The City of Limerick Public Library and Museum.

By ROBERT HERBERT.

It was not until 11th December, 1893, that the first Public Library in Limerick was opened in Lower Glentworth Street. However, although Limerick was slow in adopting the Library Acts (the small town of Ennis had adopted them as far back as 1860), there had been several previous attempts to establish a library.

In 1843, a semi-public library and museum was opened under the auspices of the Limerick Philosophical Society, aided by a Corporation grant of £120 annually. The venture was apparently premature, for although Aubrey de Vere was the President of the Society, and William Smith O'Brien a member of the Committee, it lasted for two years only.

Again in 1847, a new group, with the ambitious title "The Limerick Society for the Promotion of Literary, Scientific and Industrial Education" endeavoured to revive the library and museum. This effort was as short-lived as the former, and in 1849 the books and exhibits were scattered, some going to the Limerick Institution, some to Barrington's Hospital.

In 1866 George Geary Bennis bequeathed his books "to his native city of Limerick for the free use of the citizens." The Corporation gratefully accepted the offer, sent their Town Clerk to Paris to bring the books back, and promptly lodged them in a store-room in the Town Hall. When the Glentworth Street Library was opened these books were first made available for the free use of the citizens, 27 years after they had first been donated. In fairness, however, to the Corporation, it must be said that the books were not forgotten entirely. Some time during the years 1866 and 1893 they were transferred from the store-room in the Town Hall to another store-room in the Athenæum.

On 6th March, 1889, on the motion of Mr. William Spillane, the Library Acts were adopted and a Library Committee was formed. Among its members were:—The Rev. James Dowd, The Rev. Timothy Lee, Mr. J. P. Lynch, James Frost, and Staff-Surgeon George Fogerty, all of whom were, later, prominent members of the Limerick Field Club.

On 20th October, 1903, the foundation-stone of the present building, erected entirely at the expense of Andrew Carnegie, was laid, and three years later the library was opened to the public, with Mr. J. P. McNamara its first librarian.

At this time the maximum library rate allowed by law was one penny, and as this was not considered sufficient with which to run the library, the Museum Acts were adopted and a further half-penny in the pound was levied. Thus, almost accidentally, did the museum come into existence. It was not opened to the public until 1916.

In spite of the extra income obtained from the Museum rate, the Limerick Library, like most of the libraries in Great Britain and Ireland at that time, never had sufficient funds to run the library properly; and in spite of the excellent efforts of the Committee and the Librarian the library made little real progress. The income allowed for little more than the payment of salaries and the provision of newspapers. The real function of a library, the provision of books, was placed in the background and the library became a glorified newsroom.

In 1939 Mr. J. P. McNamara retired from the position of Librarian and the Library and Museum were completely re-organised. A new stock of books was added, the open access method of borrowing was introduced, and the library is now run on the best principles of the modern English or Continental Public Library. The space devoted to newspapers has been much curtailed, and the Lending Library has been considerably enlarged. In addition, a Children's Library has been added. The re-organised library has now the following five departments:

1. LENDING LIBRARY ... ... open daily from 11 to 1 and 2 to 8.30.
2. CHILDREN'S LIBRARY ... ... do. 4 to 7.
3. REFERENCE LIBRARY ... ... do. 3 to 7.
4. MUSEUM ... ... do. 3 to 7.
5. NEWSROOM ... ... do. 10 to 1 and 2 to 9.
In order to give some idea of the wealth of the Reference Library in Irish historical and archaeological subjects, and in local history, a short book-list is appended.

1. ANNALS AND OTHER HISTORICAL MATERIALS AND SOURCES.

The Annals of the Four Masters; edited by John O'Donovan. 7 vols. 1856.
The Annals of Clonmacnoise; edited by Rev. Denis Murphy. 1896. These annals extend to the year 1408.
Annals of Ireland: three fragments by Dubhaltach Mac Firbisigh; edited by John O'Donovan. 1860.
The Annals of Multifarnham; edited by Aquila Smith. 1842.
Chronicon Scotorum: a chronicle of Irish affairs to the year 1135; edited by W. M. Hennessy. 1866.
Reports from the Commissioners respecting the Public Records of Ireland. 1815-1825.

2. EARLY IRISH HISTORY—TO THE NORMAN INVASION.

The Ancient Laws of Ireland. 6 vols. 1865-1879.
Wars of the Gaedhil and Gall; edited by Doctor T. H. Todd, 1867. Deals in the main with the wars of the Norsemen in Munster.
Manners and Customs of the Ancient Irish, by Eugene O'Curry. 3 vols. 1873.
A Social History of Ancient Ireland by P. W. Joyce. 2 vols. 1903.

3. NORMAN INVASION—TO THE YEAR 1485.

Caithreim Thoirdealbhaigh; edited by Standish O'Grady. 2 vols. 1924-5.
Cambrensis Eversus, by Dr. John Lynch. 3 vols. 1848-1852: a refutation of the libels of Giraldus Barry on Ireland.
The Chronicle of Roger de Hoveden. 4 vols. 1868-1871.
The Conquest of Ireland, by Thomas Bray: contained in the Calendar of Carew Manuscripts.
Calendar of Documents relating to Ireland; edited by Henry S. Sweetman. 5 vols. 1875-1886; State Papers for the Years 1172-1307.
Historic and Municipal Documents; edited by John T. Gilbert. 1172-1320. 1870.

4.—IRELAND UNDER THE TUDORS. 1485-1603.

Adventures in Connaught and Ulster, by Captain Cuellar, A.D. 1588; translated by Robert Crawford. 1897.
Pacata Hibernia, or, A History of the Wars in Ireland during the Reign of Queen Elizabeth; edited by Standish O'Grady. 2 vols. 1896.
A Description of Ireland in 1598, written by an Englishman. 1878.
A Treatise of Ireland, by John Dymock; edited with notes by Rev. Richard Butler; written about 1600.
Beatha Aodh Ruaidh Ul Dhomhnaill, by Cucogry O'Clergy. 1895.
Ireland under Elizabeth, by Don Philip O'Sullivan Bear; translated by Matthew J. Byrne. 1903.
The Geraldines and the Persecutions of the Irish Catholics, by Dominick O'Daly. 1878.
The Fate and Fortunes of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone and Rory O'Donel, Earl of Tyrconnell. 1868.
The History of England from the Fall of Wolsey to the Defeat of the Spanish Armada, by James Anthony Froude. 12 vols. 1895.
Ireland under the Tudors, by Richard Bagwell. 3 vols. 1855-1890.

5. IRELAND UNDER THE STUARTS.

(a) General Stuart Period.

Tracts and Treatises relating to Ireland. Vol. 1, by Boate, Ware, Spenser and Davis. 1860.
On Manuscript, Mapped, and other townland surveys in Ireland. 1640 to 1688, by W. H. Harding. 1862.

(b) James I.

Calendar of the Patent Rolls of James I.
The Historical Tracts of Sir John Davies. 1787.
Analecta, by David Rothe; edited by Cardinal Moran. 1884: an impeachment of English policy during the Reigns of Elizabeth and James.
The Confiscation of Ulster, by James Mac Nevin, 1846.
A Contemporary Account of Sir Cahirc O'Doherty's Rebellion: contained in Derriana, by the Bishop of Derry. 1902.

(c) Charles I. and Cromwell.

Calendar of State Papers relating to Ireland, of the Reign of Charles I. and the Commonwealth. 3 vols. Edited by R. P. Mahaffy. 1900-1903.
Calendar of the Patent Rolls of Charles I. 1863.
Letters and Dispatches of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford and Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. 2 vols. 1739.
Contemporary History of Affairs in Ireland, 1641-1652. 3 vols. 1879-80.
History of the Irish Confederation and the War in Ireland, 1641-1649. 7 vols. 1882-1889.
The Embassy in Ireland in the years 1645-1649, by Giovanni Rimnucini. 1873.
Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell. 4 vols. 1850.
Memoirs of Edmund Ludlow. 3 vols. 1698-1699.
Historical Works of Nicholas French, Bishop of Ferns. 1846.
History of the Irish Rebellion of 1641, by Edmond Borlase. 1743.
Memoirs of James, Lord Audley, Earl of Clarendon, his engagement and carriage in the wars of Ireland from 1642 to 1651.
Life of James, Duke of Ormond, by Thomas Carte. 6 vols. 1851.
Letters and Papers relating to the Rebellion between 1642 and 1646; edited for the Irish Manuscripts Commission by James Hogan. 1936.
Historical and Critical Review of the Civil Wars in Ireland from the Reign of Elizabeth to the Settlement under King William, by John Curry. 1775.
Vindicatu Hiberniæ, or, Ireland Vindicated, by Matthew Carey. 1837: an exposure of the errors of English writers on the rebellion of 1641.
The Cromwellian Settlement of Ireland, by J. P. Prendergast. 1875.
The Confederation of Kilkenny, by Rev. C. P. Meehan. 1846.
Ireland in the Seventeenth Century, or, The Irish Massacres of 1641-2, by Mary Hickson. 2 vols. 1884.
Ireland under the Commonwealth . . . 1651-1659, by Robert Dunlop. 2 vols. 1913.
Sketches of the Persecutions Suffered by the Irish Catholics under the Rule of Cromwell and the Puritans, by Cardinal Moran. 1907.

(d) CHARLES II.

Ireland from the Restoration to the Revolution, by J. P. Prendergast, 1887.
Life of the Most Reverend Oliver Plunkett, by Cardinal Moran. 1870.
Narrative of the Sale and Settlement of Ireland, by Nicholas French, Bishop of Ferns. 1846.
History of Ireland, by John Leland. Volume 3 deals with this period.

(c) JAMES II. AND WILLIAM III. 1685-1702.

A Jacobite Narrative of the Wars in Ireland, 1688-1691: a reprint of "A Light for the Blind." 1892.
Macariæ Excidium, or, The Destruction of Cyprus: being a secret history of the War of the Revolution in Ireland, by Colonel Charles O'Kelly; edited by John Cornelius O'Callaghan. 1850.
Jacobite War in Ireland: a re-editing of the previous work, with the fictitious names replaced by the real ones. 1894.
The Battle of the Boyne, by D. C. Boulger. 1911.
Impartial History of the Wars in Ireland, 1689-1692 . . . by George Story. 1693.
State of the Protestants in Ireland under the late King James' Government, by Archbishop King. 1768.
Illustrations, Historical and Genealogical, of King James' Irish Army List. 2 vols. The Patriot Parliament of 1689, by Thomas Davis. 1893.
The Life of Patrick Sarsfield, Earl of Lucan, by John Todhunter. 1895.

6. ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANTIQUITIES.

Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. This set is short of Volume I. only, and runs from 1852 to date.
Journal of the Cork Historical and Archæological Society. 1892 to date; a complete set.
North Munster Antiquarian Journal, 1836-1840, complete.
Memorials of the Dead. Complete.
Ulster Archæological Society: 1st series. 9 vols.
Wakeman’s Handbook of Irish Antiquities; edited by John Cooke. 1903.
Ireland in Pre-Celtic Times, by R. A. S. Macalister. 1921.
The Archæology of Ireland, by R. A. S. Macalister. 1928.
The Dolmens of Ireland, by William C. Borlase. 3 vols. 1897.
The Lake-Dwellings of Ireland, by W. G. Wood-Martin. 1886.
Irish Epigraphy, by R. A. S. Macalister. 3 vols. 1897-1907.
Ancient Forts of Ireland, by Thomas J. Westropp. 1902.
Ancient Stone Implements, Weapons, and Ornaments of Great Britain, by John Evans, 1897.
The Bronze Age in Ireland, by George Coffey. 1913.
Lough Corrib, by Sir W. R. Wilde. 1850.
 Beauties of the Boyne and Blackwater, by Sir W. R. Wilde. 1872.
The Origins and the Uses of the Round Tower in Ireland, by G. Petrie. 1845.
Early Christian Art in Ireland, by Margaret Stokes. 1911.
Early Christian Architecture in Ireland, by Margaret Stokes. 1894.
Ecclesiastical Architecture in Ireland to the Close of the Twelfth Century, by Brasl. 1875.

7. GENEALOGY.
Irish Pedigrees, by John O’Hart. 2 vols. 1892.
The Irish and Anglo-Irish Landed Gentry when Cromwell came to Ireland, by John O’Hart. 1884.
Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland, by Burke. 2 vols. 1894.
Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage. 1887.
Peerage of Ireland, by Lodge; edited by Mervyn Archdall. 7 vols. 1789.
Sloinne Gaedhil is Gaill, by Rev. P. Woulfe. 1923.

8. THE CHURCH IN IRELAND.
The Tripartite Life of Saint Patrick; edited by Whitley Stokes. 2 vols. 1897.
The Monks of the West, by Montalambert. 7 vols. 1861-1879.
Monastericon Hibernicum, by Mervyn Archdall; edited by Cardinal Moran. 1873.
Irish Dominicans in the 17th Century, by O’Heyne. 1902.
Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, by Lanigan. 4 vols. 1829.
Spicilegium Osoritense; edited by Cardinal Moran. 3 vols. 1874-1884.
The Episcopal Succession in England, Scotland and Ireland, A.D. 1400 to 1873, by W. M. Brady. 3 vols. 1876-1877.
Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ. 1152-1827. 2 vols. 1852.
Irish Monastic and Episcopal Deeds. 1200-1600; edited by Newport White for the
Irish Manuscripts Commission. 1936.
The Rise and Fall of the Irish Franciscan Monasteries, by Rev. C. P. Meehan.
1877.
The Life of Saint Patrick, by J. B. Bury. 1905.
Saint Patrick, Apostle of Ireland, by J. H. Todd. 1864.
The Life and Writings of St. Patrick, by Rev. Dr. Healy. 1905.
On the Calendar of Cenogus; edited by Whitley Stokes. 1871.
Lives of Saints from the Book of Lismore; edited by Whitley Stokes. 1890.

9. LOCAL HISTORY.
The History of Limerick... by John Ferrar. 1787.
History of the County and City of Limerick, by Fitzgerald and MacGregor. 2
vols. 1827.
Limerick... by Maurice Lenihan. 1866.
The Civil Survey: Limerick and Tipperary, 1654-1656. 3 vols.
Survey Letters (1840) for Limerick and Clare. By John O'Donovan and others.
5 vols.
Geology of the County round Limerick: known as the “Drift” survey. 1907.
Limerick and Its Sieges, by Rev. James Dowd. 1890.
Round and About the County of Limerick, by Rev. James Dowd. 1896.
Documents relating to the Shannon Fisheries at Limerick. 1857-1862.
Churches and Castles of Limerick, by T. J. Westropp: a volume consisting of
reprints of papers from the Proc., R.I.A.
Miscellaneous Papers by T. J. Westropp on the earthen forts, etc., of Limerick,
Clare and Tipperary.
The Memorials of Adare, by Caroline, Countess of Dunraven. 1865.
The History of St. Mary's Cathedral, Limerick, by Francis Meredyth. 1887. The
Library also has the later editions of Rev. James Dowd and Canon Abbott.
The History of Clare, by James Frost. 1893.
Place-Names of the County of Clare, by James Frost. 1906.
Survey of Clare, by J. Dutton. 1808.
The Diocese of Killaloe, by Rev. Canon Philip Dwyer. 1878.
Municipal Corporation Boundaries. 1837.
Transcript of Minute Book of the Common Council of the late Corporation of
Limerick from 1769 to 1796. Ms.
Minute Book of the Corporation of Limerick from 1809 to 1823. Ms.
Limerick Union Minute Book. 10th April, 1847, to 8th January, 1848. Ms.
Rental of the Courtenay Estate, County of Limerick. 1764-1766. Ms.
Rent of the Devon Estate, County of Limerick. 1862. Ms.
Register of persons entitled to vote... Western Division of the County of
Limerick. 1896.

Fifty years ago, by Right Rev. J. J. Hogan. Relating to Bruff and District.
The Library also has a miscellaneous collection of 18th and early 19th century
locally-printed pamphlets and newspapers, illustrating the social and economic history of
Limerick, and containing accounts of elections, trials, a history of the Fever Hospital,
etc.

THE MUSEUM.
The Museum suffered from the same lack of funds to equip and administer it pro-
perly, and, although the rate had been struck in 1906, it was not until 1916, and even
then only by the generosity of private owners, that it was possible to open it to the
public. In April, 1911, the then Earl of Dunraven, most generous of subscribers, placed
part of his large collection of Irish antiquities on loan in the Museum. The pre-
sent Earl, in accordance with his own statement “that all such antiquities should be
located in a public museum, and not in a private house where but few can either see or
appreciate them,” has placed the remainder of his collection in the Museum. While admit-
ting the truth of the Earl's statement, one cannot help admiring the public spirit that propels it in one possessed of such valuable objects. It is a pleasure to be able to record that such a spirit is appreciated by Limerick citizens, and that since re-opening, an average of 500 persons visit the Museum monthly.

Below is given a short list of some of the most interesting exhibits. The location of many of the objects is unknown or is very indefinite; but, as the collection originally belonged to the Rev. Timothy Lee, who spent all his life in Limerick, it may reasonably be assumed that most of them were found in and around the county.

It is to be regretted that a description of "The Clonmacnoishe Pin" is omitted. This magnificent example of early Christian metalwork has disappeared mysteriously from the Collection at Adare Manor and must be assumed to be lost. It is illustrated and described on pp. 219-221 of Romilly Allen's Celtic Art in Pagan and Christian Times, 1904.

Fig. 1 (a) Decorated Axe (Lough Gur). (b) Flanged Axe (Northern Ireland). (c) Bronze Spearhead (Co. Clare).

ANTTIQUITIES OF STONE.

The majority of the stone axes, hammers, etc., belong to the Bronze Age. Twenty-one come from Lough Gur, nine from Bruff, five from Killaloe, and one, a very fine axe-head, from Kilmallock.

No. 47. Lozenge-shaped axe, very well finished. It is of greenstone, is 11¾ inches long, and was found near Kilmallock some years ago.

No. 48. A large axe of close-grained sandstone "from Lough Gur." It is 13¾ inches long, 3½ inches at its widest part, and still bears a slight mark of the original hafting. The method of hafting may be seen from an illustration in Wilde's Catalogue of an axe-head from Monaghan.(1)

No. 61. A "battle-axe" ornamented with incised lines, and with the perforation almost parallel. It was found in Brannockstown Bog, County Meath.

No. 57. An oval mace-head in which the perforation has been worked from one side only and tapers greatly. Both No. 57 and 61 are made from very beautiful mottled stone and are extremely well finished.

No. 59. A stone axe-hammer, probably a domestic tool. The perforation is parallel, having been worked from both sides.

No. 66. A most unusual instrument resembling a pick or drill. It is of greystone, is 8 inches long, and was found at Lough Gur in 1868. I have been unable to find anything like this in the catalogues of the National or the British Museums.

A recent acquisition on loan is a collection of stone axes from Lord Clarina of Vigo Lodge, Corofin. While none of these is of itself outstanding, the collection is interesting, being an associated find of stone implements from Inchiquin Lake. The position of the find on the 6 inch survey map No. 17 for County Clare is 2 inches x 14\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches.

ANTiquITIES OF BRONZE.

The collection of bronze consists of 12 flat axes, 4 flanged axes, 7 flanged and "stopped" axes, 8 palstaves, 15 socketed axes, 7 halberds, 19 spearheads, 4 leaf-shaped swords, 6 daggers, 3 chisels, 2 gouges, a sickle and a sun-flower pin. Twenty-three of these objects are identified definitely as belonging to Limerick and district.

The following pieces are outstanding and worthy of special mention:

No. 83 (E.B.A.). A flat axe from Lough Gur. It is decorated on both sides with incised lines and a double row of small sharp punchings parallel to the cutting edge. (Fig. 1.a). The decoration is, perhaps, of later date than the axe itself.

The seven halberds are fully described in Dr. O'Riordain's Paper on Halberds, available in the Reference Library.(2)

No. 86 (M.B.A.). A flanged axe, "from Northern Ireland," decorated with incised chevrons on the edges and measuring 4\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches x 2\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches (Fig. 1b).

No. 90 (M.B.A.). A flanged axe, with stops, found at Lough Gur. It measures 6 inches x 3 inches across the cutting edge, and is decorated with 28 raised lines on a rectangular frame. The upper part of the blade joins the flanges.

No. 142 (M.B.A.). A socketed spearhead, long and narrow, with a pronounced midrib, and the loops on the shaft. It is 9\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches long and was found at Lough Gur.

No. 57 (M.B.A.) A flat chisel, with two projecting stops near the top. It has no flanges and is 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches long. For a somewhat similar chisel, see Wilde's Catalogue.(3)

No. 104 (M.B.A.). A Palstave, the flanges and stops being joined and forming shallow pockets to receive the points of the handle. The loop is wholly in the shaft of the axe and ends about one inch from the top. The axe is decorated with an acute-angled ray-like cast ornament below the stop. It is 6\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches x 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches and was found at Ardpattern.

No. 59 (M.B.A.). A winged axe, with a very slight stop and the flanges hammered and bent over. It is marked "Irish"; if so, it is unique. It measures 5\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches x 1\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches.

No. 115 (L.B.A.) A socketed axe from Lough Gur. Two cast fillets encircle the socket, and the loop reaches from the second of these to the top of the blade. It measures 3\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches x 2 inches.

No. 117 (L.B.A.). A socketed axe found in Carnane Bog, County Limerick, in 1902. The socket is square, and the loop is spread out at both ends. A ridged band surrounds the socket. The axe, which is 5 inches x 2\(\frac{1}{2}\) inches, is ornamented with three raised lines ending in pellets cast on both faces.

No. 125 (L.B.A.). Leaf-shaped sword from Holycross, near Lough Gur. It is 24\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches long and has four rivet holes in the handle. It has been filed and re-oxidized since it was found, and the restoration takes from the fine outline of the blade.

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2. The Halberd in Bronze-Age Europe, by Sean P. O'Riordain: reprinted from Archaeologia, volume LXXXVI.

No. 126 (L.B.A.). Leaf-shaped sword from Dr. Frascr’s Collection. It is now 24 inches long but a small piece has been broken from the top of the handle. It is said to have been found in a cairn near Enniskillen.

No. 127 (L.B.A.). Leaf-shaped sword from Colonel Knox’s Collection. It is now 23½ inches long. A piece has also been broken from the pomell of this sword, but, unlike 126, it has been repaired, apparently, in ancient times, by burnishing on a piece about ½ inch long. It was found at Lough Erne.

No. 128 (L.B.A.). A very beautiful leaf-shaped sword of an unusually bright colour. It is 22¼ inches long. No location.

No. 84 (L.B.A.) A fragment of a bronze spearhead, with lunate openings in the blades. It is, in its present state, 6½ inches long, and the socket is lozenge-shaped.

No. 149 (L.B.A.) A socketed spearhead without loops, 18½ inches long, and with a pronounced midrib and two rivet-holes. It was found in Griston Bog, near Ballylanders, in 1892, in two pieces, and has been repaired.

No. 118 (L.B.A.). A socketed gouge, found near Kanturk in 1864.

No. 153 (L.B.A.) A flanged chisel, found at Ballymena in 1883.

No. 156 (L.B.A.). A socketed sickle with two rivet holes and a solid blade, found in Antrim in 1887. The outside curve of the blade measures 6½ inches.

No. 13 (L.B.A.). A sun-flower pin from County Antrim. Its face has faint concentric circles and a central boss. It is cast in one piece and is 5½ inches over-all.

Mr. Hewson, of Hollywood, Adare, has recently given on loan a very fine collection of stone and bronze implements. It contains stone and bronze axes, daggers, a very fine spearhead, and a halberd. The halberd measures 11½ inches x 4½ inches and probably belongs to O’Tiorrda’s Class 6. A broad midrib runs tapering to the point. It was found in a blacksmith’s rubbish-heap in Ballingarry in 1886 and the finder broke off about 1 inch with a cold chisel. This is preserved with the halberd. The spearhead is 12½ inches long and was found in the Shannon near Athlone. It has lunate openings in the blade and is decorated with four cast ridges, extending from below the lateral rivet-holes to the point of the spear. The outer ridges, and also the ridges bounding the openings, are further decorated with a series of roped lines.⁴

Another recent acquisition is a Middle Bronze Age spearhead, with the loops at the base of the blade. This was found in the 7th spilt of a bog in Cragg, Belvoir, County Clare, and it is in a remarkably fine state of preservation. It was deposited in the Museum by the Thomond Archeological Society. (Fig. 1c.)

The Bronze Age is also represented by three gold ornaments:

1. Lunula (E. B. A.), measuring 8 inches across the widest part and weighing 1 oz. 12 dwt. The two expanding terminals are, as usual, at right angles to the plane of the lunula. The ornamentation consists of inside and outside borders of three engraved lines. In addition, each end is decorated with characteristic ornament, i.e., zig-zag lines, cross-hatchings, etc.

2. A dress fastener (fibula) (L.B.A.) cast in one piece, and weighing 2ozs. 5dwt. 15grs. It measures 4½ inches across the face of the cups, is 2 inches high, and each cup is 1½ inches in diameter. The bow, which is lozenge-shaped in section, springs from the centre of the cups. There is no ornamentation.

3. Tore armlet (L.B.A.) weighing 8dwt. It is almost circular, is 4½ inches in diameter and is made of a twisted gold ribbon with recurved button terminals. It was found in 1882 near Inishowen, in Donegal, with fourteen other gold armlets and neck-ornaments and was originally in the “Day” Collection.

CELTIC AND EARLY CHRISTIAN PERIODS.

Antiquities of these periods include twenty-one pins, three large brooches and one small brooch, nine bone pins and awls, four decorated glass beads, three amber beads, two pieces of silver ring-money (so-called), a bronze bracelet, a bronze neck-ornament, an ornamented boar’s tusk, bronze spurs, bits and horse-trappings, a bronze mace-head, a bronze bowl, a bronze cauldron, iron spearheads, an iron battle-axe, and a bronze portable balance, probably Danish.

⁴. This spearhead is illustrated in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries for 1876. 4th series. vol. 3. p. 315.
The most important of the pins is undoubtedly the Adare Pin, which was found at Adare Manor in 1860. It is made of silver and was originally about 15 inches long. Three fragments are broken from the point but are preserved with the pin. The ring is almost circular, and the diameter measures 1 ¼ inches externally. It is decorated with groups of ribbing, each group being composed of three ribs. The head of the pin is formed from a rectangular piece of metal from which the corners have been cut. Thus each face consists of a lozenge-shaped panel and four triangular panels at the corners. The latter have a line round the borders but are otherwise plain. The lozenge-shaped panel on one side is decorated with a quatrefoil; and that on the other side with an interlaced ornament. The top of the pin is lozenge-shaped, ornamented with a cross which has four dots between the arms. For 4½ inches from its head, the pin is round; the rest is octagonal. The ornamentation on the sides seems never to have been finished. Two of the octagonal sides are plain, two others have borders of incised lines, one is ornamented with a zig-zag line which runs for ½ inch only, one has a series of “s” shaped lines which develop into a zig-zag line running to the point of the pin; the remaining two sides are ornamented all the way with a simple key-pattern. Below the head, the pin is decorated with two encircling rows of chevrons.

Another pin worthy of special mention is the “hand”-type pin with five small settings for enamel, and with ornamentation in front. The ornamentation, although probably late Celtic, is very indistinct.

**BRONZE BROOCHES:**

For a detailed study of Bronze Brooches, readers are referred to “The evolution of penannular brooches with zoomorphic terminals in Great Britain and Ireland, by H. E. Kilbride-Jones.” Mr. Kilbride-Jones’s chronology has been used in the dating and classification of the following brooches:

![Fig. 2—Penannular Brooch (Athlunkard Bridge, Limerick).](image)

1. A penannular brooch, found in a load of sand which had been taken from the Shannon near Athlunkard Bridge. The pin is 3½ inches long and the brooch measures 2½ inches at its widest part. It belongs to Class A and is a slightly more developed form than that shown in Fig. 18, p. 404 (op. cit.). It may be placed in the late third or early fourth century. Three bands of ribbing are very faintly indicated on the ring which shows marks of a repair. The pin is decorated immediately below the head with incised lines in the form of an “x” with two encircling lines above and one encircling line below them. Near the point of the pin three incised lines cross it diagonally. The pin itself is slightly arched where it touches the ring. (Fig. 2).

2. A penannular brooch, found on the shore of Lough Gill in 1814. The pin is 4½ inches long and the ring is 2¾ inches wide externally. Each terminal is ornamented and has a quatrefoil in the centre. The side and snout of each terminal is decorated with lentoid petals, and the back of each terminal is inscribed with a faint zig-zag pattern. The pin-head is barrel-shaped and has three ornamented panels, the two outer of which are ornamented with two series of lines dividing the panels into small squares. The centre-panel is oval-shaped and has a long narrow leaf in the centre. There are slight ribbing marks on the ring, and the pin is plain, and arched where it impinges on the ring. This brooch seems to have all the characteristics of Kilbride-Jones’ Class C, and to belong to the fifth or sixth century.

3. Penannular brooch from Kilmallock. The terminal ends are zoomorphic, resembling bird’s heads. On the front of the terminals are large circular bosses which have been fixed to the ring, in all probability by sweating. These bosses were originally filled, or meant to be filled, with enamel or paste. The ring is otherwise plain. This brooch does not seem to fit easily into any of Kilbride-Jones Classes, nor is there anything like it among his miscellaneous brooches. (4)

4. A small penannular brooch with zoomorphic terminals, very similar in size and ornament to Class C. No. 52 (op. cit.), and, therefore, probably of the sixth century. On the ring of this brooch, however, the ribbing is very perfect and covers the ring without interruption from terminal to terminal. The pin is missing and this may possibly explain the excellent state of the ribbing, as the play of the pin-head must undoubtedly cause a considerable amount of wear on the ring. The reverse of each terminal is decorated with a double-lined zig-zag pattern (no locality).

GLASS BEADS: —

The beads in the collection are of blue glass with elaborate raised ornaments of spirals and twisted bands of a white vitreous paste. Although beads of this type have been found in great quantity in Ireland, Coffey is doubtful of their Irish origin. (7)

The three amber beads came “from the Limerick district.”

SILVER RING-MONEY: —

1. This piece measures 1¾ inches across the widest part and weighs 1oz. 12dwt. 15grs. One side of the ring is covered with spirally-coiled silver wire. At about the middle of the coils, the wire is twisted into a tendril pattern (on one side only). The part of the ring not covered with wire is brought into a rough square at the end, and three sides of the square thus formed are punched with annular markings, eight on the outer face and seven on each of the two sides. The round part of the ring is punched with four groups of these markings, each group consisting of three marks.

2. This piece contains annular markings like those in the previous specimen, and has, in addition, lines enamelled in niello. It is unique. It measures 1¾ inches across the widest part and weighs 4dwt.

MISCELLANEOUS: —

Some very interesting silver ingots were recently acquired on loan from Adare Manor. These were found “many years ago,” together with a collection of Anglo-Saxon coins on opening a quarry in a field near the old Churches of Munghet. The coins were of the reigns of Eadward the Elder (901-924 a.d.); Reginald, King of Northumbria (812-944, a.d.); Aethenstan (924-940, a.d.), and Eadred (946-955, a.d.). Possibly, these were the property of some Anglo-Saxon student at Munghet.

No. 159 is a bronze bowl, very thin, and worked out of a single piece of bronze. It is plain, except for an indistinct line under its turned-out lip. It is 3½ inches high and 6 inches in diameter at the rim. It comes from Athlone and is probably of the Early Iron Age.

6. Since writing the above, Dr. Raftery of the National Museum has inspected this brooch and has pointed out that this was not designed as a brooch at all but is the ring of a horse-bit converted into a brooch.

There is also in the collection a bronze cauldron, 12½ inches high and 15 inches across the mouth. The sides of the body overlap and are rivetted together. There are several patches on the cauldron, and these also have been rivetted. In addition, a series of holes round the top seems to indicate that it once had a rivetted-on rim. The edges of the bottom and the side are not rivetted but simply folded over each other and hammered together. There is no cauldron like this in any of the large Museums of Great Britain or Ireland. It is said to have been found in County Clare. The position of two of the patches seem to indicate that it once had two handles.

The finest exhibit in the Museum is undoubtedly the Bell of Cashel, which, together with a replica of the Shrine of Saint Manchan, has been deposited on loan recently from Adare Manor.

The Bell was found in Cashel in 1849. It is very similar to, but in a better state of preservation than, the Bell of Lough Lene in the National Museum. It is 12 inches high, 5½ inches wide at the top, and 5¼ inches wide at the bottom. The depth of the bell at the mouth is 6½ inches at the sides, and 8½ inches at the centre. The front and back of the bell are each decorated with a "Celtic" cross. There is no circle joining the arms as in the Bell of Lough Lene, but there are instead, five dots; one at the intersection of the arms; the other four, between the arms, at points which are the centres of the four semi-circles joining the arms. The bottom of each side is ornamented with borders, those on the front and back consisting of a rectangular "key" pattern, and those on the two sides being a mixture of the "key" pattern, with curved lines in the centre. The top of the cross has an unfinished appearance, as the perpendicular lines are not bounded with another line at right angles. The handle of the bell is broken off, and this may explain the perfect state of the rest of the bell. The bell belongs to the 9th century.

Other bells in the collection are:

1. Iron bell with bronze handle that is passed through two holes in the bell and bent inside to form a loop for the clapper. It was found at Singland. The bell, which was originally plated with bronze, has a running looped pattern, known as the "tendril" pattern, round its centre.

2. A small bronze bell measuring 4 inches in height and 1½ inches across its mouth. The ring-shaped handle is worn through, as if the bell had been suspended by it. The bell appears to be unique, but may possibly be an early sheep-bell.

The replica of Saint Manchan's shrine is a plaster one and is a very exact copy of the original, which is in the Church of Boher, in Lemanagh, County Offaly. The original has already been described and illustrated very fully.  

A passing reference to the dug-out canoe and early paddle, taken from the bottom of a lake in County Leitrim, brings us to the end of this description of early Irish antiquities.

Other objects on display in the Museum include:

1. LIMERICK CORPORATION ANTIQUITIES.

(a). The original charters of James I. and Cromwell to the citizens of Limerick.

(b). Two of the four maces made in 1739, during the mayoralty of George Sexton. Each of these maces originally bore on their tops a crown supported by eight lions wrought in silver, but, according to Lenihan, these were stolen from the maces before the establishment of the Reformed Corporation.

(c). The Municipal Sword granted to the City by the Charter of Queen Elizabeth.

(d). The "Nail" which stood in the City Exchange, and on which all payments were made.

(e). The Royal Arms of Charles II., erected in the City Exchange during the Mayoralty of William Yorke.

(f). A Copper Standard Measure, inscribed "George Smyth, Esq., Mayor, 1782."

(g). A Bronze Bell, inscribed "Fudit Tobias Covey, 1703. Geo. Roche, Praetor."

Covey was an English bell-founder who worked in Ireland for many years. It is not known where the bell was hung.

8. St. Manchan's Shrine, by T. D. Kendrick and Elizabeth Senior, in Archaeologia, Volume LXXXVI.
(b). Two freeman's certificates; one for Richard Powell the Younger, of Limerick, admitted to freedom on March 17th, 1746; the other for George Gloster, granted in 1793 during the Mayoralty of Henry D'Esterre.


3. COINS:

In addition to the Anglo-Saxon coins already mentioned, there is a large collection of coins of the realm, some 17th century Limerick trade tokens, and many 18th century Irish trade tokens. They are mainly from the Collections of the Earl of Dunraven and the Venerable Archdeacon Seymour. The following are the 17th century tokens, together with any information it has been possible to obtain concerning the issuers.9

1. O. Limerick.  :  a castle
   R. Clare.    :  three towers
2. O. City of Limerick. : a castle
   R. Change & charity. : 1658
3. O. Limerick Butchers : a paschal lamb
   R. Halfpenny 1679. : The Butchers' arms
4. O. Richard Pearce of Limrick. : a pestle and mortar
   R. Limrick apothecary : R.P.M. 1668

The issuer of this token was probably a Quaker. In an old Quaker manuscript, a copy of which is in the Reference Library, there is the following entry: —"Richard Pearce had taken from him for priests maintenance (called poundage money) a brass mortar and pestle. 1672." Perhaps this is also the Richard Peirce who in 1666 obtained grants of land in Annacotty, Castleconnell, etc., under the Acts of Settlement and Explanation.

5. O. Thomas Marten 1669 : three castles (2 & 1).
   R. Merchant in Limerick : T.M.

According to the Civil Survey (p. 436), a Mr. Martin occupied "a house upon the east side of High Street (St. Mary's Parish), value £40."

6. O. Ed. Wight of Limerick : 3 castles (2 & 1).
   R. His halfpenny 1677 : a three-masted ship.
7. O. Anthony Bartlett : Arms (3 fishes fretted in triangle)
   R. Merchant in Lymrick. : 3 castles (2 & 1).

The following entry in the Civil Survey (p. 431) may refer to Anthony Bartlett. "A cadgworke house fronting east upon the high street, now in the occupation of Mr. Bartlett, value £10."

   R. His halfpenny token 1679 : a hare.
   R. Killian 1667 : I.G.
    R. Kilmallock 1673 : 1d. M.M.

At the time of the Civil Survey, the name Meade was common among the dispossessed Catholics of the Kilmallock district.

4. A collection of 18th century Limerick-printed books and newspapers.

5. A collection of Limerick maps and plans, including a very good copy of a map of the city in 1602 (the original is in Trinity College, Dublin); a photostat copy of a French map of the siege; Speed's Map of Munster in 1610; and James Pain's plan of old Thomond Bridge. Pain was the architect of the New Bridge as well as many other Limerick Buildings of the early nineteenth century, and he made the plan when the new bridge was being erected in 1814.

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9. In each description above, O. stands for the obverse side (the side containing the issuer's name) and R. for the reverse. First the wording round the border is given, and then, following the colon, the central device is described.
6. Local Limerick Manufactures are represented by (a): —A collection of nine pieces of Limerick silver of the 18th century. These are on loan from Mr. J. N. A. Wallace. (b): —Penknives made by Colgan of Limerick (circa 1810). (c): —Limerick made gloves, together with the walnut shell in which they were originally packed to display the fineness of the texture. (d): —A piece of pottery made from Limerick clay in 1907 by E. Clarke of the Limerick School of Art.

7. A collection of early 19th century Limerick bank notes, from the Banks of the Maunsells, Roches, etc.

8. The Arms of the Limerick Volunteers, worked in tapestry.

9. A recent very interesting mediæval acquisition is a Papal seal of Boniface VIII., found in Adare (Knockmahola).\(^{(10)}\)

As will be seen from the above list, the Museum has a good representative collection of Early Irish Antiquities. It is still, however, very deficient in local antiquities relating to early manufactures, institutions, etc., many of which are, it is believed, still in the homes of old Limerick families. I should like, therefore, to end this paper with an appeal to the possessors of such antiquities to follow the example of his Lordship the Earl of Dunraven, and to deposit them in the City Museum, where they can be seen and appreciated by all.

The drawings for this paper were executed by W. P. S. Wallace.

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