

Book Reviews

Ruaidhri de Valera and Seán Ó Nualláin, *Survey of the Megalithic Tombs of Ireland, Volume IV: Counties Cork — Kerry — Limerick — Tipperary*. The Stationery Office, Dublin 1982. Price: £35.00.

In his review of the first volume of the *Survey of the Megalithic Tombs of Ireland* the late John Corcoran remarked in the 1964 number of this *Journal* (pp. 130-131) how proud the members of the Thomond Archaeological Society should feel that the initial volume was devoted to Co. Clare. Despite the lengthy gap of over twenty years (volume I came out in 1961) the publication now of the remaining counties of North Munster will, I am sure, be greeted by our readers with the same enthusiasm. Dr. Corcoran also reviewed the subsequent volumes II and III in the 1966 and 1975 numbers of the *Journal* (pp. 86-87 and 124 respectively), and in general the very favourable comments made in his first review on these notable contributions to Irish archaeology by Professor de Valera and Dr. Ó Nualláin were reiterated. It is unfortunate, however, that Corcoran's other comment in the opening paragraph of his first review, viz. that the volume was published at the relatively small price of 50/-, cannot be repeated in relation to the present publication. At £35 it is much too expensive for the student and other potential purchasers and at this price even some librarians will hesitate to place it on their purchasing lists. No doubt such a high price (a 500% increase on the cost of volume III) reflects, in part, the inflationary spiral but must also be due to the very small print number—it has been stated that only 500 were printed and bound! For those readers interested in volume I dealing with Co. Clare which also had a small print number it should also be noted that this latter volume is now, sadly, out of print and almost unobtainable secondhand. The same policy appears to have been followed by the HMSO in the north in regard to the *Archaeological Survey of Co. Down*. Surely a form of pre-publication offer coupled with a larger print number would not only help to bring the price of these survey volumes within reach of the student's pocket but would also ensure a wider circulation amongst the interested public.

These comments are not intended as a criticism of the book itself nor of its authors, but rather as a justifiable comment on what appears to be the very short-sighted policy of the Stationery Office towards the printing of academic works of this nature. The volumes of the *Megalithic Survey* are definitive reference works dealing with a very important and internationally renowned section of Ireland's archaeological heritage and it is only reasonable to expect that such works would be available for purchase at a reasonable price now and in the future. It is to be hoped that a more enlightened approach will be taken when the next volume, dealing with the very rich area of Co. Sligo, is published.

Turning to the volume itself, its format follows that of the preceding three volumes, with Part One containing the introductory material and the inventory of the known tombs from the four counties arranged and numbered in sequence within each county according to the O.S. 6-inch scale sheet, plan and trace. Included after each county inventory, as in the previous volumes, is a useful list of structures and natural features which have been marked and sometimes published as megaliths but which are not accepted by the authors as genuine megalithic tombs. One such 'site' at Knockane near Anascaul in the Dingle Peninsula is not included though a sketch plan published in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* for 1937 (p. 277, fig. 7) was regarded by F. Henry (pp. 276 and 279) as the remains of a megalithic structure. The site in question is a killean or a ceallúnach which contains a fine cross-inscribed stone with a Chi-rho motif and the structures taken to be a megalith by Henry almost certainly belong to the late ceallúnach graves as demonstrated by the excavations at Reask. The writer, for one, feels that some statement on this site at Knockane should have been included in what is, after all, the definitive volume on the megalithic tombs of Co. Kerry. The same can be said for the 'Cromlech' in Ash Hill, near Kilmallock, published as a megalithic tomb by P. J. Lynch in our journal's predecessor, the *Journal of the Limerick Field Club*, vol. II, no. 8 (1904), 284, illustration facing p. 282.

The second section of the volume provides the reader with a short discussion of the tomb-types found in the region under the various headings of morphology, distribution, etc., and as the vast majority of the tombs in the region (98 out of 101 sites) are classified as wedges a list of the 396 known tombs of this class from the country as a whole is included along with a distribution map. As with the earlier volumes, the large-scale plans, sections and photographs complement the very detailed descriptions of the monuments. The latter, together with their locational references, are as usual, a model for all archaeological surveys. There are 45 fine figures, including the distribution maps, and 30 photographic plates. The bibliographical reference section completes the volume, and here an error can be noticed of relevance to our readers where, not for the first time, our *Journal* is incorrectly referenced, the word *Archaeological* being substituted for *Antiquarian*. Some other misprints in the same section have also been noticed—e.g. Molonony for Moloney in the reference to our Society's publication *North Munster Studies*—and also in plans where (Fig. 30) tomb T.7 (Shanballydesmond, Co. Tipperary, is described as a Wedge Tomb instead of a Court Tomb. A copy of the ¼-inch scale O.S. map covering the Munster area is provided in a wallet inside the back cover.

This survey volume covering a large portion of Thomond and Desmond provides us with the details of 101 known sites. These monuments were located in the field as a result of the patient research by Professor de Valera and Dr. Ó Nualláin amongst the maps and records of the Ordnance Survey Office and the information supplied to them by other fieldworkers, both professional and amateur. It is interesting to note, nonetheless, that since the fieldwork for this volume was completed and when it was in press the Archaeological Survey project in the Dingle Peninsula has led to the discovery of a further four wedge-tombs thus effectively doubling the number of megaliths known from the Dingle area. A somewhat similar situation has arisen in Co. Galway where the preliminary survey of the archaeological sites in the County has yielded more than a dozen new megaliths. These latter findings of court-tombs and wedge-tombs by the graduates of University College, Galway, have been largely made in the Connemara region and have also changed dramatically the distribution maps for that area published in 1972 in volume III. The recognition of new sites is to be expected and others have been recorded in County Clare [see M. Timoney, this *Journal*, 14(1971), 7] and it is certain that further findings will now be made particularly when local fieldworkers take a closer, more informed, look at the large unrecorded stones in their area—all the more reason for attaching a reasonable price tag to a survey volume of this kind!

The task of discovering, recording and publishing the megalithic heritage of the country entrusted to the Ordnance Survey Office is an essential prerequisite for any programme of preservation and presentation of these monuments. Though the survey, between the publication of the last two volumes, lost its initiator and leader in the person of Professor de Valera, the work has proceeded apace under Dr. Ó Nualláin and it is gratifying to note that his staff has recently been augmented by the addition of two young professional archaeologists, though sadly a third advertised post went unfilled as a result of the cut-backs in the public sector. With the fieldwork for many of the remaining counties now almost completed we look forward to further publications within the near future. A closer liaison with the Office of Public Works would assist greatly in the preservation of this sector of our archaeological heritage. Megalithic tombs are as vulnerable as other field-monuments to damage and even total destruction as has been shown by recent occurrences, a case in point being one of the wedge-tombs at Maumnahaltora where, despite the protests of the Office of Public Works and other interested bodies, a development was allowed to proceed which effectively destroyed the amenity of the monument itself and the site is now inaccessible to visitors.

As mentioned above, the present volume contains only a short discussion of the monument-types in the Munster region. The position of the wedge-tombs in the Irish megalithic series was discussed in some detail in the Co. Clare volume and further discussion and comment must await the results of excavations already undertaken, such as those by Professor Michael Herity at Coum and Coumatlounkane in the Iveragh peninsula [see this *Journal*, 10(1966-67), 67 and 218 respectively—the latter reference is missing from the Bibliography published in this volume], and, hopefully, a new programme of excavation on other sites, particularly in Co. Tipperary and in the Burren area of Co. Clare. On the basis of this dominant tomb-type in the south-west, the authors are of the opinion that the region may not have been settled until the beginning of the Bronze Age—probably a valid assumption if one has only this evidence to hand. However, the advantage of a full archaeological survey of a region can be seen in the very recent discovery of a midden site at Ferriter's Cave in the Dingle Peninsula where following on the researches of the Archaeological Survey project in that area Professor Peter Woodman of University College, Cork, has uncovered a lithic culture dating from *circa* 3600 B.C., thus tracing the prehistoric settlement of the region almost two thousand years further back in time. The progress in our knowledge and understanding of the prehistoric period in the Munster region is probably now only beginning in earnest and volume IV of the *Megalithic Survey* is a very welcome contribution to this field of study.

THOMAS FANNING

Eoin Mac Neill, *Celtic Ireland (with introduction and new notes by Donnchad Ó Corráin)*, The Academy Press, in association with the Medieval Academy of Ireland, Dublin 1981. Price: £12.00 (hardback); £5.00 (paperback).

MacNeill's pioneering popular studies of early Ireland, beginning with *Phases of Irish History* (1919), followed by *Celtic Ireland* (1921) and *Early Irish Laws and Institutions* (1935), have justly earned for him the title of 'founding father of the scientific study of early Irish history'. The first two books in particular remained the standard accounts of the period until recent times and they still make instructive reading. Early editions of *Phases* can still be had in the second-hand bookshops, testifying to its continued popularity, but the other two are rare. All the more reason, therefore, to welcome this reprint of *Celtic Ireland*, value of which is much enhanced by the addition of a brief biographical essay and detailed textual notes and references from the pen of Professor Donnchadh Ó Corráin. One of the few valid criticisms levelled at MacNeill's books was his habit of eschewing footnote references, thus obliging the reader to take his arguments on trust. MacNeill, of course,

knew the published and unpublished material as no one else, but he preferred to publish his detailed researches in the professional journals, rather than weigh down his books with the elaborate paraphernalia of scholarship. The requirements of a more critical modern readership have now been admirably met by Professor Ó Corráin's notes, in which he cites the specific sources for MacNeill's often cryptic statements. Besides the painstaking work that he has put into tracing these ideas, Professor Ó Corráin has also pointed out the various opinions of MacNeill which subsequent researches have proved either dubious or wrong, thereby providing an additional foothold for the non-professional reader. Most of MacNeill's work was innovative, some of it brilliant; for, as Prof. Ó Corráin remarks, MacNeill had "an altogether remarkable natural historical flair". The result was that, in some cases, MacNeill's theories were proved to have been right—but for the wrong reasons! On the other hand, his seminal essay on 'The Irish Law of Dynastic Succession' (pp. 114-143) and his accounts of 'Ownership of Land' and 'The Family Commune' (pp. 114-151 and 152-176 respectively) have stood the test of time remarkably well. These, together with his source analyses, 'The Irish Synthetic Historians' (pp. 25-42), 'The Ancient Genealogies' (pp. 43-63), and 'The Book of Rights' (pp. 73-95), show MacNeill at his best (though it must be said that his dating of the latter text was hopelessly wrong). The other studies, 'The Relation of the Ulster Epic to History' (pp. 9-24), 'The Revolt of the Vassals' (pp. 64-72), and 'The Political Framework of Ancient Ireland' (pp. 96-113), are more general in scope, but no less enjoyable for that. The introductory essay, 'Where does Irish History begin?' (pp. 1-8), delivered as a public lecture in University College, Dublin, in 1904, could be described as the first confident step in the modern scientific study of our early history. As a first venture for the new Medieval Academy of Ireland this book is a worthy tribute to a great Irishman.

DÁIBHÍ Ó CRÓINÍN

Máire de Paor, **Early Irish Art**, Aspects of Ireland/Gnéithe dár nDúchas 3, Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin 1979. Price: £2.95.

Anne O. Crookshank, **Irish Art From 1600**, Aspects of Ireland/Gnéithe dár nDúchas, Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin 1979. Price: £2.95.

The story of the visual arts in Ireland (painting, sculpture, metalwork, etc.) conveniently divides itself into two main parts, the first extending for about four thousand years, the second for about four hundred. Both parts are covered by these two books, which though written as independent units really complement one another in providing an excellent outline account of the whole story from the first appearance of art in Ireland down to the present day.

Dr. de Paor's text provides not only a commentary on the art from c. 2500 B.C. to after 1500 A.D., but also presents a most useful outline of Irish archaeology. It furthermore occasionally produces some interesting new ideas, such as that in the very first chapter, on page 9, where it is suggested that the grouping of passage-graves into cemeteries in Ireland may be "probably preserving the memory of a city culture" in the ancestral Mediterranean homelands. One might quibble, however, with the idea put forward on page 14 that gold lunulae were "designed to be worn around the neck *or breast*" (*italics mine*)!

The story starts with the art found on the passage-tombs of the Boyne Valley and elsewhere in Ireland. Fine and all as the carved stones at Newgrange, Knowth and Fourknocks may be, it is to be regretted that the by now well-known superbly carved flint macehead from Knowth had not been found at the time, a work of art and technical virtuosity which makes it fit to rank alongside the great Irish masterpieces such as the Tara Brooch, Ardagh Chalice and Book of Kells.

After a glance at the not very exciting geometric art on the finely designed Bronze Age objects, the story passes on to what is generally known as Celtic Art. This art, introduced into Ireland in the Early Iron Age in the first couple of centuries before Christ, is described on page 17 as "a non-monumental art—an art of personal display, glitter and brilliance but with an overall simplicity and restraint". Even though perhaps the finest example of it is to be seen on a monument, the Turoe Stone (Plate 13), the statement is basically true—the monument is not sculpted as such but is *covered* with the decorative art. All art is governed by the artist's approach to it, and the Celtic approach is not that of other peoples, as the author points out, also on page 17: "The artists of the Celtic world had different perceptions and different visual references from those of the Classical lands.... They produced abstractions which always seem on the point of turning into organic forms; plants and animals which always seem on the point of turning into abstract geometry.."

Irish art is pretty well unique insofar as once the Celtic art arrived, it and the Celtic approach to art in general survived until the end of Gaelic Ireland about 1600 A.D. Of course it changed and developed—real art can never be static—but the main line of 'Celticity' continued unbroken. This fortunate survival was due to the well-known but sometimes forgotten fact that the Romans never extended their great Empire to Ireland, a fact which

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makes Ireland really very different from the rest of Europe for well over a thousand years, indeed a fact which goes far to explaining our present-day individuality.

The Romans, however, did influence Irish life and Irish art somewhat, at first through traders and refugees from neighbouring Romanised Britain and later through the plundering of Britain from Ireland when the Roman Empire began to collapse. Máire de Paor devotes a whole chapter to 'Roman Influence', in which she enlarges on this with the statements that "it was undoubtedly the Christian church which was to provide the most potent Roman influence on Irish art" and that, after the fall of the Roman Empire, the influence of the early church on the art "may be regarded as a continuation of the process of Romanising".

Which brings us to Ireland's 'Golden Age', the pre-Viking period when Ireland's artistic efforts reached their zenith. The masterpieces of this period are well known, and are all dealt with here, those from the Derrynaflan Hoard apart [not having been yet discovered when the book was written, but for which see this *Journal*, 22(1980), 9-26]. These masterpieces start with the Book of Durrow, for which the author gives the no longer generally accepted date of c. 670 A.D.—since the re-dating of the Sutton Hoo ship-burial to 625 A.D. instead of c. 650, the Book of Durrow can likewise be pulled back some twenty or twenty-five years to at least c. 650. Sadly, among the few unsatisfactory illustrations in this book are the coloured ones of pages from the Books of Durrow and Kells, those of the former (Plates 32-34) being particularly murky and definitely off-colour. The coloured illustration of the Ardagh Chalice (Plate 27), for which the caption gives the unusually early date of c. 700, is likewise very disappointing—the bluish background is picked up by the shiny silver thus totally killing the coloured glass and amber studs.

Though the Vikings never succeeded in subduing or colonising Ireland, their raids on Irish monasteries and their setting up of ports at Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, Waterford, Cork, Limerick and elsewhere, did have an impact on the country and its art. This period is well covered in the book, and features not only the Hiberno-Viking silver brooches but also the finest High Crosses and some metalwork—regrettably one must once again criticise two of the illustrations, Plates 48 and 49 which are so dark that what they aim to show (details of the Breac Maodhóg) is well-nigh indistinguishable; they are undoubtedly the worst illustrations of this shrine ever published.

The book finishes with a chapter on 'Romanesque' and one on 'Gothic'. The Dysert O'Dea and Doorty, Kilfenora, High Crosses (Plates 51 and 52) figure prominently in the former chapter, though according to the author "the greatest achievements of the Irish artists in the twelfth century were undoubtedly in metalworking" (p. 48). The Shrine of St. Patrick's Bell, the Cross of Cong and St. Manchan's Shrine (Plates 54-58) therefore get pride of place—even the notable architecture for which the phase is best known seems to be played down.

The closing chapter is brief and demonstrates the radical changes beginning in Irish art. New art-styles were introduced in the later twelfth century by the monastic orders and the Anglo-Normans, and Irish art began to move away from its Celtic, decorative approach to a more pan-European, representational approach. North Munster is well represented here too—two of the four illustrations in this chapter are from it, the particularly fine processional cross from Lislaughtin, near Ballylongford, Co. Kerry (Plate 61) and a detail from one of the Rory O'Tunney tombs at Kilcooley Abbey in north-east Tipperary (Plate 62).

The last sentence of the 'Introduction' (p. 7) sums up the close of this first part of the story of Irish art and neatly introduces the second part. It reads:

"It was only when the whole Irish way of life, the whole structure of society, was broken up by successive settlements of newcomers in the Norman and Tudor periods that this native originality faded, and Irish art became a part of the European scene".

We have already seen the beginnings of this change, and we are guided through the changes of the Tudor period and the developments up to the present day in the second book by Dr. Anne Crookshank.

Dr. Crookshank's presentation differs somewhat from that of the previous book, though she, too, deals with painting, sculpture, pottery, metalwork and glass. However, in the period under review, from c. 1600 to now, the names of the artists and the dates of the objects are generally known. The book is, of course, arranged chronologically, and each page deals for all or for the most part with one artist and shows one, sometimes two, relevant illustrations.

North Munster—obviously there must be something in the air to keep it to the fore artistically over the millenia!—is again represented. The frontispiece is a painting done in 1742 by Ennisman Francis Bindon, while the earliest painting illustrated (Plate 4; p. 10) is the fine (though described here as "hard and unaccomplished") portrait of Máire Rua O'Brien (née MacMahon), a painting full of character in its own right by an unknown hand. The author dates it to c. 1640 though as it surely must have been painted on her marriage to Conor O'Brien to hang in their newly modified Lemanah Castle then a date of 1643 would be more likely. Máire Rua will always be Máire Rua to everyone, and it is regrettable that the author nowhere refers to her as such, but instead as 'Red Mary'—the reader ignorant of her real name and the nuance of the Irish term would tend to assume that she acquired her sobriquet from the high colour of her cheeks rather than from the tint of her hair. From the same area of Clare came Frederick William Burton (1816-1900), who lived in Clifton House, on Inchiquin

Lough, near Corofin. Internationally known, he was one of the leading painters of the Pre-Raphaelite movement, and a one-time Director of the National Gallery in London. The Romanticism of his paintings—one of his best-known, 'The Meeting on the Turret Stairs' painted in 1864, is illustrated (Plate 47; p. 52)—not only stems from his association with others of the Pre-Raphaelite group but also undoubtedly from his association in the 1850s with the famous King Ludwig of Bavaria, he who built the truly splendid Disney-like castles such as that at Neuschwanstein. Joseph Patrick Haverty's (1794-1854) well-known painting of 'The Limerick Piper' also figures (Plate 43)—what a fine painting it would have been were it not for the sentimentality of the fey young girl, a detail which is rather poorly executed and appears to be inserted into the painting as an unnecessary space-filler or a regrettable afterthought. Even in the twentieth century North Munster figures, Anne Madden, whose formative years were spent in Clare, is there with an unusual, to say the least, painting, while Barrie Cooke, who lived for long in the county, is represented by a 1979 'Landscape without Figure' which is clearly a barren Burren-scape.

These two beautifully produced, well-written and sumptuously illustrated books are a pleasure to have, and are tremendous value at the price. One might present them to friends, foreign or Irish, with pride, but one should also have them for one's own bookshelves or even coffee-table. They are a real credit to the authors, photographers, publishers and printers (Wood-Printcraft, Dublin), and well demonstrate that when it has to be done in Ireland it certainly can be done.

ETIENNE RYNNE

Susan M. Pearce (editor), *The Early Church in Western Britain and Ireland: Studies presented to C. A. Radford*, BAR(British ser.) no. 102, Oxford 1982. Price: £16.00 (stg.).

C. A. Radford is well known to Irish archaeologists and to students of the early Irish church. He is one of those whose work has helped to make us aware of the importance in prehistoric and early historic times of the Irish Sea as a cultural province. It was not so much an area of wholly unified culture; rather a region whose parts, linked by waterways, received in common various impulses from other parts of Europe. One of the most powerful impulses came in Roman times with the Christian faith, and it is to the consequences around the Irish Sea that Radford has devoted his life's work. In 1981 a conference at Exeter, organised by the Devon Archaeological Society and Exeter City Museum, honoured this work. The proceedings, augmented by other invited papers, have now been published by B.A.R. in a paperback form.

Every such collection is bound to be something of a mixture, ranging from what might be described as expanded footnotes to surveys and essays in revision or originality. This volume, reflecting the considerable activity in the field of study in recent decades, is comparatively weighty in its content, and valuable. The opening short survey by W. H. C. Frend, on Romano-British Christianity in the west, sets a revisionist tone by beginning with a reference back to Professor Jocelyn Toynbee's work of 1953. Dr. Frend's revisions are rather negative, and rely heavily on arguments from silence, in a fairly silent period. Another negative, as well as some positive argument, comes from Charles Thomas. Most of us have had considerable doubts about the early monastery at Tintagel in Cornwall (which seemed to be revealed by Dr. Radford in one of his most important excavations). Now the monastery vanishes like a mirage. But, in compensation, we are left with very solid evidence indeed, accumulating steadily since some thousands of sherds of imported pottery were found at Tintagel and closely studied by Professor Thomas, for the 'East-Mediterranean connection' of the time.

Most of the collection deals with more detailed and particular questions, but two of the papers on Irish matters raise fairly wide questions of interpretation and context. Ann Hamlin, on 'Early Irish Stone Carvings: Content and Context', relates the ogham pillars to the Early Christian pillars and slabs. Harold Mytum, on 'The Location of Early Churches in Northern County Clare', argues that "Almost all archaeological discussion of early churches in Ireland has been concerned with their architectural details, whilst economic, social and political aspects have generally been ignored." His paper attempts to redress the discussion, but, while it is interesting, it begs too many questions to be satisfying, lumping together churches of different periods and locating them in relation to 'tribal' boundaries which are assumed rather than demonstrated. Back in the area of architectural details, however, Professor Etienne Rynne has taken a small matter—small rectangular holes cut into the inner faces of springing-stones in arches in medieval insular churches and castles—and has developed his observations to shed new light on constructional methods.

This is a good *Festschrift*. It stimulates our curiosity and helps our understanding of that fascinating period when the Christian faith, after a fashion, was established in our corner of the world.

LIAM DE PAOR

Alan Gailey and Dáithí Ó hÓgáin (editors), *Gold Under the Furze: Studies in Folk Tradition presented to Caoimhín Ó Danachair*, The Glendale Press, Dublin n.d. (but 1982). Price: £17.50.

The format of this book is a collection of nineteen essays presented to Caoimhín Ó Danachair (Kevin Danaher), from Athea, Co. Limerick, and a member of this Society, whose long and distinguished career in folk study is here acknowledged on his seventieth birthday by his colleagues and former students. A fitting tribute is paid in the Introduction by Professor Bo Almqvist. Patricia Lysaght outlines Dr. Ó Danachair's career and she has compiled a list of his published works on folk tradition. A welcome inclusion are twenty-seven of Caoimhín Ó Danachair's excellent photographs from his important pictorial archive.

The author's are experts in their field of study and write on a variety of Irish topics. Two essays, both by members of this Society, well illustrate the relevance to one another of the parallel disciplines of archaeology and folk study. A. T. Lucas discusses the evidence, both literary and archaeological, for the smokehole and chimney in dwellings from Early Christian to recent times—the smokehole being exclusively constructed in poorer dwellings until the nineteenth century. Late Bronze Age socketed double-edged sickles are the subject of Etienne Rynne's essay, and he proposes that these artifacts may have had a dual purpose—for reaping certainly, but perhaps primarily for preparing sally rods for basketry and wickerwork, an idea he got when watching a German-made film of Alan Berg's opera *Wozzeck*! Professor Rynne has furthermore informed me that, unfortunately too late for inclusion in the essay, he received confirmation from the film's Director that the "sichelartiges messer" (the sickle-like knives used in the film to make baskets and suchlike) are still being so used near Hamburg, in northern Germany, though "natürlich auch schon mit moderneren Formen".

Nineteenth century farms with a valuation of over £100 (based mainly on the Griffith Valuation of *circa* 1850) are discussed in relation to distribution, ownership, 'territorial preferences' and the types of farming, by T. Jones Hughes. Many aspects of farming noted in this essay still hold true today, for example northern and western farms tended to be small and at subsistence level and were mainly pastoral, whilst in the south and east the larger farm of stock rearing and tillage was common. The influence on the latter was from the 'planter stock' who owned the land, and by their being 'market orientated'. A similar dichotomy can be traced in the distribution of farm machinery from 1700 to 1981, discussed by Tim O'Neill. He notes the changing patterns in farm machinery and the reasons for these, for example, the change from horse to tractor meant new types of implements to go with it. The history of agricultural development in Europe from the eighteenth century onwards is outlined and contrasted with the Irish situation where innovative techniques were not readily followed. In the nineteenth century, due to an expansion in agricultural methods, farm machinery was manufactured in Ireland—along with ploughs, machines for threshing, winnowing, reaping and mowing were made, as were potato diggers and turnip slicers. However, in deprived areas spades and flails continued in use. Anne O'Dowd gives an interesting and very readable account of seasonal employment obtained by migratory workers and how this may vary throughout the country. It is based on Dr. Ó Danachair's questionnaire on 'Social Aspects of Work'. The names given to these workers are recorded, as are the centres at which they were hired and how the bargain was made with the employer farmer, accounts which often include some amusing incidents. Munster had the second largest concentration of hiring centres (after Ulster) where servant boys and girls found employment for ten to eleven months in February or March, returning home for Christmas. Potato diggers and other harvest workers from the south-west were hired for 'short term hirings' by North Kerry, East Limerick and Tipperary farmers on Sundays and church holidays. Conditions were good in Munster, as many temporary workers settled there, whereas elsewhere, boys in particular, when they had gained experience went to work on English and Scottish farms. Although most hiring centres had ceased by the early twentieth century, Newcastlewest, Co. Limerick, survived until 1945 as the main hiring centre for Munster.

Information useful for folk study contained in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs are described by Alan Gailey for Northern Ireland and the surrounding counties. Two very enjoyable essays are on traditional crafts which have their origins in prehistoric Ireland—namely dyestuffs and basketry. Bríd Mahon traces the history and manufacture of dyestuffs and also provides a useful catalogue of native Irish dyestuffs. The making of two midland baskets, familiar to many people and known as the cylindrical scib and the boat-shaped scib or 'potato baskets', are described in detail with the aid of clear photographs by James G. Delaney.

Two essays will be of particular interest to North Munster readers. G. B. Thompson outlines the aims and achievements of Bunratty Folk Park and also the Ulster Folk Park at Cultra, Co. Down. Dáithí Ó hÓgáin traces the origin of an anecdote on liquor selling to a true story of two eighteenth century Co. Limerick poets (of the Mague circle) in his essay "Airgead Geal go Pras: Staidéar ar rannscéal ó Chontae Luimnigh". There are also two other essays in Irish. Séamus Ó Catháin discusses rare brief anecdotes based on misunderstandings between differing Irish dialects, while Seán C. Ó Súilleabháin, another member of this Society, describes the customs and traditions associated with the feast-day of St. Brigid, and especially the making of the Brigid's Girdle, discussing its protective and curative powers. Essays in Irish are provided with a short English summary.

Six essays deal with aspects of folk study outside Ireland—three of these relate to Scotland and one each to Wales, Sweden and Austria. The traditional method of drystone walling in South-West Scotland, as narrated by a retired dyker, is described by Anne-Berit Ø. Borchgrevink, and should appeal to readers from western Ireland where similar walling and methods are common. Those interested in Irish Vernacular architecture will find Trefor M. Owen's essay on Welsh 'cottages' informative. The remaining essays discuss Scottish folk methods of preserving white fish and of waulking (fulling) cloth, the pan-European patriarchal system—giving examples of two families in Northern Sweden—and the custom and symbolism of gingerbread hearts in Austria.

Books on the subject of our folk tradition are particularly welcome in a changing society and none more so than this volume which is both attractive and informative. It is beautifully produced, has an outstanding and colourful dustcover, and the essays are liberally illustrated with good black-and-white photographs, diagrams, and/or distribution maps. The contributions, whilst providing a source for further academic research, will equally be enjoyed by the general reader with an interest in folk studies.

MIRIAM CLYNE

B. S. Mac Aodha (editor), *Topothesia: Essays in Honour of T. S. Ó Máille*, RTCOG, Galway 1982.
Price: £15.00.

Professor T. S. O Máille has had a distinguished career in University College, Galway, where he joined the staff in 1934 and held the Chair of Modern Irish from 1953 to 1974. As the bibliography prefixed to this volume records, he has made an extensive and varied series of contributions to Irish studies. These include articles on philological themes, metrics, loan-words, lists of words from particular districts, chiefly in Co. Galway, together with four large collections of proverbs, and much else. But his abiding interest has been in place-names, more especially the study of elements recurring in place-names in different parts of the country, such as *ubhall*, *muiceanach*, *cuilleann*, *urlár*, *meacan* and *cam*, the latter being the subject of an article he wrote for this *Journal* (vol. XI, 1968, pp. 64-70). Research on these has entailed countrywide surveys of the occurrence of each element, coupled with intensive fieldwork to ascertain the local pronunciation of each name and to examine the topography of each site in order to identify the landscape feature which gave rise to the name. The results of these painstaking investigations have been presented with such elegant succinctness that the reader is open to the risk of failing to appreciate to the full the scope and thoroughness of the research which they have demanded.

In tribute to his work, this book of essays by colleagues in Ireland and abroad with kindred interests has been scrupulously arranged and edited by B. S. Mac Aodha, Professor of Geography, University College, Galway. It contains fifteen articles: one in French, one in Italian, two in Irish and the remainder in English, of which all but one deal explicitly with some aspect of place-name study. Only one is devoted to an exclusively Irish theme: a meticulously researched study by Deirdre Uí Fhlannagáin of the origin of the names of Belfast and the localities within it. One striking impression left by three articles dealing with landform names in five European countries is the consistency with which a specific nomenclature for certain prominent characters of the landscape has come into existence despite differences in latitude and language. Although the nomenclatures in the individual countries has been influenced by such factors as climate, soil type, history and the occupational practices of the inhabitants, there emerges, nevertheless, a sense of universal compulsion or necessity to classify and signalise the importance of the same range of physical features by endowing them with generic names. This proclivity is evident in the studies by Pierre Flatrès of the expression of geomorphological relief in the Breton language, by Ian Matley on the terms used for landforms in the Scottish Highlands, Norway and Romania, and by B. S. Mac Aodha on the elements common in Spanish place-names.

While the articles mentioned so far and a number of others are primarily of interest to specialist students of the subject, there are some which can be fully appreciated by the non-specialist reader. An amusing contribution, aptly entitled 'A Bedlam of Topologues' by three authors from the University of Oregon, surveys a wide spectrum of 'Topologues', i.e. names of products derived from the places where they originated or were marketed or associated with in some other way. These include a formidable list of textiles (e.g. muslin from Mosul), furs and leathers (e.g. capeskin from Cape of Good Hope), foods and drinks, minerals, chemicals, etc., although, strangely, no examples are cited from archaeology, the nomenclature of which is dense with the species. A bedlam of another sort is revealed in a study of Newfoundland place-names by E. R. Seary which, in what the author calls 'a short survey', discloses a bewildering intermingling of names of English, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Breton, Basque and Irish derivation, in addition to those derived from two Amerindian languages, one of which is now extinct. The prolific cod fishery offshore is the predominant reason for this astonishing miscellany.

An article of more than passing interest to Irish readers is one on 'Celtic Elements in Some Faroese Place-names' by Christian Matras. These loan-words include terms for a small enclosure (Irish *cró*), oven or kiln (Irish

sorn), buttermilk (Irish *bláthach*), booley house (Irish *airghe*), crook or crozier (Irish *bachall*) and, additionally, at least two derived from the Irish personal names Donnchadh and Domhnall. This layman's review of a highly specialist book may fittingly conclude with mention of an extremely illuminating article by W. F. H. Nicolaisen on the seminal influence on the beginning and subsequent development of Scottish place-name studies by the pioneer work of P. W. Joyce's *Irish Names of Places*.

A. T. LUCAS

John Teahan, *Airgead na hÉireann: Irish Silver*, National Museum of Ireland, Dublin 1981. Price: £2.50.

This little guide to some of the more recent acquisitions by the National Museum of Ireland forms a most welcome supplement to Mr. Teahan's excellent booklet *Irish Silver*, [published by the National Museum in 1979, and reviewed in this *Journal*, 22(1980), 75-76]. The museum authorities are to be congratulated, not alone for this new publication but also because it is bilingual: it is nice to see our national institutions paying more than just lip-service to the first national language.

Thirty-two items are described and illustrated. Most of the items are of Dublin manufacture, with four emanating from Cork. The only foreign silver is the pair of wine jugs by Hall and Co., Sheffield, which were presented to Sir William Wilde, the noted antiquarian and father of Oscar, by thirty members of the British Association "in recognition of his services as Director of the Ethnological Excursion to the Western Isles of Arran in Septb. 1857". The inscription is engraved in both Irish and English (plate 3a). One of the engraved panels is seemingly based on Hanlon's engraving of the Round Tower and ruins of St. Mary's Abbey, Devenish Island—Hanlon's engraving is reproduced as plate 3b. Indeed, a welcome feature of this catalogue is the wealth of supplementary plates. All the important detailing is separately illustrated. A nice touch, for those interested in the history of distilling, is the supplementary plate (plate 1a) showing the interior of a distillery in 1729. This plate accompanies the illustration of West's delightful 'Model of Pot Still' presented in 1887 to John Brannick on his retirement as distiller and general manager of the Dublin Whiskey Distillery Company.

Amongst the items of Cork silver is the particularly fine mace of the town of Bandon. This was made in 1700 by Robert Goble. The mace, the head of which has four panels showing the seal of the town of Bandon, the Arms of William III, the Arms of Ireland (a harp), and a Cross, was presented to the National Collection by Lady Jennifer Countess of Bandon. It is heartening to learn of someone more concerned with the enrichment of our National Collection than with the likelihood of securing a handsome return from a London auction-house. Goble is also represented in this catalogue by a fine pair of Sugar Castors c. 1690 (item 25).

Other items worth noting are: the beer jug by George Hodder, Cork c. 1750 (item 4); the tea urns by Henzel, Dublin 1812 (item 9), and by Breeding, Dublin 1808 (item 10); the harp-handled cup made for Fethard Corporation by Walker of Dublin in 1734 (item 11); the Kildare Hunt Trophy by Calderwood, Dublin 1757 (item 12 and cover illustration), and the carving fork by Nowlan, Dublin 1817 (item 18). In fact all the items mentioned and/or illustrated are really worthy of attention.

One fault, however, with the publication is the cover. The Kildare Hunt cup is a particularly nice piece with a beautiful engraving of a jockey leading his mount. However, the horse does not suffer the transfer from a slightly spherical surface to a flat surface very gracefully. But more horrendous than that is the use of an inverted letraset Q for a capital D in the title "AIRGEAD NA hÉIREANN". Surely, if we must have the *Cló Romhánach* foisted on us then cover designers and others should have a standard D available for use. Cover aside, this is an excellent publication and can be recommended to all interested in Irish silver.

PAUL DUFFY

M. J. McDermott, *Irish Houses*, The Irish Environmental Library Series, no. 60, Folens & Co. Ltd., Tallaght N.D. Price: £1.00.

The title of this booklet may at first glance suggest yet another look at the great houses of Ireland, many of which stand derelict or empty due to the troubles of the Twenties or the tax-man of the Eighties. A quick look through this lavishly illustrated booklet will show that nothing could be further from the truth, as its author has compiled a concise yet fairly comprehensive study of the evolution of the Irish house from prehistoric times to the present.

Starting from the humble clochán, we are shown the progression to the more easily defended crannog, the evolving Viking settlements into our first townships, the advent of the medieval period which saw the coming of the Cymro-Normans with their temporary mottes and later their more durable castles of stone. These led eventually to the familiar tower houses which dot our countryside today. The post-medieval period is very well

covered as we observe with fascination, and possibly envy, the coming of the Renaissance houses and the larger, rectangular country mansions of the eighteenth century, such as Castletown House, and their equivalents in the cities. 1750 witnessed the coming of the Georgian buildings with all their attributes, while the rural landscape was, in time, to also see the arrival of the typical rectangular 'cottage' (*recte* farmhouse) with familiar thatched roof, now alas disappearing in its natural form and siting from our country scene. The emerging new business classes and their houses of the Victorian period are also covered, as is their spread to the suburbs which still continues today.

If one were to voice a complaint about this booklet, one might criticise the lack of emphasis on the rôle of the ringfort in the early evolution of the Irish house. Perhaps a detailed illustration showing a typical ringfort complex complete with daub-and-wattle building would have been appropriate. Even a drawing of the house construction done some years ago at Lough Gur (in County Limerick, not County Mayo) would give a clearer picture of the early house-type. The illustration of the houses in the Craggaunnowen crannog reconstruction could be misinterpreted due to the overshadowing done—the entrance might seem to be off the ground to the younger mind. Finally, at the other end of the evolution chain, perhaps mention could have been made of the new phenomenon of the high rise flats—the house of many modern Irish people today.

The illustrations, mostly done in water-colour, and often augmented with suitable drawings, are well presented and overall complement the text in admirable fashion. Those of the earlier castles are done in broad grey/green strokes which not only suggest the presence of strong stone but also a gloomy interior that led eventually to their replacement by the semi-fortified mansions at the end of the medieval period. This feeling is evoked strongest in the drawing of Thoor Ballylee, although the artist might be faulted by the placement of W. B. Yeats in his armchair seemingly in the little river that flows by the castle! The illustrations of the later houses are mind-provoking and should make the reader look twice at even the humble gate-lodges that still exist, though one might certainly criticise that of a "Traditional Cottage" which is chimneyless and has windows more befitting a stable than a farmhouse!

Despite one or two minor editing errors, this is a small but easy to comprehend guide to the evolution of the house in Ireland and, as an added bonus, many of the placenames are given in Irish. Thus, it is suited even to the person only mildly interested in the subject matter and in this context is a very suitable addition to the series as a whole. For the schoolgoer, who is now becoming more and more aware of his or her environment, it is a must.

PEADAR O'DOWD

Richard Davis, **Arthur Griffith and Non-Violent Sinn Féin**, Anvil Books, Dublin 1974. Price: £8.00.

This, the story of the development of Sinn Féin in the first fifteen years of the century, is a story that has, in general, received little attention, overshadowed as it has been by the official glorification of the armed struggle in the years 1916 to 1921.

In part I the author discusses the relationships between the various clubs and societies that gradually coalesced to form a united Sinn Féin in 1907—an uneasy compromise between 1782 men and republicans/separatists. These differences surfaced on many occasions as, for example, in 1908 with the publication of *Sinn Féin*, a daily newspaper. Griffith believed that only by means of a daily paper could Sinn Féin's policies penetrate into rural Ireland—but a daily could only pay its way by appealing to a far wider audience than Irish separatists. Griffith's policy in conciliating all parties was adopted and the paper was published. Moderates thought it excellent but the separatists regarded it as an inadequate expression of nationalist opinion. The movement split again in 1910 on the question of anti-parliamentarianism and abstentionism. A section of the movement believed in contesting Westminster elections and having the elected M.P.s abstain. These M.P.s would vote at Westminster only when their votes were critical to Irish interests e.g. a Home Rule Bill. The policy of rigid abstentionism won the day.

Gradually those who supported the attainment of independence by violent means distanced themselves from Sinn Féin to the extent that by 1916 none of the Sinn Féin leaders, except Ceannt, were involved in the planning of the Rising. Paradoxically it was regarded as a Sinn Féin Rebellion, though as late as 1917 Griffith was prepared to publicise his opposition to it.

In Part II the dispute between Sinn Féin and the Irish Party, headed by John Redmond, as to which of the two had the right to the mantle of Parnell, is discussed. The parliamentarians of course used Parnell as justification for their attendance while Sinn Féin (though stretching the facts a bit) maintained he was a supporter of abstentionism. Sinn Féin also declared that Parnell would never have tolerated the close alliance the Irish Party had formed with the Liberals. Here Dr. Davis wryly notes that appealing to the memory of the somewhat dictatorial Parnell did not exactly square with Sinn Féin's policy of individual self-reliance.

In an excellent chapter on the question of dual-monarchy versus republicanism Dr. Davis states:

"... the names of Irish patriots were batted back and forth like shuttlecocks in an endeavour to prove

them republicans or monarchists. Both sides used the propagandist's expedient of by-passing the actual statements of deceased heroes to discover an implicit harmony with ideas currently advocated."

The book also contains a chapter on economic nationalism, and concludes with a chapter on the passing of non-violent Sinn Féin. The reader is well served with numerous useful and interesting photographic plates, an epilogue ("Calculated Violence in the Anglo-Irish War and After"), appendix, references, epilogue references, select bibliography and a detailed index. Though published in 1974, its late review at this stage, unconventional as it well may be, is justified because it is an impressive, stimulating, and above all, in the light of current tragic events, a topical work.

GEARÓID LAIGHLÉIS

Capt. J. Sheehan (editor), **Defence Forces Handbook**, An Cosantóir, Army Head-Quarters, Dublin n.d. (but 1982). Price: £3.00.

This third edition of the *Defence Forces Handbook* is the largest (in both page numbers and format) and the first in full colour. While the first part of the text, "The Origin and Development of the Defence Forces", is basically that from the first edition, written by the late Lt. Col. P. D. Kavanagh, it now has an interesting new piece on the Civil War.

Part two of the text has been much extended, and the section on Reserve Forces is new. The excellent colour photography of Comdt. P. Walsh enhances the pictures of current army activities, while the plates of uniforms and rank markings of armoured vehicles by F. G. Thompson and J. McCarthy respectively, are of a high standard. J. Hogan's collection of badges, insignia and flashes give a clear impression of the varied designs and colours of these effects.

The contribution of the Permanent Defence Force to UN operations is given extended treatment, and the listing of units and casualties is useful. Other material given in the appendices includes lists of Chiefs of Staff and other senior ranks, and a complete list of Cadet Classes. A special section deals with the short-lived corps—such as the Construction Corps, and the Railway Protection, Repair and Maintenance Corps.

This is a fine *Handbook*, with a great accumulation of important information on our Defence Forces. A useful reference book which could become a collector's item, despite its regrettable lack of a proper title-page with publication place and date.

C.C.

A. D. Baynes-Cope, **Caring for Books and Documents**, British Museum Publications, London 1981.
Price: £2.50 (stg.).

Most of us, if we respect the books and documents in our care, have worried about their condition at one time or another. Here we get the invaluable advice, experience and expertise of the author, who is Principal Scientific Officer in the Research Laboratory of the British Museum. The approach is simple and straight-forward, and in thirty-two pages he covers damage to books (biological, chemical, physical and mechanical), and what to do with such damaged books and documents. He starts out with a chapter on theoretical aspects of care, that is, conditions which modern expert opinion regards as being ideal, followed by a short (much, much too short) discussion on what books and documents are made of, in order that we might better understand what would be the best storage conditions for them. In summing up he stresses good sense and good house-keeping: the building and rooms must be sound in all respects; the rooms must be easy to keep clean and inspect thoroughly; the free circulation of air is most important; the climate should be as equable as possible, and a room is better cold than warm.

Dr. Baynes-Cope, a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, has given us not only counsels of perfection but, more importantly, the realisation that such perfection is seldom obtainable, and that often the individual, whether he cares for one document, a few books or an entire library, must make compromises between what is needed by the books and what the owner can afford in the way of space conditions, skill, time and money.

In his preface the author expresses the wish that his booklet will whet the reader's appetite for more, and for this he provides a good bibliography. Certainly, this reader looks forward to reading some of those books about books during the long winter months to come.

SIOBHÁN DE HÓIR

