2003 IPMAG conference held in Belfast
The third annual IPMAG conference was held in the Ulster Museum, Belfast, January 31st-February 1st. Nine papers were presented spanning a range of topics including industrial archaeology in Northern Ireland, late medieval tower houses, urban archaeology in Dublin, rural settlement in County Donegal, twentieth-century defence heritage, the importance of theory in contemporary historical archaeology, and ongoing field projects on Achill Island and on the Isle of Man. Delegates enjoyed a reception hosted by the Ulster Museum, and celebrated IPMAG’s third successful conference. In addition, Wes Forsythe of the Centre for Maritime Archaeology, University of Ulster, and Tracy Collins of Aegis Archaeology Limited were welcomed as new IPMAG Committee members.

Ireland and Britain in the Atlantic World: 2004 IPMAG/SPMA conference
Announcing the 2004 joint Irish Post-Medieval Archaeology Group and Society for Post Medieval Archaeology conference, 
*Ireland and Britain in the Atlantic World*, to be held in the Tower Hotel, Derry, February 5-8, with support from the University of Ulster. Please plan to attend! Conference fee is £30 or €40; with a 50% concession for students, OAPS, unwaged, and members of IPMAG and SPMA (be sure to renew your membership!). Membership enquiries and conference bookings should be sent to James O’Neill, Environment and Heritage Service, 5-33 Hill Street, Belfast BT1 2LA (james.oneill@doeni.gov.uk [0044/0 2890 543031]). For further conference information, contact IPMAG chair, Ruairí ÓBaoill (robaoill@ntlworld.com) or committee member Wes Forsythe at w.forsythe@ulster.ac.uk.
Call for papers, 2004 conference
The conference will explore the historic linkages between Ireland and Britain, and the place of both islands in the wider Atlantic world of the colonial and post-colonial periods. While the socio-economic and political relationships between Ireland and Britain over the last 500 years are complex, often contradictory, and clearly still contested, the two islands exhibit a common material heritage and a shared if conflicted experience in the broader Atlantic world (and beyond) that necessitates a global approach to archaeological interpretation. The conference celebrates the growing awareness of Ireland’s Post-Medieval archaeological heritage and encourages international participation. While a broad range of paper topics will be considered for inclusion on the final programme, all proposals should in some way address the relationships between Ireland and Britain, ideally considered in the context of European expansion throughout the Atlantic world.

If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference, please send an abstract of circa 150 words AND a brief biography of yourself to Dr. Audrey Horning (ajhorn@wm.edu) Department of Anthropology, College of William and Mary, PO Box 8795, Williamsburg VA USA or to Wes Forsythe (w.forsythe@ulster.ac.uk), Centre for Maritime Archaeology, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Cromore Road, Co. L’Derry, Northern Ireland. DEADLINE for paper proposals is October 3rd. The committee will meet October 4th to set the schedule.

IPMAG on the Internet!!
IPMAG will soon have its own website! Stay tuned for further details. Content for the website may be sent to the IPMAG secretary at ajhorn@wm.edu. For further information contact web site monitor Wes Forsythe (w.forsythe@ulster.ac.uk) or chair Ruairí ÓBaoill (r.obaoill@ntlworld.com).

Call for research on “Buckley” ware
Anyone who has ever excavated an eighteenth-century site will be familiar with that black lead-glazed earthenware with the seemingly-telltale layers of pink and yellow-firing clays...generically termed Buckley, much of this ware likely was not produced in the Buckley district of North Wales. In how many different potteries was it produced? Was it made in Ireland or entirely imported? Anyone searching for a very useful research topic (PhD thesis?) in Post Medieval Irish archaeology- look no further. If you are interested in examining a sizable collection of black lead-glazed earthenwares, please contact Theresa MacDonald of the Achill Archaeological Field School (achill-fieldschool@iol.ie).

Excavations at Waring Street, Belfast
By Ruairí ÓBaoill
An excavation was carried out by the writer, on behalf of Archaeological Development Services Ltd., from 16th September 2002- 25th January 2003 at Nos. 26- 28 Waring Street, Belfast. The site was located at the corner of Hill Street and Waring Street, within the historic core of the Town, and covered an area of 400m2. It is the largest open-area excavation carried out in Belfast to date. The work was carried out in advance of the construction of a basemented bar. It was hoped that the excavation might uncover physical evidence of the documented, if unlocated, Belfast Potthouse. This building, Belfast’s earliest pottery, was in operation c.1697-1725 and produced high quality tin-glazed earthenware.

Waring Street lies within the core of the historic town of Belfast. It is shown as one of the few streets portrayed on the earliest reliable map of Belfast, that of Thomas Phillips which dates to 1685. Professional archaeology came late to Belfast, in comparison to other Irish or British towns, with the first excavation carried out in 1983. Since then there have been perhaps a dozen investigations within the historic seventeenth-century core of the town- including two at Gordon Street and four on Waring Street, all leading to a better understanding of life in Belfast at this period. This most recent excavation found no evidence of Belfast’s Medieval origins. However, significant seventeenth-century activity in the form of property boundaries, drainage gullies and pits were uncovered on the site, predating the construction in brick and stone of a terrace of late seventeenth-century buildings which fronted onto Waring Street. These are tentatively identified as the Potthouse tenements, where the pottery workers lived. They are the oldest buildings excavated to date in Bel-
fast. No clear architectural evidence of the Potthouse itself was uncovered during the excavation, suggesting that the remains of the pottery buildings lie further up Hill Street or, perhaps, under the nearby Cotton Court building. The mid- to late eighteenth-century masonry remains found further back from the Waring Street frontage have been tentatively interpreted as that of a small foundry.

Many thousands of artefacts were retrieved from the excavation including glass, metal, clay pipe, coins and animal bone. Ceramic types recovered included 17th-18th century North-Devon and Staffordshire wares; delftware pottery and much kiln furniture from the Belfast Potthouse, along with large amounts of locally produced earthenwares; delftwares from London and possibly other English centres; decorated floor and wall tiles; Palissy-type and Saintonge wares from France; Werra, Westerwald and German stonewares and Dutch slipwares.

Perhaps the most significant discovery from the excavation is that well-stratified archaeological horizons and masonry remains survive from at least the seventeenth-century in this part of Belfast, despite centuries of continuous building. This gives hope that they also survive elsewhere in Belfast’s historic core.

**Nuremberg Jetton at Smithfield**

By Aoife Doherty

The most recent phase of excavations at Smithfield, Dublin 7, have unearthed a noteworthy find. During the removal of a sod layer (F864), which extended across the site’s entirety, a brass casting counter or jetton was recovered. The sod in this instance represents a ground surface in existence prior to the construction of the first buildings in 1664.

Jettons are often, and not too surprisingly, mistaken for coins; both are thin, flat and disc-shaped and the material construction is of metal (although admittedly jettons are rarely of gold or silver). Many jettons are in addition replications of the coins of their period. Van Beek (1986) makes the point that it was never the intention to employ jettons as coins. The literature clearly explains that they functioned primarily as calculation or mathematical devices based upon a principle similar to that of the abacus, the bead frame being replaced by a counter. Their original role became modified over time and they were utilised as
gaming pieces, commemorative medals and for trading. Noël Hume (1969) mentions that native Americans also used them for decorative purposes e.g. on necklaces.

The Smithfield counter measures 28mm in diameter and is 3mm in thickness. The type on the obverse is that of a winged lion which is surrounded by a legend that reads: S.Marcus.Evangelist.Gott. The reverse bears a cross upon an imperial orb and the legend Hans.Krauwinckel.Nvrenber: Hans Krauwinckel being the Rechenspfennigschlager, the manufacturer of the jetton, and Nuremberg, its place of coinage. Many similar counters have been recorded at excavations at Jamestown, Virginia.

The concept of the jetton originated in Northern Italy and France in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries and had spread to Germany by the end of the fourteenth. The Krauwinckel Family were one of the most prominent families associated with the production of counters in Nuremberg, Hans Krauwinckel being active during the second half of the sixteenth century. Other distinguished families at the time included the Schultes and the Lauffers. It is worth mentioning at this point that a gold coin from 1653, bearing the portrait of Louis XIV on the obverse and the name of its manufacturer in the legend on the reverse, was also found during the third phase of excavation in Smithfield. The coin was minted by Wolf Lauffer.

Peter Seaby (1970) argues that although foreign gold coins were in circulation in Ireland during the fifteenth century, it was not until the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that both silver and gold coins were in large-scale distribution here for trading purposes. If the same were true of jettons then we have some indication of the date of arrival for both coin and jetton from Nuremberg to Ireland. Given that Smithfield was a market area from the late medieval period, it is reasonably safe to assume that the jetton was used here in trade.

References

Stradbally North: A Post-Medieval burial ground at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick
by Frank Coyne and Linda Lynch

Introduction
In March 2003 a small cemetery was excavated by Frank Coyne of Aegis Archaeology Limited in the townland of Stradbally North, in the village of Castleconnell, County Limerick, in advance of a housing development. Osteo-archaeological analysis was performed by Linda Lynch. The site is situated in an elevated portion of a green field, and is bounded by a public road on the north and west; on the east by a stream; and on the south by an open field and a modern dwelling. A bedrock outcrop located in the southwest quadrant forms the highest portion of the site. From here the ground level falls to the north, east, and south so that the northern and eastern halves of the site consist of low-lying marshy land. Local information revealed that this area of the site was prone to frequent flooding. Prior to the construction of the hydro-electrical power station at Ardnacrusha in 1929, which lowered river levels around Castleconnell, the northern and eastern areas of the site may have been permanently inundated.

In 1974, the articulated partial remains of a human skeleton were unearthed during the excavation of a sewer trench running north-west/south-east across the site. The remains, which were interred in a west/east orientation, were inspected by Dr. Elizabeth Shee. The loose bones were retrieved and sent on to the National Museum of Ireland, while the articulated remains were left in situ. Scattered disarticulated remains were noted in the surrounding spoil, and the bowl of a clay pipe was recovered (Shee 1974). The site was not developed in the intervening years between 1974 and the next phase of archaeological assessment undertaken by Brian Hodkinson in 1990 prior to a proposed development. At that time, three trenches were excavated in the southwestern area of the site; one to the west of the 1974 sewer trench, and two to the east. In the second trench immediately to the east of the sewer line, an articulated skeletal human adult inhumation was uncovered (Hodkinson 1990). This burial, which was left in situ, was located close to and to the north of the initial human skeletal remains
recorded in 1974. The site remained undeveloped and undisturbed until the excavation carried out by Aegis Archaeology Limited in 2003.

**Historical background**

The name of the parish, Stradbally, comes from the Irish *Sraid-Bhaile* or street town. The Annals record a second name for the place, *Caislean Ui Chonnaig*, which later changed to *Caislean Ui Chonaill*, thought to mean O’Connell’s Castle, although O’Donovan states that no one of that name ever possessed the castle (1840). The parish is thus known as Stradbally or Castleconnell. The castle at Castleconnell is situated at the south end of the town in the townland of Coolbaun. Tradition suggests that this castle was built by the O’Briens in AD1201 but was destroyed in AD1691 by General Ginkle. There was also a church of Stradbally at Castle Connell. Castleconnell village itself was a popular spa in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (Lewis 1837, 293). The townland of Stradbally North has no specific history recorded and is only mentioned in the context of its parish of Stradbally. The road immediately to the west of the present
site is known as Chapel Hill, while tradition holds that a church had previously existed at the site of the Old School House immediately to the northwest of the site. Local traditions associated the area of excavation with a famine plot, an ascription likely based only upon the occasional discovery of bones at this location.

The excavation
This site was excavated over a period of two weeks in March/April 2003. A total of ten grave cuts were identified, and a considerable quantity of disarticulated bone was also recovered. The bones all lay under an average of 0.50m of topsoil, with no inter-cutting of the graves, and no trace of any structures on site. At least 13 individuals including men, women, and children are represented in the assemblage, with no evidence of trauma noted on initial inspection of the bones. The unexcavated area to the southwest of the site may contain more burials on the level area between the limestone hill and the flood plain of the nearby river. The burials are all aligned northwest to southeast, although the orientation of the head varies, and the grave cuts are just large enough to accommodate the burial. Did the presence of building such as a church prompt the choice of alignment?

In general the skeletons recovered from Stradbally North are in a good state of preservation although there is some fragmentation of the bones. Preliminary analysis of the recovered ten articulated skeletons identified three female adults, six male adults, and a juvenile of undetermined sex aged 12-14 years at the time of death. The age profile of the adults is noteworthy. The age-at-death of one female and four males was 18-25 years, one female and two males were aged 25-35 years, while the remaining female adult was aged between 25 years and 45 years at the time of death. This suggests a bias towards the burial of young adult males. Although the sample size is small, the demographic profile is certainly not indicative of a typical consecrated burial ground. Detailed analysis is yet to be undertaken on the skeletal remains, however, it was noted that one of the young adult males suffered a fracture to the distal diaphysis of the right femur (the thigh bone). While the edges of the fracture lines are clean and unhealed there is evidence of inflammation in the immediate area. This indicates that the injury was received close to the time of death. Spinal disease - initially indicated by curvature of the vertebral column during excavation - was also observed on a female adult. No other prominent pathological lesions were observed during the preliminary analysis.

At least two of the skeletons exhibited green discolouration of the bones, indicating the presence of copper alloy artefacts in the graves. One female, aged between 25-35 years, displayed discolouration at the lateral end of the left clavicle (near the left shoulder), although no artefact was recovered from this burial, while a male aged be-
tween 30-34 years had a patch of discolouration on the inferior posterior acetabulum (behind the left hip). In the case of the male skeleton, three copper alloy buckles with leather attached and one iron buckle were recovered from the fill of the grave cut, and are currently undergoing conservation. They may be part of a military uniform. The bowl of a clay pipe was also recovered from the same grave. The pipe bears a makers mark “WC” and is of a form common to the latter half of the seventeenth century. No artefacts were recovered from any of the other burials, despite the contents of each grave being sieved.

All the individuals were buried in supine and extended position. At least one individual appears to have been tightly wrapped in a winding sheet, based on the constricted appearance of the skeleton in situ, while the others appear to have been buried in shrouds that have been secured at the head and feet. The skeletons of four of the individuals were very noticeably splayed in their respective graves suggesting that binding was not used on the corpse prior to burial. The arms and/or heads of four of the individuals (one unshrouded, three shrouded) were strongly orientated to the right side of the body, which may suggest that these individuals were quite abruptly cast into their grave from the right side. Some of the skeletons were clearly buried in haste, as they appear to have literally have been tipped into grave cuts barely big enough to accommodate them, while one skeleton was simply tipped backwards into a cut, with the knees still flexed.

Conclusions
It has been suggested that these individuals died and were hastily interred in connection with the assault by Williamite leader General Ginkel, who blew up the nearby castle at Castleconnell in September of 1691. This may account for some of the skeletons. However, some clues to the origin of this cemetery may also lie in the immediate environs of the site. The road just to the west of the present site is known as Chapel Hill, and according to local information, a church previously existed at the site of the Old School House immediately to the northwest of the site. The tradition of a chapel under the old school house may have some currency, given the alignment of the burials. The tradition of a famine plot at this location may be the result of folk memory of a burial ground, coupled with the occasional discovery of bones. While the use of the site for famine burials cannot be ruled out, it is unlikely that the interments would follow the alignment of the burials from the 17th century which are aligned exactly east-west. Furthermore, surface finds including an early 15th century silver penny and a bronze mount with gold gilt of probable medieval date may suggest that this site was used as a burial ground in the later medieval period. Radiocarbon dating will be used to try to establish a sequence of dating of the burials on the site, as no detailed stratigraphy was encountered.

At this stage it can be tentatively suggested that this site at Stradbally North, Castleconnell, may be associated with a medieval church, which stood in the immediate vicinity, as the artefactual evidence appears to suggest burials and activity in the area from at least the fifteenth century into the seventeenth century. The lack of trauma on the bones does appear to rule out the fact that all of these skeletons were the result of injuries sustained during the attack on the castle at Castleconnell in 1691.

It may yet prove that the burials can be ascribed to both the medieval and post-medieval periods, so we await the results of the radiocarbon dating and artefactual analysis to help unravel this enigmatic burial site at Castleconnell.

References
O’Donovan, J. 1840 OS Namebooks for County Limerick, 3 vols. Bray

Please send all contributions for the IPMAG Newsletter to the secretary, Dr. Audrey Horning, at ajhorn@wm.edu, or Department of Anthropology, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg Virginia 23187-8795, USA.

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