

THOMOND ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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2008 LECTURES

14 January	<i>From Limerick to Lahore: the life and times of Max Arthur Macauliffe</i>	Professor Tadhg Foley (NUIG)
10 February	Annual Luncheon: Absolute Hotel, <i>Remembering the Rhineland and Rome</i>	Liam Irwin (President)
25 February	<i>Field Monuments of Mid-West Ireland</i>	Dr Catherine Swift (MIC, Member)
10 March	<i>'The Limerick Prima Donna': Catherine Hayes 1818-61</i>	Cian O'Carroll (Deputy President)
7 April	<i>'From Limerick to Livonia': George Brown and Peter Lacy</i>	Séamus Martin
28 April	<i>Sylvester O'Halloran 1728-1807</i>	Dr Lesa Ní Mhungaile (Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál)
6 October	<i>The Catalpa Rescue</i>	Dr Úna Ní Bhroiméil (Coláiste Mhuire gan Smál)
20 October	<i>The Templemore Miracles 1920</i>	John Reynolds (Garda College, Templemore)
17 November	<i>James David Bouchier, A Limerick Man in the Balkans</i>	Michael Foley (DIT)
1 December	AGM and Social Evening	

EXCURSIONS

19 - 26 April [Week]	Basque Country Organiser: Elsie O'Connell
21 May [Evening] Sites visited:	North Limerick City Organiser and Guide: Tony Browne St Camillus [Workhouse], Killeely graveyard, Workhouse graveyard.
30 May - 1 June [Weekend] Sites visited:	Wicklow Organiser: Liam Irwin Speakers: Liam Irwin, Carmel O'Toole, Nicky Kirwan Roundwood House, Russborough House, Hollywood, Glendalough Monastic site, Military Road, Glenmalure, Avondale House, Rathdrum CI, Wicklow town, gaol, Mount Ussher gardens.
15 June [Half Day] Sites visited:	Kildimo Organiser: Michael O'Halloran Speaker: Michael O'Halloran Nicholas Peacocke trail, Peacocke home, Kildimo old graveyard, Court House
29 June [Full Day] Sites Visited:	Roscrea Organiser: Tony Browne Speakers: Willie Hayes, Liam Irwin. Monaincha, St Cronan's CI, walking tour of Roscrea town, Cistercian Abbey
9 July [Evening] Places visited:	Walls of Limerick Organiser and Guide Brian Hodkinson Walking tour of medieval walls of Englishtown and Irishtown
27 July [Full Day] Sites visited:	North Kerry Organiser: Charlotte Murphy Speakers: Charlotte Murphy, Ursula Leslie, Gerald O'Carroll. Tarbert House, Bridewell, Ballylongford RC Church, Carrigafoyle Castle, Aghavallen church and graveyard, Lislaughtin friary.
13 August [Evening]	Sarsfield St / William S Limerick Organisers: Randel Hodkinson, Tom O'Farrell Speakers: Randel Hodkinson, Tom O'Farrell

- 24 August
[Half Day] **Montpelier / O'Brien's Bridge**
Organiser: Tony Browne
Speaker: Tony Browne
- 11 - 14 September **England – Peak District**
Organiser: Michael O'Halloran
Guide: David Needham
- 21 September
[Half Day] **Newport**
Organiser: Pakie Ryan
Speakers: Pakie Ryan, Fr Delaney, Hugh Sweeney.
Places Visited: Catholic Church, site of Church of Ireland Church, 19th Century
Doctor's house, Penal Chapel, Old Creamery, Barracks,
Courthouse and Bridewell.

Appreciation

Paddy Lysaght

One of the oldest and longest-serving members of the Society passed away on 7 March 2008. Patrick Brendan Lysaght, affectionately known to everyone simply as Paddy, had the unique distinction of having been a member of the committee for forty-five years, a record of continuous and unbroken service never equalled in the history of the Society. He had also been a Vice-President for twenty-two years. Paddy was an active and committed member; he played a key role for many years, most notably as the organiser of outings, as well as providing wise and valuable advice on all aspects of our activities. In addition to his selection of interesting places to visit and sourcing of excellent local guides, Paddy always ensured that outings were pleasant social occasions and, most importantly, that the evening meal was not too expensive, though those members who were not aficionados of chicken and chips sometimes found this concern a trifle wearisome. The last outing he arranged was to Abbeyfeale and Athea in July 2002 and though he was unable in more recent years to be directly involved he liked to keep in touch with the Society. He also took a keen interest in the journal, contributing articles, miscellanea items and book reviews. He also provided advice and support to the Hon. Editor and in particular tried to remedy the situation whereby publication of the journal became increasingly delayed.

Given his attachment to the countryside and to Kerry in particular, it may come as a surprise to many people to learn that Paddy was actually born in Limerick on 15 May 1917. Owing to the disturbed state of the city at that time, his parents, William and Hannah Lysaght, sent him to his grandmother in Duagh, where he was reared and forged his lifelong attachment to North Kerry.

Following his secondary education in Listowel and at Mungret College, he began to study for the priesthood at All Hallows College, Dublin. Finding he did not have a vocation to complete this path, he emigrated to England shortly after the outbreak of the Second World War. He eventually settled in London and worked as a bookseller at Duckett's on the Strand. This Catholic bookshop was at the centre of the Catholic revival of the forties and fifties; Paddy enjoyed the work of writers such as Greene, Waugh and Eliot, who were in the ascendant at that time. He became de facto manager of the shop and also edited *Duckett's Register*, a literary periodical produced by the business. He later referred to these years in London as in many respects the most stimulating of his life.

In 1955 he married Noreen Walsh, also from North Kerry, who was at that time teaching in London. They returned to Ireland in 1957. Their first son, Seán, was born in Cork, where Paddy had gone to work with Mercier Press. The family returned to Limerick soon after. Paddy joined his brothers William ('Nay') and Dónal at the Treaty Press printing company as company secretary.

By 1962, with the birth of their second son Liam, Paddy and Noreen had bought the house at Osmington Terrace where they would make their permanent home. Paddy's business interests expanded to include a bookshop, Treaty Books, which he ran with Noreen, and a mail-order book business. Many Irish and British dealers were callers at

the house, including Dr Eamonn Norton, of Wakefield in Yorkshire. It was a cause of great satisfaction to Paddy when, years later, the University of Limerick ran with his suggestion that it acquire Dr Norton's Irish library.

His interest in books was not confined to collecting, reading and appreciation of literature: he also wrote several books himself. Many were in a satirical or humorous vein, including comic histories of Limerick and Kerry and an irreverent self-help guide *How to Become a Successful T.D.!* His love of the North Kerry countryside led to the appearance in 1987 of, what was possibly his favourite work, *The Feale from its source to the sea*, an affectionate and deeply knowledgeable history of the river Feale. During the 1970s some of his short stories were published by David Marcus in the New Irish Writing Page in the *Irish Press* and he was a prize-winner at the Listowel Writers' Week. His last book, a volume of poems, with the wonderful title *A Torrent of Versatile Verses*, appeared in 2001. In addition to his valuable contributions to the *North Munster Antiquarian Journal* he also published articles on a variety of topics of local interest in the *Old Limerick Journal*.

Tragedy struck Paddy in 1984 when his beloved and supportive wife Noreen died aged just fifty-nine. However he recovered from this loss to lead a varied and active life for many years. He was proud of the personal and academic achievements of his two sons, both of whom obtained doctorates, Seán in English and Liam in Geography, and who provided him with his much loved grandchildren. His family and friends recall his generosity as a host, his competence as a cook, and his wide appetite for life. As his activities as a bookdealer decreased, he continued to collect books of local and Irish interest. His comprehensive collection of Kerry books was acquired by the Library of the University of Limerick in 2004.

As illness and infirmity encroached on his last years, he lived for a time with Seán and his wife Jessica at their home in Mayo. His grandson Séamus was his companion in his Limerick home during the last year of his life. Paddy died on 7 March 2008 at the Abbey Nursing Home in Gowran, Co. Kilkenny where his son Liam, his daughter in law Josephine and their family have their home. He was given a traditional Irish wake at 3 Osmington Terrace and the large attendance at the removal and funeral was a testimony to the affection and regard in which he was held. He was laid to rest in his beloved Duagh, Co. Kerry. His son, Séan, one of contemporary Ireland's most distinguished poets, has kindly made available to the journal this poem which he has written for his father.

In Memory of My Father

My early poems were Masefield's roomy sea,
Tennyson's breakers and Carroll's Jabberwock
from Palgrave's Golden Treasury,
which you read to me during homework.

You liked Ogden Nash's nonsense on fleas
and babies, and Belloc's drunken road.
In framed calligraphy above your head,
you had Yeats's Innisfree and his cloths of heaven.

Much later, when we had moved to Connacht,
it was Raftery you quoted every spring
as you announced your visits north
and we welcomed you with the days' lengthening.

Near the end, when you were too ill to read,
I said 'The Stolen Child' and 'Sailing
to Byzantium'; Yeats's great artifice
was now within reach of a posthumous peace.

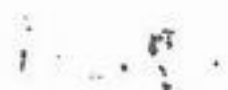
Then it was just after, your brow still warm
that Friday morning – but you were gone.
A thrush was in full song at the window.
The candle at your bedside flickered out.
You had been transformed. Your script was perfect.

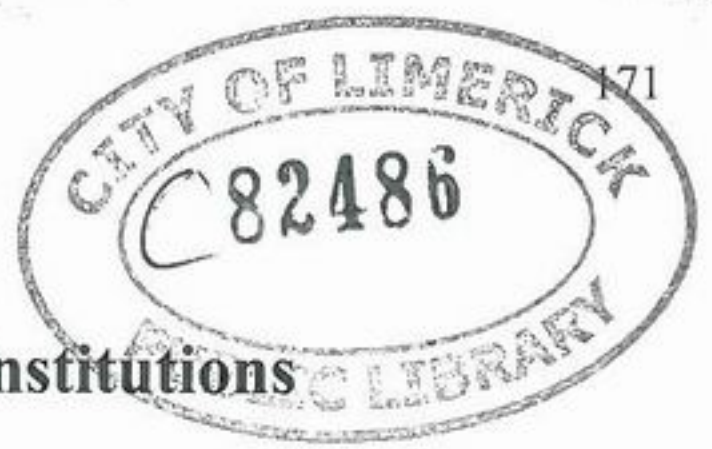
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We also remember these members who died in 2008

Beattie Culloo	Richard Jarman	Marian Keating
Mary McCarthy	Jerry McMahon	

List of Members 2008





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University of Liverpool,
Victoria & Albert Museum,
Oxford OX1 2PH, England.
Broad St., Oxford, England..
Lending Division, Wetherby, West Yorks.England.
Seán Ó Laoithe, Coarliss, Charleville, Co. Cork.
Ennis, Co. Clare.
West Road, Cambridge, England.
Model Farm Rd., Cork.
Grand Parade, Cork.
Placenames Branch, 17/19 Hatch St., Dublin.
Glasnevin, Dublin.
School of Celtic Studies, Burlington Road, Dublin.
Dún Sceine, Harcourt Lane, Dublin.
Dún Mhuire, Seafield Rd., Killiney, Co. Dublin.
Rutland St., Limerick.
Tralee, Co. Kerry.
The Granary, Limerick.
Dooradoyle, Limerick.
O'Connell St., Limerick.
South Circular Road, Limerick.
Kildare St., Dublin.
George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, Scotland.
Kildare St., Dublin .
Cathay's Park, Cardiff, Wales.
Galway.
Cork.
Co. Kildare.
Serials Librarian, 60, W. Walton St., Chicago.
122, Hesburg Library, Notre Dame, U.S.A.
Tullamore ,Co, Offaly.
Belfast, N. Ireland.
19, Dawson St., Dublin.
63, Merrion Square, Dublin.
Drumcondra, Dublin.
Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.
Windmill Hill, Ballinahinch, Co. Down.
Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
Dublin.
Cultra, Holywood, Co. Down.
Belfield, Dublin.
Plassey, Nr. Limerick.
Leonard Collection, Special Collections.
Sidney Jones Lib., Liverpool.
South Kensington. London.