



The Butler Society

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 1991

Dear Member,

At a recent meeting of the Committee of the Society, it was agreed by all present that an annual newsletter should be issued by the Society in the Spring of every year. This was felt to be necessary as the Society does not publish an annual journal. It is hoped that this newsletter will keep all our members abreast of events within the organization. If in the future, any of the branches have any notices or information which they feel will be of interest to our membership world-wide, then please forward same for my attention.

The main objective of this newsletter, apart from advising all our members of its existence is to forward full details of the forthcoming Rally which is to be held in Kilkenny in the Autumn. These are attached and members intending to travel should notify Melo Lenox-Conyngham as soon as possible.

As you will note from the programme of events, the T.G.M. is to be held on Thursday the 12th of September. One of the key issues which needs to be resolved at this meeting is the question of a capitation fee. Members who attended the 1976 T.G.M. will be aware that that body approved in principle to the existence of this fee and authorised the Committee of the Society to proceed with its implementation. Now it must be decided what that charge is to be. This funding is essential if activities such as the present newsletter are to be continued.

At the Butler Rally held in Toronto in June of last year, a member, Hans Georg von Buttlar, proposed that an international committee be established. It is envisaged that this Committee which will have no executive powers, but will act solely in an advisory capacity, seeking to assist the national Societies to liaise more closely by suggesting international initiatives. It is further intended that the members of this body should be drawn from the younger members of the Society thus helping to ensure the survival of our Society well into the 21st century and beyond. The chief task of this body at the present time,

will be to recommend policy changes which the membership who journeyed to Toronto felt were necessary. They are also to seek a centre for a Rally to be held in the 1990's in addition to the Rallies held in Kilkenny. The Hon. John Butler was invited to be the first chairman of this new group and to recruit Committee members. This matter will also be discussed at the T.G.M. in September.

The Rally in Toronto was a very enjoyable event with over a hundred members attending from many parts of the world including Germany, France, New Zealand, Australia, the United States and of course a contingent from these shores. (A full account of the Rally will be published in the next Journal.) Congratulations and thanks are due to Florence and Herb Taylor and to the Canadian branch who worked so hard to make the Rally the success it was.

Sadly, in this our first newsletter we must relate the death in early January of one of our co-founders, Hubert Butler of Maidenhall. Hubert will be missed not only by the members of this Society, but by people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world who in the past sought his help and assistance and were given it. A memorial service is to be held in St Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny on 20th April next. The Society invites all who attend to have tea in Butler House after the ceremony.

The Castle of Kilkenny is once again under wraps (partially) but we all look forward to the day when the restoration will be completed. In the meantime business goes on as usual in the areas already on view to the general public. One of the many tasks of the Curator at present, is to search out and if possible to obtain some of the contents dispersed by auction in the 1930's.

Members who join us in September will have a chance to view the newly restored manor house at Carrick and see in particular the spectacular 'Long Gallery' with the plaster reliefs of such Tudor monarchs as Edward VI and Elizabeth I with whom its builder 'Black Tom' the 10th Earl of Ormond was so closely associated.

On this optimistic note I have to end. On behalf of the Committee, I send best wishes and we look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in September.

Yours sincerely,

John Kirwan

John Kirwan for the Butler Society Committee