

BOOK REVIEWS

Terence Reeves-Smyth and Fred Hamond (editors), "Landscape Archaeology in Ireland", **BAR** (British Series) 116, Oxford 1983, pp. xi + 389; ISBN 0-86054-216-5. Price: £17.00 (Stg.).

This collection of eighteen papers presented to a conference organised by the Association of Young Irish Archaeologists in 1981, at University College, Cork, is a welcome addition to the growing corpus of material on landscape archaeology in Ireland. Divided into two parts, Part I (comprising seven papers) examines the technique of landscape archaeology, while Part II is a presentation of case studies in landscape archaeology.

Lacy's "The Archaeological Survey of County Donegal" describes the compilation of the Republic's first county Inventory in 1980/81 and illustrates the importance of such Inventories for analytical and interpretative purposes in landscape archaeology. Woodman's "The Glencoy Project in Perspective" is a description of one of the rare attempts in Ireland, north or south, at a regional survey, in this case of the Glencoy Valley on the Antrim coast. Caulfield's presentation of the correlation between the distribution of megalithic tombs and pre-bog land divisions in Co. Mayo, and Cooney's proposition of a close spatial relationship between megalithic tombs and neolithic settlement in Co. Leitrim, both provide useful models for further such regional survey work in Ireland.

Among the papers on techniques is an examination of the use of phosphate analysis in the location and analysis of sites by F. W. Hamond, and a study of the possible use of aspects of geomorphological change in limestone (Karren analysis) as a dating technique and as an aid to palaeo-environmental reconstruction by E. P. Dillon. Reeves-Smyth's review of Irish cartographic sources should, the author hopes, lead to a fuller utilisation of these sources in the study of "man-land relationships".

A useful innovation in the series is a collection of short Abstracts or summaries of each of the papers published on pp. vii-x—except that those for papers 13-16 are missing (from the review copy received, at least).

Hamond and Reeves-Smyth in their final paper conclude that complacency has led archaeologists to ignore the underdeveloped nature of Irish landscape archaeology and they identify some of the major problems facing the discipline as (i) data generation, (ii) dissemination of information, and (iii) interpretation and presentation of archaeological phenomena. Undoubtedly the rate of site destruction, the non-existence of either a "scale of priority" for excavations or a countrywide Sites and Monuments Record, and staff/finance shortages inhibit the generation of archaeological data, but there have been positive developments. Some of these are mentioned by the authors but few will disagree that much remains to be done.

Regarding the dissemination of information, the editors state that one of them (Reeves-Smyth) was refused access to fieldwork theses held in University Colleges Galway and Dublin. I am informed by the Professor of Archaeology at U.C.G. that for Galway, at least, this is not true and that no request for such access was ever submitted to his Department. On the subject of data interpretation the editors make some extraordinary and unsubstantiated claims—that "C-14 dating is still regarded with suspicion by some" and that the world of Irish archaeology is a traditional one "of description, speculation, simplicity and theoretical timidity".

Such criticisms apart, the volume is an excellent illustration of the exciting potential of landscape archaeology in Ireland. One hopes that with the co-operation of the centres of learning and other agencies and individuals involved, which really exist in Irish archaeology, this potential will shortly be realised.

GEARÓID LAIGHLEIS

ÉILE: JOURNAL OF THE ROSCREA HERITAGE SOCIETY, no. 2(1983-84), 1-128; ISSN 0790-0252.
Price: £5.00 (free to members).

Éile has done it again, or maybe one should say that George Cunningham has done it again—although it is nowhere stated, it is to be assumed that he is its editor, as he was for the first number of this North Tipperary journal [see our *Journal*, 25(1983), 83 for a review of same]. Whether he is or is not, this second number lives up to the high standard of the first. Likewise produced (still without its title on the spine), one can really only fault it on three points: it has no title page; the list of contents is on the back cover, not as part of the text; it is dated for the two years succeeding no. 1, thus giving it the appearance of an annual rather than of an occasional publication as apparently originally wisely intended.

Eamonn P. Kelly's article on "A prehistoric amber find from Ballylin, Co. Offaly" is of prime importance, not only from the point of view of the find itself and the technical points of the manufacture of the ten beads found but also because of the discussion, with useful distribution maps, of Bronze Age amber finds in Ireland and of relevant Bronze Age metal-types; also of importance is the Appendix on the 'geological' presence of amber in Ireland by C. S. Briggs. Alison Rosse's note on "The Dowris Hoard" is more a general comment on this

famous Late Bronze Age find than of serious academic value, but nonetheless provides a useful general summary for the archaeologist as well as for the non-specialist reader. The "Prehistoric sites in the neighbourhood of Ardcroney" by Conleth Manning provides information about some previously unrecorded field-monuments (including a Portal Tomb) and also provides a background to the prehistoric monuments recently excavated in the area [see this *Journal*, 19(1977), 3-20, and 26(1984), 94-96]. Of more local interest is the account of the "Trial excavations at Roscrea Castle, Co. Tipperary" by Geraldine Stout, some shorter archaeological articles, and the articles of early and of later historical interest.

All-in-all this is a publication greatly to be recommended, one essential to all interested in Irish archaeology, and particularly to those interested in the archaeological and historical past of North Munster. Long may *Éile* continue to be produced to such a high standard.

ETIENNE RYNNE

Antoine Powell, **OILEÁIN ÁRANN**, stair na n-oileán anuas go dtí 1922, Wolfhound Press, Baile Átha Cliath 1983, ll. 112; ISBN 0-905473-81-7. Luach: £8.50.

Gan aon amhras ar bith, 'sé seo an leabhar is fearr atá ar fáil ar stair agus dinnseanchas na trí oileán Árann atá i mbéal iathar Cuan na Gaillimhe, idir Co. an Chláir agus Co. na Gaillimhe. I ngach slí ach amháin i gcúrsaí rialtais áitiúil is gaire iad don Chlár, i dTuath-Mhumhain, ná do Ghaillimh, i Chonnachta. Gidh go gceapaim féin go bhfuil an leabhar seo ar fheabhas, ní h-é sin le rá nach bhfuil aon locht ann nó chúis gearáin agam faoi. Tá an-chuid léaráidí (beagnach trí fichid) san leabhar, ach is mór an trúa nach bhfuil na fotheidil uimhrithe agus nach ndéantar tagart dóibh san dtéacs. 'Sí cúis ghearáin eile ná nach bhfuil na bailte fearainn ainmnithe ar an léarscáil atá i dtús an leabhair (ll. 8-9), gidh go bhfuilid marcáilte ann—agus cad 'na thaobh go bhfuil 'N' ann mar chomhartha don tuaisceart?

Tá cur síos maith ar na séadchomharthaí uile insna h-oileáin, ach tá rudaí ráite ann nach nglacfaí leo gan cheist. Mar shampla, deirtear i bhfotheideal na léaráide ar leathanach 31 go bhfuil an fhuinneóg Luath-Ghotach (Early Gothic) i dTeampall Chiaráin "níos déanaí ná an chuid eile den teampall"—b'fhéidir go bhfuil, ach níl aon chinnteacht faoi agus ní chreidim-se féin é. Deirtear linn freisin, ar leathanach 23, gur bhunaigh Naomh Éanna mainistir san Róimh roimh 489 A.D., agus ar ll. 23-25 gur chuaigh sé go hÁrainn lena chéad lucht leanúna ar chloch mhór mar nach rabhadar i n-ann bád a fháil! Ar leathanach 25 insítear dúinn gur thóg sé deich mainistir i nInis Mór ach gur choiméad sé leath den oileán dá mhainistreacha féin agus thug sé an leath eile dosna mainistreacha eile. Deirtear linn, ina theannta sin, gur Teampall Bheanáin (Inis Mór), Cill Cheannannach (Inis Meáin) agus Cill Ghobnait (Inis Oirr) na teampall is sine i nÁrainn—b'fhéidir é, ach conas is féidir bheith cinnte? Nílím féin cinnte de ar chor ar bith. Baineann an t-údar úsáid ró-shaonta (naíve) as an aidiacht "Rómhánúil" (Romanesque)—mar shampla, níl stuanna fuinneóga i Teampall Chaomháin agus Teampall Mhac Duach san stíl Rómhánúil ach san stíl Idirthréimhse nó Luath-Ghotach (Transitional/Early Gothic), sé sin le rá c.1200 nó beagáinín ina dhiaidh. Tógadh agus ath tógadh mórán eaglaisí 7rl., sna h-oileáin i rith an ama sin, agus is féidir a mheabhrú faoi gurb fhéidir an réasún ná gur timpeall an ama chéanna a fuair muintir Bhriain ó tuaiscirt an Chláir smacht ar Árainn; b'iad san 'Clann Thaidhg' a fuair a n-ainm ó Thaidhg Glé (a fuair bás i 1120), de shliocht Bhriain Bhorumha—agus is é Donncha, mac le Brian, an chéad duine den chine a luaitear a bheith i seilbh na n-oileán (l. 43).

Bhí rialtas Uí Bhriain ann go dtí 1570 nuair b'éigean do Mhurcha Ó Briain na h-oileáin a chur i ngeall do James Lynch Fitz-Ambrose as chathair na Gaillimhe. Ina dhiaidh sin tháinig na Flaitheartaigh go hÁrainn agus d'ath tógadh Caisleán Aircinn abhí roimhe sin ag muintir Bhriain. Bhí baint mhór ag an mBanríon Éilís leis na h-oileáin i rith an ama seo, an tréimhse ina raibh longa cogaidh Ghráinne Ní Mháille agus Armáid na Spáinne ag seoladh na farraige mór-thimpeall na h-áite. Níos déanaí fós, i mí Eanáir 1652, scrios saighdiúirí Cromwell na h-oileáin; d'ath tógadar Caisleán Aircinn agus d'fhanadar ann—creidtear gurb'é sin an chúis go bhfuil fuil den Grúpa A ag níos mó Árainn ná is gnáth i n-Éirinn (Grúpa O de gnáth).

Taréis cogadh an dá rí, Liam agus Séamas, bhí réimeas na dtiarna talún, agus tugann an t-údar cúntas ortha agus ar an nGorta Mór i 1845, ar cogadh na talún ina dhiaidh agus ar fhorbairt eacnamaíochta na n-oileán go dtí deire ré na Sasanach—is mór an trúa ná leanann sé leis as scéal go dtí an lá atá inniú ann.

Ach is cuma cad atá fágtha amach aige, tá a lán eolas spéisiúil, tábhachtach le fáil san leabhar seo. Nuair a bhíos im' óige bhí sort seanrá ann: "Má tá Gaeilge agat, labhair í"—agus ba mhaith liom críoch a chuir leis an léirmheas ar an leabhar íontach seo le: "Má tá Gaeilge agat, léigh é".

STIOPHÁN Ó RINNE

Wilfried Menghin, **DAS SCHWERT IN FRÜHEN MITTELALTER**, Germanisches Nationalmuseum, Nürnberg; Konrad Theiss Verlag, Stuttgart 1983, pp. 368 + 24 maps; ISBN 3-8062-0362-8. Price: DM 148.

This is a large, well illustrated and beautifully produced book on the long double-edged swords of the Germanic peoples of the 5th to the 7th centuries after Christ, that is, of the Merovingian Period, the important phase between the Antique (Late Roman) and the Early Medieval Periods in Central Europe. Not only are the swords themselves fully covered in great detail but everything connected with them is also dealt with, including details of their hilts, scabbards, chapes, suspension-belts, belt-plaques, belt-buckles, belt-studs, and, of course, the various associated finds (all are from 151 rich graves). There are about 300 illustrations and also forty-five large, exemplary, clear distribution maps for all the important types discussed, most with symbols in two colours, red and black, while in a pocket inside the back cover is a two-coloured chronological chart for all the sword-graves. The distribution of the swords and relevant details is mainly concentrated in Germany, North-East France, Belgium and Holland, but also includes England, Scandinavia (including Finland) and strays sometimes into the Upper Danube Valley and North Italy.

As will be readily realised, Dr. Menghin in producing this major work, allegedly a typological and chronological study but in reality very much more, has assiduously researched his subject. The result is a publication which in many ways is essential to all students of the archaeology of the so-called Migration Period, when the barbarians from the North and East overran the Roman Empire north of the Alps and before they became Christian and evolved into the glorious Carolingian Empire. Even though Ireland, and to a slightly lesser extent Wales and Scotland, never experienced their coming, their very presence in England influenced our respective cultures in some ways and, as such, this book is relevant to us in the Celtic lands—even if only to provide an exemplar as to how such a study should be best published!

ETIENNE RYNNE

M. Ryan, **Early Irish Communion Vessels: Church Treasures of the Golden Age**, A National Museum of Ireland Guide, Dublin 1985, pp. 24; ISBN 0-901777-16-1. Price: £1.00.

The stated aim of this attractive National Museum booklet on early Irish altar vessels is to provide "sufficient information to the interested museum visitor to appreciate the beauty and workmanship of some of the finest pieces in the Collection of Irish Antiquities and to provide some information on their historical context". It may be stated at the outset that this aim has been admirably achieved by Dr. Ryan through use of an informative and well-balanced text garnished with more than twenty line-drawings and colour plates.

The first section of this twenty-four page handbook (pp. 3-8) serves as an introduction to the eucharistic liturgy as it appears to have been practiced in the early Irish church. Its development elsewhere in Christendom is outlined briefly, and the regional variations in its details emphasised. The author demonstrates that by using the information contained in the *Stowe Missal* (c.800 A.D.), and in the earlier *Collection of Canons*, it is possible to build up a broad picture of the nature of early Irish eucharistic rituals. He argues that these were "essentially Roman in character", but notes some non-Roman elements which he regards as being indicative of the "varied origins of its church". Also in this introductory section Dr. Ryan questions, *inter alia*, the validity of the traditional concept of the existence of a distinctively 'Celtic' form of Christianity in Western Britain and Ireland, and queries the commonly accepted view of the predominance of monasticism over the diocesan system in early Christian Ireland. Unfortunately the scope of the publication precludes a deeper treatment of those questions.

The second and main section of the booklet (pp. 9-23) concentrates exclusively on the archaeological material itself. The bulk of this is comprised of the two spectacular 10th century North Munster hoards from Ardagh and Derrynaflan, but note is also taken of the small bronze chalice from the River Bann and the copper paten traditionally associated with Sligo's St. Tighernan. Not surprisingly the silver chalices from Ardagh and Derrynaflan receive primary attention. Both are briefly described and compared and the author suggests eighth and ninth century dates for their respective manufacture on the basis of their styles and methods of ornamentation. Two simple bronze chalices, the aforementioned Bann example and a broadly similar example from the Ardagh hoard, are briefly treated of and are regarded as "adaptions of a common native style of vessel-making". The Irish chalices are then set against the background of their broadly contemporary European, Byzantine and Russian parallels, an exercise which serves to indicate the complexity of their origins. The two known Irish patens, the *Mias Tighernain* and that from Derrynaflan, are then described and discussed, and it is suggested on the basis of technical and stylistic resemblances that the latter may well have originated from the same workshop as that which produced the Ardagh Chalice. The author concludes that the less spectacular copper paten of St. Tighernan may be more representative of the type in everyday use in the early Irish church. This section is brought to a close with a short description of the Derrynaflan strainer, and with some thoughts on its background and use.

In conclusion Dr. Ryan notes that enough liturgical altar-service dating from the 8th-9th century survives to enable us to now reconstruct, to some extent, how the liturgy would have appeared in the early Irish church. In addition, he points out that the material itself provides evidence for technology, trade and traditions of craftsmanship in Early Christian Ireland, and demonstrates a great deal about the sophisticated society which commissioned, produced and appreciated such treasures.

As stated at the outset, *Early Irish Communion Vessels* is an attractive and well-produced booklet designed to inform the interested museum visitor. A short reading list is thoughtfully provided for those who may wish to acquaint themselves further with the subject, and the various drawings and photographs chosen amply illustrate the text. Given the natural Ardagh-Derrynaflan bias to its content, this booklet should prove to be of particular interest to North Munster readers.

JOHN SHEEHAN

B. J. Graham, "Anglo-Norman Settlement in Ireland", *Irish Settlement Studies*, no. 1, Dublin/Belfast 1985, pp. 40. Price: £2.50.

English historians of the last century frequently took the attitude about Saxon England "... that without them [the Normans] what had it ever been?" At least Irish scholars have always been able to demonstrate the 'Golden Age' of pre-Norman Ireland! Now, much new light is being shed on the Norman (a convenient adjective despite its inherent limitation) achievement in Ireland and the interaction with the indigenous population—"redressing the neglect of the past" as the author states in his introduction.

Although a slender volume, the content highlights the recent invaluable work of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement and provides a comprehensive research survey of Anglo-Norman involvement in Ireland. Historians, archaeologists, historical geographers and architectural and art historians, are producing new studies of all aspects of the period, and it is of great value to have an up-to-date statement on current work and views—and the provision of a bibliography which will be very useful for all, including the Society's members. One drawback is the lack of page references to works quoted, which will make somewhat tedious the task of following up many points.

Not only does the author discuss new work in Ireland but also uses it to show changing awareness elsewhere. On page 13 he points out some insignificant fortifications which "must have been no more than symbols of seigneurial status". Coulson has recently written at length [*J. Br. Archaeol. Assoc.*, 132(1979), 73-90] on this subject, and my own earthworks castle excavations in a few instances have indicated a superficial appearance of fortification rather than real strength.

It was somewhat disappointing (but it's my pet interest!) to see little discussion on ringworks when there is so much potential for discovery and study in Ireland. They are, incidentally, found in other countries besides Wales and Scotland (p. 15). It is of interest to find earthwork castles, of all kinds, continuing in construction so late in Ireland (p. 15), but I would point out that the same is true of Scotland where they are also to be found in use, in some instances, until the late Middle Ages. Platform raths (p. 15) find a parallel, too, in the low square mottes of Scotland which may be witness to the blending of the motte and the moated manor. Besides serving to fill in the gaps in the earthwork castle records, consideration should be given to the possibility of the occurrence of primary simple stone castles of enclosure, as has been shown in Ulster—T. E. McNeill, *Anglo-Norman Ulster*, 1980, esp. p. 67.

The problems associated with the identification of deserted medieval settlement are discussed—an affliction bothering those studying similar aspects in other Celtic lands. Following sections on agriculture, monastic granges and towns show how much work is still to be done to come to a fuller appreciation of medieval life in town and country in Ireland. The archaeologist is obsessed (a nympholeptic yen?) with pottery evidence, and this kind of information could have been used for additional comment on the medieval economy, both locally and internationally.

Do not feel, in Ireland, that you lag behind in medieval studies. Too few are working in this field in Wales and Scotland and I, as a Welshman and descendant of these Anglo-Norman settlers, look forward to penning comparative surveys on these two countries where I have been professionally active and where there should be similar groups studying historic settlement.

ERIC J. TALBOT

D. Newman Johnson, **THE IRISH CASTLE**, The Irish Heritage Series no. 49, Eason & Son Ltd., Dublin 1985, pp. 26 (not paginated); ISBN 900346-68-X. Price: £2.50.

Following on from his earlier work *Irish Castles* in the Folens Environmental Series [see this *Journal*, 22(1980), 74, for review], David Johnson has given us a first class introduction to the Irish castle in this booklet—one of the latest in the excellent Irish Heritage Series by Easons. In a very readable text we are presented with a succinct yet balanced account of the development of the castle form in Ireland from the early Norman period down to the pseudo-castles of the nineteenth century Gothic Revival.

Commencing with the earthwork structures of motte-and-bailey type, the author moves on to consider, in some detail, the major Norman stone castles of the donjon or keep form of c.1200, citing spectacular examples such as Carrickfergus, Trim, and, in North Munster, Nenagh (beautifully photographed, ill. 13). The subsequent stages in Irish castle-building are also featured, wherein the keep was included in the bailey or curtain wall and, as the thirteenth century progressed, the emphasis was placed on strengthening and enlarging the gatehouse as the main residential and defensive component in the castle plan. This form was fully developed on the model of the major Edwardian castles of North Wales where the square concentric plan emerged towards the end of the thirteenth century. David Johnson draws on all his acknowledged expertise and experience in outlining and illustrating these developments in medieval Ireland.

The fortified tower house with its accompanying bawn—a single tower structure housing all the various residential and defensive features—emerged as a particularly Irish form of castle in the fifteenth century. Many fine well-preserved examples survive with, incidentally, their greatest density in the Thomond region, and the booklet includes a wealth of textual and photographic material on these very distinctive and prominent monuments. This final phase in Irish medieval castle-building brings us into the seventeenth century, and the story is continued with reference to the important but often sadly neglected heritage of Renaissance-type mansions and fortified plantation houses.

Throughout this booklet the author has cleverly interwoven a considerable amount of detail on the military and residential minutiae of the various architectural forms. The descriptive text is also, at suitable junctures, broken by anecdotal and historical snippets. This approach is particularly evident in the final pages which provide us with a glimpse of the rich heritage of Gothic and Scottish Baronial Revival castles which Ireland possesses—buildings such as Slane Castle and Johnstown Castle, including also the quite dramatic complex at Dromore, Co. Limerick.

With this publication we owe David Johnson a debt of gratitude in giving us this excellent, if all too brief, presentation of a very important aspect of our medieval heritage. In this respect he continues to uphold the standards of scholarship set by his predecessor, the late Dr. Harold Leask. The text is interspersed with a fine selection of colour and black-and-white plates depicting some of the better known and better preserved castles from many parts of the country. A nice touch is provided by the use of antiquarian drawings such as the watercolour of Ross Castle on the front cover. Only one actual plan is included and, given the known expertise of the author in these matters, one might have expected a few more illustrations of this nature. A minor omission at the beginning where the earthen ringwork castles might have been mentioned alongside the motte and bailey does not, however, detract from the overall excellence of the production. Full marks also to Easons for the very 'picturesque' and attractive design and layout. We look forward to many further booklets in this series and, hopefully, more numbers on medieval themes.

THOMAS FANNING

Laurence Walsh, **HISTORIC LIMERICK: The City and Its Treasures**, The Irish Heritage Series no. 45, Eason & Son Ltd., Dublin 1984, pp. 26 (not paginated); ISBN 900346-58-2. Price: £2.50.

This booklet is, in fact, exactly what its title claims it to be. The author, curator in the Limerick Museum, has given us an outline history of the city from the first appearance of the Vikings in the region in or about 825 A.D., to the end of the last century. He has also illustrated this history with relevant artifacts and buildings, and with interesting comments which add to the value of the text. All-in-all, he has admirably succeeded in accomplishing the task set him in bringing to reality an idea initiated by Councillor A. Bromell during his year of Mayoralty, 1982.

The first permanent settlement in Limerick was in 922 when Tomar, a Viking raider, made it his base for raiding the monasteries in the surrounding region. Even though Brian Boru defeated them in 977, the Limerick Vikings were allowed to continue to live in and to govern the town—on payment of 365 tuns of wine of 32 gallons each, i.e. 32 gallons for every day of the year! Celtic priorities?

Limerick's outstanding monument is King John's Castle, used for military purposes until its evacuation by the British in 1922. It, the Dominican Priory (a papal university in 1644!), the various bridges, the town-walls,

the two cathedrals, and many other buildings are all used to demonstrate the city's history and rich heritage. Although some of the treasures housed in Limerick Museum are also used, the three most outstanding of Limerick's treasures are those directly or indirectly connected with Conor O'Dea, a Clareman who was Bishop of Limerick from 1400 to 1426. These three items are the beautiful mitre and crozier, both made for him in 1418, and the Arthur Crucifix, apparently refurbished and embellished in 1625 but quite possibly made originally for Conor O'Dea two centuries earlier.

More recent and popular items dealt with in this handsomely illustrated booklet include the Treaty Stone (used until 1865 as a mounting block, for horse-riders, outside the Black Bull public house), the Civic Sword (the oldest one in Ireland), the Mayoral Chain (made in Gaelic Revival Style in 1897 by Joseph P. Lynch, of Bedford Row, Limerick, to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the incorporation of the city), and the dramatic statue of Patrick Sarsfield (erected in 1881, by John Lawlor of Dublin).

This little booklet is itself a real treasure. Little is omitted, though perhaps the O'Connell monument in the Crescent and the unusual O'Grady monument near St. Lawrence's Cemetery deserved inclusion. Still, congratulations must go to the author, the instigator, the photographers, the publisher and the printer—once again Eason's Irish Heritage Series has produced a winner!

ETIENNE RYNNE

Sheila Molloy (ed.), **FRANCO-IRISH CORRESPONDENCE, DECEMBER 1688-FEBRUARY 1692**, Irish Manuscript Commission, Dublin, 3 vols: I, 1983, pp. xiv + 457; II, 1984, pp. 546; III, 1984, pp. 310. Price: £49, £54, £33 (respectively).

It might have been thought that the publication by the Irish Manuscripts Commission in 1934 of the *Négotiations de M. le Comte d'Avaux en Irlande, 1689-90* and the subsequent publication of a further instalment of "Franco-Irish Correspondence, 1688-91" in *Analecta Hibernica* (1959) would have rendered redundant any further volume (let alone volumes) of documents dealing with the French involvement in Ireland during the Jacobite Wars; but previous editions of correspondence concerned themselves excessively, if not exclusively, with the high politics of French action and there was an obvious need for a volume on the 'nuts and bolts' of the French expedition, one that would deal with the strategy, logistics, tactics and manoeuvres of the French force. This need has now been met—though it may be questioned whether three hefty volumes were altogether necessary for the purpose—and the result is a major increase in our knowledge of the military events of these crucial years.

It is important to state at the outset the limitations of these volumes. They do not change our overall view of the war; new light is not shed on the motives that underlay French involvement; material for a reassessment of Tyrconnel, Saint Ruth, or Sarsfield is not presented; nor is there much that is fresh on the battles of the Boyne and Aughrim, nor on the various sieges of Athlone, Limerick, and Galway. Indeed, the editor herself disarmingly claims that "our whole conception of the war is not radically altered by anything we find in the correspondence". Despite these apparent limitations, Dr. Molloy's verdict that the material she presents is nonetheless indispensable for our understanding of the war can be accepted, for what we have here are some 2,000 documents in full or summary dealing with French thinking on, and French reaction to, every subject arising out of the campaign. What supplies should be sent, the port of departure for the French army, its destination in Ireland, the pressing, and vexed, question of recruits, Jacobite rivalries, Irish fortifications, equipment for the troops, and general reflections of the conduct of the war, all figure prominently among the documents here published for the first time. Future historians will now be able to replace guesswork with precision in just about every military aspect of the war. Moreover, local historians, especially those based in Galway, Athlone and Limerick, will have a few new documents to mull over and to add to their meagre existing store. Their task in locating them will be made all the easier by Dr. Molloy's consideration in supplying an extremely detailed three-part index of Persons, Places and Subjects. Those Irish historians interested in the seventeenth century are in her debt.

THOMAS BARTLETT

John de Courcy Ireland, **IRELAND'S SEA FISHERIES: a History**, The Glendale Press, Dublin 1981, pp. 184; ISBN 0-907606-01-6. Price: £10.40.

John de Courcy Ireland, **WRECK AND RESCUE ON THE EAST COAST OF IRELAND**, The Glendale Press, Dublin 1983, pp. 264; ISBN 0-907606-091. Price: £16.50.

Growing up in Athlone, as this reviewer did, one was about as far from the sea as it is possible to be on this island. Yet in a strange way it is an apt place to start from to review both of these excellent books. In the 1950s the jingle "Sea fresh fish for you and me" hadn't been thought up. Had it come across the air waves it would

have been greeted with howls of derision in Athlone. Fish, landed in western ports passed through the town regularly on the way to the Dublin fish market where Athlone's local fish-mongers had to travel to purchase it. It wasn't unusual for fish landed at Galway to take three days to arrive at Athlone. As late as 1964 in Annagry, in North West Donegal, I watched the delivery, via Dublin, of Killybegs-landed fish. Mercifully we have progressed somewhat. Whatever about the antipathy to not-so-fresh fish there was great support for the lifeboat collection box on flag days in Athlone, possibly because it was a river town. Certainly the R.N.L.I. pennant race was always well supported and hotly contested at the Lough Ree Yacht Club's annual regatta.

In 1911 Arthur Griffith remarked that Ireland's fisheries could supply a comfortable living to some four hundred thousand people, both afloat and ashore. Griffith was by no means the first to realise the importance of Ireland's sea fisheries. In 1543 St. Leger urged his master Henry VIII to take over Ireland's fisheries for his own benefit and exclude the Spanish. Again in 1572, Sir Humphrey Gilbert expounded on the profit obtainable by the seizure of the Irish fisheries and complained about the heavy involvement of Spanish and Portuguese fishermen in our waters. What a pity that the Government of an independent Ireland only pays lip service to the importance of our fisheries and is not prepared to defend them against foreign exploitation. It should be borne in mind that for every fisherman employed at sea there could be seven employed ashore in processing and in the boat-yards. The history of Ireland's sea fisheries is really the story of the tenacity and courage of Ireland's fishermen in facing foreign exploitation, Government indifference and the vagaries of the cruel sea.

The latter difficulty no doubt prompted the fact that the world's first organised life boat organisation, set up in the Dublin area under an Act of Grattan's Parliament, was manned almost exclusively by volunteer fishermen throughout Ireland. Although concerned with the East Coast, *Wreck and Rescue* gives a graphic account of the formation and growth of the lifeboat service. However, the story of this service on the other coast-lines of our country deserves to be told at some stage. In the late 1820s Lord Cloncurry and others claimed that upwards of £350,000 worth of shipping were lost annually on the west coast of Ireland. Most of this shipping was involved in the America's trade. It was hoped that this figure might sway the shipping and mercantile families on the West Coast of Britain to subscribe to Cloncurry's unsuccessful plan to build a ship canal from Dublin to Galway so that shipping from Bristol, Liverpool and other west British ports could avoid most of the treacherous Irish coastline, on its way to or from America. The same financial argument was later, successfully, used to support the building of a lighthouse at Slyne Head.

But to return to the East Coast. Long before the English heroine Grace Darling made her celebrated rescue, a similar daring feat was carried out by the Pidgeon sisters who made the first recorded lifeboat rescue in Leinster. *Wrecks and Rescue* chronicles not only the horrific shipping losses and the heroic rescues on the East Coast of Ireland but also the maritime safety improvements that have done so much to make our coasts safe—from the Plimsol line to John Wigham's improvements to light-house lamps. The one thing that shines throughout this marvellous book is the heroism of the volunteer lifeboat crews. The Dún Laoghaire station lost twenty-three volunteers, drowned in different incidents. Fifteen were drowned in one disastrous rescue attempt on Christmas Eve, 1895. Such a disaster, however, did not daunt further volunteers coming forward to serve.

Wreck and Rescue is a heroic saga to make one proud of the achievements of a small group of dedicated volunteers who risked, and still do, the full ferocity of the sea to rescue others. *Ireland's Sea Fisheries* is a book that gives one hope because it chronicles an industry that has survived neglect, cynical political exploitation and severe international competition, and still survives. Both emotions, pride and hope, are sadly lacking in some quarters of this country today.

Both books should be compulsory reading for anyone seeking election at local or national level in every maritime constituency in this island of ours. Both are elegantly produced, copiously and interestingly illustrated, and a pleasure to handle and read.

PAUL DUFFY

Anne O. Crookshank, **IRISH SCULPTURE FROM 1600 TO THE PRESENT DAY**, Aspects of Ireland/Gnéithe dár nDúchas, Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin 1984. Price: £2.95.

In an earlier publication in this series Anne Crookshank dealt with the visual arts in Ireland from 1600 on, but mainly with painting [see this *Journal*, 24(1982), 198-110]. In this one she concentrates on sculpture, something for which the Irish have not been really noted though, as she shows, our sculptors do not deserve to be ignored.

The chapter on the 17th century is short, and is mainly concerned with tombs and other non-secular sculpture. Memorial crosses open the account, but only one, that known as 'The White Cross' at Athcarne, Co. Meath, is mentioned and illustrated. It is erroneously described as of "the ancient High Cross type", in which regard one feels that the fine, clearly more Celtic-type cross at Cruicetown, dated 1688 and also in Co. Meath, might at least equally, and indeed more appropriately, have deserved mention. The tomb-sculpture included is all of English type, notably those with kneeling figures such as are to be seen in Youghal, Dublin, Carrickfergus, Sligo, etc. Tombs with recumbent figures, such as the effigial monuments in North Meath, are not mentioned however,

nor is mention made of the often fine sculpture of 17th century mural plaques and 'marriage-stones' to be seen in Galway, Kilkenny and elsewhere. The marvellous chimney-piece of c.1620 in Donegal castle is included, however, and is illustrated with a fine photograph (pl. 5).

Sculpture in 18th century Ireland is better covered. It differed greatly from that of the previous century, the changes being attributed to three factors: the arrival in Ireland of William Kidwell (here from 1711 to 1736 when he died); the increase in the number of Big Houses being built; the establishment of Dublin Society (now the R.D.S.) Schools in the 1740s. Kidwell's most important monument is in our area, namely the baroque tomb-sculpture of Sir Donough O'Brien in Kilnasoolagh Church, Co. Clare. It dates from c.1717, and while it may be important artistically and art-historically it is certainly not pleasantly attractive!

A strong three-dimensional quality is noted in all the decorative arts of Ireland in the second half of the 18th century, clearly because all the artists tended to have been trained in the same school (Dublin Society) and under the same masters. The distinction between sculpture, stucco-work and furniture carving was not understood in the same way during the 18th century as nowadays, and indeed stuccadores used to build up motifs as if it were sculpture—towards the close of the century moulds began to be used instead, a method more suitable for the swags, and such motifs, introduced from England. Portrait busts became fashionable too in this century, apparently mainly due to the work of John Van Nost, son of a Dutch sculptor of the same name who worked in England; Van Nost worked in Ireland from about 1749 until his death in 1780. The best, and best-known, Irish sculptor of this period was Edward Smyth (born 1749) whose works mostly post-date 1780. His best-known work includes the riverine heads on the Custom House, Dublin (completed by May 1784), but he also worked on Gandon's other well-known Dublin buildings, the Four Courts and the King's Inns. His crucified Christ in Navan, Co. Meath, dated 1792, is likewise notable (pl. 36). His son, John (c.1773-1840), was also a skilled sculptor and both worked on the Chapel Royal in Dublin Castle, though which of them was responsible for the 'portrait' head of North Munsterman Brian Boru (pl. 39) there is uncertain.

Despite Catholic Emancipation in 1829 and the consequent increase in church-building in Ireland, there was little religious sculpture of note carried out during the 19th century. Undoubtedly the two most famous Irish sculptors of the century were John Hogan (1800-1858) and John Henry Foley (1818-1874). The latter was considered to be the finest sculptor in these islands at the time, and is best remembered for his work on the Albert Memorial in London, his Father Mathew statue in Cork, and his Daniel O'Connell monument in Dublin's O'Connell Street.

One caveat, John Lawlor of Dublin's statue (1881) of Patrick Sarsfield, near St. John's Cathedral, Limerick, surely deserved illustration and special mention?

The turn of the century saw the emergence of John Hughes and Oliver Sheppard (both 1865-1941), the latter widely known for his attractive Dying Cuchullain in the G.P.O. in Dublin. Irish sculptors of note working in the 20th century include Albert Power (1882-1945), Seamus Murphy (1907-1974), and, of course, Andrew O'Connor (1874-1941) who though American-born had Irish parents and lived for long in Ireland himself. Sculptors of the post-war period are also included and many of their modernistic works illustrated, but it would seem more reasonable for us to leave comment on them for a while—until history can more justly judge their merit or otherwise!

Taken all-in-all this is a valuable and useful booklet for anyone interested in Irish art and art-history as it gives, with its numerous fine illustrations and excellent text, the reader an opportunity to place Irish sculptural art in its true context. Once again Dr. Crookshank is to be thanked and the publishers, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and their printers, Colorprint, Dublin, are to be congratulated.

ETIENNE RYNNE

David Shaw-Smith (ed.), **IRELAND'S TRADITIONAL CRAFTS**, Thames and Hudson, London 1984, pp. 224; ISBN 0-500-27416-9. Price: £9.95 stg.

Being one who recoils at plastic goods brought from afar, and all the mad hustle and bustle that our mass media generally try stuffing into our minds, it gives me great satisfaction to write this review of a book that records and makes us proud that there is another way of life. This excellent book treats of some material aspects of our culture that are *artificial* in the true sense of the word, but are not so in the modern usage of the term. In the acknowledgements (p. 221) David Shaw-Smith explains that the book is an extension of the research for the filmed television series "Hands", commissioned by R.T.É. Further on he acknowledges the work of E. Estyn Evans, two of whose books, *Irish Heritage* and *Irish Folk Ways*, are listed in the bibliography. The book under review covers much the same ground as do the Evans' books.

The isolation of Ireland has given rise to the development of a rich heritage of handcrafts based on our own supply of natural raw materials. This excellent book tells something of the crafts in textiles, stones, wood, rush, straw, leather, metal, pottery, glass, and other suchlike materials. There are eighteen substantial essays, and over thirty photographic essays, describing and showing what has survived, in some instances just barely so, into the second half of the twentieth century. Some of the crafts have ancestries of thousands of years on this island, yet we seem determined to obliterate them as we race into the twenty-first century.

Fourteen contributors are listed (p. 218); some of them are members of our Society. Most of the contributions are superb. the work of Dr. Kevin Danaher over a lifetime with the Irish Folklore Commission and later the Department of Folklore, U.C.D., is to be seen in his essays on curraghs, furniture and thatching. Dr. Patrick Wallace describes life (not just the work) in a forge so well that one can almost smell the perspiration, the sweat, the dung, the hens, the hot iron and the burning hoof, and hear the ringing of the hammer on the anvil. Dr. Ann O'Dowd traces basketry back to Neolithic times and shows many uses of it, e.g. for walls of buildings, furniture, etc. She tells of the growing of the sally, the preparation of the rods and the methods of making various type of basketry. Dr. Tim O'Neill, who had his own short T.V. series on crafts some years ago, deals with stone cutting, masonry and coopering. Crafts that are experiencing a revival at present, wool and linen, patchwork and lace and crochet are admirably dealt with by Brid and Laura Jones. Bríd Mahon illustrates several Apron stitches and makes suggestions for home dyes. Various types of pottery are described by Mairéad Reynolds and Megan McManus. Mary McGrath describes leatherworking. For the wealthier patrons Douglas Bennett sets the scene on silversmithing and Ida Grehan that on Waterford crystal. Peter Kilroy writes about harps and Desmond Breen shows the art of putting a good cover on a book. The final essay, by Benedict Kiely, about life on a Co. Fermanagh farm, detracts from the whole book: the feeling he presents is that craftsmanship, poverty and the single life go hand-in-hand. One wonders just why the Mullholland family did not all get up and go to the city. This essay seems to me to defeat what the book otherwise admirably does, namely to encourage the crafts that are part of our heritage.

In addition to the major essays, there are thirty photographic essays where several photographs, each with extended captions, detail the making of such items as candles, bodhráns, carriages, hurling-balls, sugaun chairs, Donegal carpets, etc. Anyone who has studied under our editor will realise what he was talking about when he stated that the raw material for archaeology is still being made in our own backyard.

The content of the contributions varies considerably, concentrating to varying degrees on history, background, present state of the craft, methods and actual processes. A few are much too prosaic and talk around their topic while never getting to the heart of it. Ida Grehan's contribution on Waterford Crystal is an example, one which also suffers from having an invented ancestry; surely the glass studs on the Ardagh Chalice can have nothing whatever to do with Waterford Crystal? Some authors, like Pat Wallace, are writing from experience; others, like Mairéad Reynolds and Laura Jones, are writing from museum collections, the storehouses of our heritage. The individuality of the writings is akin to the crafts they are writing about.

While this is an excellent book and well worth its cost, it inevitably raises some quibbles. My biggest problem with the book is establishing its purpose. Is it a handbook for the T.V. series "Hands", a handbook for the various crafts, or an academic work? It achieves each of these to varying degrees in the various essays, but not so overall. Each essay is well written and will stimulate many to at least attempt to emulate the craftsmen in the book. From the practical or the academic point of view, however, the reader will find little indication as to where to read further. The bibliography has about forty entries, eleven of which are general. Set against the wide range of topics in the book this is far too few. Eason's *Irish Heritage* series is listed; why not also Folens' similar series? Obviously lacking from the bibliography are *Folk and Farm* edited by Caoimhín Ó Danachair (1976), James Arnold's *Shell Book of Country Crafts* (1968), J. Geraint Jenkins' *Traditional Country Craftsmen* (1965), and the many guide-books produced by folk museums such as that at St. Fagan's, just outside Cardiff, Cultra, outside Belfast, and our own Bunratty.

As for the book itself as a work of reference, which it certainly is, the photographic essays are not credited to any individual, neither with the entries nor in the Contents. The illustrations are not numbered nor are they integrated with the text, though they excellently complement it. Apparently neither Shaw-Smith nor the publishers, Thames and Hudson, were aware of just how useful a book they were producing.

Some museum-held pieces, such as the Carrickmacross lace (p. 46), or some of the patchwork (p. 33), are given as "Date Unknown"—the museum acquisition date or information on file could give us a *terminus ante quem* for the pieces; when this book is used as a reference work in the future the only *terminus ante quem* will be 1984, the date of the book. Incidentally, "Date not recorded" might have been more appropriate than "Date Unknown".

Besides the photographs in the book there are many good drawings by Sally Shaw-Smith. However, that of the food vessel from Barnashrahy, Co. Sligo (p. 186), is so far removed from reality that its use here can only be regarded as of negative value.

The recurrent theme of the book, set in the Foreword by Justin Keating, Chairman of the Craft Council of Ireland, is self reliance, get-up-and-go, do it yourself, stop depending on others, the fields *are* green at home. In the second half of the twentieth century we suffer from quite the opposite. The consumer society and the television set in the corner of the sitting-room have taken such a grip on us that outsiders may well wonder why we even bothered to fight for our independence. Today we expect or allow non-nationals to run the country's industry and trade. This book shows we have a past to be proud of, just as George Petrie's *Ecclesiastical Architecture of Ireland anterior to the Anglo-Norman Invasion* did in 1845, and that in that past we produced goods suited

to our culture. There are lessons here for AnCO, the I.D.A., the Department of Education, and the National and local museums. Our traditional crafts are worthy of being kept alive, and in addition can provide employment. The time may be running out, for it is sad to notice that most people in the photographs are in their later years. Hopefully this book will inspire a new generation of craftsmen and craftswomen to take up the work of their grandparents.

Over the years we have come to expect a high standard of publication of books on the cultural heritage of the world from Thames and Hudson. Yet again they have produced a superb book, well worth every penny of its cost. They, David Shaw-Smith and the authors are all to be congratulated on this beautiful and inspiring book.

MARTIN A. TIMONEY

Eamonn Mac Giolla Iasachta, **LEATHANAIGH Ó MO DHIALANN**, Clódhanna Teo., Baile Átha Cliath, 1978, ll. 111. Luach: £1.50.

Edward Mac Lysaght, **CHANGING TIMES: IRELAND SINCE 1898**, Colin Smythe Ltd., Gerrards Cross, 1978, pp. 248; ISBN 0-901072-88-5. Price: £6.30.

Few people have had the perspective of a near century of history within their personal reminiscences. Edward Mac Lysaght, noted Clareman, in this his autobiography shows how much he has been involved in the making of the new Ireland which this century has produced. The variety of his interests, from farming to academic life, lends a value and an interest to his book, *Changing Times*.

Dr. Mac Lysaght's other books from *Irish Eclogues*, published in 1915, to *Leathanaigh ó mo Dhiálann*, published sixty-three years later, represent the changing facets and interests of his life. Agriculture, the Co-operative movement, the Irish language revival, family history, all find their place in the many books which came from his pen. He wrote little of the politics with which he was involved. In *Changing Times* he has filled that gap.

From the second decade of this century Dr. Mac Lysaght has been involved with Irish life and politics. His entry into that sphere was sparked off by the impact of the 1916 Rising. He was deeply involved in the Clare election of 1917, attended the Irish Convention set up by Lloyd George and was involved with the subsequent War of Independence. When the Treaty came in 1921 he, like many in the East Clare Brigade area, accepted it. He became a member of the first Senate which involved him in taking what was, for others, the Treaty oath of fealty. It is a pity that he has not recorded his reaction to taking that oath. In fact he has told me that the oath was administered formally to each person in the chamber of the Dáil by the Ceann Comhairle. Dr. Mac Lysaght refused to repeat the words of the oath, not from any personal objection to their content but because they were in English! He had to wait for some little time while an Irish translation was prepared.

It is not as a politician that Dr. Mac Lysaght made his mark but in more academic fields. This was despite an unpromising start as an undergraduate at Oxford which he left without even completing his first year in 1908. Thirteen years later, in 1921, he found an unusual loophole in the National University of Ireland regulations which allowed him to submit a thesis for the M.A. at University College, Cork. His subject was the history of the Mac Lysaght family which later appeared in book form. It was his first step into genealogy and historical research. Some years were to pass, however, before he made that field into a way of life. Novels from his pen in Irish came before then. *Cúrsaí Thomáis* is more popular than *Toil Dé*, but I always found the latter more fascinating. There was also a book on South Africa arising out of a two years sojourn there in the 1930s. However, his interest in history was not submerged and in 1930 his major work on Irish life in the seventeenth century appeared. It brought him a doctorate and a post with the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

There his interest in family papers was deepened and extended. His reports on the Orrery, Kenmare and other collections of manuscripts brought to light valuable resource material at a time when the National Library of Ireland, under R. J. Hayes, was extending its interest in this type of material. Then Mac Lysaght was offered the post of Chief Herald and Genealogical Officer when the Ulster Office of Arms in Dublin Castle became part of the National Library. His historical, genealogical and archive work was coming together to make him the natural choice as first Keeper of Manuscripts in the Library. The collection which he had to put in order was extensive. It had grown through the war years. It had far outgrown the library strongroom and was held in large wooden boxes throughout the building. Mac Lysaght was the man who made it accessible.

When retirement came Edward MacLysaght had achieved much for which students of history in Ireland must be grateful. His book, however, tells of one major disappointment. It relates to the proposal in 1947 of the then Taoiseach, Eamon de Valera, to establish a school of Irish historical research within the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. The story of how this effort was stymied by Professor Aubrey Gwynn and the history professors of Cork and Galway is a fascinating insight into academic jealousies and the myopic vision of occupants of ivory towers.

Mac Lysaght's "retirement" was to be filled with activity. He has kept up all his interests. Family history has become for him a way of life. *Irish Families* (1957) has been followed by *More Irish Families* (1960), and by *Supplement to Irish Families* (1964) and *The Surnames of Ireland* (1969). These have been revised and extended. He also has seen into print the biography of his father and the reminiscences of the labour leader, William O'Brien. Now we have two works of autobiography copiously interlaced with extracts from his diaries. They cover eighty years since he was about ten years of age, before the beginning of this century. They show the multiple faceted life which he has had and they illustrate the vigour which sustains him as he resolutely bats for the century.

The book ends with thirty-one pages of Appendices, including an amusing account (pp. 211-220) of the eccentric Raymond Moulton O'Brien's serio-comic claim to be recognised as 'Prince of Thomond'. Before these, however, the author brought his life-story to a close on page 210, with a brief mention of a dinner held to mark his ninetieth birthday. Held in Bunratty Castle, the event was sponsored by our Society at which he was given a specially-bound presentation copy of a now out-of-print and much-sought-after special issue of our *Journal*, namely vol. XVII, for 1975, sub-titled *Féilsgribhinn Éamonn Mhic Giolla Iasachta* and comprising specially commissioned papers in his honour. Neither that publication nor *Changing Times* brought his life and work up to date, as we all know now, fully a decade later. We are all still immensely in his debt—he is one of the great 'Worthies of Thomond'.

THOMAS P. O'NEILL

T. Ó Connalláin, **SHIPS OF IRELAND 1984**. Maritime Institute of Ireland, Dublin 1983, pp. 60. Price: £3.00.

This register gives details of shipping in Ireland as of July 31st 1984. Not alone are Irish-owned, Irish-registered ships covered but also ships owned in Ireland but registered abroad and also foreign-owned ships which fly the Irish flag. There is also a useful section on Naval service vessels and a further section detailing shipping and maritime organisations, institutions and government departments concerned with Irish maritime affairs. Whilst primarily of use to commercial interests, this register is also of use to those interested in Irish maritime history.

Amongst the vessels of Thomond interest of which details are given are: *Garryowen II* built in 1921 for James Balatyne Millers, Limerick; *Curraghbour II* belonging to Limerick Harbour Commissioners; *Tara Sky* built originally as the *Mulcair* in 1957 for the Limerick Steam Ship Co., and now operating as a bulk/container carrier for Irish Petroleum Northern Ltd.; *Shannon Heather* and *Shannon Willow* the vessels belonging to Shannon Car Ferries Ltd.; and *Seanaid* the tug vessel belonging to Cory Ship Towing Ltd., operating at Foynes.

The register is copiously illustrated with photographs and line-drawings.

PAUL DUFFY