

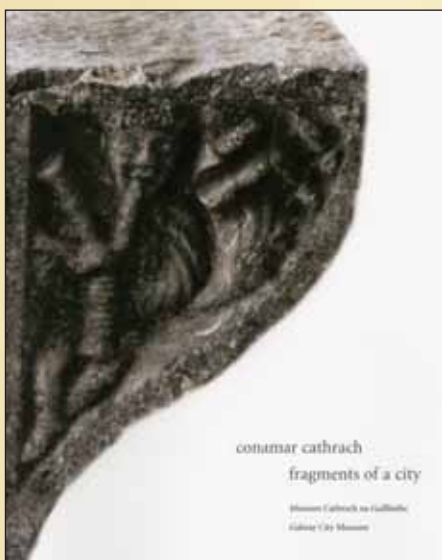
Galway's Heritage Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe



Editorial

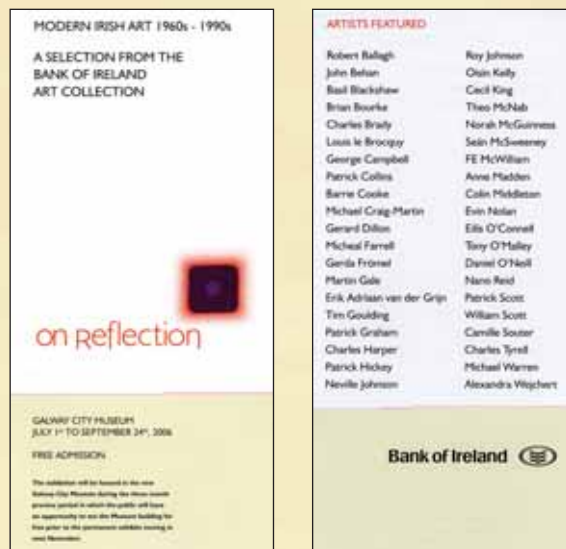
The opening of the new Galway City Museum / Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe is a historic event which has received much publicity, and one which should add considerably to the cultural life of the city. Galway has needed such a facility – a new purpose-built premises – for many years now. The old museum has now been superseded by a modern facility and the good basic historical collection in the old building can be moved to a new premises and be augmented, soon it is hoped, by some of the large amount of material from Galway City which is in the Irish Antiquities Art and Industrial and Folklife collections of the National Museum.

The museum opens with two exhibitions. The first archaeological exhibition to be displayed is Conamar Cathrach or Fragments of the City. This exhibition takes a selection of the very many fine stone carvings in the museum's holdings and exhibits them with detailed

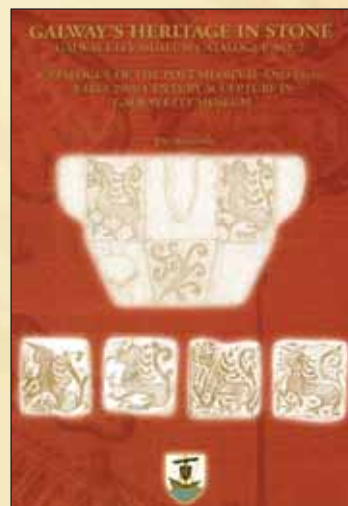


story-boards and an illustrated catalogue. The stone carvings collections in the Museum have already been published in two catalogues. The exhibition catalogue deals specifically with the small selected collection of carvings displayed and curated by the editor. Galway City has an unrivalled collection of stone sculpture and it is hoped that more items from the collection can be displayed on a periodic basis.

There is also on display a very fine art exhibition entitled "On Reflection". This is a selection of Irish modern art from the 1960's

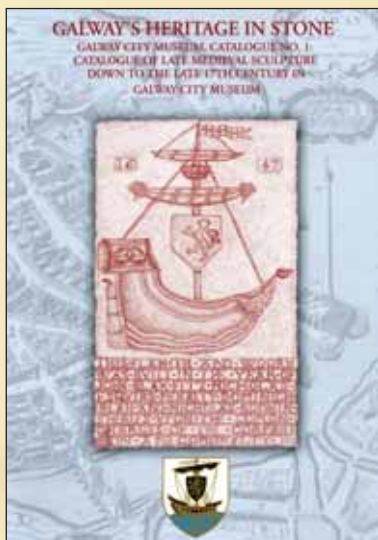


to the 1990's and is part of the Bank of Ireland collection. This too has an illustrated catalogue. The two exhibitions will remain on display until Autumn 2006 when the permanent exhibition will be put on display.



The opening of the new museum provides an opportunity to take stock of the cities cultural and heritage assets. With so much money being spent on development and so much taking place, is it not time to ask those benefiting most for some heritage facilities or features in such new developments? It is vital that some cultural and heritage facility and resource should be included. Could a city archive, the

long awaited School of Music and the long wished for public art gallery be located at either site? It is heartening that in preliminary meetings regarding the Ceannt Station site and in public statements to the press made by the Harbour Company that significant heritage features and facilities have been promised for both developments. Galway City cannot become a European City of Culture unless we have much cultural facilities in place. We need a state-of-the-art archive building, and for more archaeological features to be displayed *in situ* in the developments in which they are discovered. Small local theatres, more multi-use community centres and facilities which would enhance the cultural and heritage aspects of the city will make Galway an even more enjoyable place to visit and live in.



With the redevelopment too, of many large city centre sites which are in line for development have archaeological features which should be publically visible rather than being excavated and covered over again in a redevelopment project of large sites just outside the city centre – and some of these sites are almost as large as the footprint of the medieval walled town – there is need for a clear wisdom of what Galway

is going to be like in the future. We have so much from the past that is wonderful and that needs to be given pride of place, that it is vital that these gifts to the future be taken into account in these new developments. What if, from the beginning, it was decided that as a matter of policy (and pride) that every shop, business or facility would have all, or some, of its signage, till receipts, literature and menus in both Irish and English. This has

been done by many businesses already and Gaillimhe le Gaeilge does an excellent job of promoting such a policy, but it involves persuading each business or individual singly. What if it were to be decided in advance that every business and facility in the Ceannt Station and Dockland/Harbour sites would have such a policy from the very beginning. This could be an excellent means of 'branding the city', this would be to give people pride in what makes our city stand out would promote Galway's diverse and rich culture in a practical and straightforward manner. Beagán Gaeilge would go a long way towards giving the language pride of place.

Jim Higgins
Heritage Officer

A Word from the Manager

Galway's Heritage / Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe and *Galway City Museum Newsletter / Nuacht Litir Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe* are the two heritage publications produced quarterly by the Heritage Office. The latter publication will soon be published by the staff of Galway City's new Museum. *Galway's Heritage* will continue to be published in the Heritage office at City Hall.

This publication has now reached its ninth volume and continues to grow, both in size and in the range of its content. *Galway's Heritage* is an apt title for this publication, as it embraces

every aspect of the city's cultural, built and natural heritage. The range of articles include wildlife, fauna and flora, archaeology, artefacts, monuments, architecture, placenames and other cultural heritage along with articles on waterway, landscapes and conservation works on Protected Structures. The range of material is as wide as the definition of heritage is in the Heritage Act. Everyone is catered for, from children to adults, specialists to amateurs, and there is much of an educational nature in this magazine. Galway City Council's interest in and promotion of the City's heritage is evident

from the work of the Heritage Office and the Councils, Environment, Arts and Parks Department where there is some overlap with natural built and cultural heritage. In fact the work of all of these sections of the City Council

work together seamlessly to preserve and promote heritage and this is reflected clearly in the City Council's Heritage Plan.

Focal ón mBainisteoir

Is iad *Galway's Heritage / Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe* agus *Galway City Museum Newsletter / Nuachtlitir Mhúsaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe* an dá fhoilseachán oidhreachta a fhoilsíonn an Oifig Oidhreachta go ráithiúil. Beidh an dara foilseachán á fhoilsiú go luath ag foireann Mhúsaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe. Beidh *Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe* fós á fhoilsiú san Oifig Oidhreachta i Halla na Cathrach.

Foilsíodh naoi n-imleabhar den fhoilseachán seo go dtí seo agus tá sé ag fás i gcónaí i dtoirt agus i raon a ábhair. Is teideal maith don fhoilseachán seo é Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe mar go gclúdaíonn sé gach gné d'oidhreachta chultúrtha, tógtha agus nádúrtha na cathrach. San áireamh i réimse na n-alt tá fásra agus ainmhithe, seandálaíocht, lámhdhéantúsáin, séadchomharthaí, ailtireacht, logainmneacha agus gnéithe eile oidhreachta cultúrtha chomh maith le hailt ar uiscebhealaí, thírdhreach agus

oibreacha caomhnaithe ar Struchtúir Chosanta. Tá réimse an ábhair chomh leathan is atá an sainmhíniú ar an oidhreacht san Acht Oidhreachta. Déantar freastal ar gach duine, ar pháistí agus dhaoine fásta, speisialtóirí agus amaitéaraigh agus tá cuil mhór eolais oideachasúil san iris seo. Léirítear suim Chomhairle Cathrach na Gaillimhe i gcur chun cinn oidhreachta na Cathrach in obair na hOifige Oidhreachta agus Roinn Comhshaoil, Ealaíon agus Páirceanna na Comhairle, áit a bhfuil roinnt trasnála leis an oidhreacht nádúrtha agus chultúrtha. Gan amhras, caomhnaítear agus cuitear an oidhreacht cun cinn trí chomhobair na rannóg seo ar fad dde chuid na Comhairle Cathrach, agus léirítear é seo i bPlean Oidhreachta na Comhairle Cathrach.

Joe MacGrath
Bainisteoir na Cathrach / City Manager

Early Prehistory in the West of Ireland

Investigations into the social archaeology of the Mesolithic and the Mesolithic-Neolithic Transition, West of the Shannon.

Killian Driscoll, 1st year M.Litt student, Archaeology Dept. NUI, Galway

In October 2004, I commenced a two year research programme on the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic west of the Shannon. Over the last 30 years, a number of 'Bann Flakes' and related Mesolithic material culture have been discovered in the west of Ireland. Various articles have covered some aspects of these finds (Higgins 1978; Higgins 1986; Higgins 1987; Higgins and Gibbons 1988; Gibbons, Higgins, and Gibbons Forthcoming), one of the few

dedicated research programmes on the Mesolithic in the west has been an M.A. on the Mesolithic in Co. Clare by Lynch. One of his stated objectives for the thesis was "to establish a probable rather than a possible Mesolithic" for the area (Lynch 2002, 1), and he focused his fieldwork on the mid-west of the county. In terms of research on the Neolithic in the west, clearly much more has been done, especially in terms of work on the megaliths, the field

systems, and also the Neolithic houses and related structures that have been excavated (for references see Waddell 1998).



Mesolithic and possible Mesolithic in the west of Ireland as of Spring 2006

The initial intention of my thesis is to understand the character of the material culture of the early prehistory, west of the Shannon, and to understand how people have inhabited, and utilised, this landscape from a diachronic perspective. Secondly, to establish any degree of variability between inland and coastland in the region; to establish any degree of regionality in the Mesolithic that would seem to be apparent in the Neolithic material culture; and to see how this region under study relates in the context of the Irish setting. Thirdly, to analyse and interpret the evidence in terms of a social archaeology of the period; this will involve producing a coherent record of the Mesolithic and Early Neolithic evidence for the region: what is the quality of the material record (*i.e.* in terms of the lithic bias, and the megalithic bias in our interpretations of the early prehistory)?

As the area under considerations is $\frac{1}{4}$ of Ireland's landmass, I will use existing findspots of material as a platform into the landscape, specifically for now taking Lough Corrib and its environs, and Lough Urlaur and its environs as Mesolithic case studies, and the Tawin island area as a Neolithic case study area. These case

study areas will be complimented by 'in-fill' fieldwork in other locations. I intent to compare my study area to work that has been done in the south-west and the north-west as a means to integrate our present knowledge of the period. Woodman *et al.* (1999) have published work on the south-west, and Woodman is presently working in Donegal. The Mesolithic/Neolithic transition in the Lough Swilly area of Donegal has also been researched by an American student Michael Kimball (2000) for his PhD.

It is now 21 years since Bradley's (1984, 10-1) oft quoted passage of how research into the Mesolithic and Neolithic had been portrayed in the literature as a whole as that of successful farmers having social relations with one another, while hunter-gatherers had ecological relations with the hazelnuts. And it has been commented on many times that the different research traditions of the two periods have inevitably buttressed the divisions seen between them. Arguably, a fundamental first concern of research is to understand and qualify the nature: culture dichotomy that is our intellectual inheritance; the standard idea would seem to be that the cultural Neolithic population triumphantly overcame the Mesolithic people who were constrained by, and reduced to, nature. On a more general level, I think there is a danger of having a sense of inevitability when dealing with the Mesolithic, as it is readily apparent to us that the hunter-gatherer way of life was replaced by farming, by people supposedly like us. As Bradley commented, once Neolithic farming arrives, the Mesolithic population becomes obsolete, as it is related to the economy of hunting and gathering. The terminology of Mesolithic and Neolithic is hard to avoid, and of course using the shorthand term early prehistory doesn't solve this terminological problem as we still know what it stands for.

In terms of the fieldwork involved in broadening our picture of the Mesolithic, the most glaring observation is the lack of visible remains in comparison to later periods. The factors

militating against the discovery and recovery of material are well rehearsed, as is the inevitable biases in the record of terms of the early and later Mesolithic material. Indeed, while a whole host of Neolithic house-type structures have been revealed over the years through the contract sector, you may recall that the remains of the settlement at L. Gur were readily visible before excavation. Moreover, in terms of the sheer quantity of contract work now taking place, there is the danger of the Mesolithic being ignored, or rather, hacked through: it could easily be argued that not only did they not have a sacred, ritual landscape that is worth preserving, they didn't even use pots or pans! However, in terms of the contract sector, it should be remembered that Mt. Sandal, the site that put Ireland on the European Mesolithic map, was excavated in advance of development work, and at the time they had no real expectations of finding such a site, yet alone it returning such dates (Woodman 1985). Again, the recently discovered early Mesolithic cremations from the banks of the Shannon came from the contract sector, adding substantially to the burial record of the Mesolithic (Collins and Coyne 2003).



Selection of the Lough Allen lithics found in one location, Summer 2005

Initial fieldwork around Lough Allen has revealed a wealth of Mesolithic evidence, and also some Neolithic lithics, both in old findspots as well as in other areas investigated. The fieldwork on the Lough Corrib and River Corrib has not been so successful, but has turned up undiagnostic lithics and axeheads. A

few days work in the Tawin area has turned up both Mesolithic and Neolithic evidence as well.

In conclusion, I hope that my necessarily limited two year research will be able to add somewhat to our knowledge of the early prehistory in the west, and set in place a possible framework and avenues of enquiry for further research on this period. Clearly, much work has to be done on the period, and the initial ambit suggested for my thesis is very wide, and clearly a lifetime could be spent there as opposed to 24 months!

It has been repeated on many occasions that a key component for the success in archaeological endeavours is the ability for academic archaeologists and their students to work in tandem with the general public and local societies, as well as the contract sector. On that note, I would greatly appreciate any information that readers, might have of artefacts pertaining to these periods, and I can be contacted at the Archaeology Dept. at NUI, Galway.

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Galway Infirmary, 1802-1892 and its Archive Collection.

The Galway Infirmary collection of archives consists of two volumes of minutes of proceedings of the Governors of the County of Galway Infirmary (1802-1892), marked No. 1 and No. 3. It also includes plans and drawings of the Infirmary (dated 1858 and 1862). The collection, held by Galway County Council, Archives has been assigned the archival code of GH2.

Summary History of the Hospital, 1802-1892

What follows is a brief history of the hospital as extracted from the minutes, 1802-1892.

James Hardiman in *The History of the Town and County of the Town of Galway from the Earliest Period to the Present Time*, 1820, writes that in 1638 Wentworth, the Lord Deputy, directed that a public infirmary be erected in and for the county of Galway. However, it was more than 50 years later before a small building in Woodquay was provided for that purpose. This infirmary was later moved to a house in Abbeygate Street¹.

An Act of the Irish Parliament in 1765 called for 'erecting and establishing public infirmaries and hospitals in this kingdom'². Galway Corporation met on 18th April 1766, at which it was ordered

*'that a committee consisting of the principal gentlemen of the town be, and are, accordingly appointed, to inquire and find out a proper place within the county of the town of Galway for erecting a public infirmary or hospital for the reception of poor, sick and disabled persons'*³.

The Governors of the Erasmus Smith School shortly afterwards donated a two acre site at Prospect Hill for the Infirmary⁴. However, it was many years later before the building was actually constructed and completed. In 1802 the Infirmary at Abbeygate Street was finally moved to the new accommodation in Prospect Hill.

The maintenance of the new Infirmary was primarily supported by the Grand Jury presentments from the County cess and partly by Parliamentary grants⁵.

Membership to the Board of Governors was simply attained by payment of a subscription. A Life Governor, for instance, paid a subscription of £20, while the subscription for annual membership in 1880 was £3.3.0 (GH2.3, p46). There was also a small body of Official Governors, which included the Archbishop of Armagh, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, the bishop of the diocese and the rector or vicar of the parish in which the infirmary was situated⁶. In 1889 there was 64 Governors. The Governors' attendance at meetings was constantly low, with rarely more than ten Governors in attendance at any meeting.

The Infirmary treated many thousands of patients between 1802 and 1892. Admission to the hospital was permitted upon presentation of a letter from a Governor, and was available primarily for the inhabitants of the County of Galway, rather than the Town of Galway. In 1844 the Governors, '*with a view of making the present county Infirmary available to the poor sick*

1. Hardiman, James (reprint 1958), *The History of the Town and County of the Town of Galway from the Earliest Period to the Present Time*, 1820, Reprint 1958, Connacht Tribune Printing and Publishing Company, Galway, p315.
2. *Ibid.*, p315.
3. *Ibid.*, p315.
4. A note on a front page of the first volume of minutes (GH2.1) of proceedings of the Governor's meetings records that in Hardiman's

History of Galway, it is written that '1765 Board of Erasmus Smith granted 2 acres of ground forever' on which to build a County Infirmary' (GH2/1, p2).

5. Murray, Dr James, *P Galway: A Medico-Social History*, Kenny's Bookshop & Art Galleries Ltd, Galway, (n.d. c 1994).
6. *Ibid.*, pp.60-61.

inhabitants of the county of the Town of Galway resolved to send a deputation to the Grand Jury to ascertain what assistance it would offer to '*accomplish this desirable object*' (GH2/1, p61). However, nothing appeared to come of this deputation.

The finances and administration of the Infirmary were the responsibility of the Treasurer, a Governor elected to the position, and the Surgeon. The management of the hospital appeared for the most part, particularly up until the 1880's, to be very satisfactory. A Report in 1821 by a Committee approved by the Grand Jury to examine and report on the County Infirmary accounts found '*them very regular and perfectly correct*' (GH2/1).

The Infirmary suffered constantly from lack of funds, particularly from the 1880's onwards, and as a result it was closed on a number of occasions. Also, during this period, following the death of the Hospital's long serving Surgeon-in-Charge, Dr Browne, a protracted dispute arose relating to the election of a new Surgeon (see below), which also disrupted its management.

Due to the ongoing financial and managerial difficulties, the Governors petitioned government to introduce a Bill into Parliament which would re-constitute the hospital as a General Hospital for both the county and town of Galway.

In 1892, the Galway Hospital's Act was introduced into legislation, under which the administration and management of the Infirmary was more formally established. Between 1892 and 1922 it was managed by a Board of Management, comprised of 52 members elected from the representatives for the Poor Law Unions of county Galway. The

Board reported to the Local Government Board, and required its sanction before the implementation of many decisions.

From 1st January 1922, the Hospital was taken over by the Hospital, Homes and Homes Assistance Committee⁷. The Galway Hospital, formerly known as the Infirmary, was phased out from 1922 and closed in December 1924. The building on Prospect Hill was later enlarged and refurbished, and used as office accommodation by Galway County Council⁸. The Workhouse was developed as a Central Hospital to serve both the City and the County⁹.

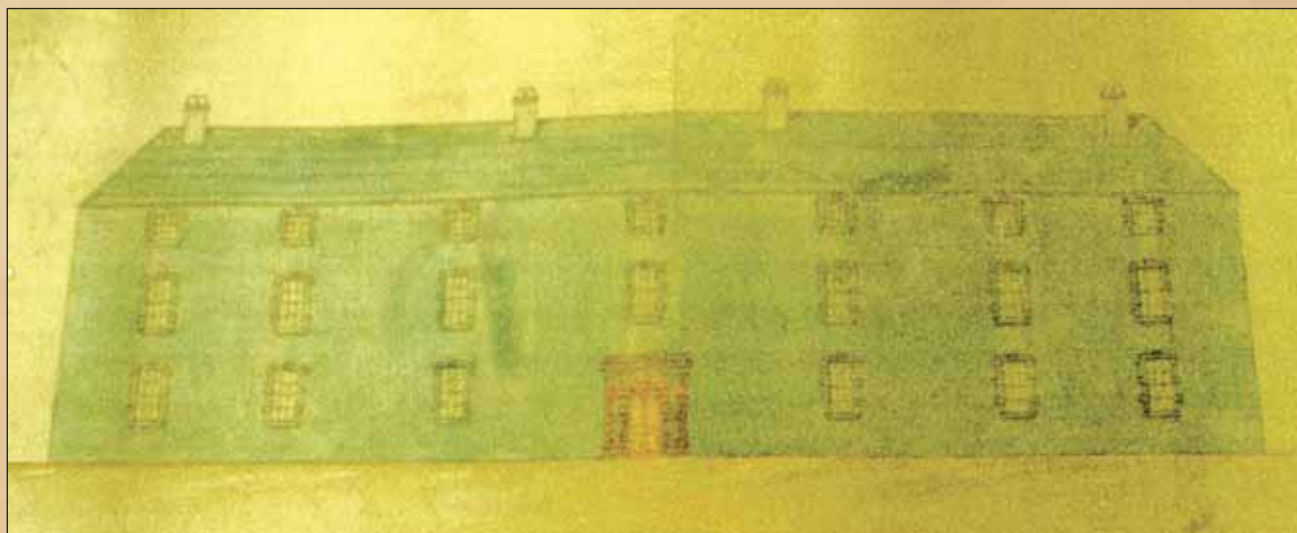
At the meeting of new Governors held in Ballinasloe on 6th October 1802 it was resolved that Lord Luke Clonbrock be President of the Infirmary. A Vice-President was also decided upon. In addition, the Governors resolved that five '*Governors shall be necessary to draw any bill upon the Treasurer of whom the President or Vice President as the case may be, to be one*' (GH2/1, p4). It was also decided to appoint a Clerk to take the minutes of proceedings of the Governors' meetings, keep accounts and preserve the books and '*do such other acts as he shall be required to do by the Governors at meetings, or in the interval of Meetings. . .*' (GH2/1, p4).

The Governors also ordered at that meeting to have a drawing made of the plan of the different stories of the existing shell of the hospital building and a report be made on the current status of it. This was then to be forwarded to London for the attention of Mr Hardwicke, who would then be required to give his opinion on the '*best means of completing the shell so as to make a Hospital hereof as healthy and convenient as the nature of the thing will admit*' (GH2/1, p5).

7. Galway Hospital, 1892-1922 archive collection GH1/2, 31 December 1921.

8. The building, originally constructed in 1802 and subsequently enlarged, was demolished in *circa* 1996, and replaced by Galway County Council in 1998 with a newly constructed modern building.

9. The Workhouse complex of buildings was demolished in the 1950s, with a new Regional Hospital constructed close by. The Regional Hospital changed its title in the early 21st to University College Hospital Galway (UCHG).



County Galway Infirmary, Front Elevation

At the meeting of 8 April 1803, it was noted that a Mr Roger O'Connor gave up possession of the Infirmary to the Governors, who then ordered its repair (GH2/1, p6).

In July 1803, the Governors approved the plans proposed by Mr. Richard Fahy, architect, for raising the heights of the windows on the first and second floors and also in the attic of the Infirmary (GH2/1, p7).

The minutes of proceedings of the Governors, meetings indicate that no meetings were held between the Spring Assizes of 1805 and the Lent Assizes of 1807. Further gaps appear in the minutes over the next 80 years. For instance, there is also a gap in the minutes between 1807 and April 1816, though it was ordered then that quarterly meetings be held in the months of October, January, April, and July (GH2/1, p18). However, the meetings continued to be held on an irregular basis for some years. In 1843, the Governors resolved that they should meet on the first Wednesday of each month (GH2/1, p53). Though, often as only one, two or three Governors attended on the appointed date, no meetings were held. In 1888, the Governors decided to hold a meeting on the first Thursday of each month and for their quarterly meetings to continue (GH2/3, p108).

There is another substantial gap in the minutes between January 1848 and April

1859. Furthermore, in the volume referred to as 'No. 1' (GH2/1) the minutes between 1864 and 1876 simply record the total amount of bills that were presented for payment. The volume referred to as 'No. 3' has slightly more complete minutes for the 1865-1866 period, but then has a gap until March 1877. The Galway Weekly Advertiser and Galway Vindicator newspapers, however, do carry reports of weekly admissions, discharges, death and beds occupied.

In 1805, it was noted that *'one half of the Infirmary is capable of containing thirty beds independent of an Operation room, a surgery, Committee room and all proper offices for attendance. Ordered that the remaining half be given up for the resident of accommodation of Doctor Vetch Surgeon to the Institution. . .'* subject to various conditions (GH2/1, pp11-12).

It was also ordered that the number of beds be increased from eleven to eighteen, *'it appearing that the funds of the Institution will admit thereof and that an additional nurse be employed'* (GH2/1, p12).

'We have also examined the Rooms and found them perfectly clean and in excellent order and having examined the patients in the Institution find them perfectly satisfied with their food and general treatment having exactly conformable to the Printed Regulations, on the whole we have to

express our highest satisfaction with the General conduct of the Institution by Doctor Vetch (GH2/1, p22).

In 1837, the Governors noted the passing in the House of Commons of legislation for the regulation of the Medical Charities of Ireland. The Governors resolved that they did not object to the legislation *'providing for the adequate support of such medical charities, and to secure the proper and judicious application of funds thereof. . . '* (GH2/1, p36). They welcomed the establishment of an independent Board of Inspectors of Medical Charities, while at the same time expressing concern about its own status, considering that the hospital was legally bested in them and by their subscriptions supported it for many years previous. In addition, it recommended that provision be made by the Board for the adequate payment of salaries for the Infirmary's Medical Officers (GH2/1, pp36-37). The Governors also placed on record the fact that it had for many years inspected the institution and always found it to be managed, by the Medical Attendants, in accordance with the rules and regulations established for its governance. It finally resolved that it trusted the government would not *'interfere with our vested rights of managing our own property and that of the county institution to us, without dissent for near a century, that on the contrary same will be recognised as well as own rights of the recommendation of patients'* (GH2/1, p37).

In February 1845, the Governors felt that they did not have sufficient funds to support a greater number of patients than 45 daily (GH2/1, p66).

In November 1845, over £500 was *'expended in the Infirmary up to the 5th October, and that the balance in the Treasurers hands would not be sufficient to maintain the Institution to the 5 of January next. Resolved that the number of patients in the Infirmary be reduced to an average of twenty per day and that no more than three nurses be kept in the Hospital'* (GH2/1, p68). At the beginning of 1847, the Infirmary was in

debt to the amount of £133.11.2, with the expenditure for the year ending 5th January 1848 was £757.8.7 (GH2/1, p79).

In 1889, the minutes record that a sum of £866.7.7 was standing to the credit of the Governors (GH2/3, p129). The Infirmary suffered severely from lack of funds on many occasions, particularly between the 1880s and 1892, closing on several occasions as a result.

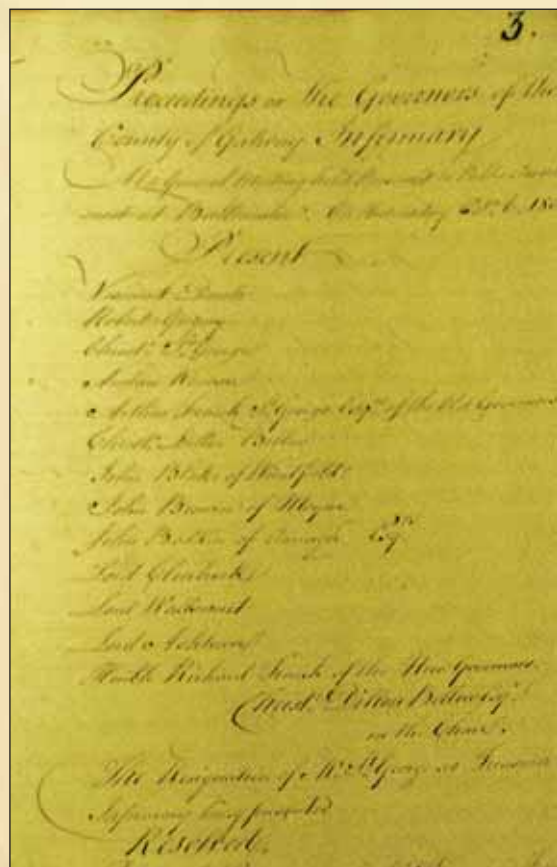
General repairs, including the painting, white washing and glazing of the entire hospital, were carried out in 1846. In addition, tenders were requested for the construction of three water closets (GH2/1, p70).

In 1859, it was estimated it would cost £555 to put the Infirmary in a proper state of order (GH2/1, p86). In October of that year the tender of John Semple and Patrick Nugent for £574 sterling was accepted by the Governors for the repairs to the Institution (GH2/1, p92).

In October 1859, Dr. Vetch, Surgeon, submitted a report to the Governors regarding the better management of the Infirmary and recommended *'that there be two nurses able to read and write at fair wages say ten pounds per year with rations coal and candle. That there should be tow ward maids to do the washing and cleaning of the House and assist in sitting up at night when required. . . that there should be a Laundry maid. . . and that there should be a proper laundry erected with airing presses etc; that there should be a good cook say at six pounds per annum with rations; . . .'* Following which the Governors decided to appoint, for the present, a Nurse and Cook only (GH2/1, pp94-95). In December 1859, the Governors were advised that no application *'was received for the situation of a nurse who could read and write'* (GH2/1, p97).

In 1865, the Governors ordered that a Laundry was necessary and ordered that one be *'fitted up according to plans and specifications to be prepared. . .'* (GH2/3, p1).

From 1877, it was directed that the accounts of the hospital be laid before the Local Government Board's auditor on an annual basis. From this point forward the minutes also record that various books, such as the Infirmary Ledger and Bank Pass Book were examined and compared at each meeting.



In 1877, the Governors resolved that the Local Government Board 'have the Infirmary's account annually audited by Government auditor' (GH2/3, p.7). It also directed that a Gentleman in each Barony, who is not a Governor, be appointed to grant admission to the Infirmary subject to the condition that each 'patient recommended by such Gentleman shall pay a sum of one shilling per day to be guaranteed by the Gentleman. . .' (GH2/1, p10). Mr Robert Bodkin of Annagh, Ballyglunin, who was appointed to act for the Barony of Clare, declined the position stating, 'I am unable to avail myself of this as it is encumbered with conditions to which I should object as being at variance with every principle on which a charitable institution is founded, more especially one largely subsidised by County rates to which every cess payer contributes'

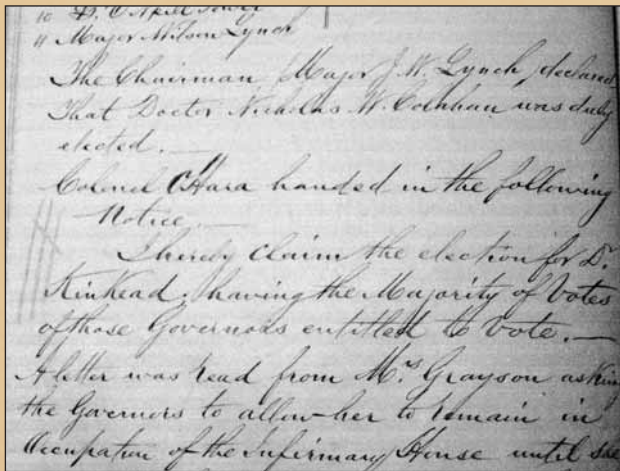
(GH3/2, p12). In April 1878, the Governors recommended to the Grand Jury that this arrangement be amended, and to 'notify that patients will in future be admitted without this charge on a letter of recommendation from a Magistrate of the County, subject to the opinion of the Surgeon that the case is suitable and that the Governors consent' (GH2/3, p.24).

In 1879, an estimate in the amount of £14.10.0 from Michael Burke was accepted for painting the internal wood work of the Infirmary, with the oils and colours to be supplied by the Governors (GH2/3, p34).

Following the death of Dr Browne, who had been the Surgeon in the Hospital for over 40 years, notices were posted in the local and national newspapers of the election of a new resident surgeon to be held by the Governors on 10th December 1887. Life Governors had the right to vote in the election. On 10th December prior to the commencement of the election, nine additional gentlemen presented themselves at the meeting, each with a cheque of £21 payable to the Governors, 'thus constituting themselves Life Governors' of the institution (GH2/3, pp90-91). There then appears to have followed a protracted meeting, with some members objecting to the newly paid up Governors being entitled to a vote, and also an objection on the basis that some other members were not fully paid up members. However, an election of the applicants followed resulting in the election of Dr Nicholas Colahan (GH2/3, pp90-95).

Following this meeting, and several objections regarding the status of Life membership, and the voting entitlement of the newly paid up and other Governors, a legal case ensued between Dr Kinkead and the Governors of the Infirmary, challenging the legality of the election. As a result the Registrar, Mr James Loftus, was served with a notice from the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice to appear before it with all Books and Papers in connection with the case (GH2/3, p97). A lengthy meeting was held in July 1888

where a solicitor for Dr Kinkead presented several documents to the Governors which stated that *'Dr Colahan was not legally elected, and that Dr Kinkead had filed a Petition showing cause that his election was valid, and claiming a right to be recognised as Surgeon of the Infirmary'* (GH2/3, p111). It was decided at a vote of 36 to 23 that pending receipt of the Court decision on the legality of the election of the Surgeon, that Dr Colahan was to be left in charge of the Infirmary.



In November 1888, the Governors received the Court's opinion where the Institution was ordered to *'admit to the place and office of Surgeon to said Infirmary' Dr Richard* (GH2/3, p123). However, the Governors decided to defend the action.

In February 1889, the Governors were advised by their Solicitor, Mr John Kilkelly, that the Court gave a *'unanimous decision in favour of the Governors of the Co. Galway Infirmary – and that each party should bear their own costs'* (GH2/3, p133). Nevertheless, some of the Governors wanted another election, in particular Colonel James O'Hara who brought a case against the Governors. In June 1889, an Order from the High Court was read at a meeting which effectively ordered *'that they the Said Governors. . . forthwith proceed to the Election of and to elect a Surgeon to, and of, and for the said Infirmary. . .'*' (GH2/3, p151), which the Governors then again decided to appeal.

Upon receipt, in September 1890, of a *'Mandamus'* from the Court to proceed to hold an election for a Surgeon a date of 12th October was set for the election (GH2/3, 16 September 1890). However, as a quorum of Governors did not attend no election took place on that date.

Meanwhile, Dr Colahan remained in the post until the Galway Hospital's Act of 1892, which assigned the appointment of permanent medical staff in Galway Hospital to the Local Government Board in Dublin¹⁰.

In 1889 a public meeting was to be called *'for the purpose of considering the necessity and importance of maintaining and developing the County Galway Infirmary which is so very valuable a public institution'* (GH2/3, p144). At the meeting on 17th June a resolution adopted at a Baronial Session in Athenry was read which stated *'We the Magistrates and Cess Payers of the Athenry Barony assembled here to-day at Baronial Sessions have learned with regret that some of the Grand Jurors at the last Assizes voted the closing of the County Infirmary. . . the driving into the Workhouse Hospital all the cess-payers who would require Hospital Treatment. We need hardly say this would be repulsive to the feelings of the cess-payers at large, and we on their behalf ask the Grand Jurors as a body, not to be a party to a course which would in the end give dissatisfaction to all, and be detrimental to the interests of the poor'* (GH2/3, p146). Similar resolutions were also passed at other Baronial sessions.

At a meeting on 18th July 1889, the Governors resolved that the Infirmary be closed *'for the present as there was no money to carry on the Institution'*. The Registrar was ordered to issue circulars to all Governors advising that no further patients could be admitted until further notice (GH2/3, pp156-157). It was decided in August that the Governor's Law Adviser be asked to correspond with the Chief Secretary with *'the*

10. Ibid. p6.

view of urging on a Bill in Parliament expected to be introduced regarding the Infirmary and of drafting details if necessary' (GH2/3, p158). A month's notice was ordered to be issued on all Officers of the Infirmary advising that their services cease.

However, at a Special meeting held on 22 August 1889, the Chairman Mr Henry S. Perse requested the resolution closing the Infirmary be rescinded on the basis that he would fund the Hospital: '*. . . he would take upon himself the responsibility of arranging for any funds required for the maintenance expenses, until other funds are obtained – probably next March*'. The Governors accepted this offer thanking the Chairman for '*the liberal manner in which he had come forward to relieve the Infirmary from the difficulty under which it was placed – and that his action in this instance as in many others, was noble and generous. . . Mr Perse was always foremost in every action that was calculated to benefit the people of Galway*' (GH2/3, p162-163).

In November 1889, an application was made for a Presentment of £700 to maintain the institution for the half year from 5 July 1890 to 5 January 1891 (GH2/3, p170).

At a Special Meeting held on 1890, the Governors resolved, once again, to close the Hospital due to lack of funds and resolved that the property of the hospital be placed in the hands of a Committee. One month's notice was again to be served on the staff (GH2/3, 11 July, 1890).

During October 1890, and for several months afterwards, there was negotiation between the Governors and the Queen's College¹¹ Council on the re-opening of the Infirmary and its use for clinical teaching. The College Council proposed giving funds to facilitate the re-opening of the institution, '*The Council in the*

interest of the College and of the public at large propose to supply funds – not exceeding £500 – for keeping the County Infirmary open during the ensuing Winter and Spring, and they beg to invite the Governors to appoint a Committee of four of their Members to meet a Committee of the Council to make arrangements for carrying out the above proposal', (GH2/3, p25 October 1890), several other conditions were also imposed (6 November, 1890). The matter was subsequently debated and though the Governors were prepared to accept the funding, they were not prepared to have Dr Colahan relinquish control over the hospital or its patients in favour of the College's five medical professors. They resolved '*That Dr Calahan, who has been Surgeon in charge for 3 years will arrange for the opening of the Hospital providing nurses etc and will be responsible to the Governors, for the proper management and admission of patients and report on all matters regarding diet of patients, medicine etc. He will communicate with the College Council as to the appointing of a staff of Clinical teachers, and report same to the Governors*' (GH2/3, 6 November 1890).

At a Special Meeting of 22 November, Dr Allman, of the College Council, advised the Governors that they had no authority over the Medical Professors, who attended at the Infirmary on a voluntary basis and further stated that '*The [College] Council applied for liberty to the Government to expend a sum of £500 and having got that privilege, the Council now merely ask that Dr Colahan and the Medical Professors of the College should be on equal terms – and if this were not done he feared the other Professors would not act. . .*' (GH2/3, 22 November 1890). By December arrangements were agreed which appeared to suit both parties. It was agreed that three of the Medical professors would carry out clinical teaching in the Hospital, with each having their own duties and being responsible for their own work but being responsible to the Governors of the Infirmary. In addition, it was

11. Subsequently re-established as the part of the National University of Ireland, and titled University College Galway and later National University College, Galway.

agreed that two unpaid resident pupils would be 'received' to assist the Fr Colahan (GH2/3, 27 December 1890).

In 1890, the Governors then set a new scale of charges for patients, with Admiralty Patients to be charged 2 shilling per day, and Constabulary Patients 1 shilling per day. All other classes of patients were to be charged at a rate not exceeding 7 shilling or less than 3 shillings a week, with payments to be made in advance.

Meanwhile, a Commission of Inquiry into the management and maintenance of the Infirmary was held in 1889, which reported to the Lord Lieutenant in February 1890. The Governors considered the report at a Special Meeting held on 20th September 1890, where it resolved that they desire the funding of the Hospital to continue to be paid by Baronial rate, rather than poor rate. The issue was further discussed at a meeting on 10th March 1891, when this decision was reversed and it was decided *'that the funds for maintenance of the Institution be derived from the Poor Rates, instead of the Baronial rating'* (GH2/3, p184).

At the same meeting the Governors also resolved *'That we the Governors here assembled regret extremely that the Governors who are entitled by Act of Parliament to issue advertisement for the election of a Medical Officer have never attended since the death of Dr Brown in sufficient numbers to form a quorum, to issue said Notice, and that we consider the deadlock in the finances of the Infirmary entirely due to their want of action in this regard'* (GH2/3, p185).

In Spring 1891, the Governors then set about approaching the Chief Secretary again, to request that a Bill be brought before Parliament which would re-organise and better establish the Infirmary (see GH2/3, 6 February, and 2nd April 1891, for instance), as had been recommended by the Commission of Inquiry into the Institution. A Petition was collected which included the signatures of *'one Archbishop, and three Bishops'* (GH2/3, 2 April 1891). The petition was passed to the Lord Lieutenant during a visit to Galway the May 1891.

Also, in May 1891, the Governors resolved that *'As on and after 1st July next, there shall be no Funds available for the maintenance of the County Galway Infirmary, the Governors, unwilling to close the Institution without trying every expedient, unanimously resolved to appeal to the charity of the County and County of the Town of Galway, and the public generally, for Subscriptions to enable them to keep the Infirmary open, pending legislation for its Permanent Reconstruction, as a General Hospital for the West of Ireland, which legislation the Governor have reason to hope will be carried into effect within the present year'* (GH2/3, 29 May 1891).

Following receipt of subscriptions from the public, the Hospital then remained opened until December 1891, though clinical teaching continued at the institution funded by the College. Thereafter, the hospital remained open for paying patients.

At the final meeting of the Governors, for which minutes exist, held on 6th January 1892, the Governors resolved *'That the Infirmary be kept open for paying patients, but the Governors are not prepared to admit students of the Queen's College for Clinical teaching unless on the same terms as already acted upon in December 1890 and decline accepting the terms of the Resolution of the College Council of the 19th December 1890'*. The Council's resolution proposed that the College would financially support the Hospital by means of a grant, on the condition that its five Professors of the Faculty of Medicine were placed in charge of the Patients, as had been recommended in the Commission of Inquiry's Report (1889).

The Galway Hospital's Act was shortly afterwards brought into effect, which established a new Board of Management for the Hospital. The Board held its first meeting on 16th August 1892. It reported to the Local Government Board and required its sanction before the implementation of many decisions. Mr Henry S. Persse, former Chairman of the Governors of the Infirmary, was elected Chairman for one year, and Mr James Loftus,

who had acted as Hospital Registrar for the Infirmary since 1877, was appointed Registrar to the Board at a salary of £30 per annum. Dr Colahan remained on the medical staff supported by several other doctors. The minutes of this Board between 1892 and 1922 for the archive collection GH1, held by Galway County Council Archives.

Arrangement of the Collection

This collection consists of two main categories of records, minutes of the Governors of the County Infirmary and plans and drawings of building. At the back of one volume of minutes (GH2/3) details of some tenders received are also included.

Overall, this collection illustrates aspects of the early administration of the County Infirmary. It should be of interest to administrative, social, medical and local historians. The minutes are rather sparse, giving very little detail on the working or living conditions of the time.

Readers are advised, if interested in the subsequent management and administration of the Hospital, to also consult the archive collections for Galway Hospital, 1892-1922 (GH1/), and the County Galway Board of Health and Public Assistance, 1922-1941, (GC5/). These collections are also held by Galway County Council Archives, and are available for consultation, by appointment



only, with the Archives, at Galway County Libraries Headquarters, Island House, Cathedral Square, Galway.

Overall the collection is in relatively good condition. The minutes are recorded in bound volumes, on good quality paper, which carry a water mark bearing the dates 1798 (GH2/1) and 1862 (GH2/3).

Patria McWalter
Archivist, Galway County Council.

Related Collections

Records held by Galway County Council Archives:

- Galway Hospital, 1892-1922, (GH1/)
- County Galway Board of Health & Public Assistance, 1922-1941, (GC5/)

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Statue of Pádraic Ó Conaire Moved to the New Galway City Museum/Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe



Portrait of Mr. Pádraic Ó Conaire and his wife, Molly, (c.1910) from the Bairéad Collection (GP2/11). By kind permission of Galway County Council Archives Service

knoll, and with the base of the statue positioned so as to give the appearance that Pádraic Ó Conaire was seated on a low 'country wall', a dry-stone wall of Connemara granite. Over the years his seating arrangements have been altered a

The well known statue of Pádraic Ó Conaire, which has for so long graced Eyre Square, and more recently City Hall, College Road, has recently made the journey to the Galway City Museum / Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe and was installed on a temporary basis on the ground floor of the museum. The statue will be removed to another position within the new museum soon and a bronze version of it will be placed in Eyre Square. The statue has been moved on several occasions and has been moved around Eyre Square itself on at least three occasions and in its new museum setting it is hoped to display it as its sculptor Albert Power had intended, set at some height on a low



The Pádraic Ó Conaire statue in its temporary setting at City Hall prior to its removal to Galway City Museum / Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe



Safely stored for the journey to the museum

few times and most of the walling set against the statue in recent times was of locally sourced limestone.

The statue was moved recently from its temporary location in City Hall, having first been cleaned by John Kelly of Lathan Ltd. He will be carrying out more work when the statue is in the museum, including the replacement of some old concrete repairs, and making new repairs to the hat, nose, hands and the book which the figure is holding.



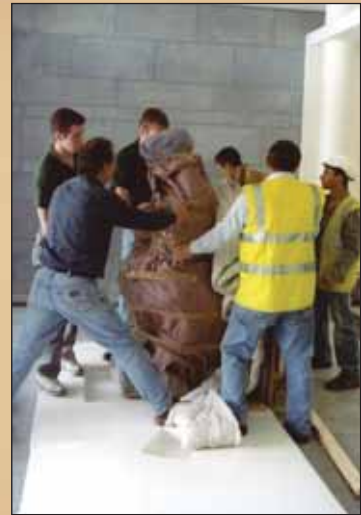
The Pádraic Ó Conaire statue packed and padded for removal

There was a large press and TV presence for the removal of the statue to the museum and the actual moving of the carving was done by



"Easy does it . . ."

Corrib Removals Ltd. This was apt in many ways, not least because Corrib used to carry an image of the statue (when it was still in Eyre Square) in their brochures. The removal work involved a long and tedious process of wrapping and re-wrapping the statue and of



Positioning the statue in its new steel base which was designed by the O.P.W.

padding and lifting it with great care.

The project was supervised by the Heritage Officer, who would like to thank Corrib Removals along with Eoin Cunnán and Tom Heffernan of Sisks for their help in ensuring that the sculpture arrived safely to its new home.



Dara and Lasirfhiona Ó Conghaile with the statue of Pádraic Ó Conaire at the opening of the new museum.



Basque Festival in Galway

Congratulations to the organisers of the recent Basque Cultural Festival in Galway, and best wishes to them for such endeavours in the future. It would be wonderful if this event could become an annual one. Lectures, film, discussion, song and dance along with a jaunty parade around Eyre Square after its official opening to the accompanying art of lively music were all part of the Basque weekend events and it was all thoroughly enjoyable.



J.H.

Mutton Island Project

Conservation work on the Mutton Island project continues apace, with our team of FÁS workers working differently under the direction of their fireman Mike Davis. The present team include the following; David Holland, Larry Ryan, John Kellehan, Alan Finney, Jack Ryan, Aidan Staunton, Austin McGreal and Paul Lynch. The team is working on the restoration of one of the outer walls of the compound surrounding the lighthouse, on the roofs of the domestic range of the keeper's house and on the internal re-rendering of the building at the moment. The firebricks to the rear of the former range in the kitchen have been restored and work on replacing missing flooring will soon commence. The installation of electricity is due to take place before the end of the summer, and work on the gardens and sheds is also continuing. We hope to organise a series of walks to the island during Heritage Week and the first of these walks will be lead by Mayor of Galway Niall Ó Brolcháin and a tour of the site

will be hosted by the Heritage Officer and Mr. Bill Scanlan, who once lived on Mutton Island. We would like to thank Pat Bergin of FÁS and FÁS generally, as well as the Galway Civic Trust and Earth Tech for their continued co-operation on this important and exciting joint conservation project.

J.H.



Photograph of Mutton Island from the air before the construction of the sewerage treatment plant. Photo courtesy of Michael Gibbons.

New Galway City Museum / Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe Opens

The new Galway City Museum / Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe has been opened to the public by Mayor of Galway, Niall Ó Brocháin.

The museum contains three exhibitions at the moment. These include three installations by students from GMT, an exhibition of modern Irish art of the 1960s to 1990s from the Bank of Ireland Collection. This latter exhibition entitled 'On Reflection' is just a selection from the bank's extensive collection and is accompanied by a catalogue of the same title. The third exhibition is entitled 'Fragments of a City Conamar Cathrach' and is just a small selection of stone carvings from medieval and post-medieval Galway. Again this exhibition, which is curated by the Heritage Officer, is accompanied by a catalogue. These exhibitions will remain on display throughout the summer and the permanent exhibition will go on display in Winter 2006.



Cllr. Niall Ó Brocháin, Mayor of Galway, marking the opening of Galway City Museum / Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe.



Part of the crowd at the opening of the new museum.



Mayor of Galway, Niall Ó Brocháin, striking a pose at the Bank of Ireland's exhibition entitled 'On Reflection' at the new Galway City Museum.



*The new museum seen from the Wolfe Tone Bridge, with the old museum and the Spanish Arch in the foreground.
Photograph by Ray Shanley for Galway City Council.*



The museum's architect, Kieran O'Connor, of the Office of Public Works, speaking at the opening.



Frank Kelly and Garry O'Brien of Galway City Council, doing some expert stone work around the temporary walling around the Pádraic Ó Conaire statue.



Mr. Joe McGrath, City Manager, speaking at the opening of the Galway City Museum / Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe.



Heritage Officer, Jim Higgins, speaking at the museum opening about the Conamar Cathrach/Fragments of a City exhibition which he curated.



Left to Right: Sarah Gillespie, Director, Cllr. Niall Ó Brocháin, Mayor of Galway; Alice Scanlan, Bill Scanlan (formerly of Galway City Museum who retired on the opening night of the museum and Mr. Joe MacGrath, City Manager.



Part of the Conamar Cathrach/ Fragments of a City exhibition of medieval sculpture at Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe / Galway City Museum.



Behind the scenes at the museum, Cate Grout and Delores Line give a hand with painting casts of medieval sculpture for the Conamar Cathrach Fragments of a City Exhibition.



The front panel of the tomb of Sir Peter French and Mary Browne, his wife, from a painted cast. The cast, by Laurence O'Kelly, was taken from the remnants of French's tomb in the Franciscan Cemetery. Sir Peter died in 1631 and his tomb was built some years later according to a manuscript in the Geneological Office. The cast has been painted to give an idea of how the tomb frontal would have looked when it was newly sculpted, painted and gilded. This tomb and many others at the Franciscan Cemetery were dismantled by the Cromwellian Mayor of Galway, Peter Stubbers, who had the monuments cut up for ornaments and chimney pieces. Sir Peter's tomb cost £500 to build, when it was made in the 17th century.

Laurence O'Kelly, sculptor, potter and teacher, lends a hand painting the cast of the 17th century tomb of Sir Peter French. The colours were based on original stone carvings from outside Ireland, heredic manuscript descriptions, historical books on costume, and ecclesiastical vestments.



BOOK REVIEWS

Maureen's Guide to Lorient South Brittany



The city of Lorient in Brittany is well known to many Galwegians, being the first place Galway was twinned with in the early 1970's. Lorient and its environs are full of heritage and culture, so it is wonderful to see a short guide to the area in English, *Maureen's Guide to Lorient South Brittany*. This is the first of what will undoubtedly be many editions of this guide, which will be updated periodically. The writer has lived in Brittany for the last twenty years and in her 'Welcome' she invites people to 'come and meet the unexpected'. The guide is available free from numerous tourism outlets and from Galway City Council.



J.H.

Understanding Earth Processes, Rocks and the Geological History of Ireland

A comprehensive 1:1, 0001,000 scale of Bedrock Geological Map of Ireland by Andrew Sheeman, Brian McConnell and Sarah Gately, Geological Survey of Ireland, Dublin. Price €15, pp.120.

An Excellent Guide to Geology!

'Study boxes' guide the student through themes and features likely to be found on geological maps and summarise everything from 'Early Fossils to the Age of the Earth'.

This relatively short (one hundred and twenty page) book provides a wealth of useful and accessible information on Irish Geology and is

a very welcome publication. It makes the subject remarkably accessible to the non geologist and is a valuable education resource and guide. Coming complete with a CD, this is a very appealing and interesting summary account of Irish Geology, set against a world-wide and general content. It includes a short and useful bibliography and the new ubiquitous and equally useful list of web sites.

The book is beautifully produced with numerous photographs and figures and is just as useful to students and amateurs alike.

J.H.

A History of Eyre Square

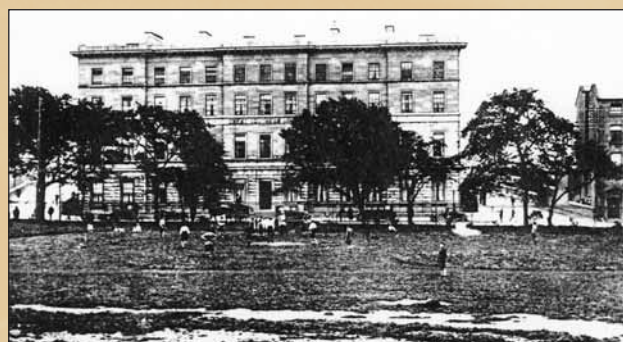
by Joseph Monaghan Part IV: The Twentieth Century.

In 1905, the Browne Doorway was moved to Eyre Square from Lower Abbey Gate Street. It bears several carvings including two coats of arms (the Brownes and the Lynches) with the date 1627 as a reminder of Galway's glorious past¹. Eyre Square was enclosed with railings in 1840 and when the doorway was relocated, it acted as an entrance to the park.



The statue of Lord Dunkellin, Eyre Square

The Galway Show recommenced in 1905 as the Connaught Provincial Horse Show and was held in July. This ran until 1909². In 1906 the Square was the venue for an Agricultural Show run by Mr. H.A. Murphy with offices in the Royal Hotel. There was the added attraction that the Lord Lieutenant and Lady Aberdeen graced the event with their attendance³. In 1908, Galway held its own Great Exhibition to stimulate economic growth, the Show was held in September and included an industrial exhibition with delegates from Europe, New Zealand and South America in attendance as well as from all over Ireland. The exhibition spread over into Victoria Place off Eyre Square and included examples of Irish manufacture: wrought iron scrollwork, woodcarving, wool, marble, gloves, toys, Beleek China and tapestry. Included in the complex were a Museum of Art and Industry, a Theatre, a Concert Hall, an orchestra and brass band to entertain. Gaelic games were held there for some years from 1902.



A football match in Eyre Square around 1930

In 1923, the Chamber of Commerce was reformed. This body was active in re-establishing the city as a transatlantic port. The first liners arrived in 1927. Two years later over seventy ships had called there, and by 1933 this had risen to over one hundred. Amusements were held in the Square during Galway Race Week. In the 20th century election rallies were held in the Square. There was subsequently a growth in tourism, which swindled at the outbreak of the Second World War. The Square houses a statue of Pádraic Ó Conaire⁴ which was erected in 1935. Ó Conaire was a short-story writer and a native of High Street, who died in 1928. The Square also houses a statue of Liam Mellows, who led one of the few Military engagements outside Dublin during the 1916 Rising. In 1984 a sculpture and fountain, inspired by the Galway Hooker sail ship, was erected in Eyre Square. It was designed by Eamonn O'Doherty to mark Galway's Quincentennial celebrations of that year.



Eyre Square from the air in 1995

to be continued . . .

1. M. Semple, *Some Galway Memories*, (1969), pp.83.
 2. N. O'Dochartaig, *Galway Show – The Story* (2002) pp. 22.

3. Journal of Galway Archaeological and Historical Society. In 1905 King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra paid a visit to Galway.
 4. The statue is by Albert Power and it captures his lifestyle and mood.

Fascinating new 1916 exhibition at NUI, Galway

On 19th May, the James Hardiman Library hosted the launch of the seminar '1916 – Local Dimensions'. This seminar, organised by Dr. John Cunningham of the History Department, was launched by Prof. Gearoid Ó Tuathaigh. A concurrent exhibition of material relating to 1916, is still running in the library foyer.

Some of the material on exhibition was on loan from the Military Museum, Dún Uí Mhaoílíosa, Renmore. Included in the exhibition is the motorbike which was owned by Liam Mellows and which he used for transport when organising volunteers around Galway.



Liam Mellows's Motorbike

Also on loan from Dún Uí Mhaoílíosa, Renmore is a telescope owned by Major John MacBride, a wooden drill rifle from Galway which was used by the Irish volunteers, books owned by both Liam Mellows and Eamonn de Valera and a postcard sent by Mellows to his mother.

A photograph of volunteers Mick Newell and Thomas "Baby" Duggan is displayed with one of the many pikes made for the Volunteers by Newell who was a blacksmith.

A photograph of the monument to the memory of Constable Patrick Whelan, who died in April



Mick Newell with Thomas 'Baby' Duggan

1916 from wounds while on duty as a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary, is exhibited alongside an RIC service revolver which was found near Maam Cross. The pike and revolver are on loan from the military museum.



One of Mick Newell's Pikes

Material held in the James Hardiman Library, such as contemporary accounts of the rising in Galway, was also exhibited. Material held in the library include some such accounts of the rising in Galway. Archival material on exhibition included a special edition of the Connacht Tribune reporting on "wild rumours" of a rising in Ireland, and giving reports of incidents between volunteers and police in Oranmore and Carnmore, a copy of the statement given by Mon. Patrick Brown, then President of University College Galway,



Special edition of the Connacht Tribune

to the Bureau of Military History 1913 - 1921 on his personal experiences from that time which includes references to his friendship with Seán McDermott and a copy of Liam Mellows's last letter to his mother.

Other material displayed included 1916 commemorative publications and books relating to the subject including *Land and Revolution: Nationalist Politics in the West of*

Ireland by Fergus Campbell and *Recollections of 1916 and its Aftermath*, a book that was published in conjunction with the Irish Life and Lore Oral history collection on CD. A DVD of an RTE programme *Féach*, made in 1960 featuring an interview with Séan Ó Conceannáin, Montiagh, Claregalway on the rising in east Galway is available for viewing in the foyer as part of the exhibition.

Evelyn Flanagan



1916 commemorative material

The 1916 Rising in Galway

Liam Mellows was born in Lancashire, but spent much of his childhood near Castletown, County Wexford. He later moved to Dublin, where he became a member of the IRB. He was sent to Galway in 1915 to organise the Volunteers there, basing himself mostly in Athenry.



Liam Ó Maoilíosa

Companies of Irish Volunteers had been training in Galway for some time before 1916. It is estimated that there were some 1,800 volunteers in County Galway on the eve of the Rising. Almost all areas of the County and City had

companies. There are descriptions in the witness statements in the Bureau of Military history by those who participated in training during that time.

Some personalities had come to prominence in the movement in Galway and regularly travelled to Dublin for meetings with other Volunteers. One of these was Larry Lardner. Another emerging leader, Tom Kenny of Craughwell, had been involved in agrarian campaigns in the early years of the 20th century.



Tom Kenny of Craughwell

On the eve of the rising, P.H. Pearse sent orders to Lardner in Athenry who conveyed the word to Mellows that the Rising was to take place and to call out the Galway Volunteers. The Volunteers, led by Mellows and the local leaders, gathered at Killeeneen. From there they set out to attack Clarinbridge RIC barracks. An attempt was made by the Volunteers to attack the RIC barracks at Clarinbridge on the morning of Easter Tuesday. They succeeded in entering the barracks, but were driven back by the police who succeeded in bolting the door.



Oranmore Barracks.

met, it was decided to continue the attack on Oranmore barracks. Police and military reinforcements arrived by train from Galway and it was decided to move out of Oranmore due to the superior fire power of the British. Various Volunteer companies gathered at the Agricultural College close to Athenry.

There was also confrontation at Carnmore. Volunteers from Castlegar and Claregalway met in the Carnmore area. They were confronted by a group of RIC men from Galway City, who fired on the Volunteer positions. Capt. Brian Molloy ordered the Volunteers to return the fire. One of the RIC men, Constable Patrick Whelan, was urged by his commanding officer to call on the Volunteers to surrender, as he was known to many of them. The shooting continued and Whelan was hit and fatally wounded. The police eventually moved back along the road towards Galway and the Volunteers moved in the direction of Oranmore, where they eventually linked up with Mellows and his companies at the Agricultural College. The Agricultural College close to Athenry became the Volunteer headquarters from the evening of Tuesday, 25 April. Volunteers from other parts of south and east Galway assembled there.

Following a short exchange of fire with police, who were attempting to attack the college on Wednesday morning, it became apparent to the rebel leadership that the Agricultural College



Former RIC barracks, Clarinbridge.

The Irish forces mounted an attack on Oranmore barracks, but the RIC barricaded themselves inside and the Volunteers were unable to capture the building. The leader of the attack on the Oranmore barracks was Joseph Howley, who, after failing to capture the barracks, led his men to join those of Liam Mellows. When the companies of Volunteers



Commemorative plaque on front of building in Clarinbridge

was a vulnerable location, surrounded by flat farmland with little cover. It was decided that the Volunteers should move south to see if there were others with whom they could link up. The Volunteers marched across country to the deserted mansion at Moyode, once the home of the Persse family, arriving there on the morning of Thursday, 27 April. Reports were received on the Thursday that forces of up to 900 British soldiers were on their way to attack the Irish group. A sense of panic was generated among some of the Volunteers by this report and a number left, although some of these returned the following morning. Moyode was seen as an indefensible position where such a military force to attack with their superior fire power. Mellows still believed that it might be possible to link up with groups in Clare and Limerick. On Friday 28 April, the Volunteers left

Moyode. On their march south, they stopped at the deserted mansion at Limepark, where they received word of the surrender in Dublin. Fr. Tom Fahy and the other priests with the group addressed the men and urged them to return home as they had made their gesture and must now be ready for the next fight. On Saturday 29 April, most of the men returned to their homes. The leaders went on the run. Many of the Volunteers were arrested and taken to prisons in England in the following weeks. Later they were moved to the internment camp at Frongoch in North Wales. They were released later in 1916. Liam Mellows and some of the other leaders made their escape to America¹.

Marie Boran, Hardiman Library, NUI Galway.

1. For a more in-depth description of events in Galway during the rising please see Fergus Campbell, *Land and Revolution: Nationalist Politics in the West of Ireland*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2005.

An Axe Rough-Out: A new Late Mesolithic discovery from the Corrib

A recent archaeological discovery from the River Corrib is of immense interest and is an important addition to the growing body of later Mesolithic material known from the river. The object is a rough-out or mask for the manufacture of a stone axe head. Made of shale or mudstone, which was probably brought from North West Co. Clare, probably from the Doolin area. The stone represents the early stage in the manufacturing process, which resulted in the completion of an axe had, which could have ended up being edge-ground or polished. In this instance and by analogy with other finds from the River Corrib, the axe head was likely to have been of Mesolithic (middle stone age) date rather than Neolithic or New Stone Age and having a polished finely finished surface. The associated finds discovered previously have included 'Bann Flakes' of Middle Stone Age or Mesolithic type. The Mesolithic period in Ireland extended from at least 7000 BC to about 4000, with the later Mesolithic period



occupying the last few thousand years of that period before the Neolithic or New Stone Age farming phase began.

The newly discovered rough-out for an axe is very similar to the axe rough-outs previously discovered in the river (see Higgins of *Early Prehistory in Galway City: The Emerging Evidence* in **Galway's Heritage / Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe**, No. 8 Spring/Eanair 2006, Plate 3. The middle object in the photograph is a fragment of a similar rough-out.

The new rough-out is a heavy piece of dense mudstone or shale. It is a roughly 'fish-shaped' stone from which large flakes have been deftly detached with a sequence of about a dozen blows to one side and thirteen to fifteen blows



rough-out is 18cms in length, averages 8.8 to 9 cms in width.

The bulk of the late Mesolithic material from the Corrib was recovered by divers during the 1980's, but this new find and other recent discoveries, by Killian Driscoll and Maeve Kelly, of worked lithics and half of a polished stone axe from the vicinity of the river and from land adjoining Menlo Castle respectively, show that there is plenty of more archaeological material awaiting scientific discovery. The latter find was recently published in the spring issue (Vol. 8 of *Galway's Heritage / Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe*).

Jim Higgins and Michael Gibbons

References

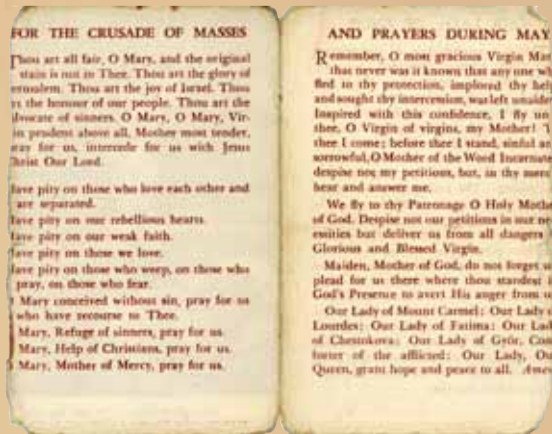
Higgins, J. (2006) "Early Prehistory in Galway City: The Emerging Evidence", *Galway's Heritage / Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe*, Vol. 8 Spring/Eanair 2006, pp. 3-5.

Kelly, M. (2006) *Prehistoric Stone Axe Head found at Menlo*, *Galway's Heritage / Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe* Vol. 8 Spring/Eanair 2006, p.35.

to the other side. One heavy blow detached a very large flake, possibly too much. Stone from the area which was to form a broad crescenting cutting edge when the axe was near completion and a cutting edge was ground down using sand or some other abrasive and working the edge against a grinding stone. The axe head was never completed however, and the stone was lost or discarded in the river. The

Our Lady of Győr, Again

An appeal for information on a prayer card has been made by a reader. In response to the articles on the painting in Volumes 6 and 8¹ of *Galway's Heritage / Oidhreachta na Gaillimhe*, a reader has sent us, a prayer card



from the 1970's or 1980's, and seemingly printed in Ireland, and would like to know by whom and when it was produced. We reproduce both sides of the card here, in the hope that one of our readers might be able to provide further information on it.

J.H.



1. Higgins, J. (2005) "Győr and Galway a Hungarian Link Remembered", *Galway's Heritage / Oidhreachta na Gaillimhe*, Vol. 6, Autumn/Fomhair 2005, pp.16-17 and Higgins, J. (2006) "Galway and Győr Again", *Galway's Heritage / Oidhreachta na Gaillimhe*, Vol. 8, Spring/Eanair 2006.

Hearth & Home – Historic Chimney Piece to Return to the Inner City

Two very fine and typical Galwegian chimney pieces will soon grace the interior of Galway City Museum / Músaem Cathrach na Gaillimhe. The first of these was taken from its original context in High Street, in the 1990's and is now re-assembled in the 'Blind Arch' of the Spanish Arch. This lovely chimney piece, with the achievements of arms of Lynch and Penrice and dated 1602, is featured in an article in a previous volume of this magazine (*"Treasures of Galway City Museum: Chimney Piece with Arms of Lynch and Penrice"*). The single set of initials, (M.L.) on the chimney piece suggests that, rather than two individuals' arms being represented (a Lynch man and Penrice woman) that a variation on the arms of Lynch which incorporates a version of Penrice arms). It was donated to the museum by the late John Nestor.

The second chimney-piece is a good example of a non-heraldic one bearing religious iconography instead of personal heraldry. This category of chimney-piece is less common in Galway City, but occurs in small numbers. A few examples bearing both types of iconography (including heraldic symbols of the Passion of Christ and other motifs) also occur more rarely.

This chimney piece was originally one of at least two identical examples which were incorporated in the walls of the Slate House, the Dominican Nunnery in Kirwan's Lane. Both of this pair were removed from there about 1958. The late Mr. John Faherty of Cross Street gave a complete Chimney piece to the Dominican Nuns in Taylor's Hill which was then removed some years ago. from the grounds at Taylor's Hill and it was incorporated into a modern setting in the Hall of the Tribes at the Galway Crystal Heritage Centre, Dublin Road in the late 1990's. The matching chimney piece (to the Taylor's Hill one) from the 17th century Kirwan's Lane site had identical decoration on its trapezoidal keystone and of it, only the keystone now

survives. That keystone was given by Mr. Faherty to the Dominican Fathers at Claddagh and was set in a wall in the former Piscatorial School at Claddagh, which was also referred to as 'The White House'. More recently, in the 1980's, the stone was taken out again and is now set above a doorway in the new northern porch of Claddagh Church.

The complete Dominican chimney-piece, at the Galway Crystal Heritage Centre is now to be moved back into the city centre and will be re-erected along with the Lynch-Penrice example of 1602 in the new museum. It is particularly appropriate that this fireplace from Kirwan's Lane should be placed in the museum, not least because it is such a complete good and typical example of a Galwegian chimney-piece, but also because it allows two chimney-pieces, one of 1602 with secular and heraldic ornament, along with a second of 1615 with religious iconography to be juxtaposed in a museum setting.

The Kirwan's Lane chimney-piece is worth describing briefly. It is remarkably complete, despite having been moved several times. It has a projecting mantel ledge bearing geometric ornament. The mantel has a trapezoidal keystone supported between joggled side-stones which themselves are supported on heavy corbels. The corbels were deeply bedded into the wall of the nunnery originally. The jambs are chamfered. Originally, the chimney-piece would have been higher than the level to which it has been reconstructed.

The keystone bears the IHS symbol with a cross emanating from the crossbar of the H. There is a heart below this which has been pieced by the nails of the Crucifixion, and what seems to be a spear as well. The initials S.L. and A.K. (presumably S. Lynch and A. Kirwan) occur below the heart. Flanking the I.H.S. monogram



Dominicans and which is now set in the wall of the north porch of Claddagh Church.

The fireplace which is still at the Galway Crystal Heritage Centre, has been acquired by Sarah Gillespie, Director of the new museum and was evaluated by John Kelly, Stone Conservator prior to its

is a lead tipped scourge and a crown of thorns, both of which are symbols of Christ's Passion. The date, 1615, also occurs above the I.H.S. Four roses are depicted. These often occur as symbols of both Christ and the Virgin Mary. Some branches of the Lynch family also use single roses and groups of three roses in their heraldic crest and arms respectively. In this context, it is likely that the roses have a religious significance, perhaps a reference to Christ. The Thornless Rose is the Blessed Virgin, roses are associated with the rosary which was propagated by saints like St. Dominick, though he did not, as often stated, invent it.

removal to the museum and its eventual reconstruction with the advice of the writer. It will make a wonderful and impressive exhibit and will complement the very good collection of medieval to post-medieval stone carvings already in the museum. assemblage of which Galway can be justifiably proud.



The Dominican Chimney piece in the Galway Crystal Centre.

The keystone is similar in every respect to the other fireplace keystone from the Kirwan's Lane Dominican Nunnery, which was given by the late Mr. John Faherty to the Claddagh

Further Reading

Higgins, J. (2003) *Galway's Heritage in Stone, Galway City Museum, Catalogue No. 1: Catalogue of Late Medieval Sculpture Down to the Late 17th Century in Galway City Museum, Galway 2004.*
 Higgins, J. (2004) *Galway's Heritage in Stone, Galway City Museum, Catalogue No. 2: Catalogue of the Post-Medieval and 18th - Early 20th Century Sculpture in Galway City Museum, Galway 2004.*

J.H.



The Lynch-Penrice Chimney Piece.



Irish Walled Town Network: Galway City Plays its Part

The recent tours of the Walled Town of Galway were a great success with twenty people participating in the morning tour and thirty five in the evening one. The attendance included some of our friends from our sister city, Lorient, in Brittany. While Galway has markedly little to show by comparison with places like Derry, there are nevertheless enough towers, mural lengths, bastions and carved stone plaques from the bastions, along with the remnants of the town ditch and several earth embarked "Star- Shaped Forts" of the 17th century. We have had to confine the tours to the inner city area but a tour of the star shaped forts will occur later in 2006. The Breton visitors were particularly impressed by the corbelled section of the town wall to the rear of the Spanish Arch, the corbelled feature supporting the wall-walk at the top of the twin wall, as this of course, is very similar to the method of construction used in many walled towns in Brittany, especially St. Malo. Our back cover shows the medieval walling with its corbelled coursing to the rear of the Spanish Arch.

The Walled Towns Friendship Circle flag which was carried on the tour aroused much interest as did the articles on the Irish Walled Town Network in the last issue of Galway's Heritage / Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe. The remaining copies of this publication were distributed during the walking tours.

The next Irish Walled Towns meeting and gala dinner will be on the 9th and 10th of November, 2006 in Drogheda and there is a



fascinating line up of speakers. The full programme is given below.

The photographic exhibition has had a slow response with only one submission to date. We hope to bring our readers a selection of photographs in the next issue of *Galway Heritage, Oidhreacht na Gaillimhe*.

Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) Meeting, Drogheda 9th & 10th November, 2006

Thursday, 9th November, 2006 – IWTN Evening Reception & Dinner

The Gallery Suite, The 'D' Hotel, Drogheda – Network Members and Guests

7.30 p.m. Drinks Reception

7.40 p.m. Welcome

Michael O'Dowd, Mayor Drogheda Borough Council

7.50 p.m. *'National Walled Towns Photographic Competition'* – Awards Ceremony and Photographs

Presentation of prizes by Chief Executive, Heritage Council, Chair and Deputy Chair of the IWTN.

8.15 p.m. Gala Dinner and Networking

Opportunity for IWTN Members to network with and friends/guests from Lough, Meath, Chester and London.

9.30 p.m. After –Dinner Speaker:
Mr Peter Harbison, Archaeologist and Writer

Friday, 10th November, 2006 – IWTN Morning Meeting

Meet in lobby of the 'D' Hotel, Drogheda

8.45 a.m (or so!) *"To Hell or to Connaught!"* – Walking Tour of the Drogheda Walls

Tom Reilly, Local Historical and Journalist/ Old Drogheda Society

The Millmount

10.00 a.m. Tea/Coffee and Welcome to IWTN 4th Meeting

Eammon McEaney, Chairperson, IWTN and Director Waterford Museum and Alison Harvey, IWTN Co-ordinator.

10.15 a.m. Dublin City Walls & Defences – 'A New Vision for the Old City'

Donncha O' Dulaing, Heritage Officer, Dublin City Council

10.45 a.m. Developing Innovative Public Realm, Plans for Irish Walled Towns

Andrew Haley, Director, Paul Hogarth and Company, Belfast



Launch of Drogheda Walls Conservation Plan

The Millmount – All Welcome

11.15 a.m. Best Practice Conservation and Management Plans – “Lessons Learned”

Ian Doyle, Archaeology Officer, The Heritage Council

11.45 a.m. Effective Traffic Management in Historic Walled Towns!

XXX, Chester City Council

**12.15 p.m. Developing 3D Models for Historic Walled Towns:
Case Study Medieval Dublin**

Niall Ó hOisín and Breffni O’Malley, The Farm (Computer Graphic Designers, Dublin)

12.45 p.m. Close

12.45 p.m. Registration and Lunch – Buffet

Exhibition stand illustrating the Drogheda Walls Conservation Plan

1.00 p.m. Endorsement of the Project as a Key Action of the Louth County Heritage Plan

Martina Maloney, County Manager, Louth County Council

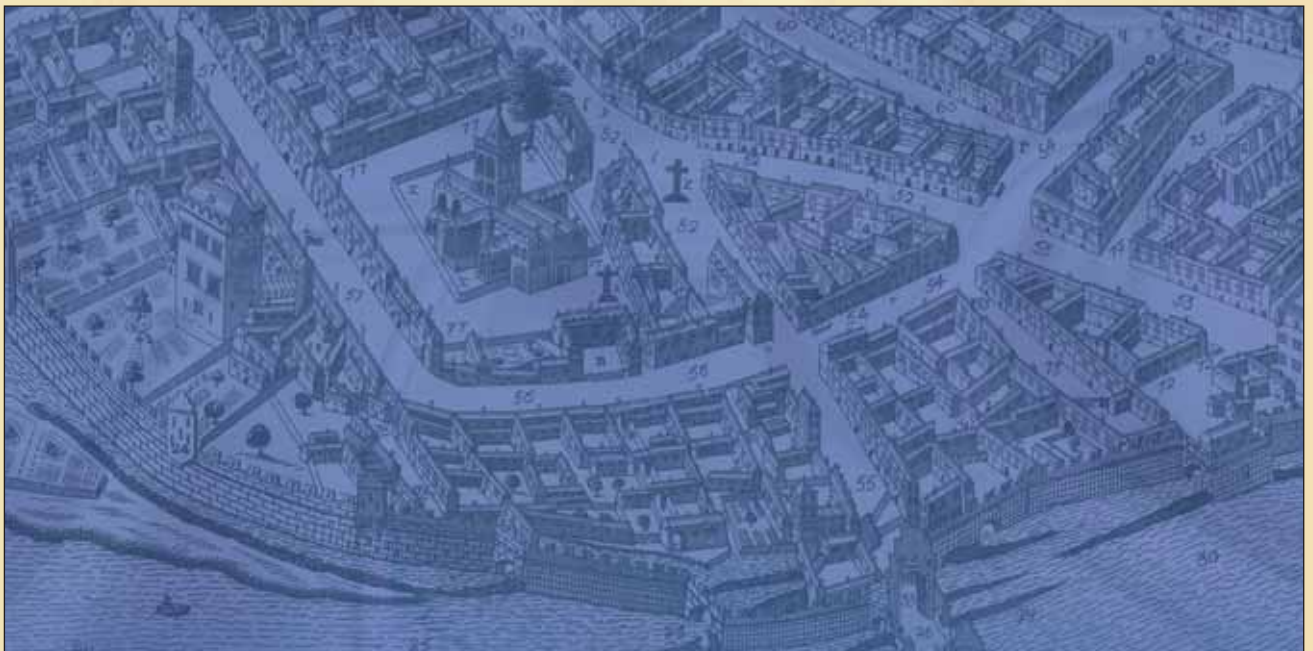
**1.10 p.m. Endorsement of the Project as a Key Action of the
Louth County Heritage Plan**

Michael Starrett, Chief Executive, The Heritage Council

1.20 p.m. Irish Walled Towns and their Unique Heritage

John Bradley – Archaeologist, NUI Maynooth, <http://history.nuim.ie/staff/bradley/shtml>

1.30 p.m. Press Call and Photographs



Friday, 10th November, 2006, IWTN Afternoon Meeting

The Millmount

2.00 p.m. IWTN – Progress Report – e.g. Heritage Week 2006 – Review and Evaluation

Liam Ryan, Deputy Chair of IWTN

2.20 p.m. ‘Athenry Celebrates National Walled Towns Day 2006’

Sorcha Murray, East Galway Tourism & Alan Burgess, Manager, Athenry Heritage Centre

2.50 p.m. Promoting Local Museums in Irish Walled Towns

Dr Hugh Maguire, Museums and Archives Officer, The Heritage Council

3.20 p.m. IWTN Management Committee Elections

Election of Chair and Deputy Chair, etc. for 2006/2007

4.15 p.m. Summary and Meeting Close

Drogheda Walls Conservation and Management Plan on Display

The Drogheda Walls Conservation and Management Plan will be on display in the Millmount for four weeks until XXXX.

Acknowledgements

The Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) Meeting in Drogheda is assisted by the Heritage Council of Ireland, Louth County Council and Meath County Council.

The Irish Walled Town Network (IWTN) is an initiative of the Heritage Council of Ireland.

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<http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/walledtowns/index.html>

Our back cover features a 19th century photograph of the town wall to the rear of the Spanish Arch, from a privately owned photographic album c1865. Courtesy of Mr. Tom Kenny.

