

Fifth biennial report (fifty-second and fifty-third years) of the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences June 1989 – May 1991

1. The biennial general Conference of Irish Historians was held on 10 June 1989 at Trinity College, Dublin.
2. The fourth biennial report of the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences (for fiftieth and fifty-first years) and the minutes of the previous conference were approved and signed.
3. The Irish Committee of Historical Sciences for 1989–91 was constituted as follows: Dr. W. E. Vaughan, Dr Ciaran Brady and Professor Kevin B. Nowlan (representing the Irish Historical Society); Professor David Harkness, Dr Eamon Phoenix and Dr Brian Walker (representing the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies); Ms Bernadette Cunningham, Dr Vivienne Pollock and Mr Trevor Parkhill (representing the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland); Professor Roman Fanning, Dr Keith Jeffery and Dr Colin Lennon (representing the Conference of Irish Historians); Professor Nicholas Canny, Professor T. G. Fraser, Dr John Horne, Dr John O'Brien and Dr Eunan O'Halpin (co-opted). Dr Mary O'Dowd replaced Dr Walker in January 1991, and Mr John McHugh replaced Mr Parkhill in April 1991.
4. The officers elected by the committee were: Professor Roman Fanning, chairman; Professor Nicholas Canny, deputy chairman; Dr Keith Jeffery, secretary; Dr Colin Lennon, treasurer.
5. Eight 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, 6 (8); Professor Canny, 3 (8); Ms Cunningham, 7 (8); Professor Fanning, 8 (8); Professor Fraser, 3 (8); Professor Harkness, 2 (8); Dr Horne, 3 (8); Dr Jeffery, 8 (8); Dr Lennon, 8 (8); Mr McHugh, 1 (1); Professor Nowlan, 0 (8); Dr O'Brien, 2 (6); Dr O'Dowd, 2 (2); Dr O'Halpin, 6 (7); Mr Parkhill, 0 (7); Dr Phoenix, 0 (8); Dr Pollock, 4 (8); Dr Vaughan, 5 (8); Dr Walker, 0 (6).
6. Regular communication was maintained with the Comité International des Sciences Historiques. The I.C.H.S. delegates to the International Committee meetings held during the seventeenth International History Congress, at Madrid, 26 August – 2 September 1990, were Dr Jeffery and Dr Lennon. Irish historians were very well represented at the congress itself. Two Round Tables — on 'Historians, politics and ideology' and 'Recent research on the history of intelligence services in the 20th century' — were organised and chaired by members of the I.C.H.S. Three Irish proposals for papers at major congress sessions were accepted, and Irish historians also participated actively in other sessions and round tables. It was decided at Madrid that the next congress (1995) should be held in Montreal.

7. The bibliographical committee prepared *Writings on Irish history, 1986* (Dublin, 1990) and *Writings on Irish history, 1987* (Dublin, 1991) (both compiled by Clara Cullen and Monica Henchy, and edited by Clara Cullen). These were published in association with the *New History of Ireland* and distributed as printed supplements to *Irish Historical Studies*.

8. The third volume of the new (third) series of *Studies in Irish History, The Gaelic mind and the collapse of the Gaelic world*, by Michelle O'Riordan, was published by Cork University Press in 1991. The committee is grateful to Cork University Press and the senate of the National University of Ireland for bearing a share of the cost of publication.

9. The nineteenth Irish Conference of Historians was held at Trinity College, Dublin, 8–10 June 1989, with the theme 'Historians, politics and ideology'. The proceedings of the conference, edited by Dr Ciaran Brady, are shortly to be published as *Ideology and the historians: Historical Studies XVIII* by the Lilliput Press, Dublin.

10. The programme for the twentieth Irish Conference of Historians, to be held at Magee College, University of Ulster, 6–8 June 1991, was decided. The conference theme will be 'War, politics and society' and the organisers Professor T. G. Fraser and Dr Keith Jeffery.

11. 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. A seminar in the E.S.F. Network on the 'Expansion of Europe' was hosted by the R.I.A. in Dublin in June 1990.

12. The Irish Historical Society held a full programme of lectures and organised a symposium on 'The Parnellite split' in October 1990.

13. The Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies held a full programme of lectures, contributed towards the costs of the first annual conference of the Irish Association for Research in Women's History in September 1989, and organised two symposia: 'Revisionism in Irish history' in October 1989, and 'Ireland in a European context' in October 1990.

14. The Economic and Social History Society of Ireland held its 1989 annual conference at the Queen's University of Belfast and its 1990 annual conference at Trinity College, Dublin.

15. The committee granted modest subventions to the Irish Historical Society and to *Retrospect*, the journal of the Irish History Students' Association.

16. The committee is grateful to the Irish government for continued financial support. It is also grateful to the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies for bearing a share of the travel expenses of committee members.

17. The committee wishes to express its thanks to Mr Pearse Colbert for his services as honorary auditor.

4 June 1991

KEITH JEFFERY
Secretary