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Title: Review: "History of Great Island, the Cove of Cork, and Queenstown", by H. E. Dennehy and James Coleman (Cork: Tower Books, 1990)

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The work is profusely and well illustrated with black and white photographs, and with drawings by the late Sóirle McCana. It is not surprising that the author, as a former Cork City Architect and long-time connoisseur, has collected many illustrations published here for the first time. This book will afford much pleasure to its readers and would make an appropriate present for any Corkonian whether living at home or abroad.

Elizabeth Wincott Heckett (UCC)

The Mardyke, Cork City's country walk in history. By Richard Cooke. Quality Books, Cork, 1990. Pp. 148.

Richard Cooke, whose work on Cork local history will be well-known to many readers of this *Journal*, breaks new ground with his history of the Mardyke, charting its story from its beginnings in the early eighteenth century up to the present day. The book begins with a chronological overview of the development of the Walk and then proceeds topographically from west to east. The author includes many interesting anecdotes gleaned from his research in the archives of the various official and voluntary bodies involved in the Mardyke down through the years. His account is further enlivened by the memories of past and present residents and by studies of the Cork County Cricket Club, the Sunday's Well Boating and Tennis Club and the UCC Sports Ground.

Unfortunately the book is marred by typographical errors and by idiosyncratic spacing and typesetting. Furthermore the references given are few, and many interesting pieces of information are provided without a reference, e.g., his description of the band recitals which were arranged by the Corporation in the latter half of the nineteenth century. On a more positive note, the text is well illustrated with reproductions of old prints, maps and photographs, many of which have not been published before.

Andrew Lantry

History of Great Island, the Cove of Cork, and Queenstown. By Revd H.E. Dennehy and James Coleman. Tower Books, Cork, 1990. New illustrated pbk. ed. Pp. 142. £6.00.

This illustrated edition of Dennehy and Coleman's history of Cobh, making a reappearance almost seventy years after its first publication, is a welcome addition to the list of recent local history publications in the county. It is a book with an unusual background in that one of its authors, Canon Dennehy, predeceased its publication by twenty years, and though in essence, the *raison d'être* of the work is his original essay, its value as a local history lies in the additional text and notes by his editor/collaborator, James Coleman.

On 19 March 1872 Fr Henry Dennehy delivered a lecture on the history of Queenstown and the Great Island in the Cove National School, the proceeds of the lecture being for the library and reading-room of the town's newly-established CYMS. The lecturer was born in Fermoy in March 1823, fifth son of John Dennehy, a prosperous wine merchant. His clerical career as a priest of the Diocese of Cloyne was spent in two towns — Queenstown, where he ministered from 1851 to 1874, the last two years as Administrator, and Kanturk, where he was PP from 1874 to his death in September 1902. Fr Dennehy can hardly have imagined that his 1872 lecture would be the genesis of a published history of the town and island that would still be worthy of republication almost 120 years later, and he would probably not have been pleased to know that the fruits of his subsequent literary career, principally his well-received historical novel, *Alethea*, set in ninth-century Constantinople, would be long forgotten, while his sole foray in the field of local history would be remembered.

The real author of this history is, however, the prolific local historian, James Coleman. Some years after his lecture in 1872, Dennehy gave the manuscript of his talk to Coleman with a view to its publication, but as it lacked several pages of text, the project was put aside. Over fifty years had elapsed from the date of the lecture when Coleman eventually decided to publish the material despite the gaps in the manuscript. He added, by way of notes and appendixes, new and additional material to the original lecture, thereby enlarging the text almost three-fold and greatly enhancing its value as a source for local historians.

First published by subscription in a limited edition in 1923, a second impression, sans subscription list, was published in the same year. The edition under review is a facsimile of that second impression. The print size has been enlarged to improve readability and the book is greatly enhanced by the addition of a pictorial section of archival and modern photographs, principally from the collections of Luke Cassidy and the Wilson family of Cobh. For many years the 1923 edition has been in

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scarce supply on the antiquarian market and surviving copies were jealously guarded by their owners. This handsome and well-produced paperback edition will find a place on many shelves around Cork Harbour and will serve, as the previous edition did, to introduce the history of Cobh and its hinterland to a new generation of readers.

T. Cadogan

Beara and Bantry Bay: History of Rossmacowen. By Richard S. Harrison. Rossmacowen Historical Society, 1990. Pbk. Pp. 246. £7.00.

Rossmacowen is a small rural community on the southern coast of the Béarra Peninsula, dominated on its landward side by Hungry Hill and on its seaward face by the expanses of Bantry Bay. It is one of those places which the casual observer might have thought had no history, a suggestion that is quickly put to rest by this impressive publication. The publishers are worthy of praise for their ambitious undertaking. Through the medium of a social employment scheme, they were enabled to recruit the talents of Richard Harrison, whose familiarity with historical sources and interested involvement in the project have ensured a level of accuracy and an objectivity not always encountered in parish histories.

Introductory chapters on the geology, antiquities and natural history of the area by subject specialists preface the comprehensive coverage by Richard Harrison of Rossmacowen's history over the past 200 years. The land and its people, both landlord and tenant, education, social and religious life, commerce and sport are all treated, blending a wide range of historical sources, oral traditions and reminiscences into a readable whole. Notable among the characters who made their mark on the locality were the Huguenot, Jacques Fontaine, Fr Hampston, and the English landlord, Charles Pelham Clinton, all of whom feature in the book. A valuable contribution is the collection of local ballads and poems here preserved in print for future generations.

A minor quibble is the curious and rather meaningless choice of title. While the book is copiously illustrated, several photographs are poorly reproduced, but these are minor distractions in an otherwise highly commendable effort.

T. Cadogan

Incorporation of Society, Memorandum and Articles of Association

INTRODUCTION

The Society has for some years past had an insurance policy to cover its public liability but, if the sum insured were not sufficient to satisfy a successful claim, members would be exposed to the risk of litigation. This risk being a matter of concern to it, Council invited Mr Séamus Lantry, Certified Public Accountant and Hon. Auditor to the Society, to address it on the entire subject of public liability. He advised incorporation, which would give the Society limited liability, make possible charitable status with its taxation benefits, cover insurance difficulties and remove the danger of claims being made against members. Mr Lantry advised limitation by guarantee, i.e., each member would agree to pay a sum to cover future liabilities which might arise. He said that there need be no change of name and that permission could be obtained to omit the description 'PLC' from the Society's title. The usual procedure was to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to adopt Articles and Memorandum of Association and to transfer the Society's assets and obligations to the new company.

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