1975 saw a new concept introduced whereby committee members undertook in turn to organise lectures, outings, and other social events, all of which proved very successful and helped in a big way to relieve the Hon. Secretary of these chores.

During the year four members of the Society were invited by the Limerick City Council to act on the Local National Monuments Advisory Committee which was set up under the National Monuments Acts of 1930 and 1954. The function of this committee is to advise and assist the Local Authority in relation to the protection and preservation of the National Monuments and other historic buildings in the county. Furthermore, a former President of the Society, the Very Rev. James Canon Culhane, P.P., V.F., was nominated to act on the National Monuments Advisory Council, a body which concerns itself with the Monuments in State Care in the entire country.

The Society was active in many ways during the year. For instance, a delegation from it met with representatives of the Limerick City Council in order to voice their grave concern over the removal of the City Museum from Pery Square so as to make more room available for the City Library. The City Manager assured our delegation that alternative accommodation would be found for the Museum's exhibits, probably in St. John's Square.

Six public lectures were sponsored by the Society during the year. The first of these, held on the 30th of January, was entitled “What do we know of Irish Ring Forts?” and was delivered by Mr. Dermot Twohig, M.A., of University College, Cork. The Annual General Meeting was held on the 21st of February, and was followed by a lecture given jointly by Dr. Elizabeth Shee and Col. Watson on “Some Aspects of the Suir Valley”, a lecture which inspired one of the year's major excursions. On the 8th of April Mr. Patrick Wallace, of the National Museum of Ireland, lectured to the Society on “Recent Excavations in Wexford”, work which has relevance to urban excavation everywhere, not least in Limerick City. The last lecture before the Summer excursions began was by Miss Jeanne Sheehy who, on the 25th of April, lectured on “Victorian Architecture in Ireland”.

The first outing was held on the 4th of May, and was organised by Mr. Cian O'Carroll. Three noted ecclesiastical sites in north and central Tipperary were visited, namely Kilcooley, Holycross, and Thurles: Dr. Peter Harbison, Fr. Lynch, Fr. Hayes and Fr. Dooley were the speakers at the sites. For the 25th of May Mr. Patrick Lysaght organised an outing to Ennis Friary, Drumcliffe round tower and church, Kilmacduagh monastic site, and Dysert O'Dea Romanesque church, round tower and high cross; Etienne Rynne and Fr. Martin Ryan spoke at the various sites. Mrs. Patsy Harrold and Mrs. Marie Condon jointly organised the afternoon outing held on the 15th of June, when the Revd. Canon Culhane and the Revd. Archdeacon Chambers conducted members around the many ancient medieval buildings in Adare. Arising out of the lecture earlier in the year on the Suir Valley, many members had requested an outing to that area. On the 22nd of June, therefore, Dr. Shee and Col. Watson guided members around several most interesting sites there. Mr. Brian Geary organised an evening outing to Mungret churches and to Carrigogunnell on the 10th of July, and also spoke to the members at both sites. On the 20th of July Fr. Martin Ryan organised an outing to Roscrea when Damen House, St. Cronan's Church and Round Tower, the Romanesque Church at
Monaincha, Leap Castle, and Gloucester House were visited; Mr. George Cunningham spoke at all the sites.

The Winter programme of lectures began on Hallow-E'en, the 31st of October, when Mr. Etienne Rynne, M.A., M.R.I.A., F.S.A., of University College, Galway, delivered a most appropriate lecture to the Society: "Celtic Religion in Pagan and Christian Ireland". On the 25th of November Mr. Clifford Long, Director of Excavations at Trondheim, Norway, lectured to us on "Medieval Excavations at Trondheim".

Lastly, I would like to place on record the Society's thanks to the various lecturers and guest-speakers, some of whom travelled long distances, often at short notice, in order to facilitate us. My thanks also go to my colleagues on the committee for their assistance in organising lectures and the outings.

Christopher Lynch
Hon. Secretary
OBITUARIES

JOHN XAVIER WELLINGTON PATRICK CORCORAN, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A.
(1926-1975)

In May 1975 this Society lost one of its internationally better-known members, Dr. John X. W. P. Corcoran, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Glasgow. An active archaeologist working in the British and Irish fields, both as excavator and desk-archaeologist, his contributions to our Journal number eight, an important article and seven book reviews,1 including the last thing he ever wrote for publication, a review which reached the editor only a few days before his death and is now published on page 124 of this volume. In September 1967 he lectured to the Society on “Megalithic Tombs of Scotland”, illustrating what turned out to be a fascinating lecture with descriptions and slides of his own many outstanding excavations in that country. Indeed, the perfection of his excavation technique, notably in the context of the megalithic tombs which he excavated in Scotland, England and Ireland, is what many will perhaps best remember him for. This expertise, combined with keen and inspired interpretation, led him to propound and demonstrate the multi-period nature of many of the chambered tombs of these islands. This theory,2 now generally accepted by most ‘megalithomaniacs’ (to use a term which he and I coined many years ago), revolutionised megalithic studies and, indeed, necessitated a dramatic reassessment of all tomb-morphology—as can perhaps best be appreciated when the interpretations in volume I (published in 1963) of Audrey Henshall’s The Chambered Tombs of Scotland are compared with those in volume II (published in 1972).

Although English-born, John Corcoran was Irish to the core—immensely proud of the fact that all four of his grand-parents were not only Irish but Irish-born. Equipped with such a family background it is not surprising that his archaeological interests should early tend towards matters Celtic: his M.A. thesis, completed in 1952, was on “Evidence for Cult-practices in British Prehistory”.3 His work on the

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Celts, ritual practices apart, is perhaps best seen in his long introductory chapter on “The Origins of the Celts: the archaeological evidence” which was specially commissioned for Nora Chadwick’s The Celts (Penguin Books 1970).

As a student of Archaeology at the University of Manchester, he came strongly under the influence of his mentor there, the late Professor T. G. E. Powell, and as the years progressed he struck up a very close and special relationship with him. This was not surprising, either, as Professor Powell had himself strong Irish connections (he was born in Dublin, of a long-standing Welsh-Irish family, and had also worked on Irish archaeological material, including carrying out the excavation of megalithic tombs in Co. Waterford). Consequently John Corcoran’s archaeological work continued to have a definite bias towards this country, and megalithic studies soon superseded Celtic ritual as his primary interest: his doctorate thesis, completed in 1956 after much fieldwork in Ireland, was on “The Cultural Significance and Relative Chronological Position of the Carlingford Culture of Ireland”.

It is difficult to separate John Corcoran from Terence Powell when discussing much of the work of either, and it is sad to have to report that the latter, who had started John Corcoran in his Celtic and megalithic studies, should himself, within a very few short weeks, have followed his former student, his friend and colleague, into Elysian fields—there, no doubt, to once again indulge in involved and deep discussion together concerning a wide variety of archaeological problems! Both men were charming and fascinating conversationalists who were socially as well as academically inclined, were exceptionally generous in everything, not least in imparting knowledge and help to their fellow archaeological and antiquarian friends, and who will both be sadly missed in their many fields.

John Corcoran will be particularly missed in the fields of North Munster, for in the last ten years of his life he came to know and love the area, particularly Co. Clare, and was a not infrequent visitor to the Shannon-side counties. Indeed, he was planning an excavation of a recently discovered megalithic tomb in Scool, near Dysert O’Dea, Co. Clare, when he died, and he had also been an active participator, both as one of the lecturers and as an excursion guide, at the annual archaeological conferences held in Enniskerry each Easter-time. He likewise hoped to revisit Cush, Co. Limerick, where he thought he had discovered the remains of an unrecorded megalithic tomb within a few hundred yards of the well-known ringfort complex there. He will also be missed in the fields of north Co. Tipperary, where his friend Fr. Martin Ryan (who had to a large extent discovered the joys of field archaeology through John Corcoran’s book on the subject) had compiled a long list of sites about which he wanted to consult the expert.

Yes indeed, North Munster and the Thomond Archaeological Society have lost a real friend. I measing angil Dé go raibh a anam caiirtiúil.

ETIENNE RYNNE

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4 Pages 17-41 of this book, the author of which also acknowledged his special help with the chapters on “Institutions and Way of Life” and “Religion and Mythology”.

5 Author of “The Sintra Collar and the Shannongrove Gorget: aspects of Late Bronze Age goldwork in the west of Europe”, published in the last number of this Journal, 16 (1973-74), 3-13. The proofs of which he corrected and returned from his deathbed.


7 See this Journal, 10:2 (1967), 103, fn. 2, for the occasion on which he made this discovery.

I Rann na Feirste, ar chomhdháil den Chomhchaidreamh i 1939, a casadh orm ar dtús Éamonn Óg de hOír, mar a thugadh a mhuintir air. Ar ais san ardchathair an bhliain sin, ba mhínic dream den Chomhchaidreamh ísteach sa lóistín chugam féin agus Caerwyn Williams atá ina òlaim Gaeilge anois i Aberystwth. Bhíodh Éamonn orthu.

Bhí tréithé ón dá thaobh in Éamonn—óna athair de phóir Normánach, saor tha caiteach Gearaltach sa Gheàinn is a chúiche, agus óna mháthair d'fhui is de shloinn-deadh Dáilach as Achréidh na Gaillimhe. Nior bheag de thréith ann ina óige fios a intinne a bheithe aige agus cumas tuairimíochta a raibh bhonn fuaiti.

Ar bhunscéil is meánscoil Ghaelach i Luimneach, is ó chúrsa sa Rinn, a chaire sé siol a chuid Gaeilge. D'fhág sé beal ar scoláireacht Ollscoil; sa bhliain 1940, bhain sé bunchéim amach le hónora cha gan é fós fiche; ar ball thuill Sparánacht chun Oiliúna i bhFoghlraíocht agus léighe ñúrsa san Institúid Ard-Leáin, ach é ag staidéar do chéim M.A. i ngEagile san aon-amr móran. Bliain sin 1942, chaith sé tréimhse sa Chilín, in Iar-Chonnachta, tréimhse ar bhó léir dom fuaiti go minic, is é do mo cheisteanna faoin bhfoicí seo nó faoin leagan úd, gur bheag a chaigh amú mar a chaith na ná ina chuimhne. Tamall dó ansin ag múineadh Gaeilge sa Choláiste ar Shráid Bhólton. I ndeireadh 1943, ceapadh é ar fhloireann Rannóg Aistriúcháin Thithe an Oireachtais; tháinig an obair leis go hídeas, críochnaíl: bhí feith ann dá leithéid—tuiscint don teanga, slacht, simplíocht.

Ba stair é ariamh; bhí láimh sa stair ag a thuismitheoirí is a mhuintir; léigh sé cuid mhór faoin seanachas; thug sé taíneamh d'achaidh Éireann. Ba chuisle látair dá bheatha an Ghaeilge agus a rath. Ach ní le staidéar amháin a chastháit sé an lár Ollscoil. I 1940, ag cumhdháil Chomhchaidrimh i mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, mhóir doin Ard-Chomhairle é cheapadh mar Rúnaí Cúnta ar an gComhchaidreamh; ceapadh. Ba churann taca é d'aon chuí. Is iomaí círám a cuireadh air ó am go h-áir—cabhru le Cumann Gaelach Ollscoil na Ríona, mar shampla. I gComhar Mhárta 1943, léitear i NÓtaí an Chumainn: “Roimh Nollaig cuireadh Éamonn de hOír... chugainn le ligeachtach a thabhairt... Ba i ar mbarramháil gurbh i an ligeachtacht a bhfhearr a chuiala muid le n-áirí gcuimhné san Ioscoil. Fuair muid comhairle ar leas... cuireadh go leor ceisteanna agus d'fhrágaim an ligeachtachtadhe go cuirinn réidh iad.”

Roith an mhíos na dháidh, bhí aiste fada tagtha uaidh i gComhar: “Mar do Fearadh Cath na Teangan, 1908-10: An Ghaedhilg éigeantach sa Maithreánach”; is maith is féidir liom inniu féin.

Mháire a spéis sa Chomhchaidreamh agus i gComhar; bhí beaint aige leis an Ard-comhairle go dtí 1950 nó ní hfaide anall, agus tá tagairtí dó san íris. Mheas muid bheirt go bhféadadh Comhair deánamh níb fhéarr don cagraíocht is do na cumainn, agus fós leas a d'hubhánamh don litríocht.

Faoi Mhárta 1945 foilsiodh i gComhar gur bronadh “cuirn an Chomhchaidrimh ar lucht buaithe na gComórtas Litríochta i. Éamonn de hOír (gearrscéal) agus Séamas Ó Céillechuir (fíilocht)”. Ní heol each a chomh chúis, is gur leadh sna blianta sin, seachas leis a ghnóthaigh duaiseanna ó Raicult Éireann, faoi ainm “Mhuiris Uí Ghréimín”. Ba mhóir aige forás litearta na Gaeilge. Sna blianta ó 1950, nó as sin amach, cé go raibh sé sé fós in Rannóg an Aistriúcháin, d'fhás a spéis i logainmnneacha.

I 1959, phós sé Siobhán Burns as Oakridge, Tennessee, a bhí ag obair i Roinn na
Seandálafocht i gColáiste Ollscoilte Átha Cliath. Bhí sise le tamall ag foghlaim Ghaeilge, agus gan mhoill Gaeilge a labraíodh si.

San ait a mbíodh Éamonn, ba den ait sin é, mar ba chuid d’Éirinn fré chéile é theas is tuaidh. Bhí ariamh tóir aige ar ghnéithe aiceanta a thre, ar a thír is a talamh. Ba spéis leis scoileacht thrí Ghaeilge, ar nós a athar roimhe. Chaithe sé dothracht le scoileanna Gaeilge, le cluichí, ceol, agus drámaí. Chuidigh sé go mór leis an Aifrann Gaeilge i nDún Droma agus leis na Teaghligh Gaeilge. Bhí beirt chuirim air; thug sé aithne dóibh ar an nGaeilge i gCois Fharraghe, i Leitir Caltha, in Iorras Aithneach, i gCeathrú Thaidhg. Bhí Éamonn táithi le mimirt na ttre—go mór mór le tiorthaigh na Gaeilteacha. Fear gan éad ab ea é, gan mórchothús, gan fuathach ach don éagóir, fear ar mhaith leis an greann, an suáilceas, an comhlótar.

Lá Coille 1958, thug sé aghaidh ar an gCoimisiún Logainmneacha; i 1962 bhí sé ina Phríomh-Oifigeach Logainmneacha. Bhí réiteach le déanamh aige ach i greann beagán miosa bhi an chéad liosta d’aímnheacha báilte poist ullamh.

Ni fheidir anseo trácht ar mhéid is ar iomadúlacht a chuird oibre faoi gCoimisiún—mar chuir sé as a cheile an chéad leagan d’Aímnheacha Gaeilge na mbailte Poist a foilsíodh idir 1960–64 agus, tar éis taighde is saothar, mar a d’hoilisigh sé eagrán údarásach dóibh i 1969; bhí Seán Ó Domhnaill agus Eoghan Ó Comhráí ar fáil mar chumhnaiceán céad bláin i 1962; b’ónóir aige a lorg a leanacht. Chuir sé a láimh le léarscoilte Gaeilge d’Éirinn. Tar éis a bháis a foilsíodh uaidh “Sráchfhéachaint ar Logainmneacha Bháile Átha Cliath”, i Studia Hibernica (úimh. 15, 1975).

I mbuaic a réime, bhí mhóir a pháirt in obair an Chumann Logainmneacha, a bhunaigh sé, d’fheadfaí a rá, i 1963; tháinig a íris leithbhliantúil Dinseanchas, i 1964; ba é céad-Rúnaí an Chumann é, céad-eagarthóir na hírise. B’isean a thúsais léachtai an Chumainn agus a léirigh cúisphírí na hírise. “Níl sé cruithithe ag an íris seo Dinseanchas go fiúil go bhuíuí fad saoil i ndán dí. Beidh sin ag braitht ar fhíuntas an mheád ábhair, agus ar fhíúantas an ábhair, a bhreas le fáil ina cóir” Ba faisteann an ráimhrithe sin ar a raibh le theacht.

Ar éigín eagrán ann a bhí ailt ag an Éamonn féin, ach thar gach ní eile is cuid éiríme agus léinn den scoth na nótaí i ngach uimhir faoin teideal As Cartlamn na Logainmneacha. Ni annamh ná nótaí sin, tagairtí d’áiteachta ar theagmhlaigh a n-ainm le croí Éamoinn, c.e. an tagairt d’O Bhaille Coinneola ó i gCo. an Dún (úimh. II, 4). Bhíodh a chúchus ag freagairt thrí gach buille maithseasa dá ndearna sé.

Bhí baint mhóir aige le dréachtú Acht Logainmneacha 1973, agus le hobbair nach é; bhí a threagairacht a méadú is an obair aghadháidh air. Thog sé cuid mhóir air féin. Bhíodh sé de shíor ag beartú is ag breathnú i bhfad roimhe; thugadh a chomhrá duine go bun leis, ar teorainn Thir Tairngre. Agus ar ndóigh bhí sé cruógach de shíor—ar chuimhneachtaí den Choiste Idirnáisiúnta Logainmneacha, ag tabhairt léachtai sa mbailte in Éirinn, thar lear, in Albain, sa Bhreatain Bheag, in Ollscoilleanna Mheiriceá agus in áiteachta eile. Ba bhfeas sa suaimhnis a thug sé do féin in ard a mhaithseas; níor mhótarach a mheannmna aon chail lena scit a líghen.

Tréadhmaí an 20 Nollaig 1975, beagán le coíceshíar dor 55ú blain, tháinig sé ó chúluiche leádoige abhailte, liguise féin isteach ar a leaba agus shealaigh sé, go réidh, socaír. Bhí croí fíor Éamonn ina thost is an amh faoi Dhié.

Chruithiathar lion an tslua a thiontайн chun eaghlaice ón ospideal é, agus a bhí ag Aifrann a éagnairce, a lucht sin duine ar ghoill a háis air; léirigh a mbeannú méd ag ndólaíse. Tar éis an Aifrinn lean muid siar é chuim an Ghleanna, thrí Luimneach inar saolaoiódh sé, go dtí an duisce arbh as dá shínsear athartha le fada roimhe, agus nuair a leag muid a chonra in uigh na seanmhuintire i gCol Fhèarchuis, ar bharr an chnoic, bhí na deora móra ag doireadh go tréán ar an ngaoith thar inbhearn Sionainne
The Society also tenders its sympathies to the relatives of the following members deceased during the year:

MARTIN CORBETT, 3 Church Street, St. John’s, Limerick.
MÍCHEÁL DE BÚRCA, Achadh Lín, Baile an Gharrdha, Co. Luimní.
GEORGE EGLESTON, Belfield Gardens, Limerick.
MRS. ALICE McINERNEY, 5 Eden Terrace, North Circular Road, Limerick.
MRS. ANNE O’MARA, New Strand House, Ennis Road, Limerick.