The second annual IPMAG conference was held at Trinity College, Dublin on February 1-3. The conference kicked off on Friday evening with an informative and well-received keynote speech by Con Manning, followed by a wine reception. On Saturday, ten individual papers were presented which addressed the themes of post-medieval architecture, mortuary studies, agriculture and industry, and military archaeology. Following the papers, IPMAG chairperson Ruairí ÓBaoill led a discussion on the continued promotion of Irish post-medieval archaeology, and thanked the speakers, attendees, and conference sponsors. Saturday evening brought a most enjoyable social hosted by Blooms Hotel, and Sunday included field trips to the Magazine Fort and the Royal Hospital at Kilmainham. Especial thanks are due to Franc Myles, local arrangements chair, for all his hard work, and to the members of the Trinity Archaeology Society for their assistance during the conference.

Proceedings from the inaugural conference of IPMAG are in the process of publication by Wordwell Ltd. Expected publication date is Spring, 2003.

IPMAG now offers membership! All members will receive the IPMAG newsletter, updates regarding developments in post-medieval archaeology and IPMAG activities, advance notice of publications, and are eligible to run for office. Elections will be held at each Annual General Meeting at the time of the annual conference. If...
you wish to become a member, please fill out the enclosed application form. PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU HAVE NOT YET BECOME A MEMBER, THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER! Annual subscriptions are £10 or €16.

Call for papers 2003 IPMAG conference

The 2003 IPMAG conference is due to be held in Belfast, January 31-February 2, 2003. We invite any interested parties to submit paper abstracts, not to exceed 150 words, for consideration. Papers addressing theoretical approaches in post-medieval archaeology as well as papers reflecting interdisciplinary discourse are particularly welcome. Please contact any committee member for further information. To submit an abstract, post or e-mail to Dr. Colm J. Donnelly, School of Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen’s University Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN, c.j.donnelly@qub.ac.uk.

News from other societies

Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology

In April, the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology held a successful conference at the University of Southampton entitled “Cities in the World: 1500-2000.” Thirty papers were presented which investigated the range of new archaeological and historical approaches to the development of large towns and cities. Speakers from Britain, Europe, North America, Africa, and Australia addressed themes including the longevity of medieval cities, questions of modernisation and globalisation, the role of urban places in regional contexts, the nature of industrial cities and planned towns, international interactions and colonial contexts. Specific topics examined included the urban landscape; domestic, institutional, and commercial buildings; material culture studies; social interactions; civic culture; migrations; health; and death. In addition to a wide selection of British cities, other urban settlements addressed by conference participants included New York City; Great Zimbabwe; Boston; Dar-es-Salaam; Jamestown, Virginia; Sydney; Nantes; and Oranjestad, St. Eustatius. Conference proceedings are due to be published as a monograph by the Society in 2003. We look forward to welcoming members of SPMA at the joint SPMA-IPMAG conference planned for 2004.

If you have news from another society that you feel is of interest to the IPMAG membership, please submit the information to IPMAG secretary Dr. Audrey Horning for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Articles

Pieter van den Ancker mug

By Clare McCutcheon

Excavations at Longford Street Little, Dublin (00E137) were carried out by John O’Neill for Margaret Gowen & Co in 2000. A partially-reconstructed Frechen mug was recovered from a slate-based pit (106) to the rear of No. 8 Aungier Street on the western side of the site. The balance of the pottery in the pit consisted of 17th century material, including Westerwald stoneware, tin glazed earthenware and North Devon earthenware, with a small amount of 18th century wares. In addition, there were eleven sherds dating to the 13th century. There may have been some connection with a second pit next door in No. 9 Aungier Street as a sherd of black glazed ware from No. 8 was reassembled with four sherds from No. 9.

This semi-complete vessel is a relatively plain Frechen mug (H.140mm) apart from the stamped medallion showing the mark of Pieter van den Ancker (Fig.1). Van den Ancker is the best known importer of Cologne wares into London in the mid-17th century, and “is also identified on Frechen stonewares applied with his device of an anchor and ‘PVA’ monogram, occasionally dated 1660 or 1661” (Gaimster 1997, 210). Some twenty-six medallions marked with vari-
vious PVA variations have been published, primarily from Frechen itself and also from London (Haselgrove & van Loo 1998). The importation of Frechen wares was already declining in the mid-17th century and “by the time of the Second Anglo-Dutch War of 1665-7 Pieter van den Ancker and others had already ceased importing stonewares to London” (Gaimster 1997, 211). Some Frechen ware continued to be imported into the early 18th century but it was superseded by the development of London stonewares and, by the mid-18th century, the establishment of the green glass bottle industry (ibid). Unlike the situation in England, where stonewares were imported in great quantities during the 17th century, only small numbers of continental and English stonewares were imported into Ireland. A detached medallion, within an encircling decoration, was recovered from the moat at Dublin Castle (Haselgrove & van Loo 1998, 55, C13). The shape of the Longford Street Little vessel is different to any of the twenty-six pieces found to date and secondly, the medallion also differs to those previously found in Ireland. This is the first medallion to have come to light since the publication of the 1998 article (D. Haselgrove pers.comm.)

“At Dublin the duke of Ormonde became Lord

Lieutenant of Ireland, returning there from London to take up residence at Dublin Castle late in 1662, and both he and his son, the earl of Ossory, were later ... among those for whom Pieter wished to obtain wine from Dordrecht in 1673. There may thus be considerable interest in the location of further discoveries” (ibid, 55).

The first Earl of Longford, Francis Aungier, who developed the Aungier Street area in the 1660s, was a friend of the Duke of Ormonde, and this may provide a possible source for this Frechen mug (J. O’Neill pers.comm.). Current excavations at Smithfield have unearthed a large quantity of Frechen wares, again in an area connected with Ormonde development (F. Myles pers.comm.) and the study of these pieces will be of particular interest.


The Building of Belfast:
Archaeological Investigations at Annadale Brickworks.
by Stephen Gilmore

In the 19th century the area between the Ormeau Road and the River Lagan in Belfast, now covered by red brick houses, was the site of a series of brickworks. The most southerly of these was the site of the Annadale Brickworks. After closure in the early 20th century the site was leveled and two schools were built upon it. By the 1990s, the school buildings reached the end of their useful life and the school was relocated. The site is now to be redeveloped as an area of housing. Given the former presence of a major industrial complex, an archaeological investigation to establish the level of survival was deemed essential.

Brickmaking occurred on the site prior to the 1830s but it was only with the opening of James Carolan’s brickfield in the late 1850s that the industry began its expansion. At this stage, the

Figure 1: Pieter van den Ancker mug
process was still small scale, with the dried bricks fired in clamps. By the mid 1880s, however, the brickfield doubled in size to 1.6 hectares. The Annadale Brick Company first appeared as the lessee in 1888 and it was in this period that industrial-scale brickmaking was inaugurated. By 1890, new sheds were erected and a Hoffman Kiln was constructed at a cost of £6500. This kiln structure measured 64 meters in diameter, stood 7 meters high, and was vented by a chimney standing 50 meters in height at its centre. The kiln was circular and divided into chambers, which were fired sequentially. This enabled the continual firing of bricks with the surplus heat in the firing chamber serving to pre-heat the next chamber. A 1902 map shows this structure with its ancillary buildings and the clay pits surrounding the site. The company’s fortunes declined, however, and by 1931 the site was abandoned. The buildings were levelled and a school, Annadale Grammar School, was built upon the site of the kiln and its associated structures.

With the redevelopment of the site, Northern Archaeological Consultancy (NAC) was contracted to oversee the archaeological mitigation. A programme of mechanical test trenching was carried out in the area. Due to the construction methods employed in the building of the school, below ground survival of the brickwork features is excellent. The kiln survives to at least half a metre in height around approximately 50% of its circumference. The ancillary buildings to the west survived, subsurface, to a height of over 3m. A series of brick-built, arched tunnels originally thought to be culverts were found. These now appear to be mechanisms for the transfer of heat and gases as the interiors are heavily coated in soot. An archaeological excavation, with the aim of trying to establish the full extent of survival and the mechanisms by which this kiln functioned, is currently in progress. The sheer scale of the site, coupled with an astonishing level of survival leads us to think that our questions will be answered. It is interesting to note that as I walked the corridors of Annadale Grammar School for seven years little did I know that one day I would be back directing an excavation on the site.

A shadow of the plantation era in a midland village.

By James Lyttleton

It is often commented that the material culture of 16th and 17th century Ireland has long been neglected by archaeologists, and indeed, archaeological research has revealed more about the life-ways of peoples in the Neolithic or Bronze Ages than about those of the early modern period. Furthermore, there is a prevalent belief that the material remains of early modern Ireland are greatly degraded due to the events that accompanied the Tudor and Stuart reigns: wars, rebellions and the subsequent displacement of populations. As a result, post-medieval archaeological remains are perceived as supposedly deficient in comparison to the material culture from other periods.

Figure 2 : View of northern gable of the Ballyroan structure, taken from the north. J. Lyttleton.
This view has unfortunate implications for the proper recognition of early modern remains, as can be seen in the case of Irish streetscapes. Many such streetscapes are ascribed to the 18th and 19th centuries, dismissing the possibility that buildings of an earlier date may lurk behind the Georgian or Victorian facades. Yet buildings of more obvious early modern vintage do indeed turn up on the Irish street. One such example was recently spotted by the author in the Laois village of Ballyroan, 5 km north east of Abbeyleix. This area of the country saw the earliest formal scheme of plantation in the Tudor period. From the 1550s onwards, attempts were made to plant loyal subjects of the Crown into an area once held by one of the chief Gaelic Irish families of Leinster, the O’Mores.

Ballyroan is surrounded by countryside of rich rolling farmland punctuated by wooded hills capable of producing the agricultural surpluses necessary for the construction and upkeep of buildings such as the sizable although as yet undated Ballyroan example. The building has been largely demolished over time largely leaving only the gable ends upstanding. The massive masonry stacks projecting from the north and south gables are typical of the 17th century. Such a date for the building is further suggested by the diagonal shafts located on the northern chimney-stack often found on buildings predating the 1650s.

The bulk of the building has unfortunately been destroyed but an idea of its former scale can be gauged from the extant remains. The north gable is integrated with a subsequent rebuilding although it has not been possible to assess the degree to which any additional early modern fabric survives in the more recent construction. The building has external dimensions of c.24m in length and 7.4m in width. The house originally was two stories high with an attic and an above-ground basement. Unlike the northern gable, which is masked by the later building, the southern gable exhibits evidence of brick-lined fireplaces and floor supports. It is intriguing that we see the use of brick in the constructional details of the house. The use of brick in Ireland was mostly confined to coastal areas and tends to be of a later date than the plantation era. This sense of exoticism is further reinforced by the brick shaft on top of the southern chimney stack (which presumably replaced the original diagonal shafts as still existing at the northern gable). This use
of brick likely represents a later alteration of the building.

It is of interest to note that the original façade is set back from the modern street indicating either that the line of the road has changed or that there was a courtyard or garden in front of the house. This arrangement is seen in other early houses of late 17th or early 18th-century date; for example, Tullow Street in Carlow town or the Red House in Youghal, County Cork. Ballyroan is just one example of an overlooked early modern site that can provide important insights into the material culture of 16th and 17th century Ireland. The shadows of the plantation period lie across the landscape for the light of enquiry to be thrown upon them!

The Achill Archaeological Field School at the Deserted Village of Slievemore
By Theresa McDonald

The Achill Archaeological Field School was founded in 1991 as a training school for students of Archaeology, Anthropology and related disciplines. Funding for the project is provided by student fees and sponsorship by Mayo County Council.

The site chosen for study was the Post-Medieval Deserted Village of Slievemore about which little was known, despite the fact that it had been occupied and deserted within the past 150 years.

The Research Design for the Project had as its objective:

To establish the date of origin of the village and the reason/s for its desertion; chart the chronology of the village via the material remains; investigate social and economic change during the period of occupation via landscape studies, house architecture & village layout, artefactual remains and information obtained via excavation.

To date, an archive containing plans & elevations of 84 extant houses (out of an original 135) has been compiled, together with a database of internal and external features which provide a wealth of information on building techniques, abandonment and reoccupation. Documentary sources provided information on the later period of occupation of the village and eventual abandonment in the immediate post-famine period. The ceramic evidence indicates occupation from c. 1750 to c. 1865, together with the transhumance or ‘booley’ phase, which continued until 1940, making Achill the last place where this practice was recorded. The discovery of a souterrain in 1998 and a radiocarbon date from that site indicate Early Medieval occupation at Slievemore, reinforced by cross slabs, and a Holy Well dedicated to St. Colmán at a nearby graveyard. The place name Slievemore, pronounced locally as ‘Slewmore’ may suggest a link with Northern Britain and Scotland where this name is common.

A preliminary study of the field systems indicate several periods of landscape activity and these are currently being recorded via a topographic survey. Geophysical surveys in the village indicate a number of subsurface features which are currently being excavated. In 2001, Exeter University commenced a 3-year environmental study of the post-glacial history of Achill Island, the results of which will be published in due course.

The Achill Archaeological Field School continues to grow and in 2002 over 30 students and volunteers from many different countries will participate in the excavations and surveys at the Deserted Village over a 12 week period. Academic Credit to overseas students is provided by NUI-Galway. Weekly and Weekend Courses are also available, details of which are posted on our web site at: achill-fieldschool.com

For more information, please contact:

Theresa McDonald
Achill Archaeological Field School
Achill Folklife Centre
Dooagh
Achill Island
Co. Mayo
Tel/Fax: +353 98 43564
e-mail: achill-fieldschool@iol.ie
The committee for the Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group consists of:

R. ÓBaoill, chair; J. O’Neill, treasurer; Dr. A. Horning, secretary; L. Canning, R. Clutterbuck, Dr. C. Donnelly, L. Dunne, D. Hurl, J. Lyttleton, T. MacErlane, F. Myles, M. Sleeman, and K. Wiggins.

To submit an article for the IPMAG Newsletter, please contact secretary Dr. A. Horning at a.horning@qub.ac.uk. For information regarding the general aims of IPMAG, please contact chair R. ÓBaoill at r.oboill@ntlworld.com. IPMAG is a registered charity.