Enniskillen Castle



Newsletter

1995 no.10



Voted best for: Visitor Care

Displays

Education Service



1994 was a good year for us at Enniskillen Castle!

Two more Gulbenkian/Norwich Union awards. visitor figures up by 37%, promising developments in our education service and a rewarding response from local people to all our exhibitions and events.

Enniskillen Castle gathered two awards during 1994; the prizes were presented by the minister for arts, culture and the gaeltacht, Michael D. Higgins T.D. at a ceremony in the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

The citation for Enniskillen Castle's Best Visitor Care Award reads:

"From the moment you enter the building it is obvious that someone has been thinking about your every need and comfort. Staff have special training for dealing with the hearing impaired. Guide leaflets and display labels are in French, German and English. The public areas are welcoming, informal and impeccably clean.

The welcome for children is immediate, unobtrusive and consistent throughout the museum. It has a special play area with toys, drawing boards and jigsaws. Small stools are available and, throughout the exhibition, there are large signs at a child's eyelevel with a few key words on them.

Plenty of sitting and reading space encourages the visitor to linger. At the end, a comments questionnaire and invitation to join the Friends of the Museum is offered. You can also take away a well worded guideline on staff for handling complaints. We doubt it is ever needed."

The judges made equally laudatory comments about Fermanagh's entry for the Best Museum Education Project:

"A most impressive project with a

developmental approach to education. This is based on raising the consciousness of teachers about the museum as an educational resource and implementing a plan to achieve this. This includes working sessions with school principals, conducted with an officer of the Education Board. These sessions are followed by in-service courses for teachers.

The museum's part-time Education Officer has achieved much by training the teachers and listening to their needs, producing the best results for children. The history co-ordinators in-service day had 44 of the 53 primary schools in the county participating so the strategy is working.

The museum is particularly welcoming for children and lays good emphasis on the excellent educational experiences to be had.

There was much competition in the section and other entries were of very high quality. Fermanagh wins the award because of its innovative and intelligent approach to working with teachers, using very limited resources."

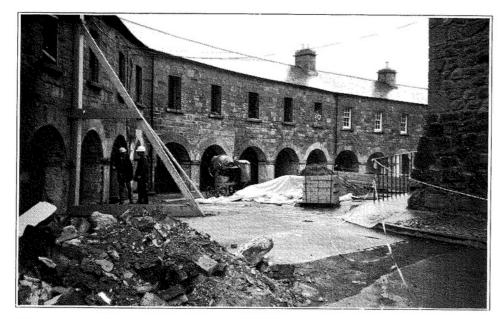
Entries came from both north and south of the border, and 19 entries were shortlisted for 4 awards, with a total prize fund of £6,500 presented to the winners of the 4 categories. Last year, Enniskillen Castle also won the award for Best Museum Display.

Mr Rodney Connor, director of environmental services, Fermanagh District Council, is delighted with the awards:

"It is good to see the efforts of the staff at Enniskillen Castle being recognised in the way. We are particularly pleased to receive the Visitor Care award as we attach great importance to looking after our visitors properly. Of equal importance is our educational work and in this area we are indebted to the Western Education and Library Board and its advisory staff for considerable help and co-operation. The project which won the award in the Education category is one that we look forward to developing further in the future as part of our educational service."



Helen Lanigan Wood, museum curator, receiving the awards from Mr Michael D Higgins, minister for arts, culture and gaeltacht (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter).



Work on the refurbishment of Enniskillen's castle keep and barracks continues under the direction of the Historic Monuments Branch of the Environment Service. Thanks to European funding within the Northern Ireland Single Programme 1994-1999, Enniskillen Castle has become one of several initiatives being taken by the Environment Service to protect our historic monuments and to improve their presentation to the public

Development Plan

In the early part of the year Robin Wade and partners, who designed the new Tower Museum in Derry, were commissioned by Fermanagh District Council to prepare a development plan for Enniskillen Castle. The project was generously supported by the Northern Ireland Museums Council and was designed to bring a fresh perspective on ways of developing the entire complex surrounding and including the old castle keep. The resulting discussion document was debated in November by those concerned with the future of Enniskillen Castle, - representatives of Fermanagh District Council, the Historic Monuments Branch of the Department of the Environment, the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Museum and of course the consultant Robin Wade.

One of the proposals discussed was that the Regimental Museum should move to the barrack block now housing the Welfare department of the Western Health and Social Services when that building became vacant. This would enable the Inniskilling Fusiliers Museum to extend its displays and to include artefacts from the 5th Royal Inniskilling Dragoons. It would also leave the castle keep free for comprehensive displays about its history, about the early history of Enniskillen and about the foundation of the town's two famous regiments.

Robin Wade's suggestion of restoring the original castleated roof of the keep did not meet with general approval and the Historic Monuments Branch of the Environment Service has recently completed the restoration of the late 18th century roof with the addition of a chimney.

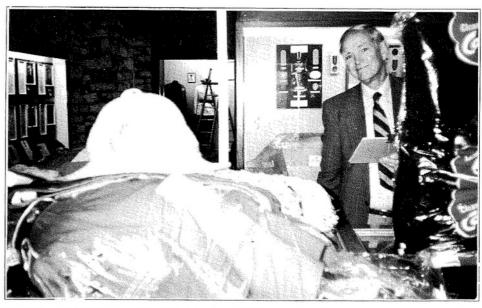
Further discussions about the castle are planned, the ultimate aim being agreement between all the interested parties about an overall strategy for developing this important site.

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MajorGeorge Stephens, curator of the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers Museum oversees the dismantling and packing of the regimental collections prior to the refurbishment of the castle keep. When work on the castle is completed, the regimental museum will be reinstated with newly designed displays.

MUSEUMS COUNCIL

Commenting on the new magazine 'Museums Insight', Lord O'Neill said: 'Given recent trends, the future of our many fine museums will lie in proactive marketing. It is not enough to simply act as treasure houses, preserving and collecting the best of the past ... these days museums must demonstrate that they are also lively and exciting places to visit. We must take that message to the public and 'museums Insight' is one way of spreading the good word.'

Futher support from Northern Ireland Museums Council

During the last year Enniskillen Castle has again benefited from grant-aid from NIMC. A first-period Belleek parian



Working on the first edition of a new bulletin recently produced by the Northern Ireland Museums Council are Paddy McCormick, creative director of Future Image (seated), Joanna McVey from Enniskillen, a board member of the N.I. Museums Council and Lord O'Neill, the Council's chairman (Photograph courtesy of Northern Ireland Museums Council).

figure of a bather was purchased with the help of a 50% grant of £1000.

A further grant of £4400 was received for carrying out various improvements to the permanent displays; for installing an induction loop for the partially deaf in the audio-visual theatre; for purchasing equipment such as a scanner to enable us to produce in-house graphics and a fire-proof safe to protect our computer discs.

Staff Training

Musuem staff have also benefited from training courses organised and subsidised by NIMC. These have included such topics as forward planning, environmental management, display planning and marketing.



Winners of the photographic competition sponsored by Belmont photographic service were, from left: Nichola Robinson, first prize, Helen Cathcart, third prize, Helen McDaniels, second prize, with museum curator Helen Lanigan Wood who presented the prizes.

Successful year at Enniskillen Castle

1994 saw an impressive rise in visitor figures at Enniskillen Castle, with recorded numbers totalling 16,500, 37% increase on the 1993 numbers.

The castle enjoyed a busy summer season with people coming from all over Europe, America and Australia as well as Ireland, but the year had already begun well with large groups of children investigating the Dinosaur Roadshow exhibition. All age groups were fascinated by the lifesize models and original dinosaur bones which were on display - they enjoyed all the activities and worksheets and it was one of our most successful exhibitions.

The autumn lecture series, part of Fermanagh District Council's Cultural Traditions programme, was well supported by local people. It began in September with a talk on the life and work of the writer Anne Crone given by Mary Rogers, author of Prospect of Fermanagh, Prospect of Tyrone and other books of local interest. Mrs Rogers, who knew Anne Crone, conveyed in a most skilful way both an appreciation and a critical analysis of Anne Crone's work, in particular the novel Bridie Steen, set in the misty landscapes of Upper Lough Erne

The second lecture in the series was "Around Lough Erne's Shore: Traditional Music of the North-West" given by Nicholas Carolan, director of the Irish Tradional Music Archive. In the audience were musicians from Fermanagh whose music already forms part of this important music archive housed in Dublin.

The final lecture of this series entitled "Culture and Tradition in Modern Ireland" was given by Richard English, lecturer in politics at Queen's University Belfast.

Christmas at the Castle

This year, for the first time a Christmas party was held here on 15th December

and combined festive cheer with a launch of the exhibition of historic photographs from the National Library.

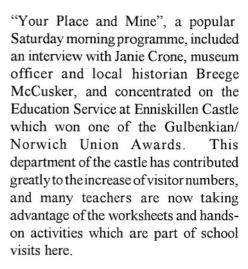
The evening was very successful with over 300 people enjoying the mulled wine, mince pies and music provided by St Michael's College traditional music group, and the Model Primary School choir. It was an opportunity for many local people to investigate our permanent displays on Fermanagh, in addition to doing Christmas shopping in the gift shop - and many visitors returned on a later date to get a closer look at the photographs themselves!

The evening was sponsored by a kind benefactor from Enniskillen who wishes to remain anonymous. It encouraged many people to visit the Castle for the first time and it was such a successful event that we are planning another Christmas evening this year.

Media Coverage.

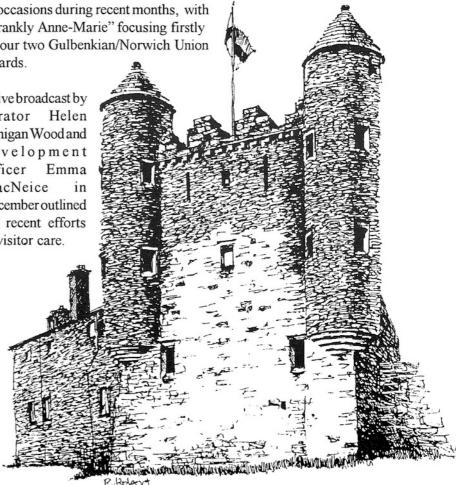
Several Radio Ulster programmes have featured Enniskillen Castle on a number of occasions during recent months, with "Frankly Anne-Marie" focusing firstly on our two Gulbenkian/Norwich Union awards.





Adrian Beattie, museum assistant, spoke on the Friday morning Frankly Anne-Marie programme about one of our most recent exhibitions - "Pure Genius".

The popular "Bon Voyage" travel programme featured Enniskillen Castle as an enjoyable family attraction for visitors to Fermanagh, and Frank Mitchell broadcast the UTV weather forecast from outside the Watergate.



Visitor Attractions Fairs Belfast/Dublin

The Northern Ireland Tourist Board organised the first ever Attractions Fair in November, which attracted almost 1,500 people from a variety of groups and schools.

Belfast and Dublin were the chosen venues, and over 30 tourist attractions, including Enniskillen Castle, were represented at the show which was designed to promote the excellent range of facilities for visitors available throughout Northern Ireland.

Those who attended the event were from church groups, women's and youth groups, education boards and tour operators. It was a welcome opportunity for us to meet audiences normally difficult to contact and to find out about their needs and interests. Thanks to the success of the Fair, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board hopes to repeat and expand upon the event this year.

Another recent marketing initiative is the Visitor Attractions Association of Northern Ireland, launched in Belfast in February. This new group will play a key role in the promotion of the tourist industry, and Enniskillen Castle, as one of the first members, hopes to benefit greatly from it.

YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT US!

Comments taken from the Visitors Book:

"good service and interesting display"

"inspiring!"

"a good time was had by all"

"brought back many memories"

"imaginatively set out"

HAVE YOU VISITED THE CASTLE GIFT AND BOOK SHOP YET?

The new range of Irish crafted jewellery, cards, games & books (in several European languages)

have now arrived.



The finest quality gifts for every occasion within an affordable price range.

The shop is open throughout the year.



"lovely music, wine & mince pies"

"interesting; like to have seen more"

"room for improvement"

"great; especially for the children"

"easy to spend an afternoon"

"a rainy day well spent"

"enjoyable family excursion, especially for rainy days"

"excellent use of historical landmark"

"relaxing & interesting"

"very interesting - especially reconstruction of early settlement"

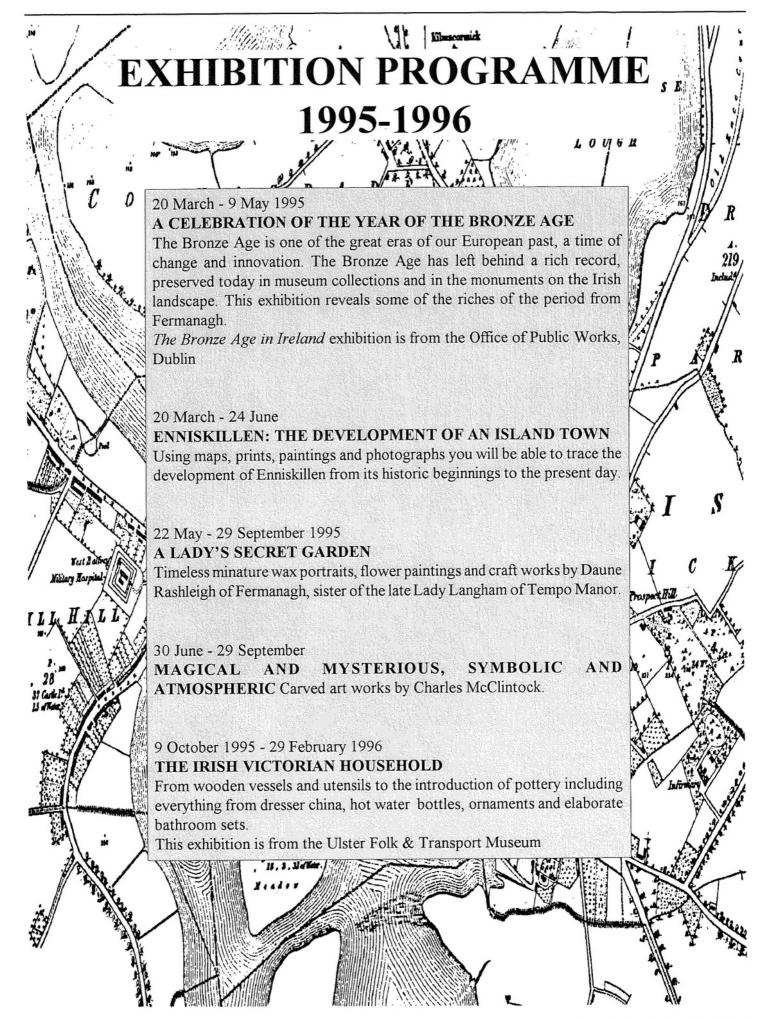
"second time as good as first"

"build more!"

"I love the country people exhibition"

"good Regimental Museum; interesting"

"good; stools for kids great idea"



Stimulating Western Exposure



At the launch of Western Exposure were (left to right) Mr Rodney Connor, director of environmental services, Fermanagh District Council, Mr Gerry Gallagher, chairman of Fermanagh District Council, Janie Crone, museum officer and Mr Richard Pierce, architect, who opened the exhibition (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter).

Symbols Exhibition at Enniskillen Castle

Flags, murals, banners, sashes, religious emblems and badges were among the many items in the Symbols exhibition, the theme of which was the influence of such symbols on the political and cultural life of Northern Ireland.

Many Fermanagh people visited the exhibition, and there was particular interest in the collections lent by local people - brightly coloured Orange, National Foresters and Hibernian banners, a Mother's Union banner from Magheracross, Trade Union posters and banners and many religious items. The exhibition also attracted many school parties, being relevant to quite a number of subjects on the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The exhibition was designed by the Cultural Traditions Group of the Community Relations and Enniskillen Castle was the first venue to host the display after its official opening in Belfast

City Hall.

A lively programme of events accompanied the displays, including sessions on mask making, the symbolism of food in Chinese and Indian cooking, the use of symbolism in embroidery, and

As the popular "Old World New World" exhibition drew to a close at the end of last summer, some 16 local teachers of art and design were preparing for an exhibition of their own work.

We promised to provide visitors with colour, stimulation and inspiration for the autumn months - and they were not disappointed. The work showed a diverse array of art forms from ceramics, textiles and sculptures to paintings in oil, acrylic and watercolour, and over 200 guests attended the launch of the exhibition.

An interesting dimension of the show was the inclusion of background information about the artists, the influences affecting their work and some of their favourite quotations. These were drawn from a diversity of famous people from Oscar Wilde to T.S. Elliot.

Many teachers took the oppportunity to show pupils their work, and this sparked off many interesting discussions about design and technique.

a lively debate between members of Garvary and Kesh Young Farmers Clubs on the topical motion "This house believes that the time has come to confine the symbols of Northern Ireland to the museum." The motion was carried!



Pictured at the Belfast launch of the "Symbols" exhibitions were (from left) Janie Crone, museum officer; Linda McKenna, community relations officer for Fermanagh District Council, Rhonda Paisley, organiser of the exhibition, Stephen Matier (from the band"Different Drums of Ireland"), Dr Maurna Crozier, cultural traditions development officer and Jim Ledwith, community development officer for Fermanagh District Council whose original idea inspired the exhibition (Photograph courtesy of Cultural Traditions Group).

Pure Genius

'Pure Genius' told the story of Guinness packaging from the early days of glass bottle-making up to the computer controlled canning lines of today. The exhibition included many old labelled bottles from Fermanagh drawn from the museum collections; stout bottles from Magee's of Enniskillen and from Carron's, Adams' and Lunny's of Lisnaskea; whiskey bottles from Blake's, Stewart's, Mulhern's, Magee's and Quinn's of Enniskillen and from Elliott's of Derrygonnelly; a cider bottle from Crowe's bar and a champagne cider bottle from Downes' brewery, both of Enniskillen



At the launch of the 'Pure Genius' exhibition were (from left) Mr. Paul Coyle, area sales representative for Guinness; Emma MacNeice, development officer and Adrian Beattie, museum assistant. The launch was kindly sponsored by Guinness (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter.)

Ex-Camera

The museum's collection of photographic equipment went on view in November along with an exhibition of historic photographs from the National Library entitled 'Ex Camera', covering the period from 1860 to 1960.

> Hudson's photographic studio of Darling Street, Enniskillen, brought to life again at Enniskillen Castle, with (from left) Emma MacNeice, development officer and Jacque Devere (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter.)



Mr.Sean Nolan, director of the Ulster Museum, (seen here with museum curator Helen Lanigan Wood), gave an illustrated talk on the art of book production to launch the exhibition 'Art Between Covers' (Photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter.)

Art between Covers

'Art Between Covers' brought together a selection of some 80 illustrated books from a private library in Fermanagh. It included books from celebrated English and Welsh private presses such as the Golden Cockerel, the Rampant Lions, the Essex House, the Nonesuch and the Gregynog Press, with artists such as John Buckland Wright, Eric Gill, Robert Gibbings, Blair Hughes-Stanton and Stephen Gooden. Special book bindings were also on view dating from the 16th to the 20th century and including a superb leatherbound manuscript copy of the Qur'an probably written in Egypt. There were books of Irish interest from the Cuala and Dolmen Presses and a selection of children's books with illustrations by Beatrix Potter, Helen Allingham, Hugh Thomson, Kate Greenaway and Walter and Thomas Crane.

Focus on Children

1994 heralded a new emphasis on children at Enniskillen Castle. Not only were there on-going activities to amuse children such as colouring and jigsaws - but we had a series of special events and workshops especially designed for our younger visitors.

The year started with the Dinosaur Roadshow, a very popular exhibition that had children clammering at the doors for admission.



In July and August we joined the summer schemes involving the Lakeland Forum and the Castle Park Centre in Lisnaskea. Children taking part in the schemes spent half a day at Enniskillen Castle doing a variety of activities. A new Castle Activity Trail involved finding your way with a map around the Castle Barracks, redesigning Hugh Maguire's flag, taking a rubbing off one of the cannons and guiding Captain William Cole back to his house. Also on offer was a wildlife session where children could feel a hedgehog, stroke a female mallard duck and her chick, identify trees, handle fossils and much, much more.





Young artists at work at Enniskillen Castle.

The Old World New World exhibition gave the opportunity to explore crafts from South America - weaving and pottery - and to touch, smell and taste food from the Americas.



Storyteller Liz Weir telling Halloween stories at Enniskillen Castle (Photograph courtesy of Ardhowen Theatre).

A Multicultural Day took place during the Symbols exhibition led by women from the Indian and Chinese Community Associations in Belfast and Craigavon. Children were able to dress up in traditional costume, paint their hands with henna, try the intricate art of Chinese paper cutting, learn about Indian and Chinese domestic life, food, religeon and customs. The Symbols exhibition ended with a Youth debate on the significance of symbols. Teams form Garvary and Kesh Young Farmers Clubs debated the motion that 'This house believes that the time has come to confine the symbols of Northern Ireland to the Museum.' The motion was carried!



Halloween was celebrated at the Castle with a special Saturday opening. The day included story telling by Liz Weir and Billy Teare, and a mask making workshop with Dara Hand. Both events

were well supported and we plan to organise further Halloween celebrations this year.



Children were very much part of our first special Christmas evening. St Michael's College played traditional music and the Model Primary School Choir sang Christmas carols while visitors sipped mulled wine and nibbled hot mince pies. This event proved so successful that it too may become an annual event.

Schools

Encouraged by our recent award for Best Education Project and the judges' comments about our 'innovative and intelligent approach to working with teachers' we are continuing to develop and expand our educational programme at Enniskillen Castle. Touching and looking at objects stimulates interest and curiosity in people of all ages. Materials for handling are therefore at the centre of many of our educational programmes.



The Primary History Study Units Life in the Recent Past and Life in Early Times have been well developed at the Castle integrating permanent displays with a range of other materials.



Newly developed are a series of worksheets called Looking at Landscapes for P6/7 Geography and Science. The worksheets are designed to be used with our imaginatively reconstructed three-dimensional scenes that explore Fermanagh's landscapes and allow the student to study flora and fauna in their natural habitats - all in the heated comfort of the museum - and with specimens that won't run away!

We also offer a practical session for KS3 Science here at Enniskillen Castle. Looking at the types and uses of materials from the use of stone in the Stone Age to when metal became the standard material students can handle original objects relating them to our detailed models of prehistoric settlement scenes.



The Castle environment offers endless opportunities for a cross-curricular visit. History, geography, science, art, maths and english are all subjects that can be studied when exploring the castle and its many features. You can map it, draw it, measure it, feel it; examine textures, colours, shapes; look at building materials and building styles - or discover the Castle's history. We have a Castle Activity Trail available for our younger visitors.

Advice and assistance is available for all educational visits to Enniskillen Castle.
All visits must be booked in advance.



Looking at Landscapes at Enniskillen Castle

School and group visits must be booked. Please contact Enniskillen Castle, Castle Barracks, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh. Tel No.01365/325000.



Young visitors at Enniskillen Castle

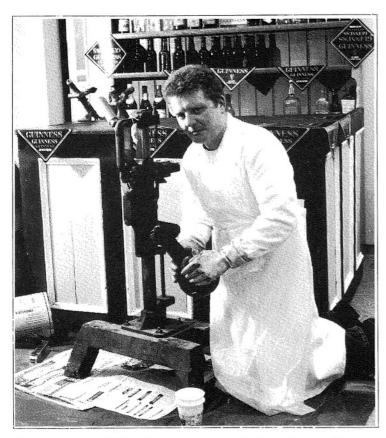
Museum Collection

With the help of a grant of £700 from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, this historic map of the Borough of Enniskillen has now been fully restored by paper conservator Susan Corr. The map was drawn in 1842 by R.H.Frith for the Honorable A.H.Cole and was later presented to the Borough of Enniskillen by the Earl of Enniskillen. As well as providing valuable information about town buildings and old street names, it also gives the number of males and females living in each street in 1841 and details about water levels at that time.

As part of the restoration work, the map has been repaired, cleaned, deacidified and mounted on to a new backing material. This in turn has been stretched on to a strong frame and set in a glazed ash frame. Finally, to protect it from any further fading, it is kept covered by a blind. The map can be seen at any time by appointment.



Mr. Gerry Gallagher, chairman of Fermanagh District Council and Helen Lanigan Wood inspect a recently restored map of Enniskillen.



Museum assistant Adrian Beattie conserves a bottle corking machine from Magee's public house in the public gallery, giving visitors a chance to see some museum work usually carried out behind the scenes.

Portrait of Miss May Burke of Ballinamallard painted by H. Walker in 1912, and presented to the museum as a bequest from the late Henry Burke of Drumkeen, Ballinamallard, brother of the sitter.



The painting is in oil and is probably the work of H. Walker of Rosscor, Kesh, who was listed as an exhibitor at the Royal Hibernian Academy exhibition in Dublin in 1914.

1994 was a year for costume

Sir James and Lady Langham of Tempo Manor donated a wonderful collection of costume dating from the mid-1880s to the 1930s. The collection included a silver coloured, full-length evening dress made by Madame Garrad, a 19th century court dress maker; a cream wool evening cloak and an unusual child's jacket and breeches made of homespun linen.

Two other donations of cotton under-garments, Victorian nightshirts, baby vests and lace were generously given by Mrs Jane Brien of Ballinmallard and Mr Willie Steenson of Bellanaleck.

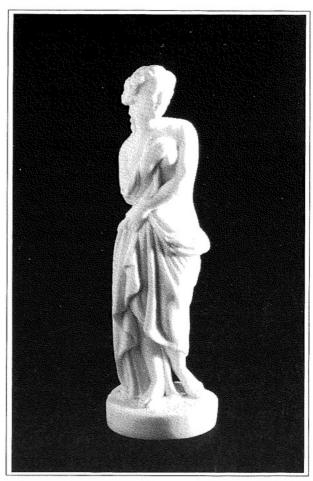
Our Belleek collection has had some important additions. Of particular interest is a 1st period Belleek porcelain figure called 'The Bather', purchased with the help of the Northern Ireland Museum Council and £500 from The Friends of the Museum. Another purchase, -a 1st period Belleek jug with handpainted decoration of butterflies and flowers - was made possible by a grant of £295 from the Friends of the Museum and a similar sum from the Northern Ireland Museums Council. A pair of 2nd period Belleek Princess Vases was kindly donated by Mrs Margaret Corrigan of Culkey, Co. Fermanagh.

An important book, Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, published in 1837, was given to us by Mr Horace T. Fleming of Enniskillen and is a valuable addition to our library.

We have also received a very interesting collection of original music manuscripts by the composer Joan Trimble together with photographs, concert posters and other memorabilia associated with the performing career of the two pianist sisters Joan and Valerie Trimble.

We wish to thank all of our very generous donors, those who gave us objects and provided us with much useful information.

Belleek figure purchased with the help of the Friends of the Museum and the Northern Ireland Museums Council



CAN YOU HELP US?

Later this year we are planning an exhibition about the Irish Victorian household and we are very keen to obtain old items of household equipment. They need not necessarily be Victorian as we need more recent items as well for use in our educational work. So if you can put us in touch with anyone who can give or sell us any old household equipment we would be most grateful. We need kitchen things like paraffin stoves, early electrical appliances such as fires, kettles, toasters or vacuum cleaners, gas cookers, pots and pans, can openers, water filters, kitchen scales, graters, wash tubs, wash dollies or washing machines. We also need old toys, an old gramaphone in working order, old shop fittings and goods, craft tools, stuffed animals, classroom furniture and equipment including old school books.



COACH TRIP 1995

This year's coach outing is planned for Saturday, August 12, and will take us to the new Irish Linen Centre at Lisburn Museum and the new Railway Collection display at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

The Irish Linen Centre houses a most attractive exhibition of the history of Irish linen. You will be able to watch a hand loom weaver producing linen on an early loom and see an audio-visual presentation about the lives of workers in Victorian times.

The award winning railway gallery at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum has been described as exuding friendliness. It is very much a hands-on gallery with opportunities to climb onto and into many of the exhibits. It also includes some fine models made by Gordon Johnson of Enniskillen. We'll be sending you full details of the outing later and booking forms. However if you would like to reserve a place you may do so by sending us a deposit of £5. This is non-returnable but is transferable.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

The Benefits of being a Friend.

Since 1984, the Friends of the Museum Association has continued to grow, allowing us to purchase many interesting artefacts to add to our collections.

What do you gain?

- * Free admission to both museums and exhibitions at Enniskillen Castle.
- * Invitations to attend exhibition previews and other functions at Enniskiillen Castle.
- * Opportunities to attend Friends' outings and to see "behind the scenes"
- * Our annual Newsletter to keep you in touch with developments and news.

The Aims of the Association:

- * To help with the enlargement of the museum collections and to provide funds for this purpose.
- * To join in the activities of the museum and to encourage a wider enjoyment of its facilities.

Subscriptions:

- * Individual membership £ 7
- * Family membership £10 (household of 2 adults with or without children under 18).
- * OAP's and students
- £3
- * Corporate membership £20 (for schools, societies or corporate bodies).





Front Cover: Staff at Enniskillen Castle, winners of the 1994 Gulbenkian/Norwich Union Awards for the Best Visitor Care and the Best Museum Education Project. From left: Adrian Beattie, Emma MacNeice, Helen Lanigan Wood, Janie Crone, Rodney Connor, director of environmental services and Joe Sheerin (photograph courtesy of Impartial Reporter).

Back Cover: Adrian Beattie, museum assistant and Mr Paul Coyle, area sales representative sample the wares of the "Pure Genius" exhibition (photograph courtesy of Fermanagh Herald).