

## Editorial, 1978

It was a felicitous idea of the Society's Committee to suggest that the 1978 volume of our *Journal* should be a special number to honour the memory of the late John Hunt, one of our more esteemed members and Vice-Presidents. Before his death in 1976 he had already started work on the Craggaunowen Project, an idealistic conception startling in its magnitude but which he insisted was a realistic possibility. Craggaunowen Castle, a few miles from Knappogue and Quin, and only fourteen miles from Shannon Airport, eleven miles from Ennis and sixteen miles from Limerick, was bought with its surrounding lands. The castle was renovated and its ground floor turned into a museum-type display for some of his priceless collection of Irish and foreign medieval treasures. A first rate replica of an ancient Irish crannog was built in the lake's edge nearby, and a cashel-type ringfort, complete with souterrain, was built in the woods not far away. All these, even before his rather unexpected death, he had presented to the Irish people, and with his death he left the remainder of his private collection of antiques and archaeological treasures to be added to the Craggaunowen Project. Although the intention is to build a museum for this collection at Craggaunowen itself, this is not yet possible, pending which the Hunt Collection is at present housed in the National Institute for Higher Education, Plassey House, Limerick. The Hunt Museum there was officially opened in 1978, and it is this connection with that noteworthy event and as a token of gratitude from the people of Thomond that this special number of our *Journal* is published in our benefactor's memory. John Hunt, together with his wife Gertrude, has given us something of unique importance, and it is with humility that we offer this in return.

While it is unusual for a volume of learned papers published in honour of a scholar to include some of his own works, John Hunt was an unusual man and we therefore feel justified in re-publishing here the eight short articles he wrote for the *Irish Times* in 1962. Though written as newspaper articles, they are of an unusually high standard and contain much important information not obtainable elsewhere; as such they not only honour our Society in appearing in our *Journal* but are, we believe, fitting to be included in any tribute to their author, reflecting as they do his scholarship and interests.

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