

PROCEEDINGS, 1977

The Committee held nine meetings during 1977. Apart from the normal activities of the Society, the question of Limerick City Museum and the whereabouts of its contents occupied much of the Committee's time—so much so, in fact, that at a meeting on the 13th of May a sub-committee was appointed and given wide powers to pursue the whole matter of the museum and its contents to a satisfactory conclusion. The following were appointed to the sub-committee: Mrs. Mary Geary, Mr. Kevin Hannon, Mr. Cian O'Carroll, Mr. Brendan Bermingham and Dr. Patrick F. Doran.

The highlight of the year was the Society's visit on the 2nd of November to the new museum, the Hunt Collection, at the National Institute for Higher Education, Plassey. Dr. Patrick F. Doran, Curator, spoke to the members present and gave them a conducted tour of the museum. The Society also held eight other outings, as follows, during the year:

24th April: *North Kerry*—Lislaughtin Priory, Carrigafoyle Castle and Ardfert Cathedral. *Organisers*: Mr. Paddy Lysaght and Mr. John Cussen. *Speakers*: Dr. Robert Cussen, President; Mr. Tom Pierce, Vice-President; and the Revd. John McKenna.

22nd May: *County Kilkenny*—Kilfane Church, Jerpoint Abbey, Kells Priory, Callan Church and the birthplace of Brother Ignatius Rice, near Callan. *Organisers*: Revd. J. Leonard, Hon. Secretary, and Miss Maureen Hegarty, Kilkenny Archaeological Society. *Speakers*: Miss Maureen Hegarty and the Revd. Sean O'Doherty.

5th June: *Glen of Aherlow*—Duntryleague, St. Berriher's Kyle and Toureen Peakaun. *Organisers and Speakers*: Mr. and Mrs. Brian Geary.

19th June: *Ennis area*, including Ennis Friary and Dromore Castle near Ruan. *Organizers*: Mr. C. Lynch, Vice-President, and the Clare Archaeological and Historical Society. *Speakers*: Mr. Gerry O'Connell, Mr. Seán Ó Murchadha and Fr. Seraphim, O.F.M.

7th July: *Limerick*—walking tour conducted by Mr. Kevin Hannon.

17th July: *Counties Waterford and Cork*—Lismore, Hindu/Neo-Gothic gateway at Dromana, Villierstown, Ardmore (Church and Round Tower), Cloyne (Cathedral, with George Berkeley memorial, and Round Tower), Youghal (Collegiate Church and Town Walls). *Organizers*: Mr. T. J. Cahill, Mr. P. Lysaght, and Revd. J. Leonard. *Speakers*: Mrs. Siobhán Lincoln, Mr. R. A. Chapple and the Revd. J. K. S. Ridley-Barker, Dean of Cloyne.

4th September: *County Tipperary*—Burncourt, Knockgraffan motte-and-bailey, Tubrid Churchyard, Fethard Churches, Knockkelly Tower-House. *Organizers*: J. Canon Culhane, Vice-President, Mr. B. Geary and Mr. R. Hickey. *Speakers*: Canon Culhane, Mr. Geary, Revd. J. Crean, O.S.A., and Mrs. Coffey.

18th September: *West-Limerick*—Newcastle West and Springfield Castle. *Organizer*: Dr. Robert Cussen, President. *Speakers*: Dr. Cussen, Lord Muskerry and Mr. Michael Dore.

During the year the Society held eight lectures, as follows:

- 28th January: "Limerick's Heritage of Irish Music and Song, 17th-19th Centuries".
Professor Breandán Ó Madagáin, U.C.G.
- 18th February: "Images of Limerick in Pre-Famine Times".
Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh, U.C.G.
- 11th March: "Life and Art in the Minoan Colony of Santorini".
Professor J. V. Luce, T.C.D.
- 25th March: Social Evening in the Glentworth Hotel, followed by "Bishop Smith".
The Knight of Glin.
- 30th March: Annual General Meeting, followed by "The President's Visit to East Clare, December 1921".
Captain Frank Parker, Hon. Treasurer, and Etienne Rynne, U.C.G.
- 21st October: "The Coming of the Normans to Limerick".
Professor F. X. Martin, O.S.A., U.C.D.
- 18th November: "Architecture of Irish Towns—with special reference to Co. Limerick".
Patrick Shaffrey, An Taisce.
- 16th December: "The Two Irelands of Henry Grattan and Arthur Young".
Sr. Benvenuta MacCurtain, U.C.D.

OBITUARIES

RICHARD NAUGHTON
(1919-1977)

The late Richard Naughton—known to all his friends as Dick—died in May, 1977, while still a member of this Society's committee. By the time of his sudden death, he had established for himself a reputation which was widely respected as a local historian of, and researcher into, Limerick's past.

His initiation into the fascinating pursuit of historical research began in the 1950s when he joined the staff of the *Limerick Chronicle*—the oldest newspaper in the State—as a clerk-accountant. During that time he began to delve into the old files of the *Chronicle* and began such notable columns as "Down Memory Lane", "A Memory of the Past", and the "Limerickman's Diary" which recalled events in his native Limerick stretching back a lifetime. It was this research, and more, which was to gain the esteem and admiration of his colleagues on the committee of our Society, and also of historians as far away as Dublin Castle and abroad.

When he moved to the *Limerick Leader* (when the staff of that newspaper was amalgamated with that of the *Chronicle*) he delved into the files of the *Leader* to produce many articles on the history of Limerick which opened the public mind to aspects of the past and did much to enlighten the younger generation of its proud heritage.

He was equally tireless on the committee of our Society. A constant companion on practically all of the Society's outings, he drew on the lectures given by learned historians at various sites to further publicise the work of the Society. Practically every outing was extensively reported by him.

An illustration of his tireless disposition, both as a journalist and as an archivist, was that throughout his career with the *Limerick Leader* and *Chronicle* he was never absent from work for even one day through illness. And his working day was long—by personal preference; practically all of it was devoted to researching the chronicles of his beloved Limerick. It was a regular and frequent practice for him to work as late as 10 o'clock at night, and a visit to the offices at night would invariably find him poring over the newspaper files with a note-pad—he never used a typewriter, even as a journalist.

His journalistic colleagues often approached him for personal advice, and he was all the more loved by his working colleagues for his humourous and caustic wit—and he was likewise appreciated by his many friends on the committee of the Limerick Boat Club.

At his funeral, the Bishop of Limerick, Most Rev. Jeremiah Newman, described him as a journalist in the old tradition, yet he was a journalist who used always find time to help schoolchildren research their "projects" on Limerick's past.

His departure, at the early age of 58, left a gap on the committee which will be difficult to fill. He will be sorely missed. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

PATRICK MORONEY

MAUREEN COLLINS RYAN (1909-1977); PETER O'MARA (1925-1977)

Every learned Society has a silent majority of members who are enthusiastic and good-willed towards its aims and efforts, but who tend to remain quietly in the background as supporters rather than activists. Our Society lost two such members during 1977, Mrs. Maureen Collins Ryan and Peter O'Mara.

Mrs. Maureen Collins Ryan was a relatively recently joined member. Not in herself an antiquarian, the Society was honoured by her membership, for she was not only one of Ireland's leading exponents in contemporary "Celtic Art" but also an outstanding artist in the more conventional styles. Her support was almost totally non-active due to arthritis and advanced age, but it was also totally enthusiastic. Once she learned of our Society's existence she promptly joined, and her daughter, Mary, is now a member thus continuing the family interest. A person of lively and all-round interests in so far as Limerick, art, and Ireland's cultural past were concerned, she perhaps typified the type of member every Society such as ours enjoys having. *I measg na n-aingil go raibh a h-anam dílis.*

Mrs. Collins Ryan, before her marriage, used to teach art, and one of her favourite pupils was a young boy, Peter O'Mara, who she always said displayed an unusual interest in things artistic, be they flowers, music or paintings. Although all his life interested in and very knowledgeable about antiques and the fine arts, Peter O'Mara did not join our Society until his mother, a long-time member, died in 1975—he felt that the family's links with such a worthy Society as ours should be maintained, as does his wife, Mary, who has now joined. Peter O'Mara's interest in antiquarian activities was real, however, and extended back well before his joining us. For instance, each year from 1972 on he was instrumental in persuading The Bacon Company of Ireland, of which he was a director, to sponsor generously the annual conference held in Ennis by our sister Society there. He also obtained such sponsorship for us when, in 1967, we published *North Munster Studies*, sponsorship which helped us greatly when it was really needed. Peter O'Mara's passing will be regretted by all North Munster antiquarians—*ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.*

ETIENNE RYNNE

The Thomond Archaeological Society was started in 1929, as a successor to and in continuation of Societies dating back to 1892, 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 archaeological, 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 £3 per annum (Family Members, £1 extra per person); Junior Members, £1.50 per annum.

Material intended for publication in the JOURNAL should be sent to The Honorary Editor, Professor 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, Rev. John D. Leonard, Regional Hospital, Limerick.