

# IASIL JAPAN Newsletter

2006-2

International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures

June 2006

## 1. Plan for the 23<sup>rd</sup> IASIL JAPAN Conference

The 23<sup>rd</sup> IASIL JAPAN Conference will be held at Hoshigaoka Campus of Aichi Shukutoku University on Saturday, 30 September and Sunday, 1 October 2006. We will be honoured by the attendance of Mr. Brendan Scannell, the Ambassador of the Embassy of Ireland. Dr. Michal Cronin (DCU), Mr. Theo Dorgan, Ms. Paula Meehan and Mr. Michael Crummey (Canadian novelist) will be our guests.

Hoshigaoka Campus, Aichi Shukutoku University

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Website: <http://www.aasa.ac.jp/>

SATURDAY September 30	
9:30-10:30	Registration
10:30-11:00	Opening Addresses
11:10-12:10	Guest Lectures: Dr. Michael Cronin: Future of Irish Studies Introduction: Mitsuko Ohno
12:10-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	Papers
Session 1	Chair: Seishi Matsuda 1. Yoko Sato: <i>"The Dreaming of the Bones: Yeats's Dramatic Art of Visions"</i> 2. Kazuko Kawaguchi: "The Irish People's Identity Expressed in Personal Story Tellings: Brian Friel's <i>Faith Healer</i> "
Session 2	Chair: Hiroyuki Yamasaki 1. Akemi Yoshida: "A Comparative Reading of George Moore's <i>Evelyn</i> "

	<p><i>Innes and George Sand's Consuelo</i>"</p> <p>2. Masahiko Yahata: "Humor and Christian Ethics in George A. Bermingham, <i>General John Regan</i> (1913): A View of the English Appraisal and the Irish Riot"</p>
14:10-15:10	<p>Special Lecture: Michael Crummey: "Irishness in Newfoundland writing"</p> <p>Introduction: Beverly Curran</p>
15:20-17:30	<p>Symposium: Big House Novels</p> <p>Chair: Beverly Curran</p> <p>With presentations by 1. Natsumi Amano 2. Mika Momoo 3. Yoko Fujisawa 4. Kimiyo Ogawa 5. Haruko Takakuwa</p>
18:00-20:00	<p>RECEPTION Kumiko Yamada</p>

SUNDAY October 1	
9:30-10:00	Registration
10:00-11:00	Papers
Session 1	<p>Chair: Richard Kelly</p> <p>Bryan Coleborne: "Jonathan Swift and "the Whole People of Ireland"</p>
Session 2	<p>Chair: Masami Nakao</p> <p>1. Rie Kawai: "Hands as Reflection of Human Soul in <i>Dharmakaya</i>"</p> <p>2. Saeko Nagashima: "But for the future, we'd have nothing left": Memory and Desire in Post-War Ireland in <i>A World of Love</i></p>
11:10-12:10	<p>Poetry Reading: Theo Dorgan and Paula Meehan</p> <p>Introduced by Nobuaki Tochigi, who will also be reading some of his own translation into Japanese of their poems</p>
12:10-13:00	<p>Lunch and Annual General Meeting</p> <p>Chair: Ken'ichi Matsumura</p>
13:10-15:20	<p>Symposium: Translating Ireland</p> <p>Chair: Toshi Furomoto</p> <p>With presentations by: 1. Naoko Toraiwa 2. Shigeru Ozawa 3. Tatsuo Ohtsuka Commentator: Dr. Michael Cronin</p>
15:30	Closing Address: Masaya Shimokusu

\*The programme and abstracts will be sent to members in the beginning of September.

## 2. IASIL Election

If you are a “regular” member including “married couples” of IASIL JAPAN in good standing, ie, those who have paid the 2005 membership fee by the end of February of 2006, you may find a two-page ballot sheet, a declaration document and a blank envelope enclosed. According to “Procedures for the 2006 IASIL Elections,” please complete the ballot sheet and post **as soon as possible**. If you are not in good standing, those documents are not enclosed.

The Chair of IASIL, Professor Riana O’Dwyer, wishes members of IASIL JAPAN to fully commit to the election. Thank you for your cooperation.

## 3. The 2006 Membership Fee

The postal transfer sheet is enclosed. Please do not fail to send the 2006 membership fee.

Regular membership—8,000 yen

Married couple—12,000 yen per couple

Student membership—5000 yen. (Students who would like to receive *IUR* and to participate in IASIL conference as well as IASIL JAPAN conference have to pay 8,000 yen.)

Those who wish to use the bank rather than the post office remittance, please use the following bank:

Name of Bank: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ

Name of Branch: Nishijin (Branch No. 441)

Account No.: 3891501

Under the Name of: IASIL Japan Treasurer Shiho Sakuma

三菱東京UFJ銀行（銀行番号0005）      西陣支店（店番441）      普通  
3891501      イアシル・ジャパン 会計 佐久間 思帆

**NB:** If “U” or “UU” is found under your name and address on the envelope, your 2005 membership fee has not been paid; you are losing the status to vote in the IASIL election and to participate in IASIL conferences. Paying the 2006 membership fee will regain your “good-standing” status. Please do not miss the opportunity to join the 2007 IASIL conference at UCD!

Paying the 2005 or 2004 membership fee will be welcome, of course. The back issues of *IUR* and *JIS* will be sent when the office confirms your remittance. The office has stopped sending newsletters to those who have not paid membership fees for three years. If you are paying the 2005 or 2004 membership fee, please write that down on the postal transfer sheet.

If "6" is found under your name and address on the envelope, your 2006 membership fee was already paid: if "7" is found, your 2007 membership fee was also paid

### **3. IASIL 2006**

General Theme: "Those images that yet/ Fresh images beget" (W.B. Yeats 'Byzantium')

Venue: University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia Dates: Thursday 20 July to Sunday 23 July 2006

Website: <http://www.iasil.org/sydney/index.html>

Plenary Speakers: Prof. Denis Donoghue (New York University), Mr. Thomas Keneally (novelist), Mr. David Malouf (novelist) and Mr. Les Murray (poet)

\*According to the results of the election, new executives and representatives will be announced at the conference.

### **4. Posters of Next Conference**

In order to economize budget and work, posters of our next conference will be posted on a website (of which the URL will be announced in the next newsletter). It will be formatted as a Microsoft Word file.

#### ~~~~~Obituary~~~~~

Mr. John McGahern, the leading Irish writer, died on 30 March. He wrote six novels, four collections of short stories, one memoir, and others. It is well-known that his second novel, *The Dark* (1965), was banned as obscene by the notorious censorship. He was dismissed from his teaching job, and he went to England. He returned to Ireland in 1973, and lived in Co Leitrim. His fifth novel, *Amongst Women* (1990), was shortlisted for the Booker prize, and won The Irish Times/Aer Lingus Fiction prize.

He was invited to Japan by the Embassy of Ireland, with his wife, in November 2004 as part of the EU-Japan Literature festival. He gave a reading at Waseda University from his short stories. He came to Kyoto with his wife, and I had the pleasure of taking them to Katsura Palace. This trip left me an unforgettable impression. We talked about the life of the people of contemporary Ireland, and he described how a man, who was thought to be poor, invited all his

relatives, even those in Australia, to a wedding party. During his stay in Kyoto, he was rather quiet and not so talkative. But this time he talked so vividly and with such humour and irony that he looked a different man. He gave me his sixth (for me, the third) novel, *By the Lake*, which was first published with the title, *That They May Face the Rising Sun*. When I read it, I knew that I was again facing the man who talked to me so brilliantly. This novel has no overall plot. It is a chronicle of a quiet place by a lake in Co Leitrim. There is a man who retired from a job in London, and came to live on a farm here with his wife, who also worked in London. There is a man who has lived here with his wife for many years without ever spending a night away from the lake, and is always eager for news of the people he knows. There is a man who never finishes what he begins. There is an IRA man who runs a pub and who is always watched by two (three, on a market day) detectives posted before his shop. All the characters come and go in a small local community, with intermittent ripples coming from Dublin or London, disturbing their complacency ever so little. Like Chekhov, McGahern watches them with sympathy and detachment, and portrays them with a sure hand. The lives of these people are shown through hay-making, cattle-raising, lamb-selling, weddings, funeral rites, with subtle descriptions of the change of seasons. The nature surrounding this place is not a background of the novel. It is an integral part of the story. One passage will be enough to show that:

As they ate and drank and talked, the huge shapes of the trees around the house gradually entered the room in the flickering half-light, and the room went out, as if in a dream, to include the trees and the fields and the glowing deep light of the sky.

All the characters impress us with their unforgettable personality, and we know that they lived, still live, and will continue to live in this small community.

This book makes us realize how great a writer we have lost.

--Tetsuro Sano



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\*The office will be closed from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July (for IASIL 2006 conference) and 29<sup>th</sup> July to 27<sup>th</sup> August (Secretary will be on duty abroad). Thank you for your understanding. Looking

forward to meeting many of you at our conference in Nagoya!