

Ninth biennial report (sixtieth and sixty-first years) of the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences May 1997 – May 1999

1. The biennial general Conference of Irish Historians was held on 17 May 1997 at St Patrick's College Maynooth.
2. The eighth biennial report of the Irish Committee of Historical Sciences, the minutes of the previous conference and the treasurer's report were approved and signed.
3. The Irish Committee of Historical Sciences for 1997–9 was constituted as follows: Dr James Kelly, Professor Seymour Phillips, Ms Sarah Ward-Perkins (Irish Historical Society); Dr Mary O'Dowd, Dr Eoin Magennis, Dr Margaret Crawford (Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies); Dr David Craig, Dr John Logan, Dr Desmond McCabe (Economic and Social History Society of Ireland); Professor Nicholas Canny, Dr Colm Lennon, Dr John O'Brien (Conference of Irish Historians); Dr Ciaran Brady, Dr Judith Devlin, Dr Jacqueline Hill, Professor Eunan O'Halpin (co-opted).
4. The committee elected Dr O'Dowd as chairperson and Dr Devlin as treasurer. The position of secretary remained unfilled until the election of Dr Logan at a committee meeting on 28 June 1997.
5. Dr Hiram Morgan was co-opted to the committee on 28 June 1997. In February 1998 Ms Margaret Ó hÓgartaigh was nominated by the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland in the place of Dr McCabe. In February 1998 Dr Janice Holmes was nominated by the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies in the place of Dr Crawford. In 1999 Dr Niall Ó Ciosáin was nominated by the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland in the place of Dr Craig.
6. The committee noted with deep regret the death of Dr O'Brien on 1 March 1999.
7. Seven meetings of the committee were held as follows: 28 June 1997, 11 November 1997, 13 December 1997, 14 February 1998, 18 April 1998, 24 October 1998, 20 March 1999. Attendance was as follows (with numbers for which members were eligible in brackets): Brady 5 (7); Canny 6 (7); Craig 6 (6); Devlin 5 (7); Hill 6 (7); Holmes 2 (4); Kelly 5 (7); Lennon 4 (7); Logan 6 (7); Magennis 4 (7); McCabe 0 (3); Morgan 5 (6); O'Brien 1 (5); O'Dowd 6 (7); O'Halpin 5 (7); Ó hÓgartaigh 3 (3); Phillips 1 (7); Ward-Perkins 5 (7).
8. Regular communication was maintained through Dr Devlin with the Comité International des Sciences Historiques. The committee hopes to sponsor a number of delegates to the nineteenth International Congress of Historians to be held in Oslo from 6 to 13 August 2000.
9. The committee continued to be represented on the history syllabus committee of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment by Dr O'Brien and Dr Brady. The committee established an *ad hoc* committee to examine and report on the draft school history syllabus.
10. The sub-committee on archives continued to meet and to advise the committee, especially on matters relating to the National Library of Ireland.
11. The committee continued to correspond with the Director of the National Library. It was pleased to note the continuing improvement in facilities for researchers at the library, in particular a significant increase in the amount of open hours.
12. The committee was pleased to accept the invitation of the Director of the National Library to make a submission on the creation of a one-year research studentship at the library for the period 1998–9 and to appoint members to a joint committee to manage the studentship. Dr Marie Coleman was awarded the first studentship, and a second studentship will be awarded for the period 1999–2000.
13. The committee welcomed the announcement of the formation of an Interim Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. The committee made a detailed submission to the secretary of the Council on the support of historical research through an integrated system of scholarships, studentships and fellowships and through various other strategies.
14. The twenty-third Irish Conference of Historians was held at St Patrick's College Maynooth in May 1997 on the theme of luxury and austerity. The proceedings have been edited by Dr Hill and Dr Lennon and will be published in May 1999.
15. The outline programme for the twenty-fourth Irish Conference of Historians to be held in University College Cork on 20–22 May 1999 was decided. The conference theme will be information, media and power through the ages, and the organiser is Dr Morgan. The committee decided that the conference should be preceded by a Young Historians' Forum organised by Dr Magennis and Dr Holmes on the theme of religion in Ireland.
16. The committee held the second in a series of one-day conferences (held in alternate years between the biennial Conference of Irish Historians) at the University of Limerick in May 1998. The conference was organised by Dr Logan on the theme of the doctor–patient relationship.
17. The Irish Historical Society held a full programme of lectures during the two-year period.
18. The Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies held a full programme of lectures during the two-year period.
19. The Economic and Social History Society of Ireland held its 1997 conference at St Patrick's College Drumcondra and its 1998 conference at Queen's University Belfast. It organised, jointly with the Library Association of Ireland, a one-day conference on the history of reading in 1998.
20. The committee continued to liaise with the bibliographical sub-committee concerning the future of *Writings on Irish history*.
21. The committee is grateful to the Irish government for continuing financial support. It is also grateful to the Ulster Society for Irish Historical Studies for funding the travel costs of committee members from Northern Ireland.
22. The committee wishes to express its thanks to Mr Pearse Colbert for his services as honorary auditor.