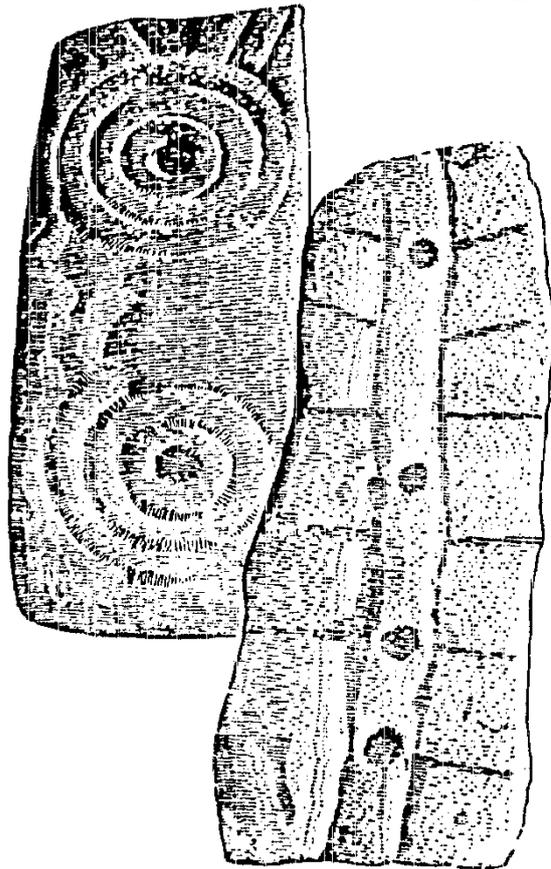


RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL
RECORD

1999



The Journal of the Rathmichael Historical Society

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Rathmichael Historical Record

1999

Editor: Rosemary Beckett Assisted by Rob Goodbody

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Secretary's Report, 1999

1997 was another busy year for the society's members and committee. There were five monthly lectures, and the Summer School evening course, four outings, a spring weekend away and six committee meetings.

The winter season resumed, following the AGM with a lecture in February by Liam Clare on Victorian Bray. This was followed in March by Peter Pearson who spoke on the county of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown and concluded in April with Dr Elizabeth O'Brien who told us about her excavations on The Lady of the Sands in Donegal.

In mid April members of the society journeyed to Sligo for a weekend away and spent two very stimulating days visiting some of the county's rich archaeological sites.

The summer season began in May with several members joining a guided tour of some of the early Christian sites in the Slieve Blooms.

In June the society's President led a trip to Baltinglass Abbey and environs. In July, members joined Rob Goodbody on a tour of some castles of the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Area, including Monkstown, Bulloch, Kilgobbin and Shankill Castles.

The theme of the evening course in August was The Passing Millennia with contributions from Heather King, Maireád Dunlevy, Mary MacMahon, Sarah Foster and Howard Clarke.

The winter season began again in October with a talk by Linzi Simpson on excavations at Temple Bar West. This was followed in November by a lecture from Dr Susan Hood on the archives of the Church of Ireland and their value for local history research. The year concluded in early December with two short talks by members. Jim Scannell spoke of German agents in the Rathmichael area during World War II and Jack Whelan recalled the Invincibles and the Phoenix Park murders of 1882.

The incoming committee will soon be planning the remainder of the year's programme and will circulate details in due course.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for all their help during the year. On behalf of the society I would like to thank Rathmichael Parish and in particular Pat Booth, finally on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the President June Burry for her hospitality to us over the last twelve months.

Muirín Ó Briain, Hon. Secretary
5th January 2000

6th January 1999 Annual General Meeting

The 23 rd Annual General meeting of Rathmichael Historical Society was held in the Burton Hall, Rathmichael School, on 6th January, 1999

The minutes of the previous AGM were read. There being no matters arising from these minutes, they were signed by the President.

The Secretary summarised the society's activities for the preceding year.

In their report the Treasurer detailed the society's financial position and indicated that the cost-cutting measures had improved the situation somewhat but that the non-payment of subscriptions remained a cause for concern. She concluded by proposing a vote of thanks to John Risely both for auditing the accounts and for his valued advice, and to all those involved in compiling the submission to the Heritage Council which resulted in a grant for the post-excavation work on the Ballyman and Dundrum Castle sites.

Rob Goodbody complimented the committee on its work and proposed the adoption of the accounts. This was seconded by Rosemary Beckett.

June Burry reported on the results of the questionnaire circulated to members the previous autumn which yielded a response of approximately 34%. These findings would assist the incoming Committee in planning future activities.

In a short address, the outgoing President Rosemary Beckett declared that 1998 had been a good year for the Society. It had seen the publication of the Festschrift in honour of Paddy Healy and a very successful evening course with speakers drawn from contributors to this book. On behalf of the society she expressed appreciation to all those involved in this splendid publication, in particular to Con Manning, Rob Goodbody and Wordwell Ltd.

The meeting then proceeded to the nomination of officers and members for the incoming committee.

Officer	Nominated	Proposed	Seconded
President	June Burry	R Goodbody	R Beckett
Secretary	Muirin O'Briain	R Goodbody	Dell Lundy
Treasurer	Kay Merry	J Mc Caughey	M Ó Briain
Editor	R Beckett	Rob Goodbody	M Ó Briain
Committee Members			
	Aida Whelan	Rob Goodbody	Kay Merry
	J McCaughey	ditto	ditto
	Del Sherriff	Alison Risely	Anne Meyer
	Ciaran Byrne	June Burry	R Beckett

As there were no other nominations, all the above were declared elected.

Under any other business, Bruce Weldon declared that he had been a member of Rathmichael Historical Society for several years and was unclear as to what its precise functions were. The aims and objectives of the society were outlined by Rosemary Beckett and Rob Goodbody.

The matter was taken up from the floor and a lively discussion followed. Suggestions were made in respect of topics for lectures and destinations of field trips in the future. Considerable emphasis was placed on having a strong local dimension to the society's pursuits. Many of these views had already been communicated via the returned questionnaires and would be used by the new committee in planning future activities.

There being no further business to discuss the outgoing President brought the A.G.M. to a close before several members showed some slides.

Wednesday 3rd February 1999 Victorian Bray Liam Clare

Bray was a market town whose main industries were brewing and fishing. There was ribbon development on the Dublin Road and fishermen's cottages by the strand. When the railway was built in 1854 it came between the sea and the town and cut off the town dock. In the 1860s Bray was a fashionable resort, the Brighton of Ireland. It was the holiday destination for wealthy Dublin city dwellers who rented holiday houses. William Dargan was a benefactor to Bray, he flattened the sand and marram grass on the shore to build the Esplanade. In Summer there were military bands to entertain the holiday makers. There was segregation of the sexes on the beach. Men could swim at the harbour if wearing "drawers". There was also a Baths for Ladies and in 1862 the Carlisle Grounds were opened.

The fishermen were regarded as "untidy" pulling their boats onto the strand and drying their nets on the Esplanade, seaweed gatherers who left their crop to "mature" there also, were prosecuted. The south end of Bray where the fishermen's cottages were was a less desirable area. The town developed at a slower pace after the boom and bust of 1860-65. It was a difficult time for hotels in 1870s, no major new hotels were built, though there were many boarding houses. Some parts of Bray were planned, Castle Street was built as a by-pass to Little Bray on the northern bank of the Dargle River and to open up access to the bridge. The castle from which the street is named, was on the opposite side of the road from Heitons the builders suppliers. The workhouse for Bray was in Loughlinstown, which later became a general hospital. Bray still has no hospital of its own.

There was flooding in Little Bray in 1867, 1882 and 1905, it was said to be the fault of the railway bridge. North of the river the railway was washed away by the sea, so the line was rebuilt 400 yards inland, coming in at an angle from Killiney. Domestic water supplies came from springs and wells, was gathered from roofs in barrels and the river. The Town Commissioners put platforms under the bridge to make it easier to draw water. Refuse was collected daily for the charge of one shilling per week. The sea wall was built by McAlpine in 1880 and the shingle on the shoreline was being removed by the Town Commissioners, the Earl of Meath and contractors until it was banned. The Fire Brigade consisted of one person and one hose, helped by two scavengers (refuse men). The Market House and Town Hall was built by Lord Meath and opened in 1884. There was no civic square but a fountain was placed in front of the Town Hall with a Wyvern on top which is an armorial feature of the Brabazon family crest.

Most of the roads in Bray were built by private developers, who pulled down houses to clear the way to make their roads join up with the Main Street. Bray was and is a very popular place for day trippers in the summer, and on the Whitsun Bank Holiday of 1894, 1,200 pints of stout were bought before 8 p.m.!

Wednesday 3rd March 1999 Between The Mountains And The Sea Peter Pearson

This lecture covered the part of County Dublin now the administrative area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, once a rural area dotted with houses and villages and served by few main roads. There have been huge changes and there are more to come with the M50

motorway. Dublin port was hard to get into, sailing against the prevailing wind and having to avoid the sandbar, was the reason Dalkey Sound and harbour was used by merchant ships bringing cargo to Dublin. Bulloch Harbour exported stone from the small quarries all over Dalkey and imported coal for Dublin. Dún Laoghaire Harbour was begun in 1815 and built with stone from the large quarry in Dalkey Common. The early churches in the area are Kiltuc, Killiney, Kill of the Grange and two in Dalkey. There are crosses at Tully and Rathmichael. There were many tower houses and castles, some remain in Dalkey, Shankill, Monkstown and Lehaunstown. The two that remain in Dalkey were used to store merchandise. Monkstown Castle was substantial in its heyday, with a gatehouse and towers. It was built by the Cistercian monks of St. Mary's Abbey to protect their farm. There was a castle at Merrion in the grounds of what is now St Mary's School for the blind.

County Dublin is full of beautiful houses, many of them built by successful merchants and business people of the 19th century. Sadly many have been demolished or swamped by "infill" building. One of the distinct features of Dalkey, Sandycove and Dún Laoghaire are the small houses and cottages, some may have been built by 19th century quarrymen who sold them to the new middle class residents.

Peter finished his lecture with a series of slides of gracious houses, some of whom are now sadly gone. His book which formed the basis for his lecture is *Between the mountains and the sea, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County*. Published by O'Brien Press ISBN 0-86278-582-0

17th and 18th April 1999. Weekend Outing to Sligo

Nineteen members and friends gathered at the Tower Hotel, Sligo for a busy weekend. The early birds climbed Knocknarea mountain to visit Maeve's cairn and nearby hut sites dated at 3,300 - 2,700 BC.

We joined our guide Martin Enright of Wild Rose Tours in the afternoon and travelled the new Curlews by-pass road, stopping to see the impressive "Chieftain" sculpture and the views of Lough Arran. Ballinafad castle built in 1590 by Captain John St. Barbe, to guard the Curlews Pass, was our next stop. It was modelled on a 13th century plan, four storeys high, rectangular with four corner round towers. Many unusual features suggested a romantic rather than a strictly defensive bent by the builder. The Carrowkeel megalithic complex in the Bricklieve Mountains was the next stop. It consists of fourteen cairns from 3800-3300 BC and was excavated in 1911. Cairns G and K are in classic cruciform style and contained cremated human remains, beads, pins, pendants and Carrowkeel Ware pottery. They are distinguished from the Boyne Valley complex by the lack of artwork. The more agile amongst us were able to enter two of the tombs. On a limestone plateau below the summit it was possible to see outlines of some of the c. 80 hut sites of the same period. We next visited Carrowmore megalithic complex where Swedish archaeologists have dated some of the tombs to 4840-4370 BC. Many of the sites were re-used throughout the late Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. We visited some of the sites on private land and not part of the usual tour from the interpretive centre. A visit to the Cullenamore kitchen middens on the north shore of Ballysadare bay followed. We saw vast quantities of oyster shells with some mussel and winkle, mixed with ash and charcoal. The site was in continuous use from the Neolithic to the Iron age and is possibly one of the most extensive midden sites in Europe. After dinner at the

hotel Martin gave us a delightful slide show of Sligo beauty spots associated with Yeats interspersed with poetry readings. A wonderful bonus we all agreed.

On Sunday we visited Hazelwood House, an early Georgian house designed by Cassel for the Wynne family. It is one of the few Georgian houses with an unaltered interior. The house has recently been re-roofed but is in need of extensive restoration. At Hazelwood we viewed some of the wooden sculptures which form part of an extensive sculpture trail.

Our next stop was Drumcliffe tenth century high cross, early monastic site and churchyard. The monastery was founded by Saint Columba in 574 AD. we heard a great deal about the recent excavations and saw excellent sketches of the many finds. We saw Yeats' grave and a very early grave stone with cross.

We next stopped at Creevykeel court tomb, one of the best examples in Ireland. It is a long trapeze-shaped cairn with an oval court and burial chambers. Excavated in 1935, finds included plain and decorated Neolithic pottery, arrowheads, scrapers and polished stone axes. An Iron Age corn drying kiln is incorporated in the site.

A scenic drive around Mullaghmore followed with views of Classiebawn Castle. The Donegal mountains and Nephin in Mayo stood out in the glorious sunshine. We inspected the harbour at Mullaghmore, built by Palmerston to promote trade.

Lunch followed at the Pier Head Hotel. Longing eyes were cast at the ancient monastery in Innismurray, but that is for another day.

Our sincere thanks to all who supported us on this trip and made it so enjoyable.
June Burry President 1999

Wednesday 14th April 1999 The Lady of the Sands Dr Elizabeth O'Brien.

The lady of the sands of the title was buried on the shores of Donegal Bay at the mouth of the River Erne opposite Finner Camp. Archaeologists were drawn to the site when the landowner was going to extend and develop his farm over the marram grass. A JCB had already cleared 20 acres and as the driver was working near the edge, he hit stones and then a skull and bones. He stopped work and called the Gardaí who set things in train to inform Dúchas, who called in Dr O'Brien.

The decision was taken to excavate the two burials which had been exposed. The excavation started and a cairn made of water-rolled stones started to appear. The terrain was extremely difficult being sand, trenches kept collapsing, but in the sides of the cuttings old sod layers appeared. There were socket-like marks around the edge of the cairn. It seemed to have been constructed in the Bronze age, used in the Iron age and a curb of stones was found around a later Iron age addition.. During the first year of excavation, the structures in the sand were examined, a cist was found 30 cms deep dating from the Bronze age. The burials were west-east with no grave goods.

Julian Richards from the BBC 2 Television programme "Meet the Ancestors" who had taken an interest in the excavation wished to do some trowelling, he worked on a cremation pit

which contained charcoal and bone. Another cremation was found 20 cms deep spread from a pyre. One piece of unburned cattle bone was found which may have been a food offering which was common in the north of England.

The first female burial found was in a slab-lined grave of Romano-British type, she had suffered from osteoporosis, was perhaps between 60 and 70 years of age when she died in 434 AD, her teeth were worn but in good condition and she was well nourished. Her feet were apart which shows that she was dressed for burial rather than wrapped in a shroud. Another burial was of a male between 18 and 20 years whose teeth showed he had a refined diet.

Beside the cist damaged by the mechanical digger, a badly preserved female skeleton was found aged 18 to 25. The cist stones had disturbed a burial of a young female with a foetal skull. A 7th century burial had been truncated by the digger, of a female aged between 16 and 22 with a cut mark behind her right ear, it didn't cause her death but occurred near the time of death, which was dated at 644 AD. The position of the bones of the lady of the sands showed she had been wrapped in a shroud. The centre portion of her skeleton had disappeared, a limestone slab may have been placed on top and it had dissolved the bones. Her teeth showed that she had a coarse diet and had a groove in her left canine caused by pulling flax through to make yarn. Spinning yarn or embroidery were high status occupations, weaving was for peasants! The TV company made a mould of her skull in the University of Manchester and an expert there did a reconstruction of her face, this showed that she had a sore eye!

Bundles of bones were found that had been disturbed in antiquity when stone was removed for other uses. The nearest habitation is Doon fort a small promontory fort. There is a fresh water lake called Lough na mBean Fionn nearby. The bedrock is sandstone, Dr Stephen Mandal is doing some research on the origins of the limestone used for the cists. The river Erne is the traditional boundary between Connaught and Ulster and the area has seen movement of people back and forth over the centuries. The Ballyshannon Hydro-electric Scheme has changed the area.

Sunday 9th May 1999

Outing to the Slieve Blooms in association with An Óige

On Sunday 9th May eight members joined with An Óige on an enjoyable and informative coach tour of some early Christian sites, around the Slieve Bloom mountains. It was a full day trip, led by Seosamh Ó Scollaí and organised by Pauline McCulloch. As we drove along, the countryside was in full bloom, with masses of hawthorn and furze by the wayside. We had a short coffee break at the Killeshin Hotel near Port Laoise and a longer break later on for a meal in Roscrea. Among the highlights of the sites were:

Oughterard—A graveyard on a hill near the Dublin/Kildare border. Enclosed therein are the ruins of a convent founded by a St Bridget (not to be confused with the better known St Bridget) in the 6th century. All that now remains are the stump of a round tower with a round-headed doorway and the ruins of a church said to have been built in 1609, with an intact east window and some barrel vaulting. Some ancestors of the famous Guinness family are buried in the precincts.

Aghaboe—Co Laois. A monastery founded by St Canice in the 6th century. It was once the principal church in Ossory. It was plundered and rebuilt a few times before it was finally burnt. It was an Augustinian Priory. The ruins of a Dominican Friary founded in 1382 are nearby. Some of the windows from this Friary were taken and placed in a “folly” at Heywood House not far away. One of the Abbots of St Canice’s monastery was Feargal (in about 800) he later went as a missionary to Germany and became Archbishop of Salzburg. He was known under the Latinised name of Vergilius. Recently a plaque was unveiled to his memory in Aghaboe, by one of his successors, the present Archbishop of Salzburg.

Monaincha-Co Tipperary, a monastery in the middle of what was once an island in a bog, which has now dried up. It was founded in the 6th century, probably by St Canice of Aghaboe. In 923 Limerick Vikings raided this monastery and took Flaithbertach ex-king of Munster for ransom. Women were not welcome on this island, the tradition was that any female (human or animal) who dared enter would die immediately! The remains of a church with a finely decorated 12th century doorway and chancel arch can be seen and also some fragments of a High Cross. Many alterations and additions were made over the centuries to the church.

We also visited Cluain Ednech Roscrea, Saigher, Clonfert, Clonfert-Mollua and many others. Seosamh shared his amazing knowledge with us in a witty and chatty way. On the way home we passed through the wooded Slieve Blooms, going through “The Cut”, a gap high up in the hills. All alighted for a while to admire the magnificent view, although it was agreed that there were too many coniferous trees.

Our return journey was made more enjoyable by the late evening sun and by some pleasant taped music produced by a member of the group. We arrived back in Dublin at about 10pm.

Saturday 19th June 1999

Outing to Baltinglass Abbey and its Environs.

Despite very poor attendance and terrible weather this was a very pleasant outing. Baitinglass Abbey was built on the banks of the River Slaney which was known as the Valley of Salvation and was founded by Dermot McMurrugh in 1148. The monk Robert was sent from France to train builders at Mellifont and then Mellifont-trained builders came to Baltinglass, which conforms to the Fonenay plan and shows Burgundian influences. It has a rectilinear plan with straight-ended presbytery and square transept chapels, pointed arches with rounded arches being restricted to doors and windows. The Cistercians were brought to Ireland by St Malachy as part of the great reform of the Irish church. They were not universally popular and their large churches and monastic buildings were considered a novelty. It is hard for us to imagine the dramatic effect on the landscape of these large churches often in lonely isolated locations.

By 1227 the monastery was in trouble. Stephen of Lexington described the Abbot Malachy as that “perverse and deceitful fox”. He was deposed and sent to Fountains Abbey but the Anglo-Norman Abbot imposed on the house was driven out by the community. They knocked him off his horse and took his monastic seal. It took an armed force to have him reinstated. The Abbey became the mother house to the great Jerpoint Abbey.

At the dissolution, the Abbot's castle became the home of the FitzEustace family. We completed the outing with a visit to the Pipers Stones at Athgreany. This stone circle, one of only two genuine examples in Co Wicklow, although over 240 examples in Ireland. They are dated to the Bronze age and some were intimately associated with death and burial.

17th Saturday 17th July 1999

Outing to Castles in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Area.

Fourteen members met at Monkstown Castle on a hot sunny afternoon, where Rob Goodbody started the outing with an explanation of the main types of castle in Ireland. Large strong military castles like Dublin, rectangular with corner towers and a garrison. Fortified Archbishops' palaces, like Swords Castle which were like a walled town and then tower houses mostly built to protect townlands at a later period. Monkstown Castle originates from the 12th or 13th century and was built by the Cistercian monks from St Mary's Abbey in Dublin whose lands stretched as far as Bulloch Harbour. They farmed in the Monkstown area but there was no monastery there, just the castle to protect the farmlands. After the dissolution of the monasteries the land was granted to Sir John Travers, Master of Ordnance who did a lot of building and improvements to the castle, it then passed on down through the female line to the Cheevers family. In the Cromwellian period it was given to Edmond Ludlow, who laid out fine gardens around the castle and made more improvements. After the restoration it returned to the Cheevers family. In the 17th century it was known to have three towers and a fine manor house. What we see nowadays is the remains of a Gate house with a vault over and part of the spring of an arch, there is an ogee window to be seen on the south side of this building and to the south west there is another tower with the traces of a gable end visible where the manor house may have been. The castle walls were stabilised in the 19th century.

We travelled to Bulloch Castle near Dalkey. This was the south-eastern extremity of the lands held by St Mary's Abbey. Here they had a fishery and built a castle as a stronghold overlooking the harbour and with a settlement within the walls. The tenants of Bulloch were fishermen who paid rates. At the dissolution it was given to the Talbot family who had problems with raids from the rebel tribes of O'Byrnes and O'Tooles in the Wicklow mountains. Over time the ownership changed to the Fagans of Feltrim.

A Cromwellian General attacked Bulloch and 56 men, women and children took to the boats, the army followed and drowned the lot. A garrison of 70 troops was installed.

Bulloch Castle is in good repair and has two flanking towers connected by a central portion with stepped battlements. There is a vaulted ground floor and an arch way under the western tower, and on the south west corner of the tower there is a carved head, a garderobe chute can be seen also.

The next castle we visited was Shankill Castle off the Ferndale Road, by kind permission of the Bonar Law family. This was an archbishop's manor built in the 13th century as an administrative centre for the area. Manorial courts were held here, the Archbishop tried theft and murder as the 19th century judges at Assizes. It is not known if Shankill was a walled town but the castle may have looked like Swords Castle. The town survived until 1862 when the landlord decided to gentrify the area, land was made available to rehouse the people and Shankill village grew up in its present position. The castle consists of a tower with its four

walls still standing, with a vaulted roof at ground level. There are the remains of mullioned windows. In 1650 there is mention of a tower with a house in the Down Survey.

Our final castle of the afternoon was Kilgobbin Castle near Stepside in the grounds of a private house. This is a typical tower house in appearance and size, it was not military just a fortified house. They usually had a walled area or bawn, somewhere you could bring in your cattle for safety. It was owned and may have been built by the Walsh Family. There was a grant from 1460 onwards to assist to build castles to protect the Pale.

This is a rectangular castle two storeys high over a vaulted ground floor and may have had a thatched roof. The chimneys and hearths were a later addition. A large part of the castle fell in 1834. It is now covered with ivy. Some of the windows can still be seen. With this castle we ended a very enjoyable afternoon.

Monday 16th—Friday 20th August 1999
25th Summer School 1999
Evening Lectures In Archaeology

Monday 16th August 1999
Late Medieval Crosses In Ireland And Their European Background
Heather King

The erection of stone crosses in Ireland has been almost continuous since the introduction of Christianity and the particularly rich heritage of early Christian stone crosses has been well documented but the late medieval and post medieval crosses have been virtually totally neglected. The lecturer examined the siting, morphology and iconography of the crosses over the period of 1500 to 1700.

The late crosses of Ireland belong to a tradition of stone carving introduced by the Anglo-Normans and to the insular styles that developed from this in the succeeding centuries. They were placed by the roadside by the wealthy landowning families and are generally memorial or commemorative in nature. They are mostly pillar shaped with some Latin and disc headed crosses in the distribution while their iconography is limited to depictions of the crucifixion, the Virgin and Child and various saints. Some crosses have floral and faunal designs while others have heraldic shields indicating the identity of the patrons where actual inscriptions do not supply this information. The lecture was illustrated with colour slides.

Tuesday 17th August 1999
Two Millennia of Fashion and Textiles in Ireland
Maireád Dunlevy

Woven cloth and a tasselled belt dating from 750 BC were found buried, wrapped around a collection of tools in Armoy, Co. Antrim. The owner probably wore a knee length woollen tunic or skirt, a long woollen cloak and with the tasselled belt of woven horsehair worn at the waist.

In Celtic times men and women wore different styles, when Christianity came the Roman style was adopted with a wrap or brat which could wrap four times around the body. It had four corners and as it was made of wool it would have been fulled or matted to be thicker and therefore warmer. The wealthy wore larger longer more colourful *brats* some with a fringe or decorative border. A sleeveless tunic or léine was worn by men and women of the wealthier class, it was tied at the waist with a belt and often had a large collar which later became a hood. Workers and the poorer classes wore shorter tunics. *Léintí* were worn one on top of another in colder weather. Married women covered their hair.

An excavation in Fishamble Street uncovered 11th century fabric woven in a chevron pattern. A drawing of Hugh de Lacy shows him wearing a tunic with Raglan or Magyar style sleeves which would be easier to fit under a suit of mail. Drawings in the Christchurch Psalter show the first evidence of underwear.

During the medieval period in Ireland dress styles generally followed the European style. Women wore colourful clothes dyed with saffron, woad and madder, wide skirts were worn tucked up and an Irish sleeve was just a strip of fabric hanging from the top of the armhole of

the outer garment and was secured at the wrist. There were folds stitched in the skirts above the hem, two bands showed a woman was married, this style was common up to the 1950s in the West. Tailoring and buttons on skirts and sleeves became more sophisticated as depicted on a tomb at Strade, Co Mayo. Mantles worn from prehistoric times developed from a four cornered brat into a cape-like shape, which fitted at the shoulders and reached below the knees. In the 16th century fur-lined mantles were worn in Europe. Woollen weather proof mantles evolved in Ireland, worn by rich and poor alike. The Irish mantle was so respected that they were exported to England and Wales and waist length ones were made especially for the continent. The mantles were made with a curled nap like sheepskin, the woven wool was carded and the pulled out hair was covered with honey and then curled using stones.

In the 17th century *trews* and a coat were worn by men and a jacket with a back seam. Wealth was shown by silk and pearls on women's clothes. A portrait of Máire Rua O'Brien of Co Clare shows her wearing a black broadcloth gown with a Flemish pillow lace collar and cuffs, silk ribbon trimming and renaissance jewellery. In the painting of Pole Cosby and his daughter Sarah in the early 1740s, he is sumptuously dressed in a long waistcoat heavily embroidered, very much the male peacock, while his daughter is in more simple satin and linen. Men's clothes were now a much closer fit and more dandified.

18th century Irish women wore the red wool skirt with linen on her head and wealth may have been shown by a velvet jacket. A doll from 1730 shows how a child was dressed with petticoats of linen next the skin, flannel or colourfully embroidered white one over that and a pink quilted one under her skirt. Her gown is of silk brocade, trimmed with lace over stays and had a back fastening. The fashionable shape for females was achieved through the use of stays and hooped petticoats, notices were put in newspapers if an event was expected to be crowded, requesting ladies not to wear hoops.

After the French revolution ladies wore more simple styles and rich and poor dressed in muslin. There was a relaxation of the female shape, also a greater attention to personal hygiene. The Dublin Weekly Journal of 1729 has an advertisement for all sorts of ready made clothes at very reasonable rates. Tailors were in demand, not just for new clothes but also for repairing and remodelling old clothes.

In the 19th century women were covering their heads, wearing caps indoors and straw bonnets were very popular. There was a return to stays and corsets and four or five petticoats. The bulk of the crinoline was moved to the back as a bustle. In the 1860s women of limited means had to go out to work, so clothes slowly developed that were more suitable, with the development of the tailor-made suit in the 1880s. Gentlemen wore well-fitted three-piece suits, a white shirt and top hat. The lounge suit appeared in 1860 and became popular for day or informal wear. In the 1900s there was a slight softening of the silhouette for women and a new type of corset. Women were demanding more freedom though the waist was still tight. Todd Byrnes on the Quays were advertising suits in black, brown or navy.

A form of Celtic Revival took place in fashion with the wearing of the brat and léine for formal wear and as a dancing costume for girls. For gentlemen a kilt was acceptable as worn by fellow Celts but its Irishness was marked by being dyed a saffron colour. Ms Dunlevy finished her excellent lecture with slides of Sybil Connolly's beautiful dresses in pleated handkerchief linen.

Wednesday 18th August 1999
Industrial Archaeology and the Development of Dublin Port
Mary MacMahon.

Industrial archaeology is fairly new in Ireland and is an area that needs to be addressed urgently. It covers material remains of past industries, old mills, workers cottages, factories, gas works, mines and transport such as canals, railways and their infrastructure. Architects, archaeologists and historians study structures. Engineers study bridges, plant and machinery. Economic historians study the development and impact on people. Industrial archaeologists try to bring together all of these interests.

An early industrial find in Dublin was a four course stone channel and sluice gate, part of a 13th century water supply for the Dominican Friary and on the south side of the Liffey a timber water pipe was found near Bridge Street. Excavations at Wood Quay were the first to reveal port development in Dublin, riverside banks, revetments and in the 13th century a stone wall.

In the 18th century the Ballast Board was established to help solve the problems of the port silting up. A line of wicker baskets filled with stones was put on the north side which withstood the winter storms. The great south wall began as wooden piles from Ringsend to the Pigeon House, it was later replaced by a double stone wall filled in with rubble. The final phase was made of granite shipped from Dalkey and Dún Laoghaire. A lightship was at the end of the wall at first but was replaced in 1762 by a stone-built lighthouse, the Poolbeg was remodelled in 1820. Alexandra Basin was built in 1885 using a diving bell lowered to the bottom of the river with a team of men inside, they made a level surface for concrete blocks to be laid. The area filled in behind the south wall, known as the South Lotts were sold to the highest bidder and the North Lotts went by lottery to councillors, hence the street names like Mayor Street.

The first Custom House in the late 17th and early 18th century was where the Clarence Hotel is now, very early on ships couldn't come up river and had to unload lower down and bring the goods up by lighter. A new Custom House further down river had been mooted for some time to the horror of the merchants of the city, who felt that they would lose business and that there would be noise and commerce near their elegant houses. There were riots stirred up by the merchants against John Beresford, who had employed James Gandon to design and build the new Custom House. Because of all the unrest, James Gandon had to wear a sword when visiting the site. A dock and fine warehouses were built next to the Customs House and surrounded by a strong wall. Few warehouses survive but the lifting bridges to allow ships into the docks can still be seen on the quay. The Grand Canal was constructed from Shannon Harbour to James's Street and then to the docks near the Dodder in 1796. The canals lost their importance with the advent of the railways, the first being the Dublin to Kingstown in 1834.

Ropes were a necessity and on the early maps rope walks can be seen in the Ringsend area. The pupils of The Hibernian Marine School, were brought in to work in the rope works adjacent to their school, the remains of which can be seen on Sir John Rogerson's Quay. Ringsend also had an iron foundry, employing fifty men, a soap and candle works and a glass bottle making business with a good export trade to France using the local raw materials of sand and coal from the port. The River Dodder was used by the Dock Milling Company and Boland's Flour Mills, also in that area was the Hibernian Gas Works whose ornate ironwork

from the gas holder can still be seen in Barrow Street. The by products of producing coal gas, coal tar and coke made for a large industry in the area. The power station at the Pigeon House is a very important heritage site and there is a group trying to preserve it and make it into a science museum. Many of the industries and buildings are vanishing with the rapid redevelopment of the Port and need to be recorded.

Thursday 19th August 1999
Shopping in 18th Century Dublin
Sarah Foster

Researching the subject of the history of shopping in Dublin from 1770 to 1810 covers economic architecture, art history, social history, and ephemera such as bill headings, there is no real archive. Dublin the Court city dominated Ireland, one in twenty people lived in Dublin and it was a city of opulence and grandeur. Shops had no excise duty to pay therefore there was no need to keep an archive. Daniel Defoe talked about the quality of interiors of shops. In 1709 drapers shops on Ludgate Hill in London were said to be perfect theatres.

Parliament Street was a new street designed to lead up to Dublin Castle it was finished in 1762. In 1764 John Read paid £750 for a shop backing on to his workshops. The Wide Streets Commissioners had very strict guidelines in the lease, lessons learned from the great fire of London. No. 4 Parliament Street stayed in the Read family until 1989. The shop is mentioned in Irish literature. The interior has survived, the large round headed cabinets are original. The show glass cupboards are modelled on English goldsmiths shops, also the nests of drawers are lined with velvet to show the merchandise and there is a glass topped counter. The more expensive and opulent the fittings were in a shop showed the status of the shopkeeper. Reads were known for their green-handled cutlery, it was ivory stained green. Reads was the choice of fashion conscious people and as well as cutlery sold surgical instruments, swords and ice skates, they also used outworkers as did the English goldsmiths. Parliament Street and Dame Street had largely Protestant tradesmen and the Dublin consumer found everything on a par with London. Dame Street was reputed to be like Bond Street.

Trade started moving eastwards with the development of Dublin. Competition developed undercutting the established prices with cheaper imports. Dublin was at the forefront of architectural fashion Grafton Street was always fashionable, shopkeepers were regularly satirised having ideas above their station. A design was prepared for Sackville Street (O'Connell St) designed in the French manner, having a run of shops with apartments above them. The French revolution intervened. Another idea from France that did take shape was the introduction of mezzanine floors in some shops well before they were built in London. Dublin was at the forefront of architectural fashion.

Hanging your wares outside your shop became *déclassé* and it was fashionable to display your wares nicely arranged in your windows. There were pattern books of fabrics, a customer either sent their servant to the shop for a sample or went themselves. There were chairs, mirrors and paintings to make the shops look stylish. Looking at and feeling merchandise, browsing became common.

Wider streets helped carriages and their ladies to stop outside shops and have the shopkeeper come out to attend them. In 1790 a group of shoplifters came to Dublin from England. The gang had ladies go around to the shops in carriages, occupy the shop keeper while they stole

what they wanted from the unattended shop. Shoplifting was rife at this time, though when they were caught they were deported. One thief had a system of three hands! One hand in view holding a false hand so the other real hand could steal and hide the goods. Lace was a particular target. Buying Irish wasn't fashionable. Silk was woven in the Liberties. The Liberty-Boys who lived and worked in the Liberties were a protestant gang who hated the butchers of the Ormonde Market and regular ferocious fights broke out with much blood spilt.

In 1770 and 1780 there was a campaign not to import fabrics and to support Irish weavers. There were cartoons published of tarring and feathering people for selling English material. The Viceroy's wife took up the cause and the ladies of fashion followed. Very few shop keepers felt they could not follow. Silk and woollen warehouses were set up and they were getting a lot of public money to buy Irish. The Royal Dublin Society was a great supporter of the home industries.

The campaign to buy Irish made it important that the origin of the fabric was known but wherever the fabric came from it was made up in the English and French fashion. It was known that two pieces of fabric may have come from the one bolt, one may have been called Irish and the other English!

Dublin was a Mecca for the fashionable person. Rural visitors felt at a distinct disadvantage and people who were less well off had to buy a great variety of imported goods.

Friday 20th August 1999

Medieval Suburbs Of Dublin

Howard Clarke

Medieval towns are usually depicted within walls, towers and gates and are thought of as defended places. Smaller Anglo-Norman towns were defined by the space within the walls, most of the extra-mural buildings were religious houses or hospitals, some towns had at least one suburb.

Dublin was exceptional in having four medieval suburbs. The municipal area for liberty was 15.5 square kilometres. Henry II was determined to build up the city, the fee farm or city rent was 200 marks or £133.33.

When the Bruce invaders threatened Dublin in 1317 citizens were ordered to demolish the suburbs to turn the city into a defensible walled area. The Scots were impressed and went away. Dublin was safe but badly damaged. Edward II issued a writ in response to a petition seeking compensation for damage in the king's cause to the citizens, for their goods and chattels were estimated at £10,000.

With the loss of the suburban dwellers who paid most of the city rent, the city couldn't pay the king's rent. The "Black Death" in 1348 caused the death of half the population and the surviving suburbanites moved into the city. The suburbs survived and extra-mural gates were built to control access to the suburbs.

Oxmantown

There was only one bridge across the Liffey and the bridgehead itself and the streets leading to it were important commercially. The Dominican friary of St. Saviour's was immediately to the east of the bridge in 1224, while St. Michan's Parish Church stood to the west.

The old quarry of the Ostmen is mentioned from 1236. The street pattern was in a loose grid. The suburb came to occupy the district between Oxmantown Green and the enclosure of St. Mary's Abbey. The abbey and its purchasing power stimulated a market and commerce in the area. The monks had a fishing harbour at the Pill by the southern gate of the abbey. Hangman's Lane ran west from the main street, a link from the bridge to the green. The gibbet was a source of entertainment as well as a deterrent. Oxmantown resembled a planned Anglo Norman town.

In the 1460s street gates were erected on the green side of Oxmantown, these gates were to collect tolls and for military reasons.

The Western Linear Suburb.

This ran east-west from Newgate along the rising ground towards St James's Gate and beyond for a kilometre. Newgate was the gateway from the hinterland, Thomas Street and James's Street was the primary or great street leading to Kilmainham, at its western end leading to a meat market and a horse market in Thomas Street. An annual fair was held outside Newgate as this was the artery for food coming into the city, the fair later moved to the fair green outside the city ditch. Crocker's Street ran parallel but north of Thomas Street and it is suggested, not confirmed, that this was an area where pottery was made. There would have been a sizeable population in this suburb and there were two parish churches, St Catherine and St James, there was also St Thomas's Abbey an Augustine priory. The Hospital of St John the Baptist just outside Newgate was burnt in the clearance of 1317 but had recovered by 1334 to look after 155 sick poor. There was a defensive gate and ditch at Crocker's Bar and at St James's Gate. Farmers coming to the city would have considerable experience of urban life before they got as far as Newgate.

The Southern Ecclesiastical Suburb.

This area was south of the pool of Dubh Linn, bounded by St Francis Street and the River Poddle on the west, ran south of Kevin Street and the eastern boundary was St Stephen's Green. This was the seat of the ecclesiastical power and house of the office holders and Servants of the church. The suburb contained a Cathedral, an Archbishop's Palace, five parish churches, two friaries and a leper house. There were many street gates and an enclosure around St Mary's priory. St Patrick's Cathedral dedicated in 1254 was the biggest church in medieval Ireland, it had a school and briefly a university. Ordinary residents would have been living a long way from the street markets something more convenient was needed. There was a market place and cross at Butter Lane, now Bishop Street, a market at St Kevins and New Street, with the Freeman's stone as a focal point. At this time St Stephen's Green was an open park for grazing.

The Eastern Recreational Suburb.

This suburb ran east of the city past where Trinity College is now and was centred around Hoggen Green. The name comes from Haugar or burial mounds, presumably of Scandinavian kings. A small number of grave goods were recorded from the area. In 1328 Adam Duffe was burnt on Hoggen Green for his heretical beliefs. In the 15th century onwards there was compulsory archery practice at the butts on the green. More gentle pursuits such as plays were performed there and in 1540 part of the green is called the Pleasure green. Further east there was another green area called the long stone, a tall marker believed to commemorate the first Viking landfall at Dublin. Near here by the shore stood St James's Hospital, founded in 1216, it was a hospice for the pilgrims travelling to and from Compostella in Spain. There is no sign of a market place in this suburb. St Andrew's Church served the small population and the church yard was used to elect the mayor or the bull ring, ' a comic figure who helped bachelors to celebrate their last hours of freedom before marriage.

Saturday 11th September 1999

Outing to Ballycorus Lead Works

The outing to Ballycorus was lead by Rob Goodbody as part of Heritage day and included members of The Mining Heritage Society of Ireland. The Ballycorus Lead works operated from 1820s to the early 20th century, and for most of this time processed ore transported from the leadmines in Glendasan and Glendalough in Co Wicklow. In later years the lead came from Laxey, in the Isle of Man, and eventually the company moved their operations to Ringsend to be closer to both the source of imported lead and its market. In the complex of buildings at Ballycorus were a smelting works, complete with furnaces and rolling mills, a chimney and flue, a shot tower and a manager's house. The type of lead produced from this works was sheet for roofing, shot for guns and pipes of water supply. This was sold in Dublin and all over Ireland.

The landmark lead mine flue which travels up the hill for a distance of 1,600 metres to the chimney on its prominent hilltop, was built to take the poisonous fumes produced by the smelting away from the works to prevent poisoning of local farm animals. The mining company managed to pay for the cost of this flue and chimney by scraping lead and arsenic off the inside!

The buildings still visible include some of the buildings from the smelting works and more further up the hill at the shot works, though the very distinctive shot tower was demolished soon after the works closed.

The society members and friends walked up to the top of the hill to look at the remains of the chimney and Rob pointed out the scatter on bricks around the chimney, which came from the now-collapsed upper portion.

Wednesday 8th October 1999

Temple Bar West Excavations

Linzi Simpson

This excavation took place from 1996 to 1998 in an area west of Temple Bar. It was composed of four sites whose area added up to 1200 square metres. The four sites were in a block bordered by the river Poddle on the east and the Liffey on the north. The streets

bordering the sites were Fishamble Street on the west, Essex Street West on the north, Exchange Street Upper on the east and Copper Alley on the south. This excavation had a research agenda and one of the goals was to locate the Longphort or ship camp of the early Viking occupation in the 9th and 10th centuries.

A collection of sunken buildings cut into the boulder clay were found, in the south west corner of the Fishamble Street site, with wattle walls, all very small and facing different ways, their function is unknown but they may have been fishermen's huts. All finds were domestic. Similar structures were found during excavation in Christchurch Place. Cooking pits and an oven for firing clay were all part of the early occupation of the area. Clay was put over these sunken structures and the area levelled, this helped preserve the floors of the huts sealing in the remains, one of the houses had a paved entrance with a drain.

To the south near the river there was a burial cut into the boulder clay with a skeleton of a 5 to 7 year old child, there was also a pit nearby with an intact cow's skull and another one with a circle of skulls, this may have been votive!

During the 8th and 9th century on the edge of the Poddle and to the west of the area the ground level was built up and some reclaimed, large cages of wattle were found. The wattle weaving was Irish and made of coppiced wood. These were obviously animal pens because they contained manure, fleas, beetles and egg shells. This shows that space was plentiful. The houses were undefended on the banks of the Poddle which suggests that the Longphort may be nearer Dublin Castle, which is on a naturally-defended ridge.

The continued use of some of the property boundaries into the early 10th century is significant, suggesting that when the ruling elite left, ordinary folk remained. The building tradition of a three-aisled house with a central hearth continued in use into the 12th century and beyond. There was a well-made road and some of the plots fronted on to this. The houses were all very close together, with animal pens within the properties and life must have been a bit lacking in privacy. The foundation walls of these houses were well preserved due to the build up of organic matter.

In the first early 10th century house found, there was a floor of alder pegged into the ground, this floor extended out through the front door and under it there were bird bones, swan, goose, eagle and sparrow hawk. Deep charcoal deposits and some slag was found which may not have been domestic. Ship's timbers were found in the house with traces of orpiment, a yellow pigment, on them. A fragment of orpiment was found with a stone mortar which showed traces of this paint, the person living in this house may have been involved in the ship building trade, a thriving industry in Dublin. Dublin in this time seems to have been a bustling busy port full of merchants and traders from far off places. We were shown slides of the beautiful finds from this excavation. There were many metal stick pins used as fasteners, some bone pins from walrus ivory, walrus snouts and a beautiful silver toilet set consisting of tweezers, nail file and ear scoop. There were amber beads and pendants and a button and finger ring. There was a wooden bowl with oats in which survived a house - fire, antler and bone combs, and a stone mould for making ingots of iron.

Publications with further details of excavations in Temple Bar may be obtained from Temple Bar Properties in Eustace Street, Dublin

Wednesday 3rd November 1999

The Archives of the Church of Ireland and their Value for Local History Research.

Susan Hood

The Representative Church Body library in Braemor Park, Churchtown, houses 700 collections of parish and church records. Parish records are enhanced by diocesan papers which chronicle the meetings and give a picture of the lives of the clerical and lay members of the church. In 1634 the canons of the church were drawn up. Canon 46 covered the keeping of registers of births, deaths and marriages and a sure coffer to keep them in, they were to be written up each week in the presence of the churchwarden. In practice this was rarely adhered to, clergy were too busy doing other things. In addition to Parish Registers, Parochial administration papers are held in the Library.

The Parish served as a civil authority, Parish constables were appointed and in St Werburg's Church foyer you can see an 18th century fire engine. From 1720 to 1820 in St John's in Dublin there are accounts of local police force. There were ten parish watch men and they were paid £30. Watch candles and huts were all carefully administered. Vestry books are a good source of information also pew registers which covered the names of people in the parish who paid rent for their pews in the church. The nearer the front you and your family sat the higher the rent you paid, though not all parishes have pew books. The parishes looked after the poor and administered poor relief There are books of accounts and names of those who got money.

From 1847 the famine crisis is covered in the poor book from St Mark's in Pearse Street. Diocesan papers and papers from the individual cathedrals are a good source. There are papers from Cloyne from 1600. They cover rural visitations on behalf of the dean. They are a social history covering who the rectors were, the state of repair of the church, who the churchwardens were and who the school teachers were. They also remark on the state of the altar linen and surplices. Legal papers from Cloyne contain an affidavit by the churchwardens to the diocesan office complaining that a member was caught fornicating! Music was an important part of cathedral life and there is music from Christchurch Cathedral in Dublin, all written by hand and with wax from the candles on the paper. There are also choir attendance books with notes of misdemeanours such as drunk or left the choir during the sermon!

There are visual sources in the library such as the drawings of the Archbishop of Dublin showing land in Tallaght and there are architects drawings and plans. Private papers have been bequeathed - one is Freddie Dukes bellringing collection, an account of every bell in Ireland.

There are genealogical papers by an Armagh cleric, Canon Leslie which cover 70% of all clergy, bishops and deacons, these are a good and important source. Many contain details of the clerical families and their parishes.

The library is open for research and no appointment is necessary.

Wednesday 1st December 1999

German World War II Espionage in Ireland and the Shankill connection

James Scannell

There was considerable German espionage in Ireland prior to the outbreak of World War II by members of the German community here. A full account is available in David O'Donoghue's book *Hitler's Irish Voices* (1998). When the war broke out, the only method of infiltration into the UK and Ireland was by parachute or submarine. This was not helped by rivalries between the Abwehr (military intelligence) and SS and SD Intelligence services. Leading figures in the Abwehr saw Ireland and the IRA as important focus for sabotage and espionage in Great Britain. As a result, before the start of the war Oscar Pfaus made contact with the IRA through such people as James O'Donovan. He was the architect of the 1939 bombing campaign in Britain. He lived in "Florenceville" (now called "Millfield") in the Shankill area, where coded messages were sent to Germany, courtesy of a transmitter received after three trips to Germany in 1939.

The first Abwehr intelligence gathering mission relative to Shankill was one of the few successes in a run of less than successful German operations. It was undertaken by Dr. Herman Goertz, born in 1890 in Lubec, with a long and distinguished career both in law and military circles. He was arrested in England for gathering intelligence on RAF preparations prior to the outbreak of war. He was released early for good behaviour in 1939, returned to Germany and promptly rejoined the Luftwaffe.

He advocated using the IRA for sabotage missions in Britain as well as to create revolt in Northern Ireland. After much persuasion, the Abwehr allowed him a three month mission. He made contact with Irish citizens working in Germany, most notably Francis Stuart, who offered him shelter with his wife in Laragh, Co Wicklow. Having been warned not to get involved in Irish affairs or compromise their neutrality, he prepared for his task of liaising with the IRA and persuading them to focus activity in Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, the Germans overlooked the fact that most Republican sympathisers, North and South, were known to the RUC and the Garda Síochána. The more active of these were kept under surveillance both sides of the border.

On the night of the 5th May 1940, Goertz was parachuted into Ireland and landed near Ballivor, Co Meath. Unfortunately his radio and other items landed somewhere else, so he trekked across country to Laragh without them. After four days of trekking he reached Iseult Stuart's house, but she was unsure whether to let in such a dishevelled individual. Once he was let in and received a new suit of clothes, his contact, James O'Donovan, drove down and brought Goertz to Shankill. He stayed in numerous places, a house in Charlemont Avenue, Dún Laoghaire and a house in Dalkey where a radio transmitter was temporarily installed.

One visitor to the Dalkey house was Major General Hugo MacNeill, commander of the 2nd Division of the Irish army. He wanted to know if Germany would help Ireland in the event of British troops from Northern Ireland, invading. When Dr Edward Hempel heard of this discussion he immediately indicated that Éamonn De Valera would have nothing to do with what MacNeill was suggesting as this would affect Ireland's neutrality. Hempel was afraid the Irish government would become aware of what was going on, as well as fearing that Goertz was in competition with him for control of German policy in Ireland. The two met at a party organised by Hempel at 58 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4, Goertz could arrive unnoticed because of the large attendance. They had numerous short, private meetings in an empty study where Hempel was delighted to learn that Goertz intended to return to Germany to report on Ireland's situation. This took away the worry that German covert activities in Ireland could be used by the British as a propaganda tool to force the Irish into the war on the Allied side. This scenario was anathema to Hempel's diplomatic mission in Ireland to keep

the Irish neutral and prevent any assistance to the allies. Goertz, meanwhile, made two attempts to escape to France, but failed due to bad weather. When most of his contacts were rounded up by the Gardai, it was only a matter of time before he was finally arrested on November 27th 1941 in the home of P J Claffey, 1 Blackheath Park Clontarf. It is unknown how the Gardai knew his location. Some say they had him under observation for some time and had finally decided to arrest him. It is known the Goertz's radio code had been broken by the Irish intelligence services. Dr Hayes, director of the National Library was accredited with breaking the code, but Col. Éamon de Buitléir, his subordinate, claimed that it was he who broke it.

Following Goertz's arrest, he was intensively questioned at Arbour Hill Military Prison, but gave nothing away. He was subsequently interned to the Athlone internment camp. Even though conditions were more relaxed than in the British gaol he had been in before, he vowed to escape. Hempel was unable to help him, so he went on hunger strike so that he could at least go on trial. He ceased after three weeks once his fellow internees advised him that the Irish Government would let him die to solve the problem of what to do with him. After this he settled down to the Athlone routine and wrote two plays and vast entries in his diary. After the end of the war he entered into an agreement with Col. de Buitléir that he would not be deported to Germany if he provided a full statement of his activities. His statement concealed the true identities of those who assisted him and claimed that it was never his intention or that of Germany to violate Irish neutrality. However statements given at the Nuremberg trials showed his account to be false. This upset him as he feared he would now be deported to Germany, sentenced and executed.

In September 1946, Gerald Boland, Irish minister for Justice, offered political asylum to all German spies interned in Ireland. Goertz readily accepted and obtained a job as secretary to the "Save the German children fund". During this time he visited "Florenceville" and presented his pistol and parachute knife to Donal O'Donovan, a son of James. However the asylum decision was reversed in 1947 to avoid further British opposition to the original offer. On April 12th of that year Goertz was rearrested. He was given parole to wind up his affairs in Ireland. He used this time to try and find a way to avoid deportation. Invited to dine with Hempel, he was asked if he would like to work for the Americans, thinking he might be double crossed he retreated to the West of Ireland to calm his nerves. When he returned to Dublin he had to report to the Aliens Office to extend his parole. He was unaware that the intelligence service had no idea he was being given parole and on arrival at the office, he was informed that there was a plane waiting to fly him back to Germany. In panic Goertz bit into a cyanide capsule and died. He was buried in Deansgrange cemetery on 26th May 1947. In 1974 some German ex-army officers secretly moved his remains to the German war cemetery in Glencree Co Wicklow.

The German operative active in south Dublin was Gunter Schultz. His brief was to send daily weather reports, observe British convoys and Belfast's war industries. He was meant to be parachuted into Co Kildare, but ended up 60 miles south in Wexford. He was soon arrested but escaped in disguise after collecting women's clothes, he claimed were for his sister. He was arrested again after a month, hidden in the residence of Mrs Caitlin Brugha, widow of Cathal. After the emergency he returned to Ireland for commercial reasons. In an ironic turn of events his house was burned down by the IRA, the very group he was originally meant to contact during the war, who were protesting about the purchase of land by non-nationals.

German espionage missions to Ireland failed through a combination of bad planning and research and poor personnel choice. The operatives had no “resistance” network to integrate into and were not as well trained as allied operatives.

The Goertz mission was the most serious operation, but still unsuccessful and their activities were made more difficult due to Irish support of its Government’s security measures. It has also emerged that there was a good deal of contact between the Irish and British intelligence services. German activities may have been included in this information exchange, though there are no files available, as yet, to corroborate this.

Wednesday 1st December 1999

The Phoenix Park Murders

Jack Whelan

Since 1879 there had been bad harvests in Ireland people were unable to pay their rent there were many evictions and rural Ireland was restless, though Dublin was peaceful. Gladstone wanted to reach an accommodation with Parnell with new legislation so farmers could buy out their land and the appointment of a new viceroy, Lord Spencer and new Chief Secretary Lord Frederick Cavendish. They both arrived on Saturday 6th May 1882 from Holyhead.

Lord Frederick Cavendish decided to walk on his own up to his house in the park. He knew his way as his brother had been there before. He was overtaken on his walk from Dublin Castle by Thomas Henry Burke, under Secretary. It was a fine sunny evening and the two had reached the road opposite the Vice-Regal Lodge when they walked into an ambush and were attacked with surgical knives by a group who were lying in wait for Thomas Burke. The attackers were a revolutionary group calling themselves the Irish National Invincibles. The miscreants got away in a jaunting car and ended up celebrating in Searson’s Pub. They thought they had struck a blow for Ireland, but were denounced from the pulpit.

A commission was set up to investigate the Invincibles who had attacked others including Judge Lawson, who fortunately had protection and escaped. A policeman Mallon got information from informers and James Carey a builder who owned tenements turned Queen’s evidence against his fellows, Brady, Kelly and Daniel Curley. They were sentenced to death in May and June 1883. Carey went with his family to Capetown and on the boat to Durban talked too much and was shot by Pat O’Donnell who had heard the story.

Lord Spencer paid for a stained glass window in Dominick Street Church in memory of Burke. Burke was buried in Glasnevin. It was a tragedy all round.

Wednesday 1st December 1999

Some Slides and a Commentary.

Paddy Healy

Paddy showed us some slides he had taken over the years. One in particular of a stone head with three faces that he had photographed in Killegar near the Scalp. He knocked at the door of the house the stone head was outside, but got no answer and he assumed it was a Celtic head. He showed the photograph to Etienne Rynne who became very excited and told Paddy

to publish immediately. Paddy went back to the house to ask the family about the head to discover it had been carved by a friend from Germany!

Paddy also showed some important photos taken just before many beautiful old house were pulled down. One was taken through the hole in a corrugated iron fence. His slides showed his love of walking, visiting monuments in the mountains and his companion of many trips, his dog.