Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

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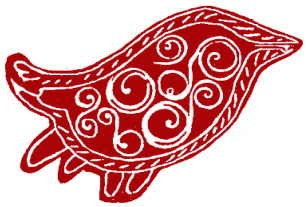

Title: Review: "Journal of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society", No 13 (1980); No 14 (1981)

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new journal (though a purist might query whether Timoleague really belongs to Carbery).

The old ecclesiastical centre of the area, Rosscarbery, is the scene of the first contribution (one of three by the editor himself). A tomb in its cemetery marks the last resting-place of a famed pastor and, it is said, miracle-worker — Fr John Power (1764-1831). His memory is here kept green in a well-researched essay, notable for its use of traditional Irish *ranna*.

The only article of archaeological import is Patrick Cleary's 'Field monuments of the parish of Myross'. Included among these is the early Bronze Age site at Carrigilihy excavated by the late Prof. M.J. O'Kelly. The indefatigable C.J.F. MacCarthy contributes 'Old Carbery I' (indicating, we hope, more to come) namely: 'Wreck of the sea', a survey of the legal aspects of *raic* from 1242 to the present day.

It is rather unusual for teachers to be featured in historical essays, but two are so honoured in this booklet — Michael Donovan in the Bandon area (Pádraig de Brún) and Catherine Donovan, foundress of the Clonakilty School of Industry, a descendant of the Clann Lochlainn and an educational pioneer of the last century (Rev. J. Coombes).

Other articles of interest are 'The craft of the cooper in Clonakilty' by Michael O'Connell and 'Homage to the west Cork maritime tradition' by J.E. de Courcey Ireland.

As Gaeilge a scríobh Conchubhar Ó Ruairc, ag trácht dó ar an taithí a bhí ag Diarmuid Ó Donnabháin Rosa ar theanga ár sinsear, agus ar an úsáid a bhain sé aisti. Is trua nach faide é mar alt; is é a locht a laghad. Tá tosach maith déanta ag an iris nua seo. Guímid gach rath ar an iarracht agus beimid ag faire amach don chéad eagrán eile.

D. Ó Murchadha

Journal of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society. No. 13, (1980). Pp 198; No. 14, (1981), Pp 132.

This well-established *Journal* holds a respected position among similar publications in this country. But success brings drawbacks and dangers as substantial contributions involving primary or original material are not always appreciated by non-specialist readers. Kerry is perhaps not alone in this quandary. My view is that the publication of local Record Journals, with adequate support from public funds, should be devoted to original documents, primary material generally and material already published in books or pamphlets difficult to consult. Kerry is a county of innovators; the Muckross House Committee has pioneered achievements in the field of local history which people in Cork and elsewhere should be emulating. Kerry County Library has an Archives division professionally staffed, a unique public library achievement. Why not lead with a Kerry Record Journal?

Journal No. 13 (1980) has a contribution by J.H. Andrews on the late 17th century surveyor Henry Pratt whose work included the survey in 1697 of Lord Kerry's estate. A considerable portion of this estate was later purchased by Richard Hare of Cork, ancestor of the Earls of Listowel, 'the man who bought Ballybunion'; it is pleasing to note that U.C.C. holds a copy of Pratt's survey. Andrews' study is sure of a wide readership not alone in Kerry but outside due to the growing interest in 'lost demesnes'. Conleth Marron relates clearly the finding of a cross-inscribed slab at Ardamore near Dingle. Gerard Lyne traces with care the legacy of the last Mac Fínín Dubh in the person of Peter McSwiney, and throws further light on Tuosist in the last century.

Pádraig de Brún has an important sixty page contribution on the Kildare Place Society's Kerry activities.

No. 14 (1981) pleases this reviewer greatly, due to Sean O Shea's fine sketch of an old tower house of the MacCarthys at Ballinskelligs, whereabouts, once upon a time, an archbishop of Armagh sheltered!

Learned Pádraig de Brún continues his valuable Kildare Place study with a contribution of 55 or so pages, almost half the *Journal*. I consider that this critical study — if not published in book form — is more suitable for a *Record Journal*; it tends to be 'lost' in an ordinary journal particularly when it appears in serial form.

The remainder is made up of a number of shorter articles on antiquities. Michael Ryan up-dates our knowledge of the Ballinclemesig gold box found in 1975. A discussion by Eamon P. Kelly of the Derryco boat found in 1978 adds to our slender *corpus* of knowledge of such boats. 'Traditional houses in Riasc' is a notable study by Alan Gailey, whose fine photographic and line illustrations are most welcome. Other skilled hands note the Banemore bog butter find and the Cashen dugout canoe.

Finally, T.C. Barnard's study of Petty's fishing enterprise, three centuries ago, in Kerry, is an example of modern historiography at its best; concise, impeccably written, soundly researched, it is indeed an fine essay on a difficult topic.

C.J.F Mac Carthy

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