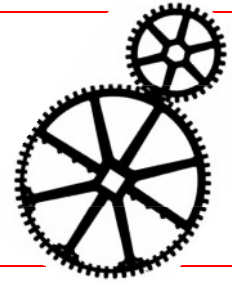


INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND **NEWSLETTER**

www.ihai.ie

No 35
December 2010



DIARY DATES

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| 21 Feb | 'Conservation of Ruins' by Jon Avent. 7.30pm, Engineers Ireland, 22 Clyde Rd, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. |
| March/ April | IHAI AGM, Dublin. Details to follow in next newsletter. |
| May | IHAI day trip to Wicklow Mountains. Details to follow in next newsletter. |

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the third issue of the IHAI newsletter for 2010. The fact that there has not been one since March reflects the lack of material submitted to the editor for inclusion. Please make it your New Year's Resolution to endeavour to submit at least one article over the next year, no matter how short, so that your editor is not faced with the daunting task of having to write it all himself! I have a couple of items on the stocks for the Feb/March newsletter, but more items, including book reviews would be greatly appreciated. My contact details are on the last page.

Put together in the last days of 2010, this newsletter focuses on industrial heritage activity over the past 12 months. What will be in store over the next year, and indeed the years ahead, is hard to gauge given the swinging government budget cuts to heritage funders both North and South. As an Association, however, we will continue to promote the importance of our industrial heritage to whoever will listen! And on that note, may I wish you all the best for 2011.

CONSERVATION OF RUINS

An illustrated talk by Jon Avent entitled *Conservation of Ruins* will be given at Engineers Ireland, 22 Clyde Road, Dublin 4 at 7.30pm on Mon 21 Feb 2011. It will cover some of the challenges faced in the stabilisation of ruins, ways of dealing with them and the need to understand them before embarking on their conservation. It considers the approach from initial survey through to the implementation of remedial works. Case studies will be presented on a selection of ruined structures from Ireland, England and Wales. An overview of the Conservation Accreditation scheme (CARE) run by the Institution of Civil Engineers and the Institution of Structural Engineers will also be given.

Admission is free. For anyone unable to travel to Dublin, the talk can be followed live if they have a broadband internet connection. See the Engineers Ireland website, <www.engineersireland.ie> or Google 'engineers ireland web cast' for details of how to avail of this facility. For further information, contact Con Kehely, tel 01 2226843.

A SUIR THING: IHAI IN CARRICK AND CLONMEL

The high point of the industrial heritage year, for me, is the field trip. My main interest is in waterways, and this year's trip was particularly water-based. Organised and led by the indefatigable Fred Hamond, it started in Clonmel on the morning of Saturday 22 May, whence a bus left at 9.30 am to take us to Carrick-on-Shannon. On the way, Michael Conry told us about the gathering of bilberries along the valley of the Suir for export to Britain, an industry that has now ceased. In Carrick, we picked up Ralph O'Callaghan. His father William (known as Wilmo) was the "last of the Suir boatmen". When he died a couple of years ago, Ralph carried his coffin by boat upriver to the graveyard. Ralph's grandfather took the last (horse-drawn) cargo upriver to Clonmel in 1923.



A sunny Saturday morning at the Navigation Cut near Carrick.

Ralph took us to Roches Quay at Tinhalla and to the navigation cut below Carrick, while also telling us about the sand trade (in which he had helped his father). The tug-barge *Knocknagow*, which had worked on the Suir (and which my wife and I now own) got an occasional mention too.

Returning to Carrick, we looked at waterside features, a lime kiln and Ormonde Castle, as well as the display in the Heritage Centre, where Ralph showed us old nets, boat-pole shoes and model boats.



The waterfront at Carrick-on-Suir.

After lunch, we walked part of the old towing path which ran along the left bank and up which teams of 12 and more horses once hauled boats to Clonmel. We also learned about the Southern Regional Fisheries Board's plan to close this traditional navigation by erecting a weir to count fish.

Because of the exceptionally hot weather, we decided to shorten the walk. We then took the bus upstream to Kilsheelan, which had vintage petrol pumps outside the pub, as well as a bridge and a quay on the nearby Suir. The low water level in the river was very evident.

Ralph had joined us by canoe and I was lucky enough to get a place in the boat for the trip up to the confluence of the Suir and the Anner where there was a derelict store belonging to a nearby former flour mill. That enabled me to see just how difficult the navigation must have been in dry weather. It was very shallow, and Ralph had to exercise great skill in finding the right place to cross each of the stone weirs. The crews of boats being towed upstream would have had to steer well out from the towing path in many places.

The coach met up with us at Anner and we all walked the short distance up to Sir Thomas's Bridge, on the eastern outskirts of Clonmel. I had photographed it years before, in winter: it is not surprising that at least one boat was wrecked there.

Then we visited the modern Bulmers/Magners plant, where we admired the Segways used by the security staff to get around the vast site. Our guide, Paddy Cummins, described the production, packaging and despatch processes; it was interesting to learn that the firm saved €2m a year by capturing the carbon dioxide given off during the process. Some slabs of Magners were provided, courtesy of Bulmers management; they were very welcome on such a hot day.

Unfortunately I missed Michael Ahern's presentation on the Quakers that night: I had had little sleep the night before and fell asleep at 7.00pm (no, it wasn't the cider).

On Sunday morning, we visited some of the remains of mills in Clonmel, the gasworks site (supplied with coal by water from Carrick) and the quays. We were given a tour of the old Bulmers site in the town, now being refurbished; you may have seen the wooden vats in Bulmers ads, and they are still in use. It takes two years to make a batch of cider, and the old plant contains some of the characteristic Bulmers yeasts that the labs have not yet captured.

We finished with a tour of Suir Island, guided by Shay Hurley of the Workingmen's Boat Club. The island was formerly the site of many of the mills that brought Clonmel its wealth in the 19th century. Few traces remain and, if the powers that be have their way, there will be even fewer soon. The flood-prevention scheme in Clonmel has made it very difficult to get access to the river and there are ugly walls everywhere.

Having a formerly Suir-based boat, I knew a bit about the area, but I learned a lot from the trip - and greatly enjoyed it too. As well as the cider. Roll on next year's expedition!

Brian J Goggin

For more of Ralph's presentation in the Carrick Heritage Centre and photographs of the Suir by canoe, go to Brian's blog at [http://irishwaterwayshistory.com/2010/12/24/up-](http://irishwaterwayshistory.com/2010/12/24/up-the-suir)

the-suir>. Anyone who missed Michael Ahern's talk might be interested in *The Quakers of County Tipperary 1655-1924*, published by Michael in 2009 [Ed].



The fermenting vats inside Bulmers "Big Apple", Clonmel.



The Old Bridge across the Suir to Suir Island. The weir in the foreground supplied a flour mill at centre, now rebuilt as apartments.



Three wise men. From left to right: Ralph O'Callaghan our guide at Carrick, Paddy Cummings, Services & Facilities Manager at Bulmers, and Shay Hurley, our guide on Suir Island.

HERITAGE COUNCIL STATEMENT ON CUTS

Punitive cuts, announced in the Irish Government's Budget on 7th December will decimate the heritage sector and close many small enterprises that are dependent on it. This will have detrimental effects on both our national heritage and the quality of our tourism offering.

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government's Heritage Unit, which has responsibility for protected structures, including world heritage sites, suffered a 77% budget cut. National Parks and Wildlife, whose remit includes the protection of our natural heritage and running all our national parks, suffered a 56% cut. The Heritage Council, whose role is to protect, preserve and enhance Ireland's national heritage, suffered a 47% cut. This is on top of a 30% cut in earlier in the year.

Speaking about the situation, the Heritage Council's Chief Executive, Michael Starrett commented, *"We are extremely concerned about the disproportionate nature of the cuts to the heritage sector. While the heritage sector recognises that it must share the burden of the cuts required to tackle the country's economic crisis, the cuts announced are completely disproportionate in comparison to other Departmental cuts. As a result, the future of heritage initiatives nationwide which have created hundreds of jobs, empowered local communities and enhanced the value of heritage as a tourism resource, are severely threatened."*

In 2009, over three million overseas visitors engaged in cultural/historical visits while in Ireland, and spent an estimated €1.9 billion while here. In particular, 76% of tourists identified landscape and nature as the primary reason for visiting Ireland, and heritage is what defines the uniqueness of a country. Funding will now no longer be available to protect and manage our iconic buildings, unique and threatened species, landscapes, cultural collections and rare artifacts, or indeed to support local communities in taking care of their everyday heritage."

The majority of counties in Ireland have a County Heritage Plan which is prepared by Local Heritage Fora on behalf of the local people and the Local Authority. Research conducted in September 2010 examined the economic value of these Plans. Their implementation between 2004 and 2008 at a cost of €6.15m supported the creation of 1012 full-time jobs in small businesses across the regions, with an estimated return of €30.1 million to the Irish economy. Between 2004 and 2008, the €6.15m that the Heritage Council invested over 26 local authority areas led to an additional investment of around €10 million from other sources.

"Our shared heritage is the country's inheritance that we only get to borrow for a time, enjoy, and benefit enormously from, but we have an obligation as a people to pass it on to future generations", Mr. Starrett said.

"These punitive cuts put at risk, not just jobs which are critically important, but also vulnerable aspects of the nation's unique natural and cultural heritage which now may be lost for ever to the country."

At this point, the day to day implications of the cuts are hard to fully estimate. What is clear from the Heritage Council's standing is that we will no longer be in a position to provide support for local community groups, non-governmental organisations, charities, individuals,

small businesses, local authorities and others. This will make it extremely difficult for the survival of the wider heritage profession of conservators, thatchers, ecologists, archaeologists, conservation architects, museum curators and other specialist work such as researchers and data collectors.

We cannot talk about the importance of marketing our heritage and promoting tourism if we cut the funding to those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to care for our heritage. The reality is that these unique heritage skills may now be lost to the nation along with the heritage assets and memory that these represent. We will all be poorer economically, environmentally and socially as a result", added Mr Starrett.

ICOMOS INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE CHARTER

Last October the International Conference on Monuments & Sites (ICOMOS) held its annual international conference at Dublin Castle on the theme of climate, social and technological change. Various ICOMOS advisory sub-committees also met, including one focusing on the drafting of principles for the conservation of industrial sites.

A similar document has also exercised the International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH). In June 2003, it published the Nizhny Tagil Charter for Industrial Heritage. This outlines what industrial heritage is about and sets out principles relating to its identification, recording, research, legal protection, conservation, presentation and interpretation. The full text of this charter is downloadable at http://www.mnactec.cat/ticcih/industrial_heritage.htm. ICOMOS is now in the process of formulating and adopting a similar charter.

The Industrial Heritage Committee of ICOMOS Ireland, supported by the ESB, hosted a workshop on 26 October so that the draft ICOMOS charter on industrial heritage could be presented to a wider audience. Dinu Bumbu (President, ICOMOS Canada) and Patrick Martin (TICCIH President) both gave presentations, as did Ruth Johnson (Dublin City Archaeologist), Brendan Delany (ESB Archives) and Colin Rynne (IHAI).

The draft charter outlined at the workshop was ratified later on in the same week and should be formally adopted by the main ICOMOS committee sometime during 2011. It is to be hoped that organisations responsible for Ireland's built heritage, both North and South, will sign up to its principles in the same way that they embraced the 1994 Venice Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites.

SURVEY OF CO DONEGAL MILLS

Donegal County Council has recently commissioned Duncan McLaren and John Cronin to undertake a study of mills in the county as an action of its Heritage Plan for 2007-11.

The purpose of this study is six-fold: (1) to determine the distribution of mills in the county, (2) to establish a searchable database of mills, (3) to assess the heritage value of the surviving mills, (4) to survey a selected number of mills, (5) to make recommendations regarding their conservation, reuse, adaptation, restoration,

and education/tourism potential, and (6) to identify groups and individuals in the North-West with whom partnerships can be developed in respect of the county's mills.

Information is being sought on well preserved mills which may merit more detailed study by the team. Your views on any of the above issues (e.g. mill reuse) would also be welcomed by them. Duncan can be contacted on dedalusarchitecture@eircom.net and also by phone 074 9385122.

IHAI AUTUMN TOUR, OCTOBER 2010

IHAI members and friends made their way to the western extremity of Co Fermanagh on the morning of Friday 1st Oct to meet up at the Belleek Pottery Visitors Centre, where the IHAI Autumn Tour commenced with lunch and a guided tour of the factory.

The pottery was established in 1857 by John Caldwell Bloomfield of nearby Castlecaldwell in partnership with Robert Armstrong of London and David McBirney of Dublin. They chose this particular site because of the local availability of materials for pottery making and also on account of its water power potential, beside a sizeable waterfall at the outflow of the River Erne from Lower Lough Erne. Although the fall has since been submerged by the ESB barrage a short distance downstream, the pottery is still going strong which the emphasis on high-quality porcelain giftware which is exported all over the world.



Our group outside the corn mill, with its wheel in the background.



However, this was but a prelude to the main event of the trip, some miles to the north which had been organised by Paul McMahon. At 5pm, the group, now swollen to 13 in number, reconvened at Newmills, just outside Letterkenny, to visit the restored corn and flax mill complex. The Office of Public Works, the site's owners, had pulled out all the stops to have everything operational, and knowledgeable guides were on hand on to explain the intricacies of oatmeal production and flax scutching.

After the tour and a most welcome buffet reception, we were joined by Dr Martin Mansergh, Minister of State at the Department of Finance who also has responsibility for the OPW. Brendan Delany, on behalf of the IHAI, presented him with the 'Best Industrial Site/Museum Award' which Newmills had won earlier in the year (as reported in the March 2010 newsletter).

Many local people with links to the mills in their working days were also present, including relatives of the late



Minister Mansergh receives the 'Best Site' plaque from Brendan Delany.

Vincent Conaghan who had advised the OPW on the technical aspects of the mills' restoration. It was fitting to see his restored lathe (presented by his family) and an appreciation of his work prominent in the flax mill's exhibition gallery (see below).

Sunday morning saw the group assemble outside the Tourist Office on the outskirts of Letterkenny. The first stop was the 18th century nine-arch Clady Bridge over the River Finn on the Donegal-Tyrone Border.

It was then on to the Strabane Canal, a 4-mile waterway opened in 1792 to link Strabane with the River Foyle and Derry. In 2006, the Strabane-Lifford Development Commission instigated the restoration of a 1½ mile section and reinstatement of the gates on the two locks at the river end. Although the restored section has yet to be handed over to Strabane District Council and the towpath opened to the public, it is nevertheless possible to view one of the locks from a minor road off the main Strabane-Derry road.

The basin at the Strabane end is long infilled, with little now to see beyond a defunct store and corn mill. So we continued on to the High Street and Gray's Printing Press, founded in 1760 and where John Dunlap, the printer of the American Declaration of Independence in 1776, served his apprenticeship. Stephen, our National Trust guide, showed us around the collection of printing presses and also demonstrated the now virtually forgotten art of typesetting (for a 360 degree view of the print room, go to <http://www.virtualvisit-northernireland.com>). We were able to print off souvenir certificates of our visit using an Albion Press, invented in 1822 and possibly now the only one of its kind still in use in Ireland.

Sion Mills, our next and final stop, lies some five miles south of Strabane. We reassembled in St Saviour's Church Hall for an excellent lunch organised by the Sion Mills Preservation Trust, who were to be our hosts for the rest of the day. We were welcomed by Celia Ferguson, a founding member of the Trust, who introduced our guides, Ian Donnell and William Bell. Split into two groups, we were then taken on a whistle-stop tour of the village, mill complex and mill races.

Sion Mills is one of the few surviving purpose-built mill villages in Ulster, originating with the establishment of a flax spinning mill on the River Mourne in 1835 by James, John and George Herdman. Although relatively

remote from the main centres of population, the mill prospered. In 1853 a second spinning mill was added, designed by W.H. Lynn in Italianate style, and to which more buildings were subsequently added. At the same time, the Herdmans built terraces of houses for their workforce and the present village took shape, complete with churches, school and working men's institute.

The 19th century mills were vacated in the late 1980s when Herdmans transferred production to a new single-storey factory on an adjoining site. A Trust was set up to preserve the defunct buildings and it has been successful in having recently converted the old boiler house to workspace units. Electricity is also generated for the National Grid by Messrs Herdman. The challenge is now to find viable new uses for the empty buildings before it is too late to save them. It is also to be hoped that some of the surviving machinery can be preserved to illustrate the various stages of the spinning process. Nowhere else in Ireland does such a range of machines survive in their original working context.

VINCENT CONAGHAN

Industrial Heritage Consultant to the Newmills
Restoration Project
Died 15th July 2008 - An Appreciation

Vincent Conaghan brought a unique blend of enthusiasm, knowledge and practical experience to the industrial heritage world in Ireland.

A fitter and turner by trade, Vincent served his apprenticeship in Brown's Foundry and Engineering Works, Letterkenny, Co Donegal. During this period he was introduced to the installation and overhauling of steam engines and various factory and bakery plant. Foundry and pattern making practise also formed a part of this training.

In the 1940s, as part of the wartime necessity, he was involved in the reactivation of flax and corn mills in North Donegal. He also worked on the overhauling of the civil engineering plant on the Erne hydroelectric scheme, Ballyshannon, Co Donegal in 1946. Then after a brief period with the Esso Oil Company he found employment with CIE at the Rail Works in Inchicore, Dublin.

He worked there as a supervisor for 28 years. During that time he was Millwright Foreman responsible for the maintenance and installation of all plant and machinery at the Rail Works. Vincent witnessed the changeover from steam to diesel and oversaw the introduction of diesel railcars and passenger rolling stock and, in more modern times, the building of mainline high-speed passenger carriages.

His service to Industrial Heritage will probably be best exemplified by the consultancy work that he undertook for the OPW, most notably the restoration of the corn and flax mills here at Newmills National Monument, Letterkenny in his native Donegal. His experience of working with these sites in the 1940s gave him an appreciation of the basic engineering excellence to be found in this type of monument.

Vincent always expressed his concern that this sense of excellence should not be lost. He never missed an opportunity to pass on his expert skills and knowledge to his works colleagues and associates.

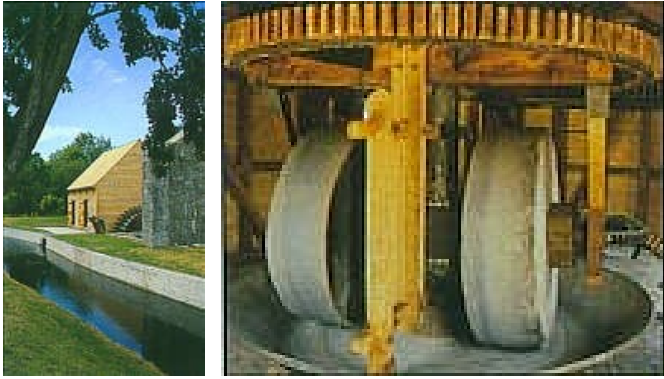
His family have kindly donated his lathe, which is displayed here alongside the other artifacts that Vincent collected and assembled for the project.



Our group with members of the Sion Mills Preservation Trust outside St Saviour's Hall.

BALLINCOLLIG GUNPOWDER MILLS

At 130 acres (325 ha), Ballincollig Gunpowder Mills on the River Lee is one of the largest industrial sites in Ireland. Established by Charles Leslie in 1794, the mills were bought by the Board of Ordnance in 1805, at the height of the Napoleonic Wars, to augment their supplies of gunpowder. Because of the dangers of this material, the various parts of the production process were carried out in separate buildings. The mills where the ingredients - potassium nitrate (saltpetre), charcoal and sulphur - were combined into gunpowder were also protected from one another with massive blast walls.



Reconstructed mill (left) and grinding stones (right).

With the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815, the demand for gunpowder declined and the Board mothballed the site. In 1834 it was bought by Thomas Tobin to produce blasting powder and this continued until the site's closure in 1903.

In the mid '70s, Cork County Council purchased the derelict site from ICI and opened part of it as a public park. Around 1990, they secured EU funding and restored the waterworks and one of the incorporating mills to working order. A purpose-built visitors' centre was also opened.

Finances forced the closure of the visitor's centre in 2002, but most of the complex is still publicly accessible as it lies within Ballincollig Regional Park.

With funding from the Dept Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Cork CC undertook further conservation work at the eastern end of the park in 2010. This focused on consolidating the Cooperage, Charcoal Mill and Sawmill, as also the erection of directional signs and interpretative panels.



Consolidation work in progress at Ballincollig, March 2010.

Further details of the mills, go to the excellent Ballincollig Heritage website <<http://ballincollig.wordpress.com/gunpowder-mills>>.

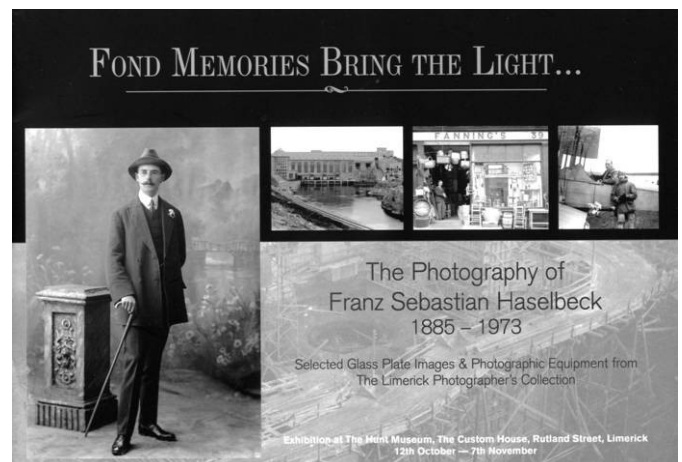
Catryn Power, Cork County Council Archaeologist

THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF FRANZ SEBASTIAN HASELBECK, 1885-1973

The Hunt Museum recently exhibited a selection of the work of Limerick-based commercial photographer Franz Haselbeck. This is the fruition of a two-year collaborative effort between the ESB and his grand-daughter Patricia Haselbeck to restore and catalogue his collection of some 3500 photographic images taken in Limerick and S.W. Ireland during the first half of the 20th century.

A significant number of Haselbeck's images relate on the construction of the hydro-electric power station at Ardnacrusha, Co Limerick. His link with this project arises from the fact that he worked as an interpreter for Siemens-Bauunion, the main contractors on the Shannon Scheme from 1926 to 1930 (although brought up in England, his parents were German). He was thus well placed to photograph the scheme's progress.

To mark the exhibition, ESB Archives and Patricia Haselbeck have produced *Fond Memories Bring the Light*. This profusely illustrated catalogue documents Haselbeck's life and works and also compares his images with those of Sean Keating. A limited number of copies are available from Brendan Delany, ESB Archives, 27 Lower Fitzwilliam St, Dublin 2.



CECIL MERCIER MILLING ARCHIVE

David Cecil Mercier was Mills Superintendent for the Goodbody and later, Rank mills in the Republic of Ireland for 43 years from 1920 until his retirement in 1963. He kept diaries and papers throughout that period which are of interest both for their milling and social content.

His daughter Pam (Mrs Nicholls), who now lives in England, gave his records to Plunkett Hayes of Croom Mills for safe keeping. On 12 October last, the documents were handed over by the Mercier family to the Limerick City Archives.

The occasion was marked by a reception in Limerick City Hall hosted by Maria Byrne, the city's Lord Mayor. Norman Campion (a former Ranks manager) and Colin Rynne, both of the IHAJ, gave short presentations to the

100-strong audience which included many former Ranks Mills employees.

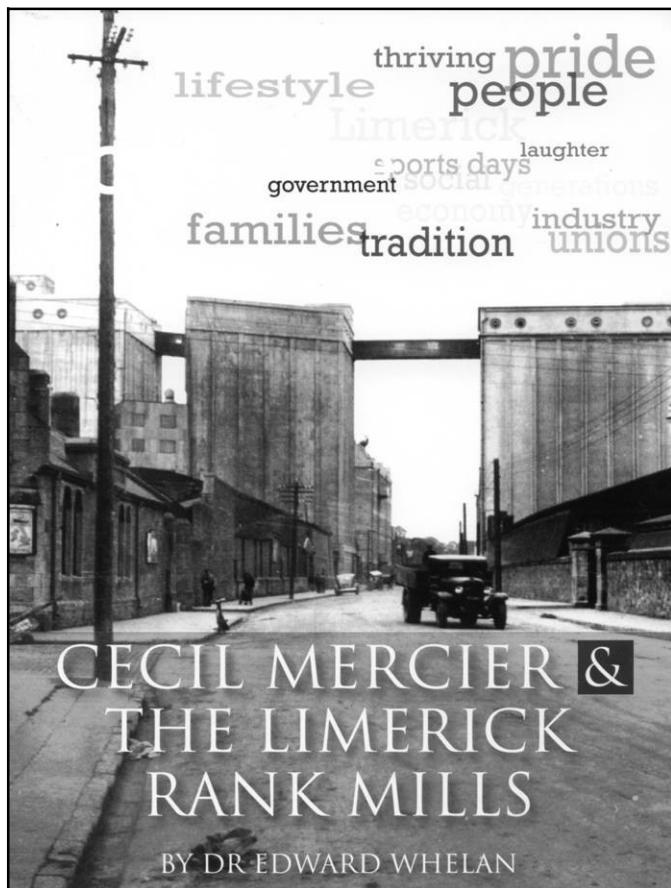
The occasion was also marked by the publication of an illustrated 25-page booklet entitled *Cecil Mercier & the Limerick Rank Mills* by Dr Edward Whelan. This details Mercier's career from his appointment as Mill Manager at Messrs Goodbody's (formerly Bannatyne's) City Mills at the age of 22, having trained with Henry Simon of Manchester. This was a particularly difficult time for Irish industry, both socially and economically, due to the War of Independence and ensuing Civil War. The Goodbody milling empire was eventually bought out by Ranks Ltd in 1930, a fortuitous move as import tariffs on imported flour were imposed two years later by the Fianna Fail government.

Ranks embarked on a process of rationalisation, closing many of their small mills and focusing production on the Shannon Mills, a massive new roller mill complex which opened on the Dock Road in 1941. Cecil Mercier was retained as Mill Manager and also oversaw negotiations with the ITGWU, the mill workers' union, in relation to new working practices.

The Emergency (Second World War) and its aftermath also put a severe strain on Ranks operations due to the shortages of wheat and Government regulations demanding higher flour extraction rates from the grain. An entry in Mercier's diary in 1940 reads "Every hour of my day is filled - pressure of work is very great".

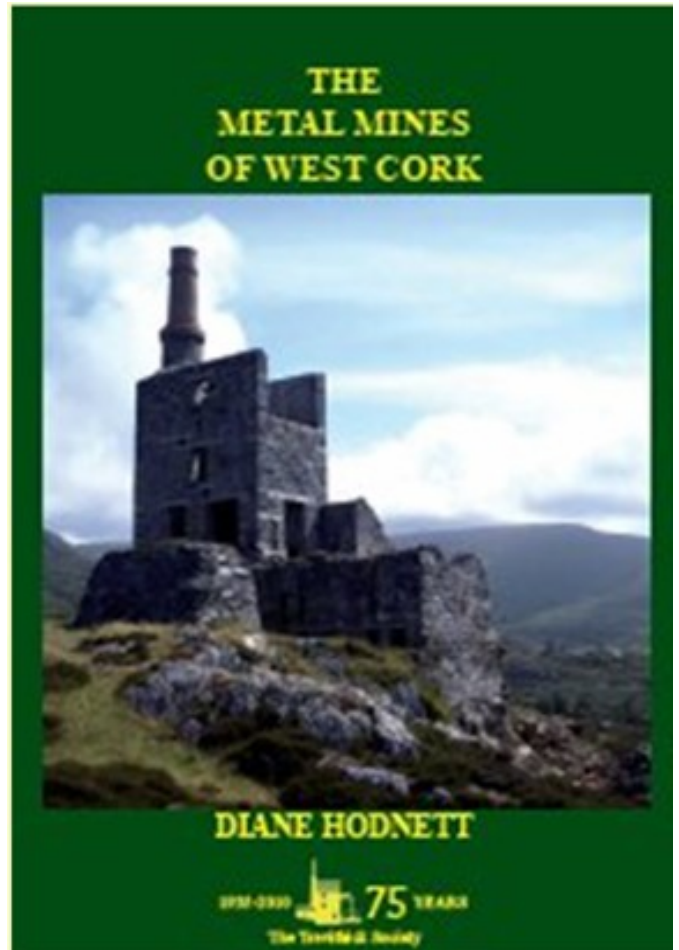
Fortunately the storm was weathered and the Shannon Mills continued to be pivotal to Ranks Irish operations, all of which became the responsibility of Mercier from 1958 until his retirement five years later. The Shannon Mills continued in production until closure in 1983.

Norman Campion



--- REVIEWS ---

THE METAL MINES OF WEST CORK. Diane Hodnett, with photographs and field surveys by Paddy O'Sullivan, 2010. Trevithick Society, Cornwall. Available at €29.95 (incl p&p) from Maps N Charts Ltd, Derryconnell, Schull, Co Cork.



Diane Hodnett, in cooperation with Paddy O'Sullivan, has written this book with a deep passion for the subject of mining in West Cork. This Cornish researcher has produced a fascinating volume which is a good source handbook for those interested in carrying out future research on this topic, and for anyone wishing to visit the area. For those who have read Daphne du Maurier's *Hungry Hill*, about four generations of an Anglo-Irish family whose life centred around mining on the Beara Peninsula, Diane's book will give a fascinating insight into the work at the core of the people whom du Maurier wrote about and based her work.

The book divides West Cork into its separate mining areas: Crookhaven and Goleen Mines, Schull Mines, Ballydehob Mines, Skibbereen and Glandore Mines, and Beara Peninsula Mines. Within these areas, 26 mines in total are recorded, each with an accompanying map. These encompass copper, lead, manganese workings and their associated surface remains including gunpowder magazines, engine houses, wheel pits, and tram rails; the 100m long Congo Adit is also described on Horse Island.

The *Metal Mines of West Cork* also focuses on the history of the companies behind the mining operations (or lack of, in some cases). It outlines the opportunism

often associated with mining investors (no different to today's business investments), and "the art of exaggerating any mineral appearances" and "for reporting on which they are liberally paid".

The author has trawled through many historic archives, in particular the 19th century *Mining Journal*. The many references are well cited and will be of great value to any researcher. This book contains a good selection of interesting historic maps and drawings, interspersed with fascinating photographs of a bygone era, its people and mining villages.

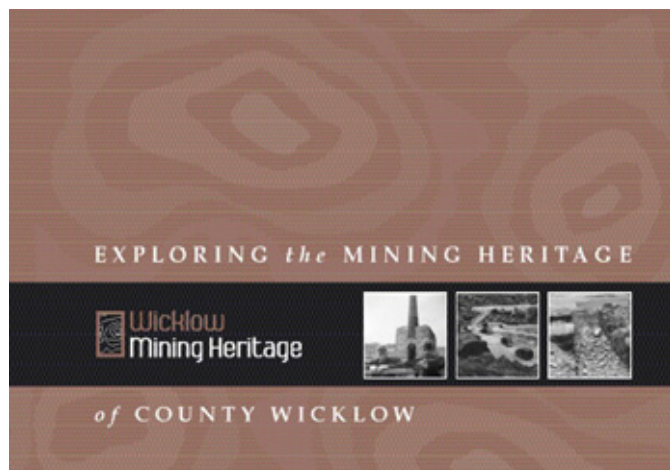
There are a small number of ways in which the next edition might be enhanced. The introduction could mention a little on mining in the area from prehistoric times up to the 19th century. Some detailed maps of the routes to the mining sites would be useful, perhaps in a pocket attached to the back cover, though this would understandably increase costs.

This book will be a reference guide to West Cork mining heritage well into the future and an invaluable addition to our industrial archaeological record. Significantly, it also gives the current condition of many mines, some of which have fallen into dereliction or have been demolished, and many of which may not be so accessible in the future.

Diane Hodnett's work is to be highly commended and it will be a great addition to any library's reference section and also of interest to genealogists, historians, geologists, geographers, archaeologists and anyone with an interest in the area.

Catryn Power, Cork County Council Archaeologist

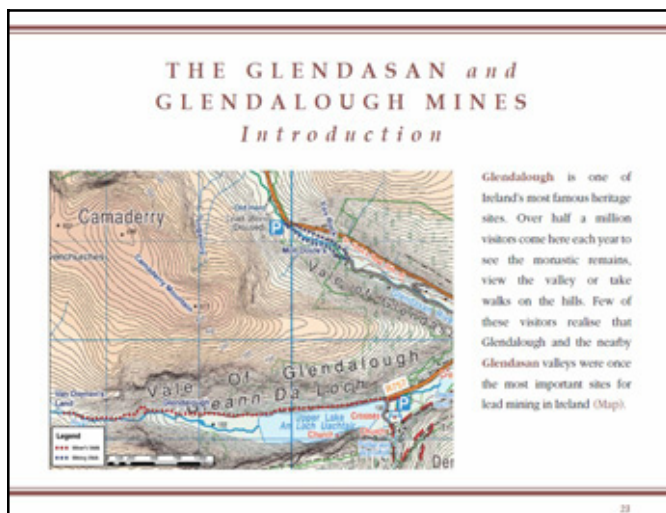
EXPLORING THE MINING HERITAGE OF COUNTY WICKLOW. Wicklow County Council.



The Wicklow Mountains were once Ireland's premier copper and lead mining region. In recognition of this fact, Wicklow County Council has produced this booklet as an action of the Co Wicklow Heritage Plan in order to promote mining as an aspect of the county's heritage. For the first time, the collective knowledge of various mining heritage groups such as the Avoca Mining Heritage Group, Glendalough Mining Heritage Group and Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland has been collated into a non-technical, user-friendly guide.

The book begins with a description of the county's geological background and explains how the veins of copper and lead came to be where they are. The region

is then divided into its four principal metalliferous mining areas – Avoca, Glendasan, Glendalough, and Glenmalur. For each area, a historical review is given along with archival photographs. Detailed self-guided trail maps are included so that the reader can explore the surviving above-ground features for themselves, eg open-cast pits, spoil tips, engine houses, chimneys, ore-crushing houses and tramways. The book concludes with an explanation of various mining terms, locations of other extractive sites in the county, and useful links to relevant mining web sites.



A sample page showing mapped walking routes.

The Heritage Office of Wicklow CC and the Heritage Council are to be congratulated on this initiative. The full-colour 50-page publication can be downloaded for free from the Heritage Council's website, <http://www.heritagecouncil.ie/fileadmin/user_upload/Publications/County_Heritage_Services/Wicklow/Mining_Heritage_of_Co_Wicklow.pdf>.

-- IHAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2010-11 --

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