NEW ARRANGEMENTS & BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS OF IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY
2007—SOCRAITHE NUA BALLRAÍOCHTA

Your Council has been listening to the concerns of members of the society over a number of years now and has been looking at ways of addressing them. The principal concerns which have been expressed are as follows:

1. The prices which apply to the subsidiary series, and the new Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames are deemed, in some cases, to be too high for students. As these publications are an important resource for students of Irish it would be helpful for them if we could address this matter.

2. The two back volumes restriction on purchases of the main series which applies for members each year is deemed to be unhelpful and ought to be relaxed. Should this restriction be removed there was widespread understanding that some changes in the discount terms for members would have to be made to secure the survival of the society.

3. As many of our members are possessors of the entire publications of the society it would make their membership more rewarding if we were in a position to offer them, at preferential prices, a wider range of books from which to choose.

4. The process for ordering books would benefit from an online facility available to members and to the public at large.

We are now putting in place changes in arrangements for members which address all of these concerns and which we believe will give our members a better proposition for the future. These new arrangements will apply from 1st January 2007 or, if later, from the time that this newsletter will have reached members of the society.

a) A thorough review of all prices of books of the society has been undertaken. On examination you will notice that this is a complex mix of price reductions, increases and no changes. In summary, ignoring currency fluctuations there have been 29 reductions, 27 increases and 32 no changes.

b) The two back volume restriction which currently applies will be removed and the discount for members on purchases of all books of the society will be 33% (1/3rd).

c) The special prices (normally 50%) for new main series publications will be announced each year and will be available to members for a limited period following publication.

d) Your Council has negotiated arrangements with the Royal Irish Academy (website www.ria.ie) whereby all of their publications will be available to members of the Irish

In this issue:

- Membership Matters 1, 2
- New home for libraries 3
- Noel O’Connell 3
- Events/New Publication 4
- Presentation to Treasurer 4
NEW ARRANGEMENTS & BENEFITS (continued from p. 1)

We are delighted to be able to announce a new partnership between the Irish Texts Society and the Royal Irish Academy. This reciprocal arrangement will entitle members of each to purchase publications of both bodies at a discount. This is an online facility which may be accessed through the Irish Texts Society website www.irishtextssociety.org or directly through the Royal Irish Academy website www.ria.ie

We will be delighted to receive any comments, suggestions or observations you wish to make in regard to these new arrangements by emailing our Honorary Treasurer address (see box below).

Any additional changes, if any, will be notified on our website (see box below) during the year.

In Summary:

- Prices have been reviewed and the old two back volume restriction is removed and the special reduction for members on new main series publications is maintained.
- Henceforward the discount to members on the retail price of all publications is 33% (1/3rd).
- Royal Irish Academy publications now available to ITS members at reduced prices.
- Online purchasing for members and non-members of ITS will be facilitated through the Royal Irish Academy online bookshop.
- Members, if they so wish, may continue to purchase ITS books through the Honorary Treasurer as heretofore.
- Membership subscription remains unchanged.

ITS Honorary Treasurer & Website Addresses: Hon.Treasurer@irishtextssociety.org www.irishtextssociety.org

RIA Website Address: www.ria.ie RIA Website Password: Texts

THE HONORARY TREASURER REQUESTS THAT MEMBERS WITH E-MAIL ADDRESSES SUPPLY HIM WITH DETAILS OF THEIR E-MAIL ADDRESS AND INFORM HIM PROMPTLY OF ANY CHANGES

New Partnership With The Royal Irish Academy Welcomed - Fáilte roimh comhpháirtíocht nua le hAcadamh Ríoga na hÉireann

We are delighted to be able to announce a new partnership between the Irish Texts Society and the Royal Irish Academy. This reciprocal arrangement will entitle members of each to purchase publications of both bodies at a discount. This is an online facility which may be accessed through the Irish Texts Society website www.irishtextssociety.org or who for any other reason wish to purchase books by applying directly to the Honorary Treasurer as heretofore may continue to do so.

g) Membership subscriptions, will remain the same. £15 stg.; €23; $25. U.S. The subscriptions which are paid by Banker’s Order shall also continue at £9; €12; $15 U.S. It is worth noting that the cost of membership which is paid for by Banker’s Order has not changed since 1987.

h) These new arrangements are also available for Library Members, however, some adjustments will be agreed with Subscription Agents, and Library Circulation Members over the coming months.

We will be delighted to receive any comments, suggestions or observations you wish to make in regard to these new arrangements by emailing our Honorary Treasurer address (see box below).
The Libraries of Noel O'Connell and of the Irish Literary Society find a new home - Áitreabh nua do dhá leabharlann a bhain le hÉireannaigh London

In a generous gesture, worthy of the memory of their late father, the family of Noel O'Connell has donated his library, built up over a lifetime of involvement with London-Irish societies, to University College Cork. In the Library at UCC, Noel’s books will be close to the files of the Irish Texts Society, to the preservation and maintenance of which he devoted so much of his spare time. Moreover, the Executive Committee of the Irish Literary Society, of which Noel was President, has also decided to donate its valuable library to the University. Built up at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, this collection will complement the library of Noel O'Connell, which represents his own interests in the Irish and Anglo-Irish literary revivals.

A ceremony, arranged by the UCC Librarian John Fitzgerald in the Council Room of the University, was held on 10 November 2006 to mark the arrival of Noel’s library in Cork. Present at the ceremony as guests of the Library were three of Noel’s children, Emer, Nuala and Rory, and his brother Michael. Representing the University was Professor David Cox, Head of College of Arts, Celtic Studies and Social Sciences. Representing the Library, in addition to the Librarian John Fitzgerald, were the Deputy Librarian Séamus McMahon, and Crónán Ó Doibhlin, Head of Special Collections, Archives and Repository Services. Also present were several members of Council of the ITS, including the President, Professor Emeritus Pádraig Ó Ráin, Honorary Treasurer, Michael J Burns, and Honorary Secretary, Seán Hutton. Among members of the Combined Departments of Irish in attendance were Professor Emeritus Seán Ó Coileáin, Drs Pádraigín Riggs, John Carey, Kevin Murray and Liam P Ó Murchú. Dr Riggs gave the inaugural ITS Noel O'Connell Memorial Lecture in London in 2006, and the Department of Modern Irish has recently made a generous donation towards the holding of future Memorial Lectures.

At the reception ceremony at UCC on 10 November Librarian John Fitzgerald and Professor Ó Ráin praised the generosity of the O'Connell family in making the gift, while Noel’s daughter Emer, on behalf of the O'Connell family, spoke of their satisfaction that the library had found such an appropriate home.


Professor Ellis Evans, former President of the ITS, described Noel O'Connell as “a man of great spirit, remarkable wisdom, kindness, and utter commitment to the people and the causes which he considered significant in his life”.

A native of Cork, Noel took an engineering degree in UCC in 1949, with First Class Honours and the award of the Pierce Malone Scholarship. Following a year as Junior Lecturer in Engineering, he moved to London where he established a successful consultancy. In later years he combined his work as a consultant with teaching at the South Bank and other London polytechnics. He also contributed to the development of a course in Irish Studies at Kilburn Polytechnic. In his spare time, Noel became involved in and contributed hugely to several London-based Irish societies, including the Irish Texts Society, of which he was Honorary Secretary at the time of his premature death, and the Irish Literary Society, of which he was President for many years.

Throughout his life, Noel retained a passionate interest in the Irish language and culture, and this was reflected in his collection of books, which is particularly representative of the Irish and Anglo-Irish literary revivals.

Speaking at the ceremony to receive Noel’s books at UCC, ITS President Pádraig Ó Ráin said: “His devotion over the years to the London-based Societies in which he was involved was at times the difference between their demise and their continued existence, and the fact that they now flourish as never before, is in no small measure due to Noel’s contribution to them”.

UCC Librarian John Fitzgerald (2nd from right) with members of the O’Connell family: (l to r) Rory, Michael, Emer and Nuala

Noel O’Connell
New Publication/Nuafhoilsithe

TRANSLATIONS FROM CLASSICAL LITERATURE: IMTHEACHTA AENIASA AND STAIR ERCUI, OCUS A BÁS, edited by Kevin Murray (ITS Subsidiary Series 17, 2006): The proceedings of the seventh annual seminar, organised jointly by the Irish Texts Society and the Combined Departments of Irish at University College Cork, contain contributions reconsidering two medieval Irish texts forming volumes 6 and 38 of the Society’s Main Series, adaptations respectively of the Aeneid and legend of Hercules. In addition, they survey such issues as intertextuality in medieval literature and translation. The contributions to the seminar are accompanied by editorial commentaries on the proceedings which are presented in modern critical theory, and supplement and update the scholarship of the original editors. Price: £14.50 stg., €21, US$28.50; Members price: £9.50 stg., €14, US$19.

Presentation to ITS Treasurer to mark 25 years service to the Society - Bronnadh leabhar ar Chisteoir Oinigh an Chumainn mar chomhartha buíochas

The key contribution of Michael J Burns, Honorary Treasurer of the Irish Texts Society for the past 25 years, was recognised in a special ceremony during the ITS/UCC seminar at UCC on 11 November 2006. This took the form of the presentation to Michael of the five-volume set of Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh’s Great Book of Genealogies, edited by Nollaig Ó Muirí and beautifully published by Éamon de Búrca. The presentation was made to Michael by ITS President Pádraig Ó Ríain on behalf of the Council of the Society.

In making the presentation, Pádraig spoke of Michael’s major contribution to the advance of the Society over the past 20 years from “times when it literally did not know whether it could continue to exist” to a position where “it goes from strength to strength…” “It is to his inspired stewardship of the position of Honorary Treasurer, “he continued, “that we owe a great deal of our success over the last 25 years, It is he who has balanced our books year in year out, monitoring our sales through AIS, keeping a weather-eye out for dwindling stock so as to have an immediate reprint when required, and so as to ensure a constant cash-flow…” Michael confessed himself “lost for words” and ‘gob smacked’ by this unexpected gift; but stated the personal satisfaction he derived from his association with the Society, including such scholarly activities as the annual seminar.