

IASIL JAPAN Newsletter

2011 No. 2

International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures

August 2011

1. Report for 2011 IASIL Conference at Leuven

2011 IASIL Conference was held from 19 July to 22 July in Leuven, Belgium. The city Leuven is known as the university town with rich culture, history, and good foods in the country. The venue, Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe, testifies Belgium's strong Catholic connections with Ireland, which goes back to the mid sixteenth century.

The conference theme was "Conflict and Resolution in Irish Literatures" and it started with a keynote lecture by Margaret Harper from University of Limerick on Yeats's Vision, followed by 132 papers and 4 more keynote lectures. Titles and topics ranged over wide varieties: Land War Fiction, Beckett's Stylization of Conflicts, Contemporary Irish Poetry, Aesthetics of Redemption, Early Twentieth Century Theatre, Women Writers, Social Realism in Contemporary Irish Film, Translation of Conflict, Contemporary Northern Irish Drama, Memory and Violence, Crime Fiction, Joycean Solutions to Conflict, Gender and Conflicted Identities and more. Noticeably, members of IASIL Japan actively contributed: Yuri Yoshino, Eishiro Ito, Kiminori Fukaya, Kazuhiro Doki, Tetsuko Nakamura, Fuyuji Tanigawa and Naoko Toraiwa.

Actually, because of the human as well as natural disasters in Eastern Japan, IASIL members from all over the world were very much concerned with Japanese members and were greatly delighted that not a few members could attend the conference. At the AGM on the last day, Secretary of IASIL Japan read a letter of President Masami Nakao who could not attend the conference and greatly appreciated. Then in the following banquet, the secretary was awarded in the status of representing IASIL Japan with books about Irish Franciscans and Leuven because, as Dr. Hedwig Schwall, Chief Organizer of the conference, said "Japanese people are so resilient in spite of the terrible disaster." I have no doubt that the dignified style of the letter of our president was most effective in transmitting our sincere gratitude to the IASIL members. The full text of the letter is quoted below.

2. Letter of IASIL JAPAN President

12 July 2011

Dear IASIL members,

On behalf of all the members of IASIL JAPAN, I would like to convey to you my sincere gratitude for the friendship and sympathy the members and friends of IASIL showed through the numerous kind messages sent to us after the unprecedented disaster that took place on March 11. In the confusion after the event, which seemed to change the lives of so many of us, how encouraging it was to be assured of these strong human ties, regardless of physical distance.

We were soon glad to find that all IASIL JAPAN members in the region were safe, but there are a number of us with friends and relatives who lost their lives or homes. One member reports that she was not affected personally, but that as her institution became a refuge for those who lost their residences, she is currently spending most of her time helping them out with their daily lives.

After four months, the recovery efforts are proceeding, and at the same time, we are beginning to realize the wide connotations of the tragedy and of its causes, both natural and human. As people studying literature and history, we cannot but question our own standpoints in the whole picture. IASIL JAPAN, through its primary function of pursuing in the studies of Irish writing, will also become a forum for such exploration.

I regret not being able to come to the beautiful city of Leuven to join you and thank you in person, but we are still finishing the last part of the semester in my institution. However, I am confident that the conference will again be a lively and fruitful one, as is always the case with IASIL, and I hope very much to see you next year in Montreal.

With kindest regards,

Masami Nakao,
President,
IASIL JAPAN

3. The 2011 IASIL JAPAN Conference

Date: Saturday October 8- Sunday October 9

Venue: Doshisha University, Imadegawa Campus, Kyoto

Tentative Program

SATURDAY 8 October		
9:30-10:30	Registration	Basement A
10:30-11:00	Opening Addresses: 1. Masami Nakao (President, IASIL- Japan) 2. Yoshiaki Nakai (Dean of Faculty of Letters, Doshisha University) 3. Representative of the Embassy of Ireland	Basement A
11:10-12:10	Poetry Reading: Paul Muldoon Introduction: Masami Nakao	Basement A
12:10-13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:30	Papers	
	Yoko Sato: The Symbolic Structure of Yeats's <i>The Death of Cuchulain</i> Duncan Chesney: "The voice alone is company but not enough": Memory and Healing in Late Beckett Akiko Satake: J. J. Molloy: His Life and Work Chair: Mariko Hori	Basement A
	Coffee Break	
14:50-17:00	Symposium 1: Wounds and Cures in Irish Literature Toshi Takagishi: Wounds Kept Green: the Remedial in Northern Irish Poetry Futoshi Sakauchi: Guilt and Theatrical Transformation in Joyce's Writings Mika Momoo: The Distorted Vision: Exile and Confinement in John Banville's Novels Chair: Andrew Fitzsimons Commentator: Paul Muldoon	Basement A
18:00-	RECEPTION Opening Address: Masaya Shimokusu	'SECOND HOUSE will'

SUNDAY 9 October		
9:30-10:00	Registration	Basement A
10:00-11:00	Papers	
	Iain Twiddy: Healing and Ethics in Recent Irish Elegies Naoko Toraiwa: “Yet something strange will stay”: Sinéad Morrissey’s Search for Cures in Foreignness Chair: David Burleigh	Basement A
	Andrew Fitzsimons: Yeats and Delight Soichiro Onose: Cutting Away at the Nation’s Seams: Newspaper Politics in ‘Aeolus’ Chair: Beverley Curran	6A
11:10-12:10	Guest Lecture: Clair Wills Introduction: Ken’ichi Matsumura	Basement A
12:10-13:00	Lunch and Annual General Meeting Chair: Seishi Matsuda	Basement A
13:10-15:20	Symposium 2: Irish Writers’ Responses to Neutral Ireland 1939-1945 Hiroyuki Yamasaki: Francis Stuart’s Response to Neutral Ireland: His Vision of Life, Art and Nation Masahiro Tsuji: Louis MacNeice’s Ideological Neutrality and His Rhyming Scheme Saeko Nagashima: Reading (Dis)location in Elizabeth Bowen’s Wartime Fiction Hiroko Mikami: Looking Back at the Time of the Emergency: Kilroy’s <i>Double Cross</i> (1986) and McGuinness’s <i>Dolly West’s Kitchen</i> (1999) Chair: Hiroyuki Yamasaki Commentator: Clair Wills	Basement A
15:20	Closing Address: Kazuhiro Doki	Basement A