



Réamhrá

Is mór an onóir agus an sásamh dom an réamhrá a sholáthar don chnuasach mór alt seo ar an nGráinseach. Ó aois a dhá bhliain dom go haois a deich mbliana ó 1939 go 1947 bhí mo mhuintir chun cónaithe ar shleasa theas Chnoc na Gráinsí ag féachaint síos ar Loch Gair na draíochta. Cé gurbh ó Cho Chill Chainnigh mo mhuintir, bhraitheamar mar chuid dhlúth de phobal na Gráinsí.

Is léir ó ailt an leabhair seo nach aon phobal ó inné go dtí inniu é pobal na Gráinsí. Thugas liom agus mé i mo gharsúinín snáthíní eolais ar an gceantar óna bheith ag éisteacht le daoine de mo chomharsain, cuid acu a saolaíodh thiar i seachtóidí agus ochtóidí an naoú haois déag. Tá iomlánú thar cuimse déanta sa leabhar seo ar mo chuidse blúiríní a bhí beagnach dearmadta agam. Eolas atá bunaithe ar thaighde leathan agus ar bhéal na ndaoine araon atá ar fáil againn anseo anois. Ar an ábhar atá sa leabhar tá cur síos ar eachtraíthe staire, ar áiteanna, ar theaghlaigh, ar dhaoine cáiliúla agus ar a saol. Ach ní i dtaobh le hábhair den sórt sin atá an leabhar. Cuid an-tábhachtach is ea líon na n-alt a bhaineann le himeachtaí daoine atá beo i gcónaí, go háirithe i gcás na n-alt atá scríofa ag na daoine féin ar a saol ina gcuid oibre nó i gcúrsaí spóirt sa phobal. Sna cásanna sin, is insint atá ann i bhfocail an duine féin ar a chaidreamh lena chomhdhaoine — léiriú suibhachtúil ar theagmháil daoine lena chéile sa phobal.

Foinse thábhachtach atá anseo ar an nGráinseach agus ar an bpobal inti don am atá le teacht. Níor mhiste, b'fhéidir, go dtabharfaí 'Annála Phobal na Gráinsí' ar a bhfuil sa leabhar. Buanóidh sé an ceangal idir muintir na linne seo agus na daoine a mhair rompu; léireoidh sé an saol atá caite ar bhonn comharsanúil don dream úd a thiocfaidh san am atá romhainn.

Tá Coiste Leabhar na Gráinsí agus na scríbhneoirí le moladh go mór. Táthar buíoch díobh. Go méadaí Dia a stór abhus agus thall!

Foreword

It gives me great pleasure to contribute the foreword to this magnificent collection of articles about Grange and its people. Between the age of two years and ten years (1939-47), I lived with my parents and siblings in a house on the southern slopes of the Hill of Grange overlooking the mysterious Lough Gur. Although both my parents were natives of Co Kilkenny, our family became an integral part of the Grange community.

It is clear from the articles in this book that the Grange community is no newly arrived transient people. I can recall from my childhood various snippets of information about the area which I gleaned from listening to our neighbours chatting, some of whom were born in late seventies and eighties of the nineteenth century. These scanty morsels of half-forgotten accounts have been amplified out of all proportions by the contents of this book. The information here made available is soundly based on both wide research and oral material as recounted locally.

The articles are of a very varied nature, dealing with historic events, with places, with families, with individuals and their lives. The articles in which people write of their own lives, their daily work or the sport they played are a particularly important part of the book. In these cases, we get an insight of interaction between people in the community as told in the person's own words, a subjective telling of the events described.

As well as being a source of information and enjoyment for the present day, this book is also a treasury of knowledge for future generations about Grange and its people. One could call it 'The Annals of the Grange Community'. It will form the ties of the present people of the area with the people who dwelt in Grange before them; it will illustrate in a neighbourly way the present and the past to the generations to come.

The Grange Book Committee and the contributors should be highly commended. They deserve the thanks of all. May God increase their store in this life and in the next!



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