

# NORTH MUNSTER ANTIQUARIAN JOURNAL

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## Editorial 1967

Once again the size of the annual number of our *Journal* has increased, this time very appreciably. The main reason for this is that it was thought desirable in this centenary year to commemorate the Fenians in a fitting manner. It was hoped to include papers dealing with the Fenians of all of North Munster, but this was not found feasible with the time and space at our disposal. The events which took place in Co. Limerick were, however, among the more important in Ireland and we hope that our Kerry, Clare and Tipperary members will, therefore, forgive us for concentrating on them. The result is, we believe, a publication which should rank for many years as the standard work dealing with the Limerick Fenians.

Rising printing costs, as well as the greatly increased size of the *Journal*, have eliminated any advantage gained by the Society from the fairly large number of new members introduced within recent years. With a roll of barely three hundred, it is becoming impossible to continue providing a *Journal* of a high standard, as well as the usual number of lectures and excursions, without going into debt. In the unlikely event of a sizeable bequest, membership will have to be enlarged considerably within the immediate future or the Society will be faced with the distasteful alternatives of reducing the size of the *Journal* by at least half, just when it has reached respectable proportions, or of increasing the annual subscription. We would plead with all our readers, therefore, to help prevent either alternative from taking place, by making every effort to introduce new members to the Society.

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At a magnificent reception held in Bunratty Castle last March, *North Munster Studies*, the book of essays commemorating the late Monsignor Michael Moloney,

was launched. The Society would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge its most grateful thanks to Lord and Lady Gort and to the Shannon Free Airport Development Company for their hospitality on the occasion, and also to Mr. Christopher Lynch, Manager of Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, who facilitated the Society in every way.

The book has been very favorably received and is generally considered a notable contribution to knowledge and something of which the Society can feel justifiably proud. However, sales have been much slower than had been hoped for, mainly due to inadequate selling facilities, the Society not being a commercial concern, and consequently a considerable sum of money is still outstanding in order to pay for the publication. It is hoped, therefore, that members who have not yet acquired the book will do so (ordering it through the Honorary Secretary), and that those who have enjoyed the book will encourage others to buy it.

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The Society has much pleasure in gratefully acknowledging generous grants from the authorities of University College Dublin and University College Galway, towards the cost of publishing material written by members of their staffs in this number of the *Journal*. The Society also wishes to gratefully acknowledge a most generous contribution from an t-uasal Mainchín Seoighe, towards the cost of publishing the photographs of the Kilmallock Fenians (Plates VI and VII).