

GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH HISTORIC SETTLEMENT NEWSLETTER

IRELAND

No. 9

Spring / Summer 2004

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**Annual Outing
Carlow 2004**

See back cover for details

Irish Miles

Editorial

Welcome to the 2004 edition of our Newsletter. Our aim is to give an indication of what is happening in settlement studies. Three of last year's lectures have been summarized and are presented in this issue. Members of the committee and others have provided material on recent publications, upcoming events, notices of books and a recent bibliography. Particular thanks must be paid to Bernadette Cunningham who provided so much of the material.

Note the word *Áitreabh* on our cover and in the running heads. I thought it would be important to have an Irish version of *Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement*. Whoever came up with that title in the first place was not thinking economically. After vain attempts at messing with words such as *Dindshenchas* as part of a translation I could not create a less verbose title. I mentioned this casually to Nicholas Williams, my colleague in UCD, who with typical lightning reaction said, "What's wrong with *Áitreabh* — you don't have to translate the whole thing. Now what were we talking about . . .". *Áitreabh* is one of the words I had been playing with. It is ancient and evokes the spirit of our investigations. Your comments will be very welcome. Incidentally one of Nicholas Williams' books ought to be of considerable interest to our group. Nicholas J. A. Williams, *Díolaim Luibheanna*, Baile Átha Cliath: Sáirséal-Ó Marcaigh, 1993. This book deals with plants and herbs, their folklore, therapeutic use and identification. This would, of course, be important in relation to place-names.

We welcome the visit of the **Medieval Settlement Research Group** led by Professor Robin Glasscock from Cambridge. Professor Glasscock was the founder of our group when he was teaching in Queen's University in 1969. We look forward to their company during our annual May outing. This year we will be based in Carlow.

We now have a web site or rather a weblog site (a Blog). Why not visit and give comments on how it could be structured or improved. The address is long. I have hosted it on my .Mac account.

<http://homepage.mac.com/charles.doherty/iblog/B1068827693/index.html>

After you first log on make a bookmark of the site. Give it a name (why not **GSIHS**). Place it in your menu-bar for easy reference and then all future visits will require just one click.

I am sure we are all concerned about the construction of the motor-way between Tara and Skreen. It will be necessary to follow events closely to ensure that a most important part of our heritage is not destroyed. No doubt we will have many conversations about this during the outing to Carlow.

Finally my thanks to Bernadette Cunningham and James Lyttleton for proofing this newsletter and also the text of the web site. Thanks also to Michael O'Hanrahan who was able to dig into his archives and retrieve a list of our past outings. This list, along with many other matters of interest, may be found on our web site.

Charlie Doherty
March 17, 2004

Articles

The following articles are summaries of talks given on the occasion of the *Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement* outing, Armagh, May 10th 2003.

Armagh place-names in the Ulster Cycle and Lives of St Patrick

Kay Muhr

An illustrated summary of an article ('The early place-names of Co. Armagh', *Seanchas Ard Mhacha*, xix, pt 1, 1–54 [2002]): identifying place-names used in early texts but also assessing their significance. Places in this article:

Ia Macha, Emain, Oenach Macha, Drumconwell, Creeveroe and divisions; Loughnashade, Kings Stables, Ráth Cimbaíth, Tullyworgle, Bull's Track; **Ib Sliab Fuait**, Slieve Gullion, Sliab Monduirn, Áth na Foraíre, Béal Átha an Airgid, Dorsy, Loch Echtra, Nemed, Callan, Ardachadh, Cloenloch, Forkill, Midluachair, Fíodh Conaille, Fathom, Carnbane, Búrach Ulad. **II Ard Macha**, Ard Sailech, Ind Fherta,

Telach na Licce, Tamlachta Bó, Cenngoba, Oenach Macha, Nemed.

The first set, **I**, appear mainly in the Ulster Cycle, but also in historical texts such as the Annals. In the Ulster Cycle there is dynamic opposition between locations associated with the cultivated land (*Macha*), habitation of human society, and locations associated with hills and wastes (*Sliab Fuait*), the place of supernatural forces and adventure. The annals show that in reality the hilly southern border of the heartland of Ulster was the place of hostile contact. By not using most of the place-names from pre-historic legend, the second set of texts, **II**, associated with the Christian St Patrick, demonstrate their difference from the old world of paganism. However the names *Ard Macha*, *Oenach Macha* reveal that new sacred sites may often continue the old.

The High-kingship, Navan and Tara

Charles Doherty

By the seventh century the clergy are not confronting paganism in order to oppose it, for institutional paganism would seem to have been overcome a long time before. They are using aspects of the older tradition to further reinforce their own view of society. How else are we to account for the references to Tara in the work of the seventh-century hagiographers? In the literature Tara was the center of the high-kingship of Ireland and in the hagiography was the center of paganism and idolatry. Unlike the petty kingships which were local and seem to have existed throughout the country the kingship of Tara was exceptional and has engendered much scholarly debate.

The most recent discussion of the kingship of

Tara is by Professor Thomas Charles-Edwards. He has provided a meticulous and invaluable analysis of the annals and relevant literature to try to establish just what is meant by the term the 'king of Tara'. He has not discussed the mythological associations of Tara and thus has allowed the contemporary evidence to speak. In the earliest sources Tara could be claimed by any king but as time went on (between the late seventh and the tenth century) it became more and more the monopoly of the Uí Néill dynasty; even when the occupant of the position was relatively weak. Edel Bhreathnach, in a very important article, has shown the psychological importance of Tara as the *caput Scotorum*—the 'capital of the Irish'. Running through the work of scholars is the difficulty of relating the symbolical associations of Tara with contemporary reality and in particular the relationship

between the institution of the high-kingship of Ireland and the site. One fundamental question in relation to the high-kingship is—did it ever exist?

Recently, as a result of excavation, we have been given a unique glimpse of a pagan religious ceremony that took place at *Emain Macha*, now Navan Fort beside Armagh. In 95/94 BC (a precise date obtained from tree-ring analysis of a massive central post) on top of the remains of a Late Bronze Age settlement a large ritual mound of tripartite construction was raised. It was also fitted deliberately within an earlier enclosure ditch. Dr Lynn, who completed and edited the excavation report, stated that 'It can be concluded that the evidence of excavation can be interpreted in ways which completely accord with the portrayal of the site as a place of kingship and as a regional sanctuary in the Early Iron Age and that alternative explanations are difficult to develop.' Dr Lynn has made extensive archaeological comparisons with similar sites in Ireland, Britain and Europe. He has also examined the native and other literatures for evidence that might help in our understanding of what this unique event was all about. His general conclusion that kingship lies at the core of the interpretation of the site must surely be correct. If it is generally accepted that the event has to do with kingship then what kind of kingship was involved? It was clearly no local king that was inaugurated. The suggestions that follow are very tentatively put forward in the same spirit as Lynn with the intention of simply adding to the debate. Extraordinary care was given to every aspect of the ritual. The filling of the 40 m house with limestone bounders was completed in such a way as to create a circular flat-topped cairn that was wedge shaped when viewed from above. The entire structure took on the appearance of a wheel—a point made by Lynn. The wheel was ultimately the representation of the sun and is reflected in the name *Mug Ruith*. St Patrick, of course, is our

primary witness that the Irish worshipped the sun.

My talk consisted of a re-examination of the story related by Giraldus Cambrensis in his *Topographia*. This led to a look at the ancient Indian evidence for the *Aśvamedha*, the 'horse sacrifice'. This was the greatest in a series of sacrifices leading to the inauguration of the greatest of kings. They gave themselves the title of 'world kings'. I suggested that there is a reflection of this type of kingship in early Irish source material and that the activity at Navan was the creation of just this kind of king. Indeed so careful was the excavation that it revealed details that find remarkable echoes in the ancient Indian evidence. The high-kingship of Tara represented this ancient form of kingship.

The prohibition on the eating of horse meat by the Church must relate to the role of the horse in the inauguration ceremony and in particular to the eating of the flesh of the horse, as stated by Giraldus Cambrensis. If the Church disapproved of the ceremony so much why did seventh-century clergymen develop the idea of Tara as a capital of the Irish and the concept of a high-king or king of Ireland? The answer lies, I think, in what the 'world king' stood for.

Occasionally an exceptional king could rise above his fellows and dominate the island and could then claim to be a 'world king'. The road to such a pinnacle of power was bloody since it meant the rigorous elimination of competition. But once established there was peace, and petty warfare was reduced. Of course this was more an ideal than a reality. But it was in the ideal of a single king of all Ireland that the seventh-century clergy saw the possibility of creating a Christian form of government. Kingship was government. The references that Adamnán has to the king of Ireland, I would suggest, represented an attempt to channel the concept of the 'world king' into a Christian mould. Adamnán may have been premature in his use of the term *rex Hiberniae*

but he saw where kingship should go. In the future kings who had exceptional power had this term carved on the high-crosses they erected. But it was to take centuries before political and social conditions were right for such an institution to become a reality.

The above is a summary of a longer article to appear in a book of essays edited by Edel Breathnach. The essays are the result of a seminar hosted by the Discovery Programme examining the historical sources relating to Tara.

The evolution of settlement in County Armagh after the Plantation

Bill Crawford

As Armagh was one of the six counties of the province of Ulster confiscated by the Crown in the early seventeenth century, the foundations for its modern pattern of settlement were laid by the scheme for the Plantation of Ulster. The Crown had some experience in establishing British colonists on estates and wanted also to create corporate towns. As soon as it realised, however, that it could never hope to recruit enough people to establish these towns, it turned over responsibility for them to local landlords. This fundamental change in the character of the Plantation left Ulster with no corporate towns such as Dublin or Cork to provide leadership for their respective provinces. In County Armagh only Armagh and Charlemont were incorporated. Because Armagh belonged to the Archbishop there were no restrictions against the residence of the native Irish (common in other Ulster plantation towns) and this must have had a fundamental effect on its character, its influence, and its history.

The Crown granted estates to British 'undertakers' and officials as well as 'loyal Irishmen'. Their compact nature encouraged landlords to promote estate-towns by taking out patents for weekly markets and seasonal fairs. In retrospect many of these estates proved too small to support an estate-town. Although the articles of plantation required settlers to live in towns or villages, more than two-thirds of the plantation estates contained neither: colonists preferred the security of land. The Crown did prevent British landlords from converting their

estates into ranches, by restricting the acreage they could hold as demesne lands and requiring them to lease the remainder of their lands to tenants on English lines. Land was leased in compact holdings, by the townland or fraction of a townland. Tenants were granted leases either for lives or for years, on condition that they paid rents in cash and kind, built their own farm-houses and fenced their lands.

While the Crown expected the new landlords to undertake a massive campaign to expel the Irish from their estates, the undertakers readily took Irish tenants in the absence of sufficient settlers, especially on the periphery of estates. The Crown conceded to the undertakers the privilege of retaining Irish tenants on no more than one quarter of their estates on leases for three lives or for forty-one years.

County Armagh suffered more severely than any other county in the 1641 rising, especially those baronies settled by Englishmen. Although the colony almost collapsed under the shock of the 1641 rising and its aftermath, the poll tax of 1660 indicates some recovery. Estates had a life of their own in law: even if their owners failed, new men were keen to acquire them. From the 1650s to the 1670s sustained immigration from northern England accelerated change in north Armagh. After the Williamite Wars (1689–1691) caused more destruction, as many as 50,000 Scots may have immigrated into Ulster, driven by a severe famine and generating great competition for leases especially on the more peripheral estates. Many Irish families failed to secure renewal of their leases after the wars and were relegated to the role of sub-tenants under British leaseholders.

The first half of the eighteenth century culminated in a sequence of poor harvests and diseases of man and beast between 1728 and the mid-1740s. Cash earned from growing and preparing flax, and spinning and weaving paid for grain and livestock from neighbouring counties. The economy was boosted by the construction of a canal linking Lough Neagh to Carlingford Lough (1731–42) and turnpike roads from Newry to Armagh and Armagh to Lisburn by acts dated 1735. Newry secured commercial dominance of the Lough Neagh basin for the next half century as well as the monopoly of supplying the bleachgreens on the rivers Bann and Callan with raw materials. Thirty-six bleachgreens were built between 1743 and 1771 on the River Callan between Armagh and the new town of Keady. John Rocque's 1760 map of the county reveals a network of roads opening up the hill country of south Armagh to settlement and reclamation. Many families competed to rent small hold-

ings convenient to linen markets. Tenant farmers profited by subletting holdings of less than five acres. When head leases expired, however, landlords stepped in to lease these holdings to the original subtenants. The result was an explosion in the number of tenants holding direct from landlords. Protestants obtained three-life leases that gave them the vote in parliamentary elections while Catholics were granted thirty-one year leases which did not carry the vote. This distinction, a relic of the Penal Laws, was removed by the Catholic Relief Act of 1778. In his *Statistical Survey of the County of Armagh* published in 1804 Charles Coote claimed 'Armagh is indisputably, in proportion to its size, the most populous county in Ireland' and reckoned that the average size of farms was less than five acres. He attributed 'the extraordinary population to the great industry of the people, and the flourishing state of the linen manufacture.'

Notices of Recently Published Books

Bernadette Cunningham

Thomas Johnson Westropp (1860–1922): an Irish Antiquary
Mairéad Ashe FitzGerald
 (Seandálaíocht: Department of Archaeology, University College Dublin: Monograph Series, 1) (Dublin: 2000) ISBN 0953952002.

Inspired by the beauties and traditions of Munster in his youth, Thomas Johnson Westropp spent his life dedicated to recording the antiquities of the Irish countryside. A prolific writer, an artist and draughtsman, his years as a fieldworker brought him all over Ireland but he is best known for his work in the Burren in County Clare. This book traces the narrative of his life and work and highlights the importance of his contribution to archaeology. The research is based primarily on the Westropp manuscript collections in the Royal Irish

Academy and is illustrated from Westropp's own work. The book also includes a complete bibliography of Westropp's works.

'Our Treasure of Antiquities': Beranger and Bigari's Antiquarian Sketching Tour of Connacht in 1779, based on material in the National Library of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy

Peter Harbison
 (Bray: Wordwell in association with the National Library of Ireland, 2002) ISBN 1869857534.

This book consists of an illustrated account by Peter Harbison of an antiquarian sketching tour of Connacht undertaken by

Gabriel Beranger and Angelo Maria Bigari in 1779. They began with Inishmurray and visited sites in Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo and Galway, before returning to Dublin via Clonmacnoise, Tristernagh and Multifarnham. It is illustrated with a range of original sketches and plans executed by the two men and brought up to date with a very fine series of photographs by Josephine Shields showing views of the monuments as they are now from the same perspective from which Bigari and Beranger drew them. The book offers insight into the monuments and into the lives of the ordinary people and those of more exalted background with whom these two artists came into contact.

Provincial Towns in Early Modern England and Ireland: Change, Convergence and Divergence

Edited by Peter Borsay and Lindsay Proudfoot

(*Proceedings of the British Academy*, 108), (London, 2002) ISBN 0197262481.

A comparative approach to the study of the evolution of urban settlements in England and Ireland between 1500 and 1800 is adopted in this collection of interdisciplinary essays. Themes covered include economic growth, religious and cultural change, regionalisation, landscape and planning, and the fate of different types of settlements such as small towns, fair and market centres, county towns and regional capitals. There are case studies by John Bradley on Kilkenny, Anngret Simms on Kells, Peter Borsay on Warwick, and Jon Stobart on Chester.

There is a particular emphasis on small towns and markets in essays by Lindsay Proudfoot, W.H. Crawford and Susan Hood on Ireland and Alan Dyer on England. Toby Barnard offers a wide-ranging essay on the cultures of eighteenth-century Irish towns, with particular

emphasis on Munster while Rosemary Sweet discusses provincial culture and urban histories in England and Ireland during the long eighteenth century. The introductory essay by the editors reviews the historiographical context of the subject, and discusses whether the trajectories of English and Irish urban development converged or diverged between 1500 and 1800.

The book originated as one of a pair of joint conferences sponsored by the British Academy and the Royal Irish Academy, and is a companion volume to *Two Capitals: London and Dublin, 1500–1800* edited by Peter Clark and Raymond Gillespie.

A Wexford Farmstead: the Conservation of an 18th-century Farmstead at Mayglass

Edited by Reena Roberts

(Kilkenny: Heritage Council, 2003) ISBN 1901137600.

Mayglass Farmstead in County Wexford was built in the early years of the eighteenth century. Always a family home, it remained so until its last inhabitant, Séamus Kirwan, died in the mid-1990s. This house, with its associated outbuildings, has been recognised as an important representative of Ireland's vernacular building tradition and the Heritage Council has succeeded in conserving it using traditional skills such as thatching and mud-wall construction. This book tells the story of Mayglass and its former occupants as it outlines the crucial conservation work of the Heritage Council. Of special interest to architects and folklorists, the book will also appeal to everyone who cares about Ireland's tradition of vernacular buildings and their importance to the country's heritage

Tara and the Ark of the Covenant: a Search

for the Ark of the Covenant by British-Israelites on the Hill of Tara (1899–1902)

Mairéad Carew

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2003) ISBN 0954385527.

Published by the Discovery Programme, under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy, *Tara and the Ark of the Covenant* describes the story of the British-Israelite excavations on Tara and places them in their archaeological, historical, cultural and political context. The author tells the story of the group known as the British-Israelites who dug the Hill of Tara in their quest to find the Ark of the Covenant between the years 1899 and 1902.

Carew's attractively told story, which reached the best-seller lists in Ireland, recounts how Arthur Griffith campaigned against the British-Israelite explorations and what he saw as the destruction of a national monument (the first of its kind). He protested on Tara in the company of William Butler Yeats, George Moore and Douglas Hyde, despite being ordered off the site by a man wielding a rifle. Maud Gonne made her colourful protest against the explorations by lighting a bonfire on Tara and singing 'A nation once again', much to the consternation of the landlord and the police.

The Archaeology of Medieval Rural Settlement in Ireland

Kieran O'Connor

(Discovery Programme Monographs 3) (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy 1998) ISBN 1874045 615.

This ground-breaking monograph opens with a survey of the history of medieval rural settlement studies in Ireland through the twentieth century, before embarking on three analytical chapters on castles as country houses and manorial centres, the nature of English peasant settlement on Anglo-Norman manors and on the settlement aspects of me-

dieval Gaelic society. The discussion of Anglo-Norman settlement patterns includes analysis of villages and rural boroughs at Anglo-Norman manorial centres, dispersed English peasant settlement on Anglo-Norman manors and the field systems of those manors. The analysis of Gaelic settlement systems includes discussion of high-status sites, castles, crannogs, natural island fortresses, moated sites and cashels. The archaeological evidence for the lack of classic castles in Gaelic-dominated regions prior to 1400 is explained, and priorities are outlined for future research into settlement and society in medieval Gaelic Ireland, with an emphasis on small scale interdisciplinary projects combining historical research and fieldwork. A concluding chapter provides an overview of medieval rural settlement in Ireland and is followed by a series of appendices outlining strategies for research. A substantial bibliography on all aspects of medieval Irish rural settlement is also provided.

The Archaeology of Lake Settlement in Ireland

Aidan O'Sullivan

(Discovery Programme Monographs 4) (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 1998) ISBN 1874045 623.

This study of the archaeology of lake settlement in Ireland begins by examining the history of such studies in Ireland. It then describes the often-overlooked archaeological evidence for the lakeshore habitations of Mesolithic hunter-gatherers and Neolithic farmers, and outlines the extensive evidence for Bronze Age lake settlements. The lakeshore settlements, monastic islands and castles are explored in detail. It is argued that lake settlement now needs to be investigated by means of multi-period, regional palaeo-environmental evidence. The volume outlines the theoretical and methodological approaches required for

such research, and contains an extensive bibliography.

Foragers, Farmers and Fishers in a Coastal Landscape: an Intertidal Archaeological Survey of the Shannon Estuary

Aidan O'Sullivan et al.

(Discovery Programme Monographs 5) (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2001) ISBN 1874045 852.

This archaeological study of the inter-tidal landscape of the Shannon estuary reports on innovative research undertaken under the auspices of the Discovery Programme. It is published in an attractive format designed to appeal to archaeologists, geographers, folklorists, environmentalists, and all people interested in the 'personality' of the Irish landscape.

Strangford Lough: an Archaeological Survey of the Maritime Cultural Landscape

Thomas McErlean, Rosemary McConkey, Wes Forsythe

(Northern Ireland Archaeological Monographs, 6. Belfast: The Blackstaff Press, Environment and Heritage Service, 2002) ISBN 0856407232.

This lavishly illustrated book presents the findings of a survey undertaken by the Environment and Heritage Service in Northern Ireland between 1995 and 2000 of the shore and seabed of Strangford Lough, Co. Down, an area designated as a Marine Nature Reserve and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Of particular interest is the report by McErlean and Crothers of the early medieval tide mills at Nendrum which reveals the technological sophistication of the seventh-century occupants of the area, and the essay on the ports and towns of Strangford Lough by Rosemary McConkey.

In addition to its sixteen analytical essays the volume includes a gazetteer which provides

brief descriptions of the archaeological sites recorded in the course of the survey in a range of categories including prehistoric objects in museum collections, submerged woodlands, fish traps, shell middens, landing places, shipwrecks, and World War II defences. The book is beautifully produced and is enhanced by many excellent maps, diagrams and photographs.

Wild Gardens: the Lost Demesnes of Bantry Bay

Nigel Everett

(Bantry, Hafod Press, 2000).

The historic gardens described in this book include those of Bantry House, Drombrow House, Dunboy Castle, Inchiclogh House, Ardnagashel House, Glengarriff Castle, Glengarriff Lodge and Ilnacullin. The book is extensively illustrated with black and white sketches, maps and photographs. Also in the same series, by the same author, is *A Landlord's Garden: Derreen Demesne, County Kerry* (Bantry: Hafod Press, 2001).

Available from Hafod Press, Currakeal, Borlin, Bantry, Co. Cork.

Newgrange and the Bend of the Boyne (Irish Rural Landscapes, 1)

Geraldine Stout

(Cork: Cork University Press, 2002) ISBN 1859183417.

Geraldine Stout presents an exciting exploration of an outstanding archaeological landscape, centred on New Grange passage tomb and its greater environs, an area designated as a World Heritage Site. Using evidence uncovered in the course of extensive archaeological excavations and surveys, the book analyses how the landscape was organised and exploited by successive communities over 7000 years of settlement. The book is superbly il-

illustrated with colour maps, photographs and drawings to document the evolution of arguably Ireland's most important historic landscape. Given the very real threat to the area from motorway and other development plans, it is appropriate that the author is also concerned with the future of this protected cultural landscape and makes recommendations to ensure its protection and preservation into the future.

Medieval Ireland: the Barryscourt Lectures: I-X

(Kinsale: Barryscourt Trust in association with Cork County Council and Gandon Editions 2004) ISBN 0946846308.

Barryscourt Castle, a tower house at Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork has been restored over the last eight years. In tandem with the restoration project, a series of biannual lectures on medieval Ireland was inaugurated in 1996 on a range of topics covering medieval history, archaeology, art, and architecture. The guest speakers in the series whose lectures are here published as a collective volume are Tadhg O'Keeffe, A.F. O'Brien, T. Reeves-Smyth, Colin Rynne, Dave Pollock, Victor Chinnery, Kieran O'Connor, David Sweetman, Brian Graham and Karena Morton.

The Heritage of Ireland

Edited by Neil Buttimer, Colin Rynne and Helen Guerin

(Cork: Collins Press, 2000) ISBN 1898256892 Hbk; 1898256152 Pbk.

The essays in this impressive volume are arranged in three categories: Natural, man-made and cultural heritage; Conservation and interpretation; Administration and business. It adopts a multi-disciplinary approach to defining and describing Ireland's rich and complex

heritage and analysing strategies for its protection and management. The book incorporates detailed accounts of heritage legislation and EU institutions and directives dealing with heritage in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Contributors to the section on natural and man-made heritage include Colin Breen on marine archaeology, Maurice Hurley on urban archaeology, Colin Rynne on industrial archaeology, Rachel Moss on architecture, Fidelma Mullane on vernacular architecture, Kevin Hourihan on urban heritage, and Gabriel Cooney, Tom Condit and Emmet Byrnes on the archaeological landscape.

A Celebration of Sligo: First Essays for Sligo Field Club

Edited by Martin A. Timoney

(Sligo: Sligo Field Club, 2002) ISBN 0952809109 Hbk; 0952809117 Pbk.

This major collection of essays on the archaeology, natural history, history, and heritage of the Sligo region is a most attractive volume. It brings together research by local, national and international researchers in a range of disciplines and publishes them in the spirit of the Sligo Field Club's motto 'Discover, Record, Illustrate, Preserve'. Given the high reputation for scholarship of many long-standing members of Sligo Field Club in researching, promoting, and conserving the heritage of Sligo, it is surprising to discover that this is the first publication of the Sligo Field Club. It is to be warmly welcomed and is especially highly recommended as reading for members of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement in advance of the forthcoming regional conference of the Group being planned for the Sligo region in May 2005. The book is available from the Sligo Field Club, c/o Martin Wilson, Larkhill, Beltra, Co. Sligo or from selected bookshops.

A New Anatomy of Ireland: the Irish Protestants, 1649–1770

Toby Barnard

(New Haven and London: Yale, 2003), ISBN 0300096690.

This innovative and highly readable book offers new perspectives on social structures and attitudes throughout all levels of Irish Protestant society in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Barnard uses his unrivalled familiarity with the archival and material evidence to create a nuanced thematic account of the various worlds of peers, squires and gentlemen, soldiers and shopkeepers, women and servants. The author's skilful analysis and entertaining and enlightening anecdotes breathe new life into the letters, journals and accounts left behind by the people of eighteenth-century Ireland. This is the first instalment of a two-part study of the Irish world in the era of Protestant political dominance, and readers will look forward with eagerness to the companion volume on the material world of the settlers, their endeavours to improve Ireland, and their impact on the physical landscape.

Romanesque Ireland: Architecture and Ideology in the Twelfth Century

Tadhg O'Keeffe

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2003) ISBN 1851826173.

A combination of archaeology, history and art history, this study demonstrates the importance of Romanesque buildings in the story of Ireland in the central middle ages. O'Keeffe argues that the development of Gaelic-Irish Romanesque architecture from the eleventh to the early thirteenth centuries was a product of the interaction of the institutions of secular and sacred power. He also draws atten-

tion to the international trends and the local secular politics which influenced Irish architecture in this period and he offers new insights on some of Ireland's best known ecclesiastical remains including Ardfert, Ardmore, Clonfert, Clonmacnoise, Corcomroe, Fore, Glendalough, Inis Cealtra, Killeslin, Kilmacduagh, Kildare, Killaloe, Monaincha, Monasterboice, and Roscrea.

Farming in Ireland: History, Heritage and Environment

John Feehan

Dublin: University College Dublin Department of Agriculture, 2003) ISBN 1902277597.

This is the first book to look at the entire sweep of Irish farming through its long history, focusing in particular on the way farming has shaped the natural and cultural endowment of the island, and reviewing the state of that endowment today. The book reviews the main phases of Ireland's farming history from the arrival of the first farmers 6,500 years ago. The processes and activities of farming that effect change in the environment are reviewed, as is the material legacy it has left on the ground. There are chapters on farming in medieval Ireland, including discussion of the ownership and division of land, and the extent of enclosure; on sixteenth and seventeenth-century farming; on the New Husbandry of the eighteenth century including discussion of the many innovations in farming practice in that era; and on farming and the environment after the Famine. The chapter entitled 'Shaping the land: the practice of farming' discusses the evolution and use of farm implements and machinery in particular environmental contexts, illustrating how farming is 'shaped and conditioned by the particularities of the place it is practised'. Equally fascinating is the chapter on 'Relics of early farming in the rural landscape', which encompasses an enormous

chronological range. The scope of this book is vast, the discussion thoughtful and stimulating, the illustrations profuse and apt, all in all a wonderful book.

Over the past few decades the farmed landscape — and the nature of farming — have changed more profoundly than at any time in a history characterised by change. Irish farming today stands at a critical crossroads, and the concluding chapter of *Farming in Ireland* attempts to trace its path into the future in the light of our new and growing awareness of the entire spectrum of environmental values.

Pre-Census Sources of Irish Demography
(Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History)

Brian Gurrin

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2002) ISBN 185182619X.

Brian Gurrin's guide to seventeenth and eighteenth-century censuses and taxation returns explains how these sources can be used to build up a population picture of a community or local area. The earliest sources considered in detail are the 1660 poll-tax summary (Pender's *Census of Ireland*), and the hearth-tax rolls. The various religious censuses of the eighteenth century are also discussed, and the use of non-'census' sources such as church and estate records as census substitutes is also considered.

New publications from the old Dúchas

Con Manning

Three new publications have been produced by the archaeological side of the old Dúchas, which is now part of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, towards the end of 2003.

The latest in the long-running series of county *Archaeological Inventories* is that for County Leitrim. This is the fourth inventory writ-

Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland 1830–1840

Edited by Angélique Day and Patrick McWilliams

40 vols, plus index of people and places (Belfast: Institute of Irish Studies, 1990–2002).

In the 1830s a major series of parish accounts was commissioned to accompany the new Ordnance Survey maps. These became known as the Memoirs. Only the northern part of Ireland was covered before the scheme was dropped, and only one parish Memoir was published at the time. Now, over 150 years later, the Institute of Irish Studies, the Queen's University of Belfast, in association with the Royal Irish Academy, has published the Memoirs in full to provide a unique source for the cultural heritage of our community. The 40 volumes act as a nineteenth-century Domesday Book for the northern counties of Ireland, and are essential to the understanding of the cultural heritage of our communities. The Memoirs record landscape, buildings and antiquities, land-holdings and population, and employment and livelihood of the parishes of Ulster with some material also for counties Louth and Sligo. This series is presented in an attractive edition, illustrated with drawings from the parish Memoirs and maps from the original Ordnance Survey, and is accompanied by an index volume of people and places compiled by Patrick McWilliams.

ten by Michael J. Moore and the seventeenth in the series. It follows the usual pattern with a short description of each known monument, gathered together by type, and is illustrated with black-and-white and colour photographs of some of the best examples. It has a comprehensive bibliography and there are maps at the back to show the locations of the monuments. This volume is a must for people interested in the archaeology of Leitrim and an es-

sential source for anyone studying settlement in the county up to AD 1700. It is an A4-sized hardback with over 300 pages and costs €35. The second volume of *Clonmacnoise Studies*, by various authors and edited by Heather King, has appeared and is an even more substantial volume than the first, which was published in 1998 and was based on a seminar held in 1994. Volume 2 is largely based on a seminar held in 1998 and contains, among others, papers on an excavation of the enclosure ditch, survey work and analysis of the site and many of the individual monuments such as the Nuns' Church, other early churches, the round tower and the castle. Aspects of the history of the site are also discussed and the cross slabs. This A4 paperback, with over 230 pages and many illustrations in black-and-white and colour, costs €18.

Excavations at Roscrea Castle, edited by Con-

leth Manning, is the first in a new series of archaeological monographs to be produced by the Department. It brings together the results of four archaeological excavations carried out at the castle between 1982 and 1998. There is also a full illustrated description of the castle and accounts of the history of the castle, of the conservation work carried out to date and of some remnants of decorated seventeenth-century plasterwork. The stone castle, built about 1280, replaced an earlier timber castle also built by the Crown. Granted to the Butlers in 1315, it remained their property for some 400 years. Evidence for a drawbridge was found in the fine rectangular gatehouse and this has since been reconstructed. This A4 paperback, with 188 pages, 52 figures and 100 black-and-white plates, costs €15.

All three are available from booksellers, Government Publications Office or Wordwell.

Irish Villages

Denis Cronin

Irish Villages: Studies in Local History.

Edited by Karina Holton, Liam Clare and Brian Ó Dálaigh.

Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2003. [hardback, 326 pages] €55

This is the third volume of essays on topics in local history from the NUI Maynooth Local History Group and is a worthy successor to its predecessors *Irish Townlands* and *Irish Fairs and Markets*. The volume contains ten essays on a variety of village settlements, like the manorial village of Kill and the Grange in county Dublin, the industrial village of Port-

law in county Waterford, the plantation village of Sixmilebridge in county Clare, the estate village of Pomeroy in county Tyrone or the fishing village of Kilmore Quay in county Wexford. The authors trace with diligence and skill the emergence and development (and sometimes the decline) of these important units of settlement in the Irish countryside. The volume is recommended not only to readers with an interest in the particular villages examined but to all who are interested in learning more about the remarkable individuality of Irish villages. As the editors remark 'villages have typified the settlement pattern of the Irish countryside' but 'there is no typical Irish village.'

News

The Galway Excavations Project

Elizabeth FitzPatrick

The Galway Excavations Project (GEP), funded by the Heritage Council, was established in 1998 in order to publish the results of 79 licensed archaeological investigations conducted in Galway city between 1987 and 1998. The licensed investigations (1987–98) were conducted on sites associated with the historic town walls and fortifications, especially along Merchants Road and Spanish Parade, and at locations both within and outside the walls. Some 35,000 finds were recovered during the city excavations, 11,553 of which came from Courthouse Lane (97E82). A total of c. 28,046 stratified finds from the collective excavations were analysed. They fall into fifteen categories covering the period from the twelfth century to the twentieth century, with the greater amount of the material dating from the post-medieval period (c. 1550–c. 1800). They include pottery, glass, clay pipes, bone and stone objects, coins and tokens, architectural fragments and ridge and floor tiles, metal and gold objects, leather and textiles, gaming marbles, and canon and musket shot. The finds confirm the truly European outreach of Galway in the medieval and post-medieval periods. Strong trading contacts with France under the de Burgo family in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries and with Spain and Portugal throughout the sixteenth and the first half of the seventeenth century is especially attested in the ceramic record. Bio-environmental remains, including animal, fish and bird bone, marine molluscs and charcoal and seeds, recovered from 18 sites were also analysed and the results are presented in the forthcoming publication.

The publication of *Archaeological Investiga-*

tions in Galway City 1987–1998 edited by E. FitzPatrick, M. O'Brien and P. Walsh is due December 2004 (Wordwell). The publication has been generously supported by the Heritage Council, Galway City Corporation and the former Dúchas office.

Contact: elizabeth.fitzpatrick@nuigalway.ie



© Galway Excavations Project

Figure 1 Portuguese faience vase (E530:821 / :823) of the first half of the seventeenth century found during the Quay Street excavation in 1990 (drawing M. Comber).

The Manor in Medieval and Early Modern Ireland

James Lyttleton and Tadhg O'Keeffe editors
To be published: June 2004

The Group, in association with Four Courts Press, is delighted to announce the addition of a new title to its series of 'ground breaking' publications. This publication brings together new and exciting research carried out by recent graduates from universities across Ireland. The various chapters look at aspects of the manorial system from a multidisciplinary perspective utilising archaeological, historical, geographical and geophysical approaches. Mark Keegan tackles issues relating to the archaeology of thirteenth-century manorial settlement in west Limerick. Linda Shine traces the development of the manor of Earlstown in the heart of Anglo-Norman Kilkenny. Matthew Seaver presents a view of manorial boroughs in the Meath lordship utilising crit-

ical theory. Sinead Armstrong-Anthony analyses the development of Monasteroris, County Offaly from its role as a manorial centre in the thirteenth century to a plantation estate in the seventeenth century. Brian Shanahan presents an account of the manor in Wicklow from the twelfth to seventeenth centuries spanning both sides of the 'Gaelic Revival'. William Roulston provides an account of castles, towns, villages and rural settlement in the barony of Strabane, County Tyrone in the context of landownership change in the seventeenth century. Brian Graham and Tadhg O'Keeffe, as recognised leading scholars in the field of medieval settlement in Ireland, provide in their foreword and afterword respectively, a critique of research over the last few decades and a call for the advancement of scholarly endeavour in this area. Retail price €50 / £40 / \$55; pre-launch discount of 30% is available from the *Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement*, see flyer.

Ireland in the Renaissance

James Lyttleton

Two conferences on Ireland in the *Renaissance, 1480–1660: Reform and Revolution in the Four Provinces* were announced recently. The first of these conferences is to be held in Dublin in early January 2005, followed a few months later with papers to be given at the second conference in Cambridge hosted by the Renaissance Society of America on 7th–9th April. These conferences will bring to life the

cross currents of European renaissance culture (or lack thereof) in Ireland outside the Pale, in its landscape, its archaeology, its religion, its colonial history and in its multi-ethnic art and literature. As such it will include contributions by scholars from a variety of backgrounds who will explore the continuity and change of the early modern period. Enquiries can be made with Dr. Michael Potterton of the Discovery Programme, his e-mail address is as follows: michael@discoveryprogramme.ie

News from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas Office, Royal Irish Academy

Sarah Gearty

Irish cities are now well represented on the list of publications from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) with *Dublin, part I, to 1610* by H.B. Clarke and *Belfast, part I, to 1840* by Raymond Gillespie and Stephen A. Royle ap-

pearing since the publication of *Kilkenny* by John Bradley in 2000. *Dublin, part I, to 1610* made Atlas history in July 2002 by reaching number 4 on the Hodges Figgis bestseller list. Later that year, a second edition of *Dublin c. 840 – c. 1540: the Medieval Town in the Modern City* by H.B. Clarke was issued separately, marking the first pocket map to be published

in conjunction with the series. One of the highlights of 2003 was the launch of *Belfast, part I, to 1840*, in City Hall, where Belfast City Council provided a warm welcome to the celebratory guests.

The series returned focus to smaller towns at the end of 2003 with the publication of *Fethard* (Co. Tipperary) by Tadhg O'Keeffe. With great support locally, *Fethard*, sold very well since publication and has been launched in the town's Abymill Theatre in February 2004.

'Trim' (Mark Hennessy) and 'Derry' (Avril Thomas) are next in line for publication, while the end is in sight for the second parts for Dublin and Belfast. Editing has started on the topographical information for Armagh, Dundalk, Limerick and Wicklow; and authors have begun research on Drogheda, Galway, Longford, Sligo and Tuam.

Irish Historic Towns Atlas: editors Anngret

Simms, H.B. Clarke, Raymond Gillespie; consultant editor: J.H. Andrews; cartographic editor: Sarah Gearty; editorial assistant: Angela Murphy. No. 1 *Kildare*, no. 2 *Carrickfergus*, no. 3 *Bandon*, no. 4 *Kells*, no. 5 *Mullingar*, no. 6 *Athlone*, no. 7 *Maynooth*, no. 8 *Downpatrick*, no. 9 *Bray*, no. 10 *Kilkenny*, no. 11 *Dublin, part I, to 1610*, no. 12 *Belfast, part I, to 1840*, no. 13 *Fethard* and *Volume 1* (nos 1–6 bound) available from the Royal Irish Academy or from main booksellers.

For further information on the IHTA project visit:

<http://www.ria.ie/projects/ihta/index.html>

The IHTA is part of a wider European scheme with 370 towns/cities published internationally to date. For details see:

http://www.wien.gv.at/english/historictowns/en_leit.htm

Recent Publications of Interest

Bernadette Cunningham

BOOKS

1. ANDREWS, J.H. *A Paper Landscape: the Ordnance Survey in Nineteenth-century Ireland*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2002. Revised paperback edition.
2. BRETT, C.E.B. *Buildings of North County Down*. Belfast: Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, 2002.
3. CLARKE, H.B. *Dublin, c. 840–c. 1540: The Medieval Town in the Modern City*. 2nd ed. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, *Irish Historic Towns Atlas*, 2002.
4. CLARKE, H.B. *Dublin, part 1 to 1610*. *Irish Historic Towns Atlas*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2002.
5. COLDRICK, Bryn. *Rossin, Co. Meath, 1724–1901: an Unofficial Place*. Dublin: Four Courts, 2002.
6. COLFER, Billy. *Arrogant Trespass: Anglo-Norman Wexford 1169–1400*. Enniscorthy: Duffry Press, 2002.
7. FREDENGREN, Christina. *Crannogs: a Study of People's Interaction with Lakes, with Particular Reference to Lough Gara in the North-west of Ireland*. Bray, Co. Wicklow: Wordwell, 2002 [with CDROM of appendices].
8. JORDAN, Thomas E. *Imaginative Empiricist: Thomas Aiskew Larcom, 1801–79 and Victorian Ireland*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2002.
9. McERLEAN, Thomas, McCONKEY, Rosemary, FORSYTHE, Wes. *Strangford Lough: an Archaeological Survey of the Maritime Cultural Landscape*. Belfast: Blackstaff Press, 2002.
10. McWILLIAMS, Patrick. *Index to Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland Series: People and Places*. Belfast: Institute of Irish Studies, 2002.
11. Ó NÉILL, Eoghan. *The Golden Vale of Iowen between Slievenamon and Suir*. Dublin: Geography Publications, 2002.
12. O'KEEFE, Tadhg. *Romanesque Ireland*. Dublin, Four Courts Press, 2003.

13. RANKIN, Kathleen. *The Linen Houses of the Lagan Valley: the Story of their Families*. Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2002.
14. STOUT, Geraldine. *Newgrange and the Bend of the Boyne*. Cork: Cork University Press, 2002.
15. TIMONEY, Martin A. (ed.). *A Celebration of Sligo: First Essays for Sligo Field Club*. Sligo Field Club, 2002.

GUIDES TO RESEARCH

16. CONNOLLY, Philomena. *Medieval Record Sources*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2002. (Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History).
17. CRAWFORD, E. Margaret. *Counting the People: a Survey of the Irish Censuses, 1813–1911*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2003. (Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History).

ARTICLES IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS

18. BARRY, Terry. An introduction to dispersed and nucleated medieval rural settlement in Ireland. *Ruralia III (Památky archeologické—supplementum 14)*, (Prague, 2000), 6–11.
19. BORSAY, Peter and PROUDFOOT, Lindsay (eds). Provincial towns in early modern England and Ireland: change, convergence and divergence. *Proceedings of the British Academy*, 108 (2000), (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000).
20. BRADLEY, John. Rural boroughs in medieval Ireland: nucleated or dispersed settlements? *Ruralia III (Památky archeologické—supplementum 14)*, (Prague, 2000), 288–93.
21. CLANCY, Julitta. Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. Index to Volumes 61–129 (1931–1999). *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 130 (2000), *author index*, pp 9–47, *subject index*, 49–147.
22. CORLETT, Christiaan. Some features uncovered at Seapoint Martello Tower, Co. Dublin (note). *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 131 (2001), 140–143.
23. DONNELLY, C.J. and HORNING, A.J. Post-medieval and industrial archaeology in Ireland: an overview. *Antiquity*, LXXVI, No. 292 (2002), 557–61.
24. EDWARDS, David and MANNING, Conleth. A seventeenth-century map of Inistioge, Co. Kilkenny. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 131 (2001), 38–55.
25. GILLESPIE, Raymond and ROYLE, Stephen A. *Belfast. Part 1, to 1840*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2003 (*Irish Historic Towns Atlas*, no. 12).
26. JONES, Melvyn. The absentee landlord's landscape: the Watson-Wentworth estate in eighteenth-century Ireland. *Landscapes*, I (2000), 32–52.
27. LACEY, Brian. The Grianán of Aileach—a note on its identification (note). *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 131 (2001), 145–149.
28. LOBER, Rolf, MURTAGH, Harman, CRONIN, John. Prelude to confiscation: a survey of Catholic estates in Leinster in 1690. *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 131 (2001), 61–139.
29. MANNING, Conleth. An illustration of Confey Castle, Co. Kildare (note). *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 131 (2001), 143–145.
30. McNEILL, Thomas E. Dunineny Castle and the Gaelic view of castle building. *Château Gaillard*, XX (2000), 153–61.
31. O'KEEFFE, Tadhg. Reflections on the 'dispersed-nucleated' paradigm in medieval settlement archaeology. *Ruralia III (Památky archeologické—supplementum 14)*, (Prague, 2000), 103–5.
32. O'KEEFFE, Tadhg, SIMMS, Anngret, CLARKE, H.B., GILLESPIE, Raymond, ANDREWS, J.H., GEARTY, Sarah, MURPHY, Angela (eds). *Fethard*. Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2003 (*Irish Historic Towns Atlas*, no. 13).

PLACENAMES

33. Ó MURAÍLE, Nollaig (ed), *Ainm. Bulletin of the Ulster Place-name Society*. viii (Belfast, 1998–2000).

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE
in conjunction with
MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP
MAY 7–9th, 2004

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT IN COUNTY CARLOW

Speakers:

Tadhg O’Keeffe, *Soldiers, sheep and landscape gardeners: understanding English settlement in Carlow*

Kieran O’Connor, *Medieval Carlow: Castle and Town*

Tom King, *The evolution of Carlow Town*

Sites to be visited: Killeshin (12th century church site/motte); Old Leighlin (monastic and cathedral site); Ballymoon Castle (14th century); St Mullins (early Christian and medieval ecclesiastical centre); Duiske Abbey (Cistercian site); Medieval Carlow: Castle and Town.

Lunch on field trip: Lord Bagenal Inn, Leighlinbridge

Annual Dinner: Seven Oaks Hotel, Carlow

Tour Guides: Charles Doherty, James Lyttleton, Kieran O’Connor, Tom King

Conference Fee: €50 / £35, Students €30 / £20. *Please note this fee includes coffee, admissions and bus on field trip.*

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The annual subscription for 2004–05 (€10 / £7, students €5 / £4) is due on 1st. May 2004. This may be sent direct to Ms. Niamh Crowley, Hon. Treasurer, 45, Orchard Drive, Ursuline Court, Waterford, or paid by Bank Standing Order (the preferred method). A subscription renewal form incorporating a standing order mandate, is included with this *Newsletter*.

Members in Great Britain and Northern Ireland may now pay their annual subscription in sterling, by cheque or standing order.

Application for Membership and information about the Group: Please contact Denis Cronin, Hon. Secretary, Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, 81, Lucan Heights, Lucan, Co. Dublin.

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Contributions are invited on topics related to historic settlement in Ireland and the Irish-sea region, the history, conservation and interpretation of the cultural landscape and on local and regional studies. These should be sent to the Editor, Mr Charles Doherty, Early Irish History, School of History, John Henry Newman Building, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4; or e-mail charles.doherty@ntlworld.ie. Contributors are requested, where possible, to supply material both in typescript and on disk, stating PC/MAC, name of programme used to create document, and version number of programme.

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