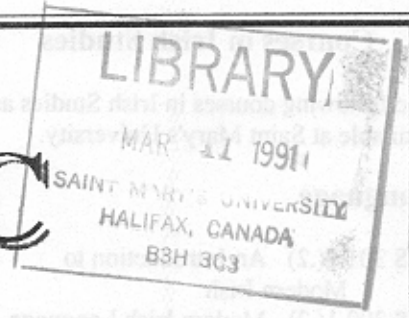




# AN NASC



The Newsletter of the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, N.S.

Volume 1, Number 1, Spring 1988

## An Invitation

This is the first issue of *An Nasc*, the newsletter of the Chair of Irish Studies at Saint Mary's University. The Irish word "nasc" means "link" and was chosen because we want the newsletter to be a link between Irish Studies at the University and the larger community outside which is interested in knowing about Irish-related activities that are going on or are being planned. These activities may be as close as Halifax or the Miramichi or as far off as Australia.

Initially we will be using the newsletter to serve as an organ to co-ordinate information about festivals, family reunions, conferences and symposia, etc., occurring in Canada, Ireland or elsewhere, and if there is any item you would like us to include, please send it along—if it is not too scurrilous or libellous we will print it! We would also encourage readers to send in genealogical items, local history, interesting scraps of information about the Irish in Canada. You may wish to pass on a question to the readers of *An Nasc*, and we will attempt to facilitate replies to such queries.

Please pass on this copy of *An Nasc* to anyone interested in Irish or Celtic culture, or send us an address to which you would like a copy sent. The first issues will be sent free of charge but costs, especially mailing ones, will mean that we will have to put a minimum charge on subsequent issues. We hope the service offered by *An Nasc* will be mutually beneficial, and we would like to have your suggestions about how it might be improved.

## D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies

The D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies was established at Saint Mary's University in 1985 under the Ethnic Chairs Program of the Department of the Secretary of State, Multiculturalism Directorate. The chief function of the Chair is to offer courses in Irish and Irish-Canadian studies and to facilitate research into the Irish heritage in Canada. As part of this commitment to the Irish-Canadian heritage, Irish Studies at Saint Mary's has attempted to meet requests, arising from a

growing interest in the community, especially in the Atlantic region, for lectures on past and present Irish cultural connections. The first Chairholder, Dr. Diarmaid O Muirthe, visited Charlottetown, Kinkora, Fredericton, and Boston to give talks on various aspects of the Irish tradition. In the fall of 1987, the current Chairholder, Dr. Pádraig O Siadhail, and the Program Coordinator, Dr. Cyril Byrne, took part in an Irish Symposium held at St. Thomas University in Fredericton. In addition, Dr. Tom Power, who delivered the fall lecture series at Saint Mary's, gave a paper at the Symposium on the social history of the southeast of Ireland during the period of heaviest migration to Canada. Dr. Power also visited and lectured at the Irish Cultural Association of New Brunswick meeting in Moncton in November, and lectured at the University of Prince Edward Island and Memorial University of Newfoundland. It is the intention of the Chair of Irish Studies to continue its program of outreach to areas of Canada where there is an interest in Irish and Celtic culture. To this end, Dr. Byrne visited both Moncton and Saint Stephen, N.B., to talk about the Chair and about his own special interest, Irish migration to the Atlantic Provinces.

## Irish Language Gaeltacht Scholarship 1988

This year for the first time, the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies will sponsor a Saint Mary's student to attend an intensive Irish language course in Ireland. This award, for which those students who have obtained a full credit in Irish from Saint Mary's will be eligible, will allow the chosen scholar to travel to Ireland during the summer and spend two weeks in a Gaeltacht (Irish-speaking) area of Donegal in the northwest of Ireland.

During this period in the Gaeltacht, the student will attend intensive language classes, participate in local recreational activities, and study the folklore and culture of Ireland. While staying in Donegal, the student will reside with an Irish-speaking family.

The name of the Gaeltacht scholar will be announced at the end of March, 1988. The Chair of Irish Studies intends to provide the Gaeltacht scholarship on an annual basis.

## Courses in Irish Studies

The following courses in Irish Studies are available at Saint Mary's University.

### Language

- IRS 301.1(2) An Introduction to Modern Irish
- IRS 302.1(2) Modern Irish Language
- IRS 304.0 An Introduction to Scottish Gaelic
- IRS 305.1(2) An Introduction to Mediaeval Welsh Language
- IRS 401.1(2) Advanced Modern Irish I
- IRS 402.1(2) Advanced Modern Irish II

### Literature

- IRS 306.1(2) An Introduction to Mediaeval Welsh Literature
- IRS 307.0 Celtic Literature and Atlantic Canada
- IRS 308.0 Irish-Canadian Literature
- IRS 407.1(2) The Recovery of the Gaelic Past
- IRS 408.1(2) The Romantic Popularization of the Gaelic Past
- EGL 441.1(2) The Irish Short Story
- EGL 442.1(2) Irish Drama
- EGL 443.1(2) Irish Poetry
- EGL 434.0 The Literature of Modern Ireland

### History

- HIS 336.0 History of Scotland, 1560-1980
- HIS 372.1(2) Common History: Sources and Methodology
- HIS 373.1(2) Voices of the Past: Oral Research Methodology
- HIS 589.1(2) Reading Course in History—Selected Topics in Irish History

### Folklore

- EGL 335.0 Introduction to Folklore
- IRS 430.1(2) Irish Folklore

### General

- IRS 390.1(2) Reading Course in Irish Studies: Selected Readings on Contemporary Ireland

For further information on courses being offered in 1988-89, call Continuing Education, (902) 420-5491/5492.

## Saint Mary's Irish Studies Society/An Cumann Gaelach

Congratulations to the new Saint Mary's Irish Studies Society/An Cumann Gaelach which was established in November 1987.

In contributing to the intellectual and cultural growth of the University, the Society wishes to bring together all the different strands of Irish and Irish-Canadian culture. An Cumann Gaelach hopes to promote a greater understanding of the relationship between Ireland, Scotland and Canada and to promote the language, culture and heritage of the Irish and Irish Canadians.

The Irish Studies Society in conjunction with the Chair of Irish Studies sponsored an evening of Irish entertainment at Saint Mary's on December 3, 1987. This function, which was held in the Faculty Lounge, attracted a sizeable crowd. Music was provided by Sandy Moore and Tony O'Malley. The Caberfeidh Gaelic Singers and Dominic Larkin entertained the audience with song in Scottish Gaelic and in Irish and Rick Collins, Cyril Byrne and Brian Robinson read excerpts from the works of Brendan Behan, James Joyce and Michael McLaverty.

During March 1988, the Society will once again be co-operating with the Chair of Irish Studies in organizing a week of Irish entertainment at Saint Mary's.

If you would like to get more information about the activities of the Irish Studies Society/An Cumann Gaelach, phone Colm McDevitt at 443-0567.

### Did You Know?

That throughout the nineteenth century, the Irish constituted the largest single group after the French in Canada, and that in St. John's, Halifax, Charlottetown, Saint John, the Miramichi, Montreal, and Toronto, they formed the major portion of the population!

## William English Collection

Last summer the Chair of Irish Studies acquired the books of the late William English of Clonmel, Ireland, who bequeathed them to the Irish Studies program here. There were over two thousand volumes, some of which were left in Ireland because they were of particular local interest there. The bulk of the collection is made up of modern Irish literature from Joyce to Trevor and contains a number of valuable first editions. At a later date it is planned to commemorate the bequest in a suitable and appropriate fashion. A list of the collection will be kept in the Irish Studies Room and in the Patrick Power Library.

### Irish Chair Campaign

On Saint Patrick's Day 1987 the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies was presented with its own coat of arms by Donal Begley, Chief Herald of Ireland. At that time it was announced that the University was instituting a mini-campaign to raise funds for the Chair across Canada. A national committee has been put in place over the year and an intensive campaign to request support is about to be launched. The Committee is headed by Denis Ryan of Halifax, with assistance locally from Harold Shea and Peter MacLellan. The National Committee from east to west includes Terrence Heenan, Chairman of BCTel, J. Patrick O'Callaghan, Publisher of *The Calgary Herald*, E.J. (Ted) McConnell of McConnell & Associates, Toronto, John Reynolds, Island Electric, Charlottetown, Basil Dobbin, and His Honour Lt. Governor James P. McGrath of St. John's. The Committee has targetted a goal of \$500,000, and contributions to the fund will be given a charitable donation tax receipt by the University. Don Keleher and Cyril Byrne are managing the campaign at the University. Revenue from the fund will augment the course offerings of the Chair and assist in building a diversified program of Irish Studies, publications, and research, especially in the area of Irish-Canadian Local and family history.



The Chair of Irish Studies and the Irish Studies Society at Saint Mary's University  
invite you to

## A WEEK OF IRISH ENTERTAINMENT

**MONDAY, 7 MARCH 1988**

Theatre A, Burke Education Building, 7:30 p.m.

**James Joyce Film Night—*Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man & Ulysses***

**TUESDAY, 8 MARCH**

Theatre B, Burke Education Building, 8:00 p.m.

***Man of Aran*—Robert Flaherty's Classic Film**

**WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH**

Student Cafeteria, O'Donnell-Hennessy Student Centre, 8:00 p.m.

**A Night of Music, Song and Recitation**

**with Siobhán MacDonald, harpist, the Caberfeidh Gaelic Singers,  
Dominic Larkin, Rick Collins, Colleen Logan, and others**

**THURSDAY, 10 MARCH**

Theatre A, Burke Education Building, 8:00 p.m.

***Cal*—the film based on the novel by Bernard MacLaverty**

**FRIDAY, 11 MARCH**

Alumni Lounge, O'Donnell-Hennessy Student Centre, 8:00 p.m.

**Paul Durcan**

**Internationally Renowned Irish Poet**

### Admission Free!

For Further Information Contact the Chair of Irish Studies, 420-5782, 420-5719, 420-5703

Saint Mary's University, Robie Street, Halifax, N.S.

#### The Book of Kells

The Charitable Irish Society of Halifax, the sponsor of the Chair of Irish Studies, has initiated a campaign to raise US\$ 9,000 to purchase a copy of *The Book of Kells*. The edition is being published by Faksimile Verlag of Switzerland, and is an exact reproduction in every way of the original ninth-century illuminated manuscript of the four Gospels begun in the monastery of Iona in Scotland and brought to Kells in Ireland because of Viking raids. A fifteen-minute videotape about the original and how it is being reproduced is available for viewing in the Irish Studies Room (MM216B). Only 1450 numbered copies are being produced for worldwide circulation, and the Chair's copy should arrive in the fall of 1989.

#### Irish Studies Summer School, July 1988

This year, Saint Mary's University is offering an Irish Studies Summer School. Two one-week sessions will be held July 4-8 and July 11-15 1988. During each week, participants will attend classes on the Irish language, Irish literature, folklore, and workshops on Irish drama and genealogy. Entertainment, including Irish music and films, will be organized in the evenings during each session. Participants in the first course will be able to visit the Prince Edward Island Irish Festival on the weekend, July 8-10, 1988.

The Chair of Irish Studies in Saint Mary's welcomes both visitors from

outside the Halifax/Dartmouth area as well as local people. Accommodation will be available on the University campus for those who are visiting Halifax.

For further information and for a copy of our Summer School brochure, please contact: The Chair of Irish Studies, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 3C3 or telephone (902) 420-5782/5719/5703.

#### Did You Know?

That in the 1871 Census of Canada the Irish constituted the majority of the population in Halifax?

## Lecture Series in Irish History

Dr. Tom Power, a recent graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, delivered the Fall '87 series of lectures on Irish History at Saint Mary's University. The series covered the cultural, political, and social history of the southeast of Ireland between 1750 and 1830. Dr. Power's lectures were very well received, and sections of the series were also given at the University of Prince Edward Island and Memorial University. Dr. Power has been invited to give the 1988 spring intersession at the University of New Brunswick, and hopes to be able to continue his own research into the Irish of Atlantic Canada.

## Irish Festival on Prince Edward Island

The organizers of the annual Irish Festival held at Mill River, P.E.I., have announced that they are to be incorporated as The New Ireland Society, a name reflective of Governor Patterson's suggested name for Prince Edward Island in the eighteenth century. The Festival this year will be held July 8-10, and the way events are being added—fiddle competitions, Irish dancing, genealogical workshops—it may be necessary to open a day early on July 7. One of the events in this year's Festival will be a performance of the musical *Tara* to be premiered at West Isle Composite School 23 April.

For more information about the P.E.I. Irish Festival contact Paul Batchelor at (902) 853-3388. The other festival organizers are Ed Fitzgerald and Cletus Dunn.

## Did You Know?

That the first Irish Roman Catholic to sit in any British parliamentary assembly since the passage of the Penal Laws did so in Nova Scotia in 1823. He was Laurence Kavanaugh and was sponsored by an Irish Protestant, Richard John Uniacke, Jr., and by Thomas C. Haliburton, author of *Sam Slick*.

## Kickham Family Reunion

Also on P.E.I. this summer, there will be a reunion of descendants of the Kickham family. The P.E.I. Kickhams are related to the famous nineteenth-century Irish patriot and writer Charles Kickham (*Knocknagow*) of Mullinahone, County Tipperary. The reunion will be held at Souris 9-10 July, 1988. For further information contact Mrs. Arlene Kickham, 53 Kensington Road, Parkdale, P.E.I., C1A 5H8. Phone: 1-902-892-2128.

## Irish Issue of *The Abegweit Review*

A third "Irish" issue of *The Abegweit Review* will appear in March of this year. Guest editor will be Dr. Brendan O'Grady, and the issue will contain articles such as "The Irish on the Island in 1864" by Brendan O'Grady, "The Irish of Tignish Parish" by Gerald Hanrahan, "The Irish of Sturgeon and Saint Mary's Road" by Peter McGuigan, "The Irish at Iona" by Father Art O'Shea, to mention only a few. Address: *The Abegweit Review*, University of Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 4P3.

## Irish Language Course at U.P.E.I

Pádraig O Siadhail, from the Chair of Irish Studies at Saint Mary's, will be teaching a three-week intensive Irish language course at the University of Prince Edward Island this summer. The emphasis in this course will be on conversation. This course will include also a series of short lectures on the history of the Irish language, on the state of the language at present, and on Gaelic literature and folklore.

For further information about this course and dates, contact: Dr. Bob Campbell, Department of English, U.P.E.I., Charlottetown, P.E.I., C1A 4P3.

## Smaointe Fánacha

Agus muid ag iarraidh an chéad eagrán dár Nuachtlitir a ullmhú, iarradh ormsa píosa gairid a scríobh as Gaeilge. "Cad faoi a scríobhfaidh mé?" arsa mise le lucht *An Nasc*. "Do rogha rud", a d'fhreagair siad agus iad lán de charthanacht Chríostaí. Ba mhór an chabhair an freagra sin, ar ndóigh. Chuaigh mé go dtí mo bhord, shuigh síos, leag leathanach is mo pheann os mo chomhair amach agus dhírigh m'aigne ar an fhiontar mór úd . . . Dada . . . Faic . . . Tar éis cúpla bomaite a chaitheamh ag tochas mo chloiginn is gan aon rian den inspioráid le mothú fós, thuig mé cad a bhí ar iarraidh. . . . Cupán deas caife chun an intinn a ghríosú is an fhuil a chur ag coipeadh sna féitheacha. Trí bhomaite dhéag ina dhiaidh sin, ar ais ag an bhord atáim, is mé réidh le tabhairt faoin obair athuair. Tá sé agam, faoi dheireadh is faoi dheoidh! Scéal a cheapadh, scéal lán de ghaiscí, d'éachtaí móra, den rómánaíocht, den drúis . . . an plota ag fabhrú i m'aigne . . . an tseanaimsir laochta . . . Floppí Disc, seanrí Ríomhaire, ina phálas maorga, a bhean chéile óg álainn Soft Bhaer láimh leis . . . leannán na banríona, Random Access, ag breathnú ar an rí, is fuath binbeach nimhneach ina shúile. . . . Tím an scéal ag forbairt . . . an dúnmharú . . . an feall. . . "An bhfuil tú réidh go fóill?" An t-eagarthóir damanta a chuireann isteach ar mo smaointe breátha. . . . Caithfidimid slán a fhágáil ag na pearsana iontacha seo go ceann cúpla mí.

## WE NEED YOU!



INTERESTED IN PLAYING GAELIC FOOTBALL AND HURLING?  
We take ALL shapes and sizes! Young or old! Alive or not so alive!  
Learners Most Welcome!

Contact: Pádraig O Siadhail  
420-5782



## Irish Immigration and Genealogy Project

One of the major projects of the Chair of Irish Studies is the establishment of a computerized database of records of Irish immigration to Nova Scotia to the year 1900. Work has already started on this project, but it will be at least three years before the main body of data will have been entered into the computer and the records become available for use by scholars and others interested in Irish immigration and genealogy.

Using a MacPlus and customized Omnis III Plus software, a program has already been designed for the project. Information is being gathered on all Irish immigrants to the province, and each individual will be given a separate record. Each record includes the following details: name, sex, parentage, place and date of birth, place and date of marriage, spouse, children, place and date of death, port of departure from Ireland, date of arrival in Canada, port of entry, place of settlement, religious affiliation, occupation, other relevant biographical information, and the original sources in which this information is to be found. Obviously, several of these details will not be found for many individuals, but it is hoped that each record will be as complete as possible.

Assembling the information from the original sources will probably be the most time-consuming part of the project. Initially, local sources are being searched. These include family and personal papers held by the Public Archives of Nova Scotia and the Archdiocese of Halifax, other Church and community records, including Township Books, cemetery records, Minute Books of the Charitable Irish Society, Halifax, estate papers, newspapers and periodicals, and so on. Later, the search will be extended outside the province, to Ottawa, Boston, Philadelphia, and especially to Ireland, where many papers in the Registry of Deeds, Dublin, are expected to be particularly useful.

Further information on the progress of this project can be obtained from Cyril Byrne, (902) 420-5703, or Margaret Harry, (902) 420-5719.

Are you providing a service that is of interest to the Irish-Canadian community?

Do you have some interesting or out-of-the-way information that you would like to pass on to other readers?

Are there any upcoming Irish or Irish-Canadian events you would like to publicize?

Please let us know. Any items you submit can be included in future issues of **An Nasc**.

*An Nasc*,  
c/o D'Arcy McGee Chair of  
Irish Studies  
Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, N.S.  
B3H 3C3  
(902) 420-5782

### Did You Know?

That Irish Gaelic was "the common argot" of Halifax in the late eighteenth century, and was in wide use in St. John's, Saint John, and Charlottetown, and that in Fredericton in the 1840s there were so many Irish-speaking residents that a petition was made for a bilingual judge (i.e. Irish and English)!

That Montreal had a large Irish ghetto called Griffin's Town until the middle of this century!

That in 1699 the Harbour of Chebucto (present-day Halifax) had two Irishmen operating a fishery here!

## Faculty/Consultants: D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies

Pádraig O Siadhail, Chairholder, Darcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies (Irish Language and Folklore).

Cyril J. Byrne, Program Coordinator (Literature).

Margaret Harry, Assistant to the Chair of Irish Studies (Language and Folklore).

Other faculty and consultants include the following.

T. Brownlow (Literature).

G. Chauvin (Political Science).

K.A. MacKinnon (Literature).

A.P. Monahan (Philosophy)

J.H. Morrison, Dean of Arts (History).

T.M. Punch (Family History).

J.G. Reid (History).

B.S. Robinson (Geography).

A.T. Seaman (Literature).

J.K. Snyder (Literature).

R.J. Twomey (History).

D. O Muirthe, Former Chairholder (Language and Folklore).

DON'T FORGET

TO COME

TO OUR WEEK

OF IRISH

ENTERTAINMENT!

BRING A

FRIEND!

Would you like to receive *An Nasc* on a regular basis? If so, send your name and address to:

AN NASC

D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies

Saint Mary's University

Halifax, N.S. B3H 3C3