

## Editorial 1976

The year 1976 has seen some notable changes on our Committee. Two of our long-serving Vice-Presidents, John Hunt and the Rt. Revd. Robert Wyse Jackson, have been called to their eternal reward where, no doubt, they are not only happily engaged in discussing their similar interests in beautiful things of the past but are also critically or benevolently, as the case merits, looking down on the activities and progress of our Society.

The other major changes occurred at the very top. Our greatly admired and beloved President, Dr. Sarah O'Malley, steps down after three years of exemplary service to the Society (service which almost converted even the most die-hard of us to become "women's-libbers"! ) and Dr. Robert Cussen, a Vice-President for many years, takes up the presidential reins.

While the Society is in a healthy state and looks forward to even greater things, there are nonetheless a few worrying problems still to be ironed out, notably that concerning the City Museum with which the Society has always been most closely associated. Dr. O'Malley's *vale dictum*, delivered in March 1976, and which we now place on more permanent record, clearly sets out the present situation and hopes for the Society's future:

Reverend Fathers, Ladies and Gentlemen—

The time has come for me to give you a short resumé of the present state of the Thomond Archaeological Society. I am glad to say that it is, generally speaking, in a happy, healthy condition.

At my first Presidential Address here three years ago I expressed the hope that the younger generation would join us and that the not-so-young would continue to support the aims and objects of the Society. This hope has, indeed, been admirably fulfilled. We have had many new young members and the older ones have been, as ever, our loyal supporters in all we tried to do.

In the last few years the subject of archaeology has become very professional with University degrees much in evidence. I would like to feel that some of the small ones who have come on our outings with their parents have been perhaps stimulated to take up this subject in a serious way. In any case their eyes have been opened to the antiquities of this country which are all about us, and so our Society, I hope, may be the cradle of many senior archaeologists of the future.

Now, during the last year an entirely new concept was introduced into our Committee. It was suggested and agreed to that one, two or three members, as required, should undertake the running of one event, be it lecture or film-show, outing or Social Evening. The members designated made themselves completely responsible for the successful running of the selected event, always, of course, with the consent of the Committee. This method, while lessening the burden of work on our Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, involved all the

members in the day-to-day running of the Society as a whole. It worked out to our satisfaction and we hope to yours, always remembering that one cannot please all the people all the time. To further this idea the Committee would welcome suggestions from the members generally—preferably in writing—to allow for discussion at their Meetings.

I am sure you will all agree and appreciate the splendid job that our New Librarian, Mr. Flynn, has been doing since he came here—but in having the building renovated it evidently became necessary to have our Museum disbanded temporarily. I am given to understand that the very valuable and irreplaceable exhibits are carefully and safely stored *somewhere*. Nevertheless, as an interested Society and as citizens generally to whom, after all, the Museum belongs, we could not but wish to see it professionally restored, even in a temporary home, so that we and perhaps above all our tourists, could see and enjoy its many beautiful objects. No doubt your new President and Committee will pursue this matter in due course with perseverance.

It now comes to the final part of this Address—my special “Thank Yous”. Firstly, to a truly interested, hard-working, Committee with whom it has been a pleasure to associate. Secondly, to our dedicated beloved Secretary, Mr. Christopher Lynch, about whose work and help I could talk all night. Thirdly, to Captain Frank Parker without whom we could not carry on at all; not only does he look after our “spondulicks” but he makes himself available with ready advice to the many general members who seek his help. To our learned Editor, Mr. Etienne Rynne, we owe a lot and fully acknowledge his interest in promoting the Society’s standing amongst archeologists everywhere.

There are also many others to whom I should pay tribute—especially to the Press who have so generously given us space and publicity for our many efforts.

Then, of course, for all the joy and fulfilment these last three years have given me, I wish to thank most sincerely the general members. Their kindness, loyalty and encouragement have helped me to carry out the duties expected of, and assigned to, every person who is lucky enough to be selected as President of this ancient Society.

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