

Bealtaine 1999
16.2



celtic
studies

association
newsletter

C S A N A

Celtic Studies Association of North America

Officers:

Maria Tymoczko, President
Dorothy Bray, Vice-President
Elissa R. Henken, Secretary-Treasurer

Members at large:

Karen Burgess (Assistant Bibliographer)
Tomás Ó Cathasaigh
Joseph Eska

Bibliographer and Editor:

Joseph F. Nagy

Past-President:

Robin Chapman Stacey

Incorporated as a non-profit organization, the Celtic Studies Association of North America has members in the United States, Canada, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Europe, Australia, and Japan. CSANA produces a semi-annual newsletter and bibliographies of Celtic Studies. The published bibliographies (1983-85 and 1985-87) may be ordered from the Secretary-Treasurer, Prof. Elissa R. Henken, Dept. of English, Park Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 (email: ehenken@arches.uga.edu). The new electronic CSANA bibliography is available at: <http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/celtic/csanabib.html> or visit our Web site at: www.cis.upen.edu/~csana. The electronic bibliography is available at cost in printed form to members who request it.

The privileges of membership in CSANA include the newsletter twice a year, access to the bibliography and the electronic discussion group CSANA-L (contact Prof. Joe Eska at eska@vtails.cc.vt.edu to join), invitations to the annual meeting, for which the registration fees are nil or very low, the right to purchase the CSANA mailing list at cost, and an invaluable sense of fellowship with Celticists throughout North America and around the world.

Membership in CSANA is open to anyone with a serious interest in Celtic Studies. Dues are payable at Bealtaine (May 1). New and renewing members within the U.S. should send cheques, payable to CSANA, to Elissa R. Henken at the address above. Members outside the U.S. should send an international money order or a cheque drawn on a U.S. bank for the equivalent of the dues as stated in U.S. dollars; dues can also be paid in British sterling by sending a check to Elissa R. Henken for £10.50 (Associate Member: Student) or £17.50 (Sustaining Member: Regular).

Associate Member (student)	\$15.00
Sustaining Member (regular)	\$25.00
Contributor	\$50.00
Patron	\$100.00
Benefactor	\$250.00

Contributors, Patrons, and Benefactors support the creation of the CSANA bibliography, help to defray expenses of the annual meeting, and allow CSANA to develop new projects.

Annual Meeting 1999

This year's Annual Meeting was hosted by Catherine McKenna at the City University of New York and New York University. There were 26 papers, including three plenary sessions with Oliver Padel, Brynley Roberts, and Liam Breatnach. Under the sponsorship of Medieval and Renaissance Studies and the Center for Research in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, New York University, Thomas Owen Clancy spoke (twice). Oliver Padel led a lively and stimulating seminar session on the Passion Play of the Cornish Ordinalia. The venues, at the Graduate Center of CUNY and Glucksman Ireland House, NYU, gave participants a chance to do some incidental sightseeing, which included a trek into New York's colourful Chinatown for the traditional CSANA banquet. A splendid time was had by all. Our great thanks go to Catherine for all her hard work in organizing the conference and raising sponsorship, and a special thanks to her wonderful crew who kept things ticking along nicely.

Result of Elections

At the Annual Meeting, Elissa Henken was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. Elissa has been doing a splendid job in this demanding post and we're glad she has agreed to continue. Two new Members at Large were elected, Tomás Ó Cathasaigh and Joe Eska. We would like to thank the outgoing members at large, Michael Meckler and Morgan Davies, for their service.

The Executive Committee voted Joseph Nagy as Editor of the soon-to-be CSANA journal. The

Business Meeting agreed unanimously that such a venture should go ahead; representatives from Boydell and Brewer and Four Courts Press were on hand to advise regarding publication. Preparations for the initial volume will begin soon; although a name has yet to be confirmed, the meeting agreed that "The Celtic Studies Association of North America" should appear in it somewhere, in some form. Suggestions are welcome.

Report of the Publication Committee

The Publication Committee consisted of Maria Tymoczko (Chair), John Koch, Catherine McKenna, Joseph Nagy, and Robin Chapman Stacey. From the resolution passed at the 1998 Annual Meeting, the committee discussed whether or not CSANA should begin a publication, what form the publication should take, the editorial statement, the composition of the editorial board, and the practical and financial aspects of the publication.

The committee considered that the benefits of such a publication would fill a need for a Celtic Studies publication which would reflect North American scholarship, serve as a vehicle for publishing a hard copy of the CSANA Bibliography, and be a principal benefit of membership to the organization. The form would be that of a book with a self-standing title and the subtitle "The CSANA Annual" (or the like). The committee recommended publishing three volumes initially, the first two representing scholarly research, and the third to be a hard copy of the CSANA Bibliography.

The Executive Committee, on the recommendation of the Publication Committee, voted Joseph Nagy as Editor for a period of six years; an editorial board of an additional five members is to be appointed by the Editor. The initial print run of the annual is to be 500 copies (but at the discretion of the Editor). Funding for the annual is estimated at \$4000 per year, including postage, which our dues currently will not cover. CSANA may run a deficit to fund the publication for 2 years, offering the first volume at a special subscription rate for members to help fund it; we should then consider restructuring the membership dues for the third year in order to provide the annual without subscription to CSANA members.

A full copy of the report is available from Maria Tymoczko (tymoczko@complit.umass.edu).

Meet Me in St Louis

Next year's meeting - in 2000 - will be organized by Toby Griffen in St Louis. Toby is even now wondering what he got himself into.

The dates are 23-26 March 2000; the place, the Best Western Inn At The Park in the Central West End of St Louis, an area filled with small restaurants and shops (.4 miles from a Welsh restaurant, .5 miles from a Chinese). A single room is \$73 and a double is \$83. For \$93 up to six can stay in a minisuite (with microwave and refrigerator). Toby Griffen has reserved two of those for graduate students -- one male group, one female ("Am I showing my age?" Toby asks). We could get more if necessary. The rooms, Toby reports, are very

nice, some with patios (which might be good in St Louis in March--you never know). We also get a complementary conference room that seats 100. They'll also set up a special 800 number for reservations. The metro can take people from the airport to a point four blocks away, and a free shuttle can bring them in the rest of the way. They also have a free shuttle to the zoo (one of the three best in the country), the science center (with omnimax), and the excellent art museum--all in Forest Park and all free.

The seminar text for the next meeting will be *Tales of the West Highlands* by J.F. Campbell. Further information will be available in the Samhain newsletter, including a call for papers. In the meantime, members can contact Toby Griffen at tdg@dubricius.net or tgriffen@edwpub.com.

Future Venues

CSANA 2001 will be held at Virginia Tech (31 March-2 April) and hosted by Joe Eska. Other future venues are: Notre Dame in 2002 (host, Aileen O'Leary et al.), Berkeley in 2003 (hosts, Eve Sweetser and Dan Melia), and Toronto in 2004 (host, David Klausner). Thank you all for letting yourselves be volunteered!

Kalamazoo 2000

Fred Suppe has organized two sessions of papers at the 1999 International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, MI. He is willing to organize similar sessions for the congress in May 2000. The deadline for submitting requests

for session to the general organizers of the congress was May 15. Fred has already sent out a general request to CSANA member on CSANA-1 for suggestions for themes, topics, and speakers, but anyone who wishes further information or has suggestions may reach him at 00fcsuppe@bsuvc.bsu.edu.

CSANA Online Bibliography

Karen Burgess has continued her work on the CSANA bibliography. Over the past year, approximately 2000 items have been added, increasing the bibliography by 40%. Material was prepared and submitted by Antone Minard (ULCA Research Assistant), Victoria Simmons (UCLA Research Assistant), and CSANA members and bibliography users. Many thanks to Karen and her crew for maintaining the bibliography. The CSANA online bibliography can be accessed at: <http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/humnet/celtic/csanabib/html>

Notice of Publication

Cartulaire de l'abbaye de Redon, IXe-XIe Siècles. Amis des Archives Historiques du Diocèse de Rennes, Doe et Saint-Malo (AHID, 45 rue de Brest, 35042 Rennes Cedex, France). 1999. 368 pages quadrichrome. 26.5 x 36 cm.

(The following text is a revision of information written by Raymond Letertre, Chancellor of the Archbishopric of Rennes, to present the recent publication of the Cartulary of the Redon Abbey. It combines information from a flyer as well as the website <http://www.france-ouest.com/cartulaire>.)

For the first time, one of the most important historical manuscripts of medieval Brittany, the Cartulary of the Abbey of Redon, has been reproduced in facsimile and in color. Since it was handed to Mgr Brossays Saint-Marc, about 1850, the Redon Cartulary has been kept in the Historical Record Office of Rennes diocese. An association of the Friends of the Historical Record Office, created in July 1997, undertook the publication of this facsimile of the whole of the parchments in order to make them accessible to everyone.

This is first of all a work of art: the warm nuances of parchment bring up the harmonious calligraphy done in Carolingian letters, perfected at the time of Charlemagne and still used in typography. Though there are no illuminating designs, finely-chiseled initials, enhanced with green, red and blue, illustrate the texts--a testimony to the care taken to copy down the charters.

This is also an essential document for historians who can finally compare the original text with the Latin edition given by Aurélian de Courson in 1863. The Cartulary is a set of 147 parchments, giving the text of 391 acts, most of which were recopied at the end of the 11th century. These texts, thus conserved in the archives of the Benedictine abbey Saint-Sauveur of Redon, record deeds, purchases, and settlements of legal disputes. Over half of the collection concerns the period from the end of the 8th century to the beginning of the 10th--a glorious period for Brittany with the names of Kings Nominoe, Salomon, Erispoé, and Alain le Grand. Without the Cartulary,

they would have remained largely unknown. The other part covers the 11th century and the first half of the 12th century in which the rise of the western world was being affirmed.

Most of the regions of Brittany are mentioned in these texts, but the most often cited are the *pays* of the vast basin of the Vilaine River where Celtic traditions, Frankish customs, and memories of Roman influences are mixed.

To give all interested readers an idea of the documentary richness of the Cartulary, three university scholars have written a detailed introduction which is clear, precise and scientific, yet accessible to a wide public. Hubert Guillotel presents the manuscript in the context of the history of the abbey, describing the matter and form of the charters. André Chédeville shows its interest in understanding medieval society. Bernard Tanguy does a study of the names of people and places contained in the Cartulary. In order to facilitate a first look at the texts, several acts are presented with their transcription in Latin, a translation (into French) and historical commentary. Thus this work, in a presentation of high quality, is both a precious view of the past and a beautiful book of art and history.

Lois Kuter
Bro Nevez

Reviews

Willem P. Gerritsen and Anthony G. van Melle, eds. *A Dictionary of Medieval Heroes*. Trans. by Tanis Guest. Woodbridge,

England: Boydell Press, 1998. (Originally published as *Van Aiol tot de Zwaanridder*, Nijmegen, 1993). vii + 336 pp., bibl., index, list of contributors. ISBN 0-85115-381-X. \$54 US.

This handsomely produced reference text, at first glance, is an impressive collection of about eighty-seven entries of major characters of medieval narratives. Each entry offers a summary of the main story and the character's place in it, and then gives interpretations of the character and the work; most entries also include references to modern treatments of the character or work in fiction, film, art and music. Each entry concludes with references to editions and studies. The text is illustrated at points by black and white photographs of sculptures, paintings and drawings. The entries are detailed and the translation from Dutch is clear and readable. The editors, in the Introduction, indicate that the narratives are limited of necessity to the genres of 'epic' and 'romance', and do not include other narrative genres such as hagiography, fables, novellae, or the like. The scope is also limited geographically to Western Europe with, naturally enough, a focus on the Low Countries. For the English translation, the editors note, some details of no interest to English readers were "pruned away" by the editors at Boydell Press and a new entry for Robin Hood was contributed by Richard Barber.

While this still covers a good deal of ground, Celticists will find this reference text of little use for the price. From Ireland, only Brendan (entry by

Addendum

*From the Publication Committee for the New CSANA
Journal*

The 1998-99 Publication Committee will consist of John Koch, Catherine McKenna, Joseph Nagy, Robin Chapman Stacey, and Maria Tymoczko (chair). The committee has been constituted and is following the charge of the Annual Meeting, exploring the possibility of having a CSANA publication. An editorial statement for the proposed publication is being drafted and financial considerations are being investigated as well. The committee will present both an editorial statement and a financial plan to the membership at the 1999 Annual Meeting; the committee will also propose the name of an editor. Nominations for editor may be submitted by January 15 to the committee in care of Professor Maria Tymoczko, 28 Pomeroy Terrace, Northampton, MA 01060, USA (tymoczko@complit.umass.edu).

A.G. van Melle) and Cú Chulainn (entry by Doris Edel) are included; from Wales, there is an entry for Culhwch and Olwen (also by Doris Edel), which seems to appear solely by grace of its connection to Arthurian tradition. None of the figures from the Four Branches of the *Mabinogi* appear. There are, of course, several entries for characters from Arthurian tradition, from Arthur himself to Gawain, Kay, Galahad, Tristan and Iseult, Lancelot, Merlin, Perceval, and Yvain, to name only some, but the attention is clearly on continental, rather than insular, narratives. The entry on Brendan, in fact, focuses on the Middle Dutch *De reis van Sinte Brandaan*, although the contributor does not entirely overlook the original *Navigatio Sancti Brendani*. The entry for Cú Chulainn neatly summarizes the tales of the Ulster Cycle, and Edel does discuss briefly the place of the *Táin* in Irish literary tradition, but does not offer anything new for the Celticist. Like most of the entries, it is aimed at the non-specialist. It is worth noting, however, that while the 1998 translation shows signs that bibliographical references in certain entries were brought past 1993, the only study cited under this entry is Thurneysen's 1921 *Die irisische Helden- und Königsage*.

Certain of the entries are puzzling by their very inclusion. One expects to find Beowulf from Anglo-Saxon England, but not Deor and Widsith. These latter are the names of (presumably) fictional poets and the titles of their respective narrative poems in the Exeter Book, one of the major collections of Anglo-Saxon

poetry dating from the 10th-11th centuries. Neither Deor nor Widsith would qualify as a "hero", nor are the poems either epics or romances. They are short monologues which refer to the epics which the poet has in his repertoire. Deor recites a litany of tragedies and relates it to his own sorrow, the loss of his patron's favour. Widsith (if that is, indeed, a name and not an epithet) catalogues the places and times he has travelled through and the people he has met, implying the stories he can tell. A slight error in the entry under Beowulf (Hrunting is not Beowulf's sword, but a loan) leaves me wondering how many other little lapses I overlooked.

Nevertheless, while there is little for most Celticists, those who teach medieval literature in general should find this a useful reference text. The plot summaries are good for a "quick fix" when the epic or romance in question is not at hand (or too long to review before that imminent class), and the references to modern treatments in film and fiction are especially valuable for those of us trying to persuade undergraduates (not to mention our modernist and postmodernist colleagues) that medieval literature is still current and cool. Richard Barber's contribution on Robin Hood is a model (even mentioning the Kevin Costner effort "Robin Hood - Prince of Thieves"). The entry on Merlin, by Willem Gerritsen, follows the career of Merlin as an enchanter in Arthurian romance to a science-fiction character to a New Age prophet. The entertainment value of *A Dictionary of Medieval Heroes* is also considerable; as a reference text, it is worth

recommending for your
institution's library.

Dorothy Ann Bray,
McGill University

E-Mail Update

At the last meeting, it was decided that members would be automatically subscribed to CSANA-1 when they joined. If your e-mail address has changed or you do not wish to be subscribed to the list, please contact Joe Eska (eska@vtaix.cc.vt.edu). The list, by the way, is not exactly overactive, so members need not fear an overload of messages.

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Because we need the money...

Last year, the Business Meeting voted to restructure the dues for members to reflect costs associated with the CSANA Bibliography and inflation. However, we did not vote on changing the membership categories. Considering that we might need to restructure the dues yet again when the journal is launched (see above), we are keeping the categories but asking new members to join at the Sustaining Member level (\$25). We offer Associate Membership (\$15) for students, retirees, underemployed and unemployed.

Membership Drive

Which brings us to the topic of members - we need more! Currently, Maria Tymoczko is spearheading a membership drive to boost our current numbers. We are calling on all of you to encourage your students, friends and colleagues who are interested in Celtic Studies to learn more about CSANA and to join. You can direct them to the CSANA web site at:
www.cis.upen.edu/~csana.

XIth ICCS

The Eleventh International Congress of Celtic Studies will take place 25-31 July at University College, Cork. Although the programme for the Congress has been set, for further information about registration and attendance, contact Breandán Ó Conchúir (Secretary), XI-ICCS, Department of Irish, University College,

Cork, Ireland; fax: 353-21-903102; e-mail: iccs@ucc.ie.

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published in November 1999. Anyone with any items, reviews [people who owe me reviews - you know who you are!], notices, etc. should send them to Dorothy Bray, Dept. of English, McGill University, 853 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, QC, Canada H3A 2T6, or e-mail at:
dbray@leacock.lan.mcgill.ca.