

Association General Meeting  
23 July 04

R. O'Dwyer circulated agenda, minutes, treasurer's report, website report.  
Agenda is modeled on past agendas.

**Chairs' Address:** R. O'Dwyer welcomed and thanked members for support. She explained E. O'Brien's absence. J. Doan proposed and H. O'Connor seconded accepting the agenda.

F. Malloy corrected to Wagga Wagga in section 10 of 2003 minutes. P. Lynch moved and N. Mellamphy seconded that the minutes accepted as amended.

**Matters Arising:**

Maureen Murphy had suggested last year that we send a letter to support Cork press and resist its closing. R. O'Dwyer read the letter aloud that she sent forward as president of IASIL. Cork acknowledged receipt. Then in November the governing body of Cork noted the letter.

**Secretary's Report:** D. Duncan made secretary's report.

Listservs:

- The Executive listserv was transferred to the server maintained by Concordia College, Moorhead, MN, where secretary Dawn Duncan is a faculty member. The list was cleaned up and changes made to reflect current executive.
- Dawn created a general IASIL listserv for all members in order to better facilitate announcements and open communication among the membership. All members were notified of the listserv via several means: email, January 2004 newsletter, and the IASIL website. Instructions on how to use the listserv were also provided in order to assure pertinent communication and to avoid viruses. We have received many thanks for the new list, what seems to be an increase in membership additions or renewals with improved communication, and only one member has asked to be removed from the list so that he does not receive emails. The response has been overwhelmingly positive.
- Dawn's husband, Dennis Duncan, is the Network Manager of the computer system at Concordia, which eases the management of changes to the two lists and will make easier any future changeover to another site if the need arises.

Newsletter:

- The newsletter was distributed in January 2004 in electronic format for the first time to 435 members for whom we had email addresses. It was also mailed as a hard copy for the last time without specific request to 258 members for whom no email was recorded. Total cost of copying and mailing the newsletter came to \$534.10 US. A minimal number of requests for hard copies have now been made, so our cost will drop dramatically.

- While we might note that some members may not be current in their dues who did receive the newsletter and are on the listserv, we may also consider that such is an oversight on their part and in part due to multiple lists transferred between changing officers. Keeping these members in touch with us may have helped in the long run, especially as we let them know where their membership stands.

#### Membership Database:

With various treasurers representing our international constituencies, one central database did not seem to exist. Accordingly, Dawn has tried to gather all information on members from the various treasurers, collate the information, and create such a central database that includes names of members, addresses, email addresses, and membership through date. The database is now in an easy-to-use format, easily revised as needed. A hard copy of the database will be made available during the Galway conference in order for members to check their information and make any changes or additions necessary. This will also help call to attention any need for renewals. Treasurers are encouraged to send Dawn any additions or changes with full details as they arise. Again, this database will be easy to transfer to any future secretary.

**Treasurer's Report** made by R. O'Dwyer in absence of E. O'Brien. Apologies From E. O'Brien who is not able to attend due to illness and his father's illness. E. O'Brien has also notified R. O'Dwyer of his resignation due to health concerns and increased job responsibilities as dean. R. O'Dwyer indicated that the usual is to present an audited account. E. O'Brien apologizes that such an audited account, due to ill health, is not yet available. (See hard copy of report). The audited report will be made available on the listserv later.

R. O'Dwyer moved through the Treasurer's report point by point. The Canadian treasurer presented a check for \$2,400 to IASIL. P. Lynch kindly agreed to accept membership subscriptions in E. O'Brien's absence and take these to Limerick for deposit. Neither the US nor Canadian honor fund donors had been included, but J. Lanter corrected with list from US. N. Mellamphy added to the honor fund donors the names of Anne Saddlemyer, Tina Mahony and Maureen Murphy. D. Duncan noted that the cost of the newsletter (\$534.10 US) is not reflected in the report. This amount has been paid; E. O'Brien assured it had been paid by bank draft but not out of the cheque book. P. Lynch indicated that renting the list cost 127 euro, but asked if that list cost must be paid by conference proceedings publishers. R. O'Dwyer said there would be no charge for that because it is our conference. M. Schreiber thanked the organization on behalf of students who have received support. A. Carpenter said he feels it is inappropriate to indicate individuals who have made honor contributions. D. Morse agrees with A. Carpenter's sentiment. A. Carpenter moved that the Executive should consider such a list of donors names should be removed from The general meeting. D. Morse seconded. Motion tabled to take up at the Executive. D. Morse did want to draw attention to the incredible donation from Barcelona. He queried what the full amount in both the honor and support fund might be now. R. O'Dwyer will look into this. P. Lynch recalled that the amount should be split evenly, whereas now it is all in the honor fund. D. Morse and D. Duncan concur that is their recollection as well. R. O'Dwyer thanked all for their close attention

to the treasury matters. Reminds us that the business of AGM is not closed until the report is provided as audited electronically. P. Burke moved and W. Huber seconded that we would proceed with that understanding.

**Appointment of New Treasurer:** There are 2 versions of the Constitution, the founding document from the 1970s, and the amended constitution from 1993. Kate Bateman at UCD made these documents available. The relevant point is in Article 7, which lists the officers and how they are elected. 7C indicates that the executive can appoint an unfilled position until the next general meeting. R. O'Dwyer received the resignation on the 19th of July, and this meeting is the next one. We have not appointed an officer in that short interim, however R. O'Dwyer sounded the Executive and members. She has ascertained that John McDonough, also in Limerick, has agreed that he is willing to serve. His Choice could ease the transition because the clerical staff, Lucy Imbush, is in Limerick, as are the two past treasurers. He would be willing to serve for 2 years, the time left for the current executive. R. O'Dwyer moved and N. Grene seconded that John McDonough be elected treasurer. A. Carpenter and P. Lynch spoke in favor of J. McDonough's election. Unanimously elected.

**IUR Report:** Ann Fogarty reported that the special edition on the Irish Literary Revival, the Index, and a special issue on Lady Gregory were produced in the last year. This coming year a special edition on John McGahern will come out. She is working on getting a website up and running that will be linked to the IASIL website. A. Fogarty welcomed any feedback. B. Olinder asked about more future plans. A. Fogarty explained that she set up a 5 year plan last year. After McGahern, there will be a special issue on John Banville, with some of The panelists this year contributing. After that special issue, on Eilean Ni Chuilleanain. D. Morse commended A. Fogarty on the fine quality of the journal, which is still the leading journal in the field.

### **Future Conferences:**

Prague— O. Pilný reported. A flyer is available this week and to handout at AGM. Dates 24-28 July 2005. The conference will be held at the Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Charles University, which is right in the city centre. The conference will be held under the aegis of the Mayor of Prague. Various accommodations from 5 star to university will be available, all in walking distance. The theme will be: Ireland—a Global Village? Papers especially welcome on media, postnational identities, alterity and ethnicity, translations, etc. Organizers are O. Pilný, Clare Wallace, and Louis Armand. Abstract paper deadline: 15 December; final deadline March 2005. Because the organizers like the idea of panels recommended, as has been done in Galway, they hope panels will once again be formed and proposed. Patrick Lonergan will serve as webmaster. Information is already on site. The Faculty of Arts and Philosophy and the mayor are supporting the conference. The organizers will provide a 2-day postconference tour to southern Bohemia with beautiful medieval cities, the real Budweiser beer, castles, lakes. C. Murray asked about expense. O. Pilný noted that Prague is expensive, but they are working with an agency to get discounts. Broadly speaking 40-50 euro per night for accommodations on the lower end up to posh prices here (low cost is student prices). They expect registration to be in keeping with Galway

this year. R.O'Dwyer asked about temperature. O. Pilný said around 25 C usually, quite nice; but it could be hot and full of tourists too, or even rainy and cold. One never knows. Everything for registering will be handled online and payment will be in euros. O. Pilný noted that this conference could also help expand our membership in Eastern Europe, so they are trying also to get more money for scholarships to people from this area. Proceedings will definitely come out in 2006.

2006—Sydney. P. Kuch reported. We will have the Opera House to open; the CEO is Irish. Qantas is considering being a major sponsor, but the negotiation is a bit problematized by their closing some European hubs. The theme will have something to do with notions of tradition, intertextuality, and how they operate as inspiration and contamination (Yeats' lines inspired idea). P. Kuch is currently working to refine the theme. The window is 19-28 July, and P. Kuch will work to confirm dates. The premier of New South Wales is a literary man and keen to open the conference. Accommodation is easy to handle. The head of this part of Australian industry is also Irish. Prices will be competitive with Europe. P. Kuch is negotiating with several major airline carriers to make deals. It will be winter then but variable weather: 5-6 at night up to 22-25 during day, can be rainy. 78% of Australians have traceable Irish heritage. 2006 will also be next elections to Executive.

A. Carpenter asked how the elections got out of sync with Irish conferences. D. Morse clarified there was a four year gap along the way that threw it off. A. Carpenter advised that we get back in sync. N. Grene indicated the date of change has been since 1992, a decade out of sync. We will consider this matter at the Executive. M. Kenneally indicated the place doesn't matter because we vote via mail. We can discuss this with whole membership via the listserv.

2007—UCD, Tony Roche will organize.

2008—Michael Kenneally said that it will not be possible to hold the conference in 2008, though would like to do so later. The Executive will discuss this next year.

R. O'Dwyer encouraged us to think about new venues. D. Morse reminded that he and Mary Massoud had created documents about proposing and planning conferences. These might go on the website to help others plan. R. O'Dwyer said we can put appropriate documents on the web.

### **Reports from Representatives:**

Ireland—N. Grene reported that he used the new database and ascertained that there are now 111 members based in Ireland. He found this encouraging compared to the past. This year has been dominated by centenaries: founding of Abbey Theatre, Bloomsday, birth of Patrick Kavanaugh and others. The James Joyce academic symposium was excellent. A. Fogarty deserves congratulations for co-chairing that event at the same time she was bringing out the Lady Gregory issue of IUR. The National Library has mounted a magnificent exhibition in coordination with Bloomsday. Congratulations to the National Library for this contribution to the anniversary celebration. We also want to

congratulate R. O'Dwyer and her team for organizing this summative event with IASIL. Amazingly this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> conference in Galway this year that N. Grene has attended, which indicates how active NUI-Galway is in Irish and postcolonial studies. The New Voices conference is now bringing together younger scholars and providing a publication through 4Courts Press. Study for 19th Century Ireland was in Chicago; next year it will be back in Ireland at Mary Immaculate College. The Irish Diaspora Research Project held its first conference, will have its first book out, and will meet in London next year under the organization of Richard Cave. Irish studies and ISAIL are healthy!

Europe—W. Huber, commented on friendly associations—EPHESUS, European federation, 90% of officers come from IASIL. A conference was held in Braga, Portugal this year. Next year will be in Gutenberg, under organization of B. Olinder. Braga papers will be published in a new series: Irish European Studies. It will be one volume. Britain has just held a conference of combined organizations in Liverpool. The Nordic Center, and Irish Studies in Sweden. New society in Spain. Another society in France. All of these have separate conferences and publications. Information is on IASIL website.

North America—J. Doan indicated that membership is healthy and growing in both US and Canada. J. Lanter to speak about ACIS and US membership. J. Lanter reported an increase in membership, especially among graduate students. Work has been done to persuade US members of ACIS to join IASIL, which is beginning to take hold. ACIS was in Liverpool this year, and a number of people decided to do both. Next year ACIS will be in Notre Dame. There are also a number of regional conferences. J. Lanter is organizing the Midwest region, which will feature Thomas Kilroy and Joe Dowling. Southern meeting is in Houston. Check [acis.com](http://acis.com)

Other—M. Mutran reported that Irish president, Mary McAleese spoke at University of Sao Paolo. Postgraduate student at Maynooth, working under supervision of Chris Murray. Journal 6 will be available in August. Joseph Lee gave seminars and lectures on literature and history in Ireland. Many Bloomsday celebrations in Brazil. Two doctoral dissertations defended. One sabbatical taken in Ireland, under N. Grene's supervision. The Irish Embassy in Brazil celebrated this year with an anthology of Irish short stories edited by M. Mutran. About 10 Brazilians are in attendance this year at IASIL, and some of these postgraduate students. Invited others to speak up about their countries. F. Malloy indicated that Irish studies in Australia tend to be led by history. There are annual conferences, yet there are not many members. Still the Irish studies area is quite healthy. IASIL will raise consciousness.

Japan—M. Toraiwa emphasized in regard to last year's elections that Japanese members did accept new executive. Last year the Japanese association had a conference in October. This year the general conference will again be in October; the main guest will be Timothy O'Brady. There are at least 3 societies for Irish studies of varying sorts in Japan. The Japan association has invited Paul Durcan in January 2004 because he has many Japanese fans. His next poems may reflect his enjoyment of his visits to Japan, including in winter. They have increased membership as well, with 200 members now.

Many panels this year, as expected, were about James Joyce. The Japanese association will have a centenary celebration of Hahn. (Ask M. Toraiwa to check and add notes as needed) At moment in Japan, there is a kind of cult of Ireland.

**Publications Report:**

Conference proceedings—R. O’Dwyer gave regrets of Maureen Murphy who cannot come to IASIL due to illness in family. But she says the 1996 volume will soon be ready.

1997 Britta Olinder indicated that difficulties with the publisher, Rodopi, have caused some delays.

1996 P. Lynch and J. Fischer are editing. They have had great difficulty with Rodopi. They spent their remaining funds on a professional editor, but the copy editor from Rodopi has driven this person away. It is at the copy editing stage.

1999 volume from Barcelona is published

2000 from Bath has not appeared. C. Wallace said that it is in proofs now.

2001 from Dublin, edited by Barbara Freitag, waiting for update

2002 in Sao Paulo, edited by M. Mutran and Laura Izarra is already out

2003 from Hungary, edited by C. Bertha and Donald Morse. They have already handed over the edited manuscript to editor in chief for final edit. He is quite conscientious. Should be out by end of this year. Provided a flyer that gives contents and is in our conference package for members. Mostly the cost will be price of postage/production.

2004—R. O’Dwyer will send out an email about publishing selected papers.

**Bibliography Sub-Committee Report:** Heinz Kosok has raised an issue via letter about how large the bibliography is becoming. He is concerned about the inclusion of translations of Irish lit into other languages, which is both large and cumbersome yet only represents some 5% of such translations, making it unuseful. Three possible solutions: 1) Make the bibliography truly comprehensive; but this would make it unwieldy. 2) Make a separate volume for translations and keep original volume for new scholarly works; but would call for new committee. 3) Omit such translations from our list, which would make the bibliography manageable and useful. This is not a criticism of Turlough Johnston’s work, which deserves great praise. The decision must be taken from the executive. Specifically H. Kosok’s suggestion of omission only means translations of Irish literary works that do not have any new scholarly material (intros, notes, etc) included. F. Malloy made a motion supporting H. Kosok’s suggestion. A. Pliny spoke to the motion, doing such work also, but suggested translations might be noted on the web for others to know what to consult. C. Bertha noted that C.O’Croidheain is doing the work to gather all information on translations now, so taking such out of IASIL bibliography might be useful. We could link to his website. F. Malloy supports H. Kosok’s suggestion to

remove such translations. J. Dean seconded that motion. W. Huber spoke in favor of including those that make a substantial contribution. This was confirmed as an understanding of the organization. The vote carried unanimously. F. Malloy noted we still need information on contributions. We need information, for instance, on India, Russia, Greece, Southeast Asia, etc. F. Malloy is a bit unclear about some items he is sent, feeling uneasy about what to include and what does not really pertain. We may have to bring this back to Irish literature as the central indicator of what to put in or leave out. He is also unclear about what to do with information on the diaspora. He thanked all contributors and indicated we will have a large bibliography this year.

**Website Report:** We have a hard copy report from P. Lonergan. Average 330 hits a day, have had over 3,500 this year. He wants to develop the archival material even more. Asks for contributions to this area and to information on Irish language. He will post his report on the website. D. Duncan, R. O'Dwyer and others noted the huge debt of gratitude to P. Lonergan for his endless energy, the priority he gives IASIL matters, the good nature with which he deals with all problems that arise. A great round of applause!.

**Other Business:**

D. Morse would like the appointment of a sub-committee to reconsider IASIL taking over publishing the volume for proceedings of each conference. It is difficult for conference organizers to try to bring out such a volume after holding the conference.

N. Mellamphy notes that Canadian Association for Irish Studies is holding conference to Maynooth in June.

J. Dean proposes heartfelt gratitude to our President, Riana O'Dwyer; her team, Kirry O'Brien, Lesa Ní Mhunghaile, Patrick Lonergan, and all the volunteers and helpers; the sponsors and NUI Galway for a conference that has been brilliantly conceived, carefully planned, beautifully organized, and superbly delivered. Huge round of applause! D. Morse moved to adjourn, M. Mutran seconded. Voted unanimously