

## Editorial, 1984

*Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa*—but not totally *my* fault—that this number of the *Journal* is very, very late in appearing. Nor can I in any way point the finger at our printers, McKerns of Glentworth Street, Limerick—as always, they have been speedy, excellent and most helpful. We, and Limerick, are fortunate to have such an old, respected and efficient firm available to us in North Munster.

May I assure all members that the next number of the *Journal* is well on the way to being ready for the printers and should, without fail, be in print within a short few months. New members are, as ever, still needed. While our Society has had a reasonably good membership, it could be improved. Please try to get a friend or colleague (is there necessarily a difference?) to join. We will try to publish a list of members in our next number.

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1984 is the centenary year of the foundation of one of Ireland's major institutions, the Gaelic Athletic Association, and it is fitting, therefore, that we should commemorate the event in some small way—especially as it was in Hayes Hotel, Thurles, in North Munster, it all began, and that its main instigator was Michael Cusack from Clare, and its first patron was the Most Revd. T. W. Croke, Archbishop of Cashel. By a fortunate series of events an historic 'relic' of the early days of the G.A.A., one of the Croke Cups, found its way to Ennis and was brought to our notice by a new member, Mr. Kyran Kennedy, and we are thus able to bring it to public notice now in this centenary year (see pp. 84-92).

County Tipperary is famous for more than its G.A.A. activities, however, and as it falls within the area covered by our Society it is with pleasure that we devote more of our articles than is usual to the county. Our Tipperary membership is small, however; let us hope that this 'Tipperary Number' of the *Journal* might entice others from that county to join.

The major article of County Tipperary interest in this *Journal* is that on the sarcophagus in Cormac's Chapel, on the Rock of Cashel, and this, too, is very fitting: Cormac's Chapel was started in 1127 and consecrated on its completion in 1134, thus making 1984 its 850th anniversary.

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1984 will be remembered by us as the first year we travelled abroad. From Sunday the 2nd of September to Sunday the 9th, a busload of members left Limerick for a journey through south Wales and England's West Country, visiting famous prehistoric monuments such as Stonehenge and celebrated cathedrals such as those at St. David's, Llandaff, Wells, Gloucester and Hereford, monasteries such as that at Glastonbury, and churches such as the little Romanesque gem at Kilpeck. A highlight was the visit to the Roman city of Bath and also the visit to the cave, paper-mills, Madame Tussaud's storage place and Fairground

Museum in the Wookey Hole complex near Wells. A tremendous success, let us hope that it is the first of many such tours, tours which give us a salutary glimpse of the heritage of our neighbours and of how it is respected and preserved by them.

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The Society has much pleasure in gratefully acknowledging generous grants-in-aid from the National Parks and Monuments Branch of the Office of Public Works towards the cost of publishing "Archaeological Excavations at Kilcash Church, Co. Tipperary" by P. D. Sweetman and "A Neolithic Burial at Ashleypark, Co. Tipperary—a summary account" by Conleth Manning, and also grants-in-aid from University College, Galway, towards the cost of publishing "Ainmneacha Bhailte Tiobraid Árainn ar na Léarscáileanna, 1573-1864" by Breandán S. MacAodha and "The Croke All Ireland Football Challenge Cup" co-authored by Etienne Rynne.