

CAIS NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2005

Newsletter Editor: Sean Farrell

A Letter from the President

Friends, Mes amis, A chairde ---

I hope that all is well across Canada and beyond, as folks begin to think of matters like the raking of leaves, the dragging on of CBC strikes, and, hopefully, the coming year in Irish Studies.

We had quite a great conference at the National University of Ireland / Maynooth, where Jason King organised a truly exceptional array of activities. Highlights included a private meeting with the director of the Abbey Theatre, a plenary on Irish-Canadian theatre connections, a celebration of Quebec's Fête nationale on 25 June (made possible by the very generous support of the Quebec Government Office in London), and, of course, David Wilson's rendition of "The Post-Colonial Boy." And thanks to the generous support of the Ireland Fund of Canada, we were able to support the travel to Maynooth of six graduate students from Canadian Universities. A good conference, I know, was had by all.

We are now gearing up for our 2006 conference, which will be held in Ottawa. Executive member Kel Morin-Parsons will be organising the event, and in collaboration with the rest of the CAIS Executive she's going to put on quite an event. A call for papers is included in this newsletter, and we encourage folks not only to submit paper ideas but also ideas for plenaries or

special presentations on the conference's topic: "Urban Ireland"

Speaking of Urban Ireland, every paid-up member should have gotten a copy of the new issue of The Canadian Journal of Irish Studies devoted to the culture of Dublin. This was edited by the Culture and the Cities Project (which you can learn more about at their website, <http://www.yorku.ca/cities/>) and is, we believe, a great contribution to the study of Irish urban life. If you didn't get a copy, drop me a line at jerry.white@ualberta.ca or at 780.492.0121. The next issue of the journal, "Irish-Canadian Connections," edited by Kevin James and Jason King, should be to folks' mailboxes soon. You'll also find in this issue a call for papers for an upcoming issue on "Women's Irish-Canadian Connections," which we hope folks will find interesting.

And finally, a note on the CAIS Executive. We are so pleased to welcome new executive members Kel Morin-Parsons and Patricia O'Leary-Coughlin, both of whom began their terms in June. But since there were no nominations for either President or Secretary-Treasurer, Danine Farquharson and myself have agreed to serve in those positions for one more year than our terms originally entailed. Cecil Houston has once again taken charge of a nominations committee, and will be running an election very shortly. We really do hope that some good nominations can come out of this process, and that CAIS can continue to

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move forward. So if you know someone who would be good for these roles, or if you think you'd do well with them yourselves, please speak up! The call for nominations is on the back page of this newsletter and the nomination form can be found on our website:

www.irishstudies.ca

Hope to see everyone soon.
Best wishes, Bien à vous, Le gach deaghui

--- Jerry White, President, CAIS

CAIS 2005: Canada Goes to Maynooth

A new member nearly lost in a moat, a first-time presenter saved from a locked bathroom by a gallant CAIS veteran, the sweet sounds of the pied piper of Toronto and a desperate and slaked cry for an Irish fried breakfast on a far too abrupt Sunday morning; these are only a few of the stories from CAIS 2005 in Maynooth that won't be told in full in this newsletter. Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

By all accounts, CAIS's first visit to Ireland in ten years was a tremendous success. This was largely due to the hard work of Jason King, who hosted the conference at the National University of Ireland at Maynooth, and truly seemed to be everywhere at once. The conference theme was Ireland and the Atlantic, with excellent plenary talks, a trip to the Abbey Theatre and a number of truly outstanding papers, it was indeed a special gathering.

One of the real highlights of the conference was a celebration of Cyril

Byrne's long and continuing impact on Canadian Irish Studies, easily seen in often moving reflections and readings by Cecil Houston, Pádraig O'Siadhail, Danine Farquharson, and many others. Finally, the conference was enlivened by the presence of a number of talented young scholars funded by the generosity of the Ireland Fund of Canada. All in all, the conference was a tremendous success and an excellent reminder of why we get together to celebrate all things Irish and the rich connections between Ireland and Canada. Along these lines,...

CAIS 2006, 14-17 June

The Canadian Association for Irish Studies is pleased to announce that our 2006 conference will take place at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Planning is currently underway to bring members a conference filled with lively sessions, memorable speakers and great craic. The University of Ottawa hosts a Chair in Celtic Studies, and Canada's capital city is home to a large and vibrant Irish community whose organisations include the Irish Society of the National Capital Region <http://irishsocietyncr.com/>, the Ottawa Gaels Football Club <<http://www.ottawagaels.ca/>>, the Tara Players Irish Theatre Troupe <http://taraplayers.ncf.ca/>, and a chapter of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann <<http://cceottawa.com/index.htm>>. The conference will take place in June; the call for papers can be found below:

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The Canadian Association for Irish Studies (CAIS) invites proposals for presentations of twenty minutes in length – as well as full panel discussions – for its annual conference, to be held this year at the University of Ottawa from 14 June to 17 June 2006. The theme of the CAIS conference this year is “Urban Ireland”. Possible topics, very broadly defined, include (but are not limited to):

literary and visual representations of Irish cities;

- representations of city life in mass media;
- the role of specifically urban concerns in shaping national policy or culture;
- Canadian comparisons: Dublin/Ottawa, Galway/Vancouver, Derry/Iqaluit, etc.;
- immigration and its impact on urban planning, or on urban culture;
- discussions of the rural/urban divide;
- historical accounts of the changing nature of Irish cities;
- cultural geographies of Irish cityscapes;
- discussion of architectural history, or of the future of Irish urban architecture.

The deadline for paper proposals is 15 January 15 2006. Paper proposals should be 250-500 words in length, in English or French, and sent either electronically or by post to:

Jerry White
President, Canadian Association for Irish Studies
Department of English and Film Studies
3-5 Humanities Centre
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E5
Canada

Phone: 780.492.0121

Fax: 780.492.8142

Email: Jerry.White@ualberta.ca

Greetings from the Rock!

To all CAIS members who are not aware, your Secretary-Treasurer has moved back to her adoptive homeland: Memorial University of Newfoundland. Please change your email/postal address books to reflect this new address:

Danine Farquharson
Dept. of English
Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's, NL, Canada
A1C 5S7

daninef@mun.ca

ALSO: it is THAT time of year. If you have a membership renewal page in this newsletter, then your membership is due! Please fill out the form and send to the above address with those lovely (and still desperately needed) CAIS membership fees.

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Grian

Eat, Drink and Be Hungry: Ireland and Consumption
Eighth Annual Grian Conference
3-5 March 2006
Glucksman Ireland House
New York University

Throughout Ireland's history, the rituals of food, drink and consumption have continued to play important, yet protean roles as Ireland's social fabric has changed. The spectrum between scarcity and abundance at points in Ireland's history manifests itself through complicated cultural attitudes toward food. If a pint in Ireland is "the drink," Grian is interested in exploring the social rituals, cultural practices and enduring aspects of Ireland's comestible cultures at all points in its history.

In short, the eight annual Grian conference will address the broad relation of food and consumption in Ireland and its diaspora. One page abstracts for 20 minutes papers are invited from scholars in any field including history, cultural studies, business, anthropology, etc.... Send abstracts by 15 October to: Ireland.grian@nyu.edu. Queries may be addressed to Elizabeth Gilmartin: egilmart@monmouth.edu or Kerri Anne Burke: kab350@yahoo.com.

ACIS National Conference 2006

The University of Missouri-St. Louis will host the 2006 American Conference

for Irish Studies national conference. The conference will begin with a plenary lecture and reception on the evening of Wednesday, April 19, and conclude with a banquet on the evening of Saturday, April 22. The conference site will be the Sheraton Hotel in Clayton, Missouri, convenient to St. Louis airport and midtown/downtown St. Louis. A feature of the conference will be a "Blues Cruise and Dinner on the Mississippi" on April 21. Michael Coady will be the featured conference writer and plenary speakers will include Marianne Elliott (University of Liverpool), Ríonach Uí Ógáin (University College, Dublin), Joan FitzPatrick Dean (University of Missouri-Kansas City). St. Louis Arts will be the conference's special guest performers. The conference's unifying theme will be "Old Age Pipers to New Age Punters: Ireland Through the Ages." The organizers will be delighted to receive panel proposals, roundtable proposals, and individual paper abstracts on the conference theme or any other aspect of Irish Studies. Graduate students are encouraged to submit abstracts. Send completed abstracts of no more than 200 words by 15 November to Eamonn Wall, Center for International Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis, One University Boulevard, St. Louis MO 63121 or by email to walle@umsl.edu. To present a paper or participate on a panel, you must be a ACIS member. Membership forms can be downloaded from the ACIS website at www.acisweb.com or requested by mail from Kristine Byron, ACIS Treasurer, Dept. of Spanish and Portuguese, Michigan State University,

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329 Old Horticulture Building, East
Lansing, MI 48824-1112.

IASIL 2006

"Those images that yet/ Fresh images
beget" (W.B. Yeats 'Byzantium')
University of New South Wales,
Sydney, Australia
Thursday 20 July to Sunday 23 July 2006

In writing *The Living Stream: Literature and Revisionism in Ireland*, Edna Longley says that she found she was often 'tracing a textual web', and that the term 'intertextuality' applied to what she was investigating 'not as a theoretical dead letter, but as a creative dynamic working upon mechanisms of tradition and cultural definitions alike'. This conference is devoted to exploring 'intertextuality' in all its forms in Irish literature and culture from earliest times to the present. Proposals are warmly invited on the general conference theme: exploring 'intertextuality' in all its forms in Irish literature and culture. Please submit a title and 200 word abstract to irish@unsw.edu.au by 15th December, 2005. Papers should not exceed 20 minutes duration.

ASSEC 2006

The Hidden Ireland
Montréal, Quebec, Canada
March 30-April 2

Daniel Corkery's study of the literature and society of Irish-speaking Munster in the eighteenth century (*The Hidden Ireland*, first published in 1924)

is an acknowledged classic of Irish literary history. The Keough Institute for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame, will sponsor a panel at the 2006 ASECS conference at Montréal, March 30-April 2 entitled "The Hidden Ireland". This panel will examine Irish writing (in both languages) in the light of Corkery's analysis and recent reassessments of that analysis. We welcome proposals for this panel. Please send electronic proposals (300-500 words) by September 25, 2005 to:

Professor Brian Ó Conchubhair
Department of Irish Language and Literature
422 Flanner Hall
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Telephone: 574-631-0499
Fax: 574-631-3620
e-mail: boconch1@nd.edu

And in conclusion,...

Needless to say, I hope this note finds our friends across Canada and beyond in good health and spirits. Please remember that this newsletter would quite literally be nothing without your help, so please send me any news of things Irish or Canadian Irish that you think would be of interest to our readers. I look forward to seeing you in Ottawa, which promises to be a great conference (particularly if we get a paper comparing Derry and Iqaluit!) Thanks again and all the best,

Sean Farrell
Sfarrell@niu.edu

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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being sought for **President and Secretary/Treasurer**.

A Nominations Committee consisting of Cecil Houston (chair), Brian Rainey and Ninian Mellamphy has been struck.

Please keep in mind 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 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 2005.

Nominations and other documents required must be received by email or by post, and postmarked no later than **January 16, 2006**.

Send to:

CAIS Nominations Committee
c/o Ashima James,
University of Windsor
Windsor, Canada N9B 3P4

OR: ashima@uwindsor.ca

Nomination Forms available from our website at www.irishstudies.ca .