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THE CELTIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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There was, however, only one number of Volume I.

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THE CSA AND ITS NEWSLETTER

The Celtic Studies Association was formed in the winter of 1976 as (to quote the first issue of this publication) "an informal association of teachers and students (in the broad sense of both words) of Celtic languages, literatures, philology, history, archaeology and culture." At a meeting a year later, held like the first at the Celtic Discussion Group at the annual MLA Conference, it was voted to establish a dues schedule of \$5.00 a year for regular members and institutions, \$3.00 a year for students and emeriti.

Another decision taken at the same meeting showed far less wisdom: it was to elect your correspondent secretary-treasurer and thus editor of the Newsletter. The assembled scholars are probably not to be blamed for the role they unwittingly played in a brutal political mugging, engineered with the ruthless efficiency for which Chicago has long been famous, but nevertheless it is painfully clear that nobody who assented to the proceedings could ever have looked upon the candidate's desk, or into his checkbook. (Merciful heavens! After such knowledge, what forgiveness?)

The previous secretary-treasurer-editor was elected in absentia; the current one, though physically present, was able to utter only a half-articulate protest before going down like a felled ox (a role he has thus far continued to play in office). He has, alas, no year-long survey whose results he can report to provide matter for these columns. No scraps of samizdat verse remain to grace the pages that yawn before him. (On second thought, forget that last image.) Some members have kindly sent suggestions for projects that might be undertaken in the Newsletter, projects that seem admirable, desirable and useful, but also demanding of time and effort: many hands will be needed, and much time, before we can see these brought to fruition. It seems clear that some

kind of formal or informal editorial staff will have to be constituted if the Newsletter is to grow beyond its present limitations, particularly if it is to be left in the care of a man to whom the Irish civil service represents an unattainable ideal of efficiency.

Besides the suggestions referred to above, other members have contributed a dazzling variety of notes, most of which will be passed along in the following pages. The editor is sensible of the possible criticism that he is guilty of raising a miscellany column to the status of a magazine. No matter. Any newsletter must do the best it can with the news it is able to get, unless perhaps the editor is William Randolph Hearst, who was not on the ballot last December. In addition to the miscellany, there are a few forthcoming events to announce, and an expanded membership list to publish. It is hoped that all of this will help to advance the organization's goal of "foster[ing] useful and supportive contacts between individual scholars." As for other goals present or future, expressed or implied or yet to be conceived, we may hope to advance them also, given time, patience, effort and cooperation.

Note: Addresses that appear to be perversely and arbitrarily withheld in the following pages will probably be found in the list of members at the end.

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Sixth International Congress of Celtic Studies, Galway, Summer 1979

The Congress will be held at University College, Galway, from July 6 to July 13. D. A. Binchy, James Carney, P. M. Duval, D. Ellis Evans, and Kenneth Jackson will all address plenary sessions, and there will be two others, one a workshop for the promotion of collaboration between archaeologists and linguists/literary historians, to be chaired by Michael V. Duignan, and the other dealing with the present state of the Celtic languages, under the chairmanship of Proinsias Mac Cana. There will also be a number of shorter papers.

The congress fee has not yet been fixed, but those who wish to attend are urged to send a registration fee of five pounds, either by sterling check or by money order. (Payment in dollars does not seem to be welcome; wonder why?) The following information has also been requested: Name, address, and institutional affiliation; home and office telephone number, telegraphic address and Telex number if any; proposed mode of travel and port or airport of embarkation. The congress committee is working with CIE and Aer Lingus to provide travel and accommodations for members on "very favourable terms." Thus both early registration and giving the travel information requested would seem to be of advantage. The registration form also has a space for your signature.

Titles and 150-word summaries of proposed papers (shorter, i. 30 minutes) are requested by January 1, presumably too soon for anybody encountering this notice for the first time, but who knows? The Irish have been known to treat deadlines leniently, nor has the proverb, "When God made time, He made plenty of it," been attributed to the Swiss.

Inquiries and registration matter should be sent to:

Professor Gearóid Mac Eoin
Sixth International Congress of Celtic Studies
University College
Galway, Ireland

Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, Lexington, April 26-28, 1979

Since its foundation the Celtic Studies Association has organized sessions at two successive KFLC's, and this spring will extend the string. The program is not yet available, but should it be possible to publish another Newsletter between now and April, I will try to list the papers therein. As those who received the call for papers know, Celtic conferees are attempting by pre-arrangement to stay at:

The Campbell House Inn
1375 Harrodsburg Road
Lexington, KY 40506

Because the conference takes place during the racing season, it is necessary to book well in advance, and it is also necessary to give a firm time of arrival and stick to it, or phone ahead if you can't. Apparently there are a lot of homeless high rollers putting pressure on the booking clerks, who find it hard to resist as the ETA passes and your room becomes, so to speak, available.

Requests for conference information to Theodore H. Mueller, Director, KFLC, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506; for information about the Celtic session(s), apply to our own Ann Matonis.

Rumors reaching those of us who were unable to attend last year's KFLC suggest that an independent conference (.i. the CSA sinn féin, unaffiliated with any other group) is planned for October, 1979 at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, under Jeffrey Huntsman's direction. Details, one trusts, will forthcome.

Jo Radner (easy winner of the news-source award for this issue) is so far the only one to have sent advice of the Bloomington meeting. Let her tell you about the next one herself: "The third meeting of 1979 is to be the MLA, and policy arrived at at the 1978 KFLC was that future MLA Celtic Discussion

Groups would be devoted to a single topic of fairly wide interest (even of interest to some outside the CSA). So the topic for the 1979 meeting (for which I'm the secretary, and which is in San Francisco) will be the Ulster Cycle. . . . Cathy McKenna is going to propose a Special Session for the 1979 MLA, also on some aspect of the Ulster Cycle, to be scheduled immediately after the Discussion Group. [Our plans are not far enough along] for anything definite about it to be announced in a newsletter, but you might put in that anyone wishing to deliver a paper dealing with the Ulster Cycle should write me a letter describing the paper; then Cathy and I can confer on these."

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

Dan Melia's survey has not been continued in any conscious way, but I have received a few items of information to be added to those gathered in the previous Newsletter. Bringing and keeping this compendium up to date is obviously one of the projects I referred to above, and Jo Radner has suggested another, .i. a survey of Celtic Studies programs available in the British Isles and on the Continent. Both await volunteer coordinators, section chieftains, deckhands, etc. In the meantime, here are some additions to the list:

University of Cincinnati

Edgar Slotkin, English, reports that the university offers courses in Celtic Literature in Translation, Middle Welsh, Old and Modern Irish, and Scottish Gaelic on both graduate and undergraduate levels. The report modestly omits to say how many of these he is responsible for himself.

University of Ottawa

Professor Gordon MacLennan of the English Department teaches introductory language-literature-folklore courses in both Irish and Scottish Gaelic, as well as an intermediate course in Scottish Gaelic. Last summer he was also in charge of language courses taught in Donegal and in Skye. Whether there are plans for these to be repeated I don't know, but since he reports that they went well, perhaps we can be hopeful. Information will be relayed as received.

University of Massachusetts at Boston

A modest contribution to the modest Irish Studies curriculum is made by Charles Bowen, who teaches Early Celtic Literature in Translation and Ancient Ireland: A Cultural and Historical Survey. The latter title is not intended to sound pretentious (however well it may succeed) but rather to soothe the sensibilities of a history department that doesn't want anyone else on its turf, even in areas it doesn't patrol itself.

A couple of additional notes:

Cathy McKenna, who taught a week-long semi-intensive course in contemporary spoken Welsh, held last June at Bucknell under the auspices of Cymdeithas Madoc, a Welsh-American organization, says, ". . . riding the crest of the enthusiasm generated there, a group of us have organized a Cwrs Cymraeg here in New York for the fall, with Bob Fowkes (emeritus of N.Y.U.) as gorathro and yours truly as drill sergeant for beginners." Whether the enthusiasm of June has survived into this sere and bitter season is a question best addressed to Cathy by any who might wish to join in such an enterprise.

The Celtic Cultural Society of Central California has sponsored a private course in Irish for a couple of years, and has recently persuaded Fresno City College to offer a course entitled Introduction to Celtic Culture. Both are

taught by Gerard Patrick Jones. Information may be sought from him or from either Seán Mac Énrí or Frances Goshawk.

Conradh na Gaeilge has a newly-founded, or revived, chapter in the Boston area which offers Irish courses at a variety of times and locations. Last summer there was a course-and-tour in Connemara under the leadership of the redoubtable Ken Nilsen. Information should be sought from Seán Mac Craith.

Jo Radner also reports the formation of a Conradh chapter in the DC area. If language courses are in prospect, I'll try to get the information.

Obviously the availability of courses in the Celtic languages, whether or not they are part of a program of higher education, is of interest to our membership, and it appears that the Newsletter might serve as a clearinghouse for information on summer and evening language courses, as well as academic programs. Another project for which volunteers will be welcome.

Resources of another kind: The decline of the mail-order service from Blackwell's and Hodges Figgis has left a void that American Celticists have been hard put to fill. Behold W. Heffer & Sons, Ltd., of Cambridge, stepping into the gap! Their service, I am advised, is prompt, helpful, and comprehensive; they will handle standing orders for periodicals, series, etc., have an American bank address for payment, and will open an account for anyone who will spend over £10 a year (.i. anyone willing to buy a book, these days). An application form comes with each catalog, of which they publish a great variety. Write to:

Heffers Booksellers
20 Trinity Street
Cambridge, England CB2 3NG

Requests for further information about their services should be directed to the Promotion Department.

Information has also arrived that Hodges Figgis (The Mall, Donnybrook, Dublin 4) has gotten its mail-order business in better order than it has been. Ní annsa. They are willing to open, or reopen, accounts for American customers who plan to spend a minimum amount annually, something like £50 or £60. Scholars of substance, take note.

Several people have spoken of the revival of the Journal of Celtic Studies under David Dunville's editorship. One refers to it as the "revived-by-cauldron JCS." I am tempted to remark that so far it has been no less dumb than those soldiers of Matholwch who underwent the same treatment, but reflection upon my own editorial performance persuades me that this would be insensitive. Anyway, the first issue is due in January, but at the moment I can't tell you any more, not even how to obtain a copy. Ann Matonis, back in early September, sent me David's temporary address in Cambridge, and suggested that I write and ask him for a note to put in the Newsletter "to explain editorial policy, publishing procedures etc etc etc." A fine notion, but, investigative journalism not being my strong suit, I never got around to it. I will try to catch up with David and get something solid for the next issue, though the first number will be out by then; still, this might be a good forum in which to disseminate the kind of information A. M. refers to.

This issue is beginning to sound like an extended advertisement for the next one. Is that good or bad? I haven't been an editor long enough to know.

. . . On now to the next category, which is:

PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL NOTES

From Phillips G. Davies: "It might be of interest to some of your readers that I have five recent publications--all of them translations from R. D. Thomas's HANES CYMRU AMERICA [A HISTORY OF THE WELSH IN AMERICA], published in Welsh at Utica, New York in 1872. They are translations of chapters on the condition of the Welsh settlements in the various states at the time of publication.

Ohio in THE OLD NORTHWEST 3/3, Sept. 1977

Kansas in THE KANSAS HISTORICAL QUARTERLY 43/4, Winter 1977

Illinois in JOURNAL OF THE ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 70/4, Nov. 1977

Missouri in MISSOURI HISTORICAL REVIEW 72/2, Jan. 1978

Iowa (only part of the chapter) in THE PALIMPSEST (Iowa City) 59/1, Jan. 1978"

From Eric Hamp: "In June (22nd-28th) Pat Ford, Ann Matonis and I chanced to have a reunion in Aberystwyth among our mutual friends there. I spent those days and again the first days of October checking things I can't do in Chicago.

"I've published several short things in Kuhn's Zeitschrift, Münchner Studien zur Sprachwissenschaft, and in Ljubljana, as well as in the obvious Celtic journals. I've been working more on the Mabinogi, as well as on sundry IE problems. This summer Celtic got shut out by other things.

"In Vienna, end of Sept., at the Indogermanische Gesellschaft meeting Warren Cowgill gave a fine paper showing that IE *g^vh gave gw in Celtic. Hence OIr. guidid is from *gwidi- (by rounding of *i), the latter from *gwed- < *g^wedh-. Gert Klingenschmitt gave a marvellous etymological equation: Lat. proelium < *proelio- < *pro-g^vel- > *(p)ro-bel- > Welsh rhyfel."

(It isn't editorial policy to make this a verbatim department, but I see one of the functions of this publication as letting us hear one another's voices, when possible. Moreover, when I choose to summarize, I'll pick scholars less

famous for the concision of their utterances than Professor Hamp.)

Bill and Rosemary Heist left the U.S. in September for a year in Europe. From January through April they'll be in Dublin, where Bill hopes to finish his work on the Life of Colmcille from Codices Salmaticensis and Rawl. B.485. From May 2nd to the 4th, Bill will be at a colloquium in Nanterre, where his paper on recent work in hagiography from the folklorist's point of view will probably contain references to Dan Melia, Ed Slotkin, and Jim Doan. The Heists will, of course, attend the Congress in Galway in July.

Bill Nicolaisen is spending the current academic year in the University of Aberdeen, working on his Dictionary of Scottish Place Names. His temporary address is listed infra.

Donnchadh Ó Corrain, historian and linguist of U. C. Cork, is visiting professor for this year at the University of Pennsylvania; he will be reading a paper at the KFLC in April. It is to be hoped that other scholarly assemblies will also find ways to exploit this valuable resource.

Finally, two personal notes contributed through the kindness of Ann Matonis. One is happy: David and Sally Dumville are the parents of a boy, Elliot Thomas, their first child. The other note is an unhappy one: Professor Howard Meroney's wife, Marie, died suddenly of a coronary early in August. I'm certain that the rest of the Celtic community joins me in extending sympathy to one of its most distinguished members on this sad occasion.

FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROJECTORS

In the helter-skelter and confusion of the preceding pages, at least three projects requiring the efforts of volunteers have been mentioned: continuing Dan's survey of academic programs in Celtic Studies, surveying programs in the British Isles and beyond, and listing language courses that are not part of academic programs. Another suggestion has come from Dr. William Sayers of Toronto: a survey of university library holdings in Celtic Studies. "It might be a suitable project to have members describe local holdings: standard works, rarities, series and periodicals kept up to date, present acquisition policy and funds, etc.--all with a view to facilitating interlibrary loans." It's a good idea; so are they all. I haven't the time to direct any of these information-gathering efforts, but I think I can manage to get the material into print once it has been assembled and collated in some fashion. If there is enough demand for the information, there must be someone out there who is willing to help seek it out and organize it. Stand forth.

In the meantime, here, for someone not quite able to bite off that much, is a, um, projecteen. (I know, I know, but would you really prefer mini-project?) During the absence of the New York Times from the national scene, a Celtic grave of considerable richness was discovered near Stuttgart. I wasn't entirely satisfied with the amount I was able to learn about this from the Boston Globe. (Time Magazine has just gotten to it [Nov. 13], but I'm still discontented.) Can someone who has access to the archaeologists' grapevine (or simply reads a lot of West German periodicals) give us a brief account for next spring's Newsletter? Or will we have to wait for the National Geographic? You all know what a splendid job they always do on the Celts.

Well, whether or not we get that report, I urge everyone to read that account in Time: "Known as much for their ballads as for their bellicosity, they held sway over Central Europe for 700 years . . . Who were these roistering, rambunctious warrior-poets, these so-called Celts?" Gorgeous stuff. You'll love it.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE CSA

The list on the last few pages contains half again as many names as the one published last year. So far only about a third of those listed have paid dues, but this is not to be wondered at, since some learned of our existence through various notices that made no mention of dues, while others have been enrolled vicariously through the good offices of friends, and probably had no idea prior to receiving this Newsletter that anyone considered them members at all.

For the moment, we have enough to publish this issue of the Newsletter, and possibly even the next one. Since there is no High Council to make policy for the CSA (at least none that I have access to, although ever since I woke up in a Chicago alley with a lump on my head and the words Secretary-Treasurer, CSA, tattooed on my forehead, I've suspected that somebody is in charge), I must steer by my own lights, and accordingly I have decided for the present to make no distinction between active members and potential ones. I do appeal to all who want to continue receiving the Newsletter to send in their dues. Sooner or later a time must come when those who haven't been contributing will have to be dropped from the rolls. Right now, however, we are trying to grow and to reach as many people as we can who have an interest in Celtic Studies; thus it seems desirable to disseminate the Newsletter wherever the ground appears likely to be fertile. Time enough to be stingy when there's no alternative.

Still and all, the treasury doesn't appear stout enough to support the printing of more than 150 copies of this issue, and that hardly amounts to a media blitz. I hope all of those who have merely been postponing their dues-paying will do so no longer, and that others who may be vacillating will decide to become members in the fullest sense. I hope, also, that you will bring the CSA to the attention of any friends or colleagues whom you think might take an interest in it.

Those who have already contributed are, according to my understanding, paid up until Samhain, 1979. The dues, as previously mentioned, are \$5.00 annually for regular and institutional membership, \$3.00 for students and emeriti. Send them to:

Charles Bowen
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Some of you may be wondering why your checks haven't been cashed, although now that you've gotten this far in the Newsletter, this wonder may have been replaced by apprehension that they are lost. Fear not. I have gotten as far as carrying them into the bank and conducting a conversation with the manageress, in the course of which I learned a couple of interesting things. One is that we need a tax identification number, which requires filing a form with the IRS (and may eventually require incorporation). I can lend the CSA my social security number, and am prepared to do so without charge, but not forever. The rest of our conversation dealt with such matters as establishing my credentials. The lady was somewhat bemused to learn that the CSA doesn't have a letterhead, but I think I can persuade her to accept the combined testimony of the first Newsletter and Dan's dues notice as establishing that (a) Dan was what he was, and (b) I, in due succession, am what I am. However, in presenting me with a form the bank generally uses on these occasions, solemnly deposing that the following

were elected officers or directors at the meeting of 8th Whatever, etc., she allowed that our informality arouses some discomfort in her bosom, since, should (heaven forbid) Anything Happen to your correspondent, who would be able to withdraw the money? Now there was a thought to reckon with; there were, in fact, several thoughts to reckon with, and I left in a meditative frame of mind, believe you me. One thing I resolved to do was suggest to the members that we take action of some kind (at the New York or at least the Kentucky meeting) to pull our socks up, organizationally speaking. I don't know what kind of structure we should adopt, and will make no suggestion here. Maybe all that's necessary is a tanaisie who can step forward in the event of my demise and save our collective hoard from falling into the hands of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (which cannot, alas, be relied upon to spend it wisely), or maybe we need a full-fledged Council of Elders, or House of Burgesses. You think about it. In the meantime, I'll try to get those checks cashed by the end of the year, so that you can all close out your books, and I won't have to lend the organization a lot of money I don't have to finance the printing and mailing of this august periodical.

And please--this scarcely needs repeating, but we journalists know no shame--let me have news items, opinions, suggestions, helpful hints, and bright ideas. If future Newsletters are going to aspire to Content, let alone Significance, it will have to come from all of you. (In some ways, I agree, the thought of a fourteen-page personal letter from me twice a year is a delightful one, but I'm not sure even my mother would pay \$5.00 a year to get it.) Therefore, please write, and the blessings of the bishops and saints and confessors and hermits upon your bright, sharp, ink-filled, wisdom-fraught pen of a sage and a sagacious scholar.

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