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THE CELTIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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THE CSA

The idea that there should be an ~~informal~~ association of teachers and students (in the broad sense of both words) of Celtic languages, literatures, philology, history, archaeology and culture was first discussed concretely at a seminar organized by Edgar Slotkin at the 1975 MLA meeting in San Francisco. The participants in that seminar agreed that we all wanted very much to know what other people working and studying in the field were doing--to help us advise students who wished to include Celtic studies in their plans and to foster useful and supportive contacts ^{among} between individual scholars. The first result of the San Francisco discussion was that I undertook a haphazard survey of everyone I knew or had heard a rumor of to get a preliminary listing of offerings; the results of the year-long extension of that survey appear below.

The CSA ^{itself} was formed at the annual Celtic Discussion Group at the 1976 MLA meeting in New York. The name was chosen to provide as wide a designation as possible both disciplinarily and geographically. Continuing the aim of informality, the only officer designated ^{at that time} was the Secretary-Treasurer, a post to which I was elected, possibly as punishment for my absence. Because the formation of the CSA was apparently announced in several journals as well as by word of mouth, I found myself in receipt of several checks for "dues" before I even knew that I was the Treasurer. Since no dues have been decided upon as yet, I have returned those checks I have so far received. I have

sufficient resources at the moment to underwrite this issue of the Newsletter, but obviously some dues will have to be decided upon at the next meeting. A suggested dues structure appears below. For the present, then, membership in the CSA is free and is open to anyone seriously interested in Celtic studies. If you wish to be added to the mailing list, please send your name, address, and whatever other information you think might be helpful to:

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not annually at the
 From 1977-1987. *AKKLC* *at the* May 1982 met
 - completed in Cal Celtic Collg. at UCal.
 The first meeting of CSANA on its own was in
 Nov. 1983 at Univ. of Chicago when the By-Laws were
 approved and a full slate of officers
 elected. CSANA is now officially a *Washington D.C.*
 non-profit corporation. *will now*
 IRS for tax-exempt status. *will now*
 (if not our paid-up membership) *is now* *is now*
 135.
 - D. F. Melia

(A) In 1977 and 1978, 2 issues of the Celtic Studies Newsletter were published, but the informality of the organization's structure made it difficult to continue publication on a regular basis. Under the new By-Laws, the VP will serve for 2 years

CELTIC STUDIES PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES
 A PRELIMINARY LISTING FOR NORTH AMERICA

The American University, Washington, D.C.

A course on "The Place of Literature in Early Celtic Society" which deals with literature in translation is given regularly by Professor Joan N. Radner of the Department of Literature, who also offers Old and Modern Irish and Welsh on an individual basis. Celtic may be included in the PhD program in Literary Studies. Professor Radner's Fragmentary Annals of Ireland is in press at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Dublin.

Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.

Professor Nancy Dorian of the Department of German and Linguistics offers "Introduction to Celtic Civilization" on a biennial basis and informs me that she includes a great deal of data from Celtic languages in her linguistics courses. She is an expert on Scottish Gaelic and has published several papers on the characteristics of language decay using her Scottish data. Her book, East Sutherland Gaelic, is in press at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Dublin.

University of California, Berkeley

The English Department has two regular courses in Celtic literature taught by Professors Brendan P.O. Hehir and Robert Tracy: English 104A-B, which covers Irish material from the early sagas (in translation) to Joyce and Beckett, and English 204, "Celtic Studies," which covers special research topics. Professor O Hehir also teaches Modern Irish. Professor Daniel Melia of the Rhetoric Department has offered Old Irish and Middle and Modern Welsh as experimental courses for the past four years and will continue such offerings. During the

> as with the two Presidents ^{before} ~~and the~~ ₃ ~~success~~ ^{of the} ~~subsequent~~
 to the presidency.

past year, Dr. Katherine Klar of the Linguistics Department has given a full year course in Middle and Modern Welsh in the Comparative Literature Department. Professor Blake Spahr of the Departments of German and Comparative Literature offers courses on Arthurian material and is available for teaching Modern Welsh. Several students have recently included Celtic languages in their Comparative Literature Ph.D. programs and Celtic material may be included in graduate programs in English, Linguistics, History of Art, Folklore and Rhetoric as well.

University of California, Davis

Professor Lenora Timm of the Linguistics Committee has recently done a study of the present boundaries of Breton in Brittany.

University of California, Los Angeles

Professor Patrick K. Ford of the Department of English and the Indo-European Studies Program regularly teaches courses in Welsh, Irish, Celtic mythology and folklore, and comparative grammar. The University of California Press has recently published his two books, The Poetry of Llywarch Hen and The Mabinogi. Celtic material may be integrated into the degree programs in Indo-European Studies, Folklore and English. Professor Jaan Puhvel of Classics and Indo-European Studies has done work in Old Irish; Professor Terence Wilbur of the German Department is a speaker of Modern Irish and Professor Peter Crossley-Holland of the Music Department has done much work on Celtic music, as has Professor James Porter of the Department of Folklore.

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

The Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures offers the Ph.D. (and M.A.). Courses in Old and Modern Irish, Middle and Modern Welsh and Scottish Gaelic are offered every year. An undergraduate course in Celtic literature in translation is offered annually and courses in Celtic themes in English literature, poetry and poets in early society, Welsh bardic poetry, and

medieval Welsh prose are given in alternating years. History courses include Celtic paganism, Celtic Christianity, Pre-Norman Ireland, Ireland from the Norman conquest to 1500, and Ireland from 1500 to the present. Summer school courses on selected topics are also offered each year. The Department of Linguistics offers courses in comparative Celtic grammar and the history of Irish. Professor Charles Dunn, the Chairman of the Celtic Department works chiefly in Scottish Gaelic and medieval literature; Professor John V. Kelleher is responsible for most of the history courses, but also has a strong interest in literature in which he also offers courses. Language and culture courses are also taught by Professors Elizabeth Gray and John Armstrong. Professor Calvert Watkins of the Department of Linguistics works extensively with Celtic materials and informs me that the recent collection of essays he edited, Indo-European Studies II, contains seven essays dealing with Celtic subjects (available for \$7.50 from the Harvard Department of Linguistics.)

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Professor Jeffrey Huntsman of the English Department does considerable work with Celtic and English historical linguistics and teaches courses in Old and Middle Irish and Middle Welsh.

The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa

Regular courses in early Celtic literature are offered by Professor Kate Campbell of the English Department and Professor William Murray of that department is willing to teach Modern Irish if there is enough demand.

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts

Professor Maria Tymoczko of the English Department has taught courses in Old Irish and Irish literature and folklore for several years and has organized special seminars on Celtic subjects on a fairly regular basis. She informs me that the library holdings at the University of Massachusetts are good, that the area abounds in native speakers of Irish and that the university has

experts in subjects such as Irish geography and Irish constitutional law as well as strong resources in Anglo-Irish studies. The English Department recognizes Irish as one of the graduate fields within the department.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

I have been informed by Nancy Dorian that Professor Maude Walker of the Anthropology Department has done fieldwork in the Hebrides and teaches a course in "European Ethnography" which is largely concerned with Celtic cultures.

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Professor William Heist who has included Celtic languages and literatures in his teaching and research for so many years at Michigan State is, alas, about to retire. There seem to be no plans afoot to replace him on the English Department faculty with another Celticist of his stature (or, indeed, of any stature).

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

The English Department has recently hired Professor David Dumville to teach Celtic subjects including Old Irish.

Queens College, CUNY, Flushing, New York

Professor Catherine McKenna teaches Celtic languages and Celtic literature in translation courses in the Irish Studies Program which is directed by Professor Kevin Sullivan. The program concerns itself with Anglo-Irish literature and modern history as well as the languages.

SUNY, Binghamton, Binghamton, New York

Professor W.F.H. Nicolaisen who is well-known for his important work on Scottish placenames (among other things) and who has been instrumental in the founding of the CSA is available to teach both Scottish Gaelic and Welsh in the Department of English although no formal courses are listed in the catalogue.

Professor Nicolaisen's book, Scottish Place-Names: Their Study and Interpretation should appear soon.

Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Professor Ann T.E. Matonis of the English Department whose own recent research has centered on the Cywyddwyr has offered courses in Middle Welsh and medieval Celtic literature in translation in recent years. Students from the University of Pennsylvania were also enrolled in the Welsh course. Professor Raymond Cormier of the Department of French has done extensive work with Celtic literature, especially Arthurian material.

The University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas

Professor Ruth P. Lehmann of the English Department, whose work on Old Irish is well known, teaches elementary and advanced Old Irish every two or three years. She also offers an undergraduate course on early Celtic literature in translation from time to time.

Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana

Professor Sanford G. Etheridge of the Department of Classical Languages teaches a course in Modern Irish. Professor Etheridge also edits a monthly newsletter entitled Gaeltacht which contains short articles in Celtic languages. Subscriptions are \$1.00/year or £1.00/year. The address is:

Gaeltacht
Department of Classics
Tulane University
New Orleans, LA 70118

THE KENTUCKY FOREIGN LANGUAGE MEETING

Many of you received my letter of last October soliciting papers for the 30th annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference which was held April 28-30 at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. The response to the call for papers was so good that three Celtic sections were arranged at which a total of thirteen papers was delivered. A list of the papers given appears below. Attendance at the Celtic sections was excellent (at least 20 people at each section, including one Iolo Morgannwg who listed his address as "Yr Nef"--if anyone has direct confirmation of this address, please inform the editor) and it was generally agreed by the participants that we should attempt to meet at Lexington again in the coming year. I have written to Professor Rea at the University of Kentucky to ask him to serve again as our local liaison, and will send out formal letters of invitation in the fall to everyone on the mailing list. Meanwhile, any suggestions for papers should be sent to me or to Eric Hamp.

While it was agreed to meet at Kentucky again because of the convenience and good turnout, it was also suggested that a "foreign language" meeting was perhaps not the best place to which to attract historians, archaeologists, anthropologists and others working in non-linguistic fields involving Celtic cultures. Meetings in conjunction with say, the Medieval Academy, have been suggested as having a broader appeal to scholars in many disciplines and the venue of future Celtic meetings in North America is a subject that should be discussed at the MLA meeting in December (see below).

Papers Delivered at the 1977 KFLC

Celtic I

Organized by: John A. Rea

Chaired by: Eric P. Hamp, University of Chicago

"Syr Rogier" and his "Cwydd yn Dangos y xv Arwydd kyn Dydd Farn" -- William W. Heist, Michigan State University.

Elements of Secular Eulogy in the Religious Poetry of the Beirdd y Tŷmisoqion -- Catherine A. McKenna, Queens College, City University of New York.

The Death Theme in the Novels and Short Stories of Daniel Owen -- John M. Jones, Glassboro State College, New Jersey.

Dylan Thomas and Bardic Devices: Deliberate or Unconscious? -- Katherine T. Loesch, University of Illinois at Chicago Circle.

"Aran" in Arthurian Texts -- Ruth E. Roberts, State University College, Fredonia, New York.

Celtic II

Organized by: John A. Rea

Chaired by: Daniel F. Melia, University of California, Berkeley

On Some Fairy Mounds and their Women -- Eric P. Hamp, University of Chicago.

Old Irish saithe 'swarm': Etymology and Metaphor -- Calvert Watkins, Harvard University.

The Fate of Morphological Complexity in Language Death: Evidence from East Sutherland Gaelic -- Nancy C. Dorian, Bryn Mawr College.

The Results of Celtic-English Bilingualism on Middle English Language and Literature -- Jeffrey F. Huntsman, Indiana University.

Medieval Welsh Bardic Grammar -- A. T. E. Matonis, Temple University.

Celtic III

Organized by: John A. Rea

Chaired by: William W. Heist, Michigan State University

A Cruz within a "Retoiric" in Tochmarc Etaine, and some suggestions about "Retoirics" -- Brendan P. O Hehir, University of California, Berkeley.

The Structure of Fled Bricreim Before and After the Lebor na hUidre Interpolations -- Edgar M. Slotkin, University of Cincinnati.

Conal Core and his Analogues -- Daniel F. Melia, University of California, Berkeley.

THE UPCOMING MLA MEETING

Professor Joan N. Radner has organized a Special Session entitled FOLKLORE AND EARLY CELTIC LITERATURE. In addition to Professor Radner, the panel will include Professors William Heist of Michigan State, and Edgar Slotkin of The University of Cincinnati, and Mr. James Doan of Harvard. The regular Celtic Discussion Group will also meet, but the Celtic Seminar proposed by Edgar Slotkin will not, due to technical difficulties. Professor Slotkin has suggested that the CSA have instead an informal meeting immediately following Professor Radner's folklore session (barring any severe schedule conflict, of course) to discuss the future of the association. The following list of questions must be discussed for obvious reasons, but any other items of concern or interest will naturally be welcomed.

1. Where, when, and how often shall the CSA formally meet?
2. Should the present informal type of organization be continued?
3. What shape should the Newsletter take and should there be other publications as well?
4. What should the dues be?

(As a starting place for discussion, I would like to suggest that adequate dues would be \$1/year for students, \$3 for regular members and \$5 for libraries and institutions. I would also suggest that the fiscal year run from 1 November-31 October--Samhain to Samhain--which has the combined virtues of being memorable to Celticists and roughly coinciding with the academic year.)

MISCELLANY

I am informed that Paideia Books at 313 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 specializes in books on medieval studies, including Celtic.

The Welsh American Society of Northern California is helping to organize an exhibit at the Oakland Museum on the largely Welsh coal-mining settlements in Contra Costa County, California (centering on Somersville and Nortonville). Anyone with any information on the history of these settlements is urged to contact Mr. John Nichols, 1777 Valley View Ave., Belmont, California, the President of WASNC.

The Poetry of Llywarch Hen
Introduction, Text and Translation
by Patrick K. Ford
The poems ascribed to Llywarch Hen poignantly describe the degradation and spiritual impoverishment of old old age. According to Welsh tradition, Hen was a sixth century warrior poet; modern scholarship, however, maintains that the poems were composed in the ninth century as part of a saga. Mr. Ford offers the theory that the poems are typical bardic productions in the best Celtic literary tradition. His enlightening introduction is accompanied by the complete normalized text and a translation of the poetry.
ISBN-02601-2 February 1975 (W) 160 pages
\$8.50
Catalog number, 33

Patrick Ford,
That sly deceiver,
Stole a Hen
From Good Sir Ifor.

The word is out
In Aberystwyth
That P. K. Ford's
No man to tryst with.

He drank their tea,
He ate their tarts,
He read their books,
He won their hearts.

He even spoke
Their tongue, and then
He scarpered with
Sir Ifor's Hen.

Welshmen all
Revered that Hen,
Who dwelt in Britain
Way back when.

Whose sorrows covered
Many a page
Of a long long book
About old old age.

Now the Hen
Has crossed the waves,
And bards are spinning
In their graves.

Loyal Britons
Pray the Lord
To rain down fire
On Patrick Ford.

"Far away
Across the ocean,
May he never
Win promotion.

May he never
Taste the ales
That flow from taps
In pleasant Wales.

But may he be
Condemned instead
To quench his thirst
With Dago Red.

On greasy tacos
Let him dine,
Washed down with
California wine.

Mid smog and earthquake
Let him rage
Until he comes
To old old age.

Thus may he rue
The moment when
He stole Sir Ifor's
Ancient Hen."

--Charles Bowen

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