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Title: Review: "300 years of Irish periodicals", edited by Barbara Hayley and Enda McKay (Dublin: Association of Irish Learned Journals, 1987)

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engineering, the Caighdeán Oifigiúil Irish version. Nevertheless, certain oddities sometimes surface due to the over-reliance on literal translation. But this is being rather captious; and perhaps to suggest that the second element *may* be *fos* (a grazing stance) instead of *os* in *Mullach an Ois* (Placenames Appendix) is to cavil; but isn't *Lios Carragáin* what it says rather than *Lios Carracháin*? These are but minor matters; all in all, an tAth. Peadar and *Mo Scéal féin* are here very well mediated indeed. Leanadh a aistritheoir ar a láimh.

Roibeárd Ó hÚrdail

Edward MacLysaght 1887-1986. By Charles Lysaght. (Cumann Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann, 1988). Pp. 28.

When Edward MacLysaght died at the age of 98 he had just completed a record 75 years' unbroken membership of the Cork H. & A. Society. This loyalty to a Society with which he had little contact but which connected him with his father's native county is indicative of his many other loyalties — to his country's freedom, its language, its scholarly heritage. His whole life-story is a kaleidoscope of colourful concerns, well chronicled by himself in his *Changing Times* (1978). The remarkable transition from English-born Rugby/Oxford-educated scion of 'the Protestant squirearchy of North Cork' into ardent nationalist and Gaeilgeoir was not unique to MacLysaght. But he was very much a man of his time. Only in the early years of the present century, one feels, could his affinity with his country's emerging nationhood have blossomed as it did.

Now we have this succinct and vivid account by his kinsman, Charles Lysaght, delivered first as a lecture to the National Library of Ireland Society who published it in an attractive booklet form. (MacLysaght was the first Keeper of MSS in that Library).

There are sidelights here which could never find their way into an autobiography. For example, it saddens one to read that a man who contributed so generously to Irish life and culture for the best part of a century should have to worry about financial matters in his latter years because of the meagreness of his pension. This was the man who, in order to fulfil his duties more conscientiously, paid half of his salary to an assistant when he was Inspector for the Manuscripts Commission and paid a secretary out of his own pocket when in charge of the Genealogical Office.

The NLI Society, founded in 1969 to promote a greater awareness of the National Library, works quietly at organizing lectures and Library projects. It seems an excellent idea to publish the fruits of the more significant lectures, and it is to be hoped that this beautifully-produced and well-illustrated booklet is the forerunner of many.

D. Ó Murchadha

300 Years of Irish Periodicals. Ed. by Barbara Hayley and Enda McKay. Dublin: Association of Irish Learned Journals, 1987.

To complement an exhibition designed to draw attention to the scope and function of Irish scholarly journals, the Association of Irish Learned Journals decided to produce a volume of essays on the history of Irish periodicals. The book under review is the result of that decision.

The first essay in the collection, Barbara Traxler Brown's 'Three Centuries of Journals in Ireland: the library of the Royal Dublin Society, Grafton Street', is unfortunately titled as it deals with the RDS and its links with European Learned Societies during the period 1731-1796 and not in the succeeding centuries. Barbara Hayley's essay on periodicals in nineteenth-century Ireland is written in a lively style but ends rather abruptly. *The Journal of the Geological Society of Dublin* is dealt with in Jean Archer's essay, where she argues that the sheer excellence of the publications of the RDS and the RIA militated against the appearance of specialist science journals except in the field of geology, due to features intrinsic to that discipline. Caoilfhionn Nic Pháidín has a stimulating essay on periodicals in the Irish language. This is followed by David Dickson's treatment of historical journals which is especially good on *Irish Historical Studies* and *Studies* but whose treatment of the *JCHAS* is meagre in the extreme. Enda McKay's pioneering piece on Irish trade journals is justifiably generous to the *Irish Builder* and the volume concludes with an incisively analytical essay on 'Ireland's Little Magazines' by Peter Denman.

The contributors are almost all Dublin-based and, for the most part, non-Dublin periodicals receive scant attention or are omitted entirely. To any one reasonably familiar with Cork and Munster-based periodicals some of the omissions are startling. None of the following is mentioned: *Southern Industry, The Cork Magazine, Bolster's Quarterly Magazine, The Irish Monthly Mercury, Agus, The*

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Cork Review. North Munster Antiquarian Journal, The Blarney Magazine.

Such omissions are perhaps inevitable given the restrictions on space imposed by the essay format. The essays are lively and well-written, and attempt to place the periodicals in their historical, cultural and socio-economic contexts, but the topics dealt with almost cry out for more extended treatment. For example, Barbara Hayley's essay lists approximately 60 titles in just 20 pages which include 4 pages of illustrations and 2 of references.

It is a book well worth reading and, for this reviewer at least, it points to the need for three distinct but related developments: a comprehensive bibliography of Irish newspapers and periodicals; a definitive work on the history of Irish periodicals and newspapers to update the works of Madden, Munter, Brown et al; more detailed studies of periodicals on a thematic, regional and local basis. This last is a matter to ponder as we approach the centenary of our own Society and *Journal.*

Kieran Burke

A new genealogical atlas of Ireland. By Brian Mitchell. Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, USA, 1986. Pp. 123. $18.95.

As its name implies, this is an atlas specially compiled to assist those intent on tracing their nineteenth-century Irish ancestors, particularly those who do it from a distance and might tend to confuse, say, Kilmocomoge with Kilmonoge.

Here we find three separate maps for each county, or part of county, showing: (a) civil parishes (b) baronies (c) Poor Law Unions. The need for maps of this kind is so apparent that one wonders why they have not been produced before.

(For my part, *Philips' County atlas of Ireland,* revised by P.W. Joyce and published in 1882, has long been my faithful locator of baronies. It has the added advantage of colour printing, but does not show civil parishes, which feature so frequently in census records, townland indexes, etc.)

This new atlas will save much ruffling through (expensive) ordnance survey maps. With the aid of a townland index one can now find out the approximate position of any townland in the country in a matter of seconds. I say 'approximate' since my one quibble regarding the maps is that they take no account of villages, towns, or even cities — all useful location points for researchers.

D. Ó Murchadha

Harbour Lights: Journal of the Great Island Historical Society, No. 1. 1988.

What a pleasant Journal this is — it contains much new material, is particularly well-illustrated, well-printed on good paper and altogether good to handle.

Cork historians have for too long turned their backs on the county's ports and coastal waters, areas awaiting the pen of the innovative student. Some amends have been made in recent years — the copiously annotated 'Irish Admiralty', *IHS*, 1985, and C. O'Mahony's successful *The Maritime Gateway to Cork,* 1986, contribute much to our knowledge. But there is much more material available to draw on, varying from documentation on the county's coastal manors, logs of armed ships in our waters during 'the Emergency', the logs and muster rolls of HMS *Druid* and *Kangaroo* which were active during the 1796 invasion of Bantry Bay, the trial of pirates, at St Finn Barre's Cathedral, in 1626, the route of the 1690 fleet on its way up stream to subdue Cork — all these are among the rich field (or wave?) to examine.

Harbour Lights is a very welcome addition to this all too scanty literature. It covers a wide number of topics in an adequate manner, while some of the topics are pioneer studies. The standard of scholarship would certainly not be less than that in a more academic publication — above all, it is free from jargon; the essays 'are written to be read'.

For long it will remain a valuable source on local portal and marine matters, such as the shipwreck list (part I) covering up to 1810. This, I think, is the year when a speaker in Cork, in the middle of the last century, stated he had then seen '1200 sail in Cork harbour'. What an excellent first voyage this Journal has made. Its contributors are a skilled crew and its captain, Tim Cadogan, can be relied upon to run a good ship. I look forward to further voyages.

C.J.F. MacCarthy

Ardmore Journal: Irisleabhar Áird Mhóir. No. 5, 1988.

One of the most heartening developments in recent years for anyone with an interest in our country's

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