

IASIL Japan Newsletter

2004-2

International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures

September 2004

1. Plan for IASIL Japan 2004 Conference

Please find the programme and other leaflets of the 2004 IASIL Japan Conference.

- October 9 and 10, 2004
- Shizuoka University of Art and Culture 1794-1 Noguchi-cho, Hamamatsu-shi, Shizuoka-ken, 430-8533 Tel: 053-457-6111, fax: 053-457-6123, <http://www.suac.ac.jp/>
- Conference Theme: Crossways in Irish Literature

Guest Speakers

We are honoured to have two guest speakers at this year's Conference: the novelist Timothy O'Grady, and Dr. Michelle P. Brown, Keeper of Manuscripts in the British Library and

TIMOTHY O'GRADY recently published a new novel, *Light*, of which James Buchan said in the July 3 issue of *The Guardian*; "Timothy O'Grady weaves two love stories together in his meditation on passion." At the Conference, he will give a reading and join the symposium 'Portrait of Contemporary Ireland', chaired by Andrew Fitzsimons.

Publications: Timothy O'Grady

Curious Journey (with Kenneth Griffiths), a series of interviews with early IRA men and veterans of the Civil War. This was originally an RTE film, but it was not broadcast for some years, due to timidity on the part of RTE.

Motherland: this novel won a prestigious prize in Ireland.

I could read the sky a novel about an Irishman in old age in London, remembering his life and the life of the people around him in Ireland. This was very well received in Europe and the US. (It is currently being translated into Japanese). It was made into a film by the same name, directed by Nicola Bruce, starring Stephen Rea, and O'Grady in a cameo role.

On Golf: A short book about a lifelong passion.

DrMichelleP.brown will give two special lectures:

- The Book of Durrow, the Lindisfarne Gospels and the Book of Kells: aspects of the Irish contribution to manuscript production
- Author and Image: Giraldus Cambrensis and the earliest illustrated manuscripts of the 'Topography of Ireland'

During the Conference, eight papers will be presented, and two symposia will be organized. The Symposia are:

- The Homesickness of Immigrants or Exiles in Irish Literatures: Its Identity and Difference
- Portrait of Contemporary Ireland

To confirm your attendance, please send the enclosed postcard to the IASIL Japan Office **by September 30..**

Short Profile of Michelle P. Brown (Written by Prof. Richard Kelly)

Dr. Michelle P. Brown, FSA, is Curator of Illuminated Manuscripts at the British Library, London. (Robin Flower, an adopted son of Blasket Islands in Co. Kerry, was a previous holder of this prestigious post; his translation from the Irish of Tomás O Criomhthain *The Islandman* is an acclaimed work in its own right.) She has published and lectured as well as broadcasted widely on the themes of Anglo-Saxon and Celtic books, material culture and history, and upon manuscript production and palaeography throughout the Middle Ages.

Her publications include: *Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts; The Book of Cerne: Prayer, Patronage and Power in Anglo-Saxon England; A Guide to Western manuscripts from Antiquity to 1600; The British Library Guild to Writing and Scripts;*

Understanding illuminated Manuscripts: A Guide to Technical Terms. She is also the co-editor of several other prestigious scholarly works.

In 2003, she designed and presented an exhibition called *Painted Labyrinth: The World of the Lindisfarne Gospels*. This has been one of the most acclaimed exhibitions ever held at the British Library, and it included several treasures from the National Museum of Ireland. Dr. Brown is the world's leading authority on *The Lindisfarne Gospels*; a manuscript that was created some fifty years before *The Book of Kells* and with which it has several interesting parallels. Her recent book, *The Lindisfarne Gospels: Society, Spirituality and Scribe* (London, 2003) is a piece of superb scholarship and the product of an author that not only knows her subject but also communicates it brilliantly; this is by far the best book ever produced on Anglo-Saxon and Celtic illuminated manuscripts.

Other News

- There will be a performance of " Takigi Noh (薪能) ," (Noh Plays performed on the stage outside by the torch fire) on the campus of Shizuoka University of Art and Culture between 6 and 9 on the evening of Thursday 7 October. (Naohiko Umewaka is one of their faculty members.) If you have any further questions, please contact Professor Masaya Shimokusu.

The Office would like to express sincere gratitude to Professor Masaya Shimokusu for his constant cooperation in the planning of holding our conference at Shizuoka University of Art and Culture.

2004 Membership Fee

The postal transfer sheet is enclosed. Please do not fail to send the 2004 membership fee!

Regular membership-8,000 yen

Married couples--12,000yen

Student membership--5,000 yen. (Students who would like to receive IUR have to pay 8,000 yen.)

Institutional membership--2,000 yen

To cover international postage expenses, annual subscriptions for members and institutions based overseas is 500 yen higher than for those living in Japan; 8,500 yen for individuals, 12,500 for married couples and 5,500 for students, and 2,500 for institutions.

For those who use the bank rather than the post office, please use the following bank:

Name of the Bank: UFJ Bank Name of the Branch: Kyoto Ekimae Branch no:

434 Account no: 4538506 Under the name of : IASIL-Japan Office Reiko Taniue

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口座番号 4538506

名義 イアシル・ジャパン事務局 谷上れい子

⌘Please forgive us if our communication crossed on the way.⌘

Looking forward to seeing you

at

Shizuoka University of Art and Culture.

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