

INTRODUCTION

This year's edition of *Chimera*, in keeping with the pattern established by the previous issues, reflects the very diverse nature of Geography. In so doing, it suggests new areas of overlap between Geography and other disciplines. An inter-disciplinary approach to research problems is probably most likely to reveal exciting and stimulating findings and to suggest new and more probing questions. Staying within the perceived confines of the discipline of Geography for its own sake is not, as Sauer would probably argue, the most appropriate means of solving research problems. "When a subject is ruled, not by inquisitiveness but by definition of its boundaries, it is likely to face extinction" (Sauer, 1963). The papers contained in this journal explore topics of both historical and contemporary interest.

Raymond O'Connor and Bríd Ní Chionnfhaolaidh examine the world-view perpetuated by the British tabloid press. This particular paper is an example of cross-disciplinary research. Raymond is an M.A. student in Geography and Bríd a Sociology graduate. Paul Ryan, an M.A. student, presents some preliminary research findings on aspects of socio-economic change in Kinsale in the period 1901-1911. Aileen Murphy, a Geography graduate and H.D.E. student describes the origin, nature and spread of Dutch Elm Disease and assesses its impact on three study areas in Cork City. The degree of re-integration of return migrants in a South Tipperary parish is investigated by David Fogarty, also a Geography graduate and H.D.E. student. Formal and informal links between returnees and local residents are examined. Another Geography graduate and H.D.E. student, Anne Cronin, further develops the migration theme with a comparison of selected aspects of housing among in-migrants and locals in a rural area close to Mallow, Co. Cork. This paper demonstrates just one of the potential uses to geographers of Small Area Census data. The subject of soccer and its development and diffusion in Co. Limerick is tackled by Patrick Coleman, a second year undergraduate. The manner in which both soccer and Gaelic games foster a sense of place is also explored. David Storey presents a brief critique of Irish regional policy, focusing in particular on the principle of spatial designation. M.A. student Kieran Hickey's paper is an imaginative attempt to apply cartographic principles to maps in fantasy novels.

Out-going Auditor Michael Nagle provides a summary of the Geographical Society's activities for the academic year to date. Finally, the summary of recently completed research and current research interests among students in the department is further evidence of the very diverse interests catered for within Geography.

The production of this journal was very much the result of team effort. There were times during the past few months when its completion seemed well nigh impossible. The guidance and encouragement provided by staff and postgraduates in the department served to spur on a sometimes despondent Editor. Prof. Smyth, Pat O'Flanagan and Jim MacLaughlin are among those deserving of thanks in this regard. The members of the Editorial Committee are to be applauded for their assistance in all aspects of editing and production. In addition, sincere thanks are due to Connell Foley, who, among many other tasks, designed the cover. Among the postgraduates who assisted with proof-reading and cartography, there are those deserving of special mention; Catherine Ketch, Raymond O'Connor, Majella Flynn, Kathleen Curtin and Michael Healy. The practical assistance of Michael Murphy and Dan Murphy is greatly appreciated. Anne Phelan spent many long hours typing the finished product. Thank you to the sponsors for their financial support. Last, but by no means least, thanks are due to the contributors for making the ideal a reality.

David Storey
Editor

REFERENCE

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