



North East Irish Culture Network

Newsletter – January, 2006

Dear Members,
Thank you for joining the North East Irish Culture Network, a collaborative venture between the Universities of Sunderland and Durham created to promote and encourage research, study, teaching and reporting relating to aspects of the society and culture of the Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and the Irish Diaspora.

In the coming year we intend to hold lectures, conferences and symposia for scholars, students, teachers and other interested parties. We sincerely hope that NEICN members will attend. We also hope that you will circulate news of the network to those people you feel may be interested in becoming a member.

For those of you who did not receive the Welcome letter, circulated with the conference materials, we include it as follows:



The North East Irish Culture Network

Welcome to the Third Annual Irish Studies Conference at the University of Sunderland and welcome to the inauguration of NEICN – The North East Irish Culture Network. NEICN supports the study of all aspects of Irish literature, history and culture, including film, music and the visual arts. Although its base is in the North East of England, at the University of Sunderland and the University of Durham, it has strongly international, as well as regional, interests in the promotion and development of Irish Studies.

As part of its commitment to furthering research and critical inquiry in the field of Irish Studies, NEICN will organise regular conferences, seminars and readings, all of which will be open to the general public. Associate members of NEICN will be invited to these events and kept informed of other NEICN activities.

The following events have been planned for 2006:

St Patrick's Day: An evening of Irish literature and music in Durham

James Joyce Symposium: Lectures, seminars, readings and music

Guest lectures in Durham and Sunderland by Andrew Carpenter (UCD)

The Fourth Annual Irish Studies Conference, University of Sunderland (Nov 2006)

Further information about NEICN can be obtained from the directors: Alison O'Malley Younger (alison.younger@sunderland.ac.uk) and Stephen Regan (stephen.regan@durham.ac.uk)

.

.....

I wish to be an associate member of The North East Irish Culture Network. I enclose payment of £10.

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Our website is currently under construction. At present a preliminary website can be accessed on <http://www.aisc.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/>

If you have any newsworthy items please forward them to us at the e-mail addresses at the end of this newsletter and we will have them uploaded for general circulation.

Conference Report

Over the weekend of the 11th to 13th November, 2005 the University of Sunderland, hosted an international Irish Studies conference with a Celtic Studies element around the theme of 'Ireland: Lands of Saints and Scholars'.

The purpose of this, the third conference/cultural event of its kind was to encourage new critical voices to combine with established academics in the field of Irish Studies in an environment that was both edifying and entertaining. The entertainment included a conference ceilidh, with Cashel Ceilidh band, and solo dancing performances by Rita McSherry. Also included were an the Bloomsday, Joyce exhibition care if the Irish Embassy, poetry readings by **Bernard O'Donoghue** and **Ciaran Carson**, and the launch of NEICN, The North East Irish Culture Network.

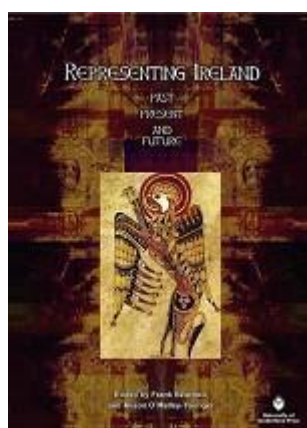
The list of keynote speakers was impressive, including:

Professor Luke Gibbons –
University of Notre Dame
Professor Robert Welch –
University of Ulster
Professor Michael O'Neill –
University of Durham

Professor Kevin Barry – NUI Galway
Professor John Davies – University of Wales
Ailbhe Smyth – University College Dublin

The conference was considered to be a great success and included papers from over 100 delegates. Many NEICN members joined the network at this time. It also included a book launch for the first NEICN publication.

NEICN Publications.



The first NEICN publication, *Representing Ireland: Past, Present and Future* (ed). F. Beardow and Alison O'Malley-Younger and was launched at the 2005 conference.

This collection of essays, based on the proceeds of the first two conferences tackles one of the most fascinating phenomena in Irish culture: the representation of the 'concept' of Ireland. The individual essays, which examine texts from the North and South of the country, together comprise a

broad chronological, generic and theoretical scope that ranges from the sixteenth century to the present day. The volume is a wide-ranging and important contribution to current debates on identity and representation in an Irish context; it tackles relevant issues from the perspectives of New Historicism, comparative analysis, post-structuralism, post-colonialism and gender, and from a variety of generic viewpoints: poetry, prose, drama and journalism. Writers discussed here include Edmund Spenser, Oscar Wilde, Robert Lynd, Patrick Kavanagh, Brian Friel, Seamus Heaney, Neil Jordan, Paul Muldoon and Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill. Also included is some previously unpublished work by the poet Bernard O'Donoghue. Overall, this book is a new instalment in discussions of the vigour and originality of literary representations of Ireland in the past, in the present, and in the future.

The book is available at amazon.co.uk. Copies can also be ordered from the University of Sunderland Press by e-mailing Carole Batey on carole.batey@sunderland.ac.uk

Reviewers required.

We are also interested in having people review the collection. If you are interested please contact us at the e-mail addresses at the bottom of this newsletter.

Forthcoming Publications

We are also producing a further collection of essays with Cambridge Scholars' Press. Edited by Richard Allen, Stephen Regan and Alison O'Malley-Younger this text, which includes essays in Literary, Cultural and Historical Studies will be entitled: ***'Ireland: Lands of Saints and Scholars'*** and will be available in 2006

The third NEICN publication is currently being organised. If you are interested in submitting a paper for publication please send a proposal to Alison O'Malley-Younger and Stephen Regan copying the NEICN administrator, Susan Cottam into the e-mail: susan.cottam@sunderland.ac.uk

Books by NEICN members

Remembering Michael Hartnett: a language seldom spoken

STEPHEN NEWMAN & JOHN MCDONAGH, editors

Michael Hartnett is often acknowledged as one of the most under-rated yet influential Irish poets of the last fifty years. This book gathers together an impressive collection of poets, academics and cultural commentators in an attempt to redress this lack of critical attention.

Contents

Seamus Heaney Foreword
Declan Kiberd Michael Hartnett: between two traditions
Eugene O'Brien Michael Hartnett and the embracing of English
Gabriel Rosenstock Hartnett's Tao
Gabriel Fitzmaurice Michael Hartnett and the sense of place
Louis de Paor Michael Hartnett, Irish language poet
Róisín Ní Ghairbhí Michael Hartnett: the Irish language and the Irish psyche
Stephen Newman Hartnett and Gaeldom
Rosaleen Liston Hartnett and Lorca
Eoin Flannery Landscape, language and cultural memory in the poetry of Michael Hartnett
John McDonagh Michael Hartnett and 21st-century Irish poetry
An essay by Brendan Kennelly

Stephen Newman lectures in the department of Irish at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. John McDonagh lectures in the department of English at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

For details please see:
<http://www.four-courts-press.ie/cgi/bookshow.cgi?file=hartnett.xml>

If any of you have any publications you would like us to mention, either in the Newsletter, or on the website, please let us know and we will endeavour to include them.

Forthcoming Events

NEICN are currently arranging a number of events for 2006. The first of these is as follows:

Visit of Professor Andrew Carpenter

The North East Irish Culture Network at the Universities of Sunderland and Durham will host Professor Andrew Carpenter, (University College, Dublin) on 21st and 22nd February, 2006. Professor Carpenter will speak on the following:

21st February: "***A Tale of a Tub as an Irish Text***" – The University of Sunderland: Ashburn House – 5.00p.m

22nd February: "***Mrs Harrison's Petition: a new look at Swift's Dublin verse***" –The University of Durham - Hallgarth House Seminar Room, 4.30 p.m.

Further details can be obtained from:

Alison O'Malley-Younger or Stephen Regan.

Joyce Forum and Reading Group

NEICN will be holding a Joyce forum in the coming months, (date to be confirmed). There will also be a fortnightly Joyce reading group held at the University of Durham. For further details, please contact Stephen Regan.

Beckett Exhibition

This year the Irish Embassy is offering us the Beckett Exhibition. It is understood that this will be a brand new exhibition, which will be on display in Dublin from June to September, 2006. The fact that it is coming to Sunderland and Durham so soon after this reflects the growing status of our conference.

We also intend to host further events in the course of 2006. If you have any suggestions for what these might be please e-mail us.

Conference, 2006

Following the success of its last three international conferences: *Representing-Ireland: Past, Present and Future*, [2003] and *The Word, The Icon and The Ritual*, [2004] and *Lands of Saints and Scholars*. [2005] the University of Sunderland, in association with NEICN is soliciting papers for an interdisciplinary conference, which will run from 10th-12th November 2006.

The conference organisers hope to represent a wide range of approaches to Irish Culture from

academics and non-academics alike. Performances, roundtables, collaborative projects, and other non-traditional presentations are encouraged in addition to conference papers. As with last year's conference, we welcome submissions for panels and papers under the thematic headings of: The Word, The Icon, The Ritual: Ireland and Revolution in the following areas: Literature, Performing Arts, History, Politics, Folklore and Mythology, Ireland in Theory, Anthropology, Sociology, Art and Art History, Music, Dance, Media and Film Studies, Cultural Studies, and Studies of the Diaspora. North American and other international scholars, practitioners in the arts, and postgraduate students are all encouraged to submit proposals to the conference organisers. We also welcome proposals for papers *in absentia* for delegates who wish to participate but may find it difficult to attend the event.

A formal call for papers will be issued in the coming months, but NEICN members are encouraged to send electronic submissions to the conference organisers, Alison O'Malley-Younger and Stephen Regan as soon as they wish.

Members' news.

Mervyn Busteed has asked that we circulate the following details for BAIS bursaries. If you have any events, news etc, please let us know and we will endeavour to include it in the next newsletter.

Slan go foill
Alison & Stephen.

p.s Congratulations to Professor Michael O'Neill for making it into 'Who's Who'.



Sunderland Book Launch, from left:
Professor Michael O'Neill, Bernardard
O'Donoghue, Professor Flavia Swann,
Dr Alison O'Malley-Younger,
Professor Stephen Regan.





POSTGRADUATE BURSARIES
SCHEME 2006

Scott Brewster, School of English,
Sociology, Politics and Contemporary
History, Crescent House, University of
Salford, Salford, Manchester, M5 4WT.
(0161) 295 2850,
W.S.Brewster@salford.ac.uk.

The British Association for Irish Studies wishes to announce its 2006 bursary scheme to support Postgraduate research in Britain on topics of Irish interest. BAIS will award bursaries of £500-£1000 each to postgraduate students registered at universities in England, Wales or Scotland conducting research on any aspect of Irish Studies. Students may use the bursary for travel expenses, payment of fees, subsistence or other expenses related to the completion of their research projects. Applicants must be members of the British Association for Irish Studies (or should join when they apply).

Applicants will be required to submit a completed Application Form together with two completed forms from referees, who will be required to send these direct to the Chair of the Bursaries Committee. Deadline for submission of Applications: **10 March 2006.**

These awards will be announced in May 2006. The decision of the BAIS Postgraduate Bursaries Committee will be final.

How to Apply: Please email W.S.Brewster@salford.ac.uk for an Application Pack.

For more information, please contact the Chair of the Bursaries Committee: Dr.



Bernard O'Donoghue



Alison O'Malley-Younger



Students and staff at the Sunderland conference.