

Nótaí Taighde Research Notes

Vol./Imhl. 1, No./Uimh. 1

CUNY IAS

August/Lúnasa 2004

NEH Brittle Book Grant Proposal

The CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies has applied to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a grant to "Preserve and Create Access to Humanities Collections." The proposal which was submitted on July 15, 2004, would provide funds to preserve (microfilm) 2,000 brittle books published in Irish America between the dates of 1820 and 1922. The CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies has invited the libraries of Boston College, the College of the Holy Cross, and Iona College to participate in this project. Thomas Ihde (Lehman College, MHSE/IAS) and Janet Butler Munch (Lehman College Library) are directing this project. They would like to thank the many colleagues who assisted in submitting this proposal including Carol Gee, Nicolette Montano, and Yi Sheng (Lehman Library), Martin Burke (Lehman & Graduate Center History Dept.), and Mabel Chee (Lehman Grants).

The project is an extension of the CUNY Collaborative Incentive Research Grants Program which was submitted by Thomas Ihde, Martin Burke, Clare Carroll (Queens College & Graduate Center), and John Gillen (Hostos Community College) on April 30, 2004.

ACIS National Meeting

The American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS), the national scholarly organization for Irish Studies, held its annual meeting this year at the University of Liverpool. Two CUNY professors who presented papers at the conference in the areas of their research were Thomas Ihde (Lehman College) and Mary McGlynn (Baruch College). The conference provided an excellent opportunity to survey current research in the field of Irish Studies and the sub-field of Irish-American

Studies. It also provided an opportunity to make contact with other centers and institutes in this area of research. The 2005 annual meeting will be hosted by the Keough Institute for Irish Studies at Notre Dame.

CUNY Fall Public Events

The CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies has confirmed speakers for the fall public events. A listing of six lectures and other events will be made available Monday, August 16, 2004. Please reserve September 8, 2004 for the CUNY IAS open house.

Two speakers this semester will share with us on topics related to the above book preservation proposal. Matthew Jockers (Stanford University) and Susan Schreibman (University of Maryland) will speak about digitization projects with Irish American archives. In addition to informing the public about the preservation of Irish-American literature, the talks will provide the Institute with important input that can be used in the later stages of the proposed NEH project.

Fall Conferences

Midwest Region of the ACIS will hold its annual meeting on **October 14-17, 2004**, at the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. See <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/celtic/conference/index.html>.

The Mid-Atlantic Regional ACIS annual meeting will be held **October 22-23, 2004** at Princeton University, New Jersey. See <http://www.princeton.edu/~acis/> for the tentative schedule.

Calls for Papers

The annual fall meeting of the New England chapter of the ACIS will be October 15-16, 2004 at Saint Anselm

College in Manchester, New Hampshire. The deadline for paper proposals is **September 1, 2004**. For more information, e-mail acis@anselm.edu.

ACIS Southern Regional Conference will be held at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, February 24-27, 2005. The deadline for proposals is **October 15, 2004**. For more information see <http://www.stthom.edu/irishstudies/>.

Eighth Annual Meeting of the National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages (NCOLCTL) is scheduled for April 15-17, 2005, in Madison, WI. The final deadline for receipt of proposals is **November 1, 2004**. See <http://www.councilnet.org/> for more information.

The North American Association for Celtic Language Teachers will hold its eleventh annual meeting at the University of Wales, Bangor, from June 9 to 12, 2005. Proposals are due by **January 23, 2005**. See <http://www.naaclt.org> for more information.

Grant Opportunity

The IACI/NUI Visiting Fellowship in Irish Studies provides researchers with a \$13,000 stipend, transportation costs, office space at the National University of Ireland-Galway, and Visiting Professor status. The deadline for the next grant cycle is **December 31, 2004**. See <http://www.iaci-usa.org/fellowship.html>.

People in the News

Mary McGlynn (Baruch College) has been appointed as the Mid-Atlantic Region representative on the ACIS Executive Board.

News Summary for Researchers of Irish-America

Hamden, CT - **Quinnipiac University** has announced the opening of "An Gorta Mór," a special collection room in their library devoted to the Great Hunger (Great Irish Famine). The room was made possible by a donation by the Lender Family. A listing of the volumes contained in the collection and a few on-line volumes can be found at <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x894.xml> .

Morristown, NJ - the **Irish American Cultural Institute** (IACI) continues to move forward with its plan to open a Museum of Irish America in Washington, DC. U.S. Senator Jon S. Corzine (D-N.J.) and Congressman Jim Walsh (R-NY) recently introduced legislation to grant a federal charter to the IACI as it moves forward with these plans. The museum will serve as an venue for educational and cultural opportunities in addition to being an attraction for tourists in general. "Plans for the \$50 million museum include a public exhibit space, gallery space, a performing arts center, a genealogical research center, and a center for Irish American and conflict resolution studies." <http://www.iaci-usa.org/museumcharter.html>

Irvington, NY – The Woodlands Lake section of **V.E. Macy Park** in Westchester County, New York, was renamed "Great Hunger Memorial Park" on June 30, 2004. The park contains the sculpture of the Great Famine by Eamonn O'Doherty, which was dedicated in June 2001. See <http://www.co.westchester.ny.us/parks/What'sNews/GreatHungerMemorial.htm> for more information and directions.

Immaculata, PA – On June 18, 2004, a historical plaque was dedicated to note the mass grave of 57 Irish immigrant workers who died of cholera in 1832. The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission's recognition of the site is in part due to the research of two **Immaculata University** history professors' research, that of William Wilson and John Ahtes. See <http://www.immaculata.edu/News/duffys.html> , http://www.immaculata.edu/history/recent_events.htm , and <http://www.irishabroad.com/news/irishinamerica/news/IrishFirmOffersFuneralHelp.asp>

Chestnut Hill, MA - Séamus Connolly, master fiddler and music instructor, has been named to the endowed post of Sullivan Artist in Residence in Irish Music for the next five years at **Boston College**. Connolly has been teaching traditional Irish fiddle at BC for over ten years. Connolly is noted as founder and organizer of the highly successful Gaelic Roots summer school at BC. See <http://www.irishecho.com/newspaper/story.cfm?id=14540> for more information.

Recent Publications

Moran, Gerard P., 2004: *Sending out Ireland's poor: assisted emigration to North America in the nineteenth century*. Dublin: Four Courts Press.

Quinn, Dermot, 2004: *The Irish in New Jersey: Four Centuries of American Life*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.

Sheridan, Kerry, 2004: *Bagpipe Brothers: The FDNY Band's True Story of Tragedy, Morning, and Recovery*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press.

Nótaí Taighde/Research Notes is an in-house monthly publication for CUNY faculty, staff, administrators, and research students. Please send items for inclusion by the 25th of the month to cunyias@lehman.cuny.edu .