Proceedings, 1972

The Society was fortunate in having a very interesting and varied programme of lectures, covering a wide range of subjects, and more outings than usual during 1972. There has, furthermore, been an increase in membership, not large but nevertheless appreciable, and a noteworthy feature of the outings and lectures has been the number of young people attending them.

The year got off to a good start when Caoimhín Ó Danachair, of the Department of Folklore, University College, Dublin, read a paper, illustrated with numerous very beautiful slides, on “Armada Wrecks on the Irish Coast.” There was a huge attendance at this lecture which excited considerable interest.

On the 28th of February, Mr. Thomas G. Delaney, of the Department of Antiquities, The Ulster Museum, gave a lecture on “Medieval Archaeology in Ireland,” in which he outlined the story of the relatively recent growth of that branch of study in this country, a growth which, he pointed out, owed much to members of our Society.

On the 6th of April, Mr. Charles Acton, music critic of the Irish Times, gave us a most unusual and fascinating lecture which he titled “What is Ancient Irish Music?”

The Annual General Meeting was held somewhat later than usual this year, on the 17th of April. The Meeting was followed by a short film on the excavation of an Early Iron Age ritual or ceremonial site at Grannagh, near Ardrahan, Co. Galway. The film was accompanied by a live commentary from the excavator, Mr. Étienne Rynne, of the Department of Archaeology, University College, Galway.

The first outing of the year was conducted by Mr. Étienne Rynne and was held on the 21st of May. It was to the Burren area and the sites visited included Ennis Friary, Dysert O'Dea, Killinaboy, Lemanagh Castle, Killenora, Ballykinvarga and adjacent sites (including the holy well and early church-site associated with a cure for sore eyes—see this Journal, 13 (1970), 58), Noughaval, and the fast-becoming-well-known fulacht fiadhaí near Carran which was discovered in 1970 by our member Fr. Martin Ryan.

The second outing was held on the 7th of June and was to Holy Cross Abbey, Co. Tipperary, where Fr. W. J. Hayes, C.C., traced the history of the Abbey for us and outlined the plans for the restoration at present being undertaken there.

The major outing of the year was held on the 18th of June and was conducted by Mr. Rynne. It was to sites along the River Shannon, starting with the famous monastic site at Clonmacnoise, and proceeding from there to visit the impressive early 19th century fortifications at Shannon Bridge and at Banagher; Clonfert Cathedral and Lorrha Abbey were also visited.

During the year there arose a danger that Blossom Gate, Kilmallock, might be demolished for road-widening, and the Society’s Committee became very active in a successful campaign to help save it. It was fitting, therefore, that our President, a former Parish Priest of Kilmallock, should lead an outing to this medieval town on the 15th of July. Not only Blossom Gate but also St. Mocheallog’s Church, the Dominican Priory, and the other antiquities of the town were visited.

On the 12th of August an outing was held to Killaloe where St. Flannan’s Oratory, St. Flannan’s Cathedral, and St. Lua’s Church were visited.
On the 20th of August, Mr. Thomas Pierce conducted an outing to Co. Tipperary where Kilfeakle Mote, Athassel Augustinian Priory, and Cahir Castle were visited.

The last outing took place on the 17th of September and was to North Co. Cork. Rev. Canon Murphy, P.P., Buttevant, and Mr. Dermot Tuohig, of University College, Cork, spoke at the Franciscan Friary at Buttevant, the Augustinian Priory at nearby Ballybeg, Kanturk Castle, the excavations at Knockanoss, and at Liscarroll Castle.

The first lecture of the Winter season was held on the 24th of November, when Dr. Timothy P. O'Neill, of the National Museum of Ireland, read a paper on "Clare and Irish Poverty, 1815-1845" to a most interested audience.

The Society's year closed on the 15th of December, with an illustrated lecture on "Sculpture in Co. Clare between the 12th and the 16th Centuries" by Dr. Peter Harbison, Archaeology Officer in Bord Fáilte Éireann.

Finally, it is appropriate to put on record here the Society's gratitude to all the lecturers who so kindly gave of their time, some of whom travelled long distances to deliver their papers, and also to the tour leaders who gave up their Sundays or weekday evenings to guide members around the many sites visited during the year.

Christopher Lynch
(Hon. Secretary)
Obituaries

ÉAMONN T. de hÓIR
(1895-1972)

To have met Éamonn de hÓir and to have come to know him was to have met with Napper Tandy and to have encountered the real sense of Irish separatism. Éamonn—vivacious, tough, loquacious, argumentative, tenacious, open, generous, enthusiastic—could convey better than anyone I ever met the ‘feeling,’ the urgency, the idealism, the dream, the infectious potency of 1916. It marked his life so deeply that it was perhaps characteristic that he should have really ‘met’ his future wife in Easter Week 1916, even though they came from the same county, not far away from each other.

Brother-in-law to Tom Clarke and Ned Daly, sometime bodyguard as well as friend and confidant of Seán Mac Diarmada who like the other two was executed in 1916, his knowledge of the rôle and of the significance of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in the moulding and the use of events and organisations leading up to the Rising was encyclopaedic. In later years he was more than helpful to any scholar who wished to genuinely investigate the period—and he could be scathing about those who looked on it or used it for pabulum in the preaching of anti-nationalism (however subtly presented).

Though he never ‘pushed’ himself to the forefront or posed as someone of importance, he actually was quite central to many historical occurrences. He was, for instance, one of those of whom it was said that they “arrested” James Connolly early in 1916 on behalf of the I.R.B. It was typical of Éamonn’s modesty that he did not project himself to correct the errors in the accounts of that delegation’s invitation to Connolly—to have done so would have drawn attention to himself. It was that same humility which caused him on at least two occasions to refuse to let his name go forward for election to the Committee of this Society.

Albert Power’s monument—to Clarke, Daly, Colbert and the men of Easter Week—on Sarsfield Bridge, Limerick, was erected as a result of the organisation, collecting, and financing of Éamonn. The plagues at Móin na nGé and at Glin both resulted from his commitment to the celebration of the high points of our past. Though not a member of the Thomond Archaeological Society’s Sub-Committee which organised the erection of a plaque [in memory of John Daly, the Fenian leader, and his nephew Edward (Ned) Daly—see this Journal, 16 (1966-67), 241] on the house at no. 15 Barrington Street, Limerick, Éamonn was very much involved in the project, both as a relation of the men being commemorated and as a member of this Society. With an interest in the present and future, he organised a schools football league, and he was also the person most responsible for the change in structure of An Mhóidhscoll in Limerick in 1937.

Few who came in contact with Éamonn de hÓir can have failed to have benefited from his friendship, As dheis láithn Dé go raibh a anam!

OLIVER SNODDY
MICHAEL QUANE, M.A., LL.D.  
(1889-1972)

In this number of our Journal is published the very last of the many important articles written by Dr. Michael Quane: he sent it to us on the 4th of October, 1972, and twelve days later he passed on to meet the people about whom he had been writing for so many years. Although he only joined the Thomond Archaeological Society in 1966, it was typical of him that he should forthwith start contributing to the Society’s Journal, and articles from his pen on the “Ennis Grammar School,” the “Banagher Royal School,” and the “Dr. Jeremy Hall Endowed Schools, Limerick” were published in the issues for 1966, 1967 and 1968 respectively.

Born in North Kerry, Dr. Quane entered the Civil Service in 1907, his last post therein being Administrator of the National Museum of Ireland. Most of his voluminous published work, dealing almost exclusively with the history of schools and other aspects of education in Ireland, was undertaken following on his retirement from that office in 1954. Authoritative and scholarly yet very readable, his writings deserve to be resurrected from the pages of the numerous national and local historical and archaeological journals in which they are to be found and republished in book form. Failing which, it is to be hoped that someone will sometime publish a complete list of all his published work, as such a ready-to-hand list would be of undoubted value to the many working in the fields of education, local studies, and history.

Not only editors of local journals but all historians will regret his passing—i bhfuiltheas Dé go raibh a anam!

ETIENNE RYNNE

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

BRIGADIER H. W. HYNES, South Lodge, Wisborough Green, Sussex.  

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.

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, “Duncaha,” North Circular Road, Limerick.