

Nótaí Taighde Research Notes

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CUNY IAS

March/Márta 2005

CUNY IAS Board Meets

The Advisory Board of the CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies met for their spring gathering on Monday, February 28, 2005 at the CUNY Graduate Center.

The Board welcomed several new members at this meeting. Ms. Pauline Turley, the director of the Irish Arts Center, Dean William Treanor, Fordham University School of Law, Mr. Andrew McGowan, PCS Broadcast Services, and Prof. Mick Moloney, New York University. Also joining the board this semester is Congressman Eliot Engel. We wish to thank these new members for their contribution which adds to the past and continuing service that Advisory Board members have made.

Digitization of Heritage Languages Symposium

We have heard much positive feedback regarding the Digitization of Heritage Languages Symposium which was held on February 25, 2005 at Lehman College. Individuals from American Irish Historical Society, Brooklyn College, Cornell University, Hostos Community College, Lehman College, New York University, Queens College, Quinnipiac University, University College Cork, and University of Pittsburgh participated. Prof. Janet Butler Munch and Prof. Thomas Ihde coordinated the program with Provost Anthony Garro and Dean Marlene Gottlieb opening the day with words of welcome.

Of special interest were presenters' comments concerning preservation and changing computer platforms, experiences of applying to

NEH for preservation and access grants, suggestions for other sources of funding, comments concerning realistic expectations of project completion, and details on hardware and software products that meet the needs of languages that use non-Roman characters, such as Irish printed in the Gaelic Font.

This symposium was funded by Institute funds, a mini-grant from the American Conference for Irish Studies, and a mini-grant from the Mirrer Grant to CUNY Council on Foreign Language Study. Special thanks goes out to the Information Technology Center at Lehman College and the CUNY Asian-American / Asian Research Institute.

March Lectures

The first lecture of March on the 2nd drew a nice size audience and New 12 even showed up to video tape clips and interview an Institute staff member, Elaine Ní Bhraonáin. The speaker of the night was Dr. Úna Ní Bhroiméil of Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. She spoke of the topic of "Building Irish Identity in America 1870-1915: The Gaelic Revival." Her talk included references to documents that our Publishing in Irish America project is seeking to preserve. One could be truly impressed with the extensive knowledge Dr. Ní Bhroiméil exhibited of New York City Irish newspapers at the turn of the last century.

The next two lectures are "Recent Perspectives on the Great Famine 1845-52," Wednesday, March 16, 2005 – 7PM, with Prof. Joe Lee, UCC/NYU, at the CUNY Graduate Center, Room C197, and "The New Jersey Great Irish Famine Curriculum", Wednesday, April 6, 2005 – 7PM, with Dr. Christine Kinealy, U. Central Lancashire, and Mr. James Mullin, Irish Famine Curriculum Committee, at the College

of Staten Island in the Conference Room, Center for the Arts.

ACIS 2005 - Notre Dame University

The City University of New York is well represented on the schedule for this year's national meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies which will be held at Notre Dame University from April 13-17, 2005. Accepted CUNY papers include: Will Hatheway, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York "A Dangerous Journey: From Tradition to Community in a 'Troubled' Ireland"; Clare Carroll, Queens College, City University of New York, "The Bard and the Knight: An Irish Opera in New York, 1884"; and Thomas W. Ihde, Lehman College, City University of New York "Irish Language Learning Textbooks Published in the United States, 1873-1904." Thomas Ihde will also be one of the speakers on the Round Table entitled "Disseminating the Irish Language." The panel includes participants from Boston College, Harvard University, University of St. Thomas, and William Paterson University in addition to CUNY. Graduate student Will Hatheway mentioned above will also be chairing a session entitled, "Identifying Ethnicity Within and Without Ireland," at the "7th Annual GRIAN Conference on Irish Studies: Ireland and Race" at Ireland House, New York University on March 6th.

Call for Paper Proposals

Quinnipiac University will be holding a conference entitled "Ireland's Great Hunger: Representation and Preservation" on September 17, 2005. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2005. For more information, write david.valone@quinnipiac.edu.

News Summary: CUNY IIAS Research Topics

Teaching about the Great Famine

The Lower East Side Tenement Museum (97 Orchard Street) is restoring an apartment once occupied by a family that immigrated about a decade after the Great Famine, the Meehan Moore family. The exhibit includes the wake of one of the six children they lost before their first birthdays. Agnes Mary Moore died of malnutrition in 1869. Our own Elaine Ní Bhraonáin who wrote her master's thesis on the Irish wake practices was referred to in the article for her contribution to this project. <http://www.tenement.org>
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Return Emigration

The Aisling Irish Community Center in Yonkers is offering computer training courses to prepare immigrants with qualifications that they can use once they return to Ireland. One course leads to ICDL Certification (Irish Computer Driver's License).
THE IRISH EMIGRANT FEB 7 2005

The Irish in America

An interview with Prof. Ken Nilsen regarding his life and research will be aired Sunday, March 6, 2005 on Raidió na Gaeltachta at 1:10PM Irish time. Raidió na Gaeltachta can be listened to on-line with live streaming or through the archives after the broadcast at <http://www.rte.ie/rnag/>. Prof. Nilsen, a native New Yorker and CUNY graduate, addressed the CUNY Institute for Irish-American Studies in 2001 on his research concerning immigrants and Irish speakers. He is currently in Ireland as the 2004-2005 IACI/NUI-G Visiting Fellow carrying out research on Gaeltacht perspectives on emigration.
RAIDIÓ NA GAELTACHTA

The Irish in the Americas

The Mayo Society of New York is raising funds to aid in purchasing a new truck for Sligo priest Father Martin Keveny who works in the area of the Greater Amazon Basin in Brazil. Prior to moving to Brazil, Fr. Keveny worked in St. Philip Neri parish in the Bronx. Irish immigrants from the New York area helped raise funds to purchase his first truck 10 years ago and the community is attempting to raise funds once again.
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Books on Order

[The following books are currently on order]

Donnelly, James S., 2001. *The great Irish potato famine*. Thrupp, Stroud, Gloucestershire: Sutton.
[0750926325]

English, T. J., 2005: *Paddy whacked : the untold story of the Irish-American gangster*. New York : Regan Books. [0060590025]

Kelly, Thomas, 2005: *Empire rising*. New York : Farrar, Straus and Giroux. [0374147817]

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