

# NEWSLETTER

Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement.

No. 1

Spring 1993

Dear Member

*This salute from your new President comes with the good news that once again we are going to have a news-letter, thanks to the industry of our new Secretary, Michael O'Hanrahan, from Kilkenny. In spite of periods of sparse communication, our Group has now been in existence for twenty-four years. What keeps us together and continues to attract new members is a fascination with the Irish landscape. For our interdisciplinary Group, mans imprints on the land, from megalithic graves to the complexities of medieval towns, are an important source for the understanding of the long history of our country. We feel protective towards these irreplaceable documents of our own past, and wish to provide a resource and support to local societies and individuals who share our interest and concern for their appreciation and conservation.*

*The landscape of settlement will always be our challenge, as long as our Group exists.*

*Long may it live.*

ANNGRET SIMMS  
President

## EDITORIAL

With the publication of this Newsletter your group breaks a lengthy silence. Between its foundation in 1969 and 1978 five "Bulletins" appeared: curiously, "No 6. 1979" appeared in 1983 and was followed by a "Newsletter" in 1984. The latter featured reviews of recent publications, in archaeology and history, by Dr. T. B. Barry and, in geography, by Dr. B. J. Graham. It is planned to resume this valuable feature in future editions of the Newsletter and Mr. John Bradley (archaeology) and Dr. Kevin Whelan (geography) have offered to provide reviews for the next issue to be published in the Autumn. This issue features an article by Dr. Patrick J. Duffy on the very topical subject of Conflicts in Tourism and Heritage. Contributions of a similar length (1,500 words) on subjects of concern to members will be considered for publication in future issues of the Newsletter. Their publication will not imply endorsement of the views expressed either by the Editor or by the Group. Other shorter contributions and suggestions from members will be welcomed and will receive consideration.

The aims of the Group are defined in the Constitution as " (i) to produce and circulate useful information concerning Irish Historic Settlement; (ii) to promote and co-ordinate studies of particular aspects of settlement; and (iii) to express opinions on matters of historic settlement which are of national and local concern and, where necessary, to press for action".

As the Group moves towards its quarter-centenary in 1994, it is appropriate that it reviews the extent to which it has fulfilled these aims. Perhaps the time has come to re-define the aims appropriate to the Group at this time. Perhaps, too, it would be appropriate to consider the extent to which the name of the Group is to-day meaningful to the many different disciplines which it seeks to embrace - archaeologists, archaeobotanists, architects, economic and

social historians, geographers, surveyors, planners, teachers and students and all those who, as active members of local societies, have an interest in the subject. Perhaps I have said sufficient to stimulate a discussion around these thoughts.

EDITOR

## CONFLICTS IN TOURISM AND HERITAGE

Over the past thirty years or so, the greatest pressure on the Irish landscape has been caused by the broad thrust towards 'development'. Agricultural improvement and modernisation has had a massive landscape impact throughout Europe and the UK, though in Ireland it has not been so significant. Much of the impetus for change took place within the framework of the EC and the large amounts of money available through sources such as the Common Agricultural Policy. Recent reforms of the CAP, however, have coincided with the appearance of another channel of Eurofunds with landscape implications - the Structural Funds. It is in the context of the SF especially that tourism and heritage have become linked.

Within the past twenty years, Ireland has participated in a growing revolution in environmental awareness, and especially a growing popular interest in our natural and cultural heritage. Our cultural heritage is represented by the historical elements which went into the making of the landscape, both tangible (e.g. settlements, buildings, fields and hedges, relict sites) and intangible (e.g. place names, folk traditions, music). But in the popular mind, most of the elements in our settlement and landscape heritage are probably best summarised in the word 'scenery', which is one point at which heritage and tourism connect.

Interest in cultural heritage up until recently was largely confined to a small minority, popularly represented by local historical societies and small groups with interests in folklore and local traditions. The establishment of the Irish Georgian Society and an Taisce for a long time had a very limited membership: indeed the limited popular appeal of their interests is reflected in the labels 'belted earls' and 'the blue rinse brigade' disparagingly attached to them by some canny politicians. In the sixties and into the seventies, there was a slowly growing interest in the landscape heritage. Events like Wood Quay and other activities in Dublin gave a kick start to the cultural conservation movement and were measures of rising interest in the community at large.

But it may be that the major impetus for the popular heritage movement in Ireland was its reincarnation as what has been caustically labelled by Hewison 'the heritage industry'.<sup>1</sup> Aalen probably correctly assessed the direction of the heritage movement today when he concluded a recent essay by pointing to its monetary implications: "conservation makes commercial sense. Abundant evidence shows that the traditional countryside is a substantial economic asset because of its visual and historical attraction for tourists ..." <sup>2</sup> Fintan O'Toole also bluntly characterised heritage as a windfall which can be turned to account - the stone is just a bit of rock, the mud is just a piece of ground, "heritage is the magic ingredient that makes it what the agricultural economists call an "added

value product".<sup>3</sup> Today the new-found interest in heritage embraces dozens of examples of groups all over Ireland which have been set up in the last few years involved in such replicas of medieval or later settlements, or collecting folklore or genealogical archives. The heritage movement may therefore have suspect origins, though undoubtedly many people and communities who have discovered their heritage in response to some exogenous fund or grant have quite genuine attitudes towards it.

This outside impetus, however, may contain the seeds of concern about the direction being taken by the heritage movement, because much of the funding results in a tourism-driven approach to heritage, developing projects which might have appeal or potential in the tourism industry, rather than ones that have been motivated by any significant indigenous interest in heritage. The last round of the Structural Funds provided millions of pounds for tourism-related heritage projects, most dramatically illustrated in the state-sponsored development of controversial interpretative centres throughout the country.<sup>4</sup>

Some of the characteristics which help to keep the wheels of tourism turning are the very central elements of our landscape heritage. There are many unique aspects of Ireland's landscape and settlement - it is predominantly rural, agricultural and therefore contrasts directly with the urban-industrial cultures of the European core. Because the Irish agricultural economy has been relatively underdeveloped for so long, landscape and settlement has been comparatively unchanged in a European context. Unlike, for example, the Netherlands or SE England, much of the Irish landscape is untouched, and remains today one of the most authentic countrysides in Europe.

However, the very poverty of the country has called for economic development, especially in its rural regions. Tourism has always been seen in Ireland as an important source of foreign earnings and increasingly as an opportunity for an alternative income or income supplement for rural communities. It is in this context that the Structural Funds are increasingly important in offering incentives for rural heritage tourism. The ultimate aim of the industry is to match Ireland's heritage and landscape opportunities with Europe's tourist and leisure needs. And heritage lies at the core of Ireland's tourist potential: recent surveys have shown, for example, that two thirds of European tourists in Ireland participate in historic visits and visits to stately homes and gardens. A large majority of tourists opted to come to Ireland to experience its heritage,<sup>5</sup> so the industry aims to create "a strong 'brand image' of Ireland as a quality heritage destination, with unique heritage attractions".<sup>6</sup>

The negative side of a tourism-driven approach to heritage is that through the Operational Programme for Tourism, a very large amount of money became available in a short period of time to undertake heritage-type developments. Indeed, under the European Structural Funds it appears that the only way to get money for heritage projects is if they are tourist-related. Many projects were rushed into, leading to opposition and controversy. Interestingly, in the case of the interpretative centres, the on-going controversies epitomise the nature of the conflicts in heritage-related tourism: one side supports the projects for economic and social reasons (i.e. jobs, which will certainly follow to a greater or lesser extent), the other side opposes them for cultural or ecological reasons (damage to the integrity of the cultural or natural heritage). Some projects have been largely shaped by the needs of tourism - again this would include interpretative-type projects, such as replica heritage buildings, which aim at a wide and varied tourist market and try to entertain as well as educate. In general, one could say that most aspects of settlement and landscape morphology represent important chapters in the history of local areas, ingredients which give every parish and community its particular stamp of identity. Emphasis on tourist potential sees the heritage in a more utilitarian

light, so that the settlement or artifact or site is often made to adapt to the needs of the visitor rather than reflect the integrity of the heritage.

Stephen Smith has more optimistic view: 'tourism can be a positive force for the preservation of significant local sites, festivals and cultural activities'.<sup>7</sup> Heritage conservation can be seen as a beneficial effect of tourist interest; many places and sites would continue to moulder away were it not for the spur of tourism. And projects to interpret the landscape and heritage must be better than letting them languish unknown and appreciated. Indeed rural 'farm tourism' may be exploiting the landscape heritage in a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way for rural communities than destroying the landscape by pouring fertilisers on it indefinitely! The major challenge will be to plan and control the movement of people, to raise their awareness of the significance of the past in the making of landscape and society, and to manage the heritage resource in a sustainable fashion.

Some elements in the programmes being undertaken by Bord Fáilte are laudable attempts to develop the heritage resources of the country: for example, attempts to develop 'theme towns' or to highlight the principal elements in a region's heritage are valuable ways of improving the public's appreciation of our heritage, as well, of course, as explaining it to the tourist. But the emphasis on 'marketing the product' or 'product effectiveness' may lead to oversimplification, or worse, to the bogus history which the 'industrialisation' of heritage encourages, represented for example by the American consultant who when investigating the tourist potential of Carrickfergus Castle concluded that the place was "built all wrong".

The Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement has an important role to play in these developments. And as a consequence of the changing attitudes to our cultural heritage and its conservation, it might be timely for the Group to change its name to one that is more appropriate to circumstances today and more relevant to the popular appeal of heritage. I think it is important that a Society such as this strikes a balance between academic elitism on the one hand, which critically observes and comments on changing trends in the study and practice of settlement or heritage developments, and a more practical commitment in terms of public comment and assistance, on the other. Perhaps the expertise of a group like this might be harnessed more effectively in the interest of landscape and heritage conservation, for example, by more widespread publicity for annual conferences, the adoption of policies in relation to the protection or conservation of selected or threatened sites or items of heritage, or perhaps by submissions in relation to appropriate planning reviews at national or local level.

P J DUFFY

1. R. Hewison (1987), *The Heritage Industry*. 2. F.H. Aalen (1989), 'Imprint of the past' in D Gillmor (ed) *The Irish Countryside*. 3. Fintan O'Toole (1991), 'Looking backwards to look forwards', *The Irish Times*, June 8. 4. J. Meldon (1992), *Structural Funds and the Environment-problems and prospects*, An Taisce, 19-26. 5. M O Cinnéide & J Walsh (1991), 'Tourism and Regional Development in Ireland', *Geographical Viewpoint*, 19, 47-68. 6. Bord Fáilte (1992), *Heritage and Tourism-second conference on the development of heritage attractions in Ireland*, 1-2. 7. S Smith (1989), *Tourism analysis - a handbook*.

#### LOCAL MAPS IN TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY DUBLIN

Maps are among of the more obvious sources available for the study of Irish historic settlement. Many readers will be familiar with the publications of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. Less familiar are the growing number of local maps issued each year by small publishers and by

voluntary groups around Ireland.

Publishers include Morrigan Book Company, Killala; Tuatha de Danann Maps, Dublin; and Tir Eolas Guide & Map Publishers, Kinvara. Perhaps the best known map-maker among these is Tim Robinson who has published maps of the Aran Islands, the Burren and Connamara under the Folding Landscapes imprint. The range of Morrigan's *Heritage Map and Guide series*, now running to 23 titles, is impressive and includes: Rathcroghan, Mullet Peninsula, South County Wexford, Dun Laoghaire, Temple Bar, Glasnevin Cemetery, and Enniscrone (including Tlireragh), etc. Tir Eolas have published maps on Medieval Galway, The Burren O'Brien Country, and Kilenora. Tuatha de Danann have issued maps on the antiquities of the Barrow & Nore valley, antiquities of Yeats Country, and a general map of the antiquities of Ireland. The latter are also available in French and German editions.

These series are mainly concerned with field archaeology and history; they are intended to help visitors find particular sites and explain something about them when they get there. Robinson's maps stand apart in that they are the most cartographic; they rely solely on the map to communicate their message while other publishers invest in extensive written notes. For example *Heritage Maps and Guides* feature meticulously researched notes by Gerry Kennedy. For the most part the information, both mapped and written, is derived from published sources, but it is often supplemented by local tradition, folklore and some field identification of 'antiquities'. For example, *The Heritage guide to North Mayo* is supplied in a pack with an original *Anglers' map of Lough-Conn* and an essay on the *Céide fields & Belderrig* by Seamus Caulfield.

While a handful of publishers are busy responding to a demand for tourist orientated guides and maps, a number of individuals and local groups are producing maps to identify and highlight the uniqueness of their own home place. These maps rarely have wide distribution. Few readers will have heard of the *Glenamaddy map & gossiping guide*, *Doolin* by Martin Breen, *An Blascaod Mór* by Padraig Tyers or *Achill Island map and guide* by Bob Kingston. Some, such as the *The Mizen: a driving tour of archaeological and historical sites*, and the *Heritage guide to Swinford*, were compiled in the course of Fás schemes. Similar community projects are preparing maps for the Hill of Howth and Glasnevin Cemetery. Obviously the business of making a map is not only useful for delimiting a manageable study area, but the map itself provides a medium for hanging together disparate pieces of data and for effectively communicating that information.

The quality of these maps varies greatly from sketch-map closely derived from the Ordnance Survey to a clean, well-designed graphic; unfortunately in some cases the notes overwhelm the cartographic content and the map is squeezed to a miniscule size. Nevertheless these local maps are of value both and the information they contain and as examples of Irish cartography. Though difficult to trace, the Map Library in Trinity College Dublin - the largest map collection in Ireland - attempts to systematically acquire and to make them available to readers. They are listed each year in *New maps published in Ireland* which is compiled in the Map Library; the list for 1993 will be issued in May. Readers are invited to send details of recently published local maps to the Map Library, Trinity College Library Dublin, College Street, Dublin, 2.

PAUL FERGUSON  
Trinity College Library Dublin

## IRISH HISTORIC TOWNS ATLAS

Series editors: J.H. Andrews, Anngret Simms; cartographic editor: K. M. Davies; maps prepared in association with the Ordnance Survey of Ireland and the Ordnance Survey of

Northern Ireland.

This atlas records the topographical development of a representative selection of Irish towns both large and small. Each town is published separately as a fascicle or folder and comprising maps, an historical essay by a recognised authority, and a body of classified topographical information drawn largely from original sources. Kildare, Carrickfergus, Bandon, and Kells (Co. Meath) forming nos. 1 to 4 in the series, have already appeared. Mullingar is the fifth to be published. About forty towns have been chosen for eventual publication, including Dublin and Belfast. Among the next to appear will be Athlone, Bray, Downpatrick, Galway, Kilkenny and Maynooth.

A number of European countries have already published historic towns atlases in accordance with guidelines proposed by the International Commission for the History of Towns. Ireland's participation in this scheme should therefore do much to assist the progress of comparative international research on urban history. The atlas will also be of value to students and teachers of history, geography, archaeology and architecture, as well as planners, conservationists and local government officers, and thus ultimately to all residents and visitors in the towns concerned.

*Mullingar* has been a focal point for trade and services in central Ireland for many centuries. The first evidence for settlement is in the late twelfth century, but little is known to survive of the medieval fabric. Even the exact location of many early buildings, such as the Dominican and Augustinian priories or the Anglo-Norman castle, is uncertain.

The town began to grow in the sixteenth century, after it was chosen as the administrative centre of the newly-created county of Westmeath. By the middle of the seventeenth century it was an impressive small town, with a number of tower houses along the main street, several mills, a session house, a frankhouse and 'a house of correction'. There was also a town wall around at least part of the urban area, which seems to have been strengthened and extended during the Williamite wars. Again, all trace has now disappeared.

Mullingar's position as the centre of an important trade in agricultural products, particularly beef cattle, is reflected in the importance at different periods of the canal, rail and road connections to Dublin. At the same time the county institutions - gaol, courthouse, infirmary and lunatic asylum - are a reminder that it is civil government that has principally set the local tone. The military barracks to the west owes its origins to Mullingar's former strategic importance as a gap town on the approaches to Connacht, while its role as cathedral town for an extensive Roman Catholic diocese is reflected in the cluster of ecclesiastical buildings that form a discernible religious quarter.

*Mullingar* follows the pattern set by previous publications in the series. The main map is a very detailed four-colour plan showing the town as it was in 1837 at a scale of 1:2500 (approximately 25 inches to one mile). There are other maps and photographic facsimiles, a 7000-word essay explaining the development of Mullingar, and a section that sets out information on the town as a whole and its component parts in abbreviated style.

MARY DAVIES

J.H. Andrews with K.M. Davies *Mullingar: Irish Historic towns atlas*, no. 5. J.H. Andrews, Anngret Simms and H.B. Clarke (ed.)  
Published by the Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2.

ISBN 0 901714-98-4. Price Ir£18.00.

## THE STUDY OF THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE: A SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SECONDARY WORKS SINCE 1989

The following is a list of major secondary works, published over the last three years on Irish medieval settlement and related areas. This list makes no claim to completeness and the compiler would welcome notification of any publication or Higher Degree thesis that has been omitted.

### BOOKS

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FLANGAN, M.T. *Irish Society, Anglo-Norman Settlers, Angevin Kingship*, Oxford, 1989

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GWYNN, A., *The Irish Church in the 11th and 12th centuries*, edited by G. O'Brien, Dublin, 1992.

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MALLORY, J. P. & MC NEILL, T.E., *The Archaeology of Ulster from Colonization to Plantation*, Belfast, 1991.

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EMPEY, C.A., "County Kilkenny in the Anglo-Norman period" in *Kilkenny*, edited by Nolan and Whelan, pp 75-95.

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HÉLÈNE BRADLEY

## REVIEW

ROLF LOEBER, *The Geography and Practice of English Colonization in Ireland from 1534 to 1609*. (Athlone: The Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, 1991. Pp.80 (IR£6).

*The following review of No. 3 in the Group's series, Irish Settlement Studies, first appeared in the Journal of the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland, Vol. XLX (1992), and is reproduced by permission of the editors.*

This eighty page book is a geographer's history of the re-establishment of colonization in sixteenth-century Ireland. Dr. Rolf Loeber set himself the task of documenting the 'sequence, expansion, and methods of English settlement from 1534 to 1609 in its geographic context'. He sees 1534 as the axis of Tudor policy, when the Anglo-Irish were excluded from deputyship and new forms of land appropriation were introduced by lord deputies sent over from England. Loeber identifies these confiscations as the seizure of property belonging to the House of Kildare, the confiscation by the Crown of the lands of major absentee landlords, and the beginning of the re-possession of the lands of dissolved monasteries. With the proclamation of Henry VIII as king of Ireland in 1541, the issue of asserting control over the whole country became central to Tudor policy and with it fresh strategies of colonization developed alongside military conquest.

The merit of Dr. Loeber's treatment of the expansion of Tudor rule is his ability to plot the patterns of colonization, either as part of the military occupation of a region, as in the extension of the English Pale towards the Shannon, or as one of the colonial experiments sanctioned by the government and carried out by an adventurer, such as Sir Thomas Smith, in the Ards peninsula. Loeber mentions that one of his minor aims in the study was to explore the nature of the settlements, their architecture, structural enclosures, and local industries. There was certainly a sequential graph of building projects which accompanied the new wave of colonization, but how indigenous this was to the island Loeber does not establish. The shiring of newly-acquired territory by the government was accompanied by the establishment of a county town with a gaol and session house. By the middle of the sixteenth century, the Dublin government had re-instituted measures for building castles and towerhouses 'in the borders and marches of the Irish'. Gradually the castles began to be transformed into the great fortified stone houses which became a feature of the seventeenth century but the unequal struggle for ownership was uppermost in that period and destruction and ruination mark the sixteenth century landscape.

Was it possible to metamorphose soldiers into settlers Loeber asks, and indicates the significance of private enterprise in the Elizabethan period. Challenges to estate by using ancient deeds was the strategy used by Sir Peter

Carew in attempting to wrest the barony of Idrone from the Butler family, thoroughly alarming the Anglo-Irish landowners in the process. In Ulster huge tracts were granted to Englishmen if they could win the land for the Crown. The settlement at Newry demonstrated that a private individual, without much government support, could found a town as a centre of a large and potentially self-supporting community. But the 1580s was the decade when the tide turned in favour of government colonial policy. By then the Dublin government had revised its selection of plantation grantees. Never again would the Anglo-Irish be included in such projects. With the outlawing of the Earl of Desmond, the Anglo-Irish were herded with the Gaelic Irish as unsuitable for participating in the schemes of English control over the country. The Munster plantation, which followed on the government confiscation of the vast territories of the Desmond lordship was an ambitious paper exercise, impractical because property rights between older Norman landlords and new undertakers were sources of conflict and ambiguity. The Munster seignory of 12,000 acres was the basic unit of the plantation and its development was slow. When the Nine Years War hit Munster in 1598 it went to the wall and its slow pick-up belongs to the seventeenth century. In all the Munster plantation had attracted about 5,000 able-bodied Englishmen; when they returned a decade later, a new form of acquiring property had proved effective, the discovery of concealments.

Concealments and their 'outing' were to prove the most lucrative way of augmenting the estate, as Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, reputedly the richest man in the Stuart realms, demonstrated. This was the golden age for private entrepreneurship, with plantations being established by discovery of concealments and by cash purchase. Dr. Loeber brings his study to a close on the threshold of the Ulster plantation in 1609. His objective was to trace the English strategy 'by little and little to stretch the pale further' and to draw conclusions from such an examination. It was geographical expansion, a kind of military exploration and extension of Crown rights, which penetrated the whole island. It proceeded in regional spurts. Of its nature it was fragmentary, reflecting the episodic approach of successive deputies and privy councils to the conquest of Ireland. Settlements occurred as a consequence of local rebellions. Government support oscillated uneasily between repressive military regimes and notional self-sufficient civil colonies. The new monetary economy was a factor; the period Loeber examines was one where western society was making a transition to one 'held together by cash nexus' and the mortgaging of the estates by the Gaelic Irish was a symptom of their bankruptcy in the face of advancing capitalist penetration of the land market. It was a period marked by individualistic entrepreneurship, as exemplified by Sir Walter Raleigh, and the movements of planters extended far beyond Ireland, suggesting that the diffusion of ideas and actions between planters was an ongoing process.

Summing up the period he reviewed, Dr. Loeber advances the evidence for building expansion through the government subsidy for building castles and tower-houses but does not sufficiently connect this ongoing process with the late middle ages. His interesting invitation to link field and documentary evidence together in a reconstruction of the sixteenth-century countryside is part of the programme of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement: to ask why certain settlements happened at certain locations and thus re-interpret the landscape. Two tables, nine maps, a good bibliography of further reading and nine plates make this third monograph in the Irish Settlement Studies, edited by Dr Harman Murtagh, and produced by the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement: an attractive acquisition.

MARGARET MacCURTAIN  
University College Dublin

## NOTICE BOARD

### ROSCREA SPRING CONFERENCE 1993

Friday 16th. April to Sunday 18th. April

Mount Saint Joseph Abbey, Roscrea

*Theme: 'Relics, Reliquaries and Associated Places'*

Lecturers include: Jim Lang, Senior Inspector, English Heritage; Charles Doherty, Dept. of Early History, U.C.D.; An tOllamh Eamon Ó'Carraigáin, U.C.C.; An tAthair Ciaran O'Sabhaois, OSCO; Ian Fisher, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland; Dr. Niamh Whitfield, London; Cormac Bourke, Assistant Keeper of Antiquities, Ulster Museum, Belfast; Dr. Jennifer O'Reilly; Susan Nunan M.A.; Diarmuid Scully M.A. and Sister Benedicta Ward, Oxford.

Programme and particulars from Mr. George Cunningham, Parkmore Roscrea, Co. Tipperary.

## GROUP NEWS

### CHANGES OF OFFICERS

Our new President is Dr. Anngret Simms. She succeeds Dr. T. B. Barry who has served the Group as Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and President. Dr. Barry joins Dr. R. E. Glasscock, Mr. P. Healy, Dr. R. Buchanan and Dr. B. J. Graham as a Vice-President of the Group. The new Secretary is Mr. Michael O'Hanrahan, who succeeds Mr. Mark Hennessy. The Committee elected at the 1992 Conference held in Clifden is:

President	:	Dr. Anngret Simms (U.C.D.)
Hon. Secretary	:	Mr. Michael O'Hanrahan (Kilkenny)
Hon. Treasurer	:	Ms. Niamh Crowley (Waterford)
Hon. Editor	:	Dr. Harman Murtagh (Athlone R. T. C.)
Committee	:	Dr. Kevin Whelan (R.I.A.)
	:	Mr. Michael Gibbons (O.P.W.)
	:	Dr. P. J. Duffy (Maynooth)
	:	Dr. Tony Canavan (Fed. Ulster Local Studies)
	:	Dr. Peter Collins (Q. U. B.)

### SUBSCRIPTIONS NOTICE

The Clifden Conference (1992) approved an increase in annual subscription from IR£3 to IR£5. The subscription has been held at IR£3 for ten years. The increased subscription will facilitate better communication with members through the publication of a Newsletter.

Many members pay their subscription by bank standing order and these should notify their bank of the change before 1st. May, 1993 or complete a new standing order.

### GROUP PUBLICATIONS

A stated aim of the Group, since its foundation in 1969, has been the production and circulation of useful information

concerning Irish historic settlement. This led to the development of a publishing policy, initially in the form of a Bulletin in typescript of which 7 numbers appeared between 1974 and 1984.

In 1985 the Bulletin was superseded by an occasional series of printed monographs, written by recognised scholars illustrated with maps and plates and intended for the interested general reader. Financial assistance for the initial monographs was provided in the form of interest-free loans by the Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast.

Three monographs have so far been published:

No. 1. B.J. Graham, Anglo-Norman settlement in Ireland (1985)

No. 2. C.T. Cairns, Irish tower houses: a Co. Tipperary case study (1987)

No. 3. Rolf Loeber, The geography and practice of English colonisation in Ireland from 1534 to 1609 (1991).

Of these, Nos 1 and 2 are now out of print and all financial liabilities incurred in their publication have been discharged. No. 3 remains available @ (£6 to include post and packing, to all EC countries) from Dr. Harman Murtagh, Mount View, Athlone, and from all good bookshops.

When the debt incurred in the publication of No. 3 has been cleared or should further finance becomes otherwise available (even though the provision of an interest-free loan), the Group will proceed with the publication of further monographs in the series.

HARMAN MURTAGH

### EXHIBITION

Your Group is very pleased to be associated with an exhibition of aerial photography, "Disappearing Landscapes : Archaeology and the Irish Landscape, an aerial view", by Dr. Gillian Barrett of the University of Wolverhampton, which will be held at ENFO : Information on the Environment 17, St. Andrew Street, Dublin 2, from Tuesday 4 May to Saturday 29 May. This exhibition will explore the role of aerial photography in

- The study of the cultural landscape
- The discovery of archaeological sites and landscapes
- Monitoring the accelerating pace of land use change in Ireland and the resulting impact on archaeology and the landscape.

The exhibition derives from Dr. Barrett's lecture to the 1992 Conference in Clifden and the initiative of the Group's President, Dr. Anngret Simms, and will bring both Dr. Barrett's important and pioneering work and the Group to the attention of a wider audience.

### ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 1993 Annual Conference, which will have as its theme "The Settlement History of Ely O'Carroll" will be held at the County Arms Hotel over the weekend Friday 30th. April to Sunday 2nd. May. A notice, providing full details is enclosed with this Newsletter.

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*Copy for the next Newsletter should be sent to the Editor, Mr. Michael O'Hanrahan, 12, Oak Road, Duke's Meadows, Kilkenny, before 29th. October 1993.*