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Title: Review: "'Our treasure of antiquities': Beranger and Bigari's Antiquarian Sketching Tour of Connacht in 1779", by Peter Harbison (Bray: Wordwell, 2002)

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books and prints will find a wonderful introduction to unsuspected pleasures. Others who know something of him and his works already will be delighted by this judicious study. Handsome in format and abundantly illustrated, it does belated justice to a remarkable Corkonian.

Toby Barnard
Hertford College, Oxford

'Our treasure of antiquities': Beranger and Bigari's Antiquarian Sketching Tour of Connacht in 1779. By Peter Harbison. Bray, Wordwell, 2002. Pp. 237. ISBN 1869 857 534.

As the sub-title explains, this is an account of the sketching tour of Connacht in 1779 by Gabriel Beranger, born in Rotterdam of French Huguenot parents, and Angelo Maria Bigari from Bologna. They were commissioned by the short-lived Hibernian Antiquarian Society, formed in 1779 by William Burton Conyngham and a small group of like-minded people.

There is a detailed and extremely interesting account of the sources used for this volume. They are mostly from the National Library of Ireland and the Royal Irish Academy. There is also the mystery of the 'lost diary'. Beranger kept a detailed diary of the tour, a later, cleaner copy of which came into the possession of Sir William Wilde of Ireland, who described it thus: 'it is the most beautifully written in a clear and distinct hand, without a blot or erasure and contains several small illustrative sketches'. The only surviving extracts from this work come from Wilde's 'Memoir of Gabriel Beranger and his Labours in the Cause of Irish Art and Antiquities from 1760-1780', which was published by M. H. Gill in Dublin in 1880. Alas, the diary was not mentioned in the catalogue of Wilde's library sold after his death. Perhaps one day it will resurface.

Harbison has used these sources to recreate, in great detail, the account of Beranger's and Biglai's journey through the Connacht region. Excerpts from the diary coupled with Harbison's extensive knowledge of the monuments bring the voyage to life. The surviving Beranger and Bigari sketches are suitably placed throughout the text. Fine photographs of the monuments by Josephine Shields, taken from a similar perspective as the sketches, allow a wonderful comparison to be made between then and now. In addition to the monuments, there are details of social interest. Bigari did not speak English, so the pair conversed in French. This led them to be mistaken for French spies in Clones, Co. Monaghan.

Harbison finishes his account with an epilogue on the fate of the sketches. In addition to the bibliography, there is a very useful list of the publications pertinent to the sites visited on the tour. This well-researched book is stunningly produced by Wordwell in association with the National Library of Ireland.

Stella Cherry,
Cork Public Museum

Remember Emmet: images of the life and legacy of Robert Emmet. By Ruán O'Donnell. Wordwell, in association with the National Library of Ireland. Bray, 2003. ISBN 1 869857 59 3.

This finely produced work offers a pictorial representation of the celebrated Irish revolutionary. It comprises six core chapters, dealing, among other themes, with its subject's family, childhood and education (pp. 2-19), the United Irishmen (20-39), as well as rebellion and conspiracy during 1798-1802 (40-59). The 1803 rising with which Emmet is famously associated receives the lengthiest treatment (60-99). Trials and executions occurring after the event are also explored extensively (100-34). A concluding section investigates how the insurrection's leader was recalled in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, both in Ireland and overseas (134-69). The compiler draws on a considerable spread of sources for the monograph, comprising sketches, paintings, maps, correspondence, publications, official documentation, objects and artifacts. These come principally from collections in

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