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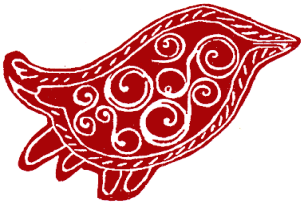

Title: Review: "An archaeology of southwest Ireland 1570-1670", by Colin Breen (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2007)

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vidual Quakers and the community in general. Amongst his publications on the subject, already in double figures, are *Biographical dictionary of Irish Quakers* (1997) and *Cork city Quakers 1655-1939* (1991). The present volume is in many ways an updating and enlargement of the latter title; both feature an image of James Abell (1751-1818) on the front cover, and an advertisement from Newsom's on the back, but this new book is much more extensive (235 pages compared with 91), and much more attractively produced. According to Harrison, in the years since his first booklet he has "amassed a great deal of information about Cork Quakers, which I would like to believe provides a corrective or useful addition to what I have written before. This extended and extensively rewritten book incorporates a large amount of freshly identified material".

The book is laid out in two main parts. Part one recounts in six chapters the history of Quakers in the city, and part 2 deals with their role in commerce. It is a straightforward chronological account; in his own words he seeks to "pile detail upon detail" in "the manner of a pointillist painter". As for commerce, merely to list Quaker names such as Pike, Haughton, Beale, Newsom, Fenn, and Newenham is to emphasize just how important they have been in the commercial life of the city over three centuries and more. It is important that any consideration of the Quakers' contribution to Cork life is not bounded by commerce, however, and Harrison gives informative summaries of the role of Cork Friends, individually and collectively, in anti-slavery agitation, the formation of learned societies, and Famine relief. There are also interesting sections on dissent within Quaker ranks, and on occasional controversies. Cooper Penrose, the well-respected merchant, and patron of both James Barry and Daniel Maclise, fell foul of the community for being "present at a horse race, owning a billiard table, and keeping a musical instrument".

The brief introduction to the nature of Quakerism at the beginning of the book is interesting and useful. Harrison writes that "Quakers shy away from any explicit explanation" and that their beliefs should be "walked and not talked", but his summary is helpful for non Friends.

The book is written 'from the inside', as it were, and is not a dispassionate historical account but rather a "personalised account" by a 'Friend' sympathetic to his subject. For example, he uses the Quaker convention of 'First-day' rather than Sunday, and 'ninth-month' rather than September. While this gives him familiarity with his subject matter, we get little sense of how the wider community of the city, members of Protestant churches and Catholics alike, regarded Quakers, with the exception of some favourable comments about individual Friends. The title of the book suggests Harrison's generally benign view, but it would have benefited from a wider perspective. The reference to the 'Lord Mayor' of Cork in 1787 – the office changed from Mayor to Lord Mayor only in 1900 – is a rare lapse by this well-regarded local historian.

No understanding of the history of Cork would be complete without an appreciation of what Quakers have contributed to its economic and cultural development, and this book should find a welcome place on the bookshelves of anyone interested in the city's history.

Liam Ronayne

Colin Breen *An archaeology of southwest Ireland 1570-1670*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2007. Pp. 240. €45 (web price €40.50). ISBN 978 1 84682 040 3

Dr Colin Breen of the University of Ulster undertook research on the historical archaeology of the later sixteenth to seventeenth centuries in Munster, the results of which are presented in the volume under review. This book is a well-written easily accessible volume; anyone interested in the area would certainly find something of use here. The title is somewhat misleading, as it covers the archaeology of south-eastern coastal areas of Munster as well as the southwest. The book concentrates on the impact of plantation on the landscape, particularly in the spheres of landscape defences and settlement patterns, offering chapters on urban and rural settlements, ports and shipping, fortifications in the landscape, and economy and industry.

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Breen, in the introductory chapter, considers the existing background of historical archaeology in Ireland. This section includes a brief consideration of the challenges faced by those interested in the archaeology of the recent past, challenges such as the issues of public and academic perception of the topic, the lack of archaeological research in the area in general, the lack of recognition of more recent material culture as archaeology at all and the need to put any work undertaken into an international framework. Breen considers the important work undertaken by IPMAG (the Irish post medieval archaeology group) in placing Irish historical archaeology in a North Atlantic research framework. When discussing this in conjunction with the fact that historical archaeology is now taught in schools and colleges seems to be suggesting that, in recent years, these challenges have been all but met. While this is perhaps an overly optimistic viewpoint, it cannot be denied that this book illustrates a climate of appreciation of historical archaeology in Ireland and represents a new departure in the topic, being at once an interesting survey of the broad archaeological evidence for the academic and an easily accessible read for the general public.

The second chapter deals with the historical context of the period in question, exploring the erosion of Gaelic power and the emergence of the protestant élite. Breen discusses urban settlement in the area in his third chapter, concentrating on the coastal towns including Cork, Waterford, Youghal and Kinsale. The author examines the development of the town form, the street morphology and the various building forms, concentrating on the larger houses and churches rather than more everyday structures. Chapter Four reviews the information available on ports and shipping and also discusses customs and trade. Breen then moves on to a consideration of rural settlement patterns, primarily considering plantation settlements of small towns and villages rather than isolated rural dwellings. Mansion houses and churches again form the main body of the buildings reviewed and the book has compiled a lot of information from various excavation reports on the form and layout of such structures. The sixth chapter, 'Fortifying the Landscape', deals briefly with bawn walls and Gaelic defences but, understandably given the time frame, the majority of the chapter looks at star-shaped forts and English-built coastal defences. This chapter is followed by one on economy and industry looking at agriculture, fishing, iron working, pottery production etc. The concluding chapter is perhaps the most interesting of all, considering concepts such as colonialism, modernity and identity within a summary of the information presented throughout.

The book is written in a very accessible style, and the text is enlivened by black and white illustrations including line drawings, photographs and maps. Where primary source maps have been reproduced they have lost a little detail as a result of the scale of reproduction; however, in the main the illustrations are well-thought out and relevant to the text. The style of writing is straightforward without being unnecessarily flowery; however, there is some inconsistency in chapter layout; chapters Two and Seven have summaries at the end while the others do not. The author, in his preface, describes this as 'an empiricist attempt to establish an archaeological context for this formative period which gave rise to such fundamental changes in landscape character and landownership . . .' (Breen, 2007, 9). The book, he says, is not intended to be an exhaustive review of the archaeology of the area nor is it intended to produce any profound archaeological theory. When reading it, it is clear that this empiricism emphasises those aspects of knowledge that are closely related to site and survey evidence, and within that it is strongest when considering the archaeology of the southwestern coast. Breen's work in that area is already well-known from his earlier publication *The Gaelic lordship of the O'Sullivan Beare* (2005), his research on the shipwreck of *La Surveillante* in Bantry Bay and his contributions to *The post-medieval archaeology of Ireland 1550-1850* (2007) where he writes on the archaeology of Bantry and Beare. Breen's background is in maritime archaeology and it is possible to see the influence of the many colleagues he has consulted within the chapters where the discussion is drawn away from that area, for example the influence of Dr Kieran O'Connor, NUI

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Galway, is seen the chapter on rural settlement and in considerations of the impact of plantation on the Gaelic lordship and that of Dr Colin Rynne of NUI Cork is seen in the chapter on economy and industry. This has resulted in a book that is both readable and informative.

Elena O'Brien

Ian Kenneally *The paper wall: newspapers and propaganda in Ireland 1919-1921*. Cork: Collins Press, 2008. Pp. 260. €16.99. ISBN 978 1905 1725 80

When speaking with someone who lived through a traumatic political event like a war or revolution, they often will tell you they saw little with their own eyes. Much of their attitudes, actions, and experiences were shaped by what they learned from their local media. In recent decades, television has been the principal medium; from the 1930s until the 1950s, it was radio; in prior decades, newspapers clearly dominated. To understand a political event, one must also understand the media that helped shape public opinion throughout that period.

During the War of Independence, the Irish public was heavily influenced by local newspaper coverage of the guerrilla war going on around them. The 1910s and 1920s were part of a golden age for newspapers, as increased literacy, growing urbanisation, and improved technology (telegraphs, telephones, and railways) built a mass medium. The Irish were addicted to their own newspapers, buying over 500,000 copies daily. Remarkably, historians of the Anglo-Irish conflict have essentially ignored the content of those publications until recently. Michael Wheatley started to fill the vacuum with his fascinating study of the provincial press in four north-west counties, *Nationalism and the Irish Party: provincial Ireland, 1910-1916* (Oxford University Press, 2005). Now Ian Kenneally's book makes a further and important contribution to the historiography of the Irish Revolution.

Amid growing political instability in Ireland, the British Government recognised the need to control the content of the Irish press, as shown in Kenneally's clarifying explanations of the British censorship regime from 1919 to 1921. This context is essential to his study of individual newspapers, and also provides a precursor to Ireland's long experience with government censorship post-independence. (Donal Ó Drisceoil's *Censorship in Ireland, 1939-1945* remains the standard for that subject.) Kenneally's analysis would likely have been improved by also covering British censorship in Ireland during the First World War (1914-18), which would have shown the policies of 1919-1921 as essentially a continuation of Dublin Castle's wartime media control. However, considering the Byzantine nature of British censorship in the war, Kenneally's parameters are well understood.

The meat of Kenneally's research studies daily newspaper coverage of the Anglo-Irish War from five sources: the *Freeman's Journal*, *Irish Independent*, *Irish Times*, the *Times* (of London), and *Cork Examiner*. Unfortunately, he focuses solely on urban newspapers, oversamples Dublin, and excludes publications from provincial towns and small cities. This is problematic because the experiences of Cork and Dublin hardly reflect the revolution in the rest of the country. For a more robust model, Kenneally should probably have selected at least two more provincial newspapers, with one in an inactive part of the country. However, this limitation does not distract from Kenneally's overall accomplishment in providing a clear, concise, analysis of five very different publications. Kenneally's sample offers real political diversity, including the Republican-oriented *Freeman's Journal*, the moderate nationalist *Cork Examiner* and *Irish Independent*, and the Unionist *Irish Times* and the *Times* (of London).

Kenneally does a fine job demonstrating the political evolution of nationalist publications during the Anglo-Irish War, from stern opponents of Republican violence to outraged critics of the British Government's reprisal policies. He outlines different newspapers' editorials offering suggestions for a political settlement between Britain and the Republicans, some of which echoed the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921. Fans of the *Irish Times* will surely wince at Kenneally's striking evidence of the newspaper's consistent defence of Black and

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