

calculated to shock the public conscience: *I Did Penal Servitude*, by D.83222. A History of Trinity College, Dublin: 1892-1945, by Kenneth C. Bailey, is a companion volume to Constantia Maxwell's recent work, which brings the history of Trinity from its foundation in 1591 down to the tercentenary celebrations in 1892. A revised edition of a standard work on Philately is *Stamp Collecting*, by Stanley Phillips.

During the last few years John Barlee has devoted all his spare time to the photography of birds in flight. To this end he has travelled all over Ireland. In the text of *Birds on the Wing* John Barlee tells of some of his personal experiences. Other bird books are: *Our Bird Book*, by S. Rogerson and C. Tunnicliffe; *How to Study Birds*, by Stuart Smith; and Hosking's and Newberry's *The Swallow, Birds of the Day* and *Birds of the Night*. A. D. Imms introduces the reader to some of the latest discoveries and ideas about insects in his *Insect Natural History*. The author, until recently Reader in Entomology at Cambridge University, has amassed an immense store of knowledge in the habits, physiology, the structure and classification, and the economic importance of insects.

Two-thirds of the farmers of Great Britain and Ireland are small ones and yet, except for a few personal accounts, there is very little literature about the small farmer. H. J. Massingham's *The Small Farmer* seeks to remedy that defect. Among other works on agriculture there may be mentioned: *Compost Making*, by M. E. Bruce; H. E. Desch's *Timber: Its Structure and Properties*; *Trees in Britain and Their Timbers*, by A. L. Howard; E. Vantone's *Fertilisers and Manures*; and *Your Smallholding*, by Alan Thompson. In *It's My Delight* Vesey-Fitzgerald shows us quite another side of country life, the countryside and country people; and a collection of pen portraits of true country dwellers and the land they live in is that of Henry Warren's *Adam Was a Ploughman*. Books designed to appeal to both expert and beginner are: *The Garden in Colour*; *Alpines in Colour and Cultivation*; and *The Border in Colour and Cultivation*, by T. C. Mansfield.

Cookery recipes for the keen and thrifty are given in *Kind Cooking*, by Maura Laverty; *Kitchen Fugue*, by Sheila Kaye-Smith; *What's Cooking?* by Ruth Lowinsky; *The Way to Cook*, by Philip Harben; and *Cooking a la Ritz*, by Louis Deat. In the field of medicine Sir Alexander Fleming in his *Penicillin: Its Practical Application*, good reading is provided for those interested in modern medicine, while there is in addition *The Conquest of Pain*, by George Bankoff, a popular work describing "The Story of Anaesthesia."

Trade and Industry are represented by *The Sales Letter and How to Write It*, by Noel Brown; by W. Campbell's *Modern Business and Its Methods*; and by A. W. Judge's *Engineering*

and *Workshop Practice*. In *The Truth About Publishing* the fascination lies chiefly in the precise, concrete description of the actual making of a volume. The author, Sir Stanley Unwin, goes elaborately into every smallest circumstance connected with the publishing business. *Woodwork in Theory and Practice*, by J. A. Walton, although primarily intended for the student is of equal value to the amateur who wants to make something with his own hands.

A series of books on artists, periods and kinds of painting are to be noticed. *Discussions on Art; I Wish I Could Paint*, by Percy V. Bradshaw; *Italian Painting*, by Tancred Borenius; *Flemish Painting*, by Emile Cammaerts; *Modern Painting*, by Reginald Brill; and *British Painting*, by William Gaunt. A completely revised and re-written edition of "an elementary guide to the understanding and appreciation of architecture as a whole" is Talbot Hamlin's *Architecture: An Art for All Men. Guide to Decorative Art*, by John E. Bradley, deals fully with the decorating of household ornaments and personal accessories. Michael Rothenstein's *Looking at Paintings* is an expert and sensitive commentary and a genuine aid to appreciation. There is nothing more delightful than the prospect of having something explained, particularly when it is something as improbable as the marriage of art and industry. John Gloag in *Industrial Art Explained* is as astonishing as his optimism is robust. A number of books about the theatre and music include *Schubert*, a symposium edited by Gerald Abraham; and to those nostalgics who sigh for the tuneful gaieties of the Edwardian musical theatre, and to those numerous ones who still have joy in Gilbert and Sullivan evergreenery, Ernest Short's *Fifty Years of Vaudeville*, gives us a book of stage memories and a rich fund of autobiographical excerpts.

Those to who sport implies games, rather than nature and animals, should note *Golf for the Middle Aged and Others*, by George M. Bottome. Cricket is catered for in *Between Wickets*, by Ray Robinson. *Fisherman Naturalist*, by Anthony Buxton, possesses a sporting aspect, and leads on to the more purely naturalist *By Covert, Field and Marsh*, by Noel M. Sedgwick. A volume of fishing reminiscences is *Fishing: Fact or Fantasy?* by G. D. Luard.

But to return to the subject of sport, there are a number of further items. Major E. H. Lynn-Allen provides *Leaves from a Game book*, and Jim Corbett gives us *Man Eaters of Kumaon*. There is an inherent sanity about things that human beings do purely for pleasure. Janet Adam Smith in *Mountain Holidays* makes no attempt to explain why it is a good thing for human beings to go off with heavy rucksacks in the early dawn to climb mountains. Stanislaus Lynch's *Echoes of the Hunting Horn* is an unusually attractive book of sporting experiences. Lt. Col. W. E.

Lyon has edited a new sportsman's year book with the title of *The Horseman's Year*.

Among literary remains and memoirs is the story of the personal experiences of a Gaelic League organiser in the early days of the language revival movement described by Peadar O-hAnnrahan in *Fe Bhrat an Chonnartha*. Fionn MacCumhaill's *Na Rosa Go Brathach* is a vivid picture of life in the Donegal Gaeltacht and contains a glossary explanatory of difficult or unusual words and phrases. A book containing a course of lectures on mediæval Irish literature given by the late Robin Flower at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1938, has for its title *The Irish Tradition*. No one was better equipped than Dr. Flower to guide a reader in this attractive but difficult subject: in historical, palæographical, and linguistic studies he was at once original and profound; and his scholarship was enhanced by the gift of style. A new edition of *The Collective Writings of James Fintan Lalor* gives a full and faithful picture of the man and his work. Lalor, patriot and political essayist, one of the most vigorous intellects of his time, owed his strength and his subsequent influence in Irish movements to his intense agrarianism. The play, *Trial at Green Street Courthouse*, by Roger McHugh, treats of Isaac Butt's defence of a Fenian accused of murdering a police officer. A companionable book of literary musings is *The Rose and Bottle*, by Seumas O'Sullivan.

Outstanding among the histories of literature and literary biographies is the Oxford History of English Literature, which is in course of printing, and of which three volumes have already been published: *Chaucer and the Fifteenth Century*; *The Close of the Middle Ages*; and *The Earlier Seventeenth Century*. In an essay of five chapters Dr. W. A. M. Peters, S.J., in *Gerard Manley Hopkins: A Critical Essay Towards the Understanding of His Poetry*, approaches Hopkins's poetic diction on the basis of the poet's own attitude to language and the world around him. *Sheridan*, by Lewis Gibbs is a new biography of one of the most attractive figures of the eighteenth century. In a charming collection of biographical essays, *Swift and His Circle*, by Dr. R. Wyse Jackson, one finds oneself among the personalities who made up that circle of immediate friends in which Swift lived and reigned. Dr. Jackson is a recognised authority on Swift, and has made the subject peculiarly his own. The importance of George Reavey's *Soviet Literature Today* is that it is the only serious study of Soviet literature in English. Alfred Noyes's *Portrait of Horace* follows Francis MacManus's brilliant *Boccaccio*. Finally, there is a last miscellany by the well-known humorist, Stephen Leacock, entitled *The Boy I left Behind Me*.

Of books on life in different parts of the world there is still a steady stream. Only two, however, owing to lack of space may be mentioned here. *On Safari*, by Theodore J. Waldeck, is an

account of how the author learnt to shoot big game in Africa. *When the Going Was Good*, by Evelyn Waugh, comprises the author's own selection from four travel books: *Labels, Remote People, Ninety two Days*, and *Waugh in Abyssinia*. Of a miscellaneous type, unique in themselves, are several new volumes of the Britain in Pictures Series: *British Clocks and Clockmakers*, by E. Ulyett; *Roman Britain*, by Ian Richmond; *British Universities and Nature in Britain*, by S. C. Clarke.

*Inside U.S.A.*, by John Gunther, is an encyclopædia and a guide-book to the United States, interspersed with biographical sketches and learned essays on T.V.A., the raising of the wheat crop, the organisation of the Mormon Church, which are thrown with journalist inconsequence amid anecdote and unselective description. An unnamed woman writer vouched for by Mme. Sikorski has compiled in *The Dark Side of the Moon* the personal narratives of survivors, tested and controlled in a way that carries unhesitating conviction, the story of the sufferings of innumerable Poles transported forcibly from their homes by the Russian police since 1939.

Recently a small number of poets, fighting what at first seemed a rearguard action and is now recognised as a revival, have been striving to restore to history the beauty and strangeness of which the scientists have robbed it. The poems, autobiographies, and works of scholarship of Miss Sitwell and her brothers, and the work of James Pope-Hennessy, are representative of a tendency which is not mere sentimentality, picturesqueness, or popularising history by leaving out all the hard bits. The study of the background of Queen Elizabeth's early life: *Fanfare for Elizabeth*, by Edith Sitwell, has been hailed as a work of art, self-conscious, even arrogant, perfect of its kind, using facts contributed by the scientist, but arranging them deliberately to produce an isolated aspect of truth. *Henry the Navigator* describes the life of the Infante Dom Henrique of Portugal, who, although not in fact himself a navigator, was in many respects the founder of modern geography. The author is Elaine Sanceau, and she offers some interesting material in a somewhat highly coloured manner. In *Lincoln, the Liberal Statesman*, Professor J. G. Randall deals with Lincoln as a representative Liberal statesman and discusses his influence on liberal thought and the influence of his policy and ideas on contemporary affairs. Based, as all historical biography is based, on what Metternich was and what he did, not on what he might have been or should have done, Algernon Cecil in *Metternich* has made a penetrating study of Metternich's ultimate political vision, and explanation of it, and, on the whole, a successful defence.

A reprint of the now famous book, *The Regent and His Daughter*, the author of which, Dormer Creston, has been chosen for an award by the Council of the Royal Society of Literature, is a

psychological study of the interplay of character between those three pungent personalities, the Regent, Caroline and Charlotte, and gives as well a remarkable survey of the social life of the Regency period. The interest of *The Browns and Chester: The Portrait of a Shop*, by Mass-Observation, edited by H. D. Willcock, is that the history of the shop is also the history of the city and, in some degree, of the country as a whole. *Buxton the Liberator*, by R. H. Mottram, is the story of Thomas Fowell Buxton, a member of a Norfolk family of that name, who played a great part in the abolition of slavery. These Quaker radicals are an interesting nineteenth-century class. For those anxious to enquire more fully into the philosophical aspect of history there is *The Use of History*, by A. L. Rowse.

Grances Perkins's *The Roosevelt I Knew* is frankly biased in his favour, the author having been closely associated with Roosevelt as American Secretary of Labour, a member of his cabinet and an intimate friend of his family. Sumner Sells, who resigned his post as U.S. Assistant Secretary of State in 1943, in *Whither Are We Going?* surveys all the vital political problems that vex the earth to-day, and the American reaction to those problems. It is claimed for *Goebbels, the Man Next to Hitler*, by Dr. Rudolf Semmler, that it gives substance to Goebbel's boast that the "Führer myth" was of his making. One of the most, if not the crucial biography of the year is *Stalin*, by Leon Trotsky. James F. Byrne's *Speaking Frankly*, is the inside story of the conferences from Yalta onwards, told by a statesman who sat beside Churchill, Stalin, Roosevelt, and is the first of them to speak and to speak frankly.

For those who feel more drawn to sober and technical accounts of a surgeon's work there is *Sir W. Arbuthnot-Lane, His Life and Work*. *The Sirens Wake* is a companion volume to Lord Dunsany's *While the Sirens Slept*.

The last book of Irish interest from the Oxford Press was Robin Flower's account of the Blaskets: *The Western Island*. A well-conceived book on farming in the North of Ireland: *Rural Life in Northern Ireland*, written by John M. Mogeey, has been issued from the same Press. R. A. S. Macalister's *Monasterboice* is an addition to his former work, *Muireadach, Abbot of Monasterboice*. The book is written in an easy style which enables it to be read with ease not only by the archaeologist but by the ordinary reader. A life of the Irish priest, *The Abbe Edgeworth*, who played a solemn part in the tragic last days of the Court of Versailles is told by M. V. Woodgate. Told in the third person, *The Rocky Road to Dublin* is a master storyteller's own story of his boyhood and young manhood, by Seumas MacManus.

An experiment in collective biography dealing with the early lives of Wordsworth, Coleridge, and Southey by Malcolm Elwin is entitled *The First Romantics*. The main interest is the treatment

of the characters of the three men in relation to each other. Neville Cardus occupies a unique position in present-day letters. How he achieved his eminent position on the "Manchester Guardian" is described in his *Autobiography*. *Leon Bloy: A Study in Impatience*, by Albert Beguin, is the work of a Catholic journalist and may be described as apocalyptic. The book covers four parts: 1. His initiation into suffering. 2. His gospel of Poverty and Money. 3. History symbolised in Napoleon. 4. The prophecy of our present ruins. In *Gerard Manley Hopkins*, by Eleanor Ruggles, we are given an authoritative life of the Victorian priest-poet. A group of tributes to *John Buchan*, by his wife and friends is a fitting supplement to his wonderful autobiography, *Memory the Door*. *George Eliot*, by Gerald Bullett is fresh assessment, based on much new material, of the great Victorian figure. Francis Steegmuller in *Fleubert and Madame Bovary* has achieved that rare thing in biography, simultaneous illumination of the man by his work and of his work by his character. Arthur Weigall, late Inspector-General of Antiquities to the Egyptian Government and author of numerous historical works, gives in his study of *Alexander the Great* a truthful and fair portrait of one of the most widely discussed men in history. Newman Flower's *George Frideric Handel* has been known for many years as the standard work in English. Much new matter has been incorporated in this entirely redesigned edition.

In wartime much has to be concealed, but when the fighting is over the public has every right to a full account of its leaders' actions. Col. Dick Malone in *Missing from the Record* has turned the spotlight on Army leaders; and *Assault Division*, by Norman Scarfe, has the authority of being based on official records throughout.

There remains the difficult task of giving some picture of the multifarious work in fiction published during the year. The following have won some critical acclaim or popular approval or both: *My Bonny's Away*, by Temple Lane, tells the story of an attractive French girl student interested in languages, running away from an unhappy love affair at home, is stranded in Ireland and unable to return to France. A brilliant first novel, *Who Goes Home?* by Katherine Keane, tells of Hugh Donnellan who succeeds his father, the owner of Droone Linen Mills, as M.P. for Droone constituency, and becomes a member of Parnell's party. Frances Parkinson Keys is an author who has the knack of describing people and scenes so vividly that she makes one see with her eyes and hear with her ears. Some of her novels are: *Vail D'Alvery*, *Also the Hills*, *Fielding's Folly*, *All That Glitters*, and *Christian Marlowe's Daughter*. *Fair City*, by William Hand, is a novel of life among the poor of Dublin written with sympathy and understanding. The reviewers call *When Paths Divide*, by Liam Skinner, an exciting novel of the Irish struggle for independence. John D.

**Galway County Council**  
(CO. LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

**MINUTES  
OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

OF A

**SPECIAL MEETING**

HELD ON

**Saturday, the 7th day of Feb.,  
1948**

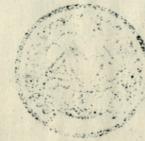
Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

*Patrick Flynn  
20th March 1948*

*Patrick Flynn  
20th March 1948*

**LEABARLAINNA CONNOAE NA SAILLIME  
COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES**

All communications should be addressed to:  
**S. J. MAGUIRE**  
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN  
(and the full name and address)



COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS  
GALWAY

15th March, 1948.

A Chara,

A Meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, 20th day of March, 1948, in the County Library Headquarters, the County Court-house, Galway, commencing at the hour of twelve-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, when the following business will be dealt with:-

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting.
2. Donations.
3. General.

Mise, le meas,

S. J. Maguire,

County Librarian.

To each Member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager,  
To the Editors of Newspapers  
published in the County.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE COUNTY LIBRARIES COMMITTEE, HELD ON  
SATURDAY, THE 7th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1948.**

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PRESENT: County Councillor J. Brennan, County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A. (Chairman); Urban Councillor M. Keane, County Councillor T. King, County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T., T.D.; John Moroney, N.T., and T. O'Shea, N.T.

IN ATTENDANCE: C. I. O'Flynn, Esq., F.L.A.A., County Manager.

**126. Minutes of the Last Meeting.**—Resolved:—

“That the Minutes of the last Meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read and that they be signed.”

**127. Donations.**—Resolved:—

“That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors: The Secretary, Connemara Pony Breeders' Society—copy Stud Book, 1947; Dr. A. J. Harrop, Auckland, New Zealand—copy of “New Zealand News”; and the New Theatre Magazine Co., London—copy of the New Theatre Magazine, November, 1947.”

**128. Estimates for the Year 1948/'49.**—The County Librarian submitted the Estimates for the year 1948/'49, as follows:—

BOOKS AND BINDING.—Under this head the increase is due to:—

(1).—The recent 20 per cent. advance in the price of books, to the badly constructed and shoddy publications issued in accordance with the Emergency Book Production Regulations, the costs of which are out of all proportion to their monetary and circulation worth;

(2).—Branch Library provision for places exceeding 10,000 population ; and such places in East Galway are : Headford and district, Mount Bellew and district, Glenamaddy and district, Portumna and district, and Gort and district. In West Galway are ; the Aran Islands (which could be served by a branch library in Kilronan on the main island), Spiddal and district, Carraroe and district, and Oughterard and district.

Each branch should have a minimum stock of 1,500 volumes. It is assumed that each branch will provide a hundred per cent. service to the residents of the town and a probable 75 per cent. service within a radius of one to two miles ; 50 per cent. to the populations within 3-5 miles of the branch ; and 25 per cent. to the population within 6-10 miles of the branch. This is probably a conservative estimate, and further experience may indicate the need for revision. This scheme, if chosen, would provide more than half the total population of the County Library area with eight hour weekly branch library service.

For the first year there will be the capital expenditure for shelving, fittings and furniture, amounting to approximately £75. The minimum equipment in each branch would consist of the necessary shelving, a small staff enclosure and a table and chairs for reading and for meetings of the local Library Committee. The estimated annual cost of each branch suggested would be made up thus : Rent, heating, lighting and cleaning, £20 ; salary of Branch Librarian, £20 ; Transport, £10 ; Books (proportion of new additions), £50 ; and Stationery (proportion of), £5. Total estimated annual cost of each branch, £105.

It is submitted that this vision is practicable and economic in the true sense, and that it would provide, within the present financial limits, a most efficient and thorough form of library service. It will not be possible, however, to establish branch libraries in Carraroe, Oughterard and Glenamaddy in the coming year owing to the absence of suitable premises in these places. Suitable rooms are, however, available in Headford, Mount Bellew, Portumna, Gort, Aran Island, Spiddal and Clifden.

(3).—The inclusion of £170 for binding. The sum estimated is £2,300.

SALARIES.—Last year the County Manager promised to consider the appointment of an additional Junior Assistant. The figure under the head of salaries covers this item, and the salaries of seven Branch Librarians each at £20 per annum. Provision has also been made for incremental increases, and the sum required amounts to £1,967.

ADMINISTRATION.—Capital expenditure for shelving, fittings and furniture for seven additional Branch Libraries, at £75 each branch, is included under this head. The figure, while covering general administration expenses, also provides for £105 for each Branch, the total figure being £1,260.

OTHER CHARGES.—The necessity for a vacuum cleaner for use in the County Library Headquarters accounts for the comparatively small increase—£150-£170—under this classification.

No provision has been suggested for the painting, etc., of the County Library Headquarters.

It was proposed by County Councillor J. Brennan, seconded by J. Moroney, N.T., and Resolved :—

“ That the estimates for the year 1948/49 be approved, subject to an increase of £200 under the heading of Administration, making the total sum required £5,907.”

129. **School Libraries.**—The County Librarian, in submitting the Memorandum on School Libraries, added : Arising out of this Memorandum it is interesting to note that a Conference of representatives of local authorities of Northern Ireland was held in Belfast on 28th October. Observers from several Government Departments also attended, as also did those from Educational and Local Government Organisations. The total attendance amounted to 50 delegates. The following proposals were adopted, with a view to pave the way for a new Library Bill :—

- (1) Government grants and inspection ;
- (2) Adjustment of areas on the lines of counties and county boroughs ;
- (3) Provision of inter-lending facilities based on the Belfast and Queen's University Libraries ;
- (4) Establishment of a Central Library Advisory Council to watch over the interests of Libraries in Northern Ireland ;
- (5) A better School Library Service and that Children's Libraries should be expanded ;
- (6) Local expenditure on Libraries should, like other expenditure for educational purposes, qualify for a government grant.

It will be noted that proposals 2, 3 and 4 have already the force of law in Southern Ireland under the Eire Public Libraries Act, 1947.

Proposal 3 is to take the place of the Irish Central Library for Students, Dublin. It will be also noted that the Northern Ireland proposals go far beyond the Eire recent Act.

It was proposed by Urban Councillor Keane, seconded by T. O'Shea :—

“ That the County Librarian be authorised to bring to the notice of the Library Association of Ireland, at the annual Business Meeting to be held on the 13th February next, the necessity for a new Public Libraries Bill or a new Education Bill authorising that local expenditure on Libraries should, like other expenditure for educational purposes, qualify for a government grant.”

**130. New Branch Libraries.**—It was proposed by County Councillor J. Brennan, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and Resolved :—

“ That fully equipped Branch Libraries be established in the following districts: Headford, Mount Bellew, Glenamaddy, Portumna, Gort, Aran Islands (Kilronan), Spiddal, Carraroe, and Oughterard.”

**131. Vote of Condolence.**—It was proposed by County Councillor T. King, seconded by County Councillor J. Brennan, and Resolved :—

“ That the Committee's sympathy be tendered the widow and other relatives of the late County Councillor J. J. Keane, Carraroe.”

**132. Book Purchases.**—On the proposition of County Councillor J. Brennan, it was Resolved :—

“ That the County Librarian be authorised to undertake an enquiry among the Galway Booksellers as to their being able to supply the Libraries Department with books (a) as expeditiously, (b) with the same variety, (c) on the same terms, (d) in the same numbers, and (e) foreign works at the same reduced rates as the Dublin Booksellers, who have, in addition to the Galway Booksellers, been accustomed to supply the County Libraries' demands.”

(Minutes Nos. 126-132, inclusive.)

*Not interested. Willing to supply at standard methods & rates.*

**Galway County Council**  
(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

**MINUTES  
OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

OF A

**QUARTERLY MEETING**

HELD ON

**Saturday, the 20th day of March,  
1948**

Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

**LEABARLAINNA CONNDÁE NA GALWAY**  
**COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES**

All communications should be addressed:

**S. J. MAGUIRE**  
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN  
(and the following number quoted)

**COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS**  
**GALWAY**

29th May, 1948

A Chara;

A meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, 5th day of June, 1948, in the County Library Headquarters, Galway, commencing at the hour of twelve thirty o'clock in the afternoon, when the following business will be dealt with :-

1. Minutes of the last Meeting.
2. Donations.
3. Reports to date
4. General.

Mise, le meas,

S. J. Maguire,

County Librarian.

To each member of the Committee,  
To the County Manager,  
To the Editors of newspapers  
published in the county.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF QUARTERLY MEETING,  
HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 20th DAY OF MARCH, 1948.**

**Present :** Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, County Councillor ; County Councillor J. Brennan, County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, N.T. ; the Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A., Chairman ; County Councillor Sean Glynn, Urban Councillor M. Keane ; County Councillor T. King, County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T., T.D. ; J. Moroney, N.T. ; County Councillor H. O'Donnell, N.T. ; and T. O Seadhgha, N.T.

**Chairman of the Meeting :** The Very Reverend P. Canon Glynn, B.A.

**133. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING :**

**Resolved**—That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read ; and that they be signed.

**134. DONATIONS :**

**Resolved**—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors : The Greek Government Department of Information for the gift of three booklets ; Lord Killanin for a copy of his work, " Some Notes on the Antiquities of the Barony of Moycullen " ; and to M. C. Strange, Esq., Hon. Secretary of the Portumna Town Trustees for a copy of the Souvenir, " Golden Jubilee of the late Monsignor Joyce, P.P., V.G."

**135. THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND :**

It was proposed by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, seconded by J. Moroney, N.T., and

**Resolved**—That the following report by the County Librarian on his attendance at the Annual General Business Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland be adopted:—

The Annual General Business Meeting of the Library Association of Ireland took place at the Country Shop, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin, on Friday, 13th February. The date had been brought forward a week to allow of nominations being carried out in regard to the Seanad Elections.

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, the President, Professor Felix Hackett, referred to the death of Mr. John O'Byrne of the Dublin Municipal Libraries and a motion of sympathy was passed in the usual manner.

The minutes of the General Meeting held last March had already been published. The Hon. Treasurer read the financial statement and the Hon. Secretary read the general report. A discussion followed on the passing of the Public Libraries Act, suggestions being made that the Act had been rushed through without sufficient consultation with the representatives of the Library Association. It was pointed out that it would be a very simple matter to propose amendments to the Act. The report of the

County Section was also read. The meeting then proceeded to the election of the Council and the Executive Board for 1948. Professor Felix Hackett and Mr. Donal O'Sullivan, Clerk of the former Seanad, until its abolition in 1936, were nominated for the Cultural and Educational Panel from the Library Association for the Seanad elections.

### 136. PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT, 1947 :—

The County Librarian submitted the following outline of the Public Libraries Act, 1947 :—

The long title of the Act gives its purpose, that is to establish "An Comhairle Leabharlanna" (The Library Council) with three objects in view : (1) to accept from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust the gift of the Irish Central Library for Students ; (2) to operate a central library ; and (3) to assist local authorities to improve their library service. Section 2 establishes the Library Council and creates it a corporation with perpetual succession and the right to hold land. Section 3 contains the purposes of the new Central Library. Section 4 enables the Library Council to consult with and advise local authorities as to the improvement of the public library services, to help them to improve those services, and to make recommendations to the Minister for Local Government. Financial aid may be given, but only with the Minister's consent, and the Council may, with the like consent, arrange for mutual extension of library services with other library bodies. In order to put this section into effect it is proposed to make a general survey of existing library services.

Section 5 outlines the composition of the Council : (1) a Chairman appointed by the Minister after consultation with the Minister for Education ; (2) six members to be appointed on the nomination of academic bodies ; (3) six members to be appointed on the nomination of representatives of local authorities.

Section 11 entitles the Council with the consent of the Minister : (a) to purchase or take on lease land ; (b) to build, equip and maintain premises ; and (c) to sell or lease any lands held by it, if not required.

Section 16—deals with finance—allows the Minister, with the consent of the Minister for Finance to make available to the Council such grants as he may sanction to enable the Council to provide financial aid to local authorities for the improvement of their library services. Apart from these grants, Section 17 lays down that the Minister may pay to the Council towards its expenses the sum of £2,500, or one half the amount of the expenses whichever is the less. The Carnegie United Kingdom Trust has agreed to pay the other half of the expenses for the first year, 40% in the second year, 30% in the third year, 20% in the fourth year, 10% in the fifth year, thereafter withdrawing its contribution. Ultimately, the second half of the total expenses

estimated to amount to £5,000 will be paid by the several local authorities in proportion to the rateable valuations of their areas. At first they will only have to contribute the proportion not paid by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust. The expenses of the Minister in the administration of the Act shall be defrayed out of public funds (Section 18).

Section 19 makes it mandatory on the part of local authorities to contribute to the funds of the Central Library for Students.

It was proposed by Urban Councillor Keane, seconded by County Councillor J. J. Cunningham, and

**Resolved**—That the help and best wishes of the Committee be extended to the Library Association of Ireland in the effort to have amended the Public Libraries Act, 1947.

### 137. CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT :

The County Librarian reported that the facilities for children at the County Library Headquarters are being severely taxed and are the cause of great inconvenience to adult readers. He pointed out that at the request of parents and teachers the Juvenile Room was open only on each Friday afternoon.

It was proposed by Councillor M. Keane, seconded by County Councillor Sean Glynn, and

**Resolved**—That the County Manager be requested to consider the possibility of acquiring a suitable room, apart from the County Library Headquarters, for use as a Children's Library.

### 138. QUARTERLY NOTES :

**Noted**—The County Librarian's report that printed copies of his quarterly notes were not available in time for the meeting.

### 139. PROPOSED PORTUMNA BRANCH :

It was proposed by Urban Councillor M. Keane, seconded by J. Moroney, N.T., and

**Resolved**—That the following persons constitute the Portumna Local Library Committee :—

Father Jennings, P.P. ; Father Walshe ; S. D. O'Kelly ; T. F. Burke ; Mrs. Duffy ; D. Frawley ; D. Gordon ; D. H. Kearns ; Mrs. Claffey ; Mrs. I. O'Keeffe and Sean Canning.

### 140. BALLINASLOE BRANCH LIBRARY :

**Noted**—The County Librarian's report that the County Manager had allowed the sum of £31 11s. 0d. for repairs at the Ballinasloe Branch Library.

### 141. BOOKSELLERS :

County Councillor J. Brennan referred to Minute No. 132 and proposed, being seconded by Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe :—

That the Galway booksellers be requested to inform the Committee in writing as to their being able to supply the Libraries

*Martin O'Curran*  
5.11.48.

**Galway County Council**  
(COUNTY LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT)

**MINUTES  
OF THE PROCEEDINGS**

OF A

**QUARTERLY MEETING**

HELD ON

**Saturday, the 5th day of June,  
1948**

Athlone Printing Works Co. Ltd.

*J.M. 25.9.48*

*J.M. 25.9.48*

leabharlanna cónndae na gailtíne

COUNTY GALWAY LIBRARIES

S. J. MAGUIRE  
SECRETARY AND COUNTY LIBRARIAN



COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS,  
GALWAY.

18th September, 1948.

A Chara,

The Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the County Libraries Committee will be held on Saturday next, the 25th day of September, 1948, in the County Library Headquarters, the County Courthouse, Galway, commencing at the hour of twelve-thirty o'clock in the afternoon, when the following business will be dealt with:-

1. Election of Chairman for the year 1948-49.
2. Election of Vice-Chairman for the year 1948-49.
3. Minutes of the last meeting.
4. Annual Report for the year 1947-48.
5. Donations.
6. Historical Manuscripts Commission and Public Records.
7. General.

Is mise, le meas,

S. J. Maguire,

County Librarian.

To each member of the Committee.  
To the County Manager.  
To the Editors of the newspapers published in the County.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF A QUARTERLY MEETING  
HELD ON SATURDAY, THE 5th DAY OF JUNE, 1948.**

**Present :** Alderman Miss M. A. Ashe, County Councillor ; Councillor W. Carrick ; County Councillor P. J. Colleran ; County Councillor J. J. Cunningham ; County Councillor Sean Glynn ; Councillor Michael Keane ; County Councillor Thomas King ; County Councillor M. Kitt, N.T., T.D. ; John Moroney, N.T. ; County Councillor T. O'Shea, B.A., N.T. ; and County Councillor M. Quinn.

**143. CHAIRMAN OF THE MEETING :**

It was proposed by Councillor Carrick, seconded by Councillor Keane, and

**Resolved**—That County Councillor M. Quinn be Chairman of the meeting.

**144. PROMOTION OF SENIOR ASSISTANT :**

It was proposed by Councillor Carrick, seconded by T. O'Shea, and

**Resolved**—That the Committee's heartiest congratulations be tendered Mr. John Hynes, B.A., Senior Library Assistant, on his promotion to the post of Staff Officer to the Clare County Council.

**145. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING :**

**Resolved**—That the Minutes of the last meeting, circulated each member, be taken as read ; and that they be signed.

**146. DONATIONS :**

**Resolved**—That the Committee's thanks be tendered the following donors : Bermondsey Public Libraries for a copy of the Annual Report ; Association of Secretaries in Commerce for a copy of the Year Book, 1948 ; City of Leicester Municipal Libraries for the Library Bulletin, May, 1948 ; " Desiderata," no. 22, v. 1. ; National Institute of Industrial Psychology, no. 1., vol. 1. of " Psychology at Work " ; Dr. C. F. McConn, C.M.O.H., for his Annual Report, 1946 ; and the Hospital Library Council for a copy of the 11th Annual Report.

**147. NEW BRANCH LIBRARIES :**

The County Librarian reported that he is preparing a memorandum on facilities, etc., for the proposed new Branch Libraries for submission to the County Manager.

**Resolved**—That consideration of the subject be adjourned until the next meeting of the Committee.

## 148. ANNUAL REPORT :

The County Librarian submitted his report for the year ended 31st March, 1948, as follows :—

This report summaries the work of the County Libraries Department during the year ended 31st March, 1948. It is prepared not only for the County Manager and the Local Authorities of the county but also as a memorandum on public relations generally for the ordinary citizens in the scope and resources of their public library system and the services which it is capable of providing.

### Object.

The main object of the public library system is to promote the habit of reading and the wider distribution of books, and it is to be recorded that our readers are now keeping us busier than before. With the spread of education and opportunity and the quickening of public interests, there is no difference whatever between the literary needs of one community and another or between urban and rural. In every locality nowadays there are young people studying for professional, technical and other examinations and entrances; and people of all ages with an infinite variety of tastes and interests, and the following table shows, in classes, the number of books which were available :—

Class.	Head- quarters and Centres.	Ballina- sloe.	Loughrea.	Tuam.
General Works ...	1,191	2	1	2
Philosophy ...	222	6		3
Religion ...	953	137	41	150
Social Science ...	939	85	11	160
Languages ...	373	7	4	4
Natural Science ...	471	62	12	112
Useful Arts ...	1,325	75	81	137
Fine Arts ...	889	80	24	146
Literature ...	5,885	677	418	685
History, Travels, Biography ...	5,351	863	390	451
Adult Fiction ...	7,523	1,976	1,515	1,338
Juvenile Books ...	3,273	336	214	379
<b>TOTALS ...</b>	<b>28,395</b>	<b>4,306</b>	<b>2,711</b>	<b>3,567</b>
Total books available—38,979.				

### Information.

Through our book information section the system provides readers with a valuable service. Many enquiries—by letter and telephone—are answered each week. Most of them are requests for lists of books on special subjects. There are many enquiries

about titles, authors and publishers of out-of-the-way books, translations, and books that are out of print. As an aid to authors, journalists, teachers, students, and anyone engaged in business or scientific work, that service can be of great value, though research in the academic sense cannot be provided.

### Books for All.

Just as no individual can acquire all the books that he needs, neither can every public library acquire every book which its community members need or might possibly require in the future. But, if Galway, let us say, has not the book required, the Irish Central Library for Students might have it, or the National Central Library, London, or the Scottish Central Library for Students. Thus, there has been evolved a system of inter-library exchange. Add to this the close contact with the English and Scottish public libraries throughout Great Britain, therefore, in actual fact, there is to-day for a person living in the most remote village in the county access to the combined libraries of Great Britain and Ireland.

Through this system of inter-library exchange 496 volumes were obtained for Galway readers during the year.

### Reading Lists.

Annotated lists of books have been published quarterly covering city and county history, literary history and present trends, the relationship of books to education and politics, and the pleasures and problems of book-selection and book-collecting. A reference collection of "books about books," Irish and general history, agriculture, art, bibliographies of many subjects, works relating to authorship, printing and publishing, and a varied section of literary history, biography and criticism is available.

### Home-reading.

The popular life of most new books is short and a public library does not exist just to satisfy a temporary demand for best sellers. The libraries simply cannot afford to provide unlimited numbers of copies of any one book, because that would mean not buying many other books of more lasting value. Every effort is made to keep a reasonable balance between the demand for a book and the number of copies provided. Also, some form of co-operation between publishers might eliminate duplication of certain minor English classics and so help provide a better representation of classics generally and of other essential works.

The following table shows the books added to the libraries during the year, and arranged by classes :—

General Works ...	...	...	...	...	147
Philosophy ...	...	...	...	...	41
Religion ...	...	...	...	...	87

Social Science ... ..	71
Languages ... ..	26
Natural Science ... ..	69
Useful Arts ... ..	229
Fine Arts ... ..	225
Literature ... ..	242
History, Geography, Travels and Biography ...	1,091
Adult Fiction ... ..	4,377
Juvenile Books ... ..	830
Total ... ..	7,435

Tables showing (a) total number of books lent for home use, and (b) the same figures in more detail :—

TABLE (A).

	Head- quarters.	Branches and Centres.	Total.
Adults ... ..	65,808	98,683	164,491
Children ... ..	15,928	27,495	43,423
Total ... ..	81,736	126,178	207,914

TABLE (B).

	Non- Fiction.	Fiction.	Juvenile.	Total.
Headquarters ... ..	20,121	45,687	15,928	81,736
Ballinasloe ... ..	6,168	16,172	3,328	25,668
Loughrea ... ..	4,935	16,120	1,001	22,056
Tuam ... ..	3,942	17,402	4,740	26,084
Schools and Village Centres ... ..	9,463	24,481	18,426	52,370
Totals ... ..	44,629	119,862	43,423	207,914

### Junior Library.

In all libraries the children's book stocks have suffered more than any other owing to the difficulties of obtaining sufficient replacements. While the supply position tends to improve, there is a dearth of non-fiction books for children.

As already reported, the facilities for children at the County Library Headquarters are being severely taxed and are the cause of great inconvenience to adult readers. At the request of parents and teachers the Juvenile Room is open only on each Friday afternoon. The absence of proper accommodation prevents the system from giving the many extra services that should be characteristic of a Junior Library.

The following table shows the number of books lent to children for home reading :—

Headquarters ... ..	15,928
Ballinasloe ... ..	3,328
Loughrea ... ..	1,001
Tuam ... ..	4,740
Schools ... ..	18,426
Total ... ..	43,423

There is no point in raising the school leaving age if the Department of Education fails to provide for the study requirements of pupils through additional library facilities. In Great Britain, while it is recognised that a proportion of the Library Service in elementary and secondary schools should be provided at a cost to the County Library rate, it is equally recognised that the Department of Education also has a responsibility. It is to be hoped that the Eire Department of Education will follow the British example of defraying not less than 50 per cent. of the cost of supplying books to elementary and secondary schools.

Since the inception of the County Library Service twenty-four years ago there has been close co-operation with the city and county schools with invaluable results. Most of this mutual effort is directed along fairly well-defined channels. Progress has been much helped during the year by the whole-hearted sympathy and co-operation of the teachers.

### Book Exhibitions.

Several exhibitions of books and periodicals have been presented during the year in the city and throughout the county. Among these were : (1) works of Galway and Connemara writers and translators presented in An Arus, Dominick Street, Galway ; (2) works on art, reproductions of paintings and facsimiles of Irish MSS., in connection with the Tuam Art Gallery, in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam ; (3) books and pamphlets on agriculture, poultry-keeping, bee-keeping, knitting and domestic handicrafts, at the Irish County Women's Association Summer School in the Galway Grammar School ; and (4) books on films, cinematography and photography at the Irish Film Institute classes throughout the country.

### Special Collections.

The collections of books, pamphlets, maps, prints, etc., which illustrate all phases of the past and present history of Ireland, the scarce works dealing with the Irish Language and Philology, are a special pride of the libraries. They aim at completeness as far as possible.

### Educational, Social and Religious Societies.

The principle of voluntary service in co-operation with the public educational services ; primary, secondary, vocational and university education ; and with the various bodies of social workers : the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Catholic Young Men's Society, the Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys' and Girls' Clubs, etc., continues. In addition to the mutual help in the lending and borrowing of books, pamphlets, scientific and philological journals, small libraries have been continued in Temperance Societies, Clubs, in Parochial and Village Halls, Sodality Clubs, etc., throughout the county.

### Statistical Abstract.

The following brief explanation is necessary for the proper understanding of the information supplied by the Abstract :—

First of all, the figures represent the number of books issued for home reading only. They do not include the encyclopædias, guide books, dictionaries, almanacs, etc., consulted in the Headquarters and Branches. Again, the figures shown are those compiled from the issues kept at the Headquarters, Branches and Centres, and do not include the issues at the Centres where the records are not properly kept or not kept at all. And lastly, since the inception of the scheme the Abstract has been compiled on exactly the same lines, so that it provides the only satisfactory basis available for comparing one year with another.

#### 1. Finance.

##### INCOME.

From Rates	...	...	...	...	£3,880	0	0
Subscriptions	...	£161	13	10			
Fines	...	10	17	6			
Replacements	...	7	2	6			
Other Receipts	...	13	11	10			
					193	5	8

Total Receipts ... £4,073 5 8

##### EXPENDITURE.

Salaries and Wages	...	...	...	...	£1,397	19	10
Books, Binding and Periodicals	...	1,820	18	11			
Transport and Travelling	...	249	10	11			
Rent, Maintenance and Repairs	...	374	7	1			
Other Expenditure	...	177	17	0			

Total Expenditure ... £4,020 13 9

Amount of Rate levied for Library Purposes : 2.075d.

#### 2. Library Centres.

Total number of Centres in operation ... 40

#### 3. Book Stock.

Total Adult Fiction	...	...	...	...	12,352
Total Adult Non-Fiction	...	...	...	...	22,425
Total Juvenile Fiction and Non-Fiction	...	...	...	...	4,202
Total Stock	...	...	...	...	38,979

Number of books available per 100 of the population served : 23.11.

#### 4. Book Issues.

Issued from Headquarters direct to readers	...	...	...	...	81,736
Issued from Branches and Centres direct to readers	...	...	...	...	126,178
Total Issues	...	...	...	...	207,914

#### 5. Borrowers.

Estimated number of registered borrowers	...	...	...	...	34,011
Estimated number actually borrowing per 100 of the population	...	...	...	...	20.2

#### 149. IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION :

The County Librarian submitted a letter from the Secretary to the Irish Manuscripts Commission asking for observations on a report received from Dr. D. A. Chart, on the forming of the National Register of Archives in England by the (British) Historical Manuscripts Commission and account of a Conference held on 17th November, 1947.

**Resolved**—That the County Librarian's observations on the report of Dr. D. A. Chart be approved ; and that the County Librarian have the correspondence, report and the account of the Conference printed and circulated for the next meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND REPORT—HISTORICAL  
MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.**

COIMISIUN LAIMHSCRIBHINNI NA HÉIREANN,  
(Irish Manuscripts Commission)  
5 ELY PLACE, L.R.,  
BAILE ATHA CLIATH,  
(Dublin)  
28th April, 1948.

S. J. MAGUIRE, ESQ.,  
Librarian,  
City of Galway Library,  
Courthouse,  
Galway.

A CHARA,

The Commission would be glad to have any observations you may desire to make on the enclosed Notes, received from Dr. D. A. Chart, on the forming of the National Register of Archives in England by the Historical Manuscripts Commission and account of a Conference held on 17 November, 1947.

Mise, le meas,  
EILEEN BRERETON,  
Runai.

**Notes on the Forming of the National Register of Archives in  
England by the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and Account  
of Conference of 17 November, 1947.**

(1). A small directorate has been formed for the purpose. It acts in concert with the Public Record Office, is housed in the same building and contains representatives of the Public Record Office, Historical Manuscripts Commission and British Records Association. The whole-time working head is a Registrar at present Colonel Malet.

(2). His first method of approach is to form an organizing body in a local area, usually a county. This can be either an already existing body, such as an Archæological Society or Records Committee of a County Council or a specially formed *ad hoc* Committee with power to co-opt. The latter form is usually preferable in view of the large number of interests involved requiring representation. Twenty-four to thirty members may normally be necessary. These should include two or three from the county council, one, if possible, to represent the educational authority, one or two each from county and municipal boroughs, representatives of churches, universities, local learned societies, schools, landowners, solicitors, medical profession, commerce, industry, employers' associations and trade unions.

(3). The function of these committees would be, amongst other things, to plan the campaign geographically, to enlist helpers,

interest owners, give speedy advice where there is danger of loss or damage, report movements of archives or actual destruction, and advise owners as to suitable repositories for the reception of gifts or loans. Where counties are large or areas are isolated, area committees would be necessary.

(4). Investigation should be directed to the following: Known accumulations, those of hitherto unknown owners, smaller landowners, service and professional families, merchant families, families who have sold their land but have retained some of their records.

The helpers could be of four kinds:—

- (1) pure amateurs with local contacts suitable for discovering collections and working in small areas;
- (2) keen amateurs without Latin capable of inspecting modern archives;
- (3) very keen amateurs with a knowledge of Latin and willing to learn palæography and diplomatic;
- (4) archivists with knowledge of Latin and diplomatic.

These experts of Class (4) could be called upon to inspect mediæval matter reported by the amateurs.

(5). The recruiting of owners and helpers can be done by Press campaign, by stressing to owners the voluntary nature and historical value of the scheme and the importance of apparently dull papers, such as deeds and accounts, the importance of modern records and of not destroying without advice; by stressing for helpers the immense value of local knowledge, that ordinary daily contacts have often provided useful information and drawing public attention to any specially interesting and important discoveries.

(6). Reports are in three stages; the first does not do much more than give the ownership and location of an accumulation; its rough covering dates and easily discoverable classes. The second stage gives an accurate list of classes with their quantities and covering dates. The third is a detailed list of documents by classes.

(7). Documents may be reported on either *in situ* or by deposit for examination at a suitable local repository.

(8). Colonel Malet opens operations generally by writing to the Secretary of the County Council and asking him for suggestions as to persons likely to be interested. He gets some person universally known and respected in the county to act as the chairman of a public meeting to be called. This is usually the Lord Lieutenant of the county. To this meeting are invited the leading county officers or their representatives, the chiefs and heads of local government, professors of history, theology, economics, education, law, statistics, heads of colleges and universities, learned societies, headmasters, owners, professional persons, librarians, local editors, teachers' organizations, chambers of commerce, employers' associations, trade unions, friendly societies, women's institutes, social clubs, rotary, women's voluntary service, workers' educational

association, young farmers' clubs, etc. With each invitation that goes out a personal letter signed by the Registrar is attached. The meeting constitutes itself as an archive committee, or appoints some of its members to act as such.

(9). A conference was held at Stationers' Hall, London, on 17 November, 1947, by invitation from the Historical Manuscripts Commission to the county and local committees co-operating in the work. There was a certain amount of hospitality and papers dealing with points that had arisen were discussed. The first of these was Professor Jacob on the organization of a committee. He emphasised the difficulty in getting trained helpers and suggested that county archives departments could do some training. The central county committee should include both "bigwigs" and actual workers and have local committees under it for areas. The area convenor is the key man. If possible he should be a scholar and a trained person with access to experts when he required it. The area committee should be as small as possible, but could have power to co-opt suitable persons. The size of the county committee would depend on the nature of the area and the local government element should not overbalance the private interest. Amateurs should not be excluded. Area convenors should meet the county chairman at least twice a year. There should be visits of exploration and for detailed reports. The convenor should know of all intended visits and should do the detailed report himself. Publicity was essential, also periodical reports of local results achieved. Reference was made to the new departure in the form of a local record exhibition at Basingstoke.

(10). Mr. Brett James of Middlesex suggested that the young should be brought in and libraries used. Miss Wake asked about the records of local war committees. Mr. Stephens of Warwickshire raised the question of finance and petrol. Colonel Malet said petrol would be provided. The Voluntary Committee of Social Service expressed a desire to help. Birmingham enquired as to co-operation with the Council of Business Archives. A Buckinghamshire representative said his committee was just starting, but did not intend to appoint area committees, only area representatives. He asked if reports were to go through the county committees. Professor Jacob said "Yes."

(11). Mr. Atkinson, Secretary of the Historical Manuscripts Commission said expenses could be refunded. To an enquiry whether an area commission would need a constitution and should put up posters, Colonel Malet said the constitution was their own affair. As to publicity he thought the real work was done by interesting local persons. Miss Wake, Northamptonshire, enquired as to the availability of suitable repositories. Another speaker suggested that mansions in charge of the National Trust might be used. Mr. Jenkinson, Deputy Keeper of the Records, London, said no offer of documents should be rejected on the grounds of lack of accommodation. The county authorities accepted this view.

(12). The second paper was by Colonel Malet on the general procedure in reporting (with special reference to approaching owners and treatment of non-local material). He emphasised the chief factors in the situation: the owner, the helper, the register, the historian, money and time. Owners were very helpful generally and this fact should be recognised in some tangible form. The helpers might be allowed to follow their natural bent, but uniformity is required for the register, hence a set form of report is necessary. He would ask his helpers only for types in their first report, for classes in the second. Only the first stage reports were required at present. There might be a fourth stage. The marking of documents to be avoided, and if done should be only in pencil so that it could be removed.

(13). Colonel Le Hardy asked for a moratorium for the County Archivists to complete the work already begun by some of them, as in the case of Hertford. He was speaking, however, only of records already in the county archives. Mr. Holt of Liverpool asked if there was any date limit and was told none. Mr. Richards of Cheshire asked for a tag to be attached to examined documents with the inscription "registered in National Archives." He was told that this step was under consideration. Mr. Salzmänn of Sussex suggested the noting of seals. Mr. Jenkinson suggested the issue of a booklet with hints to helpers. Another speaker suggested an approach to local archaeological societies. To a suggestion of a moratorium for archaeological societies' documents, the answer was made that as these were already in responsible hands urgency did not arise in their case.

(14). Mr. F. W. Brooks, Hull, spoke on the recruiting and training of helpers. He followed the line already indicated by Professor Jacob and emphasised that those seeking subjects of investigation for the register must talk to all societies, enlist schoolmasters, workers' educational associations, women's institutes, churches, etc., approach the universities through some university man (not necessarily of the history school). He suggested that as two people can list documents twice as fast as one, the investigators might work in pairs and the less trained pick up knowledge from the more experienced. He suggested a pamphlet to explain types of 18th century deeds. Miss Major said that Professor Plucknett's Concise History of the Common Law (Butterworth Press) was very good for conveyancing. Mr. Brooks went on to suggest that talks on palaeography might be given.

(15). Colonel Le Hardy asked if archives work could be learned by correspondence. Mr. Jenkinson was understood to disagree, but to say that the facsimiles in his book might be useful. Inscriptions on stone were said by Mr. Jenkinson not to be the concern of the register. Colonel Malet said that the war local committees' records were at present "nobody's child"; responsibility for them had been disclaimed by the Home Office.

COUNTY LIBRARY HEADQUARTERS,  
GALWAY.  
20th May, 1948.

MISS EILEEN BRERETON,  
Runai,  
Irish Manuscripts Commission,  
5, Ely Place, Lr.,  
Dublin.

A' CHARA,

I have to thank you for a copy of Dr. D. A. Chart's notes on the formation of the National Register of Archives in England. Please accept my apologies for not replying sooner.

Is mise, le meas,  
S. J. MAGUIRE,  
County Librarian.

#### Observations on the Forming of the National Register of Archives in England.

Par. 2. I would agree with the Registrar—Col. Malet—that an organising body should be formed in each county. For many years I have endeavoured to locate public records of all kinds, charters, deeds, etc., in the various counties in which I organised county libraries. I have circularised solicitors, estate agents and land-owners, interviewed them personally and pointed out the importance of preserving material. Accompanied by a Galway solicitor I visited a sixteenth century house and on examining the library I discovered a charter of Charles II. granting the then proprietor, a Catholic, immunity not only to himself and family, but also to his descendants. The existence of this document was not known to the family and on my suggestion the solicitor had it lodged in the bank. I have found by experience that without an organisation nothing can be done. I would also point out that I have succeeded, thanks to the co-operation of the County Manager, in saving the bulk of the Minute Books and other material of the various Boards of Guardians and Rural District Councils in Galway. Also, on his instructions, the Minute Books of the old Galway Corporation have been lodged in the care of the University College here.

Not every county has an Archaeological Society, and in view of my experiences of County Council Ancient Monuments Committees I would not suggest anything on the lines of a County Council Records Society. I would be in favour of a body nominated by your Commission, consisting of three members of each County Council, one member of each Corporation, Urban District Council or Town Commissioners; one representative of a County or Municipal Vocational Education Committee; one member of the County Branch of the I.N.T.O., and of the Secondary Teachers' Association; two members of each County Bar Association—this body, representative of barristers and solicitors, usually meets at

Circuit Courts; representatives of churches, archaeological societies, universities, doctors and labour unions.

Par. 3. I favour the functions of the committee as given in the notes. The question of suitable repositories in Ireland is and will be for quite a long time a problem. County buildings, municipal halls, county library headquarters, and so on, are practically everywhere cramped and lack space for suitable storage. I know that a number of county courthouses could be equipped at a small cost, but generally suitable repositories are scarce.

Par. 4. Before considering the question of storage I would suggest a survey on the lines as set out in paragraph 4.

Par. 5. On the subject of recruiting helpers Ireland could not do better than follow on the lines of Dr. Seumas Delargy's system of organisation in the early days of the Folklore Institute.

Par. 8. So far as I am aware, no County Council possesses an Archivist—any such work where carried out devolves on the County Librarian—therefore, the preliminary work of organisation would in the first place fall on your Commission so far as getting each county body together, and further work would then be undertaken by the local committee as nominated by you through the County Librarian.

The details of problems as raised in the subsequent paragraphs of the Notes need not, I should think, concern us at the outset. The fact is that there is a huge amount of material available throughout the country and something must be done about its collection and preservation before it is too late.

Incidentally, I overlooked including a representative of the Gaelic League in the scheme of county committees.

Is mise, le meas,

S. J. MAGUIRE,  
County Librarian.

COIMISIUN LAIMHSCRIBHINNI NA HEIREANN,  
(Irish Manuscripts Commission)

5 ELY PLACE LR.,

BAILE ATHA CLIATH

(Dublin)

24th May, 1948.

S. J. MAGUIRE, ESQ.,  
County Librarian,  
Galway.

A CHARA,

I acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your memorandum, dated 20th inst., on the forming of the National Register of Archives in England, which has been read with interest by the Chairman and will be brought to the notice of the Commission as a whole at its June meeting.

Mise, le meas,

EILEEN BRERETON,  
Runai.

COIMISIUN LAIMHSCRIBHINNI NA HEIREANN,  
(Irish Manuscripts Commission)

5 ELY PLACE LR.,

BAILE ATHA CLIATH,  
(Dublin)

28th May, 1948.

S. J. MAGUIRE, ESQ.,

County Librarian,

County Library Headquarters,

Galway.

A CHARA,

Thank you for your letter of 20th inst., and for the trouble you have taken to prepare the memorandum on the forming of the National Register of Archives in England. This will be communicated to the Commission at its June meeting.

Mise, le meas,

EILEEN BRERETON,  
Runai.