

The Society of Irish Foresters, 1942-68

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In this article it is proposed to give a concise factual account of the activities of the Society of Irish Foresters during its first twenty six years. The Society's doings have been faithfully recorded in its journal, *Irish Forestry*, but the early issues of the journal are long since out of print and difficult to obtain and so this article aims at summarising information which otherwise might be not easily accessible to members who have joined subsequent to its foundation.

The Society of Irish Foresters was founded on 21st September 1942 and the following thirty one foundation members were enrolled, all of whom, except six, were officers in the Forestry Division, Department of Lands.

M. L. Anderson (d.1961)	D. G. Hayes	D. McGlynn
P. Barry (d.1948)	F. McMahon (d.1966)	S. McMenamin
T. J. Briody	T. Moloney	M. O'Beirne (d.195?)
W. Y. Chisholm (d.1969)	O. V. Mooney	J. O' Leary (d. 1957)
T. Clear	G. Muir	S. M. O'Sullivan (d.1964)
R. J. Crerand	F. J. Murphy	S. M. Petrie
M. Dalton (d. 1967)	J. McCarthy	M. Swan
P. Delaney	M. McCarthy	M. Swords (d.195?)
T. Donovan	T. McCarthy	D. A. Quirke
J. P. Dowds		
H. M. Fitzpatrick	D. McCaw (d. 1943)	P. Verling

While the Society was intended to be primarily a society for professional foresters, people who were interested in forestry but who were not professional foresters were permitted to join as associates. The professional foresters were divided into two groups: grade I being Forestry Inspectors, university graduates and Head Foresters and grade II being Foresters, Foremen Foresters and students.

Originally the Society aimed to serve the interests of foresters in the Republic of Ireland (then Eire) but since that time the scope of its activities has been extended to include Northern Ireland and in 1965 the first northern president — C. S. Kilpatrick — was elected.

Although day excursions are organised in various parts of the country and the occasional lecture is given outside of Dublin it was felt by some members in the more remote districts that they derived less benefit from the Society than they might because of their geographical position. At the 1966 annual general meeting it was proposed by W. G. Dallas and seconded by H. Kerr — both

Northern Ireland members — that for the purpose of bringing the activities of the Society more into reach of country members there should be regions within the main body of the Society corresponding to the four historic provinces of Ireland. Each of these regions would nominate and vote for a councillor who would represent his region on the council of the Society and each region would set up a regional committee to organise meetings etc. within their province. To date one region, called the Northern Region, has been formed and it held its inaugural meeting in Strabane in 1967.

OFFICIALS

During its first year the Society had a patron, Thomas Derrig, Minister for Lands, but subsequently this office was dropped. The offices of president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, business editor and editor have been retained and the names of those who have held these positions are given in the following lists. D. M. Craig has been auditor during the entire lifetime of the Society. Professor Clear carried out the combined offices of treasurer and secretary from 1942 to 1959 with the exception of 1945 when he was secretary only. There were three trustees appointed in the first year of the Society. These were: M. L. Anderson, T. Donovan and J. A. K. Meldrum. Since then the following have also acted in this capacity: H. M. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. King, D. Managan.

President

1943-4	M. L. Anderson
1945-6	H. M. Fitzpatrick
1947	J. A. K. Meldrum
1948-9	M. O'Beirne
1950-1	T. McEvoy
1952	J. A. K. Meldrum
1953	H. M. Fitzpatrick
1954-5	T. McEvoy
1956-7	O. V. Mooney
1958-9	D. P. Managan
1960	M. Swan
1961-2	T. Clear
1963	M. McNamara
1964	M. Swan
1965-6	C. S. Kilpatrick
1967-8	T. Clear

Vice-President

1943	F. McMahon
1944	H. M. Fitzpatrick
1945-6	J. A. K. Meldrum
1947	M. O'Beirne
1948-9	F. McMahon
1950-1	O. V. Mooney
1952	D. G. Hayes
1953	T. McEvoy
1954-5	O. V. Mooney
1956	M. Cosgrave
1957	D. Mangan
1958-9	M. Swan
1960-2	M. McNamara
1963	M. Sharkey
1964	C. S. Kilpatrick
1965-6	O. V. Mooney
1967	A. M. S. Hanan
1968	M. McNamara

Treasurer

1943-4	T. Clear
1945	S. M. O'Sullivan
1946-59	T. Clear
1960	L. U. Gallagher
1961-4	A. M. S. Hanan
1965-8	T. Molony

Secretary

1943-60	T. Clear
1961-3	M. Swan
1964-7	J. O'Driscoll
1968	C. Kelly

Editor

1943-4	J. A. K. Meldrum
1945	M. L. Anderson
1946-9	T. McEvoy
1950	J. J. Maher
1951-5	M. Swan
1956-8	J. J. Deasy
1959-60	N. O'Carroll
1961-62	G. Gallagher
1963-4	M. Sheridan
1965-6	L. U. Gallagher
1967-8	M. Swan

Business Editor

1943	M. Swords
1944-5	T. McEvoy
1946-9	J. J. Maher
1950-2	N. Ó Muirgheasa
1953-4	L. Condon
1955-61	M. Sharkey
1962-4	P. M. Joyce
1965-7	J. D. Robinson
1968	J. Durand

As well as the above mentioned officials the Council which runs the Society also contains a number of councillors. The number and type of councillors has changed during the years. From 1943 to 1951 these officials were simply termed "councillors" and were the following:

M. L. Anderson, 1946-7	D. Managan, 1948-9
P. Barry, 1943-5	J. A. K. Meldrum, 1950-1
F. P. Clarke, 1946-7	O. V. Mooney, 1946-9
J. J. Deasy, 1950-1	F. McMahon, 1944-5
P. Delaney, 1943	M. O'Beirne, 1943, 1945-6 1950-1
N. Diver, 1945-6	D. M. O'Sullivan, 1949-50
H. M. Fitzpatrick, 1947-50	S. M. O'Sullivan, 1943
G. Haas, 1947	S. M. Petrie, 1943-5
A. J. Hanahoe, 1947-8	P. Ryan, 1947-50
T. Madden, 1945-6	P. Verling, 1943

From 1952 councillors were elected to represent the three groups within the Society and were accordingly classified as grade I, grade II and associate councillors. They were as follows:

Councillors grade I

S. Campbell, 1955-8, 1964	T. McEvoy, 1952-3, 1956-9
L. Condon, 1966-7	D. McGlynn, 1954-5, 1966-7
M. Cosgrave, 1959-62	D. McGuire, 1967-8
T. Clear, 1963-64	P. McMahon, 1953
H. M. Fitzpatrick, 1951-2, 1960-3	M. McNamara, 1956-60, 1964
A. M. S. Hanan, 1957-8, 1960	N. O'Carroll, 1962-3
H. Kerr, 1965	N. Ó Muirgheasa, 1963-4
D. Mangan, 1951-3, 1955-6, 1960-1, 1965, 1968	D. O'Sullivan, 1967-8
O. V. Mooney, 1958-9	P. Ryan, 1952-4
C. McCarthy, 1961-2	W. Shine, 1953- 4
	B. Wilson, 1968

Councillors grade II

M. Cosgrove, 1957-8	J. C. Kearney, 1952-5
J. D'Arcy, 1967-8	E. Leahy, 1958-9
M. F. Donovan, 1953-6	W. Luddy, 1962-3, 1966-7
J. Doyle, 1951-2	M. MacGiollacoda, 1958
T. F. Harding, 1960-1	B. Moloney, 1959-60
D. M. Hayes, 1951	D. M. O'Sullivan, 1960
T. Hunt, 1961-2	M. O'Neachtain, 1963-5
E. Jcyce, 1964	J. J. Prior, 1968

Councillors, associate

Miss S. Cahill, 1950-5, 1957-8, 1961-4
 Miss L. Furlong, 1958-64, 1966-8
 S. Galvin, 1956-60, 1965, 1967
 Professor J. Johnston, 1953-4
 Mrs. A. L. K. King, 1951-2
 A. B. Ross, 1954-6
 Earl of Rosse, 1950
 K. L. Schormann, 1954

MEMBERS

The next list is of paid-up members and associates and it can be seen that with the exception of 1960 associates formed the largest group within the Society from 1946 to 1961.

Paid-up members

	<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade II</i>	<i>Associates</i>	<i>Total</i>
1942				31
1943	37	78	21	136
1944	33	48	32	113
1945	31	51	46	128
1946	30	40	56	126
1947	23	36	69	128
1948	30	33	70	136
1949	(no figures available)			
1950	36	53	79	168
1951	36	48	81	165
1952	45	48	81	174
1953	34	51	84	169
1954	48	40	94	182
1955	45	55	93	193
1956	36	52	86	172
1957	45	67	85	197
1958	48	71	86	205
1959	36	78	86	200
1960	31	57	48	136
1961	63	78	96	237
1962	64	101	93	258
1963	63	95	99	257
1964	57	102	85	244
1965	73	108	108	289
1966	95	171	104	370
1967	87	146	94	327
1968	91	156	101	348

The Society has been very sparing in conferring the title of Honorary Member. There have been only seven to date. These were:

A. C. Forbes, 1943
 John Crozier, 1944
 Mrs. Augustine Henry, 1946
 M. O'Beirne, 1951
 J. A. K. Meldrum, 1953
 T. Donovan, 1966
 D. Stewart, 1966

FINANCE

Until 1948 the Society was dependent on three sources of income: subscriptions, donations and the sale of journals to non-members. Of these three the first was the most important. After 1948 advertisements were accepted for the journal. In volume V published in the winter of 1948 there were seven and over the years the number has increased steadily.

Initially the annual subscription was fixed at £1 for grade I members, 10/- for grade II members and 15/- for associates. These rates remained in force until 1953 when they were raised to 30/- for grade I members and £1 each for grade II members and associates. At the beginning of 1969 they were further increased to £2 for grade I members, 30/- each for grade II members and associates and student members rates were 10/-.

There have been various amounts donated to the Society, some for a specific purpose and some as contributions towards general running expenses. Donations for the latter purpose came from Mrs. Augustine Henry who gave the Society £135 between 1947 and 1952; Lord Ashtown who gave two guineas in 1952 and anonymous donors who contributed just under £4 in 1961.

Irish Forest Products Ltd. and Professor Clear provided money to send a forestry student on the annual study tour. Professor Clear gave £15 to cover the expenses of a forester on the tour to Scotland in 1951 and Irish Forests Products Ltd. donated £15 each year in 1956, 1957 and 1958. This bursary was awarded on the basis of an essay written by third year students at Avondale. D. M. Craig donated £2 10s. 0d. towards the publication of *The Forests of Ireland* in 1966.

Expenditure by the Society has been chiefly on the production of its journal. Smaller annual expenses have been incurred by postage, stationary, printing, meetings, excursions, examinations and a small honorarium paid to various officials.

Until 1961 only the secretary received an honorarium, originally of five guineas it was increased to ten guineas in 1944 and to £15 in 1946. In 1962 it was decided to give £15 10s. 0d. to both the secretary and the treasurer and £20 to the editor of the journal. A further change was made in 1965, then the editor's honorarium was reduced to £10 but £10 was also given to the business editor. In 1967 and 1968 all four officials each received £12 10s. 0d.

Apart from the publication of *The Forests of Ireland*, which is referred to later, the only non-recurring expenditure of note was:

1951. £27 for the Augustine Henry Memorial at Avondale.

1960. Design, 5 guineas, and manufacture, £31, of badges for members. £11 worth were sold.

1962. £25 for a projector and 22 guineas for the entertainment of a group of French foresters.

1963. £41 for expenses of delegates to a conference in Edinburgh on examinations relating to the National Diploma in Forestry.

£9 for the *Proceedings of the Fifth World Forestry Conference in Seattle*. A second set was presented to the Society by Dr. H. F. Mooney.

£42 towards the dinner celebrating the Society's Twenty first Anniversary.

From 1962 to 1964 a fee was paid for affiliation to the Trees for Ireland Association.

Taking all the above mentioned items of expenditure and income into account a simple table of the financial state of the Society from 1944 to 1968 is given below. This table does not include the money involved in the publication and sale of *The Forests of Ireland*.

	<i>Income (£)</i>	<i>Expenditure (£)</i>
1944	96	77
1945	121	103
1946	135	114
1947	156	79
1948	163	150
1949 (no figures available)		
1950	263	214
1951	278	332
1952	272	214
1953	356	246
1954	226	247
1955 (no figures available)		
1956	441	339
1957	470	550
1958	530	639
1959	429	412
1960	440	303
1961	580	364
1962	561	732
1963	563	638
1964	636	727
1965	600	699
1966	811	749
1967	675	807
1968	724	738

Incoce has also included a small amount, usually about £7, from investments.

Broadly speaking the Society has performed the following main functions as well as a number of smaller miscellaneous undertakings which are dealt with at the end of this article.

1. Produced a journal, *Irish Forestry*, usually twice yearly, and one book, *The Forests of Ireland*.
2. Organised annual study tours and day excursions to state and private forests and other places of interest to foresters.
3. Conducted symposiums on subjects relating to forestry.
4. Sponsored lectures by members and by distinguished strangers.
5. Held an annual general meeting.
6. Aided the education of young foresters.

THE JOURNAL

The first volume appeared in November 1943 and contained articles by A. C. Forbes, S. M. Petrie, J. A. K. Meldrum and T. Clear; a report on the Society's first annual general meeting; a statement of accounts; a report on the Society's first annual study tour by T. McEvoy; an obituary notice on Daniel McCaw; a review by M. L. Anderson of a book, *The forestry position in Denmark*, and notes by Mrs. Augustine on *Arbutus unedo*, T. McEvoy on Corsican pine in Glenmalur and G. McCool on planting of forest trees.

Although the journal has more often than not been larger than this 48 pages first issue the pattern of its contents has remained unchanged. The first number had a blue cover, the next three a buff coloured cover and then in 1946 the cover carried a photograph of a Scots pine, "one of the finest specimen of that species in Ireland", at Curraghmore. The practice of placing a photograph on the cover of interest to foresters — not always a tree — was continued up to and including the spring issue of 1968.

There have been two journals annually except during 1948, 1949 and 1950 when only one issue appeared. According to a motion proposed at the first annual general meeting in 1943 by M. L. Anderson articles must be in English. During the year 1954 articles were paid for at a rate of £1 a thousand words. This was not continued, but off-prints were given to contributors who asked for them until 1966.

The cost of producing the journal and income from the sale of journals and from advertisements placed with the journal are given in the following table. Initially the cost of the journal to non-member was 5/-. This was reduced to 3/- in 1945 and remained at this figure until 1957 when it was raised to 5/-. A further rise in price, to 7/6, was made in 1962 and in 1966 it was increased to 10/-

	<i>Cost of journal (£)</i>	<i>Revenue from journal (£)</i>	
		<i>Sales</i>	<i>Advertising</i>
1944	53	5	
1945	61	9	
1946	53	6	
1947	40	14	
1948	106	18	
1949	(no figures available)		
1950	77	31	
1951	192	104	
1952	137		98
1953	148		201
1954	132		42
1955	(no figures available)		
1956	207		277
1957	283		232
1958	393 ¹		280
1959	211		202
1960	105		239
1961	197		273
1962	475		306
1963	302		308
1964	401		297
1965	435	41	137
1966	393	28	274
1967	489	77	147
1968	374	52	154

THE FORESTS OF IRELAND

As can be seen from the table of income and expenditure (p) during most years the former exceeded the latter and in 1961 it was suggested that the accumulated surplus, of which £200 was invested in Dublin Corporation Stock and £200 in Prize Bonds, should be used to publish, separate from the journal, original works or translations of important foreign works, on forestry. Various proposals were considered and in 1962 it was decided to publish a book on forestry in Ireland. Twenty seven members of the society contributed articles on various aspects of forestry in Ireland and

1. Includes £41 for the printing of an Index covering years 1944 to 1953 inclusive. This Index was prepared by J. J. Deasy.

they were synthesised into a coherent unit by the editor, H. M. Fitzpatrick. The contributors were the following:

E. A. Attwood	H. Gavigan	T. McEvoy
W. G. Dallas	A. M. S. Hanan	D. McGlynn
J. J. Deasy	R. Hunston	N. O'Carroll
J. F. Durand	W. H. Jack	P. O'Grady
N. Deveria	J. E. Johnston	N. Ó Muirgheasa
T. Clear	C. S. Kilpatrick	K. F. Parkin
G. Coates	D. Mangan	P. Ryan
W. H. Forbes	F. Mulloy	M. Sharkey
N. J. Gadd	O. V. Mooney	A. W. Simpson

The book was published in 1966 by The Record Press, Bray, for £696. The only other expense chargeable to the Society was £12 5s. 6d. in 1965 for the preparation of the manuscript. The Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland and the Department of Lands, Forestry Division, Republic of Ireland, each contributed £100 and D. M. Craig made a donation of £2 10s. 0d., so in effect the Society had to £506.

During 1966 sales totalled £553, in 1967 £301 and in 1968 £92, in all £946. Thus the Society did not have to realise its investments to meet the cost.

To launch the book a reception was held by the Society in the Shelbourne Hotel, Dublin and a copy was presented to the Minister for Lands, Mr. M. Ó Morain. The book was reviewed on the B.B.C., Northern Ireland, in 1967 by Eileen McCracken, and the *Quarterly Journal of Forestry* carried a review by H. L. Edlin in April 1967. This review printed as an appendix to this article.

ANNUAL STUDY TOURS AND DAY EXCURSIONS

Every year, with the exception of 1944, the Society has promoted an annual study tour lasting from three to five days. The first one, 7 June to 10 June 1943, was based on Clonmel and for the most part the study tours have been to various counties in the Republic of Ireland. There have been also eight tours to places outside of the Republic: Wales 1949; Scotland 1951; Northern Ireland 1952 and 1966; the Lake District 1954; Germany 1956; Denmark 1959 and Brittany 1964. A special All Ireland Tour was organised in 1963 to celebrate the Society's Twenty first anniversary.

Day excursions were inaugurated in 1946 with a meeting at Avondale and since then there have been eighty such meetings. According to the rules of the Society a member is entitled to bring two guests to day excursions. In practice members usually bring their families. This amenity is greatly appreciated, especially by associates who often have no other contact with forestry as it gives them the opportunity of letting their children see that forests are part of their heritage in the land.

SYMPOSIUMS

The Society has organised the following symposiums :

- 1951 The place of forestry in the national life. (Dublin).
- 1962 Forest and recreation (Dublin).
- 1962 Tree species (Kilkenny).
- 1963 *Pinus contorta* (Clonmel).
- 1963 *Pinus contorta* (Omagh).
- 1964 Looking ahead (Omagh).
- 1967 Forest Management Tables (Arklow).

Society members also attended the following three symposiums organised by outside bodies :

- 1954 International peat symposium under the auspices of Bord na Móna (Dublin).
- 1966 Drainage (Pomeroy Forest School).
- 1968 Peatland Forestry (Edinburgh).

LECTURES

The practice of sending lecturers to various parts of the country began in 1961 when lectures were given in Kilkenny and Galway as well as in Dublin. Since then talks have been delivered to Society members in Sligo, Galway, Castlebar, Strabane and Dublin.

Nearly every year a distinguished person has been brought to deliver a lecture after the annual general meeting in Dublin. The speakers to date have been :

- 1945 Dr. P. H. Gallagher, Albert Agricultural College, Dublin.
- 1946 Sir Shane Lesle.
- 1947 H. Beresford Barrett, M.A., Late Indian Forsest Service.
- 1949 T. W. Freeman, M.A., Dept. of Geography, Trinity College, Dublin.
- 1950 Mr. Morehead, O.B.E., B.Sc., I.F.S. (Burma).
- 1952 D. Roy Cameron, Chief of E.T.A.P. Forestry Division of F.A.O.
- 1953 J. McDonald, Director of Research and Education, British Forestry Commission.
- 1954 E. G. Richards, Utilization Development Officer, British Forestry Commission.
- 1955 W. E. Hiley, O.B.E., M.A.
- 1956 W. M. McNeill, lecturer in forestry, Aberdeen University.
- 1957 Karl Oedekoven, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forests, Federal German Republic.
- 1958 Dr. Axel S. Sabroe.

- 1959 Professor M. L. Anderson, Forestry Department, Edinburgh University.
- 1960 R. P. Woods, Timber Development Association Ltd.
- 1961 E. R. Huggard, M.A., B.A.I., A.M.I.C.E., lecturer in Surveying and Forest Engineering, University College, North Wales.
- 1963 Professor T. Clear, Dept. of Forestry, University College, Dublin.
- 1964 D. R. Johnston, Chief Officer, Management Section, British Forestry Commission.
- 1965 A. I. Frazer, B.Sc., Research Officer, British Forestry Commission.
- 1966 Dr. J. Rishbeth, Dept. of Botany, Cambridge.
- 1967 Professor J. N. Black, Forestry Dept., Edinburgh University.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Society is held in Dublin in the spring of the year. Until 1955 it was generally held in Jury's Hotel except in 1946 when it was held in the Engineer's Hall, Dawson Street, 1948 in the Royal Irish Academy and in 1952 in University College. Since 1956 it has taken place in the Shelbourne Hotel.

At this meeting reports are read on the financial state of the Society and on the year's activities. Matters of policy are discussed and the outgoing president gives a valedictory address. The form of his address is fixed by rule 5 of the constitution which lays it down that he shall review the advances in forestry or forestry knowledge during the preceeding year.

EDUCATION

At the end of the 'fifties a sub-committee of the council was formed to consider how the Society could promote further education among foresters and it was decided that the awarding of certificates would best meet the case. Agreement was reached in 1964 with the Central Examining Board of Great Britain that a Forester's Certificate awarded by the Society of Irish Foresters would be recognised by that body as a qualification for entrance to the examination for the National Diploma of Forestry. In the three years, 1966 to 1968, nine candidates were awarded the Forester's Certificate. The Society also awards a Woodman's Certificate. Between 1964 and 1968 (both years inclusive) the Society expended £60 on these examinations and received £70 in fees.

The Society has issued a pamphlet setting out the courses for both examinations and a list of recommended books. While the Society does not possess its own library members are entitled to make

use of the facilities offered by the Irish Central Library for Students and a list of books available on forestry can be obtained from the secretary of the Society of Irish Foresters.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

In 1945 it was decided to register all the remarkable trees, native and foreign, in Ireland. A set of forms on which to enter the relative data was printed the following year and members were invited to apply to the secretary for them. A large book was purchased in which to enter the collected data.

The entries in this book range from March 1946 to September 1954 and cover trees measured by J. J. Deasy and M. O'Beirne at ten different places. A list of the trees measured together with their date of planting and their measurements is given in appendix 2.

The first film show was given to Society members at Portlaoighise during the annual study tour in 1947 at the instigation of Mrs. Augustine Henry who financed it. Films were shown after the 1948 Annual General Meeting. Another film show was sponsored by the Irish Wallboard Company in Dublin in 1955. The films shown were "Harvest of the forest" and "Tennessee venture". Films were also shown at the symposium on *Pinus contorta* at Omagh in 1963.

It was felt because of the debt of gratitude that foresters everywhere, including Ireland, owed to Augustine Henry and his wife it would be fitting for the Society to establish a memorial to him. Accordingly in 1950, with the permission of the Department of Lands, a memorial grove was laid out at Avondale. This plot was planted and fenced and on 29th September 1951 the Dedication Stone was unveiled by the Minister for Lands.

An exhibition of forest machinery was opened by the Minister for Lands, Mr. Erskine Childers, on 2nd May 1959. The Earl of Meath provided a site for the exhibition at Kilruddery and fourteen firms took part. This exhibition was in line with the policy of describing new forestry equipment in the Society's journal.

The Society has on occasions entertained members of Forestry Societies from other countries: Welsh foresters in 1950; Finnish foresters in 1962; French foresters in 1963 and Scottish foresters in 1964.

There have been many social occasions, especially on the annual study tours when the Society's annual dinner takes place but three outstanding social events in recent years need to be mentioned. Two of them are connected with the Society's Twenty First Anniversary in 1963. It has been mentioned that to mark the occasion the annual study tour took the form of a circuit of Ireland. At Omagh the Society was given a cocktail party by the Ministry of Agriculture, Northern Ireland. Mr. Elliott represented the Minister for Agriculture and the Duke of Abercorn the Royal Forestry Society.

Later in the year a hundred people attended a dinner in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin, to celebrate the anniversary. The guests included Mr. Frank Aiken, Minister for External Affairs, and Mrs. Aiken, Commissioner O'Brien, Secretary to the Department of Lands and Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. H. Harbourne, President of the Trees for Ireland Society, and his wife. Professor T. Clear was presented with a set of Waterford glass to mark his unbroken service on the council since the Society was formed and Mrs. Clear was presented with a bouquet of flowers.

The third social occasion took place during the annual study tour in 1966 when the Society visited Northern Ireland. A reception and dinner was given for them at Stormont by the Northern Ireland Government. The Minister for Agriculture, Mr. Harry West, acted as host. A Society member, from Wicklow, in replying to one of the toasts, remarked that if anyone had told him he would one day be speaking in Stormont he wouldn't have believed him.

APPENDIX I.

The review of *The forests of Ireland* in the *Quarterly Journal of forestry*, April 1967, lxi. (2) 176-7.

Reviewer: H. L. Edlin.

This remarkable volume is the outcome of friendly co-operation between the Society of Irish Foresters, which now operates on an all-Ireland basis, and the forest services of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. It is amazing value for money, being well printed on excellent paper and bound within green cloth boards. Each of the black and white plates fills a large quarto page, which is essential to display the intricate detail and beauty of the forest scene. The photographs from both north and south of the country are of an exceptionally high standard.

The text is well balanced, with chapters on the history of the Irish forests from prehistoric times to the present day, a general physical description of the country, and an account of every practical task that is carried out in the state forests to bring the trees from seedbed to maturity. Further chapters cover woodlands on private estates, education and research, the value of forest parks for public recreation, the harvesting of timber, and the uses to which it is applied. Appendices cover forest law and taxation, assistance for private planters and the organisation of the forest services.

Few people in Great Britain appreciate the extent and vigour of the Irish forestry effort. This is on a scale comparable to our own, though Ireland has much smaller financial resources. In the 45 years from 1920 to 1965 the Republic has established 450,000 acres of young plantations, and there are a further 80,000 acres of state forests in Ulster. Virtually all of this is conifer, and the broadleaves, in each part of the land, occupy no more than 4 per cent of the new woods. Spruces account for half the planting in the Republic, and two-thirds of that in Northern Ireland with the Sitka spruce far outnumbering the Norwegian kind. The larches have a significant share—about one eighth—of the plantations, in the north, but in the Republic only one other tree plays a major part. This is the lodgepole pine, *Pinus contorta*, which thrives under conditions of poor soil and extreme exposure that daunt every other conifer. The Forestry Commission is now planting it on a vast scale in Scotland, using 15 million trees a year, but it remains unfamiliar to the average English forester with his richer soils and kinder climate.

The building-up of the national Irish forests has been a slow and tedious process. Some large parcels of land have been secured from the demesnes of the great estates, but many smaller blocks have come from small hill farms, abandoned when agriculture became unprofitable. As a result, the forest map looks as though it had been sprinkled from a pepper pot, and the multitude of small units add enormously to the difficulties of protection and supervision. All the land has had to be acquired within the present century from private owners and the average size of each purchase is only 100 acres.

The regions with the greatest concentration of forest follow the hill ranges. In the wildly beautiful uplands of the west, forestry has become a major source of employment, helping to anchor able-bodied men to the land and halt emigration. Though soils are often poor, the climate is kind, and the timber growth rates compare favourably with those found in Britain. Modern techniques of ploughing are widely applied, and where necessary chemical fertilizers are used to promote rapid establishment and quick growth.

Few difficulties have been experienced in marketing the growing volume of thinnings that are coming forward from the state forests. There are over 100 sawmills in Ireland and also three modern chipboard factories, one wallboard factory and one paper pulp mill that all need a steady flow of logs. Markets in Great Britain are conveniently placed along the Irish Sea, within easy reach by coasting steamer.

There is an active interest in research, though no central station has been set up. Degree courses in forestry are given at the National University of Ireland, in Dublin and the Republic trains its foresters at its own schools at Kinnitty Castle in Offaly and Shelton Abbey in county Wicklow.

Against this flourishing picture of state forestry we must set the gloomy prospect of the private estates. The pioneer work of the landowners in discovering which trees would thrive is acknowledged, and grants are available for all who wish to plant trees today. But, to paraphrase the actual text:

'The private woodlands of Ireland are nearly all old estates and amount to 90,000 acres—60,000 in the south and 30,000 in the north. Their stocking is low and their rate of growth insignificant; the mean annual increment for the quality of the land must be the lowest on earth—yet these woods have been for many years the only native source of full-sized timber. Their area in 1906 was three times what it is now, it has dwindled following the breakup of estates by the Land Commission, the demands of two world wars, the neglect of replanting and the depredations of livestock which prevented natural regeneration.'

Allowance must be made here for the Irish talent for picturesque exaggeration, for later on we are given details of ten large and well-managed properties and are told that 'there are three or four large companies which specialise in forest tree growing and also undertake planting and other forest operations in contract for private woodland owners'.

What are the main points of contrast between forestry in the sister islands of Ireland and Great Britain? Ireland holds 20 million acres against the 55 million of Britain and has thus about 40 per cent of the land area of the larger land mass. But she has only 600,000 acres of forest against 4 million in Britain. Only 3 per cent of Ireland is wooded but 8 per cent of Britain is now under trees. Impressive though Ireland's forestry programmes have been, there is good reason to ask why Ireland's forest area should not be doubled, for mountain land is sub-marginal for its alternative uses of cattle and sheep rearing.

In Britain, at the present time, only 40 per cent of the total woodland lies in the hands of the Forestry Commission and only in Wales does the state share exceed that of the private owner. But in Ireland the Government agencies hold five-sixths of the forest land or 83 per cent, and all the indications are that this proportion may rise to 90 per cent or nine-tenths.

Irish forestry is thus nationalised to a far greater degree than we know here. The stimulus of competition with a strong private sector, having a greater freedom to experiment with untried ideas, is much weaker, Ireland may therefore have a peculiar need to watch what the rest of the world is doing, but this lucid account shows that her current methods are right up-to-date.

Everyone visiting the Irish woods should secure a copy in advance. As this book is privately published it is best obtained from the editor, *Irish Forestry*. Only in this way has it proved possible to give so much information at so low a price.

(This review is reprinted by kind permission of the editor of the *Quarterly Journal of Forestry*).

APPENDIX 2.

Measurements of remarkable trees made 1946-54.

To ensure uniformity names have been corrected where necessary in conformance with the *Handlist of coniferae and other gymnosperms in the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew*, 1961. Girth measurements were taken at 4 feet 6 inches or 4 feet 3 inches. In the case of forked trees measurements are given for both forks.

Species	Date planted	Measurements
Avondale, 1946.		
<i>Abies amabilis</i>	1907	50' x 5' 2"
„ <i>bracteata</i>	1907	53'
„ <i>alba</i>	c.1776	145' x 19' 6"
„ <i>cephalonica</i>	1908	70'
„ <i>grandis</i>	1905	80'
Cronebane, Avoca, 1950.		
<i>Abies cephalonica</i>	1790	85' x 10' 8"
<i>Pinus strobus</i>	1790	93' x 13"
<i>Quercus cerris</i>	1790	70' x 12' 4"
„ <i>lucombeana</i>	1772	28' to sawn off part
Ballyarthur, 1950.		
<i>Pinus contorta</i>	1916	41' x 4' 4"
„ „ <i>sylvestris</i>	1916	41' x 3' 10"
		75' x 9' 10"
Kilmacurragh Park, 1951		
<i>Abies concolor</i> v. <i>lowana</i>	c.1870	c.50' x 4' 4"
„ <i>numidica</i>	c.1870	c.45' x 6' 4"
„ <i>pindrow</i>	c.1870	c.65' x 10' ½"
„ <i>procera</i>	c.1870	c.70' x 11' 6"
„ <i>spectabilis</i>	c.1870	c.50' x 11' 8"
<i>Athrotaxis selaginoides</i>	1906	c.55' x 5' 3"
„ „	1906	55' x 4' 9"
<i>Araucaria araucana</i>		c.70' x 8' 1"
<i>Cunninghamia</i>		c.60' x 4' 6"
<i>Cupressus lusitanica</i>	1809	c.90' x 9' 10"
„ „	1809	c.80' x 6' 8"; 3' 7"
„ „	1809	c.70' x 5' 11"
<i>Eucalyptus coccifera</i>		c.75' x 9' 3"
<i>Fitzroya cupressoides</i>	c.1870	c.40' x 6' 8"
<i>Picea smithiana</i>	1906	c.45' x 4' 11"
<i>Pinus koraiensis</i>	1809	c.80' x 4' 9"
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>		c.120' x 17'
<i>Tsuga dumosa</i>	1809	c.85' x 6' 10"; 6' 2"

Rossanagh estate, 1951.

<i>Castanea sativa</i>	1718	c.55'
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Headfort estate, 1952.

<i>Larix decidua</i>	c.1750	c.90' x 12' 2"
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>		c.110' x 20' 6"

Powerscourt estate, 1952.

<i>Cupressus nootkatensis</i>		c.70' x 7' 11"
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>		178' x 19'
<i>Pinus jeffreyi</i>		c.80' x 9'
" <i>radiata</i>		13' 8"
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>		c.120' x 19'
<i>Castanea sativa</i>	c.1700	c.60 x 22' 8"

Maynooth, 1952.

<i>Taxus baccata</i>	12th century?	19' 4"
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Doneraile Court, 1952.

<i>Larix decidua</i>	1738	c.100' x 10' 7"
" "	1738	c.90' x 13' 10"
" "	1738	c.60' x 11' 6"
" "	1738	c.50' x 11' 6"
<i>Taxus baccata</i>		c.35' x 11' 2", 11' 6"
<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>		c.80' x 9'

Myrtle Grove, Youghal, 1952.

<i>Taxus baccata</i>	pre 1588?	9'
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Leslie estate, Glaslough, 1952.

<i>Abies procera</i>		85' x 8' 11"
<i>Picea sitchensis</i>	1854	138' x 19' 1"
" "	1854	133' x 16' 6"
" "	1854	18' 4"
" <i>smithiana</i>	1854	8' 11"
<i>Pinus muricata</i>	1854	11' 1"
<i>Sequoiadendron giganteum</i>	1854	112' x 21' 2"

Raheen, Tuamgraney, 1954.

Oak		26'
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Note: An exhaustive survey by A. M. S. Hanan (State Forest Service) and A. F. Mitchell (British Forestry Commission) was carried out in 1966 and 1968 during which more than 2,300 trees in about 50 collections in Ireland were recorded. These records will be published elsewhere. *Editor, Irish Forestry.*