

Cumann Genealaíais na hÉireann

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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
Heritage Matters
Book Reviews
Open Meetings
News & Queries



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CONTENTS

Ulster and Scotland— Vols. 8 and 9	2
South goes North	2
www.familyhistory.ie	2
James Scannell Reports.	3
GSI Lectures & Projects	3
Diary Dates & Celebrating Nineteen Years	4
Heraldically Sixty Years Late?	4

Gaelic Chiefs & Chieftains

The Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr. Martin Cullen, TD, has provided a new opportunity to address the position of the Irish Chiefs as he intends to amalgamate the National Library, National Archives and the Irish Manuscript Commission and, in order to do so, new legislation is required. However, without underestimating the tremendous damage inflicted by Mr. Terence McCarthy and the 'Bogus Chiefs' scandal and, it must be said, also by some of the rather fanciful notions underpinning Mr. Beresford-Ellis's 'Erin's Blood Royal' various options are available to resolve the issues created by the 2003 withdrawal of 'courtesy recognition' of Gaelic Chiefs. But in order to successfully explore these options a clear and unambiguous acceptance by all concerned of the State constitutional position on nobility and titles must be established. Though it appears that Article 40.2 of Bunreacht na hÉireann (*Constitution of Ireland*) has yet to be judicially considered, a 'mechanism' could be found to address the issue of Irish Chiefs. The enormous amount of valuable in-depth research undertaken over many years by Mr. Seán Murphy, MA, on the whole 'bogus chiefs' scandal provides a sound basis upon which to consider the validity of claimants to Gaelic Chief-

ship and to clean-up existing records. Senator Alex White's Bill – *National Cultural Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2008* attempted to do such a 'clean-up'. However, this Bill is primarily concerned with cleaning up the entries in the State's heraldic registers before such entries could be included in a statutory based '*National Heraldic Register*'. Therefore, it would only affect persons with armorial bearings which were claimed on the basis of 'bogus' chiefship. Pedigrees and other information would be examined by competent independent experts and if the information is found to be deficient in any way, registration of the armorial bearings concerned with be suspended pending the production of the required documentation. Minister Cullen's new legislation offers the possibility of looking afresh at the problem, however, whilst learning from the past controversies. Creative options that could offer 'recognition' and prevent abuses should be carefully examined. These could include: *mechanisms which value our ancient genealogical heritage; seek to record our ancient genealogies; promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the history, customs, law, language and governance of Gaelic Ireland; facilitate the deposit, registration and publication of the*

genealogies of persons with chiefly ancestors; ensures the genealogical integrity of the documentation lodged; promote and facilitate scholarly research in the fields of genealogy, heraldry, surnames and placenames; and recognises and values the immense attachment that Irish people at home and abroad have to this heritage as represented by the surnames we use today and their origins in Gaelic Ireland. The above is far from exhaustive, however, a section of the Minister's new Bill could be such as to encompass all of the above. Indeed, any recognition afforded by such a provision would merely centre on the deposit and registration of a pedigree with a National Cultural Institution – a facility that would be open to all of our citizens and our Diaspora. Without being too prescriptive such a section or subsection could easily facilitate the collection, registration and publication by the new amalgamated institution of the genealogies of persons claiming to be the senior representative of the senior male line of the last known inaugurated Gaelic Chief of the Name, however, it could not be utilised as a basis for the use of any title etc. A resolution to this issue would finally recognise and value this unique and ancient European genealogical heritage.

Outreach Programme

In its nineteen years of service to Irish genealogy, this Society has always valued and supported the educational aspects of genealogical research. Indeed, it has always promoted the study of genealogy, heraldry, vexillology and social history as educational leisure pursuits available to all in the community. This openness prompted the adoption at 1997 AGM of the 'Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access' to our heritage—a principle now

almost universally endorsed by Irish repositories. The Board at its October meeting decided that a new 'Outreach Programme' would be established whereby the Society and its resources would proactively engage with and assist institutions providing adult education courses in genealogy and related topics. The Society seeks to promote a more integrationist or multi-disciplinary approach to the study of Irish history and especially, Irish local history, to

include genealogy etc. This 'Outreach Programme' will not, for example, be based on once-off essay competitions as a more consistent and sustainable approach is required and it should be based on the creation of partnerships with course providers. It is unfortunate that heraldry and vexillology are much neglected areas of study in the Irish context, hopefully, this will be successfully addressed by this Society's new 'Outreach Programme'.

Ulster and Scotland—Vols. 8 and 9

Two new publications from Four Courts Press are very timely indeed commemorating the 400th anniversary of the commencement of the plantation of Ulster in 1609 and the 250th anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns (25 January 1759). Published as part of the 'Ulster and Scotland' series these volumes should be of particular interest to genealogists and local historians, especially those researching aspects of the history and culture of the Ulster Scots in the nine counties of the province of Ulster. The migration of Scottish (and English) settlers to the north of Ireland during the first half of the seventeenth century and indeed, during the second half of previous century in respect of Counties Antrim and Down, profoundly altered the political, religious, linguistic and cultural landscape of the once solidly Gaelic and Catholic province of Ulster. A Protestant Ulster would lock up the 'postern gate' to England for her continental enemies and, of course, permanently place a barrier between the Gaelic (and then still Catholic) Highlands and Islands of Scotland and the native Irish. Soon for the descendants of the settlers and planters of Scottish Presbyterian stock much of Ulster now firmly belonged to a 'pan-Scottish world' that shared the same religion, political ideology, language and culture. *'Scotland and the Ulster Plantations—Explorations in the British Settlements of Stuart Ireland'* (8) edited by William P. Kelly and John R. Young (ISBN 978-1-84682-076-2 : 165pp h/bk : Price €55.00 : £49.50 web-price) sets the political scene with seven essays. Beginning with *'Viscount Ards and the presbytery: politics and religion among*

the Scots of Ulster in the 1640s' by Robert Armstrong which looks at the 'Wars of the Three Kingdoms' and the Scots involvement or influence on their 'kin' in Ireland. *'East Ulster, the MacDonalds and the provincial strategies of Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone, 1585-1603'* by Ciarán Brady focuses on the interaction within a 'pan-Gaeldom' and, in doing so, provides the context for the Hamilton/Montgomery settlements in Antrim and Down. *'Scots and Ulster; the late medieval context'* by Alison Cathcart is an important perspective on the contacts between southwest Scotland and the northeast of Ireland dating back to the thirteenth century. *'Scotland and Ulster: a Presbyterian perspective, 1603-1700'* by Raymond Gillespie and *'The duke of Ormond, and Protestant dissent in Ulster'* by Michael Perceval-Maxwell both explore the broader theme of Presbyterianism, an often misunderstood element, in Irish history. *'Confederate Catholics and covenants, 1644-6'* by Pádraig Lenihan deals with the geopolitical aspects of the 'Wars of the Three Kingdoms'. *'Rebellion, transplantation and composition: the Ulster-Scots landed elite and the Commonwealth'* by David Menary explores a little known topic—the Cromwellian plan to transplant Ulster-Scots to Tipperary, Kilkenny and Waterford in an attempt to reduce the Scottish influence in Ireland. The second volume was published in the 250th anniversary year of the birth of Robert Burns, this collection of essays offers some wide ranging perspectives on the influence of the Scottish bard on the writers of literature in the north of Ireland within the Ulster-Scots tradition.

'Revising Robert Burns and Ulster—Literature, Religion and Politics, c. 1770-1920' (9) edited by Frank Ferguson and Andrew Holmes (ISBN 978-1-84682-197-4 : 198pp h/bk : Price €50.00 : \$45.00 web-price). Indeed, one of the editors of this volume of eight essays, Ferguson, published an extremely important and groundbreaking work on Ulster-Scots literature last year which was also reviewed in Vol. 3 No. 8 (August 2008) of *'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette'* please see: <http://www.docstoc.com/docs/2625752> and, in many ways, that volume – *'Ulster-Scots Writing – An Anthology'* provides an essential resource and contextualises this fine collection of essays. *'Scotia's jewel: Robert Burns and Ulster, 1786-c.1830'* by John Erskine. *'Presbyterian religion, poetry, and politics in Ulster, 1770-1850'* by Andrew R. Homes. *'No bardolatry here': the independence of the Ulster-Scots poetic tradition'* by Carol Barantuk—'bardolatry' a lovely word!. *'Burns the Conservative': revising the Lowland Scottish tradition in Ulster poetry'* by Frank Ferguson. *'1798, before, and beyond: Samuel Thomson and the poetics of Ulster Scots identity'* by Jennifer Orr. *'Commemorating and collecting Burns in the north of Ireland, 1844-1902'* by Frank Ferguson, John Erskine & Roger Dixon. *'Kailyard' stories in Ulster: northern fiction after Carleton'* by Norman Vance and finally, *'A bibliography of Presbyterianism in Irish fiction, 1780-1920'* by Colin Walker is an excellent resource in itself. Anybody studying their Ulster-Scots ancestry would do well to equip themselves with these volumes. **MM**

South goes North

On Saturday September 19th 2009 fifty members from local history societies which are part of the Federation of Local History Societies in the Republic of Ireland traveled to Northern Ireland to join with their colleagues from the Federation for Ulster Local History Studies. They had a joint tour of the Northern Ireland Assembly Building at Stormont around which they were given a guided tour by a member of the Northern Ireland Assembly staff who outlined the history of the building and the estate. They were then brought through the old Senate Chamber and into the main debating chamber where the Assembly meets. The party was then treated to lunch in the Member's Dining Room

after which Mr. Nelson McCausland, MLA, Minister of Culture, Arts and Leisure for Northern Ireland, launched the Federation for Ulster Local Studies 2009 edition of *'Due North'*. Commenting on the work of both Federations in promoting local history, the Minister said that "Local studies are a wonderful way of bringing together people from different backgrounds and traditions to learn new skills and build relationships. This type of exchange helps us all to appreciate the rich diversity that exists in our society and supports the development of a greater understanding of our shared heritage. Local history is very much underpinned by the great resources held in our ar-

chives, libraries, local and national museums. It is heartening to know that the Federation for Ulster Local Studies has close ties with these bodies what are funded by DCAL." After the lunch members of both groups boarded coaches which took them on a short tour of Belfast City to show them some of the interesting areas and included a stop at Belfast Castle.

James Scannell

1911 Census of Ireland

Now searchable on-line at
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As reported in August the Board of Directors agreed to the proposal by the Director of Internet Services, Bartosz Kozłowski, to totally redesign the Society's website. Though this proposal stems from the many very constructive comments and suggestions received from Members around the world, some issues need further clarification. Some members have suggested that the website should be 'interactive' allowing the Society's members



from around the world participate in occasional structured on-line workshops. This initiative, if agreed, would be additional to providing access to specific resources i.e. research articles, graveyard inscriptions or databases. Bartosz aims to provide a range of resources in conjunction with the Director of Archive Services, Séamus O'Reilly—please see page 4. The Society's Archive has a wealth of information, some of which, is not available anywhere else. This includes information on deeds, land records, family papers and research donated by

our Members over the years. Indeed, as reported last month, Bartosz and Séamus are seeking volunteers to assist with the preparation of resources for uploading i.e. scanning, cataloguing etc. This project will certainly take some time to complete. In the meantime, as this new 'interactive workshop' is being considered, discussions are also on-going regarding the appointment of a Moderator for the Members' Only Area (MOA) and possibly, the 'interactive workshop'. Bartosz Kozłowski can be contacted at b.k.webdesigner@gmail.com

James Scannell Reports...

OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

On Wednesday September 16th 2009 Dublin City Council hosted a civic reception at City Hall for the Old Dublin Society to mark the 75th anniversary of its formation, the oldest local history society in the Dublin area. Speakers at the reception included Ms. Deirdre Ellis King, City Librarian, who complimented the Society on its work over the years and for its generosity in donating its collection of artifacts to Dublin City following the closure of the City Assembly House in South William Street where the Society met from the 1950's onwards until its closure in the early part of this century. Her sentiments were echoed by echoed by The Lord Mayor, Cllr. Eimear Costello, who spoke on the vital role that the local history societies and the Old Dublin Society have played in recording the history of Dublin for generations. The address of thanks to the Lord Mayor was given by Rev. D.A. Levistone Cooney, President of the Society, who thanked the Dublin City Library Service and the City Council for their great assistance to the Society and for facilitating its meetings in the Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144, Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

PLANTATION 400

This year is the 400th anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster, the largest of the Plantations of Ireland that took place in the 16th and 17th centuries. In 1609 the colonisation process commences with settlers drawn from England and Scotland which changed the landscape dramatically. The Nine Years War had ended in 1603 with the defeated Ulster chiefs receiving very generous terms from King James I in which they obtained full pardons and allowed to retain their lands in exchange for giving up their Irish titles and armies and swearing allegiance to the King. Despite this, mutual distrust remained resulting in the Flight of the Earls and Ulster chiefs going to Spain to enlist support for a new rebellion. To stave off trouble the Lord Deputy of Ireland, Arthur Chichester took the opportunity to seize their lands to be used for a new plantation of local settlers. In 1609 details maps were prepared of the six Ulster counties taken over by the Crown – Armagh, Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Cavan. A year later the first settlers arrived who were mainly Scots Presbyterians and English Dissenters. An Post the Irish Postal Authority is has issued

two commemorative 55cent stamps designed by Timothy O'Neill and released on September 4th 2009. See www.irishstamps.ie

MICROPHONE SOLD

In September, a microphone said to have been used by William Joyce, better known as Lord Haw Haw, who made German propaganda broadcasts to Great Britain during World War II and was subsequently hanged by the British for treason in 1946, was sold at auction for Stg£8000.

A PIECE OF HISTORY GOES

The old Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, from which countless generation of people emigrated to Great Britain on the 'mail boat' is currently being demolished as part of a new development on this site. When work started some people wanted it stopped as they believed that the structure should be preserved but where overruled and demolition is currently in progress. The pier was opened in 1859. (Editor: see www.dlharbour.ie for details published by Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company)

GSI Lectures & Projects

On Tuesday September 8th 2009 members were treated to a wonderfully presented talk on the 'The National Archives as a Resource for Genealogy and Local History' by Mr. Gregory O'Connor. Understanding that members would already be familiar with the more popular resources for family history available at the National Archives in Bishop Street, Mr. O'Connor had some gems to share with our members. Most of the records explored by Mr. O'Connor, who is an archivist at the NAI, would provide additional information on the areas, times and occupations of our ancestors. Though, Mr. O'Connor used an individual extracted from the 1911 census returns as a reference point to explain the various research options and resources, there are simply too many to adequately

report here. Therefore, it was considered more helpful to obtain a detailed extract from Mr. O'Connor's talk for publication in the Society's Journal. Speaking without notes Mr. O'Connor certainly delivered one of the best lectures this year.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. October 13—Research Collections at Dublin City Library and Archive Dr Máire Kennedy; **Tues. November 10**—Researching one family history in Co Wexford by Gaye Conroy, MGSI and **Tues. December 8**— The Bram Stoker family – a typical 19th century Dublin Protestant family. Douglas Appleyard, historian, author and specialist on the author of

Dracula. Any suggestions on the Society lecture programme please contact **Séamus Moriarty, MGSI** by e-mail on Gazette@familyhistory.ie

CEMETERY PROJECTS

Barry O'Connor invites members to participate in the recording of the memorial inscriptions in St. Canice's Cemetery, Finglas, Co. Dublin on **Saturday October 31st 2009**. An estimated ten volunteers should complete this cemetery within a day. The data will be computerised for publication. Barry has arranged to meet volunteers at 10.00hrs at the cemetery, however, he asks that all intending volunteers would contact him beforehand on btoc@esatclear.ie

Membership of the Genealogical Society

Membership fee **renewals fall due in January** each year. The Board of the Society at its November 2008 meeting conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** structure and under **Res: 08/11/632** the Board adopted the following equalised Membership Package for 2009:- **Ireland & Overseas:** Offering ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter by mail, Annual Journal by mail, and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Special Members' prices of up to 50% off selected publications. This also includes an optional second Membership Card for a household member, including voting rights, for an all inclusive cost of just €40.00

per annum. Therefore, despite tighter economic conditions, there was no increase in the Membership Fee this year. Unlike many other similar organisations faced with the problem of rising costs of printing and postage etc., the Board decided to keep publishing the Society's journal but as an annual publication only. The Membership Fee is now in line with similar organisations in Ireland. Another new feature introduced was the offer of one year free membership to persons undertaking accredited genealogy courses on the condition that they supply a suitable article for the Society's journal. Also persons under twenty-five years can avail of 50% reduction on the membership fee. Membership can be renewed on-line or, if you

prefer, simply download the form and forward it with your remittance to the Society's Director of Finance, **Mr. Denis Ryan, MGSI**, 6, St. Thomas Mead, Mount Merrion, County Dublin, Ireland.

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by **John Grenham**

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The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann**Board of Directors 2009-2010**

Séamus Moriarty (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chatthaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary); **Denis Ryan** (Finance); **Sharon Bofin** (Publications & Membership); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Bartosz Kozlowski** (Poland) (Internet Services); **Pádraic Ingoldsby** (National Projects)

JOIN ON-LINE

@

www.familyhistory.ie/shop**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Oct. 13th & Nov. 10th 2009

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday Oct. 28th & Nov. 25th 2009

Morning Open Meeting

Weir's, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire

10.30hrs—12.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

Celebrating Nineteen Years

The 25th October will be the 19th anniversary of the foundation of this Society by a group of neighbours in Dún Laoghaire. The Society grew quickly and just ten years into its existence, the members decided to change the name of the organisation from the *Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society* to the *Genealogical Society of Ireland*. This new name more adequately reflected the activities, scope and membership of the organisation and indeed, it could be argued that the Society outgrew its 'local identity' within two to three years of its foundation in 1990. What distinguished the Society from similar organisations in Ireland at the time was its progressive objectives and its determination to campaign on behalf of its members. The Society joined the [international] Federation of Family History Societies in 1991 and indeed, in the Summer 1992 edition of its Quarterly Journal, actually proposed the establishment of an 'All Ireland Federation of Family History Societies'. Whilst, the federation proposal was rejected by others, matters on the political front later brought the various genealogical organisations on the island of Ireland together—albeit in an ad-hoc grouping. Government plans to relocate the General Register Office in Roscommon Town gave rise to the GRO Users' Group in late 1992 to campaign for the retention of a Public Search Room in Dublin. The Society published the GRO Users' Group proposals in a pamphlet in April 1993 and proactively supported the campaign. Also in 1993 the Society successfully campaigned to have the closure period for census returns reduced from 100 years to 70 years in the Statistics Bill, however, this was reversed at Report Stage and the *Statistics Act, 1993* became law on July 14th 1993. In late 1993 and again in early 1994, the Minister promised to retain a GRO 'research facility' in Dublin. This apparent success by the GRO Users' Group encouraged some of its members to seek to establish a more permanent structure for joint action and at a meeting held in Dún Laoghaire on July 9th 1994, the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) was established. However, two members of the ad-hoc GRO Users' Group (IGRS & IFHS) did not support the establishment of CIGO and refused to join. This Society encouraged CIGO to campaign to have our genealogical heritage covered by the then Heritage Council Bill and this was eventually successfully included in the *Heritage Act, 1995*. During this period the Society's publications and group projects grew, as did its Archive. The Open Meetings were increased to two per month in 1993—morning and evening. In 1996 the next legislative challenge—*National Cultural Institutions Bill*—was a stunningly successful collaboration with Senator Paschal Mooney where this Society achieved twenty-eight amendments to the Bill dealing with the services provided by the National Library, including heraldry. In 1997 the Society's long-running campaign for a premises seemed at an end. *to be continued*

FOUR COURTS PRESS*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more***www.fourcourtspress.ie****Checkout the Sale Items****10% Reduction On-Line****Heraldically Sixty Years Late?**

The 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Ireland and the State's departure from the then British Commonwealth of Nations in April 1949 went unmarked by any official ceremony earlier this year. However, despite all the new arrangements brought about by the 1998 Belfast Agreements that utterly transformed the often fractious relationship between the peoples and nations of this archipelago, it appears that some unfinished heraldic business remains. Although this transformation has been very positive and indeed, excellent political relations now exist between the sovereign governments in London and Dublin, and on the island of Ireland, the enormous problems caused by political symbolism and official nomenclature in the past must be fully appreciated by all concerned. For example, royal, civic or official heraldic symbolism is generally reflective of a claimed position of governance, sovereignty or territorial integrity. Therefore, in Northern Ireland a great deal of effort and thought has successfully created a shared or neutral symbolism for the insignia of the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Northern Ireland Assembly. The political focus over the past two decades has been on the resolution of the northern conflict and rightly so, including the ending of the Republic's territorial claim over the North. Only now in these more enlightened times can some attention be paid to the unresolved heraldic matter between London and Dublin. Independent Ireland adopted the ancient heraldic symbol of Ire-

land—*Azure a Harp Or Stringed Argent* and indeed, nearly two decades later in 1945 it was registered with the Chief Herald of Ireland as the Arms of Ireland. The [British] Royal Arms remained unchanged after Irish independence in 1922 as the King remained constitutionally Ireland's head of state until 1949, however, without any domestic function in Éire after 1936. A point which has cast some doubt over the legality of the functions of Ulster King of Arms between 1936 and 1943. However, a provision of the *Ireland Act, 1949* enacted by the UK Parliament has not been given heraldic expression even after sixty years. Section 1 (1) of that Act states 'It is hereby recognised and declared that the part of Ireland heretofore known as Eire ceased, as from the eighteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and forty-nine, to be part of His Majesty's dominions.' But the [British] Royal Arms still contain the Harp representing dominion or sovereignty over the island of Ireland.

**Northern Ireland Assembly**

A cynic might suggest that such heraldic tardiness smacks of irredentism, however, with the devolution of powers to Stormont almost complete, maybe the time is right to replace the Harp with the above agreed symbol of the Northern Ireland Assembly—a flax plant with six flowers representing the six counties of Northern Ireland. A good neighbourly gesture now by the UK perhaps?

DECEASED MEMBERS

The President, **Mr. Rory Stanley FGSI**, Vice-Presidents, Board and Members of the Society offer their sincere condolences to the families and friends of the following Members of the Society who died recently. **Michael Dorgan** of Dalkey, **Seán Gaynor** of Cabinteely and **Peter Molloy** of Donnybrook all in County Dublin. Seán Gaynor was the architect who offered his services pro bono to the Society on restoration of the Martello Tower at Seapoint in 2003/4. RIP

GSJ JOURNAL

Last month reported on the proposal to upload the Society's journals to the website. There has been a very positive response to this report and, no doubt, volunteers to assist with this project will be required to scan the journals. Remember, this Society has produced journals since 1992 and over the years hundreds of articles on various aspects of Irish genealogy and heraldry have been published. However, copies of these journals are now only available in the copyright libraries, some genealogical libraries around the world and in private collections. This is an important resource that must be made available to a wider readership on-line. Each article will be converted into a pdf file and uploaded individually to the website. Currently the Board is finalising plans to commence this important project.