

# IASIL Japan Newsletter

2024 No. 2

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

September 2024

## Message from the President

IASIL 2024, the International Conference of the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures, was held at Gakushuin University, from 5-9 August. Delegates from more than 20 countries and regions attended, with the total number of participants (including online) 145: a tremendous response to Tokyo as host, for which we thank delegates, especially those who travelled from far away and had to endure the heat of August in Japan. ‘Aftermaths’ proved to be a stimulating and fruitful theme, with each plenary speaker taking their own particular approach: from historical overview (Mitsuko Ohno), to the historically overlooked and undervalued (Tina O’Toole and Moynagh Sullivan), to the effect of a tortured and (literally and metaphorically) buried history (Clair Wills) and on to the possible aftermaths of a re-imagining of the island of Ireland with the sea as its organising principle rather than land (Michael Cronin).

The organising committee put a great deal of thought into the composition of the panels, placing together papers which had the most in common (author, genre, theme, period, approach). The sessions worked extremely well, with the papers and speakers complementing each other, and lively, informative and productive exchanges ensuing. Many delegates remarked on this particular aspect of the conference, and the overall thematic coherence of the conference programme, and for this, and many other things, we must especially thank Haruko Takakuwa. Our guest writers, Lucy Caldwell, and Stephen Sexton gave readings from their work, and also engaged with the conference theme by exploring the ways in which the idea of aftermath has played out in their writing. Our guest artist, Stano (with producer Denise Dunphy), presented his merging of story and music in the film *In Between Silence, where we really exist*, which added further to the theme in that many of the personal stories in the film related to the effects of event and incident on the speakers, who included Roddy Doyle, Anne Enright, and Paula Meehan, among many others.

The cultural events on the Wednesday of the conference, the Kyogen Workshop by the wonderful actor Kaoru Matsumoto, and the Calligraphy Experience at Akitsu-kai, proved enormously popular, great fun and big talking points over the following days of the conference, with delegates delighted to have had a chance to experience at first hand these aspects of Japanese culture. The social aspect of the conference included an opening reception on Monday 5th August, with book launches by Hiroko Ikeda, Clíona Ní Riordáin and Michelle Witen, and a Gala Event on Thursday 8th, generously hosted by the Embassy of Ireland and Ambassador Damien Cole at the Ambassador of Ireland’s Residence, as well as

informal gatherings among delegates over the week.

As President of IASIL Japan, I was proud for us to have hosted this annual gathering in Japan, and for the conference to have gone so well. The success of the conference is down to the two years of meticulous planning by our organising committee: Beverley Curran, Hironao Kobayashi, Yoko Kubo, Akiko Manabe, Masaya Shimokusu, Naoko Toraiwa, and our Treasurer, Tetsuko Nakamura, our Secretary, Yuri Yoshino, and the head of our committee, Haruko Takakuwa, whose energy, skill and dedication were, without doubt, the major reason the conference did indeed go so well. We had wonderful support from Sachiyo Yamada, who made the poster and logo for the conference, and assisted with the website, and Soichiro Onose and Nao Igarashi, who helped with the treasury, Kaori Hirashige, Yuta Imazeki, Eri Tanaka, Shotaro Yamauchi, Chihiro Goto and the staff at Gakushuin University, and our student assistants: Gento Kusano, Sakurako Kawano, Takami Morosaka, Minori Yoshida, Hana Ishiyama, and Yang Yuchen, who helped with the various duties and technical requirements of running the conference day by day. I also want to thank Christina Morin and Deirdre Flynn of IASIL HQ for their invaluable advice and constant support. I would also like to thank Yasushi Mano, the Dean of the Faculty of Letters at Gakushuin University for his generous and encouraging words in opening the conference, and Gakushuin University, the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Culture Ireland, and the English Literary Society of Japan, without whose financial support the conference could not have taken place.

As ever, thanks are due to the Executive Committee, and all of our membership, for the time they devote to IASIL Japan, but especially this year, when the burden has been so heavy. I hope the reward in hosting such a successful conference has more than justified the sacrifices of time and energy, and renewed our commitment to our organization. If we remember that hosting the annual international conference of IASIL was a gesture to mark the fortieth anniversary of IASIL Japan, I hope that we can look forward now to the years ahead with an achieved sense of our unique and valuable position within the world of Irish Studies. A sense confirmed also in the special fortieth anniversary edition of the *Journal of Irish Studies*, wonderfully put together by our editor Brian Fox, in the reminiscences of past guests and the work many of them produced out of their experiences in Japan, and in the special bibliography assembled for the issue, showing the extraordinary range of material and the striking quality of the research produced over the years by members of IASIL Japan.

Andrew Fitzsimons

### **1. Annual General Meeting 2024**

As IASIL Japan hosted the IASIL 2024 Conference, there will be no annual IASIL Japan 2024 Conference. The AGM will be held online at 5 pm on 2nd November. IASIL Japan Office will send you login details by e-mail in late October.

### **2. Election of New Executive Committee Members**

The ballot counting was conducted and observed by the secretariat with Masami Nakao and Yoko Kubo serving as Election Officers on 8th June 2024. The results will be announced at the Annual General Meeting.

### 3. Payment of Annual Fees

If you have not already paid your membership fees for the fiscal year of 2024 (April 2024-March 2025), please do so **by the end of November**. This of course applies to non-paid fees for past years, as well. Late payments will result in receiving the journal(s) of your subscription in April 2025.

If you are applying for a Student membership, 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 sent to you by Treasurer Tetsuko Nakamura [treasurer@iasil.jp](mailto:treasurer@iasil.jp) in April. 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

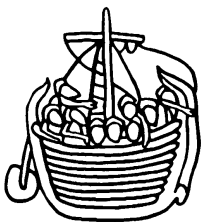
### 4. Report of IASIL 2024 Conference, Gakushuin University

Please see the President's message above.

### 5. IASIL 2025 Conference, University of Galway, 21st-25th July 2025

The IASIL 2025 conference will be hosted by the University of Galway, with the theme of "Ireland and Technology". The conference will coincide with the Galway International Arts Festival. CFP will be released in late September/early October 2024. The organisers are planning to have an early acceptance before Christmas and then later acceptance by March/April. The reason for this special arrangement is that the organisers are keen for delegates to book accommodation as soon as possible as Galway in July can be expensive. A webpage for online registration will be launched with all details of the conference.

If you wish to present a paper at the conference, please renew your membership by the end of November 2024 so that IASIL Japan Office can register you as eligible for application. IASIL Japan continues to offer a scholarship for a postgraduate student to attend the IASIL conference. Details will be uploaded in November on our website.



**IASIL Japan**

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