

PROCEEDINGS, 1979

Ten Committee meetings were held during the year and were reasonably well attended. At its January meeting, the Committee was pleased to note a statement from the City Manager, Mr. T. P. MacDiarmada, published in the local newspaper, to the effect that St. John's Church in St. John's Square would be renovated and ready for use as a Museum by the end of 1980. The Committee, through its museum sub-committee, decided to prepare immediately memoranda for presentation to the Limerick Corporation, outlining the Society's recommendations for the reconstruction and layout of St. John's Church as a museum and an estimate of the cost of the recommendations. These memoranda were presented by a delegation from the Society at meetings of the Cultural and Environmental Committee of Limerick Corporation on February 19th and December 17th respectively. The museum at numbers 1 and 2 St. John's Square was opened for the first time during Civic Week in March, and the Society mounted there, by invitation, an exhibition explaining the work of the Society as well as a display of publications by members down the years and a photographic exhibition of museums in the Limerick area. Four members of the Society—Mrs. Mary Geary, Dr. Patrick F. Doran, Mr. Kevin Hannan and Mr. Larry Walsh were appointed to the Corporation's Museum Committee during the year. In June the following were nominated to the National Monuments Advisory Committee of the Corporation: Very Revd. James Canon Culhane, Mrs. Mary Geary, Mr. Christopher Lynch and Mr. Kevin Hannan.

Other matters of concern to the Committee during the year were as follows: the removal of the Geological and Folk Life Collections of the National Museum to Daingean, Co. Offaly; the proposed demolition of portion of Kilmallock town wall; the continuing delay in bringing the Society's *Journal* up to date—aggravated by the lengthy postal strike during the year—and the breach of the planning permission at Kilrush Church on the North Circular Road.

On March 31st a group of members travelled to Dublin and took part in the Woodquay protest march.

The following is a list of the nine lectures and ten outings which were held during 1979:

LECTURES

23rd January: "Aspects of Archaeology in the Lough Gur Area", Rose M. Cleary and Caimin Jones, Department of Archaeology, University College, Cork.

6th February: "Past Presidents of the Society", Dr. Robert Cussen, *President*.

20th February: Annual General Meeting, followed by "The Concept and Development of Bunratty Folk Park", Christopher Lynch, *Vice-President*.

9th March: "Our Past as Seen Through Field Monuments", Michael MacMahon, *Member*.

30th March: "Limerick and the Establishment of the Queen's Colleges—1845", Milo Spillane, *Member*.

20th April: "The Changing Face of Limerick", George Spillane, *Member*.

19th October: "Limerick County Council", Colman Moloney, University College Cork (delivered by Liam Irwin, *Member*).

16th November: "Investigating Local Areas", William Nolan, Carysford College, Dublin.

14th December: "Re-writing Irish History", Liam Irwin, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, *Member*.

OUTINGS

- 29th April — West Clare: Sweeney Memorial Library and Bishop's Island, Kilkee; Carrigaholt Castle; the Little Ark at Moneen near Kilbaha, and Loop Head.
Organiser: Revd. John Leonard, *Hon. Secretary*.
Speaker: Miss Marie-Therese Hegarty, Librarian, Sweeney Memorial Library.
- 13th May — Ardpatrick area, Co. Limerick: Hill of Ardpatrick (Church and Round Tower); the Green Wood; Glenanaar; Glenosheen, and Castle Oliver.
Organiser and speaker: Revd. John Fleming, *Member*.
- 27th May — County Offaly: Gallen (Priory and grave-slabs); Boher Church (Shrine of St. Manchan); Rahan (Churches); Durrow (High Cross); Tullamore, and Kilcormac (16 century Pieta).
Organisers: Very Revd. James Canon Culhane, *Vice-President*, and Revd. John Leonard, *Hon. Secretary*.
Speakers: Mr. Michael Byrne and Mr. Thomas White of the Offaly Historical Society.
- 10th June — County Limerick: Clonshire (Tower House); Amigan (Tower House); Cappagh Castle; Bottle Hill, and Hollywood House.
Organiser and speaker: Mr. Tom Pierce, *Vice-President*.
- 24th June — South Kilkenny: Kilsheelin (Motte); Kilree (Church, Round Tower, High Cross); Kilmogue ('Leac an Scail' Portal Tomb); Bessborough House; Tibberaghny (Carved Pillar), and Kells (Augustinian Priory).
Organisers: Mrs. Mary Geary, *Vice-President*, and Mr. Brian Geary, *Member*.
Speakers: Mr. Dermot Twohig, Mrs. Elizabeth Shee-Twohig and Mr. Brian Geary, *Members*.
- 18th July — Bunratty Folk Park.
Organiser and speaker: Mr. Christopher Lynch, *Vice-President*.
- 16th August — North Circular Road, Limerick: Kilrush Church; Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, and North Circular Road Houses.
Organiser: Mr. Cian O'Carroll, *Member*.
Speakers: The Rt. Revd. Mgr. Michael Tynan, and Mr. Cian O'Carroll, *Member*.
- 9th September — West Limerick: Glenquin Castle; Killaliathan Church; Tullylease (Church and grave-slabs); Castleishon, and Kilbolane Castle.
Organiser and speaker: Mr. Liam Irwin, *Member*.
- 23rd September — Co. Tipperary: Longstone (earthwork and pillarstone), and Lattin (prehistoric tumulus).
Organisers: Mrs. Mary Geary, *Vice-President*, and Mr. Brian Geary, *Member*.
Speaker: Mr. Peter Danaher, Chief-Archaeologist, Office of Public Works.
- 7th October — County Kilkenny: Johnstown (medieval sculpture); Fertagh (Round Tower); Freshford (Romanesque Church); Ballylarkin (Church); Kilkenny City—Black Abbey (Church and Museum), Rothe House (Museum), and the Franciscan Friary.
Organisers: Revd. John Leonard, Mr. Tom Cahill, *Members*, and Miss Maureen Hegarty, Kilkenny Archaeological Society.
Speakers: Mrs. Margaret Phelan, Miss Maureen Hegarty, and Revd. Sean O'Doherty, of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

REVD. JOHN D. LEONARD
Hon. Secretary

Report of Museum Sub-Committee

The City Museum had been housed at Pery Square, Limerick from 1916 until 1975 when it was closed without notice and the objects packed up and dispersed. The apparently careless storage of objects in various Corporation premises accessible to the public caused concern as to their safety.

Continuous representations were made to the Limerick City Manager to have a qualified curator appointed to catalogue the items and to have the Museum restored and opened to the public. A temporary museum in a house at St. John's Square was promised for 1976 and a permanent museum in St. John's Church in the Square soon after.

As neither building was ready, the Society established a sub-committee to press the case to have the Museum restored and opened to the public, and on the 1st December 1978 a campaign was launched. A press-release was issued to local and national papers and 250 campaign letters were sent out. The letters were sent to important persons in the city of Limerick, to schools, clubs, societies, educational and tourist organisations, and to a random selection of professional and business people.

The campaign was an unqualified success. Letters of support were received from the Mayor and Councillors, the Minister for Industry, Commerce and Energy, the National Monuments Advisory Council, the Bishop of Limerick and clergy of the diocese, the Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe and clergy of the diocese, St. Mary's and St. Michael's Presbyteries, the Chairman of the National Monuments Advisory Committee, the City of Limerick V.E.C., the Director, staff and students of the N.I.H.E., the President, staff and students of Mary Immaculate Training College, heads of religious houses, primary and post-primary teachers, the Teachers' Union of Ireland, St. Senan's Historical Society, Newport Historical and Folklore Group, Cumann Luth-Chleas Gael, L.P.Y.M.A., Limerick City Comhairle Cheanntair Fianna Fail, Limerick City Comhairle Cheanntair Sinn Fein, An Taisce, Professor M. J. O'Kelly, the Knight of Glin, Fr. S. Bates, S.J., Fr. D. Murphy, P.P., Miss Win Harrington, Mr. Desmond Rushe, Mr. Arthur Quinlan, Bunratty Folk Park, Limerick County and City Bar Association, St. Michael's Church Committee, Limerick Soroptimists, the Concord Club, Shannonside Tourism, Connradh na Gaeilge, Limerick Poetry Circle, the Quarry Players, A.I.M. Group, Limerick Golf Club (ladies section), Aughinish Alumina, Libraries, rugby clubs, doctors, solicitors, architects, Army Officers, banks, insurance offices, antique shops, hotels, travel agencies, business firms and hospitals. We were greatly encouraged by members of the public who collected lists of signatures, made offers of practical help and sent contributions towards the expense of the campaign.

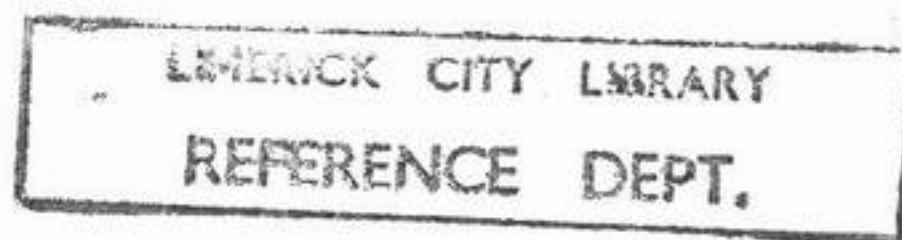
At the City Council meeting of Friday, 15th December 1978, when the matter was raised, the City Manager undertook that work in the Church would commence and that the permanent museum would be ready by the end of 1980.

Following the City Manager's statement, the Museum Sub-Committee compiled a memorandum on the establishment of the Museum in St. John's Church. This memorandum was presented to the Corporation on the 19th February, 1979.

The temporary Museum in Nos. 1 and 2 St. John's Square was opened in March 1979, and a Museum Committee was established by the Corporation later that year.

MARY GEARY

Chairperson, Museum Sub-Committee



THOMOND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

1979

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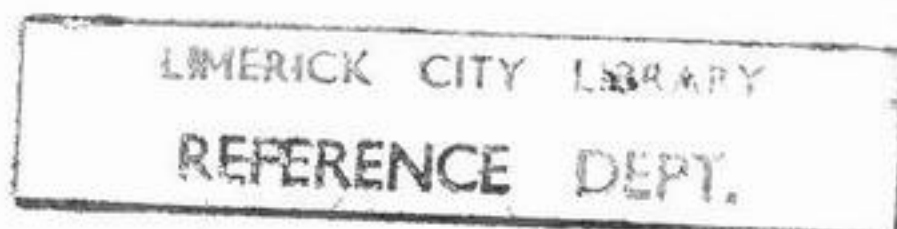
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Obituary

The Society tenders its sympathies to the relatives of the following seven members who died during the year:

MRS. MARY HANLEY, "Chante Merle", Ennis Road, Limerick.
J.C.B. HARRIS, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.
MRS. LELIA KELLY, Greenpark Avenue, South Circular Road, Limerick.
MRS. BABS PARKER, "Asgard", North Circular Road, Limerick.
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RICHARD STOKES, Ballyvocogue, Askeaton, Co. Limerick.
MRS. JOSEPHINE B. WALSH, Sarsfield Street, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.

May they rest in peace.



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 archaeology, 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.

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