

Fourth biennial report
(fiftieth and fifty-first years)
of the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences
June 1987 — May 1989

1. The biennial general Conference of Irish Historians was held on 16 May 1987 at University College, Galway.
2. The third biennial report of the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences (for forty-eighth and forty-ninth years) and the minutes of the previous conference were approved and signed.
3. The Irish Committee of Historical Sciences for 1987-9 was constituted as follows: Dr Ciaran Brady, Professor Kevin B. Nowlan and Dr W.E. Vaughan (representing the Irish Historical Society); Professor David Harkness, Dr Eamon Phoenix and Dr Brian Walker (representing the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies); Dr Mary Daly, Dr Colm Lennon and Mr Trevor Parkhill (representing the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland); Dr Tom Dunne, Dr Keith Jeffery and Professor Donald McCartney (representing the Conference of Irish Historians); Professor Nicholas Canary, Professor Ronan Fanning, Dr John Horne, Rev. Professor Donald Kerr and Professor Gearóid Mac Niocaill (co-opted). Miss Bernadette Cunningham replaced Dr Daly in February 1989.
4. The officers elected by the committee were: Dr Tom Dunne, chairman; Professor Ronan Fanning, deputy chairman; Dr Keith Jeffery, secretary; Dr Mary Daly, treasurer. Dr Colm Lennon replaced Dr Daly in May 1988.
5. Ten meetings of the committee were held during the two years. Attendance was as follows (with number of meetings for which members were eligible given in brackets): Dr Brady, 10 (10); Professor Canny, 2 (10); Miss Cunningham, 3 (3); Dr Daly, 5 (5); Dr Dunne, 10 (10); Professor Fanning, 5 (10); Professor Harkness, 4 (10); Dr Horne, 6 (10); Dr Jeffery, 10 (10); Professor Kerr, 6 (10); Dr Lennon, 5 (10); Professor Mac Niocaill, 0 (10); Professor McCartney, 2 (10); Professor Nowlan, 2 (10); Mr Parkhill, 0 (10); Dr Phoenix, 0 (10); Dr Vaughan, 4 (10); Dr Walker, 4 (10).
6. Regular communication was maintained with the Comité International des Sciences Historiques, especially concerning preparations for the seventeenth International History Congress, to be held at Madrid, 26 August–2 September 1990. Dr Jeffery represented the committee at the C.I.S.H. general assembly in Athens, 24–6 September 1987.
7. The bibliographical committee prepared *Writings on Irish History, 1985* (compiled by Clara Cullen and Monica Henchy, and edited by Clara Cullen), which was distributed as a printed supplement to *Irish Historical Studies*.
8. The second volume of the new (third) series of *Studies in Irish History, Ireland and the death of kindness: the experience of constructive unionism 1890-1905*, by Andrew Gailey, was published in 1987 by Cork University Press in association with the committee. The committee is grateful to the Queen's University of Belfast for a subvention towards the costs of this publication, and to Cork University Press for also bearing a share of these costs. Volume iii in the series, *The Gaelic mind and the collapse of the Gaelic world*, by Michelle O'Riordan, is in the press.
9. The eighteenth Irish Conference of Historians was held at University College, Galway, 14–16 May 1987, with the theme 'Rulers, élites and political authority'. The proceedings of the conference, edited by Professor Gearóid Mac Niocaill, are in preparation.
10. The programme for the nineteenth Irish Conference of Historians, to be held at Trinity College, Dublin, 8–10 June 1989, was decided. The conference theme will be 'Historians, politics and ideology' and the organiser Dr Ciaran Brady.
11. A revised edition of *The register of historians working in Ireland* was published in September 1987.
12. Regular communication was maintained with the Royal Irish Academy, in particular regarding historical research projects sponsored by the European Science Foundation and the planned Dictionary of Irish Biography. The academy also generously accepted the committee's proposal of Professor John Lukacs, Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, to deliver a discourse during the June 1989 conference.
13. The Irish Historical Society held a full programme of lectures and organised two symposia: 'The medieval economy' in May 1988, and 'Women's history in Ireland' in May 1989.
14. The Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies held a full programme of lectures, sponsored a conference on 'Women in Irish history' in June 1988, and organised two symposia: 'An agenda for Ulster history' in October 1987, and 'The Glorious Revolution, 1688' in November 1988.
15. The Economic and Social History Society of Ireland held its 1987 annual conference in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, and its 1988 annual conference in the University of Ulster at Coleraine. The proceedings of a one-day conference held in Queen's University, Belfast, in April 1987, were published in May 1989 under the title *Famine: the Irish experience, 900-1900*, edited by Dr Margaret Crawford.
16. The committee granted modest subventions to the Irish Historical Society and to *Retrospect*, the journal of the Irish History Students' Association.
17. The committee is grateful to the Irish government for continued financial support, though it regrets that economic circumstances have obliged the government to cut its grant by half. It is also grateful to the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies for bearing a share of the travel expenses of committee members.
18. The committee wishes to express its thanks to Mr Pearse Colbert for his services as honorary auditor.

KEITH JEFFERY

Secretary

20 May 1989