

Geographical Society - Auditor's Report

Dr. John Feehan, whose work has featured on R.T.E. television, was the society's first guest speaker in October 1990. His presentation was preceded by a first year cheese and wine reception. Dr. Feehan's talk on "Irish Heritage", illustrated with some very effective slides, was well received.

November saw the arrival of Dr. Arnold Horner from U.C.D. Geography Department. He spoke on "Mapping the Population of Ireland". Dr. Horner's impressive collection of maps were an additional highlight of a fascinating lecture. This was a joint Geography Department / Geographical Society event.

In December, the department, Geographical Society and Archaeological Society got together for the visit of Dr. Ian Morrison from Edinburgh University. Informed sources had warned us to expect something different and the capacity attendance was not to be disappointed. Dr. Morrison has a quite unique style of lecturing, illustrating his talks with a Chinese type shadow puppet show. In between the laughter he took us on early boat journeys of exploration from North Africa to Ireland, Ireland to Iceland, Iceland to Scandinavia and back again. We even had a sea-sick Barbary Ape !

The society was host to film maker/director and writer Bob Quinn in January. He spoke on "Atlantean", a series he made for R.T.E. in 1985. Some very interesting theories on North African and Middle Eastern influences on early Irish culture were presented. This talk was illustrated with a short video clip from the original series. At the time of writing there remain two guest speakers scheduled to address the society. Dr. Jim Walsh from Maynooth College will present a paper in February. His topic will be "The Mechanisation of Irish Agriculture". Our final speaker, due in March, is Richard Tobin, a planner with Limerick Corporation. He will discuss the use of G.I.S. in co-ordinating emergency and other services in the Mid-Western region.

One of the main goals of the society for 1990-91 was to increase audience numbers for guest lecturers. This goal has been effectively achieved. At times the Fahy Room has been full to overflowing. It is encouraging to see so many first year students present on these occasions. It is hoped that this trend will continue.

This year's Geography Ball was a great success by general agreement. The many first years, and others, who gave freely of their time designing posters and publicising the event deserve generous praise.

The society is pleased to see Chimera '91 continuing the line of successful U.C.C. geography journal issues and is pleased to be in a position to contribute materially to its production.

Edward O'Riordan,
Geographical Society Auditor.