

## **Report on the Eighth ICLS Congress, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland**

at the Elms, a modern and efficient dorm complex about two miles north of the main University campus. Professors Evelyn Mullally and John Thompson, of the School of Modern and Medieval Languages, were the tireless organizers of the meeting.

After a Reception in the lower dining hall, the first Plenary address, "The City of Gold and Jewels: Cross Cultural Exchange in Late Medieval England," was offered by Felicity Riddy, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York.

To launch us in the morning (now located at Queen's University), Michel Zink of the Collège de France gave the second Plenary talk, "La Fin des *Chroniques de Froissart* et le tragique de la cour." After generous helpings of coffee, tea, and chocolate biscuits, we proceeded to Sessions 1, 2, and 3 (four simultaneous sections, each with three to four papers)

ICLS National Branch meetings followed, with a showing of videos to promote Saturday's excursions. That evening a banquet featuring Irish cuisine was offered in the Great Hall of the University.

Gearíd Mac Eoin offered the third Plenary, "Poets and Princes in Early Irish Literature," on Friday morning. Sessions 4, 5, and 6 provided a full day of working papers (some thirty three different presentations), followed by a Triennial General Meeting, a buffet dinner and musical entertainment by the group Trasna.

Except for the fourth Plenary address by John Scattergood, "Courtliness in 14th Century English *Pastourelles*," Saturday's energies were devoted to an organized excursion, some going south to Armagh and Emain Macha (Navan Fort), others to the Giant's Causeway. Those going to Armagh were able to visit St. Patrick's Cathedral and the charming public library. Sunday morning was filled with multimedia presentations, as well as a promotional video for the University of British Columbia site of the IX TC ICLS in three years.

Sessions 7, 8, and 9 brought the very busy weekend to a close with some thirteen different sections again with two to four papers in each. Buses departed for the elegant Malone House, where we were officially welcomed by Armagh's Lady Mayor and treated to a delightful farewell banquet, which proved to be the closing event (as always, bittersweet) for the Congress.

Some were called away to other activities on Monday, such as a visit to the breathtaking Botanical Garden (next to the fascinating Ulster Museum of Folk Life). The organizers had arranged for two different day long excursions, one to Dublin and another to St. Patrick's Purgatory.

Most participants departed on Tuesday morning.

Now we forge ahead to Vancouver in 1998, the twenty fifth anniversary of our founding.

by Raymond Cormier, French Instructor  
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