

Obituaries

R. H. M. DOLLEY, B.A., D.Litt. (Univ. of London), D.Litt. (Nat. Univ. of Ireland, *honoris causa*), M.R.I.A., F.S.A., F.R.H.S.
(1925-1983)

At the beginning of the year Michael Dolley, a member of our Society for about twenty years, was elected to Honorary Life Membership, an honour he very much appreciated but was regrettably not privileged to enjoy for more than a few short months. On the 24th of March he was the recipient of another major honour when he was conferred with an honorary Doctorate of Literature by the National University of Ireland. Unfortunately, the degree had to be conferred *in absentia*: Michael Dolley was at the time in a Cork hospital, long years of poor health having finally caught up with him as he was on his way to the conferring—he died five days after the event.

Michael Dolley, though born in Oxford and an out-and-out monoglot English-speaker, was an Irishman by inclination and in spirit—thanks to the Co. Galway ancestry of his father and the North-West Co. Cork and Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick, ancestry of his mother's father; indeed, he was toying with the idea of having himself buried with that family in Brosna, Co. Kerry—he was almost inordinately proud of being an Irish national and the possessor of an Irish passport. This sense of being Irish eventually directed him like a homing pigeon to a long, loving and detailed research of Irish numismatics and its associated history, even while continuing his work on the history and numismatics of other countries. There is no doubt but this research has so vastly increased our knowledge of the subject that the study of an approach to Irish numismatics will never be the same again. Michael Dolley truly became, without question, the leading Irish numismatist of this century, and one of the leading figures in world numismatics. He was a most prolific author of books¹ and learned articles, his publications numbering well over seven hundred and fifty, a phenomenal number for one who also worked fulltime in the British Museum and later as a University lecturer and professor, one who furthermore was a frequent lecturer to public Societies and who also lived a full life. Academic honours fell his way, not only from Ireland—he cherished his membership of the Royal Irish Academy more than any other—but also from Britain, Scandinavia and the United States.

We were fortunate in that Michael Dolley felt 'at home' with North Munster, something due not only to his mother's West Limerick ancestry but also because of the reception he received from the late Monsignor Michael Moloney and other members of our Society when he first came over this way. In consequence, he did us proud, publishing many

¹Among the many books of which he was author or co-author the following were reviewed in our *Journal*: *Viking Coins of the Danelaw and of Dublin*, London 1965—reviewed by E. J. E. Pirie in 9:4(1965), 200-201. (with K. F. Morrison) *The Carolingian Coins in the British Museum*, London 1966—reviewed by W. O'Sullivan in 10:1(1966), 92.

Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles: The Hiberno-Norse in the British Museum, London 1966—reviewed by E. Rynne in 10:1(1966), 93.

(with I. D. Brown) *A Bibliography of Coin Hoards of Great Britain and Ireland, 1500-1967*, London 1971—reviewed by E. Rynne in 14(1971), 88-89.

Medieval Anglo-Irish Coins, London 1972—reviewed by E. Rynne in 15(1972), 66-67.

(with G. Galster and J. S. Jensen) *Royal Collection of Coins and Medals, National Museum, Copenhagen: Part V, Hiberno-Norse and Anglo-Irish Coins*, London 1975—reviewed by P. Duffy in 17(1975), 127.

important articles in our *Journal*,² his first in 1960 being probably the first he ever submitted to an Irish journal. His numismatic contributions, moreover, always had an historical context and thus brought the subject to a wider public than the mere coin collector—coins were treated by him as major meaningful artifacts.

Educated at Wimbledon College and, later, at King's College, London, where he graduated as an historian in 1947, Michael Dolley started his professional career as Assistant-Keeper in charge of oil-paintings at the National Maritime Museum where he worked fulltime on research on the Byzantine navy! Late in 1948 he moved to the Department of Coins and Medals at the British Museum where he was able to give his full attention to his main field of interest, numismatics, and the publications began to flow from his pen. His academic approach led him to seek employment in a university, and in 1963 he was appointed Lecturer in Medieval History at the Queen's University, Belfast, being promoted to a Readership in Modern History (including Medieval) in 1969. In 1976 the post of Professor of Numismatic History was especially created in the University for him. Unfortunately the already encroaching ill-health forced him to leave these climes and to move to the University of New England, in Armidale, Australia, where he was appointed as a Lecturer in the History Department in 1979, being promoted to Senior Lecturer status within a year, and becoming Associate Professor the following year. In 1981 his health had deteriorated further and he retired back to Europe, undoubtedly sensing that he must have been approaching the end—in mid-November 1982 he wrote to me saying, *inter alia*, that "if they could patch me up enough to return to a chair I would never go sabbatical again. Research without the stimulus of teaching is pretty arid", and telling me that he had "just sent off a long paper to Sweden; wonder if it won't be my last. I tire so easily. Certainly I will do a short note for *NMAJ*". Unfortunately, he never lived to supply us with the promised note.

Ní raibh aon Gaeilge ag Mícheál, gidh gur thaithin an teanga leis comh mór san gur minic a sgríobh sé a ainm i nGaeilge, go mór-mhór nuair a bhí litir aige ins an *Irish Times*—Mícheál Maolmuire Ó Dáthlaoig (thóg sé Maolmuire mar ainm breise toisc gur thaithin an t-ainm leis, agus toisc an t-ómós speilialta abhí aige do'n Mhaighdean Mhuire i gcónaí). Fé brat Muire go raibh a anam dílis.

ETIENNE RYNNE

²"Some New Light on the Viking-Age Silver Hoard from Mungret"—8:3(1960), 116-133.

"A Small Find of Fourteenth-Century Coins from West Limerick"—8:4(1961), 157-167.

Review of *St. Patrick and the Coming of Christianity* by L. Bieler—10:2(1967), 230-231.

Review of *Toirdelbach O Conchubhair (1088-1156), King of Connacht, King of Ireland Co Fresabra* by J. Ryan, S.J.—10:2(1967), 232.

"New Light on the 1872 Find of coins from Ballykinvarga (Kilfenora), Co. Clare"—11(1968), 22-26.

"The Medieval Coin-Hoards of Thomond"—12(1969), 23-34.

"A Nineteenth-Century Discovery of Elizabethan Coins in Co. Clare"—14(1971), 46-48.

"A Further Note on the Fourteenth-Century Armorial of Ireland"—*Féilsgribhinn Éamonn Mhic Giolla Iasachta*: 17(1975), 31-33.

He also co-authored with William O'Sullivan a paper on "The Chronology of the First Anglo-Irish Coinage" to *North Munster Studies, Essays in Commemoration of Monsignor Michael Moloney* (edited by E. Rynne), which was published by the Society in 1967.

DOM HUBERT JANSSENS DE VAREBEKE, O.S.B. (1898-1983)

Father Hubert, as he was familiarly known to his wide circle of friends, was born in East Flanders, Belgium, on 3 July 1898, the eldest of a large family. During the Great War he was sent to England, where he joined a large colony of Belgian refugees, and attended schools in Ramsgate and Cotton Hall. It was here that he first learned to speak English, a fact which served him well when he came to Ireland. Towards the end of the war he joined the Belgian army, and rose to the rank of sergeant instructor. After the war he studied *Philosophie et Lettres* at the Catholic University of Louvain.

In October 1920 he entered the famous Belgian Benedictine Abbey of Maredsous, whose abbot at the time was an Irishman, Dom Columba Marmion. After following the usual studies for the priesthood, he was ordained in 1926. The following year, on Easter Monday, 1927, Father Hubert was chosen as one of the group to make a Benedictine foundation in Glenstal, Co. Limerick. Thus began his second term of exile, which was to last for fifty-six years.

Even before coming to Ireland, Fr. Hubert had taken an interest in medieval history. A quiet, unassuming scholar, he worked with meticulous care, and soon established himself as an authority on medieval Irish monasticism. He contributed articles to the *North Munster Antiquarian Journal*,* the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, the *Irish Ecclesiastical Record*, etc; He also took a keen interest in genealogy, and drew up an authoritative list of the Barrington family of Limerick. For many years he was recording annalist to the Glenstal community, and left a valuable legacy in the form of a detailed record of the early days of the monastery, covering the years 1927-45.

Fr. Hubert was an ordinary member of the Thomond Archaeological Society from 1942 to 1977, being elected an Honorary Life Member of the Society in 1978. He joined in many of the activities and outings of the Society, and was always happy to give a guided tour of Glenstal to individuals and groups. He died peacefully in Glenstal on Holy Saturday 1983, and was buried in the Abbey cemetery. May he rest in peace.

MARK TIERNEY, O.S.B.

*"Going to Holy Cross"—7:2(1955), 16-18.

"The Barringtons of Limerick"—7:3(1956), 23-28.

"The Names of Abington"—9(1962-65), 74-75.

"Abbots in Anglo-Norman Parliaments"—15(1972), 17-21.

He also contributed a paper on "Benedictine Bishops in Medieval Ireland" to *North Munster Studies, Essays in Commemoration of Monsignor Michael Moloney* (edited by E. Rynne), which was published by the Society in 1967.

PROCEEDINGS, 1983

At its meeting on the 7th March, the Committee, which met nine times during the year, set up the following sub-committees (chairpersons in brackets): Development and Preservation (B. Geary); Public Relations (Mrs. M. Geary); Social Events (Mrs. M. Condon); Newsletter (L. Irwin). Mr. Paddy Lysaght and Mr. Liam Irwin were appointed Outings and Lectures Organisers respectively. Mrs. Marie Condon and Mr. Kevin Hannan agreed to continue representing the Society on the Limerick Civic Trust; Mr. Irwin agreed to continue to represent the Society on the committee of the Federation of Local History Societies, and Mrs. Geary agreed to liaise with Shannonside in organising the guided walking-tours.

A delegation from the Society, consisting of Mrs. Geary and Messrs. Lynch and Irwin, met the City Manager, Mr. T. P. Rice, on the 21st November, to discuss with him the preservation of the City's Heritage and other related topics.

During the year, with the object of making the Society more widely known and of attracting new members, Mrs. Mary Geary produced an informative brochure on the Society with a membership application form attached.

The following matters were of special concern to the Committee during the year: the proposed new road through the King's Island, the ground rents at Castle Barracks, the Bishop's House, the Dominican Priory and the Walls of St. Mary's Convent, the 'new' doorway at Bruce's Bank, the work of the Civic Trust especially at Merchant's Quay, certain newspaper misrepresentations concerning the Charlotte Quay excavations, and the proposed 'development' at Monaincha, near Roscrea.

The following is a list of the eight lectures, one film and twelve outings which were held during the year:

LECTURES

- 12th January: "The Singing of Eugene O'Curry's Father". An t-Ollamh Breandán Ó Madagáin, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Gaillimh; *Member*.
- 24th January: "St. Flannan and O'Brien Politics in the 12th Century". Professor Donnchadh Ó Corráin, University College, Cork.
- 7th February: "The Limerick Archive and Local History". Dr. S. C. O'Mahony, Regional Archivist; *Member*.
- 28th February: Annual General Meeting. Film: "The Raising of a Dream: *The Mary Rose*, 1511-1982".
- 14th March: "Victorian, Edwardian and Early 20th Century Limerick Architecture". Miss Charlotte Murphy, *Member*.
- 7th April: "The Visual Heritage of Limerick in the 18th and 19th Centuries". Mr. John Gilmartin, Limerick College of Art.
- 20th October: "The Limerick Athenaeum". Dr. Kieran R. Byrne, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.
- 18th November: "Ireland's Maritime Tradition". Dr. John de Courcy Ireland.
- 6th December: "A High Victorian in Limerick: William Godwin and Dromore". Mr. John Logan, Thomond College, Limerick; *Member*.

OUTINGS

17th April—Birr Castle and grounds; The Convent, Banagher; Clononey Castle, Shannonbridge.

Organiser: Mr. P. Lysaght, *Outings Organiser*.

Speakers: Mrs. Margaret Hogan, The Earl of Rosse, and James Scully, N.T.

8th May—Dysert O'Dea Church, Round Tower and High Cross; Site of Battle of Dysert O'Dea (1318).

Organiser and Speaker: Mr. Gerald O'Connell, *Member*.

22nd May—Glin Castle and Tarbert House, Tarbert.

Organiser: Mr. P. Lysaght, *Outings Organiser*.

Speakers: Hon. Desmond Fitzgerald, *Member*, and Mrs. M. Leslie.

10th, 11th, 12th June—Boyne Valley: Knowth; Newgrange; Mellifont Cistercian Abbey; Monasterboice High Crosses, Round Tower and Churches; Beaulieu House, nr. Drogheda; Tara Hill; Bective Cistercian Abbey; Trim and Newtown Trim.

Organisers: Rev. John Leonard, *Hon. Secretary*, and Mr. P. Lysaght, *Outings Organiser*.

Speakers: Michael V. Duignan, Formerly Professor of Celtic Archaeology, University College, Galway, and Mr. Eoin Grogan, Dept. of Archaeology, University College, Dublin.

26th June—Kilkenny Castle; Clara Castle; Gowran Collegiate Church; Graiguenamanagh Cistercian Abbey.

Organisers: Capt. F. Parker, *Hon. Treasurer*, and Mr. P. Lysaght, *Outings Organiser*.

Speakers: Rev. Sean O'Doherty, Miss Maureen Hegarty, and Mrs. M. Phelan, all officers of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society.

10th July—Inchcronan Augustinian Priory, near Crusheen, Co. Clare.

Organiser: Mr. P. Lysaght, *Outings Organiser*.

Speaker: Mr. Gerald O'Connell, *Member*.

27th July—Donoghmore, Cahernorry and Knockea.

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

10th August—Limerick-Killaloe Canal.

Organiser and Speaker: Miss Charlotte Murphy, *Member*.

24th August—Blackboy, Singland, St. Brigid's and St. Nicholas Wells, Limerick.

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

11th September—Adare and District.

Organiser and Speaker: Mr. Tom Pierce, *Vice-President*.

25th September—Sixmilebridge, Mount Ivers, Kilfinaghty, and Cullane.

Organiser: Mr. Cian O'Carroll, *Member*.

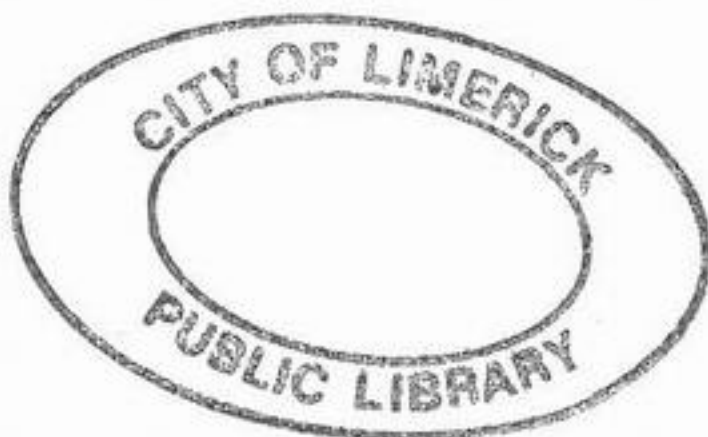
Speakers: Mr. Cian O'Carroll and Mr. Bill McInerney.

2nd September—Roscam Round Tower and ancient monastic site; an extensive tour of Galway City.

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

REV. JOHN D. LEONARD

Hon. Secretary



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 copy of the Society's annual JOURNAL.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, Dr. S. C. O'Mahony, 18 Maple Drive, Caherdavin, Limerick. Subscription rates: Ordinary Members, £10 per annum (Family Members, £2 extra per person); Junior Members, £6 per annum.

Material intended for publication in the JOURNAL should be sent to The Honorary Editor, Professor Etienne Rynne, Department of Archaeology, University College, Galway.

All other correspondence, including requests for back-numbers of the JOURNAL, should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Rev. John D. Leonard, Kilmallock, Co. Limerick.