

INSTITIÚID ÁRD-LÉIGHINN BHAILE ÁTHA CLIATH  
(Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies)

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First Annual Report of the work of the  
Institute and its Constituent Schools  
presented by the Council in respect of  
the Financial Year 1940-1941.

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In accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the  
Institute for Advanced Studies Act, 1940 (No. 13 of 1940), the  
Council of the Institute has the honour to present to the  
Minister for Education for submission to the Government a report  
on the work and activities of the Institute and its Constituent  
Schools for the financial year ending 31st March, 1941.

This report is the first annual report to be presented by  
the Council of the Institute and covers the period from the  
15th October 1940 to the 31st March 1941. The general purpose  
which it is hoped to accomplish is clearly stated in the Act  
establishing the Institute, namely, the Institute for Advanced  
Studies Act, 1940 (No. 13 of 1940) and in the Establishment  
Orders establishing the two Constituent Schools, namely, the  
Institute for Advanced Studies (School of Celtic Studies)  
Establishment Order, 1940 and the Institute for Advanced Studies  
(School of Theoretical Physics) Establishment Order, 1940 and  
need not be referred to here. It is deemed desirable, however,  
to include in the report for the purpose of record certain  
particulars about the constitution of the First Council and of  
the Governing Boards of the two Constituent Schools.

The report is presented under the following principal heads:-

- 1<sup>o</sup>. Constitution of the First Council of the Institute and  
of the Governing Boards of the two Constituent Schools.
- 2<sup>o</sup>. Report on the administrative work of the Council.
- 3<sup>o</sup>. Report of the Governing Board of the School of Celtic  
Studies.
- 4<sup>o</sup>. Report of the Governing Board of the School of  
Theoretical Physics.

1°. Constitution of the First Council of the Institute and of the Governing Boards of the two Constituent Schools.

The First Council of the Institute was constituted as follows:-

CHAIRMAN: Reverend Patrick Browne, M.A., D.Sc.;

APPOINTED MEMBERS: Richard I. Best, D.Litt.;

Daniel A. Binchy, M.A., Ph.D., B.L.;

Erwin Schrödinger, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc.;

Felix E. W. Hackett, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.;

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Arthur W. Conway, M.A., D.Sc., Sc.D.,  
LL.D., F.R.S.,  
President of University College,  
Dublin;

William E. Thrift, M.A., Sc.D.,  
Provost of Trinity College, Dublin;

John Mac Neill, B.A., D.Litt.,  
President of the Royal Irish Academy.

The Governing Board of the School of Celtic Studies was constituted as follows:-

CHAIRMAN: Daniel A. Binchy, M.A., Ph.D., B.L.;

SENIOR PROFESSORS: Osborn J. Bergin, Ph.D., D.Litt.;

Thomas F. O'Rahilly, M.A., D.Celt.Litt.;

Richard I. Best, D.Litt.;

APPOINTED MEMBERS: Miss Eleanor Knott, M.A., D.Litt.;

Reverend Paul Walsh, B.D., M.A., D.Litt.;

Reverend John Ryan, S.J., M.A., D.Litt.

The Governing Board of the School of Theoretical Physics was constituted as follows:-

CHAIRMAN: Arthur W. Conway, M.A., D.Sc., Sc.D.,  
LL.D., F.R.S.;

SENIOR PROFESSOR: Erwin Schrödinger, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc.;

APPOINTED MEMBERS: Edmund T. Whittaker, Sc.D., LL.D., F.R.S.;

William H. McCrea, M.A., Ph.D.;

Felix E. W. Hackett, M.A., M.Sc., Ph.D.;

Albert J. McConnell, M.A., M.Sc., Sc.D.;

Alfred O'Rahilly, M.A., D.Sc., D.Phil.,  
D.Litt.

2°. Report on the Administrative Work of the Council.

The Council of the Institute held its first meeting on the 15th October 1940 and appointed Mr. Domhnall MacGrianna, M.A., B.L., to be Registrar of the Institute in a temporary capacity in the first instance. It also decided to rent the premises 64 and 65 Merrion Square from the Board of Public Works and to adapt them to house the Institute and its Constituent Schools.

The Council's main activities during the period under review centered round the suitable adaptation of the premises and the furnishing and equipment of them to suit the work of the Constituent Schools. This work was well advanced by the beginning of February. The administrative staff of the Institute and the Senior Professors of the Constituent Schools were able to move into the new premises early in February; and the main work of adaptation, furnishing and equipment was practically completed by the 31st March, 1941.

3°. Report of the Governing Board of the School of Celtic Studies.

First Annual Report by the Governing Board of the School of Celtic Studies submitted to the Council of the Institute in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of the Institute for Advanced Studies (School of Celtic Studies) Establishment Order 1940.

This report covers the five months from 29 October 1940 to 31 March 1941. During this period the staff of the School consisted of three Senior Professors, namely, Professor Osborn J. Bergin, Ph.D., D.Litt., Professor Thomas F. O'Rahilly, M.A., D.Celt.Litt., and Professor Richard I. Best, D.Litt.

The Governing Board of the School held its first meeting on the 12th November, 1940, and proceeded to appoint a Director of the School in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 (1) of the Institute for Advanced Studies (School of Celtic Studies) Establishment Order, 1940. Professor Osborn J. Bergin was appointed Director.

Owing to certain difficulties about filling immediately the chair of Early and Mediaeval Irish in U.C.D., vacated by Professor Bergin to take up the position of Senior Professor in the School of Celtic Studies, it was agreed by the Governing Board of the School with the sanction of the Minister for Education that Professor Bergin be permitted to function as Acting-Professor of Early and Mediaeval Irish in University College, Dublin, pending the appointment of his successor to the vacant chair. Professor Bergin acted in this capacity in University College, Dublin, till 31st December, 1940.

The Director of the School and Professor D. A. Binchy, M.A., Ph.D., B.L., in collaboration commenced work on the revision of the English translation of the new edition of Thurneysen's Old Irish Grammar.

Professor T. F. O'Rahilly, M.A., D.Celt.Litt., commenced work on a series of linguistic articles intended for publication in *Ériu*.

Professor R. I. Best commenced work on his "Bibliography of Irish Philology and Literature (1913 - 1941)".

The Governing Board of the School decided early in its deliberations that steps should be taken to implement the provisions of Section 5, Sub-section (1) (c) of the Institute for Advanced Studies Act, 1940, (No. 13 of 1940) in regard to the phonetic investigation of existing Irish dialects and the recording of the living Irish speech.

Steps were taken to secure the services of a suitable person as Assistant Professor in the School to train and direct a small group of specially selected students to enable them to undertake work in the phonetic investigation of existing Irish dialects and the recording of the living Irish speech.

4°. Report of the Governing Board of the School of Theoretical Physics.

First Annual Report by the Governing Board of the School of Theoretical Physics submitted to the Council of the Institute in accordance with the provisions of Article 20 of the Institute for Advanced Studies (School of Theoretical Physics) Establishment Order, 1940.

This report comprises the five months from 29 October, 1940 to 31 March, 1941. During this period the staff of the School consisted of one Senior Professor only, namely, Professor Erwin Schrödinger. There were no other members of the School (as Scholars or Students) during the period in question.

The Governing Board of the School held its first meeting on 21 November, 1940, and proceeded to appoint a Director of the School in accordance with the provisions of Article 14 (1) of the Institute for Advanced Studies (School of Theoretical Physics) Establishment Order, 1940. Professor Erwin Schrödinger was appointed Director.

When the Institute, and with it the School, came into existence, two courses on Theoretical Physics had been in progress since April, 1940, which Professor Schrödinger had delivered as a Professor of the Royal Irish Academy. These courses were now continued under the auspices of the Institute, but still, by courtesy of the Academy on the premises of the latter. The new premises of the Institute were not yet available for the purpose. The courses were intended to be preparatory and introductory to later research work. The subject matter was Quantum Theory. More especially (during the period in question) the more advanced course dealt with the theory of perturbations of a quantum mechanical system, then with the aspects of relativity and spin, including Dirac's theory of the electron and of the

positron. For the less advanced course, after a brief survey of Bohr's Quantum Theory, the necessity for going beyond it was discussed and a natural way of passing over to the new aspect, in close analogy with the classical theory of vibrating systems, was displayed. The audiences consisted of advanced students from the Universities, of a number of Professors and Lecturers of both Universities and of several senior persons whose private studies had made them interested in and acquainted with Quantum Theory.

The only publication of research work from the School during these five months was a paper of 24 printed pages, read by Professor Schrödinger to the Royal Irish Academy on January 27th, 1941, with the title "Further Studies on Solving Eigenvalue-Problems by Factorization". It included an application of this method, which the same author had previously (on the 11th December, 1939) communicated to the Academy, to perturbation problems, in which it yields the solution in closed form.

D. MacGRIANNA

REGISTRAR

PÁDRAIG DE BRÚN

CHAIRMAN.