



Canadian Association for Irish Studies

Association canadienne d'études irlandaises

Newsletter

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Autumn 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Pádraig Ó Siadhail welcomes Irish Ambassador Ray Bassett to the conference

One of the high points of the successful and enjoyable CAIS/ACEI Annual Conference, organized with great efficiency and hosted with much flair by the School of Canadian Irish Studies at Concordia University, Montreal, was the number of papers given by graduate students: fifteen papers in all. On one hand, such an impressive turnout demonstrates the vitality and depth that exist within both Irish Studies as an interdisciplinary field of research and inquiry and the traditional disciplines dealing with Ireland and the Irish experience. On the other hand, it reminds us of a sobering thought. Many of the graduate students

present at Concordia, and others including our own students, will never have the opportunity to forge a career for themselves in Irish Studies due to lack of fulltime academic positions especially in times of budget cuts for Higher Education. Inevitably, this raises the following question, a question to which I have no real answer: what responsibility do we who are fortunate enough to earn our living in our chosen field have to alert our students to the fact that, despite their wish to follow in our footsteps, there may not be jobs for them?

As I say, just a question.

In the meantime, I would like to welcome Dr. Susan Cahill, a new hire in Concordia's School of Canadian Irish Studies, to our Association. And I note, with both joy and envy, that the School has recently advertised a new position to be filled, specifically in Irish Diaspora Studies.

Conference 2012

The 2012 CAIS/ACEI annual conference will be held in Ottawa from June 20 to 23, 2012. It will be held at the University of Ottawa, situated in the heart of the city. A conference committee has been formed chaired by Paul Birt, holder of the Chair of Celtic Studies at Ottawa U, with Fred McEvoy, treasurer, Sheila Scott and Rosemary O'Brien. We are very pleased to announce that Cecil Houston

has agreed to deliver the Marianna O'Gallagher lecture. Further information will be forthcoming. We hope to welcome all of you to Ottawa next June.

Newsletter Editor's Note

In July, the AGM adopted the proposal from Sandra Murdock and Michael Quigley to enhance the newsletter's vibrancy and to make it more reflective of our diverse membership. To this end, we suggested that Calls for Papers (which are also available elsewhere) should be pared back, allowing more room for news and contributions from members. We did and do encourage members to contribute to the newsletter, short pieces (150-300 words) under the following thematic sections:

General Member News – personal, professional, major events.

Graduate Students Corner – undergraduate students too!

Reviews – books, theatre, film, community events: short notes or notices of things coming up.

Scholarly Notes and Queries – short pieces of scholarly interest that are not long enough for CJIS

Opinion Pieces

French and Irish Language Contributions

Finally, Sandra's proposal to broaden the electronic circulation of the newsletter to organizations with similar interests, academic or cultural, was also agreed.

In this light, then, I draw your attention to several items reflecting this direction: Heather Macdougall's "In the classroom"; Michele Holmgren's presentation at the National Library of Ireland's travelling Yeats show; and Pádraig Ó Siadhail's report on Playography na Gaeilge; and the important statement by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny to Dáil Éireann in response to the Cloyne Report on clerical child abuse.



Canadian Journal of Irish Studies: Editor's Report

It has been a busy year, settling the journal into its new home at Concordia University and establishing Heather Macdougall (congratulations, Mom!) and then Sara Spike as Managing Editor, making contact with the editorial board members, and writing a SSHRC application to allow for continued funding. We are looking forward to the publication of 36:1 this fall, a special issue entitled *Queering Ireland* edited by Sean Kennedy. The CAIS conference in Montreal co-organized by Michael Kenneally and myself generated many very exciting papers, and will be the focus of a special issue next year on the theme of *Text and Beyond Text in Irish Studies: New Visual, Material, and Spatial Perspectives*.

Writing the SSHRC application was an excellent opportunity to take stock of the achievements of previous editors and contributors. Having done the research I am pleased to report that we have about 1500 readers per year, roughly half who read the hard-copy version and half who read the journal online. Web access is available free to users at institutions that subscribe to JSTOR's Ireland Collection (please urge your

library administrators to order the add-on subscription if at all possible!). We are able to track readership by country, and in addition to the expected interest in Ireland, Canada, the US and the UK, for example, we were delighted to note the following requests for articles during the first six months of 2011: Belgium (100 requests); China (61); Egypt (32); India (312); Nepal (27); Poland (20); South Africa (110); Sweden (39) and Tunisia (37). SSHRC is also very interested in the number of times our articles are cited by authors in their own publications, as evidence of the influence of *CJIS* on scholarship in general. Our numbers were respectable in this regard, but there is always room for growth.

It is important for us to remember, then, that a healthy journal is one routinely consulted: online requests for access to articles and article downloads, as well as the

number of citations our articles receive by other authors in their publications, are tallied and made available to the editor by JSTOR and the results are a key indicator for SSHRC in allocating funding. Please encourage your students and colleagues to access and cite our wealth of scholarship.

This is your—our—journal, so we all deserve to celebrate its success, and feel free to contribute ideas. Many thanks to our contributors and reviewers, and thanks also to everyone who participated in journal administration over the past year, in particular Danine Farquarson, Heather Macdougall, Sandra Murdock, Pádraig Ó Siadhail, Sara Spike and Jerry White.

Rhona Richman Kenneally

6 July 2011

Below: Panel on Space & Place in Ulster: Sean Farrell, William Jenkins (chair), Bree Hocking, Anne Burke & Bharain Mac An Bhreithuín



Nominations Committee

Two positions on the Executive come up for election next year: President and Secretary Treasurer.

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 2012. Nominations and other documents required must be received by email or by post, postmarked no later than January 31, 2012. The AGM appointed Michele Holmgren and Simon Jolivet as a nominations committee.

CAIS Nominations
c/o Michele Holmgren
English Department
Mount Royal College
4825 Mount Royal Gate SW
Calgary, AB, Canada T3E 6K6
mholmgren@mtroyal.ca

CAIS Nominations
c/o Simon Jolivet
5156, 16e avenue
Montréal
QC, H1X 2R9
simonjolivet@yahoo.com



Jerry White's inimitable and inevitable Yellow Submarine as *Gaeilge* - now mandated by the AGM as a permanent conference fixture. Congratulations to Jerry also on his new appointment to the Department of English at Dalhousie University in Halifax (now he can really bug Pádraig).

Notes from the Back Room

Firstly, and most importantly, a hearty thanks to our members for continuing to support CAIS/ACÉI in its endeavours to cultivate and sustain a Canadian-based community of Irish Studies. Members of the executive have stated in the past that the great strength of our membership lies in its diversity. We pride ourselves in our accessibility to everyone interested in Irish Studies while maintaining a valuable network for academics and other professionals.

CAIS/ACÉI is both here for you and here because of you. Your membership keeps us going; your input keeps us vital. Online membership is simple. On our website, click "Join CAIS" on the top of the page. The confirmation page can be printed as a receipt.

And be sure to let me know about any questions or concerns or ideas you might have regarding membership!

Sandra Murdock
CAIS/ACÉI Secretary/Treasurer
sandra.d.murdock@gmail.com

In the Classroom

“In the Classroom” is a new column which we hope will become a regular part of the CAIS newsletter. It is intended to be a forum for CAIS members to share their experiences about teaching in Irish Studies, so that new instructors, grad students, and experienced instructors can all learn from each other. Instructors at all levels of teaching and experience are invited to send in short pieces, whether they be in the form of funny anecdotes, lessons learned, ongoing challenges, new course ideas, or tips on getting students interested in Irish Studies.

Last year I suggested offering a new course at Concordia on Northern Irish cinema. I had just read John Hill’s wonderful book on the subject and figured I could use it as a textbook. All I would have to do is assign a chapter a week and show one of the films from that chapter. The course outline practically wrote itself. What could be easier, right? In doing so, I failed to heed the advice I regularly give to students: before committing to a subject, make sure you have access to the materials you need. In the end, virtually none of the films I wanted to show were easily available, and I had to beg, borrow and call in favours from archives, museums, filmmakers, and private collectors, negotiating copyright issues, and even then ending up with copies of dubious technical quality. (Although it presented an excellent excuse to discuss the

importance of archives and film restoration, even in the age of Netflix...). Some of these films were, to put it politely, of little interest to a general audience. No problem; my students would all be keen scholars and would surely appreciate the rare opportunity to see these otherwise inaccessible images from Ireland. As it turned out, the vast majority of the 60 students who enrolled were not academically inclined toward either cinema *or* Ireland and were simply taking the course as an elective. You would think then that they favoured more commercial feature films, or I would anyway. But they surprised me. The first (and one of only a few) films to receive spontaneous applause was the 1942 instructional/propaganda film *Simple Silage* which painstakingly demonstrates to Northern Irish farmers how to produce better silage for their cows, thereby furthering the war effort by feeding the nation. I’m still not exactly sure what I learned from this experience, although a few things come to mind: students respond to course material in unexpected ways; even those students not particularly interested in Irish studies *per se* will still find something of interest in an Irish studies course; and an “easy” course syllabus isn’t always as easy as it first seems.

Heather Macdougall

Congratulations

Pádraig Ó Siadhail received The Roger McHugh Award (2010) for his article, “‘The Indian Man’ and the Irishman: James Mooney and Irish Folklore,” published in *New Hibernia Review* (14. 2, Summer 2010). The annual McHugh Award honours the article that the editors of *New Hibernia Review* believe is the most likely to be consulted by future scholars.

Playography na Gaeilge

A cause for celebration, a cause for thought

‘Playography na Gaeilge’ is a linguistically hybrid title that may upset some purists. It is an appropriate title, as I wish to demonstrate.

Launched officially in May 2011, Playography na Gaeilge is an on-line searchable database of information about professional and semi-professional Irish language stage productions from 1901-2010.

A project of the Dublin-based Irish Theatre Institute (irishtheatreinstitute.com), PnaG was funded by Foras na Gaeilge. The project’s editor, Anna Bale, and her small team of researchers gleaned information about new productions, including original plays, translations and adaptations, dates of the premieres, plot synopses, cast and stage crew, as well as details about published versions and copyright status of the plays.

Playography na Gaeilge is one section of a larger project, PLAYOGRAPHYIreland. The other part, ‘Irish Playography’, dealing with productions in English in Ireland since 1904, the year the Abbey Theatre was established, has been on line for a number of years. The decision to go back as the starting point of PnaG to 1901 — the year The Irish Literary Theatre premiered Douglas Hyde’s *Casadh an tSúgáin* in the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin — recognizes the different history and circumstances of theatre in the two official languages of Ireland.

PnaG is testament to over one hundred years of theatre in Irish and recognition of the vision and achievement of its practitioners, the dramatists, the actors, the directors, and the stage crews. It is also a valuable resource for those researching the history of Irish language theatre. In recent years, there has been renewed interest in this field. Máiréad Ní Chinnéide has published a fine history of the Dublin Damer Theatre (the book won the ACIS award for Irish language scholarship in 2008), while Boston College’s Philip O’Leary

has extensively reassessed Irish language theatre in his major works, *Gaelic Prose in the Irish Free State 1922-1939* and *Writing Beyond the Revival: Facing the Future in Gaelic Prose 1940-1951*. However, with my own theatre history, *Stair Dhrámaíocht na Gaeilge, 1900-1970*, now out of print and hopelessly out of date, there is a pressing need for a new comprehensive study about theatre in Irish. PnaG would be an essential tool for the scholar(s) who would undertake such a volume.

The figures, statistics and tables in the two Findings Reports issued as part of PnaG (and also available on the website) make interesting reading and viewing. Would you believe that there were 796 different professional or semi-professional stage productions in Irish in the period 1901-2010? Máiréad Ní Ghráda tops the list for original plays in Irish, with 11 of her works staged. However, Seán Ó Carra holds pride of place in PnaG for the 28 different translations that he did for the Galway-based Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe. Then there are the little gems that one comes across by accident. Anyone who knows anything about 20th century theatre in Ireland knows that Brendan Behan’s fine little tragedy, *An Giall*, was premiered at Halla an Damer in 1958, and was later reworked, with Joan Littlewood’s assistance, as the music-hall farce, *The Hostage*. But Máire Stafford translated *The Hostage* into Irish with an Taibhdhearc staging it in 1970.

Playography na Gaeilge fills a major gap in the history of theatre in Ireland. For the first time, through the wonders of technology and through PnaG’s integration with Irish Playography, scholars and researchers who have little or no Irish, no matter where they are, have access to reliable information about productions in Irish. Accordingly, these scholars have every incentive to incorporate Irish language content into their studies of modern and contemporary Irish theatre. Indeed, when appropriate, they have no

excuse not to include the Irish language material.

What the scholars will find might just surprise them too. Not only does PnaG testify that various Irish language dramatists were quite prolific but it shows that some companies were ambitious and progressive in selecting scripts. For example, the Damer in the 1960s purposely sought to present to Irish language audiences stage translations that had not previously been performed in English in Ireland.

The PLAYOGRAPHYIreland project bridges the perceived gap between the two languages and literatures of Ireland. For within we find irrefutable evidence about the dramatists, actors, directors and stage crews who have worked in the two languages. Until now, we viewed these as exceptions to the rule. In reality, the project reveals that a significant number of theatre folk in all areas have worked in both Irish and English.

Let's give one example. Cyril Cusack (1910-1993) was a well-known Irish stage and screen actor. Before PnG came on line, Irish Playography listed only his professional English language stage productions in Ireland. Now, Irish Playography has been updated to include references in English to his Irish language work — as dramatist (*Tar Éis an Aifrinn*) and as actor and director for an *Comhar Drámuíochta* in Dublin in the 1930s in particular.

Thus, the two sections of PLAYOGRAPHYIreland give us the opportunity to identify and explore connections that may not have been obvious before. They challenge our preconceived ideas and not infrequently refute these by providing accurate information to the contrary. In doing this, this project enriches and expands our understanding of the range of and the inter-relationship between Irish theatre in English and Irish-language theatre.

Pádraig Ó Siadhail

*[Playography na Gaeilge and Irish Playography are now online at www.irishplayography.com
Pádraig Ó Siadhail was consultant editor for the Playography na Gaeilge project.*

CAIS/ ACEI Conference 2011



Elaine Sisson and Linda King presenting their keynote lecture on design and visual culture



**Conference co-hosts:
Rhona Richman Kenneally & Michael Kenneally**

Conference Reviews from the ground floor

An undergraduate's experience



From Toronto: David Wilson & Katie Longo

In July I had the pleasure of attending the CAIS Conference at the University of Concordia in Montreal. This was the first conference I had ever attended, and I could not have chosen a better introduction to the

current research trends and methods in the area of Irish Studies.

I only recently graduated from the Celtic Studies program at the University of Toronto (I am beginning a graduate course of study at Oxford in the fall), and I admit that I was initially intimidated by the prospect of meeting so many experts in this field. My fears, however, were soon put to rest. Both the contributors and attendees gave me an incredibly warm welcome and, along with the seemingly endless supply of tea and scones, their congeniality was a highlight of the conference.

The panels that I attended took an interdisciplinary approach to their subjects and the presentations were as engaging as they were varied. Derry's Diamond War Memorial, gender in Irish Music competitions, and former Irish boyband member Brian McFadden were all topics of presentations that used innovative approaches to the study of Irish history, music, and culture. In addition to the standard panels, a concert celebrating Irish and Québécois music, a set of readings from authors Peter Behrens and Patrick McCabe, and a gastronomic virtual tour of Boulevard St. Laurent all served to make an incredibly memorable conference experience.

I'll admit that I was too intimidated to ask a question or participate at any of the panels, but I plan to rectify that next year. And, who knows, I might even be presenting.

Katie Longo

Katie Longo was the winner of the Eileen Allen Bursary which funds Celtic Studies students to attend the CAIS conference. Katie was also awarded the Irene and John Ward McGovern Scholarship which covered her tuition fees for one year at the University of Toronto. She has just completed her B.A. (with High Distinction) and will be commencing graduate studies at Oxford University in the Fall.



Conference Event Manager Sara Spike, graduate student and Managing Editor of CJIS - enough hats already!



Heather Macdougall and new daughter Zoe Valentine on holiday in BC. Zoe was born June 15, 2011 (right in the middle of game 7 of the Stanley Cup) at St Mary's Hospital in Montreal, a hospital originally founded by and for Montreal's Irish community.

An Irish comment

Comhdháil Bhliantúil Chumann Ceanadach um Léann na hÉireann



Sa phictiúr, tá Pádraig Ó Siadhail (ar chlé) agus Pádraig Ó Laighin le linn Chomhdháil Bhliantúil Chumann Ceanadach um Léann na hÉireann a tionóladh i Montréal an tseachtain seo caite. Thug an Dr Ó Laighin léacht ag an gComhdháil faoi Catullus Gaelach agus aistriú na litríochta clasaicí go Gaeilge sna meánaoiseanna luatha. Is é an Dr Ó Siadhail Uachtarán an Chumainn. Ghlacadar beirt páirt, i dteannta Ríona Nic Congáil, Aoife Ní Churraoin, agus Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin, i bhfóram i nGaeilge faoin teideal ‘Todhchaí na Gaeilge sa 21ú haois: fíoras agus dúshlán’.

PIC: M Ó Coigligh

[Reprinted from [Foinse, Príomhnuachtán Náisiúnta na Gaeilge](#) with thanks]

The graduate student experience

Kicking off the graduate student experience at the CAIS conference was a presentation skills workshop delivered by Prof David Wilson (University of Toronto). Squirming slightly as we may have been about having to speak in front of each other like this, the exercise was nonetheless an excellent ice-breaker; it not only allowed us to get acquainted with each other ahead of the conference proper but also

alerted us to common pitfalls to be avoided when presenting, such as, as Prof Wilson memorably put it, “speaking so fast that only dogs can understand you”, or attempting to cram an hour-long paper into a twenty minute time-slot.



McGann Prize winner Lisa McGonigle with President Pádraig Ó Siadhail

Encouraged by this opening workshop, over the following few days we students delivered our papers on topics as diverse as the “nouveau riche” novel refashioned via the Celtic Tiger, nineteenth century Irish Catholic temperance societies, and melody in the work of Beckett. As fellow grad student Michael Moir put it at the banquet dinner, attending and presenting at conferences such as CAIS’s can provide a sense of “validation” for our endeavours, a welcome counter to the seemingly endless – and often isolated – slog on The Thesis, and a respite (for several days at least) from being asked “A PhD in English/History/Irish Studies? What on earth will you do with that?” With the CAIS conference being a firm demonstration of the strength and dynamism of Irish Studies in Canada at the moment, it allowed those of us at the start of our academic careers to both learn from more established figures in the field and develop our own voices as scholars in our own rights.

***Lisa McGonigle, University of Otago,
New Zealand***



Bree Hocking (Queen's University Belfast) received honourable mention in the Joe McGann awards for her paper on Derry's Diamond



Rebecca Graff-McRae with her mother and daughter Sorcha

Nuts and Bolts



Michele Holmgren (Mount Royal University, Calgary) gave a keynote speech at “The Life and Works of William Butler Yeats,” the first of a Literary Series sponsored by the Irish Cultural Centre in Calgary on April 30, 2011. The event’s highlight was an exhibition organized by the National Library of Ireland and sponsored by the Embassy of Ireland, Ottawa. Ms. Paula Molloy represented the Embassy, and the Irish Consul in Calgary, Cameron Milliken, was also present. More than 80 people attended to see the exhibition, enjoy wine and canapés, to the musical accompaniment of The Celtic Rabbits, Shea Scully, Deirdre Halferty, Evan Resnik and Bruce Crews. The keynote speech focused on Yeats’s lifelong fascination and frustration with his muse, Maude Gonne, illustrated with quotations from both famous and less-known poems.

Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill at Celtic Studies



In performance at Vicar St.

The Celtic Studies Program is proud to announce that this year’s Artists-in-Residence are Martin Hayes and Dennis Cahill, two of Ireland’s best-known and most-respected traditional musicians – so well known and well respected, in fact, that they played earlier this year before President Barack Obama at a special St. Patrick’s Day luncheon in Washington.

From County Clare, Martin Hayes is a six-time winner of the All Ireland Fiddle Championship, with five CDs that have received widespread critical acclaim. *Hot Press* has described him as “the most important individual musician in Ireland right now,” and in 2008 the Irish language station TG4 made him Musician of the Year. Dennis Cahill, from Chicago, is a guitarist’s guitarist, a master of accompaniment whose style is a perfect match for Martin Hayes’ fiddle playing. As the *Irish Echo* put it: “There’s no more impressive partnership in Irish instrumental music today than Martin Hayes & Dennis Cahill.”

Between Tuesday October 11 and Thursday October 20, Martin and Dennis will be based in the Celtic Studies Program at St. Michael’s College in the University of Toronto.

**Thursday, October 13: Talk and
Presentation on Traditional Irish Music
6 p.m. in Charbonnel Lounge, St.
Michael's College, 81 St. Mary Street
Admission free – all welcome
Saturday, October 15 – Concert of
Traditional Irish Music
8 p.m. in Alumni Hall, St. Michael's
College, 121 St. Joseph Street
Tickets: \$20 - can be reserved in advance
416-926-7145 or celtic.studies@utoronto.ca**

For more information, and to book advance tickets for the concert, please contact Jean Talman in the Celtic Studies Program: celtic.studies@utoronto.ca tel. 416-926-7145
The Artist-in-Residence Program is made possible by the generosity of The Ireland Fund of Canada.



**Statement by An Taoiseach,
Enda Kenny, to Dáil Éireann,
Wednesday, July 21, 2011
(excerpts)**

[In view of the historic importance of the Taoiseach's response to the Cloyne Report, we reprint here excerpts from his statement in the Dáil]

The revelations in the Cloyne report have brought the Government, Irish Catholics and the Vatican to an unprecedented juncture. It is fair to say that after the Ryan and Murphy

reports, Ireland is, perhaps, unshockable when it comes to the abuse of children. However, the Cloyne report has proved to be of a different order because for the first time in this country a report on child sexual abuse exposes an attempt by the Holy See to frustrate an inquiry in a sovereign, democratic republic as little as three years ago, not three decades ago. In doing so the report excavates the dysfunction, disconnection and elitism that dominates the culture of the Vatican to this day. The rape and torture of children were down-played or managed to uphold the primacy of the institution, its power, standing and reputation.

The Cloyne report's revelations are heart-breaking. It describes how many victims continued to live in the small towns and parishes in which they were reared and abused. Their abuser was often still in the area and still held in high regard by their families and community. The abusers continued to officiate at family weddings and funerals. In one case, the abuser even officiated at a victim's wedding. There is little that I or anyone else in the House can say to comfort that victim or others, however much we wish to. However, we can and do recognise the bravery and courage of all the victims who told their stories to the commission. While it will take a long time for Cloyne to recover from the horrors uncovered, it could take the victims and their families a lifetime to pick up the pieces of their shattered existence, if ever they do. The people, including the many faithful Catholics who, like me, have been shocked and dismayed by the repeated failings of church authorities to face up to what is required. They deserve and require confirmation from the Vatican that it does accept, endorse and require compliance by all church authorities here with the

obligations to report all cases of suspected abuse, whether current or historical, to the State's authorities in line with the Children First national guidance which will have the force of law.

Clericalism has rendered some of Ireland's brightest and most privileged and powerful men either unwilling or unable to address the horrors cited in the Ryan and Murphy reports. This Roman clericalism must be devastating for good priests, some of them old, others struggling to keep their humanity, even their sanity, as they work hard to be the keepers of the church's light and goodness within their parishes, communities and the condition of the human heart. Thankfully for them and us, this is not Rome. Nor is it industrial school or Magdalene Ireland, where the swish of a soutane, smothered conscience and humanity and the swing of a thurible ruled the Irish Catholic world. This is the Republic of Ireland in 2011. It is a republic of laws, rights and responsibilities and proper civic order where the delinquency and arrogance of a particular version of a particular kind of morality will no longer be tolerated or ignored.

Through our legislation, through our Government's action to put children first, those who have been abused can take some small comfort in knowing that they belong to a nation - to a democracy - where humanity, power, rights and responsibilities are enshrined and enacted always for their good; where the law - their law, as citizens of this country - will always supersede canon law that has neither legitimacy nor place in the affairs of this country.

This report tells us a tale of a frankly brazen disregard for protecting children. If we do not respond swiftly and appropriately as a State, we will have to prepare ourselves for more reports like this.

If the Vatican needs to get its house in order, so too does this State. The report of the commission is rightly critical of the entirely unsatisfactory position which the last Government allowed to persist over many years. The unseemly bickering between the Minister of State with responsibility for children and the HSE over the statutory powers to deal with extra-familial abuse, the failure to produce legislation to enable the exchange of soft information, as promised after the Ferns inquiry, and the long period of confusion and disjointed responsibility for child protection within the HSE, as reported by the commission, are simply not acceptable to me nor in a society which values children and their safety.

For too long Ireland has neglected some of its children. Just last week, we saw a case of the torture of children within the family come before the courts. Just two days ago, we were repulsed by the case of a Donegal registered sex offender and school caretaker, which involved children and young adults reduced to human wreckage. This raises questions and issues of serious import for State agencies.

The then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said: "Standards of conduct appropriate to civil society or the workings of a democracy cannot be purely and simply applied to the Church". As the Holy See prepares its considered response to the Cloyne Report, I want to make it clear, as Taoiseach, that when it comes to the protection of the children of this State, the standards of conduct which the Church deems appropriate to itself cannot and will not be applied to the workings of democracy and civil society in this republic - not purely, or simply or otherwise, because children have to be and will be put first.



Finn, Gayle and Maeve in 2009

Photo © All rights reserved by [ballymorebugle](http://ballymorebugle.com)

Remembering Finn Gallagher

To consider writing an obituary for Professor Finn Gallagher, the beloved teacher and scholar who spent all his academic career at Trent University in Peterborough, seems somewhat out of place, not simply because it is difficult to believe that he has died but because such formal and solemn forms of writing would seem pretentious and incongruous for a man who was always so wittily irreverent and so willing to create verbal mischief. Even though he had been in declining health for about ten years, Finn remained animated in my phone conversations with him which inevitably became friendly jousting matches in words. They usually consisted of a series of puns, double entendres, as well as allusions to Irish literature (he knew his Shaw and Hugh Leonard inside out) as he offered commentary not just on the Ireland he had known growing up in Kildare, at Rockwell and UCD but on the contemporary country with

which he maintained intimate contact. Finn's passion for Ireland found expression in his love of literature and language. His conversations, his lectures, as well as his famous interventions at annual CAIS conferences were wickedly witty, full of linguistic verve, and always underlined a somewhat iconoclastic view of the world.

In the early days of CAIS conferences, a running dialogue spilled over from the question-and-answer period of one lecture to another (those were the days when the lectures did not compete against each other so that most delegates would be present at all lectures). These public discussions were a hallmark of CAIS conferences, usually with Finn in the forefront of a literary debate that might involve his good friends Ninian Mellamphy or Ann Saddlemeyer, Brian John, Maurice Elliott, Cyril Byrne, Norman MacKenzie or the indefatigable Bob O'Driscoll.

Finn himself hosted the 1981 annual CAIS conference at Trent and, perhaps unsurprising given Finn's lifelong propensity to be smitten in the most innocent of ways by most women he met, the theme was "Women in Irish Legend, Life and Literature." Lorna Reynolds, Ann Saddlemeyer, Margaret MacCurtain, Anne Dooley, Dana Hearn, Maureen Hawkins, all gave lectures, as did as Denis Donoghue and Hugh Kenner. The Chancellor of Trent, novelist Margaret Laurence presided over the banquet, and delegates were treated to a concert on "The Irish Woman in Song and Music" by vocalist Noirín Ní Ríain accompanied on the piano and harpsichord by

Micheál Ó Suilleabháin. Finn was in his element, sharing his love of Irish literature and culture with CAIS delegates and a sizeable group from the Peterborough Irish community. Later, his life darkened when his beloved Eileen fell sick and slowly died of cancer. Through this difficult time he derived great solace from his daughter Mo. Finn truly had the luck of the Irish for, in time, he met the beautiful, vivacious, kind and unendingly generous Gayle who, even though such things can never be proved, probably added years to his life – a time of extraordinary joy and comfort. His last years were particularly enjoyable as he exulted in the pleasures of being a grandfather, of witnessing his grand-daughter Maeve grow into the charming young person who spent much time in discussions with the doting Finn. Bulletins on her latest sayings and accomplishments were readily recounted to anyone evincing the slightest interest. Mo, Gayle and Maeve were indeed the three graces that made his declining years a source of wonder, quiet satisfaction and pleasure.

As it turned out, only a few months before he died Finn phoned me to say that he wished to donate his collection of Irish books to the School of Canadian Irish Studies. Central to this collection were texts and critical books on Irish drama. He said he was pleased to donate them to a library where future generations of students would use them so that they too could share in the joys and pleasures of Irish writing that were central to Finn's own identity. Towards the end as his suffering increased he was sanguine about dying, confident that he had lived a full life, blessed by a very special family, close friendships and a wide circle of former students whose lives he had transformed in significant ways.

Michael Kenneally

FINN GALLAGHER OBITUARY NOTICES

The Trent University community is saddened to learn of the death of Professor Emeritus Sean

Finbarr (Finn) Gallagher on Sunday, April 17, 2011 at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre.

A professor emeritus in the department of English Literature, Finn served as president of the Association of Teaching Staff; Senior Tutor, Julian Blackburn College; and master, Otonabee College.

He was elected to the executive committees of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), the Ontario Council of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA), and the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). He served a term (1990-93) as president of the Canadian Association for Irish Studies (CAIS).

His activities in the Peterborough community included president of the Peterborough Y Swim Club, of the Peterborough Irish Canadian Club and of the Peterborough Theatre Guild where he acted in and directed several productions.

Finn was the devoted husband of Gayle Hazel (nee Massie), and of Eileen Belton (d. 1991). He was the loving father of Maureen, fond father-in-law of Mehernosh Pestonji and utterly besotted poppa of Maeve G. Pestonji.

At Finn's request, memorial donations may be directed to the Finn and Eileen Gallagher Bursary fund, Trent University.

Trent University

Finn Gallagher: gifted storyteller

Finn Gallagher was a gifted storyteller who loved to share his passion for Irish literature with others.

Sean Finbarr Gallagher, 79, was born in Dublin, Ireland and moved to Canada in 1957.

Gayle Gallagher, his wife of 16 years, said he enjoyed sharing stories and poems from the dramatists and poets that Ireland has brought forth. "That's in his blood ... all that stuff is second nature to him," she said with a laugh. "He's Irish to the core.... It was very important for him to maintain those ties in his adopted country. Finn could really tell stories."

Gayle added that Finn wrote his own obituary several years ago, and when the family pulled it out of a drawer Monday they made sure to keep

the wording that he had used to describe his connection to his granddaughter: "Utterly besotted poppa of granddaughter Maeve."

Mr. Gallagher met his first wife, Eileen, when he was studying at University College Dublin, Gayle said. "He was destined for the priesthood," she said, but his love for Eileen changed his path. The two got married and had a daughter, Maureen.

They moved to Canada in 1957 and Mr. Gallagher earned an MA from King's College at the University of Western Ontario before the family returned to Ireland for a couple years when Mr. Gallagher took his PhD at University College Dublin.

He taught at the University of Saskatoon and the University of Western Ontario before taking a position at Trent in 1969. He retired at 65 in 1997.

Gayle described him as a brilliant man, a fabulous debater and eloquent. "He had a fabulous sense of humour. He was generous of spirit." He was also a "major sports guy." Gayle said, who had been a stellar footballer, rugby player and cricketer.

For several years after retirement, he continued to teach through Trent's continuing education program, including a course on 20th century Irish short stories.

Brendan Wedley, Peterborough Examiner

Finn Gallagher remembered

The late Finn Gallagher was a noted teller of stories, especially any that had to do with his native Ireland. Others told some of their own stories during a special memorial service at Trent University's Champlain College about the native of Dublin, who died in April.

About 100 family and friends, including those with the theatre guild, club, Trent colleagues and former students, attended the service. They celebrated him in verse, song and reminiscences.

His wife of 16 years, Gayle, thought it was a perfect location for such a service.

"It was appropriate to hold it here at Trent," she said. "He devoted three decades of his career to teaching English at Trent. The setting was

perfect. There was no other place." Gayle said many family members in Ireland, although not at Sunday's service physically, were there "in spirit."

Gayle and his daughter Maureen closed the service and other reminiscences were delivered by Gordon Johnston, Father John Geary, Rob Winslow, Ninian Mellamphy and Sharon Dunphy. Also taking part were Jessica Rustage-Johnston, Paul Mason, Lisa Devan, Paul Crough and Michael Kenneally.

There were readings from his works and those of W.B. Yeats and familiar titles such as I Am Of Ireland, Down By The Sally Gardens, The Wives – Two Readings, She Moved Thro' The Fair, The Lake Isle of Innisfree, He Wishes For the Cloths of Heaven, Red Hanrahan's Song About Ireland, Poems for My Trinity and the Parting Glass.

"He's Irish to the core," Gayle once said. "It was important to him to maintain those ties in his adopted country."

Dale Clifford, Peterborough Examiner

School of Canadian Irish Studies 2011-2012

Courses: This year the School will offer the following courses:

Fall 2011

Celtic Ireland: Mythology and Folklore
Irish Gothic Literature
Irish Children's Literature
History of the Irish in Canada
Introduction to Irish Studies
The Making of the Irish Landscape
The Irish Literary Revival
History of Ireland

Winter 2012

Irish Music History from the Celts to Bono
Irish Literature & Nation in the 19th Century

Contemporary Irish Women's Writing
The Great Irish Famine
Film Culture in Ireland
History and Memory in Ireland
Celtic Christianity (online course)

Fall 2011 / Winter 2012
Irish Language and Culture
Irish Language II

Speakers: Among the speakers planned for Fall 2011 are:

Irish novelist **Roddy Doyle** (October 6)
Jackie Maxwell, Artistic Director of the Shaw Festival. Third Annual Irish Protestant Benevolent Society Lecture (October 20)
Irish novelist, **Anne Enright**, will give a reading on Monday, October 24.

Dr. Janice Helland (Queen's University, Kingston). Fourth Annual Ann Saddlemyer Lecture, September 28

Professor David Wilson, Celtic Studies, University of Toronto, will give Sixth annual St. Patrick's Society Lecture on November 17

Dr. Claire Connolly (Cardiff University) Tenth Annual Neil Willard Lecture. Date TBA

Visiting Scholars: This year's O'Brien Visiting Scholar will be **Professor Claire Connolly** (Cardiff University) who will teach two courses in the fall semester and give the Annual Bishop Neal Willard Lecture. A native of Clonmel, Claire Connolly's research interests include the British and Irish novel in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; Irish-Welsh cultural exchanges; Irish and Scottish Romanticism; Ireland and cultural theory; and contemporary Irish writing. She has published essays and articles in all of these areas, as well as scholarly editions of novels by Maria Edgeworth and Sydney Owenson. Her *Cultural History of the Irish Novel, 1790-1829* is due out from Cambridge University Press in November 2011. Other editions include her *Theorizing Ireland* (Palgrave) and (with Joe Cleary), *Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture*. Claire Connolly is the Chair of the [British Association for Irish Studies](#) and Vice Chair (Europe) of the [International Association for the Study of Irish Literature](#).

This year the Visiting Scholar generously supported by the Government of Ireland and the Ireland Canada University Foundation is **Aoife Ní Ríordáin** who will teach an introductory course on the Irish language and its culture, as well as an intermediary course in the Irish language. Both courses will be full length, six credit courses running from September to May. A native of Cork, Aoife will be the third Junior Scholar to come to Concordia. She has an M.A. in Irish and French from University College Cork.

Scholarships: For the coming academic year, the School will offer nineteen scholarships and two bursaries worth a total value of \$24,950 to students enrolled in Irish Studies.

Tenure-Track Position in Irish Diaspora Studies

The School now invites applications for a tenure-track position in Irish Diaspora Studies. Candidates in Humanities, Social Sciences and Fine Arts disciplines are encouraged to apply. The ideal candidate will have a completed PhD, a strong research and teaching profile, previous administrative experience, a demonstrated multidisciplinary approach to his/her own subject, a broad interdisciplinary conceptualization of Irish Studies, and expertise in the discourses of migration studies in general, as well as Irish diaspora studies. The candidate will also be expected to facilitate the development of Irish Studies within the university and play an active role in the School's outreach to the Irish community.

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 the departmental contact.

Dr. Michael Kenneally
Principal, School of Canadian Irish Studies
Concordia University

1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., S-H 1001-11
Montreal, Qc. H3G 1M8.

Michael.Kenneally@Concordia.ca
www.cdnirish.concordia.ca

Subject to budgetary approval, we anticipate filling this position, normally at the rank of Assistant Professor, for July 1, 2012. Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the position has been filled. All applications should reach the School no later than November 1, 2011. All inquiries about the position should be directed to Dr. Kenneally.

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.

Susan Cahill Joins School of Canadian Irish Studies

Dr. Susan Cahill's (PhD, English, UCD, 2007) appointment at Concordia began on July 1, just a few days before the CAIS and CISLE conferences got underway at the School of Canadian Irish Studies. Not only did Susan roll up her sleeves to help out but she proceeded to give papers at both conferences and chair two sessions. Her introduction to Concordia was therefore an exciting immersion in the academic, cultural and social events of both conferences.

Dr. Cahill is the most recent faculty appointment in Concordia's School of Canadian Irish Studies. Her research interests include Irish children's literature and contemporary Irish literature, particularly women's writing. Her monograph, *Irish Literature in the Celtic Tiger Years: Gender, Bodies, Memory*, was published by Continuum a few weeks after her arrival while a collection of essays on Booker prize winning author, Anne Enright, co-edited with Dr Claire Bracken, had recently been published by Irish Academic Press. She has also published on historical children's literature, gender and the

body in contemporary Irish fiction, and fairytale cinema.

Her current research focuses on the literary culture of the Irish girl in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by writers such as L.T. Meade (1844-



1914), Rosa Mulholland (1841-1921), May Crommelin (c.1850-1930), and Flora Shaw (1851-1929). Susan's research particularly explores the ways in which children's books by Irish women writers, often themselves implicated in imperial practices, map contemporaneous assumptions about femininity, Irishness, childhood, and consumer culture as well as the ways in which these become imbricated in each other. At Concordia in the coming academic year, Susan will teach courses on 'Irish Children's Literature', 'Contemporary Irish Women's Writing', and 'Irish Literature and Nation in the 19th Century'.



Irish Language Senior Visiting Scholar appointed



The Ireland Canada University Foundation is very pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Regina Uí Chollatáin to the position of Senior Visiting Scholar, to Saint Mary's University in

Halifax, under the ICUF [Irish Language Programme](#), which is supported by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Deir an Dochtúir Pádraig Ó Siadhail, Saint Mary's University: "Is mór an onóir dúinn i gClár an Léinn Éireannaigh i Saint Mary's University go mbeidh an Dochtúir Regina Uí Chollatáin inár dteannta don bhliain acadúil 2011-12 mar Ollamh Cuairte faoin Chlár Gaeilge atá á mhaoiniú ag an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta is atá á riar ag Fondúireacht Ollscoil Éireann Cheanada (ICUF). Deis iontach é an ceapachán seo a ligfidh dár gcuid mac léinn a bheith ag obair le scoláire sinsearach i léann na Gaeilge. Ceapachán tábhachtach é fosta a ardóidh go mór próifíl na Gaeilge is seasamh chultúr na hÉireann sa phobal taobh amuigh den ollscoil."

Dr Regina Uí Chollatáin, a native of Donegal and now living in Laois, is the Director of the UCD de Bhaldráithe Centre for Irish Language Scholarship, and a lecturer in Modern Irish in the UCD School of Irish, Celtic Studies, Irish Folklore and Linguistics. Her main areas of published research in both Irish and English include, print and broadcast Irish language media, the Revival period, and

modern Irish literature and criticism. She has published widely in academic and other journals, and her books include *An Claidheamh Soluis agus Fáinne an Lae 1899-1932* along with digitised index (Cois Life 2004), *Iriseoirí Pinn na Gaeilge* (Cois Life, 2008), and *P.H. Pearse: Life and After-Life*. Pádraic Mac Piarais: *Saol agus Oidhreachta* (co-editor, Irish Academic Press, 2009). She has also given lectures at national and international conferences and events. She participates regularly in Irish language media programmes in many areas from current affairs to literature, and she is a member of Bord TG4. In her appointment by the Ireland-Canada University Foundation as Visiting Irish Language Professor in Saint Mary's University, Halifax, she will focus on her most recent research, "'Scéal na nGael'. The representation of the Irish language community in print and online media'. This research examines the impact of Irish language print and online media on the Irish language national and international community, from its roots in traditional writing practices, to the present day twenty-first century journalistic platform.



Caitríona Ní Chonchúir, a native of Cork, is a primary school Vice Principal in a Gaelscoil in Cork city. Caitríona attended Mary Immaculate College in Limerick from

2001 to 2004 where she majored in Irish and graduated with an honours degree in Education. She accepted her first teaching post as Vice Principal in an Irish speaking Primary school in 2004 and in 2009 she was appointed Acting Principal of the school for one academic year. In 2010, Caitríona was accepted in University College Cork where she undertook a Master's degree in Modern Irish. She is currently completing a thesis as part of this degree. Caitríona was awarded an ICUF scholarship in 2011 to work as an Irish Language Teaching Assistant in Saint Mary's University, Halifax this coming academic year.



The O'Kalem Collection (DVD, Irish Film Institute, 2011)

A new DVD release which may be of interest to Irish Studies scholars across a variety of disciplines is *The O'Kalem Collection, 1910-1915* from the Irish Film Institute. The Kalem

Company was an American enterprise which sent a crew to Ireland in 1910 to shoot *The Lad from Old Ireland*, a 10-minute silent piece which is significant as both the first fiction film made in Ireland and the first film to be shot on both sides of the Atlantic. That film was reconstructed by the Irish Film Archives from the only known surviving copy (which happened to be a German version, and is missing the final scene). It is presented here along with seven of the other Irish films which earned the travelling film crew the nickname of "the O'Kalems." There is a Canadian connection in the person of Toronto-born director Sidney Olcott, whose interest in Irish nationalism become stronger - or at least more visible in his productions -- as time went on. Also included with the DVD is the new 85-minute documentary *Blazing the Trail*, a clear and competent (if occasionally a bit dry) history of the Kalem Company and their Irish projects. Both the original films and the documentary are revealing about a number of key issues as they stood at the beginning of the last century: the Irish-American emigrant experience, Irish political upheaval, and the film industry in both Ireland and America. Given that the vast majority of films from the silent era have been lost or destroyed, the fact that these early Irish films are now available to a general audience is an important contribution to Irish Studies.

Heather Macdougall

IRISH EMBASSY NEWSLETTER

Attached is the link to the first issue of a Newsletter, which the Irish Embassy plans to send out regularly in the future to keep you up to date with Embassy activities and with important developments in Ireland and here in Canada.

<http://www.embassyofireland.ca/home/index.aspx?id=83366>

Book Notices

[By happy coincidence, we are pleased to remark that all the following publications are by members of CAIS/ACEI]



Le vert et le bleu

*Identité québécoise et identité irlandaise
au tournant du xx^e siècle*

SIMON JOLIVET

Simon Jolivet, ***Le vert et le bleu: Identité québécoise et identité irlandaise au tournant du XXI^e siècle*** (Montreal: Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal)

C'est le premier ouvrage en français qui aborde de façon systématique, intelligente et rigoureuse la part irlandaise de l'identité québécoise. Simon Jolivet nous révèle une histoire jalonnée de rapports de solidarité et d'espoir, mais aussi d'occasions manquées.

Linda Cardinal, Université d'Ottawa

Ce livre explore de façon remarquable la parenté qui existe entre les catholiques irlandais et canadiens-français. Malgré l'hostilité que se

vouaient leurs voisins ontariens à cause du Règlement xvii sur le français comme langue d'enseignement, les deux groupes ont soutenu les mêmes politiques durant la Première Guerre mondiale, ainsi que dans la lutte pour l'autonomie irlandaise au début des années 1920. Il s'agit d'une contribution majeure à l'histoire des Irlandais au Canada et à l'historiographie québécoise.

Mark McGowan, St. Michael's College

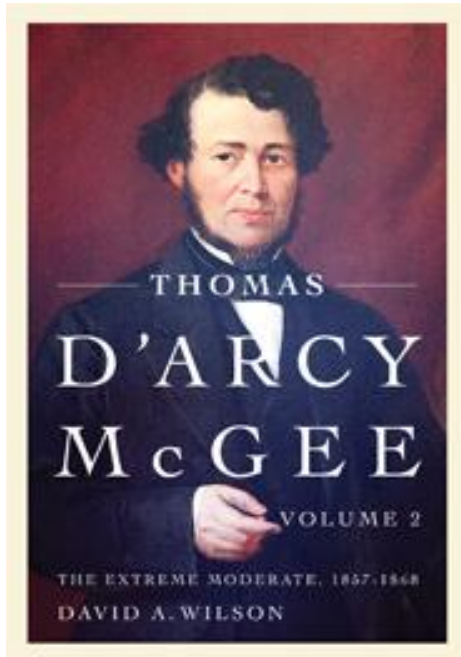


Simon signs his work

Voici un livre instructif, bien documenté et bien écrit. Il plonge de profondes racines dans l'historiographie et soulève des questions d'actualité cruciales pour les historiens. Il réussit également le pari d'intégrer l'histoire du Québec dans le contexte élargi de l'Atlantique.

Brian Young, Université McGill

Simon Jolivet est chercheur postdoctoral au Centre de recherche en civilisation canadienne-française de l'Université d'Ottawa. Il détient un doctorat en histoire de l'Université Concordia et il s'intéresse à l'Irlande, à la diaspora irlandaise, à la vie associative et à la question identitaire chez les minorités ethnoculturelles du Québec.



David A. Wilson, **Thomas D'Arcy McGee, Volume 2: The Extreme Moderate, 1857-1868** (McGill-Queen's University Press, 2011)

After a tumultuous career as a revolutionary in Ireland and an ultra-conservative Catholic in the United States, Thomas D'Arcy McGee moved to Canada in 1857, where he became a force for moderation and the leading Irish Canadian politician in the country. Determined that Canada should avoid the ethno-religious strife that afflicted Ireland, he articulated an inclusive, broad-minded nationalism based on generosity of spirit, a willingness to compromise, and a reasonable balance between order and liberty.

To realize his vision, McGee became a strong supporter of the "new northern nationality." A spellbinding orator who emerged as the youngest and most intellectually gifted of the Fathers of Confederation, he fought what he saw as the atavistic and intolerant elements of Canadian life - the Orange Order, with its strident anti-Catholicism; the opponents of separate schools, whom he viewed as enemies of minority rights; and above all the Fenian

Brotherhood, with its dreams of revolutionizing Ireland and annexing Canada to the United States. Convinced that compromise with Fenianism was impossible, he set out to destroy the movement through a strategy of confrontation and polarization - channeling his earlier extreme tendencies in the service of moderation and attempting to reduce the influence of Fenianism within his own community. In the process, he alienated many of his former supporters, who came to regard him as a traitor who sacrificed the cause of Irish nationalism on the altar of personal ambition. On 7 April 1868, McGee was assassinated on the doorstep of his Ottawa boarding house.

As someone who took an uncompromising stand against militants within his own ethno-religious community, and who attempted to balance core values with minority rights, McGee has become increasingly relevant in today's complex multicultural society.

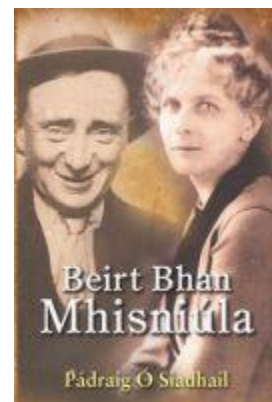
Review quotes

"A magnificent achievement. The narrative has tension and momentum, even though we know the final tragic scene. This is the triumphant finale of years of scholarship and must rank as one of the great historical biographies of our time."

Liam Kennedy, Queen's University, Belfast

Pádraig Ó Siadhail, *Beirt Bhan Mhisniúla* (Cló Iar-Chonnacht)

Pádraic Ó Conaire, mórúdar de chuid nualitríocht na Gaeilge, agus beirt de na mná i mbeatha an Chonairigh (Caitlín Ní Aodha is Mary Morrison) na príomhphearsana san úrscéal seo. Saothar é Beirt Bhan Mhisniúla a



ghluaiseann ó Mheiriceá Thuaidh go Londain go Baile Átha Cliath go Meiriceá siar arís sna blianta 1913-1928.

Blaisimid de shaol na nÉireannach is na Gaeilge sna blianta roimh 1916 i Londain, áit ar chuir Caitlín Ní Aodha, Ceanadach, aithne ar an Chonaireach, go ndearnadh leannáin díobh agus gur chreid Caitlín go bpósfaidís ... gur nocht an fhírinne shearbh gurbh fhealltóir é an Conaireach a raibh ceangal na gcúig gcaol air.

In úrscéal ina dtarraingítear ar théamaí móra i scríbhinní Uí Chonaire féin, an grá agus an feall, is ar chrann Mary Morrison a thiteann sé teacht i gcabhair ar an té a loic ar a cara, Caitlín, is le fáil amach an bhfuil buille sa bhéim fós sa Chonaireach mar fhear is mar scríbhneoir ...

Bhain *Beirt Bhan Mhisniúla* an duais d'Úrscéal - Ficsean Liteartha, maoinithe ag Oireachtas na Gaeilge, i gcomórtais liteartha an Oireachtais 2010

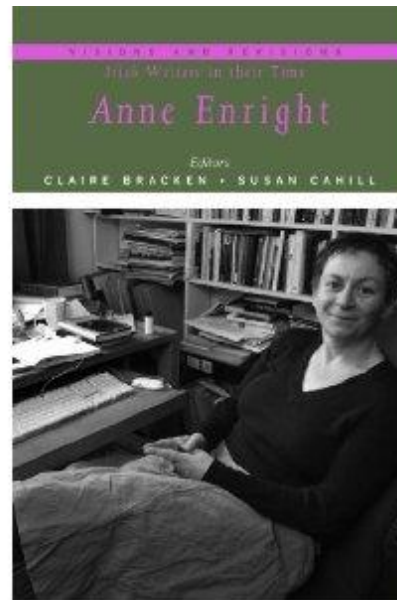
Pádraic Ó Conaire, a central figure in contemporary Irish-language literature, and two of the women in Ó Conaire's life (Caitlín Ní Aodha and Mary Morrison) are the central characters in this novel. Set in the years between 1913 and 1928, the action in *Beirt Bhan Mhisniúla* moves from North America to London and Dublin before returning once more to North America.

We are given a taste of what life was like before 1916 for the Irish (and Irish speakers) in London, where the Canadian woman, Caitlín Ní Aodha, first met Ó Conaire. It was in London that their relationship became intimate and she believed, for a time, that they would be married... She soon learned that Ó Conaire had lied to her and that she wasn't the only one he had lied to either.

In a novel that draws on two of the major themes from Ó Conaire's own writings, love and betrayal, it falls to the second of the women, Mary Morrison, to come to the aid of the man who has failed her friend Caitlín, and

to put Ó Conaire to the test, both as a man and as a writer.

Beirt Bhan Mhisniúla was named Literary Novel of the Year by Oireachtas na Gaeilge in the Oireachtas na Gaeilge Literary Competitions, 2010.



Claire Bracken and Susan Cahill, eds, *Anne Enright (Visions and Revisions: Irish Writers in Their Time)*, (Irish Academic Press)

Anne Enright is one of the most innovative and exciting writers in Ireland - and indeed, the world today - whose work encompasses a wide range of genres, themes, and interests. With her dark humor and wry tone, she displays a capability to be remarkably funny while engaging with serious subject matter and themes. The recognition for her novel, *The Gathering*, by the Man Booker judges in 2007, proves this to be a timely moment to critically explore her writing. This is the first study of Anne Enright, in which leading scholars examine her work in relation to style; her situation in a postmodern and

experimental tradition in Irish and non-Irish writing; and her engagement with culture and social change, tradition and modernity, memory, gender, and sexuality. The book also includes an extensive interview with Anne Enright and a comprehensive bibliography.



Diane Allwood Egerton, *Artist and Aristocrat: The Life and Work of Lady Mabel Annesley, 1881- 1959 (Ulster Historical Foundation, \$35 hardcover)*

CAIS member Egerton is a former editor with *The Devil's Artisan* (DA), a journal about the printing arts published by The Porcupine's Quill in Erin, Ontario. The following remarks are from an interview with Jon Fear, *Kitchener-Waterloo Record*, May 20, 2011:

"I discovered that the main archive for her work was at McMaster University in Hamilton, only a two-hour drive from my home in Stratford. This was because her sister, Lady Constance Malleon, had a long-term relationship with the philosopher Bertrand Russell, whose papers are also kept at McMaster.

"Her artistic legacy lies in her engraved prints and illustrations, 100 of which are

reproduced in my book, which show her as an engraver whose work was as important and beautiful as her fellow artists of the time, people like Clare Leighton and Eric Gill.

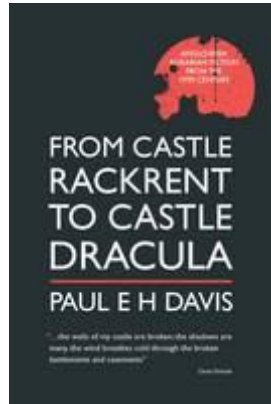
"The Times of London mentioned in its obituary for Mabel that she possessed "an incorruptible sense of duty and tradition" as well as "an understanding which was most vital in the world of modern art." Though she shied away from publicity, her engravings had been greatly valued.

"Among her works, I personally love her engraving *The Round House* because it shows both animal figures, which she was particularly adept at portraying, and farm buildings that are still standing today and go back to Georgian times, when her family first arrived in Castlewellan, County Down."



Diane Egerton at unveiling of Ulster Historical plaque at Castlewellan Forest Park

Paul E.H. Davis,
*From Castle
Rackrent to Castle
Dracula: Anglo-Irish
Agrarian Fiction in
the Nineteenth
Century*
(Buckingham:
University of
Buckingham Press,
2011).

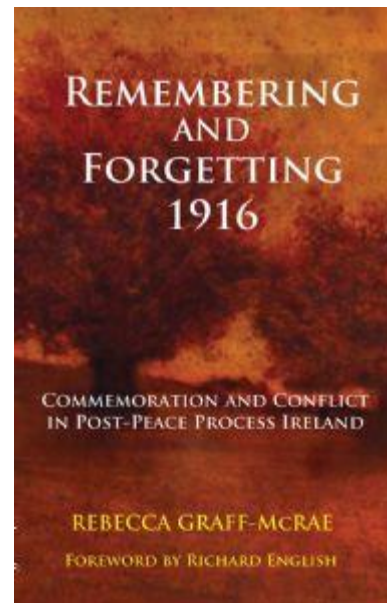


It is impossible to study literature in Ireland in the nineteenth century without also considering the history, social issues, politics and religion. There were no significant Irish historians during the period and so novelists had to become both storytellers and socio-political commentators. This book examines how Anglo-Irish writers, from Maria Edgeworth to Anthony Trollope and Bram Stoker, consistently re-worked the same issues in their novels, and provides a new interpretation of the categorization of the Anglo-Irish agrarian novel. The real divisions are between those who look to foreign solutions and those who privilege the fantastic or surreal.

The first part explores the impact of Maria Edgeworth, the first writer to present the central issues of what was to become the Land Question in prose fiction; she was also the first to offer a blueprint for a solution. Her agenda dominated Anglo-Irish fiction before the Famine and continued to influence it afterwards.

The second part begins by examining the culturally lean years that followed the Famine. Change came with the emergence of Fenianism and then by its literary portrayal in the works of Charles Kickham and in those of honorary Irishman, Anthony Trollope.

The third part focuses on Thomas Moore and Bram Stoker who identify the solution as lying not in the real world but in the world of fantasy. Superficially, Stoker's *Dracula* (1897) merely transplants exploration of the Land Question from Ireland to Transylvania, but the novel also deals with issues ignored by other writers; it looks both to the past and to the future, forming a bridge between the agrarian novel and the innovative, urbanised, literary forms later pioneered by James Joyce.



Rebecca Graff-McRae, *Remembering and Forgetting 1916: Commemoration and Conflict in Post-Peace Process Ireland* (Irish Academic Press)
Foreword by Richard English

This book asks how the commemorations of the Easter Rising, the Battle of the Somme, the 1798 Rebellion, and the H-Block Hunger Strike have become incorporated into present

politics in the wake of the Good Friday Agreement. The book begins and ends with the Easter Rising. The construction of 1916 as the pivotal moment of Irish history, identity, and memory has had lasting consequences for the Irish definition of political conflict and how this is defined through commemoration. It argues that the ghosts of 1916 are in many ways the ghosts of 1998.

Barra Ó Seaghdha reviewed Rebecca's book in the online journal, Dublin Review of Books, Issue 18, earlier this year.

http://drb.ie/more_details/11-06-05/Problematising_Indecidability.aspx

Another online review appeared on H-Net: Jason Knirck. Review of Rebecca Graff-McRae, *Remembering and Forgetting 1916: Commemoration and Conflict in Post-Peace Process Ireland*. H-Albion, H-Net Reviews. March, 2011. <http://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=32274>



Conferences & Symposia

Final Call

Irish Theatre History Conference

Deadline 30 September 2011

'Performance, Memory, Futures'

**National University of Ireland,
Galway, Ireland**

25-26 November 2011

Keynote Speakers: Jen Harvie (Queen Mary, University of London), Mark Phelan (Queen's University, Belfast)

In 2001, NUI Galway hosted a conference to explore the impact of critical theory and of

politics on the writing of Irish theatre history, to offer a forum for new critical approaches to the topic, and to reflect on the growing scholarly importance of archive holdings and of library theatre collections.

Ten years later, the field has changed considerably. New archival holdings have been acquired throughout Ireland, and existing collections have expanded considerably. Digitisation has created new opportunities while posing new challenges. And public funding for theatre archives – and the arts generally – is becoming increasingly scarce, at a time when our collections and infrastructure urgently need resourcing.

The conference will include a forum on theatre archives. In addition, proposals for 20-minute papers are invited.

Please send a short paper proposal on or before 30 September 2011 to

**Patrick.Lonergan@nuigalway.ie and
Lionel.Pilkington@nuigalway.ie**

Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI)

An 20 Bliain atá Romhainn



Research and Teaching of the Irish Language in North America: the Next 20 Years

University of Ottawa

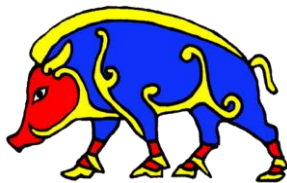
October 27 & 28, 2011

With the granting of official status to Irish in the European Union in 2007, thousands of fluent speakers living in every corner of the globe, and a tremendous increase in the use of Irish online in recent years, Irish has become a truly international language. The primary aim of this conference is to explore a long-term vision for the Irish language in North America, one that aligns with and supports the 20-Year Strategy approved by the Irish government last year.

There will be four sessions during the two day conference:

- Bilingualism
- Technology and Pedagogy
- Research and Writing in Irish in North America
- Cooperation: Institutions of higher learning and the Irish-speaking community

Contact: *Sheila A. Scott*
600 King Edward, Room 105
Ottawa ON Canada, K1N 6N5
613-562-5800, ext. 3475
sheila.scott@uOttawa.ca
<http://www.ilob.uottawa.ca/20bliain/en/index.html>



**ACIS Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference
INTERROGATING THE URBAN:
Irish cities, cultures and identities.**

September 30 and October 1, 2011.
Manhattan College. Riverdale, NY.

In what ways do Irish urban spaces and urban concerns, shape national policy or culture in Ireland? How does Irish urban geography, or the representation of it (in film, fiction, poetry and popular culture) inform our positions as scholars of Irish history, literature, and identity?

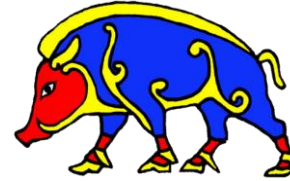
Keynote Speaker will be announced shortly. For further information, visit the conference website at:

<http://sites.google.com/a/manhattan.edu/acismidatlantic11>

Contact:
Deirdre O'Leary
Department of English

Manhattan College
4513 Manhattan College Parkway
Riverdale, NY 10471

Deirdre.oleary@manhattan.edu.



2012 International Meeting of The
American Conference for Irish Studies
New Orleans, Louisiana
Submissions are due September 30, 2011 to
acis2012@gmail.com

**Erin at Home, Erin Abroad:
Capturing the Irish Experience**

The Irish diaspora to all corners of the globe over many centuries continues to engage scholars in diverse fields from history to literature to art and anthropology. This conference proposes to examine the varied experiences of the Irish and how they manifested themselves. More attention has been paid in recent years to the stories the Irish tell to themselves and to “others” and how outsiders have viewed the Irish. We would like scholars to consider how these expressions vary over time and place.

This theme also addresses the concept of “home” as the Irish experience often entailed creating new homes in foreign lands yet retaining strong connections to their homeland. Exile motifs have been explored before, but this conference hopes to move beyond this one aspect and further examine the complicated relationship between the Irish abroad and in Ireland. We welcome ideas that reconsider this experience.



IRISH SPORT

Éire-Ireland: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Irish Studies welcomes submissions for a Spring/Summer 2013 special issue that will consider the theme of Sport.

Guest editors Mike Cronin and Brian O Conchubhair invite critical articles that engage with sport and Irish/Irish-American culture and that contextualize sport in a broader social, cultural, linguistic and historical setting. We welcome essays that offer interdisciplinary perspectives from history, literature, visual culture, social welfare, and social policy. We also invite submissions informed by new sources of archival research.

The deadline for receipt of proposals (two pages) is November 1, 2011 and completed articles (6,000–8,000 words) will be due by April 1, 2012.

Please send electronic proposals to Professor Mike Cronin (Boston College) at croninmr@bc.edu and Professor Brian Ó Conchubhair (University of Notre Dame) at Brian.OConchubhair.1@nd.edu

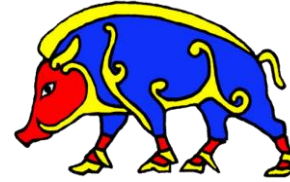


Flann O'Brien and Modernism

11 November, 2011: Sydney, Australia

Centre for Modernism Studies in Australia & John Hume Institute for Global Irish Studies at University of New South Wales

modernism@unsw.edu.au &
irish@unsw.edu.au



IRELAND & AFRICAN-AMERICA

March 9 - 11, 2012

**Clinton Institute for American Studies,
University College Dublin, Ireland**

From Fredrick Douglass' sojourn in Ireland as part of his abolitionist tour in 1845 to Barack Obama's visit as president of the United States of America in 2011 there exists a multi-layered history of Irish and African-American interactions. Whether conceived in terms of geography or ideology, Ireland and African-America are bound together in a historiography of transatlantic exchanges and (post)colonial experiences of migration, urbanization and contestation. This conference will explore a range of ways in which Irish and African-American cultures and histories have interacted, from the slave trade to contemporary popular culture. It also seeks to foster interdisciplinary dialogue and a transatlantic exchange of ideas among scholars in the field.

The confirmed keynote speaker will be Ishmael Reed, the pre-eminent African-American author who has controversially satirized American political and cultural life in a range of literary forms. Additional plenary speakers will include: Maurice Bric (UCD), Luke Gibbons (NUI Maynooth), Eric Lott (University of Virginia), and Diane Negra (UCD).

Scholars and graduate students in humanities and social science fields are invited to submit proposals for 20-minute papers. Click [here](#) for further details.

Paper proposals should be sent to Louise Walsh at walsh.lou@gmail.com by December 16, 2011

SCOLAIRE & STAIRE

NEW ONLINE IRISH HISTORY MAGAZINE

A new Irish History magazine called Scolaire Staire (History Scholar) with a projected release date of October 2011, we are currently looking for authors among the postgrad and recently graduated Phd community in Irish Universities. If you have any ideas for short articles, reviews or anything else you think might fit in the magazine please contact us at scolairestaire@gmail.com

Our first issue will be published in October 2011. It will be just like a print magazine but completely free to download and distribute on pdf format. But this is only one aspect of what Scolaire Staire will be. Alongside the pdf format e-magazine will be a website (similar to a newspaper website like Guardian Unlimited or The Irish Times) where all our articles and features will be available, again completely free of charge. The website will also include a forum for discussion and debate and many other features like videos and podcasts.

Our blog: <http://scolairestaire.wordpress.com/>



[Reminder 1]

**AFTER THE BALL: CULTURAL
PRODUCTIONS AND PRACTICES IN
POST-CELTIC TIGER IRELAND**
University of Caen Lower Normandy
December 2 & 3, 2011

The impact of the Celtic Tiger and the following recession on cultural creation and practices opens a new area of investigation for scholars in cultural history, cultural economy, sociology, art history and media studies.

Contact:

Alexandra Slaby

Maître de conférences en anglais

UFR LVE/Groupe de recherches en études
irlandaises

Bureau LE428 ou S3032

Université de Caen/Basse-Normandie

Esplanade de la Paix BP 5186

14032 CAEN Cedex

FRANCE



[Reminder 2]

Ulster Genealogy & Migration Studies Autumn School 9-15 October

Ulster Historical Foundation and the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh.

Ulster Historical Foundation

49 Malone Road, Belfast, BT9 6RY

Northern Ireland

Tel: +44 (0) 28 9066 1988

Fax: +44 (0) 28 9066 1977

www.ancestryireland.com/autumnschool/

Email: enquiry@uhf.org.uk



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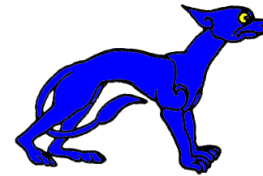
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It's (always) that time

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,
Department of Anthropology
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St John's, NL, A1C 5S7

<http://www.irishstudies.ca/join-cais/>