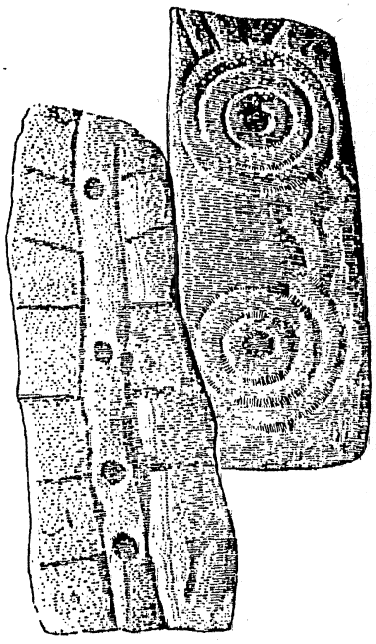
RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL RECORD



2002

The Journal of the Rathmichael Historical Society

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Rathmichael Historical Record
2002
Editor: Del Sherriff Assisted by Rosemary Beckett

Secretary's Report, 2002

At the end of 2002, Society membership stood at exactly 80. We regret the passing of Alison Andrews, Canon John O'Connell, Millicent Slevin and Mary Treston. The 2002 Spring lectures got off to a rousing start with Colm Breathnach's presentation on *The Formation of a New Working Class in Dún Laoghaire*. His passion for his subject was clear to all. Dr. Monica Nevin followed with *A Pioneer Woman Archaeologist: Elizabeth Countess of Moira* which gave an insight into the life and times of this unusual woman. Dr. Muriel McCarthy ended the Spring series with a most enthusiastic talk on Marsh's Library.

Thanks to our able, energetic and persistent Programme Secretary, Aida Whelan, we enjoyed a varied selection of Spring outings. We went first to Slane Castle, set in magnificent countryside. We then visited Belcamp house with its wonderful stained glass, and for the really adventurous there was the trip, by boat, to Lambay Island. This trip, although a little expensive, was heavily booked; we hope to run it again next year (weather and sea conditions permitting!) so do book early.

The Summer Lecture Series, as the Summer School is now known looked like being just as interesting as usual but no one could have foreseen the reaction to Dr. Mark Clinton's talk on *Current Excavations at Carrickmines Castle.* What a night! The gates had to be closed to ensure the safety of those in Burton Hall even before the starting time. Dozens had to be turned away and many long-term members of the society were disappointed at not being able to attend. Joss Lynam followed with his description of his experiences as an engineer on Skellig. The slides accompanying this talk were excellent. Dr. Patrick Wallace gave a fascinating talk on *The National Museum of Ireland-Past, Present and Planned*. This was the inaugural Leo Swan lecture and it was attended by his widow Verity. Linzi Simpson gave us an intriguing update on the Temple Bar excavations while Ragnall Ó Floinn spoke entertainingly on the subject of Irish Bog Bodies.

The autumn series got off to a great start with Michael Ó Briartúin's talk on *The Shannon Scheme* which gave members a sneak preview of the later RTE feature on this subject. Rob Goodbody followed with *The Shankhill Evictions in the 1860s* and gave a masterful demonstration of the art of simultaneously exploiting and coping with the latest electronic presentation software! He pulled a rabbit out of the hat when he presented a descendant of one of the evicted families. Finally, in December, Patricia Ryan presented the intriguing *Sundials and Timekeeping in the early Christian Period in Ireland.*

Beat all that for depth and breadth of subject matter!

Before I go, I would like to comment on the effort put in by your committee. The year's programme and especially the summer lecture series is a remarkable undertaking and I would urge all members of the Society to serve a spell on the committee.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to my predecessor as Secretary. Muirín Ó Briain.

Redmond O'Hanlon Secretary

Wednesday 9th January 2002 **Old Conna Hill, the building of a Victorian Mansion**
Rob Goodbody

Many members of the society know Aravon School on Ferndale Road which is the subject of this lecture. Fundraising events were held there for the society's archaeological summer schools in the 1980s, though we took no thought of its history at that time. In the mid 18th century the Roberts family bought the whole townland of Old Connaught using money from a family trust. They built a house high up on the hill and lived there for two generations. In the third generation there were five daughters and no sons and under the terms of the trust these daughters held it jointly. It then passed to a grandson, Phineas Riall, who was born in Clonmel and was married to Mary Anne.

When he moved to the locality some of his aunts still lived in the old house, and he lived in the house now known as Graigueconna, known to many as the home of Rosemary Brown who opens her gardens to the public. Phineas looked after the farming of the estate, buying and selling cattle and growing barley and over many years he kept a daily diary.

His wife, Mary Anne, wasn't happy to be a gentleman farmer's wife, and spent a lot of time calling on the local gentry, though she was not always successful at getting in.

In January 1857, while Phineas was sick in bed, the last aunt in the old house died and the very next day he and Mary Anne moved in to the big house. The house had wonderful views over Laughaunstown and over the Wicklow mountains. Mary Anne seems to have been dissatisfied with the old house and wanted more. Though they rarely travelled, two months later they went by rail to Newry and then east to Rostrevor to Ballyedmond, a fine house with views of the bay. They moved on to Killyleagh Castle which was owned by a relation, Blackwood Hamilton, and which had been recently rebuilt to the designs of the Belfast architect Charles Lanyon.

Charles Lanyon built many fine houses in the north and south of Ireland. He is known in Dublin as the designer of the Campanile in Trinity, the Unitarian church in Stephen's Green and terraces of houses in Bray.

In July 1857 Mr Lanyon produced designs for a house for the Rails, and Cockburns the builders were chosen to build it.

In 1858 the Rialls moved to their town house in Fitzwilliam and the builders moved onto the site. The old house on the hill was demolished and the materials used in the construction of the new one on a different site.

Each Sunday Phineas Riall went to church, and recorded this in his diary. On one occasion the Rialls went to St. John's in Sandymount, which had been built some ten years before using Caen stone. This was the stone suggested by Mr Lanyon for the new house for Phineas Riall, but Phineas didn't like it, feeling that it was shabby even after only ten years. Instead it was decided to use Portland stone in the building. In March 1858 the foundations were dug, and on 28th May there was there was the formal laying of the foundation stone and 60 or 70 people were invited to a party.

The Rialls moved back to Old Connaught to keep an eye on the new house, and Mary Anne found that she now had more visitors. When the Rialls had a birthday party for their daughter, the guests included Lord Monk and Judge Lefroy, so things were looking up socially!

The arrival of mullions for the windows was recorded in Phineas's diary in the summer of 1858. On 23rd August, McCurdy, the architect of the Marine Hotel, the Salthill Hotel and the Shelbourne Hotel, and a solicitor named Carleton came to visit the building project.

Phineas noted in his diary that a boat race at Bray took the builders away from their job, while in September the tradesmen left for a meeting in town and then the holiday for All Saints' Day brought more absenteeism. Riall also recorded that few men turned up on 27th December and very few on 1st January. Accidents on site included the fall of a stone from the tower, hitting a workman though the result was not fatal. The outside was finished in February and in March 1859 stone carvers came to carve the heads on the window surrounds. The *Dublin Builder* magazine included an article which was very complimentary about the house. Again on Saint Patrick's Day the labourers weren't working! Work on the interior started at the attics and worked down.

It was noted that Captain Rorke of the Guards took photos of the house and the driveway was realigned by Mr Frazer who took a very long time!

Decisions on fittings and drawings of the staircase were made and lions were carved in the hall on top of the panelling. Stone heads were carved at the bottom of the beams and said to be a likeness of Mr and Mrs Storey and her sister - but why not Phineas and Mary Anne Riall? The chimney pieces were added, including one from the old house, though it is no longer in the building. On 22nd August there was a national carpenters strike, and Riall's men also wanted more money. He raised their wages by one shilling except for the men who had houses on the estate. The strike held up work for two weeks.

The house had gas lighting with a coal gas plant in the farmyard served by a blacksmith who came weekly to make the gas.

The ceilings which remain are very fine with a lattice pattern, and parquet was put on the floors in the principal rooms.

On the 6th January 1859 the family moved in before the house was finished, living temporarily downstairs while the upstairs was being completed The house was supplied with water from a spring and on the 6th November a shower curtain blocked the plughole and caused a flood in the house - this not being the only flood.

In March the blinds, grates and windows arrived and on 8th May gas fitters, who were drunk, left a pipe open, though fortunately it did not cause an explosion.

On 16th August a stopcock was left open which flooded the dining room.

The family held a ball in the house which was a great success, but in the winter it was discovered that the chimneys weren't working and sweeping didn't improve things. The builder and architect were called to look at the problem and a stone cutter came to reset the chimney pieces.

Sadly, Mary Anne became ill in May 1860. The doctor was called, but shortly afterwards she died most unexpectedly. It was sad she never saw the house finished. After this, Phineas Riall's diary became more half-hearted in its description of work on the house.

In September the work was finished after four years and the expenditure of £12,000. In the light of Mary Anne's death there were no social occasions at the house until the oldest son

Lewis married and moved in. In 1952 the house was sold by the Rialls and in 1961 it became the Old Conna Hotel and then in the mid 1980s the house was bought by Aravon School. This included a certain amount of land, while the rest of the land is now a golf course.

Wednesday 6th February 2002 **The Formation of a New Working Class in Dún Laoghaire**
Colm Breathnach.

Dún Laoghaire, known as Kingstown in the 19th and early 20th century, is set on a coastal strip between Seapoint and Dalkey.

The history of the interaction between the working class and the elite or gentry of the area has been neglected. The history of the big houses and their owners has been written and researched. The history of their interaction is neglected; big houses are looked at but not the lower classes. The voices of the poor and marginalized are essential to the development on Dun Laoghaire.

The source of information for their study on the working class in Dún Laoghaire are the minutes of the Kingstown Harbour Commissioners, the register of births and marriages of the parish, the folklore project collection and records of Monkstown Church of Ireland church. The minutes of the harbour commissioners are kept in the National Archives The building of the harbour took thousands of man-hours.

The background - before the harbour was built and pre 1813 - the old town was around Monkstown castle with a sparse population; the next centre of population was Dalkey. Estate maps of the de Vesci/Longford estate are marked "suitable for building" the boundaries of Dún Laoghaire were Glenageary and Monkstown.

The social structure before the harbour came was mostly lower class with smallholders around Glasthule and then estate workers and servants. There were fishermen in Bulloch and at Old Dunleary; there were smuggling and small scale quarrying. It was a stable community with not a lot of movement in population.

The growth of a new town.
There was a huge influx of people in the early 19th century and the 1821 census shows an increase from 1,000 to 5,000. There was lots of work for the locals but the list of harbour workers shows that only 129 were born locally, so there must have been an inflow of people at that time. The register of baptisms between 1800 and 1834 shows a peak in 1822 in Dalkey, Glasthule and Dún Laoghaire but not elsewhere.

Where did these new people come from? In 1820 Dalkey quarry workers sent a petition which mentioned the fact that they were strangers to the area.

In 1815-16 after the Napoleonic war, there was an economic slump. Industry declined in Dublin and many agricultural labourers were without work. There were also many returned soldiers. Skilled artisans such as carpenters, masons, plasterers and painters lived in the area, some being from Britain. 35% of adult males were unskilled, and worked as watchmen, wagon men and servants.

Daily life in the working class communities.
People lived in courts or lanes in Dun Laoghaire, Glasthule and Blackrock. Groups of cabins and clay floors and one or two rooms, clustered around a court. Many of these were in the Patrick Street, Cross Avenue, Cumberland Street area, and were segregated according to class. There was no sanitation or clean water and sewage flowed along the street. Water had to be fetched from Juggy's well, a spring near Monkstown though later a reservoir was built with a pump. The reservoir can still be seen as the pond in Moran Park. Alcohol played a

large part in the lives of the working people, acting as an anaesthetic to help to escape the hard life. Workers drank on the job and were paid in whiskey. In 1832 the middle class residents objected to a pub being opened opposite the church, already there were 37 pubs in the area. There were many young unmarried men with no family ties working in the quarries so riots and general disorder were a regular occurrence An ever increasing population created the need for a hospital to treat cholera and typhus, a cholera hospital was set up in Glasthule. Quarry workers who were hurt at work were sent into Dublin to hospital by cart. The Harbour commissioners helped to fund the cart and Rathdown dispensary and hospital in 1834 which was the forerunner of Monkstown Hospital. Wages of a labourer were two shillings a day in the harbour and a skilled man could earn three to four shillings per day. In 1817 a clock and bell was set up in Dalkey to regulate the workers and later one was set up near the harbour.

Six or seven hundred men worked for George Smith the contractor for the harbour. He died in 1825 and his son Samuel took over. When there was trouble with the contractors, the men went to the harbour commissioners but the commissioners washed their hands of it. John Aird had a hard job as mediator.

There were many strikes. In 1821 Smith tried to reduce the wages and the men who brought the injured to hospital were docked pay. Widows had no money. The harbour commissioners were worried by the strikes and brought in the garrison. Fortunately nobody was hurt or killed though the men were intimidated into returning to work. The government took the soldiers out of the area as it was too expensive to keep them there.

Wednesday 6th March 2002 **A Pioneer Woman Archaeologist: Elizabeth, Countess of Moira**
Dr. Monica Nevin

Elizabeth was born in 1732 and was married at the early age of twenty to a Baron Robson. She became the step mother of his two children by his first wife. Her mother Selina Hasting turned Methodist in her middle years. Selina had a great friendship with John Wesley, who in turn had given a life of duty to his mother. The first house of Moira was a house relatively similar to Charlesmount, a large pre-classical Georgian building with royal gardens which were a paradise, and a long tree lined driveway. The architect Stricken had decorated the house in great splendour. In the early years of Lady Moira's marriage there was some speculation as to how successful the union would be as her husband had been married three times previously and she was very young. Elizabeth herself was lively, humorous and of good humour, but she became more subdued after an illness which had a huge effect on her.

There was much socializing and entertaining during their time at Moira House, and the *Freeman's Journal* of the day gave an account of a fancy dress ball held there in April 1768. 16th century costumes were worn by the guests, and the servants dressed as Indians. The evening started at 6pm and ended at 9 the next morning. There were a recorded sixteen dozen green candles used for decoration and it was a great success by all accounts.

In 1760 they and their family spent a great deal of time in France.

Lady Moira was absorbed by all things Irish and had a particular interest in archaeology. She published a paper in 1785.

The 1770s were not a peaceful time in Ulster and in Downpatrick where the disturbances that took place were close to the estate. Lady Moira herself had no patience when the British spoke ill of the Irish.. Her letters to her brother (the l0th Earl of Huntington) revealed her insight into the times in which she lived, the amount of discontentment and the uprising in 1782.

The portrait of Lady Moira in the National Gallery reveals a lady held in high esteem, scholarly and warm hearted. She secured the love of her stepdaughter and was a good grandmother devoted to her grandchildren. For 56 years of her married life she lived and enjoyed a social life in Ireland. Lady Moira died in Castleclonan on the 12th April 1808 and is buried in the house vault. Moira House was sold by the second earl many years later.

Wednesday 3rd April 2002 **Marsh's Library**
Dr. Muriel McCarthy, MA. LLD.

Marsh's Library is situated by St. Patrick's Cathedral and was 300 years old last year. It was the first of its kind and still is a working library. Founded by Archbishop Narcissus Marsh, it was built in 1701. It was designed by Sir William Robinson who had earlier been the architect of the Royal Hospital Kilmainham.

The interior of the library, with its beautiful dark oak bookcases with carved and lettered gables, topped by a mitre, and the three elegant wired alcoves or 'cages' where the readers were locked with rare books, remains unchanged since it was built three hundred years ago. It is a magnificent example of a 17th century scholar's library. Originally many of the books were chained. Each book has a small metal clasp attached to a chain on the end of which was a ring which ran on a wooden rod attached to each shelf. An act was passed by the Irish Parliament in 1707, entitled *An Act of Settling and Preserving a Public Library*. The government of the Library was vested in the Governors and Guardians; these were the Church of Ireland archbishops of Armagh and Dublin, the deans of St. Patrick's and Christ Church, the Provost of Trinity College and four other governors ex officio. Since 1997 there have been two government appointees to the board. The Governors and Guardians appoint a Keeper and a Deputy Keeper, the present incumbents being Muriel McCarthy, and the Rev C.R.J. Bradley.

There are four main collections, consisting of 25,000 books relating to the 16th, 17th and early part of the 18th centuries. As one might expect, there is a large collection of liturgical works, missals, breviaries, books of hours, bibles printed in almost every language, a great deal of theology and religious controversy. There are books on medicine, law, science, travel, navigation, mathematics, music, surveying and classical literature in all the collections.

A separate room is reserved for books and periodicals relating to Irish history printed in the last hundred years. The most important collection is the library of Edward Stillingfleet (1635-1699) who was Bishop of Worchester. In 1705 Narcissus Marsh paid £2,500 for this library of nearly 10,000 books. It contained books printed by some of the earliest English printers. A Psalter printed by Richard Pynson in London in 1524 has pasted inside the cover an indulgence issued by Thomas Wolsey and Cardinal Campeggio appealing for funds for Hereford Cathedral. It is in its original panel-stamped binding decorated with the Tudor rose and vine leaves.

Archbishop Marsh left all his books to his library, but his greatest collection of Oriental manuscripts he left to the Bodleian Library. He was particularly interested in science,

mathematics and music, and many of his mathematical books are extensively annotated by him. Marsh also collected books in Hebrew, Arabic, Turkish and Russian, the last being interesting and rare examples of early Russian printing.

Dr. Elias Bouhereau, a Huguenot refugee who fled from France in 1685, became the first librarian. His books which he left to the library, related to Protestant theology and controversy, and to the University of Saumur which he had attended. There are some very fine examples of early continental printing. A copy of *le Rommant de la Rose* printed in Paris by F. Galliot du Pre is in its original binding.

John Stearne (1660-1745), Bishop of Clogher, bequeathed his books to Marsh's in 1745. These are similar to the other collections, but among them is the oldest and one of the most beautiful books in the library, Cicero's *Letters to his Friends* printed in Milan in 1472.

In addition to these four collections there are about three hundred manuscripts in the library. The most important is a volume of the *Lives of the Irish Saints* dating from about 1400, and written in Latin. There is a processional which belonged in the 15th century to the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Dublin. It contains an important piece of mediaeval drama, the Visit to the Sepulchre, in the ritual for Holy Week.

The music manuscripts include 17th century part books and a book of exquisite lute tablature music dating from the later part of the 16th century. A small book of Elizabethan poetry has a poem to Queen Elizabeth by Sir Walter Raleigh.

As Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Jonathan Swift was a governor of the library and attended the annual visitations for many years. In Clarendon's *History of the Rebellion* there are extensive annotations of his, mostly insulting, references to the Scots for the part they played in the rebellion.

Marsh's Library has also a conservation department which was built with the help of the Delmas Foundation. This gives expert advice on the conservation and repair of books, manuscripts, prints, drawings water-colours, maps, archival material and all works on paper.

19th May 2002 **Outing to Slane Castle**
Aida Whelan

On Sunday 19th May, a group of members visited Slane Castle. This is an imposing castellated building with towers and embattled parapets, built on a beautiful site over looking the river Boyne. This was the original fortress of the Flemings, Lord of Slane and came into the possession of the Conyghams in 1703. They originally came from Scotland and fought on William's side in the Battle of the Boyne.

The castle was substantially altered and rebuilt in the 1780s. In 1991 it was ravaged by fire and partly gutted. It took ten years to rebuild and restore, on the same lines as before thanks to photographs.

We were given a guided tour by the present owner Lord Henry Mount Charles, whose family have been owners and in residence since 1703.

After climbing some steps we entered through a "portico" into a fine square hall with four pillars and two large fireplaces over which were the family coat of arms. On another wall was

the portrait of an ancestor, a Lord Chamberlain to Queen Victoria, who had informed her of her accession to the throne.

To the left of the hall were two beautiful inter-connecting rooms. One the drawing-room with a Gothic arched alcove for musicians. From this room we entered the really magnificent ballroom. This was a round Gothic room with a domed ceiling and exquisite delicate tapestry. Fortunately this ceiling was saved from the fire. King George IV, whose mistress was the first Marchioness Conygham, was very fond of the two later rooms. He visited Slane Castle on two occasions, one as prince, and it is said that the very straight road to Slane was made for his convenience.

A cantilevered stairs and a narrow stone servants' stairs led to two upper floors. On these were many bedrooms some with four poster beds, beautiful bathrooms, some sitting rooms, a large dining room and another dome-ceiling round ballroom. From all the windows were splendid views of the woods and river and of the winding drive way to the castle. The grounds around the building form a natural amphitheatre and this has facilitated many June concerts which have helped Lord Henry to pay for all the work for the past 10 years or so.

As we left we also met Lady Iona who told us of their horror on turning home across the bridge, they saw huge flames coming from their home and of the wonderful work of the firemen who risked their lives to save the Castle.

1st June 2002 **Outing to Belcamp Hall**
Aida Whelan

A group of members visited Belcamp Hall on Saturday 1st June 2002. This is a fine Georgian mansion set far back from the Malahide Road, in spacious grounds just before Balgriffin. It has had many owners. In 1884 it was purchased by the Oblate Fathers as a house of studies for students exiled by France. Once it was a boy's-only boarding school along with the adjoining boys' and girls' college. It is approached by a long narrow driveway leading to a fine hall door with a granite surround. Brother Michael made us most welcome and showed us around.

There is a magnificent entrance hall with the original white stone floor. To the right is a vast drawing room with a high ornate ceiling. This was the favourite room of the colourful first owner, Sir Edmund Newenham MP for Co. Dublin. He loved to sit here admiring his demesne and looking out towards the sea which at that time was visible from Belcamp. In this room the original 18th century window glass panes are still intact.

There is a cantilevered stairs with the original decoration and other beautiful ceilings and rooms. We were not shown upstairs. In 1921 a fire destroyed the roof and top floor. It was rebuilt with large windows, smaller rooms and a flat roof.

On the south side wall of the old house there is a brick with the date 1765 in beautifully-cut figures, together with the initials of the first owner and his wife (E & G). This is still clearly visible and adds a human touch over the centuries.

The adjoining modernized college chapel is regarded as a gem, with its exquisite set of Harry Clarke windows. These include twelve in the nave portraying various Irish saints and depicting well known aspects of their lives. Brother Michael told us the people have come from all parts to view these windows and everybody is welcome to call and see them.

The above-mentioned Sir Edmund Newenham was a radical and slightly eccentric character. He greatly admired George Washington and even invited him to Belcamp! The invitation was needless to say, not accepted. However, in the grounds he built a tower 10 meters high in 1778, dedicated it to Washington and commemorating America's independence from Britain in 1776. This still survives, though rather dilapidated, made of brick with a rough-cast plaster containing ground sea shells and tufa rock the inscription was recently replaced.

In the grounds there is a lake and some old trees and also a grotto. Judging by large paintings in the drawing room these grounds must have been glorious in their heyday. Unfortunately the peaceful countryside which once surrounded Belcamp is now a busy industrial area.

13th June 2002 **Outing to Lambay Island**

Twelve members of Rathmichael Historical Society met at Rogerstown Quay, Rush (near the sailing club) on one of the better days of the summer. We had to wait about 45 minutes for the tide to come in sufficiently for us to depart by boat for the half-hour journey to Lambay Island.

We were met on the pier by the current owners, Patrick and Margaret Kelly, who showed us around the gardens and house after passing the labourers' cottages close to the pier. The grounds are completely surrounded by high walls and many trees and shrubs give shelter and seclusion to the very tranquil setting. We were hospitably entertained to coffee and tea on our arrival into the house. The influence of Sir Edwin Lutyens is everywhere and the house has many features throughout that reflect its changing times. The Tudor style is prevalent on the outside with the layout of the windows and colour of the stone.

The owners told us the history of the inheritance of Lambay by Rupert Baring who was born in London in February 1911, succeeded as Fourth Baron Revelstoke in 1934, and in the same year married Flora Fermoy-Hesketh, she died in 1971 and he in 1994.

Lambay rises from the Irish Sea 15 miles north of the centre of Dublin, and is three miles off the coast. A small island a mile square, it was strategically useful to those who have defended or attacked the capital over the centuries. The Vikings landed there in 795. In the 15th and 16th centuries securing Lambay was a priority for the governing forces. It was used by the navy's men-of-war during the reign of one or more kings to ward off the French and Scots. For the past sixty years, under the fourth Lord Revelstoke, Lambay had a more peaceful existence.

This land is now a sanctuary for sea birds, has an enclosed ecology and is largely unspoiled.. The country opposite Lambay has long been a navigation point for sailors and a landmark for passengers landing at Dublin airport. Lambay's old stone blockhouse was rebuilt and enlarged for Rupert Revelstoke's parents by Edwin Lutyens in the first decade of the 20 century, and nestles within a circular enceinte wall among ash, sycamore and Scots pine. To preserve the plants and colonies of auks, cormorants and gulls, Revelstoke restricted public access as his father had done and boats need a written permit to land.

The main building of Lambay Castle was completed by the time Rubert Baring was born in London 1911. When Maude and Cecil Baring bought the island in 1904 they were attracted to it by the flora and fauna, then by the architecture. Cecil Baring a banker, naturalist and classical scholar, was the second of five sons of Edward Baring, first Lord Revelstoke, a

novelist. The need to remodel the castle brought Lutyens to the island in 1905 and the main work was completed in 1910. We were shown around the main house and saw the trapezoidal shapes of old block. Lutyens made a building without right-angles. A large new courtyard was added at one corner of the old keep, deftly set into the sloping hillside. This affords a great deal of shelter. There is remarkable detail and craftsmanship in the limestone fireplaces, window dressings and woodwork of the doorways. Lutyens' great ambition in the building was, as he said himself, to achieve the right angle of light in particular the moulding of the windows.

A year ago the present owners installed windmills to provide their own electricity, without which they were totally devoid of electrical appliances such as washing machines, hairdryers, clothes dryers and other things we take for granted. On returning to the boat, we saw the windmills to our right in an adjoining field and, to the left, a chapel, the eldest son of the owner had recently been married with twelve guests attending. The boat trip was even calmer and reflective of our three hour memorable visit.

Monday 19th-Friday 23rd August 2002 27th Summer School

Evening Lectures in Archaeology

Monday 19th August 2002
Current Excavations at Carrickmines Castle
Dr. Mark Clinton

For over two years and at considerable cost a team of more then 100 archaeologists, from as far away as the US, New Zealand and Australia has uncovered a medieval castle complex with some 40,000 artefacts including weapons, pottery, coins, leather shoes, cannon balls and human remains.

Three areas of ground were protected by the castle walls, moats and other defences, some of them still intact. In total, the site is around 20 acres. Evidence of habitation from the Bronze Age and Neolithic times has been uncovered at the site.

Paddy Healy wrote a report on the castle in 1983 and this is an important document showing castle defences which were subsequently destroyed in laying a sewer.

Built in the 13th century by Anglo-Norman lords, Carrickmines Castle was on the main line of defence for Dublin from raids by the O'Toole and O'Byrne clans of Wicklow, part of a sort of Hadrian 's Wall for the pale - a line between the remnants of Gaelic Ireland and the English colony spreading inexorably across the island.

Conservationists and site archaeologists calling for the road to be redesigned to preserve at least portions of the site seem to be losing the battle. On the centre of this area stands a 200 year-old farm house which has remained in the same family, and is owned by a Mr. Patsy Mooney who visits his old homestead. There are standing remains of a gate house with slit windows and strong stone wall damaged by the government forces when they demolished surrounding structures. The remains of a well, cook house along with the mill and domestic quarters for officers and soldiers have all been found and recorded.

Historical Records claim that in the mid 1650s when lands were distributed to landlords and land owners. In 1760 part of the castle was roofed and some of the walls of the castle were kept. Rocque's map of 1760 shows the medieval coach road now the Golf Road clearly marked.

The site is often water-logged in winter and summer. The gate house with its slit windows probably dates from the late 13th century to 15th century. Two enclosures with a masonry wall were a later addition. The defences surrounded it on at least three sides and there is evidence of a draw-bridge to enable the people of the village of Carrickmines make a hasty retreat if under threat of attack from Dublin or Wicklow. It was a military stronghold which enclosed a courtyard and a spring well, and medieval flooring. To the right of the entrance of the castle is an area known as Fairlane or Fairgreen. There appear to have been the remains of a tower.

At least four fairs annually were reported to have been held here.

The high walls of the castle seem to have been quite formidable with the bank as a foundation followed by stones on top of these then palisades which would all contribute to the height and depth of the protection. Carrickmines Castle was demolished in 1642 following a siege. Early

in the 19th century the bridge over the river was constructed and Glenamuck Road was laid out. Among the many human remains found in excavation the castle were those of several women with coins sewn into the lining of their skirts, which came out as six shillings in silver. There were coins from the Reigns of Elizabeth, James I and William of Orange, also two medieval coins of Alex III of Scotland dating back to 1280.

The land surrounding the area has many secrets to reveal. For the moment excavations have been halted and the future hangs in the balance.

Tuesday 20th August 2002
An Engineer on Skellig
Dr. Joss Lynam

Dr. Joss Lynam gave us an illustrated talk on his seventeen years' experience on Skellig as an engineer. He was in charge of a team employed to reconstruct parts of the beehive residence of the earlier 6th and 7th century monks who inhabited the rock.

It is situated off the Iveragh peninsula in Kerry, and was home to the monks up till the 1200s when it was impractical to remain there all year around due to discomfort and distance. The pier was built in the 19th century to facilitate building of the lighthouse. The restoration of the monastery on top of the hill took several years. There were approximately six of these dry stone dwellings built by the monks and the seventh revealed the oratory. The restoration was a considerable feat of engineering.

The journey to the island takes about one and a half hours and it is accessible only in fair weather between May/June and Sept/Oct. The Little Skellig, the first of these two rocks, is a gannet colony and tens of thousands of birds nest here. The Great Skellig, or Skellig Micheal is where the pier is positioned. The workmen's huts were the first stop, with cooking and sleeping facilities, though these are cramped, they are somewhat more sheltered than at the top. The boats go out on a Monday, and back on a Friday. There are large gulls everywhere and being tame, take the occupants bread! A white campion grows everywhere and with moss forms the main vegetation of the rock.

There are 620 steps up to the top where five beehive stone buildings are positioned with a sixth discovered later. The Skelligs are visible from Valencia Island. Many of the additional stones were used by the lighthouse men. The actual beehives are made of a quartz stone, but there is no way of dating them. The oratory, from where the views looking down are spectacular, is of a rectangular shape and was used also as a chapel to perform marriages in later times, when both priest and the couples could gain access. The wall beneath this area needed repair and major reinforcing and supporting wire netting was used to cover the stone and deal with the many birds nesting and chattering behind them.

Supplies to the island were dropped by helicopter, particularly heavy bags of cement and stones. There was considerable stainless steel reinforcing and support and the scaffolding formed a major platform. They needed to build a beam from solid rock to solid rock. Needless to say the best weather of the year was the time to work there.

The walls on the top of the rock was built by the monks. The entrance was probably blocked in the 1920s. The steps head up to an opening which was made by the engineers when the steps needed repairing and replacing. Vital posts were found and all the slabs were large stones. There are three pathways, most descending to the sea.

Lynam and his team found what they believed to be a grave yard and any loose crosses or cross-like stones they placed around the area. Bones were discovered from a 19th century interment. The team of engineers working on the site had all sorts of equipment and gadgets for comfort. How did the monks cope with little or no modern aids?

There are twelve boat trips a day with approximately twelve people allowed on each one and in busy times this could become one hundred and forty four on a consistent run. Dr. Lynam concluded that in all of his visits to the area he never became stranded there due to inclement weather, which is pretty amazing in light of the number of times he must have spent there often with members of his family!

Inaugural Lecture in Memory of Leo Swan
Wednesday 21st August 2002,
The National Museum of Ireland, Past, Present and Planned.
Dr. Patrick Wallace

Dr Wallace opened his talk with reminiscences of our former member Leo Swan. He gave an eloquent appreciation of Leo and mentioned that volume 3 of Sean Duffy's book on medieval Dublin is dedicated to Leo. With his patient encouraging way of teaching, we were all followers, he was the Pied Piper.

He also made a special mention of Joan Delany, and a tribute to her long-time contribution to the Rathmichael Historical Society.

The Natural History Museum dates from the 1850s and the Kildare Street premises from 1888, Collins Barracks from the 18th century only opening as a museum in 1997.

The Natural History Museum was opened in 1856 and the foundation stone was laid by the Prince of Wales. It was designed by Fredrick Clarendon and is the oldest purpose-built museum building in Ireland, still used as originally intended

The National Museum opened its doors to the public in 1890, it was designed by Thomas Newenham Deane and his son Thomas Manley Deane. The collections that make up the National Museum are European, styled a "Comprehensive Museum". The range varies from archaeology to natural history. They all constitute the physical record of the portable heritage of Ireland

The museum houses over 2,000,000 artefacts, which range in date between 7000 BC and the late medieval period. Exhibitions include the finest collection of prehistoric gold artefacts in western Europe, outstanding examples of metalwork from the Celtic iron age, as well as the Museum's world-renowned collection, of medieval, ecclesiastical objects and jewellery. The Broighter Hoard, the Ardagh Chalice, the Tara Brooch and the Derrynaflan Hoard are among the masterpieces on display. There is a large collection of Egyptian material also an exhibition which deals with the events leading up to the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty in 1921.

The initial buildings at Collins Barracks were started in 1702 and were designed by Captain Thomas Burgh. The complex, which includes eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, housed troops continually for over three centuries.

In 1922 the whole complex was taken over by General Richard Mulcahy, Commander in chief of the National Army and named Collins Barracks after Michael Collins.

In 1994, Collins Barracks was assigned to the National Museum of Ireland. The buildings were completely renovated and restored to become the Museum of Decorative Arts and History, which opened in 1997.

The Museum of Decorative Arts and History is home to the Art and Industrial Division of the National Museum of Ireland. This division is responsible for over a quarter of a million artefacts reflecting Irish economic, social, industrial, political and military history over the last three centuries. There is also a large collection of European and oriental decorative arts.

Dr Wallace's vision for the future for Collins Barracks is to make it more user-friendly and to put the artefacts in context including such domestic things as the vacuum cleaner and the

Dunlop pneumatic tyre. The history of Ireland has not been told, he has plans for it to be in the Equitation School, also a Military History Museum in a building at the rear with planes and tanks

Dr Wallace has plans for the Natural History Museum, not to change it but to build out under the front lawn.

His aim before retirement is to cover 20th century art and design and the history of design abroad and its impact on Ireland.

Leo's widow Verity thanked Dr Wallace on behalf of the family, their three sons and their wives, Leo's two cousins and her mother.

She mentioned his fondness for the Museum where he spent such a lot of time as a history teacher marching children into the museum with work sheets.

Leo was a teacher first and foremost and he believed in life long learning,

Thursday 23rd August 2002,
Temple Bar Excavations.
Linzi Simpson

The speaker described a series of excavations at the western end of Temple Bar, within the walled city. Three separate sites adjoining each other were excavated, lying along Essex Street West, the Wood Quay site and the estuary of the River Poddle. Finds at the sites revealed that this area was occupied in the 9th century prior to the foundation of the Viking town and this would have been related to the earlier monastic settlement of Dubh Linn. This settlement was centred around Whitefriar Street at the church sites of St Peter's and St Michael le Pole.

At the lower levels of the excavations the remains of a curious house were found at a different orientation to those that had previously been discovered. This was rectangular with a side entrance and does not appear to have been of Viking origin. There were no finds that would allow this structure to be dated accurately, though it may have been constructed around 800 AD. Finds included a bone comb, possibly of walrus bone, and this had beautifully-cut diagonal lines. This was found in a post hole and it is not typically Irish and is more likely to be of English origin. When the Vikings claimed an area they usually ploughed the land and in this case the plough line cut across the hearth of the house. It appears to have been ploughed only once and the plough marks remained visible in the boulder clay.

The remains of an old Viking road were found towards the southern edge of the excavations and this may have dated back to the 12th century.

In another part of the site a succession of about eight houses were found, one above the other. The layout of these sites was preserved with walled paths, and the floors of the houses were found together with the divisions between the houses. A great deal of ships timbers were used, suggesting that the workers were in the ship-trade. In one instance the remains of a timber threshold was preserved because it was burnt. The doorways appeared to have post holes and hinges. Finds included some vases and a collection of bird bones and eggshells. Six timber-lined pits were found here, suggesting that there was industrial activity, probably Anglo-Norman. The remains of some leather shoes were found, possibly dating from the 10th century, some made in one piece, others with a wrap-around style.

The material found on these sites indicated that this area was poorer than the Wood Quay area.

Friday 24th August 2002
Irish Bog Bodies
By Raghnall Ó Floinn M.A.

The records of bodies found in bogs in Ireland cover all periods dating back thousands of years.

The antiseptic properties of the bog, along with depth of the burial, aid the preservation. Archaeological finds here in Ireland have revealed many such cases well preserved. The burials in bogs were often the result of a violent death as punishments dealt out due to cowardice, desertion or sexual deviants. Fragments of a body were found in Roscommon, and the head was less well preserved due to closeness to the surface as a result of this it decayed more quickly than the lower half of the body where clothing was still evident. In the 1950s significant finds were recorded in Kildare in raised bogs where the material is organic the bone is well preserved, but in most cases the skin survives.

The speaker described the remains of a woman in Co Donegal where the fatty consistency of stomach and breasts are significant and this is referred to as bog butter substance.

In most cases of violent death the individual lends to be naked or partially clothed, or a leather cape is placed on the upper body usually only reaching to the navel. The usual cause of death is strangulation by garrotting, or executed by suffocation, In Britain in 1984 the remains of a male body was found m Chester. The individual had been stabbed, garrotted and had his throat cut.

The contents of the stomach are often of barley, rye or oatmeal or rye infected with fungus which gives hallucinations which might suggest sacrifice in some cases.

A significant find in Denmark in 1960 was of a well preserved body of a man in a leather cloak and cap who had been garrotted; this find was traced back to 4000 BC.

The removal of a bog body in Donegal revealed a body that was naked and wrapped in a woollen shroud.

Like many medieval remains kept in storage the bodies become like tanned leather and there is some shrinkage over time.

The location of Irish bog bodies from 1750-1850 was recorded by the Ordnance Survey.

The Countess of Moira, a collector of antiquities, published a record of a find on her estate in Co. Down. This was the remains of a woman and her clothes revealed that the hair was plaited, only one plait of the pair remains in her collection.

One year previously, the remains were found of a young man lying on his back with his head pointing to the east his leas were drawn up slightly, and he had a cape covering him to the navel. Wooden poles were placed on either side and above the burial, thought perhaps to keep the dead spirit from haunting the living.

Many such finds were placed on gravel with clothes distributed around them. In one case the body had been reburied. There were half a dozen scraps of cloth when the site was excavated.

A female body was found m a secret grove in Galway. It was buried three and a half metres down and cloth fragments and a dress and jacket of tweed, not necessarily relating to the body were recovered.

In one case a women's body was found – there was also the head of an infant with her. The infant's torso was missing.

There are many fragments and isolated individual bog bodies recorded, mostly from midlands, western coastal area, and also in northern Ireland.

In a Killarney bog following a landslide which buried many people, clothing remained while skin and bone had disintegrated.

Wednesday 2nd October 2002.
Shannon Scheme
Micheál Ó Bréartúin

In 1923 Thomas McLoughlin, an engineer from Drogheda, was training with Siemens in Germany when he observed electrical networks supplying towns, villages and farms He devised such a scheme for the Irish Free State, using the Shannon and the power source and through personal contacts he was able to present his proposal to influential members of the government, Micheál Ó Bréartúin told the story of its implementation.

At that time there were about 90 power stations for public supply in the country, mainly in the cities and larger towns. Most of these were direct current systems, which limited the supply and many were hydro schemes with little, if any, storage which made them, unreliable.

The government requested a detailed proposal from Siemens and this was received in October 1924. An independent team of international experts evaluated and approved it. In July 1925 the Shannon Electricity- Act passed into law and the following month the contract was signed with Siemens. It was to cost £5.2 million and to be completed in three and a half years. Advertisements sought 3,000 unskilled workers at 32 shillings for a 50 hour week, with free accommodation. The workforce rose to 5000 but only 720 were provided with free beds and this led to a lot of social and health problems.

The talk was illustrated with views of the camp, the construction of the dams at Parteen and Ardnacrusha, the headrace between them and the station at Ardnacrusha. Negotiations with undertakings in North America for the local distribution of electricity were unsuccessful and McLoughlin persuaded the government that to achieve such rapid development unified control was needed. The result was the establishment of the ESB in 1927.

Three 21MW generators were installed and were handed over for commercial use on 17th October 1929. The station had been officially opened by President Cosgrave in July, A fourth generator was added in 1934 and these four sets are still running today, having had major refurbishment along the way.

Wednesday 6th November 2002,
The Shankill Evictions in the 1860s.
Rob Goodbody

The inspiration for this study came from papers left to the society by our founder, Mrs Kathleen Turner, who died in 1985. These included a copy of a pamphlet published in 1906 and entitled *Recollections of Shankill during the Reign of the Exterminator, Sir Charles Domville.*

The pamphlet tells of a Canadian journalist visiting Shankill and being conducted around the area by Joseph Mills who, as a boy, was one of those evicted. It said that the landlord, Sir Charles Domville, organised a fair for his tenants with a competition for the best produce. Faced with competition from the tenants at Santry who were on better land, the Shankill tenants brought produce that they had acquired from elsewhere. This suggested to the landlord that the land quality in Shankill was better than he had thought and he raised the rents by 50%. When they wouldn't pay, tenants were evicted and the pamphlets lists up to eighty families that were affected.

The speaker told that on researching the story he found that the numbers to have gone from the area was more like eighty five. but that this did not occur in a single event, but was spread between the years 1857 and 1870. If the incident of the fair took place it would account for up to twenty families.

The Domville family had appeared in Ireland in the early 17th century and through succeeding generations had come to own land in Santry, Coolock, Ballymun, Templeogue, Loughlinstown and Shankill. Their main residence by the 19th century was at Santry and their lands at Shankill included the entire townlands of Shankill and Rathmichael.

When the family title and estates were inherited by Sir Charles Domville in 1857, he decided that he would improve his property at Shankill to increase his income from it. His father had already managed to have a railway station opened on the land, on the Harcourt Street railway line leading from Bray to Dublin. He had also built some new roads on the property. Sir Charles aimed to take this further and one of his projects was to let land on long leases for the building of villas for the gentry. This necessitated regaining control over the best land in Shankill as it was already let to a tenant. Domville managed this by buying out the lease and then he evicted most of the sub-tenants on the properly. In other parts of his Shankill estate he took the opportunity whenever a lease needed to be renewed to impose more stringent conditions and when the tenant would not accept this they found that they had no option but to leave. While this was not eviction in its legal sense it had the same effect.

On the more elevated land Sir Charles Domville sought to combine the many small tenancies into larger holdings to improve the efficiency and hence the rental income. He achieved this by evicting many of the families and letting it again in larger holdings. This did not bring him an improvement in his income as a large amount of the land remained untenanted for a long period so that his income actually fell.

A similar thing happened with the land intended for villas as he found very few people to take on leases of his property and only one new house was built. He found tenants for some of the older villas but others were demolished.

Eventually, after putting in a great deal of investment to the area, including new roads, plantations and even the building of Rathmichael Church, he found his income from Shankill was reduced. Despite two acts of parliament to help him restructure his finances he could not

make it pay. Eventually he went bankrupt, largely because his income from Shankill did not increase and he was relying on this to fund massive expenditure on his home and Santry.

Wednesday 2nd December 2002
Sundials and Timekeeping in Early Christian Ireland.
Patricia Ryan

From the 5th century to the end of the 12th century the spread of Christianity and methods of timekeeping have been a part of every-day life.

The Greeks and Romans would have used the shadows on the ground to tell them when it was time: to return home. Their plays and theatricals would have been guided by this method also.

Our speaker showed us slides of the earliest stone sundial found in Co Down. Mostly these were standing pillars with patterns and drawings usually in half circles. As they only accounted for the daylight hours, the full circles that included the night time came much later.

We were shown the distribution map of Northern Ireland where there appears a number of these semi circular dials are found in Bangor, Co Down. The pillars with designs were often subsequently used as gate posts. These often came from monastic sites, and many were pagan fertility posts, not all were called sundials. Examples of the Celtic designs are Clogher Co. Tyrone and Co Derry, also Clone Co. Wexford and Monasterboice.
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There are many rough stones with Celtic circles in Wales. While others were square or even triangular and placed on blocks, some indeed were placed on walls with more modem semicircles showing 6 am to 6 pm., recording only the daytime hours and facing south.

In the 19th century sundials were very reliable and clocks and watches were set by them. The use of these in the teaching of children is well known.

Sundials from Medieval, Greek and Roman times were still used 200 years later. There is a reference to them in the Canterbury Tales of the 14th Century and in Irish life back as far as the 3rd century BC. They are usually south facing and helped regulate life in the monasteries. Throughout the Roman Empire from the 7th century they were used to pick up the date of Easter calendar around which the church calendar was centred.

The more elaborate dials which are built into stones often have fish symbols at the base with an elegant plaque with interwoven plaiting of fish tails or fins. These date from the 11th century.