



No.18: May 1998

# ACAI Newsletter

Association of Church Archivists of Ireland

## Association AGM - 1998

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held in All Hallows College, Drumcondra on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April. The new venue proved to be very pleasant indeed and the sun was out to greet the 42 members who attended.

For the 79 members unable to be present we are happy to enclose with the *Newsletter* copies of the Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report to the AGM, the text of papers presented by Rev Dudley A. Levistone Cooney and Dr Séamus Helferty and the minutes of the AGM prepared by Sister Marie Bernadette O'Leary - all well worth reading! Sister Sheila Kelly's account of her participation in the 83<sup>rd</sup> Modern Archives Institute is included in the *Newsletter*.

The Officers' reports and Chairman's address were well received and we must acknowledge our indebtedness to Marianne Cosgrave, Sister Marie Bernadette O'Leary, Sister M. Baptist Meany and the members of the Executive who work so efficiently and effectively on behalf of ACAI. All are willing to remain in office for another year with the exception of the Vice Chairman who has to resign because of his work load. This means we lose the good services of Dr. Ray Refaussé who has been a useful member of the Executive Committee over the past five years.

A highlight of the day was the presentation of flowers to Sister Madgalena Frisby on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her first profession as a Sister of Mercy. Fr. Leo Layden who like Sister Magdalena is a founder member of the Association paid tribute to Sister Magdalena's contribution to ACAI.

By the time we were leaving Drumcondra sunshine had given way to rain - but that was not important! It had been a useful and enjoyable meeting with plenty of input and time for discussion. As is the case with all our meetings, it provided an opportunity to renew friendships and to make new friends, to encourage and to be encouraged by people who, like ourselves, care for the archives of churches and communities.

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### ACAI Executive 1998-99

**President:**

Ms Marianne Cosgrave, St Anne's Convent of Mercy, Booterstown Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin. (01) 2783674

**Vice-President:**

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### *Acknowledgements*

Sincere thanks to all who contributed to this edition of our Association's Newsletter. The next issue will appear in October 1998. Your articles, letters, reports, comments would be gratefully received by the coordinating editor, Mary Smyth, St John of God Brothers, 'Granada' Stillorgon, Co Dublin.

*Charity – Carmelite  
Connection  
1815-1876*

When Mary Aikenhead and her first companion, Sr M. Catherine Walsh, having completed their noviciate, arrived in Dublin from York on 22 August 1815, they went to live in a house in North William Street, where they were to take over the care of a number of orphans. The house had been built as an orphanage by the Trinitarian Confraternity and Archbishop Murray had arranged that it would be transferred to the care of the Sisters of Charity. It was here that the two Sisters made their first Profession of vows on 1 September 1815. On that day Mary Aikenhead was appointed Superior General of the new congregation and Sr M. Catherine, Novice Mistress. Two days later the first postulant was received – Catherine Lynch of Drogheda.

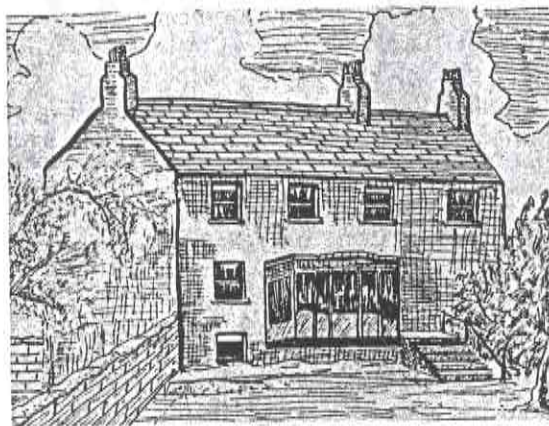
There were fourteen orphans to be cared for. Gradually the Sisters took over from the ladies of the Trinitarian Confraternity, who up to this time had been in charge. Two months after their arrival, the Sisters opened a day school, to which the poor children of the neighbourhood flocked in great numbers. Gradually the number of Sisters increased and they were able to engage in the work originally envisaged by Mary Aikenhead – the visitation of the sick poor in their homes. The words of Archbishop Murray to Mary Aikenhead while she was still a novice in York had now become a reality: *Your family in future are to be the poor of Jesus Christ.*

On 29 January 1819, Mother Mary Aikenhead and Sr M Joseph O'Reilly moved to Stanhope Street, where they were to take charge of a House of Refuge for girls of good character, which had been transferred from Ashe Street in 1814.

In 1827 a community of Poor Clare Sisters offered to take over the convent in North William Street and their offer was accepted as this left the Sisters of Charity free to comply with Archbishop Murray's request that they undertake the running of schools for the poor in the Gardiner Street area.

On 31 May 1830 the Poor Clare Sisters left North William Street to make a foundation in Newry, and on 14 August 1830 a few Sisters from the Carmelite convent in Warrenmount moved into North William

Street and undertook the care of the orphans. We have no record of who cared for the orphans during the intervening three months, but the date on which the Carmelite Sisters took over marks the first milestone in the 'Charity – Carmelite' connection.



*House on Sandymount Lane*

On 16 August 1831 Mother Mary Aikenhead and four other Sisters moved to a small house on Sandymount Lane (now Sandymount Avenue). There they engaged in the work of visiting the sick poor, as well as running a school for poor children and giving religious instruction to children and adults. At the same time the Sisters were ministering daily to the victims of the cholera epidemic, both in their homes and in a small emergency hospital set up in a store in Ringsend.

Mother Mary Aikenhead left Sandymount in 1834 to establish St Vincent's Hospital, but the community continued to live in Sandymount Lane until 1876. In the meantime, in 1856 the community of Carmelite Sisters who had the care of the orphanage in North William Street, moved out to Lakelands, Sandymount, bringing with them the eleven orphans then in their care, and the Daughters of Charity moved into the house in North William Street. The Carmelites were later obliged to undertake the establishment of an Industrial School in Lakelands, an impossible task, totally incompatible with their Carmelite way of life.

In 1876, at the request of Cardinal Cullen, the Carmelite community moved to the house on Sandymount Lane and the Sisters of Charity moved to Lakelands and took over the running of the Orphanage and Industrial School. This was the Trinitarian Orphanage which the first community of Sisters of Charity had taken over in North William Street in 1815. The wheel had come full circle!

*Sr Marie Bernadette O'Leary*

## *The Derry Diocesan Archive*

The Circular Letter, *The Pastoral Function of Archives* issued by the Pontifical Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church in February 1997 was a great source of encouragement and affirmation of church archivists. The Letter emphasised the importance of church archives as part of the Church's cultural heritage and pointed out the responsibilities which bishops have under the New Code of Canon Law in relation to archives.

It was also the first time, to my knowledge, that a document from the Holy See urged the use of modern electronic technology in the management and cataloguing of church archives.

I began my work as diocesan archivist in 1994 after the appointment of my successor, Bishop Séamus Hegarty as Bishop of Derry. Up until then, nobody had been designated as diocesan archivist. Documents, various registers and books had been preserved; some had been filed under various headings; but there was no catalogue of the archive and nobody had any accurate idea of what the archive contained.

The archives were located in the strong room in Bishop's House and in various filing cabinets in other parts of that building. In the years before I became ill, I was conscious of the lack of a proper location or environment for the diocesan archive and in the early 1990s I had made plans for such. This facility was completed in 1994 and all the documents and books with the exception of those detailed in Canon 489 were moved from Bishop's House to that location.

My first task as diocesan archivist was to sort out the huge and dusty mass of paper which confronted me. Initially, I was disappointed with the lack of material which originated before the episcopacy of my predecessor, Bishop Neil Farren (1939-73). However, when I had waded through the mass of paper and decided on the categories under which I wished to list the archive, I then gave consideration to the manner or technique of cataloguing the material. I consulted with a number of individuals and agencies,

including David Sheehy, Archivist from the Archdiocese of Dublin, Bishop McKiernan of Kilmore and the NI Public Records Office in Belfast.

I eventually decided to catalogue all the documents on a computer database. I had already been using computers in the Bishop's Office since the early 1980s. The database software programme I had used in that work was DELTA. It was manufactured by an English company, Compssoft plc in Hampshire. I decided to use Compssoft's DELTA5 software programme in cataloguing our archive. It has proved most satisfactory and is a most effective and efficient search engine with a virtually unlimited capacity.

***.. Under these various headings and with a modern powerful PC processor, any document or set of documents can be located in seconds..***

Each document or register in the archive is individually listed in the database under the following headings:

DATE	Date of issue
DESCRIPTION	Letter/Record/Report, etc. The nature of the document
FROM	Name and address of the person or agency from which the document originated
TO	Name and address of the person/persons/agency to whom the document was sent
SUBJECT MATTER	A short concise précis of the content of the document
FILE	Number of the File Folder in which the document is filed
BOX	Number of the Box in which the File Folder is contained.

To date (November '97), I have catalogued more than 52,000 documents on the database. Under these various headings and with a modern powerful PC processor, any document or set of documents can be located in seconds.

After the cataloguing process is complete, the documents are kept temporarily in file folders in normal document boxes. When the cataloguing is complete, they will be transferred to special acid-free containers. The files in which the documents are kept are listed under specific headings e.g. *Diocesan Council of Priests, Parish of X, Annual Statistics*, etc.

One problem with computers - some modern computer programmes do not recognise any date prior to January 1, 1900 as a date! This can be a problem in cataloguing documents going back for a few hundred years. Most modern databases are programmed to recognise all dates from January 1, 1900 until December 31, 2099! However, with a little adjustment, this problem can be overcome. I have catalogued the documents in two separate databases - one pre-January 1, 1900 and one post January 1, 1900.

The vast majority of the documents currently in our diocesan archive relate to this century. There is still much work to be done before all the documents now in the archive are catalogued. When that work is completed, I would like to have the opportunity to look at other archival tasks to be done, especially in the matter of parish archives, but that is for another day and another article.

+ *Edward Daly*

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*An Effective Congregational  
Archives Policy*

Responding to the editor's suggestion that I might write something on the working of the archival policy of the Medical Missionaries of Mary which is in existence since 1985 and which we shared at the time with ACAI members, I could not say more than that it works. The system of garnering archival documents seems to me to depend on the structure and activity of the institution.

Our congregation is a comparatively small missionary congregation with many small communities in several

countries and continents. We aim to get a service established and when the local people can maintain it we move on to a more needy place. Because of this, our Generalate, through an intermediate level, is kept informed of our situation world-wide. The Central Secretariat stores these reports and at regular intervals forwards them to the archives as non-current records. They come in good order with a list giving file title and box number so any document is easily retrievable even before the descriptive list is made. The Central Secretariat retains a copy of its list so the relevant box and file numbers are quoted when a file is requested.

As most Irish religious orders and congregations establish Provinces their systems would most likely be quite different.

*Sr M Anastasia Taggart, MMM*

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*One should keep in mind  
that archives, unlike libraries,  
contain mostly unique documents.*

*They represent principal sources  
for historical research  
because they refer directly  
to the particular events and deeds  
of specific individuals.*

*Their loss or destruction  
means nullifying an objective investigation  
of the facts and impeding  
the acquisition of previous experiences  
and thus jeopardising the transmission  
of cultural and religious values.*

*The Pastoral Function of Church Archives*

## *Catholic Archives Society Visit to Ireland 1997*

(First published in the Hatfield Parish Magazine)

Last August the Catholic Archives Society organised a week's tour of archives in the Dublin area. The week began with a visit to the archives of the Franciscans (Killiney) where we were shown a variety of manuscripts from the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> centuries, including manuscripts in Irish and including also an example of early written music. There was even one mediaeval Irish manuscript that had been found in a dentist's waiting room! The same day, and at the other end of the historical scale, we visited the Sisters of Mercy's International Centre and were able to see how they had used their records to illustrate the work of the Mercy nuns world wide, including setting up a web site.

We also went to the Jesuit archives (Leeson Street) where an exhibition had been prepared of letters to Jesuit superiors from the late 16<sup>th</sup> century onwards, many of which were of both political and literary interest. We visited Maynooth and were taken on a tour of the College as well as of the archives and library. The archives of the Irish College at Salamanca are stored here, as well as those of Maynooth itself. Both the Jesuit and Maynooth archivists took us into their strongrooms where we were able to consider archive storage and preservation as well as looking at treasures.

We didn't only see religious archives. One afternoon we spent at the Irish National Archives where examples of their different classes of records had been put on display and were carefully described to us by the archivist in charge. Of particular interest was his account of attempts made to fill the gaps caused by the destruction of Irish archives in 1922. Everyone felt they learnt a great deal of Irish history from him and everyone, too, envied him the well equipped research room. A similar visit to the archives of the Irish police was also very informative.

It wasn't all archives. We spent a day at Glendalough, where we were told about St Kevin and celtic spirituality. We were welcomed at the Irish President's residence in Phoenix Park; at Carton House, the 18<sup>th</sup> century house once the residence of the Dukes of Leinster; and at Clongowes Wood

College, another ancient house now a Jesuit boarding school. We visited the University Church and Cardinal Newman's rooms, said to be the finest Georgian rooms in Dublin; Archbishop Marsh's Library in Dublin, where there were more 17<sup>th</sup> century books on shelves than I have ever seen together before; and Prosperous, a village in County Kildare established by one man who in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century tried to develop an Irish cotton industry.

We saw *Juno and the Paycock* at the Abbey Theatre and had far too many large and delicious meals. Everywhere we went we were overwhelmed by generous hospitality and goodwill and we all had a delightful and memorable week.

*Margaret Harcourt Williams*

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## *C. A. S. Publications*

Current publications from the Catholic Archives Society are now available at the following prices in sterling:

*Index to Catholic Archives*, nos. 1-12 (1981-92), £3. Back numbers of the same up to 1997, £5 each.

*Catholic Archives*, no. 18 (1998) £5.

*Directory of Catholic Archives*, (4<sup>th</sup> ed., 1997), ed. Rev. C. Smith. £3.

*Church archives: the pastoral function of Church archives; archives in canon law*, (ed. Rev S Foster, 1997). £3.

Order with payment to Mr P T Bracken (ref. C.A.S.), 43 Garthland Drive, Glasgow, G31 2RE, Scotland.

## *A Unique Project*

*ACAI Newsletter* October 1997 carried details of the survey of historical data about women in Ireland undertaken through the Women's History Project. The project is headed by Dr Maria Luddy, senior lecturer in history at the Institute of Education, University of Warwick and author of many historical works including *Women and Philanthropy in Nineteenth-Century Ireland* (Cambridge 1995).

The Women's History Project was personally brought to our attention by Dr Maria Luddy on the afternoon of 29<sup>th</sup> November 1997 at Mercy International, Baggot Street. There was a group of about sixteen ACAI members and Marianne Cosgrave introduced the speaker. Dr Maria distributed survey questionnaires and explained the format in which data will be held. Eighty questionnaires were sent out and already fourteen archives have been visited, e.g. Representative Church Body, College of Physicians, Film Archive. The questionnaire gathers information on the location of our resource; whether there is access; what the subject is and a description. 'Restricted' access means that the archive is not open to the public - but the material will still be there in a hundred years time. The visiting researchers come with their laptop and enter on the spot any references to women they find in the archives they visit.

The audience listened enthralled while the speaker shared with us the findings of her researches. When Dr Maria published *Women and Philanthropy in Nineteenth-Century Ireland* she was aware of fifteen organisations throughout Ireland. Since she set out on the project six weeks ago she has discovered two hundred charitable organisations and that is only up to the early part of the century. Suffragettes and women connected with nationalism took the attention of historians. Concentration on politics left social history underdeveloped.


Protestants were first in the field of charitable good works. Lay organisations, small family groups were the pattern of the last century. The records were in boxes or in paper bags. People were more concerned with work than the keeping of archives. It showed how precarious our records were! Dr Maria's current research began

with cities - Limerick, Galway, Cork, Belfast. Material was easy of access then: there were books, financial records that dealt with children, women, hospitals, orphanages. Here was social history; a world of individuals, relationships with each other, with clergy, with convents, philanthropy, the *child* rather than childhood. There were industrial schools, homes for the old, the history of nursing, nuns in Irish society, refuges - convents in terms of founders, strong women, against odds, wealthy who knew what they wanted - history of architecture - nuns dealing with builders, money, benefactors, lay women setting up institutions in their own right - wills, those who enter and donate. When archives were safe and well looked after they were an advantage to researchers. The minute books are a fabulous source!

Some records are scattered in repositories, cupboards. Others have information ready on computer. The Department of An Taoiseach had 1,400 boxes. Already 800 references have been entered by the researcher on computer about civil servants, teachers' pensions, the Constitution of 1937, the campaign on women and work, private letters to De Valera. It would take six and a half years to get the work done. The funding is for one year!

So we have been introduced to the survey of sources! The results of the survey will be presented in computer format and an edited version published in the form of a Directory. While the survey list will act as an inventory of sources that are in existence, it is up to the individual archives concerned to decide whether to allow access to researchers.

Sr Máire Ní Shúilleabháin



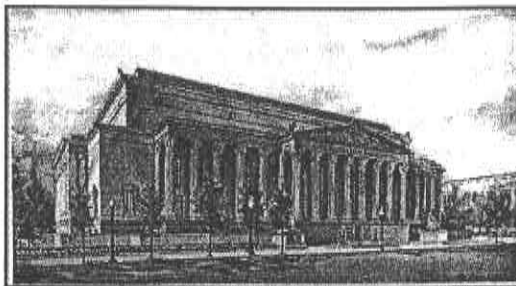
*.. Remember the past, to  
live in the present, to  
prepare for the future.*

T S Eliot

*The Eighty-third Modern  
Archives Institute,  
Washington, DC*

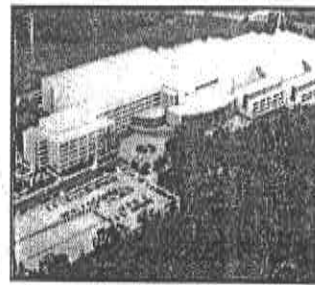
Thanks to the generous initiative of *Ireland's Heritage Preservation Foundation* I became a participant at the eighty-third Modern Archives Institute, held in Washington DC, January 26-February 6, 1998

In 1994 IHPF was incorporated under the Non-Profit Corporation Law, 1988, of the State of Pennsylvania, to "engage in...educational activities of all kinds...in particular...[those] related to the written and material past of Ireland". As part of its 1998 programme the Foundation made the Fr Hugh Nolan Fellowship, for attendance at the Modern Archives Institute, open to any one working in religious archives in Ireland.



Archives 1

The Institute was held in three complementary centres i.e. the Library of Congress and Archives 1, both in downtown Washington, and Archives 2 in the adjoining State of Maryland. The Library of Congress, housed in a series of fine buildings on Capitol Hill, is the national library of the United States. Archives 1 and 2 are the repositories for NARA (National Archives and Records Administration). Archives 1, an impressive columned building near the Smithsonian museums on the Mall, was completed in 1935 and by 1970 had reached its records storing capacity. In 1994 a new archives facility, known as Archives 2, was dedicated at College Park, Maryland. Built on a 33-acre site donated by the University of Maryland, it is the world's largest archives building. Magnificently situated so that its windowed areas overlook woods and a golf course, it has (windowless) storage capacity of approximately 2 million cubic feet and the 40 stack areas contain 520 miles of mobile shelving. Nonetheless the building's design anticipates the possibility of additional wings to meet future requirements!



Archives 2

Introductory material to the course urged participants to listen to early morning radio or television. "If you hear the words 'the Federal government is closed', the Institute will not meet on that day". Happily the weather, while cold, remained clement and for the ten days of the Institute I crossed the Potomac by Metro from Virginia where Dr Joe O'Grady of IHPF, had kindly arranged hotel accommodation.

Throughout the fortnight I was to enjoy the delightful hospitality of IHPF representatives, Jim and Curry Hagerty and their daughter Grace, which included visits in the lovely city of Washington and a meeting with Michael Moloney of the Irish Embassy who was keen to hear about IHPF and ACAI!

The daily timetable was usually from 8.30am to 4.30pm, with an earlier start on certain days to allow for archival tours or the forty minute coach transfer to Archives 2. Of the thirty-six participants I was one of three non-nationals, (Brazil, Hungary, Ireland). The other six Church based archivists represented the Salvation Army, the Gettysburg Lutheran seminary, the US Navy Chaplain Resource Board, Trinity Missions, Sisters of Mercy, Dallas, Pennsylvania, and the American Baptist Historical Society. Other backgrounds included NASA Dryden Flight Research, Library of Congress, Missouri Botanical Garden, Smithsonian Archives, Museum of Modern Art, New York, US House of Representatives and Zuni Tribal Archives, New Mexico. With provenance such as this, interaction had to be stimulating and it was also friendly and encouraging. Course lecturers, usually employees of NARA, were always helpful, competent and enthusiastic.

Course content ranged over the nature of archives, acquisition and appraisal, arrangement and description, ethical and legal issues, access, storage and preservation, with special attention to cartographic, photographic and audio/visual materials. Also included was advice on goal setting and implementation, on records retention policy, grant applications, archival exhibits and education programmes in general. Archives 2 was an appropriate setting for an introduction to NARA's

EAP (Electronic Access Project), including NAIL (NARA Archival Information Locator), a pilot database of selected holdings. (Please see the invitation for online viewing!)

Throughout the Institute, emphasis was on discussion and in-class exercises, and some opportunity was offered for practical experience in the arrangement and description of collections. By means of most interesting tours of the three locations involved, participants were introduced to such diverse features as the transfer of the Charters of Freedom from overnight vault for daytime viewing at Archives 1, the state-of-the-art conservation laboratory at Archives 2 and the Manuscript Division at the Library of Congress.

Because of the wide range of the Institute, movement was rapid from one subject to the next. Fortunately, thanks to ACAI and CAS, I had some familiarity with basic archival theory and practice! Were the pace to slacken, the disadvantage would have been to the more experienced participants. In fact, a fair balance was maintained throughout and, allowing for the inevitable cultural differences, I found all presentations valuable and relevant.

The closing day of the Institute was marked by the presentation of a certificate to each participant, signed by John Carlin, Archivist of the United States. It was a final courtesy which I accepted with warm appreciation of an outstanding archival experience and of *Ireland's Heritage Preservation Foundation* which made it possible.

Sheila Kelly PBVM

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### *Standards for the Development of Archives Services in Ireland*

In the October '97 *Newsletter* Marianne Cosgrave commended the publication of *Standards for the Development of Archives Services in Ireland*, referring to it as a practical primer for archivists.

*Standards for the Development of Archives Services in Ireland* was published by The Society of Archivists Irish Region in 1997. The standards were compiled by a sub-committee of the Society: Mary Clarke,

National Archives  
and  
Records Administration



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**NARA Archival Information**

**Locator (NAIL)**

a pilot database of selected holdings

<http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html>

**JFK Assassination Records**

**Collection Database**

<http://www.nara.gov/nara/jfk/jfk.html>

**Full Text of Daily Federal Register**

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/index.html>

**General Reference Inquiries**

[inquir@nara.gov](mailto:inquir@nara.gov)

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Alicia C Holland, Frances McGee, Tom Quinlan, David Sheehy and Virginia Teehan – archivists who have generously shared their professional knowledge and experience with ACAI over the years.

The standards are aimed at individuals and institutions wishing to establish archives services and at archivists, to support them in their professional work.

The text is clearly arranged in numbered paragraphs under headings: The Archives Service; The Archivist: Professional Code and Strategies; The Archivist: Control and Processing; The Repository; Technical Services; Records Management; Services to Private Depositors; Services to Users. Appendices include Select Bibliography and Society of Archivists Code of Conduct. There is a useful index.

Like many ACAI members, I have had to assume responsibility for archives as part of a package of duties. In this situation I have found *Standards for the Development of Archives Services in Ireland* a most helpful reference.

*Standards for the Development of Archives Services in Ireland* (120 pages – ISBN 0-7165-2620-4 IR£10 p&p) is available from Irish Academic Press, 44 Northumberland Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. Tel: (01) 6688244.

Mary Smyth



## *One Family Did It!*

On Saturday, March 28, a bunch of church archivists converged on the Hunt Museum in the heart of Limerick city. Housed in what was once the Custom House, built of Kilkenny marble and washed by the Shannon, it is unique among museums of its stature in that it is a family museum – the fruit of a lifetime of loving and reverent collecting by just two people – John and Gertrude Hunt. John, a Clare man was a natural collector while his German wife, Gertrude, came from a family with a tradition of museum work – her father was the caretaker of the archaeological museum in Mannheim. Today their collection is estimated to be worth £50,000,000! But John and Gertrude were not rich. As our expert guide, Jean, told us, 'they bought and sold items, but mainly bought!' Of their two children, John is still involved in the museum while Trudy is a consultant in Dublin.

Two things strike the visitor. First, it is a family museum par excellence and so the first room we enter shows family photographs and limns the history of the house. One can see the young Hunts surrounded by priceless items – even in their kitchen – and learning to handle everything with reverential love. Second, one is struck by the clean simplicity of the design and the almost austere elegance of the layout – nothing detracts from the centrality of the items on display. Display space is maximised while the sense of spaciousness is enhanced by the discreet use of sealed, glass-covered drawers in the lower part of the display cabinets. The provision of study areas as well as opportunities for research make it a researcher's paradise. The collection spans aeons – from Neolithic times to the present day.

The variety is – considering it was a private family collection – simply stunning. It ranges from classical archaeological exhibits to Jack Yeats paintings, from coins coined for the battle of Syracuse (c.400 BC) to a reconstruction of the ring fort at Craggaunowen, from the Leonarda da Vinci horse to a Penal Cross, from a reliquary belonging to Mary Queen of Scots to an Egyptian hawk-god.

The room which houses the ecclesiastical exhibits differs in design from all the rest: it is like a miniature Gothic cathedral. Among the most eye-catching exhibits were a magnificent mitre and crozier which, we were told, were gathering dust in a cubbyhole off

a sacristy until Bishop Jeremiah Newman spotted them and rescued them from the dark and the damp. The mitre has the maker's name on it while the crozier was fashioned in Limerick in 1418.

I was fascinated by the variety of crucifixes and rosary beads on display. The size of items was intriguing. One rosary was so large that I wondered who could comfortably use it while a set of 'the instruments of the Passion' – in silver – was so tiny that the complete set would easily fit on a postage stamp. The lance was less than an inch long!

One day was far too short to feast on the Hunt treasures. I must return.

Among the ancillary bonuses is a first-rate restaurant attached to the museum. To our chagrin, when we approached the door, a notice warned: 'Booked until....' But a kindly attendant found us a corner from which we could view the swans on a rather turbulent Shannon. It was a great day.

A warm word of thanks to our excellent guide. Thank you, Jean.

*Sr M Baptist Meany PVBM*



The Hunt Museum, The Custom House, Rutland Street, Limerick is open:

Tuesday- Saturday	10.00 a.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Sunday	2.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.
Monday	Closed

Facilities include:

Museum Shop and Restaurant  
The Gallery at The Hunt Museum programmed by  
Limerick City Gallery of Art  
Full Wheelchair Access.

Admission charges apply.

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## Notice

IRELAND'S HERITAGE  
PRESERVATION FOUNDATION  
307 French Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073  
Tel: (001) 601 356-3884

### SOCIETY OF AMERICAN ARCHIVISTS ANNUAL CONVENTION BURSARY

PHILADELPHIA: For immediate release. Ireland's Heritage Preservation Foundation has announced the opening of competition for two \$1,000 grants to permit two archivists to attend the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists which will be held in Orlando, Florida from August 31 to September 6, 1998. The grants will be available to pay for room, fees and other costs and will be deposited in the recipient's account at the Walt Disney World Dolphin Hotel, the convention hotel. Other information is available on the internet at: <http://www.archivists.org/>.

The competition is open to any archivists, working with manuscripts or documents in any archive, library, or museum in Ireland or Northern Ireland. The application should include: (1) a curriculum vitae reflecting one's education with dates, including any archival training, publications, if any, and work experience with dates, positions held, and responsibilities; (2) a statement of how attendance at this annual meeting will enhance the applicant's ability to (a) function in one's present position and (b) solve the archival problems facing the applicant's institution; and (3) a list of annual meetings of foreign archival societies over the past five years that the applicant attended.

The application should be sent to Joseph P. O'Grady, President, Ireland's Heritage Preservation Foundation, 307 French Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073, phone (001) 610 356-3884, FAX (001) 215 951-1488 before June 1, 1998.



## *Annual ACAI Membership Subscription*

The annual ACAI membership subscription is a small but necessary contribution to the effective operation of the Association.

If you have not yet paid your 1998-99 subscription please send IR£10 as soon as possible to Sr Baptist Meany, Presentation Mission House, Lucan, Co Dublin.

If you are no longer involved in church/community archives and wish to discontinue membership, please inform Sr Marie Bernadette O'Leary so that your name can be deleted from the mailing list.



# Bookshelf

Three recent books should interest members of the Association. Bishop Edward Daly and Kieran Devlin have co-edited *The Clergy of the Diocese of Derry: an Index*, (Dublin, Four Courts Press, 1997), pp 218. Hardback £25. This has been for Bishop Daly a labour of love for twenty years past, for he first began to put all this biographical information on computer in 1979. Anyone who has ever tried to put together information about a particular priest will appreciate how much work was involved in producing this biographical dictionary of all the secular priests of Derry from 1535 to the present day. There are sections also on the saints, bishops, abbots, deans and even Dominicans of Derry. For the various parishes, lists of their clergy from the year 1800 are also provided. Congratulations to Bishop Daly, now diocesan archivist and one of our own members, on producing such a wonderful reference book not only for the people of Derry but also for other historians who may wish to delve into its history.

Another diocesan historian and archivist, Fr Liam Swords of Achonry, has published a fine volume about his native diocese entitled: *A hidden Church: the diocese of Achonry, 1689-1818*, (Dublin, The Columba Press, 1979), pp 464. Hardback. No price given. This is a welcome addition to the rather small number of diocesan histories available, and perhaps the first thorough, modern work on a western diocese. Achonry being about as small and isolated as could be, and its diocesan archives for this period non-existent, Fr Swords puts to good use contemporary material from neighbouring dioceses and devotes much attention to social history, giving vivid insights into how the people of Achonry lived, worked, prayed, and sometimes even managed to enjoy themselves. Numerous illustrations add greatly to the text. Earlier diocesan histories never explored this social dimension, nor did they consider, as Fr Swords does, the life and work of the Protestant clergy. Exact references are given in support of every statement. The volume ends with clergy-lists for which many historians, including those who never set foot in Achonry, will be deeply grateful.

The third book to come this way is by Fr Michael Murtagh, now of Ardee. It is entitled *St Patrick's, Dundalk: an anniversary account*, (Dundalk, Bellew Print, 1997), pp 371. Hardback. No price given. This too is a labour of love, not for a diocese but for

an extremely spacious and impressive church which the author served for ten years. Much of the research involved was done by Tom Bellew who died in 1995 and to whom the book is dedicated. Since St Patrick's, Dundalk, first opened in 1847 the volume marks the sesquicentennial of its completion. However, there is much here on the Dundalk clergy and their chapels from the first coming of the Normans. An extremely useful appendix provides notes on 'post reformation parish priests'. Most of the book, naturally enough, concerns the much later period from 1847. Fr Murtagh follows a chronological arrangement, drawing much of his information from newspapers. The result makes the reader's head swim, since a bewildering variety of things could happen within the one year. On the other hand, the reward is great for those interested in particular topics such as parish missions, confraternities, church furniture, and even political commotion. A "must have" volume for anyone interested in Dundalk or in the texture of Irish church life over the past 150 years.

Hugh Fenning OP

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## *An Archivist's Prayer*

Composed by Rev D A Levistone Cooney

Almighty and Eternal God,  
you are the Lord of the past,  
the present and the future.

Hear our prayer,  
who care for the archives  
of churches and communities.

Grant us the help of your Holy Spirit  
so to preserve the records  
of the past,  
that their study in the present  
may inspire your people  
to build for the future  
under your divine providence,  
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

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# *For Your Diary*

## *Summer Course in Management of Archives*

A short beginners course in the management of archives is arranged for 6-10 July 1998. Venue: All Hallows College, Dublin. Cost: IR£150 (excluding meals). Please contact Sr. Marie Bernadette O'Leary or Marianne Cosgrave if you wish to attend.



## *ACA Summer Outing*

A visit to

### *The 1798 Rebellion in Ireland A Bicentenary Exhibition*

in the Ulster Museum, Belfast is organised for  
Wednesday, 19 August 1998

Details will be sent to you nearer to the date



## *Preliminary Notice*

An international symposium on archives to mark 25 years of professional training in University College Dublin will be held 2-3 October 1998 in the University Industry Centre, Belfield. Presentations titles at :

### *Cyber, hyper or resolutely jurassic? Archivists and the millennium*

will include: *The future of archival scholarship; American archivists, cyberculture and stasis; "The courage of one's subjectivities" - 25 years of archive practice; Automation and the impact of the internet on archives; Ethics: the moral defence of the archivist.*

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