

Obituary

PÁDRAIG Ó MAIDÍN (1919-1981)

(Leabharlannaí Cho. Chorcaí, 1947-1981)

For over three decades, our late esteemed member Pádraig Ó Maidín played a notable part in the cultural life of his adopted country.

Writing on the morrow of his death, the magnitude of the loss of this fine Limerickman dominates my thoughts.

Paddy Madden's family devotion, his willingness to help any and every seeker after knowledge, his personality, his charisma, his proven patriotism, all make a necessarily brief notice a very inadequate vehicle in which to record his worth and trace his achievements.

Any judgment made now would not adequately evaluate his stature or contribution to a wide range of activities. The extent of Paddy Madden's cultural involvement, his writings, his professional career, his qualities as team-worker, innovator and leader cannot be encapsulated in an obituary column; the fruits of more than three decades of hard and dedicated work in many fields can only be assessed in a biographical memoir.

The writer of such a study will have a rich field to labour in — his professional skill as shown in the development of the Cork County Library Service, the work he did to promote the choral and film festivals, his work for the Cork Regional Guides Committee and in the foundation of the Cork Archives Institute. His *To-Day* column in the *Cork Examiner* for thirteen years did much to disseminate a knowledge of (and interest in) local history; his regard for museology is evidenced by the opening of local museums at Youghal, Clonakilty, Cobh, Millstreet, Macroom, Kanturk with plans for Killeagh. Hopefully, this development of local exhibition centres will be carried on by no less dedicated hands.

I rith a shaoil ar fad, chaith Pádraig dúthracht agus saothar le gach dea-iarracht



(Cork Examiner)

chun meas a mhuintire ar a gcultúr féin a neartú. Ní hionadh gur ghlac an Ghaeilge ionad chomh fairsing sin ina chroí gur gheall leis i gcónaí í a labhairt, í a léamh nó í a scríobh gach seans dá bhfaigheadh sé.

This Society was an object of his constant support and esteem. He served for many years as a Council member and contributed a number of learned articles to the Society's *Journal*, in particular a valuable edition of Richard Pococke's 'Tour of South and South-West Ireland in 1758' (1958-60).

All the matters now mentioned so briefly are but some of the contents of a cornucopia which this good and just man placed before his fellow-citizens during a life which ended all too soon.

To his wife and family I say as a long-standing family friend: May God comfort you in your sorrow. Paddy has gone from the Cork

Cultural scene into the fabric of Cork history. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a man uasal. 14/12/1981

C.J.F. McCarthy