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City and County Borough of Belfast

**Report of the Committee
of Belfast Museums and
Art Gallery**

For Year Ending 31st March, 1949

Ulster granites (three polished slabs)	..	Messrs. Purdy & Millard.
Mammals (2) and birds (10), local	Dr. J. A. Sinton.
Magpie moth varieties..	Director, Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield.
Local lepidoptera	Mrs. White.
Tropical fish (14), living	Mr. S. Woods.

Enlarged models of wood boring beetles (3)—garden spider, harvestman and false scorpion—were purchased.

A number of specialised talks on birds were given to the Bird Study Group of the Youth Hostel Association by the Assistant. He also undertook considerable research among the birds of Strangford Lough and Copeland Islands, and procured numerous desirable specimens in the field for the collections.

SCHOOLS SERVICE

Steady, if slow, progress has been made in school service. Since the appointment of a Schools Organiser and Guide Lecturer, twelve educational centres have availed themselves of the facilities provided. Talks have been given on a variety of subjects relating to the collections, films shown and several portable exhibits prepared to provide teachers with visual aids in school. Co-operation between Museum and Art Gallery and schools is dependent on the interest taken in the use of visual aids by the teacher. Already contact has been made with many teachers and no doubt as our aims become better known, there will be a greater demand for assistance. Although much has been done during the past few years to bring Museum and Schools together, it is only now that the service is being developed on an organised basis.

PUBLICATIONS

The first issue of the *Bulletin* was made towards the end of the year. This is successor to the *Quarterly Notes* which did good service from 1906 to 1940. Owing to the time lag since the last issue and the need for a change of format, your Committee decided on a *Bulletin* to carry information concerning the collections. A favourable reception has been accorded Vol. 1 No. 1.

Other publications were—"Catalogue of Ulster Artists Exhibition: the work of Doris V. Blair" and "The Ulster Farmer and Antiquities," an illustrated folder.

RESEARCH

During the year under review, archaeological excavations were carried out on three sites in Co. Antrim, Co. Derry and Co. Down respectively. These were aided by a grant from the Museum and Art Gallery. In each case the excavators have submitted preliminary reports, extracts from which are as follows:—

Rath and Souterrain at Ballyaghagan, Co. Antrim. This monument was discovered during building operations on the slopes of Cave Hill. Preliminary excavations were carried out in May by Dr. E. E. Evans; the site was visited by Dr. Bersu and Dr. Chart and