



ACAI Newsletter

Association of Church Archivists of Ireland

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN..

One of the very pleasant experiences of the last summer was to be involved in the hosting of another course for those who have recently joined the ranks of Church archivists. We are particularly grateful to Marianne Cosgrave, on whom the main weight of the organisation fell. It was particularly good to hear so many participants speak so appreciatively of those who addressed the sessions. There is no doubt that the event was a very great success.

However, we have not lost sight of the suggestion that came from several sources at our Annual Meeting, and indeed elsewhere, that there should be something more for those who have moved beyond the 'beginners' stage, and your Executive has been discussing the possibilities.

It seemed to us that the best way to handle this was not by organising another five days course, but to hold a series of one day courses each looking closely at one aspect of the work. It also seemed to us that one of the most important issues at present is that of access. Who should have access, and how should access be provided? So we are planning to hold a course in the middle of February to examine these issues in three sessions. Each year we would hope to do the same with other aspects of the work.

Our hope is that these short courses will meet the needs of our members, and therefore invite your comment and suggestions.

Every good wish for your work,

Dudley Levistone Cooney
Chairman

A Crying Need

It recently fell to my lot to prepare a simplified version of *The Pastoral Function of Church Archives*, a document which I like to think of as 'The Archivist's Charter'. Seeing the importance the Church now attaches to what was formerly a much-neglected work I began to think that an article in the May 2000 issue of *Doctrine and Life* was providentially inspired in that it appealed for something greatly needed in the Irish Church, and to which that Church has scarcely adverted. The lack is, in fact, twofold. More urgently, a storehouse for what the writer termed 'unwanted church objects', to save them from destruction, loss, or being put to unsuitable use. With the closing of older convents, monasteries, churches and chapels there are many religious objects for which there is no immediate use. The second need is for a museum for the display of the best, most artistic and most historic among such items. It was borne in on me that there is a similar, or greater, need for a central church archive, where the innumerable documents generated by parishes, dioceses, church institutions and religious orders might be preserved and made available to readers and researchers. No one reading *The Pastoral Function of Church Archives* can doubt that such is the desire of the Church, and the signs indicate that the time is now. It would be a large scale undertaking, and to be done properly would need leadership and initiative at a provincial, or even national, level. Religious have ploughed many a lonely furrow before now, and it may be for us archivists to put our hands to the plough in this particular field. Privilege and responsibility attach themselves to an exodus generation. Can we better inaugurate a new millennium than by examining the signs and acting appropriately?

Needless to say, the wider the need the greater the scope for action, and I would urge that this is a matter where dioceses, religious congregations and churches might share resources and expertise.

Linus H. Walker

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

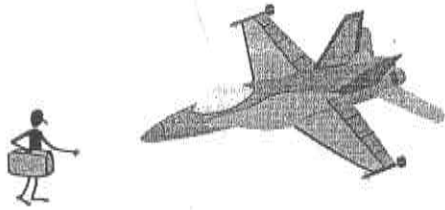
*They represent principal sources
for historical research because they refer
directly to the particular events and deeds
of specific individuals.*

*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.*

*Archives, as part of the cultural heritage
should be made available primarily
to the community which has produced them.
But in time they take on a universal dimension
and become the heritage of all of humanity.*

*The material stored can not be, in fact,
precluded to those who can take advantage of
it in order to know more about the history of
Christian people, their religious, civil,
cultural and social deeds.*

The Pastoral Function of Church Archives (1997)



Fellowship in Modern Archives Management

Having been appointed as the Archivist at Mercy International Centre, one of my first objectives was to look at the collection in the context of Irish History. I soon became aware of the rich Irish heritage that is preserved in the collection, which covers the period of Mercy history from 1824-1870.

As a member of the Association of Church Archivists of Ireland, I saw an advertisement in the October issue of the newsletter from the Irish Heritage Preservation Foundation which is based in Philadelphia, USA. This Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of Ireland's 'written and material past'. It offers Fellowships in Archival Management to anyone working in Irish archives, libraries and museums, 'providing post-appointment training for inexperienced archivists, particularly from small institutions with small collections and small staffs with no organized internal training program'. Sister Marion McCarthy, the first archivist here at the Centre, encouraged me to apply and I was very happy when my application was approved. This Fellowship enabled me to attend the January 2000 sessions of the Modern Archives Institute at the National Archives of the United States in Washington DC - all expenses paid.

The Institute opened on Monday, January 24th and we were warmly welcomed by the co-ordinator, Mary Rephlo. We were 36 participants, all from the USA except myself. As our places of work were quite varied, this added a good dimension, as no matter where one works in archival management, the basic principles remain constant. Another positive aspect about the diversity of the group was that there was a genuine interest in each other's workplace in the context of the topic being presented and discussed. A

'Social Co-ordinator', living locally, soon emerged and we were happy to join in with her suggestions for the evenings. The sudden arrival of snow on Day Two meant that the Federal Government was closed. However, we were quite happy to attend on the Saturday to make up for lost time.

The presenters were people who work in senior positions in the different sections of the National Archives - very professional and extremely practical. Most had detailed handouts, many of which were prepared in large folders for each of us. I came home laden with hands-on texts and notes. One of the books recommended was *Keeping Archives* by our own Anne Pederson.

The comprehensive programme covered topics as follows:

- Introduction to Archives: Ten Principles
- Collecting and Access Policies
- Archives and the Law. Deed of Gift
- Access
- Reference Services
- Arrangement and Description. Provenance and Original Order.

The next two days were held at Archives 11. This magnificent complex was designed to solve the lack of space at the central venue. It was pointed out to us that space here is at a premium and already some items have to be stored off site.

- We began here with the Media holding. This includes still pictures of all kinds - photos, negatives, glass plate negatives (approximately 9,000,000 items). Principles of Provenance, Storage, Preservation and Access were discussed.
- We then went to Cartographic Records and Machine-Based Audio Visual Media
- The next session was entitled Preservation. Here the presenter came in armed with every kind of practical material to demonstrate what is involved in Holdings Maintenance. A further handout described Assessment. We then went on tour of the specialist area where preservation is expertly carried out. The staff here are not archivists but specialist scientists employed full time.

We returned to the Central Archives for the last three days. Presentations included:

- Exhibits and Educational Programmes
- Volunteer services
- Federal Funders of Archives and Records Management Projects
- Archival Management
- Archives and the Code of Ethics.

Planned Tours:

> Day Two began with a tour of the National Archives Rotunda where the most historical of American Documents are on display. A new display system is being installed as the present one is causing some deterioration to both the manuscript and the ink. We were taken down to look at the different kinds of shelving, arrangement and method of preparing boxes for researchers. For such an extensive area (more than fifty-three miles all told) it is a case of 'get used to the isolation and strengthen your muscles for pushing and pulling'.

> A Visit to the Library of Congress - hosted by the Manuscript Division - [Madison Building]
After the welcome and check of our Security Identification we were taken on tour of the Jefferson Building. This included the Main Reading Room, Great Hall, Reading Room and Librarian's Ceremonial Office. Sculptures, paintings and frescoes depict not only American History but also the growth of literature and learning down through the centuries.

> In the National Digital Library Theatre, we were introduced to the primary processes as they relate to the Manuscript division: Acquisition - Preparation - Arrangement - Description - Reference services - Funding aids and Digitisation.

> My choice of optional Tours was to Prints and Photographs and then to Music.

Thanks to the generosity of IRELAND'S HERITAGE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, I have been resourced well beyond expectation. The biggest consolation for all of us was that all of the people who spoke to us have the same constraints as ourselves: lack of time, space, finance and staff. The application in practice, is much more complex, as we all know, in the light of the local agenda and other responsibilities that we have. I only wish I had time to digest more of the 'goodies' that are here in front of me.

My thanks go to Sister Marion McCarthy who encouraged me to make the application, to Sister Isabelle Smyth and Susan Hood who shared their experiences with me.

Best wishes to anyone who is making an application to attend.

Sr Agnes Gleeson RSM



Access Computer Programme

The Executive has received no response to date to its request for volunteers to organise a basic Access Computer Programme in Cork or Limerick. You will remember that the need for a programme similar to the one held in Dublin, to accommodate members living in the Southern Counties, was raised at the AGM in April. If you are willing to become involved in organising the programme please contact Sr Marie Bernadette at 'Caritas', 15 Gilford Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4. Telephone 01-2697833

Closure

Recommendation about the Care and Custody of Parish Records, to be sent to all clergy of the Church of Ireland from Church of Ireland House

The Executive Committee of the Representative Church Body has endorsed a recommendation from the Library and Archives Committee that registers of baptisms and burials should be closed at the end of the year 2000 and new registers opened. As marriage registers are civil records this initiative does not apply to them.

It has become apparent that many parishes are still using registers that were opened up to 100 years ago, and in some cases earlier. It is not good practice for registers to be in use for such long periods. Physical damage to registers caused by many years of sustained use and by poor storage is costly to repair and has, in some cases, resulted in the loss of parts of registers.

It is recommended that parishes should transfer their non-current parish registers to the RCB Library. However, registers of baptisms and burials which contain entries up to 31 December 1870 are public records in Northern Ireland and should, instead, be transferred to the Public Record Office in Belfast. Parishes in Northern Ireland may deposit other parish records in PRONI.

The RCB Library will also be glad to take custody of any other non-current parish records -vestry books, registers of vestrymen, account books, preachers' books; maps, plans and photographs, records of parish organizations and societies; parish magazines and annual reports. The Library presently cares for records from over 700 parishes. They are stored in purpose built strongrooms which are fitted with automatic fire alarm and suppression systems and these are linked to a twenty-four hour monitoring station. In the Library the records are arranged and listed and made available to readers in a controlled environment. All queries concerning them, including those which are sent to the parishes, can be dealt with by the Library staff.

The purpose of this initiative is to preserve the historical records of the Church of Ireland and to relieve clergy and parishes of the often onerous responsibility of looking after them.

Replacement registers may be obtained from the Religious Education Resource Centre, Holy Trinity Church, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6 or from

the APCK Book Centres in Dawson Street, Dublin and Donegall Street, Belfast.

Queries concerning this initiative may be addressed to Dr Raymond Refaüssé, Librarian and Archivist, Representative Church Body Library, Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14; telephone 01-4923979; fax 01-4924770; e-mail library@ireland.anglican.org



Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History

A new series of guides entitled 'Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History' has been launched by Irish Academic Press under the general editorship of Dr Mary Anne Lyons from the History Department of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

The first volume in the series, which has already been published, is *Church of Ireland Records* by Dr Raymond Refaüssé (Librarian and Archivist of the Church of Ireland). The third in the series, which is expected to appear before the end of the year, will be *Records of the Catholic Church in Ireland* which has been written by Mgr Patrick Corish (former Professor of Modern History in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth) and David Sheehy (Dublin Diocesan Archivist).

The guides are similar in size and design to the successful 'Maynooth Studies in Irish Local History' series and are available from booksellers at IR£9.50.

Susan Hood

The Hore Collection

I. Herbert Francis Hore

For anyone attempting to research the history of the County Wexford, an essential source would be the Hore Collection of manuscripts, housed at present in St Peter's College, Wexford. This collection is the work of two men, father and son, Herbert Francis Hore and Philip Herbert Hore.

Herbert Francis was given a job as a clerk in the Admiralty when he was sixteen years old, a position he heartily disliked. Even at this time he evinced an interest in Irish history, especially that of his native county, and, when he was only seventeen, he commenced collecting materials from various sources with the purpose of compiling a history of Co. Wexford. By the end of 1836 he had assembled quite an amount of information which he wrote in large manuscript volumes as well as smaller notebooks. Inside the cover of one of the larger volumes entitled 'Historical Anecdotes of Ireland', there is the following note, dated 4 December 1838: 'Although I did not commence writing in this volume until the above date, I had formed the idea some years previously of compiling a work of this nature, and had already collected for this purpose many materials which may be found scattered through the other Mss.' When, at the age of twenty-one, he succeeded to his late father's estate in Pole-Hore, Co. Wexford, he resigned his position in the Admiralty. The following year he married a widow with four children. The family lived at Wimbleton and their first child was born there, but some months later he decided to come to live in Ireland.

He had high hopes of making great progress in his historical researches but was disappointed. Manuscript and other sources were not so conveniently to hand as they had been in London. On 6 September 1843 he wrote: 'I have been two years in the county and find I make much less progress in its

history than I did when in London - and otherwise occupied. The lack of material, the dreary barrenness and disgusting poverty of the antiquities of this land discourage one. There are more old monuments and objects of interest in many a fine English parish church than I know of in the entire religious edifices in this county.' (Ms.56)

However, his interest in antiquities continued and he wrote articles in the local newspapers, in the *Dublin University Magazine* and in other periodicals. In 1856 he took his family to live in France for economical reasons and to procure a cheap education for the children, returning to Ireland five years later.

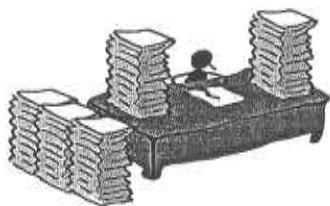
Herbert Hore was a tall, handsome man of strict morality, but was an absolute autocrat in his home and had a violent temper. The children were punished severely for the most trivial misdemeanour. He himself attempted to teach them Latin and arithmetic but had not the slightest knowledge of the technique of teaching. He suffered at times from depression, and financial difficulties aggravated his condition. Ill-advised business ventures resulted in further grave losses, and early in 1865, he and his wife and eldest daughter went to live in Dublin. Lack of employment, sleepless nights and worry caused him severe depression, and to alleviate this he began to take increasing doses of chloral and other drugs, which did little to improve his condition. Eventually, the unfortunate man shot himself on 17 August 1865. He wife never recovered from the shock and died a couple of months later.

He left after him a mass of historical notes and letters, having already had published important articles in various journals. Land tenure and genealogy were his particular interests and he was especially proud that he could trace his ancestors back to two brothers who came to Ireland with the Normans. He assisted Bernard Burke in bringing out the latter's *Landed Gentry of Ireland* and was in frequent correspondence with eminent writers and scholars of the day, such as, John O'Donovan, Rev. Charles Graves, Thomas Crofton Croker, Sir William Wilde, Rev. John H. Todd of TCD, and Sir William Betham, Ulster King at Arms. *The Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Journal* for 1865 contains Herbert F. Hore's last work to be published, viz., notes of 'Extracts from the Journal of Thomas Dineley, Esquire, giving some account of his visit to Ireland in the reign of Charles II'. Hore, with others, contributed the explanatory footnotes. Hore died before publication, and the *Journal* refers to his death and the loss to the Society, describing him as 'a zealous associate and indefatigable working Member'. His projected history of Wexford had not yet taken shape.

Herbert was only 48 years of age. He and his wife Dorothea Lucretia lie buried in Glasnevin cemetery.

II. Philip Herbert Hore

Philip Herbert Hore was born near Wexford town on 14 November 1841, the second child and eldest son of Herbert F. Hore. His childhood years were unhappy due to the severity of his father. After the ineffectual attempts by his father to teach the children Latin and arithmetic, Philip and his brother received tuition from a travelling schoolmaster. When the family went to live in France in 1856, Philip attended a school where, he tells us, he was half starved but succeeded in learning some French, and secured first prize for arithmetic and handwriting. He was always proud of his handwriting. After about a year at his school, he was sent to a private tutor at Windsor. In 1860 he obtained a nomination for the Admiralty and, having spent some time at a 'crammer's' school, he came third out of thirty-three candidates. His knowledge of French gave him a good advantage. He spent the next ten years in the Department of Comptroller of the Victualling and Transport Services, resigning from the Civil Service in 1871 with a redundancy pension.



On his coming to Pole-Hore, which he had inherited after his parents' death in 1865, the problem of what to do with his father's manuscripts presented itself. Some of them were in bad condition and there was also the question of where to store them. He wondered whether to destroy them or preserve them and endeavour to complete his father's work. Happily he decided on the latter course. He overhauled the books, had some of them rebound, and sought to add to the collection, working whenever he could in the Public Record Offices in Dublin and London, in the libraries of Oxford and Cambridge universities, and visiting Paris, Brussels and Rome. Up to that time he appears to have had but little interest in things

historical, but from 1873 he compiled many large manuscript volumes of documents, spending much time and a large amount of money in the process. The immediate result of his efforts was what he called, with justifiable pride, 'one of the finest collections' of historical manuscripts.

His researches progressed until by 1895 he was in a position to consider publishing some of the material. His initial proposal was to issue a history of Co. Wexford in three volumes at £1 each, and he issued a letter seeking support for the project. The immediate results were disappointing. He received promises of only seventy subscriptions. He wrote scores of letters to the 'gentry' but got no replies. He persevered, however, and in 1900 the first volume of his work appeared, dealing with 'Old and New Ross'. His object was 'to put before [his] readers as full and literal a translation of the original documents as possible', instead of a summary or digest. This decision was criticised in some quarters and the book was described as 'annal writing and good at that, but it is not history' (*Morning Post*, 20 December 1900)! Two further volumes were issued in 1901: 'Tintern Abbey, Rosegarland and Clonmines' and 'Dunbrody Abbey, the Great Island, Ballyhack, etc.'

The original number of three volumes was to increase to six. The fourth volume, dealing with the history of Duncannon Fort and the southern part of the barony of Shelburne, he had to abridge, due to printing costs. In the summer of 1904 he appealed once again for financial support. That same year the volume was published, and by February the following year volume five was almost ready. Under the title 'The Town of Wexford, Taghmon and Harperstown', this appeared in 1906. In the introduction he wrote: 'There is one more volume to appear after this, in which I deal with Ferns, Enniscorthy, and the north of the county. . . .

There still remains a projected General History of the County . . . to fully complete the work. Whether this will be written depends in great measure on the encouragement I receive from the County.' This sixth volume was ready for printing at the beginning of 1910 and was published the next year. In the preface he said that, 'for the present', he had decided not to proceed with the General History.

In a notice of the fifth volume in the *Wexford People* of 24 October 1908, it was stated that 'Mr Hore will proceed to the preparation of his general history of the county Wexford', but Hore's reaction was: 'I won't do anything of the sort unless I get greater encouragement from the County people. The expenses entailed in this work have been far too heavy, and I begin to feel the burden of years. I will be content if some one else takes it up.' He had not

covered the baronies of Forth and Bargy in the printed volumes, omissions, he said, which made the work incomplete, but a decade later he published his notes on the barony of Forth in several issues of *The Past*, the organ of the Uí Cinsealaigh Historical Society.

As well as the six volumes of the county history and numerous shorter articles, Philip H. Hore left a vast amount of material in manuscript form, his own collections and his father's. In this, students of Wexford history have a most valuable storehouse of original material - extracts from State Papers and other documents going back to Norman times. Many of these which he had copied in the State Paper Office and Public Record Office in Dublin were destroyed in the disastrous fire of 1922, and so his copies are of great interest and importance. He died in London in October 1931, a month before his ninetieth birthday.

A printed list of the Hore mss is reproduced in *The Civil Survey*, Vol. IX, County of Wexford, 317-321 (ed. Robert C. Simington).

Séamas S. de Vail

(Abridgement of an article by the author in *The Past*, No. 10 (1973-4), entitled 'Two Wexford Historians')

ACAI Executive:

Chairman: Dr D. A. Levistone Cooney, 1 Claremont Court, Ailt an Óir, Upper Glenageary Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.
☎ 01-2807141

Vice Chairman: Sr Dominique Horgan, St Mary's, 47 Mt Merrion Avenue, Blackrock, Co Dublin. ☎ 01- 2888551

Secretary: Sr Marie O'Leary, 'Caritas', 15 Gilford Road, Sandymount, Dublin 4.
☎ 01-2697833

Treasurer: Ms Marianne Cosgrave, Catherine McAuley Centre, 32 Herbert Street, Dublin 2
☎ 01-6387500

Ms Penny Woods, Russell Library, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare.

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

Father Hugh Fenning

The news that Father Hugh Fenning, our former chairman has been obliged, on account of pressure of other work, to withdraw from membership of the Association will be greeted by members with dismay. Father Hugh has been a leading personality within the Association over the past decade and while in office he was its main driving force. With characteristic modesty and diffidence Father Hugh did not seek a position of prominence within the Association but once in the 'hot seat' he displayed vigorous leadership, kept his fellow officers on their toes, and oversaw a programme of stimulating and practical activity. A hallmark of his time as chairman was that everything the Association undertook was done with serious intent.

Though not an archivist by training Father Hugh saw that the Churches in Ireland needed to have a greater appreciation of the role being played by Church archivists in preserving a vital part of Ireland's Christian heritage. His legacy was to encourage Church archivists to have greater confidence in the importance of the contribution they are making and to encourage the Association of Church Archivists to take itself a little more seriously.

Father Fenning is a distinguished historian of his own order, the Dominicans, and a noted scholar of seventeenth and eighteenth century Ireland. He contributed an elegantly written study of the catholic archbishops of Dublin in the eighteenth century to a volume of essays on the *History of the Catholic Diocese of Dublin* published last year. A noted bibliophile, he is an expert on the history of printing in Ireland. He is a member of the Dublin Diocesan Commission for Historical Causes and in recent years has been a key contributor to the very fine Franciscan journal *Collectanea Hibernica*.

Father Fenning was recently described in a scholarly publication of note as being one of Ireland's *illuminati*. As no writs for libel have ensued we can assume this was meant as a compliment! What is beyond assumption is that Father Fenning's keen intelligence, impish and telling wit, and constant striving for excellence will be sorely missed at future meetings of the Association.

David Sheehy

Work in progress at the Representative Church Body Library

Another busy year at the RCB Library - the Church of Ireland's principal repository for its archives and manuscripts - draws to a close. Since January 2000 to date, no less than 138 collections of parish records alone were transferred from local custody to the Library for permanent safe keeping, bringing the Library's holdings of parish record collections up to 705. These include the registers of the Tralee group of parishes in Ardfert, the Carrigolane group in the diocese of Cloyne, the Stradbally group in Leighlin, and the Templemichael or Longford group in Elphin. In addition, twelve microfilms of registers from parishes in Northern Ireland were received from PRONI, while a host of vestry minute books, architectural drawings, preachers' books were added to existing collections. For example an architectural drawing of the tower of St Audoen's Church in Dublin, dated 1825-6, together with a later estimate of repairs, and other extracts of papers relating to that parish were added to the already extensive parish collection (RCB Library P.116) in the Library's custody. With the new initiative for the care and custody of parish records recently endorsed by the Representative Church Body's Executive Committee - which recommends the closure of all registers at the end of the year 2000, and the transfer of all non-current material to the RCB Library, (as described elsewhere in this newsletter) - it is expected that the Library's holdings of parish records will increase substantially in the early years of the new millennium.

In addition to the parish collections, which are widely consulted by genealogists and local historians, a host of other deposits that came in this year which are likely to be consulted by a range of church historians, theologians and other researchers. These include the muniments of Down cathedral which cover the period 1609-1983, and include chapter books, copy charters, accounts, fabric records, deeds, correspondence, legal papers and miscellaneous papers. Additional papers from the Meath diocesan archive include the parish records relating to Trim, amongst which was found a

rare map of part of the lands of Trim, by Patrick McDonnell, dated 1747, featuring the locational details of the glebe house, lands and church, and robustly drawn cartographical features. Other records include the minute books and extensive correspondence of the Diocesan Board of Education, which chronicle the Church of Ireland's administration of education in this diocese between 1890-c. 1997. An unusual coloured diocesan atlas also in this deposit, shows the location of every parish in Meath in relation to neighbouring parishes and townlands, and also includes 'the alterations in townlands', which were made c. 1870. This source provides a visual impression of the diocese and makes it possible to accurately map its boundaries and divisions at the end of the nineteenth century. Additions to the Library's manuscript collections include a manuscript history of the parish of Magheracross, in the diocese of Clogher, by Margaret Jackson, 1963-4, and the minute books and papers of the South American Missionary Society 1898-1960, transferred from Church of Ireland Overseas House.

The archivist at St Patrick's cathedral has recently been assigned to the RCB Library, and has been cataloguing the cathedral archives in the Library's custody, as outlined below.

Susan Hood

The St Patrick's Cathedral Archive. The archivist writes...

I am continuing the work of listing and arranging the archives of St Patrick's cathedral, begun by Dr Raymond Refaussé. The cathedral's archives were transferred from St Patrick's to the RCB Library from 1995-6. The loose papers, which I am working on at

the moment, are very mixed in content and condition. They were stored for many years in the Minot tower and, as a result, have suffered from both damp and the attention of rodents. The papers were stored in bundles, wrapped with anything from brown paper to Christmas wrapping paper and tied with string. Although lists exist which act as a kind of index to the material, no systematic arrangement of the material was made and as a result, it is virtually impossible to find anything or to build up any coherent idea of the contents of the loose papers.

Besides the expected eighteenth- and nineteenth-century material concerning cathedral property and appointments, some early documents have turned up which are in unexpectedly good condition: a rental of St Sepulchre (May 1382) and proctor's accounts from 1509 and 1555. There is a fascinating thread weaving its way through the papers concerning the importance of records and record-keeping to the cathedral, culminating in two letters from the deputy keeper of the Public Record Office of Ireland to the dean of St Patrick's regarding the proposed transfer of the cathedral's archives to the PRO in 1894. So, although the survival of St Patrick's archives has been fairly arbitrary over the centuries, they might not have survived at all!

Kate Manning

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.

Our Newsletter

ACAI members are scattered throughout Ireland. For the approximate $\frac{2}{3}$ who are unable to attend meetings or outings of the Association the

Newsletter

is the principal means of communication with fellow archivists.

We are very grateful to those who contributed to the

current issue and to those who regularly share their knowledge, experience and views with us.

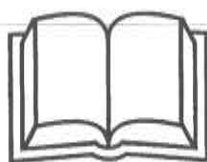
Without them the *ACAI Newsletter* would cease to exist.

We would appeal to all ACAI members - and that includes **YOU** - to consider contributing to the *Newsletter* so that it can continue its objectives of communication and support.

Articles need not be long, 100-500 words is a good guide.

The next issue is due out in May 2001. Articles, letters, reports, book reviews, comment and tips drawn from your own experience will be gratefully received by Mary Smyth, Co-ordinating Editor, St. John of God Brothers, Granada, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.
email: granada@sjog.ie





Bookshelf

New books on Irish church history seem to come out now every few months rather than every few years as they used to do. Nothing specifically archival has come to hand, but a note on four very recent studies may be welcome to readers. Each of the four authors relied heavily on the cooperation of church archivists, including some of our own members. Munster in the early 1600s is the setting for Bernadette Cunningham's study, *The world of Geoffrey Keating: history, myth and religion in seventeenth-century Ireland*, (Four Courts Press, 2000). Keating, a priest of Tipperary, wrote historical and theological works in Irish which enjoyed wide and lasting popularity. One need only say that his highly influential books have never been so thoroughly analysed before.

Fr Daniel Gallogly, author of *The Diocese of Kilmore, 1800-1950*, (Monaghan 1999), brings the standard diocesan history by O'Connell (1937) up to date in a lively, interesting way in a book which has something to interest everyone. His topics include political upheavals, living conditions and crises such as the Great Famine, besides more traditional themes like catechetics and worship. The Christian Brothers, the Sisters of Mercy and the Poor Clares of Cavan get due attention, as does also the 'Second Reformation' of 1827.

John Cooney's *John Charles McQuaid: ruler of Catholic Ireland*, (Dublin 1999), must be known to everyone from the newspapers which made great capital out of one implausible and rather hilarious slander. But how many have read the book? It is well worth the trouble, since it covers in detail many interesting aspects of Catholic Dublin from the Eucharistic Congress of 1932 to the archbishop's death in 1973. Better still, it brings half-remembered events and personalities together by dint of thorough research. Cooney is a journalist with little regard for

Dr McQuaid and not much notion of what the Church expects a bishop to do. His prejudices are evident enough from the introduction. Just keep them in mind, pray to your guardian angel, and read on.

Thomas Morrissey SJ, recently author of a masterpiece on John Kenney SJ (d. 1841), has just published the biography of *William J. Walsh, archbishop of Dublin, 1841-1921*, (Four Courts Press, 2000). Dr Walsh, archbishop from 1885, took a leading part in the social and political affairs of his time, from the fall of Parnell to Easter Week and beyond. Questions of land-distribution and university education claimed much of his time. Yet in all his various campaigns, Dr Walsh sought only justice, respect and equality for all. This excellent biography, coming so soon after the more general volume by various authors - *History of the Catholic diocese of Dublin* - shows that the history of the Church in the capital, after decades of neglect, is enjoying a Second Spring.

Hugh Fenning OP





For Your Diary

November 2000 Event

Tour of the Chester Beatty Library (Christian Collection)
led by
Mr. Charles Horton, Senior Curator
in its new state-of-the-art facilities at Dublin Castle
Saturday, 25 November 2000 at 11.00 a.m.

Note: While there is no parking in Dublin Castle, arrangements can be made for cars to be admitted to drop off visitors who have difficulty in walking long distances. If you need to avail of this please notify Sr Marie O'Leary at 01-2697833 not later than 20 November.

We look forward to meeting you there

Mini-Course

A day of talks on
Use of Archives/Access
Saturday, 10 February 2001
Catherine McAuley Centre, Herbert Street, Dublin 2
Speakers to include: Marianne Cosgrave/Raymond Refaüssé/David Sheehy
Additional information later

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 28 April 2001
All Hallows (O'Donnell House), Drumcondra, Dublin 9
Additional information later
