

THE ANNALS OF INISFALLEN



This year Muckross House was not only involved in celebrating an historic occasion; it made history. The year 1983 saw the return to Killarney of the Annals of Inisfallen, a rare and priceless manuscript of original historic annals. The most important of the annals were written by hand at Inisfallen on Killarney's Lower Lake and it is only fitting that on its return home after over 300 years in exile, the Annals should be displayed in Killarney.

A major exhibition was mounted involving top security, special lighting and specialised temperature and humidifying equipment, while for its three months duration maintenance notes and daily records were kept. We are indebted to all who helped make the exhibition a tremendous success and we especially thank for their co-operation the Curators of the Bodleian Library, Oxford; the Office of Public Works; the National Museum of Ireland; Miss Mary Herbert, U.C.C. and the Gárda Síochána.

INISFALLEN

Inisfallen is the largest of the islands on Loch Léin — the lower lake of the Killarney valley. Today this part of Ireland is famous for its exquisite beauty but earlier in history Inisfallen contained a renowned monastic settlement. The island location was chosen by St. Faithleann in the 6th Century both for the protection and the solitude to do monastic work.

Faithleann was the son of Aodh Damán, whose brother Aodh Bennán, was King of Munster of the Eoghanacht Locha Lein branch, (Martyrology of Gorman). His feast day is 4th June and 631 A.D. is believed to be the year of his death.

Some sources (Martyrology of Oengus) associate the foundation of the monastery with St. Fionán Lobhar, a student of St. Brendan the Navigator, and it is certain that he had a leper colony there in the 6th century.

The monks at Inisfallen built a small church and they added new oratories as the congregation increased. The ruins of three oratories (northern, southern and western) exists around the main living quarters consisting of cloisters, dormitory, kitchen, refectory, nave and choir. There is evidence of distinct architectural styles, most notably the early Celtic Church buildings, the beautiful Hiberno-Romanesque doorway in the Northern Oratory of the 12th century and the lancet windows of the choir indicate a 13th century Gothic style. Unlike other monastic settlements of the period there is no evidence of a round tower or similar buildings for defence purposes.

BRIAN BORU

Little is recorded of the early history of the monastery and the most famous documented member of the Inisfallen community was

Mael Suthain Ua Cerbaill. He was prominent in the 10th Century and was closely associated with Brian Boru. Ua Cerbaill was Anam Chara (confessor, advisor) to Brian Boru and the O'Curry Manuscripts indicate that he may also have been Brian's Ollamh (professor, or teacher) and so, suggesting that Brian was educated on Inisfallen. In the year 1002 Mael Suthain Ua Cerbaill accompanied Brian Boru, then Ard Rí, to the north where Brian laid 20 ounces of gold on the altar at Armagh and had his name recorded as "Brian Imperatoris Scotorum" (Brian, Emperor of the Irish). Under this title Brian would have influence over Ireland, Scotland, Isle of Man and West Britain. He hoped to achieve the unity of these nations and to overcome the Viking menace, while at the same time, base the economy of his Empire on the Norse system of towns, trade and coinage already established here and on the continent. That Brian Boru was associated with Inisfallen is certain, but if his education there and his later association with Mael Suthain was responsible for producing one of Ireland's most historic figures, then Inisfallen on Loch Léin was a very important Medieval university.

Mael Suthain Ua Cearbaill was buried in Aghadoe in the year 1010, and four years later the death of Brian at the Battle of Clontarf ended an exciting chapter in Irish History.

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ROS

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President Hillary speaking at Re-dedication Ceremony at Muckross House

GOLDEN JUBILEE

The year 1983 marks the 50th anniversary of the Bourn-Vincent Memorial Park. This historic occasion was celebrated at Muckross House during a state visit by His Excellency, President of Ireland, Dr. Patrick Hillary to Killarney National Park on 14th June 1983.

President Hillary was greeted at Muckross House by Mr. Alan Dukes, T.D., Minister for Finance, Mr. Joe Bermingham, T.D., Minister of State, Department of Finance, Mr. Michael Moynihan, T.D., Minister of State, Department of Trade, Commerce and Tourism and Mr. Pascal Scanlan, Chairman of the Commissioners of Public Works. Among those present for the occasion were Mr. A.W.B. Vincent — whose family made a gift of the Park to the Nation — Mr. Jeffrey McNeely, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Mrs. Mary L. Greer, U.S. National Parks Service.

After light luncheon in the elegant diningroom at Muckross House, Dr. Hillary met with former employees of Senator Arthur Vincent and they were each presented with a hand-bound album containing a photographic record of the Muckross Estate under his tenure, 1910 — 1932.

A guided tour of Muckross House included a special visit to the Annals of Inisfallen exhibition and ended with the presentation of a 50th anniversary commemorative chalice to President Hillary, by Fr. John O'Keeffe, chairman of the Trustees of Muckross House. This unique gift was designed and made exclusively by the craftworkers at the Muckross House Centre of Kerry Folklife.

Meanwhile on the lawns outside both spectators and invited guests were entertained by the pupils of Killarney Parish Primary Schools and the No. 1 Army Band. After reviewing the Guard of Honour, Dr. Hillary in his address dedicated the National Park for another fifty years to these objectives:

"May its timeless beauty endure from generation to generation. May it provide a lasting sanctuary for the many forms of Wildlife that live within its boundaries. May all who come here obtain that true refreshment of mind and spirit which derives from personal experience of Nature in all its beauty and diversity, and may it inspire all to a greater concern for our total environment and the conservation of its natural resources on which mankind ultimately depends for its survival".

Mr. Alan Dukes, T.D. in his address paid tribute to those Americans of 'remarkable vision' who set aside the Yellowstone Region of Wyoming in 1872 to be held in public ownership and so creating the concept of a National Park. In 1932 Ireland joined an elite league of Nations with the creation of the Bourn-Vincent Memorial Park; "The credit for taking the first step on this road must go to Senator Arthur Vincent, who in an act of unprecedented generosity presented the Muckross Estate to the Irish Nation fifty years ago", Mr. Dukes said.

Our National Parks are administered by the Office of Public Works and Mr. Dukes praised highly the 'enlightened policies of the Commissioners' for initiating programmes of scientific research to provide for future management of the Killarney National Park and the conservation of its natural resources. Through the policies of the Commissioners the Killarney National Park has recently been designated as a biosphere reserve by U.N.E.S.C.O. — United Nation's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation — so that it now forms part of a world network of Natural areas combining conservation, research, education and training as major objectives.

To conclude the formal ceremonies President Hillary planted an oak tree to mark the Jubilee Year and then he and his entourage drove through the National Park on Jaunting cars and visited Inisfallen.

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AT MUCKROSS

EDITORIAL

Since Ros was last published much has happened at the Centre of Kerry Folk-Life at Muckross House. In that period there has been a state occasion, new exhibitions, new schemes and projects, a successful open day, a series of lectures and some interesting conferences. A folk museum, to operate effectively in the community which it serves, must provide for education, recreation, research and experiment. At Muckross these principles have been strictly adhered to and many new folk themes and activities have been developed as a result.

These items are dealt with in more detail in the "At Muckross" report and in other features but first I would like to apologise to all our readers for the extended break between issues of ROS. We are pleased to be off the presses once again and hope to maintain more regular contact with you in the future. It remains only for me to wish each and every one a peaceful Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Craftworkers:

We now have five workshops operating at Muckross House and in all seven craftworkers are employed.

Michael Casey of Knockmanagh, Killarney, the basket weaver, served his time with the Shanahan brothers, of Carrick-On-Suir. Michael makes all kinds of baskets for linen, logs, shopping, bread, bicycles, picnic or storage. He also makes traditional Back-baskets, and cradles.

Eugene Kerrisk of Gneeveguilla, Rathmore, the Blacksmith can be found shoeing a horse when that need arises or perhaps making a mouth-bit where he uses the fire-weld to make the rings, otherwise he is engaged in ornamental wrought-iron work, making tables and chairs, hall stands, flower pot stands, fire-irons and other items.

Paul Curtis of Dublin is the Bookbinder and his work includes book restoration, traditional Irish, modern and custom bookbinding, gold leaf leather work, making specialist presentation and jewellery boxes.

Marjorie Cunningham of Waterford is the Potter and she continues to produce majolica and stoneware pottery for table use and ornamentation. Dinner and Tea sets, flower pots, bowls and casseroles as well as specially ordered pieces are the product of the Potter's Wheel and Kiln.

John Cahill of Knocknahoe, Killarney, Mary Twomey of Macroom and Olive Donovan of Kenmare are the weavers. The two girls are apprentices and their study takes them to the Scottish College of Textiles in Galashiels. With the extra help John has been able to harvest the flax and experiment with natural dyeing. The fruit of the looms includes tweeds scarves, stoles, wall hangings and rugs.

The produce of all the workshops is available in the craft shop at Muckross House.

Work Experience:

Each Summer Tim Crowley is busy organising work for four youths assigned to the maintenance department from the National Manpower Service through an employment incentive scheme sponsored by the Department of Education. They with Willie Burke have carried out works of conservation on the collected material in the stores and on the farm machinery, some of which was used for harvesting the oats. The display of farm machinery has found a new home. The collection has been relocated to a shed on Knockreer Estate, Killarney.

A grant from the same scheme enabled us to employ two groups of four for research purposes. One group worked in the Irish Folklore Department U.C.D., catalogueing material relevant to Kerry and acquiring appropriate copies of such material. The other group was based at Muckross and worked on



(a) A subject index to the school notebooks of the Irish Folklore Commission relating to Co. Kerry.

(b) A collection of legal documents acquired from a solicitors office of Downing, Grace and Courtney, some dating back to the 18th Century.

(c) The Music Collection; transcribing the words of songs from tape to manuscript with an index to this material.

(d) Catalogueing new material in the research library. This year provision was made to appoint two temporary field officers to cover the Kerry area, renewing old contacts, collecting material and information and following definite lines of enquiry in some cases.

Night Classes:

During the winter evenings classes in pottery, weaving and basketmaking are held at Muckross House. The classes are held under the auspices of the V.E.C. and enrolment takes place each year at Killarney Vocational School.

HARVEST

The O.P.W. staff played a large part in creating an atmosphere of folk-life on the Killarney National Park. They planted a 3 acre sally garden for the use of our basket-maker; oats and flax was grown and harvested by traditional methods, while the ingredients for natural dyeing were also provided for in the Park. Oats has been successfully harvested twice, using various traditional methods which were recorded for educational purposes. Reaping hooks, scythes, horse-drawn mowing machine with sheafing table and a reaper and binder were used cutting the oats, which was bound and stacked. The highlight of each folk year was the threshing day when

crowds gathered to watch the meitheall use horse powered, tractor powered and man-killer threshers, while the older method of flailing was also demonstrated. Hay was also cut and saved as in the old days and a single horse drawn hay kicker was used for tossing and airing the cut hay.

To harvest the flax it was pulled and when bound placed in a flax dam (Poll a lín) for the retting process, this is where the skin of the stalks is rotted away allowing the flax fibres to be easily collected. Scutching was also carried on, in this process the flax seed is separated from the stalk by flailing on a hackle. The seeds are used in making linseed oil.

EXHIBITIONS

The Inisfallen Crozier:

A fitting companion for exhibition with the Annals of Inisfallen was the Inisfallen Crozier, also known as the Kerry or Ardfert Crozier. This crozier is now housed in the National Museum of Ireland. The crozier consists of a wooden staff covered with a silver and bronze casing, secured along its edge with an ornamental fillet of bronze. The gold filigree work on the knops is exceptionally delicate for the period. The crozier is essentially of Irish design but it does show some Scandinavian influence in style. The Inisfallen Crozier was found in the River Laune close to Dunloe Castle in 1867 and was acquired by Most Rev. Dr. Moriarty, Bishop of Kerry.

The crook head shows some signs of corrosion as a result of being submerged in water; nevertheless it is still one of the finest metal objects of the period to survive.

The Park at Work:

This was another exhibition which was mounted to show the various areas behind the scenes that go to make the Killarney National Park special. The Plant Nursery, The Kerry Herd maintenance, Red and Sika Deer, Observation of Bird Life, Farming, Architectural Restoration and Policing the Park were some of the aspects covered.

An Óige 1931 — 1983

On display at the moment is an exhibition illustrating 52 years of An Óige — the youth hostelling organisation. It tells the story of the remarkable growth of that organisation, from the humble beginnings of a barn — rented for £5 a year at Lough Dan, Co. Wicklow, — to the 55 hostels, all with modern facilities, controlled by An Óige today. Membership grew from 215 in 1931 to 30,000 at present and the number of bednights over the 52 year period has grown from 167 to a staggering 250,000 per annum.

RESTORATION

The visitor to Muckross will notice that we have produced a new full colour history and guide book and that the final stage of the restoration has been completed with the re-decoration of the House (Colour schemes for the basement area are being finalised). The have been replaced and the rugs repaired where possible, floors were stripped and varnished, the furniture has been refurbished and polished while many new pieces have been added. The Big House once again features the gracious living of the Victorian era, through the layout of furniture, colour schemes of print and wallpaper; This area has been extended to include a Bathroom, Dressing Room and Servery of the period.

The new introductory room gives a brief history of Muckross House and from here the new visiting route around the house is designed to make the various aspects such as the Big House, National History, Folk-Life and Temporary Exhibitions area more accessible.

PROJECTS

The O.P.W. has commissioned a research project to produce a picture of Life on and around Muckross Estate. The material for the project is from local oral sources and Bairbre O'Floinn U.C.D. has been in the Killarney area interviewing people connected with the Estate before 1932.

Those interviewed included Mr. A.W.B. Vincent (whose family owned the property from 1910 — 1932), former management, employees and tenant farmers of the Estate. The project is concerned with the vital aspect of personal experience of life on Muckross Estate and the information was collected under the following headings —

1. Physical features of the Estate — natural and man-made and the lore connected with them, e.g. Local History, and stories about the lakes, mountains, house, Abbey, flora and fauna.
2. Place names of the Estate.
3. Trades and crafts on and around the estate.
4. Social structure and hierarchy of the estate, relationship and attitudes of tenants, servants and landlord to each other. Their living conditions.
5. Social life on the estate. Memorable events in the life of the estate, legend, natural and supernatural and factual.
6. The Estate in relation to its own surrounding area and Killarney town.

THE MUSIC OF KERRY

Our project to record and collect the music song and dance of Co. Kerry is in its 4th year and we have three collectors, Catherine Foley, Dance; Patricia Connery and Mary Mitchell, Music and Song. We have copied the master tapes and we have fully transcribed the songs and also cross indexed all of this material. This is a scheme which is jointly sponsored by the Trustees of Muckross House, The Kerry Federation of Comhaltas Ceoiltoirí and Siamsa Tíre and has technical advice and expertise from Michael O Súilleabháin, Music Dept., U.C.C. and Tony Perrot, Audio Visual Aids Department, U.C.C. together with Tom Munnely, Department of Irish Folklore U.C.D., and Pádraig Tyers U.C.C., joined Michael and Tony in a very indepth audio visual recording of one of the great traditional singers of Co. Kerry, Mr. Seán de hÓra. We also have sponsorship from the American/Irish Foundation.

IN-SERVICE COURSES FOR TEACHERS

In December through the good offices of Divisional Inspector of Schools Mr. Aodhan O'Donnchadha we were given a unique opportunity to present the educational and recreational facilities available at Muckross to the teaching community. The newly prepared Auditorium was chosen as the venue for In-Service Courses on Cómhrá Gaeilge in schools and all principals were invited to attend. Three one day courses conducted by Pádraig Ó Donnabháin and Cristín Ní Nualáin (Cigirí scoile) were held and the afternoon sessions in each case was devoted to an input from Muckross House and the Killarney National Park. All in all the venture proved very successful as the 130 principal teachers who attended this particular venue were exposed to each element of educational value at the Muckross House, Centre of Kerry Folk-Life e.g. Craftworkers, Folk-Life activities, Research and Audio-Visual facilities.

In-service courses were held at centres in Tralee and Cahirciveen where the Muckross programme was also presented.

Education Programme:

In 1983 the Education Programme was reassessed and streamlined to suit the requirements of Primary Schools in Co. Kerry at present. Every effort was made to facilitate teachers and their pupils in using Muckross House, both for educational and recreational purposes. In re-modelling the education programme we have taken into account teachers suggestions and remarks and we sincerely thank all who contributed. The new day programme devised involves —

1. A yearly canvass of all Primary Schools in Co. Kerry.
2. Advance booking, with documentation on class preparation sent out to the school before the visit.
3. Full lunch provided where necessary.
4. A more active role with actual participation by the children in the craft workshops under the instruction of the Potter, Weaver, Bookbinder, Basket-maker, and Blacksmith, is now part of the programme.
5. Folk Craft activities such as Buttermaking, Candle and Rush lighting, Polish, Ink and Soap making and Threshing by hand are also available on request. Schools that wish to build up their own expertise in Folk Craft can avail of our fullest co-operation and assistance.
6. Three areas of Displayed Material —
 - a) Big House: furnished and decorated in the style of Victorian period.
 - b) Natural History: Geology of Co. Kerry, Bird and Animal Life, Butterflies, Moths, and Insects and species of Fern collection.
 - c) Folklife: Housing in Co. Kerry, Needlework, Thatching and Farm Kitchen, Photographic collection of Folklife.
7. General tour of Muckross House in which each area is visited.
8. Audio-Visual: Life in Kerry, Killarney — A Special Place, Celtic Church, Bird Life, Cart, Currach and Wheel Making, are some of fifteen presentations available.
9. Nature in the Killarney National Park includes, the Old Boathouse Nature Trail on Dundag promontory, Walks in Muckross Gardens, the Arboretum and the Mossy woods.
- 10 Workbooks with questions on the areas chosen to be studied are supplied to each pupil; they are designed for use in follow-up exercises in the classroom.

The other area of educational involvement is the Kerry Folk-Life Survey by schools, instituted by the Trustees of Muckross House in 1981.

Folklife Survey by Schools

In the last issue we promised that items of particular interest from the survey would be published in ROS. In this section we have reproduced some of the chapters from Tina Buckley's award winning study of Lixnaw entitled "My Native Village".

Although we tend to encourage group rather than individual participation in our projects, we thought this work was of such a high standard, that we should bring it to the attention of our readers; as Tina Buckley says in her introduction "Read for yourselves" some of the contents of the study.

MY NATIVE VILLAGE

Introduction:

I hope you will like my book on Lixnaw — My Native Village. During the past few weeks I have been collecting information about the folklore of Lixnaw. I find it very interesting and I hope you do too. Read for yourselves . . .

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Forge Work* | 2. Band Making* |
| 3. Harness Making | 4. Pictures |
| 6. Pictures | 8. Sheep Dipping |
| 9. Coopering | 10. Sugán Making |
| 12. Thatching* | 14. Burning Lime in Kilns* |
| 16. Sleán Making | 17. The Mill |
| 18. The Convent | 20. Shoe Making |
| 21. Pictures | 22. The Quarry |
| 24. Old Buildings | 25. Carpentry |
| 26. The Railway | 26. Lartigue Railway |
| 27. Place Names | 28. I Thank . . . * |

*Items of particular interest reproduced for ROS.

Forge Work:

Thirty five years ago approx. my dad, Dan Buckley owned a forge in Abbeydorney. He started work at 8.30 after cycling three miles from his home in Kilflynn. His tools consisted of an anvil, bellows, a hammer, tongs, fullers, a sledge, a shoe-stamp, and a chisel.

Shoeing horses was his main job. This was how he went about it. He bought nails from merchants in Castleisland. A big coal fire was put on in the heart and was blown by the bellows. The iron was put into the fire until red. It was then taken out and shaped on the horn of the anvil and then put up to the foot of the horse for size.

When properly measured, seven holes were put by the shoe stamp, on the shoe. The shoe was then placed in a bucket of water and let there to cool. When it was taken out, it was drove on the horse with seven horsenails.

Dad charged four shillings to put on a shoe. On average, he put on four sets of shoes a day. A kettle was put boiling on the hearth for tea, but Dad had to be careful because sometimes the bottom was burnt off the kettle.

Band Making:

Dad used also make bands for cart wheels. He used to get a straight band and bend it on the bender. The band was then put into the fire for welding. Then a big turf fire was put down. The band was put on the turf and sods were put in the middle of the ring and outside to get it into the size to fit the wheel. When the band was red, it was taken out and put, immediately on the wheel. Then the whole lot was plunged into a trough of water.

Thatching:

Thatching must be the first way of covering houses. It was done with rushes and gill-cock in ancient times. Later it was done with rye straw and then with wheaten straw.

To prepare the house for the thatch after building the walls, the lofters were cut and placed for the roof, then they were bound together. Some very tough screws were cut in the bog. They were cut about twenty feet long for they should cover the roof back and front. To keep the roof together the screws were then bound to the timber of the roof with wire or sugán. The first coat of thatch was then

sewn on to the screws with a thatching needle. It would be sewn with wire or sugán. It was ready then for the right coat of thatch. This coat was held on with scallops. They were made of bog-dail, briars and sally. The scallops were three to four feet long, and were pointed at both ends. They were driven through the thatch to give them a good hold.

When the thatch was laid on the roof about four inches thick a scallop called a stretcher was placed crossways on the straw, and the pointed ones were made into a hair-pin shape and driven through the cross ones, that held the straw in place.

The thatcher's tools besides a ladder were a thatching knife, a rake, and a palm for his hand which was a pad of leather on the palm of his hand for driving the scallops. Slates and tiles have taken over so thatching is a lost art.

Burning Lime in Kilns:

Lime Kilns were very plentiful about sixty or seventy years ago. Most of the farmers used to burn lime for manure. There was no ground limestone then, but as bag manure got plentiful most of the kilns were knocked down. The most distinguished kiln in the county was McAuliffe's kiln at the monument, Lixnaw. It was in use up to twenty years ago. There were three kilns to-gether burning lime because there was so much demand for it. The kilns were twenty to thirty feet deep. The lime stone was broken first with sledges, and then broken into two inch size with hand hammers. Turf and coal was the fire material. To start the kiln the turf was put on the bottom and was set on fire. The colm was then put on. Next was a layer of turf and colm was put on with another layer of limestone spalls and another layer of turf and colm etc. until the kiln was full to the top. As the fire was burning away the lime was falling down.

When the lime was cooled enough to be taken out it was ready to use as manure or for making plaster for building houses. As the lime was being taken out at the bottom the kiln was sinking from the top so it needed to be kept full all the time.

Mattín McAuliffe was injured at the kiln. He stood into it at the top to pack it down. But it was burnt too much below him. The lime got locked in the kiln and never fell down and the fire came up. When he stood in the kiln it went down with him. The fire came up through it. He got severely burned and was unconscious for a week. He was taken to a London specialist and he recovered.

I Thank . . .

Dan Buckley: whom this book is dedicated to and who gave me most of my information.

Joe Wynne: who told me about sheep dipping

John Walsh: who told me about old buildings.

Harry Browne: who told me about the mill and about old buildings.

Nora Buckley: who told me a little about the railway.

Signed: Tina Buckley

CONCLUSION

We thank all teachers and pupils who so far have contributed to the Kerry Folk Life Survey by Schools and we take this opportunity to invite any school willing to participate in the survey to contact — Muckross House for further information.

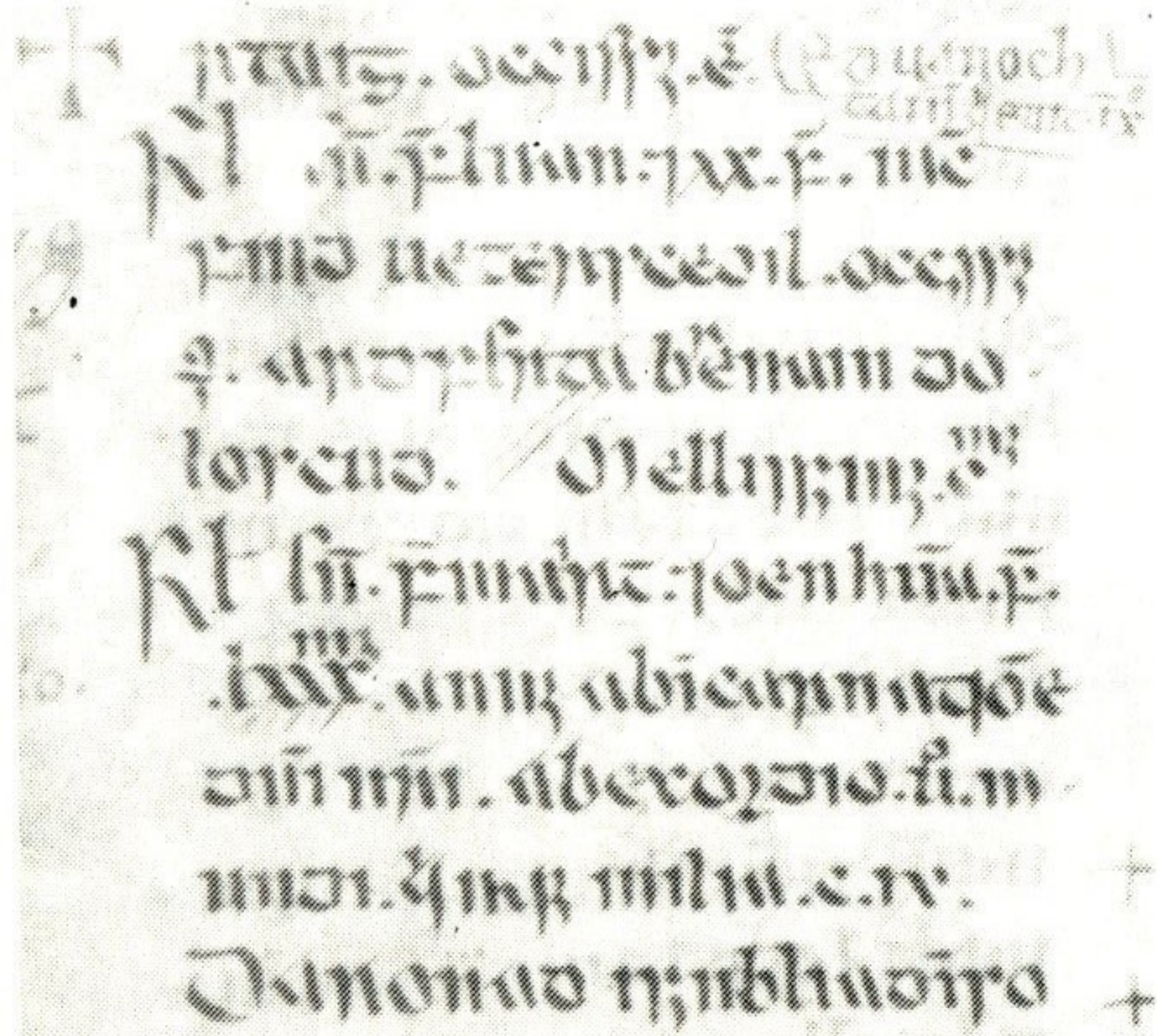
(from page one)

THE ANNALS OF INISFALLEN

The annals apart from some interruptions and more recent additions, cover the period from the earliest times up to 1326 A.D. The first part is a summarized history of the world from the Creation to St. Patrick's mission in Ireland, this section is mostly in Latin. The second part is a native history of the Post Patrician period. From 433 to 1092, the entries are copied by one scribe from earlier documents, from all evidence this work was carried out at Emly, Co. Tipperary. In this section two distinct methods of recording are used:

1. From 433 — 969, the emphasis is on recording the deaths of Abbots and Kings.
2. From 970 — 1092, attention is focused on the Dal gCais, particularly the growth of their supremacy under the leadership of Brian Boru. (Brian's brother was one time Abbot of Emly).

For the next 50 — 60 years until the middle of the 12th Century, it is thought that the Annals were continued at Lismore. From then on they were written at Inisfallen and there is greater emphasis on West Munster events. In 1151 the Inisfallen community fled the island after the defeat at Moin Mhór of the O'Brien & O'Connor Kerry alliance by the Mac Carthaigh; On hearing the news of the defeat, "they sprang to their ships and leaving them on the north side of Lough Léin, they went themselves to Ciarraige (North Kerry) without being noticed" (Misc. Annals 1151). The mid 12th century arrival of the Annals at Inisfallen coincides with the shift in influence of the MacCarthaigh from the Cashel area to Cork and South Kerry, where their predominance, as an important Irish family, remained until the 17th Century. "In 1180, Mael Duinn, son of Domhnall O Donnchadha, plundered Inisfallen, he carried off all the wealth therein which was under the protection of its saints — the gold, silver, garments, mantles and cloaks of West Munster — but the mercy of God did not allow him to kill people or strip this heavenly place of church furnishings or books". (A.I. 1180. 2.).



Extract from *The Annals folio 39v. Ms. Rawl B. 503.*

Because of this twist of fate the recording of events continued and the Annals of Inisfallen remain the best medieval history of Munster extant. Not all the entries are of political nature as there are notices of natural phenomena — eclipses, drought, storms, good and poor harvests, disease or plague epidemics; these items help illustrate the social life of the period. In the second half of the 12th century Inisfallen adopted the Rule of the Canons Regular of St. Augustine like many Irish Monasteries during that period of monastic reform.

THE MANUSCRIPT

The manuscript is defective at the beginning and end. Thirty-nine different scribes have contributed to the Annals. The section up to 1092, was written by one person only — whereas in the remainder from 1092 — 1326, with additional entries for 1292, 1328, 1359, 1390, 1428, and 1450, there is evidence of

GOLD UNDER THE FURZE

To celebrate the 70th birthday of Caoimhín Ó Danachair, friends and colleagues have combined to publish "Gold Under The Furze", in his honour. The volume is a collection of studies in Folk tradition and includes research on such aspects of Folklife as settlement, habitation, dwelling, farming methods and machinery, skills and occupation, social history, folklore, humour and pastime. It is illustrated with Caoimhín's own valuable collection of photographs and edited by Alan Gailey and Daithí Ó hÓgáin with an introduction by Bo Almquist.

A glance at the contents page of this festschrift clearly shows the extent of Caoimhín's influence on the international world of Folklife study and the contents themselves are a worthy tribute to his scholarship and relentless pursuit of "Gold" under the furze. Some memorable essays and articles include: **Rabbles and Runaways, Church Gates and Street Corners by Anne O'Dowd.** An account of the hiring fairs and hiring centres throughout Ireland and tells how the temporary workers (spailíní, cábógs, thinners, far downers, and puckadees) found employment, how they were paid, their living and working conditions.

Traditional Dyestuffs in Ireland by Bríd Mahon. In this essay the art of natural dyeing in Ireland is traced back to earlier times, there are many references to Co. Kerry and included is a very valuable guide to the natural dyestuffs of Ireland, for colours purple, green, yellow, black, blue, brown etc. under the common, botanical and Irish names, e.g. Purple;

PURPLE		
Bilberry Sundew	Vaccinium Myrtillus Drosera Rotundifolia	Fraochán Drúchtín Móna, Rós an tSolais.

Scottish Methods of Preserving White Fish by Bruce Walker In this essay Bruce Walker discovers that all the sophisticated methods of fish preservation used in Scotland, originate from Dutch recipes. He classifies the traditional processes under six headings, drying, salting, smoking, exclusion of air, application of vinegar or other acid, putting on ice. He gives descriptions of the first three processes.

Tools and Things, Machinery on Irish Farms, 1700 — 1981 by Tim O'Neill

An overall view (illustrated) of the innovations in Irish farming due to the gradual development from the older hand implements to horse and donkey powered equipment and the later tractor powered machinery of today.

A Dumfriesshire Drystone Dyker by Anne-Berit Ø. Borchgrevink.

A literal transcription from taped interviews with Charles Scott Jardine (B. 1909) about his craft, — traditional drystone walling in Scotland. This is an excellent description of a craft, its skills and the society it belongs to.

38 different handwritings styles, some of the scribes recording events as they became known, others reported at intervals. All of the annalists and scribes are anonymous and can be identified only by style and script.

As well as the first hand historic content of the manuscript, the Annals have been described as one of the best handbooks of Medieval paleography (the study of ancient writings and inscriptions) extant. We can see the Irish script become influenced by the Anglo-Norman hand. For linguists the developments in spelling and language shown by the annalists are of great interest, providing information on the Munster dialect of the period.

The manuscript is made up of 57 vellum folios, measuring 10¾" x 7½" and they are bound in brown leather, bearing the Ware coat of arms. Though the Monasteries of Kerry were officially suppressed in 1542, Inisfallen seems to have been unaffected and the manuscript of the Annals remained there until the 16th Century. In 1695 the Island was



The Photographic Record — A Selection of Caoimhín Ó Danachair's Pictures.

Twenty seven of Caoimhín's photographs taken in the 1940's, fourteen of which are of Co. Kerry.

The Oldest on the Farm by Åsa Nyman.

The study of a folktale recorded in Sweden; a tale common in Irish oral tradition. This story leads to an exploration of the patriarchal farmstead system in a Swedish Village, where the oldest on the farm was absolute master.

An Crios Bríde le Seán C. Ó Súilleabháin.

Staidéir ar na príomhgnéithe a bhaineann le ceiliúradh Lá Féile Bríde in Éirinn agus na nósanna a cleachtaití go traidisiúnta, mar shampla, Croiseanna Bríde, An Bhrídeog, An Ribín no Brat Bríde agus an Crios Bríde.

Gingerbread Hearts:

Symbols of Affection, Popularity and Honour by Edith Hörandner.

An article based on a collection of moulds used for baking heart shaped gingerbreads; these were baked and presented to people or sold, on Feast Days. The heart shape symbolized love, affection, popularity and honour in Austria.

Many of the essays were complemented with photographs and drawings and full lists of selected sources are published with each article. "Gold Under The Furze" strikes the perfect balance between scholarship and popular interest, so that this book is for both the student of Folklife and the enthusiastic reader.

In appreciation of his significant contribution to the Folk Museum at Muckcross, we join with his colleagues and friends in this special tribute to Caoimhín.

* Copies of "Gold Under The Furze" Studies in Folk Tradition, are available in the Book-Craft Shop at Muckcross House.

acquired by Robert Collam but later was incorporated into the estate of the Earl of Kenmare. It is not known how the Annals left Inisfallen but before 1627 they had been acquired by Sir James Ware (1594 — 1666) a collector of Irish manuscripts. Later they passed to the Viceroy of Ireland, Henry Hyde, 2nd Earl of Clarendon (1638 — 1709). After Lord Clarendon's death they were purchased by James Brydges (1673 — 1744) 1st Duke of Chandos. Jonathon Swift among others made several attempts to persuade Chandos to return the Ware manuscripts to Ireland to be placed in Trinity College. Unfortunately this was unsuccessful and Chandos retained the collection until he died. In 1747, the manuscript of the Annals of Inisfallen was acquired by one Richard Rawlinson (1690 — 1755) an antiquarian and author of topographical works. Rawlinson bequeathed his extensive collection of manuscripts including the Annals to the Bodleian Library in Oxford where they have remained since his death.

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OPEN DAY 19th JUNE 1983

To further celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the National Park, Sunday, 19th June 1983 was set aside as Open Day. A 2½ mile trail was laid out around Muckcross House to become a microcosm of the activities carried on in the Park. An Open Day guide book was produced and issued free; it contained explanatory notes on each of the 36 stands, especially set up to illustrate the features that combine to make the Killarney National Park unique.

Many of the stands were unusually new to our Open Day visitors in that they are not normally in public view or they are generally taken for granted, for example; Sewage Treatment Plant; Wildlife Wardens Service; Herd of Kerry Cattle; Hydrometric Survey; Grass Maintenance; Rhododendron Control; Weather Recording; Architectural Work; Haymaking; Folk-Life Research; Dairy Produce; Museum Maintenance; Household Craft and Plant Nurseries.

Thousands of people visited the National Park on 19th June and saw how the Killarney area has been preserved and is being conserved for future generations. A record 4,800 people entered and toured Muckcross House, surely the measure of a successful Open Day.

Illustrated Talks

The auditorium at Muckcross House was the venue for a series of illustrated talks on the outstanding natural features and cultural aspects of the Killarney Valley. The first lecture of the series was delivered by Professor W.A. Watt, Provost T.C.D., Professor Watt's talk "Man and Nature in Killarney" was preceeded by a ceremony in which he presented Mr. Joe Bermingham T.D., Minister of State, Department of Finance with a plaque certifying that the Killarney National Park is listed as a bio-sphere reserve by U.N.E.S.C.O. The ceremony marked a great milestone in the history of the National Park, and the honour bestowed is a tribute to everybody concerned with the Park.

The other speakers in the series were Professor J. Bracken, U.C.D. "The Lakes of Killarney", Dr. E.C. Mhic Daeid — "Plant Life in Kerry", Dr. J.B. Larnar — "Killarney National Park, "Deer in Killarney", Miss B. O'Floinn, U.C.D. — The Folklore of Muckcross Estate, and Miss M. Herbert U.C.C., "The Annals of Inisfallen".



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