

# IASIL Japan Newsletter

2024 No. 1

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

April 2024

## Message from the President

2024 is a momentous year for IASIL Japan: our fortieth anniversary, and the year in which we will, for the first time since 1990, hold the International IASIL Conference, at Gakushuin University, from 5-9 August. If we cast our minds back to that previous event, the theme was “Irish Literature as an International Literature”, but it was also an occasion for Japanese scholars of Irish literature to present themselves as international scholars and, on home soil, to take part in an international event. That opportunity has arisen once again, and I hope that all of our members will avail of this chance to present their work, and to hear and engage with the work of scholars from all over the world. The theme this time is “Aftermaths”, and one of the feelings that can arise with “aftermaths” is regret for lost opportunity. IASIL 2024 is a rare event for us in Japan and is one to be embraced and cherished and, indeed, seized by our members: we want to see you all at IASIL 2024!

As ever, I want to thank the hard work and dedication of the secretariat: Yuri Yoshino, our secretary, and Tetsuko Nakamura, our treasurer, for their commitment of time and energy and intelligence to IASIL Japan, but especially over the last year when the demands on them have been so heavy. I want to thank the Executive Committee, and all of our membership, for the time they devote to IASIL Japan. I want to mark a special thank you to the steering committee of IASIL 2024, who have dedicated huge amounts of their inner resources to the organizing of IASIL 2024, especially our inspirational, supremely capable chief, Haruko Takakuwa.

Andrew Fitzsimons

### 1. Election of New Executive Committee Members

The term of the present IASIL Japan Executive Committee Members is due to expire on 31 December, 2024 and we are now conducting an election for the new members. Masami Nakao and Yoko Kubo have agreed to serve as Election Officers.

- Members in good standing (paid-up for 2023) whose postal addresses are registered as inside Japan as of 31 March 2024 receive a ballot sheet with this Newsletter by post. They are requested to choose 10 candidates and check the corresponding blank boxes, to place the ballot sheet in the small envelope, seal and post it in the return envelope. Please make sure that it will reach the office by 31 May 2024.
- Members in good standing (paid-up for 2023) whose postal addresses are registered as outside Japan

as of 31 March 2024 receive a voting-code by post, and the URL to a ballot sheet in Google Forms by e-mail by 25 April 2024. Please make sure to complete e-voting **by 31 May 2024**.

The results of the election will be announced at the Annual General Meeting during the IASIL 2024 Conference to be held online in Autumn.

## 2. Payment of Annual Fees

Membership of IASIL Japan runs from the beginning of April to the end of March every year. Please find enclosed the 2024 Membership Fee remittance sheet payable to Japan Post Bank. You may choose to pay into the IASIL Japan account at MUFG BANK (Mitsubishi UFJ Bank) 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 2024 fee.

If you are applying for Student membership fee, please provide the office with a copy of a valid student ID with your payment.

|                                      |          |   |          |
|--------------------------------------|----------|---|----------|
| Membership with <i>JIS</i>           | ¥ 7,000  | Couple membership with <i>JIS</i>           | ¥ 10,000 |
| Membership with <i>JIS &amp; IUR</i> | ¥ 10,000 | Couple membership with <i>JIS &amp; IUR</i> | ¥ 13,000 |
| Student with <i>JIS</i> *            | ¥ 5,000  |   |          |

\*a copy of a valid student ID should be submitted at the beginning of every fiscal year

If you live abroad, you can use PayPal. Please follow the instruction shown in the email you will receive shortly from Treasurer Tetsuko Nakamura <treasurer@iasil.jp>. Or you can transfer your membership fee to the following account:

Bank Name: MUFG Bank, Ltd.

SWIFT Code: BOTKJPJT (in 8 digits); BOTKJPJTXXX (in 11 digits)

Branch Name: Okurayama Branch (Branch No. 308)

Branch Address: 3-7-17 Shin-Yokohama, Kohoku-ku, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture,  
222-0033, Japan

Tel: +81(0)45-475-3822

Account Name: IASIL Japan Treasurer Tetsuko Nakamura

Account No: 0688983 (Savings Account)

The membership fee for overseas members does not include the transfer charge, so please make sure that the exact amount reaches us. Please add the overseas postal charge so that we can post you the copy/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 &amp; IUR</i> | Asia    | Oceania, North America, Central America, Europe, Middle East | South America, Africa |
|---|---------|--|-----------------------|
| <i>JIS</i>  | ¥ 850   | ¥ 1,000  | ¥ 1,300               |
| <i>JIS &amp; IUR</i>                                | ¥ 1,500 | ¥ 2,000  | ¥ 2,600               |

**NB** If you wish to be eligible for presenting your paper at the IASIL 2025 Conference (University of Galway), please complete your payment **by the end of November 2024**. IASIL Japan Office is to submit a list of members in good standing to IASIL Headquarters in December 2024.

### **3. IASIL Conference 2024 “Aftermaths”**

IASIL Conference, hosted by IASIL Japan, will be held at Gakushuin University as an in-person event from 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2024. The applications for paper-reading are now closed. For more details, please go to the official conference website: <https://iasil.jp/conference2024/>. We look forward to meeting as many participants as possible!

### **4. AGM 2024**

As IASIL Japan is hosting the IASIL 2024 Conference, there will be no annual IASIL Japan 2024 Conference. The AGM will be held online in Autumn.

### **5. *Journal of Irish Studies*, Vol. XXXVIII (Anniversary Issue)**

The deadline for submission to *Journal of Irish Studies* Vol. XXXVIII has passed. Thank you very much to those who submitted their materials for consideration. The deadline for submission to the next issue Vol. XXXIX is **25 April 2025**.

### **6. The Seamus Heaney Award, Japan**

The Embassy of Ireland, Japan is proud to announce that the poet, Sinéad Morrissey is to receive the Seamus Heaney Award, Japan.

The award recognises distinguished contribution to literary relations between Ireland and Japan. In 2022, the inaugural recipient of the award was the eminent Japanese poet, Mutsuo Takahashi.

Sinéad Morrissey’s work has made her one of the most eminent writers in contemporary English-language poetry and the recipient of numerous accolades, including the T.S. Eliot Prize.

She has close links with Japan, having lived and written eloquently about her experiences in the country, as well as with Seamus Heaney, having served as Professor in Creative Writing at the Seamus Heaney Centre at Queen’s University.

Sinéad Morrissey was born and raised in Belfast. After studying at Trinity College Dublin, and travelling widely, living for periods in Japan and New Zealand, she returned to her native city, where she lived and worked for some years. She is currently Professor in Creative Writing at Newcastle University.

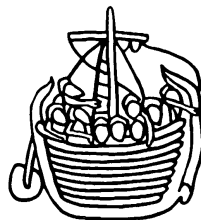
Morrissey has published six collections of poetry: *There Was Fire in Vancouver* (1996), *Between Here and There* (2001), *The State of the Prisons* (2005), *Through the Square Window* (2009), *Parallax* (2013), and *On Balance* (2017). In 2020, the volume *Found Architecture: Selected Poems* appeared. Her work has been awarded most of the major prizes, beginning with the Patrick Kavanagh Poetry Award in 1990 (at age eighteen, the youngest poet to receive this award). Other awards include The Forward Prize for Best Collection (2017), the E. M. Forster Award from The American Academy of Arts and Letters (2016), National Book Circle Critics’ Award for Poetry (finalist, 2016), Inaugural Belfast Poet Laureate (2013–2014), the T. S. Eliot Prize (2013, the third collection nominated), the Irish Times/Poetry Now Award (twice, in 2009 and 2013), a Major Individual Artist Award (Arts Council of Northern Ireland, 2012), the

Lannan Literary Fellowship (USA, 2007), the UK National Poetry Competition (First Prize, 2007), The Michael Hartnett Poetry Prize (2005), The Rupert and Eithne Strong Award (2002), The MacAulay Fellowship (Arts Council of Ireland, 2002), and the Eric Gregory Award (1996).

The text nominating her for the prize eloquently captures her significance within contemporary Irish poetry: “Morrissey’s work pays precise attention to historical as well as personal realms, reaching imaginatively and linguistically into events and objects as far-flung as the Ogaki Festival, an illustrated book from Abbasid Baghdad, Napoleon’s horse, and a newspaper photograph of the launch of the Titanic, and as near as the fears of her children, stranded whales on Belfast Lough, her family history, and own momentary sensory experiences. Her sense of form and voice are unerring, her poems restless with philosophical questions, often to do with perception, eerie with hidden presences, and also still with Zen-like awareness of the everyday. Morrissey’s poetic reach is long, her impact on other poets and the discursive community large. She is at the top of the field of poets in the generation now taking their place as successors to the likes of Muldoon, Boland, Carson, and Ní Chuilleanáin, and a worthy poet for this important new award.”

## 7. IASIL Japan Scholarship

We received three applications. IASIL Japan scholarships have been awarded to two successful applicants. Barbara Kavanagh (TU Dublin), with her paper proposal “Brave New Words: How John McGahern’s work paved the way for a new generation” has been awarded a full IASIL Japan Scholarship. She will receive 50,000 JPY for travel expenses to attend IASIL 2024 Conference and her conference registration fee (15,000 JPY) will be waived. Yiling Jiang (Beijing Foreign Studies University) with her paper proposal “On Wilde’s Body Aesthetics in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* from Zhuangzi’s Philosophy of the Body” has been awarded a partial IASIL Japan Scholarship. Her conference registration fee (15,000 JPY) will be waived. Ellen Orchard has also been awarded a partial scholarship by IASIL Headquarters. Many congratulations!



### IASIL Japan

c/o Yuri Yoshino

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**IASIL Japan Newsletter 2024 No.2 will be distributed digitally in September.**