

OBITUARIES

RIGHT REV. MONSIGNOR IGNATIUS MURPHY, M.A., D.C.L. (1938-1993)

"Teacher-Catechist-Jurist-Faithful Priest" were the words Bishop William Walsh selected for the tombstone of his friend, Ignatius Murphy. Words in themselves can be laconic, cold and limiting; they come to life when they touch the keyboard of our experience and memory. Many will have known Ignatius Murphy through his writings, many will have met him on the professional level of priest, teacher, canon lawyer, and many will have known Iggy as a friend. It is now quite some time since he died, on the 30th of April 1993, and as I write these words in a room where we talked and discussed issues very many times, his presence is still palpable, not overpowering or threatening but, as in life, sympathetic and supporting.

Behind every role is a personality. Ignatius Murphy was reserved, friendly, intense, concerned, with a warmth that attracted, not a heat that rebelled. There was an intellectual integrity always seeking the truth, an interest rooted in his native Kilkee that spread to every nook and cranny of his beloved county Clare, not excluding the rest of the world - only keeping it in perspective. His concern was always for the individual, the institution came second. His Church, his parish, his town, his county, his country achieved an importance because they served and represented his people. Their story was paramount for Ignatius, and his eagerness to tell their story can be the only explanation of his tremendous work output. Indeed, when he received his Master's degree in 1969 it was for a thesis on the social history of Kilkee, his native parish, during the second quarter of the 19th century, a period which covered not only the growth of the town as a tourist resort but also the hardships of the Great Famine, a period which became one of his specialities.

In time, I am sure, a full bibliography of his numerous publications, including a handful of books and many articles, long and short, to various scholarly journals and magazines, will become available. His contributions in the *North Munster Antiquarian Journal* are an impressive legacy in their own right, and cover a wide and varied field. They include twenty-three articles and notes, one book review, and one obituary notice, all published between 1973 and 1987, after which his output of articles in learned journals slackened as he concentrated on his *magnum opus*, three large, impressive and well-researched volumes on the history of the *Diocese of Killaloe* (published 1991-95; it is intended to publish a Review Article on these in the next volume of this *Journal*). He also left two unfinished articles, one on a ringfort and souterrain at Kilkee and the other on the Birr Stone [for which see G. O'Connell in this *Journal*, 13(1970), 57-58], with our Hon. Editor some years ago - but with the proviso that their publication be not rushed as there were at the time ongoing changes of ownership in the first case and of location in the second; it is also intended to publish both, suitably updated, in the next number of this *Journal*.

Ignatius Murphy's prodigious, painstaking, industrious research now fills shelves in the Killaloe Diocesan Archive. The diocese of Killaloe will stand forever in his debt. His three-volume history of the diocese from 1700 to 1904 sets a standard for all future diocesan histories. This history would have been an outstanding achievement if it were the synthesis of a preserved archive, but such was the unsettled history of the diocese during the 18th and 19th centuries that Ignatius had literally to scour the libraries of continental Europe, England and Ireland, and to read every paper published during the period. We are left to proclaim the fruits of the labour while we mourn the labourer.

Future generations will acclaim the historian, we remember a friend, grieving at his untimely passing. I recall the living, vibrant Clareman, his involvement in football and hurling. It was a matter for wonder how the intellectual, truthful historian could become the passionate tribesman, seeing only his own team - and God help the referee who did not see things as he saw them - a flavour of human weakness that enriched his personality.

The early death, at the age of fifty-four, of Ignatius Murphy was a serious loss to the diocese of Killaloe which depended so much on his knowledge and intellectual acumen; he is sorely missed by local historians, particularly in Thomond; a void not easily filled has been left in his family and among his friends. He did leave a wonderful legacy, nothing more valuable than the experience of sharing his last few weeks. He looked to the next life with faith and a mystic excitement as the meeting with his Creator grew ever closer minute by weaker minute. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.*

REUBEN BUTLER

The following is a list of Monsignor Ignatius Murphy's publications in the **North Munster Antiquarian Journal**:

1. "Pre-Famine Passenger Services on the Lower Shannon", 16(1973-74), 70-83.
2. "Preserving the Round Tower on Inis Cathaigh", 16(1973-74), 89-90.
3. "William Smith O'Brien and the Teaching of Irish in West Clare", 16(1973-74), 90.
4. "Some Forgotten Clare Finds", 18(1976), 78-80.
5. "Newmarket Farming Society, 1831-1833", 18(1976), 81-82.
6. "Coastguards at Kilkee", 19(1977), 74.
7. "Prophecy", 19(1977), 74-75.
8. "Kilkee and Its Neighbourhood during the First Year of the Great Famine, 1845-1846", 21(1979), 15-24.
9. "Chimney-Sweeps in Ennis in the 1830s", 21(1979), 51.
10. "Faction-Fighting at Kilkee", 21(1979), 51-52.
11. "Kilkee and Its Neighbourhood during the Second Year of the Great Famine, 1846-1847", 23(1981), 77-88.
12. "Projected Railways to Limerick, 1825-1827", 23(1981), 95-96.
13. "Children in the Kilrush Union during the Great Famine", 24(1982), 74-80.
14. "Postal Services in Clare in the Late 18th and Early 19th Century", 24(1982), 104-105.
15. "The Appointment of Catholic Bishops to Killaloe Diocese, 1819-1850", 25(1983), 63-68.
16. "Re-organisation of the Diocese of Kilfenora, Kilmacduagh, Galway and Killaloe, 1852-1883", 26(1984), 65-74.

17. "Proposed Canal in West Clare", 26(1984), 102-103.
18. "Longevity in County Clare", 26(1984), 103-104.
19. Review of *Famine Years in the Parish of Killaloe, 1845-1851*, by Seán Kierse - 26(1984), 116.
20. "Ennis Temperance Society, 1835-1839", 27(1985), 88-89.
21. "Two Early Eighteenth Century Bishops of Killaloe", 28(1986), 58-61.
22. "Balloon Flights in North Munster", 28(1986), 71-73.
23. "Sylvester Lloyd, O.F.M., Bishop of Killaloe, 1728-1739", 29(1987), 41-48.
24. "Sending a Telegraph in North Munster", 29(1987), 94-95.
25. Obituary notice for Seán Marrinan, 29(1987), 113.

The following relevant review also appeared in this *Journal*, 23(1981), 107:

Review by P.B. Lysaght of *Father Michael Meehan and the Ark of Kilbaha*, by Ignatius Murphy.

PROFESSOR THOMAS FANNING, M.A., Ph.D., F.S.A. (1933-1993)

Not only Irish Archaeology, not only University College Galway, not only this Society, not only his wife Terry, and his family, but also his many friends and colleagues felt greatly the loss of Professor Tom Fanning when he left our worldly company on the 15th of July 1993. His passing was a sad loss to Archaeology, not only in Ireland but also internationally.

Tom came relatively late to Archaeology, having first qualified, in 1952 with Honours (Grade 1), as a National School-teacher, and it was while working in that profession that he undertook an Evening B.A. course in Archaeology and History, in University College Dublin. He qualified in 1966 and then, while still teaching full-time, he started researching for a Master's Degree in Archaeology, on a thesis elucidating "Aspects of the Bronze Ringed Pin in Early Historic and Early Medieval Ireland", for which he was awarded a first class honours M.A. in 1969. A year later he was appointed an Assistant Inspector (Archaeologist) in the National Parks and Monuments Branch of the Office of Public Works, and in 1975 was promoted to Senior Archaeologist, directing the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.

While with the Office of Public Works, Tom not only directed the Survey but also undertook several important excavations, most of which were promptly and efficiently published. As a result his reputation grew, and in 1979 he successfully applied for the post of Statutory Lecturer, with special interest in the Viking and Medieval Periods, in University College Galway. He had already started on a doctoral thesis, researching "The Ringed pins of Viking Europe", a follow-up to his Master's thesis, but which was enormously expanded to cover all the ringed pins in Britain and Scandinavia, and as far afield as Iceland and even L'Anse-aux-Meadows, in Newfoundland! Publications followed, some of major importance and on a wide variety of subjects, but mostly on his special Viking and Medieval interests. In 1993, just before his sad demise, Tom was promoted to Associate Professor in Archaeology.

A quiet, steady, solid worker, Tom ploughed a deep and fertile furrow in whatever field of Archaeological research he was engaged. The study of early Irish monasteries has benefitted enormously from his outstanding excavations at Reask, on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula, just as his large-scale excavations at the Augustinian Abbey of Clontuskert, near Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, advanced knowledge of the later medieval Irish monasteries. His excavations at Swords Castle, Co. Dublin, and Kells Priory, Co. Kilkenny, revolutionised medieval Irish studies - as a result of the discovery of decorated tiled floors in those sites, he studied tiles so thoroughly that in 1988 he co-authored with Dr. Elizabeth Eames, of the British Museum, a book on *Irish Medieval Tiles* which will be for a long time the standard work on the subject, not only providing a corpus of all Irish floor-tiles known at the time of publication but also identifying over five hundred tile designs.

Tiles played a major part in Tom's researches, but ringed pins were even more to the fore. Not only were his Master's and Doctorate theses on the subject but so also were his first and last publications. The first was "The Bronze Ringed Pins in the Limerick City Museum" published in our *Journal* in 1969 and which for long remained virtually the most up-to-date and standard work on Irish ringed pins. His last publication was *Viking Age Ringed Pins from Dublin*, proof-corrected from his hospital bed only a few days before his death and published posthumously a year later by the Royal Irish Academy in conjunction with the National Museum of Ireland; it will be reviewed in the next number of our *Journal*.

But while Tom will be for long remembered for those scholarly publications, and for many more related and other learned papers which appeared in Irish, British, French, German and Scandinavian journals, it will probably be for his real expertise on the Vikings in Ireland that his reputation will be crowned. He lectured widely at home and abroad on the subject (including to our Society in February 1985), and apart from the book on Dublin ringed pins he was intimately involved at the time of his death with the writing and editing of a major book on *The Vikings in Ireland*, by himself, Donncha Ó Corráin and Patrick Wallace, a book which we all look forward to appearing shortly.

That Tom was energetic and hard-working goes without saying, especially when it is realised that quite apart from undertaking excavations and research, and publishing the results, he was also directorially involved in the outstanding surveys and subsequent publications of the archaeological field-monuments of Co. Donegal and of Corcha Dhuibhne; he was also active as the archaeological consultant for the layout and construction of the Early Christian monastic site in the National Heritage Park, Co. Wexford. And meanwhile he fulfilled his university duties, not only in lecturing to the students and to university-organised extra-mural courses throughout the West of Ireland, but also as an active member of many of the Committees and Sub-Committees which seem to be a *sine qua non* of every university.

While much invaluable information and knowledge has gone to the grave with Tom Fanning, we are all fortunate to have known him and greatly in his debt insofar as his publication record is exemplary - he has left behind a wealth of useful knowledge which for years to come will light the way forward for all who work in Irish archaeology, particularly in the twelve-hundred-year period between St. Patrick and the Reformation. Thanks to his work we will, as a foreign colleague commented to me at the time, be able to build on his achievements.

I measc aingil Dé, agus freisin ag comhrá leis na laocra Lochlannacha agus na manaigh Éireannacha ar a raibh sé chómh eolach agus tuisceanach, go raibh sé san bhFlaitheas anois agus go deó na ndeor.

ETIENNE RYNNE

A member of the Thomond Archaeological Society since 1969, Professor Fanning published five articles and seventeen book reviews in **The North Munster Antiquarian Journal**, as listed here:

ARTICLES

1. "The Bronze Ringed Pins in the Limerick City Museum", 12(1969), 6-11
2. "Excavation of a Ringfort at Bowling Green, Thurles, Co. Tipperary", 13(1970), 6-21.
3. "Two Cross-inscribed Stones from Reask, Co. Kerry, at Adare Manor", 14(1971), 25-28.
4. (with K. O'Brien) "Earthworks at Raheen Castle, Co. Limerick", 16(1973-74), 29-32.
5. "The British Museum Catalogue of Medieval Tiles - a Review incorporating the Irish Evidence", 23(1981), 9-16.

BOOK REVIEWS

1. C. Thomas, *Christian Antiquities of Camborne* - 10:2(1967), 229-230.
2. A.C. Champneys, *Irish Ecclesiastical Architecture* (reprint, with Introduction by L. de Paor) - 13(1970), 62-63.
3. G. Hand, *The Church in the English Lordship, 1216-1307* - 14(1971), 84.
4. A. Gwynn, *Anglo-Irish Church Life, 14th and 15th Centuries* - 14(1971), 84.
5. E. Bolster, *A History of the Diocese of Cork from the Earliest Times to the Reformation* - 15(1972), 64-65.
6. D. Ó Conchúir, *Corca Dhuibhne i Aos Iorruis Tuaiscirt agus Uí Fhearba* - 16(1973-74), 92-93.
7. L. Laing, *The Archaeology of Late Celtic Britain and Ireland, c. A.D. 400-1200* - 17(1975), 125-126.
8. P. Harbison, *The Archaeology of Ireland* - 18(1976), 83-84.
9. G. Cunningham, *Roscrea and District* - 18(1976), 85-86.
10. D.N. Johnson, *Irish Castles* - 22(1980), 74.
11. R. de Valera & S. Ó Nualláin, *Survey of Megalithic Tombs of Ireland, Vol. IV: Counties Cork, Kerry, Limerick and Tipperary* - 24(1982), 106-107.
12. J.B. Kenyon, *Castles, Town Defences and Artillery Fortifications in Britain and Ireland: A Bibliography* - 26(1984), 114.
13. D.N. Johnson, *The Irish Castle* - 27(1985), 95.
14. T. Morris, *Holycross Abbey* - 28(1986), 111-112.
15. P.K. Egan, *St. Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea* - 28(1986), 111-112.

16. S. MacDonagh, *A Visitor's Guide to the Dingle Peninsula* - 29(1987), 100.
17. R. Stalley, *Cistercian Monasteries in Ireland, an account of the history, art and architecture of the White Monks in Ireland from 1142 to 1540* - 30(1988), 66-67.

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The Society learned with regret of the deaths during 1993 and 1994 of the following members also, and tenders its sincere sympathies to their relatives and friends.

MRS. MAURA CRONIN, 6 Riverside Park, Shannon Banks, Limerick.

CAPTAIN PAUL DARCY, "Fealeside", Ballykeeffe, Limerick.

DAVID HELY-HUTCHINSON, Parteenalax, Parteen, Co. Clare.

THOMAS P. MORRIS, 14 Shannon Drive, Corbally, Limerick - formerly Editor of the *Limerick Weekly Echo* newspaper and the Managing-Director of McKerns Printing Ltd., who always took a personal interest in the production of our *Journal*.

GERARD NOCTOR, 4 Mount Prospect Terrace, South Circular Road, Limerick.

DR. M. ROBERTS, "Kloof", North Circular Road, Limerick.

DR. K. WALSH, Beechmount, Crosshaven, Co. Cork.

Proceedings, 1993

A red-letter year for the Society in many ways. We had seven excellent lectures, one held in Adare Manor, and one in King John's Castle. Two of our nine outings broke new ground, namely, the trip to Northern Ireland and the Social Evening in Adare Manor. The Northern Ireland outing was a great success. Two nights were spent in Enniskillen and two in Belfast. Among the many places visited were Florence Court, Lough Erne, White Island and Devenish Island, the Ulster Folk Museum, the Glens of Antrim, Navan Fort (Emhain Mhacha) and the City Hall, Belfast, where we were received by the Deputy Mayor. A mayoral reception was also laid on in Coleraine, arranged by Dr. Avril Thomas, who had lectured to the Society earlier in the year. Bill McInerney deserves praises a-plenty for his excellent organising. Over fifty members travelled.

During the year the Society concerned themselves with the following matters: the right of way to the Cliffs of Moher, and access to historical and archaeological sites in general; Kilmurry Church preservation, and proposals to build some new houses near Bunratty Castle. Two students were employed for ten weeks under the student employment programme. These worked in the Limerick Museum, John's Square, under the direction of Larry Walsh, the Curator.

LECTURES

29th January - "Our Brigid: Lore and Legends of St. Brigid".
Prof. Séamus Ó Catháin, Dept. of Irish Folklore, U.C.D.

12th February - A.G.M.

21st February - "Georgian Limerick", an illustrated lecture delivered at the Annual Social at Adare Manor by Desmond Fitzgerald, Knight of Glin, *Member*.

19th March - "Walled towns - Limerick and Ireland". Dr. Avril Thomas, writer and researcher. Venue: King John's Castle.

16th April - "William Monsell, Lord Emly". Dr. Dermot Roantree, Nullamore University Residence, Dublin.

18th October - "Recent Acquisitions in the Limerick Museum".
Larry Walsh, Curator, *Member*.

12th November - "Lady Hazel Lavery". Sinéad McCoole.

1st December - "A Brief History of Limerick Medicine". Dr. Robert Holmes, *Member*.

OUTINGS

9th May (full day) - Clonmacnoise, and Aughrim Interpretative Centre.
Organiser: Cian O'Carroll, *Member*.
Speakers: the relevant Official Guides.

23rd May (half day) - Glen of Aherlow, Toureen Peakaun and St. Berriherth's Kyle.
Organiser: Liam Clifford, *Member*.
Speaker: Liam O'Dwyer.

9th June (evening) - Limerick City.
Organiser and Speaker: Kevin Hannan, *Member*.

24-28th June (long weekend) - Northern Ireland: Began on Thursday with a boat trip to Devinish Island in Lower Lough Erne and a visit to Florence Court house; Friday began with a visit to White Island, then to Castle Archdale and on to the Irish American Folk Park at Omagh, followed by a civic reception in the evening at Enniskillen Castle. Navan Fort and the Ulster Folk Museum at Cultra were visited on Saturday. On Sunday through the Glens of Antrim to the Giant's Causeway and on to the spectacular Dunluce Castle. A reception at Coleraine ended a memorable day. Monday began with a reception at Belfast City Hall, followed by a visit to the Linenhall Library, and finally, a visit to Stormount, before returning to Limerick.
Organiser: Bill McInerney, Member.

11th July (half day) - Rathkeale, Beechmount House, Rathkeale Abbey.
Organiser and Speaker: Frank Johnson, Member.

25th July (half day) - Bruree area: Hardingrove House, De Valera Cottage, Bruree House, the Watermill.
Organiser and Speaker: Tony Browne, Member.

22nd August (half day) - Broadford, Co. Clare, Kilmore Church, Hurdlestown House, Woodford House. *Organiser and Speaker: Pat O'Brien.*

12th September (full day) - Tralee: Kerry Museum and 'The Geraldine Experience', Blennerville Windmill, Steam Railway, Ardfert Cathedral, Ardfert Franciscan Friary, Kyrie Eleison Cistercian Abbey, Abbeydorney.
Organiser: Ted Glancy, Hon Treasurer.
Speakers: Sister Anselm, Ann O'Reilly, Anthony O'Callaghan.

26th September (half day) - Dromcollagher, Drom. Co-Op. Creamery, Springfield Castle.
Organiser and Speaker: Liam Irwin, Member.

PADDY LYSAGHT

LECTURES

18th January - "Excavations at St. Mary's Cathedral". Brian Hodkinson, Archaeologist, *Member.*

9th February - "Why the Protestant Reformation Failed in Ireland".
Dr. Declan Downey, Dept. of History, Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

25th February - "75th Anniversary of Dáil Eireann". Dr. Brian Murphy, O.S.B., Glenstal Abbey.

7th March - A.G.M.

27th March - "Irish Houses and Castles". the Hon. Desmond Guinness.
Lecture delivered after Annual Social at Dromoland Castle.

13th April - "Like a Lightning through the Land - Cromwell's Irish Campaign".
Dr. Brendan Bradshaw, Director of Historical Studies, Queen's College, Cambridge, *Member.*

14th October - "Castles of the Crusades". Dr. David Morray, Dept. of Near Eastern Studies, U.C.D.

11th November - "Women in the Middle Ages - Alice Kytler, a Medieval Woman".
Dr. Bernadette Williams, Dept. of Medieval History, T.C.D.

5th December - "The Catholic Question in Ireland 1690-1830".
Professor Thomas Bartlett, Dept. of History, U.C.G.

Proceedings, 1994

Another year to be remembered with no fewer than eleven outings and eight lectures. Undoubtedly, the highlight of the year was the Malta Outing arranged and led by Professor Etienne Rynne, Department of Archaeology, U.C.G. Fifty-two people travelled. Among the sites visited were: The Grand Harbour (by boat), the National Museum and St. John's Cathedral in Valetta, Ghar Dalem cave, Gozo, Ggantija Temples, Victoria/Rabat Cathedral, Hajar Qim, Mynadra and the Tarxien Temples, San Agatha's Catacombs, St. Paul's Grotto and "The Silent City" of Mdina.

While the rain did not help, the outing to North Cork was thoroughly enjoyable, as was the outing to Valentia Island. Having been warned that the sea was rough but not dangerous, most of our party braved the sea voyage around Skellig Mhichíl. Ah yes; the sea was cruel to many! Our visit to Glenleam, former residence of the Knights of Kerry, where its present owner, Mr. Kreissig, spoke to us, was indeed memorable. The committee had a busy year endeavouring to call a halt to housing developments at Kilfenora Cathedral and Bunratty, objecting to a project at the Cliffs of Moher and to the demolition of part of St. Mary's Convent, Limerick. We requested the Limerick City Manager to clean up Fanning's Castle, and, happily, he did. We also suggested that the fountain at Summerville Avenue should be replaced, and we have had assurances that it will. We had a very large attendance at our annual social event at Dromoland Castle, after which a fascinating talk was given on some of the Big Houses and Castles of Ireland, with special reference to those in North Munster.

OUTINGS

13th-20th March (full week) - Malta. See introduction above.

Organisers: Rev. John Leonard, *President*, and Prof. Etienne Rynne.

Speaker: Prof. Etienne Rynne, *Hon. Editor*.

8th May (full day) - Kildare; Carton House, Castletown House, Oakley Park, Celbridge Abbey, Leixlip Castle.

Organiser: Tony Browne, *Member*.

Speakers: Ann Graham, Mrs. Guinness, and house guides.

25th May (evening) - Clonlara. As the evening was very wet, the organiser, Mr. Kevin Hannan, spoke to us at the Angler's Rest, Doonass.

12th June (half day) - Croom. Visited Carass and Croom Houses, the Church of Ireland, Croom, and Islandmore House where Mr. Tarry spoke.

Organiser: Liam Clifford, *Member*.

22nd June (evening) - The Hunt Museum.

Organiser: Barry Spearman, *Member*.

Speaker: Mairéad Dunlevy, *Member*.

10th July (half day) - Donohill Motte-and-Bailey, Sweat-house, and Monument to Eamon an Chnoic.

Organiser: Paddy Lysaght, *Vice-President*.

Speaker: Mainchín Seoighe, *Member*.

24th July (half day) - Knockea and Ballyneety. Raheen and Donoghmore Graveyards.
Organiser and Speaker: Tom Twomey, Member.

21st August (half day) - Oatfield, Ballykilty, Castlecrine.
Organiser and Speaker: Bill McInerney, Member.

31st August (weekend) - Valentia Island. Lecture on the Skelligs by Des Lavelle. Visited O'Connell Memorial Church, Caherciveen, Leacanabuaile Stone Fort, Ballycarbery Castle, Skellig Mhichíl, Derrynane, Ross Castle, Killarney, and Killaha Augustinian Priory.

Organiser: Ted Glancy, Member.

Speakers: Des Lavelle, Mrs. Kreissig, Gerry O'Leary, and the house guides at Derrynane and Ross Castle.

18th September (full day) - North Cork. Visited Clogher House (Edmund Burke connection), Roche's Folly, Annesgrove House and gardens, Bridgetown Abbey, Labbacallee Megalithic Tomb, and Ballygriffin, where the Presentation sisters have built a retreat house in honour of their founder Nano Nagle.

Organiser: Kay Hanrahan, Member.

Guide: Cal Hyland.

Speakers: Mrs. Grove Annesley, Cal Hyland, and a Presentation Sister.

2nd October (half day) - Ennistymon: Falls Hotel, Old Courthouse, etc.

Organiser: Cian O'Carroll, Member.

Speaker: Anthony Edwards.

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