

IASIL Japan Newsletter

2016 No.1

The Japan Branch of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures

April 2016

Message from the New President

Naoko Toraiwa

It is my great honour to assume the responsibility of the Presidency of IASIL Japan. IASIL Japan has given me the chance to meet and talk with distinguished writers and academics in Irish literatures, both those living in Japan and those from abroad, and this has been more than just a pleasure. The encounters have been educational and inspirational—and have encouraged me to try to become a better scholar myself. I have also come to realize that IASIL Japan has been sustained through enormous voluntary help from individual members of our society, as well as through the strong and warm support of the Embassy of Ireland in Japan.

As the new President, I will do my very best for IASIL Japan and its members, and I would like to express my utmost gratitude to our very efficient and dedicated former staff from 2013 to 2015: Professor Yoko Sato, President; Professor Kumiko Yamada, Secretary; Professor Yoko Kubo, Treasurer; and Professor Masaya Shimokusu, Editor of the *Journal of Irish Studies* and its excellent Executive Committee and Editorial Board. I would also like to ask for your kind support for our new office staff, Professor Haruko Takakuwa, Secretary; Professor Mika Momoo, Treasurer; and Professor Beverley Curran, Editor of the *Journal of Irish Studies*.

This is a time of crisis for studies in the humanities, and I look forward to working with you all to make sure that our society continues to flourish in spite of the times. Movement toward more practical, vocationally-oriented education can be seen across the globe, and it is based on the hope that it might transform the world into a wealthier and better place. The human world is, however, full of impractical and unsolvable matters, as well. Does literature have the power to transform the world? Possibly it can transform the views that people hold of the world.

I look forward to meeting with you all at our 2016 IASIL Japan Conference, to be hosted by International Christian University in Tokyo. The main theme of this year's conference is "Transformations." Thank you all very much.

1. New Secretary and Treasurer

The new IASIL Japan secretariat assumed office in January 2016 and will serve for the next three years. Haruko Takakuwa is the new Secretary, and Mika Momoo is the new Treasurer. The IASIL Japan office is located at the address below. Please inform the office of any change in your contact information, including email address, or affiliation:

IASIL Japan c/o Haruko Takakuwa

Department of English, Faculty of Letters and Education, Ochanomizu University

2-1-1 Otsuka, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112-8610, Japan

Tel: +81-(0)3-5978-5227 E-mail: secretary@iasil.jp

2. Payment of annual fees

Please find enclosed the 2016 Membership Fee remittance sheet payable to Japan Post Bank. You may choose to pay to the IASIL Japan account at the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi below. If you have not paid the membership fee below for any of the past three years, a separate sheet indicating the unpaid year is enclosed, so we ask you to add that amount to the 2016 fee.

Membership with <i>JIS</i>	¥7,000	Couple membership with <i>JIS</i>	¥10,000
Membership with <i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	¥10,000	Couple membership with <i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	¥13,000

If you live abroad, please transfer your membership fee to the following account:

Bank Name Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, LTD.

SWIFT CODE: BOTKJPJT

Branch Name: Kyodo Branch (Branch No. 091)

Branch Address: 3-1-42 Miyasaka, Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 156-0051, Japan

Tel: +81 (0)3-5477-5751

Account Name: IASIL Japan Treasurer Mika Momoo

Account No: 0648854

The membership fee does not include the transfer charge, so please make sure that the exact amount reaches us. Please add the overseas postal charge to mail you the copies of *Journal of Irish Studies* and *Irish University Review* for which you have paid, according to the table below.

International postal rates for <i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	Asia	Oceania, North America, Central America, Europe, Middle East	South America, Africa
<i>JIS</i>	¥ 750	¥ 1,000	¥ 1,300
<i>JIS</i> & <i>IUR</i>	¥ 1,500	¥ 2,000	¥ 2,600

3. IASIL Election 2016

The IASIL Japan Executive Committee has sent the nomination of the following members to represent Japan at the IASIL Executive Committee for 2016-2018.

Vice-chairperson: Naoko Toraiwa

Representatives: Andrew Fitzsimons, Mika Momoo, Haruko Takakuwa

4. IASIL Conference 2016, "Change" (University College Cork), 25-29 July

Please refer to the new IASIL Conference website: <<http://iasil2016.com/>>. Registration is now open. We hope to meet many participants from Japan in Cork!

5. *Journal of Irish Studies*

The deadline for submission to *Journal of Irish Studies* Vol. XXXI is **25 April 2016**.

Contributors should send articles for consideration together with a short biographical note to Beverley Curran at editor@iasil.jp. Please send articles and biographical information as MS Word files attached to the e-mail. The biographical information should include the author's affiliation, full postal and e-mail addresses, and telephone and fax numbers. More information can be found on the IASIL Japan website—the address for submission will be updated shortly. As announced at the 2015 AGM, Prof. Shimokusu will be on sabbatical from September 2016, and Prof. Beverley Curran is assuming the editorship of the 2016 volume. The articles sent to Prof. Shimokusu will be transferred to the current editor.

The editor suggests that those whose mother tongue is not English should have their articles checked by native speakers of English prior to submission.

6. The plan for the 2016 IASIL Japan Conference, "Transformations"

The following plan was confirmed at the Executive Committee Meeting held on March 5.

Date: October 15-16

Venue: International Christian University <<http://www.icu.ac.jp/about/access/index.html>>

Guests: 1) Patrick Lonergan and 2) Hugo Hamilton

Symposium 1: Films and Adaptations (preliminary title)

Chair: Mitsuko Ohno Panelists: Under negotiation by the chair

Symposium 2: Autobiographies, Life Writings and Memoirs (preliminary title)

Chair: Kazuhiro Doki Panelists: Under negotiation by the chair

Call for papers: Please send an abstract to the Secretary **by the end of May**.

In light of the recent tourism boost in Tokyo, the members are advised to make their hotel bookings for the conference early. Below is a list of hotels in the Musashino area, where International Christian University is located:

Hotel Mets Musashisakai <<http://www.hotelmets.jp/musashisakai/>>

Richmond Hotel Tokyo Musashino <<http://musashino.richmondhotel.jp/>>

Kichijoji Tokyu REI Hotel <http://www.tokyuhotels.co.jp/ja/hotel/TR/TR_KICHI/>

Kichijoji Dai-ichi Hotel <<https://www.hankyu-hotel.com/hotel/kichijojidh/index.html>>

In 2017 Japan and Ireland celebrate the 60th anniversary of bilateral relations.

IASIL Japan office welcomes suggestions for its celebration.



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