



No.22 May 2000

ACAI Newsletter

Association of Church Archivists of Ireland

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN..

Dear Friends,

The first thing I would like to say is, "Thank you!". I want to thank you for your support of the Executive, the kind things you said to us at the Annual General Meeting, and the vote of confidence which you gave us, which will encourage us in the coming year.

Several people said to me that it was the best AGM they remembered, and certainly we were blessed in both of our speakers. It is not every day one finds two speakers who combine three gifts - an expert knowledge of their subject, a great enthusiasm for it, and an ability to communicate it. We are greatly indebted to both.

The Open Session seemed to range a little more widely this year than it has done recently, and some of the suggestions which were forthcoming will give the Executive food for thought and action in the coming months. We would very much like to take up the idea of a gathering in Cork or Limerick for members in Munster, but would need people in the area to make the necessary arrangements.

Summer brings the opportunity of holiday - or a change of work? Whatever you are doing may God bless you in it, and may you return refreshed to the archives.

Sincerely yours,

DUDLEY LEVISTONE COONEY

Chairman

The Annual General Meeting of ACAI

29 April 2000

The AGM could have been one of these outgoing-incoming committee elections like the Neap tide and the Spring tide letting go and embracing the future shores, or it could have been a boring business. As it happened the same tide went out and returned without any nuclear threats. There was general delight in the brief Annual Report à la Sister Marie O'Leary and the crystal clear, unambiguous financial report without any recourse to a tribunal.

To backtrack a little, our approach to All Hallows was pedestrian for some but thanks to the spirit of generosity we were able to be sedentary on the way home thanks to car-pooling. The painless extraction of £20.00 by 'instant entrapment' as one entered the meeting area meant that subs were paid and meals ensured, more than 'ensure' as it transpired. Marianne Cosgrave and Sr Dominique were most courteous.

The Reverend Dudley Levistone Cooney, our gracious, well spoken, with great polish, person eased our way through the programme of the day in his usual felicitous manner like Father O'Flynn of the song. Father O'Flynn "coaxin' on the aisy ones". His deep sense of the Spirit of Christ that must pervade our steps into the Archival world helped us in our time together.

Brother Linus wondered about centralisation of Archives. It takes me all my time to ensure the integrity of the Archival stores.

The most stimulating part of the day was the description of the Christian Collections in the Chester Beatty Library with the help of slides. It fascinates me to think that we have the near original writings of the Christian Religious Communities especially the first New Testament Papyrus Codex of the Gospels of the four evangelists and the Acts of the Apostles, and that they can be read and interpreted two thousand years down the road. This surely points to the authenticity of the Christian Revelation. Originally it is the result of Archival Preservation by chance long before such was formally recognised as necessary or useful. Mr. Chester Beatty used his great hard-earned wealth for the benefit of all of us and the generations to come. Mr. Horton obviously has a great interest in his curatorship. The Chester Beatty collections are now in very good company with The Crown Jewels. We may not have such ancient manuscripts but some day our treasures will be as old and venerable. They will be our bequest to the people of the times to come. To delve into ancient treasure 'chests' is exciting as it is important for our deepening of our beliefs.

It might have been thought that a microphone and a tape recorder were the total requirements for oral recordings. Not so. Well I know how people clam shut or give an edited view in front of a microphone. Hence the need to establish the confidence of our subject and to prepare what we are going to say.

This presentation by Sister Marie Stuart was the most succinct treatment of the subject I have heard and I have noted the many lists of points which she managed to draw or 'e-ducate' from the participants, and I must say that we were quite vocal. If Sister succeeded in extracting information from us then her methodology must be correct. Go and do in like manner.

We are not going to sit idle for the next twelve months. Some would like:

- a) Seminar on Access
- b) Trip to Tralee - too far for some but sure we in Tipperary and Munster could go
- c) Tour of Chester Beatty Library
- d) Oral Archives.

It just goes to show that we may be over 50 but we're under 100.

By the way, I noticed the minutes of this meeting said I would like to help organise an Access meeting. Well, I am more into tours of Tralee. On second thoughts, we could probably have Access in Tralee where 'the sun is declining beneath the blue sea'. I could take you all on a song trip around Ireland and maybe we could capture some archival songs.

God bless you, Slan agus Beannacht.

Edward J. Stirling

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Ms Mary Smyth, St John of God Brothers, 'Granada', Stillorgan, Co Dublin.

Waterford City Archives

As a neophyte in the land of Archivia, I was extremely interested in an article about the Waterford City Archives written by the city archivist in Waterford Corporation, Mr. Donal Moore, in the journal of the Waterford Archaeological and Historical Society, *Decies*.

Readers of the *Newsletter* may be interested to learn that Waterford Corporation was the first local authority in the State to appoint an archivist under legislation passed by the Oireachtas in the 1994 Local Government Act, Mary Fitzpatrick being the first to occupy the post which she filled until 1997 when Mr Moore succeeded her.

Mr Moore's article tells us that material has been, and continues to be, transferred from various locations to the archives where the work of cleaning, sorting and storing is carried out. Lists are being prepared on computer and these will be available in the reading room both in 'hard copy' and in 'computer-accessible' form. Future plans include the establishment of a web site. The archives are housed in a building on High Street which has been adapted to its present use according to the accepted guidelines and standards.

The article also gives examples of what can be found in the archives. Naturally, the records of Waterford Corporation have been deposited there, and, as well, there are maps and plans of the city going back two hundred years, old photographs and prints; all the documentation relating to the archaeological excavations carried out in Waterford city during the period 1986-1992; etc., etc.

Photographs of the work-room, part of one of the storage areas and the reading room illustrate the article which the author concludes with an appeal that could be echoed by many: 'The city archivist would be delighted to hear from anyone who may have material that they would consider donating to the archives.'

The above is taken from Donal Moore, 'Waterford City Archives - a new service' in *Decies*, No. 54 (1998), pp. 147-152. The journal is available from Waterford Heritage Survey, Jenkin's Lane, Waterford, and the current editor is Greg Fewer.

Séamas S. de Vail

A Servant of the Church

(Text of Lenten Address by Dr Raymond Refaüssé at St John's Church, Sandymount - Sunday 2 April 2000)

I am not here to talk about myself but perhaps it is no harm to establish a little circumstance. I am the Librarian and Archivist in the RCB Library in Churchtown which is the Church of Ireland's theological and reference library and the principal repository for the Church's archives. It follows from this that I am responsible for the books and manuscripts of the Church of Ireland. That to you may seem self evident but, in my experience, it is not so to many people. The combination of unfamiliar abbreviations, like RCB, and unusual words, like archivist, together with my apparently impenetrable northern accent, have from time to time convinced people that I work for RTE and that I am an organist. So to set the record straight at the very beginning, let me assure you that I am not from the national broadcasting authority and that I do not intend to play any tunes for you. Rather more I want to say something about the Representative Church Body Library as a servant of the Church.

.. archivists are concerned with the truth

Some years ago I went to the annual conference of the Society of Archivists of Great Britain and Ireland which was held in Canterbury. The speaker at the annual dinner was the Bishop of Dover and he began his speech by saying that the Church and the archival profession had one important thing in common - they were both concerned with the truth. For the archival profession which takes itself very seriously, almost preposterously so at times, to be taken seriously by a leading churchman was an arresting experience and it is one which has stayed with me.

But of course the bishop was right - archivists are concerned with the truth and in the context of the Church of Ireland the RCB Library, as a servant of the Church, has a particular concern with truth, for we are the custodians of the Church's memory. One of our functions is to preserve the archives of the Church of Ireland - the records of local administration, that is of parishes, dioceses and cathedrals, and the records of central administration, those of the General Synod and the Representative Church Body. These are contemporary administrative records: that is, they are written at the time of the events and activities which they record, and they are records which have been made, not with an eye to the judgements of posterity, but for the needs of current and not far distant administration. They must, therefore, be accurate and objective - that is, they must be true. How many times have we been at committee meetings and heard the chairman recite the

familiar refrain "May I sign these minutes as a true and faithful record of our proceedings?" If the answer is no, the minutes may be amended but only at the time and not thereafter. They are not re-written or altered in the light of new developments or with the benefit of hindsight. They are a true record of what occurred and not what subsequent generations might like to have occurred.

Such records tell us much about our past and much of that is a source of inspiration and comfort. We are proud to have had leaders like Archbishop Gregg who was considered important enough to have been consulted by President de Valera about the drafting of the 1938 constitution; we are moved by the devotion of clergy like the Revd Patrick Pouden, Rector of Aughaval, Westport, who died of fever while ministering to his flock during the Great Famine; and we are inspired by the innumerable instances of the extraordinary fidelity of the laity, especially in the difficult years after dis-establishment, serving for many years as unpaid financial advisors, as members of synods, as officers of vestries, as organists, choristers, and so much more.

..the truth is not always comfortable

But the truth is not always comfortable. It is frequently disturbing, sometimes shocking, and coming to terms with it can often be a very humbling experience. How often have we heard or read in recent times of members of our Church berating the Roman Catholic Church for its ecumenical tardiness, for its unwillingness to share the Eucharist, for its refusal to recognise Anglican orders. Yet we are the same Church, which as our records reveal, from the Reformation until the abolition of the Penal Laws, sought to destroy utterly the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland: we outlawed the celebration of the mass, and sought to drive out Roman Catholic clergy from our land. And if all that seems too far removed from today to be taken seriously, let us not forget that as recently as the late 1950s Archbishop Gregg, one of our heroes, could refuse permission for a Methodist minister to take part in a marriage service in a Church of Ireland church. But if we have been less than gracious to our fellow christians in the past, we have, at times, scarcely treated our own people any better. This liberal, inclusive Church, which we in Dublin think ourselves to be is the same Church, which as the records of the Court of the General Synod reveal, persecuted, and that is not too strong a word, Father Colquhoun of St John's and Canon Simpson of St Bartholomew's because their liturgical practices offended a small minority of our membership. It seems barely credible that among Canon Simpson's transgressions were the use of a lighted candle, bowing to the altar, and carrying a cross in procession, practices which were not unusual in the

Anglican Communion then and which are commonplace in the Church of Ireland today.

..truth is not absolute

Such uncomfortable matters serve to alert us to an important dimension of truth - that is truth, human truth at least, is not absolute. The leaders of the Reformation in Ireland were in no doubt that they were right in seeking to suppress the Roman Catholic Church, no one would seriously suggest that Archbishop Gregg's views on the Methodist ministry were not sincerely held, while the protestant wing of the Church of Ireland in the first half of the 20th century was in no doubt of the rectitude of its actions. They all believed that they were acting truthfully but the perspective of history casts doubts on the validity of their actions. But that perspective is only possible because of the accurate keeping of records, by the safe transmission of those records from one generation to another, and, ultimately, by their transfer to the RCB Library where they are organised and made available to researchers.

So how do we come to terms with the truth of our past. The first step is to acknowledge that the records do not lie and that we cannot explain away the unpalatable actions of our forefathers, and the second is to take some remedial action. Here, again, the RCB Library can be a valuable servant of the Church. We have a large collection of printed books, some 40,000 volumes, mostly on theology, ethics and history. Many are by eminent scholars who have studied the development of the Church of Ireland and we can obtain a realistic, a true, perspective of our past from their careful analyses. But many of the books are not about the Church of Ireland. Some are about other churches, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Non-Conformist, and from them we can learn how other parts of the Christian family have comported themselves, and like our own past that of others is both inspirational and disturbing. Other parts of the collection are theological, ethical or philosophical studies which can teach us about the ideas and beliefs which have driven the actions of our forefathers in faith. In short, we can learn why the Church of Ireland acted as it did, even if, from our present perspective we cannot always approve of its actions.

..the lights of heaven are fixed and bright and shine for ever

Our past all too clearly shows that as well as being virtuous, our community of faith has fallen short in its pursuit of truth. But that need not be a cause of despair - it is part of our human condition, something for which we cannot properly apologise but something we ought to acknowledge, before striving again towards that higher truth in which we as Christians believe. That truth is God revealed to man in Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Jeremy Taylor,

Bishop of Down and Connor at the Restoration, who more than any one before or since developed the English language to articulate the mystery of God, recognised this dichotomy between human and divine truth when he wrote, with that stunning combination of simplicity and sophistication,

"Our light is like a candle, every wind of vain doctrine blows it out, or spends the wax, and makes the light tremulous; but the lights of heaven are fixed and bright, and shine for ever."

I cannot claim that the lights of the RCB Library are fixed and bright, but the Library is certainly a source of light, a source of truth, and it is at the service of the whole Church.

Raymond Refaussy
Librarian and Archivist

Official Opening of the Allen Library

On 27 March 2000 the Allen Library was officially opened to the public by An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern TD. Many past pupils of O'Connell Schools as well as local TDs and prominent business people were in attendance. This also marked the launch of a fund-raising campaign to ensure the future of the Library and its valuable collection.

The Library is located in Edmund Rice House, North Richmond Street, Dublin 1 and is named after Br William P. Allen who was Curator from 1947 until his death in 1984. The collection consists of 30,000 volumes on all aspects of Irish social and political history as well as housing approximately 10,000 pieces of archival material. The archives contain such items as the only known complete set of Famine Ration Cards, Roger Casement's map of the Kerry coast used by him in 1916, half of the original Proclamation of Independence from 1916 and a signed first edition of *Iosagain* by Padraic Pearse.

Since 1994 FAS have been involved with the Christian Brothers in running a Local Initiative Project at the Library. Course participants receive training in all aspects of Library work and receive joint FAS/City & Guilds Certificates in Information Technology (word processing, Excel, Access and PowerPoint). To date 146 people have taken part in the course, 93 of whom have gone on to full

employment and 36 to further education and training. Of the 36, nine have gone to UCD to study for the post graduate course in Library and Information Studies.

All of the books presently held in the Library have now been card indexed. Over 25,000 of them have been input on to a computer system using a special library software package known as 'Heritage'. Work is continuing on updating and validating this information. Listing of the archival material held in the Library has also started but is still at an early stage. The next major undertaking of the Project will be to index the journal and periodical collection of which there are over 500 titles. Eventually all individual articles will be catalogued and computerised to facilitate the work of researchers. Acquisition of new material is on-going and the Library has become home for many collections from private donors as well as from other Christian Brother houses which have closed in recent times.

The work of the Library is far from complete but it is now at an advanced stage. Those wishing to visit the Library or carry out research must phone the Librarian for an appointment at 8551077. Opening hours are Monday to Friday 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Information may also be found through e-mailing us at allenlib@connect.ie or check out our web site at www.connect.ie/users/allenlib where information on all aspects of the Library may be found.

Noelle Dowling
Project Co-ordinator



Access Computer Programme – Volunteer Organisers Needed

Following on the success of the basic Access Course in Dublin, a request for a similar course to be organised for members in the Southern Counties – possibly in Cork or Limerick – was raised at the recent AGM. If you are willing to become involved in organising a basic Access Course please contact our Chairman, Rev. Dudley Levistone Cooney at 1 Claremont Court, Ailt an Óir, Upper Glenageary Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Eneclann presents an Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858

On Wednesday, 22 March 2000 Sile de Valera TD Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands launched *Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858* at the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street. This CD-ROM publication by Eneclann Limited is a comprehensive index to the Testamentary Records in the National Archives of Ireland (formerly the Public Record Office) covering all 32 counties. It contains over 70,000 individual records with over 100,000 names, over 10,000 surnames and their variants and over 1,000 different occupations and is the first volume in a new series of sources for Irish genealogy.

Eneclann Limited is a Trinity College Campus Company staffed entirely by professionals: Academic Historians, Genealogists and Archivists and is based in the Innovation Centre in Trinity College. The Company provides a range of professional services in Historical Research and Consultancy, Electronic Publishing for Irish History, and Archives and Records Management.

The Archives and Records Management division, headed up by Archivist and Director Martin Bradley (Tel: 6710338; e-mail: martin.bradley@eneclann.ie), provides a professional service to private institutions (archives, schools, museums, etc.) and companies in addition to the Government and semi-State sectors.

Projects undertaken by Eneclann include assisting the IMI to scan a collection of over 15,000 newspaper clippings from the 1950s to the 1990s onto computer, sorting, indexing and conserving the 1916 and Ulster collections for the National Museum of Ireland and planning an archives strategy for Ballymun Regeneration Limited.

Eneclann have also started work on the National Archives millennium project, a CD-ROM containing approximately 1000 scanned documents along with transcripts and commentary representing the 32 Counties. This CD will be distributed free to all schools by the end of the year. They are also working on the conversion of new offices to include climate-controlled, secure storage areas which will enable Eneclann to take in collections for processing.

Eneclann personnel will visit potential customers on site and provide a free confidential assessment of archival or records management needs.

Mary Smyth

Christ Church Documents Series

In conjunction with the history of Christ Church some of the more important documents associated with the cathedral have been published by Four Courts Press. To date the following volumes have appeared:-

The proctor's accounts of Peter Lewis, 1564-1565 (ed.) Raymond Gillespie (1996).

Account roll of the priory of Holy Trinity, Dublin, 1337-1346 (ed.) James Mills with a new introduction by James Lydon and Alan Fletcher (1996).

The first chapter act book of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin, 1574-1634 (ed.) Raymond Gillespie (1997).

The registers of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin (ed.) Raymond Refaüssé and Colm Lennon (1998).

Music at Christ Church before 1800: documents and selected anthems (ed.) Barra Boydell (1999).

The final two volumes in the series will appear later this year. They will be as follows:-

George Edmund Street and the restoration of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin (ed.) Roger Stalley.

Christ Church deeds (ed.) M. J. McEnery and Raymond Refaüssé.

History of Christ Church Cathedral

On Trinity Sunday (18 June) after Festival Evensong in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, the Taoiseach will officially launch *Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin. A History* which has been edited by Dr Kenneth Milne, Historiographer of the Church of Ireland.

This is the first full-scale academic history of the cathedral. It is the work of a small team of contributors who have been engaged on the project for the past five years and is based on the cathedral's muniments which are in the Representative Church Body Library. The introduction, which concentrates largely on the printed and archival sources for the history has been written by Dr Raymond Refaüssé (RCB Library) and there are specialist contributions on music from Dr Barra Boydell (NUI-Maynooth) and on architecture from Professor Roger Stalley (TCD). The medieval narrative chapters have been written by Stuart Kinsella (TCD), Dr James Lydon (TCD) and Dr Alan Fletcher (UCD), and the modern narrative has been divided between Dr Raymond Gillespie (NUI-Maynooth) and Dr Kenneth Milne.

Christ Church Cathedral. A History is published by Four Courts Press at IR£30.

Raymond Refaüssé



Church of Ireland Resources Provide Teaching Tools for Conservation Architects

This spring the Church of Ireland's Representative Church Body Library again hosted an introductory seminar for architects, conservationists, and others taking the degree of Master of Urban and Building Conservation at the School of Architecture in University College Dublin. The seminar, which the Library's archival staff present in conjunction with Professor Loughlin Kealy, course director at the School of Architecture, and Mr Paul Arnold, assistant-director (and currently the architect for the restoration of Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin), is one of a number of outreach projects in which the Library is involved, aimed at making the records and archives of the Church of Ireland more widely available to the public.

The RCB Library in Braemor Park, Churchtown, is the Church of Ireland's principal repository for its archives and manuscripts. It holds records from almost 700 Church of Ireland parishes in the Republic of Ireland, the archives of several dioceses and a wide range of other manuscripts. These include vestry minutes, deeds, architectural drawings, building plans, photographs, accounts, the biographical succession lists of clergy (compiled by J. B. Leslie), collections of copy wills, collections of pedigrees (including the notebooks of H. B. Swanzy), and extracts from the destroyed 1766 religious census.

It is the architectural drawings and building plans of churches that are of particular interest to the students on the building conservation course. Church buildings form an integral part of the urban fabric in cities, towns and villages throughout Ireland, and have a significant impact on the visual appearance of individual streetscapes. In the context of the revived interest in the built heritage, and a raised awareness in the importance of preserving old buildings of historic interest, their conservation has become an important priority for urban architects, town planners and heritage promoters alike. Sources such as the six volumes of drawings of churches (including elevations, ground plans and churchyard plans) by James Pain, for the period 1820-1840, contained in

RCB Library MS 138; the four volumes of drawings of churches (including ground plans and churchyard plans), by Joseph Welland, for the mid-nineteenth century, contained in RCB Library MS 139, and the thirty portfolios of miscellaneous architectural drawings, plans, sketches and elevations, organised alphabetically by church on a diocesan basis, for the period c. 1840-1880, are presented to the students on the conservation course. They then discuss the value of these sources from an architectural conservation perspective. For example, the plans and elevations often contain details of the materials used to execute various church building projects, and the precise dates on which these projects were executed. Drawings of churches sometimes contain visual evidence of the urban "context" in which they appear and include details of the surrounding houses and other buildings on the street beside which they were constructed.

The valuable evidence provided by these visual sources can be supplemented by other archives in the Library, which are presented to the students in conjunction with the architectural drawings. These include the parish vestry minute books, which sometimes contain accounts and descriptions of particular building projects. For example, building accounts were sometimes copied into the vestry minutes as evidence of the payment the parish vestry (administrative committee) was required to make for the execution of work. These may include details of the architects, builders and workmen who were responsible for various aspects of the building work, such as masonry, carpentry, slating, or glazing, and how much these individuals were paid, both for their labour and for the materials used. Such detail is vital for the authentic reconstruction and rehabilitation of individual cathedrals and churches, as well as providing valuable general information about how buildings were originally constructed.

Some of the students on the conservation course, (which is studied as a one-year Master's degree) follow up the introductory seminar by returning to the Library to use these materials for their case study projects. It is heartening that several have again returned once in practice, when projects involving Church of Ireland church restoration arise.

For more information about the church architecture collections in the Library, contact:

Address: The Representative Church Body Library, Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14

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Website: <http://www.ireland.anglican.org/>

Email: library@ireland.anglican.org

Susan Hood

Assistant Librarian and Archivist

Visit to the Wesleyan archives in Belfast

1st April 2000

The steep wooden stair that had formed the temporary entrance to a very pokey Connolly station for many months, was no more. Instead, there was a broad concourse with plaza café where, if you had time to spend, you could sit and sip coffee.

Recognising one another, our group assembled. The Enterprise sat waiting and we moved on board. Automatic doors slid back while you hovered. The voice over the tannoy was reaffirming, calling out the stops between us and Belfast. A train pulled in alongside, and supporters tumbled out – a rugby international, Ireland v Wales, red and white hats and inflatable daffodils. We left it all behind.

Two hours later, the train slid into Central station. Changing platforms, we doubled back to Botanic, close to the University. There was a temporary parting from three of our number who had taken the shuttle bus instead. A short walk brought us to Duke's Hotel where we met our host, Revd Robin Roddie, who joined us for lunch. Any delay was made up for by the size of the portions. The rugby match was still with us, muffled in the distance.

At this stage, our chairman changed hats and led us to Aldersgate House, home of the Wesleyan archives. Robin had gone ahead and was waiting to receive us. He led us into a wonderful room, small, but shelved with books from floor to high ceiling, and with glazed wall cabinets displaying all things other, from teapots to trowels (of these, more presently). We had an excellent and most informative talk.

The archives are not an official church archive, but the collections of the Irish branch of the Wesley Historical Society, set up in 1926. In his survey, Robin mentioned several journals, indicating where portraits and obituaries might best be found. There was the *Arminian Magazine*, begun by Wesley in 1778 which became the *Methodist Magazine* with separate editions for London and Dublin, the Dublin printed *Primitive Wesleyan Methodist Magazine* (1823-1878), and the *Irish Evangelist*, founded in 1859, which ran through several existences to become the *Methodist Newsletter* today. An index to people and obituaries has been compiled on cards and there is a handlist of references to churches.

It was explained to us that at one time ministers were obliged to keep a sermon journal and a personal journal both of which were regularly inspected. These offer a great resource. John Wesley's own, kept for 55 years, is best known and has been published. His mother Susannah kept a journal too.

In the eighteenth and into the nineteenth century preachers went on regular two-week circuits. Until the twentieth century, they could spend no more than three years in any one place. For Robin's father it was five years and even now with certain exceptions the maximum is eight, although this year's Conference is likely to introduce more flexibility. Not surprisingly, many of the early preachers were bachelors.

Opening the glass cabinet, Robin showed us amongst other things a teapot with Wesley's portrait and an inscription: 'Let your Conversation be as becometh the Gospel of Christ' – intended to discourage gossip over tea! There was also a Staffordshire pottery ornament of Wesley preaching in his pulpit, and an early pewter collection plate.

There was time for questions and there were plenty of them. Robin himself is working on a detailed biographical listing of Methodist ministers in Ireland. It was our chairman who rounded off the proceedings, describing the new premises to which it is hoped to move the archives – where there would be space for both collections and readers, and supporting equipment.

We left and made our way back to Central station where tea and sandwiches were to be had while we waited for the train home. Our thanks to our host, our chairman and our secretary for all their endeavours and for making the day so enjoyable.

Penny Woods

Russell Library, Maynooth

A Moving Story

In my Congregation it is not usual for a General Archivist to be invited to sit in on a meeting of the General Council. Unless, of course, he be also a member of the Council, and it seems to be generally accepted that to be an archivist is to be automatically disqualified for such an office. To prove my own unfitness for a place "among the councillors of the land" I suspected nothing when asked to attend the meeting of 1 December 1999, merely supposing that I might be asked to supply information of the historical aspect of some matter already on the agenda. Ah yes, "some mothers do 'ave 'em".

To say I was rendered speechless would be to say nothing when it transpired that the *only* matter on the agenda was the disposal of our premises and the transfer elsewhere of the General Administration. My own contribution to the discussion was confined to incoherent suggestions for the housing of the General Archive. A week later I was encouraged to begin packing, and informed that a deadline of 8 January 2000 was envisaged. An advanced condition of speechlessness! The word, however, soon got about

after we had had a meeting with our neighbours in the immediate area, and especially after the matter was placed in the hands of a real estate agent. Thereafter, everyone I met wanted to know when I'd be going, and the less diplomatic might preface the question with: "An' you're not gone yet?" I soon took refuge in the reply: "No, except in the head."

A nightmare period of sorting, listing and packing followed before on 4 February my boxes and I set out on a one hundred and twenty miles journey to "a temporary location". The community there, heaven bless it, received me hospitably and have continued to feed me since. But so far I have not dared to open so much as one box, even through a medical man in England clamours to be told at what period his great-grand-uncle attended our school at Tullow.

Linus Walker

Artistic and Cultural Heritage

A meeting on the Artistic and Cultural Heritage of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God was held in Rome 3-6 November 1999. The meeting was organised by the Order's Commission for the Restoration of the 18th century Basilica of St. John of God in Granada, Spain and the person with responsibility for maintaining archives, museums, etc. in each Province was invited to attend. In preparation for the meeting Provinces were asked to submit a 20-page document covering: the origins, history, geography and culture of the Province; its artistic and cultural heritage in terms of architecture, music, paintings, sculpture, liturgical vestments, monuments, libraries and archives, etc.; and the present state in terms of restoration, conservation, inventory, computerisation. We were also asked to prepare an illustrated talk on two or three of the most representative works of art for presentation at the meeting.

Key speakers at the meeting included Archbishop Francesco Marchisano, who amongst his other responsibilities is President of the Artistic-Cultural Commission for the Jubilee 2000, and Fr Sergio Pagano, Prefect of the Vatican's Secret Archives. Fr Pagano's talk was interesting in that he addressed the use of contemporary media (computers, databanks, the Internet, etc.) at the service of Institutional archives. Giandomenico Spinola of the General Directorate of the Vatican Museum spoke on the history of museology and gave practical advice on the organisation of public museums, and the structure and criteria to be used when setting up private museums

and private collections, both historical and artistic. From within the Order over the three days, our Prior General, Fr Pascual Piles, led a meditation on a modern painting of St John of God; our Secretary General, Fr Valentín Riesco, spoke on the importance of the General Curia Archive; and Brothers and Co-workers covered a wide range of relevant topics. The short presentations from the Provinces were interesting and well presented. Our own Province presented mainly on the stained glass commissioned by the Order in Ireland, but we included also some artefacts from our museum at Granada, Stillorgan.

The meeting set out to promote an awareness of the artistic heritage of the Order, and was successful in doing that. It also provided an opportunity for people with similar interests and responsibilities in the Order world-wide to develop beneficial networks of knowledge, friendship and support.

Mary Smyth

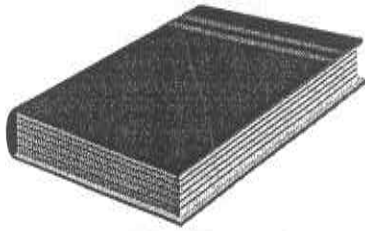
The National Bible Society

The Rev Dudley Levistone Cooney has been commissioned to write a history of the National Bible Society, which was founded as the Dublin Bible Society in 1806. The history is to be published in connection with the Bicentenary in 2006.

It is his intention to include a chapter on Irish people who have been involved in the translation of any part of the Scriptures into other languages, whether they were associated with the Bible Society or not. If in your archives there are records of any person, religious or lay, who did this sort of work on the mission field, he would be very pleased to hear from you. His address is:

1, Claremont Court,
Ailt an Óir,
Upper Glenageary Road,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin.

Tel & Fax +353 01 2807141



Bookshelf

Derry, Dublin and Armagh

Three books on these dioceses have recently appeared. Two were issued by The Four Courts Press during 1999. Both are collections of historical essays, one on the diocese of Dublin and the other on Derry. James Kelly and Daire Keogh edited *History of the Catholic diocese of Dublin*, while Henry A. Jefferies and Ciarán Devlin edited *History of the diocese of Derry from earliest times*. Neither volume pretends to be either 'the history' nor even 'a history' of the dioceses in question, but at least both take a welcome step in the right direction. Mgr Raymond Murray very recently issued his *Archdiocese of Armagh: a history*, in the Jubilee Year, published by Éditions du Signe of Strasbourg, France, but more readily available, one imagines, at Armagh or in the bookshops.

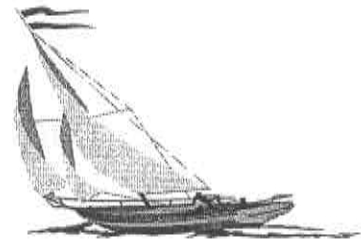
The volume on Derry (in 304 pages) has an excellent account by Sr Angela Bolster of the Sisters of Mercy in Derry and another by John Ledwidge on the Christian Brothers. H. A. Jefferies surveys the career of George Montgomery (1605-10), the first Protestant bishop of Derry. Montgomery may not have helped the Catholics of his day but, since he ferreted out every scrap of church lands and kept meticulous record of them, he has left the historians of Derry forever in his debt. Bishop Edward Daly, one of our members, contributes the final chapter on the 'Troubles' of the last thirty years, the most moving essay in the book.

The volume on Dublin (in 380 pages) is somehow more solid and satisfying, partly because the sources for its history are more abundant. The sixteen essays include an excellent survey by Fr Seamus Enright of 'Women and Catholic life in Dublin, 1766-1852'. and an elegant piece of detective work about the building of Archbishop's House, Drumcondra, written by another of our members, David Sheehy. For some strange reason, neither the book on Derry nor that on

Dublin has much if anything to say about the later medieval period from 1200 to 1540.

Mgr Murray does rather better, single-handed, for Armagh, though in quite a different and original way. He covers the entire story from St Patrick to the present day in a slim folio volume (87 pages) full of bright, well-chosen illustrations in colour, being content to present the fruits of lifelong study in short paragraphs. His *Archdiocese of Armagh* will therefore be read by thousands who would not dream of opening the other more daunting books on Derry and Dublin.

Hugh Fenning OP



Frances Moloney – Co-founder of the Missionary Sisters of St Columban

Sheila Lucey SSC. Dominican Publications. pp 350.

This book tells the story of Sr Mary Patrick, founder-member of the Columban Sisters. She was born Frances Owen Lewis in London in 1873, the daughter of an Irish absentee landlord, sometime MP for Carlow and a convert to Roman Catholicism. Frances enjoyed a strongly Catholic but privileged upbringing and was presented at the court of Queen Victoria at the age of 19. Four years later, she married a widower and serving colonial governor Sir Alfred Moloney and spent the next six years of her life as First Lady of Grenada and Trinidad. There followed 10 years of retirement in London and Rome during which she cared for her ailing husband, devoted time to charity work and supplemented their income by writing for women's magazines. Widowed at 40 she came to Ireland and became interested in the newly-formed Maynooth Mission to China later known as

the Missionary Society of St Columban. She took the initial steps in setting up a congregation of religious women to work alongside the new Society and became one of the first candidates. She went on mission to China at a time of great political upheaval there and ten years later returned to Ireland to lead the congregation as Superior General throughout the years of the Second World War. She died at the congregation's house in Cahiracon, Co Clare at the age of 86.

Frances Moloney's life as described by Sr Sheila Lucey is a fascinating story of privilege, adventure, love, commitment and faith. However, there is much more in the book than the life story itself. The background against which the story is told is, also, fascinating. There is Michael Davitt and the Land League, the First World War, the War of Independence and the Civil War, the Boxer Rebellion and the rise of Chiang Kai-Shek and Mao Zedong. As background, it is sketched carefully and clearly. There is also a parade of notable church figures through the book; Pope Pius X and his Secretary of State, Cardinal Merry del Val, Pope Benedict XV, Cardinal Roncalli (later John XXIII), Cardinal Vaughan, Bishop Shanahan, the founding fathers of Dalgan, Tommy Ronayne, Anna Dengel, Frank Duff, Mother Kevin, Marie Martin and many more. Finally, there are many quotations from Frances Moloney's own writings. These give an insight into her spiritual outlook, her growth in holiness and her spirituality of mission. Indeed, from the extracts in the book it would seem that there is material for an academic thesis on spirituality in Frances Moloney's writings.

This is a meticulously researched and well written book. The Columban Sisters are to be congratulated for commissioning it and Sr Sheila Lucey for undertaking the task of writing it. Sheila has introduced her readers to a great woman - socialite, hostess, gossip columnist, painter, horsewoman, wife, step-mother, widow, religious and missionary. We meet her against the background of the British and Chinese Empires in different stages of decline. We follow her story through personal ill-health which includes tuberculosis and cancer, through bereavement, disappointment, wars, floods, earthquakes, pestilence and shipwreck. This woman has seen it all and the story of her life has made a splendid book.

Tom Kiggins
General Secretary - IMU

Irish Methodists – Where do I Start?

Steven C. ffearry-Smyrl. CIGO Dublin. 31pp pbk
IR£.400 £3.75stg

The potential for humour in this title is almost unlimited, but this is a serious booklet, and, in its particular field, extremely useful. The CIGO stands for the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations and indicates both its seriousness and its field.

The tracing of family antecedents had been one of the major growth industries of recent decades. Unhappily many of those undertaking the search have little or no knowledge as to where information may be found, and some of the directories are too large and too complicated for the amateur to follow easily. It is doubtless for this reason that the CIGO has commenced the publication of a series of booklets covering particular fields of research, of which this is the first.

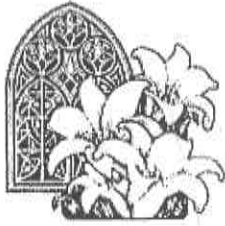
To the non-Methodist the variety of our names is apt to be confusing, and the first section of Mr ffearry-Smyrl's booklet, gives a very brief, but adequate introduction to the various Methodist groups which have ministered in this country.

His description of the effects of circuit realignment and the opportunistic attitudes of ministers would be hilarious, were it not for the considerable irritation which these have caused to researchers. But then, those who made the changes were primarily concerned with the ongoing work of God, and neither they nor those recording a baptism could have had the least notion that genealogists would be interested in their registers a century or more after the death of the baptised.

Mr ffearry-Smyrl provides a list of what material is to be found where, and concludes with a list of chapels and the circuits to which they belonged, based on one published in the *Irish Evangelist* of 1862. Curiously, there is no reference to sources.

This small booklet will have more uses than only genealogy, and may be had from the CIGO, whose address is 21 St Brigid's Grove, Dublin 5

Dudley Levistone Cooney



In Memoriam

The ACAI mourns the loss of two of its members.

Fr F. X. Martin OSA, who died at Ballyboden on 13 February 2000, was one of the greats of recent Irish history. The public remember him best for his fight to save the excavated remains of Viking Dublin at Wood Quay from the Corporation 'developers', but he was also an established academic figure at UCD where he was lecturer and professor of Medieval History (1959-1988). His chief publication was a life of the Irish Capuchin, Francis Nugent. In 1966 he was one of the two editors of *The Course of Irish History*, still a popular and standard introduction to the subject. He was also co-editor of *A New Irish History* in ten volumes, of which the first hefty volume appeared in 1976. This is simply to mention the highlights of his achievement, for he served also on the commission for the cause of the Irish Martyrs and helped both historians and archivists in many different ways. In one of his letters he described himself as 'the historical dustbin of the Irish Augustinian province'. One knows the feeling. May God rest him.

Br Dermot Hanley OH, who died at Our Lady's Hospice on 10 May 2000, entered the novitiate of the Hospitaller Order of St John of God in 1945 and made Solemn Profession in 1952. Since then he held many senior leadership positions in the Irish Province and was Provincial Secretary for the past 17 years. Brother Dermot had a keen interest in the history of the Order which led him to establish a museum of the Order at Granada House, Stillorgan. Anyone shown around the museum by him would have been deeply impressed initially by the warmth of his welcome, and by the meticulous detail of the display, the artistic décor and the amount of loving care he put into it. Brother Dermot was a kind and gentle man who is sadly missed by all who knew him. Ar dheas lamh De go raibh a anam dilis.

Diary Dates

17th Century Quaker Women in Ireland

Betty Pearson has very kindly extended an invitation to the members of ACAI to attend Phil Kilroy's lecture on 17th Century Quaker Women in Ireland at the Religious Society of Friends Office and Historical Room, Swanbrook House, Bloomfield Avenue, Morehampton Road, Dublin 4 on Thursday, 22 June 2000 at 8 p.m. Phil Kilroy spent time in Quaker Archives researching her book, *Protestant Dissent and Controversy in Ireland 1660-1774*.

ACAI Summer Outing to the Famine Museum, Strokestown

Saturday, 5th August, 2000 - Details will be circulated.

Message from the Secretary

Our Secretary Sr Marie O'Leary wishes to inform members that she will be absent from her office at 'Caritas' from 23 May until 1 August. During that time our Chairman, Rev. Dudley Levistone Cooney will deal with urgent business.

Also, Could anyone give Sr. Marie an address for Carmel Morris? Carmel paid her ACAI subscription at the AGM but Sr Marie has no mailing details.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to those who contributed to the current issue. The next issue is due October 2000. Your articles, letters, reports, book reviews and comments will be gratefully received by the Co-ordinating Editor: Mary Smyth, Provincial Curia, St John of God Brothers, 'Granada', Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.