

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL INQUIRY
SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

One Hundred and Fifty-first Session -1997/98

First Meeting

The Society met at the Royal Irish Academy on Thursday, 16 October 1997. The President, Professor Dermot McAleese was in the Chair.

The President of the Royal Irish Academy, Dr Michael Herity welcomed the Society to the Academy at the start of the session to mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Society.

The President thanked the President of the Royal Irish Academy for his welcome and outlined the programme for the 150th anniversary celebrations and read his Presidential address “Economic Policy and Performance: the Irish Experience”. A vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Pdraig McGowan and seconded by Dr. Finola Kennedy.

The meeting was followed by a Reception hosted by the Royal Irish Academy.

Second Meeting

The Society met at the Royal Dublin Society on Thursday, 13 November 1997. The President, Professor Dermot McAleese was in the Chair.

The President of the Royal Dublin Society, Mr. Liam Connellan welcomed the Society to the RDS and spoke of the links between the Society and the Royal Dublin Society.

The President presented a copy of the new history of the society “A Spirit of Earnest Inquiry” by Professor Mary Daly to Mr. Connellan. He thanked all those who had helped to produce the history, Mr Tony McNamara of the Institute of Public Administration, the readers Professor Kennedy and Mr Linehan and especially Professor Daly and Ms. Helen Litton who compiled the invaluable index of papers delivered to the Society. He also welcomed Professor R.D. Collison Black who was the author of the Centenary History of the Society.

Professor Daly presented her paper “The Society and its Contribution to Ireland: Past, Present and Future”. After reviewing the history of the Society she drew attention to the core values of the Society which contributed to its success over a period of 150 years.

These were:

- discussing topics of current relevance
- attracting a broad membership
- clarifying current problems
- puncturing myths
- and bridging the gap between specialisms

The following also spoke: Dr. Garret FitzGerald, Dr. John Bourke, Mr. Michael McGinley, Professor Patrick Lynch, Mr. Sean Cromien, Mr. T.P. Linehan and Professor Patrick Honohan.

The meeting was followed by a Reception hosted by the Royal Dublin Society.

Third Meeting

The Society met at University College Cork on Thursday, 22 January 1998. The Vice-President, Dr Pdraig McGowan was in the Chair.

The President of University College Cork, Professor Michael Mortell welcomed the Society to UCC.

Mr. T.P. Linehan presented his paper “The Development of Official Irish Statistics”. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Edgar Jardine, Head of Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and seconded by Mr Donal Murphy, Director-General, Central Statistics Office.

The following also spoke Dr. Garret FitzGerald, Professor Frances Ruane (Chairman, National Statistics Board), Mr. Damien Courtney, Professor Aidan Moran, Mr. Gerry Brady and Professor J.J. Sexton.

The meeting was followed by a reception hosted by UCC.

Fourth Meeting

The Society met at the Edmund Burke Theatre, Trinity College, Dublin on Thursday, 19 February 1998.

Professor Dermot McAleese, President, was in the chair.

A symposium was held on “The Economic Returns to Education”. It was opened by the Minister for Education and Science, Mr Micheal Martin, T.D. Mr John Martin,

Deputy Director, OECD, Professor Áine Hyland, University College Cork and Professor Brendan Walsh, University College Dublin presented papers.

The President thanked the Department of Education and Science for their support of the symposium and the meeting was followed by a reception hosted by Trinity College.

Fifth Meeting

The Society met at Queen's University, Belfast on Thursday, 12 March 1998.

Professor Dermot McAleese, President was in the Chair.

The President welcomed Sir George Quigley, Chairman of the Northern Ireland Economic Council who spoke of the long traditions of the Society.

Dr Norman Caven (Registrar-General of Northern Ireland) presented a paper "The Northern Ireland Census of Population and Housing: Looking Back and Looking Forward" by himself, Mr Trevor Evans and Mr Robert Beatty of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr Aidan Punch (CSO and Treasurer of the Society) and seconded by Mr Colin McIlhenny.

The following also spoke. Dr Garret FitzGerald, Mr. Damien Courtney, Mr Paul Compton and Mr T.P Linehan.

Dr Caven replied to the discussion.

The meeting was followed by a reception hosted by the Northern Ireland Economic Council.

Sixth Meeting

The Society met at the Economic and Social Research Institute on Thursday 26 March 1998.

Professor Dermot McAleese, President, was in the chair. Dr Tony Fahey and Professor John FitzGerald presented a paper "The Economic and Social Implications of Demographic Change" by Dr. Tony Fahey, Professor John FitzGerald and Mr. Bertrand Maitre.

The following also spoke: Mr. Gerry O’Hanlon, Dr. Vani Borooh, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, Mr. Michael McGinley, Mr. David Hurley, Mr. Aidan Punch, Professor Brendan Walsh, Mr. Damien Courtney, Mr. Michael Tutty and Ms. Mary Nash.

Dr. Fahey and Professor FitzGerald replied.

The meeting was followed by a reception hosted by the Institute.

Seventh Meeting

The Society met at the House of Lords, College Green on Thursday, 7 May 1998. The President, Professor Dermot McAleese was in the Chair.

Dr. Philip Lane, Trinity College presented his Barrington Prize Winning paper “Profits and Wages in Ireland, 1987-96”.

The following also spoke. Mr. Paul Tansey, Mr. Brian Geoghegan (IBEC), Mr. William Scally, Mr. Michael McGinley, Dr. Garret FitzGerald, Professor Kieran Kennedy, Mr. Blair Horan (CPSU), Mr. Paul Sweeney (SIPTU) and Mr. Michael O’Halloran.

Dr Lane replied to the discussion.

The President presented the Barrington Prize to Dr Lane and congratulated him on his paper.

The meeting was followed by a reception hosted by Bank of Ireland.