

Coursework by Zaskymer B,
Comment by Theris -
Coursework by Edin.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES

THIRD SURVEY OF IRISH STUDIES IN GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.

Progress to date

To date, survey forms have been distributed to all members (by Séan). This produced 73 responses. All respondents to the second survey (other than those having already responded) were then circularised, producing an approximate total of a further 77 returns. Results however, remain disappointing - we have received a total of 150 returns to date.

The implications of this are serious. Either general interest in Irish Studies is dropping off (and some returns say this explicitly) or we are "failing to reach the parts" that other surveys reached.

To cope with the latter point I am providing (at this meeting) teacher representatives with additional supplies of survey blanks for distribution and Nesson's "network" is key here. I have also brought additional copies for members in education to circulate as they will and I have today (Friday) sent multiple copies of the questionnaire to Northern Ireland (Séamus MacMathuna, Bob Welch, David Harkness, Ronnie Buchanan) where David Harkness told me after the last Survey that circulation had been incomplete.

The former point is very serious. I do not underestimate the impact of having to report a drop in interest in the subject area in this third report as against previous reports (186; 380; 200?) For that reason I propose to continue to gather survey returns while entering the bulk of the data.

Data entry, editing.

This is in hand. Staffordshire Polytechnic very graciously has provided £350.00 for clerical assistance and the student who is working with me, having finished her examinations is now entering data onto a database form. She will have finished the forms received so far by the end of June and I will then be

ready to edit the data during July. I undertake to have camera-ready copy ready for printing by September 1st.