1984–2014
THIRTY YEARS OF THE
A.J. LEVENTHAL AWARDS

22 JANUARY 2015
A WELL-JUDGED BENEFACTION

Dr A.J. (“Con”) Leventhal (1896–1979) graduated from Trinity College Dublin in 1920, with a BA in French and German. In 1932 he took over Samuel Beckett’s lectureship in French, later served as Secretary to the Registrar of the College, and finally lectured in Modern Languages from 1938 to 1963. The Leventhal Scholarship was set up in his memory, with funds raised through an auction of books, magazines, paintings and memorabilia, including donations from Beckett, a lifelong friend.

The Leventhal Scholarship, open to graduates of any Irish university, sends TCD postgraduate students to Europe, to find materials for their language-related research. The terms of the award are broadly interpreted, and the amounts are generous. The high quality of its recipients shows the Leventhal scheme to have been a resounding success, as generations of young researchers have gone on to do good things in the arts, the public service, and academic life. They have rightly taken the awards as a vote of confidence in their potential. The scheme has been particularly useful because the money comes at a stage when their research is far enough advanced to identify those projects or visits that can make a real difference.

The reminiscences contained in this booklet are a cross-section of those whom we managed to contact. They reflect the enjoyment as well as the achievement of research. Illustrations are a mixture of photographs sent by the respondents themselves, and others grabbed from the internet. The cover picture is stolen from folio, the quarterly Newsletter of TCD Library, which recently announced that Con Leventhal’s personal collection of Beckett’s work is now fully catalogued and available to readers.

We celebrate the achievements of Trinity’s gifted graduate students, we thank our benefactors, and we welcome the opportunity to commemorate Con Leventhal and his generation. We recall how vital it is that we continue to support singular, home-grown one-off scholarships that can make a well-judged contribution, at the right time, to our young researchers.

Lastly, we want to encourage fresh applications. The Leventhal Scholarship is advertised every Spring, and a few months later the Committee meets shortlisted applicants to hear about their plans. Every year we are struck by the energy, inventiveness and genuine quality of the research being done in our Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Studies.
THE RECIPIENTS

[with current activities where known]

1984: Alan Gilsenan – writer, director, filmmaker; currently Chair, Irish Film Institute

1985: Christiane Koeck

1986: Patricia Dempsey

1987: No applicants

1988: Declan Gaffney

1989: Margaret Erwin

1990: Derval Tubridy – currently Senior Lecturer in English and Visual Culture, Goldsmiths, University of London

1991: Moyra Haslett – currently Professor of English, The Queen’s University of Belfast [page 5 in this booklet]

1992: Jeanne Riou – currently Head of German, University College Dublin

1993: David Wheatley – currently a poet, critic Senior Lecturer in the School of Language and Literature, University of Aberdeen [page 6]

1994: Maurice Cronin – currently Professeur agrégé in English at Université Paris Dauphine

1995: Una Ní Dhubhghaill – currently Chief Executive, New Charities Regulatory Authority, Ireland

1996: David Murphy – currently Professor and Head of Division of Literature and Languages, University of Sterling [page 7]

1997: Derval Conroy – currently Lecturer in French, University College Dublin [page 8]

1998: Carol Baxter – currently Head of Development, Equality Authority, Ireland
1999: Nicola Creighton – currently Assistant Professor of German, Trinity College Dublin [page 9]

2000: Sinéad Furlong – currently an occasional lecturer at the National Gallery of Ireland, radio broadcaster and fashion consultant [page 10]

2001: Claire Moran – currently Lecturer in French, Queen’s University Belfast [page 11]

2002: Áine Larkin – currently Lecturer in French, University of Aberdeen [page 12]

2003: Warren Russell Brown and Emmanouil Sisamakis

2004: Julie-Anne Rodgers – currently Lecturer in French, Maynooth University

2005: Anne Boden (currently a translator in Berlin) [page 13] and Lorraine Gilleece (currently a Research Associate at the Educational Research Centre, St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra [page 14]

2006: Mark Raftery-Skehan

2007: Simona Rossi [page 15]

2008: Elizabeth Geary – currently Sessional Lecturer in French, University of Toronto [page 16]

2009: Ms E Mac an Airchinnigh

2010: Ms S Fitzgerald, Robert Kilroy and Sarah Gubbins – Dr Gubbins [page 17] is currently Senior Lecturer, Centre for Language Studies and Applied Linguistics, Canterbury, Christ Church University

2011: Frank Hutton-Williams and Miles Link – Dr Link is currently Lecturer in English, Fudan University, Shanghai

2012: Robert Kilroy [page 18] and Nicola Bermingham [page 19]

2013: Georgina Nugent-Folan [page 20], Robert Kilroy and Peter Doherty

2014: Klara-Maeve O’Reilly [page 21]
I was delighted to be awarded the A.J. Leventhal scholarship in 1991 in order to pursue research at the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid on the Don Juan legend. At that point, I was in my 2nd year of PhD study on ‘Byron’s Don Juan and the Don Juan Legend’ in the School of English and my supervisor, Professor Ian Campbell Ross, suggested that I might apply for the award as a way of helping me to research Spanish-language material on Don Juan. I was particularly grateful for the faith and encouragement which the award gave me, as a beginner learner of Spanish. I acquired a working knowledge of Spanish, and – armed with a dictionary – spent many happy weeks in the library in Madrid. A short visit to Toulouse on the way home allowed me to consult French-language materials, an additional benefit.

The thesis was later published as a monograph by Clarendon Press (1997) and this was awarded the 1998 Rose Mary Crawshay prize for English literature by the British Academy. Traces of the scholarship are evident in the book’s first chapter, with its mapping of the history of the legend throughout Europe until the moment of Byron’s first volumes of his poem, 1819, and also throughout, in an engagement with philosophical work on the legend, including key Spanish works by Miguel de Unamuno, Ortega y Gasset, and Gregorio Marañón. I am now Professor in Eighteenth-Century and Romantic literature in the School of English, Queen’s University Belfast. Interdisciplinary approaches to ‘English’ literature remain crucial to my research and teaching, particularly in working with colleagues and students in the Schools of Modern Languages, Music and History through the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies.
DAVID WHEATLEY (1993)

I’ve been encountering the name Con Leventhal quite a bit of late, in my reading of volume 3 of Beckett’s letters. I remain most grateful for the financial assistance I received, which helped me burrow my way through the Beckett archive in Reading in 1994. I have continued to draw on the work I did there ever since. I remember vividly the pleasure of encountering drafts of Beckett’s late French poetry written on café receipts, airplane tickets and even the inside of the cardboard packing of a bottle of Johnny Walker Scotch whisky. I wrote an article on these manuscripts, which I’m glad to say was recently reprinted in *The Beckett Critical Reader* (2012).

This work was also invaluable preparation for the edition of Beckett’s *Selected Poems 1930-1989* which I published with Faber and Faber in 2009.
I was lucky enough to win the A.J. Leventhal Scholarship shortly after I completed my BA in English and French. I had a vague idea that I wanted to do postgraduate work, and the Leventhal award made that far easier for me to achieve. I ended up writing a PhD on Francophone West African Literature and Cinema (not sure if Leventhal ever envisaged such a topic being part of modern languages …), and the funding helped me to do research in Paris and Dakar. I’m now a Professor of French and Postcolonial Studies at the University of Scotland and still travel regularly to Paris and Dakar. Looking back 20 years on, it’s funny to think that I may never have set out on this career path without the help of the Leventhal scholarship. I remain very grateful for that support.
Thanks to the Leventhal Scholarship, I spent the Summer of 1997 holed up in the old Bibliothèque nationale in Paris, rue Richelieu, reading and madly transcribing (by hand, of course!) copious passages from early modern French political tracts and pamphlets concerning configurations of women in government. It was the end of the second year of my doctoral studies, and hence a key period in the development of the thesis. Then, as now, it was as much the immersion in a research-intensive environment as the unearthing of long undisturbed ideas that made the entire experience hugely beneficial, stimulating, and immensely enjoyable.
I was awarded the Leventhal Scholarship in 1999 and used it in tandem with a DAAD half-year research scholarship to spend time in Berlin gathering materials for my PhD and attending courses at the city’s three universities. I met with and was to a small extent mentored by Hermann Haarmann, one of the editors of the collected works of the author I was working on, the German Jewish writer and art critic Carl Einstein. The two greatest advantages to working in Berlin were proximity to the Akademie der Künste (Academy of the Arts), which houses the Carl Einstein archive, where I had access to correspondence, manuscripts and other relevant documents, and the chance to participate in graduate-level courses in history, politics and cultural studies. Between the DAAD scholarship and the Leventhal funds, I was able to make the money stretch to a full year (1999-2000) and had that much more time to read, study and gather ideas and material. The result was that I returned ready to write the dissertation and ready also to give my first conference papers. On completion of the PhD, I spent a year working for Ireland Literature Exchange before taking up a post as Teaching Fellow at the University of St Andrews. From there, I moved to a permanent post at Queen’s University Belfast, where I taught for seven years before taking up my current post as Assistant Professor of Germanic Studies at Trinity College in 2012.
I received the A. J. Leventhal Award in 2000 during my Ussher Fellowship (1998-2001), for my PhD on Women in the Parks of Paris: Painting and Writing the Female Body, 1848-1900 (supervisor: David Scott, awarded 2002). The award was of enormous significance as it enabled me to spend the summer months of that year researching primary source material in libraries in Paris and visiting museum collections on a daily basis.

My primary source material included urbanisation treatises relating to the Haussmannisation of Paris (particularly the re-landscaping and creation of public parks), maps, travel guides, fashion magazines, fashion advertising, writings on prostitution, and on women in society, specifically as regards their visibility and movement in public spaces such as the public park. Paintings, engravings, illustrations, artists’ notebooks, and nineteenth-century garments conserved in the collections of the Musée de la Mode, Palais Galliera, the Fashion Museum of the city of Paris, were also part of my primary research.

The primary research was only possible due to the extended period of research in Paris, and yielded many new insights into the period and my subject. In addition to the PhD, I published two articles shortly afterwards relating directly to this research, and it has informed my teaching/lecturing practice ever since. After completing my PhD I returned to Paris to follow the Museum Studies programme at the Ecole du Louvre and intern in the Impressionist and Modern Art Department at Sotheby’s Paris. I subsequently was awarded a Government of Ireland postdoctoral fellowship and lectured at TCD and NCAD. I am currently part of the Education team (Visual and Historical Art Panel) at the Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane and the Outreach Programme at the National Gallery of Ireland, where I lecture principally on nineteenth-century and modern art. My book *The Depiction and Description of the Female Body in French Art, Literature and Society: Women in the Parks of Paris 1848-1900* has been published by the Mellen Press, New York, 2014 (and includes a reference to the Leventhal Award in the acknowledgements). Once again, my sincere thanks for the award and for all that it enabled in terms of my research.
I received the Leventhal Scholarship in 2001 while I was in my second year of doctoral studies in French on the techniques of self-representation in Charles Baudelaire, Odilon Redon and James Ensor. The award, along with a Trinity Trust travel grant, allowed me to travel to Paris (Musée d’Orsay) and Chicago (Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, Art Institute) to work on the art and writings of Odilon Redon. Based on my research, I published a first edition of Redon’s writings in 2005, which played an important role in securing my first permanent lectureship at Queen’s University, Belfast in 2006 and encouraged my specialism in the writings of nineteenth-century painters.
I should be grateful if you would pass on my sincere gratitude for the A.J. Leventhal award, which enabled me to spend summer 2002 in Paris doing research for my PhD on French literature and photography. Summer 2002 marked a turning point in my postgraduate studies, because my days spent reading in the Bibliothèque nationale about novelists’ responses to photography were complemented by excursions around my neighbourhood, the 18th arrondissement. I was living close to Montmartre cemetery, and became fond of walking there; having got to know Montmartre cemetery, I decided to venture to Père-Lachaise, where Marcel Proust’s sleek black marble tombstone made an impression on me, among so much ornate stone-carving. That visit to Père-Lachaise, and some passages from Proust which I found in a book on photography at the Bibliothèque nationale, were decisive in leading me to abandon Zola in favour of Proust for my thesis – a decision I have never yet regretted! Proust’s work continues to enrich my life and scholarly work, and hopefully will continue to do so throughout my academic career.

I attach a recent photograph taken in Paris, a city I hold dear not least thanks to my time there in summer 2002, and which is currently suffering the effects of extreme violence.
ANNE BODEN (2005)

The Leventhal Scholarship Committee was very trusting when it made it possible for me – a first-year PhD student with only a vague notion of what she wanted to research – to investigate a few lines of enquiry in Berlin in the summer of 2005. It was a time of free-floating exploration, which was invaluable and changed a lot in my studies and life in general. Perhaps more than the trips to the National Library and the Bundesarchiv, it was the informal meetings with German experts in the field (literary remembrance of World War II) that helped to sharpen the focus of my research. One contact led to another. People were generous with their time and knowledge and I quickly amassed advice about what and who to read, what memorials to visit, and how to interpret archive materials from the GDR Ministry of Culture. That summer set the course for the next four years of my PhD and it also led to my decision to move permanently to Berlin one year later.
I received the A. J. Leventhal award in 2005 while completing my PhD in Applied Linguistics. This gave me the opportunity to attend, and present, at an international conference on Second Language Learning in Croatia (EUROSLA). The conference was an invaluable learning and networking opportunity. I was delighted to have the opportunity to present my PhD findings as the project neared completion. I currently work as a Research Associate at the Educational Research Centre, St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra. I work primarily on the administration and analysis of large scale educational assessments. It is an interesting and varied role that allows me to manage all stages of educational surveys, from visiting schools for initial trials of survey instruments to data analysis and report writing.
My PhD, completed in 2014, investigates literary translations by creative writers, through a most unusual project launched in 1983 by Einaudi of Turin, Italy’s premier publishers. Their series, “Scrittori tradotti da scrittori” (“Writers translated by writers”), was based on the widespread belief that translations by well-known author are better and more creative than the work of ordinary professional translators.

During my first year of research, I applied for the A. J. Leventhal scholarship. Most of the material I needed to consult was in Italy, and I was then living in Dublin, with a small family. I was eligible to apply because, although my first degree is from Italy, I had also done the Trinity MPhil in Literary Translation and was therefore a graduate of an Irish university.

I was delighted to be awarded the grant. It really made a difference to my research, enabling me to read in the National Library in Florence, and the Library of the Interpreting and Translation Faculty in Trieste. But the most important visit funded by the Leventhal grant was to the Archives of the Einaudi Publishing House in Turin. Some of the documents I read in the Archives were fundamental in understanding and illustrating the strikingly (and sometimes scandalously) different treatment accorded to first- and second-class translators, the established authors as opposed to the ‘anonymous’ professional translators who also worked for this firm. The results of my work at the Einaudi Archives became the main subject of the second chapter of my thesis, and underlined my general finding that privileging translations by celebrated writers is not always a defensible policy, whatever its advantages in terms of prestige and commercial success.
I received the A.J. Leventhal Scholarship in 2008, which funded a two-month research trip to the Bibliothèque nationale de France in Paris. My doctoral thesis was entitled ‘Textualising Travel in André Gide and Henri Michaux’, and I graduated in June 2013. My time in Paris was very valuable and productive, and I remain extremely grateful to have been awarded this scholarship. Since 2008, I have taught French language and literature in TCD and St. Patrick’s College Drumcondra. I have also spent a year as a maître de langue at the Université d’Orléans. I am currently a Sessional Lecturer in French at the University of Toronto at Scarborough, Canada, and a Senior Research Associate at the University of Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2010, I gave my very first lecture. It was on Samuel Beckett’s *En attendant Godot*, and I delivered it to TCD students of French. This ensured, once again, that I remembered fondly the link with Dr Con Leventhal.
SARAH GUBBINS (2010)

I received an award from the A.J. Leventhal Scholarship Fund in 2010 (not the scholarship itself, but a smaller grant). I was in the early stages of my PhD, which was entitled: *Mid-century poetics: the poetry in prose and verse of Nerval and Baudelaire*, supervised by Professor David Scott. The award allowed me to spend a week at the Centre Nerval in Namur, Belgium. This was very important to my studies as I was able to consult sources which would have been difficult to access in Dublin. Discussions with the Head of the Centre, M. Michel Brix, were also extremely helpful to my project. In Namur, I saw the Église Saint-Loup, which Baudelaire was visiting with Félicien Rops when he collapsed in 1866, the year before he died. On the way home, I remember stopping in Brussels to visit the Musée Magritte.

I completed my PhD in 2014 and am now a Senior Lecturer in French at Canterbury Christ Church University in Kent. Looking back, I can see that the award I received from the A.J. Leventhal Scholarship Fund made a real contribution to my PhD project, and I am very grateful for the opportunities that it afforded me. On a personal level, I was delighted that the Committee saw fit to invest in my research.

I seem to have been too busy reading to take any photographs during my trip to Namur, but I attach a photograph of myself taken just prior to the Commencement ceremony in June 2014.
I submitted my PhD thesis on ‘Marcel Duchamp: Resolving the Word/Image Problematic, afterthought’ in October 2014. Without the generous support of the Leventhal Scholarship fund it is likely that my project would have remained definitively unfinished. My research centred on a close formal analysis of the writings and art works of the French artist Marcel Duchamp from a precise theoretical perspective. Unfortunately, the visual/verbal poles of Duchamp’s oeuvre were spread across several countries, on two continents. Thanks to the Leventhal grant I was able to access important materials which strengthened the foundations of the project while supplying crucial evidence in support of the central thesis. However, beyond the obvious financial assistance, I feel that the true value of the award lies in the confidence and self-belief it brings to the candidate at an important point in his/her research career. For showing faith in unrealized potential and for rewarding passion in the pursuit of knowledge, the selection committee have clearly remained true to Leventhal and Beckett’s original generosity.
The funding I received from the A.J. Leventhal Scholarship gave me the opportunity to travel to Galicia, where my research is based. I visited the University of Santiago de Compostela where I had access to extensive bibliographic resources on Galician sociolinguistics. During my time in there, I met with academics whose research interests overlapped with my own. They shared their expertise and provided me with insightful feedback at the initial stages of my research.

Since receiving the Leventhal Scholarship, I have been awarded a full PhD scholarship at Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. I am currently in my third year of study and hope to complete my PhD in 2016.

I would like to thank the Selection Committee for awarding me the scholarship. It is through funding such as the Leventhal Scholarship that students can travel abroad to share and develop their research.
The A. J. Leventhal Scholarship award that I received in 2013 facilitated the most significant and rewarding research experiences of my doctoral programme: allowing me to spend two extended periods in the University of Antwerp transcribing draft versions of Samuel Beckett’s *Company/Compagnie*. The scholarship completely eradicated the otherwise considerable financial demands such lengthy trips would make and allowed me to focus completely on my research and on gaining the most from this unique experience and opportunity. Thanks to this scholarship, my research on Beckett’s *Company/Compagnie* advanced at a rapid pace and allowed my project to successfully be included in a publishing deal between the University of Antwerp and Bloomsbury Press.
Thanks to the support of the A.J. Leventhal Scholarship, in Summer and Autumn 2014, I was able to go on two research trips to the Eastern German region of Upper Lusatia, and to the German national archive in Berlin. I conducted interviews with local farmers and their family about the early decades of the GDR around the German-Polish border town of Görlitz/Zgorzelec. The trip to Berlin was mostly about finding the matching documents from the GDR’s party and state apparatus on the transformation of rural society towards Socialism.

The Leventhal Scholarship made a difference to this because it gave me the time and financial means to spend a prolonged period in the region of my case study. The personal contacts and conversations led not only to recommendations of where else to look but broadened my understanding of how the early years of the GDR continue to shape the character, language and world-views in this peripheral region. In other words: Thanks for the time!

*The old town of Görlitz, seen from Zgorzelec.*
The A.J. Leventhal Scholarship, funded by private donation and by the TCD Trust, was created to enable graduates of Irish universities who are pursuing postgraduate studies at Trinity College Dublin in modern languages, literatures or cultures, to further their studies in Europe. Please note that for the purposes of this award, eligible languages include English among many others.

The award is in memory of A.J. (Con) Leventhal, Dublin scholar, wit and man of letters, who succeeded Samuel Beckett as Lecturer in French at Trinity College Dublin.

The Scholarship is advertised once a year, on the Faculty web pages. Applications are invited from registered postgraduate students in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. This award is in addition to any scholarship or grant which candidates may already hold and is valued at approximately €2,500. It is possible that more than one award may be made in each academic year. Smaller awards are sometimes made for specific projects. As well as current postgraduates, students who expect to graduate this year, and intend to register for a research degree in the language/literature/culture area, are welcome to apply.

Application forms will be available from the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, Room 2013, Arts Building, T.C.D., or by emailing artshss@tcd.ie. Completed forms must be returned by the beginning of April (the date is announced each year). The final selection will be made by interview.

Successful applicants must submit a detailed report to the Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences on the studies undertaken during their period abroad on the Scholarship.

Recent recipients have visited archives, libraries and workshops in Italy, France, Belgium, Scotland, England, Spain, Germany, Poland and elsewhere.
SOME OTHER SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN THE
FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL STUDIES.

The Ussher Scholarships

The Claude Pichois Prize

The Faculty Scholarships

The Christopher Donovan Prize in Translation

For details of these and other postgraduate awards,
please see the Dublin University Calendar,
available at www.tcd.ie/Calendar