



Canadian Association for Irish Studies

Association canadienne d'études irlandaises

Newsletter

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Autumn 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Marianna O'Gallagher.
Peter Hart.
Margaret MacDougall.

This past summer CAIS/ACEI lost three of our own, three long time and valued members and friends who in their individual ways had contributed so much to our Association. It is fitting that we mark their passing in this issue of the newsletter.

Conference 2010

This year's CAIS conference at St. Mary's in Halifax saw old friends reacquainted and new friendships formed. Pádraig Ó Siadhail and his colleagues (a tip of the hat to Irish Studies secretary Nicole Luttrell) put together a stellar program in two languages that offered something for everyone.

Keynote presentations included the Ireland Fund of Canada lecture by Clair Wills on the reality and imagining of Irish emigration in the 1950s and bilingual (as Gaeilge and in English) readings by Micheal O'Siadhail and by Micheál Ó Conghaile – all attended by full houses.

The conference concert by Aran islander Lasairfhiona Ní Chonaola accompanied by James Nash on guitar (an Ozzie astray in the world) overflowed the cup of our expectations. Another highlight was the première screening of *Remembering a Memory*, a documentary film by Ronald Rudin, Producer (Concordia University) and Robert McMahon, Director (Royal Ontario Museum). The post-screening discussion with the film's producer was a spirited affair.



New Executive member Heather Macdougall and Joseph McGann award winner Andrea Walisser

Each year CAIS/ACEI presents The Joseph McGann Award for best student papers at its conference. This year's winner was Andrea Walisser from Simon Fraser University,

whose paper compared Protestant and Catholic attitudes about Drumcree; honourable mention was awarded to Séamus Mac Floinn of St. Francis Xavier University. Our congratulations to them both.



David Wilson, Lasairfhiona Ní Chonaola and her mother Pacella

The Conference ended with a banquet notable for a fine session, led(?) in inimitable fashion by Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin.

As reported below, our AGM happily agreed to create an annual conference lecture in honour of Marianna O’Gallagher, only to discover that she had died before we could let her know. It was also unanimously agreed to mark our respect for her life-time’s dedication to the Association by making Jean Talman a Lifetime Member.



Micheal O'Siadhail



Pádraig Ó Siadhail greets Clair Wills and her daughter

Céad míle fáilte

The Association offers a warm welcome to our new colleagues, this year’s Ireland Canada University Foundation’s visiting scholars.

The Irish language visiting professor:

An Dr. Peadar Mac Gabhann, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, and

The Irish language teaching assistantships:

Máire Nic Eochaidh, St. Thomas University, New Brunswick

Aoife Ní Churraoin, Concordia University

Joanne Fahy, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto

Sailí Ní Dhroighneáin, Saint Mary's University, Halifax

Gearóid Ó Duinn, Memorial University, Newfoundland

Ailish Bhreathnach, St. Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia



Last year's visiting Irish scholars: Gráinne Ní Mhuirí (NotreDame), Séamus Mac Floinn, Bríd Falconer, Joanne Fahy, Neasa Ní Chuaig

New Executive Members

At our annual conference in May, Ann Brennan and Julia Wright stepped down as members at large of the Executive Committee. Three candidates presented for the two openings – Farrell McCarthy, Michele Holmgren and Heather Macdougall. Farrell asked that his name be withdrawn and Michele and Heather were thus acclaimed to the positions.



Michele Holmgren is an assistant professor of English at Mount Royal University. She received her B.A. from University of Victoria, her M.A. in Irish Writing from Queen's University Belfast, and her Ph.D. from The University of

Western Ontario. Her doctoral dissertation was titled *Native Muses and National Poetry: Nineteenth-Century Irish-Canadian Poets*. She has published articles on Canadian and

Irish literary nationalism in nineteenth-and twentieth-century literature, and contributed to the Library Archives Canada website, 'The Shamrock and Maple Leaf.' She has taught Irish and Canadian literature at several Canadian Universities before teaching writing and literature and Mount Royal.



Heather Macdougall is a PhD student in the Humanities program at Concordia University, where

she is completing a dissertation on policies and practices of Irish-language filmmaking. She has presented papers at CAIS conferences in 2007, '08 and '09; she has also published several book reviews and one article in the CJIS/RCEI. She lectures part-time on Irish Film at Concordia and is actively involved in the programming committee for the Cine Gael Montreal Irish Film Society. She is also working as Managing Editor of the Journal.

CAIS/ ACEI Conference 2011

Text and Beyond Text in Irish Studies: New Visual, Material & Spatial Perspectives

**School of Canadian Irish Studies
Concordia University, Montreal
July 6-9, 2011**

Organizers: Michael Kenneally and Rhona Richman Kenneally

Call for Papers

Initially based primarily on text-based literary and historical investigation, Irish Studies have increasingly been infused by resources and methods derived from other disciplines. Explorations of

visual communication, of material culture and the built environment, and of performance generate contrapuntal meanings to be considered alongside textually-derived narratives. Indeed, words (whether sung, spoken or written), aside from their own function and inherent value in history and culture, also serve as conduits to study Irish things, places, and performances.

The premise of this conference is to encourage a flourishing dynamic between the study of text-based materials and that of images, things, sounds, tastes, movement, and other cultural and social markers, as a means of offering new perspectives on Irish Studies. The Canadian Association for Irish Studies, therefore, invites papers on any aspect of these disciplines. Papers are also invited on other topics of interest to members of CAIS.

Please submit your proposal by January 17, 2011 to irishstu@alcor.concordia.ca. Proposals should be 250-500 words in length, and include a brief (~50 word) bio of the submitter. Please send any questions to the conference e-mail address.

Call for Nominations

Nominations are being sought for two Members-At-Large

At next year's annual conference Simon Jolivet and Fred McEvoy will step down from their positions as Members at Large on the CAIS/ACEI Executive, with the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the members and their fellow committee members.

Nominations are requested to fill two **Members-at-Large** positions for the term 2011-2014. A nominations Committee consisting of Danine Farquharson and Katherine Side has been struck.

Nominations must be made according to the following requirements of the Constitution:

1. Nominations should be in writing and should include the consent of the nominee and a brief (50 words) *curriculum vitae*.

2. Both the nominator and the nominee must be members in good standing for at least one year prior to the date of nomination.

If no more than one nomination is received for each position, then each person so nominated will be declared elected by acclamation. Otherwise, ballots will be mailed with respect to the positions not so acclaimed and results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting in 2011. Nominations and other documents required must be received by email or by post, postmarked no later than January 31, 2011.

Send to:

Danine Farquharson
Associate Professor, Department of English
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, NL, Canada, A1C5S7
daninef@mun.ca

OR

Katherine Side, PhD
Associate Professor
Head, Department of Women's Studies
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, Newfoundland, A1C 5S7
kside@mun.ca

Notice from New CJIS Editor

Dear CAIS Members,

I am honoured to have been appointed editor of the *Canadian Journal of Irish Studies* and am pleased that it will be returning to Concordia University in 2011.

I am excited to have been given the opportunity to continue CJIS's long tradition of publishing valuable scholarship in Irish Studies. As you know, the journal originally dealt primarily with literature and history but, in recent years, has begun to broaden its mandate to include the social sciences and the visual arts. I hope to widen the focus of the journal still further so that it will become a forum for cutting edge research in Irish Studies and on the Irish in Canada. In this regard, I would like to introduce materials related to a wide range of subjects within Irish Studies as well as original work that can contextualize the discipline.

I invite CAIS members to become active participants in shaping the journal over the coming years, and therefore would be grateful for suggestions you may have, for recommendations about new scholars in your own area of research, and your willingness to do occasional book reviews.

In short, I hope I can count on your partnership as the journal embarks on this new stage of its evolution. I am hoping that my first issue of CJIS will appear in spring 2011 and I look forward to sending it to you.

I am pleased to announce that Heather Macdougall has agreed to serve as Managing Editor of CJIS so please feel free to contact either me (rrk@alcor.concordia.ca) or Heather (h_macdou@live.concordia.ca) with any comments or observations.



Best wishes,
Rhona Richman Kenneally

Job Posting: School of Canadian Irish Studies

Irish Literature

Over the past several years, Canadian Irish Studies has developed significantly as a multidisciplinary area of study at Concordia University, culminating in the creation of the School of Canadian Irish Studies in 2009. The School offers Minor and Certificate programs in

Canadian Irish Studies, sponsors a prestigious annual lecture series, hosts Visiting Scholars, provides scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students, presents an Irish Studies Seminar Series, organizes various community-outreach events, and will host international conferences in 2011 (Canadian Association for Irish Studies and 2012 (International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures). In September 2011, the School is planning to introduce a Major in Canadian Irish Studies.

The School now invites applications for one tenure-track position in any period of Irish Literature and/or the Literature of the Irish Diaspora. The ideal candidate will have a completed PhD, a strong research and teaching profile, a demonstrated multidisciplinary approach to his/her own subject as well as a broad interdisciplinary conceptualization of Irish Studies. In addition to teaching courses in Irish Literature, the successful candidate will be expected to play a central role in the further expansion of Irish Studies at Concordia University. We anticipate filling this position, at the rank of Assistant Professor, for July 1, 2011.

Applications must consist of a cover letter, a current curriculum vitae, copies of recent publications, a statement of teaching philosophy/interests, a statement of research achievements, and evidence of teaching effectiveness. Candidates must also arrange to have three letters of reference sent directly to Dr. Michael Kenneally, Principal, School of Canadian Irish Studies
Concordia University
1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.
Montreal, QC, H3G 1M8
Michael.Kenneally@concordia.ca
Applications should reach the School no later than December 6, 2010.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority. Concordia University is committed to employment equity.

PROSCENIUM PRESS BOOKS AVAILABLE

Copies of Robert Hogan's Proscenium Press books, as well as back issues of *The Journal of Irish Literature* and *George Spelvin's Theatre Book* now available. Some rare books, some signed by the author. Great prices on the journals (6 for \$10). Discounts for students.

Contact Kate Danaher at 302-764-8477 or kate_danaher@comcast.net, for a complete stock list. Don't delay, as some numbers of *The Journal* have already gone out of print since these books have been advertised for sale.

News from Concordia University's School of Canadian Irish Studies

Professor Patricia Coughlan (UCC) has joined the School this academic year as the 2010 O'Brien Visiting Scholar. Patricia has published widely on Irish literature, especially Irish women writers. She is teaching two Irish literature classes at Concordia University this fall.

The School of Canadian Irish Studies is pleased to welcome Ireland-Canada University Foundation Visiting Scholar Aoife Ní Churraoin for its 2010-11 academic year. Aoife is teaching a year-long course, *The Irish Language and Its Culture*, which provides an introduction to Irish linguistic and cultural practices in Ireland.

Two students from the School, Gabrielle Machnik-Keksi and Joanie Langelier, will be traveling to Ireland in January to spend a semester studying at National University of Ireland, Cork through Concordia University's exchange agreement with Cork.

FALL 2010 EVENTS

Irish Women Writers. An evening of readings by Irish writers Ivy Bannister, Mary Rose Callaghan, Catherine Dunne, Celia de Freine, and Lia Mills. Ivy Bannister's memoir, *Blunt Trauma*, published in Canada by Goose Lane, details the year following her sister's death in the 1998 Swissair crash off the coast of Nova Scotia. Mary Rose Callaghan's latest novel, *A Bit of a Scandal* was published in 2009. Catherine Dunne's eighth novel, *Missing Julia*, will be published October 2010. *Imram: odyssey* is Celia de Freine's latest collection of poetry. And *In Your Face* is Lia Mills' non-fiction account of her experience of cancer. Partial funding for this event is provided by Culture Ireland.
Oct. 15, 2010

5th Annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture by Fiach Mac Conghail. Fiach Mac Conghail, Director/CEO of the Dublin's Abbey Theatre, and producer of several award winning dramas for RTE and TG4, will give a lecture on "The Abbey Theatre: A view from the 21st Century" Oct. 22, 2010

Public Launch and Screening of *Remembering a Memory*. A documentary film directed by Robert McMahon (Royal Ontario Museum) and produced by Ronald Rudin (Concordia) that deals with the centenary celebrations of the erection of the Celtic Cross on Grosse-Ile. Nov. 4, 2010.

Third Annual Ann Saddlemyer Lecture by Dr. Patricia Coughlan. Concordia's 2010 O'Brien Visiting Scholar, Dr. Patricia Coughlan, will give the Annual Ann Saddlemyer Lecture on "Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and The Sea Beneath: Poetry, Psychoanalysis and Postmodern Ireland". Fri. Nov. 5, 2010. Location: TBA

Local Irish Writers. An evening of readings by four Irish Montreal writers on their recent publications: Sharon Callaghan, Sharon Doyle Driedger, Catharine Fleming McKenty, and Stephen Morrissey. Nov, 19, 2010

Professor Emeritus Hugh McQueen (Mechanical and Industrial Engineering) will give a talk on the role of the Irish in the construction of Montreal's Victoria Bridge. Date and time TBA.

First "Oireachtas Cheanada"

A Celebratory Competition of Indigenous Irish Language, Culture and Arts.

July 1, 2011 will mark an exciting time for the Irish language and arts outside of Ireland. The first ever Oireachtas Cheanada will kick-off a three day competition held in the Irish language and feature events in singing, dancing, music and literature. Events will be open to all ages and skill levels with the emphasis on promoting, fostering, celebrating, and above all, enjoying, indigenous Irish language, arts and culture.

Competitions and events will be hosted at Gaeltacht Thuaisceart an Oileáin Úir, by Cumann na Gaeltachta, winner of the 2007/2008 Global Gaeilge Award. The site is located in beautiful rural Ontario near the villages of Erinsville and Tamworth. Situated on 60 acres of rolling, arable land and with a scenic waterfront on the Salmon River, the Gaeltacht was officially opened in June 2007 by Irish Ambassador Declan Kelly and received an official letter of congratulations from the Minister of Rural Community and Gaeltacht Affairs at the time, Éamonn Ó Cuív. Cumann na Gaeltachta is thrilled to take on this inaugural event with an eye to its future growth and success!

Festivities commence Friday July 1, 2011 with a Canada Day parade and close Sunday July 3rd with a farewell brunch. All inquiries are welcome and general information is available by contacting: Aralt Mac Giolla Chainnigh - kenny-h@rmc.ca or Clár Ní Dhuibhir - claredwyer@aol.com

U of T Celtic Studies Events

Tuesday, October 12 at 6 p.m.

Celtic Studies Speakers Series invites you to "Novelshop" - readings by five visiting Irish women writers - Catherine Dunne, Celia de Fréine, Lia Mills, Ivy Bannister, Mary Rose Callaghan. Robert Madden Hall, Carr Hall, St. Michael's College, 100 St. Joseph Street. All welcome - free admission.

Tuesday, October 19 at 6 p.m.

Celtic Studies Writer-in-Residence Kevin Barry – one of Ireland's rising literary stars and winner of the 2007 Rooney Prize for his short story collection *There are Little Kingdoms* - will read from and discuss his work. Robert Madden Hall, Carr Hall, St. Michael's College, 100 St. Joseph Street.

It's all in the timing, sadly!

New England ACIS Regional Conference

"The Country of the Young: Interpretations of Youth and Childhood in Irish Culture"

November 12-13, 2010

Framingham State University, Framingham, Massachusetts

Further information on the conference website, www.framingham.edu/2010-neacis

Contact: Kelly Matthews, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Framingham State University, kmatthews@framingham.edu

**American Conference for Irish
Studies 2011**
The University of Wisconsin - Madison
March 30-April 2, 2011

Global Networks and Local Ties

Submissions Due October 15, 2010 to
acis2011@gmail.com

ACIS 2011 Keynote Presenters are Kerby A. Miller, Christopher Morash and Julia M. Wright. Contact: Mary Trotter, Director of UW-Madison's Celtic Studies Program acis2011@gmail.com.

It's (always) that time

If you have been dilatory, distracted, distraught or otherwise disengaged, please take a moment to renew your membership in CAIS/ACEI now.

Two issues of the Journal and two issues of the Newsletter each year.

	one year membership	three year membership
Regular	\$75	\$200
Family (two or more at the same address)	\$110	\$300
Students	\$35	\$90
Seniors	\$75	\$200

It's easy, go to the website and complete the form and send your cheque to:

Sandra Murdock,
CAIS/ACEI Secretary-Treasurer,
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<http://www.irishstudies.ca/join-cais/>

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Marianna O’Gallagher



Marianna O’Gallagher, our friend and colleague in the Canadian Association of Irish Studies/ L’ Association canadienne d’ études irlandaises, died in early summer, after a short illness borne with dignity and marked by an abiding faith.

I know that you will join me and all other members of CAIS/ACEI in acknowledging the passing of a major figure in the study of the Irish in Canada, particularly in Québec, and in conveying our deep sorrow to Marianna’s family and large circle of close friends in Canada and in Ireland.

At its meeting in Halifax on Friday, 21st May, the CAIS/ACEI Executive had unanimously agreed to establish the annual Marianna O’Gallagher Lecture in Irish Studies, with the inaugural lecture to be held at the CAIS/ACEI Annual Conference at Concordia University, Montréal, in July 2011. Regrettably, we did not have the opportunity to forward this news to Marianna before her death.

Irish Studies in Canada and the gatherings of CAIS/ACEI are poorer for Marianna’s passing.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam uasal.

Pádraig Ó Siadhail
President, CAIS/ACEI

Historian preserved Grosse Île heritage: Chronicled life on quarantine island

Marianna O’Gallagher, a Quebec City historian who dedicated much of her life championing the role of the quarantine island Grosse Île in the story of Irish immigration to Canada, died Sunday May 23 at age 81 after a brief battle with lung cancer - two months after she served as Grand Marshall when the provincial capital resurrected its St. Patrick’s Day parade this past March.

O’Gallagher’s first visit to the windswept island in the St. Lawrence near Montmagny in 1973 was a catalyst for her pioneering efforts to push Parks Canada to restore the island, the burial site of thousands of immigrants, most of them Irish, who contracted typhus, cholera and smallpox en route to the new world.

In the following decades, she would return frequently to pay tribute to the dead, winning the support and respect of federal, provincial and Irish officials in her campaign to give those lost souls a decent resting place.

"Walk across that field, and your very footsteps can become an act of prayer for the hundreds of people buried there," O’Gallagher said during a visit in June 2008 organized by the Canadian Irish Studies program at Concordia University. "This is the main focus of our coming here - to remember all these precious people."

The author of *Eyewitness Grosse Île 1847* and *Grosse Île: Gateway to Canada 1832-1957*, O’Gallagher was born in Ste. Foy to Quebecers of Irish descent. A former nun, she spent many years teaching at St. Patrick’s High School in Quebec City as well as schools in Nova Scotia, Massachusetts, New York and New Brunswick.

"Obviously, she was a core figure in introducing all Quebecers to their own history, that of the Irish and of the generosity of the French-Canadian families who offered

homes to the Irish orphans," said Michael Kenneally, director of the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation, which plans to hold an annual conference named in O'Gallagher's honour.

Kenneally hailed O'Gallagher's meticulous historical research and her gift for finding those personal anecdotes and details which humanized the stories of famine-stricken immigrants.

The founder and president of Irish Heritage Quebec, O'Gallagher received the Order of Quebec in 1998 and the Order of Canada in 2002 in recognition of her efforts to gain recognition of Grosse Île and the Irish Memorial National Site.

In 1897, the Ancient Order of Hibernians began fund-raising to build a commemorative cross on the island. At the time, O'Gallagher's grandfather, a civil engineer, was president of the Irish society in Quebec City. "He drew the design on the wall of the kitchen at 13 Conroy St. in Quebec City," O'Gallagher recalled. "My father said as more and more money came in, the monument grew in size and stature on the wall."

But by the time his granddaughter paid her first visit to the island, the neighbouring cemetery was in a sorry state, "waist-high" in brush and raspberry bushes.

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Les Irlandais de Québec en deuil

Québec vient de perdre une de ses grandes historiennes. Marianna O'Gallagher, figure de proue de la communauté irlandaise, est morte dimanche à l'hôpital Laval, emportée par le cancer.

Mme O'Gallagher était âgée de 81 ans. Elle a joué un rôle majeur dans la plupart des grands projets de commémoration du patrimoine irlandais : la création du Lieu historique national et le Mémorial des Irlandais de Grosse-Île, l'Été des Irlandais de 1997 et l'érection d'une croix celtique, offerte

par un musée irlandais à la ville de Québec, sur la rue McMahon.

Encore cette année, la fondatrice d'Irish Heritage Quebec participait comme «Grand Marshal» au défilé de la Saint-Patrick, le premier à se tenir dans la Ville de Québec depuis 1926. Elle a été hospitalisée en avril et c'est seulement là que les médecins ont découvert le cancer qui l'a emportée.

Toute une époque

«On tourne la page sur toute une époque», commentait James Donovan. Pendant son hospitalisation, Marianna O'Gallagher a reçu un nombre impressionnant de visiteurs et de témoignages, dit-il. La présidente de la république d'Irlande, Mary McAleese, qui l'avait connue lors de l'inauguration du Mémorial des Irlandais de Grosse-Île, lui a elle-même fait parvenir une lettre au début de mai.

«Il n'y a pas de mots pour décrire la dette immense et la gratitude que le peuple irlandais et tous ceux de descendance irlandaise ont envers vous, écrit-elle. Vous nous avez apporté honneur et une grande fierté par votre engagement extraordinaire envers la cause de Grosse-Île.»

Un autre ami fera le voyage de l'Irlande jusqu'à Québec pour assister aux funérailles, qui devraient avoir lieu lundi à 14h, à l'église Saint-Patrick. James Callery, président-fondateur du Musée sur la Famine, de Stoketown Park, et donateur de la croix celtique de Québec, doit en effet arriver samedi à Québec.

Mme O'Gallagher a été décorée de l'Ordre national du Québec en 1998 et de l'Ordre du Canada en 2003.

Tributes

Sad news, indeed. I remember that Marianna almost single-handedly ran the conference at Quebec City. She gave me an Enya CD for presenting, which I was pleasantly surprised at. She also became a familiar face because

almost every television program that I saw about the famine featured an interview with her. I think it's lovely and appropriate that CAIS acknowledged her with a lecture in Irish Studies.

Michele Holmgren, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of English,
Mount Royal University

En mai dernier, la nouvelle du décès de Marianna O'Gallagher fut un grand choc dans le monde des études irlandaises au Québec. Pionnière de la recherche sur les Irlando-Québécois(es), Marianna O'Gallagher a permis à toute une génération de Québécois de redécouvrir une facette essentielle de leur passé et de leur héritage. Pendant longtemps, les Irlandais(es) formèrent la deuxième plus grande communauté ethno-culturelle de la province, juste après la communauté francophone. Ainsi, les Irlandais catholiques et protestants du Québec comptent parmi les membres fondateurs de la société québécoise. Par sa passion, sa fierté et son enthousiasme, Marianna O'Gallagher nous a permis de mieux comprendre ce rôle de «fondateurs». Son engagement dans l'association *Irish Heritage Quebec* ainsi que ses travaux au sujet de la paroisse St-Patrick de Québec et de Grosse-Île ont dévoilé le grand dynamisme de la communauté irlandaise; dynamisme déjà remarquable à l'arrivée des premiers immigrants d'Érin, dans les années 1820. Marianna O'Gallagher a aussi encouragé de nouveaux chercheurs comme moi à s'intéresser à l'histoire irlando-québécoise et à examiner les points de rencontre entre les Irlandais(es) et la majorité francophone de la province. Il faudra poursuivre son travail dans l'avenir tout en se rappelant que des centaines de milliers d'Irlandais et d'Irlandaises, comme Marianna, ont contribué à bâtir le Québec d'aujourd'hui. Sans cette communauté irlandaise et sans Marianna O'Gallagher, la ville de Québec, mais aussi la société québécoise, ne seraient pas les mêmes.

Merci Marianna et au revoir,

Simon Jolivet, Chercheur postdoctoral en
histoire, Ottawa, 3 juin 2010

Dear Michael: I am so saddened by news of Marianna's passing. She made many valuable contributions to *Irish America* magazine over the years. She was so knowledgeable on the Irish in Canada, particularly Quebec and Grosse Ile. I always came off the phone fired up by her enthusiasm and commitment to exploring the story of the Irish and making sure that those poor souls who never made it past Grosse Ile were not forgotten. I can only hope that before she passed she received the latest issue of the magazine which is devoted to the Famine and in which I reprinted her story on the Grey nuns. I'm glad that we were able to honor her in New York back in 1997, with yourself and Mr. Masterson. Though I met her just that once, I enjoyed many follow up chats with her on the phone over the years. We will not see her like again.

Patricia Harty, Editor/Co-founder, *Irish America* magazine

The first time I ever presented at an academic conference was "L'été irlandais" of 1997, at the CAIS conference organised by Marianna O'Gallagher at Université Laval. I cannot imagine being brought into the world of Irish Studies in a better way. What was most inspiring, and most surprising, really, was to meet this woman, this elder Sister of the discipline, who seemed to move effortlessly between English-Canadian, Québécois, and Irish culture. CAIS met again at Laval in 2001, and again Marianna led us all on a tour of Grosse-Île; on that trip I recall her telling us that her grandfather, in addition to overseeing the engineering aspects of the giant Celtic cross' construction, had written the fiery Irish-language inscription. It occurred to me then that the text on that cross

had become the perfect metaphor for Marianna's existence: English, French and Irish all together in a way that refused to flatten out the differences between them but still joined by an aspiration to the transcendent. I didn't know her all that well, but whenever I saw her I could never contain my slight sense of awe, my sense of wonder at this woman who had, really, reconciled our solitudes through Ireland. Without every making a big thing of it, she was a major moral force for Irish Studies in Canada, an example of what we could be, if the better angels of our nature would prevail.

Jerry White, University of Alberta

I write as a co-founder and historian for Action Grosse Ile. During the struggle in the 1990s with Park Canada over the direction and future of the National Historic Site, Marianna O'Gallagher was, of course, one of the first people we turned to. We – I speak for the committee, the late Denis Leyne, Gretta Dillon, Ann Looney, John Masterson, Mary Durkan – met Marianna, consulted with her, asked her advice, picked her brain, and visited the island with her. Although our two approaches were different – and widely known to be so – her inclination was conciliatory and ours confrontational, she was never less than unfailingly courteous, generous with her time and knowledge, and, on reflection, amusing and good company. I remember in particular when we were planning the Famine Walk (from Sorel to Montmagny, in company with Don Mullan and Concern Worldwide), a whole day spent in her company as she drove me along the route, stopping to point out salient, significant or simply interesting features along the way. In the course of that day, our conversation ranged widely. Stories about her grandfather Jeremiah, of whose achievement in building the Celtic Cross of Grosse Ile, she was enormously proud, held pride of place. She told me about his composition of the Irish

inscription, and then, as if it were of little moment, that he had been for many years the Head Centre of the Fenian circle in Quebec City.

Michael Quigley

Thanks for passing along the news of Marianna's death. I did not know her well but I attended the conference in Quebec in '97 when she took us to the memorial at Grosse Ile and she was very kind to me and took a special interest in my paper and my attendance at the conference. I have her wonderful book to remember her by. How ironic that we just saw her on the film and that the decision for a lectureship happened when it did. It is a fitting tribute to a woman who was gracious and displayed boundless humanity.

John Countryman, Georgia

We have lost a great friend and Canada a spirited advocate for the Irish legacy in Quebec. I am so glad that CAIS created the lecture in her name.

Cecil Houston





Margaret Kelleher MacDougall

A Tribute by Lucy Brennan

Up to a few short years ago there was never a doubt that at least a few gentlemen who graced the University campus in which CAIS was holding its annual conference would be accompanying a feisty little lady who chatted animatedly, and more than likely, they would be laughing at her latest anecdote.

Margaret MacDougall was the irrepressible lady. Often at the heart of a controversy, Margaret could be relied upon to hold her own and to quote chapter and verse to support her unequivocal stand. You always knew where she stood and she always backed up the stand she took without prevarication.

Margaret was never lost for words and the fact that she was born in Blarney perhaps accounted for her fluency, but did not undermine the authenticity of her scholarship. Margaret, as I said, was born in Co. Cork and qualified as a chemist before moving to England and thence to Canada in 1953, arriving at Pier 21 in Halifax. She practiced as a pharmacist in Chicoutimi, met and, in 1957, married George Allan MacDougall, the son of a Scottish immigrant who had originally settled in Halifax before moving to Quebec in the 1920's. They settled in Jonquière, Quebec, where Allan worked for

the pulp and paper industry. They had one son, Bruce. She became fluently tri-lingual (English, Irish and French), and, for the fun of it, from 1986 to 2007, she organized and ran an English Conversation Club (known as "Club MEC"). The Club attracted a widespread group of francophones, weekly, whom she also taught to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in style!

She was often to be heard on CBC Radio's Quebec community network. She wrote articles for various newspapers in Quebec and on occasion for the Montreal Gazette. She was an historian and storyteller of some note with regard to the towns and villages of the Upper Saguenay in Quebec. After history she had a great interest in poetry and could quote from the Irish and English poetry traditions at length.

She was also a tireless correspondent and left a filing cabinet full of letters from such luminaries as Conrad Black, Lucien Bouchard and an amazing number of MP's east of Saskatchewan. She maintained a long correspondence with Ken Thomson, the Globe and Mail magnate, over more than 10 years, whom she met more than once when they happened to be in the same city at the same time.

She faithfully attended all CAIS Conferences since the organization's beginnings until she was well into her eighties and missed so much not being able to attend the last year or two. She lived to the ripe old age of 91 and I will miss our hour-long conversations on the telephone, which left us laughing together till we hung up at one of her endless supply of stories. Her laughter was full of mischief but kindly. She was one straightforward, wise and good lady. May God hold her in the hollow of His hand.

Peter Hart

A good historian is expected to be meticulous and balanced. A very good historian is challenging, perceptive, integrative, and nuanced. But a great historian is all that and more – audacious and brave. Peter Hart, who died at 46 on July 22 following a brain aneurysm, was well on his way to becoming a great historian. Although only in mid-career, he was already a major international figure in Irish history.

His first book, *The I.R.A. and Its Enemies: Violence and Community in Cork, 1916-1923* (Oxford University Press, 1998), “remains a work of central importance,” according to Richard English, professor of politics at Queen’s University Belfast. “Peter’s work brought together the methods of the historian and the social scientist, and it represents still the most important analysis of, for example, the social structure of the early 20th century IRA, and the local dynamics of conflict in the Irish revolution.”

Among Hart’s strengths was his impartiality, his ability to remain non-partisan even in so fractious an arena as modern Irish history. Psychologically astute, he once said in an interview that he was interested in violence because “once people become violent, any difference between the two sides is essentially eliminated. Both act the same. People always used the same excuses for murdering people.”

The I.R.A. and its Enemies won the Christopher Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize in 1999, “a prestigious award for a work helping to increase understanding between Britain and Ireland,” according to Roy Foster, Carroll Professor of Irish History, Hertford College, Oxford. “It was founded by the widow of



Christopher Ewart-Biggs, the British ambassador to Ireland who was assassinated by the IRA in 1976.”

In addition to his research, which produced five well-received books, Hart taught at the Department of History at Memorial University of Newfoundland, where he was the Canada Research Chair in Irish Studies.

“He was a huge star for all the right reasons,” said Danine Farquharson, an English professor at MUN. “He won all the prizes, he was the guy to get for keynote speeches. He did exemplary work, and was extremely courageous. Losing Peter leaves a momentous hole in Irish studies internationally. He willingly and knowingly took on some of the behemoths of 20th century Irish history.”

These included “the themes of commitment, contradiction, revolutionary ethics and communal tensions,” according to Foster. “It goes without saying that these are issues which arouse strong feelings in Ireland, and the fact that his early work concentrated on some controversial incidents during the Anglo-Irish War in Cork guaranteed that there would be aggressive reactions from local historians and pietists of various sorts.”

The iconic characters and events Hart examined included the 1920 Kilmichael ambush, the 1922 Dunmanway killings, IRA leader Tom Barry, and Irish revolutionary leader Michael Collins, subject of his book *Mick: The Real Michael Collins*.

These subjects were “Republican holy ghosts,” said David Wilson, professor of Irish Studies at the University of Toronto. “Peter challenged the orthodox view. It generated extreme hostility. You did not go to Ireland with Peter without some group of ultra-nationalists dogging his every step.”

“In some circles of Irish nationalism he’s quite a villain,” said Jeff Webb, who teaches history at MUN. “I spoke to Peter about that once or twice and he always expressed himself with equanimity. I would have been a

lot more upset than Peter ever seemed to be to have people showing up at lectures, waving picket signs and trying to shout me down.” Even Hart’s composure raised some ire, “because people said he quote unquote didn’t respond,” said Webb.

Hart’s scholarship was exact, sensitive, sophisticated, and noted for its range and depth. He was deeply curious, and once told an undergraduate class he became a historian because he liked to ask questions, and in history you could ask the greatest questions.

Peter David Hart was born Nov. 11, 1963, in St. John’s, the second of three children of David Hart, a psychologist, and Anne (Hill) Hart, former head of MUN’s Centre for Newfoundland Studies, and a successful biographer. Peter took his BA at Queen’s University, Kingston, his MA at Yale and his PhD at Trinity College, Dublin. He worked at Queen’s University, Belfast as a research fellow and lecturer from 1997 to 2001 before returning home to St. John’s to take up the Canada Research Chair in Irish Studies at Memorial University in 2002.

He left his deepest mark in modern Irish history. Growing up in Newfoundland, he had an awareness of, and felt a proximity to Ireland. Irish history, Hart once said, had just “grabbed hold of me.” He knew it was a political animal, he knew he would “annoy” some people. But Hart also knew his own research and writing was not an end point, but just another stage in the historical method. “Every book is going to be corrected because that’s the process of history,” Hart said. “No one person writes the definitive account. It moves forward by debate and correction.”

Hart’s sudden death has shocked and saddened an international circle of colleagues. “Peter Hart had his enemies, but he had many, many more admirers,” said Wilson.

Hart leaves his partner Robin Whitaker, his parents, two siblings and his extended family.

Joan Sullivan, Globe and Mail, 1 Aug. 05, 2010

Editorial Addendum 1

A couple of weeks after the obituary (above), the editors of the Globe’s books section added their own appreciation of Peter Hart: “In the death of Peter Hart at a mere 46 on July 22, Globe Books has lost a valued friend and contributor. . . . Hart’s interests in recent years had migrated to the question of terrorism – and extension of his earlier work on the IRA – and his last review for the Globe, in February, was of *The Ground Truth*, in which senior counsel to the 9/11 Commission John Farmer debunked the official version of the US government’s response to the terrorist attacks. As were all his reviews, it was intelligent, skeptically analytical and elegant. We shall miss his voice”.

Editorial Addendum 2

For those with a taste for polemical disputation and the whine of grinding axes, the “Republican holy ghosts” to which David Wilson refers above – in particular Hart’s account of Tom Barry and the Kilmichael fight – were the subject of a debate running over several issues of *History Ireland* during 2005. The materials are assembled together at the Irish indymedia website – <http://www.indymedia.ie/article/80362>

Irish Elites in the Nineteenth Century

17th International Conference of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland
Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool, 30 June – 1 July, 2011
First Call for Papers

This conference seeks to redefine the concepts of elites and elitism in nineteenth-century Ireland. Issues such as social stratification and the distribution of power in Irish society have often been overlooked by nineteenth-century scholars, or discussed narrowly in relation to political history.

Power, wealth, and influence were distributed in myriad ways in the nineteenth century, and often through localised elites or social networks. County clubs, old school networks, and voluntary and charitable organisations appeared throughout the century, vying for the attention of the established elite and the rising middle classes alongside political parties, freemasonry and sports and social clubs. Aspirational behaviour was evident at many levels of society and affected Irish men and women of all religious backgrounds. Conference papers will address the theme of elitism in Ireland with the widest possible interpretation of the term, and with a focus on the local, practical applications of power and influence.

Appropriate topics for 20-minute papers may include, but are not restricted to:

Education, Social mobility, Elitism and the state, Literary and cultural elites, Elites and elitism in fiction, Local Government, Working class perspectives, Religious elites.

Speakers:

Tom Garvin (UCD)

John Hutchinson (LSE)

Marianne Elliott (UoL)

Convenors: Ciaran O'Neill (Hertford College, Oxford) James H. Murphy (DePaul University, Chicago)

The convenors welcome both individual proposals and suggestions for panels on additional themes. Please send your proposals as attachments to

ssnci2011@gmail.com by 31 January

2011. More information available at the conference website:

<http://irishelites.wordpress.com/>

INTERNATIONAL IRISH DIASPORA CONGRESS (ARGENTINA)

Buenos Aires (Argentina) – June 15-19, 2011

In June of 2011, the 1st International Irish Diaspora Congress will take in Buenos Aires, exactly 90 years after a meeting of a similar nature took place in 1921. Each participating Institution is asked to give a brief account of current activities and its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Learning how the Irish Community has integrated into each specific Country-Destination will be of general interest, too. Participating individuals or Associations are invited to present speeches and/or lectures on the topic of cultural diversity of emigrants and their descendents.

The Department of Irish Culture from the Universidad Nacional de La Plata (UNL) & the Universidad de Ciencias Empresariales y Sociales (UCES) will provide the academic framework. The papers submitted for consideration must relate to any one of the following topics:- The Irish Diaspora

- Literature and the Irish Emigrant (essays, short stories, novels, poetry)
- History of Irish Emigration in each country
- Fundraising for Irish Associations (experiences, tips)
- Irish Education abroad
- Irish Dance & Music (experiences)
- Business and Work opportunities for Irish Descendents Abroad

Those who are interested in participating must submit an abstract before February 1, 2011, written in English, of no more than 300 words.

The proposals that are deemed adequate (given general interests and the length of the Congress) have until May 15, 2011 to send the paper in full to the Department's inbox.

For more info:

<http://www.asociacionirlandesa.com.ar/?lang=en>
or asoargirl@yahoo.com.ar