



A.T.E. Matonis
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CONFERENCES

CSNA Annual Meeting: UCLA, April 8-10, 1988

The 1988 annual meeting will be held at UCLA in conjunction with the 10th Annual University of California Celtic Conference. UCLA will host the meeting to be held Friday-Sunday, April 8-10. Papers on a variety of topics relevant to the study of Celtic cultures will be accepted. Abstracts of not more than 250 words should be sent to the following:

Professors P.K. Ford and J.F. Nagy
Folklore & Mythology Center
1037 GSM-Library Wing
University of California
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024

DEADLINE: January 15, 1988

The CSANA seminar topic is the *Vita Tripartita*, (ed. Stokes, 1887; K. Mulchrone, 1939); Professor Joan N. Radner, seminar leader, is eager to hear from those interested in participating, as well as those interested in presenting papers on Celtic hagiography at the conference. Professor Radner's address is
3816 Benton St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Second Irish Conference of Medievalists: Maynooth, Summer 1988

Professor Kim McCone reports that the First Irish Conference of Medievalists was sufficiently encouraging to prompt a second. Accordingly, he asks me to announce that

the Second Irish Conference of Medievalists will be held at St. Patrick's College from Thursday 30 June through Saturday 2 July 1988. The organizers invite papers on medieval topics concentrating on or related to Irish and Celtic Studies in the fields of language and literature (including Latin and the vernaculars), law and institutions, history (including art-history) and archaeology. The conference fee of £45 includes daily coffee, lunch and tea plus dinner on the final evening. A special student rate of £20 will allow students to participate in all events except the final dinner. Accommodation will be available in the College for a small fee. Those interested in participating should send a 40-50 word abstract with a title to:

Professor Kin McCone
Department of Old Irish
St. Patrick's College
Maynooth
Co. Kildare, Ireland

Abstracts must be received by 20 January 1988. Last year there were over two dozen papers and an attendance of about a hundred.

Proposed CSANA Conference: Halifax, Summer 1989

The possibility of a CSANA meeting to be held in Halifax in the summer of 1989 was proposed at the Swansea Congress. It would be held as a joint meeting with the Canadian Congress of Celtic Studies, and would follow the model of the Ottawa meeting of 1986 with European Celticists also in attendance. Before we agree to present this proposal to the membership at the Business Session during the Los Angeles meeting next April, the CSANA Board would like to poll its members on the desirability of (1) meeting in Halifax along with and as part of another meeting; (2) meeting in the summer. It is assumed that the CSANA Board will not recommend Halifax as the site for the 1989 meeting unless it is satisfied that such a joint

conference will satisfy both the requirements of CSANA's annual meeting and those of the Canadian organizers without infringing on the needs of either. Before we proceed in discussions with the Canadian organizers we would like a general sense now that the CSANA membership thinks the idea worth pursuing. Will you therefore fill out the form attached to this newsletter and send it to Professor P. K. Ford, Department of English, University of California, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024. Include any additional comments, advice, injunctions, blessings or sarcasm as you see fit.

Report on the Eighth International Celtic Congress: Swansea, 1987

CSANA members were well represented at last summer's Celtic Congress in Swansea. Giving papers were: A. T. E. Matonis (on the traditional associations of the Welsh Bardic Grammars); Charlotte Ward (Einion Offeiriad's treatise as a Renaissance phenomenon); Ann Dooley (on *M'oenuran dam ar etib* in TBCI); James Blake (on Cathal O Searcaigh's *Suile Shuibhne*); Catherine McKenna (on Llywelyn Fardd's *Canu i Gadfan*); Eve Sweetser (on changing medieval Welsh metrics); Roberta Valente (on gender roles in the Fourth Branch); Kenneth Nilsen (Gaelic in mainland Nova Scotia); Heidi Lazar-Meyn (the common Celtic color system); Nancy Stenson (initial mutation of loanwords in Irish); Eric Hamp (historical adaptability in Modern Celtic languages); Gordon MacLennan (Donegal Irish); Leigh Hansen (the poet in a changing society); Daniel Melia (Irish Saints' Lives as historical sources); Dorothy Swartz (the style of LL TBS and medieval rhetoric); James Fife (the Galapagos, Welsh perfective passives); Marie Surrige (linguistic assignment of gender in Welsh); John Shaw (Gaelic songs in Cape Breton and Scotland); Joseph Nagy (the *Acallam na Senorach*); Joseph Eska (the Hispano-Celtic inscription of Botorrita); Joan Radner (*Culhwch ac Olwen* and irony); Edgar Slotkin (*Breuddwyd Rhonabwy*); John Koch (Manawydan and

Mandubracios); John Carey (etymology: *Fir Bolg*); Colin Ireland (Aldfrith/Flann Fina); John S. Hennessey, Jr. (spirantization > lenition in Kerazern Breton); Wendy Lewis (the *-eba* future in Middle Irish); W. J. Buckley (social conflict and religion in Norther Ireland); Anna Bosch (syllable structure in Scottish Gaelic). Patrick Ford's paper on Elis Gruffydd was read *in absentia* by Brynley Roberts. Overseas members, Dr. Anders Ahlqvist, Professor D. Ellis Evans, Professor Proinsias MacCana and Oliver Padel chaired sessions.

Apologies for any names I missed. The Ninth International Congress of Celtic Studies will be held in Paris.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Paid-up members should have received the CSANA Bibliography by now. If you have not, or if your copy is defective (apparently some are), please write to the editor: A. T. E. Matonis, 7312 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119. If you would like your library to have a copy, orders should also be sent to be editor at the same address.

At the spring meeting in Cincinnati it was decided that the bibliography will appear every three years. In the meantime, I would like to enlist your help in preparing future bibliographies. In order to ensure that we have as comprehensive a listing as possible and as a double check against items eluding us - especially those in small or obscure journals, as well as books and proceedings published abroad - I ask you to send me notices of works you feel should not be passed over, including your own work. Attached to this newsletter is a form on which you can record the data. Xerox the form in an optimistic commitment to making some contribution to this very large and important project.

The next bibliography (1986-89) will pick up items which were somehow omitted from the 1983-85 bibliography. Should you know of any, send along a full description (name in full of author(s), full title, volume or series number if applicable, place and date of publication, inclusive page numbers of journal articles.) Please DO NOT forward references to any work you have not actually laid your hands on or seen if only in passing.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Jean Rittmueller will co-edit the next volume of the bibliography with me.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS: A Celtic Encyclopedia

Garland Publishing has contacted me about producing an 800-900 page Celtic encyclopedia, which will cover language, literature, mythology, religion, history, law, material culture and social organization up to c. 1500. If any of you are willing to write up entries (size yet to be determined) in any of the above areas, please write to A.T.E. Matonis, 7312 Emlen Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119, USA. Unfortunately, as with most professional contributions of this sort, I regret that there will be no financial salve so I ask your help in the spirit of professional commitment to Celtic Studies. The project is still in its very earliest stages and has not yet reached the stage of formal agreement, but I have every reason to believe that it will materialize.

BOOKS

Kim McCone, *The Early Irish Verb*, Maynooth; 1986. 304 pp hardback; £24. McCone describes the Irish verb from the earliest written records to the beginning of the Modern

Irish period, fleshing out the paradigms found in standard grammars and proposing solutions to a number of traditional problems. The book may be ordered directly through: An Sagart, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland. The price includes postage. International money orders will be accepted.

John R. Kenyon and Richard Avent, ed. *Castles in Wales and the Marches: Essays in Honour of D.J. Cathcart King*. University of Wales Press, 1987; pp248 including plates and figures. 1987. £35. Available by writing to the Press at: 6 Gwennyth St., Cathays, Cardiff, Wales. This festschrift provides the most current account of castles in Wales and the Marches from early earthwork castles through the seventeenth-century Civil War.

Review

Ian Press, *A Grammar of Modern Breton* (Berlin - New York - Amsterdam: Mouton de Gruyter, 1986), vi+406pp, will be a welcome, if not ideal, addition to your modest shelf of mainly French-published learning and reference Breton tools. The computer-produced typeface on sturdy paper remains one of a sophisticated modern-day conference handout - a rather unaesthetic product for a pricey book.

The format is that of a formal reference grammar with ample Appendices (starting at page 225), depicting the emerging KLT standard language. It is not a graded paedagogical grammar like Denez, Kervella, or Hemon. It is not fully formalized or couched in an uncompromising theoretical model, and the main divisions and classes are traditional; yet the parsed examples and frequent paradigms and tables bristle with abbreviations that will arouse a mixed mutation in many a gentle philological mind.

The allotment of space has merits and detractions. Chapter 1/introduction (11 pp.), briefly sketches the travails of modern Breton and its orthography, presents *zedacheg* (the basis of this grammar), and explains why the book was written. Chapter 2, Phonology (13-55), is useful but brief; half of it is on the mutations. This would be a hard chapter to write, in any case - among the toughest for any European language. This is where the dialects differ most, and radically; and what indeed is a phonology for an incipient standard language? The existing technical literature is relatively large and difficult to digest and compress. The chapter is not a successful summary - neither crisp and clear, nor doctrinally pure or lucid, nor simple to read, nor complete - but I am not a little glad that no one told me to write it.

Chapter 3, Morphology (57-183), is the heart of the book. Much of this is known, and here put into English; but this is what you are investing your money in, and this is what you will reach to your shelf for. There is much phrasal syntax strewn through here, and lexical material throughout the book; I said it isn't fully formalized. Chapter 4, Syntax (185-213) is very brief, allusive, and sketchy, nearly an afterthought; there is here, as elsewhere, an odd eclectic passing nod to the huge torrent of current and recent general linguistic theory and literature.

Chapter 5, on word formation (215-24) is mostly a selective glossary of affixes, with useful handy examples.

The "Appendices" are welcome, but somewhat *sui generis*: A (225-50; here, as elsewhere in the PC-set book, the lines-per-page are sparse), a glossary of Breton grammatical terminology, is a valuable translated and commented compilation, but perhaps a low-priority luxury for some of our readers; D is three sketch maps; E (305-11), Linguistic Abbreviations, and F (313-14), Pronunciation of the alphabet, belong elsewhere in the book.

C is by far the most useful part of the book; it is a short (257-99) reader of 13 texts, accompanied by phonetic transcription (though not for all), coded parsing, translation and some commentary. Three are in Tregor-coloured phonetics. These texts could make the core of valuable teaching materials.

G, called a Glossary (315-86), is really a glossed index to the citations in the Grammar. The book closes with a very informative, commented Bibliography (387-404), with some notable omissions even for a selective listing.

This is a milestone on the way to a true handbook of modern Breton.

Eric P. Hamp

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Celtic Studies Association of North America is open to those with a serious interest in Celtic Studies. Dues are now \$15.00 a year, or for non-USA residents, the equivalent of \$15 US dollars payable to 'CSANA' in an international money order. Your dues include the bibliography and the newsletter, which appears twice yearly, in the Spring and the Fall. In order to insure your Spring newsletter, I would remind members that dues are payable May 1, and should be sent to

Professor Edgar Slotkin
University of Cincinnati
Department of English
248-249 McMicken Hall
Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0069

Members Only: For a list of current CSANA members, send \$1.00 (U.S.) to the Treasure, Edgar Slotkin.

FROM THE EDITOR

In order to serve the membership and Celtic Studies more fully, several past newsletters have included reviews of works of scholarly interest (Hamp, *Newsletter 5.2*; Fall 1986), and a brief history of Celtic Studies in North America at Berkeley (Melia, *Newsletter 6.1*; Spring 1987). A large number of us would like to see such items become a regular feature of the newsletter. I am therefore requesting the membership to participate in this venture by (a) submitting reviews of noteworthy publications (250-300 words) - or failing a review, simply a notice calling the publication(s) to our attention; (b) writing up an account of Celtic Studies in various places in North America; or (c) reviewing the career of past American Celticists - this may be done by way of anecdotes or by supplying a bibliography. If you have anything or anyone in mind, please submit text to me by April 1, 1988. [A.T.E.Matonis, 7312 Emlen Street, Philadelphia PA 19119].



QUESTIONNAIRE

Please send your opinions on the proposed joint CSANA - Canadian Celtic Studies Meeting in Halifax, Summer 1989, to P. K. Ford.

1. Do you support the idea of a joint meeting with a related organization?
 Yes No Undecided
2. Do you see the summer as a possible time to meet?
 Yes No Don't know yet
3. Does the particular location appeal to you?
 Yes No Lukewarm

Comments: