

# News Letter

The Friends of  
Fermanagh County Museum

No. 4

January 1989

## 1988: The Year's Review

Four special exhibitions were mounted during the year attracting just under 10,000 visitors (9,918), including a total of 87 school groups. The 1988 figures show an increase on the previous year when 8,710 visitors were recorded.

### 19 February- April 1988

**"MADE IN FERMANAGH"**  
*Manufacturing and Trading in Earlier Days.*

The programme for 1988 opened with this popular exhibition which attracted much media attention, including slots on Ulster Television and radio. It was sponsored by Nationwide Anglia Building Society.

During the six weeks duration of the exhibition some 2,000 people visited the museum, with 1,100 of that number being children. The children were provided with workcards prepared by seconded teacher, Breege McCusker and illustrated by Karen Brazil.



*Mr. William Burgess, Manager of Nationwide Anglia Building Society, Helen Lanigan Wood, Museum Curator and Dr. William Crawford, Keeper of Material Culture at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. Dr. Crawford opened the exhibition "Made in Fermanagh".*

(Photograph: Fermanagh Herald)

The exhibition highlighted the main trades and manufacturing industries in Fermanagh in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, with particular emphasis on the leather and cutlery trades. Enniskillen was well-known for these occupations and fine examples of harnesswork, shoemaking and cutlery were featured.

A typical "pub" from the turn of the century was reconstructed

showing off many of the local bottlers. A fine display of brass weights and measures, dated 1861, and seventeenth century trade tokens were among some of the other eye-catching items.

Manufacturing enterprises from many parts of the county were also included, a bicycle oil gun patented by Thomas O'Loughlin of Belleek, McKeagney's Coachworks from Tempo and Eadie's Woollen Mill of Lisbellaw. Sadly Mr. Ian Eadie who provided so much information and material for the exhibition has since died. He always supported the work of the museum and was a member of the "Friends".

The exhibition was designed and mounted by Fermanagh County Museum and was based on research by former Museum Officer, Catherine McCullough, Catherine has published an article on the subject in the latest mid Ulster/Fermanagh edition of the Tatler Portrait and in the 1988 Clogher Record.

### May-mid June, 1988

**"PEOPLE AT WORK"**

The exhibition combined old photographs of people at work by the Belfast professional photographer Alex Hogg, and lent by the Ulster Museum, with contemporary Fermanagh photographs on the same



*Mr. and Mrs. Joe O'Loughlin and Miss Jo Thompson admiring the bicycle oil gun invented and patented in the 1930's by Mr. Thomas O'Loughlin of Belleek.*

(Photograph: Fermanagh Herald)



*Mr. Charlie Burns taking a closer look at some of the bottles on display.*



*Adrian Beattie, Museum Assistant and Catherine McCullough, former Museum Officer, putting the finishing touches to the Made in Fermanagh Exhibition.*

*(Photograph: Impartial Reporter)*

theme by the Enniskillen Photographic Society. It was sponsored by LEDU and was opened by LEDU's Chief Executive, Mr. George Mackey.

The Enniskillen Photographic Society has deposited negatives in the museum of all their prints in the exhibition. In 20 or 30 years time this will provide

a fascinating view of the kind of work done in Fermanagh in the year 1988. Many of the Enniskillen photographers were drawn to people working in timeless occupations, others to subjects which they felt would change radically in the future.



*Cutting a cake to open the exhibition "People at Work" are Mr. Gerry Burns, Clerk and Chief Executive of Fermanagh District Council, Helen Lanigan Wood, Museum Curator, Mr. George Mackey, Chief Executive of LEDU, Mrs. Ann Cassidy, Chairwoman of Enniskillen Photographic Society, Dr. William Maguire, Ulster Museum and Mr. Pat McGuinness, Chairman of the Western Panel of LEDU.*

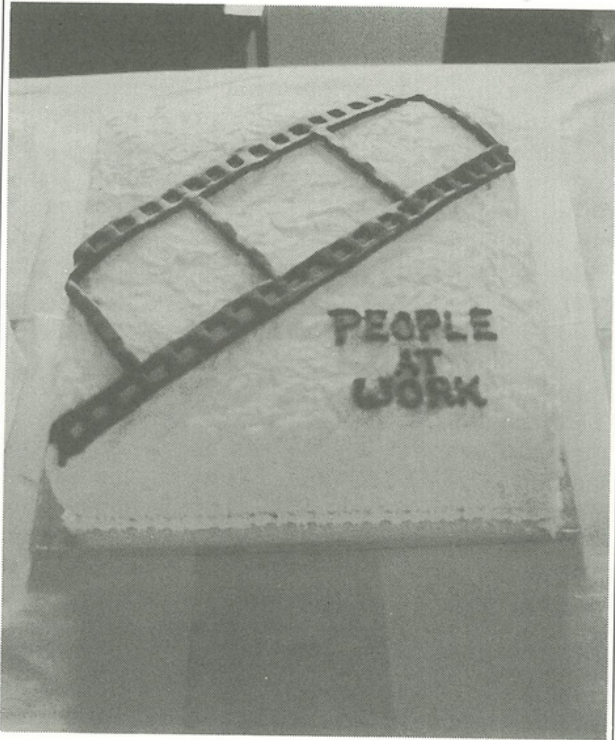
*(Photograph: Impartial Reporter)*

## **17 June-31 August, 1988**

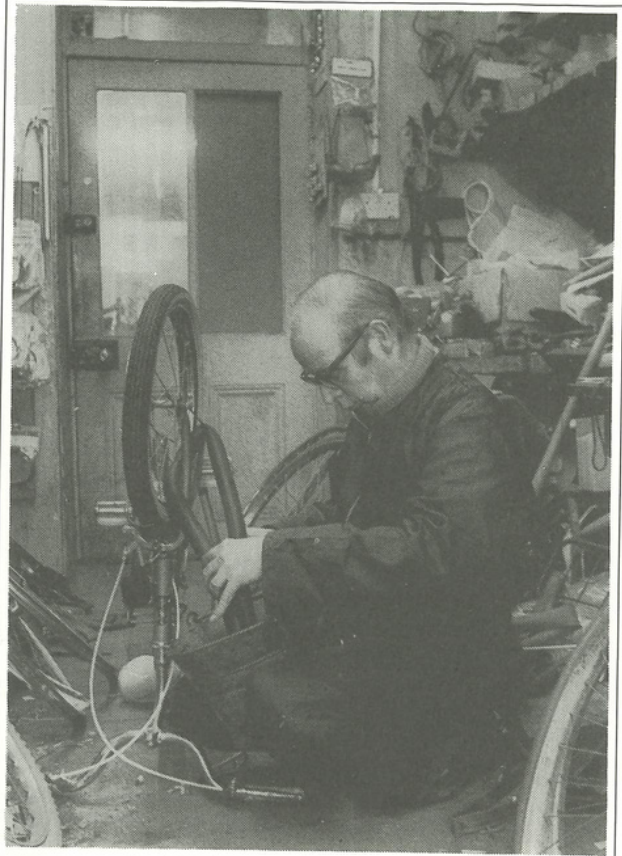
**CONTEMPORARY CERAMICS FROM THE ULSTER MUSEUM AND RECENT WORK BY ANN McNULTY.**

The range of pottery from the Ulster Museum was very varied from the finest porcelain to bold sculptural

forms. It was drawn from a worldwide collection recently purchased for the Ulster Museum by the Curator of Applied Arts, Mr. Mike Robinson, who opened the exhibition. Ann McNulty's new colourful collection created a great deal of interest throughout the summer and brought many visitors to her studio, from Ireland and abroad.



*Special cake baked by Elliott's Home Bakery, Derrygonnelly to celebrate the exhibition launch.*



*Mr. C. Stevenson in his Bicycle Shop.*

*(Photograph by: Pat Lunny, Enniskillen Photographic Society).  
From the exhibition "People at Work".*



*Mr. Mike Robinson, Curator of Applied Arts, Ulster Museum, with potter Ann McNulty and Museum Curator, Helen Lanigan Wood at the launch of the Contemporary Ceramics exhibition.*

*(Photograph: Impartial Reporter)*

## 9 September-30 November, 1988

### "DOWN UNDER: FROM LETTERBREEN TO BOTANY BAY"

This exhibition celebrating the Australian Bicentenary was one of great diversity — a collection of Australian birds, animals and aboriginal artefacts from the Ulster Museum, family memorabilia relating to the career of Somerset Richard Lowry Corry, 4th Earl of Belmore, Governor General of New South Wales, from 1867 to 1872, historical material drawn from Australian institutions and the Public Records Office, N. Ireland and an exhibition and video programme about naturalist John White from Letterbreen, surgeon in the first fleet to Botany Bay in 1788. The exhibitions were selected and mounted by Fermanagh County Museum with much help from Winifred Glover of the Ulster Museum, the Earl of Belmore (who lent a comprehensive collection relating to the 4th Earl), Dr. Charles Nelson (who wrote and presented the John White video), Dr. Richard Reid of Australia and Dr. Andrew Harrison of the Public Records Office, N. Ireland (for historical research), Mrs. Hilary Wright and the Linenhall Library (for the loan of John White's book) and Liverpool Museum (for plant specimens collected by White in Australia). It was a popular exhibition, attracting over 1,500 visitors including 600 children on 26 school visits.



*Mr. E. Love.*

(Photograph by Ann Cassidy, Enniskillen Photographic Society).  
From the exhibition "People at Work".



*Mr. William Burgess, manager of Nationwide Anglia Building Society, handing over a cheque of sponsorship for the "Down Under" exhibition to Helen Lanigan Wood, Museum Curator.*

(Photograph: Impartial Reporter)



Admiring one of the drawings in the "Down Under" exhibition are Mrs. Winifred Glover, Ulster Museum; Mr. Jim Lunny, Chairman of Fermanagh District Council, who opened the exhibition; Lord Belmore; Helen Lanigan Wood, Museum Curator and Dr. Charles Nelson of the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin.

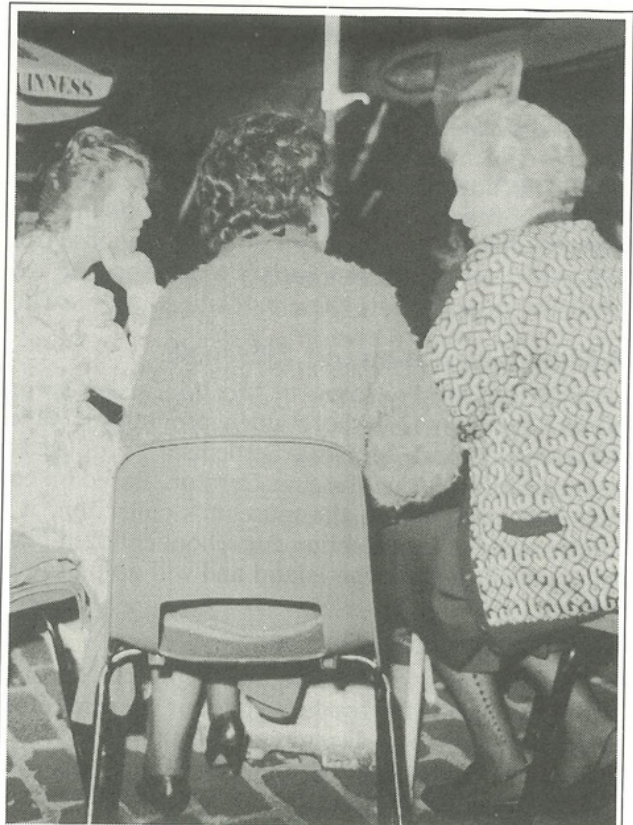
(Photograph: Impartial Reporter)

165 people attended the launch of the Australian exhibition "Down Under" on 8 September. To accommodate such a large gathering the Regimental Museum opened for the evening and a marquee was set up in the courtyard. Thanks to generous sponsorship from

the Nationwide Anglia Building Society, guests were able to nibble sausage rolls, sample Australian beer and other refreshments and enjoy the music of Jazz-wyse echoing in the courtyard.



Guests at the opening of the "Down Under" exhibition.



Guests at the opening of the "Down Under" exhibition.



Guests at the opening of the "Down Under" exhibition.

## Education Service

We can report some progress during the year in our services to schools. Thanks to the help of Mrs. Breege McCusker, seconded to the museum for a year from St. Mary's Secondary School, Irvinestown and the work of graphic artist, Mrs. Karen Brazil of Fermanagh District Council, we were able to produce a number of illustrated worksheets. Three were prepared for special exhibitions held during the school term — "Made in Fermanagh"; "People at Work" and "Down Under". Worksheets were also produced for the permanent exhibitions at Lisnaskea Library and Castle Archdale Country Park, and the worksheets for the Early Fermanagh exhibition in Enniskillen Castle were reprinted. Judging from the good response from schools these worksheets satisfy a demand and help students to appreciate these exhibitions more easily.

### Video Programme on Devenish

Another useful outcome of Mrs. McCusker's work at the museum is a short video programme called "Devenish Island: Monastic Settlement" produced in association with the Museum Curator. Based on colour transparencies in the museum's collection, it is designed as an introduction for school children planning a visit to Devenish Island and will go on sale in March, 1989.

### Information for Teachers

The finishing touches are now being put on three guides prepared for teachers, one for the Prehistory and Early History displays in Fermanagh County Museum, Enniskillen, another for the displays of Rural Life in Lisnaskea Library. The third is a guide to Devenish Island containing useful extracts from earlier studies of the island's antiquities.

## Museum Acquisitions 1987-'88

We recorded 416 acquisitions during 1987, including the large folklife collection made by the late Dowager Duchess of Westminster. In 1988 we recorded 172 acquisitions. We would like to thank all those who have given so generously to the museum particularly those whom lack of space prevents us from naming here.

### Reference Books

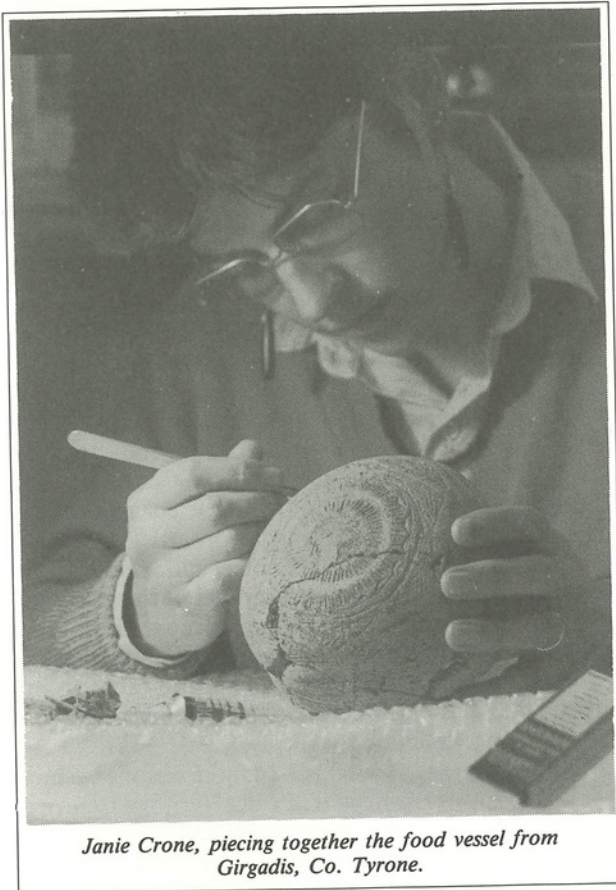
The Friars Bush Press kindly presented a copy of William Parke's book "A Fermanagh Childhood" which was launched so successfully at the museum in October. Mrs. Bernadette Layden and the Kilmacormick WEA History Group presented a copy of "A Dander Down the Streets" which was published to much acclaim in December.

The late lamented Dr. George Gillespie of Ballygawley presented a magnificent collection of journals to the museum just before his death. This includes the very valuable complete run of the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries published from 1849 and a complete set of the Ulster Journal of Archaeology which first appeared in 1853. These are all bound volumes, many bound by Dr. Gillespie himself.

### Prehistoric Items

Mr. Seamus McQuaid of Girgadis, Trillick, presented a Bronze Age Food Vessel recently uncovered on his land. It has been pierced together and is now on display in the revamped Early Fermanagh display in Enniskillen Castle. A prehistoric stone axe was presented by executors of the late Miss Mary Wilson of Lisbellaw. Mr. John McCoy of Dromore presented a rare and very interesting wooden vessel, carved from a single piece of wood with handles still

intact. It was found in the ditch area of a partly demolished ring fort and is probably Early Christian in date. It is now undergoing a long conservation treatment before going on display. Fortunately it was brought to us very soon after its discovery and so could be satisfactorily preserved.



Janie Crone, piecing together the food vessel from Girgadis, Co. Tyrone.

### Fine Arts

Lord Belmore presented two interesting works, a rare collage of an Irish landscape by the Belfast painter John Luke (1906-1975) and a reproduction of a drawing by William Orpen (1878-1931) a preparatory drawing for a large painting of 1913 entitled, "Sowing the Seed for the Board of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland."

Through the Friends of Fermanagh County Museum we were fortunate to be able to purchase an early watercolour of a continental scene painted in 1947 by Kathleen Bridle. We also purchased a bronze figure of Samuel Beckett by John Coll. Beckett was educated at Portora Royal School and went onto win the Nobel Prize for literature in 1969.

### Domestic, Commercial and Craft Items

Two wooden noggins used for serving porridge were donated by Mr. Dermott O'Reilly, Enniskillen. They are unusual in being made of a single piece of turned wood rather than of staves. Mr. Jim West of Ballycassidy added some interesting milk bottles to our collection, two issued by Springfield Creamery, two others labelled "SCWS, Ekn" from the Scottish Co-operative Wholesale Society or the Scotch Store as it is commonly called. We received a fine chest of printing type formerly used by the *Impartial Reporter*

and an excellent set of wood working planes from Mrs. J. McCole of Moville, formerly Bonner of Enniskillen. Mr. William Grey of Enniskillen gave an old wooden bench vice, adding another interesting item to our craft section.

### Trade Tokens

We were able to buy 3 rare 17th c. trade tokens cast in 1657 in Enniskillen at a time when small change had become scarce. Made of copper, they were issued by Abraham Clements, one of 6 known licenced merchants of that time in Enniskillen.

### Prints

We bought three engravings by the antiquarian William Wakeman who taught at Portora. These were of Devenish ruins, Inniskeen graveyard and St. Patrick's Well and Church, Tamlaght. All three date from 1875. We purchased three prints by James Hubert Craig, two of Devenish and one of Monea Castle, published in "In Praise of Ulster" in 1939. We also bought a print of Lough Erne from the *Illustrated London News* of 1869.

### Maps

The museum acquired 2 interesting maps — one of Fermanagh dated 1880 from Philip's "Irish Atlas", the other dated 1778, an original road map by Taylor and Skinner covering Donegal to Killybegs and Dublin to Ballyshannon.

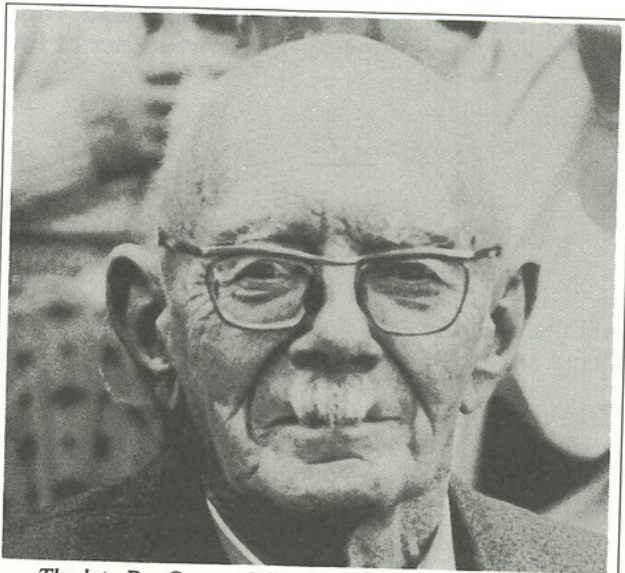
### Documents

We have now acquired a good collection of billheads from shops in Enniskillen. A large collection came from Lord Belmore and relate to items ordered for Castle Coole. A collection of billheads given by the Masonic Lodge of Enniskillen covers such items as flags for the Lodge, the printing of merit cards and accounts from local hotels for social functions. Mr. William Bradburn of Ballinamallard presented various documents issued by the Ministry of Agriculture during World War 2 — tillage orders and licences detailing the amount of milk products to be produced by farmers.

One of the most interesting documents was presented by the executors of the late lamented Father Livingstone. It is a public notice dated 1846 stipulating that street traders be removed from the Main Street of Enniskillen from October, 1846 and conduct their markets in Enniskillen Butter Market. It is by order of the owner of the Fairs and Market, the Earl of Enniskillen and is signed by his agent Henry Echlin. It is printed by Thomas Stevenson, Darling Street, Enniskillen and the reason it has survived is because it was used as a backing for a treasured obituary of a parish priest of Enniskillen which was attractively printed in the same year, 1846.

### Farm Equipment

An unusual set of potato harrows was presented by Mr. J. C. Graham of Lisnaskea. Mr. William Bradburn gave a collection of horse harness and a butter churn while Mr. Noel Parker donated a donkey harness. We were also very pleased to receive a farm gate made by the Sweeney blacksmith of Irvinestown.



The late Dr. George Gillespie, July 1987 at Fermanagh County Museum.

(Photograph: Fermanagh Herald)

## OBITUARY:

### Dr. G. A. M. Gillespie

Dr. George Alexander Montgomery Gillespie of Ballygawley died last September. A native of South Derry he was appointed in 1925 medical officer of Carrickmore Dispensary and while practising there, and later at Ballygawley, his professional competence, dedication and kindly concern for his patients made him both known and respected throughout the area. He was an accomplished historian, naturalist and genealogist, a book and stamp collector, a photographer and recorder of local folklore, gravestone inscriptions and place-names. He was for many years an Ulster Vice-President of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland and one of that group of enthusiasts who supported Dr. Oliver Davie's resurrection of the Ulster Journal of Archaeology in 1938. Earlier he had encouraged the re-establishment of the Irish Naturalists' Journal.

With many friends in the Enniskillen area, and his interest in County Fermanagh, he became a founder member of the Fermanagh Naturalists' Field Club and indeed of late years its Vice-President. He was also an unfailing supporter of the Clogher Historical Society and of Fermanagh County Museum. His keen perception and quick logical mind led him not only to appreciate the changing ways of life around him but to record them for the benefit of others. Always hospitable, his knowledge was freely given to all who sought his help and many owe a debt of gratitude, not only for assistance in tracing family links, studying history or investigating the local flora and fauna, but above all for the pleasure and stimulation of his company.

In the wider field he was a dedicated member of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland being an Elder as well as holding many other offices and serving on the Council of the Presbyterian Historical Society. Many, I am sure, will recollect his opening remarks when he lectured (or rather chatted) to the Fermanagh Field

Club some years ago. "Some people", he said "had fairies at the bottom of their garden, I was lucky, I had Clogher Valley Railway". This was a typical comment of that humourous, kindly, clever, industrious and honest gentleman who contributed so much in so many ways to his community for more than sixty years. Dr. George Gillespie has gone from the Clogher Valley and from the Counties of Tyrone and Fermanagh; they are poorer for it and so are we all.

D.R.M.W.

## 'Friends' Bus Trip to Monaghan

Our outing this year took place on Saturday, 21 May, 1988. The first stop was to visit the Monaghan County Museum with its new gallery and exemplary stores. This chance to see behind the scenes was very much appreciated and everyone was most impressed by the museum's large collection of historical and folklife artefacts and its fine costume collection.

On then to the Tyrone Guthrie Centre at Anaghmakerrig, former home of the celebrated theatre director and now a workplace for artists. Bernard Loughlin, Director of the Centre conducted an interesting tour of the house after which the party adjourned to enjoy the buffet lunch prepared by Mary Loughlin and her staff. It was an informal gathering, perched on garden walls, sitting around tables, sipping the odd glass of wine, then strolling in the gardens or down by the lakeside.

In the afternoon it was back to more serious business with the visit to the new St. Louis Heritage Centre at Monaghan, where we were welcomed by its creator Sister de Lourdes. This is a well-designed display of the history of the St. Louis Order of nuns and its educational influences in Monaghan. There was time then for some refreshments before making the short journey home to Fermanagh.

Next year's outing is on Saturday, 6 May, 1989. Don't forget to make a note in your diary.

## Coach Trip — 6 May, 1989

Our bus trip this year will be to Co. Roscommon, "The Heart of Ireland" to visit the Cistercian Abbey at Boyle and Strokestown Park House, ancestral house of the Pakenham Mahon family. Boyle Abbey is one of the finest Cistercian monasteries in the county and has been recently restored. Strokestown Park House was designed in the 1730's by Richard Cassels whose first project in Ireland was the building of Castle Hume in Fermanagh. It has recently been opened to the public and is a house of great individual character and interest. Our first stop on the tour will be to have coffee and home-made scones in its beautifully refurbished kitchen.

Last year's tour was fully booked, so early booking is advisable. We are catering for 25 on the bus and no more than 4 cars accompanying it. More details will be sent to you later.





*Bernard Loughlin (left-hand side), Director of the Tyrone Guthrie Centre addressing the "Friends" at Annagmakerrig.*



*AT YOUR SERVICE! Staff of Fermanagh County Museum, from left, Adrian Beattie, Museum Assistant; Iain Macauley, Arts/Cultural Assistant; Janie Crone, Museum Officer; Helen Lanigan Wood, Museum Curator; Liana Ledwith, Clerk/Receptionist.*

## **New Members of Staff**

In October 1988, Janie Crone joined the staff of Fermanagh County Museum as Museum Officer replacing Catherine McCullough who has moved as Deputy Curator to Armagh County Museum.

Janie is an Archaeology graduate of the Queen's University of Belfast and has worked as an archaeologist for the past 10 years. She has wide experience of excavating throughout Ireland and has also worked abroad on excavations and projects in

Scotland, England, Norway, Cyprus and Italy. She has been employed for many years by the Historic Monuments Branch of the Department of the Environment, working on the survey of archaeological monuments in Counties Tyrone and Fermanagh.

Iain Macauley took up the new post of Arts/Cultural Assistant in September. A graduate in Social Anthropology and Archaeology of Edinburgh University Iain is married to a native of Fermanagh

and they have a young son. After graduating Iain undertook research work in Scotland for Queen's University, Belfast, a job which brought him to live and work in two Scottish fishing villages. He returned to Belfast to complete his report on the Scottish Fishing Project, during which time he tutored and lectured in the Social Anthropology Department of Queen's University, Belfast.

Prior to taking up his appointment with Fermanagh District Council he worked as a research associate studying public attitudes to conservation in Fermanagh.

Liana Lucchesi-Ledwith is a native of Enniskillen and joined the staff as Clerk/Receptionist in February 1988. Liana trained as a bilingual secretary at the Belfast College of Business Studies and has worked with Fermanagh District Council since 1983, both at the Visitor Centre and the Marble Arch Caves. Liana is married and has a young son.

### **Poitin Making and Local History in Lisnaskea Library**

The new display about poitin attracted a lot of interest in Lisnaskea Library. It includes a reconstruction of a still collected by Mr. Pat Cassidy and full details (including recipes!) of how to produce poitin. A photographic display on the history of the area was also mounted during the year. It includes an aerial photograph of the Maguire inauguration site at Cornashee, a conjectural reconstruction of the original Maguire stronghold at Lisnaskea, a photographic reproduction of an old drawing of Castle Balfour as well as old photographs and postcards of the town.

## **Memorial Painting by William Scott**

The oil painting "Yellow Matrix" by William Scott, painted in 1962 was officially unveiled on 27th April, 1988. It was presented to the museum by the artist and his family in memory of those killed in Enniskillen on Remembrance Day, 1987. The frame was the gift of the Royal Academy of Art in London.

## **Our New Friend the Computer**

The task of transferring all our records on to computer began in 1987 with the purchase of an Amstrad PC 1512 and with staff training in the use of computers. Catherine McCullough formerly Museum Officer here, attended a concentrated course in Salford run by the Museum Documentation Association. This body was set up to assist museums with the documentation of their collections and it has developed a software package, known as Modes (Museum Object Date Entry System) now used by over 70 museums in the U.K., including Fermanagh County Museum. Records are entered in a highly structured form to ensure conformity to the Museum Documentation Associations multidisciplinary date standards adopted throughout the U.K.

During the coming year we shall be devoting as much time as possible to the onerous job of computerising all our records. The end result will enable us to provide a quicker and more efficient service to all those seeking information from the museum.

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## **Exhibition Programme 1989**

**January 1-31** — Lisnaskea Library — Irish Australian Connections Historical Exhibition.

**March** — Lisnaskea Library — "The Highest Call": Ulster American Presidents.

Exhibition from the Ulster Society.

**Mid March-mid May** — Enniskillen. Irish 20th century paintings from Fermanagh collections.

**May 22-June 19** — Enniskillen. Exhibition of paintings by James Sleator of Armagh (1889-1950) organised by Armagh County Museum.

**Oct. 20-Dec. 15** — Enniskillen. "Shades of the East". Dowry textiles and carved wood from north-west India and Pakistan.

Special Indian evening on October 19 to celebrate Museums Year.

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### **Purchases by the Friends of Fermanagh County Museum**

During the year we purchased an interesting early watercolour by the Enniskillen artist Kathleen Bridle. This was painted in 1947 and was bought for £265 from Flanagan & Co. Antiques of Belfast.

### **Membership and Subscriptions**

We would like to thank you all once again for your generous subscriptions which enable us to purchase items which otherwise would be beyond our reach.

The 1989 subscriptions to the Association of Friends are now being received. The membership year

runs from 1 April, 1989 to 31 March, 1990. The membership rates are unchanged — £5 per person with a £2 rate for OAP's, unwaged and students. The family subscription is £8 and corporate membership for schools and institutions is £15. Cheques should be made payable to the Friends of Fermanagh County Museum and may be sent to Fermanagh County Museum, Castle Barracks, Enniskillen. Members may also pay by Bankers Order. Those who pay by Bankers Order are now asked to instruct their banks to lodge subscriptions to our current account number at Ulster Bank, No. 52438153 (Bank sort code 98.06.50). Earlier arrangements using a deposit account were unsatisfactory as subscribers' names were frequently omitted from the bank's documentation. Forms are being sent to members with full instructions about the new arrangement.