Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

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Title: Review: "Calendar Justiciary Rolls, Ireland, 1308-1314 A.D.", revised by Margaret C. Griffith (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1955)

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Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, 1957, Vol. 62, No. 195, page(s) 58-59

Published by the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

Digital file created: February 28, 2016

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Reviews

Calendar Justiciary Rolls, Ireland, 1308–1314 A.D. Prepared under direction of Deputy Keeper, Public Records. Revised by Margaret C. Griffith. Public Record Office, Dublin. Published by Stationery Office, Dublin, 1955. Price £3 3s. 0d.

The King's Justiciar could only function where the King's writ ran and during the early years of the reign of Edward II Drogheda seems to have been the northern limit in Ireland. The greater part of Connacht was either in the hands of the Irish or Anglo-Normans, who had gone 'Irish.' In Munster the Justiciar visited Cashel, Waterford, Cork and Limerick in his journeys, made gaol deliveries and also decided cases of civil law. Those calendars are abstracts of the decisions and sometimes cite the reasons therefor. They are particularly useful to students of local history for they furnish early forms of place names and the manner of occupation by the early Anglo-Norman grantees. Thus we learn that in 1310 Maurice Condon (De Caunteton) of Glascarrig in Wexford, who was now a felon, possessed the island of Corkbeg in Co. Cork and rents out of Finure (Fynnewor). He held 240 acres of land at Ballyderown (Ballydirthawyn) in the parish of Kilcrumper where he had a weir and sand-pit with a mill at Kilworth (Killurd), etc. John Russel paid him rent for lands at Kilworth (and there are still Russels tenant farmers in that locality).

An interesting story of the early Anglo-Norman occupation of Waterford is given in extenso. Robert le Walys was charged with the death of John, son of Yvor M McGillemory. He pleaded that John was a pure *hibernicus* and not of free blood but John le Poer stated that the slain man and all of his name from the coming of King Henry, son to the Empress, to Ireland, were accustomed to the benefit of English law as Ostmen and descendants of Ostmen.

The jury found that when Henry sailed up Waterford harbour in his first conquest of Ireland, Reginald MacGillemory resided at Renaudescastel near the port, where there is now (1311 A.D.) only an old deserted moat, and to obstruct Henry's ships had three large iron chains made, each as long as the river of Waterford was broad, and stretched them across the river from Renaudescastel to Dunbrody. But the fleet broke through and all the MacGillemoryes were later hanged except one Gerald who resided in a tower opposite the church of the Friars Preachers within the city walls. In a later war between the burgesses of Waterford and the Ostmen outside the town Gerald defended the walls against the Ostmen, and King Henry on his return to Waterford granted English law to Gerald and his kinsmen of whom the slain man was descended.

At the Assize held at Cork in 1313 'Comdyn O hyrthyn' was charged with stealing a cow from the monastery of 'Obathom.' The personal name is obscure but it is likely that the monastery mentioned is that at Abbeymahon in the barony of Ibawne which figures in early records under such variants as Obathumpna, Ombathona, etc.

A Cork jury found that a horse of James de Rupe, standing in the house of Margeria Hamound in the town of Shandon (Sandown) a suburb of Cork, struck a pan full of hot water and overturned it so that a small boy was scalded and died. It was ordered that the horse and the pan should be forfeited to the king as 'deodands.' Many other horses were declared forfeit for similar reasons as were boats, pans, oak-trees, etc., which had been instrumental in causing deaths by accident.

All who have travelled from Kilmallock to Kildorrery by the picturesque Bearna Dearg or Red Chair Gap road know of the green fertile hill on which stands the ruined church of Ardpatrick. One Lawrence Bigetown was tried at Limerick for the murder of Robert de Barry and found not guilty. At the trial it was revealed that when indicted he had fled for sanctuary to the church of Ardpatrick where he kept himself for forty-three days and then escaped through failure of the guard. The fine for his escape was ordered to be levied upon the parish of Ardpatrick. It would seem that the church privilege of sanctuary involved certain obligations on the custodians of the church.

The index of persons and places mentioned in the text occupies 80 pages. I suggest that Balaghath in Co. Cork—Ballyhea, Ballymagille—Ballymagooly, Belaghfethred—Ballyfeard, Botown (priory)—Ballybeg near Buttevant, Carryldougan—Caherduggan, Clon—Cloyne, Corbelethan implies that stretch of country on the northern side of Cork city extending from Currikippane on the west to Caherlag on the east. The Stantons were a noted Anglo-Norman family having their 'court' at Lota, near Glanmire, Cosin and Cosyn survive to-day as Cussen. The church of the Holy Cross del nard in the city of Cork where Stephen le Waleys found sanctuary in 1310 A.D. existed within the precincts of the present Elizabeth Fort. Inchovenan—Innishannon, Philip, son of

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Hugh, was progably a Barry oge. Kilbryn is indexed as Kilbrien in Barrymore. More likely it is Kilbrin in Duhallow, John, son of Philip de Barry was probably one of the Castle Cor Barrys of this district. Castrun de O Lethan (with its variants)—Castlelyons, Villa Pont is indexed as a Bridgetown in Imokilly or in East Muskerry. More likely it is the Anglo-Norman town situated near the confluence of the Awbeg and Blackwater rivers from which the priory of Victorine Canons, O.S.A. derived its name of De Villa Pontes, now modernised as Bridgetown Abbey. The jury, of which William De Stantoun of Villa Pont was a member, investigated a murder which took place at Buttevant near the source of the Awbeg. J.T.C.

Notes on Prehistoric and Early Iron in the Old World. By H. H. Coghlan. Pp. 220, 16 pls + 57 text figs. Oxford University Press, 1956. 25/-

This book is number eight in the series *Occasional Papers on Technology* (edited by T. K. Penniman and B. M. Blackwood) put out by the Pitt Rivers Museum. As a companion volume to the same author's *Notes on the Prehistoric Metallurgy of Copper and Bronze*, published in 1951, it is particularly welcome, for Mr Coghlan spares no pains in searching out useful information from all sorts of sources, continental as well as British, and he sets down this mass of technical material in a most readable manner.

Though more and more of them are finding it necessary to become technologically minded, many archaeologists still remain ignorant of the processes involved in some of the common activities of prehistoric man, or they have only the most general ideas on the nature of these processes, with the result that when the excavator comes upon the fragmentary remains of let us say a primitive furnace, he is often not in a position to recognise it immediately for what it is, and not knowing the technology of smelting or forging, does not know what further evidence to look for. He may therefore fail to see or record the one vital fact which would have been of most use. This condition of affairs is reflected even in some of the most recent excavation reports and is not something peculiar to the writings of the older school!

Mr Coghlan's two books—the first on bronze, the second on iron—should do much to help the archaeologist to understand these two important metals from the collection or mining of their ores to the final treatments of the objects made from them, and in helping the archaeologist, should clear the literature of much speculation that is based on ignorance.

It has been a commonplace in books on iron to find it said not only by archaeologists but also by reputable chemical engineers and others that the discovery of iron was made when someone surrounded his camp-fire with pieces of iron ore picked up accidentally. When this 'someone' kicked aside the embers of his fire, there lying in the ashes were pieces of iron! This is utter nonsense as Mr Coghlan has shown by the simple expedient of making an experiment (p. 45). Even if the ore were reduced or partly reduced in such a fire, the result would be so unlike a metal of any kind that its 'accidental discoverer' would not know what to do with it.

The present writer has for some time been trying to produce iron under primitive conditions and in the manner which appears to have been in use in prehistoric times. He would agree with Richardson that it is a very difficult thing to do and he has been forced to conclude that the discovery of the iron smelting process was the result of deliberate experiment carried out by a capable smith who was already fully trained in the craft of copper smelting. In other words this prehistoric smith was a research worker!

In some recent works on metallurgy, it has been said that the temperature at which iron can be smelted under primitive conditions is around 700°–800°C. While reduction may take place at this low temperature, it is this writer's view that a workable bloom cannot be obtained from the primitive pit furnace below the 1,100°–1,200°C range—a conclusion arrived at after much experiment and one which fits in well with what Mr Coghlan has to say in this book.

While we may never know just when, where and by whom the iron smelting process was discovered, we will likewise never know *how* it was discovered unless more furnaces are properly investigated and recorded. Mr Coghlan's book will be of great value to any archaeologist lucky to find an ancient furnace and we therefore recommend it to every excavator in the strongest possible terms.

M. J. O'K.

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