

# Obituary

AN tOLLAMH SÍLE NÍ CHINNÉIDE, M.A. (1901-1980)

Cúis mhór bróin dá cáirde, dá comhstaraithe agus do phobal na Gaeilge sa tír bás Shíle Ní Chinnéide, iar-ollamh le Stair i gColáiste na hOllscoille, Gaillimh, i samhradh na bliana 1980. Bhain Síle Ní Chinnéide le teaghlach poblachtánach i bPort Láirge. Sa bhliain 1920 chuaigh sí ar an Ollscoil i gCorcaigh, áit ar bhain sí amach an chéim B.A. sa bhliain 1923. Ba léir go luath an mianach chun scoláireachta a bhí inti, agus sa bhliain 1925 bhain sí amach an chéim M.A. sa stair (agus duais san Staidéarachta Taistil), agus an t-Árd Teastas in Oideachas sa Choláiste Ollscoile i gCorcaigh. Tar éis seal a chaitheamh ar an Mhór-Roinn agus ag teagasc, ceapadh í ina Léachtóir le Stair (trí Gaeilge) i gColáiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh sa bhliain 1927. Ón am sin i leith chaith sí a saol ag saothrú an léinn i rannóg na Staire sa Ghailimh, mar Léachtóir san blianta 1927-67, mar Chomh-Ollamh sna blianta 1965-70, agus mar Ollamh Gradaim ina dhiaidh sin, anuas go dtí lá a báis.

Bhí Síle Ní Chinnéide ar an gcéad bheirt a ceapadh chun cúrsaí léinn do theagasc trí Ghaeilge sa chóras Ollscoile, agus theasbáin sí (agus na léachtóirí eile a ceapadh don obair seo sna triochaidí) cad ab acmhainn don teanga mar mheán teagaisc agus taighde i gcúrsaí Ollscoile. Chuir sí téacsleabhar fiúntach ar fáil, *An tSean-Eoraip*; bhí sí ar bhunaitheoirí *Galvia*; agus chaith sí tréimhse rathúil ina comheagarthóir ar an iris sin; d.fhoilsigh sí saothar scolártha den scoth trí Gaeilge. Foilsíodh saothair eile léi in irisí logánta staire agus seandálaíochta, ina measc sin san *Irishleabhar* seo\*.

Múinteoir den chéad scoth ab ea Síle Ní Chinnéide. Bhí sí cúramach, coinsiasach ag ullmhú léachta, máistriúil ós comhair ranga, agus i gcónaí riamh chothaigh sí ina cuid micléinn an dearcadh criticiúil is dual don staraí, an tsuim agus an t-amhras i dtaobh cháipéisí agus leabhair. Bhí sruth leanúnach do mhicléinn taighde aici ar feadh dhá scór bliain.

Bhain an chuid is mó dá saothar thaighde leis an 18ú agus an 19ú haois, le stair na hÉireann agus leis an gcaidreamh Franco-Éireannach sa tréimhse sin. Chuir si eagar ar chuntaisí a scríobh Francaigh éagsula ar staid na hÉireann faoi mar dob fhacthas dóibh san í nuair a thaistil siad an tír ag deireadh an 18ú aois. Bhí spéis ar leith aici san bhaint a bhí ag Éirinn leis an Eoraip riamh anall, agus bhíodh tús áite i gcónaí ag stair na Fraince ina cuid cúrsaí at stair na hEorpa. Bhí scoláireacht chruinn, intleacht scóipiúil, agus breithiúntas meáite ag baint lena saothar foilsithe ar fad.

Mar dhuine, bhí misneach agus macántacht thar an gcoitiantacht ag baint le Síle Ní Chinnéide. Dúirt sí a raibh le rá aici go neamhbhalbh, ach bhí cuirtéis agus carthannacht ag baint léi agus í ag plé le micléinn. Bhí féith an ghrinn go smior inti. B'fhada an cuardach é ag duine sar a dtiocfadh sé ar chara níos dílse nó ar chomhluadar airneáin níos deise ná Síle.

Thug Síle Ní Chinnéide seirbhís mhaith don dtír, don Stát agus don Ollscoil. Bhí si dílis go bás dá dúchas, dá prionsabail agus dá cáirde. Is boichte sinn ar fad dá-éagmais. Solas na bhFlaitheas dá h-anam uasal.

M. A. G. Ó TUATHAIGH

\*"A Frenchman's Impressions of Limerick, Town and People, in 1791"—5 (1946-48), 96-101.

Review of A. Gwynn, *The Twelfth Century Reform* (vol. II, part I, of *A History of Irish Catholicism*, edited by P. J. Corish), Dublin 1968—11 (1968), 88-89.

"A Journey from Cork to Limerick in December 1970"—14 (1971), 65-74.

The Society also tenders its sympathies to the relatives of the following three members, each of whom was valued in a special way, who died during the year:

ALMA FITT, Milford House, Castletroy, Limerick,  
who was one of the few who provided the link between the North Munster Archaeological Society which folded in 1921 and the present Society which was initiated in 1929, and who was elevated to Honorary Life Membership in 1979 on the Society's fiftieth anniversary;

MRS. A. B. KILLEEN, "Golden Willows", Parteen, Limerick,  
who as the wife of the longest serving President in our history (1956-1964) and in her own right helped the Society through some of its most difficult years;

MISS MAIRE LANIGAN, Abbeyside, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford,  
a Committee Member (1967-1973), and who as the Limerick City Librarian facilitated the Society in so many ways for so long.

**May they rest in peace.**



## PROCEEDINGS, 1980

The Committee met twelve times during the year, and from among the many matters with which it was concerned, the following received special attention and much of its time:

- (1) The Limerick City Museum.
- (2) St. John's Church, Limerick—a deputation from the Society, consisting of Canon Culhane and Messrs. Bermingham, Doran, Geary and Stokes, met the Cultural and Environmental Committee of Limerick Corporation on the 21st of January and presented costings for the conversion of the Church into a Museum. After the meeting, scarce back issues of our *Journal*, almost a complete set, were presented to the Mayor for the reference library of the new Museum.
- (3) The Limerick City Development Plan 1980—a Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Brian Geary was set up to consider the Plan. Objections to the Plan were presented to the Corporation on the 7th of July. A meeting with Corporation officials also took place in connection with the objections. (In order to place the Society's objections to the Plan on permanent record, they are printed following these Proceedings).
- (4) The President, Mrs. Mary Geary, and Revd. John Leonard met Mr. P. Barry, Director, Regional Development Organisation, in July, and made proposals urging the R.D.O. to appoint a Regional Archaeologist.
- (5) The excavations at Old Church, North Circular Road, Limerick.
- (6) Reported damage to the following monuments was investigated: Dysert Oenghusa, Lotteragh Castle near Bruree, and Moore Abbey near Galbally.
- (7) The erection of plaques on buildings of historical interest in Limerick City.
- (8) The urgent matter of the archaeological excavation of historical sites in Limerick threatened with development.

A General Meeting was held on the 24th of October when it was agreed that the annual subscription be raised as follows, with effect from the 1st of January, 1981: £7.00 Family subscription; £6.00 individual; £2.50 student.

On the 2nd of November the Society organised a walk over the route of the proposed new road through King's Island, Limerick. The walk, which was very well attended, was led by the President, Mrs. Mary Geary, and was accompanied by the Mayor, Councillor Clem Casey, Councillors Harrington, Madden, Russell, Bourke and Byrne, together with Mr. Michael MacCurtain, City Engineer, Mr. Kevin Quilligan, Administrative Officer, and Mr. Richard Tobin of the Planning Department. Apologies for being unable to attend were received from Councillor Terry Kelly, Mr. T. P. MacDiarmada, City Manager, and Mr. L. Coyle, Chief Assistant City Engineer (Planning). The numerous historic buildings and sites in the path of the proposed road were examined and commented on. A portrait of Patrick Sarsfield was presented by the President, Mrs. Geary, to the Mayor, Councillor Casey, before the two Sallyports on the fourteenth century City Walls, in the grounds of St. Mary's Convent. The painting, which is a copy by Mrs. A. Simington of the contemporary portrait in the Franciscan House of Studies at Killiney, Co. Dublin, is being given on permanent loan by the Franciscan Fathers to the Limerick City Museum.

Other OUTINGS during the year were as follows:

20th April: Claregalway (Franciscan Friary); Abbeyknockmoy (Cistercian abbey); Tuam Cathedral and town); Ballinderry Castle (Sheela-na-Gig).

*Organiser:* Professor Etienne Rynne, *Hon. Editor.*

*Speakers:* Professor Rynne, Mr. Daithí Ó Murchú, The Very Revd. Walter Spence, Dean of Tuam, and Mrs. Miriam Clyne, *Member.*

4th May: Cloncagh (church and seven acre bivallate fort); Clonelty Church, Ballynoe Castle, Castlemahon Church and Castle.

*Organiser and speaker:* Mr. Michael Dore, *Member.*

18th May: St. Patrick's College, Maynooth: College buildings including Chapel, Library, Museum, "Ghost Room" and the Geraldine Castle.

*Organiser:* Revd. John Leonard, *Hon. Secretary.*

*Speakers:* The Rt. Revd. Mgr. Michael Olden, President, and Very Revd. Gerard McGinnity, Senior Dean.

8th June: Killone Convent, Carnelly House, Dromoland Castle.

*Organiser:* Mr. Christopher Lynch, *Vice-President.*

*Speakers:* Mr. Gerry O'Connell, *Member*, Mr. Dermot Gleeson and Miss M. Barry.

21st June: Dublin: Marsh's Library, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the National Museum (The Derrynaflan Hoard and the 'Treasures of Ireland' Exhibition), followed by a walk to Woodquay, site of Smock Alley Theatre, Brazen Head Hotel, St. Audoen's Arch and City Wall, St. Catherine's Church.

*Organisers:* Mr. Brian Geary, *Member*, and Revd. John Leonard, *Hon. Secretary.*

*Speakers:* Mr. T. A. Dawson (President) and Mr. M. Murphy of the Old Dublin Society, Mrs. Muriel McCarthy, Mr. Raghnaill Ó Floinn, *Member*, and Mr. G. D. Mulroney, *Member.*

23rd July: The Hunt Collection, N.I.H.E., Limerick.

*Organiser and speaker:* Dr. Patrick F. Doran, Curator; *Member.*

13th August: St. John's Churchyard and Killalee Cemetery.

*Organiser and speaker:* Mr. Kevin Hannan, *Member.*

27th August: St. Flannan's Cathedral, Killaloe.

*Organiser:* Mrs. Hilda Shorten, *Member.*

*Speaker:* Mrs. Shorten on behalf of Mr. Sean Kierse, *Member.*

14th September: Askeaton: Medieval Parish Church of St. Mary, Desmond Castle and Hall, Franciscan Friary.

*Organiser and speaker:* Mr. Liam Irwin, *Member.*

28th September: Croom: Church of Ireland Church and Churchyard, Anhid cemetery, Tullovin Tower House.

*Organiser and speaker:* Mr. Milo Spillane, *Member.*

5th October: Co. Cork: Kilmaclenine medieval site (castles, church and town), Lohart Castle, Mallow (castle and town), Mourne Abbey and Ballynamona Church.

*Organisers:* V. Revd. J. Canon Culhane, *Vice-President*, Revd. J. Leonard, *Hon. Secretary*, and Mr. C. P. Hyland.

*Speakers:* Mr. C. P. Hyland and Mr. Sean O'Reilly.

The following is a list of the eight LECTURES held during the year:

- 30th January: "The Trade Guilds of Limerick", Alderman Jim Kemmy, *Member*.  
8th February: "Past Presidents of the Society", Dr. Robert Cussen, *Past-President*.  
7th March: "The Sounds of Old Limerick", Mr. J. A. O'Carroll, *Member*.  
21st March: "A Journey Through the Land of the Incas", Dr. Rhoda M. Kavanagh, Dept. of Archaeology, University College, Dublin.  
18th April: "Aspects of Nineteenth Century Russian History", Mr. Brian Faloon, N.I.H.E., Limerick.  
24th October: "Excavations at Longstone, Cullen", by Mr. Peter Danaher, Chief Archaeologist, Office of Public Works, Dublin; *Member*.  
14th November: "The Vikings in Irish Folk Tradition, with special reference to North Munster", Professor Bo Almqvist, Dept. of Irish Folklore, University College, Dublin.  
12th December: "York", Mr. Larry Walsh, Curator, Limerick Museum; *Member*.

REVD. JOHN D. LEONARD

*Hon. Secretary*