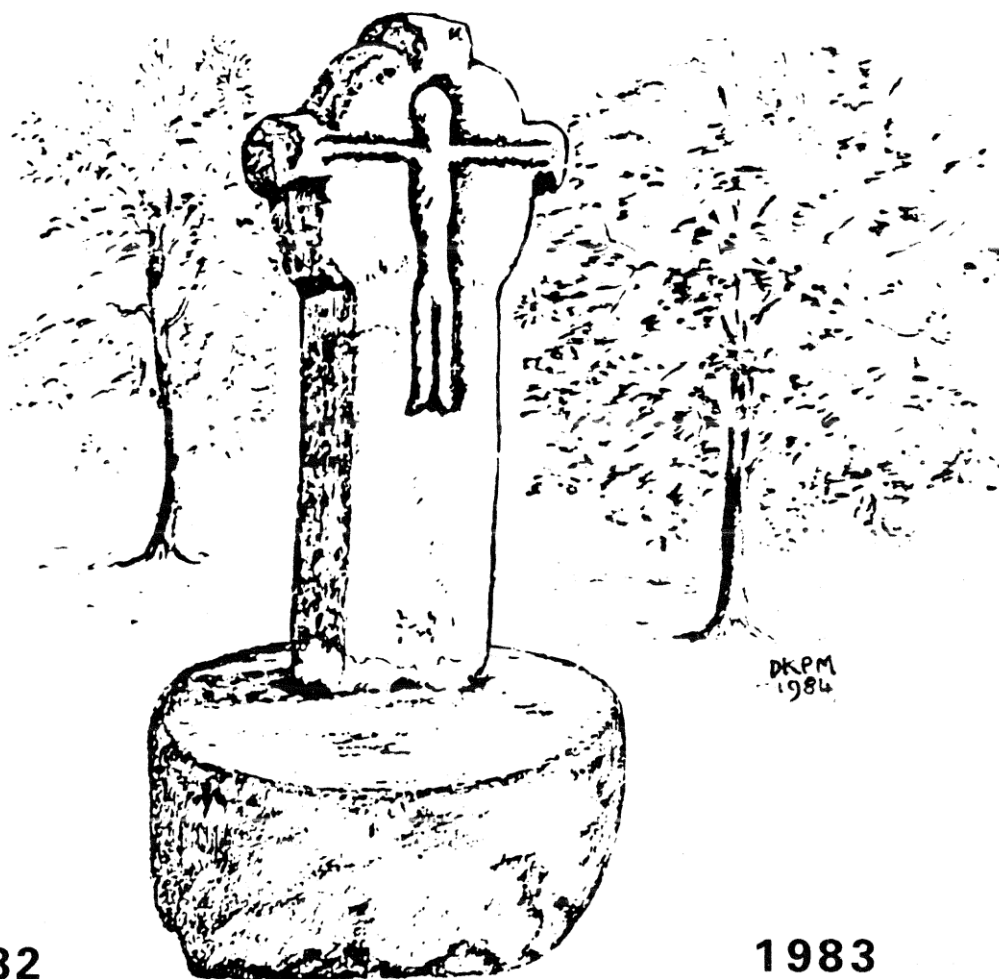


Rathmichael Historical Record

The Journal of the Rathmichael Historical Society



1982

1983

Rathmichael Record
1982 - 1983
Editor M. K. Turner

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Editorial - 1972-1982

The year 1982 is a significant one for the Rathmichael Historical Society founded just ten years ago. It was on April 27th 1972 that the founder members - Ian Booth, Joan Delany, Joanna Bonar-Law and Kathleen Turner together with the Rev. Ernon Perdue, Rector of Rathmichael, met in the conservatory at Llanmawr, Shankill, to discuss the formation of the Society and to give it a name.

The name Rathmichael was selected for several reasons. It is the name of one of the most interesting of the many Celtic churches in our area, it is that of the townland in which this church is situated, and the name of the Parish which itself dates back to the earliest days of parishes in this country, that is, to the 12th or early 13th century. Above all, perhaps, the name is unusual and distinctive.

And so the Rathmichael Historical Society was born. Although it was some years before a written Constitution or set of Rules for the RHS was drawn up, its aims from the beginning were clear;- to encourage the study of and interest in the history and antiquities of this part of County Dublin. Visits in the summer and lectures in the winter would be organised.

In 1982 the question will inevitably be asked -what have we achieved in the ten years since April 1972? Glancing back over those years we hope to be able to answer that question.

in 1972 the idea of having some record of our doings brought the first number of the Rathmichael Record, then called the News Sheet. This has since broadened its outlook while retaining its local character. As well as notes on Winter lectures and the places of interest visited in the Summer; acquisitions (if any) made; loss of or damage to objects of antiquarian interest, etc., articles on subjects of local interest are always especially welcome and invited.

The Rathmichael Record aims to come out once a year, but even that modest aim is often difficult to achieve. As usual the burden falls on already over-laden shoulders.

In 1975 the society started a "course in Field Archaeology" for just one week - 25th-29th August, organised by Joan Delany. The aim of this Course was to provide an introduction to Field Archaeology covering observation, surveying and recording of archaeological sites. Marcus O hEochaidh, former Assistant Inspector of National Monuments was Director and field work was done at Shankill Castle by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Bonar Law. Each evening lectures were given by leading archaeologists. (see page 71). Thirty was considered the maximum number to be accepted on the course and it was fully booked. Altogether it was an exciting and enjoyable week.

The programme was more or less the same for the next three years, except that in 1977 Leo Swan became the Director. In 1979 Patrick Healy suggested that we apply for a licence to excavate where he had seen evidence of a Fulacht Fiadh at Ballyman, and Elizabeth O'Brien succeeded in obtaining the licence and the permission of the landowner Mr. John Leeson. This excavation has continued each August during the Summer School since then.

1982 saw the RHS undertaking its first publication (although this did not appear until the following year) - Kathleen Turner's *If You Seek Monument*, A Guide to the Antiquities of the Barony of Rathdown. This little book should serve to demonstrate to what an extent the

area has been opened up through visits planned by the Society and made available to all those interested.

For long the Society had cherished the hope of having the Kiltuc cross repaired and this seemed to be exactly the right time and a practical method of celebrating our tenth anniversary. It was agreed that it must be erected in a safer place than its original site, and the place finally chosen as the most suitable was in the grounds of St. Anne's Church, Shankill. By a happy chance it was now realized that St. Anne's was about to celebrate its Golden Jubilee the next year, 1983, and it was decided that the dedication of the cross should form part of the programme arranged for that event.

So far we have been looking back into the past -going forward into the future I would like to stress again some words of Liam de Paor when writing about local histories and journals: -
"Local History is of considerable importance for testing and frequently correcting generalizations ... By and large the local societies, besides giving their own members a perspective on their native place, are doing us all a service".

Winter Lectures – 1982

Friday, January 22nd - in the Rathmichael Church Hall the Annual General Meeting was held and the following officers and Members of the Committee were elected: -

President	Gerard Slevin
Hon. Secretary	Joan Delany
Hon. Treasurer	Nicholas Healy
Ordinary Members	Wendy Guilford
	Damien MacGarry
	Kevin O'Rourke
	Patrick Corr

Following on the meeting an illustrated talk was given by Mr. George Morrison entitled *Dubliners of the Last Century*.

There was a good attendance and everyone enjoyed the talk which, perhaps, was not quite what they had expected. For, instead of taking the usual line and introducing us to such characters as "Endymion" and others with which the 19th century seems to have been so well endowed, the speaker chose to show us more lowly folk, the ordinary man and woman of the day going about his and her daily chores, caught unawares by the camera.

Mr. Morrison said he much preferred photographs to pictures because they present people as they are - warts and all - trousers creased and baggy, etc. etc. whereas in a posed picture, all creases would be removed, everything would be correct and real life eliminated.

Wednesday 19th February - in Rathmichael Church Hall *Kill o' the Grange Potteries and Brickworks* by Tom Powell.

It was a pity that the results of the general election kept so many people glued to the T.V. as Mr. Powell gave a very interesting lecture, and he also brought examples of work carried out there - some of it very large. This area along Pottery Road he told us has now been zoned for Industrial Use because of the clay which is still there. As a result factories have been built. Digging for the clay also accounts for the fact that some houses on Johnstown Road have chimneys at the same level as the road - a curious sight.

One of the many things that were produced were the tile edgings that were so common in the gardens in the 19 30s, but seem to have completely vanished now.

This was an unusual topic and Mr. Powell gave us a lively talk.

J D

Friday, March 19th, in the Rathmichael Church Hall, an illustrated talk - *The Derrynaflann Hoard* - was given by Mr. Michael Ryan of the National Museum.

There was a large attendance of members and friends to hear this splendid lecture on the Derrynaflann hoard which was discovered in February 1980. The lecture was illustrated by beautiful slides.

We were told of the circumstances and location of this magnificent find. The hoard was uncovered by Michael Webb and his son using a metal detector, in a shallow pit near the ruins

of Derrynaflann Church. The hoard consisted of a chalice, paten and long-handled strainer - the whole covered by a bronze bowl. Derrynaflann monastic settlement was situated on an island in the middle of a bog - at present a very lonely and desolate place. The chalice is a large two-handled silver bowl connected to a base or foot by an elaborately decorated stem. The construction is closely similar to that of the Ardagh Chalice. A girdle of filigree panels surrounds the bowl just below the rim. The handles, stem and foot (even the underside of it) are decorated with panels of filigree with amber studs. These panels are constructed of gold beaded wires backed by gold foil. Some have animal and bird designs and some simple scroll-work, details of which are sometimes emphasised by gold granules. There are 57 pieces of amber used throughout this masterly work.

The paten is about 36 cm. in diameter, slightly dished and edged with 24 panels of filigree and ornamental studs of coloured glass some of these are missing. A lower vertical rim or foot has 12 curved frames of gilt bronze containing panels of gold filigree held in place by 12 polychrome glass studs. None of the gilt bronze frames and only three rivet studs remain in situ. The paten stood on a decorated stand or pedestal which was at some stage riveted to it. This stand is decorated with die-stamped panels of silver gilt and rectangular glass polychrome studs. An interesting feature of the decoration is the use of trichinopoly work, which is a kind of knitting in wire, such as can be seen on the chain hanging from the Tara Brooch. This surrounds the paten and also the stand. On the ladle-strainer there is a cast imitation of it.

The strainer is a cast bronze ladle with strainer across the middle of it. Its long handle ends with a decorated circle. The top edge, cast to represent trichinopoly, is also decorated. This magnificent find poses awkward questions about the use of metal detectors, which are becoming a severe problem to archaeologists, but without which we might never have seen the Derrynaflann Hoard. An excavation was undertaken by the National Museum to retrieve the missing pieces and also to discover as much information as possible as to how the hoard was buried and why.

Mr. Ryan gave us a very stimulating and enjoyable evening and we were very grateful to him for it, and take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to him. He has edited a Preliminary Account of the Hoard.

J D

Wednesday, October 20th in the Burton Hall, Rathmichael School, Mrs. Heather King gave an illustrated talk on *Medieval Crosses in County Meath - 1450 – 1700*.

The attendance was poor which was a pity as the talk was most interesting and the accompanying slides were excellent. As well as photographs of different aspects of the crosses described, Mrs. King had done a lot of research into the history of the families who had erected them, being fortunate in having access to private documents and was able to provide some fascinating insights. These families were mainly Norman, owners of vast estates throughout Meath and the neighbouring counties, - the Plunketts, Cusacks, Cruises, D'Arcys, Barnewalls, etc.

The crosses described were what the speaker called 'wayside crosses' noted for their carefully cut Gothic lettering and she said that without doubt many, if not all of them had originally been coloured, some of the colour being still just discernible on at least one of them.

Crosses described included those at Keenogue, Stamullen, Nevinstown, Rathmore, Platter, Dunsany and Killeen as well as the well-known Jennett Dowdall crosses at Duleek and one at Athcarne erected 60 years after the others and ascribed by the lecturer to Jennett's great niece.

In the case of some crosses the stone carver's name is known, e.g. some at Killucan, Co. Westmeath were carved by one D'Arcy who was almost certainly in Holy Orders and the carver of some crosses in Meath dedicated to his own relations.

It is interesting to note that some of the same families in Co. Meath still retain a little land there, and that it is only two or three years ago that Mr. Reginald Barnewall (descendant of one of the earliest settler families and now living in England) sold the last of his family castles in Ireland, Ballygarth on the Nanny River near Julianstown.

C M

Wednesday November 24th in the Rathmichael Church Hall an illustrated talk was given by Mr. William Bolger, entitled *The Introduction of Printing to Ireland*.

Our Chairman introduced Mr. Bolger as a lecturer at the National College of Art and Design, Dublin. As the evening progressed it was encouraging to know that the students of that College had a teacher who combines enthusiasm with a love of the history of his subject. This was demonstrated by his early slides which showed that not only had he researched old printing methods, but had also used these methods to good effect, both from printing from hand cut wooden blocks made by himself and using the moulds used to make type in the early years of printing. His practical enthusiasm and energy was also revealed by the amount of objects of value to industrial archaeology that he has saved from destruction in Ireland, following the many closures of small family printing firms all over the country.

In setting the scene for his subject he put the first printing in China of the 7th century A.D., using wooden blocks. This method was brought to Europe by Marco Polo and other European merchant explorers who travelled the overland route to China and back. This method replaced some of the individual manuscript production, but was very time consuming. The lecturer estimated it took him 33 hours to cut a block for a single page of script.

He credited a Dutchman, Kuster, with the introduction of metal dies and moulds to give individual letters that could be used to set up a typeface that broke down into its individual characters when no longer needed.

He gave great credit to Johann Gutenberg (1397-1468) of Mainz, not as the inventor of printing, but as a man of great ingenuity who brought the technique of printing to a very high standard in a remarkably short period of time; printing methods changed little in the centuries that followed him.

The lecturer made the point that the Reformation would not have succeeded if Martin Luther had not had the printing presses to spread his ideas across Europe. Also the trading routes of the Hanseatic League were responsible for the very rapid spread of the printing craft - a printer of those days would probably have moved all his equipment with a couple of horses.

William Caxton introduced printing to the British Isles and did much to develop the layout of English books especially the combining of print and illustrations by the incorporation of woodcuts into the text.

The first printing in Ireland was probably done by Humphrey Powell who was a nephew of a well-known London printer. Humphrey was appointed official printer to the government in Ireland and his move to Ireland was probably because of this appointment - the authorities in Ireland required a printer for the notices and proclamations of the day (examples of four such proclamations are still extant).

His first book was issued from 'the tower near the crane' on the Liffey in 1551 and was the Book of Common Prayer.

Throughout the lecture slides were used adroitly to illustrate the lecturer's ideas, and he paid due acknowledgement to Marsh's Library which he regarded as possessing a marvellous collection of early printed books. Altogether a fine lecture and obviously one that cries out for Part Two to bring the history into the Twentieth Century.

OL

Summer Visits - 1982

Saturday , May 29th Loughlinstown House

A beautiful sunny summer day with a cool breeze. Meeting at the Silver Tassie at 2.30, we drove up the back drive from Wyattville road to the House, now the property of the E.E.C. Here we were met by Seán Griffin who took charge of us and showed us round.

Outwardly, Loughlinstown House is the same as it was when the 17th century house, built by Sir William Domvile was given a new front towards the end of the 18th century by a Domvile relative, a Mr. Savage, when he lived there for some time. He is said to have laid out the gardens and, probably, the fine stables which are such a feature of the place, as well as altering the house to face west instead of east.

Since then other buildings have been put up - by Mr. John Galvin when he bought the place from Mrs. Alexander in 1963, and recently, a Conference Hall has been erected beside the stables by the E.E.C. who took over the place in 1976.

Inside the house is now converted into offices. We were shown all over it, Seán Griffin explaining its present functioning to us.

Summer Visits

Saturday, June 27th Walk on Bray Head

The Rathmichael Historical Society asked the Cualann Society (Bray) if we might join them on one of their outings, and they kindly invited us to do so. We all met at the car park outside Quinnsworth and then went on to the entrance to Killruddery where we parked the cars. On the opposite side of the road there is a locked gate giving on to a path, which we climbed. It was a lovely long winding walk - with wonderful views of Bray Head and beyond. Eventually it led to a house with a fierce dog, and the owner came out and showed us various mounds in the vicinity which were the remains of a deserted village.

The walk continued on up to the cross which was erected on the summit to commemorate the Holy Year in 1950, and of course the view from it is really splendid.

It was a most enjoyable outing thanks to the members of the Cualann Society.

J D

Sunday 25th July East Kildare

When we met at the Hideout, Kilcullen the sun was shining and although there was one brief shower the weather was mostly sunny and warm, but not too warm. Rory O'Farrell led the convoy first to New Abbey - which turned out to be a grave yard. Built into a wall were the remains of a tomb which had been found in the church yard. One piece had carvings of St. Catherine, Virgin and Child, St. Margaret and St. Bridget. Another had the arms of FitzEustace with an annulet (5th son?) In another part of the cemetery lay the effigy tomb of Sir Roland FitzEustace and his wife Margaret Jenico.

Some of us had been to Old Kilcullen before -but it was nice to renew our acquaintance with the beautiful broken cross-shaft.

The next stop was Killeen Cormac - a very strange mound with no evidence of a church but many pillar stones. Some have Ogham marks (whether genuine or not it is difficult to say). A cross base similar to one at Old Kilcullen, and many other modern graves are on this circular site. Someone suggested that a wooden church might have existed here of which no trace remains. Some excavation was done by McAlister who found nothing. All the modern graves would have destroyed the archaeological evidence, especially of post holes.

Next to Ballycotland to see the memorial cross (see p.23)

The cross at Moone looked as good as ever. A tomb within the church ruins attracted attention and an inscription in the decoration was chalked and photographed.

Another cross base was discovered outside the east end of the church. We did not leave Moone until 6.30 having had a very interesting and informative outing.



Sunday, September 19th - Dublin Churches - St. Patrick's Cathedral, St. Werburgh's and St. Audoen's.

This was one of those days when almost everything that could go wrong, did so, including the weather. Yet those who came seemed pleased with their day and enjoyed themselves despite the disasters.

Parking the cars in the carpark at Christ Church Place, we went first to the Cathedral which, owing to security reasons, does not open its doors till 2.30 p.m., closing them again after Evensong at 3.15. Visitors must be out at 3

o'clock. This Sunday there was a special Service in commemoration of the Battle of Britain 1940, resulting in the death of so many young airmen.

It was all disappointing, as we had not been warned of the busloads of tourists which packed the Cathedral, making it difficult to see anything nor that the Chancel would be locked. The visit was, therefore, very limited, but we did see the cross-inscribed stone found beside the well, Swift pulpit, etc., the Earl of Cork's , great tomb and, arguably the most interesting of all, the damage done to the base of the pillars in the south transept by the flood waters of the River Poddle in former days.

Although St. Werburgh's has suffered down the centuries much rebuilding and a disastrous fire, culminating in 1810 in the removal of a tower and spire, leaving its once fine west front very sad and unfinished looking today, the interior has been described as "the most dignified and gracious in Dublin", and offers many points of interest for the visitor.

What, of course, cannot be seen are its ancient deeds of most exceptional if not unique interest in Ireland. While its Parish Registers go back only to 1704 and its Vestry Minutes to 1720, there are Churchwardens' Accounts, giving details of the day-to-day running of the church, e.g. its flooring, roofing, lighting, including the cost of wax for candles, etc. etc., dating from as early as 1484, in the reign of Richard III! In 1503 we read of the purchase of a printed Missal, said to be probably one of the earliest mentions of a printed book in Ireland.

From St. Werburgh's, through the now rain-swept streets, we made our way to St. Audoen's only to find it firmly locked, nobody having made arrangements for getting the key! This was finally located and obtained and so we were able to get in. As, however, there was no one to show us round or tell us anything, this was disappointing.

K T

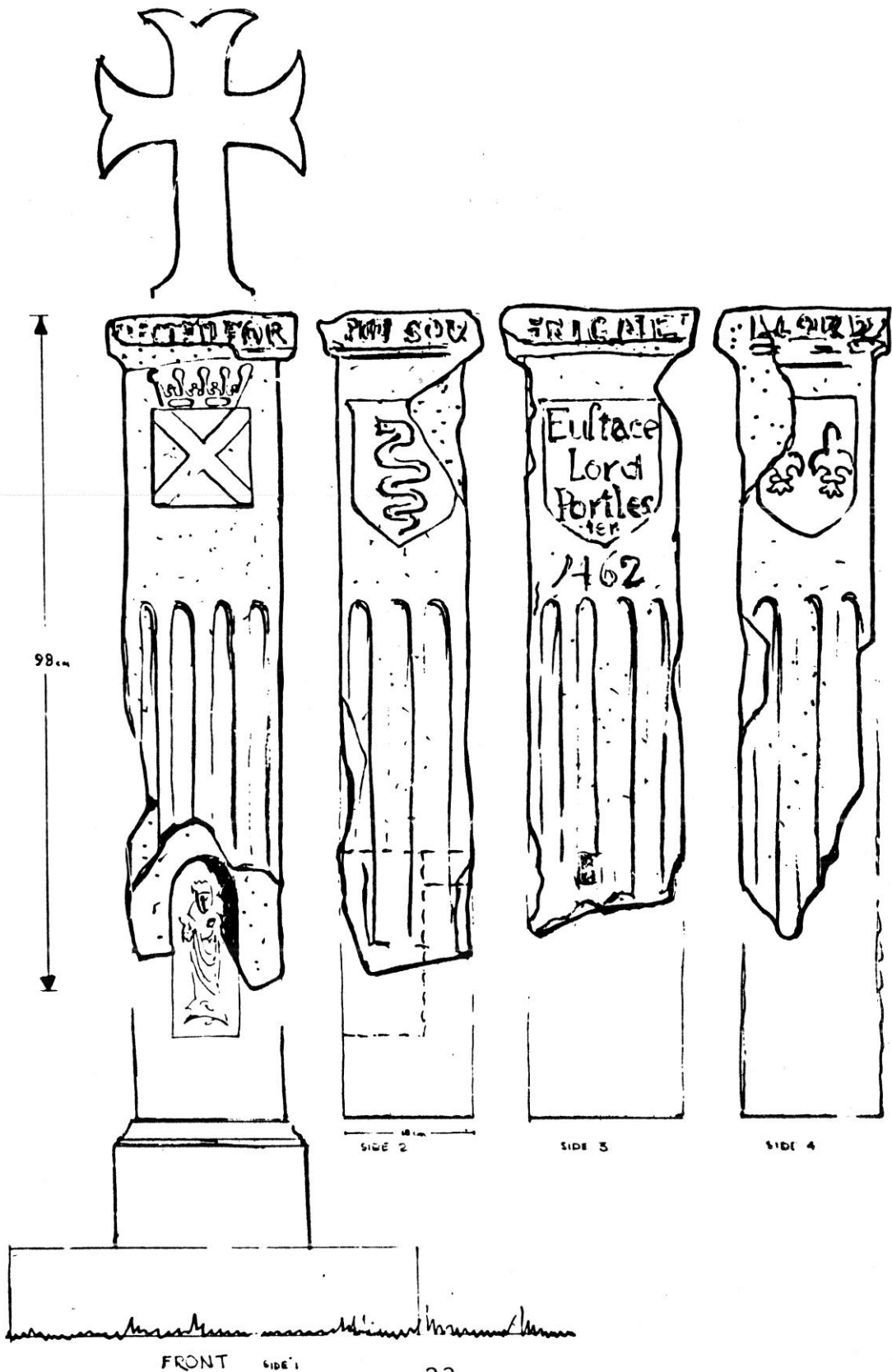
Sir Roland FitzEustace

Rory O'Farrell

The Kilcullen area is rich in its associations with one of the most fascinating characters of the mediaeval period - Sir Roland FitzEustace(1) For well-nigh fifty years in the latter half of the 15th century he was among the most prominent men in the country, serving in many positions of authority. From 1462 until 1493, a period of 31 years, he served as Lord Treasurer of Ireland, He also served as Lord Deputy for a brief period and held too many positions of lesser importance which are too many to list here.

His father, Sir Edward FitzEustace,, lived at Harristown, between Ballymore Eustace and Kilcullen For some period, Sir Roland seems to have been resident there, but circa 1476 he moved to nearby Galmorestown, now known as Gormanstown, where he lived on his marriage to Margaret Jenico, which took place at about that time. In the Royal Irish Academy collection a lease is still extant (2) which shows that in 1482 he rented a dwelling in Kysar's Lane, just behind St. Audoen's Church.

As Lord Treasurer, he would no doubt have been in constant demand in Dublin, and I suggest that it is reasonable to suppose that he must have spent much of his time there. Nevertheless, in all the official references to him he is described variously as 'of Harristown' and 'of Galmorestown'.



He founded New Abbey, near Kilcullen, in 1482, and there is to be found a badly weathered double effigy tomb for himself and his wife Margaret Jenico (3). This is similar to his other double effigy tomb (or cenotaph) at St. Audoen's, which is usually dated to 1455, a continuing error which can be traced back at least to Ware, if not earlier. That this date is

impossible is obvious from the briefest glance at his career, and that it cannot refer to Dame Margaret is proven by the mention in the proceedings of the Parliament of the time that he had just married her (circa 1476) on foot of a Papal Dispensation. In his indispensable work on Irish figure sculpture, Hunt (4) claims 1482 for the date. This would be a valid possibility, as Dame Margaret is mentioned in the lease of the Kysar's Lane dwelling dated 1482, and she might have died later that year.

One of the difficulties in dealing with the history of the FitzEustace family is the absence of documents. It was alleged by his enemies that Sir Roland was Lord Treasurer of Ireland for 31 years and never gave a receipt, so he may have been adverse to retaining documents. The attainder of the family at the time of Queen Elizabeth must have also caused loss of documentation, and the actions of various members of the family in the destruction of documents in at least one case are well illustrated by a record from a court case at the time of Henry VIII.

In this document (5) an affidavit by Sir Walter Delahyde, in answer to a suit of one Thomas Fitz-William of Baggotrath, it is set out that Sir Walter is married to Dame Janet, a daughter of Dame Margaret Jenico, and Thomas is married to Dame Margaret's daughter Elenor Dowdall, the child of a previous marriage. It tells how Sir Walter, Dame Janet, her two sisters Johan and Maude and their husbands and Thomas Fitz-William all take themselves to the house of one William Godynge to look for evidences of the lands of Dame Margaret Jenico.

At this house, they look among the documents for a while until Sir Maurice Eustace, 'being learned in law', finds a suite of documents, which he conceals about his person. He tips the wink to the others, and the three full sisters announce that they are all wasting their time, and call off the search. So they leave the house of William Godynge, and the three sisters and their husbands go off in one direction, leaving Thomas to go his own way. They go to the house of Sir Walter, and there Sir Maurice discloses the documents he has found. These appear to be details and title of Dame Margaret's inheritance from her husband John Dowdall, who at this stage is nearly fifty years dead. Round and round the argument goes -the ladies all taking the view that they as full sisters should inherit this property, rather than that it should go to their half-sister Elenor, though it must be stressed that she was in the Dowdall blood-line, and ultimately to her husband Thomas. They wanted to burn the documents but Sir Walter would have none of it (he is telling the story to place himself in the best possible light!). He advised them simply to conceal the documents.

Then, his rooms being next the Grey Friars, he heard the bell and went out to hear mass. As soon as he had gone out, the others ordered up a fire, into which they thrust the documents. On returning from mass, he was met by his wife Dame Janet, with the story of what had happened wherewith he expressed great sorrow and discontent. In due course, being troubled by conscience, he and his wife confessed to a Friar of the Grey Friars, who advised them to make a clean breast of the story. This he did, in such a way that he persuaded the Earl of Kildare to prevail upon Thomas Fitz-William to formally rent the lands in question to Sir Walter and Dame Janet, which lands would seem to have been already in their possession.

In the churchyard at Cotlandstown (Ballycotland) is to be found a memorial cross. This church-yard is now situated on the other side of the townland boundary between Cotlandstown and Harristown. Sir Eustace Tickell in his paper on the FitzEustace holdings (6), says that this churchyard stood originally in the townland of Harristown until the boundary was redrawn some hundreds of years ago. This would make the church the local

church to the FitzEustace residence at Harristown, although it must be assumed that a family of the importance of the FitzEustaces would have had a resident chaplain.

This cross at Cotlandstown presents one of the problems associated with Sir Roland. The arms surmounted by the coronet are those of FitzEustace. The date of 1462 on the far side is correct for Sir Roland's creation as Lord Portlester. The flanking coats of arms - the snake and the fleur de lys have not yet been firmly identified.

The arms of the town of Naas are now the snake, and the fleur de Lys may be the coat of Sherlocks of Waterford and Cork. Why should they be on such a monument? In recent years research by distinguished antiquaries has not shown any reason why the arms of Naas should be a serpent, or even any date on which such arms were granted. The earliest use of them I can trace is on a ceremonial mace dated to the late seventeenth century (7). Just outside Naas is an area still called Sherlockstown, which shows that Sherlock was a name in use in the area.

Why was such a monument erected? The record on it of the date of Sir Roland's creation as Lord Portlester would suggest that it was erected to commemorate that event. If it were so erected, then the arms of two of the major subscribers or sponsors of the monument might well be depicted, A detailed study of Sir Roland's career has failed to produce any Sherlocks at all, I incline to the view that the coat of arms of the snake here predates the arms of Naas, but have not found a family which carries such a snake as a coat.

- Refs.
- (1) Statute Rolls Ireland, III & IV passim
 - (2) Berry, H. F. , The Guild of St. Anne, P.R.I.A. Vol.XXV
 - (3) Hunt, John, Irish Mediaeval Figure Sculpture, IUP
 - (4) Hunt, John op. cit.
 - (5) Cal. of Patent & Close Rolls Ire., p. 99
 - (6) Tickell, Eustace F., J.K.A.S., Vol. XIII No. 6, p. 27 et seq.
 - (7) de Burgh, T. J., The Ancient Mace of Naas Corporation, J.K.A.S, No. 6, p.424.

Week-end in Cork - 16th to 19th April 1982

At the invitation of the late Professor M. J. O'Kelly the annual week-end was spent in Cork. On the way (Friday 16th) we stopped at Kilcooley Abbey and Cashel, where we had a picnic lunch. After checking in at Gabriel House we met Professor O'Kelly at the Museum at 8 p.m. He was unsparing in his attentiveness and showed us around until 10.30 p.m.!

The following was our programme:

Saturday 17th

Kilcrea Friary

On site of Early Christian foundation of St. Cyra (?). Franciscan Friary founded by Cormac Láidir MacCarthy 1465. Relatively peaceful existence until 1589. Monks banished in 1614. Cromwell occupied building and altered internal arrangements 1650. Building is plain. Typical plan of nave, choir and northern domestic range. Features include; south transept; scriptorium; original tower; nearby bridge (contemporary?) and MacCarthy Castle.

Cashel Fort

Bivallate hillfort, unexcavated.

Garranes Ringfort

Large trivallate ringfort, excavated by Ó Riordáin (published PRIA 1942). Traditional centre of Uí Eachach Mumhan (Eoganacht). Local tradition that this site was the birthplace of St. Finbarr. Excavation was partial.

Finds included the site of metalworkers craft centre and associated equipment. Evidence uncovered to show trade networks between Cork and sub-Roman Gaul.

Cashel na lucht

4-stone Circle alignment.. Nearby boulder dolmen.

Kilmurry District

A number of prehistoric sites in close proximity. These include:

Upper Belmont stone circles. The site consists of 2 five-stone circles. One has obvious portal and recumbent stones. Cup and circle marks the recumbent.

Bealnablath Stone Circle

Leachy Neill

Wedge tomb with double walling. No obvious facade or cairn. Possible northern wedge. A large boulder nearby may represent the remains of a second wedge.

Clearagh Stone Cup and circle rock art.

Russnakilla Stone alignment and rock art cup and circle.

Dissue Terelton. Hilltop fort with souterrain. Very deep ditch and high banks.

Sunday 18th

Morning: Environs of Cork.
Afternoon: Drive to Kinsale.

St. Multose Church Multiperiod medieval church.

The French Prison Tower Small tower house.

Charles Fort. 17th century star-shaped fort. (here Michael Mulcahy described the whole Battle of Kinsale)

Monday 19th April

Island Wedge Tomb Excavated, and published JRSAL, 88, 1958.

Mallow Castle Early 17th century semi-fortified Elizabethan house.

Bridgetown Abbey and Friary Augustinian Friary.

Labbacallee Wedge tomb.

Professor O'Kelly planned the whole trip for us and organised guides at the various places on the Saturday and Sunday. We have very happy memories of a very good kind friend who gave us a wonderful week-end tour of some of the sites in the Cork area. We are also grateful to John Bradley who accompanied us as usual and guided us on our way to and from Cork.

Summer School 9th-13th and 16th-20th August 1982

During the 1982 Courses in Field Archaeology the excavation produced some interesting results. The evening lectures were of the usual high standard. On Thursday 19th August however Michael Monk could not give his lecture on the Excavations at Lisleagh, so Elizabeth O'Brien our excavation Director, gave a talk instead on the present excavation which is continuing at Ballyman thanks to Mr. John Leeson and his family who as usual have been most helpful. Once again there was a good attendance.

Director of Courses: Leo Swan M.A.
Director of Excavations: Betty O'Brien M.A.
Noel A. Carroll survey
Gabriel Cooney M.A.
Finbar McCormick B.A

Evening Lectures

Monday August 16th

The Relevance of the Past

Ellen Prendergast M.A., National
Museum of Ireland.

Tuesday August 17th

Scripture Crosses of Ireland

Dr. Peter Harbison Archaeologist, Bord
Fáilte Éireann.

Wednesday August 18th

Some Oddities of the Iron Age

Dr. Richard Warner, The Ulster
Museum.

Thursday August 19th

Excavations at Lisleagh, Co. Cork

Michael Monk M.A., University
College Cork.

Friday August 20th

Excavation of a Crannog at Moynagh, Co. Meath

John Bradley M.A., University College
Dublin

Miscellanea

1 In August this year work was begun on the new graveyard at Crinken, to be called the Shanganagh Cemetery. This is an extension of Dean's Grange Cemetery which opened 120 years ago, on December 12th 1964, and now, in spite of enlargement in recent years, is in need of more ground.

As usual it is sad to see the destruction, presumably necessary, of so many of the trees that border the road here. Most of them are chestnut and they make this part of the Bray-Shankill road beautiful in spring and autumn.

It is natural that questions should be asked about this cemetery, and the Dean's Grange Joint Burial Board has been kind enough to supply some answers. All graves will face a path. All will be grassed and maintained by the Board. Upright headstones will be permitted, without kerbs. It is intended that all denominations shall be interred side by side, and finally, there is no plan for a Crematorium in Shanganagh.

2 This year also saw a start on the widening of the awkward corner where Quinn's Road joins the main Bray Road.

3 A link with old times, the one-time forge of Shankill village, well-known in recent years as Harry Moloney's garage, has been demolished and, unfortunately, not even one photograph of it can be found.

4 Still more building on Corbawn Lane - this time on the south side at "Lisnalurg". This house was originally called "Maryland" It was built by Mrs, Thomas Middleton of Athgoe Park whose husband built both "Clonasleigh" and "Athgoe". The exact date of its building is not known but it was certainly before 1895. The house was sold to a family called Creery and it was they who changed its name to that by which it is known today.

5 In pleasant contrast to some of the other items above is the recent discovery in the possession of a friend of an album of photographs of the interior of Shanganagh Castle and its contents. Also the catalogue of the latter (including the antiques, pictures etc., etc. collected by Sir George Cockburn) when the Castle came up for auction in 1936.

The catalogue, of which the Society now has a copy, was used at the auction and the price of many of the items as they were sold noted in pencil against them, thus adding very considerably to the interest.

1983 Winter Lectures

Wednesday, January 26th - The Annual General Meeting was held in the Burton Hall, Rathmichael School at 8.15 pm.

The Officers and Committee elected were as follows:

President	Joan Delany
Hon. Secretary	Wendy Guilford
Hon Treasurer	Nicholas Healy
Ordinary Members	Tanya O'Sullivan
	Damien MacGarry
	Kevin O'Rourke
	Howell Evans

Following the elections a short illustrated talk was given by Nicholas Healy, entitled *Archaeology in Ireland and Kenya*.

Illustrated by very beautiful slides the lecturer showed places and buildings in Kenya where he has recently spent some time. We were also shown pictures of places of historical interest which have been visited by members of the society on outings.

Wednesday February 23rd - in the Burton Hall at 8.15 pm.

The Elephant and Castle and other Fables Illustrated lecture by Rory O'Farrell. (see p.53)

Wednesday, March 23rd - In the Burton Hall, Rathmichael School at 8.15 p.m. Mr. Patrick Wallace gave an illustrated talk on *Excavations at Wood Quay*.

It is not often that archaeology hits the headlines in Ireland, and we were glad to have a lecture on the nature and results of the magnificent work carried out on that controversial site from an expert who had been actively concerned in it.

Mr. Wallace very courteously dedicated his lecture to our President, Joan Delany, who had been involved in the digging and referred also to the work done by other members of the Society who were present, Mrs. Betty O'Brien and Mrs. Heather King.

Mr. Wallace's illustrations of what a house in Dublin in the early Middle Ages must have looked like were fascinating, wattle-built, probably crowded, but no doubt comfortable and home-like for the inhabitants. He stresses that the design and the location of the houses was not an importation, but sprang from Irish technique and practice, It was interesting to learn that the wealth and importance of the Dublin of that period was very probably based to a great extent on slave-trade. Rich the inhabitants must have been - or at least some of them - because of the evidence of imported objects.

This well-presented lecture was a welcome recall to the old but newly discovered world of Dublin, York, other coastal towns and the whole Viking civilization.

G S

Wednesday October 26th - In the Assembly Hall, Rathmichael School at 8.15 p.m. Mr. Tony Armstrong gave a talk entitled *The Harcourt Street Line*.

When driver Edward Wheeler and guard Jack O'Sullivan took the 4.25 train out of Harcourt Street Station on December 31st 19 58, it was the ending of 104 years of continuous passenger service on this line

Services from Harcourt Road to Bray commenced on July 10th 1854 and it was not until 1859 that the single platform terminus at Harcourt Street was completed. In July 1856 the Dublin and Wicklow Railway (the owner company) merged with the Dublin and Kingstown Railway extending it also to Bray. The inland diversion made because of coastal erosion between Killiney and Bray combined the two routes from Shanganagh junction to Bray in 1915.

In 1860 the Dublin and Wicklow became The Dublin Wicklow and Wexford; in 1907 the name was again changed to The Dublin and South Eastern Railway which it remained until it came under the control of C.I.E. in 1945.

The stations on the line were Bray, Shankill, Carrickmines, Foxrock, Stillorgan, Dundrum, Milltown, Ranelagh and the terminus, Harcourt Street. It was here on February 14th 1900 that one of the most photographed railway accidents of the time took place. Engine No. 17 (Wicklow) had set off from Enniscorthy Fair early that morning drawing a cattle special behind her. After a break for breakfast in Gorey, the journey was continued, cattle wagons being added or detached at the various stations along the way. The engine gave no trouble and stopped and started in response to driver Bill Hyland at the controls until it arrived at Harcourt Street. Here for some reason the brakes refused to work. The engine crossed the turntable at the end of the platform, hit the buffers and pushed them and a large section of the wall out into Hatch Street, coming to rest suspended high over the street. Amazingly, nobody was killed in the accident. The fireman, Peter Jackson, had jumped clear, but driver Hyland of Seapoint Cottages, Bray, was pinned between the engine and the tender and his right arm was very seriously injured. He was released after much hard work by a rescue team and taken to the Meath Hospital where his arm had to be amputated. When he recovered he was given an office job in Bray railway station and worked there until his death 30 years later in February 1930. The engine suffered little damage and was soon back in service after the necessary repairs, and worked for many years after.

Our own local station, Shankill, was opened on July 10th 1854. It is now the property of J. V. Duffy Ltd., and they have extended and enlarged it to make offices in recent years. The first station master appointed here was a Mr. Edward Carey; he lived on the premises which came with the job plus £50 a year wages. For some years Shankill station was used for the transportation of ore.

Before the opening of Rathdrum station, Co. Wicklow, in 1861, ore was transported over bad roads to Ballycorus smelting works from Luganure lead mine near Glendalough. From the late 1860s it was brought to Rathdrum, where it was loaded on to ore wagons to be delivered to Shankill, where horses and carts were again used to carry it up to Ballycorus. In 1860, or soon after, the road now known as the Rathmichael Road was built to accommodate this traffic. As there is no record of the railway company running any ore wagons after 1907, this rail traffic must have ceased by then. The smelting works itself was in decline from around the 1890s and closed for good in 1914.

During the civil war the railway bridges to the north and south of the station were blown up by Republican forces. I believe it was intended to do the same to the fine 5-arched stone

viaduct crossing Cherrywood Road, but for some reason this was never carried out and today this fine bridge still stands as a monument to the craftsmen who built it.

Motive power from the beginning was by steam, right up to 1955 when the new diesel railcars started taking over the suburban services. When they were introduced some people thought it was the return of the Drumm battery train, the last of which had run 6 years previously.

The Drumm battery, named after its inventor, Dr. J. J. Drumm of University College, Dublin, was first introduced on the Harcourt Street line in 1935, testing experiments having been carried out on the coastal route from about 1932. The Drumm train was an electric train powered by an alkaline battery, or, to be more precise, 15 tons of batteries. Charging stations were provided at Harcourt Street and Bray, so the train could top up its batteries at the end of each trip. This, however, was not always necessary for as years went by the batteries were improved, and even in 1932 a test train covered a distance of 80 miles without a recharge. The battery trains provided a good service during the war years, 1939-45, when coal was in short supply and many steam engines had to be converted to burn oil. But by 1949 the batteries were worn out and the Drumm Battery trains were withdrawn from service. This saw the return of a complete steam service for the next six years.

It is interesting to note that one of the Dublin and South Eastern steam locomotives still survives in Mullingar. No. 15, one of only two powerful 2.6.0 or Mogul type of goods locomotive built in 1932 for the D.S.E.R. is in the care of The Railway Preservation Society of Ireland, who hope to restore it to full running order in the near future.

When the diesel railcars replaced the steam trains almost entirely by 1957 they only brought a 3-minute acceleration in the timetable, stopping trains cut from 33 minutes to 30 minutes.

The steady decline in the use of the train continued with the 23 trains in each direction a day carrying less than 1,000 passengers - it was said that the line was losing £53,000 per annum. Then in October 1958, C.I.E. announced the withdrawal of services from the Harcourt Street line as and from the 1st of January 1959.

The last train consisted of four diesel railcars and four coaches filled to capacity. Large crowds assembled at all the stations along the way and detonators exploded on the track under its wheel - at Milltown the Laundry hooters sounded as the train crossed the bridge for the last time.

C.I.E. wasted little time in lifting the track, and some of the rails were bought and shipped to India. It would be nice to think that maybe today steam trains are still running over the Harcourt Street rails on another Continent.

Anthony Armstrong

Wednesday, November 23rd - In the Burton Hall, Rathmichael School - An illustrated talk entitled *Irish Wild Flowers* was given by Mr. Conway Maxwell, member.

In a very interesting introduction to his slides, Mr. Maxwell outlined briefly the development of botanical study in Europe through the centuries with especial reference to Ireland.

He began by pointing out that the name “Irish” in front of a plant name does not usually mean that it is found wild only in Ireland (this being true of only a very few, unspectacular plants) but rather that English people regarded it as Irish because it was found in Ireland and not in England. A good example is the Irish Heath which is a Mediterranean plant found wild in Ireland, but not in Britain. On the whole, however, the position is the reverse, because there are 50% more wild flower varieties in Britain than in Ireland, a state of affairs due to the fact that at the end of the last Ice Age the ‘land bridges’ connecting Ireland to Britain were submerged (and therefore simple plant migration suspended) long before the similar bridges between Britain and the Continent of Europe went under.



GENTIANA VERNA

In explaining why specific and country-wide names in the Irish language were not very abundant, the speaker referred to the turbulent state of the country during the centuries when the serious study of plants - originally a purely medical study - throughout Europe was leading to a more detailed classification and standardization of names. The leisured or professional class involved in this study was at that stage in Irish history, completely missing from the remnants of the Gaelic-speaking world, so that such work as

was done in Ireland was done by the English-speaking population and thus linked to the English names.

Tracing man’s interest in plants for nutritional and medical use from the ancient Greeks (Hippocrates, Aristotle, Theophrastus) to the Romans (Pliny, Dioscorides, Dio) and, following the fall of Rome, to the monasteries, the speaker stated that as with Art, a rejuvenation of interest suddenly occurred after the fall of Constantinople in the 15th century, and then the translation and printing of some of the classical works opened this new world to Europe in general. One immediate result was the founding of various Botanic Gardens, notably in Italy, France, Germany and Holland.



PINGUICULA GRANDIFLORA



ARBUTUS UNEDO

In the 16th century the upsurge of botanical activity in England resulted in the publication of *Names of Herbes* (1568) by William Turner, and a *Herball* by John Gerard in 1597, in which occurred the first mention of an Irish plant name - “Meadow Trefoile which are called in Irish Shamrockes”.

In the 17th century the Rev. Richard Heaton came to Ireland as chaplain to the Life Guard of Horse, and his findings were incorporated in *Phytologia Britannica* published in 1650 and included interesting plants such as *Gentiana verna* ‘in the mountains between Gort and Galloway’ - Juniper, Red Helloborine, *Scilla verna*, *Euphorbia hyberna* and *Saxifrage spatularis*; while later in that century Thomas Molyneux, founder of the Dublin Philosophical Society, mentions that the Arbutus in Kerry was “in such plenty that they cut them down as the chief fewel to melt and refine the ore of the silver and lead mines”.

At the end of that century a Welshman Edward Llyud (a friend of the Molyneux brothers) came to Ireland on a plant-hunting expedition and found many of our more interesting and unusual plants which he then listed. His list includes Irish Sandwort on Benbulbin, Maidenhair fern, St. Dabeoc’s Heath and *Potentilla fruticosa*.



Potentilla fruticosa

Early in the 18th century - in 1711 - lectures in Botany were introduced in Trinity College, Dublin, and at the end of that century the Botanic Gardens in Dublin were founded, followed in 1809 by those in Cork.

Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and up to the present day, the speaker said that so many well-known names of people involved appear that there could not be time to deal with them, although an individual study of some of them would be well worth while. In the present century probably the most widely known - indeed a worthy successor to those who went before - has been Robert Lloyd Praeger due, no doubt to his writings, especially his successful, popular book, *The Way that I Went*. If not invidious to name his present-day successor, the speaker would nominate David A. Webb whose hand-book, *An Irish Flora* is known and used by so many people.



TUBERARIA GUTTATA

Mr. Maxwell has a large collection of exceptionally beautiful slides of which he showed us over 200 covering a wide variety of wild flowers, from the most simple and well known, to the rarest and most difficult to locate that he had, he said, so far succeeded in photographing. The sequence ran from the East coast to the midlands, thence to Kerry, the Burren area of Clare, and finally Connemara, Mayo and Donegal.

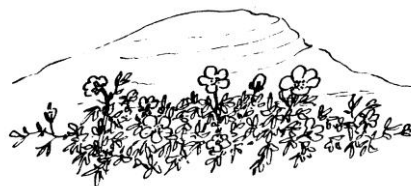
Some of the 'specialities' of the areas were shown, including such Lusitanian or Mediterranean plants as *Pinguicula grandiflora*, *Arbutus unedo* (Kerry) and Irish Heath (Mayo); also some of the American associated plants such as Irish Lady's Tresses, Orchid (*Spiranthes romanzoffiana*) and Blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bermudiana*). Examples of the Arctic/Alpine plants, for the abundance of which the Burren area is famous, were also shown, and these included *Geranium sanguineum*, *Gentiana verna*, *Potentilla fruticosa* and *Dryas octopetala*.

C. Maxwell

Reference - Introduction by Ruth Ross to *An Irish Florilegium*.
Flower sketches by Daphne Maxwell



SISYRINCHIUM
BERMUDIANA



Summer Visits – 1983

Sunday, May 22nd - Tour to Old Court Castle, Killincarrig House, and Kindlestown Castle. Conductor, K. Turner.

Old Court Castle

First to Old Court Castle in pouring rain which continued all afternoon. Here we were received by Mrs. Holfeld's daughter and family who brought us to the cross-base beside the stream and thence to the Castle. The cross-base is very interesting as being unique in this area, reminiscent of the Cross of Moone, covered in sculpture (albeit practically impossible to interpret, so worn is it). The castle is in good state of preservation although its one-time conical cap is missing. On one side it shows the scar left by the gable of a house built against it in the 17th century. An unusual feature here is the twin-towered entrance gateway to the courtyard.

We were kindly invited to tea, but felt we must decline as we were not only very wet and muddy, but had other places to see.

Killincarrig House

Off to Killincarrig House, in the grounds of a private house owned by Mr. and Mrs. Garrett Byrne

Although sometimes called a castle this is an Elizabethan or Jacobean house with many and large windows, and is now in a very ruinous state. In the Down Survey of 1657 it is described as "the most remarkable building in the Halfe Barony... and garrisoned during the time of the late wars". It is shown in a sketch as a big 2-storied house with attics and 3 gables in the front.

This is one of the places certainly associated with Cromwell. Whether he actually spent a night here on his way from Dublin to Arklow in August 1649 is doubtful as he was in great haste, but he left a company of soldiers here to hold the place.

Close to Delgany this dramatic ruin lies in a field which had recently been ploughed, but luckily was not as bad going as might have been expected after all the rain, now, at last, easing off. Kindiestown Castle

Kindlestown gets its name from Albert de Kenley who married the widow of Ralph Macgillamochoilmog, lord of Rathdown and he held it for his young stepson. This castle is of particular interest to us on account of its being so different from the tower-house type of which we know so many examples. It is known as a 'hailed1 keep, which means that it is oblong in plan, and it is dated to the 13th century.

Sunday, June 26th - Tour to St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare, the Carmelite Friary, Kildare, Tully (ruins of Black Abbey) and St. David's Church, Naas. Conductor - Damien MacGarry.

St. Brigid's Cathedral

In contrast to our first tour of the season, June 26th was a perfect summer day - sunshine all day and never too hot.

Arriving at the Cathedral at 12.50 we found that Morning Prayer had begun at noon, so we occupied the time eating our lunch and basking in the sun. The Service over, we talked to the verger, Mr. Stewart, and were much impressed by the facilities he told us were offered to tourists - we could have a kettle to boil and make a cup of tea, and a toilet is available. One wonders whether any other Cathedral offers such welcome hospitality?

The exterior of the Cathedral is impressive, very strong and sturdy. It resembles a castle with its castellated parapets and warder's walk behind them continued by steps over the gables, and its few and small entrances. Having been destroyed many times during the centuries since 1223 when the first Anglo-Norman Bishop, Ralph of Bristol, built it in the place of the Abbey founded by St. Brigid, it was restored in the late 19th century (1875-96), keeping the same size and design.

Inside we spent some time looking at the ancient monuments, etc., in the S. transept, an area which the Dean, in his recent booklet, *Kildare*, tells us is being planned to use in the near future for exhibitions of modern works of art and design.

Saturday, July 23rd

Tour to places of interest on the north side of Dublin - Donabate, Portrane and Lusk.

Conducted by Mr. Bob Brown of the Donabate Historical Society who met us at Swords Castle at 2.30 p.m.

After a cooler morning, the day turned out to be hot with a slight sea breeze at Portrane where we touched the coast. To the dozen or so members of our own Society were added two members of the Dublin Archaeology Society.

Donabate - We started at Donabate where we were shown the unusual and lovely little 18th century church, thought to have been built c. 1700. The outside is quite plain, but there is a curved gable surmounted by an urn at the west end. At the east end stands the tower of the earlier medieval church with, under it, the vaulted tomb of a member of the great Butler family - Archdeacon Butler. Inside, the special feature is the lovely plaster-work of the ceiling over the gallery at the west end - dated 1758. Mr. Brown told us that the chancel arch once had the same stucco work, but that it had been removed for some unknown reason.

Portrane - Here we saw the ruined 15th century Barnewall church, roofless, though the walls are still standing. The tomb-stones here have all been very badly vandalized. The Barnewalls were descended from a very ancient Norman family who came to England with the Conqueror, and to Ireland at, or soon after, the Conquest in the 12th century. They owned property in many places but their principal seat was at Turvey in north Co. Dublin.

Lusk

At Lusk the tower of a medieval church was built against the only surviving relic of St. Mac Cuilinn's monastery. In it we saw the tomb of Sir Christopher Barnewall and his wife Marion Charl - their effigies lying in elaborately-carved armour and clothing. We also saw the effigy of James Birmingham of Turvey near Donabate in 16th century armour with Irish style harness. This tower contains a most interesting collection of medieval sculpture.

Mr. Brown was a very entertaining guide and we were most grateful to him for showing us some of the monuments in this area.

Saturday 24th September

North City Walk

On one cool grey September afternoon, the Society visited three of Dublin's most notable north-side classical buildings. First was St. George's Church, Hardwicke Street, where we were kindly received and shown around by the Rector, the Reverend W. R. J. Gourlay B.D. The church, originally destined to be the centre piece in Mountjoy Square, was built here between 1802 and 1813 to the splendid neo-Grecian designs of Francis Johnston. The broad galleried nave (chancel added in 1880) is one of the most impressive interiors in Dublin. It was lovingly restored and re-decorated in 1961 by Johnston's fellow Ulsterman Denis Hanna.

A short walk brought us then to Belvedere College where, by kind permission of the College Rector we viewed the principal rooms in the front house, as also the school Chapel in course of refurbishment. The house was built by Michael Stapleton for the Earl of Belvedere in 1786; little more than half-a-century later, it was bought by the Jesuit Fathers for use as a school, and thus -like most of the Gardiner Estate - it was a "great family town house" for only two generations.

Unlike St. George's, where the redecoration scheme of 1961 was carried out with almost fanatical restraint, joy was unconfined in the colours used in Belvedere, and some might feel that the effects are breath-taking rather than subtle. But perhaps we have become too Puritan in our pastel tastes: there is ample evidence that many classical buildings were brightly coloured both inside and out.

Lastly, we moved downhill to the Rotunda where, by courtesy of Matron we visited the hospital chapel. As next day was Harvest Sunday the chapel floor was covered with fruit and flowers, and so we were confined to viewing the bold and colourful plasterwork from close-to, at gallery level.

Bartholomew Cramillion's Baroque ceiling is unique in Ireland for the boldness of its fully modelled figures, frames and festoons, and the design incorporates a large range of allegorical figures, emblems and motifs. These are difficult to appreciate from so near at hand; but there is no disputing the powerful effect of this original interior - an effect which would have been still more striking and colourful had the design been completed by the painting of the centre panel of the ceiling.

All in all, three memorable architectural experiences in one afternoon.

P.M.D.

The Cross of Kiltuck P Ó hÉailidhe

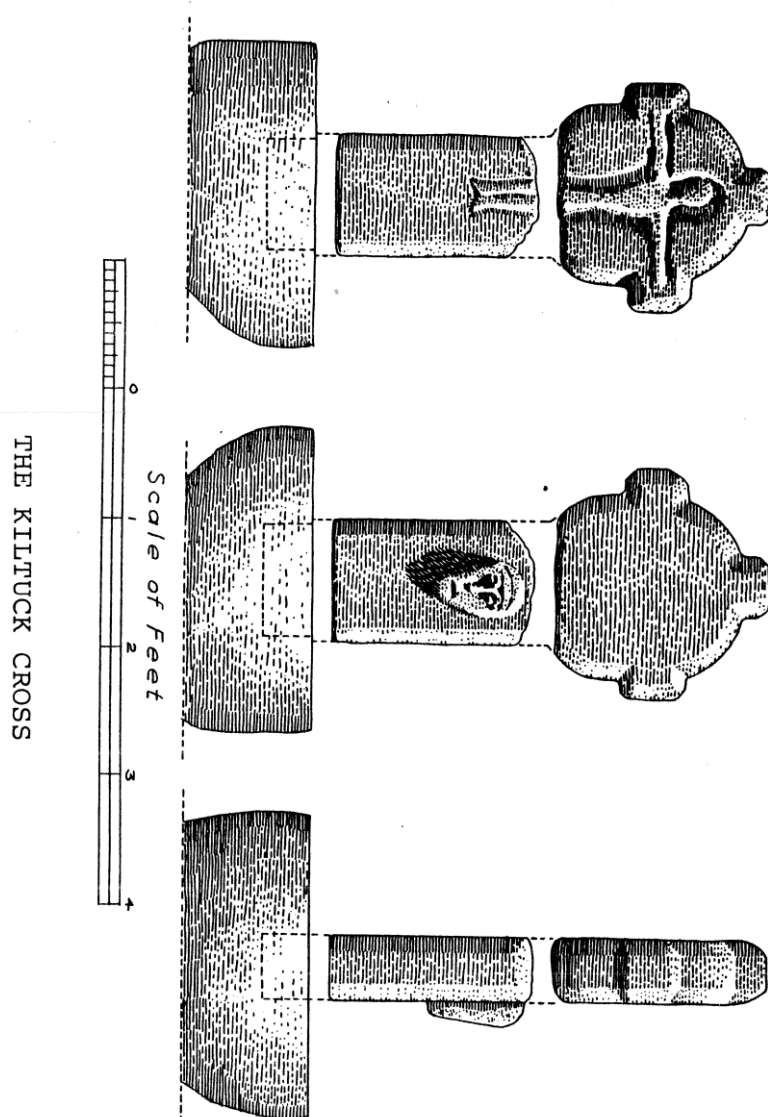
The erection of the ancient cross of Kiltuck in the grounds of St. Anne's Church, Shankill is the final phase of a project which was started nearly fifty years ago by Rev. J. P. Sherwin, Parish priest of Killiney and Ballybrack. The ancient Church of Kiltuck was located in the grounds of Shanganagh Castle. It is mentioned in a Papal Bull of 1179 which defined the extent of the dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough. When the site was visited by Eugene O'Curry in August 1837 in connection with the Ordnance Survey¹ he found the church walls standing, except for the eastern gable which had fallen down. He was told that the graveyard had been levelled and all the bones buried within the church. The cut stonework of either doorway or window was lying within the church along with a cross with a figure in relief, and a circular base with a mortise which corresponded with the shaft of the cross. There was another small square building standing south east of the church, but this had been demolished shortly before and only the foundations remained. The head of another cross was at the gate lodge where it had been recently placed.

The crosses of Kiltuck are also mentioned by Patrick J. O'Reilly in 1901 in an article on all the crosses and grave slabs in the Dublin half-barony of Rathdown.² The cross with the figure in relief was then standing in the circular base, and the cross head was lying nearby. He dated both crosses to the 14th century. In 1905 Elrington Ball described Kiltuck church site. The walls were then demolished and only the outline of the church remained.³

There was formerly an old tradition that the cross with the figure in relief had originally been located in the lane below Rathmichael Church ruin where an empty cross base stood. In 1911 this cross was removed to that site and re-erected in what was believed to be the original base.⁴ In 1937 a photograph of the other cross-head was published in the Irish Independent⁵ with a brief note stating that Rev. J. P. Sherwin P.P. of Ballybrack had found this cross-head half buried at the site of Kiltuck church and through the courtesy of the owner of Shanganagh Castle had placed it in the grounds of St. Anne's Church nearby.

My own involvement with this cross-head started in 1956 while preparing an article on Fassaroe Cross.⁶ This article was to include references to other crosses of a similar type, so with the above-mentioned newspaper article in hand I visited St. Anne's Church, Shankill to inspect the cross-head. Having failed to find it in the church grounds, in the porch or anywhere within the church my next move was to call on the Parish Priest who lived in Ballybrack for further information.

At that time Father Sherwin had been transferred to Harrington Street Parish and was replaced in Ballybrack by Dr. C. F. Hurley. When shown the newspaper cutting Father Hurley at once declared that the cross-head was in his garden, and brought me out to see it. What I saw, however, was not the cross-head, but a short shaft with a human face in relief on one side, and a pair of legs and feet on the other, which obviously belonged to the missing cross-head. Father Hurley had no idea where it came from, and knew nothing about the cross-head.



Description of Cross

The following is a description of each of the three separate parts which now form the re-erected cross. They are all granite.

The head is a circular disc with very short arms, and measures 54.6 cm. (1'-9½") in overall width and 52 cm. (1'-8½") in height. The thickness is 15 cm. (5⅞") and both faces are chamfered all around. On the front is a large crucified figure of Christ in incised outline, the portion below the hips being broken. The back of the cross-head is blank.

The shaft measures 49 cm. (1'-7¼") in height, 29.5 cm. (11⅝") in breadth and 15 cm. (5⅞") in thickness. It is chamfered on all four angles. On the front is a pair of legs and feet belonging to the figure on the cross-head. On the back is a human face in relief, measuring 21.6 cm. (8½") in height, 13.3 cm. (5¼") in breadth and 5.7 cm. (2¼") in relief..

The cross-base is formed from a large boulder, split to form a level platform. It has been dressed to a fine surface and cut to a circular shape resembling a mill stone, but the lower part is still irregular in shape. The diameter is 71 cm. (2'-4") and the visible height 28 to 33 cm. (11" to 1'-1"). In the centre of the circular platform is a mortise measuring 26.7 cm. x 15.2 cm. (10½" x 6") and 11.5 cm (4½") in depth.

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3. Ball F. Elrington. *History of the County of Dublin* Part III Dublin 1905.
4. *The Wicklow People* 11th Nov. 1937
5. *Irish Independent*, 1st July 1937
6. Ó hÉailidhe, P. 'Fassaroe and Associated Crosses'. *J.R.S.A.I.* Vol. 88 (1958)

Carvings on a Mediaeval Harp

Rory O'Farrell

T. H. White, the author of *The Once and Future King*, which was developed into the musical Camelot, is also the translator of a mediaeval bestiary. Based on this, the late Denis Bethell delivered a lecture on the subject to the Historical Society of U.C.D. in the late 1960s. Some time ago, I visited Oxford, and was fortunate to be able to purchase a set of slides of some of the lavishly illustrated bestiaries in the Ashmolean Library. The mediaeval Bestiary, as White wrote of it, was a collection of exaggerated and fabulous tales of animals, but distorted by hearsay and the need to give them a strong Christian moral.

In Ireland, we have no trace among the extant manuscripts of a Bestiary of the monastic period, although we know that they must have existed, and have evidence from the illumination of the period that the artists were familiar with these as source books.

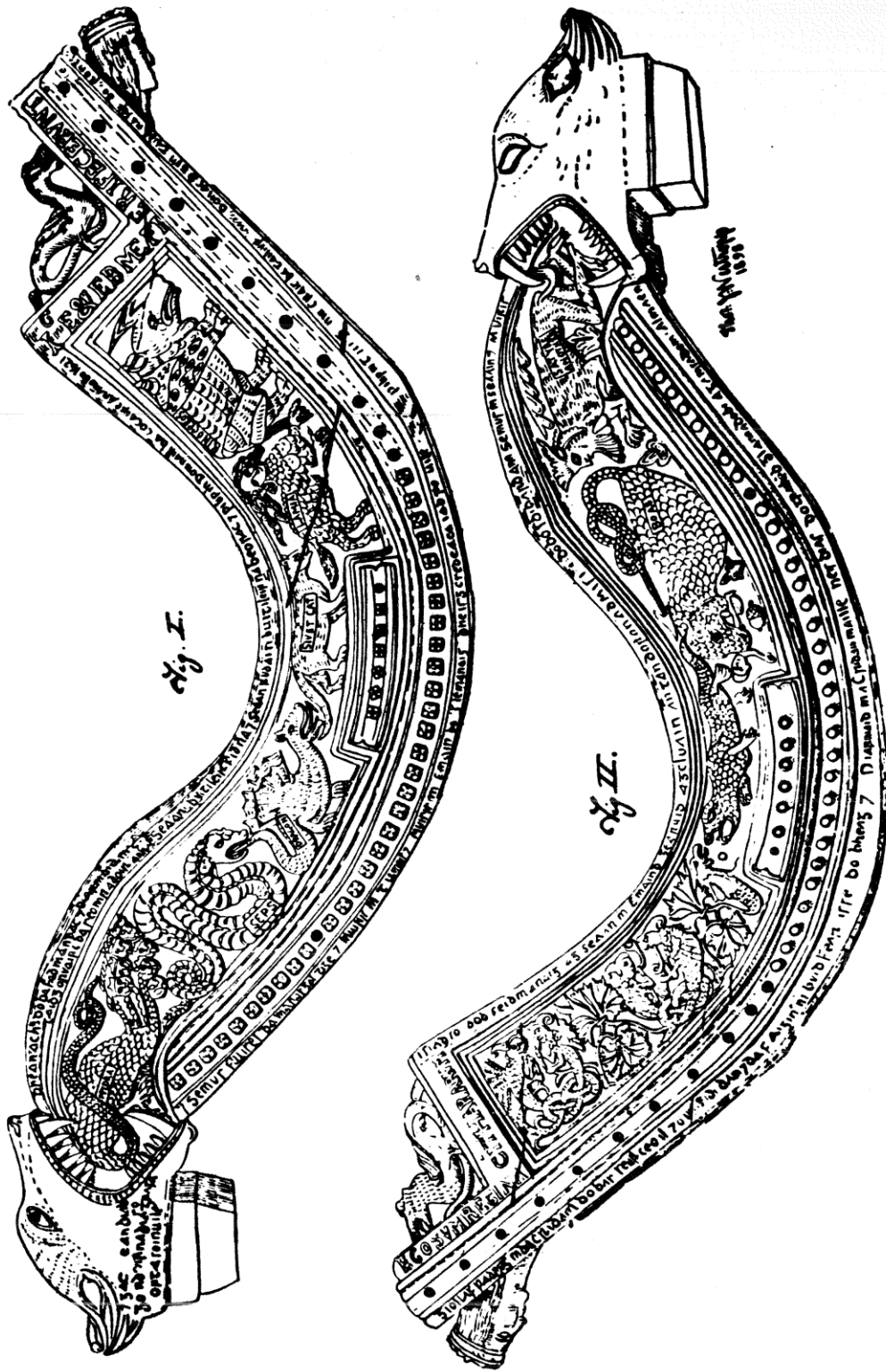
With the increasing use of heraldry the attributes of the animals, as related by the bestiary, led to their depiction in coats of arms and use as supporters in the heraldic context. The carved Elephant and Castle at Cashel is one of the most widely known of such uses. Lord Walter Fitzgerald has illustrated two harps built for the Earls of Kildare in the seventeenth century with carvings taken from the Bestiary.

Depicted on the ends of the forepillar of the Cloyne harp, which is dated to 1621, are Beavers, a Camel and Ibex, and two damaged panels containing carved quadrupeds. On the harmonic curve are carved a seven headed hydra, a serpent, a dragon, a civet cat, a llama with a human face and a rhinoceros. On the other side are a satyr, a boa (constrictor?) eating a human, and a crocodile, with some interlaced foliage turning into human heads playing instruments.

Refs.

White, Terence H. - *The Book of Beasts*. Jonathan Cape, London 1954.

Fitzgerald, Walter – 'Descriptions of two Fitzgerald harps of the seventeenth century.'
J.K.A.S., Vo. VIII No. 2, p. 133-149



TWO VIEWS OF THE HARMONIC CURVE BELONGING TO THE FITZGERALD OF CLOYNE HARP.

Hollow-Based Flint Arrowhead from Shankill, Co. Dublin, P. Healy

This object was found on 31 July 1983 in gravelly scree near the top of Carrickgolligan Hill. It was within the State Forest, but was on cleared ground below the E.S.B. High Tension Power Line which crosses the hill. The co-ordinates of the find spot are O.S. 26; 12.9 cm. from S, 36.1 cm. from W.

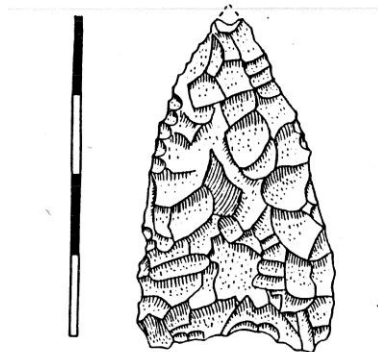
The arrowhead is 4.1 cm. long, 2.5 cm. wide, and the maximum thickness is 1 cm. It is of a whitish grey flint and has lost the tip of the point and possibly one corner of the hollow base which is not now symmetrical.

Arrowheads of this type were in use during the late Neolithic period and the early Bronze Age (Herity and Eogan 1977 pp. 91 & 137), which would extend from about 2500 to 1500 B.C. A similar example in chert was found in the portal tomb at Kiltiernan Domain, Co. Dublin (Herity 19 64 p. 139). The Shankill arrowhead was found 460 m. north of the portal tomb in that townland.

References

Herity, Michael and Eogan, George, *Ireland in Prehistory* London 1977.

Herity, Michael, 'The Finds from the Irish Portal Dolmens' *J.R.S.A.I.* Vol. 94 (1964)



Cholera and Famine in South County Dublin Aideen M. Ireland

The Rathmichael area of south county Dublin may not be considered a likely place for outbreaks of cholera and for destitution consequent upon the Famine in the 1830s and 1840s yet this proved to be the case as extracts from the following record groups in the Public Record Office of Ireland show.

The records consulted consist of:

- Board of Health, Cholera Papers, 1832-4, Applications for Loans;
- Relief Commission 11/2a, Co. Dublin, Nos. 8189-11964, Dec. 11 1846 -Feb. 25 1847;
- Relief Commission 11/2b, Co. Dublin, Incoming Correspondence, Barony of Rathdown.

On the 13 July 1832 the following return was considered for approval by the Central Board of Health.

15/13th July

This form (and not any copy of it) must be filled up and the annexed set of queries answered, and returned under cover to Sir William Gosset, before any application for a loan from the Consolidated Fund can be taken into consideration, in every instance let the sum sought for, as well as those already granted, be put in words at length as well as in figures.

Board of Health for the District or Parish of Bray & Old Connaught & Rathmichael, post town Bray, the 12th day of July 1832, application for two hundred pounds, £200.

We the chairman and members of the Board of health appointed by the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland, under the warrant dated 22nd day of June 1832 to act for the Parish of Bray & its Union do hereby request that His Excellency will be pleased to order an advance of £200, two hundred pounds from the consolidated fund, to enable us to carry into effect the measures for which we were appointed. This sum to be repaid as provided by the Acts 58 Geo. III Cap. 47 (1818) and 2 Willm IV Cap. 9 (1832).

	chairman
John Hunt	member
John Quin	member
James Callaghan	member
Robt Spedding	member

If any grant have (sic) been made to your district or to any part of it previous to this application, please state the amount; and the date of the advice that it had been granted.

Name of Parish or District	Union of Bray
County	Dublin & Wicklow
Post town	Bray
population as pr census of 1831	not known We consider the population to be about twelve thousand

Who are the principal landowners and the resident magistrates and gentry in your parish or district ?

Earl of Meath,
Honble. Sidney Herbert,
Sir Compton Domville,
Miss Roberts,
Major Edwards,
(Genl Sir George Cockburn Magistrate),
The Lord Chancellor,
Sir J. Milton,
Sir S.S. Hutchinson,
Mr. Putland etc. etc.

What are the chief means of employment for the poor in your parish or district ?

Manual labour
No manufactory & great distress

Has any voluntary contribution to meet the present or impending danger been made? If so state its amount £178 One hundred and seventy eight pounds which sum has been expended & the outstanding bills amount to nearly fifty pounds.

Observe on any other local circumstances not comprehended in the preceding queries and state such matters as may in your opinion deserve to be remarked on particularly those on which you decide to ask for funds.

Our district being an outlet of Dublin, & a thorough fare to the Counties of Wicklow & Wexford there is a constant influx of poor persons & others. We deem it necessary to keep up our hospital & to provide bedding and clothing for patients discharged from hospital.

The Central Board recommend compliance with the application for £200.

13 July 32

F.B. (Board of Health, Cholera Papers)

Fourteen years later the Rathmichael area was again in need of financial assistance but this time the aggravating factor was famine. Returns to Dublin Castle detail the composition and the efforts of the Rathmichael Relief Committee. In December 1846 William Hopper was returned as chairman and William Browns as secretary. Names familiar from the cholera returns also reappear - the Rev. John Hunt, John Quinn junr, Genl. Sir George Cockburn. Lord Meath was still Lieutenant for the county of Dublin and beside the chairman and secretary twenty two members of the committee are returned (RLF Com 11/2a Co. Dublin)

A return for 15 March 1847 states the surplus in the workhouse to be 89 and goes on to list the subscribers to the relief fund. Forty-four names are listed. The subscriptions begin with £10 and descend to 8d. Seven domestics are listed as paying amounts from 12/- down to 8d. The total amount collected was £77.14.2. It is stated on the return "that there is not included in it, any sum contributed from funds applicable to charitable purposes" (RLF Com 11/2b).

These two series of returns for the mid nineteenth century are interesting for the light they shed on distress in areas considered well off, detailing as they do the level of distress and the names of prominent large landowners. Clergymen, military men, legal men and men of title are prominent.

As is to be expected in an area which comprised Bray, Old Connaught and Rathmichael the names returned on the forms come from all these areas. Of the names which appear on both the cholera and famine relief returns the Rev. John Hunt was rector of Rathmichael. John Quin senior owned a hotel in Bray which later passed to his son John, John Quin senior is later listed as living in Shanganagh; Gen. Sir George Cockburn owned land in Shanganagh and Shankill; while Lord Meath, then as now, resided at Kilruddery.

Of the other names on the cholera return James Callaghan owned a grocery shop in Bray, Sir Compton Domville lived in Shankill, Miss Roberts lived at Old Connaught Hill, Major (Jas. K.) Edwards lived at Old Court, Sir S. S. Hutchinson lived at Old Connaught Hill and Mr. (George) Putland lived at Bray Head House.

The famine relief returns show that most of the committee as returned in 1846 were the bulk of the subscribers to the fund in 1847. Besides the names we are already familiar with Phineas Reall J. P. lived in Shankill, the Rev. John Hacket lived in Shankill, the Rev. Edward Day lived in Shanganagh, Mr. William White and Mr. F. B. Carter lived in Shanganagh as did Mr. William Hopper, Mr. William Turbot lived in Shankill, Mr. Robert Tilly was lessor of the Rathmichael Workhouse, Mr. Patrick Cullen, Mrs. Elizabeth Black, Mr. Miles Byrne and Mr. William Graves all lived in Shanganagh, Mr. (Charles/Peter) Toole, Mrs. Sara Hackett and Mrs. Eleanor Norman lived in Shankill while Mr. Henry Falls and Mr. Edward Kennedy lived at Shanganagh. Mr. Thomas Green is returned for the Rathmichael Glebe, Mr. Robert Maddock is returned for Shankill and Mr Henry Martley for Shanganagh. If the identification of these people is correct then about three quarters have been identified. Of these it is interesting to note the preponderance of people from the Bray area on the cholera return while on the famine relief returns most people came from either Shankill or Shanganagh - an area more immediate to Rathmichael than Bray. It is to be regretted that a number of names could not be identified -either by means of commercial directories or by valuations.

Without nineteenth century census returns for this area it is sad not to be able to identify the people resident in the Rathmichael workhouse in 1846. We have no further information on the domestics of seven subscribers (not even their names are recorded) and we have provided only tenuous identification of the supposed twelve thousand inhabitants of the area. Enough information, however, can be gleaned to show levels of poverty and affluence in the Rathmichael area in the first half of the last century.

If You Seek Monuments

On Friday 20th May 1983, Mrs. Kathleen Turner's book on the antiquities of the barony of Rathdown was formally launched. At her gracious invitation the function took place in her lovely home at Llanmawr, Corbawn Lane, Shankill.

It proved to be one of the Society's finest occasions. We were honoured by the presence of the Most Reverend Donald A. R. Caird, Bishop of Meath and Kildare, a former Rector of Rathmichael and an old friend of the author. Having been appropriately introduced by our President, Mrs. Joan Delany, Dr. Caird, in a witty and informative speech, drew our attention to the real value of the book, its wide coverage and its ready usefulness. The sales we are glad to say, have confirmed his hopes.

We were happy to welcome also many friends of the Society, some who had given us lectures, some who came in sheer good-will, some perhaps wondering. We hope all went home content.

Our sincere congratulations to the author.

Miscellanea

On Sunday, June 19th, a perfect summer day a week of celebrations to mark the golden Jubilee of St. Anne's Church, Shankill, closed with a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving attended by all former priests of the parish and all those who had worked for it during those 50 years since its dedication in 1933 and had served the whole community so well.

Following immediately after the very colourful and impressive ceremony in the church, the little Kiltuc cross, recently repaired and erected in the grounds was dedicated by Father John O'Connell P.P. and the Rev. William Marshall, Rector of Rathmichael, in the presence of Bishop Comiskey.

In October work on the Corbawn Shopping Centre at the top of Corbawn Lane began at last. It has been said that eight shops and a bank are to be incorporated. This site is the one until recently occupied by the house called "Clonasleigh", formerly "Willmount", one of those built by Mr. Thomas B. Middleton of "Athgoe".

Week-end in County Meath - Saturday 23rd to Sunday 24th April 1983.

In her lecture on 20th October 19 82, Heather King described the “Medieval Crosses in County Meath” (see p.8), and so it was suggested that we should go and see them during our annual week-end. So Heather arranged the following most interesting programme.

Saturday 23rd

Lusk	Round tower, 15 c. tower and medieval monuments
Fourknocks	Passage grave
Stamullen	Medieval cadaver
Sarsfieldstown	Two medieval crosses
Callaighstown	Holy well, figure and medieval cross
Duleek	Early Christian church site, Early Christian cross, medieval monuments, 17th c. market cross
Wayside crosses at Danesfort	Kilcarne, Annesbrook and Balrath
Kentstown	Ring-fort Medieval effigy

Sunday 24th

Kells	Early Christian site, crosses etc.
Rathmore	Medieval manor church and monuments
Trim	Castle and abbeys
Dunshaughlin	Early Christian site
Ratoath	Motte and medieval monuments
Curragha	Medieval font

John Bradley accompanied us as usual and we stayed in Bellinter House Adult Education Centre. Bellinter is a magnificent 18th century house near Navan and is run by the Daughters of Sion. The house, built by Richard Castle for John Preston in 1750 has a centre block and two pavilions, one of which has been converted into comfortable guest accommodation, The nuns were very kind and made us welcome. Mass was celebrated in the convent chapel in the house and attended by a number of local people as Bellinter is far from any other church. Thanks to the guidance of Heather King and John Bradley we enjoyed a very interesting and informative week-end.

Course In Field Archaeology

25-29 August 1975

PROGRAMME

AUGUST MONDAY 25th

Morning Assemble at Rathmichael School house. Introductory lecture and outline of work.

Afternoon Commencing of Field Work

Evening 8pm Lecture by Breandan Ó Ríordáin *Excavations at Dublin*

AUGUST TUESDAY 26th

Morning Field Work

Afternoon Excursion to antiquities in the area

Evening Lecture by Dermot Twohig - *Excavations at Cork*

AUGUST WEDNESDAY 27th

Morning Field Work

Afternoon Field Work

Evening Lecture by Liarn De Paor *Observation of Field Monuments*

AUGUST THURSDAY 28th

Morning Examination of finds from various excavated sites.

Afternoon Recording finds

Evening Lecture by George Eogan *Excavations at Knowth*

AUGUST FRIDAY 29th

Morning Afternoon & Excursion to Knowth and other historical sites.

Evening Lecture by David Sweetman, *Excavations at Trim*

Review

If You Seek Monuments Kathleen Turner 1983 Rathmichael Historical Society

This book is a first for the Rathmichael Historical Society by a founder member of that society: both are to be congratulated on a most useful production. It is prepared in a most “approachable” manner. The subtitle *A guide to the antiquities of the Barony of Rathdown* under the cover picture of the dolmen at Ballybrack might give the impression that it might deal only with the prehistoric remains of the area, but it is no mere tome of tombs. It goes far beyond -in fact it gives a brief outline of the stone structures and their context which marks the progression from the Ice Age to the last century A.D. A formidable task and yet the author has achieved her objective admirably - to make these visual field monuments still surviving in south Co. Dublin and north Co. Wicklow comprehensible to the enquirer. The ease with which the narrative flows indicates the long acquaintance Mrs. Turner has with her subject.

Of course one could wish for more. Yet nothing of any account is omitted - the Georgian and Victorian architecture may not be regarded as monuments just yet.

It is rather puzzling that this handbook of more than 100 pages is not paginated. As a guide book with an alphabetical list of sites numbered as itemised in the text and accompanied by a matching map, the outdoor perambulator and the field worker can manage very well but pagination would have simplified cross-reference for the author and reader alike. It is not as if those little figures at the top of the page would have added so much to the costs of production.

Perhaps all can be made happy if a second edition comes. In that happy event would it be prohibitive to ask for a list of contents and an enumeration of the many fine illustrations, bar one - that of the tomb at Ballyedmonduff ?

It surely must be unintelligible to anyone but the excavation team.

If you seek monuments of any kind, of any period, from Sandymount to Kilcoole and from Mount Venus to Dalkey Island you must have this handy guide to ensure you miss nothing worthwhile.

Ellen Prendergast

Course A
Monday August 8th to
Friday 12th inclusive

£20.00 Fee includes
admission to all Course C
Lectures

Morning sessions
commence at 10.00 hours
and end at 13.00
Afternoon sessions run
from 14.00 to 17.00
hours.

Programme

Monday August 8th
Morning: Lecture –
recognition of field
monuments.
Afternoon: Introduction
to the Excavation

Tuesday August 9th
All day: On site
excavation and surveying
exercises

Wednesday August 10th
All day: Touring local
historical sites

Thursday August 11th
Working on site

Friday August 12th
On site
Artefacts Recognition

Course B
Monday August 15th to
Friday August 19th
inclusive

£30.00 Fee includes
admission to all Course C
Lectures

Morning sessions
commence at 10.00 hours
and end at 13.00
Afternoon sessions run
from 14.00 to 17.00 hours

Programme

Monday August 15th
Morning: Lecture -
Recognition of Field
Monuments
Afternoon: Introduction
to the excavation site

Tuesday August 16th
On site Seminar – Soils

Wednesday August 17th
On site-Seminar – Bones

Thursday August 18th
Tour to Knowth and
Slane

Friday August 19th
On site – Surveying and
Excavation



Course C
Monday August 15th to
Friday August 19th
inclusive

£7.50 fee includes all
lectures

Lectures commence each
evening at 8 p.m.

Programme

Monday August 15th
Beginnings of Early
Christian Ireland
Dr. Richard Warner
Ulster Museum

Tuesday 16th
Social Conditions are
reflected in Medieval
Cultures
Miss Helen Roe

Wednesday 17th
"Photography and
Archaeology"
Mr. Brendan Doyle
The National Museum of
Ireland.

Thursday 13th
"Early Christian and
Medieval Sites in
Northern Ireland: some
recent field work."
Dr. Ann Hamlin
Department of the
Environment for Northern
Ireland

Friday 19th
The Archaeology of
Medieval Galway
Mr. Paul Walsh
Ordnance Survey

All evening lectures will
be held in Rathmichael
School

