Miscellanea

A Very Late 14th or Early 15th Century Coin-Hoard from near Roscrea

Coin-hoards from Ireland dating from the last half of the fourteenth century and first half of the fifteenth are by no means numerous. The Royal Numismatic Society’s Inventory
dates no more than eight, the find-spots being Ballycastle in Co. Antrim, “Carrickfergus” recte Monkstown in the same county, “Connaught” (pace Mr. Thompson a province and not a county), Duleek in Co. Meath, Dungarvan in Co. Waterford, “Knocknashe” recte Athy in Co. Limerick, Pettigo in Co. Fermanagh, and Rathkeale in Co. Limerick.
To this list there can be added at least two hoards dated but wrongly dated in the same volume, those from Ardiquin in Co. Down, and “Castle Lenigan” recte Castle Enigan in the same county.
Nor is this the end of the story. In the 1964 British Numismatic Journal, a list of those Irish pre-1400 hoards which include one or more fourteenth-century Scottish groats enables five further additions to be made, quite sizeable finds from Carrickfergus in Co. Antrim, from Ballenally and Castlewellan in Co. Down, from near Tullamore in Co. Offaly, and from Mullighne in Co. Armagh.
Published in the pages of this Journal, too, is a find, apparently from the second quarter of the fifteenth century, from Co. Clare, while a still very rudimentary card-index in the Ulster Museum brings the total up to twenty-two with finds from near Larne in Co. Antrim, near Newtownards in Co. Down, Ballymaghan, Strandtown, in the same county, near Cork City, Blarney in Co. Cork and (?) near Strokestown in Co. Roscommon.
The purpose of the present note is to put on record a twenty-third hoard of the period, and it is a find of which the composition presents unusual if not altogether unexpected features. In the possession of Mrs. E. McDonagh of Ballynafay, Belfast, there is a little group of eleven English pence of the fourteenth century which was given to her late husband when he was a clergyman in Roscrea between 1931 and 1935, and it is through Mrs. McDonagh’s courtesy that publication is possible in this form.

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2. Thompson, op. cit., nos. 27, 73 [for the corrected provenance see Dolley, NMAJ, 8 (1958-61), 158], 98, 137 [with the addition of the Edward 1 great from 136, cf. Dolley, PRIA, 63, C (1068), 247], 143, 227 [but see now Dolley, NMAJ, 8 (1958-61), 157-167], 310 and 314. For rather more accurate summaries of nos. 73, 98, 227 and 310 see now Seaby, BNJ, 33 (1964), 100-102.
3. Thompson, op. cit., nos. 5 and 77; Seaby, op. cit., pp. 100 and 101.

The card-index in question is based principally upon the well-known appendix to Lindsay’s Coinage of Ireland (Cork, 1839) and on Carruthers’ papers in UJA, 1st series, 1 (1858) and JRSAI, 3 (1864-65), but is supplemented from other published and unpublished sources. In one or two cases — i.e. that from Ballymaghan — the description is so slight that the possibility of a slightly later dating cannot be excluded.
There is no exact tradition of when and where the coins were found except that it was somewhere in the immediate vicinity of Roscrea, and it is always possible that the actual find-spot was not in Co. Tipperary but just over the adjacent marches in either Co. Offaly or Co. Laois. It is perfectly clear, though, that the eleven silver coins all derive from a single hoard, and it is particularly interesting that a growing scarcity of silver, which in Leinster had as one consequence the clipping of groats and half-groats right down to the inner circles, here in Munster seems to have resulted in the retention of the penny as a hoarded denomination half a century after its general supersession elsewhere in these islands by the groat. In this connection it will be recalled that a feature of the slightly earlier find from Athis was the presence in it of worn pence of Edward I and Edward II beside a comparatively fresh half-groat of Edward III and groat of David II.\(^7\)

The eleven coins may be described as follows:

1. Edward I (or Edward II), silver penny, Fox class Xd-f,\(^8\) North 1041-1043, abbatial mint of Bury St. Edmund's, obverse in particular very worn, weight 17.6 grains.
2. Edward II, silver penny, Fox class Xib, North 1061, abbatial mint of Bury St. Edmund's, obverse and reverse worn almost smooth, weight 14.1 grains.
3. Edward III, fourth coinage silver penny, Lawrence class G,\(^11\) North 1211 (?), archiepiscopal mint of York, obverse and reverse very worn, weight 16.8 grains.
4. As previous coin but North 1210 (?), worn and buckled, weight 16.2 grains.
5. As previous coin but North 1213, very worn, weight 16.9 grains.
6. Edward III, “Treaty” silver penny, Lawrence class B, North 1268, archiepiscopal mint of York, areas of wear on both obverse and reverse, weight 17.8 grains.
7. As previous coin, again areas of wear on both obverse and reverse, weight 17.8 grains.
8. As previous coin, but North 1269, yet again areas of wear on both obverse and reverse, weight 17.8 grains.
9. As previous coin but quatrefoil at end instead of head of obverse legend, coin badly centred on flan and evidencing considerable wear to one side on both obverse and reverse, weight 15.6 grains.
10. Edward III “post-Treaty” or Richard II, silver penny, Lawrence p. 74, 3-7 ? or Purvey I a or b\(^12\) (? a third die), North 1305 or 1329, episcopal mint of Durham, obverse and reverse very worn, weight 16.4 grains.
11. Richard II, silver penny, Purvey IIb (P. VII, 28 this very coin,\(^13\) North 1329, archiepiscopal mint of York, areas of wear on both obverse and reverse, weight 17.9 grains.

The theoretical weights to which the above pence were supposed to be struck are as follows: coins 1 and 2, 22.2 grains; coins 3-11, 18 grains. The probable striking dates are: coin 1, c.1305-1310\(^14\); coin 2, c.1312; coins 3-5, c.1356-1361; coins 6-9, c.1363-1369; coin 10, 1369-c.1385; coin 11, c.1388-c.1396.

\(^7\) Dolley and Seaby, BNJ, 34(1967), 144-117.
\(^8\) Dolley, NMAJ, 8(1958-59), and illustration on page 165.
\(^12\) (P.) F. Purvey, BNJ, 31 (1962), 88-108.
\(^13\) A slip in the text attributed this coin to the Belfast (i.e. Ulster) Museum, where it was on loan for a period, instead of to Mrs. McDunagh’s collection.
\(^14\) Dolley and G. L. V. Tait, Archæologia Ultonia, 4th series, 41 (1963), 65-83 for a restatement of the original Fox view that class X spans the last years of the reign of Edward I and the first of Edward II.
That the coins should all derive from ecclesiastical mints need occasion no surprise. Increasingly in the fourteenth century the northern prelates in particular were responsible for the production of a very considerable proportion of England’s small change. Nor is it at all unexpected that Anglo-Irish coins prove to be entirely absent. A very few had been struck c.1339, but the last striking on any scale had ceased in the opening years of the century, and even that issue had been limited as compared with the coinage of the early 1280s. As has recently been demonstrated, too, the great majority of the pence struck at Dublin, Waterford and Cork under Edward I had been intended for circulation outside Ireland. In this connection it is worth recalling that no Anglo-Irish coins were present in the little find from Atha, while the total in the remaining twenty-two Irish hoards from the period c.1350-c.1450 is unlikely to exceed a dozen and may well be half that number.

To give a date to the Roscrea find is not easy. A terminus post quem is afforded, of course, by the Richard II penny of York which cannot well have been struck before c.1388. This coin, however, evidences a fair degree of wear, and we would be unwilling to place the concealment of the hoard before the late 1390s. The date could well be, though, one a whole decade later, and for the moment at least we would suggest a dating c.1400±10 (?) which would allow for the latest coins to have been brought into Ireland at the time that Richard II was seeking to re-establish once and for all the power of the English crown. It only remains to offer a summary of the find in slightly modified Inventory format so that possessors of that work can make the necessary addition to the record:

ROSCREA, Co. Tipperary, neighbourhood of, before 1395.
11AR English pence. No record of container. Deposit: c.1400±10 (?)..
Edward I or II—Bury St. Edmund’s, Fox class Xd-f, 1. Edward II—Bury St. Edmund’s, Fox class Xdb, 1. Edward III—“pre-Treaty” coinage, York, Lawrence class G, 3; “Treaty” coinage, York, Lawrence class B, 4. Edward III or Richard II—Durham, 1; York, 1.
M. Dole and W. A. Sea, NMAJ 11 (1968), 71-73.
The coins are in the possession of Mrs. E. McDonagh of Belfast.

MICHAEL DOLEY AND W. A. SEABY

15 Dole, PRIA, 66, C (1968), passim.
16 Ibid., especially pp. 295-297.
17 Ibid. p. 279. Two Anglo-Irish coins were present in the Ardrin find, and one in that from Monkstown, while there is no reason to suppose that more than the odd coin of this series occurred in the hoard from Mullymure.

A 15th Century Coin-Hoard from Co. Clare

Among the extensive correspondence of the Oxford antiquary Thomas Hearne preserved in the Bodleian Library are a series of letters from Edward Burton of Buncranny, Co. Clare, a younger son of Francis Burton, member for Ennis in the Irish House of Commons from 1692 to 1714. These mainly relate to Burton’s researches among the archives of the great English libraries, but when resident in Ireland he forgot his books and turned to antiquities. One such period of residence brought him
news of a coin hoard; his letter announcing this to Hearne is dated July 22, 1716. He had sailed from England to Ireland on May 25 in the same year. The text of the letter (MSS. Rawlinson Letters 3164) is as follows:

Sir,

By a letter from Mr. Rogers I understand that you have been pleas’d to favour me with the subscription to your books, that you design to publish, than which no obligation can be greater.

There has nothing remarkable happen’d since I came here that is worthy observation, but about a month before I came there was dugg up (in the Church yard at a place called Kilmurry, in the barony of Ibrickan, in this county of Clare) a parcel of old English coin, which lay in a skull four foot in ground. I have one piece now in my possession, and have seen another. That which I have has the head of a King encircled, with this inscription HENRIC DEX GRA REX ANGLI ET FRANC on the reverse there is this figure [drawing of design of a fifteenth century groat] with these inscriptions, the outmost thus POSVI DEVVM ADIVTORE MEVM the inner thus CIVITAS LONDON the characters are of another form, but I could not imitate them. The other piece I saw has I think the same inscription, but the inner one on the reverse is, Villa Calisie. I shall I hope in a little time see more of them, these pieces I have before seen, I think in Speed. If Sir, you have them not in your Cabinet, I shall, if you please, bring them over with me, and give them to you. I am here debarr’d from the sight of all books relating to Antiquity, so that I am at a loss to know what Villa Calisie signifys, I remember I have read that there was a mint set up at Calais, but when, by whom, or how long it continued I am wholly ignorant of. If Sir would take the trouble to satisfy me in these things by letter you would infinitely oblige me, and, you may depend that whatever relics of Antiquity I can meet with here, you shall have a faithful account of them.

I am Sr. your most oblig’d humble servt.
Ed: Burton

If you will favour me with a line, pray direct your letters for me thus, To Mr. Edward Burton at Buncraggy in the County of Clare nigh Limerick.

I desire Sr. you would give me an acct. of what books you have publish’d since I left you, and what you are now about publishing.

Hearne replied on August 11 thanking Burton and reassuring him about the existence of the mint of Calais. Burton, writing again on Sept. 5, said that he hoped “to get some others, for the Gentleman on whose land they were found, is gone into that part of the country, and has promis’d to let me have all that come into his hands,” but these hopes were evidently unfounded, for when he returned to England in March 1717 he could only bring two coins in the name of a king Henry, one of which he attributed to Henry II and so was presumably not a groat.

The coins involved are clearly 15th century groats in the name of a king Henry—IV, V, or VI. The presence of a coin of the mint of Calais, a mint only open for striking groats under Henry VI, puts the deposit of the hoard in his reign, perhaps within the sixteen year period (1424-1440) during which the accounts show the Calais mint operating, but possibly at any time up to the 1460’s.

Kilmurry is on the Atlantic coast of the county, south of Mal Bay and opposite Mutton Island, separated from Ennis and the Shannon estuary by a range of hills, and drawing its sustenance mainly from the sea. This hoard might owe its existence to a shipwreck, like that from Co. Donegal published by Mr. W. A. Seaby in the British Numismatic Journal, 1966; Samuel Lewis’s Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837, calls attention to the dangers of navigation in the area, and there can never have been resident authority to temper the enthusiasm of the population for harvesting the crop the sea brought them.

HUGH PAGAN

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A Bronze Ring-Pin from Limerick

About thirty years ago, Mr. Harry P. Swan, M.R.I.A., of Buncrana, Co. Donegal, purchased a fine bronze ring-pin from an antiquarian dealer in Dublin. The exact details concerning the circumstances of its finding were not available, apart from a small label attached to it which read ‘Limerick 1880.’ This brief legend permits the assumption that the pin was either found or purchased in or around Limerick in that year.

The ring-pin (Fig. 1) belongs to Armstrong’s ‘double-ring’ and O’Kelly’s ‘key-ring’ type. It is in an excellent state of preservation, and measures 9.6 cm. in total length. The loop, which measures 5.1 x 2 mm., has the appearance of having been made separately and attached to the head of the shank. The outer surface of the loop and shankhead is decorated with a simple linear decoration and is surmounted by a central oval depression. The shank of the pin swells slightly before tapering to a fine point; this feature is generally considered to be a device to secure the pin more firmly in the clothing.

The ring is made from a single strip of bronze wire coiled into a double-ring and decorated with regular engraved lines which give it a milled appearance. The external diameter of the ring is 1.85 cm., while the wire measures 2.5 mm. in thickness. The terminals, although rather crudely finished, have a somewhat zoomorphic appearance, due to a plain stretch, decorated with two dot-like depressions, near each end.

Ring-pins of this ‘key-ring’ type are generally dated to the seventh and eighth centuries A.D. Armstrong dates this type of ring-pin to the early sixth century. O’Kelly points to their occurrence in what are probably seventh century contexts at Lagore Crannog, Co. Meath, and at Letterkeen, Co. Mayo, to an eighth-century context at Carraig Aille I, Co. Limerick, and to a seventh-eighth century example from South Uist, in Scotland.

This interesting bronze ring-pin, now in the Swan Collection, must, therefore, until further detailed study of the type has been undertaken, be assigned to some period within the sixth, seventh and eighth centuries.

Mairead Dunlevy

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1 I am indebted to Mr. Swan for his kind permission to publish this pin and for his co-operation during the preparation of this note. The ring-pin is No. 19 in the Swan Collection.
2 *Archaeologia*, 72 (1921-22), 75, Pl. XII, fig. 1, nos. 2, 4, 6, 8 and 9.
3 *PRIA*, 63, C (1963), 31.
4 *PPS*, 21 (1935), 283.
5 *PRIA*, 53, C (1950), 72, Fig. 14, nos. 216 and 635.
6 *PRIA*, 54, C (1952), 111-113, Fig. 5, no. 1.
7 *PRIA*, 52, C (1949), 68, Fig. 9, no. 429.
Boat Graffito in Corcomroe Abbey

Recently one of our members, Mr. Pádraig Ó hÉailidhse, noticed an interesting graffito of a boat lightly cut in the plaster of the northern wall of the chancel of the Cistercian abbey of Corcomroe, Co. Clare. The graffito can be found close to the bottom of the well-known “somewhat crude figure of a very smiling bishop” which is set into the wall above the effigial tomb of King Cona na Siudaine O’Brien (died 1267/68). The boat (Plate VII) is very schematically depicted, not nearly as detailed as the late 15th century ship graffito incised in the plaster of the Franciscan Friary at Moyne, near Killala, Co. Mayo. Though appreciably longer in proportion to its height, it can be compared with the boat carved in the side of one of the windows of the round tower at Roscrea, Co. Tipperary; the latter is generally, though inaccurately, compared with a boat carved on a slab at Selskar Abbey, Wexford. Unfortunately, I am unable to make any comparisons for the Corcomroe graffito with those carved in the plaster of the chapel of Barrymore Castle, near Cork, as illustrations of them do not appear to have been published, nor have I seen them.

Although the upper portions of the graffito are not clearly discernable, the Corcomroe boat can be seen to consist of a long, low, straight hull, rising steeply to a high point at either end, with a central mast which apparently had stays from its top to the pointed ends of the hull. The schematic, almost heraldic, nature of the graffito prevent prow and stern from being distinguished one from the other, and also makes dating on typological grounds impossible. The Transitional chancel itself is late 12th century in date, but there is much 16th century work elsewhere in the abbey. The platerwork is perhaps most likely to date from this period of renovations—indeed, most Irish graffiti in monastic plasterwork can be assigned to the 16th century, e.g. at Moyne, Co. Mayo, and at Abbeyknockmoy, Co. Galway.

The boat measures 58.5 cm. from end to end; the hull averages about 5.7 cm. in height, with the pointed ends rising about 12 cm. higher; the mast is 3 cm. wide at its base and can be traced to a height of 29 cm. above the hull.

ÉTIENNE RYNNE

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1 Td. Abbey West; Par. Abbey; Bar. Burren; Co. Clare; O.S. 6-inch sheet 8 (19.3 cm. from S.; 32.6 cm. from E.); Nat. Grid Ref. M.264 089. I am indebted to Mr. Ó hÉailidhse for allowing me the privilege of publishing his discovery. There are also some other light cuts and scratches in the plasterwork of the chancel, but none seem to be identifiable as pictorial graffiti.


3 The sculpture is unfinished; it was discovered underground, and placed where it now is in 1879—Lord Walter FitzGerald, Memorials of the Dead, 2 (1892-94), 276.


5 P. J. O’Reilly, JRSAI, 51 (1901), 393, Fig. 10, 13.

6 O’Reilly, ibid., p. 393, Fig. 10, A; D. F. Gleeson, Roscrea, Dublin 1947, p. 154.

7 Macalister, JRSAI, 62 (1932), 223 and JRSAI, 73 (1943), 117.

8 H. S. Crawford, JRSAI, 49 (1919), 30-31, Fig. 8—these graffiti include the date 1541.

9 An outline rubbing of this graffito, made in July 1968, has been deposited in the National Museum of Ireland.
Flogging at Corofin, 1798

The following is a note made many years ago by the late Dr. George U. MacNamara, of Bankyle House, Corofin, Co. Clare, and which was recently discovered among his papers by his son, Dr. Donagh MacNamara.

Andreas Reagh Kane, father of Shawn Reagh Kane the tailor, was flogged at Corofin three market days in succession, tied to a cart, for supposed complicity in the rebellion of '98.

Ml. Grifffy and others told me this.

Old Bow-ways and Chimney-stacks in Ennis

In the rather quaint, narrow streets of Ennis town are certain features which are deserving of the antiquarian’s attention, namely the old bow-ways and the stone-built chimney-stacks. The term ‘bow-way’ seems to be a peculiarly Ennis one, not being found in either The Oxford English Dictionary nor in Wright’s English Dialect Dictionary. It is, however, a logical use of the word ‘bow’ which the former Dictionary explains as “An arch (of masonry) as in a gateway or bridge”; the Dialect Dictionary states that ‘bow’ is found in Scottish and English dialects as meaning an “arch of a bridge, an archway.” In Ennis the term ‘bow-way’ is that generally used to describe the low, narrow, somewhat tunnel-like, covered passage-ways which give access to pedestrian traffic on to the main streets from what were once busy and populous rows of tenements.

Perfect examples of these bow-ways can be seen on both sides of Parnell Street, for example, at the entrances to Lysaght’s Lane, off the south side, and to Brady’s Lane (Plate VIII:1), off the north side. Enright’s Bow, also off the north side of Parnell Street, now provides an entrance to the spacious new car park built on an area formerly comprising Harvey’s Quay and Wood Quay. The town’s best-known bow-way is off Abbey Street and provides a side-entrance to the Franciscan Church in Francis Street. It is known as The Friary Bow (Plate VIII:2) and in it can be seen the Dedication Stone of the present friary. This stone measures five feet in length by two feet in height and is inscribed as follows:

This is the House of God and the Gate of Heaven. Gen.
This Church was built A.D. 1845. Dedicated to the Immaculate Mother of God, Revd. Francis Mac Loughlin O.S.F., Guardian. Revd. Js Fitzgerald.

A link with the Franciscans is also to be found in Lysaght’s Lane, mentioned above. Set into one of its walls is a slab inscribed in Irish as follows:

Cuir paróist le h-anam na márnaithe na mbráite bhect a dhem 36o báis na hí saht
amso—ar 'na drámaídtar dion—
in-ámsuit na drámaídtair.

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A framed printed notice attached to the wall beside this slab roughly translates this and also tells us something of the slab itself: ‘Placed Oct. 5 1921 on the wall of Kennedy’s (Cronin’s) Bakery, Lysaght’s Lane, off Parnell Street. Offer a prayer for the souls of the poor Friars of St. Francis who exercised the Sacred Ministry in this House. A place where they found refuge in the penal times.’

* * * * *

Fine specimens of Elizabethan-type stone chimney-stacks can be seen in Lower Abbey Street (Plate IX:1), portion of the street here being the oldest part of the town. Here Patrick Sarshild spent a night after the disastrous defeat at Aughrim in 1691 (Gleeson, Official Guide to Ennis, Dublin 1951). Further fine specimens can be seen in Chapel Street (Plate IX:2) at its junction with Parnell Street, and also overhead the C.Y.M.S. Hall which was the former Parish Church (erected in 1735). Yet other specimens which were in O’Connell street have been demolished within recent years.

GERALD O’CONNELL

Footnote to Caleb Powell’s 1858 Grand Jury

Recently, in trying to document Thomas Laffan O’Kelly, quandam Deputy-Governor of the Bank of Ireland, I discovered that his brother Patrick William (1800-1874), English Consul at Lima and Carthagena, married Sebastina Rosa Aliaga of Spain, and that their eldest daughter (and 5th child), Frances, in 1896 married Percy Considine of Shefford, Beds., 3rd son of Heffernan Considine of Derrk, Co. Limerick. She died in 1897 and Percy married Carmen, the younger of her sisters, in 1900. The privately published and undated pamphlet I consulted (Kelly of Leesthorpe Hall) referred the reader to the Irish Suppl. (sic) concerning the Considine family. Interestingly enough, the Irish Supplement referred to (in the 1935 edition of Burke’s Landed Gentry of Great Britain) does not include a Considine entry, whereas Burke’s Landed Gentry of Ireland has such an entry in all 20th century editions; e.g. in the 1904 edition we read:

Heffernan Considine, of Derrk, Co. Limerick, J.P. and D.L., High Sheriff 1859, son of Heffernan Considine D.L., of Derrk, Co. Limerick, who d. 1853, aged 74, b. 1816; m. 1845, Mary, dau. of John MacMahon, J.P., of Firgrove, Co. Clare. She d. 1885. He d. 1895 ...

The note ‘High Sheriff 1859’ indicates that Heffernan Considine succeeded Caleb Powell whose Grand Jury was the subject of Dr. Cussen’s contribution in North Munster Studies, published last year by this Society. It was the High Sheriff who was responsible for the empannelling of the Grand Jury (cf. G.T.B. Vanston, The Grand
Jury Laws of Ireland, Dublin 1883, pp. 26-27). Considine, who died in Dublin on 14 April 1895 (Freeman's Journal, 15 April 1895), is not included among the members of Caleb Powell's 1858 Jury discussed by Dr. Cussen. The note concerning one juror was excluded because 'the family do not wish the statement... to be published as they state it is not correct' (North Munster Studies, p. 401). However, Heffernan Considine was a Grand Juror in 1858—witness the list published on 13 July 1858 in the Limerick Reporter and Tipperary Vindicator. It seems certain, therefore, that the juror missing from Powell's Jury as listed by Dr. Cussen was Heffernan Considine.

OLIVER SNODY

A Land League Membership Card from Adare

Earlier this year, Mr. W. F. Cormack, F. S. A. Scot., Vice-President of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society, presented, on behalf of Mrs. Robina Fyffe, Berryscaur, Boreland, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire, a Land League membership card to the Limerick City Museum. Measuring 11.8 cm. by 7.7 cm., the obverse is printed black on a field green to the left and orange to the right, while the reverse is printed green on a white field.

The completed obverse reads (italics indicate manuscript entries):

Adare Branch

THE IRISH NATIONAL LAND LEAGUE

D. W. Fyffe

Was admitted a Member

this 14 day of Novem. 1881

C. Cregan Hon. Sec.

(N.B. the hand-writing is now very faint and, in consequence, the reading "Cregan" is very doubtful.)

The above is all within an illuminated border which includes the slogans "IRELAND FOR THE IRISH" and "DOWN WITH LANDLORDISM" above, and "Keep a firm grip of your Homesteads" and "The LAND for the people" below. In the top left-hand corner is a shield depicting a man trying to break a bundle of sticks under the legend "UNION IS STRENGTH," and in the bottom right-hand corner, within a double circle enclosing a repeated trefoil design, a ploughman with a plough and pair is depicted. Along the bottom, in very small print, is "J. Goggin, Desp. Phibsboro' Dublin."

The reverse reads as follows:

OBJECTS OF THE LEAGUE

The Irish National Land League was formed for the following objects:

FIRST —To put an end to Rack-renting, Eviction, and Landlord Oppression.

SECOND —To effect such a radical change in the Land System of Ireland as will put it in the power of every Irish Farmer to become the owner, on fair terms, of the land he tills.
The means proposed to effect these objects are:

(1) Organization amongst the people and Tenant Farmers for the purpose of self-defence, and inculcating the absolute necessity of their refusing to take any Farm from which another may be evicted, or from purchasing any Cattle or Goods which may be seized on for non-payment of impossible rent.

(2) The cultivation of public opinion by persistent exposure, in the Press and by Public Meetings, of the monstrous injustice of the present system, and of its ruinous results.

(3) A resolute demand for the reduction of the excessive rents which have brought the Irish People to a state of starvation.

(4) Temporate but firm resistance to oppression and injustice.

This membership card is similar to that described in detail by the Attorney General ("not at all badly designed") and used by him on 29 December 1880, in the course of the trial of the Queen vs. Parnell etc. for conspiracy, which commenced on 28 December 1880 and lasted until 25 January 1881 (cf. pp. 43-47 of the Report . . . , as published in Dublin in 1881).

The Land League, as such, was a short-lived organisation, lasting from 1879 to 1882. It was later replaced by a less radical Irish National League, which was more firmly controlled by Parnell, but the measure of the original Land League's success is the importance of the Land Acts passed in 1881 and 1882. At a local level it was not always a success as, for instance, the subsequent continued existence of so many undivided estates in and near Adare indicates.

The files of the local newspapers, police records and folklore are three of the areas worth future examination to add to our knowledge of the Land League Branch in Adare.

There is an aspect of intriguing interest in the identity of David Fyffe. Probably a Scot, he was gamekeeper to the 4th Earl of Dunraven. The 4th Earl succeeded in 1871, and he introduced his father's monumental Notes on Irish Architecture which, edited by Margaret Stokes, was published in London in 1875 (vol. I) and in 1877 (vol. II); the 3rd Earl's Memorials of Adare had already been published privately in 1865. The 4th Earl was Under Secretary of State for Colonies in 1885/6, and was also Lord Lieutenant of Limerick. It does not seem likely that his gamekeeper should join of his own volition an organisation which had as its aim such a radical transformation of the Irish social structure as to leave him in his office redundant. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. Robina Fyffe who presented the card to the Limerick Museum, believes that "he was pretty well forced by public opinion to join the Land League, just as in Britain here a workman is forced by pressure of his workmates' opinion to join a trade union" (information from Mr. Cormack, in a letter to the Hon. Editor).

I have not fully tracked down Fyffe's term of office at Adare (a fire destroyed much of the estate documentation in 1928), but after his death in about 1887 his widow, who was a Scot, returned to Scotland. Mr. Thomas Pierce, Hon. Secretary of our Society, has kindly made some enquiries locally about Fyffe, but without much real success. He comments that "Very little is known about Fyffe. He was here a considerable time, wore a beard, played the bagpipes at the Protestant church (I expect Dunraven got him to do that). He is reputed, after his death, to have haunted the house he had lived in. He is buried in Adare—a grand-daughter or some near relative.
was here a few years ago and found his grave.”

Another item of Limerick interest which Mr. Cormack received from Mrs Fyffe for presentation to the Limerick City Museum is a Salmon Fishing Licence. Printed black on white, it measures 18 cm. by 10.8 cm. and is embossed ‘Inland Fisheries of Ireland’ and ‘Limerick District.’ The text informs us that licence no. 4, for Single Salmon Rod, in no. 8 or the Limerick District (from Dunmore Head to Hags’ Head), was issued to David Fyffe of Adare on the 9th of April, 1884. Licence duty was £1, and the distributor who signed was Poole Gabbitt, who was also, it so happens, the owner of a number of fisheries in the area.

While the Land League sought to undo the Conquest as regards land ownership, the question of fishery rights was not—until comparatively recently—an aspect of organised agitation. Fyffe was obviously quiescent concerning fishery rights, but his rôle in the Land League remains somewhat enigmatic.

OLIVER SNODDY

Word-List from Clonlara, Co. Clare

I have written down from memory the following list of words and phrases which were in current usage in my native district of Clonlara, in south-east Clare, in the early decades of the present century. Some of them were very common, others I heard only at intervals, but all of them I heard at one time or another. The district was English-speaking and it was only about 1904 or 1905 that Irish was introduced as a school-subject, but even then only after the scheduled teaching hours; O’Grawney was the only book used.

As I began to learn Irish at school, I found that there were two native speakers in the parish, one a migratory labourer from North Clare and the other from Kerry who had married into the parish. From them I learned some sayings and proverbs, as well as some prayers in Irish. A Gaelic League organiser paid occasional visits from Limerick, and he encouraged us to speak Irish and he also gave us our first glimpse of Irish step-dancing.

With the growth of Sinn Féin, and particularly in the enthusiasm following the East Clare election victory of 1917, it became possible to start an adult Irish language class, and we often spoke of the existing Irish terms used in everyday speech. Perhaps it was that experience which kept those words and phrases so vividly in my memory.

*a ghrádh
alannan
a mhaoinneach
a mhúirín
ástoire (a stoir)
aghaidh filid : a mask.
amadán : a fool.
angashore (ainledseoir) : a person to be pitied.
arc luachair : a newt.
bábh : a session of work, of any occupation.
bacach : a lame person; an expression of contempt.
bacán : the hinge of a door.
Bail ó Dhia orailbh : God speed you.
báinín : a homespun coat or vest of white material
baistrín breac : a Christmas cake.
balbhán : a half-witted person.
bamh : a sucking pig.
bás : the flat of a bury.
básán : a sickly person.
bean a’ tighe : the woman of the house.
bean sidhe : a fairy woman who forewarns of death.*
*
biadh biadh! : used when calling turkeys.
bladár : idle talk.
bocad (bacach) : unbalanced.
ógán : an egg without a shell.
bóithrín : a lane.
bourán : a term of contempt.
braobh : a profit; a windfall.
bró : a shoe.
brosna : faggots.
brothall : heat; excitement.
buchallán : ragworth.
braith aíthri : ostentation.
busalann : an uncomly fellow.
cabhair Dé chughaíin : God help us.
cabóg : an unsophisticated person.
cadarail : nonsense.
cábín : a cap.
caillich : a hag.
cánfín (canem) : a tin vessel.
caip bás (pros. kyboshe) : an unsatisfactory climax.
camán : a hurley.
caonn : grumbling, e.g. he is always caonnán ing.
carraig : a rock.
ceolán : an obstinate person.
ecurán : portion of a sod of turf.
clóir : a beetle.
clear (prón. keeler) : a wide shallow tub.
cotór : a left-handed person.
cipín : a little stick.
cisách : a temporary bridge across a stream.
cisín : a basket.
clìrh : a stack of turf.
claisb : wicker-work.
coonán : a piece out of a brush used, for instance, to clear a pipe.
cóisde bodhar : the headless coach.
comhar : mutual help.
comhuadar : chat, e.g. colloquing or chatting.
áididh : tormented.
creachán (creathán) : a small potato.
crujh : a little hoof.
cruic : a jug.
cruist : a blow, e.g. he hit him a croiset of a fist.
cruit : a hump.
cuairead : a regular visit to a house at night, e.g. going on his cuaird.
cuir fé d'chois é : referring to the last sop on a tram of hay.
cuisle mo chroí : a term of endearment.
dailín : a disobedient child.
Dáith : God be with us—said when a person sneezes.
doll-dyde : nothing doing; no go.
dréas : a turn of work.
drofán : a tobacco pipe.
duidh : a sea-grass—an edible type of seaweed.
duirn : the handle of a scythe.
dún an doras : close the door.
eighe lín-áirde : putting on airs.
fálite : welcome.
finne óir ort? : an expression used in card-playing, i.e. "have you the ace to rob with?"
faire go deo! : an expression of shame.
féirín : a present.
felsestram : a weed growing in water.
ferc : slant, e.g. the ferk of his cap.
flaithéamhlach (flahoolach) : generous.
gabháilg : a forked branch.
gad : a withe, e.g. as tough as a gad.
gal : a smoke, e.g. a gal of the pipe.
go léor (pron. galore) : plenty.
gamhain gearraidh : a two-year-old heifer in calf.
garsún : a boy.
gas (pros. goos) : a stalk of corn.
geasadh : a weed, but also applied to a half-witted person.
gloc : a sound, e.g. there were neither geeks nor meeks out of him.
giodaim : sportful energy.
ghdiar : an addled egg.
go bhfóirt Dí a oireann : may God help us.
go mbélimid beo ar an am seo arís : may we live to see it again.
griosa : live (hot) embers.
grisín : giblets.
grogán : a clamp of turf.
grug : haunches, e.g. sitting on his grug.
gug : e.g. he hadn't a gug out of him (he was silent).
guth (pros. guff) : blather, e.g. he has too much oold guff.
hurra a gabhar! : used to frighten a goat.
hurra a g'! : used to frighten a goose.
laigh (pros. laughie) : cheerful.
leipreachán : a type of fairy.
húidín : the little finger.
hug : the flap of the ear, e.g. he caught him by the lug of the ear.
machain tó boidhe : a poisonous parsnip-like plant which grows in a stream.
maith go leór (pros. malgáloir) : half intoxicated.
mar dheadh (pros. mar-yah) : an expression of disbelief.
meas (pros. mas) : regard for something, e.g. he put no meas on it.
meitheall : a gathering of people to work together, at harvesting, for instance.
mí-ádh : a term of contempt, e.g. he was only a mí-ádh (a useless person).
míle murder! : an exclamation of fright or surprise.
mo léon gamhain tú! : an expression of admiration.
mothall : a head of hair.

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ná bac leis: don’t bother about it.
nóinín: daisy, e.g. picking noneens.
óinseach: a foolish woman.
olagón: an expression of grief or sorrow.
peata: a person looking for sympathy.
pillín: a plover.
piseach buidhe: a type of weed.
piseog: a superstition.
ploc: disease.
plámás: palaver; sweet, flattering talk.
plucamas: a swollen neck (mumps).
póith: an illegally made alcoholic drink.
poltóg: a blow of a fist.
praiseach: mash (porridge).
pusachán: a complaining person.
raiméis: nonsense
raithín: a swath of hay.
raiththeoir: something to free a pipe.
riabhach: reek-days, i.e. the first days of April.
rince: a marsh.
rutáille: an awkward person, at digging, for instance.
sceach: a bush.
sceartán: an insect.
sceilp: a piece.
sceach: a wicker basket.
scoillán: a seed potatoe.
scolb: a scollop—for thatching.
scrábeach: refers to a murky, wet day.
scramóg: a treacherous sod.
scrid: a rag.

seach: (pron. shock) a smoke of, e.g. a seach of the pipe.
seanchas: a chat.
scearbhasach: disgruntled.
slabar: an untidy mess.
sleán: a turf-cutting spade.
sìnneáinidhe: a till, narrow, good-for-nothing type of fellow.
smidirín: a small piece.
sónuachar: a happy marriage, e.g. a good sónuachar to you!
spailpin: a hired labourer.
sprus: broken fragments.
straeail: an untidy person.
sígán: a hay rope.
súmachán: an ill-mannered person.
tabhair dom an tí: give me the tongue.
t’anan O’n diabhail!: an expression of annoyance with someone.
toibhín: a patch on a shoe.
taoscán: a measure of quantity—of hay, or of whiskey.
toichín: a bold girl.
tráileach: a stiff muscle on the wrist.
tráithinín: a withered blade of grass, e.g. I wouldn’t give two tráithinín’s for him!
tré n-a chéile: confused.
tuaipís: a blunder.
tuaigrín: a wattle for mashing potatoes.
tuille: a tilly—a little bit extra.
tuiscce beatha: whiskey.

Corcomroe Abbey: stone carving of bishop, and graffito of boat (inked in)  
(Photo: E. Rynne)
1. Bow-way into Brady's Lane, Ennis
   *(Photo: M. McHugh)*

2. The Friary Bow, Ennis
   *(Photo: M. McHugh)*
3. Stone-built chimney stacks, Lower Abbey Street, Ennis
(Photo: M. McHugh)

4. Stone-built chimney stack, Chapel Street, Ennis
(Photo: M. McHugh)