

in Issue N°52 where agricultural progress is analyzed through three notices on large farms in the French Manche *département* between 1820 and 1860. HSR also publishes reviews of doctoral and habilitation [2] defenses (in all fields concerning rurality from archaeology to ethnography as well as history or geography). The journal is available to members in paper format as well as digital on the Cairn portal. Earlier issues from 1994 to the beginning of the 2000s will be available free-access on the Persée portal in late 2020 or early 2021. See more about the AHSR at <http://www.histoire-et-societes-rurales.org/>

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1/ A 1901-law association in France and a number of its former colonies is a non-profit association (with some exceptions in the French *départements* annexed by Germany from 1871 to 1918). Any profit ensuing from its activity cannot be re-distributed, although it may in fact carry on some commercial activities and, if lucrative, are subject to declaration and are taxed. See FR Wikipedia https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Association_loi_de_1901

2/ “Habilitation” defines the qualification to conduct self-contained university teaching and is the key for access to a professorship in many European countries. Despite all changes implemented in the European higher education systems during the Bologna Process, it is the highest qualification level issued through the process of a university examination and remains a core concept of scientific careers in these countries. See EN Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habilitation>



Irish Country Furniture and Furnishings 1700-2000 by Claudia Kinmonth

AIMA Newsletter contributor* Claudia Kinmonth has brought out a complete update on her classic work on Irish vernacular furniture that dovetails with our other authors’ articles in the past about the links between tangible and intangible heritage, museum collections, terminology, conservation, ethnological inquiries and the art of making homes. The first print run was sold out before it came into bookshops and the second is in preparation as the newsletter “goes to press” right now. *Irish Country Furniture and Furnishings 1700-2000*, Cork University Press, 2020, 547pp, with so many color and b/w illustrations you can’t count them.



This major illustrated study investigates farmhouse and cabin furniture from all over the island of Ireland. It discusses the origins and evolution of useful objects, what materials were used and why, and how furniture made for small spaces, often with renewable elements, was innate and expected. Encompassing three centuries, it illuminates a way of life that has almost vanished. It contributes as much to our knowledge of Ireland’s cultural history as to its history of furniture.

This is a substantially different book from *Irish Country Furniture, 1700-1950*, published by Yale UP in 1993 and reprinted several times. The new book incorporates the findings of the author’s **recent research**. Nearly all the black and white **pictures** in the 1993 book are **now in colour**. Many of the author's fieldwork photographs from the late 1980s have been digitised and are now being published for the first time. The extent has almost doubled with

an extra 120 illustrations. The main text has been fully updated and revised, there is a new chapter ‘Small Furnishings and Utensils’ and a new Preface by Louis Cullen. The time scale is also broadened to include discussions of objects and interiors **up to 2000**.

The book looks at influences such as traditional architecture, shortage of timber, why and how furniture was painted, and the characteristics of designs made by a range of furniture makers. The incorporation of natural materials such as bog oak, turf, driftwood, straw, recycled tyres or packing cases is viewed in terms of use, and durability. Chapters individually examine stools, chairs and then settles in all their ingenious and multi-purpose forms. How dressers were authentically arranged, with displays varying according to time and place, reveal how some houses had indoor chicken coops to encourage hens to lay through winter. Traditional furniture and practices are thus illustrated through art as well as surviving objects.

Extract from Cork University Press presentation



Claudia has most kindly given us a “teaser” to the book in a series of photographs, all taken by herself in 2018, courtesy of the Egan/Hynes family.



Left: Blue ‘covered’ bed from county Waterford, with carved decoration of naïve pilasters, crimped ribbon & dentil mouldings, surrounding the front. This type of bed with a wooden roof was favoured in thatched houses, and helped shelter sleepers from drafts, drips and dirt falling from unlined ceilings. Courtesy Irish Agricultural Museum, Wexford.

Centre: Green and cream painted dresser with a high front, characteristic of those made in West Cork, by James Wolfe (Snr). His late nineteenth-century dressers often had these cupid’s bows and hearts pierced into the top fascia board. Horizontal bars allow plates to be leant forwards to reflect firelight, while avoiding dust, which is why the bowls are arranged upside down.

Right: Coarse earthenware part-glazed ‘Dandi jugs’ used to carry and store water, produced up to two gallon capacity, by some of about 40 potteries near Youghal, County Cork. On the left is one stamped ‘J.GREEN’ with traces of green glaze around the top and inside. In the foreground is what is probably a child’s chamber pot, with scratched glaze inside and an ergonomically thick rim and low handle. Urine was collected and sold, for example to tanneries.



Three photos showing a press bed painted to imitate mahogany, in the parlour of a three-bay farmhouse at Carrigeen, County Offaly;

Left: closed into the press with its two doors shut disguising its presence and saving space,

Centre: opened revealing the hinged bed base held by turnbuckles vertically, where the bedding could be stored behind, and

Right: folded out and down onto the floor, ready for the straw palliase and bedclothes to be arranged. The foot end has a pair of carefully smoothed wooden legs that hinge down to support it with wooden hinges. The inside of the press bed is carefully smoothed and finished to keep the occupants comfortable. These were popular in the parlours of small over-crowded houses lacking spare bedrooms.

Also see Claudia Kinmonth's article "Noggins, traditional Irish wooden vessels" in Newsletter N°9 at https://www.agriculturalmuseums.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/aima_newsletter-december2016-n9-specialissue.pdf



2021 is the YEAR of Fruit and Vegetables

