

## Editorial, 1990

In 1484 Galway was granted a Charter which gave it the right to elect a Mayor and thus be recognised officially as a true city. Five hundred years later Galway celebrated the event with its Quincentennial, a year which proved beneficial to the city, reawakening a pride and interest in the past among its citizens, giving it good reasons for a general clean-up and improvement of facilities, and otherwise benefiting it touristically and, *ipso facto*, financially. It was a brilliant, inspiring, original yet stunningly simple idea, one which was first thought up by our long-time member, Professor Thomas P. O'Neill, who mooted it to Galway's Corporation. They had the savvy to appreciate the value of the idea, grasped it to themselves, acted upon it, and in doing so gave the lead to many cities and towns elsewhere in Ireland, including Cork's 800 the following year, 1985, and Dublin's Millennium in 1988. Now Ennis in 1990 celebrates the 750th anniversary of its own beginning, initiated in 1240 when the Franciscans, at the invitation of Donnchadh Ó Briain (Donat O'Brien), King of Thomond, founded a friary on the *inis* in the River Fergus, just north of the king's own residence at Clonroad (for the history of which royal site see Brian Ó Dálaigh's paper in this *Journal* for 1987).

The friary has been well written-up over the years, including accounts in our *Journal* (e.g. the brief general account by John Hunt in the volume for 1978), despite which it is suitably celebrated by the frontispiece and two papers in the present *Journal*, one on its interesting swastika and the other on its curious desiccated cat. Although in this celebratory year the *Journal* perhaps has more articles and notes on County Clare than usual, the other counties in North Munster, Limerick, Tipperary and North Kerry, are not forgotten—and that's the way we hope to keep it, giving due recognition equally to all four counties. Meanwhile let us all celebrate Ennis 750.

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We learn, with regret, that some serious and not so serious words in Editorial 1988 have caused difficulties in the engineering world. We apologise to Mr. Duffy and his colleagues for any offence which we unintentionally may have given, and unequivocally withdraw the offending words. Despite this slight *contretemps* and misunderstanding, may we sincerely hope that Mr. Duffy will soon finish his fine work on the various interesting aspects of the Shannon Scheme which he has studied more deeply than anyone else, and that he will graciously allow us publish the results as originally planned.

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Symbol of the Resurrection" by Etienne Rynne, and "A Destroyed Rath at Kilscannell, near Ardagh, Co. Limerick" by Jerry McMahon and Etienne Rynne, and from The O'Mara Travel Co. Ltd., Dublin, towards the publication of "Joseph O'Mara" by Robert Potterton and E. O'Mara Carton.

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