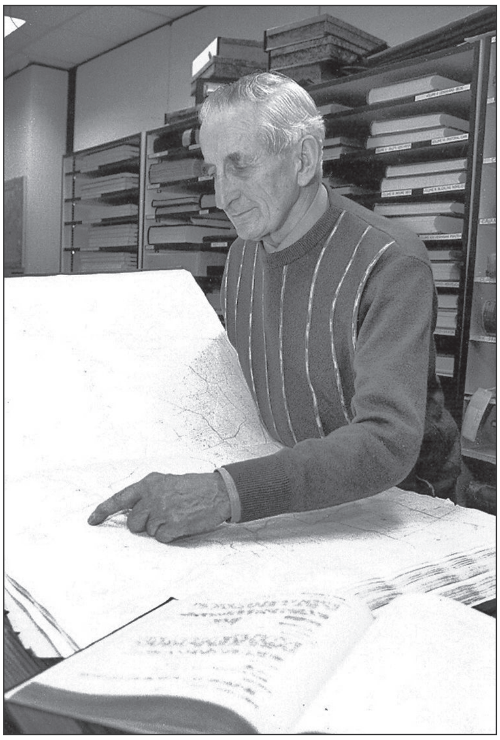
Brollach/Foreword

An Dr Diarmuid Ó Murchadha

Mac mhúinteoirí is ea Diarmuid Ó Murchadha agus, mar ba dhual tuismitheoirí dó, chuaigh sé féin leis an mhúinteoireacht chomh maith. Go deimhin, is léi a chaith sé a shaol gairmiúil ar fad ina bhaile dhúchais mar chomharba ar a athair, agus mar ba dhual athar dó, phós sé múinteoir eile, Marie, ó Dhromainn i gCo. Luimnigh. Cúigear clainne atá ag Marie agus Diarmuid, agus tá clann a gclainne anois leis timcheall orthu. An t-am a bhíodh spártha ag Diarmuid óna chúraimí mar mhúinteoir, fear chéile agus athair clainne, chaitheadh sé an chuid is mó de le dhá réimse staidéir ar mhór a ngradam in Éirinn na seanrachta: *Cóir Anmann* nó ceart na n-ainmneacha pearsanta agus *Dinnsheanchas*, mar ab ainm don staidéar a dhéantaí ar áitainmneacha. Ní háibhéil é a rá ná fuil aoinne beo in Éirinn inniu go bhfuil oiread de cheart tugtha aige don dá réimse sin agus atá ag Diarmuid. Ó 1959 i leith, nuair a d'fhoilsigh sé a chéad aiste léannta san irisleabhar seo – ar ainm a bhaile dhúchais féin, Bun an Táirne, mar ba chuí – níor staon sé de bheith ag saothrú an dá ghort sin, le fothriail ar ábhair eile: mar shampla, bailéid ar nós 'Crosshaven by the Sea', nó leabhar don aos óg cosúil le *Buachaillí Báire*. Idir an dá linn, ní hamháin go bhfuil suas is anuas le deich leabhar nó leabhrán agus trí fichid aistí uaidh i gcló cheana féin, ach tá eagrán a rinne sé de théacs Fhiannaíochta nach mór ullamh aige le cur go dtí Cumann na Scríbheann nGaedilge a fhoilseoidh mar imleabhar é. Ina theannta sin, tá an tríú fascúl d'*Fhoclóir Stairiúil Áitainmneacha na Gaeilge*, ar dhuine dá eagarthóirí é, ar tí teacht amach, agus tá ar a laighead dhá aiste a scríobh sé ar áitainmneacha ag dul tríd an bpreas. Ní beag sin, ach, mar is eol do gach aoinne a léifidh an méid seo, is ball de Chomhairle Chumann



AN DR DIARMUID Ó MURCHADHA

Staire agus Seandálaíochta Chorcaí le sé bliana is daichead é, ó 1962 i leith, agus thug sé beagnach fiche bliain (1981-99) ina eagarthóir ar irisleabhar an Chumainn. Ní hionadh mar sin go mbeifí ag fáil buíochais le Diarmuid, agus é ceithre scór i mbliana, ar an gcomaoin atá curtha aige go dtí seo ar an gCumann agus ar lucht léinn na hÉireann trí chéile. Níor ghá an dara cuireadh d'údair na n-aistí san uimhir seo den Irisleabhar, a tháinig le chéile go fonnmhar, fáilteach ó mhórán áiteanna in Éirinn agus lasmuigh féin di, chun a mórmheas ar Dhiarmuid mar scoláire agus mar dhuine a chur in iúl. Sinne, comheagarthóirí Dhiarmada ar

thionscnamh *Locus*, tá sé de phribhléid againn a bheith ag saothrú scoláireacht na n-ainmneacha ina theannta le blianta fada. Guímídne, faoi mar a ghuíonn údair na n-aistí agus lucht léite an *Irisleabhair*, faid saoil dó agus gach rath ar an saothar atá fós le teacht uaidh.

The son of primary teachers, a primary teacher himself throughout his professional career, most of which he spent in his native seaside town of Crosshaven, Dr Diarmuid Ó Murchadha can truthfully be described as a man of many parts. A devoted husband of Marie, herself a teacher, and the father of five children, Diarmuid set aside a great deal of his spare time with a view to cultivating two areas of study, highly regarded in Ireland since early medieval times, *Cóir Anmann* (the study of personal names) and *Dinnsheanchas* (the study of placenames). Since his first publication in this journal in 1959, most appropriately on the name Crosshaven, he has published no fewer than ten books or booklets, upwards of sixty scholarly articles and numerous reviews, all of them marked by an assiduous attention to detail and a wide-ranging familiarity with the relevant sources. Rarely has he strayed from these fields of study, unless to extol the virtues of 'Crosshaven by the Sea' in a ballad, or to provide reading material in Irish for younger people, as in his *Buachaillí Báire*. Not content with all of this, he has been a member of Council of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society since 1962 and, as all who read this will know, he served as Honorary Editor of the Society's *Journal* for almost twenty years (1981-99). One might have thought that on the strength of his considerable achievements to date, Diarmuid would have long since contemplated taking a well-deserved rest. Nothing could be further from the truth. Since 1989, when he retired from teaching, he has been collecting and editing materials under the auspices of the Department of Early and Medieval Irish at University College Cork for the *Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames* of which two fascicles have already been published, with another in the press, all under his co-editorship. In the same period, he has published a substantial, and most useful, index of the *Annals of Tigernach* for the Irish Texts Society and is currently preparing an edition of a *Fiannaíocht* poem for publication in that Society's main series. And on top of all that, since retirement, he has published more than twenty papers on placenames. It is only natural, therefore, that Diarmuid's colleagues, from all over Ireland and from as far away as the United States of America, should have come together to show their admiration for his work and their appreciation of his contribution to Irish onomastic studies by offering to him, in his eightieth year, this *bláithfhleasc* of papers written in his honour. We, who have had the privilege of working on the *Locus* project with Diarmuid, and benefiting from his vast knowledge of names and their vagaries, over the past dozen years, join the authors of the papers and readers of the *Journal* in wishing him *ad multos annos*, with many more publications to his name.

Pádraig Ó Riain / Kevin Murray

Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society 2008

Essays in honour of Dr Diarmuid Ó Murchadha
on the occasion of his 80th birthday

Edited by
Margaret Lantry

Cumann Staire agus
Seandálaíochta Chorcaí

Vol. 113