

# ◆ ITS NEWSLETTER ◆

Volume 2 Issue 1

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## ◆ CÚRSAÍ AN CHUMAINN/ITS MATTERS

### Free Books for New Members!

*Below (l. to r.): ITS Council member, Professor Brian Ó Cuív, in conversation with poet Micheál Ó hUanacháin at the Dublin launch of the new reprint of Dinneen's Dictionary.*



In addition to this newsletter you will receive the *ITS Objects...*, containing the list of the Society's publications in both the Main and Subsidiary Series. The list has been thoroughly revised to bring the titles of volumes into line with the title page.

Virtually all of the Main Series volumes are back in print; and by the beginning of our Centenary celebrations in April 1998, all will be in print.

In addition, we are planning to publish a

special commemorative volume on the history and achievements of the Society early in 1998. This will be edited by Dr Brendan Bradshaw and will contain contributions from Professor Ellis Evans, Professor Brian Ó Cuív, Professor Pádraig Ó Riain and Dr Pádraigín Riggs.

In order to widen the membership of the Society we are now offering a **NEW MEMBER INCENTIVE**.

Under this incentive, an existing member who introduces a new member will be entitled to receive one free volume of his/her choice from the Society's list of publications. The only condition attaching to the offer is that the new member must join by signing a copy of the appropriate Standing Order contained in this post. The free volume will be despatched following the receipt of the first payment on the Standing Order. (Acceptable Credit Cards (see 'Payment Methods' in 1997 *Objects...* (p 4) can be used to raise Standing Orders.)

The Introducing Member should complete the relevant section of the Standing Order.

Existing and New Members may also order Volumes 37 & 40 at the special price of £12 in addition to their annual entitlements of specially priced volumes (see p 4).

## ITS Council

**D**r Máire Ní Mhaonaigh was elected to the ITS Council at the 1997 AGM. Dr Ní Mhaonaigh is a fellow of St John's College, Cambridge, and lectures in the Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse & Celtic at the University. She is a graduate of University College, Cork, and she has worked particularly on early Irish literature concerning the Viking wars.

Professor Patrick Sims-Williams has resigned his membership of Council, due to pressure of other commitments. In addition, we regret to announce the death of Council member Pádraig Ó Conchúir (**obituary p 4**).

### San Eagrán Seo/In This Issue

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- 4 *Obituary; Reprint & Special Offer*

*Photos: 1, 2, 4.*

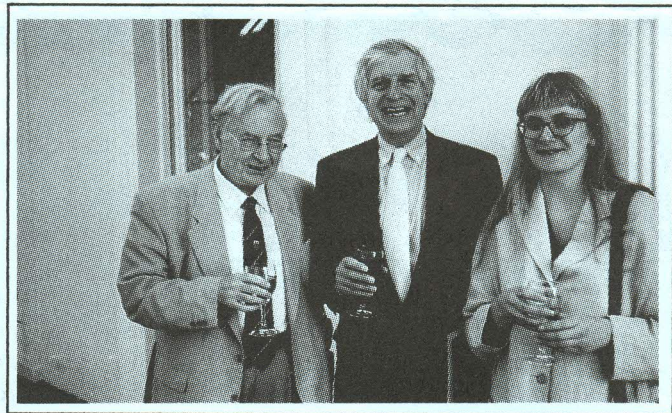
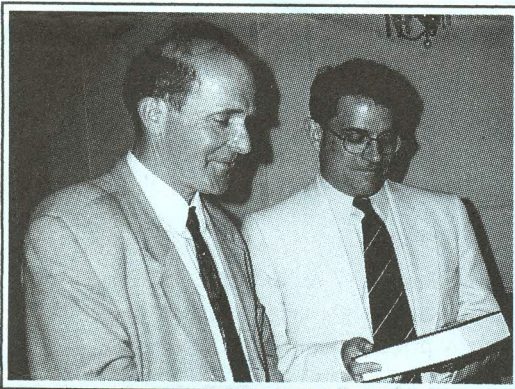
## ◆ SEOLADH LEABHAIR/BOOK LAUNCH

## Reprint of Dinneen Launched

In 1996 the new reprint of Rev P S Dinneen's Irish-English Dictionary was launched in London - at The Irish Club, Eaton Square - and in Dublin - at the AIB Bank, Upper O'Connell Street. Here, and elsewhere in the Newsletter, we print some photographs from these launches.

Opposite (l. to r.) Mrs Sheila Evans and Council members Michael J Burns, David Sexton and Professor Máire Herbert.

Opposite centre (l. to r.) Council member and Past President, Professor Ellis Evans, journalist Richard Barry O'Brien and Mary Doran of the British Library and BAIS.



Above (l. to r.): Professor Pádraig Ó Riain, President of the Society, presenting Geoffrey Keating, of the Irish Embassy in London, with a copy of the new reprint of the Dictionary.

Opposite (l. to r.): Máire Áine Ní Dhireáin - niece of poet Máirtín Ó Direáin and a poet in her own right - Dr Isabel Ní Riain and Máire Áine's daughter Sinéad, with a copy of the Dictionary showing the attractive dust jacket on which is reproduced a portrait of Fr Dinneen by Jack B Yeats.

For the first time since 1927, enlarged page and type sizes have been used in the reproduction of the Dictionary. This not only makes the print more easily read, it also brings the Dictionary into harmony with the other volumes of the Irish Texts Society main series.



## ◆ FOILSEACHÁIN/PUBLICATIONS

## Subsidiary Publications Series

**1 A New Introduction  
to Lebor Gabala Érenn,  
The Book of the Taking of Ireland,  
Edited and Translated by  
R. A. Stewart Macalister, D. Litt.,  
by John Carey, 22 pp, 1993.**

This publication formed the new introduction to the reprint of the Society's edition of the eleventh century text, originally published between 1939 and 1956. It provides a brief overview of the tradition of pseudohistory on which the text drew, and which this rendition came to dominate; and it outlines the development of *LGÉ* scholarship down to the present day, placing Macalister's edition within this perspective.

**2 The Contention of the Bards  
(Iomarbhágh na bhFileadh)  
and its Place in Irish Political  
and Literary History,  
by Joep Leerssen, 72 pp, 1994.**

Professor Leerssen presents a re-interpretation of this compilation of early seventeenth century texts (forming volumes 20 and 21 in the Society's main series), examining the political and literary context and themes of what he considers to be a "unique registration of an ancient literary tradition trying to come to terms with the drastic disintegration of both its social *raison d'être* and its cultural *Weltanschauung*."

**3 A New Introduction to  
Imtheachta Aeniasa: The Irish Aeneid  
- the Classical Epic  
from an Irish Perspective  
by Erich Poppe, 40 pp, 1995.**

Professor Poppe considers this text as exemplifying an important aspect of medieval Irish literary culture. He explores such related aspects of the mentality of the literati as their attitudes towards foreign literary and historical works and their adaptation into the vernacular. He outlines some of the more important changes involved in the adaptation of this particular text and presents a new hypothesis about its function: that it was perceived as an historical narrative rather than as a literary epic or mere entertainment.

**4 A New Introduction  
to Buile Suibhne (The Frenzy of Suibhne)  
being The Adventures of Suibhne Geilt:  
A Middle-Irish Romance  
by Joseph Falaky Nagy, 32 pp, 1996.**

'The moment that a person receives the inspiration to see and speak like a poet can also be the moment that he is robbed of his identity, his autonomy, and his freedom from the tyranny of words.' Professor Nagy follows up this insight to provide a fascinating new reading of *Buile Suibhne*, 'The Frenzy of Sweeney', one of the most attractive of medieval Irish tales. The text forms volume 12 of the Society's main series, in the edition prepared by J G O'Keefe which was first published in 1913.

**5 The Making of a Saint:  
Finbarr of Cork  
600-1200  
by Pádraig Ó Riain  
152 pp, 1997.**

In this companion volume to his edition of St Finbarr's life (*Beatha Bharra: St Finbarr of Cork: The Complete Life*, volume 57 in the Society's main series), Professor Ó Riain provides a detailed analysis of the agenda pursued by the saint's biographer. He also examines the beginnings of the saint's cult and the history of his church in Cork to 1200 AD.

**6 The Annals of Tigernach:  
Index of Names  
by  
Diarmuid Ó Murchadha  
ix + 222 pp, 1997.**

The need for an index of the *Annals of Tigernach*, one of the more important sources of early Irish history, which was edited by Whitley Stokes in the *Revue Celtique* and recently reprinted in two volumes by the Llanerch Press, has long been keenly felt. Dr Ó Murchadha has done extensive work on place-names in the Irish annals and his meticulous index of these *Annals of Tigernach* will be a boon to all students of medieval Irish history.

Copies of these publications may be ordered by completing the appropriate form on either p15 or p 16 of the 1997 Objects...

Information concerning prices, payment, etc., can be found on p 4 of the 1997 Objects...

Please address book orders to the Treasurer as set out on p 4 of the 1997 Objects...

Pagination of Objects... begins from the outside front cover which is p 1.

## ◆ FÓGRA BÁIS/OBITUARY

# Pádraig Ó Conchúir 1928-1997

**F**uair Pádraig Ó Conchúir, ball fadsheasamhach de Chomhairle Chumann na Scribheann nGaedhilge, bás ar an 4 Iúil 1997.

Rugadh Pádraig i Chelsea i 1928. Bháin sé leis an dara glún Éireannach agus fuair sé a chuid oideachais sa choláiste Slánaitheorach i Harrow agus ag Coláiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh, áit air bhain sé céim tráchtála amach. Ba státseirbhíseach de chuid na Breataine é ar feadh cuid

mhaith dá shaol - ach dála Phádraig Uí Chonaire roimhe, ba bheag i ndáiríre a spéis i gcórsaí riaracháin.

D'fhoghlaim sé a chuid Ghaeilge i gConradh na Gaeilge i Londain agus bhí sé ina

bhall gníomhach den Chonradh ar feadh a shaoil. Seachas sin bhí spéis aige i ngach a bhain le hÉirinn nó le hÉireannachas agus bhí spéis aige freisin in imeachtaí na grioch Ceilteacha eile.

Ba scoiláire é ar an seandéanamh. Bhí an t-uafás léite aige. Ba léir an t-eolas sin sa raidhse litreacha óna pheann agus sna colúin a d'fhoilsigh sé faoina ainnm féin agus faoi ainmneacha cleite sna páipéirí agus sna hirísí Gaeilge.

Ba phoblachtánach é Pádraig. Léirigh sé spéis leanstanach i gcórsaí na hÉireann agus bhí sé gníomhach abhus i gcúiseanna a bhain le cearta siabhialta na nÉireannach in Éirinn agus sa tír seo. Thairis sin bhí luí aige le traidisiúin faoi leith i bpolaitíocht phréamhach na tíre seo: ghlac sé

páirt go rialta i gcomóradh na Levellers, bhí sé ina bhall de Chumann Thomas Paine, agus bhí baint aige le comóradh bliantúil Bronterre O'Brien.

D'fhreastalaíodh sé go rialta ar chruinnithe de Chomhairle an Chumainn ón chéad uair ar cheapadh ina bhall é go dtí gur bualadh tinn é tamall sar a bhfuair sé bás. Bhíodh sé i gcónaí ag déanamh bolscoireachta ar son an Chumainn i measc Ghaeil Londain agus san iolliomad cumann a chleacht sé.

Pádraig Ó Conchúir, a longstanding member of the ITS Council, died on 4 July 1997.

Pádraig was second generation Irish, having been born in Chelsea in 1928. He was educated at St Saviours College, Harrow, and University College, Galway. He was a British civil servant for much of his life, but, like Pádraig Ó Conaire before him, he did not have a great enthusiasm for administration.

Pádraig learned to speak the Irish language in the Gaelic League in London, and he continued an active member of the League throughout his life. He was passionately interested in all things Irish or pertaining to Ireland; and he also maintained an active interest in the affairs of other Celtic areas.

A scholarly person, Pádraig read an immense amount. His knowledge was evidenced in his vast output of letters and in the Irish-language articles which he published under both his own name and various *noms de plume*.

A republican, Pádraig maintained an interest in events in Ireland and was active in organisations concerned with the civil rights of Irish people both in Ireland and Britain. His affinity with specific strands of English radicalism was demonstrated by his regular participation in the commemoration of the Levellers and of Bronterre O'Brien, and in his membership of the Thomas Paine Society.



*Pádraig Ó Conchúir (standing r.) in conversation with other guests at the launch of Dinneen's Dictionary at The Irish Club, London.*

## Reprint and Special Offer

**Reprint:** The two volumes of the poems of Tadhg Dall Ó hUiginn (Volumes 22, 23) edited by Eleanor Knott have been deservedly described as "the most valuable of all those issued by the Society". A model of editorial method, they also represent the single most comprehensive study ever made of a bardic poet. Knott's Introduction is by far the best account to date of the way in which the Irish bardic order functioned. The new Introduction by P A Breatnach brings Knott's Introduction up to date.

**Prices: Volume 22, £32 stg., IR£32, US \$60; Vol 23, £18 stg., IP£18, US \$34. (NB Any two back volumes can be purchased by members at half-price + postage in any one year.)**

**Special Offer to Members: Aithdioghluim Dána:** A miscellany of Irish bardic poetry, historical and religious, including the historical poems of the Duanaire in the Yellow Book of Lecan (Volumes 37, 40) - In this two-volume collection, the noted authority on Bardic Poetry, Father Lambert McKenna, has edited and translated the *duanaire* 'poem book' of the Yellow Book of Lecan, together with a selection of other Bardic poems. These compositions illustrate the various periods, styles and metres practised by the *filii*. Accompanying the text are extensive notes and glossaries.

**Special price to existing or new members of the Society: £12 stg., IP£ 12, US \$22**

*NB: Order volumes from the Treasurer: for details see 1997 Objects, p 4.*