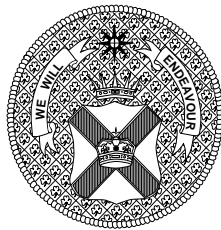




R O Y A L I R I S H
A C A D E M Y
Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann

A N N U A L
R E P O R T
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	M.E.F. Ryan	<i>Treasurer</i>
	A. Simms	
	R. Stalley	
	G. Wright	
Co-opted Member	D.N. Livingstone	

PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

This has been a particularly busy and productive year for the Academy. It is encouraging to see new opportunities present themselves, new initiatives launched and existing activities pursued vigorously, within clearly defined guide-lines and subject to regular review, towards specific targets.



The role of the Council as governing body of the Academy is of central importance, and I wish to pay tribute to all the members of Council for their commitment and active participation. The composition of the Council—helped, at least in part, by the newly introduced facility of co-option—is more balanced, both geographically and in terms of discipline, than it has been for a long time. This enhances both its authority and its effectiveness.

The Officers and Secretaries of Committees carry particularly onerous responsibilities; I wish to thank them, and the Vice-Presidents, for all their work and for their support. A special word of appreciation is due to T.B.H. McMurry, whose term as Treasurer ended this year after five years of dedicated and effective service.

For the second time, following the new By-Law, we elected twelve members at the March 2001 meeting; two members were elected the previous November. This brought the membership to a record level of 299. Six honorary members were also elected.

We record with sadness the deaths of four members during the past year: J.K.A. Clarke, a former Vice-President; P.S. Ó Colla, a member since 1954; L.S. O'Riagain, elected in 1963 and a former member of Council; and W. O'Sullivan. We also note with regret the deaths of honorary members H. Hunger and H. H. Ussing.

The decision was made during the year to undertake a wide-ranging strategic review

to help clarify the role of the Academy. The aim is to achieve a clearly expressed sense of purpose and direction that is compatible with our history and constitution as well as appropriate and relevant to the twenty-first century. This strategic plan should also command widespread acceptance and support and constitute a framework within which objectives can be defined

and priorities set more effectively. This exercise is well underway, and it is intended to present the resulting report to the Stated Meeting of the Academy in March 2002.

Another important initiative taken during the past year was to reactivate the Cunningham Medal, which had not been awarded since 1989, when G.F. Mitchell was the recipient. Council decided to award medals to four Academy members—D.J. Bradley, M.J. Craig, B. Crossland and D.B. Quinn—in recognition of their exceptional achievements in research and scholarship.

We have been giving thought for some time to the form and presentation of the Academy's *Annual Report* and, as a result, have adopted a substantially different layout and style this year. As part of the new format, and in the interest of general readability, some of the detailed material from the individual annual reports submitted by committees has not been included in this printed report: all of these detailed reports will be available, however, on the Academy's web site. I am grateful to those staff members who have implemented these changes and commend them on the result.

A reading of the *Annual Report*, particularly in its new format, gives a good indication of the extent of the Academy's activities: its publications, both journals and monographs; the work of the Library; the programme of discourses and lectures, of conferences and other meetings; the projects and research activities; and the work of the

National Committees. It also points to the many facets of our international engagement, through close links with other National Academies; through the ESF (European Science Foundation), ALLEA (All European Academies) and the newly established EASAC (Advisory Council of European Science Academies); through the various international unions and through our international exchange agreements.

There have been major developments in the support and organisation of research here in Ireland in recent years. Continued substantial funding from the Higher Education Authority has significantly enhanced the research infrastructure and capability within the universities. The Science Foundation of Ireland, now up and running, will play a central role in promoting basic investigation in biotechnology and information technology. The Academy has long argued for the establishment of autonomous research councils: we welcome the fact that two such councils, one for humanities and social sciences, the other for science and technology, are now in place. We have also been closely involved with the task force addressing the shortfall of university entrants in physics and chemistry and hope that the recommendations from that body will have a beneficial effect.

What has been achieved would not have been possible without the committed and enthusiastic involvement of many people. I take this opportunity to thank all of those engaged in any of our activities and to pay particular tribute to the staff for their hard work, loyalty and dedication.

David Spearman
President

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Academy's funds derive from both public and private sources. By far the largest proportion, however, comes in the form of a grant-in-aid from the Higher Education Authority (HEA).

For the year 2000, the Academy received a grant-in-aid from the HEA of £1,755,000 (€2,228,390). This level of grant allowed for the consolidation of Academy activities generally and provided a particular boost to funding for the Dictionary of Irish Biography (DIB) project, on which expenditure increased by twenty-seven per cent during 2000. That very welcome additional funding has enabled the DIB project to employ additional contract staff; this, in turn, has accelerated the project's work. By the end of 1999, the DIB had completed 3,652 draft biographies; the corresponding cumulative figures for the end of 2000 and the end of July 2001 were 4,906 and 5,812 respectively.

In addition to the HEA's grant, other sources of funding for Academy activities in 2000 included those listed in the side column on this page. The Academy's sponsors play a key role in assisting our activities. For many years AGB Scientific Ltd, Irish Times Ltd and Yamanouchi (Ireland) Co. Ltd have supported—and continue to do so—chemistry and biochemistry events in the Academy. This year we welcomed Enterprise Energy Ireland as a sponsor of volume 2 (Geology) of the *New Survey of Clare Island* and Siemens Ireland as a sponsor of the Parsons Award in Engineering Sciences. In the coming years the Academy hopes to broaden its relationship with the corporate community on projects of mutual benefit. The Academy is indebted to these institutions and companies for their enlightened assistance in advancing various Academy activities and awards.

The Academy's thanks are also due to the Office of Public Works, which continued to maintain Academy House to a very high standard.



In the course of 2000, the Academy committed itself formally to the process of reviewing its role, mandate, activities and performance in order to develop a strategic plan. Work towards that end is now well underway, with the active cooperation and assistance of Academy members and staff as well as members of the Academy's various committees.

Training is an expense that the Academy incurs every year, and we are committed to encouraging all staff to participate in developing their skills. This year the training budget increased again, in line with the guidelines set down under the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness. Most of the expenditure was on computer training, but during the past year the Academy also funded staff to undertake studies in public relations, human resource management and fund-raising.

I would like to place on record the Academy's sincere thanks to Professor Brian McMurry, who was Treasurer from March 1996 to March 2001. His term of office encompassed both an expansion in the Academy's activities and a considerable improvement in its finances. Professor McMurry's exemplary commitment to his duties as Treasurer, together with his approachable personality, contributed greatly to the well-being of the Academy. All who value that will join me in wishing him well in his retirement.

Finally, I wish to thank all of the Academy's staff and others who gave so willingly of their time and expertise to advance the Academy's work in the course of the past year.

Michael Ryan
Treasurer

The Summary of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2000 can be found overleaf.

Main sponsors

Department of Education and Science
Department of the Environment and Local Government
Department of Foreign Affairs
Department of the Taoiseach
Department of Education, Northern Ireland
Dúchas The Heritage Service
Enterprise Ireland
Enterprise Energy Ireland
FÁS Community Services
Heritage Council
National Millennium Commission
Armagh City Council
Belfast City Council
AGB Scientific Ltd
Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds, Germany
Elan Corporation
The Irish Times Ltd
Glaxo Welcome Ltd
Marc Fitch Fund, Oxford
Mealy Brothers, Castlecomer, Co Kilkenny
Met Éireann
National Library Society of Ireland
National University of Ireland, Galway
Queen's University Belfast
Luther I. Replogle Foundation, Washington D.C.
Schering Plough (Brinny) Ltd
Siemens Ltd
SmithKlein Beecham Ltd
Warner Lambert Ltd
Yamanouchi Ireland Ltd

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The March Stated Meeting of the Academy has been held on 16 March every year since the Academy's foundation in the eighteenth century, except on Sundays. At the meeting in March 2000, the Academy marked the expansion of academic life in Ireland in the twentieth century by increasing the number of new members elected annually from eight to twelve.



The number of members at the Academy's foundation was 88, and by 1896 this number had risen to 277. The average number of members remained around this level for the next hundred years. Until the middle of the twentieth century, seven new members were elected annually; after 1950 the number rose to four in each of the two sections of the Academy. In addition, up to two new members are elected at the November Stated Meeting each year. Now, in the second year of the new millennium, I am happy to report that the total membership stands at an all-time high of 299 and is likely to continue to expand.

Membership of the Academy is awarded on grounds of distinction and high scholarly achievement, and it therefore gives me great pleasure to welcome all of the new members elected in November 2000 and March 2001.

General Academy Meetings are usually held in Academy House on a Monday or a Thursday evening at 8 p.m. every month from September to June (the list of meetings and discourses is printed on p. 14). Meetings may be attended by Academy members and the general public. They provide a forum where a distinguished speaker can give a lecture (an 'Academy discourse') on a particular area of study. This is followed by a very brief reply by a member of the Academy and a reception for all the guests. The selection of speakers embraces internationally known scholars of all disciplines, from Ireland and abroad. Not all

proposals are accepted; those selected must be of high quality and are usually recommended by someone who has personal experience of the speaker's ability to communicate with a general audience. Suggestions for speakers may be sent to the Secretary of the Academy at any time.

In the past year, March 2000 to March 2001, seven General Academy Meetings were held, and we are particularly indebted to the president and staff of the National University of Ireland, Cork, who hosted our annual meeting outside Dublin in January 2001. It was also a particular pleasure to have two honorary members of the Academy as discourse speakers, which allowed them the opportunity to visit Academy House, to meet with Academy members and to sign the Members' Roll.

Mary E. Daly
Secretary

DISTINCTIONS CONFERRED ON SCIENCE MEMBERS

March 2000–
March 2001

J.R. Bates was elected a member of the Academia Europaea.

D.T. Burns was elected an honorary member of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland and appointed Adjunct Professor in Analytical Chemistry at Kasetsart University, Thailand.

W.T. Coffey was awarded the degree of Docteur Honoris Causa by the University of Perpignan for his work in chemical physics and was elected Fellow of the American Physical Society.

D.M.X. Donnelly was awarded University College Dublin's Charter Day Medal.

P. Fottrell was appointed chairperson of the governing body of the Dublin Institute of Technology.

M.A. Hayes was elected Member-at-Large of the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics 2000–2004 and a member of the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars.

F.A. Lewis — the Permanent Working International Scientific Committee on Hydrogen Treatment of Materials and the International Association for Hydrogen Energy recommended that a new 'up-hill' hydrogen diffusion effect in palladium and palladium alloys membranes be named the Lewis Effect.

J.V. McCanny was awarded a third Millennium Medal for valued services and outstanding contributions by the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, USA.

NEW MEMBERS, SCIENCE



Kenneth Bell

Professor of Theoretical Physics and Head of the School of Mathematics and Physics at Queen's University Belfast. He is internationally recognised for his fundamental and enduring contributions to the theory of electron collisions with atoms and ions, photo-ionisation and atomic structure, with particular emphasis on transition probabilities. In addition, he is recognised for his contribution of accurate atomic data for the interpretation of satellite and other observations of astronomical objects. Elected 16 March 2001.



Werner Blau

Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Physics at Trinity College, Dublin, as well as Acting Research Director of the Sami Nasr Institute for Advanced Materials. His work in laser physics, non-linear optics and materials science is of a high international reputation. His recent research has centred on polymers and new materials and has been extensively supported by the European Union and the Materials Ireland Polymer Research Centre. Elected 16 March 2001.



William T. Coffey

Associate Professor of Engineering Science in the Department of Micro-Electronics and Electrical Engineering in Trinity College, Dublin. He is known internationally for his application of classical statistical mechanics to describe relaxation phenomena associated with ferromagnetic particles, dielectrics, liquid crystals and polar fluids. Among his books are *Molecular diffusion and spectra* (1984) and *The Langevin equations with applications in physics, chemistry and electronic engineering* (1996). Elected 16 March 2001.



John Davenport

Professor of Zoology and Animal Ecology at University College Cork. He is an internationally recognised authority on the physiology of marine animals and has published prolifically on species ranging from shellfish and a variety of other invertebrate animals to fish, turtles and salt-water crocodiles. He has also made significant contributions to the study of marine pollutants and the conservation of the sea. His books include a classic text on animal life at low temperature. Elected 16 March 2001.



Paul C. Engel

Professor of Biochemistry at University College Dublin as well as a researcher and board member of the Conway Institute for Biomolecular and Biomedical Research. He has earned an international reputation and published widely in the area of enzymology, protein engineering and protein chemistry. Elected 16 March 2001.



Julian Ross

Dean of the College of Science at the University of Limerick. His research in the field of heterogeneous catalysis is internationally recognised and has led to the selective oxidation of hydrocarbon fuels and selective reduction of nitrogen oxides. His work has attracted major European Union contracts, and the catalysts developed are in wide commercial use. Elected 16 March 2001.



Don Thornhill

Chairman of the Higher Education Authority, a Fellow of the Kennedy and Fulbright Programmes and Treasurer of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland. He has a PhD in chemistry from University College Dublin and an MSc in economics from Trinity College, Dublin. He has had a distinguished career in the civil service, holding senior management positions in the Department of Finance and in the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. In 1993 he was appointed Secretary-General of the Department of Education. He resigned from that post on his appointment as Chairman of the Higher Education Authority. Elected 30 November 2000.

Distinctions

M. O'Connell was Guest Professor at the Institut für Geobotanik, University of Hanover, Germany, for the academic year 1999–2000.

L.S. O'Riagain was awarded the Wigner Medal for research at an International Conference in Russia.

D.H.S. Richardson was awarded the Lawson Medal for outstanding contributions to botany in Canada at the joint meeting of the Canadian Botanical Association and Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists held at the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada, in June 2000.

K.F. Tipton—in recognition of his contributions to the field the Ninth International Amine Oxidase Workshop, held in Barcelona, Spain, 9–12 July, 2000, was dedicated to him.

D.G. Walmsley was designated Professorial Physicist by the Canadian Association of Physicists.

W.A. Watts—to celebrate his 70th birthday, the Botany Department of Trinity College Dublin organised an international symposium entitled 'From Palaeoecology to Conservation: An Interdisciplinary Vision', held in October 2000 in the Royal Irish Academy.

DISTINCTIONS CONFERRED ON HUMANITIES MEMBERS

March 2000–
March 2001

A. Buttmer was elected president of the International Geographical Congress, the first woman president in the 130 years since the congress was first held. She also received the EU–Canada award for Collaboration in Higher Education 2000–2003 and was elected an honorary member of the Société de Géographie de Paris.

N.P. Canny was Fellow in Residence at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study for the academic year 2000–2001.

S. Heaney was elected a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy.

G.L. Herries Davies was awarded the Founders' Medal by the Society for the History of Natural History, London.

D.N. Livingstone was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

J.V. Luce was awarded the Runciman Award at the Hellenic Centre, London, for his book *Homer's landscapes: Troy and Ithaca revisited* (Yale University Press, 1999).

P. Ó Riain was elected a Parnell Fellow by Magdalene College, Cambridge, for the academic year 2000–2001.

M. Robinson was presented with an honorary degree from the Dublin Institute of Technology.

M. Ryan was appointed chairman of the Discovery Programme.

NEW MEMBERS, HUMANITIES



Maurice Bric

College Lecturer at the Department of Modern History, University College Dublin, and Acting Director of UCD's Centre for American Studies. He has a PhD in history from Johns Hopkins University, USA, for his research on Irish-American politics of the late eighteenth century. In November 1999 the Minister for Education and Science launched Dr Bric's report on 'The humanities and the social sciences: a case for a research council'. The Minister endorsed that report's recommendations and subsequently launched the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. Elected 30 November 2000.



Rick Caldicott

Professor of French at University College Dublin. His academic career has been marked by wide-ranging scholarship in the field of literary history. His recently published book on Molière (1998) was awarded a Silver Medal of the Académie Française. He has been twice decorated by the French Government (1987 and 1994). Elected 16 March 2001.



Hastings Donnan

Professor of Social Anthropology and Head of the School of Anthropological Studies at Queen's University Belfast. He has carried out field research in Ireland and in the Himalayan foothills of northern Pakistan. He is the author of *Marriage among Muslims* (1988) and co-author of *Borders: frontiers of identity, nation and state* (1999). He co-edits the periodical *Anthropological Theory* and has also co-edited a number of books including, most recently, *Borders and borderlands: an anthropological perspective* (2000) and *Interpreting Islam* (2001). Elected 16 March 2001.



David Fitzpatrick

Professor of Modern History at Trinity College, Dublin. He has earned an international reputation for his work on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Irish history and migration. His first book, *Politics and Irish life 1913–1921: provincial experience of war and revolution* (1977) was a pioneering and influential study of political change in Ireland, using County Clare as the research area. He later wrote *Oceans of consolation: personal accounts of Irish migration* (1994), analysing migration to Australia on the basis of a large sample of emigrants' letters. More recently he has written *The two Irelands 1912–1939* (1998). Elected 16 March 2001.



Raymond Gillespie

Senior Lecturer in Modern History at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. He has made an enormous contribution to the understanding of early modern Ireland; in particular, his knowledge of seventeenth-century Irish sources is unrivalled. His wide-ranging and prolific publications include *Colonial Ulster* (1985), still a standard work on the Plantation of Ulster, and *Devoted people* (1997). He is a joint editor of the Academy's Irish Historic Towns Atlas series. Elected 16 March 2001.



James C.C. Mays

Professor of English and American Literature at University College Dublin. He has recently completed an edition of *The poetical works of S.T. Coleridge* that promises to change the understanding of a major Romantic author in a fundamental way. Mays is also a general editor of the Cornell Yeats project, which is putting into print the complete manuscript materials of W.B. Yeats, accompanied by elaborate analyses and transcripts. Elected 16 March 2001.



Seymour Phillips

Associate Professor of Medieval History at University College Dublin. He is a leading authority on the reign of Edward II. His highly commended publications include *Aymer de Valence, Earl of Pembroke, 1307-1324* (1972) and *The medieval expansion of Europe* (1988). He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and a former president of the Irish Historical Society. Elected 16 March 2001.

Distinctions

T.K. Whitaker was awarded a special Millennium gold medal as the person judged to have made the greatest contribution to the economic development of Ireland. The medal was presented by the Irish Management Institute.

DEATHS

The deaths of the following members and honorary members in the period 16 March 2000 to 16 March 2001 are recorded with regret:

John K.A. Clarke, PhD., DSc (QUB), DIC (Imperial College, London), Emeritus Professor of Inorganic Chemistry (Heterogeneous Catalysis), National University of Ireland, Dublin. Elected 1978. Vice-President 1986–87. Died 1 November 2000.

Herbert Hunger (Hon. MRIA), DPhil, former Professor of Byzantine Studies, University of Vienna, and former president of the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Elected in 1982 for his eminence in the field of Byzantine studies. Died 9 July 2000.

Proinsias S. Ó Colla, DSc (NUI), Emeritus Professor of Chemistry, National University of Ireland, Galway. Elected 1954. Died 3 November 2000.

Lochlainn Séamus O’Raifeartaigh, MSc (NUI), PhD (Zurich), Senior Professor, School of Theoretical Physics, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Elected 1963. Died 18 November 2000.

William O’Sullivan, MA (Dubl), Retired Keeper of Manuscripts, Trinity College, Dublin. Elected 1999. Died 31 December 2000.

Hans Henriksen Ussing (Hon. MRIA), former Professor of Biochemistry and Head of the Institute of Biological Chemistry, University of Copenhagen. A laboratory in the Department of Physiology, National University of Ireland, Cork, has been named in his honour. Elected in 2000 for his pioneering work in the fields of physiology and biophysics. Died 22 December 2000.

ACADEMY MEETINGS AND DISCOURSES

March 2000 – March 2001

29 May 2000

Professor James Bennett, Museum of the History of Science, University of Oxford
‘Why the history of science matters in Ireland’

28 June 2000

Professor Philip Alexander, University of Manchester
‘Enoch in millennial perspective: on the counter-cultural history of an apocalyptic hero’

12 October 2000

Professor Michael Abbott, International Institute for Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering, The Netherlands
‘Postmodern technology’

13 November 2000

Dr Ekkehard Eickhoff, former German Ambassador to Ireland
‘Emperor Otto III and the first millennium: European perspectives’

18 December 2000

Dr Roger Chartier, Centre de Recherches Historiques, Paris, France
‘Literature, history and the book: Don Quixote’s enchantments’

18 January 2001

National University of Ireland, Cork
Professor Alisdair MacIntyre, Hon. MRIA, Duke University, USA
‘The two faces of philosophy’

5 February 2001

Professor Cathleen Synge Morawetz, Hon. MRIA, Courant Institute of Mathematical Science, New York University, USA
‘Mathematics to the rescue? Concepts and calculations’

19 February 2001

Professor Garret Fitzgerald, University of Pennsylvania, USA
‘Science and medicine in Ireland: opportunities and challenges at the interface’

NEW HONORARY MEMBERS

Elected 16 March 2001

Science

Hubert Curien, DèSc, president of the French Académie des Sciences and former French minister for research and technology, elected for outstanding contributions to crystallography and crystal science and to the organisation and promotion of science in Europe.

George William Gray, PhD, HonDSc, CChem, FRSC, FRS, FRSE, CBE, Emeritus Professor and former G.F. Grant Professor of Chemistry, University of Hull, elected for his pioneering work in the field of liquid crystal chemistry.

Roger Penrose, PhD, FRS, Kt, Emeritus Professor and former Rouse Ball Professor of Mathematics, University of Oxford, elected for his fundamental contributions to general relativity and cosmology.

Trevor C. Weekes, PhD, DSc (NUI), Senior Astrophysicist, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Whipple Observatory, Arizona, elected for major accomplishments in very high energy gamma-ray astronomy.

Humanities

Toby Barnard, DPhil (Oxford), Fellow and Tutor in Modern History, Hertford College, University of Oxford, elected for his outstanding contribution to the understanding of intellectual, social and cultural life in early modern Ireland.

Thomas Devine, PhD (Strathclyde), FBA, Research Professor and Director of the Research Institute of Scottish and Irish Studies, Aberdeen, elected for his distinguished scholarship in the field of Scottish and Irish history.

BRIAN McMURRY

Brian McMurry retired from the office of Treasurer at the Stated Meeting of 16 March 2001. He became the Academy's twenty-fourth Treasurer in 1996 and was re-elected for a fifth year by special resolution of the March Stated Meeting in 2000. This decision reflected his popularity with the members and staff of the Academy. He was highly commended by Council for his management of the staff and finances while Treasurer.

Brian McMurry was born in Belfast but educated in Dublin. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, where he is Professor of Organic Chemistry and a Senior Fellow and where he has also served as Dean of Graduate Studies and Registrar. In the 1980s he served as a member of the Higher Education Authority. He spent one year at Harvard, USA, working with R.B. Woodward, and one year at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, where he was the first Professor of Chemistry. His research interests include organic photochemistry, heterocyclic chemistry and the synthesis of anti-cancer drugs.

Professor McMurry is one of the longest-serving members of the Academy, elected in 1959.



Science Diary 2000–2001

28 March 2000

Meeting of and reception for European Physical Society Council

30 March 2000

Presentation of Royal Irish Academy Award in Pharmacology and Toxicology

28 April 2000

'Earth, Wind and Water: the unique environment of Clare Island'—seminar in the Community Centre, Clare Island, Co. Mayo, organised by the New Survey of Clare Island Executive Committee

11–12 May 2000

'Control of Infectious Diseases: Current Problems and Future Options'—seminar organised by the National Commission for Microbiology and the Consultative Committee for Pharmacology and Toxicology

30 May 2000

Presentation of prizes for National Committee for Biochemistry Science Writing Competition 2000

2–7 July 2000

'Advances in Mathematical Modelling of Atmosphere and Ocean Dynamics'—symposium organised by the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, held in the University of Limerick

Science Secretary James Slevin (left) and CERN Director General Luciano Magnani during the latter's visit to Academy House in 2001.

SCIENCE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Reviewing the year 2000–2001 and comparing it with previous years, one can only be impressed by the continuing development of the Academy's role over the last five years in promoting scholarship and research, especially in the sciences.

Over the last twelve months the Royal Irish Academy has played an increasingly active role as an advocate for the Irish scientific community. The Academy's role in drawing attention to the parlous state of the physical sciences nationally and persuading the Department of Education and Science to establish the Task Force on the Physical Sciences (see special report, p. 18) to address this problem is clear evidence of this developing role. The Academy has also been very proactive in arguing the case for Irish membership of the High Energy Particle Physics facility CERN.

CERN

The campaign for Ireland to join CERN gained great momentum this year with the appointment of the Technology Policy and Assessment Centre at Georgia Institute of Technology, USA, to advise the government on the benefits of Ireland's membership. Since April 1999 Professor Denis O'Sullivan of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies has marshalled a sustained campaign involving all the interested parties on behalf of the National Committee for Physics, for which he is to be commended. A decision is expected in autumn 2001.

Irish Council for Bioethics

The Academy's agreement to establish an Irish Council for Bioethics came about as a result of a request from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on foot of the Report on the Inter-Departmental Group on Modern Biotechnology (2000). This project is further

evidence of the Academy's commitment to providing academic advice on a national level. While final details are still being worked out, it is expected that the Bioethics Council will be funded by a grant from the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment and will operate under the aegis of the Academy. The Academy will not involve itself in the day-to-day working of the Council, however; its role will be to nominate the membership and provide the secretariat for the Council. The Bioethics Council will be free to express views independently of the Academy (and the Government). In broad terms, the role of the Council will be

- to identify and interpret ethical questions raised by biological and medical research in order to respond to, and anticipate, questions of public concern
- to investigate and report on such questions in the interests of promoting public understanding, informed discussion and education and to stimulate discussion through conferences, workshops, lectures, and published reports

Council members (of which there will be twelve to fifteen) will be asked to serve by virtue of their personal expertise and distinction and will be expected to make a declaration of any relevant interests to ensure transparency. It is expected that the Council will employ a full-time director and that it will be in operation by January 2002.

Conferences

The vigour of the science national committees/commissions administered by the Academy has never been keener as they continue to develop and expand their activities. Central to their role is the promotion of study and excellence in their respective disciplines. Each national committee/commission acts as an



Science Diary
 2000–2001

adhering body for Irish membership of the relevant international academic union and works to coordinate its particular discipline throughout the island of Ireland.

Traditionally many of the national committees/commissions have regarded the organisation of conferences as central to their role. In recent years, however, I have observed that as the agendas of national committees/commissions grow fuller, conferences are being organised every second or third year rather than every year. This development should not be seen in negative terms, as it allows the committees/commissions to expand their brief and organise better conferences and a better range of speakers. Our aim should be to raise the standard of Academy conferences so that they become the benchmark for academic conferences in Ireland. The science conferences of 2000–2001

represented an improvement on the standard of previous years, and it looks as if this progress will continue with the conferences that are in planning for 2001–2002, most notably Nutrition and Food Safety (1 November 2001).

Conclusion

Although we have achieved a great deal in the sciences over the last year, we still have much to do. We must continue our efforts to be more efficient and more effective in our role of promoting study and excellence in the sciences, and we must seek ways of further developing our national and international links so that we can better serve the scientific community.

James Slevin
 Science Secretary

11–12 August 2000

Meeting of the Inorganic Chemistry Division Committee of the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) in Academy House

19 September 2000

'Remote Sensing for Irish and Global Environmental Change'—International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP) Symposium organised by the Irish Committee for IGBP, held in NUI, Maynooth

12–13 October 2000

'Engineering Design in an Academic Environment'—conference organised by the National Committee for Engineering Sciences

17 October 2000

'The long-term effects of earthquakes: revealing the hidden charms and tremors of ancient fault systems'—John Jackson Award Memorial Lecture, given by John Walsh, Department of Geology, UCD, at the Royal Dublin Society

25–26 October 2000

'From Paleaocology to Conservation: An Interdisciplinary Vision'—symposium organised by TCD to celebrate the 70th birthday of W.A. Watts, MRIA

9 November 2000

Royal Irish Academy Award in Nutritional Sciences—presentation and lecture

11 November 2000

Presentation of Chemistry Essay Competition awards by Mr Martin McGuinness, MLA, Minister of Education for Northern Ireland

SCIENCE AWARDS AND PRIZES

Between March 2000 and March 2001 the following awards were made in the sciences:

Dr **Nora O'Brien** (UCC)

RIA Award in Nutritional Sciences

Dr **Therese Kinsella** (UCD)

RIA Award in Biochemistry

Professor **M.P. Kennedy** (UCC)

RIA Parsons Award in Engineering Science

Dr **Angelos Michaelides** (QUB)

RIA Prize for Young Chemists

Gareth Brady (TCD)

Science Writing Competition—1st Prize

Catriona Boyle (DCU)

Science Writing Competition—2nd Prize

Gráinne McKenna

Chemistry Essay Prize (2nd level)—1st Prize

Rebecca Bradley

Chemistry Essay Prize (2nd level)—2nd Prize

Grainne McCormack

Chemistry Essay Prize (2nd level)—3rd Prize



Dr Nora O'Brien (UCC), recipient of the RIA Award in Nutritional Sciences (2000).



Dr Therese Kinsella (UCD), recipient of the RIA Award in Biochemistry (2000). The award is sponsored by Schering Plough (Brinny) Ltd.

Continued on page 19

Science Special Report 1

TASK FORCE ON THE PHYSICAL SCIENCES



Task Force on the Physical Sciences logo.

Since the 1990s there has been a sharp decline worldwide in the number of students studying physics and chemistry. This worrying phenomenon has severe implications for Irish science, industry and the prosperity of the Irish economy. The impact of this problem on Ireland is likely to be particularly acute because of the current high-tech emphasis in our industrial structure.

In 1999 the National Committee for Physics, chaired by Professor J.A. Slevin, called a meeting of all the interested parties to discuss solutions that could halt the decline in the number of students studying physics and chemistry. The meeting, on 10 September 1999, was attended by the heads of physics, chemistry and education departments at universities throughout the country, representatives from the Department of Education and Science, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, FÁS, Forfás and the Irish Secondary Teachers' Association.

Following on from that meeting a working group was established. One of its first steps was to draft a document that advocated the establishment of a task force to tackle this multi-dimensional problem and implement a comprehensive range of solutions. The working group consisted of: Professor J.A. Slevin, MRIA (NUIM), Chairman; Dr Peter Childs (TCD); Dr Declan Kennedy (UCC); Mr Frank Turpin (Intel); Professor Han Vos, MRIA (DCU). The working group submitted its document to the Department of Education and Science in December 1999.

Following negotiations with the Department of Education and Science throughout the spring and summer of 2000, an agreement was reached between the Department and the working group that led to the establishment of the Task Force on the Physical Sciences by the Minister for Education and Science, Dr Michael Woods, in October 2000. Its remit is to develop a set of measures to address concerns about the decline in participation in the study of the

physical sciences in Ireland. The Task Force, which had its first meeting in Academy House in December 2000, draws its membership from education and industry and operates under the chairmanship of Dr Danny O'Hare, MRIA, emeritus president of Dublin City University.

The terms of reference of the Task Force are

- to devise and recommend additional measures to address the issue of low take-up rates
- to consider how physics and chemistry can be most effectively promoted among students, particularly those at Junior Certificate and Transition Year levels
- to review the impediments to the selection by students of the physical sciences as second-level subjects and as options at third level

The Task Force will also address issues in the following areas

- support for and promotion of high-quality teaching provision in the physical sciences as well as awareness of the career opportunities open to students
- identification of how third-level institutions can assist with the promotion of the subjects, skills upgrading and in-service training of teachers
- support for and promotion of stronger contacts between physics and chemistry departments and education departments within universities and their interaction with teachers and students in schools
- increased involvement of industry in the promotion of physics and chemistry in schools and as career choices

The Academy is represented on the Task Force on the Physical Sciences by Dr Martin Henry (DCU) of the National Committee for Physics and Professor Han Vos, MRIA (DCU), of the National Committee for Chemistry, while Dr Aine Allen of the National Commission for the Teaching of Physics was appointed as one of the two full-time national strategy coordinators.

For further information about the Task Force on the Physical Sciences see: www.sciencetaskforce.ie

Science Special Report 2

AWARDS FOR YOUNG IRISH CHEMIST

Science Diary
2000–2001

Dr Angelos Michaelides, a graduate of Queen's University Belfast, was the winner of the inaugural Royal Irish Academy Prize for Young Chemists. The prize recognised the most outstanding Irish chemistry PhD thesis of 2000 as described in a 1,000-word essay.

In addition to a prize of stg£800 (€1296) and a John Coen bronze sculpture, sponsored by AGB Scientific Ltd and the *Irish Times*, Dr Michaelides also won an Honourable Mention Award in the international prize for young chemists sponsored by the chemistry union IUPAC. Dr Michaelides was one of twenty-nine entrants from fifteen countries and was the first person ever nominated by the Academy's National Committee for Chemistry for this prestigious prize. For further information about the IUPAC Prize and to read the winning essays see: www.iupac.org/news/prize/2001/michaelides.html

At the announcement of the IUPAC prize, Professor Joshua Jortner, Professor of Chemistry at Tel Aviv University and past president of IUPAC, said that the nominations for the 2001 Prize 'reflect on the high quality of the international activity and on the development of new and exciting research areas in the chemical sciences'.



The title of Dr Michaelides' PhD thesis is 'Towards an understanding of reactions in heterogeneous catalysis'. His PhD used computer-modelling techniques to investigate chemical reactions, and his work adds much to our understanding of surface science and catalysis.

Dr Michaelides, who is originally from Carndonagh, County Donegal, is now conducting post-doctoral studies at the

University of Cambridge under Professor David A. King, one of the world's leading physical chemists and Chief Scientific Advisor to the British prime minister, Mr Tony Blair. Among his many distinctions, Professor King designed the world's most sensitive calorimeter for measuring bond energies—the amounts of energy released when bonds between molecules are made or broken. Professor King has an active research group of more than twenty people and applies both experimental and theoretical techniques to the study of a wide variety of surface processes.

At Cambridge Dr Michaelides is working on ethene epoxidation over silver. Silver is used exclusively for this billion-pound process, yet the reason for this unique catalytic ability is not known and indeed remains one of the great unsolved mysteries of surface science. In a project jointly supervised by Professor King and Dr Ali Alavi of the Cambridge theoretical chemistry division, Dr Michaelides is using a theoretical approach (density functional theory) to

investigate the microscopic mechanisms and reaction pathways involved in this important catalytic process.

16 November 2000

Royal Irish Academy Award in Biochemistry—presentation and lecture

8 December 2000

'The Genetic History and Geography of Ireland'—conference organised by the Advisory Committee on Genetic Anthropology

8 March 2001

'Eleventh Symposium on Radio Science'—symposium organised by the National Committee for Engineering Sciences and the URSI Sub-Committee

Mr Tom O'Meara (left), AGB Scientific Ltd, Dr Angelos Michaelides, recipient of the inaugural Royal Irish Academy Prize for Young Chemists, and Noel Treacy, TD, Minister for Science, Technology and Commerce.

The closing date for applications for the Royal Irish Academy Prize for Young Chemists 2001 is Friday, 7 December 2001.

For further information please see:
www.ria.ie/awards/young_chem.html

For a detailed report on the activities of each of the science national committees and commissions administered by the Academy see:
www.ria.ie/committees/national.html

Humanities Diary 2000-2001

24 March 2000

Launch of *Playing with words*, the text of the keynote address given by Mr Patrick Mason (Abbey Theatre) at the Committee for the Study of Anglo-Irish Literature's 1999 conference

5 April 2000

Joint RIA / Linen Hall
Library lecture: Mr John Gray on 'Histories and futures in "rough terrain": Belfast's Linen Hall Library then and now'

10 April 2000

Visit of the Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Dublin, Alderman Maurice Ahern, to Academy House

12 April 2000

International Affairs
Seminar: Dr Peadar Kirby on 'Uncertain futures: the changing nature of security in post-Cold War international order'

12 April 2000

Joint RIA / Linen Hall
Library lecture: Dr Máire Kennedy on 'Rare, valuable and extensive libraries: the collection of book auction catalogues of Charles Sharpe at the Royal Irish Academy Library'

19 April 2000

Joint RIA / Linen Hall
Library lecture: Dr Eoin Magennis on 'Chocolate on the carpet: the potential for access and outreach'

26 April 2000

Joint RIA / Linen Hall
Library lecture: Dr Thomas Duffy on 'Simon Vierpyl: the terracotta busts of Roman emperors in the Royal Irish Academy'

TUAIRISC RÚNAÍ NA NDÁNA

Bhí rath nár bheag ar an gcéad imeacht a bhain leis na Dána i mbliana, comhdháil an 5-6 Bealtaine 2000 ar Ruairí Mac Easmuinn. Is é an taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD, a d'iarr orainn an chomhdháil idirnáisiúnta dhá lá seo, ar theideal di 'Roger Casement in Irish and World History', a chur ar siúl. Coiste cumasach de bhail an Acadaimh, faoi cheannas an Iar-rúnaí, an tOllamh Eda Sagarra, a d'eagraigh an chomhdháil seo, a bhfuil cur síos speisialta uirthi in áit eile sa *Tuarascáil Bhliantúil* seo (féach lch 22). Ba léir ar na litreacha comhghairdeachais a fuarthas ó gach taobh gur chomhdháil shuimiúil, spreagúil í, agus is é is fada linn go bhfoilseofar a himeachtaí.

D'fhéach coistí náisiúnta an Acadaimh chuige, mar is gnáth, go gcuirí ábhar intleachtúil spreagúil ar fáil ar feadh na bliana, tré chomhdhálacha a eagrú agus léachtaí a chur ar siúl ar théamaí chomh fada óna chéile le stair agus fealsúnacht, teangeolaíocht fheidhmeach sna nuatheangacha agus polaitíocht idirnáisiúnta. Ní gá ach féachaint ar an liosta a ghabhann leis na leathanaigh seo chun éagsúlacht na n-ábhar a pléadh a thabhairt faoi deara. Eagraíonn na coistí náisiúnta an-chuid imeachtaí ar cuspóir dóibh a ndisciplíní féin a chur chun cinn. Coiste Náisiúnta Léann na Gréigise agus na Laidine, mar shampla, d'eagraigh sé Scoileanna Samhraidh sa dá theanga sin a raibh an-éileamh orthu, agus lean sé dá fheachtas chun Institiúid Éireannach don Léann Heilleíneach a chur ar bun san Ataen. Tá Coiste Náisiúnta Léann na Nuatheangacha i mbun clár a chur ar shuíomh gréasáin an Acadaimh den taighde atá á dhéanamh in Éirinn, i dteannta comhoibriú le Coiste Bhliain Eorpach na dTeangacha, chun an tuiscint ar thábhacht na nuatheangacha a leathnú in Éirinn.

Is leis na Dána a bhaineann formhór na dtionscnamh taighde agus foilseacháin atá ar siúl san Acadamh, agus bhí rath mór ar thrí cinn díobh sin i mbliana. Seoladh leabhar ar léarscáil stairiúil Chill Chainnigh sa bhFómhar seo caite a

raibh moladh mór air. Cuireadh an-fháilte, leis, roimh an dara imleabhar de na cáipéisí a bhaineann le polasaí eachtrannach na hÉireann. Agus foilsíodh an ceathrú imleabhar sa tsraith *Scriptores Celtigenae*, a fhreastalaíonn ar théacsanna meánaoiseacha Laidine, faoi chúram Fhoclóir den Laidin Mheánaoiseach ó Fhoinsí Ceilteacha.

Tá borradh mór faoi na hEolaíochtaí Sóisialta san Acadamh le cúpla bliain anuas, agus a bhúiochas sin do Choiste Náisiúnta na hEacnamaíochta agus na nEolaíochtaí Sóisialta, a cruthaíodh i 1984. Tar éis don Choiste fíorghníomhach seo scéim a chur ar bun chun gréasáin taighde idirnáisiúnta a chruthú, bhunaigh sé Comhairle Taighde Eolaíochta Sóisialta (CTES), ar chúram dó deontais thacaíochta a riaradh do lucht taighde sinsir agus do mhic léinn iarchéime. Bhí lámh ag an Acadamh féin i mbunú Comhairle nua um Thaighde sna Dána agus sna hEolaíochtaí Sóisialta i mí na Nollag 1999, agus dá bhri sin chuireamar fáilte mhór roimhe. Mar gur í an Chomhairle nua a riarfaidh feasta na hacmhainní a thagann ón Rialtas, cuireadh an CTES ar ceal tar éis dó a Thuarascáil deireannach a fhoilsiú i mí na Samhna 2000. Tá clár nua, a thugtar Clár Taighde don Tríú Rannóg air, ar bun anois, a bhfuil cur síos níos mine air ar lch 23 den tuarascáil seo.

Is nós fós leis an Acadamh roinnt duaiseanna a bhronnadh sna Dána, ar cuspóir dóibh creidiúint a thabhairt d'fheabhas scolártha nó caoi a thabhairt do scoláirí foinsí a scrúdú sa Bhreatain agus ar Mhór-Roinn na hEorpa. Toisc luach an méid airgid a bhíodh á bhronnadh a bheith titithe le himeacht aimsire, is áthas liom a thabhairt le fios go n-athscrúdófar anois scéimeanna dheontas an Acadaimh, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs na Comhairle nua um Thaighde sna Dána agus sna hEolaíochtaí Sóisialta.

Pádraig Ó Riain

Rúnaí don Litríocht Nómhar agus don tSeandacht

HUMANITIES SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Academy's year began on a high note in the humanities (formally known in Academy parlance as 'polite literature and antiquities') with the hugely successful Casement conference on 5–6 May 2000. This two-day international conference entitled 'Roger Casement in Irish and World History' was organised by the Academy at the request of An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD. The programme was drawn up by a very able committee of Academy members led by the then Secretary of the Academy, Professor Eda Sagarra. A special feature about this event is included in this *Annual Report* (see p. 22). The Academy received many letters of congratulation, from all sides, for a stimulating and objective meeting on the subject. We look forward to the publication of the proceedings.



As usual, the national committees administered by the Academy provided year-round intellectual stimulation of their own making in conferences and lectures that ranged in theme from the philosophical and historical to applications in modern languages and international politics. A diary of events accompanying these pages gives some sense of the variety of subjects tackled. The national committees organise many events to promote or develop their disciplines. For example, the National Committee for Greek and Latin Studies holds a popular set of Summer Schools in Latin and Greek and is also making progress in its campaign to establish an Irish Institute of Hellenic Studies in Athens. The National Committee for Modern Languages is putting an Irish register of research on the Academy's web site and has liaised with the European Year of Languages Committee to raise language awareness in Ireland.

Most of the Academy's research and publication projects are in the humanities, and three of these had a very successful year in

publication. The Irish Historic Towns Atlas of Kilkenny was launched to great acclaim last autumn, and the publication of the second volume of the Documents in Irish Foreign Policy series was also very much welcomed. A fourth volume in the medieval Latin text series *Scriptores Celtigenae* also appeared, under the auspices of our Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources project.

The attention given to the social sciences has grown enormously in the Academy over the past few years, spearheaded by our National Committee for Economics and Social Sciences. This committee was first established in 1984 and began by initiating a scheme for international research networks, then moved on to establish the Social Science Research Council (SSRC), which administered a number of support grants for senior researchers and postgraduate students. The Academy was instrumental in lobbying for the creation of the new Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences and so very much welcomed its establishment in December 1999. However, since government funding was transferred to the new body, the SSRC was wound down, producing its final report in October 2000. A new programme, the Third Sector Research Programme, is underway, details of which can be found on p. 23 of this report.

The Academy continues to provide a number of small awards in the humanities that recognise excellence or enable scholars to consult source materials in Britain and Europe. However, the amounts being awarded have been eroded by time, and I am pleased to note that there will be a review of the Academy's award schemes in the humanities, particularly in view of the establishment of the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Pádraig Ó Riain
Polite Literature and Antiquities Secretary

Humanities Diary 2000–2001

3 May 2000

Joint RIA / Linen Hall
Library lecture: '*To improve the mind and excite a spirit of general inquiry*' the research collections of the Linen Hall Library'

5–6 May 2000

'Roger Casement in Irish and World History'—symposium

10 May 2000

Joint RIA / Linen Hall
Library lecture: "'Catch a glimpse of the days that are over": the Thomas Moore Library at the Royal Irish Academy'

17 May 2000

International Affairs
Seminar: Ms Anne Marlborough on '*Aut dedere aut iudicare*: the implementation of international criminal law in Ireland'

19 May 2000

Presentation of the Eoin O'Mahony Bursary Fund awards

25–26 May 2000

'Epistemology'—Twentieth Annual Conference of the National Committee for Philosophy

23 June 2000

International Affairs
Seminar: Professor Nicholas Rees on 'Ireland's foreign relations in 1999'

26–30 June and 3–7 July

Greek and Latin Summer Schools in Trinity College, Dublin, organised by the National Committee for Greek and Latin Studies

28–30 June 2000

'Oriental and Celtic Thought: Millennial Themes'—conference organised by the Consultative Committee on Biblical and Near Eastern Studies

Continued on page 23

Humanities Special Report 1

SYMPOSIUM ON ROGER CASEMENT
IN IRISH AND WORLD HISTORY

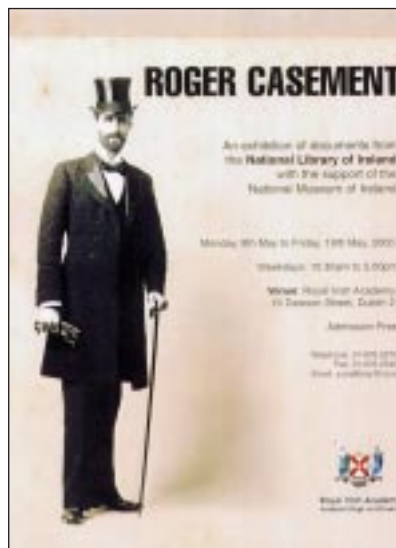
Speakers Dr John Hemming and Dr Roger Sawyer at the Roger Casement symposium.

The complexity of Roger Casement's life and legacy was explored by a distinguished panel of international speakers and delegates during a two-day symposium in Academy House on 5 and 6 May 2000.

The purpose of the symposium, as outlined by its convenor, Professor Eda Sagarra, was, firstly, 'to re-examine and assess our current knowledge of Casement in the context of his life, work and times and, secondly, to set the research agenda of Casement studies for the immediate future'. Organised by the Academy at the request of An Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, TD, the symposium comprised five sessions: *Casement's World View*; *Casement and Whitehall*; *The Casement Diaries: Context and Evidence*; *The Trial for Treason*; and *Casement's Legacy*.

On the first day the delegates heard papers from anthropologist Dr Séamus Ó Siocháin, National University of Ireland, Maynooth; Dr Jules Marchal, former Belgian diplomat and author; Dr John Hemming, former director of the Royal Geographical Society; Professor Andrew Porter, King's College, London; and Professor Christopher Andrew, University of Cambridge. A forum discussion addressed Casement's relationship with Whitehall. Those on the panel included Ms Gill Bennett, Chief Historian, Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Dr David Stafford, University of Edinburgh; Professor Eunan O'Halpin, Trinity College, Dublin; Dr Michael Laffan, University College Dublin; Dr Margaret O'Callaghan, University of Notre Dame; and Mr Nigel Jones, associate editor of the BBC's *History Magazine*.

The second day dealt with Casement's diaries, his trial and his legacy. Papers exploring the forensic examination of the diaries were delivered by Mr James Horan, John Jay College



of Criminal Justice, and Dr David Baxendale, Document Evidence Ltd. Dr Roger Sawyer, Mr Jeffrey Dudgeon, Mr Angus Mitchell and Mr Eoin Ó Maille then outlined their research and the conflicting conclusions they have reached regarding the origins of the diaries.

The penultimate session dealt with Casement's trial for treason. Delegates heard papers from Dr Reinhard Doerries, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität

Erlangen-Nuernberg; Mr Frank Callanan, SC; Professor Conor Gearty, King's College, London; and Mr Owen Dudley Edwards, University of Edinburgh.

The final session, Casement's legacy, comprised papers by Professor Lucy McDiarmid, Villanova University, and Dr Martin Mansergh, Department of the Taoiseach. Dr Mansergh told the symposium that he hoped it would prove to be 'the beginning of the end of the controversy' surrounding Casement:

There is a strong prima facie case on both sides of the argument. The only battle that I want to see is the battle for truth, whatever the final conclusion... If this can be established to the satisfaction of the vast majority of people, it will finally remove an old and persistent sore from Anglo-Irish relations, based on the perception of a lack of fair dealing in this and other matters.

Following the symposium it was decided to publish the proceedings, and the publication is now in preparation. Radio interviews with the speakers were recorded by Mr Richard Downes for RTÉ's *This Week* and by Dr John Bowman for RTÉ's *Any Other Business*. The symposium was also filmed by Crossing the Line Films, who are making a documentary on Casement's life for RTÉ. The film is being directed by Mr Alan Gilsenan and produced by Mr John Murray.

The Academy Library organised an exhibition on Roger Casement to coincide with the Roger Casement symposium (see poster above right). The National Library of Ireland generously provided almost all of the documents, photographs and memorabilia for the exhibition. The National Museum of Ireland loaned a fetish collected by Casement during his travels in the Belgian Congo.

Humanities Special Report 2

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AND THIRD SECTOR RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Humanities Diary
2000–2001

The establishment of a government-appointed and adequately funded research council for the social sciences was a long-term aim of the Academy's Social Science Research Council (SSRC), a sub-committee of the National Committee for Economics and Social Sciences. It therefore welcomed the enquiry entrusted to Dr Maurice Bric (UCD) by the Minister of Education and Science and the subsequent announcement in December 1999 of the creation of the new Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS). In view of this and the fact that no further grants were paid to the SSRC, it was decided to wind up the SSRC's programme on the occasion of the launch of its final report at the end of October 2000.

During the year 2000 the SSRC supported its very successful annual essay prize from accumulated funds. It also explored avenues of more specific research that would not comfortably fall within the terms of reference of either the new IRCHSS or the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) in the UK. In particular it responded to an approach by representatives of a private donor who had been supporting substantial research in the third, or voluntary, sector. It also initiated an approach to the Nuffield Foundation and other potential funding agencies seeking support for a research framework on devolution and border issues. The Academy established a Research Committee under the National Committee for Economics and Social Sciences on a similar basis and with a similar structure to the SSRC but with the addition of representatives of the Social Policy Association. Professor Michael Laver, MRIA, of Trinity College, Dublin (see photo above), was elected Chair of the committee. The Research Committee's primary concern in 2001 was the Third Sector Research programme.



Aims and scope of the Third Sector Research Programme

The Third Sector Research Programme (TSRP) aims

- to encourage a network of researchers with an interest in voluntary, or third-sector, issues: social economy, non-profit, non-governmental or third-sector organisations, philanthropy
- to increase the extent and quality of research in the area
- to encourage the dissemination of research findings within the academic community and the voluntary sector itself

The TSRP covers research areas that include those aspects of the voluntary or non-profit sector in Ireland or elsewhere that apply to the distinctive features of the activities undertaken, including their interaction with state agencies and the private sector. Among other aspects it includes

- infrastructure, training and support structures
- definition, history and values of voluntary bodies
- economic impact of the sector
- financial basis and fund-raising practice of the sector
- impact of the European Union on the development of the sector
- impact on broader policy issues
- legal and fiscal environment
- management and governance of the sector

Applications for TSRP awards are solicited from postgraduates and teaching and research staff at any third-level institution in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. Postgraduate awards cover fees and support costs totalling approximately £11,500 (€14,600) per annum. Research awards are available to any individual or team; the maximum funding available for any application is £50,000 (€63,000), and normally grants will not exceed £30,000 (€40,000) per annum.

7 July 2000

Reception to celebrate the completion of the Sharpe Auction Catalogues Binding Project

16–20 August 2000

Tenth International Colloquium of the Society for the Promotion of Eriugian Studies, held at NUI, Maynooth.

19 October 2000

Visit of the Pontifical Commission for Archives to the Academy's Library

19–20 October 2000

'Social Institutions of Indo-European Peoples'—colloquium organised by the National Committee for Greek and Latin Studies and the Indo-European Sub-Committee

31 October 2000

Launch of *Social Science Research Council, Sixth Annual Report* by Dr Seán Farren, MLA

3 November 2000

Launch of *Irish Historic Towns Atlas no. 10: Kilkenny*

8 November 2000

International Affairs Seminar: Dr Bernadette Whelan on 'The New World and Old World: American Marshall planners in Ireland'

10–11 November 2000

'Cultural Memory'—symposium, held in UCD and Newman House, organised by the National Committee for Modern Language Studies

Continued on page 24

Humanities Diary 2000-2001

14 November 2000

Archaeological Research Excavations Seminar, organised by the National Committee for Archaeology

23 November 2000

Graduate Research Seminar in International Relations, organised by the National Committee for the Study of International Affairs

24 November 2000

'Challenges to Liberal Internationalism'—conference organised by the National Committee for the Study of International Affairs

27 November 2000

'Wittgenstein Symposium'—organised by the National Committee for Philosophy

22-23 February 2001

'Alexandria'—colloquium organised by the National Committee for Greek and Latin Studies

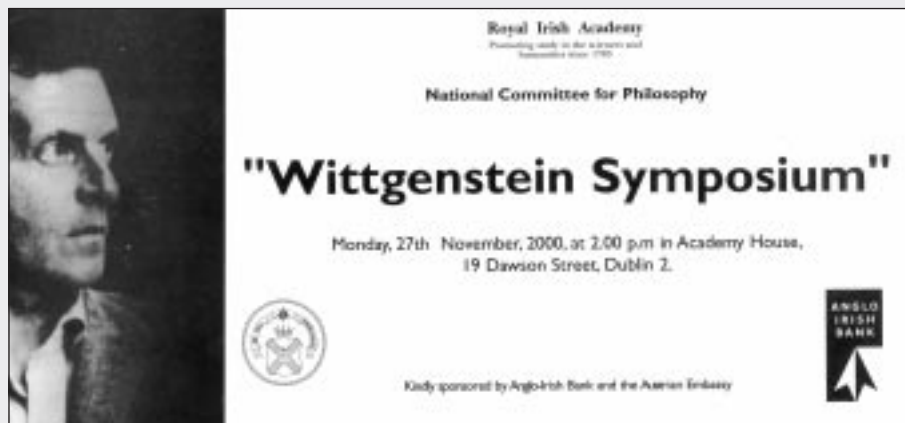
26 February 2001

International Affairs Seminar: Professor Ronan Fanning, MRIA, on 'Playing it cool: the response of the British and Irish governments to the crisis in Northern Ireland, 1968-70'

For a detailed report on the activities of each of the humanities national committees and commissions administered by the Academy see: www.ria/committees/national.html

National Committee for Philosophy

WITTGENSTEIN SYMPOSIUM 2000



In 2000 the National Committee for Philosophy organised its second Wittgenstein symposium with the support of the Austrian Embassy and AIB Bank. The symposium, inaugurated in 1999, celebrates the links that the Austrian philosopher established in Ireland and brings together scholars and students to enjoy lectures by both Irish and Austrian academics.

The first lecture in 2000 was: 'Wittgenstein and/or the Vienna Circle? Philosophy and science as language games' by Professor Friedrich Stadler, University of Vienna, Austria. The second lecture was 'Cantor's Paradise: Wittgenstein's fall or mathematics regained?' by Professor Pascal O'Gorman, National University of Ireland, Galway.

HUMANITIES AWARDS AND PRIZES

The following received awards in the humanities in 2000-2001:

National Committee for Archaeology Research Grants 2000

Ms Connie Kelleher
Mr James Lyttleton
Ms Madeleine Murray
Mr William O'Brien
Professor Peter Woodman

National Committee for Archaeology Research Excavation Grants 2001

Dr Stefan Bergh
Mr Colin Breen
Professor Gabriel Cooney
Ms Jean Farrelly
Mr Joseph Fenwick
Dr Elizabeth FitzPatrick
Dr Carleton Jones
Dr Sinéad Ní Ghabhláin
Mr Eoghan Moore
Mr Jerry O'Sullivan

Eoin O'Mahony Awards 2000

Dr John de Courcy Ireland
Mr Samuel Fanning
Mr Neil Fleming
Ms Judith Hill
Mr Séamus Mac Annaidh
Mr Eoin Magennis

SSRC Postgraduate Essay Competition 2000

The five prizewinners of this competition organised by the Social Sciences Research Council in 2000 were:

Ms Rachel Hilliard (DCU)
Ms Annette Jorgensen (UCD)
Ms Tracey Meagher (NUI, Maynooth)
Ms Paili S. Meek (UCD)
Ms Nicola Vavasour (NUI, Maynooth)

INTERNATIONAL REPORT

The Academy provides support for foreign scholars in both individual and collaborative research through a network of links with partner institutions and academies abroad.

The Academy supports bilateral research visits between Ireland and Austria, France (Funded by Enterprise Ireland and the CNRS) Hungary, Poland and Britain and, through the Senior Visiting Fellowship scheme, to any institution worldwide. These visits enable Irish scholars to work abroad and foreign scholars to visit Ireland. On average fifty collaborations are funded each year. The schemes offer support for short-term study visits of up to six weeks or long-term research networks of six months to two years. The aim is to encourage international scholarly collaboration and add value to research through this networking.

International representation

A primary function of the Academy is to act as a national affiliating body to the important international scientific organisations. In this way Irish scholars have a direct channel of communication, through the Academy, with such organisations as the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and the European Science Foundation (ESF). They provide a unique mechanism for scientists to work together on topics of common concern, and they facilitate a range of interdisciplinary and international research programmes.

These international organisations provide a forum by which the research undertaken in Ireland's universities can be represented on a world stage. They provide invaluable links to ensure that Ireland's academics are fully accredited with their colleagues throughout the world. Delegates from the national committees administered by the Academy attend international congresses all over the world. In recent years Irish academics have travelled on behalf of their disciplines and as representatives of Ireland to congresses in Rio de Janeiro, Seoul, Chicago, Tokyo, Strasbourg and Nairobi (see full list for 2000–2001 on p. 26). In the past year, Professor

Peter A. Whittaker, National Committee for Biology, was elected Secretary General of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) at the 27th General Assembly in Naples in June 2000, and URSI Secretary General Professor Paul Lagasse gave the keynote paper at the URSI Sub-Committee conference in Academy House in March 2001.

European Science Foundation

The Royal Irish Academy is one of Ireland's founding member organisations to the European Science Foundation (ESF). The other Irish member organisations are the Health Research Board, Enterprise Ireland and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The Academy nominates the Irish members to the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities and Standing Committee for the Social Sciences. The ESF is an association of 67 member organisations devoted to scientific research in 24 European countries. Since it was established in 1974 it has co-ordinated a wide range of pan-European scientific initiatives. The ESF's core purpose is to promote high-quality science at a European level. The ESF is committed to facilitating cooperation and collaboration in European science on behalf of its principal stakeholders (member organisations and Europe's scientific community). This cross-border activity combines both 'top-down' and 'bottom-up' approaches in the long-term development of science. The Foundation is committed to providing scientific leadership through its networking expertise and by ensuring that there is a European added value to all of its initiatives and projects. Its aim is to act as a catalyst for the development of science by bringing together leading scientists and research funding agencies to debate, plan and implement pan-European initiatives.

The ESF's objectives are

- to advance European co-operation in basic research
- to examine and advise on research and science policy issues of strategic importance



Professor Anne Buttimer, MRIA, who was elected President of the International Geographical Union at their World Congress on 15 August 2000, the first woman President in the 130 years since the congress was first held.



Academy delegates to international meetings 2000–2001

Professor D.C. Williams to IUBMB 17th Ordinary General Assembly, Birmingham, 16–20 July 2000

Professor A.D. Wood to ICMI General Assembly, Tokyo, 31 July – 6 August 2000

Dr P. McArdle to IUGS 31st International Congress, Rio de Janeiro, 6–12 August 2000

Professor M. Redfern to IAU 24th General Assembly, Manchester, 7–18 August 2000

Professor P.F. Hodnett to IUTAM 20th International Congress, Chicago, 27 August – 2 September 2000

Professor D. Gillmor to IGU 29th International Congress, Seoul, 14–18 August 2000

Dr T. Bolger to IUBS 27th General Assembly, Naples, 7–12 November 2000

For further details of international representation see: www.ria.ie/committees/international.html

- to promote the mobility of researchers and the free flow of information and ideas
- to facilitate cooperation in the use of existing facilities and in the planning and provision of new facilities
- to plan and, where appropriate, to manage collaborative research activities

Between March 2000 and March 2001 Professor Eda Sagarra attended the ESF Standing Committee for the Humanities meetings in London, Rome and Strasbourg. Ms Laura Mahoney attended the Standing Committee for Humanities and Social Science meetings with senior administrators in London and Vienna. Professor Michael Laver is the Academy's nominee to the Standing Committee for the Social Sciences and serves on the advisory board of the European Social Survey.

The Irish member organisations successfully nominated Professor Jane Grimson of Trinity College, Dublin, to the ESF Executive Board, and Professor David Spearman, President of the Academy, continues to serve on the ESF Governing Council.

For further information on the ESF contact:

Communication and Information Unit
European Science Foundation
1 Quai Lezay-Marnesia
F-67080 Strasbourg Cedex
France
Tel. +33 (0) 388767125
Fax +33 (0) 388767180
E-mail communications@esf.org

International bodies to which the Academy is affiliated

ACIS – American Conference for Irish Studies

AIEA – Association Internationale des Études Armeniennes

AIEB – Association Internationale des Études Byzantine

ALLEA – All European Academies

CAIS – Canadian Association for Irish Studies

CDRIIA – Conference of Directors and Representatives of Institutes of International Affairs

CIPL – Permanent International Committee of Linguistics

EPS – European Physical Society

ESF – European Science Foundation

FIEC – International Federation of the Societies of Classical Studies

FISP – International Federation of the Societies of Philosophy

IAU – International Astronomical Union

ICO – International Commission for Optics

ICMI – International Commission on Mathematical Instruction

ICSU – International Council of Scientific Unions

IGBP – International Geosphere Biosphere Programme

IGU – International Geographical Union

IMU – International Mathematical Union

INQUA – International Union for Quaternary Research

IUBMB – International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

IUBS – International Union of Biological Sciences

IUGG – International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics

IUGS – International Union of Geological Science

IUHPS-DHS – International Union of History and Philosophy of Science, Division of History

IUHPS-DLMPS – International Union of History and Philosophy of Science, Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science

IUNS – International Union of Nutritional Sciences

IUPAC – International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry

IUPAP – International Union of Pure and Applied Physics

IUTAM – International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics

SIL – International Society of Limnology

URSI – International Union of Radio Science

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

The following were awarded fellowships or study visits in 2000 for 2001 under international exchange schemes:

Austrian Academy Exchange Scheme

Dr Michael Parkinson, Dublin City University

Dr Niall O'Murchadha, National University of Ireland, Cork

Dr Roisin Healy, National University of Ireland, Galway

Dr David Lederer, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Dr Christiane Glassner, Austrian Academy of Sciences

Professor Martin Dokulil, Austrian Academy of Sciences

British Academy Exchange Scheme

Dr James Kelly, St Catherine's College of Education, Dublin

Hungarian Academy Exchange Scheme

Professor Christopher Bell, Trinity College, Dublin

Dr Katalin Fodor-Csorba, Research Institute for Solid State Physics, Budapest

Professor Imre Kovach, Hungarian Academy of Sciences

Polish Academy Exchange Scheme

Dr Malgorzata D'Aughton, All Hallows College, Dublin

Dr Michael Gilchrist, National University of Ireland, Dublin

Dr Roman Kulikowski, Polish Academy of Sciences

Professor Wieslaw Ostachowicz, Polish Academy of Sciences

Dr Hanna Faryna-Paskiewicz, Polish Academy of Sciences

Royal Society Exchange Scheme

Study Visits

Professor Jane Nelson, Queen's University Belfast

Dr John Patrick Lowry, National University of Ireland, Maynooth

Joint Research Projects

Dr Ann Burnell, National University of Ireland, Maynooth **and Dr Alan Tunnacliffe**, University of Cambridge

Professor Ian Robertson, Trinity College, Dublin, **and Dr Vincent Walsh**, University of Oxford

Dr Mark A. Miodownik, National University of Ireland, Dublin, **and Dr Alfred Cerezo**, University of Oxford

Dr Patrick Arthur Nixon, Trinity College, Dublin, **and Professor Richard Connor**, University of Strathclyde

Senior Visiting Fellowships

Professor John Dalton, Dublin City University

Dr John Ringwood, Dublin City University

Dr Patrick O'Flanagan, National University of Ireland, Cork

Dr Kenneth Wolfe, Trinity College, Dublin

Dr David Fegan, National University of Ireland, Dublin

Dr Nancy Riggs, Northern Arizona University



Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw.

PROJECTS

Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources

The ultimate objective of the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources (DMLCS) project is the compilation of a dictionary of Celtic Latin based on a database of all known texts.

The first component volume of the DMLCS dictionary will be the *Non-classical lexicon of Celtic Latinity, A-H*, which is to be published initially in book form. By spring 2001 the project had almost completed the entries for

A selection of publications that have appeared under the auspices of the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources.



the letter C—by far the largest in the entire lexicon. This leaves only the small letters F and H and some addenda to be compiled for this first volume.

Direct contact has been established between DMLCS and the editorial teams of each of the fifteen other national or provincial dictionaries of medieval Latin based in various European academies. A scheme to establish reciprocal links with the web sites of each of these dictionary projects has been initiated, and there is also a plan to exchange publications.

The fourth volume in the *Scriptores Celtigenae* medieval Latin text series, a collaborative project involving the DMLCS, Brepols and the Irish Biblical Association, was launched by the President of the Academy on 9 March 2001. The work in question, the *Homiliarium Veronense*, or Verona Homily Collection, is an edition of hitherto unpublished eighth- or ninth-century essays concerning the liturgical year. The Latin will be added to the DMLCS full-text database and thus included in future editions of the electronic *Archive of Celtic-Latin literature*.

Dictionary of Irish Biography

The Dictionary of Irish Biography (DIB) is a six-volume publication project that will provide authoritative information on the careers of up to nine thousand prominent Irish men and women.

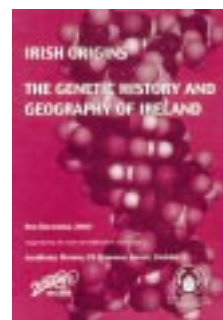
The overall statistics for the annual report period 2000–2001 are evidence of a year of considerable achievement. By 9 March 2001, a total of 5,214 lives had been covered in biographical articles, representing 57.9% of the target figure.

In addition to the work of the project staff, external contributors provide indispensable assistance in writing entries for major figures or for subjects requiring specialist knowledge or information. To date there are 301 external contributors, of whom 217 have so far submitted copy, in many cases for several entries.

During the year meetings were held to establish scholarly cooperation between the DIB and similar projects, in particular the History of the Irish Engineering Profession and the Bibliography of Irish Fiction, 1700–1900.

Irish Origins: The Genetic History and Geography of Ireland

An award of £100,000 (€127,000) was made in 1999 to the Academy's Advisory Committee on Genetic Anthropology by the Millennium



Commission for a series of four pilot projects to determine the genetic history and geography of the Irish people. The four projects are based in Trinity College, Dublin, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, Dublin, Queen's University Belfast and University College Cork.

A Conference was held in Academy House on 8 December 2000 to report on the progress of each project and to examine comparative research in other centres (see programme cover above).

Foclóir na Nua-Ghaeilge

The Foclóir na Nua-Ghaeilge (FNG), or Dictionary of Modern Irish, project was initiated in 1976, with the objective of producing a historical dictionary of modern Irish.

A review of the FNG at the end of 1999 by three external experts noted that ‘the [FNG] corpus now, even in its unfinished state, represents a unique research resource, which, when complete, will revolutionise the field of Irish Studies’.

However, the attainment of the aim of compiling a historical dictionary of modern Irish will take many years and implies a very large commitment in terms of skills and professional expertise. In early 2001 the Academy’s Council endorsed the following recommendations:

- The compilation and development of the computerised dictionary archive, which concentrates mainly on seventeenth-, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century material, should be completed as a separate project.
- An IT specialist should be asked to examine the captured material, to report on the structure of the archive, its potential in terms of access and processing as a corpus, and to report generally on the IT aspects.
- In the light of the IT report, a plan should be developed to ensure that the completed corpus of the texts from 1600 to 1900 will become available for study and research as might be required.
- The compilation of the historical Dictionary of Modern Irish should be undertaken as a separate project that will avail of the corpus and the developed IT programs.

New Survey of Clare Island

The aim of the New Survey of Clare Island (NSCI) project is to assess the environmental changes that have taken place since the completion of the first survey of Clare Island, Co. Mayo, in 1911.

The first volume of the published results, *The New Survey of Clare Island. Volume 1: history and cultural landscape*, was launched by President Mary McAleese, MRIA, in Academy House on 9 February 2000. A second launch was held, together with a public seminar, on Clare Island on 28 April 2000. The seminar presented fieldwork reports on freshwater animals, seabirds, soils and the vegetation of Clare Island to a mixed audience of scientists and local residents.

Sponsorship of £15,000 (€19,050) towards *Volume 2: geology* has been obtained from Enterprise Energy Ireland, and it is hoped to publish the volume by December 2001.

The NSCI Committee made a successful application to the Heritage Council for a grant of £39,655 (€50,355) to survey the terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates on Clare Island. The National University of Ireland, Galway, has secured funding under the HEA Third Level Research Scheme for a large-scale study of the aquatic communities of the island. The Academy has made a further £20,000 (€25,340) available from its own Bicentennial Research Trust Fund towards NSCI studies. These grants will assist in completing most of the outstanding NSCI fieldwork in the botany and zoology sections. It is hoped to have all fieldwork finished by 2003.

Project websites

For further information on the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources see the DMLCS web site, which is generously hosted by Queen’s University Belfast: journals.eecs.qub.ac.uk/DMLCS/DMLCS.html

For further information on the Dictionary of Irish Biography see: www.ria.ie/projects/dib.html

Chun níos mó eolais a fháil agus chun tuarascáil bhliantúil iomlán FNG a léamh, féach: www.ria.ie/projects/fng/fng.html

For further information on the New Survey of Clare Island see: www.ria.ie/projects/clare_island.html

For project committee details see: www.ria.ie/committees/committees.html

Project Special Report 1

DOCUMENTS ON IRISH FOREIGN POLICY



*Patrick McGilligan,
Minister for External
Affairs, 1927–32.*

It is said that on taking office as President of the Executive Council and Minister for External Affairs in March 1932 Eamon de Valera was taken aback at the scope of Irish foreign policy and the wide operational remit of his predecessor in External Affairs, Patrick McGilligan. Since 1927 McGilligan had overseen a modest expansion of Ireland's foreign relations: by 1932 Ireland held a temporary seat on the Council of the League of Nations, was in the vanguard of reformist states within the Commonwealth and had expanded its missions overseas from three (London, Geneva, Washington) to six (London, Geneva, Washington, Paris, Berlin, Vatican City). The late 1920s have recently been comprehensively researched by the Documents on Irish Foreign Policy (DIFP) project. Select documents from these years will be published in volume III of the Documents on Irish Foreign Policy series in the winter of 2002.



*Joseph Walshe, Secretary
of the Department of
External Affairs,
1922–46.*

Established in 1997, the DIFP project has published two volumes of documents to date, covering Irish foreign policy from the Declaration of Independence in 1919 to the collapse of the Boundary Commission in the winter of 1925–26. Through these volumes, such key events in Irish diplomatic history as the negotiations leading to the 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty (see vol. I) and the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States of America (see vol. II) can be followed and interpreted from the perspectives of those making and implementing policy at the time.

As readers of the DIFP series will see, Irish diplomats sought continually to enhance the state's international position and ensure its international sovereignty. The League of Nations was particularly useful in this regard. Ireland joined the League in September 1923 (see vol. II). From 1923 Ireland sent senior ministers and diplomats to the annual assembly of the League in Geneva, where they used their votes to create an international environment more suitable for small states such as Ireland. Membership of the League allowed Ireland to expand its range of

international interests vastly. As volume III of the series will show, there was much more to Irish foreign policy in the late 1920s than simply Anglo-Irish relations.

The documents from the files that are printed in volumes I and II of the DIFP series show how Irish foreign policy matured quickly after 1921. The rapid progress in the development of the British Commonwealth away from an empire controlled from London to a grouping of independent states was due to the actions of Irish diplomats such as the Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, Joseph Walshe, and the Department's legal adviser, John Hearne. While in 1923 Irish officials had cautiously put forward proposals at that year's Imperial Conference (see vol. II), by 1930 they were the most senior dominion negotiators—and negotiators with a radical agenda. The documents show that, by the late 1920s, the Cumann na nGaedheal government was considering a further revision of Anglo-Irish relations that would redefine the relationship between the two islands initially laid down in the 1921 Treaty. They were discussing removal of the right of appeal to the Privy Council in London and the possibility of a separate Irish Nationality Act. The right of appeal was eventually abolished by Eamon de Valera's Fianna Fáil government in 1933, and an Irish Nationality Act became law in 1935.

The two volumes in the DIFP series that have been published to date and the volume currently in preparation are contributing to development of interest in academic study of Irish foreign policy, which has been ongoing since the early 1990s. Volume II was published in November 2000 and launched at the Irish Embassy in Washington in May 2001. The interest shown in the project's work in the USA is a sign that DIFP has acquired an international reputation.

Current plans are for a series of seventeen volumes, covering the years 1919 to 1979. The DIFP project plans to publish these within a rolling time-frame that takes account of the ongoing yearly releases of state papers under the National Archives Act.



For further information on the DIFP project see:
www.ria.ie/projects/difp/difp.html

Project Special Report 2

IRISH HISTORIC TOWNS ATLAS

***Irish Historic Towns Atlas no. 10: Kilkenny* by John Bradley was launched in Kilkenny Castle on 6 October 2000 and in Academy House on 3 November 2000. *Kilkenny* is the largest towns atlas produced to date. The text section features about 2000 entries on aspects of the town's historical topography. A selection of visual material in large format includes the colour reconstruction (c. 1842) and high quality reproductions such as Rocque's map (1756) and views by Place (c. 1698) and Mitchell (c. 1760).**



Work on *Dublin, Part I* (to 1610) proceeded during the year, and this fascicle is due to be published next in the series as *Irish Historic Towns Atlas no. 11*. Under the authorship of Howard Clarke, *Dublin, Part I* will be the first of the 'big city' atlases, offering an unprecedented study of medieval Dublin through the topographical information section and laying the foundation for a further three fascicles that will trace the development of the urban area of Dublin to 1900. This contribution to the city's history was celebrated on 30 June 2000 at a ceremony in the Mansion House, when the Lord Mayor, Mary Freehill, presented the Dublin Corporation Deirdre Kelly Conservation Bursary to Anngret Simms, MRIA, one of the IHTA editors.

Raymond Gillespie, MRIA, another IHTA editor, and Stephen Royle continued their work on *Belfast, Part I* (to 1840), and John Lynch started the preparation of *Belfast, Part II* (1840–1900). Plans also advanced for the production of a third part dealing with Belfast in



Irish Historic Towns Atlases published to date: Kildare, Carrickfergus, Bandon, Kells, Mullingar, Athlone, Maynooth, Downpatrick, Bray and Kilkenny.

Each atlas traces the historical development of the town or city through an essay, a list of topographical information and a series of detailed maps and illustrations. The maps and texts are derived mainly from primary sources.

The Irish towns atlas project is part of a wider European scheme allowing Irish towns to be studied in their European context.

Far left—Belfast city councillors discuss plans for the Belfast Towns Atlas with the Academy's president, David Spearman, and IHTA editor Anngret Simms.

Professor David Spearman, PRIA, and Mayor Paul Cuddihy at the launch of Kilkenny in the Parade Tower, Kilkenny Castle.

For the IHTA's detailed annual report and all information on international links, ongoing research, exhibitions, lectures, future publications, methods of production, editors and staff see: www.ria.ie/IHTAtlas.html

the twentieth century. Research on Armagh, Derry, Fethard (Co. Tipperary), Trim and Wicklow continued throughout the year.

Grants towards research and publication were received from: Belfast City Council; Armagh City Council; Luther I. Replogle Foundation, Washington DC; Marc Fitch Fund, Oxford; the National Millennium Committee; and the Heritage Council. George Huxley, MRIA, and Tony Patterson, Kilkenny, also made donations to the atlas project.



In August 2000, the Library provided a venue for lunchtime theatre. The Tall Tales Theatre Company performed dramatisations of short stories by six Irish women writers—Maeve Binchy, Elizabeth Bowen, Mary Lavin, Eilís Ní Dhuibhne, Edna O'Brien and Julia Ó Faoláin. The performances took place in the Meeting Room to musical accompaniment. They were enthusiastically received, and some of the Dublin-based authors attended performances of their own works.

Middle right—'Oh liberty what horrors are perpetrated in the name.

May every virtuous revolutionist remember the horrors of Wexford!' From MS 12.P.13, Daniel O'Connell's diary for the years 1795-1802.

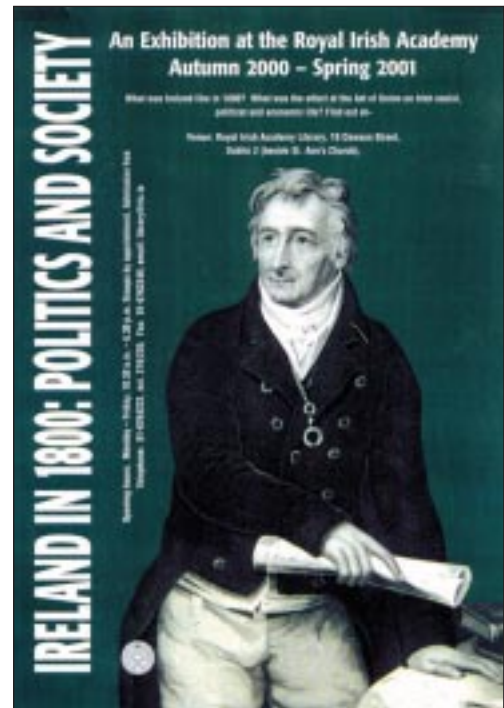
Bottom right—A scene of Dublin city centre in the aftermath of the 1916 Rising. Thomas Johnson Westropp spent two days, 17-18 May 1916, recording the destruction of key buildings and sites for posterity.

THE LIBRARY

In line with the general public mood for celebration of the third millennium, the Library set some new trends during 2000, all the while maintaining the traditional provision of a friendly quality service. To herald the millennium and commemorate one of the most seminal events in Irish history, the Act of Union, an exhibition entitled 'Ireland in 1800: Politics and Society' was mounted. This exhibition drew entirely on the Academy's own collections, including the Holiday Pamphlet collection, which is particularly rich in Union debate items, and the archival collection, which yielded, among other things, Daniel O'Connell's diary of 1795-1802 and Minutes of the monthly meetings of the Moate women members of the Society of Friends of 1745-1845. Some of the pamphlet material was transferred to Belfast for the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland's Act of Union exhibition in May 2001.

In 2000-2001 the Library accommodated thirty official visiting groups, including master classes in Irish, palaeography and history. Of the special displays mounted for visiting groups, the most significant was the selection of manuscripts, photographs and drawings connected with Thomas Johnson Westropp, MRIA (1860-1922), which was exhibited for the visit of the extended Westropp family on 10 July 2000. Westropp, who is remembered for his antiquarian researches in Clare and the surrounding counties, had trained as an engineer at the University of Dublin. He brought scientific method to bear on his archaeological research, testing the evidence against historical and manuscript sources and against traditional and oral accounts relating to the areas under investigation.

Important Library acquisitions during the year included the CD-ROM publications *Index of Irish wills, 1484-1858* and *English short-title catalogue, 1473-1800*, both major research tools. The Library was also able to purchase a set of the Linen Hall Library's Northern Ireland political literature on microfiche: periodicals, 1966-89.



Several valuable additions to the Library's collections during the year included a set of six banker's notes signed by James Caulfeild, First Earl of Charlemont and the Academy's first president; a rare seventeenth-century text on Hebrew laws from the library of Bishop William Reeves (Academy president 1891–92); and a full set of the Genealogical Society of Ireland's publications. The total number of donations, bequests and acquisitions in 2000 was 961 items.

A new initiative was a series of lunchtime public lectures organised jointly with the Linen Hall Library, Belfast. The lectures, which were held in the Academy's Meeting Room during April and May 2000, dealt with the history and various aspects of the collections of both libraries (see Humanities Diary, pp 20–24, for titles of lectures). They were well supported and well received. It is intended that the series will continue on an annual basis, alternating between Dublin and Belfast.

The Library acknowledges the co-operation of the Board, Director and staff of the National Library of Ireland; the Director and staff of the National Museum of Ireland; and the Council of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in relation to the organisation of various exhibitions in the Academy during the year.



Manuscript 23.P.10 (iii), one of three fifteenth-century medical treatises conserved and rebound with generous funding from the Boehringer Ingelheim Fonds, Heidesheim. This section contains a translation into Irish of the major part of Book I of the Rosa Anglica of John of Gaddesden. The Academy's Irish medical tracts form the largest collection of such texts in a single repository.



A grant from the Heritage Council enabled the Library to have an important nineteenth-century archaeological scrapbook conserved and reboxed. The Library has an active preservation and conservation programme.



The Summer House, Loughery, Co. Down, in which Jonathan Swift is said to have written a number of his works (MS 12.T.5/28). One of 1001 antiquarian drawings catalogued during the year.

For further information on the Library's opening hours, collections and activities see: www.ria.ie/library/library.html

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph titles published 2000–2001

Irish Historic Towns Atlas no. 10: Kilkenny

Documents in Irish Foreign Policy. Volume 2: 1923–26

Biodiversity: the Irish dimension (Biology Seminar series)

Science and Engineering in 1798 (conference proceedings)

Roger Casement in Irish and world history (conference booklet)

Stories from Keating's History of Ireland (reprint)

Expugnatio Hibernica: the conquest of Ireland (reprint)

Social Science Research Council Report 2000

Charter and By-Laws of the Royal Irish Academy (revised edition)

Playing with Words: a fantasy on the themes of theatre, the National Theatre and post-modernism (lecture)

The legend of St Brendan: a critical bibliography

Since its foundation in 1785 the Academy has been promoting research and the dissemination of knowledge through its science and humanities publications, and its publications continue to play a major part in promoting the role and name of the Academy nationally and internationally today.

Periodicals

The *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* form the traditional backbone of the Academy's publications. Section A of *Proceedings* is now published in journal format as *Mathematical Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* (two issues per year); Section B is also published in journal format as *Biology and Environment: Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy* (three issues per year). Papers submitted to Section C, which covers primarily archaeology and history, are still published individually in fascicle format (averaging six fascicles per year). In addition to the *Proceedings*, the Academy publishes three annual journals, *Ériu*, the *Irish Journal of Earth Sciences* and *Irish Studies in International Affairs*. The *Proceedings* and journals are found in many libraries throughout the world, either through subscriptions or exchange agreements with the Academy's library. In the annual report period 2000–2001 efforts were focused on promoting *Biology and Environment* by broadening its remit, expanding the editorial advisory board and issuing a call for papers. The cover of Section C of *Proceedings* was also redesigned in this period to increase its visual impact and promote awareness of this periodical.

Monographs

The Academy's core book-publishing programme comprises monograph series, including Documents on Irish Foreign Policy, Medieval Dublin Excavations, Irish Historic Towns Atlas and New Survey of Clare Island (vol. 1 of which is



about to be reprinted). The findings of major research projects currently ongoing in the Academy, such as the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources, the Dictionary of Irish Biography and Foclóir na Nua-Ghaeilge, are also published, or scheduled for publication, by the Academy or in partnership with other major publishers. The monograph list also includes many one-off titles covering a broad range of topics: one such title published during the period of this annual report is *The legend of St Brendan: a critical bibliography* by Glyn S. Burgess and Clara Strijbosch. A list of all monograph titles published by the Academy in the annual report period 2000–2001 is displayed in the side column of this page.

Backlist and reprints

Backlist titles such as *Old Irish workbook* by E.G. Quin or Osborn Bergin's revised edition of *Old Irish paradigms and selections from the Old Irish glosses* are key university text books for the study of Old Irish and are a vital part of the Academy's list. Growth in Celtic Studies is also reflected in the decision to reprint all out-of-stock volumes of the journal *Ériu* by autumn 2001. Further

details of the Academy's back list as well as the contents lists of recent issues of all periodicals and selected full-text articles from the *Proceedings* can be found on the Publications web site. A Publications catalogue is also available.



The Legend of St Brendan

St Brendan, also known as Brendan the Navigator and Brendan of Clonfert, was born in County Kerry, Ireland. The Annals of Inisfallen record his birth as being in the year 486, and he is thought to have died in 575. He is best known through the seafaring tale *Navigatio sancti Brendani* (The Voyage of St Brendan), which has been preserved in a large number of manuscripts and given rise to a wide variety of vernacular versions. In addition, *Vita Brendani / Betha Brénainn* (The Life of Brendan) has survived in five Latin manuscript versions and two principal Irish ones. A large number of other historical Brendan texts, or allusions to him in other works, have also survived, and there is no lack of modern versions of his life and adventures. Brendan still figures high on the list of possible discoverers of America, and the search for the mythical St Brendan's Isle, which was certainly one of the factors that inspired the voyages of Christopher Columbus, is alluded to in many studies of medieval maps and in works on the discovery of the New World. This volume presents the surviving Brendan texts and the scholarly work inspired by the real and the legendary St Brendan in the form of a critical bibliography. It is divided into two principal parts. Part One lists primary material, mainly manuscripts, editions and translations. Allusions to Brendan in a number of medieval texts are included, as are some examples of modern literary treatments of the legend. Part Two lists secondary material, studies of the Brendan legend in the form of books, articles and chapters or sections of books.

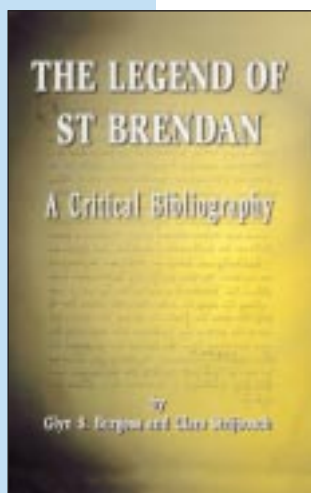
Glyn S. Burgess is Professor of French at the University of Liverpool and has published widely on medieval French language and literature. Clara Strijbosch is currently engaged in full-time research on medieval Dutch and German travel literature and is a Fellow of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Hardback; 220 x 140mm; 287pp

ISBN 1 874045 86 0

£20.00 (€25.40)

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Online publications

The World Wide Web has become an important medium for the promotion and marketing of books and journals, and the Editorial and Publications offices have been working on updating and restructuring the Publications pages of the Academy's web site to make them more user-friendly. The journals web site, which has continued to be hosted by Queen's University Belfast following the Academy's participation in the UK-based Electronic Libraries (e-Lib) project between 1997 and 1999, is due to be transferred to the Academy's server by autumn 2001. The Editorial and Publications offices have also been involved in the restructuring and redesign of the overall Academy web site.

Training

CLÉ, the Irish Book Publishers' Association, set up a Publishers Skillnet in early 2000 under the Skillnets Training Network Programme (see www.skillnets.com). The Editor of Publications took an active part in meetings of the Skillnet Editorial and Production group to identify the training needs of this section of the publishing industry. The courses set up through the Publishers Skillnet since 2000 have been specifically designed to meet the needs of the Irish publishing industry in the current era of rapid technological development and have been of a very high standard to date. Apart from the direct benefits of acquiring new skills through Skillnet courses, Academy publications staff have been able to network and exchange industry information with participants from other publishing houses in the Republic and Northern Ireland as well as with freelancers in the field. The other chief source of professional information and training for Academy publications staff is the UK-based Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (ALPSP), of which the Academy is a member.

For further information contact the Editorial or Publications offices at the Royal Irish Academy (editorial@ria.ie or publications@ria.ie) or see: www.ria.ie/publications/publications.html

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Appendix 1

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Membership as at 31 August 2001

Academy Committees are established by Council to advise on the Academy's research projects, publications, award schemes or other internal affairs. In addition, a number of Consultative Committees have been set up in areas that are under-represented in Irish third-level institutions and therefore could not support full national representation.

The letters C or S after a name denote Chairperson/ Cathaoirleach or Secretary; Dep. C denotes Deputy Chairperson. Min. S denotes Minutes Secretary; Man. Ed. denotes Managing Editor; Exec. Ed. denotes Executive Editor; Cons. Ed. denotes Consultant Editor; O denotes Observer.

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Appendix 2

NATIONAL COMMITTEES AND COMMISSIONS

Membership as at 31 August 2001

The first National Committees were established by the Academy in 1955-56 at the request of the Department of Education. The primary role of each National Committee is to serve as a national adhering body for Irish membership of the relevant international academic bodies and to coordinate and promote their respective academic disciplines throughout the island of Ireland. The membership of each National Committee consists of members directly appointed by Council and members nominated by Irish third-level institutions and professional associations.

National Committees/Commissions are listed here alphabetically by subject/discipline; Sub-Committees/Commissions are highlighted in italic beneath the respective disciplines.

The letters C and S or R after a name indicate Chairperson/Cathaoirleach and Secretary/Rúnaí respectively.

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B. O'Donnell
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Mr Paul Brady
Mrs Sarah Walsh
Mrs Teresa Brady
Ms Philomena Feeney
(FÁS/CEP Assistant)

Caretaker

Mr Gearóid Mac Duinnshléibhe

Partnership 2000 Committee

Employer Representative	Mr Patrick Buckley
Employee Representatives	Mr Paul Brady Ms Linde Lunnay Ms Rachel McNicholl Ms Laura Mahoney