

APPENDIX M

Historiographer's Report

Archbishop James Ussher of Armagh is widely recognised as one of the theological giants of the seventeenth, or indeed any century, and yet surprisingly little has been written about him in recent times. However, that situation has now been handsomely rectified with the appearance of Professor Alan Ford's *James Ussher: theology, history, and politics in early-modern Ireland and England* (Oxford, 2007). Forthcoming, is Elizabethanne Boran's edition of Ussher's Letters, *The correspondence of Archbishop Ussher 1600-1656* to be published in two volumes by the Irish Manuscripts Commission. Another episcopal figure of the seventeenth century, John Bramhall of Derry, has also featured in the lists, with the publication of John McCafferty's *The reconstruction of the Church of Ireland: Bishop Bramhall and the Laudian reforms, 1633-1641* (Cambridge, 2007). We are likely to read much more about that especially critical century in Irish life in the immediate future, as commemoration of the Ulster Plantation gets under way. The plantation, whose fruits are still very much with us still both politically and ecclesiastically in the northern counties of Ireland (and not just Northern Ireland) should receive considerable attention in the Church of Ireland as it will undoubtedly do in wider historical circles.

The Representative Church Body Library has produced yet another important printed source. *Register of the Cathedral of St Patrick, Dublin, 1677-1869* (edited by JH Bernard and Raymond Refaussé) is the eleventh volume in the Library's parish register series and is the first to be both a reprint and a new publication. Sustaining any publishing programme is infinitely more demanding than initiating one, and the appearance of this volume is to be saluted. The RCB Library has also brought out, in partnership with Four Courts Press, Mairéad Ni Murchú's edition of the *Finglas Vestry Book*. Sustaining conferences and lecture series is likewise no small achievement. This year, Marsh's Library organised 'Marsh's Library: a mirror on the world', to commemorate the 1707 act of parliament that established Ireland's first 'public' library, while at St Patrick's Cathedral the sixth Dublin Symposium on Jonathan Swift, co-sponsored by the Center for Irish Studies of the Catholic University of America, took place.

The meetings of the Church of Ireland Historical Society, very much the brainwave of Canon William Neely, maintained its programme of twice yearly meetings, a spring occasion in Armagh and an autumn session in Dublin. The lunchtime lecture series at Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, begun in 1997, and which since they started have owed much to the imaginative titles propounded by the cathedral's Research Advisor, Mr Stuart Kinsella, celebrated their tenth anniversary with a series on 'Priors, deans and bishops'. The early Irish church figured largely in a cooperative programme of liturgy, concerts, lectures and an exhibition, mounted in September jointly by Christ Church Cathedral and 'Colmcille', the body that brings together the common Gaelic strands of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

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