



NEWSLETTER

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Iontaobhas Oidhreacht Mianadóireachta na hÉireann

Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland

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PROGRAMME

- Ongoing for next few months: *Mining through the Millenia* Exhibition in the Geological Survey of Ireland during working hours.
- 12-14 April - Ben Bulben barite mines, Co Sligo. This weekend field visit will focus on underground exploration of the adits, with some simple surveying (training will be available) and recording of the actual extent and state of the mines. For further details see back page, trip subject to permissions.
- 24-26 May – Glandore mine and other sites in West Carbery. A weekend field visit to a new area for the MHTI. Paddy O’Sullivan has been researching the Glandore manganese/iron mine and will show us this interesting site. This and other sites will be visited subject to permissions. Further details will be given in the next mailing but anyone who is likely to attend should notify Matthew Parkes as soon as possible as a group hotel booking may be made. Phone 01-6041493/ 8301850 or email matthewparkes@gsi.ie
- NAMHO 2002, University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Wales 5-8th July. The application of water power in mining.
- NAMHO 2003, Avondale House, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow. 7-8th June 2003
Following last year’s unfortunate cancellation of the annual NAMHO meeting due to Foot and Mouth disease, NAMHO have accepted our offer to host the meeting in 2003, and it will follow our original plans with the meeting at Avondale House, with many field visits around the Wicklow/Avoca area, including underground trips. See page 2 inside for further details.
- Provisional Spring 2003 Conference: Mining and the Environment: the historical legacy

Don't forget to check the constantly expanding website: WWW.MHTI.IE.

EGM, 16th February 2003

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the MHTI was held at Stradbally, Co. Waterford of 16th February 2002. The new Memorandum of Association of the company was discussed and approved unanimously. This new Memorandum should allow us to become eligible for charitable status, which we are actively seeking in order to support our funding raising activities; especially for conservation work.

NAMHO 2003

NAMHO 2003 is confirmed for the weekend 7th/8th June 2003. It is to be located at Avondale House, Co. Wicklow, close to the mining centres of Avoca and also the Glendalough/Glendasan areas. Programme details are yet to be finalised, but would probably have one day of talks (on the Saturday), but also note NAMHO's wish to involve more people in the general NAMHO 'committee' meeting. Surface and underground trips will be organised for the weekend. Site visits will be arranged for following week on a self conducted basis, but a site guide may be available at a given site on a designated day(s). Visit to a working mine will depend upon current mining status (Tara Mine is presently closed). Further details will be available by June 2002 or contact Martin Critchley

UNDERGROUND ACCESS TO IRISH MINES

All abandoned underground mine workings in Ireland belong to the State. We have just been given permission by the Exploration and Mining Division of the Department of Marine and Natural Resources to access these workings for official MHTI business. Access is conditional upon following the NAMHO guidelines for the leisure use of abandoned mines, the MHTI safety policy, insurance in the name of the Minister to indemnify liability, prior notice of access and permission of the landowner. We are extremely grateful for this permission, as it will allow us to extend our activities and prepare underground trips for the forthcoming NAMHO 2003 event. However, it must be stressed that this permission only extends to trips sanctioned by the MHTI committee and the procedures outlined above must be followed. All underground visitors must be MHTI members and this rule will also apply to NAMHO 2003. Our thanks go to Raphael Kelly and staff of the Exploration and Mining Division for assistance with this most welcome development.

THE MHTI JOURNAL

Copies may be ordered through Dr. Matthew Parkes at GSI, Beggars' Bush, Dublin 4 at €10 or stg £6.50 per copy, €11 or £7.50 including p&p.

Off-prints of individual articles are also available for €1.50 or stg £1, postage included.

Journal 2 will appear towards the end of 2002, but it will depend on the members to submit papers for inclusion. Have you done some research on a particular site, or topic that would interest other members? If it was of interest to you, then the chances are that other members will also find it worth knowing about. The range of topics that might be included is as broad as the mining history and heritage of Ireland, or internationally too. If you have material of interest but don't feel technically comfortable putting it together as a paper, then plenty of help is available – please just ask.

Please contact the Editor, Des Cowman, Knockane, Annestown, Co. Waterford (051-397951) [email: dcowman@iol.ie] with your papers, or Matthew Parkes, Geological Survey of Ireland, Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4 (01-6041493) [email: matthewparkes@gsi.ie or matthewparkes@eircom.net]

THE 'INFORMAL AGM' SATURDAY 16TH FEBRUARY 2002

Following the EGM, we had an informal meeting at Bunmahon, much along the lines of the usual AGM, with reports and an extended discussion of a number of projects and concerns. A short account follows to keep you informed of the main points.

The Chairperson, Martin Critchley reported on activities in 2001, which were of course much reduced due to the Foot and Mouth restrictions. MHTI publication plans for the regular Journal, an occasional publication series (to include the MINET conference proceedings) and the Mineral Statistics were reported on, and discussed. The Mineral Statistics for Ireland, in particular, generated a lengthy discussion of various options after the difficult progress of this project has brought us to a point where it is almost complete. Principle choices were between a Northern Mines *British Mining* series format and a CD-ROM, although all agreed that the format should be cost effective. The *50 years of Irish Mining* proposed publication needs a champion before progress is likely to be made.

Martic Critchley was able to report the successful outcome of an application to Dúchas (The Heritage Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands) for recognition of the Trust and its members as an authority on mining heritage on a panel for archaeological inventory work throughout the Republic of Ireland.

John Morris gave an update on progress with the Allihies Conservation Project, as reported in the last newsletter (18). The Heritage Council have awarded us €27,000 in 2002, in lieu of the £25,000 grant which was returned in 2001 since it could not be spent because of Foot and Mouth restrictions. Results of an application to the Ireland Fund should be known in July.

Other items discussed included the MINET project and a possible second phase, and the NAMHO 2003 plans, including underground access permission which are both noted in other sections of this newsletter. The actual AGM which was delayed from the original plan for Bunmahon, will probably be held in April or May but appropriate notice will be issued.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ballymacarbery mine, County Waterford.

Michael Desmond of Ballymacarbery has located the short adit that probably represents the entire workings of the "bubble" Knocketrellane Mining Company. It was established in January 1853 and lasted for about eighteen months having produced no ore. They did, reportedly (*Mining Journal* 1853, pp. 336, 430, 730 and 787) erect a forty foot water-wheel made by Jacob Brothers Foundries in Clonmel.

Michael says that the adit is only about twenty-five feet long and relatively dry. His photos show the entrance overhung with vegetation and calcite covered walls inside.

Destruction of Cappagh Mine chimney.

Paddy O'Sullivan of Bandon has sent a cutting from the Southern Star of Saturday 16th February 2002 with the headline "Ballydehob Storm Destruction" over two photographs. One is captioned "*All that remains of the 70-foot high Cappaglas mine chimney stack at Ballydehob after it was struck by lightning on Saturday last*". Only about ten feet seems to be left intact, topped by rubble while the rest of the stonework appears to be strewn linearly. The other photo shows five dead cows in an adjoining field. Thus has perished the only surviving chimney in this mining locality and a local landmark.

Please send any further correspondence to the Editor, Des Cowman
"Knockane", Annestown, Co. Waterford.
051 396157.

HISTORIC MINING ILLUSTRATIONS: SHARE CERTIFICATE VIGNETTES.

Contemporary illustrations, particularly photographs from the 19th Century onward, are an obviously valuable source of information about the appearance and organisation of historic mining sites and associated activities. Postcards, where such exist, may also provide useful information, and in the last MHTI newsletter (No. 18), we looked at examples from Wicklow and Waterford. However, paintings and line engravings in books, newspapers etc. provide an additional resource, albeit one to be used with a much greater degree of caution given the scope for introducing artistic interpretations. Here, we will look at a selection of line engravings on historic share certificates (technically termed “vignettes”).

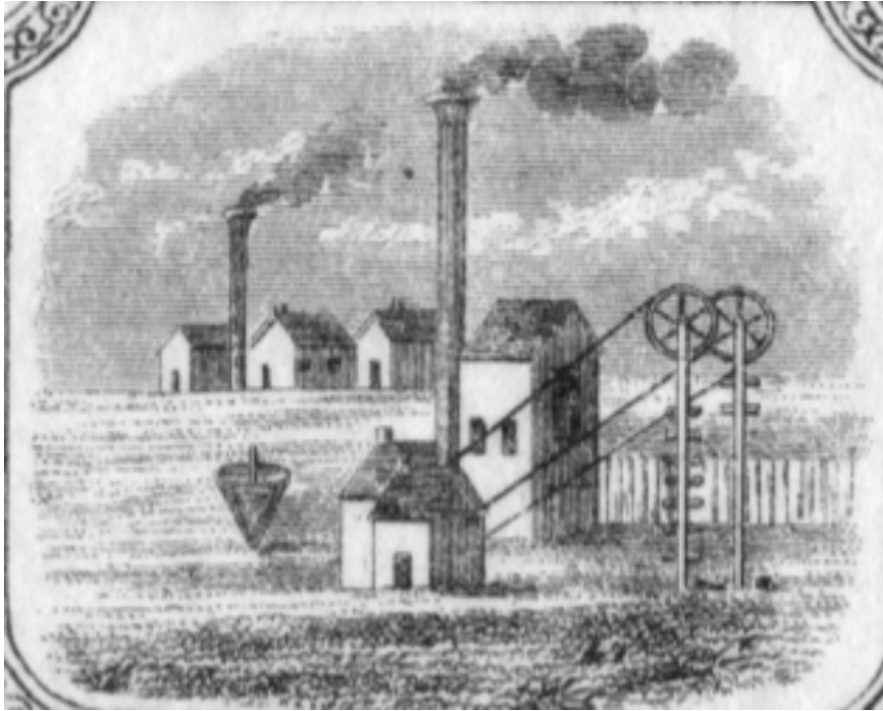
Many 19th and early 20th Century share certificates relating to commercial enterprises of all types frequently included line engravings, which depict scenes or activities representative of the purpose of the enterprise. This is particularly the case for US and Spanish certificates, for example railway, mining and shipping enterprises, which are commonly very ornate, in comparison with those from other countries, such as Britain, Ireland and Germany, in which vignettes are relatively uncommon.

A few years ago, I bought a large batch of Spanish certificates (for its content of Mining Company certificates related to Linares), but amongst the others, I came across two batches of certificates for two mining companies, both of which contained a most unlikely type of vignette: Cornish design Engine Houses. More recently, I sought information about both companies through a posting to the Mining History mailbase (see Newsletter No. 18 about this group). While this did not provide any information about either of them, it did however stimulate a most interesting response from Peter Challis, who was able to instance examples of certificates of three other companies, which also contained Engine house vignettes. So how useful are these vignettes as a source of historic information?

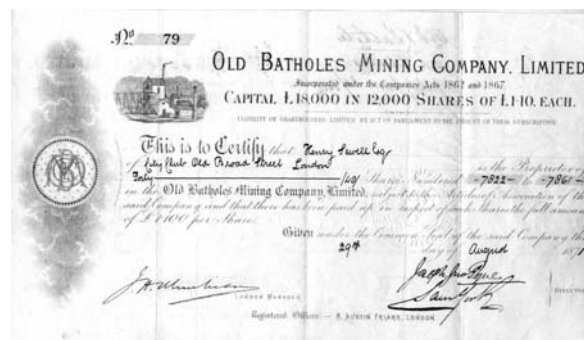


Lets look first at the two UK examples, from the “Liverton Ironstone Co.Ltd.” (above), and the delightfully titled “Old Batholes Mining Co. Ltd”. For both of these, I express my appreciation to Peter Challis for supplying digital images and information, and for giving permission to reproduce them in this article.

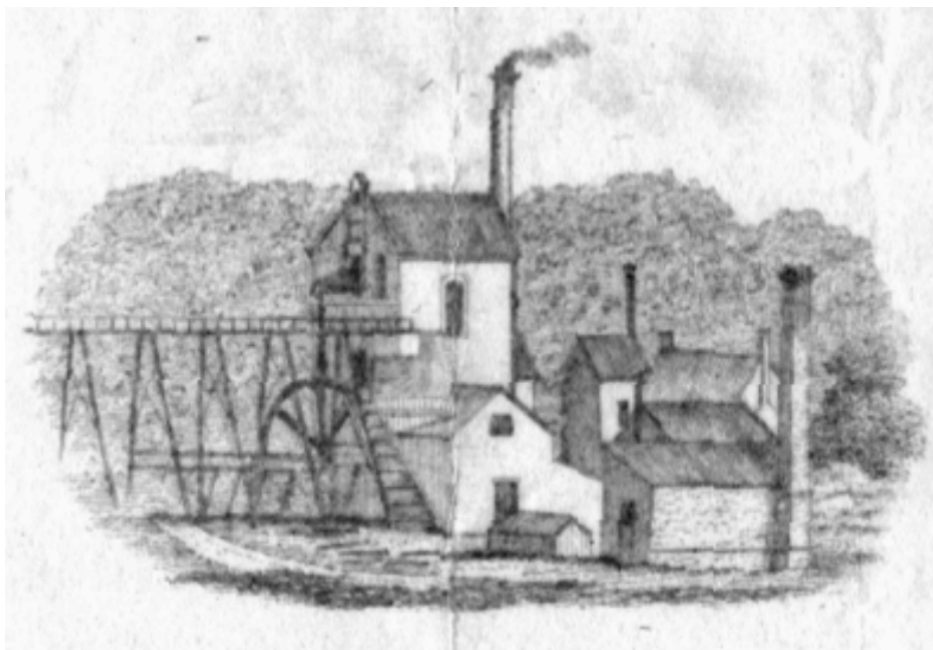
The Liverton Co. vignette (vignette enlarged below) can only be described as very stylized - and almost certainly of little use historically. The engine house and chimney only bear the faintest resemblance to what we might recognize as an engine house, while the vignette also contains a most curious looking “child’s spinning top” - what this is supposed to be in reality, goodness only knows. Maybe somebody familiar with the history of this mine and company, apparently based in Yorkshire (Chapman, N.A. 1988. Liverton Ironstone Mine: A History. Cleveland Industrial Archaeologist, 19, 57-82), might be able to relate this picture to some semblance of reality – but it’s not very convincing for anybody else.



We are on much safer ground with the “Old Batholes” vignette, which provides a fairly good representation of a rotative, Cornish design beam Engine House, albeit with the addition of some form of gantry extending outward from the bob platt level (below). Amongst the adjoining buildings, there appears to be a second engine house in the background, as well as a Mine office style building beside it. The purpose of the other buildings is less certain, and while the one on the near side of the forefront engine house occupies a possible boiler house location, it doesn’t look like one, and it is located at a distance from the chimney. The Batholes Mine was one of the earliest to be developed on the sett of the East Roman Gravels Mine, at the western edge of the Shropshire ore field (Peter Challis citing Brook, F. and Allbutt, M. 1973, “ The Shropshire Lead Mines”, published by Moorland). It was largely worked out by 1833, though efforts to revive it were undertaken in 1847, 1853, by the West Tankerville Company in 1866, and finally by the Old Batholes Company itself in 1871. The company failed to raise its target capitalisation of £18,000, and it was bankrupt by 1874.



Although the known history of the mine indicates that successive mid-19th Century undertakings failed to revive the mine, it does not necessarily follow that they failed to erect and develop surface infrastructure at the site. Thus, the vignette detail might well provide a reasonable representation of the cumulative infrastructure developed by the successive ventures. So now to pose a challenge to our Shropshire friends! Has this site been surveyed, are there any buildings still extant upon it, and, if so, how close is the vignette illustration to reality?



So now to the two Spanish certificates, both of which relate to companies registered in Bilbao, the first, “La Argentifera de Cordoba”, in 1916, the other, “Minas de Alcaracejos”, in 1898 (the term “Sociedad Anonima” on both certificates is the equivalent of Limited Company).



The vignette on the “Argentifera” certificate (above and below) is of comparable standard to that on the “Batholes” certificate, but in this instance depicts a pumping engine, of fairly standard looking Cornish design. The bob and bob platt are reasonably clear, as are the shear legs, and on the left hand side, the large single story building is almost certainly the boiler house connecting direct to the square shaped chimney behind the engine house. The illustration is technically quite reasonable, which might suggest that it bears some resemblance to the contemporaneous infrastructure. Inclusion of the name of the city of Cordoba in the company title suggests that the mine was located somewhere in Andalusia – and it is worth remembering that Cordoba is only about 100km west of Linares – El Centenillo, an area which contains arguably the richest and most extensive range of Cornish design Engine Houses and associated infrastructure outside of Cornwall itself. However, the bible on the mining history/heritage of the Linares region (*Las Minas de Linares*, published in

1999) does not mention “La Argentifera de Cordoba” (or Minas de Alcaracejos), so it is unlikely to be associated with that mining camp.

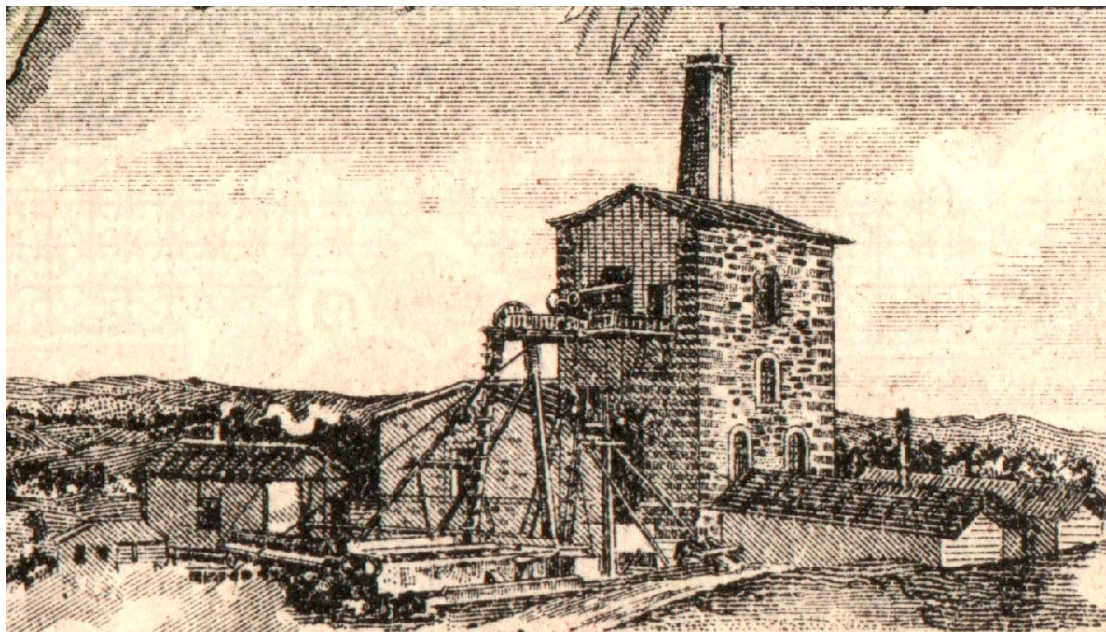


But a clue to where it operated, and confirmation that the vignette might be historically correct, is provided by the final certificate – for the company “Minas de Alcaracejos” (see illustrations below).



The quality and level of detail in this vignette is quite superb (below) – and technically the most convincing of all of them. But it is also perfectly obvious that it is identical to the more stylized version on the “Argentifera” certificate, which was issued 18 years later in 1916. The “Alcaracejos” vignette shows all the same features, albeit in much greater detail, but it is also possible to make out a balance bob to the left of the shear legs, a porthole like window in the presumed boiler house, even a lightning conductor on the chimney - and what look like a row of houses in the far distance and to the right of the engine house, above two single storey buildings. But where was this mine? Were the two related in some way, such as successor companies working the same property; or was it simply a case of the two certificates being printed by the same printer, who, as frequently happened, simply re-worked the earlier vignette from material in-hand? The latter possibility appears unlikely, as the names of two different printers are engraved very finely into the scroll work on both certificates: C & T Dotesto, Lucena and Cia, Bilbao in the case of the Alcaracejos certificate, and Elexpuru y

Cejudo, Bilbao Madrid on the other. All other obvious leads exhausted, it was time to turn to **google.com**.



A search for Minas de Alcaracejos threw up a number of useful leads, including three web sites that feature historic mine sites near the small town of Alcaracejos, Andalucia, which is located about 75km north of Cordoba, and has a population of c. 1,500:

www.cordoba-es.com/Alcaracejos;
www.iea.junta-andalucia.es/sima; and
www.nod50.org/panc/Alcara1.htm.

What a very welcome level of enlightenment on the part of local and regional Governments and tourism agencies in Andalucia to note Mine Heritage as worthy of inclusion as a tourism resource on their web sites – when are we ever likely to see that happen in Ireland? Anyway, three historic mine sites are noted by name in the Alcaracejos district, though none are illustrated: El Rosalejo (lead), Cantos Blanca (copper, gold), and Guillermin (barytes). But another site, that of the Mineralogists Group of Madrid (www.bocamina.com/esp), includes over 130 images of extant surface features at mine sites throughout Spain. Not surprisingly, Linares looms large in this collection, but then, amongst all of these, 1 picture from Alcaracejos, that of El Rosalejo taken in 1995 (below: reproduced with permission of Bocamina).

Although taken from a different angle to the image in the vignette above, there are some striking similarities: the engine house itself, the relative location of the presumed boiler house, and its design, even down to the porthole like window. But there are obvious differences: lack of upper storey windows in the engine house, though this may in part reflect reduction in wing wall height to that of the bob wall, and then construction of the crenellated top; no chimney, and the presumed boiler house noticeably separated from the engine house by an intervening building. But overall it is hard to avoid the inference that it is the features at this mine which are depicted on the certificate – and that the engraving is, indeed, a reasonable representation of reality.



The final test of that postulate will be to visit this and any other sites in Alcaracejos: a task I am much looking forward to as a welcome interlude from this years summer holiday in Marbella! [John Morris]

**THE COPPER COAST, Co. Waterford:
EUROPEAN GEOPARK**

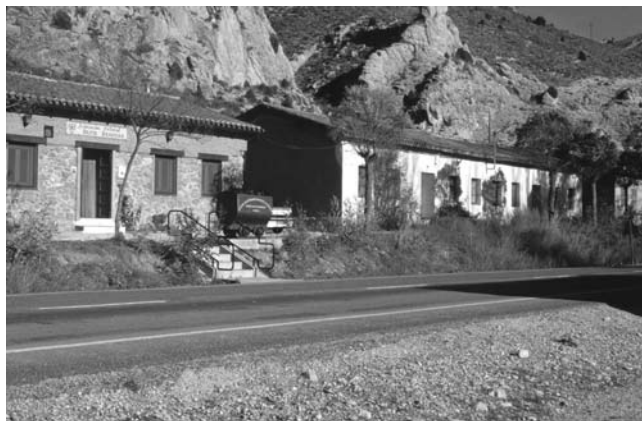


At first glance, geology and a LEADER 2 funded project to create a network of European geological parks might not appear to have much relevance to mining history or heritage. But the concept is broader than geology per se, as it embraces and promotes the wider context of natural and cultural features which may occur within the geologically defined regions. The network objective is to promote regional economic development by the sustainable development of geological and allied natural and cultural resources for the benefit of local communities (see www.europeangeoparks.com for further information). Not unexpectedly, mining, or its historic remnants, loom large in a number of Geoparks, for example at Floristella in Sicily, the coal mines of Santa Barbara in the Maestrazgo cultural park in Aragon, Spain – and not least, in the Copper Coast.



Floristella, Sicily.

While the Floristella mine heritage has yet to be developed, that at Santa Barbara has commenced by establishing a small museum and display centre, linked to the very successful promotion of the geology of the area as a 3rd level educational resource. At a more prosaic level, and no doubt with an eye to the excessive heat in the region during the summer, the museum is located behind and accessed through a bar – which also sells museum merchandise.



Santa Barbara (Aliaga Geological Park), Maestrazgo, Aragon, Spain.

Which brings us immediately to Bunmahon, and the location of its Mining Museum (Heritage Centre) beside a bar – whatever about the climate. But apart from the very well known mining history of the region, it also possesses one of the best, and most representative sections in SE Ireland through a c. 400 million year old sequence of volcanic rocks – the key to its bid for, and ultimate success in being designated an European Geopark. The bid was submitted in early 2001 and the Copper Coast was formally inaugurated at the Networks annual Conference, held in Sigri, Lesvos Island, Greece in October 2001. For once, your MHTI Newsletter Editor looked suitably humble as he accepted the designation charter and trophy (below).



Des Cowman accepting the formal designation of the Copper Coast as an European Geopark. Sigri, October 2001.

But that was Greece and this is Ireland – and so to the formal launch in Ireland. This was organized by the Copper Coast Tourism Group under the very capable chairmanship of John Galloway, who organized a series of events over the weekend of February 16 – 17. Apart from encompassing the EGM of the MHTI and an informal review of MHTI events in 2001 and proposed for 2002, reported elsewhere in this newsletter, this included the formal launch

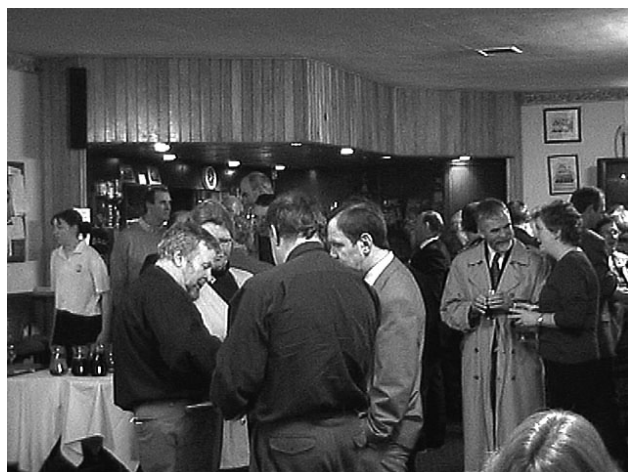
of the Copper Coast European Geopark by Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Finance in Stradbally GAA Club on the Saturday evening, followed by a series of events on Sunday 17th. These included the outdoor launch of the Geopark by Dick Warner, a series of guided tours by Ike Wilson and Des Cowman, and rare sightings of a ghost from the past, “Connie Copper”, who recounted his memory of the life and times of the copper miners of Bunmahon and Butte. Unfortunately, neither of the two publications intended for launch over the weekend were available, although a facsimile of Ike Wilson’s book, “Beneath your Feet”, was suitably launched on a modest tidal wave of beer over Sunday lunch in Harney’s, Dunhill. Most events were videoed at length by Martin Critchley, including both launch events – so there is another and undoubtedly more accurate record of events other than this one!



Left: Mr John Galloway and right: Mr. Martin Cullen, T.D. Minister of State at the Department of Finance, formally launching the Copper Coast European Geopark

The high points were undoubtedly the complementary launches by the Minister of State and Dick Warner. John Galloway very ably chaired the Saturday evening event, attended by over 100 people, at which introductory presentations were made by John Morris on the European Geoparks concept, and then by the Waterford County Manager, Mr Donal Connolly. The Minister, very noticeably putting aside his prepared script, followed by giving what all in attendance agreed was a most emphatic and ringing endorsement of what the Copper Coast group have done and achieved through their own energy and vision, and with so little official support. He committed his full support to the concept, which he noted is an unique marketing and tourism concept in Ireland (the Copper Coast is the only designated Geopark in the Republic of Ireland). He acknowledged that, within the framework of a feasibility study about to be commissioned (which initially focuses largely upon conservation and adaptive re-use of the Tankardstown Engine House complex), it was now appropriate for Government to assist and sustain this most remarkable achievement.

A Copper Coast miner, Connie Copper, brought back to life told of his working life.



Dick Warner took a somewhat different approach, a more philosophical approach reflecting upon time, place, people and environment. He then formally commemorated the inauguration of the Geopark by unveiling an engraved stone plaque located by the ruins of the limekiln at the entrance to Stradbally Cove.

I conclude by extending my warmest congratulations to all those involved in the Copper Coast group – and not least for the superb hospitality offered at various times over the weekend. Your achievements are remarkable and bode well for exciting developments in the future. Not least, the experience has been a model of how local community groups, regional and national organisations and agencies can work together to mutual advantage. [John Morris].

BEN BULBEN BARITE MINES FIELD EXCURSION 12-14th APRIL 2002

Please note that this excursion is subject to receiving permission from landowners and it may be necessary to review the plans, so please contact Matthew Parkes if you are interested in participating in order to ensure you receive up to date information.

We will meet at Willies Diner on the main N15 Sligo to Donegal road in the village of Grange, near Ben Bulben, up to 9pm on Friday night. A pub rendezvous will be arranged for after that time.

Bed and Breakfast options near Grange

Armada Lodge	071-63250
Shaddan Lodge	071-63350
Rowanville Lodge	071-63958
Mount Edward Lodge	071-63263
Rosswick	071-63516

IHAI email discussion group

The Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland have set up an email discussion group to allow MHTI members to get email information on both MHTI and IHAI events.

To subscribe: industrialheritage-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Unsubscribe: industrialheritage-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

Thanks to Fred Hamond and Nigel Monaghan