

Future Plans for the Museum

Despite our best endeavours to achieve a spatial expansion at Castle Barracks for an improvement of the Museum service, we are not able to report on having any success in obtaining more space nor indeed any prospect of such in the immediate future.

The museum has developed to a point where some 5,000 square feet must be made available to provide more display space, adequate storage, conservation and work areas, and a research area for the public. The available storage has now been completely utilized, work and conservation areas are quite inadequate and the display areas are unacceptably small. We are awaiting a decision from the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of the D.O.E. and other users of the Castle Barracks as to whether short term accommodation can be made available to the Council.

In the meantime we ask your forbearance and apologise to all those researchers who come to the museum and now work in such cramped conditions. We apologise to all our generous donors and supporters for the fact that after 11 years of existence the museum is able to display so little of its collection. However in our next Newsletter we'll hope to have better news.



Mr. Nick Brannon, archaeologist with the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of D.O.E. supervises the drilling rig beside Enniskillen Castle.

(Photo: Impartial Reporter)

Scott Painting for Museum in Memory of those who Died

The celebrated Painter, William Scott, is to present one of his paintings to Fermanagh County Museum in memory of those who were killed on Remembrance Day. In a letter to Helen Lanigan Wood, the Museum Curator, James Scott, William's son, expressed the sympathy of all his family for the bereavement suffered by the Enniskillen community. The family wished to present the painting as a gesture of support for the people of Fermanagh.

In Memory of Viola Westminster Folklife Collection for Museum

The late Dowager Duchess of Westminster whose tragic death this year so saddened our community, had been a member of the Friends of Fermanagh County Museum since its beginning, and had always supported the work of the museum.

Some 20 years ago before the Museum had been set up, the Duchess assembled a comprehensive collection of Fermanagh folklife material which for many years was on display in the former Wilkin house at Carrickreagh. Several pieces from this collection have been on loan to the museum for some time and are on display in Lisnaskea Library. The entire collection — some 400 items — has now been presented to Fermanagh County Museum by Lady Lichfield on behalf of the family of the late Dowager Duchess.

The Duchess had planned in her lifetime to hand the collection over to the museum and Lady Lichfield has expressed pleasure in the knowledge that the collection will now be preserved for posterity. It will be called the Viola Westminster collection and will serve as a fitting memorial to the late Duchess's interest in the heritage of Fermanagh. After it has been conserved and studied it will be displayed in a special exhibition in Enniskillen Castle in October, 1988.

Archaeological Investigations at Enniskillen Castle

The reason for the preliminary excavations in the Castle Barracks yard last March was to explore the archaeological stratigraphy on the site offered by the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of the Department of the Environment to Fermanagh District Council for a new museum building. Mr. Nick Brannon, archaeologist, the Branch's Senior Inspector, supervised the excavation.

The excavation involved using a drilling rig to extract cores of soil. This technique is more usually associated with engineering projects and it was the first time in Ireland that this method was used for an archaeological investigation. The six cores were taken for analysis to the laboratory of the Civil Engineering Branch of D.O.E. in Belfast. In all five corings were taken and these revealed that the natural subsoil lay between 2m and 3.2m below the surface.

If Fermanagh District Council decides to build on the site a full archaeological excavation will first have to be undertaken in the layers above the subsoil. Fragments of bone, pieces of charcoal and debris from buildings were found in these layers during the exploratory borings. A full archaeological excavation of the site may yet reveal the foundations of William Cole's house which we know was built here in the early 17th century.

Events and Exhibitions 1987



Deirdre Crone (2nd left) with from left Vincent Martin, Jim Nawn, Martin Irvine and Helen Lanigan Wood.

FEBRUARY, 1987

"A MARRIAGE OF ART AND SCIENCE"
Exhibition of Archaeological Illustration

An illustrated talk on Saturday, February 7th, by Mrs. Deirdre Crone, archaeological illustrator at the Ulster Museum accompanied this unusual exhibition. It was followed by a sociable buffet lunch provided by the Vintage. The exhibition included a wide range of illustrative material from Ireland, Great Britain, America and Turkey, including illustrations of Irish Gold, Roman jewellery from the British Museum, Egyptian antiquities and finds from the Tudor flagship the 'Mary Rose.'

MARCH-APRIL 1987

KENNETH JAMISON — A PERSONAL SELECTION
Paintings, Sculpture, Antiquities and Ethnography from the Ulster Museum

Kenneth Jamison, Director of the Arts Council spoke with enthusiasm about his personal selection from the art collections of the Ulster Museum. He included in his selection objects from the ethnographic and antiquities collection making the point that art is not confined to the picture galleries nor indeed to museums. Again this lecture was followed by a pleasant social occasion with buffet lunch.'

MAY-JUNE 1987

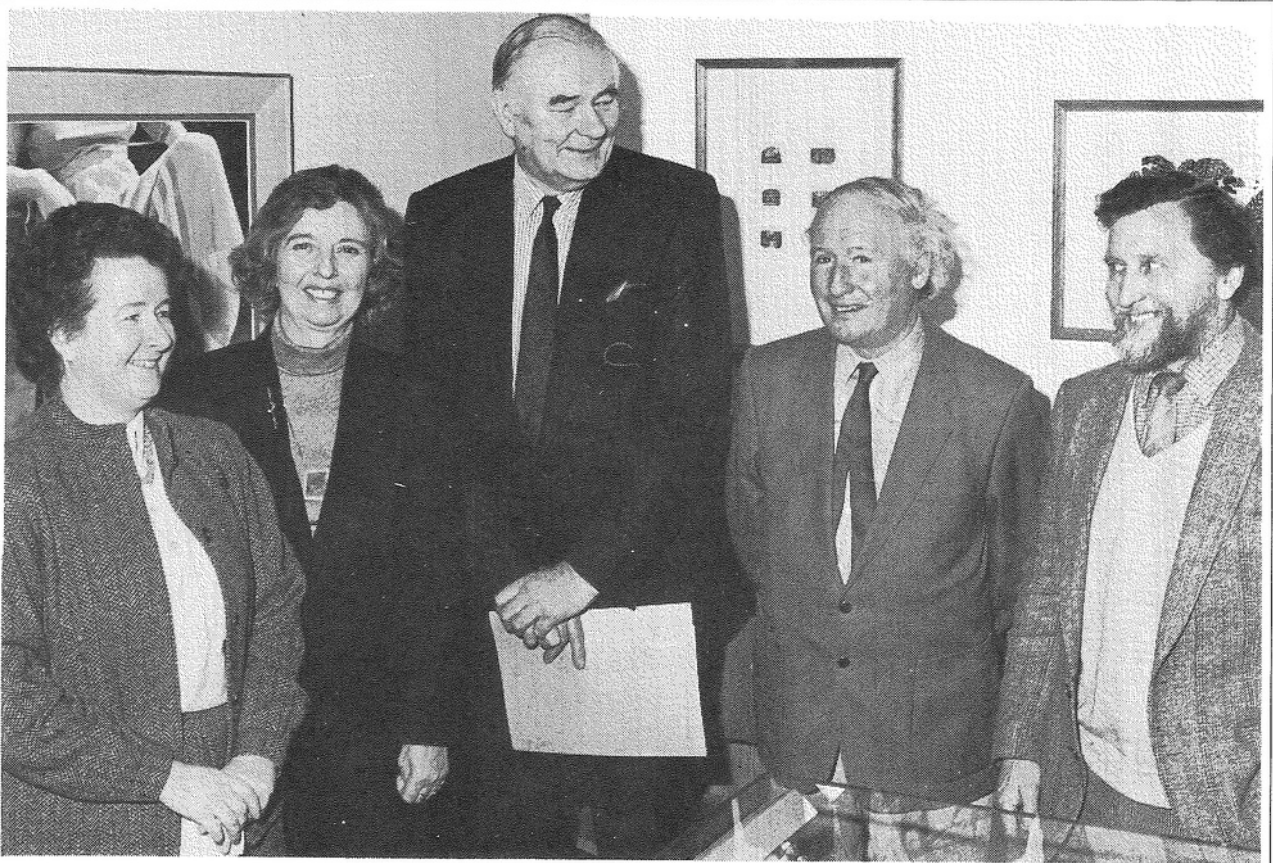
"DAMNED NONSENSE" THE GEOLOGICAL CAREER OF THE THIRD EARL OF ENNISKILLEN

Much local interest was generated in this exhibition arranged by the Ulster Museum which was opened on April 30th by Professor Gordon Herries Davies from Trinity College, Dublin. Professor Davies gave a lively and entertaining account of the life of William Cole of Florence Court, later the third Earl of Enniskillen and of his magnificent collection of 10,000 fossil fish. The *Impartial Reporter's* account of the opening describes Professor Davies' talk as "enthralling and graphic" a view shared by those who attended. Professor Davies paid tribute to Kenneth James, Assistant Keeper in the Geology Department of the Ulster Museum who was responsible for the research for the exhibition and for writing the accompanying booklet about the Third Earl of Enniskillen.

MAY-JUNE 1987

GEOLOGY OF FERMANAGH

Running concurrently with the Third Earl of Enniskillen exhibition was an exhibition of geological samples collected in Fermanagh by Pat O'Doherty of Enniskillen, an environmental scientist. First mounted in Enniskillen Library this popular exhibition which also included a selection of world gem stones was an ideal accompaniment to the exhibition about the earlier Fermanagh geologist, the Third Earl of Enniskillen.



*At the opening of the exhibition **KENNETH JAMISON: A PERSONAL SELECTION**, were Helen Lanigan Wood, Sheelagh Flanagan, Kenneth Jamison, T. P. Flanagan and Gordon Johnson. (Photograph: Impartial Reporter)*



*At the opening of the exhibition "**Damned Nonsense**" are Mr. Kenneth James, Ulster Museum, Mr. Pat O'Doherty, environmental scientist, Helen Lanigan Wood and Professor Gordon Herries Davies.*

(Photo: Impartial Reporter)



Some of the members of Jazzwise. From left Ken Saunderson, trumpet; Fearghal McKinney, saxophone; Raymond Ferguson, clarinet and Niall McEnhill, electric guitar.

(Photo: Fermanagh Herald)



Mr. Hugh Weir, publisher, Ballinakella Press; Mr. Jim Nawn, Mr. John McConville, Bass representative and Helen Lanigan Wood with a copy of the new edition of Henry's Upper Lough Erne in 1739.

(Photo: Fermanagh Herald)

JULY-AUGUST 1987

"THE IRISH FACE"

Exhibition, Book Launch and Music at the Museum, July 2nd, 1987.

The high-light of the year was undoubtedly the evening of July 2nd when 200 people attended the reception to launch the exhibition "The Irish Face" from the National Library and the new edition of *Upper Lough Erne* in 1739 by Rev. William Henry.

The exhibition was opened by Dr. Noel Kissane, Education Officer of the National Library and author of the well produced booklet "The Irish Face" which accompanied the show. The exhibition included portraits of Irish men and women over the past 5,000 years in paintings, sketches, photographs and sculptures. Many stone carvings from the collections of Fermanagh County Museum were also included.

BOOK LAUNCH

The new edition of *Upper Lough Erne* by Dean Henry, published by the Hon. Mr. Hugh Weir of the Ballinakella Press, Whitegate, Co. Clare, was then launched with much acclaim by Mr. Jim Nawn.

While the book and exhibition were launched in the top gallery of the museum a public address system relayed the proceedings to the crowds downstairs in the cobbled courtyard. Here both before and after the launching ceremonies, refreshments were provided by Bass Ireland and music by the final local jazz group Jazzwise. Definitely a night to remember!

SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER 1987

TEN YEARS COLLECTING AT FERMANAGH COUNTY MUSEUM

Exhibition of Paintings, Prints, Ceramics and Lace

The exhibition opened without ceremony at the end of September and was representative of what the Museum has collected in its 10 years of existence. Many of the items were on display for the first time including recent acquisitions of Belleek pottery, an early painting by Kathleen Bridle and paintings by Mavis and Marion Thomson. Part of this exhibition remains on view into the New Year while there is a gradual change to a new exhibition entitled "Made in Fermanagh: Manufacturing and Trading in Earlier Days." This unusual strategy has been forced upon us by the critical space shortage in the museum, which leaves us with nowhere to prepare exhibitions other than in the public gallery and nowhere to store our collection of paintings.



Professor Gordon Herries Davies opening the exhibition "Damned Nonsense"

(Photo: Impartial Reporter)

Missing Cross-Slab from Killadeas Graveyard

During the Summer Museum, Museum Curator Helen Lanigan Wood assisted by Adrian Beattie made an unsuccessful attempt to find a small cross-slab in the old graveyard at Killadeas. The cross-slab had been partly buried in grass in the early 1970's and it was hoped that a simple excavation to remove the topsoil would uncover the slab. However a thorough search of the area revealed no trace of it.

If any reader can throw light on the present whereabouts of this cross-slab he should contact the Rev. Canon Moore of Killadeas or the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of the Department of the Environment at 66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast.

Many thefts of carved stones have been reported recently in the Republic of Ireland, particularly from isolated graveyards and islands in the Shannon. We must all be alert to such threats to our heritage and inform the police of any suspicious activities near our historic monuments.

Incidentally, readers may be interested to know that in order to undertake this mini-excavation the Curator was obliged by law to obtain a licence from the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of the Department of the Environment and to inform the police of her activities.

New Member of Staff

In August, 1987, Adrian Beattie from Enniskillen joined the permanent staff of Fermanagh County Museum as Museum Assistant. Adrian is already well known to museum visitors, as he has worked in the museum in a temporary capacity for the last two years. As well as acting as guide and custodian, Adrian also helps to conserve the museum's collection.

Teacher Secondment at the Museum

In September of this year, Mrs. Breege McCusker, History teacher and Head of Careers department at St. Mary's Secondary School, Irvinestown, began a year's programme of work at the museum under the auspices of the Department of Education. Mrs. McCusker, author of "Irvinestown Through the Ages" has a particular interest in local history. She is now engaged in preparing information packs on various topics relevant to the school syllabuses. These packs will contain museum objects, old photographs, copies of prints and maps as well as preparatory notes for teachers and worksheets for pupils. They will be made available on loan to schools and in this way the museum's resources will be spread more widely.

Secondment Scheme to Continue in 1988-89

The Department of Education has decided to sponsor another teacher at Fermanagh County Museum during the academic year 1988-1989. This is good news for the museum and good news too, we hope for some teacher interested in undertaking this challenging work. If any members are interested in this post send an application without delay to the Inservice Training Branch, Department of Education for Northern Ireland, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, Co. Down. **All applications must reach the D.E.N.I. by February 12, 1988.** If you would like further information get in touch with the Museum Curator, Helen Lanigan Wood.



On Wednesday evening, December 2nd, Friends of Fermanagh County Museum joined other friends from the county for a table quiz which turned out to be a great success. The event was sold out well in advance and the museum was filled to capacity. The teams pooled their general knowledge to answer such questions as "Name the Figian leader who declared independence for Figi?" "Major Thingy in the skirt" was judged the best answer of the evening!

During the interval, mulled wine and hot mince pies were served and we received so many requests for the recipe for the mulled wine that we are including it in this Newsletter.

We would like to thank all those Friends and shopkeepers in the county who generously donated prizes for the quiz. The event was in aid of the purchase fund of the Friends of Fermanagh County Museum and we are happy to report a profit of nearly £90 on the evening.

P.S. — Did you know that a libro-cubicularist reads in bed?



Recipe for Mulled Wine

Ingredients

- 2 Bottles of Red Wine
- ½ pt. Water
- 6 oz. Sugar approximately (more or less can be added according to taste)
- 2 Small Cinnamon Sticks
- 1 Level Teaspoon Nutmeg
- 1 Orange
- 1 Lemon

Method

Slice the orange and lemon thinly but leave unpeeled. Then place all the ingredients into a large saucepan. Place on a LOW heat for approximately 1½ hours. Serve hot.

Serves 12 people.

Friends Coach Trip to Sligo

This year's bus trip took place on May 16th to the Sligo area and was led by the Sligo naturalist Martin Enright. The first stop was at the Sligo Municipal Art Gallery to see the impressive collection of paintings by John and Jack B. Yeats, George Russell, Paul Henty, Evie Hone, Sean Keating and other Irish painters. Then we visited the adjacent Museum and the Dominican Friary of Sligo before adjourning for lunch in the town.

In the afternoon we visited Drumcliff where the archaeologist Joyce Enright, Martin's wife, has been excavating for several years on the site of the monastery founded there by St. Columcille in 575 A.D. Martin Enright described how these excavations had uncovered hearths,

storage pits, evidence of iron and bronze working, bone and antler craftwork and produced finds of bone, and bronze pins, bone hair combs, bronze buckles, glass beads, and iron knives. Before leaving Drumcliff we visited the burial place of W. B. Yeats.

Our last stop was Lisadell House the home of the poet, Eva Gore Booth and her more famous sister Constance, later Countess Markievicz. Here we enjoyed the memorable experience of a guided tour of the house by Miss Aileen Gore Booth followed by afternoon tea in the kitchen tea-shop.

Don't forget May 21st, 1988 — the date for next year's Coach Trip.



Martin Enright (right of centre) describes the archaeological excavations at Drumcliff.

Photo: Fermanagh County Museum



Friends of the Museum at the foot of Benbulbin.

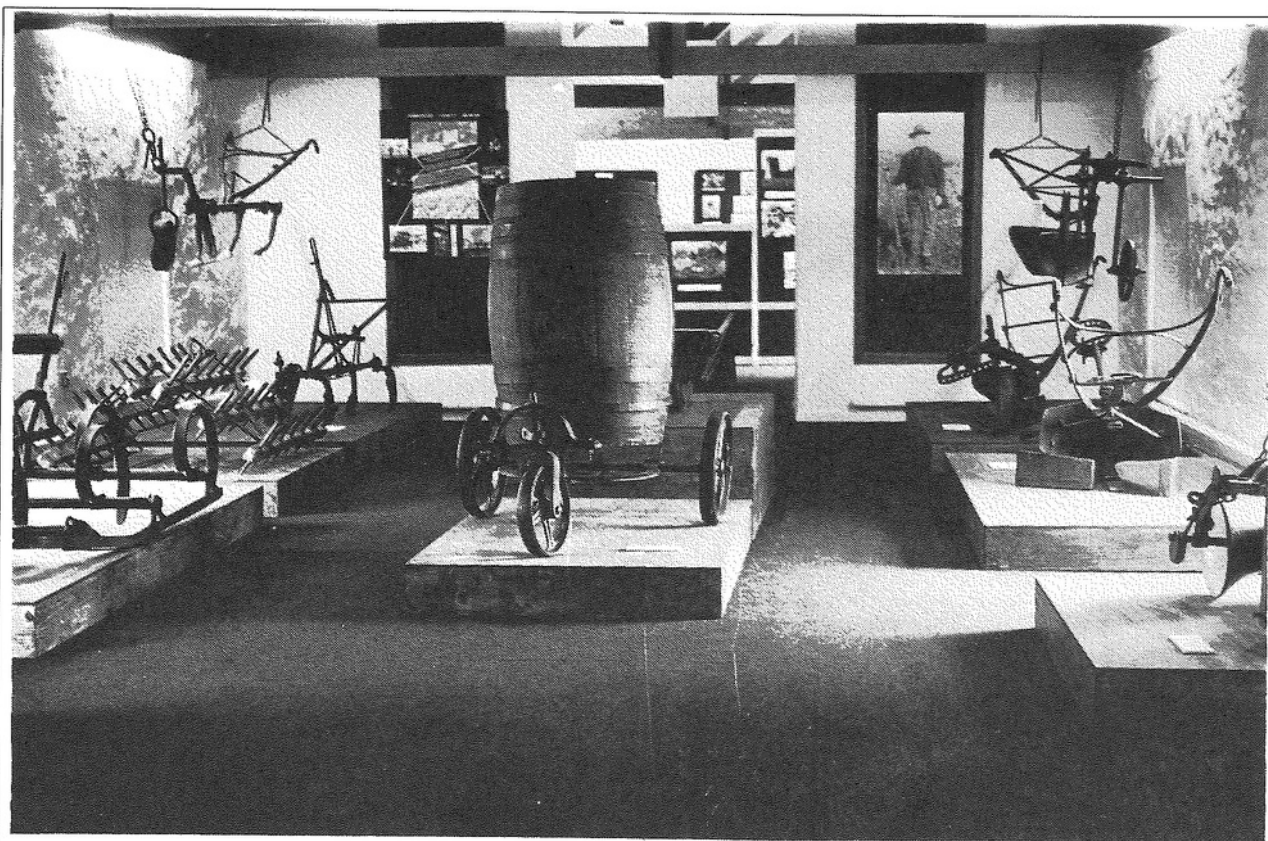
Photo: Fermanagh County Museum

Farm Equipment through the Ages

Exhibition at Castle Archdale

Last year we mounted a display on the history of haymaking in two of the yard buildings at Castle Archdale. This year we have extended our displays to the first floor of the farmyard buildings in a room made available by the Department of the Environment. Fermanagh District Council and the Department of the Environment co-operate very fruitfully in this venture. The farm equipment is collected and restored by Fermanagh County Museum while the staff of Castle Archdale Country Park provides

assistance with mounting the displays. Fermanagh County Museum undertakes the research for the display and provides text and illustrations which are then mounted and encapsulated by the Conservation Branch of the Department of the Environment. The farm equipment has been donated by the farming community of Fermanagh and the work of restoring it has been very ably done by Tommy Maguire and Jimmy O'Neill of Lisnarick under the Action for Community Employment Scheme.



Farm equipment display at Castle Archdale.

(Photo: Fermanagh County Museum)

The new display deals with sowing and harvesting of crops. Many types of ploughs are on view, a fine Swing plough made by Sweeneys of Irvinestown and presented by Mr. David Cowan of Drumreane, a Wheel plough from Mr. Frazer Smith formerly of Kiltierney and a Drill plough from Mr. Derick Noble of Lackaboy, Enniskillen. There are harrows and a cultivator from the Crudden farm near Newtownbutler and two types of grubber — a forge made one from Mr. William Brown of Florencecourt and a foundry made one from Mr. William Crooke of Ballinamallard. We are particularly indebted to Mr. Crooke over the years for telling us of the whereabouts of numerous interesting items of farm machinery and for encouraging their owners to give them to the museum.

The exhibition also includes a Seed Fiddle from Mr. J. F. McHugh of Garrison, a Seed Box from Mr. J. O'Neill of Lisnarick, a Turnip Sower from Mr. Jim West of Ballycassidy, a Wincing Machine from Dr. R. Brandon of Castletown, Monea and a Hand Threshing Machine from Mr. Arnold Bourke of Drumbulcan. A machine

operated threshing mill from Mr. Samuel Carrothers of Farnagh, Lisbellaw, has gone on display downstairs and the transport theme downstairs has been extended upstairs with the inclusion there of a Slipe and Water Cart from Mrs. Smyth formerly of Lackilagree, Newtownbutler.

A Growing Collection of Farm Equipment

During the year many interesting items of farm equipment were restored but due to lack of display space must remain in storage.

An elaborate potato digger made by Doyles of Wexford was presented to us by Mr. Robert Alexander, of Ballaghmore. Mr. A. C. Whaley of Irvinestown gave us a Lifting Force Pump which provided water for 5 terrace houses in Irvinestown. We received a good collection of horse harness from Dr. R. Brandon and a fine Canadian Reaper-Binder from Mr. William Bleakley of Makenny, Ballinamallard.

Museum Acquisitions 1986-'87

Fine Arts

The main acquisitions in this section were purchased by the Friends of Fermanagh County Museum — a drawing by William Scott, an oil painting by Marion Thomson and two watercolours by Mavis Thomson and Janet Pierce. A most interesting gift came from Professor Thomas F. Campbell of Cleveland, Ohio — a small watercolour of Lough Erne at Holly Island signed by W. Scott, 1907. Although the artist could be the woodcarver William Scott who trained at the South Kensington School of Art and carved the ornate doors of Enniskillen Townhall it is probably more likely to be the signwriter William Scott, father of the foremost contemporary painter William Scott. According to the latter's son, James Scott, his grandfather

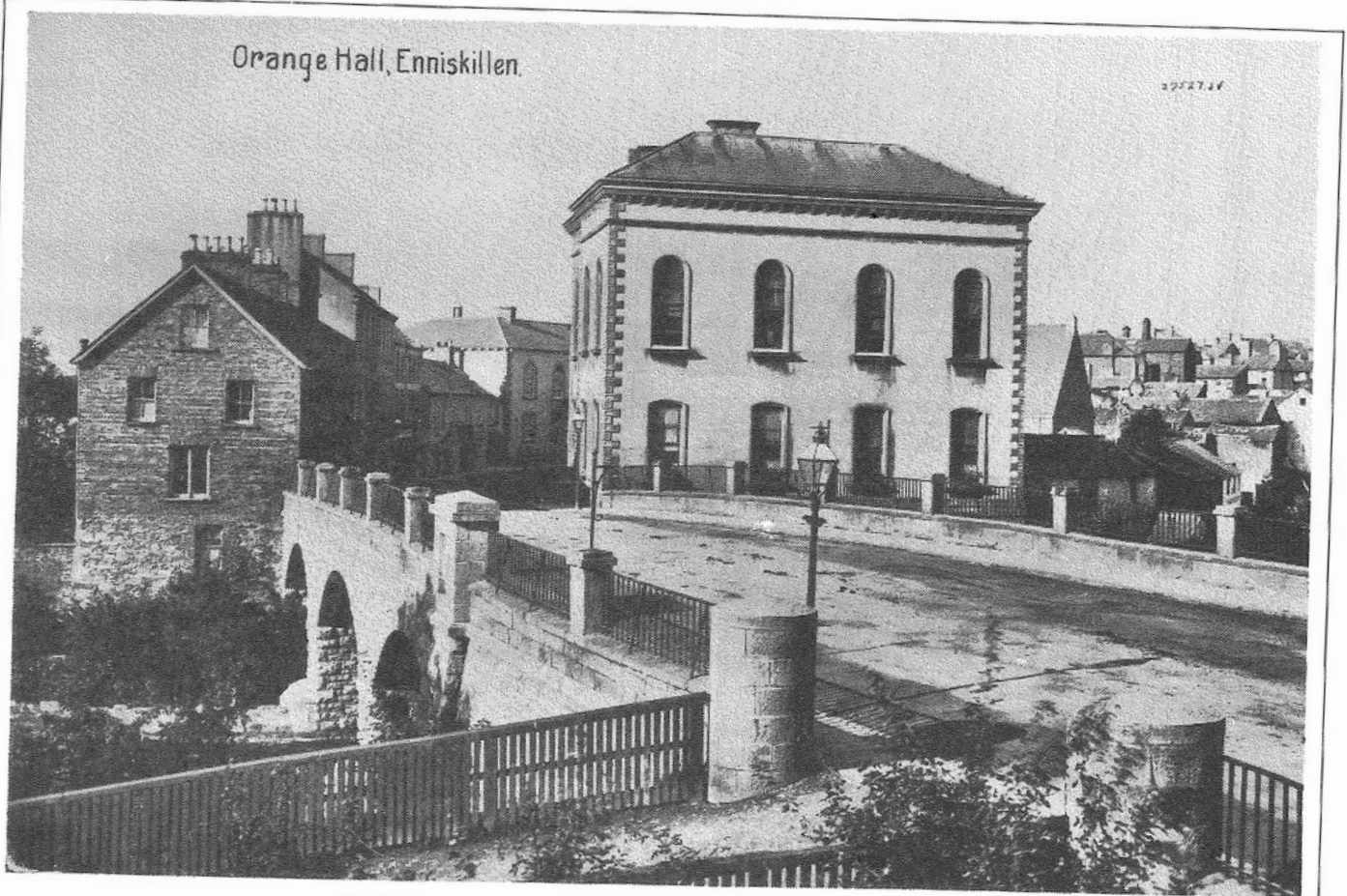
Painted many such scenes, sometimes from picture postcards.

Another gift came from Miss Joan Trimble who presented us with an early watercolour by Kathleen Bridle of a Scottish landscape.

We purchased some more Belleek pieces including a rare tea pot stand decorated with the motives used on the Pottery's stamp — the wolfhound, harp and Round Tower.

Prints and Postcards

We purchased 6 small engraved drawings by the antiquarian William Wakeman — of Inishmacsaint Church and graveyard, Rossorry Cemetery, Kinawley and Monea Churches, Lisgoole Abbey and the east end of Enniskillen. We also purchased 36 old postcards of Co. Fermanagh.



Postcard view of the East Bridge and the Orange Hall, Enniskillen.

Household and Shop Equipment

Thanks to Noel Parker of Enniskillen, we were able to acquire a glaik — a labour-saving device to assist churning. We acquired a fine collection of items from Magee's Spirit Store in Enniskillen — a hydrometer set for gauging the alcoholic strength of whiskey, pewter spirit measures, a stoneware Whiskey jar used by Charles Magee's predecessor Charles M. Stewart, corkscrews and a magnificent 5 gallon copper jug for carrying whiskey. Mr. Joe O'Loughlin of Belleek gave us a most interesting invention patented by his father to pump oil into bicycles. This will soon be on display in Enniskillen as part of the "Made in Fermanagh" exhibition. The same exhibition will

include the foot-operated Shoe Burnisher donated by Mr. Oliver Ledwith of Gallagher, Enniskillen, and some of the interesting shop bill-heads given by Lord Belmore.

Mrs. Margaret O'Reilly of Enniskillen, gave us two excellent patchwork quilts made about 80 years ago, one machine made, the other handmade to a traditional design. We also purchased an unusual applique bed cover made in the latter half of the 19th century. It is a beautifully designed piece with figures, animals, plants, Enniskillen Watergate and other motives forming a richly coloured pattern on white linen. It will go on display next year after undergoing conservation treatment.

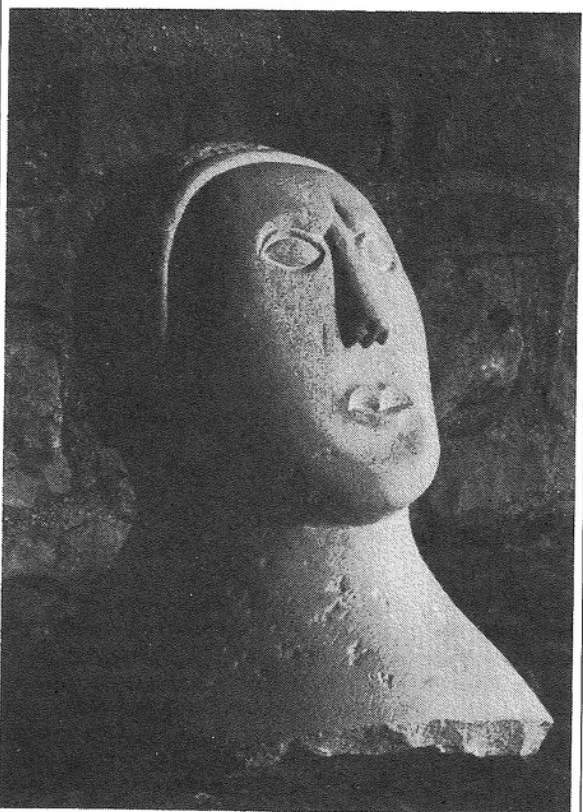
Archaeological Items

A bronze axe of the Early Bronze Age from Corratiran, Co. Cavan, near the Fermanagh border, was purchased during the year and is now on display in Enniskillen Castle.

An interesting Cross-slab with an Irish inscription was brought to the Museum from the former site of an Early Christian monastery at Kilcoo near Garrison. It had been lying loose in a field and was presented by Mrs. Mabel Allingham to ensure its safe keeping. It is now undergoing treatment out of doors to remove lichen before being put on display inside the museum.



Cross-slab from Kilcoo undergoing treatment to remove lichen by Museum Officer Catherine McCullough.



New carving for old in Derrylin.

Stone Carving from Derrylin

One of the three well known stone busts from the Derrylin area has been presented to the museum by Mr. Frank Blake of Derrylin. This figure of uncertain date was recently toppled from its base outside the former R.I.C. Barracks at Mullyneeny and the Blake family decided that the safest place for it was in the museum. However a fine copy of the figure has been carved by Adrian Curran of Lurgan who specialises in this kind of work and will go on display shortly alongside the other famous carving outside Blake's pub in Derrylin. And the new carving has no broken nose!

Once again our thanks to our generous donors, to those who lent us photographs to copy, to those who provided us with information and to all of you who support our work. We recorded 145 acquisitions during 1986. The number of visitors to the museum was 8,200.

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Next Year's Bus Trip

A Date for Your Diary

Next year our bus trip will be on Saturday, May 21st and will take us to visit Bellamont Forest, near Cootehill, a house described as the most perfect Palladian villa in Ireland or England. We will also be visiting the new gallery in Monaghan County Museum. More details later.

We are proposing to change the arrangements next year by having a smaller bus — a 25 seater — and allowing four cars to accompany the tour. We'd like to hear your views on this proposal. We'd also like to know if you approve of our idea of booking lunch in the White Horse Hotel, Cootehill.

Purchases by the Friends of Fermanagh County Museum

During the last year we have acquired several more paintings with the help of the Friends' purchase funds. We bought a large oil painting by the young Enniskillen painter Marion Thomson entitled "Willow Epte" and a small watercolour by her mother, the well known painter Mavis Thomson called "Blue Still Life." These were purchased for £500 and £145 respectively at the Gordon Gallery in Derry where Mavis and her daughters Marion and Sydney held a most successful exhibition in February of this year.

More recently we have purchased a watercolour painting by Janet Pierce entitled "Waterflower Painting" for

£559 aided by a 50% grant from the Arts Council. We have also purchased a drawing by William Scott entitled "Frying Pan" at an exhibition of his works on paper held recently at the Belfast gallery On The Wall. The price of this drawing was £3,200 but thanks to the generosity of the Scott family who allowed us a special discount of 50% and to further grant aid from the Arts Council we were able to buy the drawing for £800. We have also contributed £100 to the Viola Westminster Appeal Fund which will go towards the purchase of a Colin Middleton painting in memory of the late Duchess.

Forthcoming Exhibitions at the Museum in 1988

In late February official launching of an exhibition mounted by Fermanagh County Museum "Made in Fermanagh": Manufacturing and Trading in Earlier Days.

April 12-22: Exhibition of History Projects prepared for Fermanagh Feis.

April 29-June 11: "People at Work": Early photographs by Alexander Hogg from the Ulster Museum and Contemporary Fermanagh photographs by the Fermanagh Photographic Society.

June 17-July 31: Contemporary Ceramics from the Ulster Museum and Recent Work by the Enniskillen potter Ann McNulty.

August 5-October 7: Two exhibitions to celebrate the Australian Bicentenary.

Fermanagh Links with Australia and an Ulster Museum exhibition "Travelling at Port Phillip": The Australian Aborigines at the time of European Contact.

October 21-December 16: Fermanagh Folklife Exhibition from the collection of the late Dowager Duchess of Westminster.
