KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

2008–09

Policy

Sowohl Scientific Statement on Climate Change and Health in Ireland • Making the Best of Third-level Science • Key Performance Indicators in the Humanities

Publications

Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library • Our War: Ireland and the Great War (in conjunction with an RTÉ Radio 1 series) • Documents on Irish Foreign Policy, vol. 11 • Irish Historic Events Atlas, vol. II, Dublin, Part II, no. 31: Rome • DNB Bibliographical database completed and online • Excavations at Knowth, volume IV • Darwin, Praeger and the Clare Island Surveys (published to commemorate the centenary of the first Clare Island Survey; accompanied by a Library exhibition)

Public Outreach

On Global Confusion’, Nobel Laureate, Professor Amartya Sen, Hon. MRIA (Public lecture sponsored by Concern Worldwide, Trinity College Dublin, the Royal Irish Academy and the Irish Times) • ‘My gentle harp: Moore’s Irish melodies, 1808–2008’ (Library exhibition and lecture series) • ‘Noncommutative Algebra: from Hamilton to our time’, Professor Efim Zelmanov, University of California, San Diego (2009 Hamilton lecture) • Public interview between Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, and Professor Michael McElroy of Harvard University • ‘Ireland in 2020 vision’, Sir George Quigley MRIA (Academy discourse)
Further funding has been transmitted to the universities since 2000 through SFI (maintained by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment), again on a competitive basis, designed initially to support research activity likely to benefit the national industrial sector; particularly Pharmaceuticals and Information and Communications Technologies, already well represented in Ireland, and to encourage other foreign companies to locate here. The appropriateness of targeting support towards applied areas in which Irish universities sometimes did not have established research records was more questioned than debated at the outset, and research was successfully launched in several instances only by attracting scarce resources from abroad.

These SFI-funded researchers who have successfully transplanted their research to an Irish environment have since become part of the university establishment here, and have more recently been joined by researchers in engineering, energy and specified areas of mathematics, which also have been identified as subjects where research is vital to Ireland’s economic development. These researchers also have been assisted in their endeavors, and they have been widely discouraged by colleagues because they represent disciplines that are not well embedded in our universities, even if they have previously been of critical importance to international standards. Parallel support has been offered by Enterprise Ireland and the IIEA, to encourage the hiring of patents and the creation of spin-out companies from SFI-funded laboratories, and this is rapidly encouraging university research on all disciplines, including in the humanities and the social sciences, to consider how their research might advance innovation and enhance employment. The most towards developing an applied aspect to university research, through SFI has, therefore, come from its prestige and by most academics. SFI-funded activity is now a core aspect of university’s missions and has proven vital to the transformation that has been affected in the entire sector.

The transformation of which I speak has been underway since 1998 and represents an excellent return on investment. It is my view that cost saving, such as has been adumbrated in other contributions, is not to be equated with the benefits that have accrued, or to be preserved, I would suggest that a more imaginative approach to retrenchment than is at present being pursued by the government must be identified and implemented by leaders from within the sector itself.

The first plank in the government’s strategy to reduce public sector costs is to effect a de facto reduction in the take-home pay of all who draw upon the public purse, and I can envision no avoidance of this by any interest group. The second element of the government strategy to reduce public sector costs is to effect a reduction in the number of public servants, and I can envision no avoidance of this by any interest group. The third proposed strategy for reducing costs in the sector is to follow the recommendations of the Report of the Special Group on Public Service Numbers and Expenditure, which include[4] several Members, who considered me excessively pessimistic when in last year’s Report I likened the economic difficulty that Ireland, and the world, was facing to that of the 1930s, have since acknowledged my pessimism. It gives me no pleasure to have been proved right, because the only progress that we in Ireland seek, need, and desire, is to have an economy that addresses our economic plight in a sustainable manner that we can all endorse.

Maintaining research excellence.

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The prospect of irreversible global climate change coupled with the rapid depletion of fossil fuel reserves, particularly oil and gas, confronts world leaders with an agenda for concerted action of unprecedented magnitude. Few doubt but that a global crisis with the potential to threaten the very survival of mankind is almost upon us. The disappointing progress at international summits so far emphasises just how great a challenge mankind faces in implementing an effective response to this threat.

Energy and transport, interlinked as they are, are two of the most critical sectors of any economy. The overwhelming dependence of most countries on solid fuels, crude oil and natural gas suggests that a response to such challenges is both inevitable and imperative. Thus, the science community should pursue efforts to address these twin challenges.

Meeting future energy needs while tackling climate change effectively is clearly of the utmost importance, not least to Ireland. To its credit, the government, through Science Foundation Ireland, has recognised this challenge, and its recent initiatives mark a new phase in the development of sustainable energy and energy efficient technology as one of the thematic research areas我们一起 with biotechnology and information and communications technology, in which it invests substantial support funds.

Ireland, as we know all too well, is highly dependent on imported fossil fuels for its electricity, heating and transport needs—91% of Ireland’s energy needs were met by imported fossil fuels in 2003. This dependence on imports, coupled with the potential for economic and environmental growth, is a lucrative commercial opportunity, given that the island is rich in renewable sources such as wind and marine energy.

The key task is to accomplish the essential transformation in as efficient and price competitive a manner as possible. The key of PRTLI, the effective abolition of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies; and the absorption of the Higher Education Authority into the Department of Education and Science—would be an opportunity for our universities to take a lead in the direction of research that can contribute to solving these problems within each institution. It is conceivable, however, to expect that such transformation or re-orientation of administrative structure would occur close to meeting targeted official budgetary requirements, any more than would a boosting of incomes to ensure survival through the constraints of undergraduate course fees (now off the agenda). These two strategies combined may, however, go some way to excelling the fiscal crisis, but it is also the rationalisation of academic offerings across the sector must be part of any solution. This would include both the renewal of research expenditure, especially where costs are high and outputs few, and of redefining our individual and academic units that have been found less than excellent in the quality appraisals conducted over the past decade, or where chronic human resource problems have proven intractable.

These proposals, which would involve substantial reallocation of resources, or indeed early retirement, in what was previously promised as caretaking, secure employment, are without precedent in the Republic of Ireland—although, our Members from Northern Ireland will be all too familiar with them. They deserve to have many questions concerning human, academic freedom, and statutory entitlement, which many academics would find it difficult to envisage: a future where not all university teachers’ subjects would be sustained up to research level, or indeed in existence, or whose normative and flexibility in every activity, whether it is teaching, research or administration.

NICHOLAS CANNY
PRESIDENT

THE QUEST FOR SAFE, SECURE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY—WHITHER IRELAND?

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In summary, the big challenge for Ireland is to make the transformation to a low-carbon economy as swiftly and cost-effectively as possible, in keeping with our international obligations, and to do so in a manner that ensures our energy competitiveness and facilitates the development of a diverse, import-competitive, and low-emissions energy mix based on clean energy solutions.

PETER MITCHELL
Science Secretary
Evaluating humanities research

That the need for accurate measurements of research is not disputed within the humanities and social sciences community was evident at two Academy events in 2007–09: the half-day seminar on Evaluating research performance in economics and social sciences, organised by the Academy Committee for Social Sciences in May 2007 and, more recently, the workshop on Key performance indicators in humanities research in Ireland in March 2009. The movement towards closer monitoring is a reasonable extension of the centuries-old tradition of reviewing and approving research. Changes in research conditions — such as the increase in the amount of group research being undertaken — combined with new funding mechanisms require closer clarification of evaluation processes, while changes in dissemination patterns, such as the proliferation of journals and monographs and the growth of e-publishing — have complicated the task.

Well before the current economic ‘down-turn’, university communities had accepted the requirement to provide convincing proof of value for money. Researchers and academics are rightly expected to demonstrate that their work is socially, widely recognised and highly priced. All too many, except in smaller, fewer and good sake, are subjective and discrediting standards, and the ways to measure research against such variables are not as well codified as we would wish. Neither those who ultimately finance research (taxpayers and philanthropists), nor their agents (research councils, government agencies and foundations), nor researchers themselves can be completely satisfied with what is available in terms of recognition methods. This is true of science, engineering and technology research, for which many of the measures now available were developed. It is not true in the social sciences, and most of all in the humanities. In particular, the type of bibliometric and citation analysis developed for the sciences research is all adapted to humanities publishing patterns.

The main issue that humanities scholars need to consider is how the research we produce can best be evaluated. We need to take the initiative in identifying the different performance indicators that can most effectively be applied to us in the many disciplines grouped within the humanities. We recognise that not everything good can be weighed in some convenient balance—certain pieces require considerations unique to the HEA, while putting the ‘Thomson’ document for the arts, humanities and social sciences was the difficulty of choosing how these areas contribute to society and the economy and how to determine the value of research in these areas.

We need to review the methods available and see how they should be adjusted to our particular fields. A related issue is to be considered: how to make universities and other higher education and research institutions aware that performance indicators suited to the majority of the sciences may not be suitable to other disciplines, and that measures used to take proper account of disciplines-specific criteria when conducting appointments, promotions and research priorities. This is why, in March 2009, the Academy organised the workshop on key performance indicators referred to above, and has now published a full account of those deliberations.

Following on from these proceedings, a further step that the Academy will take in late 2009 is a day-long meeting with Irish publishers and editors of journals. The purpose of this will be to ensure the criteria by which journals, in particular, are judged, so as to ensure that as few publications are unjustly misunderstood, and that new research interests to publish in them. It is clear that present regulations include open calls for papers, double-blind peer reviewing, a significant web presence — increasingly this means subscribers’ online access to full text — and international editorial board whose connections to the editors should be not separately imagined. Any requirement to be a member of society before a paper can be submitted and any impositions of an ‘elobby’ network as editors are definite negative. Among positive points to aim for in the development of journals as a significant number of papers emerge from more than one country, presence in annual bibliographies and so periodically designated, and at Ulster’s, and academic journals such as ProQuest or IETOR. The latter points could well work in favour if Irish publications give IETOR’s development of an Irish Studies collection. Furthermore, it needs to be recognised that actual circulation numbers may for all less important than a journal’s significance within its specific field — the crucial question to be asked is ‘How many copies does it sell?’ but rather is independent of or at least widely used by the specialist addressed? RIA’s European Research Index for the Humanities has not grown, and what academics in all countries should continue to see, is the Academy has done, in the mechanical categorisation of journals, especially those adequate objective data are not available.

Clearly, it is now a matter of some urgency that the humanities and social sciences should define appropriate parameters for the evaluation of research and scholarly publications...

JANE CONROY
Polite Literature & Antiquities Secretary

1 The report from this seminar is available at: http://www.ria.ie/policy/pdfs/economics%20text.pdf, and the full text versions of the presentations to the seminar are available at: http://www.ria.ie/committees/socialscience/researchperformance.html.


4 For more on the HEA ‘Foresight’ process, see: http://www.hea.ie/en/node/1057.
REPORT OF THE SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

In this brief summary I will report on two important activities that have been at the forefront of my responsibilities as Academy Senior Vice-President during the past year. (1) Implementation of RIA Strategic Plan 2009

The Academy’s current strategic plan, the plan from 2007–12, Four strategic directions were identified in the plan as being worthy of attention, and Council approved implementation of the recommendations of the senior group responsible for the strategic plan. As Senior Vice-President, I have co-ordinated responsibility for development and implementation of the first strategic direction—building public engagement. This major objective underpin the stated aim of the plan.

Objective 1.1: The Academy will enhance its public profile to support better public understanding of its activities, emphasizing the following priorities:

- Promotion of activities and services to academia, government, and the wider public, North and South
- Partnership with higher education institutions, government departments and agencies, etc.
- Development of initiatives and mechanisms to encourage and enable wider public access to and participation in services and activities.

A significant thrust in public engagement in the coming year may be the Academy’s ability to sustain sponsorship funding. However, the Academy is continually finding new ways of enhancing its engagement with the public through, for instance, the publication of volumes of the Royal Irish Academy Library in a new online format, as is the establishment of the DHO. In 2009 all Academy journals became available online. In addition to that, the Academy also went online in 2008. Recent publications projects, such as Toby Miller and David Moran, have had accompanying online exhibitions. Furthermore, the work of the Academy’s policy function is central to building better relations with key decision-makers and stakeholders in the civil and public service.

Objective 1.2: The Academy will enhance its regional outreach and focus, with the following primary priorities:

- The Academy will explore new means already in existence to enhance engagement with regional-based members, including Northern Ireland-based members.
- Initiate in due course an ongoing strategic engagement with Academy members in Northern Ireland by building on the exploratory work of former President Jim Slevin. The former Northern Ireland Renewing Energy Group was reconstituted by Council in the new North-South Talks on 19 May 2008 and is under the chairmanship of Brian McSharry. A number of Northern Ireland-based events are planned for the coming year and at various stages of planning.

(2) Academia Sinica—Academy Presidents’ Forum

To mark the occasion of the ninetieth anniversary of the formation of the Academia Sinica, President of the national academy and other academy leaders from all over the world were invited to Taipei in order to participate in a scholarly exchange of ideas focusing on the topic “The role of the Academies in creating a better world.” The Academy President’s Forum was held in Taipei on December 1–7, 2009. The event was designed to reflect Academia Sinica’s vision that national systems of learning have a duty and responsibility to actively work together in order to create a better future for humanity, whereby leaders work in close cooperation and harmony on behalf of our mutual collective future.

Since moving to Taipei in 1949, Academia Sinica has developed into a modern research institution covering most academic research domains in both the sciences and the humanities. The academy’s operational budget for 2008 was NT$133.2 billion ($4.68 billion). The total staff complement was over 4,100 persons in 2008.

The opening session of the three-day Forum in Taipei comprised three key topics:

- Introduction—Chien-Hsin Wong, President of Academia Sinica, Taipei.
- The world’s energy problem and what we can do about it—Stephen Chu (Nobel Laureate), Director, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

On day two, the forum focused on three major discussion topics. Individual short papers were delivered by academicians, and each session was followed by a moderated panel discussion and Q&A session with the invited audience of several hundred guests.

Discussion Topic 3: How can science academies be structured to foster knowledge-based development?

Presentations:
- National science academies as one driver in knowledge-based development—Kurt Landbeck (Australia).
- Structure in relation to the mission of science academies—M. Vipper (Tallinn).
- Science, technology, and innovation for building an inclusive society—A.A. Makhulm (Tallinn).
- The role of academies in a period of globalization—L. Mattei (Italy).

Discussion Topic 3: How can academies of different types best contribute to this effort?

Presentations:
- The example of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities within the Union of the German Academies of Sciences and Humanities—Günter Stock (Germany).
- Transforming the ESC: the academies of arts, humanities and sciences of Canada, determining the role and influence of the various provincial—Yves Giroux (Canada).
- The role of the academies in creating a better world—J. Elbakyan (Hungary).

Discussion Topic 3: How can the academy community contribute to solutions to environmental problems?

Presentations:
- Climate change: beyond science and technology—M. Yari (Iran).
- Atmosphere and climate: the ancient theme reimagined—M. Kates (Canada).
- Climate change, the environment, and the role of science in harmonizing and producing energy—D.F. Regier (Belgium).
- Influencing change and promoting solutions: new paradigms and old societies—the role of a national academy in tackling environmental problems—T. Graham (Royal Society Edinburgh).

Following the conclusion of Discussion Topic 3, a round-up session was presented by Che-Hsin Liao, Vice-President, Academia Sinica.

David Feagan
Senior Vice-President
New Members

Daniel Bradley is Professor of Population Genetics at Trinity College Dublin. He has a degree in Genetics from Cambridge University, and a PhD from the University of Dublin. His research is focused on the use of modern DNA technology to assess the genetic structure of human populations and livestock species, and the interaction of populations with archaeology, human, and animal health and international development. He is the foremost researcher into the genetic history of both populations and is an acknowledged world leader in the use of molecular genetic variation to decipher information about the history of animal domestication.

Martin Caffrey is Professor of Microbiological Structural Biology at the University of Limerick. He has a first-class honours degree in Agricultural Science from University College Dublin, an MSc in Food Science and a PhD in Biochemistry from Cornell University, New York. He embarked on a professional career in the Chemistry Department at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, before returning to Ireland in 2000. At UL, he has established a Centre for Structural Biology, the mission of which is to establish the molecular basis for bio-nanoassembly and stability, and to understand how molecular rearrangements and transitions and transport in health and disease. Professor Caffrey’s work at the forefront of this discipline and therefore contributing to the growing worldwide reputation of research in Ireland.

Vincent Fusco holds a personal research chair in High-Frequency Electronics Engineering at Queen’s University Belfast. He is a graduate of Queen’s University and has established a unique international laboratory there, where he directs over 50 staff at the forefront of research on high-frequency microwave electronics and antennas—two of the largest and most equipped high-frequency academic research groups in Europe. His personal research involved the creation of innovative solutions for advanced modern front-ends for our wireless communications. He is a world leader in microwaves and antennas and an integrated circuit techniques. Professor Fusco has 10 fundamental patents in the area of microwave antennas and has published over 450 research papers, the majority of which are included in international journals. He has written two books that are used as standard texts in many universities worldwide.

Colin Hill is Chair of Microbial Food Safety in the Microbiology Department, University College Cork, and is a research programme in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre and the Food for Health, Ireland research centre. He has an MSc in Biochemistry and an MSc in Biochemistry, all from University College Cork. Professor Hill has developed a globally recognised research programme on the molecular biology of food pathogens and the development of antimicrobial peptides for use in food and medicine. His laboratory has published over 250 papers, and he has awarded a DSc in 2005 to the honours of his research. He also serves as a member of the Scientific Committee of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland. Professor Hill has continuously established pioneering research that expanded the field of study and has important applications in the dairy, food and bio-processing industries.

Piejun Hu is Professor of Chemistry at Queen’s University Belfast, having joined the School of Chemistry there in 1995. He obtained a BSc in Chemistry taking a PhD at Cambridge University. His research concerns chemical and theoretical chemistry. His main interest is chemical reactions, particularly catalytic reactions, and is in making significant advances in understanding the fundamental principles of such reactions. His work is highly regarded internationally. He has taken several key computational methods for metal surfaces and applied them to problems of chemical interest in the field of catalysis. Professor Hu’s published work has established him as a world leader in a growing field that he has effectively pioneered himself.

Tony Kavanagh is Associate Professor of Molecular Genetics at the Smurfit Institute of Genetics, Trinity College Dublin. He obtained his doctorate from UCD and followed this with post-doctoral research at the Cambridge Plant Breeding Institute. Then, his development of the Gf7 transgenic gene, as a tool for producing gene expression in plants, revolutionized the field of plant genetics. His research interests include plant genome, the genetics of domestication and selection, and plant improvement using classical and molecular genetic approaches. He is a leading authority in plant biotechnology and has advised the Environmental Protection Agency, the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and the European Academy Sciences. Advisory Council on genetic modification and plant genetics. Professor Kavanagh’s work has been of immense importance in advancing plant molecular genetics, not just in Ireland but worldwide.

Myungshik Kim is Professor of Theoretical Physics at Queen’s University, Belfast. He has a BSc from Sogang University, Korea, an MSc from Ewha University, and a PhD from Imperial College, London. His PhD addressed quantum aspects of the atomic world, followed, and has led to the opening of the field of optical-fibre quantum states. His work has set world standards in the investigation of the properties of quantum entanglement and has led to the invention of quantum cryptography and quantum computing. His work has been of immense importance in developing a new understanding of quantum mechanics and a new approach to the world of quantum phenomena. Professor Kim is a world leader in the field of quantum information theory, and he is publishing and selecting work that continues to be heavily cited by other scientists.

Marina Lynch is a Professor of Cellular Neuroscience and director of the Institute of Neuroscience at Trinity College Dublin. She has a BSc and MSc from the National University of Ireland, Galway, and a PhD from Trinity College Dublin. Her research has been pivotal in establishing that inflammatory changes in the brain contribute to the age-related deterioration in human function. She has identified astroglial and microglial and astroglial cell functions in the pathogenesis of neurodegenerative disease. She has led the first direct proof of a communication relation that underlies one of the most important consequences of a glial-neuronal understanding of the brain. Professor Kim has been described as a major international player in the field of the aging brain, a subject of pressing interest to contemporary society.

Tom Ray has been a full professor at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies since 1998. He is a theoretical physics graduate of Trinity College Dublin and his PhD was awarded by the University of Manchester. An astrophysicist with broad interests, his major achievement has been to explain a large European collaboration researching mass loss from young stars at early epochs of their evolution. It is for this particular work he is now famous, i.e., uncovering the first million stars in the life of a star that he is best known. Another major research activity focuses on the emission jets produced by young star, which is an important indicator of star formation and cosmic acceleration mechanisms. Professor Ray has an international reputation in both these research areas and has made key advancements in the global field of astrophysics.

David Taylor is a Professor of Materials Engineering at Trinity College Dublin. He graduated in Materials Science from Cambridge University and holds fellowships in the Institute of Engineers of Ireland and the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland. His research concerns the strength and fracture of materials, and it ranges from fundamental work on the theory of fracture mechanics and the strength of biological materials to applications in design and forensics. He has an international reputation for his work on atom structure and modelling atomic forces, and is a member of the Scientific Committee for Fracture through digital distance theory. Another breakthrough of his research was the discovery of the mechanisms which identify living bone, a tool for detecting and repairing damage. Professor Taylor is a leading authority and opinion former in the field of fracture mechanics worldwide.

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Kenneth Bloomfield has been acclaimed as original, painstakingly researched and innovative. He has made contributions to the postwar German literature in the 1950s, and his work has been influential in the field. His recent research has focused on the role of memory in literary texts and has been published in leading academic journals. Bloomfield has also been a key figure in the field of cultural memory, and his work has been widely respected and influential. His contributions to the field of German studies have been recognized, and he has received numerous awards for his research. In addition to his academic work, Bloomfield has also been a prolific author, with several books and articles to his name. His research has been instrumental in advancing the understanding of German literature and culture in the modern era.
JOEPLJREDLEUKERNS was born in Leiden, Netherlands, in 1955. He studied in Leiden, Dublin, and Toronto and took his PhD at Utrecht University in 1986. His work in both studies, "The Development of Irish" (1984) and "Ancestral Memory" (1989), focused on the interaction between Ireland's two languages and cultural traditions, and on the development of Irish national thought and of Irish national consciousness. His other work addresses national identities and the growth of national and European awareness in Ireland, the reconstruction of the Irish Writing of the Four Masters (1990–2000). Leukers was a scholar of the Gaelic League and has made significant contributions to the study of Irish culture and to the revival of the Irish language. In 2002, he was appointed a professor of Irish Studies at Trinity College Dublin, where he has served as the first president of the School of Irish Studies. He has published extensively on the history and culture of Ireland, particularly in the areas of language, literature, and national identity. His work has been widely recognized, and he has been awarded several honors, including the Order of the Irish Language (2004) and the Oireachtas Gold Medal for Culture (2006).
Michael B. McElroy began his research career in atomic physics, graduating at age 22 in 1970, at applied mathematics from Queen’s University Belfast. McElroy’s other area of interest, a total of more than 250 technical papers and several books, coming topics ranging from studies of planetary atmospheres, to atmospheric issues, to the climatic implications of changing atmospheric cycles and forcing mechanisms, both natural and human-driven, and climate change on global climate. He has been engaged more recently in studies of the environmental consequences of rapid urbanization in China, exploring strategies to minimize adverse effects of this urbanization while at the same time accommodating China’s legitimate aspirations for economic development. A recently completed book addresses the challenge posed by our need to switch to a more sustainable energy and economic development.

Howard Clarke has been both a mentor to me as Managing Editor of Publications, and a driving force in the redesign and revitalization of key Academy publications.

Having become a member of the Academy in 2003, Howard was elected to Council the following March, and as Secretary a year later. The Secretary of the Academy traditionally takes responsibility for the membership, and also for the Academy events involving the Members and their publications. The halcyon days of Howard’s tenure as Secretary were marked by recognition of the individual contributions made to the Academy by its Members. He managed for those elected to the Academy to receive a personalized scroll certifying their membership, and he designed a ceremony to honour new Members and admit them to the Academy.

To recognize publicly the immense contributions made by Members since the establishment of the Academy, he commissioned six panels inscribed in gold bearing the names of all the Presidents. These panels are hung on the north wall of the Main Assembly Hall.

As Secretary, Howard became an ex officio member of the Publications Committee, one of the fourteen committees on which he sat and set. Though Howard had extensive experience of publishing through his work on the Irish Historic Towns Atlas project, amongst others, I suspected that he might have had more than enough to do already. I was wrong.

His election as Secretary in March 2005 just preceded my appointment that June as Managing Editor of Academy Publications. He became an active and enthusiastic supporter of Publications projects, and in so doing, acted as a mentor to me in this growing area.

A key aim of Publications at that point was to streamline the Academy’s journals, to publish on a quarterly basis, and to increase the impact of the Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy. Section C: Because of its strategic importance, Section C would be published electronically throughout the year, on an individual paper’s completion.

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Howard was most active in his role as a mentor to be a part of something, defining the parameters of the project, and ensuring its goals were exhaustively clear. A project on which Howard worked by definition, has a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Any project on which I worked with Howard from the editors of the Members’ Handbook, to the reorganization of the Proceedings, to the publication of Environment and Economic Development, operated in the same manner, and was always affected with tact and diplomacy. It is immensely clear, then surprising it and acknowledge that it is completed, allowing me to move on to the next project.

Howard Clarke has been an inspiring and committed Secretary, who has also made an invaluable contribution to Academy Publications.
Aidan Duggan, who died in the early summer of 2009, was Executive Secretary of the Royal Irish Academy from 1977 to 1993. A graduate of University College Dublin in economics and politics (1969), he took a masters degree in 1970, specializing in the economics of education, industrial relations and marketing. From 1970 to 1972 he was a research assistant with the Nuffield Foundation, working on the study of technology education at Bristol University in London. He was bitterly a teacher in a secondary school there, before returning to Dublin in 1973 to take up the position of Careers and Appointments Officer at University College Dublin.

In 1987 Aidan moved to Trinity College to become Staff Secretary—essentially director of personnel services for the university. Ten years later he was appointed Executive Secretary of the Royal Irish Academy, and in tenure of that post oversaw a period of change and development in which he played a key role. Horizontally educational research remained strong, and he continued to teach postgraduate students in the Department of Education, Trinity College. During his career Aidan held council of research fellowships, particularly focused on his twin interests in educational administration and development and in scholarly publishing. He derived enormous satisfaction from his work in the OECD Programme on Institutional Management and Higher Education.

Amongst his many accomplishments, Aidan was an active occasional freelance journalist and broadcaster: he introduced a major television series, Irish Battles, on RTÉ. He was also a keen sportsman and was active in both Universities Association Football and was roommate representative of the Football Association of Ireland.

In 1981 a decision was taken to recreate in Europe the ‘Treasures of Ireland’ exhibition, which had toured successfully in the United States in the late 1970s. A committee of the National Museum of Ireland, Trinity College and the Royal Irish Academy established a committee to secure the pieces, and Aidan was appointed secretary. It was a role into which he threw himself whole-heartedly, and he derived enormous satisfaction from his participation in the complex arrangements of sending an exhibition to five major cities on mainland Europe over a period of two years, from 1982 to 1984.

Aidan retired from the Academy on 1 March 2003 to devote himself to his many interests.

The sympathy of all those who knew him goes to his wife, Pat, and his children.

Michael Ryan, MRIA
Academy President 2002–05

AN APPRECIATION

Aidan Duggan 1938–2009

DISTINCTIONS CONFERRED ON MEMBERS 2008–09

J. RAY BATES was awarded the 2008 Vilhelm Bjerknes Medal by the European Geosciences Union, in recognition of his pioneering contributions to dynamo meterology, to numerical methods for weather prediction and climate modeling and to climate theory.

ANNE BUTTIMER was awarded the Johan August Wallenberg Gold Medal by the King of Sweden, patron of the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography, for her contributions to humanistic geography and the development of geography in Sweden, on 24 April 2009.

J. CHRISTOPHER DAINTRY was elected vice-president and president-elect of the Optical Society of America on 21 October 2008.

FRANK GANNON was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Queensland in November 2008.

DAVID RICHARDSON was elected president of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science in May 2008.

MICHAEL E.F. RYAN was elected Master Warden of the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin in November 2008. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the government of France in December 2008.

MICHAEL RYAN was awarded the Europa Prize for contributions to European prehistory by the Prehistoric Society on 30 May 2009.

From left to right: J Ray Bates, Anne Buttimer, Christopher Dainty, David Richardson, Michael E.F Ryan and Peter Woodman.
In December 2008 the Council of the Academy requested that all Academy committees be restructured, to ensure uniformity of structure and quality of service across the relevant research constituencies, for increased representation, and to support reform of electoral processes which provide for broad-based electoral registers right across the relevant research constituencies, for increased communication between the committees and their communities of interest. Membership of each committee will be comprised of those elected and the institutional nominees. A small number of additional members can be co-opted and nominated by Council of the Academy and the Board of the Academy to ensure broad representation on the committees, taking account of gender, regional, thematic and organisational balances.

The Academy committees are encouraged to advise on research policy, contribute to areas of strategic importance, address issues of public concern, foster excellence, co-operate with other subject areas, maintain international networks, and follow their programmes of work as devised at the start of each term of office, all in an all-Ireland capacity.

Finally, the Board for Science and the Board for the Humanities and Social Sciences bring together the Council of the Academy and the chairs of the committees to encourage excellence, to engage with external experts, to promote their work and to facilitate their disciplinary focus on work. Recent examples of broad initiatives include the Humanities and Social Sciences Working Group and the Science Secretary Discussion Forum on Irish Sciences.

Restructuring of the Academy Committees

Elections to the committees took place in the first quarter of 2009, and the new Academy committees will sit from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2013.

ACADEMY COMMITTEES AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REPORT

BEREAVEMENTS

THE DEATHS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS IN THE PERIOD OCTOBER 2008 TO JULY 2009 ARE RECORDED WITH REGRET

Black, Robert Denis Coleraine, MA, BComm (Dubl 1941), PhD (Dubl 1943), DSc (inE 1866), IFA (Hon LTLD Professor of Economics, QUB, Elected MRIA 1974, Died 7 December 2008.


From left to right: John Joseph Cleary (courtesy NUI Maynooth), Conor Cruise O’Brien (courtesy UCD Archives), Cyril Edward Williams (courtesy Geological Survey of Ireland).
The Committee for Greek and Latin Studies organised the colloquium ‘The wine and leisure in the iron/wood world’ in November 2008. The keynote lecture, ‘Army Leadership and Divination in Ancient Greek Warfare’, was delivered by Professor Vincent Gabrielsen of the University of Copenhagen.

The Historical Sciences Committee was involved in the organisation of the biennial Irish Conference of Historians, which took place at the University of Limerick in June 2009. The theme was ‘Power and History’, and the conference was attended by over 70 delegates. The committee also organised a conference entitled ‘The Irish Civil Census’ on 19–21 September 2009.

The Committee for Irish Literatures in English held a conference, ‘Ireland and the Poetics of the Big House novel in the twentieth century’, in September 2009, which considered the key Irish writers and artists of the 1990s, especially the work of Peter Power, TD, the minister of state with responsibility for overseas development. Gareth Evans, the former chairman of the Committee on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament), delivered the keynote address.

...
Dr. Eibhear Walshe, School of English, University College, Cork, visited the University of Texas, Austin. Dr. Walshe travelled to the Harry Ransom Humanities Center at the University of Texas at Austin in April 2009 to research the literary archives of the Anglo-Irish novelist Elizabeth Bowen (1899–1973). The research was an edition of Bowen’s Irish writings, and the Harry Ransom has the most important collection of her letters to other writers, including W.S. Lieb, Virginia Woolf and many others. The findings in the Harry Ransom proved yet another link in the cultural and literary connections between Elizabeth Bowen and Irish writers such as Sean O’Faolain, Dorothy Macardle, Louis Robinson, Robert Gwynn and David Marcus. The research discovered that Bowen had interesting links with Irish literary journals such as The Bell, Irish Writing, Irish Homestead, the Cork Examiner and Blarney Magazine. While researching in the Bowen archive, some illuminating short essays, reviews and radio plays with Irish themes were also discovered and will be included in a new publication on Bowen’s Irish writings.

European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)

In 2001 the RIA joined with the various national science academies of the EU member states to form the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC). This body was established to enable the national academies to collaborate with each other in providing advice to European policy-makers and to protect a forum for the collective voice of European science to be heard. Through EASAC, the academies work together to provide independent, expert, evidence-based advice about scientific aspects of public policy to those who make or influence policy within the European institutions. Drawing on the memberships and networks of the academies, EASAC assists the ERASMUS+ and Horizon 2020 programmes by providing advice on the translation of European science into policy. EASAC’s most recent publications, Horizon-2020 systems, is available online at http://www.easac.eu, or in hardcopy format by contacting EASAC at life@ria.ie. EASAC’s most recent publication, Horizon-2020 systems, is available online at http://www.easac.eu, or in hardcopy format by contacting EASAC at life@ria.ie. The Academy currently supports members on both the Energy and Environment steering groups of the EASAC. Professor Mark O’Malley, UCD, is the Academy’s representative on the EASAC Energy Steering Group. The EASAC Energy Steering Group seeks to create a new European energy market, ensuring new investment in technologies between different countries, to accommodate renewable resources and to ensure the reliability of supply. The ESAGC group will seek to explore new costs and new technologies that could help the progress of building the new European electrical energy transmission system. Professor O’Malley is also reporting to the Irish government on these developments.

Mr. Laura Meyersiday Head of Research Programmes and International Relations

Developing key performance indicators for the Humanities report of the RIA/IRCHSS workshop, 12 March 2009

There is a growing demand by government, funding agencies and higher-education institutions for systems and processes by which to assess the level of activity, quality, impact and value-for-money of publicly funded research. Such systems are reasonably well established for the sciences but there is little agreement as to appropriate indicators and systems for the humanities. In light of this, in March 2009 the Academy and the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences convened a meeting of senior humanities scholars and researchers to discuss the development of appropriate key performance indicators as a response to the unique characteristics, strengths and contributions of humanities research in Ireland. As a first step in this process, the humanities community was strong merit in the adoption by higher-education institutions and funding agencies of an agreed...
Making the best of third-level science

Making the best of third-level science report of the RIA meeting, 2 February 2009

In February 2009 the Academy’s Science Secretary convened a meeting of representatives from among Irish higher-education institutions, policymakers, funding agencies and industry, to consider the recent increase in science undergraduate numbers and the impact of this increase on the quality of undergraduate science education. Three discussions informed the subsequent report issued by the Academy, which provides a summary of the main issues, challenges and opportunities facing third-level science education in Ireland at present. These include concerns regarding seismic drift and grade inflation within the university sector, renewed emphasis on the importance of a quality teaching and learning experience for undergraduates and the imperative of maintaining the highest possible standard of undergraduate education and degrees.

For more information on the Academy’s various policy activities visit www.ria.ie/policy

Ms Siobhán Robinson, Senior Research and Policy Officer.

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Ms Siobhán Robinson, Senior Research and Policy Officer.
Clockwise from top: Jack Pinder, who took part in the Clare Island Community Day, September 2008; Annette Fox, who signed the roll as an Honorary Member in June 2009, with Siddhartha Sen, MRIA; First Minister, The Rt Hon Peter Robinson, MP MLA, and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, MP MLA, at the Northern Ireland launch of Our War: Ireland and the Great War, at Stormont Castle.

Clockwise from top: Dr Gillian Kenny and Bronwyn Kenny at the launch of Historical Knowth and its Hinterland; New Academy members at the formal admittance ceremony in May 2009; Mr Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, interviewing Professor Michael Middelkoop of Harvard about his research on climate change; Professor David Livingstone and Professor Charles Hynes with 44 fellows recipients of the 2008 Academy Gold Medals.
The Art and Architecture of Ireland project, the latest to be established by the RIA, was formally launched at Academy House on 4 November 2008 by the Minister of State at the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, Martin Mansergh.

The project will reach fruition in 2014, when the RIA and Yale University Press will jointly publish the five-volume Art and Architecture of Ireland series of books. The volumes will cover all aspects of Irish art and architecture from c. 400 to the present day—from high crosses to installation art, from Georgian houses to medieval brooches, from miniatures and sculptures to photographs, oil paintings, video art and new media. The work, to be written by leading scholars in the field and based on new research, will have relevance for anyone working in the fields of Irish art or Irish studies nationally and internationally. The volumes will be handsomely illustrated and will contain thematic and general articles on every aspect of the art and architecture of Ireland, as well as biographical entries, articles on techniques and historical developments, bibliographies, lists of artists and comprehensive indices. In short, the publicaions will be a major contribution to Irish studies, and the project will be a work of national cultural significance.

The five volumes will be organised as follows:

I. Medieval Art and Architecture, edited by Rachel Moss, TCD.
II. Painters and Painting 1600–1900, edited by Nicola Figgis, UCD.
III. Sculptors and Sculpture 1600–2000, edited by Paula Murphy, UCD.
IV. Architects and Architecture 1600–2000, edited by Rolf Loeber, University of Pittsburgh, and Hugh Campbell, UCD.
V. Twentieth-Century Art and Artists, edited by Peter Murray, Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, and Catherine Marshall, IMMA.

The Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism is supporting the project, together with private sponsors. Anita Griffin is project manager and the general editor is Andrew Carpenter, MRIA. There are over 17 researchers and editors involved in preparing the volumes for publication. In addition, five boards of experts, one for each volume, meet regularly to oversee the work, and we are glad to report that academic and cultural institutions throughout the island of Ireland are supporting the project.

For further information, contact project manager Anita Griffin: a.griffin@ria.ie

Professor Andrew Carpenter is General Editor of AAI.

Left: Carmel Naughton, MRIA; Right: Andrew Carpenter, MRIA, at the launch of the Art and Architecture of Ireland project.
In 2008–09 the content of the first edition of the RIA’s Dictionary of Irish Biography was brought to completion. Final revisions were made to entries, 46 batches of galley proofs were checked—followed by a further 46 batches of sexual galleys—and preliminary pages were also despatched to Cambridge. Up to the final stage of the RIA’s biographical articles that comprise the edition, whether long or short, remained a separate file, awaiting merger in the page proof stage into the seamless whole that will constitute the first edition of the DIB. That happy stage, awaited so expectantly in the DIB office, arrived in June 2009 with the delivery of 9,728 page proofs. For the first time the DIB team was able to see the articles as they now appear in the DIB, published online and in nine volumes by Cambridge University Press in autumn 2009.

When page proofing was complete, the project moved on to test the electronic version of the Dictionary, to make sure that it delivered efficiently the functionality designed by the editorial team back in 2005. Initially, the online edition will have all the entries covered in the print edition, but later on certain entirely new entries will be added. Three supplements will then deal with significant figures who have died since 31 December 2002, the cut-off date for the first edition, but at some future point they will also include ‘missing persons’, those who were not in the first edition for whatever reason.

As publication draws closer the project is planning a series of collaborative events to highlight the Dictionary. A start was made in autumn 2008 when an all-ticket ‘Lawyers in Irish history’ symposium, organised by the Irish Legal History Society, was held in the Academy. Speakers included the former chief justice, Mr Justice Ronan Keane, Professor Jane Ohlmeyer, Sir Anthony Hart, Mr Justice Adrian Hardiman, Professor Oonagh Brady and Senator James Reilly. This symposium allowed speakers to discuss in an informal and lively way some of the articles on legal figures who feature in the Dictionary. It was a very successful occasion, and several others are planned for autumn 2009 and spring 2010. Future events will include a symposium on journalists in the DIB and another on members of the medical profession who feature in the Dictionary.

As each page proof was turned over, the DIB’s proof readers experienced what we believe will also strike our readers—the extraordinary range of subjects reflected in the lives of the people who feature in the Dictionary. From left to right: Dr Linde Lunney; Dr James Quinn; Mr Terry Clavin; Dr James McGuire and Mr Turlough O’Riordain

The Dictionary of Irish Biography will be an indispensable source of easily accessible information. It will put over 9,000 Irish lives into every major library in the world, and on the shelves of broadcasters, entrepreneurs, scholars, journalists, teachers, speechwriters, diplomats and general readers.

Mr James McGuire is the Managing Editor of the DIB.
Each of the projects in the family of Medieval Latin dictionary enterprises being conducted across Europe has as its mission the detailed scientific analysis and interpretation of the texts written in that language within a particular geographical area. In the case of DMLCS, the relevant area consists of the territories that were Celtic-speaking in the early Middle Ages. Indeed, the former Roman Britain, Britain, Scotland and the Isle of Man, as well as the monasteries that had been founded by Irish pilgrims as they travelled across much of the European continent.

Examples and citations for the DMLCS Dictionary (of which the second volume is in active course of preparation) are drawn from the project’s digital, full-text database of the Latin works in question. As it is built-up, successive releases of the database are published online by Brepols as a searchable Archive of Celtic-Latin Literature (ACLL); the latest release of this database, ACLL-2.2, went live in the spring of 2009 and contains 468 separate items, varying in length from fragmentary inscriptions to detailed philosophical treatises that would be hundreds of pages long if printed out. The text is built on the database with a redesigned interface that, for the first time, allows the instant generation of any-word-search-context XWRC coincidence to any text or any author’s works, in addition to allowing specific searches to be conducted by title of work, author, geographical area, century or bibliographical reference, as well as by word, part-word or collocations of words.

The Latin texts captured for ACLL can be envisaged as collectively forming a large flat expanse: this can be searched quickly, but is two-dimensional. Over a small part of its area, however, a third dimension is being added. This activity is a three-year enterprise in the forms of a hypertext ‘stack’ to the original Latin compositions of St Patrick, which will survive, and which have long formed part of ACLL, hence as being added to, consisting of translated into various modern languages, accessible introductions into the historical and cultural background of the source and its dual-ecclésial and bibliographical references and, above all, images of the medieval manuscripts from which the text has been derived. (Particular thanks are due to the Library of Trinity College Dublin for providing digital scans of the most celebrated codex involved, namely the famous Book of Armagh). The Stack has been under construction since September 2008 and is funded by the Higher Education Authority under Cycle Four of the Programme for Research in Third-Level Institutions (PRTLI) together with the Doegen Project and the Digital Humanities Observatory, it constitutes

The hyper text stack project; Dr Anthony Harvey, Editor DMLCS; and postgraduate Stack intern Hayley Humphrey (NUI Galway)

Dr Anthony Harvey is Editor of DMLCS.

Construction of the Hypertext Stack continues apace
The DHO began its second year of operation in March 2009. Its first year was marked by the successful recruitment of staff, the launch of the DHO in October 2008, by Minister of State for Science and Innovation Jimmy Devins, and the first annual DHO summer school. This summer school, at which 35 researchers from across the island participated, was a week-long intensive introduction to digital humanities tools, theories and methods.

In the autumn of 2008 the DHO launched its portal (http://dho.ie), a gateway to digital humanities activities in Ireland. It also launched a series of successful events at which hundreds of attendees participated. Events held at Academy House included an introduction to digital project management from conceptualisation to realisation: managing digital humanities projects (October 2008); an event on an Irish digital scholarly imprint at which speakers from Ireland and the UK participated in discussing the idea of developing an all-island digital scholarly imprint (March 2009); two metadata workshops, Working with data about data (March and May 2009), and Introduction to the semantic web workshop (April 2009); and an introduction to geospatial methods for e-humanities research (May 2009).

The DHO also facilitated several very successful events in conjunction with Humanities Serving Irish Society partners. The first of these was a Text Encoding Initiative workshop and project clinic (NUIG, December 2008); followed by a digital humanities symposium entitled Research in the 21st century: new methods, new technologies, new communities of knowledge and project design (UCC, February 2009); and a digital humanities symposium and project clinic (UCC, June 2009).

In May 2009 the DHO, with the University of Maryland and the University of Illinois, was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant for the project TILE: Text-Image linking environment. The goal of the grant is to create the next generation of the technical infrastructure supporting image-based editions and electronic archives of humanities content.

In July 2009 the DHO hosted its second annual summer school in conjunction with two virtual literary organisations: Nineteenth Century Scholarship Online (NINES) and DHC/Concert. This year the summer school doubled in size, with over 60 participants from half a dozen countries. It featured four parallel workshop tracks: Introduction to text encoding, Data-modelling and databases for humanities research, Data visualisation for the humanities and Text transformations with XSLT, with master classes and lectures by international experts Paul Endres, Hans-Willem Giebels, Jerome McGann and Aaron Quigley.

The 2009 summer school, the second software programme developed by the DHO, was launched: Digital Resources and Projects Database (DRAPIer; http://dho.ie/drapier). DRAPIer is a digital humanities database providing detailed information about digital humanities projects from the highest education sector across the island. The database was launched with 26 projects listed, with more being added each week.

DHO staff are active on many other fronts. Staff conducted some 100 project consultations, not only with HSIS partner projects, but across the cultural heritage sector; presented at conferences such as Computers in the Humanities, NINES, Digital Medievalist and Gale British Library Manuscripts Online.

Digital Humanities Observatory (DHO)

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The Emergency, as the Second World War was known in Ireland, has remained DIFP's primary focus throughout the year under review.

The diplomacy of neutrality, the fear of invasion by Britain or Germany, secret co-operation with the Allies and the ever-present war of words between de Valera and Churchill over Ireland’s links to the Allies are among the main themes of DIFP VI (1939–41), which was published in November 2008. Minister for Foreign Affairs Micheál Martin launched the volume at a packed reception in Sackville House on 25 November 2008. There was strong media interest in the new volume, and the publicity surrounding DIFP VI saw Executive Editor of DIFP Michael Kennedy and Assistant Editor Kate O’Malley speak at a number of high-profile conferences and participate in many radio interviews on the themes covered in the volume. Dr Kennedy was interviewed by BBC’s Coast programme for a forthcoming episode focusing on Irish wartime assistance to the Allies.

The project launched DIFP III (1926–32), its third online volume, in February 2009 at www.difp.ie. The new volume was promoted widely, and as a result usage of the website increased significantly. Dr Kennedy and Dr O’Malley spoke at the annual conference, on Web 2.0 and its application to archives, held at the University of Manchester in March 2009.

The main task facing the project since the start of 2009 has been researching DIFP VII. This volume, to be published in late 2010, will run from 1941 to 1945. By 1941, while invasion was more likely than during the fraught summer months of 1940, threats to Ireland’s neutrality remained as the Allies put economic pressure on the Axis powers to end the war by early 1941. The year also saw the threat of conscription on Northern Ireland successfully overcome, protests to Germany over the North Strand Bombing and the December 1941 entry of the United States into the war, with its consequent impact on Anglo-American and British-Irish relations.

DIFP VII will also cover well-known issues such as the arrival of US troops in Northern Ireland in the winter of 1941–42, the destruction of the Irish legation in Berlin in November 1943, security co-operation with the Allies as the run-up to D-Day on 6 June 1944 and de Valera’s confidence in the German mission to Ireland after Hitler’s suicide. Less known matters to be included are correspondence with Samuel Beckett over Beckett’s fears for his personal security in wartime France, an unsuccessful attempt to bring Jewish refugee children to Ireland in 1944 and Ireland’s views on the genesis of the United Nations, post-war planning and reconstructions.

The project team, delving into an under-researched world of coded messages, confidential despatches and telephone intercepts, has uncovered many other hidden secrets from Ireland’s wartime foreign relations, and these will be there for all to read when DIFP VII is published next year.
During the year, each member of the editorial team was given responsibility for preparing a sub-corpus of twentieth-century material for publication, beginning with the corpus of Máirtín Ó Cadhain’s work in preparation by the Editor.

Inputting of twentieth-century texts continued in the subunit of the project in an Charraig in Donegal. FNG is grateful to the HEA and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs for continuing support of this unit, and to the National Lottery, which funds Ciste na Gaeilge in that Department.

The highlight of the year for Foclóir na Nua-Ghaeilge was the launch by Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, of the online bibliographical databases, 1600–2000, in Academy House on 24 June 2009.

The material is presented in two sections: one relating to 1600–1882, the period covered by the CD-ROM, Corpus of Gaeilge, published in 2004, and the second listing titles from 1882 to 2000. This is necessary for inclusion in the twentieth-century corpus that is in course of preparation. Together, the two databases provide information on approximately 2,900 titles. The databases can be accessed at www.fng.ie.
The Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) was the subject of discussion at several lectures and seminars hosted by various local history societies, Dublin City Libraries and the National Library over the past year. This year the IHTA hosted a seminar at the University of Limerick in June 2009 and the Royal Irish Academy in July 2009. Exhibitions on Dublin 1610 to 1756 and IHTA were displayed in various libraries in Dublin and County Galway.

On the European scene, 460 atlases have been published and there are plans to set up Norwegian and Slovenian projects. Howard Clarke spoke on the atlas project at the European Cities in the Middle Ages conference in Venice in October 2009, which was also attended by Anngret Simms.

Collaborations and funding for the past year have included: Ordnance Survey Ireland, Land and Property Services Northern Ireland, Dublin City Council, Galway County Council, Longford County Council, the Longford Historical Society, the Mac-Ergetic Fund, Sligo County Council and the Heritage Council.

In May 2009, Howard Clarke took over from Anngret Simms as chair of the IHTA board of editors, which also includes Raymond Gillespie and Jacques Peron, while Angela Murphy, Angela Byrne and Jennifer Moore continued to apply their skills in the atlas office. Thanks to O’Carraig, who is appointed to the editorial committee.

Mr. Tomás Ó Carraig is Cartographic and Managing Editor of IHTA.
A community day held on Clare Island on Friday, 5 September 2008 was a great success. The plan was to organise an event that could be enjoyed by the people of Clare Island, including the 19 pupils of St Patrick’s National School, based around the work published in the latest volumes of the New Survey of Clare Island—Volume 5: Archaeology and Volume 6: The Freshwater and Terrestrial Algae. Copies of these volumes were presented to the island library and to the school on the day by Nicholas Canny, PRIA.

Walks led by Paul Gosling, co-editor of the archaeology volume, and David John and Fabio Rindi, co-editors of the algae volume, offered adults and children a new perspective on their local environment, historical and natural, and provided an insight into the world of the professional scientist and archaeologist.

Academy staff consulted the school principal, Mary McCabe, to see how an enjoyable and stimulating outing could be made relevant to the school curriculum. The activities organised and the related materials provided were very successful in stimulating the interest of the children. Hand一本 provided by the Academy proved very popular and the children were highly motivated in learning how to use the lenses before and during their walks.

Images of algae from around the island, viewed through a microscope provided by the Martin Ryan Institute and projected onto the wall of the Community Centre, attracted even the youngest students, who spontaneously went on to compare the illustrations in volumes 5 and 6 with those in the related posters prepared by the RIA with what they were seeing on the projections.

People were very engaged with the whole event. According to Principal McCabe:

“The involvement of the teachers and the schoolchildren in the launch of these two volumes and the follow-up field trips has given a whole new meaning to the island’s land- and seascape. We are already planning projects based on the trips.”

A number of Ireland; Mary McAleese, marked the occasion of the launch of the centenary celebrations of the Clare Island Survey in her speech on Clare Island on Saturday, 9 May 2009.

“I am very proud to be here on a day…when the island is looking back to the huge contribution that was made to the story of this island, the respect that was shown, by that great County Down man Robert Praeger—who has left Ireland…brought him here… and really helped to reveal… the light of speckens about this place, just how much we have to be grateful for…to be in wonder and in awe of…

(Praeger’s) work continues now in the work of the RIA, who show that same respect,…for what is an extraordinary environment,…part of our land, our European, our World heritage…under the experts come and identify and explore it so, we can remain to enjoy the beauty in its extraordinary and exquisite nature, so we are very grateful to those who reveal the intrinsic beauty in ways that only they can.

Professor Nicholas Canny presented President McAleese with a specially bound set of the first six volumes of the New Survey of Clare Island and a copy of the new Academy publication Darwin, Praeger and the Clare Island Surveys. The latter book accompanies the Royal Irish Academy Library exhibition Darwin, Praeger and the Clare Island Surveys, which will run from 2–10 July and 20 July–14 December 2009 in the Meeting Room of Academy House.

The exhibition celebrates two anniversaries—the 100th anniversary of the Clare Island Survey and the 150th anniversary of the publication of On the Origin of Species, by Charles Darwin, Hon. MRIA—by explaining how the Clare Island Survey of 1909–11 set out to investigate some of the questions at the heart of Darwin’s work, ‘throwing light on the question of island life and the problems of dispersal’.

The exhibition, which highlights the natural history collections of the Library of the Royal Irish Academy and features materials from the National Botanic Gardens and the Natural History Museum, is curated by Deputy Librarian Petra Schnabel. The exhibition and book also consider the relevance of the first survey’s findings today, discussing the work of the modern New Survey of Clare Island (1992–2009) and the unique insights gained into the increasingly important issues of turnover of species, climate change and loss of habitat.

A series of lectures and other events accompany the exhibition. For further details see the Library pages on www.ria.ie.

COMMUNITY DAY ON CLARE ISLAND, FRIDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2008
In January 2009 the Origins of the Irish Constitution project began work, surveying all surviving documentary material relating to the drafting of the 1937 Constitution, with a view to publishing the key texts. The volume covers the period 1928 to 1941, thereby including material relevant to the gradual formalising of the 1922 Constitution, publication of the 1937 Constitution and the passage of the Second Amendment of the Constitution Act in 1941.

Accompanying the documentary transcripts will be an in-depth commentary, written by the executive editor of the project, Gerard Hogan, SC. The commentary will elaborate on some of the more complex legal and philosophical problems that faced the drafters of the 1937 Constitution, while also placing the drafting process in its historical context.

The 1937 Constitution represents the culmination of the ‘constitutional revolution’ initiated by Eamon de Valera following Fianna Fáil’s electoral success in 1932. One of the aims of the OIC project has been to bring to light the extent to which de Valera relied on a small group of dedicated and innovative civil servants to create a new constitution. Under de Valera’s supervision, men such as John Hearne, Michael McDunphy, Arthur Matheson and Philip O’Donoghue played key roles in determining the eventual form of the constitution.

Article 51 of the 1937 Constitution allowed for amendments to be made, without referral to a referendum, for a period of only three years after the coming into office of Ireland’s first president. During these three years, the outbreak of World War II necessitated the introduction of emergency legislation in Ireland. The OIC volume will bring together, for the first time, material relating to the First and Second Amendments of the Constitution, both of which were heavily influenced by the ongoing war.

Over 300 documents will be published in the OIC volume. The majority of these have never before been published, and many have hitherto not been used by constitutional historians. The bulk of the material is drawn from the National Archives of Ireland and University College Dublin Archives, with the remainder coming from the Great Archives in Dublin, the Dublin Discovery Archive at Archbishop’s House and the National Archives of the United Kingdom.

For more information see: http://www.ria.ie/projects/oic/

Dr Gerard Hogan is Director of OIC.

Library Report

The library has completed a busy and productive year: apart from the ongoing cataloguing, archiving and service reviews, the year saw the publication of two works relating to the collections, as well as lectures, lecture series and other outreach activities.

On 10 February 2009 Mr Martin Cullen, TD, Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism, launched ‘My gentle harp: Moore’s Irish melodies, 1808–2008’, a major multimedia exhibition featuring items from the Academy’s collections relating to Thomas Moore, the Hummingbird TV production ‘Thomas Moore: one faithful harp’ and a compilation CD of the Melodies. A booklet containing short essays on Moore’s life, his work and his musical legacy was published to accompany the exhibition, and series of five headline lectures in the Meeting Rooms attracted capacity attendances during the summer months. From September 2008 through March 2009 the exhibition travelled to seven venues throughout the island and was seen by 160,000 people.

The Academy acknowledges the cooperation of the organising committee, in particular Declan Hurley, coordinator of the Thomas Moore Festival 2009, the Chester Beatty Library, the National Library of Ireland and finally, the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism for their generous funding of the exhibition.

The highlight of the Library year was the launch on 10 February 2009 by Dr Loretta Brennan Glucksman, MRIA, of Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library, Co-edited by Bernard Ó Cuív and Séadhla Fitzpatrick, with picture editing by Pádraig Scrúidh, the important publication features 24 scholarly contributions on selected Library buildings by 23 contributors, with a foreword by the RIA President, Niall Ó Gába. The volume presents the collections thematically on the national scene, focusing on the provenance, significance and importance of the books and the transmission of texts, as well as on the presentation of the Irish language, literature and history. The book was complemented by an exhibition of the same title and by a successful lecture series. The book and exhibition received media coverage, including a slot on RTÉ Radio (‘The Art Show’) and an RTÉ popular Capital ‘D’ television programme.

The collections relating to early members of the Academy were enhanced during the past year by the donation of a silhouetted portrait of founding president James Caulfeild, 1st earl of Charlemont (1728–99), and a grant of arms to Bishop John Bradley, Academy President from 1822 to 1835. The Academy recorded its thanks for these gifts to Maurice Craig, MRIA, and Mrs Helen Earle, respectively. Thanks are also accorded to the Dublin Unitarian Church for the donation of a parchment register for the period 1762–
1812, which includes the record of the marriage of Mary Ann Emmet to Robert Holmes on 21 September 1799, witnessed by Mary Ann’s brother, the ill-fated Robert (1778–1803).

The Annals of Connacht survive in a unique copy, Academy MS C iii 1, and cover the period 1224–1562. These annals focus mainly on the O’Connors, kings of Connacht, and on other politically prominent members of such Connacht lineages. The volume as reduced in 1535, in its original binding, included another eighteenth-century document, which probably belonged to Charles O’Conor of Ballinasloe. Owing to the degraded condition of the binding, a decision was made to debind, conserve and rebind C i to two parts. This work was beautifully executed in 2008-9 by master conservator Anthony Conroy. The Academy acknowledges the contribution of Deputy Librarian Bernadette Cunningham towards the funding of this important work.

**PROJECTS**

Raghaidh mé síos i measc na ndaoine: The Doegen Records Web Project commenced on 1 September 2008. The objective of this project is to make the 216 recordings of Irish speakers, made from 1928 to 1931, available on the DHO (Digital Humanities Observatory) portal, together with biographical data on the speakers, transcripts and translations of the recordings and ancillary data. It is envisaged that the resources will benefit linguists, historians and musicologists and will be of value to local communities, whereby the project is aiming to engage.

A prototype version of the recordings and ancillary information was launched in October 2008. Project partners include universities in Oxford, UL, NUI Maynooth, and we acknowledge the collaboration of Fiontar at DCU and An Roinne Logainneacha. Further information on the project is available at www.doegen.io/doh

The A406 catalogue project is in its closing stages: 6,300 records were added to the online catalogue in 2008. This library is exploring new ways to fund cataloguing, conservation and digitisation projects, via a ‘Prize of the Academy Library Projects’ fundraising initiative. See the Library website for further details: http://www.ria.ie/library+catalogue/index.html

The Academy records sincere thanks to the members and friends of the Library for their donations during the year.

Moore on tour—‘My gentle harp’

TOURED THE FOLLOWING VENUES 2008–9

- Carlow Library
- Limerick Public Library, Egan
- Loughborough Library, Co. Limerick
- NUI Galway
- Rory Gallagher Music Library, Cork
- Tralee Library
- Wexford Town Library

**FIVE LECTURES RELATING TO ASPECTS OF MOORE’S LIFE, WORK AND LEGACY WERE ORGANISED BY THE LIBRARY:**

- Mary McDade: “Moore’s controversy: music, politics and culture in 1839”
- Nancy Harwell: “Sing, sweet harp, some song of ancient days: Moore’s harp, John Egan and the Irish harp revival”
- Una Hunt: “The poet of all circles”: a contemporary view of Moore and “The Irish melodies”
- Ita Beausang: “Keeping his memory green: statues of Thomas Moore”

TREASURES OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY LIBRARY LECTURE SERIES

- Peter Haskins: ‘Unseen gems in the Academy’s collection of drawings’
- John Scattering-French: Book of Hours for an English patron RIA MS 128, 31
- Bernadette Cunningham: ‘Reginald 0’Clare, the Rule of St Clare and the Irish Poor Clares’
- Angela Byrne: ‘The Wicker papers (travels in France, Russia and Italy, 1801-2)’
- Audhinn Nic Dhonnchadha: ‘The Book of O’Clairs’
- James Kelly: ‘The first President of the RIA: Lord Charlemont and his manuscripts’

Peter Haskins: "Unseen gems in the Academy’s collection of drawings"

Ronan Kelly: "The misadventures of Thomas Moore: some events in the life of Thomas Moore, "Bard of Erin" (1779–1852)"

Mary McDade: "Moore’s controversy: music, politics and culture in 1839"

Nancy Harwell: "Sing, sweet harp, some song of ancient days: Moore’s harp, John Egan and the Irish harp revival"

Una Hunt: "The poet of all circles": a contemporary view of Moore and "The Irish melodies"

Ita Beausang: "Keeping his memory green: statues of Thomas Moore"
From top: The Annals of Clogher, RIA MS C iii 1, compiled c. AD 1468-1562, conserved and rebound by master conservator Anthony Cains, 2008-9; web banner from the Doegen Records Web Project; Petra Schnabel, Loretta Brennan Glucksman, MRIA, Professor Nicholas Canny, PRIA, Siobhán Fitzpatrick and Bernadette Cunningham at the launch of the Treasures of the Royal Irish Academy Library on 10 February 2009.

The year 2008-09 has seen a rapidly changing economic landscape, with the book industry shedding staff, closing shops and cutting budgets at an alarming rate.

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Documents on Irish Foreign Policy**, volume VI, Documents of the Royal Irish Academy Library and Davos, Page and the Glen Island Survey, were published during the year. Each is featured separately as the relevant project report of this year’s Review.

Excavations at Knowth: volume IV, National Knowth and its Hinterland, was published in November 2008 and launched by Minister for the Environment, Heritage, and Local Government John Gormley on 26 February 2009. Volume five is almost ready for editing, with pre-production work on a further two volumes underway to complete the series.

The archaeological work at Knowth, situated in the World Heritage site of the Boyne Valley, has spanned 50 years. Many of the site’s archaeologists have worked on various aspects of the site at some time in their career. The excursions at the site and the subsequent publications have been overseen by George Eogan, MRIA. Publication of the Excavations at Knowth series has been assisted by the Heritage Council and the National Monuments Service of the Office of Public Works. Volumes six, seven, and eight are due to be published in 2010, 2012 and 2013, respectively. Volume seven will include the prehistoric art of the site at Knowth, which becomes the largest collection of such art in Europe.

One War Ireland and the Great War, edited by John Horne, was published in November and December of 2008, the path of One War was changed by the discovery of a wealth of material in the collections of the RIA, the National Archives and the National Library, including letters from soldiers, hand-painted recruitment posters and other ephemera. One War was ultimately published as an illustrated hardback. It was launched in Academy House on 9 November 2008 by Joe Duffy, and in Northern Ireland at Stormont. 7,500 copies sold to date. The publication was marked with public debates organised by RTÉ in Dublin, Tallaght and Belfast.

Sales of Academy titles reached an all-time high in 2008, as clear tests from the Accounts released in Appendix V. Volume "Men of this century" was due to sales of Judging Dev by Diarmaid Ferriter, published in October 2007, but all titles sold out. The forecast for 2009-10 is poor, however, the Academy’s sales representatives and bookshops are forecasting significantly lower sales, and bookshops are being far more cautious in placing orders.

**STAFFING**

As of September 2009, the Publications Office is staffed by a managing editor, three editors, a graphic designer and a publications assistant. Two staff members, John Paul Deason, editor, and Joan Berg, editorial assistant, completed their contracts on 30 June 2009. Their contracts were not renewed due to the freeze on hiring in the public sector. Their valuable staff members, and they made a significant contribution to the work of the office during their time with us. The office has reached its resulting reduced capacity by redeploying staff and by outsourcing distribution. Gill and Macmillan has taken on the distribution of our titles in the UK and Ireland.

**THE YEAR AHEAD**

Despite the generally poor economic outlook, the indicators for the Academy are healthy. Good writers are key to successful publications, and two prominent Irish commentators and writers have published books with the Academy this autumn: Judging Lemass by Tom Garvin and Conspiracy: Irish Political Trials by Myles Dungan. A range of other authors, among them several Academy members, is in active conversations or commissions for future books.

The Academy’s press releases constitute the cornerstone of Academy publications, and new projects are being announced regularly. A bumper issue of Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, Series C, appeared in 2010. Irish Studies in International Affairs turns 30 this year. A new editor has taken over at the helm of Mathematical Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, of Queen’s University Belfast. After a concerted campaign by outgoing editor M. Jones, MRIA, Biology and Environment has regained its coveted listing in ISI, the Web of Science, which will ensure that it will remain a key Irish journal publishing research of national importance.

Ms Ruth Bresney is Managing Editor of Publications.

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**SALES**

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HONORARY MEMBERS (CORRECTED TO JULY 2009)

Atiyah, Michael Francis
Benzard, Teoh Christopher
Bremer, Werner
Brown, John
Brobson, Walter Frederick
Briggs, Derek G. C.

Carr, Martin C.
Carré, Louis-
Charles-Edwards, Thomas
Cusack, John
Cullagh, Barry

Dalgallo, Alexander
Davis, Thomas M.
Dennery, John Frederick
Derrington, Patrick J.
Dinioglu, David Norman
Erickson, Janell L.
Evans, D. Ellis

Fair, Catherine Dave Gilpin
Farnan, Marion Raymond
Flanery, Brian William
Foster, Robert Michael Foster

Oakes, Hubert
Pain, Olve Horum

Gelland, Israel Moshe
Gill-Mann, Murray
Gray, George William
Grubb, Robert H.
Gunning, Brian Edgar

Hamp, Eric P.
Hayes, William
Heaney, Michael P.
Hendrickx, Francis Peter
Hetzel, Andrew

Jaffe, Arthur
Jönsson, Erling

Leavitt, Joseph Theodore
Le Riche, J. Groves

Lippard, Stephen J.
Loechler, Will

McFarlane, Alan
Mahon, Thomas Francis
McIlhenny, Michael Brendan

Miley, Yvonne
Mostow, Carolyn Speyer

O’Neill, Donald
Opper, Roger
Pepin, Jean

Randall, Lisa
Re, Graciela
Rice, Mark

Rogers, Neil Fraser

Schmidt, Karl Hell
Son, Antonio Ramirez
Skinner, Quentin R.
Solovey, Robert M.

Thomas, Charles

Watkins, Calvin
Watson, James Henry
Welsh, Steven C.

Woolley, Steven

Wyatt, Richard G.
Wilson, David

TOTAL: 64

APPENDIX II—COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CORRECTED TO JULY 2009)

President: Nicholas P. Canny
Committee of Polite Literature and Antiquities:
Brennach, Padraig
Carlow, Mary
Flaherty, Marie Therese
Gibbons, Marie
Hackett, Maria
Laffin, Bridget
MacMathuna, Seamus
O Donoghue, Brendan
Smyth, Michael Cornelius

TOTAL: 422

Committee of Science:
Brennach, Padraig
Brand, Thomas J.
Corkery, John
Donnachaidh, John

TOTAL: 64

Executive Committee 2009–10
The President: Professor Nicholas P. Canny
The Senior Vice-President: Professor David J. Fegan
The Treasurer: Professor John Condah
TheHonorary Secretary: Professor James Cowley
The International Relations Secretary: Professor Patrick Sheahan

The Academy Committees
The Executive Committee
The Staff Representative
The Head of Administration

APPENDIX III—ACADEMY COMMITTEES (CORRECTED TO OCTOBER 2009)

The initials of the Programme Manager for each committee are contained in brackets after the name of the committee, as follows:

LM – Ms Laura Mahoney
GC – Ms Gilly Clarke
JB – Ms Joelle Mangan

SCIENCE COMMITTEES 2009–10

ENGINEERING SCIENCES (GC)

Professor R. Robert
Dr T. Ward
Professor F. O’Donoghue
Professor K. Munad
V. F. R.國家

Professor E. Miller
Professor N. O’Doherty
Professor F. Whelan
Professor F. McInerney

Professor P. F. McGarr

TOTAL: 64

APPENDIX IV—COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (CORRECTED TO JULY 2009)

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The Academy Committees
The Executive Committee
The Staff Representative
The Head of Administration
### General Purposes Current Account*

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<th>Income</th>
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<td><strong>Total of Allocations</strong></td>
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| **Total of Expenditure**                    | **4,739,821**|

<table>
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<td><strong>146,804</strong></td>
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*The above accounts are shown on a cash receipts basis. Under the provisions of the Comptroller and Auditor-General (Amendment) Act 1993, the Academy’s accounts are subject to audit on an accruals basis by the Comptroller and Auditor-General.*

*The Academy’s audited accounts for 2008 had not been received by the Academy from the Comptroller and Auditor-General’s Office up to the date of the Annual Review going to press.