

The International Flann O'Brien Society presents

Metamorphoses

Academic & Social Programme

Charles University Prague

16-19 September 2015



METAMORPHOSES

III International Flann O'Brien Conference

Charles University, Prague
16-19 September 2015

Conference Organisers

Ondřej Pilný (*Charles University, Prague*)
Paul Fagan (*Salzburg University*)
Ruben Borg (*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*)

Hosted by

Centre for Irish Studies, Charles University
The International Flann O'Brien Society

Conference Manager

Galina Kiryushina

Conference Venue

Faculty of Arts, Charles University, Palachovo nám. 2, 116 38 Prague 1
(At the metro A Staroměstská station)
Room 111 (1st floor) ↔ Room 200 (2nd floor)

Poster Design

David O'Kane

The III International Flann O'Brien Conference is supported by

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ireland
The Embassy of Ireland to the Czech Republic
Programme for the Development of Research Areas at Charles University P09,
'Literature and Art in Intercultural Relations', sub-programme 'Transformations of
the Cultural History of the Anglophone Countries: Identities, Periods, Canons'
Centre for Irish Studies, University of Vienna
Department of Anglophone Literatures and Cultures, Charles University
Faculty of Arts, Charles University
Liverpool John Moores University
Tullamore Dew

ACADEMIC & SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Day 1: Wednesday 16 September

09:30-10:30

Registration & Coffee

Room 111

10:30-11:00

Welcome & Introduction

Room 200

Ondřej Pilný (*Charles University, Prague*)
Ruben Borg (*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*)
Paul Fagan (*Salzburg University*)

11:00-12:00

Keynote Address

Room 200, Chair: Paul Fagan (Salzburg University)

Do Bicycles Dream of Molecular Sheep?
Joseph Brooker (*Birkbeck, University of London*)

12:00-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:00

Slow Men: Modernist Poetics

Room 200, Chair: Ruben Borg (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Who Hobbles after the Subject:
Parables of Writing in *The Third Policeman* & *Molloy*
Yael Levin (*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*)

The Celibate Lives of Mr Duffy: 'John Duffy's Brother' & 'A Painful Case'
Paul Fagan (*Salzburg University*)

15:00-15:30

Coffee

15:30-17:00

The Body Politic

Room 200, Chair: Ondřej Pilný (Charles University, Prague)

‘Nothing in the world would save me from the gallows’:

O’Brien’s Shifting View of Capital Punishment

Katherine Ebury (*University of Sheffield*)

Brian O’Nolan, Immunity, & the Autoimmune

Maebh Long (*The University of the South Pacific*)

Slow Metamorphosis: Inaction, Stagnation, & Pointlessness

in the Late Works of Brian O’Nolan

Alana Gillespie (*Utrecht University*)

19:00 –

Conference Reception

Hosted by H.E. Charles Sheehan

Ambassador of Ireland to the Czech Republic

Venue: Embassy of Ireland, Tržiště 13, Prague 1

Day 2: Thursday 17 September

9:30-11:00

‘Gob, Ladies, It’s Changed Times!’:

The Metamorphoses of *Cruiskeen Lawn*

Room 200, Chair: Catherine Flynn (University of California, Berkeley)

The Diurnal World of Ephemeralism: Text Reuse in the Newspaper

Ronan Crowley (*University of Passau*)

Seeing and Reading the Metamorphoses of *Cruiskeen Lawn*

Catherine Ahearn (*Boston University*)

The Third Twin: The Brief Career of Caoimhín Ó Nualláin, Columnist

Ian Ó Caoimh (*University College Dublin*)

**From Monads to Nomads:
The Philosophies of *The Third Policeman***
Room 111, Chair: Ruben Borg (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

Enlightenment Matters: *The Third Policeman* & Early Modern Ontologies
Einat Adar (*Charles University, Prague*)

'Hell Goes Round and Round':
Flann O'Brien, the Absurd, & the Authenticity of Death
Daniel Curran (*Maynooth University*)

Becoming-Imperceptible in Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman*
& Cees Nooteboom's *The Following Story*
Ruth Clemens (*University College London*)

11:00-11:30

Coffee

11:30-12:30

Myles & Sport

Room 200, Chair: Ronan Crowley (University of Passau)

Kilkenny Cats: Half-Cumán?
Richard T. Murphy (*University of South Carolina Upstate*)

Writing Sport & Irish Identity: A Place in the Team for Myles?
David Toms

Mixed Inks: Bohemian Rhapsodies

Room 111, Chair: Yael Levin (Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

O'Brien's Poe? *The Third Policeman* & *The Tell-Tale Heart*
Matouš Turek (*Charles University, Prague*)

Turning into Text: Mutiny and Metamorphosis in Kafka & O'Brien
Yuval Lubin (*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*)

12:30-14:30

Lunch

Lunchtime Reading

Venue: Kolonial, Prague's Cyclist's Restaurant, Široká 25/6, 110 00 Prague

Val O'Donnell

performs selections from *Flann's Yer Only Man* & other Mylesiana
(Max 15 people, 30 minutes approx.)

14:30-15:30

Screening and Q&A

Room 200, Chair: Paul Fagan (*Salzburg University*)

Filming *The Insect Play*: A Screening and Q&A with the Director

Alana Gillespie (*Utrecht University*)

15:30-16:00

Coffee

16:00-17:00

Keynote Address

Room 200, Chair: Ruben Borg (*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*)

'Everybody here is under arrest':

Translation & Politics in *Cruiskeen Lawn*

Catherine Flynn (*University of California, Berkeley*)

20:00 –

Reading and Q&A

Venue: Café Kampus, Náprstkova 10, Prague 1

Kevin Barry

Author of *City of Bohane*

Winner of the 2013 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award

in conversation with Maebh Long (*The University of the South Pacific*)

Day 3: Friday 18 September

9:30-11:00

Funny Times

Room 200, Chair: Maebh Long (*The University of the South Pacific*)

Tragic versus Comic Transformations: Myles's Modernist Metamorphoses

Ruben Borg (*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*)

'always five o'clock in the afternoon':

Wasting Timelessness in Lewis Carroll & Flann O'Brien

Paul Fagan (*University of Salzburg*)

All Jokes Aside: Schizo Literature

John Greaney (*University College Dublin*)

The Politics of the Comic:

Metafiction, Metaphor, Metamorphosis

Room 111, Chair: Alana Gillespie (*Utrecht University*)

'A Member of the Author Class':

Metafiction & Authorship in Flann O'Brien's *At Swim-Two-Birds*

Rachel Darling

Who Framed Brian O'Nolan?

Giordano Vintaloro (*Universities of Udine & Florence*)

'Quare Country': The Metamorphosis of Satire in Ireland

from Myles na gCopaleen to *The Savage Eye*

Thierry Robin (*University of Brittany, Brest*)

11:00-11:30

Coffee

11:30-12:30

Writing under the Influence

Room 200, Chair: Richard T. Murphy (*University of South Carolina Upstate*)

'The situation had become deplorably fluid':

Alcohol, Alchemy, & O'Brien's Metamorphoses

Noam Schiff (*Brandeis University*)

The Comforters & At Swim-Two-Birds:
Parallel Explorations of the Boundaries between Fiction & Real Life
James Ellis

The Local

Room 111, Chair: Radvan Markus (Charles University, Prague)

Flann in the Trees

Donal McCay (*St Mary's University, Twickenham*)

Morphed into Myles

Johanna Marquardt (*Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz*)

12:30-14:30

Lunch

Lunchtime Reading

Venue: Kolonial, Prague's Cyclist's Restaurant, Široká 25/6, 110 00 Prague

Val O'Donnell

performs selections from *Flann's Yer Only Man* & other Mylesiana
(Max 20 people, 30 minutes approx.)

14:30-16:00

Forked Tongues

Room 200, Chair: Brian Ó Conchubhair (University of Notre Dame)

Translation, Transliteration, Transgression: The First Myles na gCopaleen

John Wyse Jackson

Lamhd Láftar: Bilingual Cognition in Flann O'Brien

Maria Kager (*Utrecht University*)

16:30-18:00

Walking tour of literary Prague with Miloš Čuřík

19:00-

Theatre Performance

Venue: Divadlo Na Prádle, Besední 3, Prague 1

Will the Real Flann O'Brien...? A Life in Five Scenes

Gerry Smyth & Co.

Day 4: Saturday 19 September

09:30-11:00

Apocrypha & Revelations: The Short Fiction

Room 200, Chair: Keith Hopper (Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education; St Mary's University, Twickenham)

'By the time these lines are in neat rows of print... the writer will be in Kingdom Come': Distancing and Deconstruction in the Short Fiction of

Brian Ó Nualláin & Brother Barnabas

Ciaran Clibbens (*Hertford College, University of Oxford*)

Visual Metamorphoses in 'John Duffy's Brother'

Flavia Iovine (*Università Roma Tre*)

Magnetic Attraction & Body Doubles:

Florence Minerva Meets John Duffy's Brother

Paula Tebay (*Bath Spa University*)

11:00-11:30

Coffee

11:30-13:00

Sign/Language

Room 200, Chair: Neil Murphy (Nanyang Technological University, Singapore)

Enacting the 'catastrophe of cliché':

Monstrous Metamorphoses in *Cruiskeen Lawn*

Tobias Harris (*Birkbeck College, University of London*)

'But why this name Vico Road?': Flann O'Brien's Onomastic Inquiry

Hunter Brooks Dukes (*University of Cambridge*)

Gaelic Inferno: *An Béal Bocht* between Revival & Determinism

Radvan Markus (*Charles University, Prague*)

Frothing at the Gob

Room 111, Chair: Katherine Ebury (University of Sheffield)

Typographic Materiality: Visual Transformations of Text in O'Brien & Joyce

Yaeli Greenblatt (*Hebrew University of Jerusalem*)

‘Nothing could be further from Detroit’:

James Joyce’s Citizen & the Birth of Brian O’Nolan’s *Cruiskeen Lawn*

Joseph LaBine (*University of Windsor*)

In transition: From *Finnegans Wake* to *At Swim-Two-Birds*

Paweł Hejmanowski (*Universidade de Brasília*)

13:00-14:30

Lunch

14:30-16:00

Tense Pasts: Re-Reading the Irish Tradition with Flann

Room 200, Chair: Joseph Brooker (Birkbeck, University of London)

Irish Anti-Realism & Flann O’Brien’s Genealogical Reach

Neil Murphy (*Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*)

Phwat’s in a Nam?: O’Nolan as a Late Revivalist

Ronan Crowley (*University of Passau*)

‘A shrunken modernity’: Flann O’Brien & Eimar O’Duffy

Keith Hopper (*Oxford University’s Department for Continuing Education; St Mary’s University, Twickenham*)

16:00-16:30

Coffee

16:30-17:30

Keynote Address

Room 200, Chair: Ondřej Pilný (Charles University, Prague)

Flann O’Brien: Beyond & Behind *An Béal Bocht*

Brian Ó Conchubhair (*University of Notre Dame*)

17:45-18:45

A Flann-Flavoured Whiskey Tasting:

‘A Soft Look at The Hard Stuff’

Fionnán O’Connor (Author of *A Glass Apart: Irish Single Pot Still Whiskey*)

19:30 –

Farewell Dinner

Venue: Malostranská beseda (Pivnice – downstairs)

Malostranské náměstí 21, Prague 1

The International Flann O’Brien Society Awards

Awards Ceremony of the Father Fahrt, S.J. Memorial Prizes

End of conference



The International Flann O'Brien Society

To join the International Flann O'Brien Society and receive updates on society conferences and your free copy of the society's peer-reviewed journal *The Parish Review*, send your details to

viennacis.anglistik@univie.ac.at