

OBITUARIES

During the year we had some sad losses to the grim reaper who almost every year culls the herd, as it were, inevitably picking off our members one by one. Sometimes he scores highly, always he scores, removing those upon whom the Society depends for survival, for all members are important and contribute in their own way to making our Society the success it now is. There are those who, like Ita Fitzgibbon, were always cheerful and much-loved attenders at almost all our meetings and some of our outings, like Gertrude Hunt who, with her husband John, so generously donated the marvellous collections in the Hunt Museum to Limerick and the nation, which collections owe so much to her own flair and expertise, or like Seán Ó Murchadha whose archaeological enthusiasm helped in no small way to benefit the understanding and preservation of the field monuments of his beloved Co. Clare (see, for instance, page 172). The others, too, who passed away this year also merit our thanks and our prayers. May all those who have departed, namely

Brian Bonner
Catherine Cleary
Ita Fitzgibbon
Gertrude Hunt

Dermot Kehily
Rita Lorigan
Seán Ó Murchadha
John Shanahan

REST IN PEACE

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Then there is one other person who was not a member but who, once he found out about us, was immensely proud to write for us and to help us whenever he could. This was Dr. Howard Kilbride-Jones, an amateur archaeologist of international repute who earned his living as an engineer, *inter alia*. Having worked and excavated in Scotland he came to Ireland in the late 1930s and fell in love with the island and its archaeology. He carried out some important excavations of megalithic tombs here, and published some major works on artifacts of the Early Historic Period, notably important papers and a book on *Zoomorphic Penannular Brooches*. Eventually the Irish climate got the better of him and severely handicapped by rheumatoid arthritis he was pushed out in a wheelchair to board a plane for a last holiday in Malta. Thanks to the warmer climate he recovered greatly his mobility and decided to stay in Malta with his Irish wife and children. For a while he disappeared altogether from the archaeological world, but was rediscovered by one of our members, Professor George Eogan, and weaned back to Irish archaeology. He published one of his earlier, almost forgotten excavations in the *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, a few

notes in British archaeological journals, two books largely on Irish artifacts, several short anecdotal articles in *Archaeology Ireland*, and three articles in our own *Journal*, an important one on “Early Ecclesiastical Art in Chorca Dhuibhne and its implications abroad” in 1986, and two perspicuous review articles in the volumes for 1987 and 1993–94. The latter article was on our member Patrick Doran’s *50 Treasures from the Hunt Museum*, a book which the Society presented to him in consideration of his help and hospitality when we visited Malta for a week in 1994 (see Proceedings in the *Journal* for that year). There was a catch, however: we gave it with the request that he review it for us, a task he willingly accepted. He died rather suddenly on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15th 1995, aged 88, truly one of the ‘Grand Old Men’ of European archaeology, a person with a lively sense of humour who we were privileged to know and to have contribute to our *Journal*.

ETIENNE RYNNE

Proceedings, 1995

During the year we had seven lectures and nine outings which were well attended, informative and, above all, popular. Bill McInerney who organised the week-end outing to the Aran island of Inis Mór, provided each member with a wonderful folder containing everything one would wish to know about the island – maps, coloured brochures and articles culled from here and there, etc. Let us ring out his praise! Bill, *gan amhras ar domhan*, you are the Man for Aran. We are also unlikely to forget Professor Etienne Rynne's virtuosity, who as he spoke at Dún Aonghasa was shouted down when a noisy party of young French students arrived. Suddenly, when he switched to French, they became so astonished, they ceased their chattering and listened attentively to him; he also had occasion to speak to another group of students, in Irish! Even on our last day on the island, a Sunday, when, to misquote Shakespeare slightly, "The rain it raineth all the day", nobody seemed to care, we were all so pleased with all we had seen and heard.

LECTURES

- 26th January - "Discovering Late Pre-history in North Munster".
Dr. Eoin Grogan and Tom Condit, Discovery Programme, OPW.
- 19th February - Annual Social at the Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare, where Prof. Etienne Rynne lectured on "The Drolleries in the Book of Kells."
- 7th March - Annual General Meeting and lecture by Liam Irwin, *Member*, History Dept., Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, on "Who was St. Patrick?".
- 7th April - "Archaeological Survey of Kilmallock Dominican Priory".
Arlene Hogan, Director, Friends of the National Gallery.
- 13th October - "Irish Travel Writings as a Source of Information".
Dr. C.J. Woods, History Dept., St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.
- 10th November - "Maynooth College in Irish History".
Dr. Comerford, Professor of Modern History, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.
- 1st December - "Fr. Thaddeus O'Malley: Radicalism and Reconciliation in 19th-century Ireland". Dr. Fergus Duffy, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, UCD.

OUTINGS

- 7th May (full day) - Carlow. Visited Oakpark, Dunlecky Manor, Bagnalstown, Borris House and Brownshill Dolmen.
Organiser: Tony Browne, *Member*.
Speaker: William O'Toole, author of *The Carlow Gentry*.
- 19th-21st May (weekend) - Aran Islands, Inis Mór. See introduction.
Organiser: Bill McInerney, *Member*.
Speaker: Prof. Etienne Rynne, *Member*.
- 11th June (half day) - Shanagolden.
Organiser and Speaker: Tom Donovan, *Member*.
- 21st June (evening) - Kilmurray and Mountshannon.
Organiser and Speaker: Kevin Hannan.
- 9th July (half day) - Charleville (Rathluirc) and Milltown Castle.
Organiser: Barry Spearman, *Member*.
Speakers: Ted Riordan and Pat Irwin.

26th July (evening) - Curraghchase, Castle Gray House, Hollypark House.

Organiser and Speaker: Liam Clifford, Member.

20th August (half day) - Hospital, Kenmare Castle, Knight's Templers Hospital.

Organiser: Pat O'Brien, Member.

10th September (full day) - Athenry, Co. Galway (castle, town-walls, Dominican Priory, unique market cross); also Kilconnell Franciscan Friary and the world-famous Early Iron Age Turoe Stone.

Organiser: Elsie O'Connell, Member.

Speaker: Prof. Etienne Rynne, Member.

24th September (half day) - Fedamore House and Glebe, Williamstown Castle and Rockstone House.

Organiser and Speaker: Tony Browne, Member.

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During the year the Committee frequently discussed the Kilmurry Church Restoration, and delegates were sent to a meeting of the Kilmurry Restoration Co. Op., where it was learned that the Limerick County Council refused planning permission to remove or alter the church. Our interest in the restoration was very much appreciated. With the consent of the Limerick City Trust, who presently hold possession of the Summerville Avenue fountain, we have decided to have it erected in its original location. Mr Bill McInerney has been given the task of having it transported and erected. We also supported the campaign of local residents to retain the original barn style church at Glenbrohane. On 12th December, in grateful appreciation of their association with the Hunt Museum, their parents' generous donation to the city of Limerick and the nation, and their own generosity to it, John and Gertrude Hunt were awarded Life Membership of our Society at an enjoyable function in the Hunt Museum, Limerick University. Cian O'Carroll suggested and organised the talk which Ken Wiggans, the archaeologist, gave to us at King John's Castle where he is presently excavating.

PADDY LYSAGHT



Illus. 1. 12th December 1995: The President, Father Leonard, presents specially bound volumes of the Society's *Journal* for 1978, 'Studia in Memoriam John Hunt', to John and Gertrude, son and daughter of Gertrude and John Hunt whose portraits are behind them. (Photo: Bill McInerney)

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