

FOREST IMAGES – FR. BROWNE'S WOODLAND PHOTOGRAPHS

In 1992 the Society of Irish Foresters celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding. This occasion was marked by a number of special events. Among those was the publication of a book of photographs entitled *Forest Images – Fr. Browne's Woodland Photographs*.

Father Browne (1880-1960) was a Jesuit priest whose distinguished church career took him all over the world. At an early stage in

his life he developed an interest in photography and as a result he always took a camera with him on his travels.

During his lifetime he amassed an incredible 42,000 negatives, thus providing a social history collection of incalculable value. Following his death in 1960 his collection lay in obscurity until rediscovered in 1988 by fellow Jesuit Fr. Eddie O'Donnell. Fr. Eddie has been re-

sponsible for the cataloguing and conservation of this unique collection.

From 1931 until 1957 Fr. Browne was based at Emo Co. Laois. During this period he took the opportunity to record on film a wide range of forestry and woodland activities. The complete forest cycle is to be found here starting with photographs of nursery operations and finishing in the sawmill. These beautiful photographs are evocative of an era in forestry now long gone.

The Society of Irish Foresters became aware of this forestry collection and decided that the publication of a book containing a selection of these photographs would be a fitting contribution towards the 50th anniversary celebrations. With the co-operation and help of the Jesuit

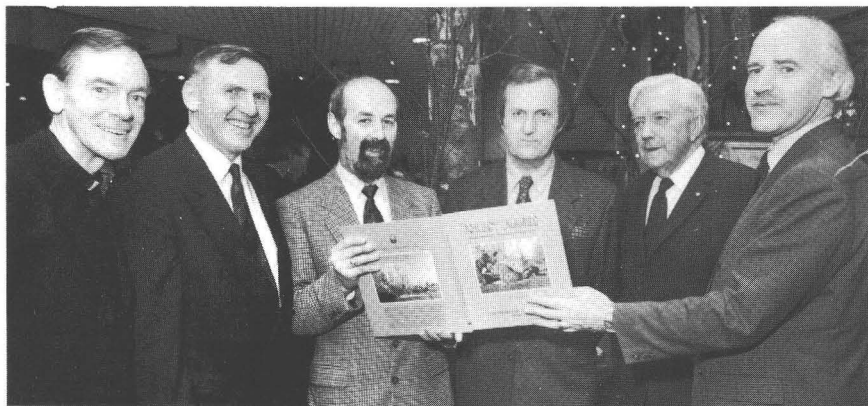
order, and in particular Fr. Eddie O'Donnell, *Forest Images – Fr. Browne's Woodlands Photographs* was published in December 1992.

This is a beautiful hardback book printed in duotone on 170gsm. art paper. It contains 52 carefully selected photographs with accompanying text.

Full credit is due to the editorial committee of Kevin J. Hutchinson, Niall O Carroll, Donal Magner and John Prior.

Copies of the book are available from most good bookshops or directly from the Society of Irish Foresters c/o 1 Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois. Retail price is £16.95 or special members price £11.95 plus £2.50 p/p. A leather bound limited edition is also available at £60 plus £2.50 p/p.

Kevin J. Hutchinson.



Pictured at the Launch of

'Forest Images – Fr. Browne's Woodland Photographs'

(L to R): Fr. Eddie O'Donnell (Curator of the Fr. Browne Collection), Ted Farrell (President of Society of Irish Foresters), Kevin J. Hutchinson (Chairman of Editorial Committee), John Prior (Editorial Committee), O. V. Mooney who launched the book and Donal Magner (Editorial Committee).