

CSANA Newsletter 8.2

Samhain, 1989



celtic  
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association  
newsletter

THE CELTIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

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Incorporated as a non-profit organization, the Celtic Studies Association has 134 members drawn from the United States, Canada, Ireland, Wales, England, Europe, and Japan. CSANA produces a bi-annual newsletter (which appears in the Spring and the Fall) and a bibliography of Celtic Studies. The 1983-85 bibliography may be ordered through the Secretary-Treasurer (Ms. Kathryn Lorenz, Romance Languages, University of Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0069).

Membership in CSANA is open to those with a serious interest in Celtic Studies. Dues are \$15 per year, or, for non-US residents, the equivalent of fifteen American dollars payable to "CSANA" in a check or international money order, to be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer. Members are entitled to receive the bibliography and the newsletter; they may also, for \$1, order a list of current CSANA members from the Secretary-Treasurer.

The next issue of the CSANA Newsletter will be sent out in May '90. The editor would be very pleased to receive news, which should be sent to Joseph Nagy, English, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., LA CA 90024. He tenders his thanks to Ms. Leslie Jones of the UCLA Folklore and Mythology Program for her assistance in putting out this issue.

This mailing reflects pre-November 1, 1989 membership. 1989-90 dues are payable May 1, 1990 and should be sent to: Ms. Kathryn Lorenz, Acting Secretary-Treasurer CSANA, Romance Languages, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45221-0069.

## 1990 CSANA MEETING

The Celtic Colloquium of the University of California, Los Angeles, will host the 1990 annual meeting of CSANA on May 3-6 in the Humanities Conference Room (Royce 312) as part of the Twelfth Annual UC Celtic Studies Conference. Among the speakers scheduled to attend are Máire Herbert (UC Cork), Timothy O'Neill (author of The Irish Hand), and Richard Sharpe (Oxford). Abstracts (250 words or less) for twenty-minute papers should be sent to the Program Chairs, Professors Patrick Ford and Joseph Nagy, Celtic Colloquium, English Dept., UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., LA CA 90024, by March 1, 1990.

The topic of the traditional CSANA meeting seminar will be the Acallam na Senórach, in the edition of Whitley Stokes, published in the Irische Texte series (v. 4, pt.1). (Selections from the text are available in Myles Dillon's MMIS edition of Stories from the Acallam; a later recension is available in Nessa Ní Shéaghádhá's three-volume edition Agallamh na Seanórach; and a translation of the Book of Lismore text is contained in Standish Hayes O'Grady's Silva Gadelica). If you would like to make a short presentation on an aspect or passage of the Acallam, please contact the seminar organizer, Professor Joseph Nagy, English, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., LA CA 90024.

Reasonably priced hotel accommodations within easy walking distance of the UCLA campus are to be found at the Claremont Hotel (1044 Tiverton Ave., LA 90024, in Westwood Village, 1-213-208-5957; \$37.50 single, 43.50 double [tax not included in any of the hotel prices quoted]); Royal Palace Westwood (1052 Tiverton Ave., LA 90024, in Westwood Village, 1-213-208-6677; \$55 single, 73 double) and the UCLA Guest House (330 Circle Dr. East, LA 90024, on the UCLA campus, 1-213-206-3751; \$71 single, same for double; mention that you are attending the UCLA Celtic Studies Conference).

On behalf of all CSANA members, the editor would like to thank Professor Janet Egleson Dunleavy of the University of Wisconsin for generously inviting CSANA to meet in Milwaukee. We express our regret that, due to schedule conflicts, CSANA could not accept the invitation.

(Note: the announcement in the last CSANA newsletter that the CSANA meeting would be held in conjunction with that of the American Conference for Irish Studies was incorrect.)

## JAMES CARNEY, 1914-1989

We mark with sadness the passing of yet another great Celticist this year: James Patrick Carney, who died after a long illness on July 7. A Senior Professor at the School of Celtic Studies of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies until his retirement in 1986, Professor Carney was one of the most prominent figures in the study of Irish literature and language. In the words of the editors of the Carney Festschrift, Professor Carney always showed "a robust independence of outlook and a

readiness to challenge the shibboleths of 'orthodoxy' with a well-stocked quiver of arguments. . . . Those fortunate enough to know him personally have good reason to be grateful for his infectious enthusiasm for his subject, sparkling conversations and friendly encouragement of younger scholars especially" (from the Foreword to Sages, Saints and Storytellers: Celtic Studies in Honour of Professor James Carney, ed. Donnchadh Ó Corráin, Liam Breatnach, and Kim McCone, Maynooth Monographs 2. An Sagart: Maynooth, 1989).

The community of Celtic scholars has lost one of its most remarkable and lively members.

#### CELTIC STUDIES PROGRAM AT UC BERKELEY

As of Fall '89, The University of California, Berkeley, officially has a Celtic Studies Program, offering undergraduates the opportunity to do a major or a minor in Celtic Studies. (Graduate work in Celtic Studies at Berkeley can be--and has been--done in various departments, such as English, French, Comparative Literature, Linguistics, and Rhetoric.) There are nine faculty members from various departments involved in running the Program. According to the Program description, its purpose "is to bring together faculty and students with interests in the cultures, languages, literature, and history of the Celtic regions. Faculty . . . will participate in teaching regular courses in Irish and Welsh language and literature (in all their historical phases), and in the history, mythology, and cultures of the Celtic world. Breton will also be regularly offered, and Cornish is foreseen as an occasional offering, as are courses in the history and structure of the older Celtic languages."

Among the courses being given this year under the rubric of "Celtic Studies" are: Elementary Modern Irish (J. Keefe); Elementary Modern Welsh (K. Klar); Medieval Welsh Language and Literature (A. Rejhon); World of the Celts (D. Melia); and Medieval Celtic Society: History of Ireland to 1500 (B. O Hehir).

For more information on the Celtic Studies Program, please contact Professor Brendan O Hehir (Chair of the Program), English Dept., or Professor Eve Sweetser (Student Adviser), Linguistics Dept., University of California, Berkeley CA 94720.

#### INSTITUTE OF IRISH STUDIES SUMMER SCHOOL

The Institute of Irish Studies (Noelle Clery and Brendan Shortall, directors) has announced the following schedule of short interdisciplinary courses to be offered at Trinity College Dublin during Summer '90: Introducing Ireland: Ancient Heritage and Young Republic (June 10-22); Land of Storytellers: Oral and Written Traditions in Ireland (July 8-20); and Celtic Influences in Anglo-Irish Literature (August 5-17).

The fee is 554 Irish pounds per course per person. This covers tuition, campus accommodations, excursions, and some entertainment. A deposit of 100 Irish pounds is necessary to

secure a place. Intending participants should specify the course(s) in which they are interested and send full name, address, telephone number, and academic affiliation (if any) to: Admissions Office, The Institute of Irish Studies, 6 Holyrood Park, Dublin 4, Ireland (phone from US: 011-353-1-692491).

#### NEWS FROM THE DUBLIN INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

Recently published by the DIAS School of Celtic Studies of are the following titles: A Guide to Early Irish Law, by Fergus Kelly (A general account of the main topics dealt with in the surviving law-texts of the 7th-8th centuries A.D., with a list of suggested further reading; xxiv + 358 pp.; 16 Irish pounds); East Perthshire Gaelic: Social History, Phonology, Texts, and Lexicon, by Máirtín Ó Murchú (sociolinguistic and phonological account of one of the lesser known varieties of Scottish Gaelic, with extensive textual and lexical material; xi + 432 pp.; 24 Irish pounds); and, most recently, Catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the University of Wisconsin-Madison, by Cornelius Buttmer (on which, see below). For more information or ordering, please write to the Institute at 10 Burlington Rd, Dublin 4, Ireland (or, if you are ordering the Kelly book, you may also consult Ford and Bailie, P.O. Box 2156, Van Nuys CA 91404-2156 [phone 1-818-780-7607]).

The Institute's Tionól for 1989 was held on 8-9 September at Trinity College Dublin and included the statutory public lecture by Dr. Martin MacNamara on "The Irish Affiliations of the Catechesis Celtica."

#### NEWS FROM THE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED WELSH AND CELTIC STUDIES

Dr. Morfydd Owen writes: "The Centre is embarking on the final year of its first five-year Project which has been occupied with editing the Gogynfeirdd. Two volumes, devoted to the Poetry of Prydydd y Moch and the Powys Poetry of Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr have already gone to press. Another two containing the Poetry of the Family of Meilyr Brydydd and the Poetry of the Minor Poets of the Twelfth Century are reaching their final stage of preparation. The next project scheduled to begin in 1990 will be devoted to a study of the History of the Welsh Language in the Modern Period. Two public Fora are scheduled to take place in the Spring and Summer. In the Spring the Group for Medieval Welsh Archaeology will be taking the platform with a series of papers on Early Medieval Archaeological topics; the Summer Forum will be devoted to papers on Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr.

In July the Centre joined forces with the Extra-Mural Department of University College of Wales, Aberystwyth and the National Library of Wales to organise a Summer School on Dafydd ap Gwilym and the Four Branches of the Mabinogi. It is possible that 1990 will witness a similar Summer School devoted to the study of Welsh Arthurian literature."

## CONFERENCE NEWS

The Fifth International Conference on the History of Linguistics will be held at University College, Galway on May 1-6, 1990. For more information, please contact: Dr. Anders Ahlqvist, 5.ICHols Organizer, University College, Galway, Ireland.

"Crossed Paths: The Celtic Dimension to the European Middle Age," was the subject of a conference held last April 7-8 at Pennsylvania State University. Two of the speakers were from Ireland: Pròinséas Ní Chatháin (Early Irish, University College, Dublin) who spoke on "The European Context of the Derrynavlan Treasure," and Máirtín Ó Briain (UC Galway), who discussed "Irish Versions of the Legend of the King's Ears." Also addressing the conference were W. F. H. Nicolaisen (SUNY Binghamton), who spoke on "Celtic and Pre-Celtic Place Name Elements in Scotland"; Dean Simpson (Richmond University) on "Sedulius Scottus and the Latin Classics"; Mark Snowcroft (University of Virginia) on "The Hand, the Child, and the Grail"; Pádraig Ó Néill (University of South Carolina) on "Irish Influence on Northumbrian Christianity"; Benjamin Hudson (Penn. State Univ.) on "Gaelic Princes and the Gregorian Reform"; and Robin Chapman Stacey (University of Washington) on "Written Law and Social Order in Early England and Ireland." The proceedings of the conference are to be published by Catholic University Press.

Meeting simultaneously (April 7-9) at UC Berkeley was the Eleventh Annual Celtic Studies Conference. Among the papers given were: "A World Without Pedestals: Women, Legal Status, and Social Reality in the Welsh Arthurian Romances" (Susan Aronstein, University of Wyoming); "Y Seint Greal: The Translation of Words and Traditions" (Ceridwen Lloyd-Morgan, National Library of Wales); "Tradition and Innovation in Early Irish Poetics" (Pròinsias Mac Cana, DIAS); "Some Celtic Phrasal Echoes and an Etymology" (Calvert Watkins, Harvard University); and "The Erotic Impulse and the Public Good in Aislinge Oengusso and Breuddwyd Maxen Wledig" (Catherine McKenna, Queens College CUNY).

Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth, hosted the Third Irish Conference of Medievalists, organized by the Department of Old Irish, Maynooth, in conjunction with the Medieval Academy of Ireland and the National Museum of Ireland, last July 13-15. Among the papers given were: "The Archaeology of Crith Gablach--Recent Excavations in Deer Park Farms, Glenarm, Co. Antrim" (Chris Lynn); "Dál Dromma Cetta and Its Relationship to Cormac's Glossary" (Paul Russell); "The Law Schools of Later Medieval Ireland" (Katharine Simms); "Women's Work in Early Historic Ireland" (Celia Taylor); and "The New Edition of the Collectio Canonum Hibernensis: Reflections on the Contents as a Stage in the Evolution of Continental Law" (Maurice Sheehy).

The Second North American Congress of Celtic Studies was held August 16-20 at Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Organized by Pádraig Ó Siadhail, Cyril Byrne, and Margaret Harry, the meeting featured over fifty papers on topics pertaining to Irish, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Breton, and Cornish, including: "Celtic Studies--An Appraisal" (Brian Ó Cuiv, DIAS); "Dafydd ap Gwilym: An Outline Biography" (R. Geraint Gruffydd, Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies); "The Role of the Priest in the Gaelic Folklore of Nova Scotia" (Kenneth Nilsen, Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish N.S.); "Secunda Brigida: St. Ita of Killeedy and Brigidine Tradition" (Dorothy Ann Bray, McMaster University); and "The Earliest Irish Conception of the Threefold Death" (William Sayers, Council of Ontario Universities, Toronto).

#### NEWS ABOUT MEMBERS

Current CSANA President A.T.E. Matonis (Temple University) has been appointed the John Rhys Fellow at Oxford University and the Visiting Senior Research Fellow at Jesus College for 1990-91.

Vincent A. Dunn's Cattle-Raids and Courtships: Medieval Narrative Genres in a Traditional Context has just been published by Garland Press as Volume 1 in its new Garland Monographs in Medieval Literature series (\$38). To order, write to the Press at 136 Madison Ave., NY NY 10016 (1-800-627-6273).

Professor Frederick Suppe (History, Ball State University) is at work on "A Cultural History of the Celtic Peoples from Antiquity to the Present" under contract to the Greenwood Press. The book will be a survey of 180-200 pages and will consider not merely political history but also the linguistic, literary, and other related aspects of cultural history of the Bretons, Cornish, Irish, Manx, Scots, Welsh, and their Celtic prehistoric forbears.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

Cornelius G. Buttmer, Catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dublin: School of Celtic Studies, DIAS, 1989. Pp. vii + 52.

Members of CSANA will want to take a careful look at this slender volume. Here are our own opportunities and responsibilities. The same author promises (fn. 8) to deal also with the Irish manuscripts in Harvard's Houghton Library. We owe a debt of gratitude indeed for this careful and well printed book.

The Introduction (1-15) summarizes the acquisition of these MSS by Wisconsin through the initiative of Myles Dillon (1900-72; Professor of Celtic at UWM 1937-46) from a private Irish collection in New York. The collection under study comprises 7 or 8 MSS for which \$77.50 was paid. The MSS--totalling about

1650 pp. and dating, except for one 160-page 18th-century MS (with gaps) of sermon and lexical material, all from the 19th century--are of various content (battle tales, Tri Bior-gaithe an Bháis, Ossianic verse, accentual verse, a short sermon and catechism), and share an interesting and instructive pattern of provenance seeming to center on Waterford, with notable contributions from Limerick and Cork. Buttimer's Introduction intelligently whets our appetite on these aspects of the Irish sources, transmission, and American collecting focus; he has gone to considerable pains on the matter of scribal identification.

The descriptive catalogue (17-37) is rich in citation of specific content. An index to first lines of verse (39-43) and a general index (45-52) follow.

A fine study collection lies waiting.

Eric P. Hamp  
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Lynette Olson, Early Monasteries in Cornwall. (Studies in Celtic History 11). Woodbridge, Suffolk and Wolfboro, NH: Boydell Press, 1989. Pp. xiv + 135.

Early Irish historians in this country, such as myself, often complain about the neglect suffered by their field and are astonished to encounter historical sub-specialties even more difficult and obscure. Lynette Olson has written a guide to just such a difficult field--pre-Norman Cornish monasteries--that should interest early Irish, Welsh, and Breton historians.

Olson's book is an analysis of the written and material evidence for monastic communities in Cornwall (west of the River Tamar) between about 500 and 1066. With its separate, detailed chapters on literary sources, archaeological evidence, and later Cornish texts, its erudite appendix on the origins of 'meneage', and its extensive bibliography, Olson's book comes across as an expert guide to sources rather than a monograph. Her discussion of Breton hagiographic material provides an excellent methodological model; her archaeological chapter, however, is a less approachable synthesis of specialized studies which will probably lose beginners among the ogam and the distribution of E-ware. Her introduction is short and confined to a superficial explanation of the origins of Christian monasticism and a bibliographical discussion of secondary material. Her conclusion, even shorter, tells what she makes of all the evidence that she has assembled for us: at least 20 monasteries existed in pre-Norman Cornwall. These communities interacted with monasteries in Gaul and Wales. Other Christian sites existed but were not necessarily coenobitic monasteries. Monks in Celtic communities ended up as groups of priests in the Domesday period, sharing privileges and duties of their former monasteries. Olson concludes with a call for the identification of more monastic sites in Cornwall.

As her lengthy bibliography shows, until now the study of early Cornish monasteries has been left largely in the hands of

archaeologists. But, according to Olson, archaeologists have presumed too much about Cornish monasteries, tending to consider every early Christian site to be a monastery. At the same time, their historian colleagues have falsely assumed that Cornwall followed the Irish monastic model of ecclesiastical organization. Olson strives to correct the mistakes of both, seeking written testimony to confirm archaeologists' identification of monastic communities. Since almost no Cornish texts of the period exist, Olson imaginatively uses sparse references in Anglo-Saxon, Irish, Welsh, and Breton documents. For example, she examines one anecdote in the 9th-century Breton Life of St. Samson in order to locate the Cornish monastery of Docco and link it with a known archaeological site. A 10th-century charter re-endowing Docco adds another bit of evidence for the monastery's survival throughout the Anglo-Saxon period. Olson is both inventive and careful with her manipulation of this exiguous evidence.

Yet the Docco case is Olson's most persuasive, and she leaps from its solid ground to some precarious historical bogland. She suggests that, because Docco has been shown to be a Celtic monastery and because it appears in Domesday Book, other houses in Domesday Book may also be early monasteries (p. 104). The hard evidence for this consists mostly of ambiguous place-names and late charters. Olson's discussion of Docco is typical of her methodology: she tends to offer several extremely thorough explanations for each piece of evidence and then to choose one that best fits her thesis (for instance, in her discussion of a list of Cornish saints' names, ca. 900, pp. 56-60). In Chapter 3, her exhaustive description of memorial stones and various kinds of imported pottery ends with the facile suggestion that "where the exchange of goods took place the exchange of ideas might also" (p. 47), thus explaining the arrival of monasticism in Cornwall with the tin-for-pottery trade; to be fair, she qualifies this by adding that the idea of monasticism did not take strong root in Cornwall until the Welsh helped plant it there (p. 50).

Most historians and other Celticists will find Olson's work provocative but frustrating. Her familiarity with both material and textual sources is truly impressive, and anyone seeking specific information about any of Olson's sources will find it here. But, ultimately, Olson achieves only half of what the general editor of this eclectic series in Celtic history claims for her: she does provide a "close study of all the relevant Cornish evidence," but she does not successfully combine it with "a broader approach to Church-history." Cornish monasteries have become a bit more accessible because of Lynette Olson's work, but they remain the territory of intrepid and uncomplaining scholars willing to traipse onto the misty moors with nothing but this short guide-book to suggest the way.

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