

ITS NEWSLETTER

Nuachtlitr

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Membership matters - Cúrsaí ballraíochta

With this post you will receive your copy of the 2002 list of publications of the ITS. The Society has seen much change and innovation in recent years. This has included the proactive reprinting programme, facilitated by the analysis of stock and sales presented to each meeting of Council by Honorary Treasurer Michael J Burns, which ensures that all the Society's publications remain in print. It also includes the ITS Subsidiary Series, the brainchild of Dr Brendan Bradshaw, Member of ITS Council and ex-Honorary Literary Editor of the Society, which now runs to eleven publications. Yet another innovation, the annual ITS/UCC seminar is now becoming a fixed event in the calendar (of which more in this newsletter).

However, the particular innovation to which we refer here affects the 2002 List of Publications, and is the product of an historic development in Europe. It is the quotation of prices of ITS publications in €, the

new currency of the European Union from 1 January 2002, as well as in £s stg and US \$s.

Once again, we take the opportunity to remind members that:

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

While all details concerning membership and the purchase of volumes are contained in the List of Publications, we again take the opportunity to remind you that the Annual Membership Subscription is €23, £15 stg, US\$25 per year, but that those paying by Standing Order will benefit from a discount and pay € 12, £9 stg, US\$15 in view of the lesser administration costs on subscriptions paid by Standing Orders. If, like many other members, you wish to take advantage of this discount, please let the Honorary Treasurer have early notice so that he can send you 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.

Membership of the Society entitles you to valuable discounts on new and back volumes. Through your membership of the Society you contribute also to the support of its objects: to promote the study of Irish literature, including the production of texts (accompanied by translations, glossaries etc.) in the Irish language.

E-mail addresses: You may communicate with the Honorary Treasurer (Michael J Burns) by e-mail on <burnsfam@iol.ie> and with the Honorary Secretary (Seán Hutton) on <SHuttonSEANFILE@aol.com>.

If you wish to send us your e-mail, it may expedite some ITS communications with you in the future.

chrobhaing ghealghall, by
Margo Griffin-Wilson.

The publication also contains a foreword by Pádraigín Riggs, a bibliography and a general index.

Available at a cost of £12 stg./€ 18/US\$18
(Members: £10 stg./€16/US\$16).

Gift Sets - Ábhar Bronntanais

The Society has prepared a number of special boxed sets of volumes. These attractively bound and boxed sets make excellent gifts/presentations and are available to members at a special price. The following volumes are available in this format:

Volumes 4, 8, 9, 15 *Foras Feasa ar Éirinn/The History of Ireland*

This work, described as "the most influential of all works of Gaelic historiography", was written by Geoffrey Keating between c 1618 and 1634. Drawing upon the annals, medieval texts such as the *Lebor Gabála* and the Ulster, Fionn, mythological and historical story cycles, it provides an account of the history of Ireland from the earliest times to the coming of the Normans and the death of Rory O'Connor in 1198. Speaking of this work,



Photos from the 2nd ITS/UCC

seminar on pages 2 and 3: Page 2 (above) L to R: Liam P Ó Murchú, Professor Breandán Ó Conchúir, Dr Margo Griffin-Wilson, Dr Bernadette Cunningham, Liam Irwin; (bottom right) Professor Pádraig Ó Riain introducing Dr John Carey at the launch of *Fled Bricrenn: Reassessments SS 10*, during the seminar. Page 3: (top right) L to R Poet Liam Ó Muirthuile, Dr Pádraigín Riggs, ITS Treasurer Michael J Burns.

New Publication - Foilseachán nua

The most recent publication in the ITS Subsidiary Publications Series, *Dáibhí Ó Bruadair: His Historical and Literary Context* (SS 11), edited by Pádraigín Riggs, was launched at the 3rd ITS/UCC Seminar on 10 November 2001. The publication, which contains the proceedings of the 2nd ITS/UCC Seminar, focuses on the text which forms volumes 11, 13, 18 of the Society's Main Series, *Duanaire Dháibhidh Uí Bhruadair / The Poems of David Ó Bruadair*. These volumes, first published by the Society between 1910 and 1917, were edited by Rev John C Mac Earlean, SJ. They still form the most comprehensive edition of the works of this major 17th century poet. "Along with the poetry of Pádraigín Haicéad and the prose text *Pairlement Chloinne Tomáis*, his

verse registers the chaos that engulfed Gaelic Ireland in the 17th century, recording its emotional impact on a highly charged sensibility" (*The Oxford Companion to Irish Literature*).

Dáibhí Ó Bruadair: His Historical and Literary Context consists of five chapters:

- 'Purgatory Re-Visited: The Historical Context of Ó Bruadair', by Liam Irwin.
- 'Lost Worlds: History and Religion in the Poetry of Dáibhí Ó Bruadair', by Bernadette Cunningham and Raymond Gillespie.
- 'The Manuscript Transmission of Ó Bruadair's Poetry', by



Breandán Ó Conchúir.

- '*Is mairg nár chrean re maitheas saoghailta*', by Liam P Ó Murchú.
- 'The Wedding Poem as Performance: *Cuirfead cluain ar*

Professor Breandán Ó Buachalla writes: "Not only did Keating successfully assimilate in one continuous narrative the various strata and components of traditional lore..., but he masterfully recast that

narrative in an intelligible modern idiom."

Price: £130 stg./€200/US\$200 (Special price to members: £100 stg./€150/US\$150.)

Volumes 42, 45 **Beatha Aodha Ruaidh Uí Dhomhnaill/The Life of Aodh Ruadh Ó Domhnaill**

This work was written by Lughaidh Ó Cléirigh, who succeeded his father Maccon as Ollamh to the O'Donnells in 1595, in about 1616. It narrates the events of Red Hugh's life, from his capture and imprisonment in Dublin Castle in 1587 to his death in Spain in 1602. It focuses particularly, however, on the period of the 'Nine Years War', including the battle of Kinsale (1601), seeing in the latter the loss of "the authority and sovereignty of the Gaels of Ireland to the end of time."

Price: £75 stg./€100/US\$100 (Special price to members: £60 stg./€75/US\$75.)

Volumes 30, 31, 32, 33 **Cinnlae Amhlaoibh Uí Shúileabháin/The Diary of Humphrey O'Sullivan**

The author of this diary was a hedge-schoolmaster, antiquarian, manuscript-collector and shopkeeper, living in Callan, co Kilkenny. The diary was written between 1827 and 1835.

Tomás de Bhaldraithe has noted, "the struggle for Catholic Emancipation, the Tithe War, the secret societies, evictions, famine and cholera plagues...are frequently mentioned in the diary. [He] gives regular accounts of markets, prices and wages. He mentions many festival customs, games, sports meetings, patterns, wakes, dances, dinner parties et cetera, in addition to his daily notes on the weather, the crops, bird, animal and plant life, which were among his principal interests."

Price: £130 stg./€200/US\$200. (Special price to members: £100 stg./€150/US\$100.)

Volumes 34, 35 39, 41, 44 **Lebor Gabála Éirenn/The Book of the Taking of Ireland**

This edition of a key work of Irish 'pseudohistory', also known as 'the Book of Invasions', was edited by the Irish archaeologist R A S



McAlister and first published by the Society between 1938 and 1956.

John Carey, in a new introduction to the 1993 reprint, describes how, in the eleventh century, an Irish scholar brought together a collection of poems by several authors, dealing with different periods and aspects of his country's legendary history. "Fitting these compositions into a prose framework which paraphrased and elaborated upon the verse, he created a sweeping, unified account of the origins of

dynamics of medieval Irish intellectual life."

Price: £150 stg./€220/US\$220. (Special price to members: £110 stg./€165/US\$165.)

Diarmuid Ó Cathasaigh

For many years now ITS volumes have been distributed by ÁIS and, during that period - until his recent retirement - Diarmuid Ó Cathasaigh (picture left) was the Director of ÁIS.



The son of a member of the Garda Síochána, he was educated by the Christian Brothers in Dundalk and by the Franciscans at Multyfarnham, he went on to study at University College Galway. A footballer and hurler in his youth, he followed a business career, moving up through his firm to end up in management, before moving to ÁIS in 1981.

Previous to this, travelling through the country as his firm's representative, he was well known in Irish-language circles and was able to indulge his passion for books, dropping in on booksellers - new and second-hand - on his travels.

The fact that 23 out of the 25 boys in his class at secondary school emigrated explains his deep commitment to the Irish abroad. He has been a familiar figure at the annual Irish Book Fairs in London and at the annual get-togethers of Conradh na Gaeilge/The Gaelic League in London. Anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him on

Ireland and the Gaels, extending from the creation of the world to the time of writing." It is a text in which the process of confrontation and accommodation between native origin legends and traditions and those of Christianity can be observed.

It is, says Carey, "an enormous repository of traditions, speculation and creativity which has much to tell us about the background and the

and at the annual get-togethers of Conradh na Gaeilge/The Gaelic League in London. Anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him on these occasions will have been very much aware of both his enthusiasm for the Irish language and his love of books.

Tá muid fíor-bhuíoch díot, a Dhiarmuid, as taca ÁIS don Chumann agus as do thaca féin le linn duit a bheith i do Stiúrthóir ar an eagraíocht sin.

Kevin Etchingham

Kevin Etchingham, Gaeligeoir, bibliophile, and himself a member of the Society, has been of great assistance to the ITS in liaising with our printers, in seeing manuscripts through the press, and in assisting with the annual stocktaking of the Society's publications. He has recently stood down from these tasks and we wish to thank him for his assistance to the Society over many years.

Kevin was born in Dublin in 1924, where he was brought up and educated by the Christian Brothers at Synge Street. The bulk of his working life was spent in the book business, which he first entered in Fred Hanna's of Nassau Street, before moving on to Eason's. He was more directly involved in book production and marketing in the Talbot Press, until the Talbot Press was absorbed by the Smurfit Group in the 1970s. Here he was first charged with co-ordinating the production and stocking of the Irish Texts Society's publications. Until recently he continued to function in this capacity on behalf of the Irish Texts Society, monitoring stock levels in Áisinteacht Dáiliúchán Leabhar's Fenian Street depot and liaising with printers such as the late Tommy Duffy - and latterly with his

son Tom - in relation to the production of Irish Text Society volumes.

A friend and fellow bibliophile has paid the following tribute to him: "Kevin loves books in all their aspects - the look, the feel, the binding, the typeface, the paper - the total production. But it does not



stop there, for Kevin is a scholar, and a good book is one that not only excels in all its physical attributes, but one that is well researched and well written."

"Kevin also loves and lives the Irish language. With his encyclopaedic knowledge of manuscripts and books since the earliest times, and his involvement with the Talbot Press, the Irish Texts Society and many other publishers for long years, it can be truly said that his life's work has been a labour of love."

Pádraic Ó Conaire - London & the ITS

Dr Pádraigín Riggs (picture above) is the author of an important study of one of the leading Irish-language prose writers of the twentieth century, Pádraic Ó Conaire. The fact that the Irish Texts Society was founded in London in 1898 and that Ó Conaire - between 1901 and 1915 published an important part of this output in London shows that there was more than a degree of truth in

Susan Mitchell's apparently paradoxical statement that London was a important site of the twentieth-century Irish revival. It is worth remembering also that among Ó Conaire's colleagues in the Irish-Ireland organisations of the metropolis at that time were Irish state-builders such as Michael Collins and P S O'Hegarty, and that the London branch of the Gaelic League was one of the most vigorous sections of that organisation.

Pádraigín, in moments grasped from an otherwise heavily committed academic life, is preparing a selection of Pádraic Ó Conaire's work for the Society's main series, the first selection of

post-Revival Irish creative literature among the ITS publications.

Dates for your diary

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Texts Society will take place at the Hammersmith & Fulham Irish Centre, Blacks Road, Hammersmith, London, on Sunday, 9 June 2002, at 3.00 p.m. It will be followed by a Public Lecture given by Professor Pádraig Ó Riain on the subject 'To be named is to exist: a new dictionary of Irish placenames'.

The Fourth ITS/UCC seminar will take place at University College, Cork, Ireland on Saturday, 9 November 2002. The subject of this seminar will be volumes 7, 28, 43 of the Society's Main Series, *Duanaire Finn/The Book of the Lays of Fionn*. Full details of the programme of the seminar (together with a downloadable application form), are available on:

www.ucc.ie/locus/ITS.html