters.

Yours sincerely,



Seán Hutton