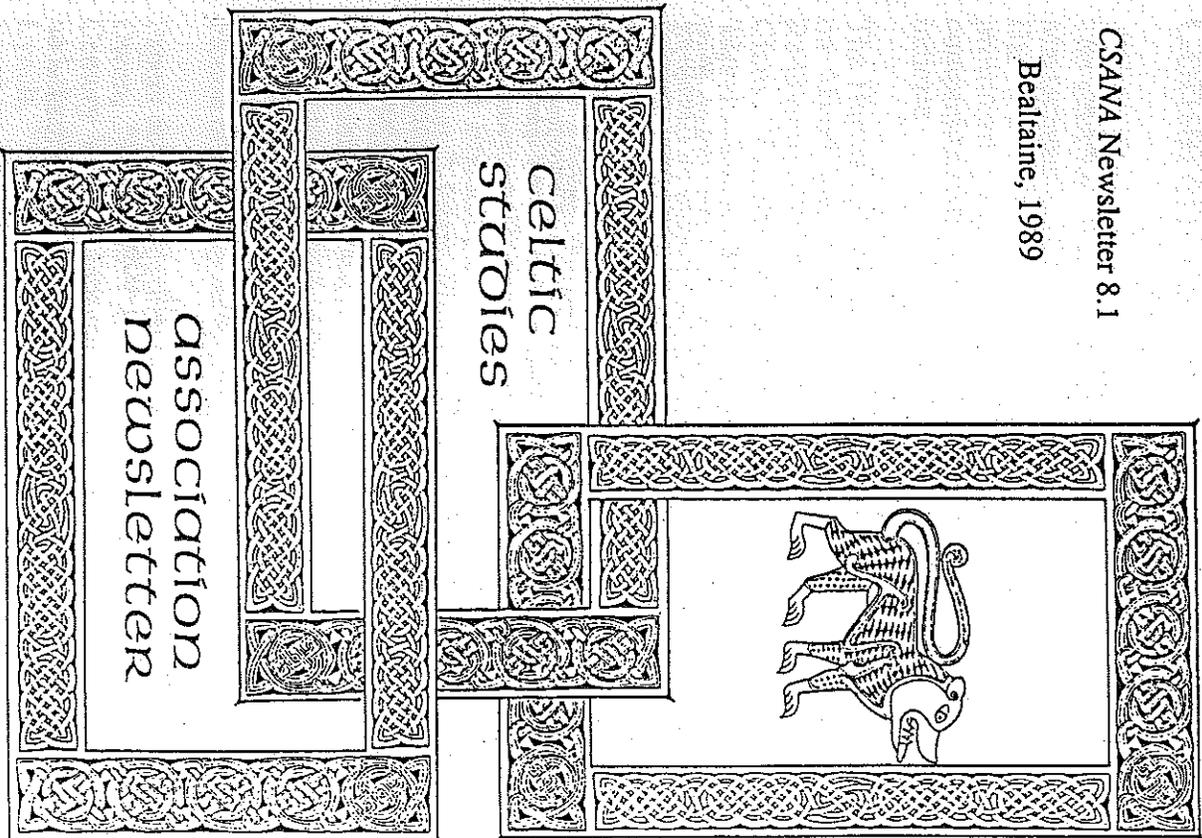


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CSANA Newsletter 8.1

Bealtaine, 1989



The Celtic Studies Association of North America

Officers:

A. T. E. Matonis, President
Joseph F. Nagy, Vice-President
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Incorporated as a non-profit organization, the Celtic Studies Association of North America has 134 members drawn from the United States, Canada, Ireland, Wales, England, Europe and Japan. CSANA produces a bi-annual newsletter and a bibliography of Celtic Studies. The 1983-85 bibliography may be ordered through the Secretary-Treasurer. The next volume is expected to appear in late 1989.

Membership in the Celtic Studies Association of North America is open to those with a serious interest in Celtic Studies. Dues are \$15.00 a year, or for non-USA residents, the equivalent of \$15 US dollars payable to 'CSANA' in a check or international money order. Dues include the bibliography and a bi-annual newsletter, which appears in the Spring and the Fall.

This mailing reflects pre-November 1, 1988 membership. 1988-89 DUES are payable May 1, 1989 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 Treasurer, Edgar Slotkin.

Conferences

The CSANA Annual Meeting took place in Cambridge, Massachusetts, May 12-14, 1989 in conjunction with the Harvard Celtic Colloquium. The combined meetings produced papers of considerable merit in a richly comprehensive program as the following record will indicate.

The Harvard papers included: Peter McQuillan, "Remarks on Mood and Modality in Modern Irish;" Roxanne Reddington-Wilde, "Membership in Scottish Highland Clans: Varieties of Kinship;" Dorothy Dilts Swartz, "Psycho-Social Correlates of Male-Female Relationship as Reflected in Early Irish Tradition;" L. Brockman, "The Image of the Wolf in Early Irish Law and Society;" Margo Griffin-Wilson, "Cluain agus Cluannaire;" M.J. Connolly, "A Morphophonemic Approach to the Teaching of Old Irish;" Kenneth Nilsen, "Some Features of the Scottish Gaelic Dialects of Nova Scotia;" John Carey, "*Math uab Mathonwy: A British Myth of Origins?*"; John T. Koch, "Some Etymologies relevant to Mythology in the Four Branches;" Joyce Flynn, "Remembering Celtic Ireland: Nineteenth-Century Irish-American Retellings of Medieval Irish History and Narrative;" Laurie Patton, "The Irreducibly Curious: A Study of Alexander Carmichael, *Carmina Gadelica*, and the Nature of Ethnographic Representations;" Philip O'Leary, "Seanchuidhthe, *Séadna*, Sheehan, and the Zeigteist: Folklore and Folklife in Gaelic Fiction of the Early Revival."

Papers delivered during the CSANA program: Morfydd E. Owen, "Poet and Patron in Twelfth- and Thirteenth-Century Wales;" Morgan T. Davies, "Dafydd ap Gwilym and the Friars: The Poetics of Antimendicancy;" Peredur Lynch, "Llygad Gŵr: One of the Last Gogynfeirdd;" Stephen M. Agli, "Gerard Manly Hopkins and Celtic Studies;" Lisa Bitel, "*Spirituales Medici: Healers and*

Reviews

Martin Rockel. *Grundzüge einer Geschichte der irischen Sprache*. Wien: Verlag der Osterreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1989. Pp. 114.

This work, publication No.9 of the Keltische Kommission, is by the leading Celtic scholar of the German Democratic Republic, who is known to us, especially for his work over the past two decades and more, on Welsh. A longitudinal presentation of external history and compact illustrative sets of forms and excerpts, the monograph comprises as chapters: A foreward (5-13), dealing with general preliminaries; the 1986 MS was finished before Kim McCone's *The Early Irish Verb* (Maynooth, 1987) could furnish valuable increment of profit. 1. The genetic place of Irish (15-24), with a sketch of mutations and verbal forms. 2. The chronological periods of the Irish language (25-34), an informative discussion of authorities and criteria. 3. Old Irish (35-48), from Ogam through the glosses – a tough assignment in 14 pages. 4. Middle Irish (49-55), Vikings and mention of some texts. 5. Language use in the Anglo-Norman period (56-63), which includes samples of loans, contacts with Britain and Latin, and poetry. 6. Irish use in the sixteenth century (64-72); social factors, and printing. 7. Irish use in the seventeenth century (73-5); population displacements and losses to the language. 8. Irish use in the eighteenth century (76-80); the church, schooling, learning, flow of information, and decline. 9. Use of modern Irish in the Anglo-Irish Union (81-6); demography, famine, social factors, unfavourable schooling, colonialism. 10. On the history and tasks of language consolidation in Ireland (87-92); movements mainly of the nineteenth century. 11. On the position of Irish in the Republic of Ireland (93-106); interesting summary providing facts and figures.

A wide-ranging six-page list of references closes the volume, a book which will inform with broader scope than our normal fare. We hope that our colleagues of the DDR

derive as much instruction from matters Irish as we do from reading and consulting with them.

Eric P. Hamp
University of Chicago

Randall Hendrick. *Anaphora in Celtic and Universal Grammar*. Studies in Natural Language & Linguistic Theory. Dordrecht, Boston and London: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1988.

Over the past decade much effort and interest have focused on the syntactic theory known as Government Binding (GB) in an attempt to explore the possibility of specifying Universal Grammar (UG), i.e., "those properties of language that are not presented to a language learner, but which he ultimately winds up having knowledge of" (2). The author takes GB "to constitute the most explanatory model of UG" (3). An overview of GB theory and its principles is given on pages 3-18.

The five chapters following the Introduction explore problems of syntax (agreement and the Avoid Pronoun Principle, raising and passivization, PRO-inflexion and Reduced Structures, the connection between relative pronouns, complementizers and subjacency, the interaction of Government theory with synthetic agreement) which under the theory are all claimed to be linked by the common phenomenon of anaphora.

It has been claimed, not at all with complete justification, that much of GB theory has been founded on the data of English. This book aims to investigate problems of Welsh and Breton syntax, against a background of English, for their own sake within a specified grammatical theory; but also to contribute to the testing and elaboration of that theory by adducing liberal amounts of evidence from these contrastive and highly characterized, yet differentiated, Celtic languages. Here is an opportunity for grammatically minded Celticists to take stock of some recent theoretical analyses on their own terrain, and to offer their own

specialisation as a source of control. Welsh and Breton have much to offer the field at large.

Besides some recent purely Celticist writings, the following theoretically oriented works are relevant:

Anderson, Stephen R. and Sandra Chung. 1977. On grammatical relations and clause structure in verb initial languages. In Peter Cole and Jerrold Sadock, ed., *Syntax and Semantics* 8. New York: Academic Press. Pp.1-26.

Awbery, Gwen M. 1975. Welsh mutations: syntax or phonology? *Archivum Linguisticum* 5, 14-25.

_____. 1976. *The Syntax of Welsh: a Transformational Study of the Passive*. Cambridge University Press.

_____. 1977. A transformational view of Welsh relative clauses. *BBCS* 27, 155-206.

Harlow, Stephen. 1981. Government and relativisation in Celtic. In Frank Heny, ed. *Binding and Filtering*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Pp.213-54.

_____. 1986. The syntax of Welsh soft mutation. Unpublished paper. Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.

Lieber, Rochelle. 1983. New developments in autosegmental phonology: consonant mutation. In Michel Barlow, et al, edd. *Proceedings of the 2nd West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics*. Stanford: Department of Linguistics, Stanford UP. Pp. 165-75.

McCloskey, James. 1979. *Transformational Syntax and Model Theoretic Semantics: A Case Study in Modern Irish*. Dordrecht: Reidel.

_____. 1984. Raising, subcategorization and selection in Modern Irish. *NLLT* 1, 441-85.

_____ and Kenneth Hale. 1984. On the syntax of person-number inflection in Modern Irish. *NLLT* 1, 487-533.

Sproat, Richard. 1985. Welsh syntax and VSO structure. *NLLT* 3, 173-216.

_____. 1985. *On Deriving the Lexicon*. Ph.D Diss MIT.

Stump, Gregory. 1984. Agreement vs. Incorporation in Breton. *NLLT* 2, 289-348.

Zaring, Laurie. 1986. Overt pronouns in Welsh. Unpublished paper. Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.

Clearly, Welsh and Breton call for much more syntactic effort. This is only the tip of the iceberg.

Eric P. Hamp
University of Chicago

Recueil des Inscriptions Gauloises (RIG), sous la direction de Paul-Marie Duval. Vol. II, fascicule 1: Textes Gallo-étrusques, textes gallo-latins sur pierre. Par Michel LEJEUNE. (XLV^e supplé à "Gallia." Paris: Editions du CNRS. 1988 (Janvier 1989). Pp.xiv+196.

Large and sumptuous in format, this authoritative volume follows at a satisfying pace volume I: Textes gallo-grecs (1985), and volume III: Les calendriers (Coligny, Villards d'Héria), by P.-M. Duval and Georges Pinault (1986), which we have not received. The present section of volume II was ready in 1986, but the instrumentum gallo-latin (céramiques, plombs magiques) has been delayed, and with the latter the inclusive index.

The volume opens with reference to Lepontic, and Cisalpine sites; then Vertamocorii, the fine inscriptions of Briona (11-24), Vercelli (25-37) and other Libici (38-40), Todi (41-52). Then follow the fifteen lapidary Gallo-Latin inscriptions scattered from Bouches-du-Rhône to Paris and to Morbihan (57-181) and the bronze of Vieil-Evreux (Eure) (183-94), a rich but troublesomely mixed fragment – all told, a classic set, revised in important aspects since Dottin and Whatmough.

Many of these are fundamental, though desperately brief, in our Gaulish studies; sources of renowned citation forms for all Celtic and Indo-European. Michel Lejeune, the master of us all, never disappoints us.

Eric P. Hamp
University of Chicago

From European Colleagues

We have received a letter from Per Denez requesting our help in his efforts to establish a university degree in Breton. I include most of that letter which is of considerable importance to Celticists here and abroad. I urge our members to write in support of a D.E.U.G. of Breton and to send a copy of the letter to Per Denez at:

Université Rennes – Haute Bretagne
6 Avenue Gaston Berger, 35043 Rennes

“Our friends overseas will surely wonder why a call for help should be addressed to them about a university degree. But it so happens that France is one of the most highly centralised states and that universities must, before they can deliver a degree, ask the Minstre de l’Education Nationale for an authorisation to do so – an authorisation which may be refused and which, if granted, is due for reappraisal every five years.

In 1981, after years of campaigning . . . , we obtained a LICENCE and a MAITRISE of BRETON. The licence is the third year university degree, and the maitrise the fourth year degree. This gave an extraordinary . . . impetus to Breton in higher education.

We have since been campaigning to obtain a DEUG. of Breton, i.e. the degree which closes the first and second years. (DEUG = Diplôme d’Etudes Universitaires Generales) for university subjects (English, German,

History, Sociology, etc.). The regular cursus indeed is: Deug, Licence, Maitrise. Up to now the authorities have reacted negatively. And, once again this year, our university has lodged an official request for a Breton DEUG and is waiting for an answer.

It looks obvious that students should be allowed to take Breton in first and second year before they go to third year. The lack of a Breton DEUG prevents future school-masters and –mistresses, who leave the university after second year, to receive tuition and training in Breton. This Breton DEUG is indeed a matter of life or death for our language in the educational system. . . .

Could you please give your help, which could prove decisive? Could you please send a few lines to the Prime Minister, M. Michel Rocard, Premier Ministre, Hôtel Matignon, Rue de Varenne, 75007 Paris, calling upon him to allow the creation of a Breton DEUG?

I wish to thank you very deeply for your help. It will come as a great comfort to our students, whom this degree will allow to better serve their people and their culture.” Per Denez.

From the Editor

All future items for the newsletter should be sent to Joseph Nagy, who will be taking over the newsletter as part of his executive duties. Items might include statements of work in progress, short reviews, announcements of awards and fellowships, brief biographies of eminent American Celticists, and professional material of any sort relating to Celtic Studies and Celticists. All communications should be sent to: Professor Joseph F. Nagy, UCLA, Dept. of English, 405 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90024.

CSANA Business

Plans for a journal moved forward as a prospectus submitted by Joan Radner, who will edit the journal, were accepted at the business meeting. The journal will appear once a year; the bibliography will appear as the annual issue in those years when it is ready for publication.

Reminder: Dues are now past due and should be sent to Edgar Slotkin, whose address appears inside the front cover. Given the cost of producing the next volume of the bibliography, the renewal of your membership will be timely.

CSANA Amendment to the by-laws. At the business meeting on May 13, 1989 it was proposed that the editor-in-chief of the bibliography become an ex officio member of the Executive Committee. While the members in attendance approved the proposal, our by-laws require that the full membership be polled. Will you therefore pull off this portion of the page and return your vote to Joseph F. Nagy (address given above).

Proposal: The editor-in-chief of the bibliography shall become an ex officio member of the CSANA Executive Committee.

_____ Yes

_____ No

Edouard Bachellery (d. 1989)

Celticists the world over will regret the loss of the senior contemporary French Celtic scholar. In a distinguished line of Celtisants, M. Bachellery succeeded J. Vendryes as *charges du cours* for Celtic Studies in Paris. M. Bachellery, whose regular and tireless contributions to the bibliographic chronicle of the *Etudes Celtiques* enlarged the tradition initiated by Vendryes, was himself a master in teaching and in publication of the earlier phases of Irish, Welsh, and Breton, giving us a running conspectus of Celtic philology and linguistics. What is perhaps not so widely known about M. Bachellery was his superb command and active mastery of the spoken modern languages, namely, of Modern Irish, contemporary Welsh, and the Treguier variety of Breton. Incapable of lecturing on the language or literature of any of these without first situating himself in the particular vernacular, M. Bachellery spent considerable pre-lecture time composing creative conversations in the spoken language of his lecture topic. The emotional center of Bachellery's life was his wife, a native speaker of Welsh, with whom he conversed only in Welsh and who sadly left his company after a few short years. This memory never left him, as our memory of him never will us.

Daniel A. Binchy (1900 – 1989)

All readers of these lines will know D. Binchy as the greatest living scholar of the Irish language, to name only one of his accomplishments, as the tireless editor of the *Corpus Iuris Hibernicae*, as co-translator with Bergin of Thurneysen's grammar, by far one of the greatest grammars ever written and interpreted, and as author of countless incisive articles on the most perplexing modern problems of early Irish language and law. Binchy's brilliance was apparent at an early stage to all those with sufficient knowledge and learning, a brilliance which shone over ancient history, Roman law, common law, Irish antiquities, and the political diplomacy and intricacies of inter-war Europe (not to mention a perfect mastery of the German language). While readers today may take for

granted his unquestioned authority and reputation in the scholarship of Old Irish, they may not sufficiently appreciate that his career arose in an age of giants. There was a time when Dan Binchy was a younger, rising scholar in the shadow of the supernal names of Best, Bergin and others whom later metrics have arranged in harmonious alliteration. The sprightly wit of Dan Binchy never lost sight of these passing anomalies in the life of alert minds. Any hour spent with Binchy, when he was either reminiscing or simply ruminating in a tart and well-peppered staccato, or endearingly hesitistammering in hilarious anecdote or in a penetrating critique of scholarship, imparted at once a quality of learning which few fields offer and a quality of gossip which few scholarly figures innocently merit.

Formal obituaries will document the rich life and career of a major scholar. We mark the loss at a ripe age of a monumental and correct human being, a friend of deep affection.

Heinrich Wagner (1923 – 1988)

September 1988 sadly brought the end to Heinrich Wagner's suffering from failing health arising from multiple causes over the past few years. Nothing could have struck us all as more uncharacteristic than to think of the heroic and restlessly active and irresistibly sociable Heinrich as struck down by a cowardly weakness of the flesh. So long as a man was honest and forthright, he was sure to be a friend to Heinrich; the same can be said of everyone he ever encountered in the gaedhealtacht, and Heinrich had seen just about all of them. We know that because we've got a mirror of it for eternity in Heinrich's irreplaceable and irreplicable *Linguistic Atlas and Survey of Irish Dialects*. Somebody made a mild mistake by having Heinrich born in Switzerland, where in his customary heroic fashion he made a first-class scholarly name for himself in his studies by 1948. But he lost no time in repairing the initial mistake by going, with the blessing of his teacher Pokorny, in 1945 to learn Irish as it really was. Everything Heinrich learned, he learnt well, and he did just

that in Dunquin, Co. Kerry. Then after spending about 10 years doing what most people take a lifetime to do, he spent some time as a visiting scholar at DIAS, as a professor of German in Utrecht, and as professor of Germanic philology at Basel. After that came the real stuff: a total devotion to the active, living speech of Donegal, which he returned to and wrote about tirelessly, and the teaching and leadership of Irish Studies, along with the whole gamut of comparative philology, at Queen's University, Belfast. All during these professorial assignments there was the incredible collecting of data from the entire range of surviving Gaelic speech as well as the incredibly prompt publication of the whole atlas which we know. Heinrich's phenomenal command of language and philology embraced the totality of western Eurasia, bar none. He was indeed a hero. He lifted us, and always with the greatest cheer and good spirits, just a little bit from our dwarfishness.

For a fine bi-lingual obituary, read Art J. Hughes, *Donegal Annual* 40 (1988), 111-21.

Eric P. Hamp
University of Chicago

CSANA wishes to extend its sympathy to our friend and colleague, David N. Dumville, ASNC, Girton College, Cambridge, on the loss of his wife Sally who was so often a warm and welcoming hostess to many of us.

