

ITS NEWSLETTER

Nuachtlitr

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4 Brian Ó Cuív (1916-99)

A tribute by Professor Pádraig Ó Riain; photo UCC.

Membership matters - Cúrsaí ballraíochta

At the last meeting of the Council of the Society the following programme was agreed: A List of Publications will be circulated in early January each year, accompanied by a covering letter reminding members to renew their annual subscriptions. A 2nd communication, consisting of a 2nd reminder to renew subscriptions, notice of the Annual General Meeting, and the *ITS Newsletter*, will be circulated in May.

- ITS is a membership organisation.
- The Annual Subscription is payable on 1 January.
- Payment by Standing Order is the preferred method of payment.

At the 1999 Annual General Meeting it was decided that the Annual Subscription would be £15/€ 19 per year, but that those paying by Standing Order will benefit from a discount and pay £9/€ 12 in view of

the lesser administration costs on subscriptions paid by Standing Orders. If you wish to take advantage of this discount, please let the Honorary Treasurer have early notice so that he can let you have the necessary form in time for you to do this.

If you have not already paid your Annual Subscription this year, please do so now. Income from membership subscriptions covers the cost of the annual printing and despatch of the List of Publications to members and routine communications.

The special Millennium offer of the complete set of ITS publications at a discounted price, or for members to complete their sets of publications at a reduced rate, is still current. See enclosed leaflet.

ITS Council - Comhairle an Chumainn

Dr Máire Ní Mhaonaigh of St John's College, Cambridge, has taken over from Dr Brendan Bradshaw of Queen's College, Cambridge, as Honorary Literary Editor. Dr Bradshaw held the office for over a decade, and one of his significant contributions to the Society was the development of the ITS Subsidiary Publications Series. Dr Bradshaw remains a member of Council.

Mr Geoffrey Keating is at present serving as Irish Consul in Shanghai, People's Republic of China.

It was with regret that the Council recorded - at its first meeting in 2000 - the death of a longstanding member, Professor Brian Ó Cuív, who was first elected to Council in 1984. A tribute to Professor Ó Cuív, who contributed to *Irish Texts Society - The First Hundred Years*, appears on page 4.

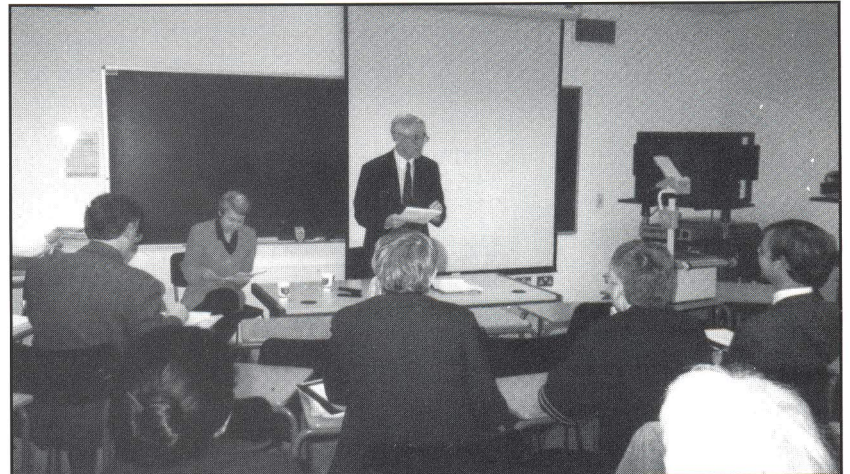


Photos from the seminar on pages 2 and 3: Page 2 (above) L to R: Professor John Koch, Mr Nicolas Jacobs, Dr Bernhard Maier, Dr Petra Hellmuth, Professor Proinsias Mac Cana; (centre) Professor Máire Herbert chairing Proinsias Mac Cana's paper; (bottom left) part of the attendance at the seminar. Page 3: (top left) Professor Donnchadh Ó Corráin (left) and Dr John Carey; (bottom right) seminar participants enjoy a tea break in the elegant surroundings of the Alfred O'Rahilly Building.

Inaugural ITS/UCC Seminar - Céad seimineár an Chumainn i bpáirt le Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh



To mark the hundreath anniversary of its foundation, the Council of the Irish Texts Society, in conjunction with the Combined Departments of Irish, University College, Cork, decided to initiate an annual



seminar dedicated to examining various of the Society's publications in the light of current scholarship, each year's seminar to be devoted

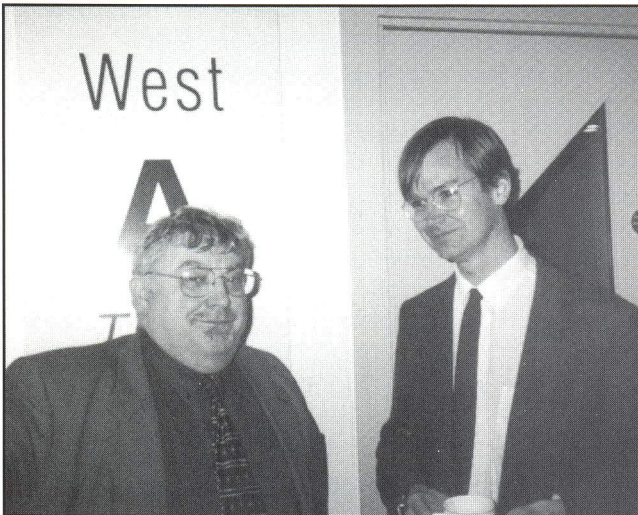
to a single text or collection. The first seminar, held at University College, Cork, on Saturday, 30 October 1999, was organised by a local committee consisting of Professor Pádraig Ó Riain, Dr John Carey, Dr Caoimhín Ó Muirigh, Dr Liam P Ó Murchú and Dr Pádraigín Riggs (Secretary). The subject was *Fled Bricrenn*, one of the two volumes published by the Society in 1899.

George Henderson's edition of *Fled Bricrenn*, one of the most important tales of the Ulster Cycle, represents the only full-scale treatment of the text yet to have seen publication.

An international gathering of scholars was invited to discuss FB's status and history as a text, its

central themes, its influence and its potential significance for Celtic Studies taken as a whole.

A total of five papers were delivered at the seminar. Dr Petra S Hellmuth (UCC) spoke on 'The Role of Cú Roí in FB', Mr Nicholas Jacobs (Jesus College, Oxford) on 'Parallels between FB and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight', Professor John Koch (Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth) on 'FB's Significance within the Broader Celtic Context', Professor Proinsias Mac Cana (School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies) on 'FB: Linguistic & Textual Issues' and Dr Bernhard Maier (University of Bonn) on 'Comparing



FB with Classical Descriptions of Celts: Parallels, Problems & Pitfalls'. Besides some members of the general public, the attendance included both academics and postgraduate students of University College Cork, the New University of Ulster, National University of Ireland Galway and the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies; and the questions which followed each paper, as well as the discussion which took place after the final presentation, were evidence of the considerable interest in the subject. The occasion proved to be not only extremely worthwhile but also most enjoyable.

Dr Pádraigín Riggs

Second ITS/UCC Seminar - Seimineár 2000

The second ITS/UCC Seminar will take place at UCC on Saturday, 11 November 2000. Each year's seminar is devoted to a single text or collection in the Society's main series of publications. This year the seminar will be devoted to the work of Dáibhí Ó Bruadair (ITS volumes 11, 13 and 18).

Dáibhí Ó Bruadair (c 1625 - 1698) is a colossus-like figure amongst the Gaelic poets of the second half of

the 17th century. The corpus of his literary output is substantial and enjoyed, in its day, the benefit of careful transmission.

Ó Bruadair's poems are not only valuable primary source documents for the political, military and social life of the period, but can also be

read as essentially 17th century meditations or, indeed, as literary constructs in heavily textured and often challenging language.

Seminar Programme

- Dr Liam P Ó Murchú (Cork): 'Is mairg nár chrean re maitheas saoghalta'.
- Professor Breandán Ó Conchúir



(Cork): Manuscript transmission of the work of Ó Bruadair.

- Dr Margo Griffin-Wilson (USA): An Chrosántacht in the poetry of Dáibhí Ó Bruadair.
- Dr Bernadette Cunningham (Dublin): Ó Bruadair's sense of history.
- Mr Liam Irwin (Limerick): 'Purgatory revisited': the historical context of Ó Bruadair.

To register for the Seminar please send your name and address with a £10 registration fee (includes lunch) payable to 'Na Ranna Gaeilge/ITS Seminar' to the following address Na Ranna Gaeilge /ITSSeminar, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh by 3 November 2000.

Publications - Foilseacháin

All publications are now in print and details of prices plus an order form, and full instructions for ordering, can be found in the enclosed List of Publications.

The Proceedings of the First ITS/UCC Seminar will be published as part of the Society's Subsidiary Publications Series, and will be launched at the second ITS/UCC Seminar, on 11 November 2000.

Editors are currently working on five texts which will form future ITS Main Series publications. The editing of a text is a very demanding task, carried out by editors alongside other work. However, at least two of these texts are close to publication stage. Texts include: **Togail Buidne Da Derga, Life of St Mochuda**, and **A Critical Selection from the Works of Pádraic Ó Conaire**.

Through the recent death of Brian Ó Cuív (1916-1999), Professor Emeritus at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, not only Irish studies, where he had come to be regarded as the doyen of scholars, but also the Irish Texts Society, of whose Council he had been a member since 1984, has suffered a grievous loss.

The son of a Muskerry man, Shán Ó Cuív, who was instrumental in establishing a phonetic system of spelling Irish, Cuman um Letiriú

his scholarship was by no means limited to Modern Irish. Indeed, his specialism was Classical Irish, which he taught for fourteen years at UCD. He was an authority on Bardic verse, and during his time as editor of the learned journals *Éigse* and *Celtica*, he edited many poems. Appointed Professor at UCD in 1960, he moved to a Senior Professorship at the Institute in 1967, where he also served as Director. He retired in 1988.

Among the many enduring

given. Furthermore, the esteem in which he held the Society's publications, and his pride in its achievement are clearly visible in the article he contributed to the Society's centenary volume.

Fear mór seanchais (seanachais mar a deireadh sé féin leis an mbéim ar an dara siolla) a bhí riamh sásta greas chainte a bheith aige le comhleacaithe, idir shean agus óg. Bhí cuimhneamh den scoth aige agus ba mhór an phléisiúir a bhaineadh sé as a bheith ag cur



Shimplí, Brian followed his father's example in spelling his surname. Moreover, despite his own birth in Dublin, he never wavered in his loyalty to his father's county of Cork which extended even to an active interest in the fortunes of its sporting representatives in various codes, including soccer.

Brian's first major publication was devoted to the Irish of West Muskerry in County Cork, the dialect he had himself learnt as a child. But despite his many publications on that subject, and his abiding interest in An tAthair Peadar Ó Laoghaire,

monuments to his memory will the International Congress of Celtic Studies which he founded in 1959. At its most recent meeting in Cork in 1999, some months before his death, the National University of Ireland, in cooperation with the Congress organisers, marked his achievement by awarding him an honorary degree. (Picture above.)

Noted for the very high quality of his editorial work, Brian regrettably never edited a volume in the Society's series. However, his advice on new volumes was always eagerly sought and generously

síos orthu sin ab aithnid dó agus ar na heachtraí iomadúla a bhain dó féin i gcaitheamh a shaoil, ina measc an tamall a chaith sé ag gabháil don léann i bPáras in 1939 agus an tslí ar éalaigh sé thar n-ais go hÉirinn.

He availed of every opportunity of attending meetings of the Society in Ireland, enlivening the proceedings with his unrivalled knowledge of the history of modern Irish scholarship. Méala anmhór a bhás don Chumann, a dhéanann comhbhrón ó chroí lena bhaintrigh Emer (née De Valera) agus lena chlann go léir.