

Notes on the Legacy of Cork Antiquarian Field Work

[Research in Progress]

In the course of researching souterrains in Cork and South Munster over the years I have often thought about the extent of field-work and recorded information produced before the beginning of the **Cork Historical and Archaeological Society** and the publication of the first series of its **Journal**.

As far as I'm aware there were certain Anglo-Irish antiquarian interests in the Cork region from the 17th century and 18th centuries and these, and any recorded discoveries they made, need to be investigated in more depth...including rediscovery, re-opening and recording of sites where ever possible using modern technologies...

Charles Smith's Ancient and Present State...Cork published in 1750 on behalf of the **Physico-Historical Society** in Dublin, was a major milestone as were his **Waterford** (1746) and **Kerry** volumes(1756). A revised version of the Cork volumes appeared in 1774, doubtless due to popular demand which would indicate something of the readership and bibliographic collecting interests in the locality at that time.

In the early 19th century the **Cork Scientific and Literary Society** which came into being in 1820 and in 1803 the **Royal Cork Institution** came into being. In 1815 Smith's **Cork** was again published. In 1821 **Dr. Thomas Wood's InquiryPrimitive Inhabitants of Ireland** was published by Edwards and Savage in Cork. 1837 Francis Tuckey's **Cork Remembrancer** was published in Cork by Osborne and Savage.

In 1871 Rev. **Richard Smiddy** published his **An Essay on the Druids, the Ancient Churches, and the Round Towers of Ireland**.

InGeorge Petrie published his

1833 Henry O'Brien born Iveragh, Kerry, in 1808, he was also an orientalist like Rev. Edward Hincks of Princes Street, Cork, the Assyriologist and student of Cuneiform, born in Cork City in 1792 (son of Rev. Thomas Dix Hincks who founded the Royal Cork Institution) He was also an early scholar of Egyptian Hieroglyphics and brother of William Hincks was first Prof of Natural History a QCC. A bust of Edward Hincks is included in a monument to 24 famous Egyptologists at the Egypt's Cairo Museum....

Minutes and Transactions of the Cork Scientific and Literary Society...where are they now and any relevant material, any publications e.g. local newspapers...

Members of the South Munster Antiquarian Club (I don't know if there was anything earlier... check).

Abraham Abell, Windele, Rev Matt Horgan, Rev Richard Smiddy,others.. Fitzgerald of Youghal?.....others????.....Matt Horgan and his 'Round Tower' creations and deciphering the Ogham script....do any papers of Fr. Matt Horgan Richard of Whitechurch, Cork and what of Richard Rolt Brash's papers?, Henry Hill?....anything in Irish Architectural archive? ... others...Where were their records published, or are they in private hands or destroyed?

Members of the Cork Cuvierian and Archaeological Soc

Caulfield, Lane-Fox (later Pitt-Rivers the famous British Archaeologist) for a time?, who else.... Caulfield and married to daughter Dora of Richard Dowden of the RCI as recorded in local newspapers at the time of the wedding.....Robert Day?....

Minutes and transactions/ proceedings in a two leather bound volumes in hands of Miss MacSweeney of UCC when I saw them in early 1970s...Miss MacSweeney wrote a paper on the Royal Cork Institution for JCHAS circa 1960s????...I forget... where are these volumes now?... UCC Library or Cork Archives Institute or elsewhere..???? The Transactions / Proceeding were

newspaper cuttings if memory serves me accurately and they were cut from either the **Cork Examiner** or the **Cork Constitution** newspapers...I doubt if the Cork Advertiser had anything, but worth checking...the Minutes were in manuscript...is there any material in 18th century national or local newspapers...Marmaduke Cox's discovery of Peake, Aghabullogue souterrain published in a periodical in 1750s.

Founding of the Cork Hist and the efforts to capture notes etc of former antiquarians e.g. Fitzgerald of Youghal???...in its first series...

Breandán Ó Conchúir's **Scríobhnoirí Coraí 1700-1850**...Cork antiquarian authors in this...

Local History Books and Pamphlets which are only record of local discoveries and folklore...Rev. Dr. Neligan (of Shandon) his pamphlet on the Dunworley glass beads...private printings, other... any 'grey literature' of this nature...City versus town interests and perspectives during the 19th century and the opening up of tourism for the holiday seeking middle classes...and the creation of the 1st edition of the 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps...formal versus informal topographical recording...history of Antiquarian interests at Trinity College Dublin and at Maynooth University and antiquarianism at the Queen's Colleges in Ireland...origins, genesis and personalities...town versus gown, city versus town in terms of degree of local antiquarian investigations and recording sources...

Founding of the **Department of Archaeology UCC** by Bertram Windle as a research project into the antiquities of South Munster any 'topographical files', cartographic materials, etc..publications...., early theses of the Dept, the topographical survey Masters Theses (e.g. Hartnett for East Muskerry) as part of this...Canon Powers work follows on when he becomes prof...the Cork Public Museum as part of UCC museums and Prof. M.J.O'Kelly and Dr. E. Fahy as staff members....any files still there?....

Other recording work in Cork, South Munster at the time....National Museum topographical files... any family archives of antiquarians in institutional or private hands....???

Somerville of Castletownsend and Knockdrum and Donovan's **Sketches in Carbery** as publication source for his Knockdrum excavation....Somerville materials in UCC library and astro-archaeology pioneers...any others?

Any papers still in private hands or in institutional repositories at home or abroad (archives, museums)??...Lane Fox (Pitt Rivers) papers...others???...coins discovery records...**Michael Dolley, British Museum...Grosvenor museum**....coins and artefacts of the Anthony museum in Tipperary...also Cork collectors (John **Lindsey**) and other experts on antiquarian coin discoveries...J.C. Coleman speleologist and Cork souterrain explorer and recorder...

Rational for gathering all manuscript and printed reports of archaeology work prior to first series of JCHAS and also up to to end of 'Windle to O'Kelly' time for reference and to inform both scholars and field archaeologists of sites investigated for casual research or ogham stone discoveries, recording of sites being destroyed by agriculture or industry, of early collectors and there collections e.g. Windele's Ogham Library at Blair's Castle, Patrick's Hill...to create as complete a corpus as possible of archaeological discoveries in the region up to the 1940s and to sort this information in an easily accessible form in an online database...

...match this corpus to the Record created by the Archaeological Survey for County Cork.(Denis Power et alia).

