

- A Main Series of 58 volumes
- A Subsidiary Series of 15 publications
- Annual Seminar in partnership with the combined Irish Departments UCC
- Publication of the Locus Project's Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames

Membership Matters - Cúrsaí ballraíochta

With this post you will receive your copy of the 2005 list of publications of the ITS.

Once again, we take the opportunity to remind members that

- The ITS is a membership organisation.
- The annual subscription is payable on 1 January
- Payment by standing order is the preferred method of payment

The annual membership subscription is €23, £15 stg. or US\$25 per year, but those paying by standing order will benefit from a discount and pay €12, £9 stg. or US\$15 in view of the lesser administration costs on subscriptions paid in this way. If, like many other members, you wish to take advantage of this discount, please let the Honorary Treasurer have early notice

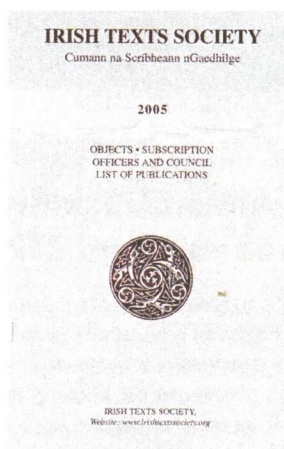
so that he can send you the necessary form to enable you to adopt this method of payment.

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 ITS list of publications to members, as well as other 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: the promotion of the study of literature in the Irish language and the production of Irish texts (accompanied by translations, glossaries, etc.).

With the recent extension of the Society's publishing activities - including the annual publication of the proceedings of the ITS/UCC seminars in the Subsidiary Series Publications, and the undertaking of the publication - initially in fascicle form - of the new *Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames* - membership represents good value for money.

Please note in the 2005 list (p. 4) revised information regarding postage per volume.



ITS/UCC Seminar 5 November 2005 - Seimineár na Samhna

The seventh annual Irish Texts Society Seminar will be held on Saturday, 5 November at University College, Cork. The subject of this year's seminar will be 'Translations from Classical Literature in the ITS series', focusing on ITS Main Series Volumes 6 (*Imtheachta Aeni-asa/The Irish Aeneid*) and 38 (*Stair Ercuíl agus a bás/The Life and Death of Hercules*). Among the speakers will be

Dr Máire Ní Mhaonaigh (Cambridge), Professor Erich Poppe (Marburg), Dr Diana Luft (Cardiff), Dr Fiona Cox (Cork) and Professor Gearóid Mac Eoin (Galway).

Further details are available from An Dr Pádraigín Riggs, Na Ranna Gaeilge, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh, Éire/Ireland.

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ITS/UCC Seminar: Report and Context/An Seimineár Bliantúil: Tuarascáil agus Comhthéacs (This is a shortened version of an article written by Dr Riggs for the UCC in-house journal. Page 4 contains another extract.)

On Saturday, 6 November 2004, a day-long seminar was held at UCC to commemorate the publication, one hundred years ago, of the Irish Texts Society's *Irish-English Dictionary*, more commonly known as *Dinneen's Dictionary*... The seminar dealt not only with the Dictionary itself, but with its complex and controversial editor, Fr P.S. Dinneen and with the no less complex and controversial subject of Irish lexicography.

This was the sixth seminar jointly organised by the combined Departments of Irish at UCC and London-based Irish Texts Society. Initiated in

1999..., this annual event is not only an important annual fix-

abroad. Invited speakers, to date, have come from the

United States, from Mainland Europe and from Britain as well as from all parts of Ireland.

As a collaborative venture between the Irish Texts Society and the combined Departments of Irish at UCC, this event has been extremely successful; members of the Department of Modern Irish and the Department of Early and Medieval Irish have contributed, both as lecturers

and as editors... The organising committee is chaired by Professor Pádraig Ó Riain and its members are Dr John Carey, Dr Kevin Murray, Liam P. Ó Murchú and Dr Pádraigín



An Dr Pádraigín Riggs, organising secretary of the ITS/UCC Annual Seminar

ture in the calendar of scholars working in the fields of Irish language and literature but it also attracts a large attendance of interested non-academics, both from Ireland and from

The Dinneen Desk Project/Deasc an Duinnínigh

Following a suggestion by Dr Pádraigín Riggs, ITS Council agreed to a proposal for the placing of a plaque on 'Fr Dinneen's desk' in the Reading Room of the National Library of Ireland (NLI), to commemorate his work on the Society's Irish-English Dictionary. Desk number 20 has been identified as the desk at which

he preferred to work. At the last meeting of ITS Council, Professor Ó Riain reported that a meeting had taken place with representatives of the NLI.

This resulted in agreement as to the form and positioning of the plaque marking this aspect of Fr Dinneen's association with the ITS, of which he him-

self wrote "I sometimes think of that Society as a distinctive university unchartered and unendowed, in which, though unworthy, I have been filling a 'Chair' since the year 1900..." Arrangements are being made for the preparation of the plaque.

In the Pipeline/Le Teacht

In addition to the new publications noted in this Newsletter, the Society wishes to inform members of the upcoming publication of two other new volumes. One, in the Main Series, is a critical edition of the Middle Irish text *Cóir Anmann/Fitness of Names*, prepared by Sharon Arbuthnot of the University of Aberdeen. Last edited by Whitley Stokes in 1897,

this fascinating text, full of lore on the origin of the names of famous people, has been re-edited for the Society with much new material by Dr Arbuthnot. It will be published in two volumes, the first of which is now going through the press.

Another publication soon to appear is the second fascicle of the Society's exciting new *His-*

torical Dictionary of Irish Place-names, edited by Pádraig Ó Riain, Diarmuid Ó Murchadha and Kevin Murray, of the Locus Project at UCC, which will deal with placenames beginning in B-. The first fascicle, containing names beginning in A- was published in 2003, and groundwork for two more fascicles, dedicated to names beginning in C-, has been completed.

During the last ten years, the Society has been far from idle, adding no fewer than thirteen volumes to its Subsidiary Series.

New Publication/Nuafhoilsithe 1: BAILE IN SCÁIL/THE PHANTOM'S FRENZY, ed. Kevin Murray (ITS Main Series, Vol. 58)

Baile in Scáil/The Phantom's Frenzy is an important medieval Irish text taking the form of a prophecy recited by a phantom from the Otherworld in the presence of Conn Cétchathach, king of Tara, and setting out all the future kings of Tara who would descend from him. It is a significant text in the areas of history, mythology and literature.

The tale is set on the ramparts of the hill of Tara, presented as a gateway to the Otherworld where Conn meets the 'Sovereignty of Ireland' - a young girl in a crystal chair with a golden crown on her head and beside her a silver vat full of red wine. Present and likewise enthroned is the phantom, who identifies himself as the god Lug, and for every drink

poured by the young girl Lug names a future king of Ireland.

This, the first publication in the Society's Main Series since 1994, was last edited by Rudolf Thurneysen in 1935.

In addition to editing and translating the text, the current editor provides a comprehensive introduction encompassing the manuscript history and structure of the text, its literary context, and its mythological

and historical aspects. A glossary, a bibliography, an Index Nominum and an Index Locorum are included.

"It is clear," write the editor, "...that *BS* was a propaganda document for the Uí Néill... Though originally composed in the ninth century, it seems that it was the eleventh-century compiler who fashioned *BS* specifically as a Cenél nEógan text. The reuse of this propaganda text in the early eleventh century is unsurprising, for at this period in which the Uí Néill claims to the over-kingship of Ireland came under serious threat for the first time 'the mythic past provided a defensive strategy in a threatening present.' (M. Herbert, 'Goddess and King: The Sacred Marriage in Early Ireland')"



(L to R) Dr Kevin Murray, Professor Próinséas Ní Chatháin, Professor Breandán Ó Buachalla at Dublin ITS book launch

New Publication/Nuafhoilsithe 2: DÁNTA AODHAGÁIN UÍ RATHAILLE: REASSESSMENTS by Breandán Ó Buachalla (SS15)

This Subsidiary Series volume consists of a new introduction to the Poems of Aogán Ó Rathaille - Volume 3 in the Society's Main Series. As he has shown most recently in a major work *Aisling Ghéar: na Stiobharthaigh agus an tAos Léinn 1603-1788*, Professor Ó Buachalla is a leading authority on Irish poetry of the seventeenth and

eighteenth centuries. His reassessment of the poems of Aogán represents another significant contribution to the modern reception of this very important poet.

The author also edits three poems not included by the previous editors.

"If Jacobitism was the prism

through which Ó Rathaille viewed his world," he writes, "it was his own unique voice - at once passionate, haughty, integral - which made his world, and his poetry, all of a piece. The local, the national, the personal, mesh inextricably as he depicts in well-crafted imaginative verse a poet's world out of joint."

New Publication/Nuafhoilsithe 3: CINNLAE AMHLAOIBH UÍ SHÚILLEABHÁIN: REASSESSMENTS, ed. Liam P Ó Murchú (SS14)

The proceedings of the 5th ITS/UCC Seminar - on the 19th century diary kept by Amhlaoibh Ó Súilleabháin (ITS Main Series Volumes 30-33) was launched at the 6th seminar in November 2004. The volume was edited by Liam P Ó Murchú of the Department of Modern Irish at UCC. It con-



tains the five seminar papers, along with a foreword by the

editor, plus a bibliography and general index.

The other contributors, photographed at the 5th seminar in November 2003, are (L to R) Professor Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, Professor Cathal Ó Háinle, Dr Próinsias Ó Drisceoil, Dr Neil Buttimer and Professor Breandán Ó Madagáin.

Please see the 2005 List of Publications for details of prices and how to order volumes.

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For orders of books, applications/
queries re membership, contact the
Honorary Treasurer; for other matters
contact the Honorary Secretary.



Irish Texts Society

NOTICE OF ITS AGM

The Annual General Meeting of
the Irish Texts Society
will take place
at
the Cardinal Public House, 23
Francis Street, London SW1
on Saturday, 11 June 2005,
at 3.00 p.m.

All paid-up members of the Society for
2005 are entitled to attend and to
participate.

A Snapshot of ITS History/Blúire de Stair an Chumainn (A further extract from the article by Dr Riggs on page 2.)

It may surprise many to learn that The Irish Texts Society, an organisation so closely associated with Irish literary scholarship, has never been formally attached to any academic institution and that its address is in London. The reasons are historic. The Society was founded in 1898, by a sub-committee of the London-based Irish Literary Society, its parent society having been established six years earlier, in 1892, in order 'to afford a centre of social and literary intercourse for persons of Irish nationality and to promote the study of the Irish language, Irish History, Literature, Music and Art'. An organisation of this kind was not unusual in the London of the late nineteenth century and many of its members were also active in

The Viking Club, The Folk-Lore Society and The Early English Text Society as well as in the recently established Gaelic League. The initiative for the Irish Texts Society undoubtedly had its origin in the interface between these diverse interests. Since its establishment, the Society has been administered by a council of dedicated volunteers, the majority of whom have been non-academics.

The purpose of the ITS was 'to advance public education by promoting the study of Irish literature, and as ancillary thereto to publish texts in the Irish language, accompanied by such introductions, English translations, glossaries and notes as may be deemed desirable'. The persons chosen to edit the fifty-eight volumes

which comprise the Society's Main Series, to date, and of the fourteen volumes in the Subsidiary Series include some of the most distinguished scholars in the field of Celtic Studies over the last one hundred years, for example Eoin Mac Néill, J.C. MacÉrlean, Lambert McKenna, Eleanor Knott, Gerard Murphy, Myles Dillon, James Carney, and, of course, P.S. Dinneen, who not only edited both editions of the famous Dictionary but also edited the poetry of Aodhagán Ó Rathaille and Geoffrey Keating's *History of Ireland...*

Dr Riggs is also the editor of, and a contributor to, *Irish Texts Society: The First Hundred Years* (ITS SS9)