

Canadian Celtic Arts Association Newsletter

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Fall 2010

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Smaointean / Smaointe**

Janice Chan

In our spring newsletter I mentioned the survey that the executive committee created asking what you, as members, would like to see in terms of programming. We also asked your opinion about fees charged for annual membership and events, as we need to be sure that we are at least recovering our costs when planning events.

An invitation was sent to all members with an email address on file to fill out and return the survey online. A paper copy was sent through the post to all other members. Of the 34 responses received, 22 were returned through the online survey site and 12 were returned through the post. This represents about 34% of CCAA membership. Thank you to everyone who took the time to let us know your thoughts.

Not surprisingly perhaps, the most widely attended CCAA events in the past have been historical talks, with 84% of respondents indicating that they have attended at least one. When asked to choose the type of event members would like to attend if provided, historical talks were selected by 100% of those submitting responses. Celtic film (90.6%), music (90.6%) literature (81.3%) and folklore (75 %) fill out the top five choices.

When asked what services provided by CCAA were the least important to members, the student journal Garm Lu came out on top (53.6%), followed by the website (39.3%), the annual Burns dinner (32.1%), the Annual General Meeting (28.6%) and author readings (25%).

A majority of respondents (71.9%) prefer a traditional talk or demonstration followed by a question and answer session from the audience, to hands-on workshops (no one opted for that choice), or a traditional performance with audience participation (21.9%).

Most who sent in their surveys have a special interest in events with a Scottish focus (57.6%), followed closely by those who would like to see more Irish themed events (54.5%). Canada (24.2%), Wales (24.2%) and Brittany (21.2%) rounded up the top five areas of interest.

Saturday afternoon (32,4%) is the best time for respondents to attend events, followed by Sunday afternoon (23.5%) and a Monday to Thursday weeknight (20.6%).

55.9% of respondents indicated that it is very important for the event venue to be easily accessible by TTC, or they would be unable to attend. Another 22.6% consider TTC access preferable, but it wouldn't prevent their attendance at an event.

See **THOUGHTS** page 5

NEWS FROM CELTIC STUDIES

Jean Talman

In September, Celtic Studies welcomed Dr. Peter Smith of the University of Ulster in Derry. He will be with us for the full academic year and is teaching courses on Medieval Irish History and on Literary Texts in the Irish language. We also welcome back Joanne Fahy, who is teaching Irish language courses for our students, and also two evening classes for the general public. Both Peter and Joanne come to us courtesy of the Irish government which provides funding to the Ireland Canada University Foundation to send Irish language scholars to Canada. Our other visiting instructors are Dr. Kristjan Ahronson, a former student of the Celtic Studies Program, who is teaching Celtic Archaeology; Kristjan is now on faculty at the University of Wales at Bangor; and Hefina Phillips who took on the teaching of our Modern Welsh Language course.

In addition to the above, we are offering our usual complement of courses in Celtic and Irish literature, language, history and cinema, taught by Professors Ann Dooley, Mairin Nic Dhiarmada, Sarah O'Connor and David Wilson. Student enrolments are around 300, with almost 100 of these making Celtic Studies their focus.

Several students received scholarships to fund their studies overseas during the summer: Gregory Darwin went to the University College Galway Language program in Ceathrú Rua (students stay with Irish-speaking families and attend classes every day); Anne McGee took courses in Irish Culture and Music at the University College Galway International Summer School; and Moira Richards took part in University of Glasgow archaeological excavations at the great Iron Age site of Forteviot, Scotland.

As these notes are being written, we are thrilled to have our newest artist-in-residence,

Irish writer Kevin Barry, on campus. Kevin has been busy giving readings at St. Michael's and at the Harbourfront Authors Festival, visiting our classes, and meeting individually with students. Once again, we express our thanks to the Ireland Fund Day at the Races, and Eithne Heffernan and Kevin Gallagher in particular, for their support of this initiative.

Also we extend thanks to the Irish Cultural Society Pot o' Gold which supports the Celtic Studies Speakers Series. This term's speakers included a group of five Irish women writers; Kevin Barry; Dr. Lowri Hughes of University of Bangor, Wales; and our own Sarah O'Connor. We are at present arranging next term's speakers which will include Dr. Peter Smith, and the return of writer Claire Keegan, plus several others still to be confirmed.

For further information on our programme and events, visit:

www.utoronto.ca/stmikes/celticstudies

The logo for The Scottish Company, featuring the text "The Scottish Company" in a serif font, with a stylized white outline of a Scottish thistle to the right.

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The logo for The Irish Company, featuring the text "THE IRISH COMPANY" in a serif font, with a stylized yellow outline of a shamrock to the right.

BOOK REVIEWS

Donald J. Gillies

Cànan & Cultar/Language & Culture: Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 4, edited by Gillian Munro and Richard A.V. Cox, Edinburgh: Dunedin Academic Press, 2010. ISBN 978-1-903765-86-9

Coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig an-diugh/Gaelic Communities Today, edited by Gillian Munro and Iain Mac an Tàilleir, Edinburgh: Dunedin Academic Press, 2010. ISBN 978-1-903765-86-9

Bile ós Chrannaibh: A Festschrift for William Gillies, edited by Wilson McLeod, Abigail Burnyeat, Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart, Thomas Owen Clancy and Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh, Brig O' Turk, Scotland: Clann Tuirc, 2010. ISBN 978-0-9549733-9-1

These three collections of papers taken together are major contributions to contemporary Scottish Gaelic scholarship.

Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig (Researching Gaelic) is an ongoing series of biennial conferences that has become the primary site of international Gaelic scholarship in the last ten years. It began in 2000 at the University of Aberdeen and continued first at the University of Glasgow and subsequently the University of Edinburgh. The first two volumes above are selected papers from the fourth conference held in 2006 in Skye at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic College of the UHI Millennium Institute, about to become the University of the Highlands and Islands. (The fifth conference was at St. Francis Xavier University in Nova Scotia in 2008, with the proceedings due shortly from Cape Breton University Press under the title Rannsachadh na Gàidhlig 5 – Scottish Gaelic Research Conference; the sixth conference was held in 2010 at the University of Aberdeen; and the seventh will be at the University of Glasgow in 2012.)

At the fourth conference, 70 papers were presented, 23 in Gaelic and 47 in English. The

two volumes from that conference together contain the 23 papers selected from these 70. The first volume, *Cànan & Cultar/Language & Culture*, contains seven papers in Gaelic and six in English; the second, *Coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig an-diugh/Gaelic Communities Today*, contains five in Gaelic and five in English. The majority of authors are from Scotland, but others are from the Celtic countries of Ireland and Wales as well as from Canada and Germany. The availability of papers in both languages is useful to both Gaelic scholars and to readers who want to understand Gaeldom past and present but have little or no Gaelic. The authors are scholars and researchers of repute and significance, and many are outstanding contributors to a wide range of Gaelic study and research.

To provide scholar and student alike with the flavour of the valuable materials available from this conference it is worthwhile to give the titles of the papers selected for publication.

Cànan & Cultar/Language & Culture:

- *Faclan-iasaid às an Lochlannais ann an Gàidhlig na h-Albann*
- *Caochlaideachd Leicsaechail agus 'Snowflakes' sa Ghàidhlig*
- *Ar sliocht Gaodhal ó Ghort Gréag: An dàn 'Flodden' ann an Leabhar Deadhan Lios-mòir Daltachas, Fineachan agus Alba anns an t-siathamh agus san t-seachdamh linn deug*
- *Displacing Clearance? A 19th-century Gaelic Essay on Slavery*
- *Leantanas agus Leasachadh ann an Leòdhas: Sgeulachd an Taigh-Tughaidh tron Naoidheamh*
- *Linn Deug agus an Fhicheadamh Linn*
- *The Supernatural in Gaelic Tradition*
- *Clan Donald Bards and Scholars*
- *A Fond Farewell to Last Night's Literary Criticism: Reading Niall Mór MacMhuirich*
- *'Where Shall Wisdom be Found?' Somhairle MacGill-Eain's Answer to Job*

- *Cainnt agus Balbhachd ann am Bàrdachd Chrisdeain Whyte*
- *And What is Wrong with Theory? Postcolonial Theory and Contemporary Scottish Gaelic Poetry*
- *Dè an Sgeul a Tha agad – Luachadh Eader-amail air Sgeama Foillseachaidh Ùr-Sgeul*

Coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig an-diugh/Gaelic Communities Today:

- *Sùil eile air ‘Gàidhlig Ùir’*
- *Long term changes in the demand for Gaelic goods and services and their possible impact in the fields of language, arts and culture*
- *A’ Ghàidhlig ‘s a’ Ghàidhealtachd ann am Filmichean Coitcheann*
- *A Research Strategy to Support Gaelic language Policy in Scotland*
- *A’ Ghàidhlig anns a’ Chunntas-shluaigh*
- *Poileasaidh Leasachadh na Gàidhlig; paradaim ùr?*
- *Cànain nan Eilean Siar: Ag amas air neartachadh*
- *Institutionalising Language Policy: Mismatches in Community and National Goals*
- *The Predicament? Planning for culture, communities and identities*
- *Learning from Learners: Teachers in Immersion Classrooms*

Although fewer than a third of the papers presented at the conference have been published, these titles will illustrate the reach and vivacity of today’s Gaelic research and scholarship. These conferences, historically and currently, are core documents in observing and delineating the high-flying trajectory of today’s Gaidhealtachd.

The academic tradition of a festschrift to honour the life’s work of an outstanding contributor to a discipline is richly maintained in the third volume, *Bile ós Chrannaibh: A Festschrift for William Gillies*. Professor

William Gillies retired in 2009 from the Chair of Celtic Languages, Literature, History and Antiquities at the University of Edinburgh after 30 years: he is the *bile ós chrannaibh* of the title - the noble tree that towers over the other trees in the forest. Members of the Canadian Celtic Arts Association were fortunate to hear his lecture at St. Michael’s College in April 2010 during a visit from Harvard University where he was a Visiting Professor in 2009-10. As the editors of the festschrift observe, William Gillies “led the modernization of Celtic studies in Scotland and supervised and mentored scores of postgraduate students, many of whom went on to take up positions in Scotland, Ireland and beyond. In this collection we bring together contributions from a wide range of his current and former colleagues, former students, collaborators, professional associates and friends, in Scotland, Ireland, England, Canada, the United States and Australia.” Canadian Celtic Arts Association members who are or have been Gaelic learners, along with past and present faculty, staff and students of the Celtic Studies program in St. Michael’s College, will recall their introduction to and study of the writing of Ronald Black, Michel Byrne, Hugh Cheape and Ronald Black, or whole Saturdays spent in the enlightening Gaelic tutorials of Rob Dunbar and Ken Nilsen, all of whom are published here.

The collection comprises 26 papers: four are in Scottish Gaelic, one is in Irish Gaelic, and the remainder are in English. As befits such a tributary work, the authors have dipped into their deep wells of expertise with the result that their papers range from Martin Martin’s 17th century writings to contemporary issues of Gaelic scholarship. In combination with the scholarly apparatus of richly mined references and the huge 42-page bibliography, they provide a collection that is an essential and invaluable requirement for both experts in Gaelic and students aspiring to that realm.

APRIL 6 – TARTAN DAY

The Government of Canada recognizes April 6th as Tartan Day! The Federation of Scottish Clans/Scottish Culture in Nova Scotia thanks the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Language, the Honourable James Moore, for his part in this recognition of Scottish Culture by the Government of Canada.

Jean Watson, past president of the FSCNS, worked tirelessly to make Tartan Day a reality. Since 1987, one by one, Canada's provinces and territories proclaimed Tartan Day in their jurisdictions. In 1998, the American Congress officially recognized Tartan Day in the United States. Today, October 21, 2010, Tartan Day has been recognized by the Government of Canada.

Please read the following communiqué:
<http://www.pch.gc.ca/pc-ch/minstr/moore/cdm-mc/cd-ns-eng.cfm?action=doc&TpID=1&DocIDCd=CJ M101447>

The Federation of Scottish Clans is delighted with this news from Minister James Moore. Moreover, Hon. Sen. John Wallace (Saint John) must be recognized for his dedication to the Scottish-cultural cause. Neither should the efforts of Dan Taylor be overlooked. Mr. Taylor is the Executive Director of the United Council of Scots in Atlantic Canada, a work-group that represents the provincial Scottish organizations of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland & Labrador.

Also see University of Guelph, College of Arts, Scottish Studies:
<http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/scottishstudies>
This site also provides extensive information about Scotland and Scots in Canada, including various publications, and colloquia in the Spring and Fall.

THOUGHTS (continued from page 1)

There was a slight preference for an increase in annual membership fees by \$10 (38.2%). 32.4% would prefer to keep membership fees the same, while charging more for individual events. Half of respondents thought that \$15 would be a reasonable admission charge for members (non-members would pay a slightly higher fee).

Finally, members were asked if they could spare a bit of time volunteering to help ensure that CCAA is able to continue offering services to members. Sadly, only one person replied positively, and has yet to contact me.

The executive committee will use this information to identify those events that members would be interested in attending, and to consider costs related to them. Once again I would like to thank everyone who took the time to let us know your thoughts.

** Smaointean/Smaointe is translated as "Thoughts" from Scottish and Irish Gaelic respectively.

Please remember: the *Garm Lu* is no longer included with your membership. The next issue (Spring, 2011) will be available as a .pdf downloadable file from the website: <http://www.celticuoft.com/>. A hardcopy (the cost is yet to be determined) can still be ordered through this website or by contacting the Canadian Celtic Arts Association (<http://www.canadiancelticarts.ca/index2.htm>)

Make a contribution or a suggestion for the next edition of the Canadian Celtic Arts Association Newsletter.

Contact me at: editor@canadiancelticarts.ca

Shirley Enns, editor

NEWS FROM CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR IRISH STUDIES

Jean Talman, CAIS Communications Officer

This year's CAIS conference at St. Mary's in Halifax saw old friends reacquainted and new friendships formed. Pádraig Ó Siadhail and his colleagues (a tip of the hat to Irish Studies secretary Nicole Luttrell) put together a stellar program in two languages that offered something for everyone. Keynote presentations included the Ireland Fund of Canada lecture by Clair Wills on the reality and imagining of Irish emigration in the 1950s and bilingual (as Gaeilge and in English) readings by Micheal O'Siadhail and by Micheál Ó Conghaile – all attended by full houses.

The conference concert by Aran islander Lasairfhiona Ní Chonaola accompanied by James Nash on guitar (an Ozzie astray in the world) overflowed the cup of our expectations. Another highlight was the première screening of Remembering a Memory, a documentary film by Ronald Rudin, Producer (Concordia University) and Robert McMahon, Director (Royal Ontario Museum). The post-screening discussion with the film's producer was a spirited affair.

Each year CAIS/ACEI presents The Joseph McGann Award for best student papers at its conference. This year's winner was Andrea Walisser from Simon Fraser University, whose paper compared Protestant and Catholic attitudes about Drumcree; honourable mention was awarded to Séamus Mac Floinn of St. Francis Xavier University. Our congratulations to them both.

The Conference ended with a banquet notable for a fine session, led(?) in inimitable fashion by Gearóid Ó hAllmhuráin. Our AGM happily agreed to create an annual conference lecture in honour of Marianna O'Gallagher, only to discover that she had died before we could let her know.

It was also unanimously agreed to mark our respect for her life-time's dedication to the

Association by making Jean Talman a Lifetime Member.

Marianna O'Gallagher, our friend and colleague in the Canadian Association of Irish Studies/ L'Association canadienne d'études irlandaises, died in early summer, after a short illness borne with dignity and marked by an abiding faith.



I know that you will join me and all other members of CAIS/ACEI in acknowledging the passing of a major figure in the study of the Irish in Canada, particularly in Québec, and in conveying our deep sorrow to Marianna's family and large circle of close friends in Canada and in Ireland.

At its meeting in Halifax on Friday, 21st May, the CAIS/ACEI Executive had unanimously agreed to establish the annual Marianna O'Gallagher Lecture in Irish Studies, with the inaugural lecture to be held at the CAIS/ACEI Annual Conference at Concordia University, Montréal, in July 2011. Regrettably, we did not have the opportunity to forward this news to Marianna before her death.

Irish Studies in Canada and the gatherings of CAIS/ACEI are poorer for Marianna's passing.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam uasal.

Pádraig Ó Siadhail President,
CAIS/ACEI

To find out more about CAIS – go to their website: <http://www.irishstudies.ca/>. You can also view their newsletter to obtain further information about these items and other articles.

Events Calendar

Saturday November 27 2010

Irish Choral Society of Canada, St. Patrick's Church Dundas and McCaul) Toronto

Christmas Wishes - a concert of Christmas songs, duets, ensemble and choral works, featuring Loretto Reid, Leon Taheny, Dan MacDonald with the Irish Choral Society of Canada

8pm, Tickets: \$20 / \$10

<http://irishchoralsociety.com>

Sunday November 28, 2010

Celtic Family Christmas, Senator O'Connor School Cafeteria, 60 Rowena Drive (Victoria Park and Ellesmere).

Entertainment by Ashleigh Molloy & The Emerald Express and ceili dance with Maureen., Irish kitchen

2 - 5 pm Adults \$10, Children, a Tootie. Reserve your table for family / friends with Monica 416.498.0227 and / or email maryfay@rogers.com. Visit <http://www.oconnorhouse.ca>

* * * * *

Tony Kenny's Christmas Time in Ireland Show, Port Credit Secondary School Auditorium, Port Credit (Mississauga)

A Holiday Celebration of music, song dance and comedy, starring Tony Kenny, Joe Cuddy, Victoria Kenny and Dublin City Dancers and Singers.

Tickets: \$25 each or Group of 10 or more \$20. For tickets or more information call Harry 905.643.6525 or Leo 416.266.0047.

Thursday December 2, 2010

Celtic Studies, Madden Hall, Carr Hall. Michael's College, 100 St. Joseph Street.

Sarah O'Connor (Assistant Professor with the Celtic Studies Program)

Screening of a short film followed by a talk by Dr. Sarah O'Connor entitled, "The role of Irish in Contemporary Irish Culture: Yu Ming Is Ainm Dom / My Name Is Yu Ming"

6 pm, All welcome. Free admission. Phone: 416.926.7145. Email
celtic.studies@utoronto.ca

Saturday, December 4, 2010.

Canan agus Oran (Scottish Gaelic Language and Song Workshop)

The Gaelic Society of Toronto and the University of Toronto Celtic Studies Program will be holding a day of Scottish Gaelic language and song from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Alumni Hall, 121 St. Joseph Street Saint Michael's College, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario. The day will comprise of language classes and a song workshop. Classes will be offered at the Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced levels. Should there be enough interest, a Beginner II (between beginner and intermediate) session will also be offered.

The cost for the day is \$40, free to U of T students, \$20 to non-U of T students and free to native speakers. Early Bird Registration – Registrations (including cheque or money order) received two weeks in advance (November 19, 2010) pay \$27, non-U of T students \$15. Followed by a social/ceilidh at The Foxes' Den.

For more information on both events, call Lorrie MacKinnon at 905.844.4908
Lorrie.MacKinnon@ontario.ca

Friday December 10, 2010

Ireland-Canada Chamber of Commerce Annual Christmas Party

Upstairs at P.J. O'Brien's with entertainment by Aideen O'Brien & Paul Noonan. For more information call 416.621.7373.

Saturday December 11, 2010

Toronto Scottish Country Dance Association, Family Christmas Dance, Crescent School, 2365 Bayview Ave. north of Lawrence Ave. E., 1st light north of bridge, opposite the Granite Club. Free parking on site.

7:30 - 10:30 pm

Music by The Scottish Accent. Program specially designed for families
Members \$22 / Non-members \$28 / Student Members (18 - 25 yrs) \$10 / Youth (under 18 yrs) \$5 / Spectators \$5 All prices include HST

Admission fee includes light refreshments at interval. All dances are briefed and walked through once. Dance instructions available at the door, and posted at <http://www.rscdstoronto.org> as available.

Monthly Dance Contact fmducan@sympatico.ca or 416.266.3377

Saturday April 9, 2011

2011 Scottish Studies Spring Colloquium
Knox College, University of Toronto

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/history/scottishstudies/News>

April 29 - May 1, 2011

Ontario Welsh Festival / Gwyl Cymreig Ontario

Golden Anniversary of the Ontario Welsh Festival (OGGA), Niagara Falls, Ontario
Contact Betty Cullingworth at 416.486.0432 or at cullingwho@rogers.com for more information; or visit their website: <http://ontariowelshfestival.ca/>

June 29 - July 2, 2011

Celts in the Americas Conference, Saint Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia,

<http://www.mystfx.ca/academic/celtic-studies/conf2011.html>

Hosted by the Celtic Studies Department of St FX and the Centre for Cape Breton Studies at Cape Breton University, the *Celts in the Americas* conference will offer a unique opportunity to share scholarship about the history, culture, and literature of Celtic-speaking peoples in North and South America. It will be the first academic

conference devoted to this theme, with presentations about aspects of the experiences and literatures of the communities speaking Breton, Cornish, Irish Gaelic, Manx Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic, or Welsh in the Americas. One day of the conference will be devoted to examining the interactions between Celtic peoples and non-Celtic peoples in the Americas, with a special emphasis on indigenous peoples and peoples of African descent.

Read more about the conference here: <http://www.mystfx.ca/academic/celtic-studies/AllAboutConference.pdf>

Call for papers (due Dec. 5, 2010) <http://www.mystfx.ca/academic/celtic-studies/ConferenceCFP.pdf>

July 6 - 9, 2011

CAIS/ ACEI Conference 2011: Text and Beyond Text in Irish Studies: New Visual, Material & Spatial Perspectives
School of Canadian Irish Studies, Concordia University, Montreal

The premise of this conference is to encourage a flourishing dynamic between the study of text-based materials and that of images, things, sounds, tastes, movement, and other cultural and social markers, as a means of offering new perspectives on Irish Studies. The Canadian Association for Irish Studies, therefore, invites papers on any aspect of these disciplines. Papers are also invited on other topics of interest to members of CAIS.

Please submit your proposal by January 17, 2011 to irishstu@alcor.concordia.ca
Proposals should be 250-500 words in length, and include a brief (~50 word) bio of the submitter. Please send any questions to the conference e-mail address.

All events and dates are subject to change. Please call the number provided to confirm any event listed.

To list your Celtic-themed event:

email ruadh@idirect.com with the following information:

- date and time
- location with address
- admission cost, if applicable
- contact telephone number or email address