

Proceedings, 1971

It would be remiss of me to let this occasion pass without paying tribute to my illustrious predecessor, Tom Pierce, who resigned as Honorary Secretary early this year after holding the office for over fourteen years. I would like to wish him every success in his retirement and trust that he will continue to serve the Society with his knowledge.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on the 5th of February and was well attended; Very Revd. J. Culhane, President, was in the chair. After the meeting Dr. William Loughnane, T.D., gave a most interesting talk on the legendary wise woman of east County Clare, Biddy Early.

On the 4th of March, Mr. Oliver Snoddy, of the National Museum of Ireland, lectured on the "Volunteer Militia and Yeomanry in Limerick (18th Century)", following on which Dr. R. Cussen exhibited some items of Limerick interest which were being presented to the National Museum by Miss Morony, of Clarina.

On the 26th of March, Mr. Patrick F. Wallace, also of the National Museum, lectured to the Society on "The Irish Road", a subject which he covered in great detail and most learnedly.

We were fortunate in having Dr. Peter Harbison, Archaeology Officer, Bord Fáilte Éireann, to lecture to us in April on "Our History in National Monuments".

On the 30th of April, Captain Con Costello, a leading member of the Co. Kildare Archaeological Society, gave us a fascinating lecture on "Ireland and the Crusades", a subject which he has studied in depth.

The first outing of the year was held on the 9th of May when members visited Clare Abbey, New Hall House, Killone Abbey and Quin Abbey under the guidance of Mr. Marcus Ó hEochaidhe, formerly Assistant-Inspector of National Monuments.

The major outing of the year was to Youghal, Co. Cork, and took place on the 13th of June; it was a huge success. Among the sites visited were Sir Walter Raleigh's House, Youghal Cathedral, the Town Wall, etc. We are indebted to the members of the Youghal Society who spoke at the various sites.

The one disappointing feature of the year was an unsuccessful attempt to get to Scattery Island — due to technical difficulties this outing had to be cancelled at the last minute. However, to compensate for this disappointment an outing to Kilkenny was arranged for the 10th of October, and even though it was late in the season the weather was kind to us. In Kilkenny we were met by members of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society who conducted us around St. Canice's Cathedral and Round Tower, the Black Abbey, Rothe House, Kilkenny Castle, St. Mary's Abbey, and the Design Centre. All-in-all, this was a most successful excursion.

Lectures for the Autumn/Winter session began on the 29th of October with a very stimulating and interesting lecture on "Dál Cais — Politics and Propaganda". It was given by Mr. Donnchadh Ó Corráin, Lecturer in Early Irish History at University College, Dublin.

On the 3rd of November a presentation from members of the Thomond Archaeological Society was made to Mr. Thomas Pierce who, as mentioned above, had resigned

from the Honorary Secretaryship of the Society. The function, which consisted of a cheese and wine party, was held in The Barn at the Bunratty Folk Park. The President, Fr. Culhane, Vice-Presidents Mr. A. Killeen, Dr. R. Cussen and Dr. S. O'Malley, and the Honorary Editor, Mr. E. Rynne, all paid tributes to Mr. Pierce. The presentation consisted of a magnificent hand-made silver tea-service of Georgian design.

The year's events closed on the 26th of November with an illustrated lecture by Mr. Etienne Rynne, Lecturer in Celtic Archaeology at University College, Galway, on "Celtic Art in Late Medieval Ireland and Scotland".

CHRISTOPHER LYNCH
(Hon. Secretary)

Obituary

P. J. MEGHEN, B.E., B.Sc.

P. J. Meghen was one of the more valued members of the Thomond Archaeological Society, though never a very prominent one. Keenly interested in local history, he did considerable research into the old roads and toll houses of Limerick. His publications include the harrowing account of "Stephen de Vere's Voyage to Canada, 1847" in our own *North Munster Studies*, published in 1967, and a "Social History" (of Co. Limerick) which was incorporated in *The Limerick Rural Survey 1958-1964*, published by Muintir na Tíre in 1964. This latter study of Limerick's social history, running to over a hundred pages, is a model of its kind and a mine of information.

His distinguished career in the public service began when he entered the Local Government Department of Dáil Éireann in 1921. From 1924 to 1942 he served as an Engineering Inspector with the same Department, and at different times during that period acted as Commissioner for various public bodies which had been dissolved. He was appointed Limerick County Manager in August 1942, which post he held until ill-health forced him to retire in October 1961. Mr. Meghen was a very active member of the Committee of Féile Luimní, and was equally active in the affairs of Muintir na Tíre, being on the National Executive for a number of years. He also played a prominent part in the foundation of the Institute of Public Administration.

P. J. Meghen died in September 1971, aged seventy years. *Go dtuga Dia suaimhneas siorraí dó.*

MAINCHÍN SEOIGHE

The Society also tenders its sympathies to the relatives of the following members deceased during the year:

H. COAD, "Glenard", Summerville Avenue, Limerick.

MISS JOSEPHINE ROCHE-KELLY, Gurteen, Ballinacurra, Limerick.

VERY REVD. W. G. SKEHAN, P.P., Loughmore, Templemore, Co. Tipperary.

May they rest in peace

The Thomond Archaeological Society was founded in 1929 to encourage an interest in the study and preservation of all aspects of our past, with special reference to that of North Munster. Its horizons are wide, embracing archaeology, history, folklore, folklife studies, numismatics, onomastics, and other kindred subjects. Membership is open to all, and entitles to notice of and attendance at all lectures and excursions organised by the Society, and also to a free copy of the Society's annual JOURNAL.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Captain Frank Parker, "Asgard," North Circular Road, Limerick. Subscription rates: Ordinary Members £2 per annum (Family Members, 25p extra per person); Junior Members, £1 per annum.

Material intended for publication in the JOURNAL should be sent to the Honorary Editor, Mr. Etienne Rynne, Department of Archaeology, University College, Galway.

All other correspondence, including requests for back-numbers of the JOURNAL and for NORTH MUNSTER STUDIES (published by the Society in 1967), should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Christopher Lynch, "Duncaba," North Circular Road, Limerick.