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CONTENTS

2) EDITORIAL

4) FOREWORD

5) AUDITOR'S REPORT

"VARIATIONS IN A FIRST YEAR'S PERSPECTIVE OF GEOGRAPHY" P.7

KATHLEEN QUINLAN

"INTERNAL MIGRATION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN IRELAND IN

THE 1990'S" P.9

JIM WALSH

"IRELAND; AN INDUSTRIAL DUMP IN THE 1990'S" P.18

PATRICK CLEARY

"ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FACTORS OF INADEQUATE FOOD SUPPLIES

IN AFRICA" P.22

DECLAN BRASSIL

"THE FRENCH CONNECTION" P.31

ELAINE KELLY

"WOMEN, THE INVISIBLE FORCE IN GEOGRAPHY" P.34

GERALDINE COYLE

"JE SUIS PERDU" P.43

P.J DUFFY

COVER: GERARD FAULKNER.

TYPIST: MARIA GEHANT.

EDITORIAL

I felt very privileged this year when asked to be editor of Milieu 1990. Having purchased a brand new editorial pen I sat anxiously awaiting the articles upon which I was to exercise my newly invested powers. However my wait was to be a long one and excepting one individual no articles were forthcoming. I was subsequently informed that the editorial post is more a coercive one than I had imagined, I was expected to squeeze articles from the student body, with the use of aggression permitted if needs be. This was not something that befell naturally to my character, however I did mention in passing the famine that existed to a number of acquaintances. A few more articles rewarded these efforts, many of a humorous nature which although welcomed are out of place unless supported by a number of serious articles. This I feel is an unfortunate situation and one that merits our attention. We may argue and discuss 'til the cows come home on the nature of geography, but how can it exist at all unless it is written by you and me the geographer. It is particularly unfortunate in the academic year just past, one which contained endless stimulation for the geographer. Dramatic change in Eastern Europe, barriers and boundaries of all description disappearing over night with profound implications for both the geography of Europe and the entire globe. There must be endless opinions among us as to the implications of these changes. Yet not one article resulted. Recent changes in South Africa, Panama etc, are crying out for the eye of a geographer to see and interpret. It is only in trying to understand changes that have taken place that we

can hope to influence future change and I suggest it is the geographer who is best equipped to understand the nature of many of the happenings above. Enough complaining! To matters more local, this year has brought with it several changes in the make up of the first and indeed second year geography courses. First years have seen the introduction of some new courses as well as an adjustment to their course structure. Most notably we can see how the department is making positive steps to look at and interpret many of the urgent global issues that press upon us. The courses focus on what geography has to contribute to such issues as the global food crisis, political conflict, and environmental destruction. Courses tackling these issues are surely to be very welcome, however careful attempts are being made to ensure that the geographers perspective on these issues are being passed on. We are being asked to look beyond the media orientated or populist interpretation of these happenings to what geography in particular has to contribute to them. Other course changes include the introduction of a statistics course for second year students which should serve to broaden employment chances to well beyond the teaching arena.

AIDAN'S

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FOREWORD

The present issue of Milieu, written for and by students, is a useful indicator of the changing emphasis within the discipline of Geography. This volume with its articles on food supply in the African Continent, industrial pollution, and women in geography stands as a commentary on the current preoccupation of many practitioners of the subject. Collectively, the publication of Milieu stretching back for a decade and a half, offers an opportunity to assess the temporal alterations in the popularity of specific research topics. In many ways it is at the interface with students and through their writings that the elements of change first appear on the agenda of geographical interests. Fundamentally, Geography has always had a "Populist" element in its research and teaching foci for, far more than most other academic subjects, it deals with the impact of commonplace events upon the real world. Geography has a role as a discipline which observes, comments upon, and interprets change in the nature of regions and places, unveiling in the process the evolving spatial relationships which give significance to changing character of the modern world. The student generations are perhaps more sensitive than most to the forces of change, and in that sensitivity rests much of the significance of the essays, in this current issue of Milieu.

W.J. Smyth

AUDITOR'S REPORT

The geographical year got off to a live start on Fairs Day with a 100% plus increase in membership, unfortunately this was coupled with decreased capitulation, for reasons that even yet are rather nebulous. Our first lecture or should I say societal get together was a rather formal affair when the man in the monkey suit ie. Prionnsaís Breathnach gave us his "Confessions of a Field Trip Leader". The confessions spanned the spectrum of field trips over the years and we gained an insight into how certain geography department members looked in their "Hippy" days. This was followed by a talk by Professor Robert McKim from Ohio University on sabbatical in QUB. The geography society was honoured in that this was the first philosopher ever to address the geography society. The title "Ethics and the Environment; the Corncrake has Rights too." gave us a somewhat different perspective than that offered to us by geography, hence it was most enlightening. On the 14th December, Thomas Kabdebo, Head Librarian in Maynooth and a native Hungarian, presented a very topical lecture on "Hungary, Renewal or Repetition" and given the situation in Europe at the time, it opened our eyes to the emerging Eastern Europe. Then on the February 19th (the first day of Rag Week) we hosted the Geography Society of Irelands joint societies lecture. The lecture went ahead despite various kidnapping threats to both our speaker and departmental head. Professor P. Grima of University of Toronto spoke on Sustainable Development with regard to exploitation and conservation of our environment at a global level. The talk was well attended by the various

universities and representatives of the GSI. Our final talk was co-hosted with the Economics Society on 27th March. Our speaker Rory O'Donnell from the National Economics Social Council spoke on the "Regional and Economic Implications of 1992". Once again we were very enlightened, especially by his supply and demand curves. On behalf of the Geography Society I would like to thank our members for their sterling support throughout the year and Paddy Duffy our liaison officer within the department. On my own behalf I wish to congratulate and thank my committee members for their undying geographical fervour! The tradition of Millieu has been continued and it remains only for me to wish the incoming geographical society committee all the best in the coming year, and hopefully they will become as enlightened as we were!

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"Variations in a First Year's Perspective of Geography"

Kathleen Quinlan

So, before you come to Maynooth you thought that the carrying capacity related to the amount of alcohol which you could consume in one night. Yes, you proclaim proudly, my carrying capacity was six pints of heineken and a few gin and tonics. Then you reached that spatially orientated point of being spaced out, the eventual culmination of capacity being a much happier perception of the world, in global terms, albeit from a daze, in a position of horizontal linkage, a neo-Malthusian view. Well, you were wrong and if you cast your mind back to that first geography lecture you will recall the glitzy video and of course the dazzling lecturer, which opened for you the world of geography and that much maligned species, the geographer. Is geography an unknown quantity? Among geographers there appears to be controversy as to who, when, where and what concerns this subject. The student who takes on geography is like the ant who carries the enormous load of a breadcrumb. He/She knows the struggle will be worthwhile as success will offer substantial, solid, sustenance. Let's take geography and Maynooth together. For a lasting memory of this combination a traditional geography topic comes to mind, climate. December in Maynooth was chewing blubber time. Artic conditions prevailed as walking into college frozen pools on the pavement cracked underfoot. Passing by the canal you remember old Holden Caulfield in

"Catcher in the Rye" asking where the ducks in Central Park go for the winter. You wonder where the swans go, and wish you would migrate with them. This isn't phoney cold, it's real. Outside the library you pause for a moment, ask the Pope how the igloo is coming along and contemplate that dreaded test of a pedestrians balancing capabilities - the glaciated flyover foot-bridge. The ascent is easiest. Near the peak you pause to melt down ice to make bouril. This prepares you for the hazardous descent. You edge forward bravely. The frozen hand rail bites into your fingers draining them of heat. Why didn't you buy gloves instead of those capacity achieving pints? Someone ahead screams, falls, creating a domino effect. Why didn't you buy life insurance? The wind rasps around your face and you think wind chill is an understatement and how much body heat do you really lose through your head? Finally, you approach the steps, your feet push forward in your shoes, and you regret not cutting your toe-nails. You reach the grassy slope, the pedestrian is victorious. Now you have survived the ice age and Rag Week and as the birds begin to sing, proclaiming the arrival of spring, the dreaded green revolution begins. The grass begins to grow, even on the mud path between the "Keep off the Grass" signs. Soon lawnmowers will be rampantly mowing down daisies and we know exams are approaching. Time is still on our side, but at the moment Higgleddy Piggledy sums it all up.

INTERNAL MIGRATION and REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT in IRELAND in the 1990s

JIM WALSH

The 1990s is likely to be a decade of considerable progress in relation to European integration. Already the process of economic integration is well under way and the foundations for monetary and political union are being laid. While these developments are presently confined to the members of the European Community it is also likely that new forms of association will emerge between the EC and its neighbours to the East and North. All of these developments may be viewed as part of a cumulative process aimed at the creation of a powerful and politically coordinated entity. While such developments present new opportunities and challenges they will undoubtedly require adjustments and concessions in many areas of policy formulation within individual states. The ability to make such adjustments and more importantly to secure a share of the benefits from increased integration is likely to vary considerably between countries and most especially between those countries which constitute the core and periphery regions of the continent. The implications for Ireland of the 1992 economic integration programme have already been analysed in detail by the National Economic and Social Council which concluded that "the long-run benefits of of market completion are likely to be unevenly distributed" and "the completion of the internal market should not be expected to narrow the income disparities between regions in the EC, let alone bring about convergence" (p.526).

While most governments have been expending considerable energies over recent years on the macro European processes they have also had to adjust many of their domestic policies in an effort to recover from the economic recession that beset the European economy in the first half of the 1980s. One of the more notable aspects of adjustment has been a trend in many countries to reduce the level of state intervention in the economic development process and to encourage an enterprise culture which has the important spatial implication that it often favours regions or localities that are already advantaged in terms of potential accessibility, availability of a highly trained graduate labour force, plus many other sources of economies of scale.

In the case of Ireland the experience over the 1980s was one of deepening economic recession up to about 1987 coupled with an increasing integration into the global, and particularly European, economy. The combined effects of, on the one hand, extremely high levels of unemployment and emigration and a very large burden of public debt and, on the other hand, a realisation of the seriously underdeveloped position of Ireland in relation to other regions of the EC (only five others of 160 Level II regions were ranked lower than the Republic of Ireland in the mid 1980s) have resulted in a concentration on the dynamics of growth with little reference to redistribution in recent attempts at economic planning. One outcome from the adoption of this narrow perspective has been a neglect of the regional aspects of development within the state.

This paper considers briefly the implications of these trends by examining the regional dimension of recent internal

migration in Ireland. Since the early 1980s there have been frequent expressions of concern over the scale of emigration. Internal migration has been largely neglected. The increasing levels of emigration were reflected in a declining volume of movement between counties so that by the mid 1980s there were only about 32000 such moves over a period of twelve months compared with almost 48000 for 1980-81. However, the average annual volume of inter-county migration for 1987 and 1988 was 37000 which was roughly equivalent to the annual net emigration total for these years. Table 1 summarises the trends in the absolute levels of net inter-regional migration over the last two decades. The most striking features here are the decline in net migration into the East region in the 1980s, and the very significant change in the Southeast from having the highest net out-migration in 1980-81 to being the only region apart from the East to experience net in-migration over the period 1983-88. Also noteworthy is the change from a net out-migration of 826 from the West in 1980-81 to a zero balance over the period 1983-88. Contrasting trends are evident for the Midlands and Northwest regions with the former showing a steady decline in net out-migration. The net in-migration recorded for the Midwest region in 1980-81 was clearly a temporary phenomenon which was partly related to the construction phase of a major alumina plant on the Shannon estuary that resulted in an in-migration of hundreds of skilled workers. Thus in overall terms while the absolute level of net inter-regional migration in the 1983-88 period was not much less than in the early 1970s its geography was substantially changed.

In the early 1980's, (1983-1985), there was a very significant decline in migration into Dublin to a level of about 8200 per annum. (See table 2) This was most likely due to the economic recession and the introduction of new technologies into offices which reduced the demand for new staff in both the private and public sectors of the economy. The impact of a government embargo on recruitment of new staff in public services area must have had a particularly significant impact upon migration of young persons, especially females, from rural parts of the state. The economic recession also affected the residential property market resulting in a reduced volume of migration between Dublin and its surrounding counties. Out-migration from Dublin was reduced but to a lesser extent. The evidence since 1986 suggests that there has been a return to an upward trend in migration into Dublin while the downward trend for out-migration has continued. Over the period 1986-88 there has been an annual net in-migration of over 3200 which is almost as high as the figure for the early 1970's. Clearly a continuation of this trend would have important regional implications which are discussed in the remainder of the paper.

The most important geographical characteristic of internal mobility in Ireland is the primacy of the East region, and in particular Dublin city and county, both as a destination for and origin of inter-county migration. The impact on population distribution can be gauged from the

fact that in the early 1980's the volume of in-migration to Dublin was approximately equal to the natural increase of the population, while in Kildare, Meath and Wicklow in-migration greatly exceeded the natural increase. At the same time out-migration to other counties greatly exceeded the natural increase in the populations of many rural counties. Government concern over the uneven pattern of population change was expressed in a lengthy review statement on regional policy in 1972 which identified as an objective for an overall regional strategy the minimisation of "population dislocation through internal migration." Specifically it proposed that over the period up to the early 1990's the development of Dublin should "be such as to accommodate the natural increase of its existing population" and that eight regional centres should be expanded in order to "counter regional imbalance byproviding elsewhere some of the qualities which make Dublin so attractive a centre for population and employment". Over the intervening period of almost two decades there has been very little by way of further elaboration on the objectives of regional policy. In a statement issued by the government in February 1987 outlining its response to a controversial longterm settlement strategy proposal for the East region it was noted that there was a need for a review of regional policy and that a "fundamental objective of such a review would be to provide support for the development of regions outside Dublin and to stem the growth of the Dublin area". Statements issued by government spokespersons over the last two years have been mostly concerned with the application

for and proposed use of Structural Funds from the European Community. There has been a noticeable omission from these statements of any reference to imbalance within Ireland, apart from some vague comments on the particular problems of Dublin and some rural areas. However, the specific objectives set out in the 1972 government statement have not been revoked and, therefore, it is appropriate to consider to what extent the objectives in relation to internal migration have been realised.

Clearly, the growth of the population of Dublin and the East region has not been confined to its natural increase. However, it must be acknowledged that some progress was made in the 1970's in reducing the share of total inter-county migration which is directed towards the East region. Over that decade the share total migration to Dublin decreased from 40% to 36.7%. In 1971 the volume of migration into the eight growth centres was approximately three-quarters of that to Dublin while by 1981 the number of people moving to the centres equalled those going to Dublin. However, the data for recent years indicate that these trends have been reversed, with 42.6% of migrants from other parts of the state moving to Dublin over the period 1986-1988. An important feature of the recent upsurge in migration to the East region is an increase in the proportion of graduates who remain in Ireland and obtain employment in and around Dublin. Over the period 1978-82 some 56% of graduates obtained employment in the East. By 1988 the proportion had increased to 61%. The orientation towards the East is greatest for Commerce and Arts and Social Science graduates with 78% and 69%

respectively finding employment in the Dublin metropolitan region, compared to 60% and 65% respectively for 1978-82 of graduates. Among the other regions there is clear distinction between those which have universities, (The Southwest, West and Midwest), and the remaining four regions which contain 30% of the population but provide employment for only 11% of the 1988 graduates, (only 5% of Commerce graduates).

These trends reflect the on-going adjustment in the labour force which has resulted in most of the recent growth in employment being confined to producer services. In the absence of a locational policy with respect to these services there are strong tendencies towards concentration in the largest urban centres. There is, therefore, a clear need for a national settlement strategy which would be accompanied by effective measures to assist the development of key centres outside of Dublin.

After the primacy of Dublin in the migration patterns the second most important characteristic is the very high level of relatively short distance migration which takes place between county Dublin and the three surrounding counties. Much of this movement is related to residential mobility. The obvious implication of these patterns is that the four counties, either entirely or in part, should constitute a single region for physical, social and economic planning and that there should be one authority to coordinate the administrative functions within the region. In this context there have been a number of distressing developments over the past two and a half years. Commencing in September 1987 the Regional Development

Organisations which had been established in the late 1960's to provide a co-ordinating and long term advisory service in regional planning were summarily abolished. Shortly afterwards the Minister of State for European Affairs announced that the government intended to draw up programmes which would be eligible for EC funding and that "the Dublin area.....would be one of the areas for the initial set of programmes". The hint that Dublin city and county would be treated separately from the surrounding counties was confirmed in August 1988 when the Minister for Finance announced that the country was being divided into seven regions as part of the preparation of the National Plan and that one of these would be the Greater Dublin Area defined only as the city and county. Counties Meath, Kildare and Wicklow which were formerly part of the Eastern region were placed in a redefined Midlands region. These decisions have resulted in a very unsatisfactory carving up of Ireland's largest and most complex functional region and removed from the planning arena an agency whose role it was to take a long term perspective on various aspects of development.

CONCLUSION

Over recent years the migration debate has focused largely on the scale of net emmigration. Very little attention has been given to patterns of internal migration. The numbers involved in inter-county migration are quite large and they represent a well defined segment of the population. The patterns being established in recent years

seen to be at variance with the experience of the 1970's and, therefore, have particularly important regional policy implications. Unlike the early 1970's, when policy objectives were stated in relation to curbing the extent to which inter-county migration was focused on Dublin the trends established in recent times have not evolved any response from those concerned with the formulation of national policy objectives. This situation must be changed of economic and social development in the 1970's is not to become more spatially polarised.

Table 1 NET INTER-REGIONAL MIGRATION FLOWS

Region	1970-71	1980-81	1983-88*
East	+4633	+4713	+2800
Southwest	- 158	- 814	- 400
Southeast	- 894	-1162	+ 400
Northeast	- 413	- 752	- 500
Midwest	- 659	+ 284	- 900
Midlands	-1160	- 830	- 750
West	- 766	- 826	000
Northwest/Donegal	- 593	- 613	- 800
Total migration	25,511	35262	24300

* annual average estimates based on Labour Force Surveys.

Table 2 INTER-COUNTY MIGRATION TO and FROM DUBLIN CITY and COUNTY

	In-migration	Out-migration	Net migration
1970-71	10559	7266	+3293
1980-81	13527	10523	+3004
1983-85*	8200	8400	- 200
1986-88*	9700	6500	+3200

* annual average based on Labour Force Surveys.

"Ireland an Industrial Dump in the 1990's"

Patrick Cleary

As the 20th century moves into its last decade, Ireland in terms of industrial expansion is a relative newcomer. To a large extent we have avoided leaving the kind of legacy that is quite often associated with Bopal, Seveso, Cubatao, or Chernobyl. This article looks briefly at some of these so called "industrial accidents", and asks could the same happen in Ireland with the present nature of our industrial expansion. We continue to read the reports of the awesome destructive power and loss of human life at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station. It has finally ended the claim by the Nuclear Industry that nuclear plants could not blow up. Within the industry they feel the likelihood of a core meltdown is so remote that it is not given any priority in the plant designing stage. The only study of a meltdown situation was a secret one called WASH-740 prepared by the U.S. Atomic Commission in 1965. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission now considers this study overstated and exaggerated in its findings. The truth is that nobody knows what the outcome of a meltdown would be, except possibly the Russians, and so far they have not given detailed accounts of the accident. Yet the hazards, horrific and longterm though they may be of a nuclear accident, are not the only causes for concern in the industrial field. Other industries, particularly the chemical industry have enormous scope for

destruction both to humankind and to the environment. There have been numerous so called accidents "associated" with this industry in the recent past. With the prospect of the gross expansion of the chemical industry in Ireland we need to remind ourselves of past experiences in this industry to ensure we do not repeat mistakes made by other countries and governments. In the village of Seveso, near Milan and an accident occurred at the Icmesa Chemical Plant on July 10, 1976. An accidental by product of the process was a highly toxic dioxin called Tetrachlorodibenzo -p- Dioxin or TCDD. A pressure build-up occurred in the process resulting in a release into the atmosphere of a vapour cloud. Those who lived in the immediate area were evacuated. Pregnant women who were affected were advised to have abortions, the chemical was known to produce malformations on fetuses. All crops and animals were destroyed within a five mile radius and now ten years later the incidence of abnormalities at birth is the highest in Europe. Confidence in the technology for minimising the risk of such incidents was again undermined in December 1984 in India. A massive escape of the poison gas Methyl Isoyanate from a pesticide manufacturing plant at Bhopal occurred. Within one week 2500 people living near the plant had died. Thousands of others have died since and it is estimated that 100,000 will suffer some acute medical condition, many will be left permanently blind. In November of the same year a liquid gas explosion occurred in a suburb of Mexico City, four hundred and fifty-two people were killed and 5000 others were injured. But it is the story of Cubatao situated at the foot of the rich Sao Paulo plains in Brazil which stands as an indictment of how

local greed, multinational indifference and a lack of government control turned what should have been a success story into a nightmare. Thirty years ago, Cubatao was an industrialist dream. Countless government grants available, plentiful supply of cheap, ununionised labour and few if any planning restrictions. However the industrialist dream of thirty years ago has been transformed into a modern day disaster zone. There are now 23 industries there emitting 75 pollutants (how many unknown ??), from toxic ammonia and deadly phosphate dust of the fertiliser plants to the red oxide which tints the air of the steel foundry. Many will say it could not happen here. Yet who would have the courage to say no, knowing an industry could be potentially dangerous, especially if that company had the potential to employ 500 to 1000 people. Would local politicians? Would TD's? Would a government with its back to the wall? In Cubatao, respiratory ills now account for 70% of the hospital admissions and independent studies have shown that the air exceeds by three times the normal levels of pollution acceptable to humans. Children are among the most affected category. However the most alarming statistic is that spontaneous abortions since the initiation of industrial development there represent approximately half the current population of Cubatao. Many children who do not reach birth are deformed; many others die from unknown diseases within the first year of their lives. In the local cemetery there is no room left for the ever growing numbers of dead people. The dead are now buried one on top of another in concrete like shelves, with one section of the cemetery reserved for babies. Cubatao had its very own "industrial accident" on the 25th February 1984. The pipes

which bore the petrol from the refinery through the town burst. With the ensuing explosion 500 people were burned to death in their homes. Yet the pipes are still above ground, the company is still in production having been fined the sum of \$13,000. For the people who live and work there the industries of Cubatao are still churning out their poisons. Yet these people have little option, their other option to factory work is poverty and starvation for their families. Cubatao need never turned sour if gradual expansion and correct planning had been adhered to. Instead as is the case with many of our great achievements, power, greed and ignorance took over. Brazil may seem a long way from Ireland, however in terms of the nature of our recent industrial expansion we share much in common. Ireland represents an attractive locational site for large multinational chemical companies. We too have a large ununionised labour force, high levels of unemployment and state agencies only too willing to assist with all manner of help from training to finance in setting up. Thus we must be ever vigilant to ensure that we do not become a haven for environmentally and socially unfriendly industries.

industries whose benefits to our economy are limited but who rather increase the wealth of the already developed countries at our expense. The time for action is now if we are to secure a safe and healthy environment for future generations.

"Economic and Political rather than Environmental Factors are
the Principal Causes of Inadequate Food Supplies in Africa"
Declan Brassil- 1st Arts

Generalizing about a continent as vast as Africa is, to say the least treading on shaky ground. We can say however that the majority of African nations have a problem with inadequate food supply. It is the purpose of this essay to set out and bring into focus the major causes of this modern day holocaust. The problem is commonly perceived with incredulous myopia and a funnel vision as being purely a tragedy caused by environmental factors. It is not my intent to bring to light the ineffable proportions of this tragedy but to alert the reader to political and economic implications which are an integral part of the problem. This is not to say however that environmental factors have not played an important part, they have, but ultimately it has been political and economic factors. The aim of their essay is to point out both political and economical and environmental problems and hopefully dispel the haze which shrouds the true problems.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS

The principle cause of hunger in Africa is commonly believed to be environmental conditions caused by drought, which inevitably leads to crop failure and starvation. Famine is

defined as human beings being deprived of food in large numbers and suffering. Drought is lack of rainfall. As Lofchie argues (Farmar 1988), the linkage is introduced when political and economic factors come into play. He points out that African food production was in a bad state before the beginning of the climatic problems, food inadequacy only reaching considerable proportions in the 1950's, malnutrition only being endemic since the 1960's. Lofchie also puts forward (Farmar 1988:98) that if the drought is the explanation why has it not affected export crops to the same extent as food crops? And why are there food shortages as severe in areas where drought has not been a major problem? The answers are political and economic. Drought is a problem, but not the only environmental problem with considerable impact. As Basawas reports (1979:128) an average 30% of African crops are destroyed annually in storage due to environmental factors, reaching 40%-50% in tropical Africa. This is one environmental factor which if tackled successfully through political and economic inputs could dramatically improve the food shortage. Other environmental factors such as climate and soil differences also play a part in the continuing famine but space does not permit me to elaborate on these points. Suffice to say that soil deterioration is partly a result of the minimal fertiliser and Technological inputs which the present food producing population are so badly in need of. These haven't been supplied either by their former colonial autocrats or present government, instead the majority of inputs going to export crop producers which are usually plantations held by foreign interests.

CASSIDY'S

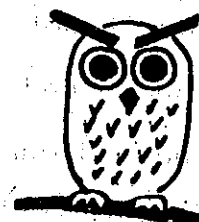
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COLONIZATION

Before embarking on an inspection of the political and economical aspects of the food shortage a short history of these aspects is required as a background to the present day situation as colonial rule has had a dramatic impact on the structure of the African economy today. Colonies existed for one main purpose and that was the provision of wealth for the mother country. As Dickenson rightly said (1983:30) Europe provided the financial and industrial skills while Africa supplied the labour and raw materials. The motives for colonization according to Gann (World Book 1981:658) were to expand industry. Africa provided a source of raw materials, markets for goods, sources of goods for export to the mother country and opportunities for investment. Ultimately, Europe moulded Africa to fit its own economic needs. In the early twentieth century interest arose in the agricultural sector with new level use and tenure introduced. The best land went to the Europeans while the poor land, mainly in the marginal areas was overcrowded with peasants. Dickenson 1983:31) Export orientated agriculture was severely exploited with the profits deposited in Europe for development. According to Franke (1980:71) the Africans were coerced into cash cropping by penal tax schemes such as poll tax and head tax to force peasants to produce for foreign markets. By 1965 all African states were heading towards self government with the exception of the extreme south. It is clear that colonial Africa in the 1940's and 1950's was moving very quickly away from the stagnation of the previous 50 years. They still had

a long way to go. African economies were still far too dependent on the export of only a few major primary products. Natural incomes per head, so far as they could be calculated, in territories where most people were still producing mainly for subsistence were still very low by European standards if not by those of some Asian countries (Oliver 1962:225). Colonization brought development to Africa but it severely exploited it and in many cases it actually lowered the standard of living by pushing the natives off the good land and imposing taxes. Africa was brought under the political and economic control of Europe and borders drawn indiscriminately. The natives were given very little formal training and left economically and politically unable to govern their nations. (See figure 1.1)

POLITICAL AND ECONOMICAL FACTORS

Generalisations about the political and economic state of Africa may be made on a continental scale and still possess some validity. Africa with the exception of the Republic of South Africa has a low state of economic development. As Hanes states (1964:4) the main activity is extractive, energy production and manufacturing being very underdeveloped. The infrastructure is grossly inadequate although marked improvements have been made since World War II. This further accentuates the problem of economic development and it is noticeable that the areas best served by the African infrastructure are the areas concerned with export cash crops. Central to the political analysis of the problem of African hunger is the dualistic structure of Africa's

agricultural economies. This refers to one in which there is a conspicuous division between large scale, relatively capital intensive production of a narrow range of export crops, and a labour intensive peasant sector which provides the bulk of the population's food requirements (Farmer 1988:98). This leads to what Lofchie means that one or more crops which are being exported is a basic food item which could be consumed locally. Export crops such as coffee and peanuts have led to Africa's continuous economic dependence on Europe and the West. It is apparent that political support for this policy is reminiscent of the policies of colonial governments, emphasis being placed on export crop producing plantations. As Lofchie reports (Farmer 1988:100) export concerns are allocated the best arable lands and benefit from most government support, peasants with little technology receiving little support. It is obvious from this that domestic consumption has suffered, export earnings being reaped at the expense of the impoverished peasants. (See figure 1.2) Lofchie argues (Farmer 1988:104) that African regimes have maintained a low price level for food crops in order to convert the labour for export crop production but we must consider Hanes point (1964:26) that dependency upon a limited number of export commodities makes the economy exceedingly vulnerable to fluctuation in the prices and the sizes of markets which are largely beyond its control. Therefore I believe that not all the blame in this respect should be placed on the African political regimes. Such a one product dependency creates many problems. It can create difficulties in obtaining an efficient, effective labour force, cause serious unemployment and can even lead to

political unrest. It can also lead to soil Deterioration, insect and disease damage and worst of all from Africa's perspective malnutrition and starvation.

CONCLUSION

I have tried in the short space allotted to highlight the main political, economic and environmental factors which have been directly responsible to some extent for the inadequacy of the African food supply. Environmental problems which I dealt with include drought, storage and soil deterioration. I have also pointed out that the new Independent African regimes have shown political support for policies such as export cash cropping that had been an integral part of the colonial system. In this context agricultural dualism and the agrarian paradox are important concepts which I have considered. Such policies have a lot to answer for in relation to the African food shortage. It cannot be argued however that environmental factors do not share the blame, but in retrospective it must be admitted that the problem of an inadequate food supply has been grossly accentuated and exasperated by political regimes and their economic policies.

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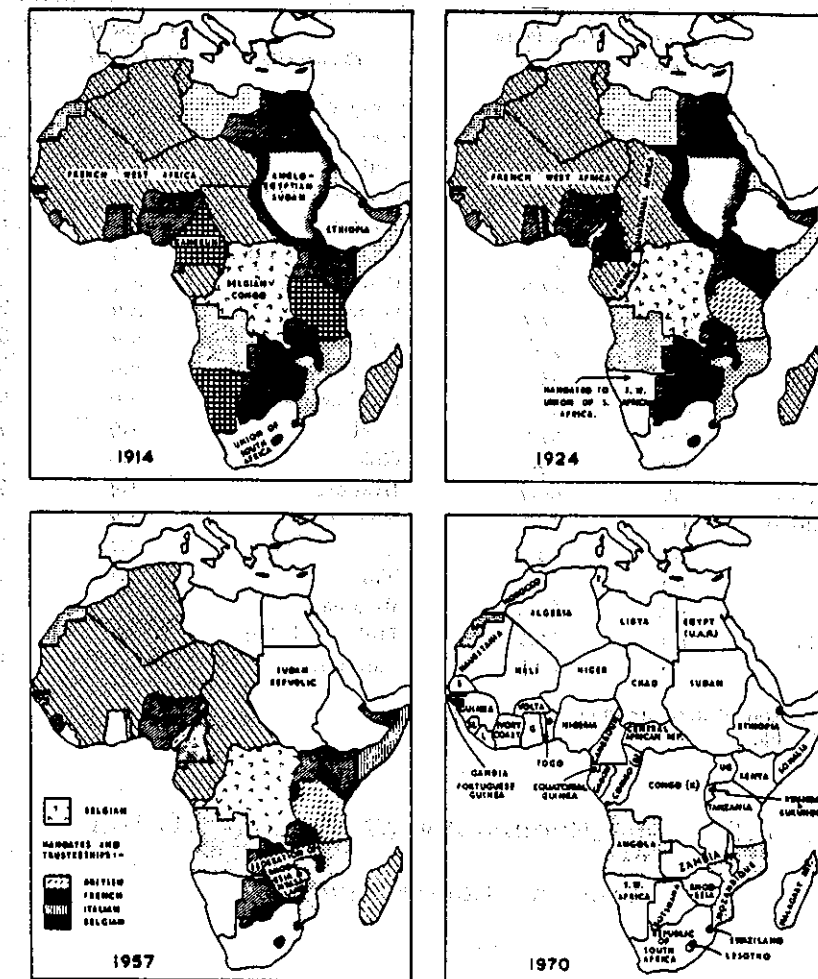


Figure 19 Africa in the twentieth century. By 1970 few colonies or protectorates remain. The following abbreviations are used: D Dahomey, G Ghana, L Liberia, M Malawi, S Senegal, SL Sierra Leone, SP Spanish Sahara, T Tunisia, UG Uganda

Where applicable, the same shading as for Figure 18 has been used

Fig. 1.1 The partition of Africa 'Colonization and Partition'
Oliver.A Geographical Study of Africa pg 105.

Table 4. Main exports of Africa and tropical Africa, 1961*

Africa				Tropical Africa		
Rank	Commodity	Percent of total value	Cumulative totals	Commodity	Percent of total value	Cumulative totals
1	Gold	10.3		Copper	13.8	
2	Copper	7.5	17.8	Cocoa	10.8	24.6
3	Cotton	7.3	25.1	Coffee	9.3	33.9
4	Cocoa	5.4	30.5	Peanut products	7.2	41.1
5	Coffee	4.7	35.2	Cotton	7.0	48.1
6	Petroleum	4.7	39.9	Logs and lumber	4.5	52.6
7	Peanut products	4.0	43.9	Palm products	4.4	57.0
8	Diamonds	3.8	47.7	Diamonds	4.2	61.2
9	Wine	3.1	50.8	Tobacco	3.3	64.5
10	Logs and lumber	2.3	53.1	Sugar	2.9	67.4
11	Palm products	2.2	55.3	Rubber	2.0	69.4
12	Sugar	1.9	57.2	Sisal	1.9	71.3
13	Tobacco	1.9	59.1	Gold	1.6	72.9
14	Atomic materials	1.6	60.7	Iron ore	1.4	74.3
15	Fish and products	1.5	62.2	Petroleum	1.2	75.5
16	Phosphates	1.5	63.7	Tea	1.1	76.6
17	Citrus fruit	1.4	65.1	Tin	1.1	77.7
18	Iron ore	1.4	66.5	Bananas	1.0	78.7
19	Hides and skins	1.2	67.7	Hides and skins	0.9	79.6
20	Corn	1.1	68.8	Alumina	0.8	80.4

Source: Compiled from national trade statistics.

* See notes at end of Table 3.

Fig. 1.2 The Geography of Modern Africa

William A. Hance pg 28

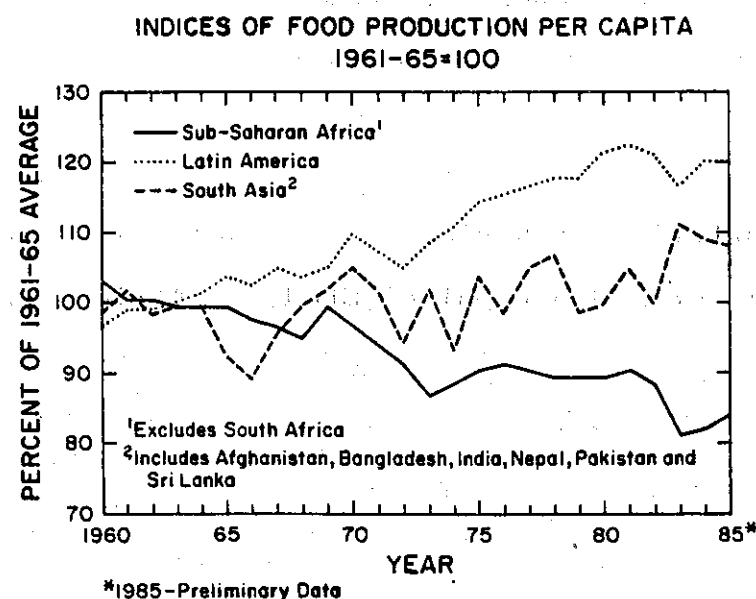


Fig. 1.3 This highlights the declining productivity of the peasant food producing population. Drought and Hunger in Africa Michael H. Glantz

"The French Connection"

Elaine Kelly - 3rd Arts

Honours

March 30th 1990 is imprinted in the memories of 53 of the most "dedicated" geography students this college will ever produce!!! Anticipation hung over the coach as we listened to name after name being included to the list of those seeking "women, wine, and song" on the shores of France.

The boat provided enlightenment for many of the female demographic population on the tour - 31 females to 22 males. Some of our male party got carried away in the expectations of a heatwave, deeming to be hovering in a high pressure in San Malo.

France is an excellent country for those who wish to lose a little weight. Food proved to be a total disaster. The "French cuisine we all anticipated, turned out to consist predominantly of bread and water. One poor student was unable to wear the clothes she had arrived in, at the end of the trip.

Pleine Fougaires provided little excitement for 53 funloving, wine seeking students - lights out at 9:00pm and pubs closed on a Saturday night. Smelling the sweet aroma of wine, 53 students, walked, and, walked and walked. Nine kilometers later reached a bistro - 40p a glass of wine - a haven for

us. Eight am the following morning found seven of those students still attempting to find the way back.....

Sunday night woke the sleepy town of Pleine Fougaires to the sound of bagpipes and Irish dancing - drink flowed freely to such an extent that four hours later the pub ran dry - no alcohol - time for us to leave.

The graveyard in Normandy provided many depressing moments - staring at 9936 white crosses of heroic American casualties of World War II. However this was quickly relieved by member of the tour who believed he was a dog, cocking his leg and wagging his tail.

One student was "plastered" in Caen - literally. Anticipation of food and the night that proved to be too much for her and down she went - step by step to the very bottom of a steep staircase. Wine and cigarettes flowed freely that night - unfortunately.

Yanick, our busdriver brought us on a tour of Paris by night, displaying especially La Moulin Rouge which left our male counterparts displaying depravity as they attempted to disembark from the bus.

The journey home was unseen by the majority of students who slept from arrival on the bus on Thursday morning until reaching the shores of Rosslare once again. The melodrama of home proved to be too much for two students who promptly collapsed into depression.

France 1990 is a trip to remember, never to be forgotten, especially by our two lecturers, not to mention the now 53 connoisseurs of French wine. Viva La France!

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This paper looks at two recent attempts to introduce women to geography. As the title suggests women have always been involved in geography, they like men play important roles through time and space. However the academic discipline as such has failed to recognise this or possibly has chosen to ignore women in geography. Having looked at what we mean by gender differences, the first section of this paper deals with how space is organised particularly in urban environments to reflect our male dominated society. Secondly then I propose to look at how the presence of absence of women in a particular area has influenced industrial location in the recent past. This has given rise to specific studies on women and their influence on industrial location. These are only two particular areas where women and geography have met, there are several others if the marriage between women and geography is to be complete.

The human race is divided by sex, the biological differences between women and men. These biological differences have developed into gender differences, that is, socially created distinctions between femininity and masculinity, and it is these gender differences which have given justification to the subordination of women. "The

concept of patriarchy has been used to explain why sex, a biological fact, became gender, a social phenomenon. Patriarchy can be defined as a set of social relations between men, which although hierarchical, establishes an interdependence and solidarity between them which allows them to dominate women. Thus, although men of different ages, races and classes occupy different places in the patriarchal pecking order, they are united because they share a relationship of dominance over their women". (Women and Geography Study Group of the IBG 1984, 26). Until recently, women, as subjects, have been more or less excluded from geographical analysis. Although there is a general recognition that they exist, few efforts have been made to investigate the particular contributions they have made. Looking through a representative selection of geography books it appears as if most of geography is concerned with "man". The use of that term, despite claims to the contrary, does portray humankind as being male. "Further, such language is more than a bad habit. It is symptomatic of far deeper levels of sloppy thinking". (Massey, 1986, 15) Those institutions that express, or seem to express, a dominant male role are taken as expressive of the whole order of society, while women are assumed to have no distinct role or to be in a state of continuous adjustment to this male dominated and male determined order. Whilst this assumption may reflect the..... truth at many times and in many places, it by no means reflects the whole truth. Women occupy space just as much as men do, but there are differences between male and female spatial behavior patterns. It is not

enough to merely "add" women to existing types of geographical analyses without any alteration to the theoretical assumptions underlying these analyses. It is necessary and productive to see women as both existing in the spatial world and at times constituting a distinct geographical force.

In recent years it has been the task of a number of female geographers, like Monk, Hanson, Hayfong and those belonging to the Women and Geography Study Group of the IBG, to portray the female aspect of humanity and to show that women do exist in the spatial world and that their location can and does have an effect on the shaping of this world.

In relation to urban spatial structure, the Women and Geography Group of the IBG (1984) have shown that during the last one hundred and fifty years there have been major changes in the land use structure of most of the world's cities, in the location and organisation of paid work, in women's participation in the labour force and in their domestic work. The revolutionary transformation of land use that took place in industrialising western cities is a familiar theme of urban geographers. The rapid expansion of urban population, the growth of suburbs with distinctive class characteristics, the improvement of transport, the development of specialised shopping and service centres form the subject matter of most urban geography courses. Although one of the most obvious features of these changes has been the growing separation of home life from paid employment, geographers have, in general, paid only cursory attention to the implications of this division. They have

neglected to analyse the relationship between the new organisation of domestic work and in the functions of the family have been part of the spatial development of the modern city. The industrial revolution involved a transformation of the family from a joint productive unit, in which future workers, the children, were trained largely by their parents, to a reproductive unit devoted to caring for men or children whose work, or training for work, took place outside the home in spatially quite distinct and separate areas. This transformation of domestic labour was part of a process of change in all work, and any proper understanding of the growth of our present capitalist city must include an understanding of the role of domestic work.

Homebased care for children and elderly relatives is still primarily a female responsibility, and by confining women to the home for several hours of the day, these duties reinforce the allocation of other domestic tasks to women. The demands of such care creates so many difficulties of scheduling their activities both in time and space that few women are able to combine wages work and home responsibilities satisfactorily. Women are usually confined to jobs within walking distance or within a short distance by public transport. This reliance on walking and public transportation spells reduced mobility and consequently spatially restricted access to job opportunities.

These problems of scheduling cannot be solved merely by equal sharing of domestic tasks between men and women since the present spatial and temporal organisation of

urban areas hinders the integration of public and private activities for women and men. Short-term improvements to women's opportunities could be made by increasing current meagre provision of state child care, homes for the elderly and improvements in the public transport networks. In the longer term, however, there is a need to develop new and better forms of social and spatial organisation, including better forms of commercial care that exist at present. Possibilities which could be explored are co-operative housing, service units where socialised childcare and other activities might be provided on a shared basis, and the greater integration of housing for a wide range of age groups and family types.

There is a need to attack the conventional separation between public and private space both in theory and in practice. Women cannot improve their overall position in society until their status both at home and in the labour market is altered, and this requires the breakdown of the current social and spatial division of labour and the creation of a new form of urban built environment.

Geographers can contribute to the creation of a new urban environment both in theory and in practice. Until recently, feminist analyses have largely ignored the spatial component of women's oppression. Geographers are in the unique position of being able to understand this spatial component, since without this understanding, one cannot hope to tackle this problem satisfactorily. Furthermore, geographers occupy many important positions in society where they are able to direct the necessary change. As architects and planners, geographers must answer the

questions of what size and type of buildings should be used in child and elderly care, and where should these buildings be located in relation to other land uses.

While for many years geographical studies have taken the spatial aspect of employment as their subject matter, it is only recently that the role women play has been brought into focus. Two of the most recent studies include those conducted by the Women and Geography Group of the IBG (1984) and McDonagh (1987). The former focused on Britain and the latter on Ireland.

In their study, the Women and Geography Group of the IBG showed that the geographical location of women has had an impact on the locational decisions taken by industry in Britain. Changes in the organisation and location of industry have generated a demand for female labour. But these changes have also been made in response to, and have been shaped by, the existence, and specific geographical location, of female labour supplies. Without such female labour reserves the organisation and relocation of industry may have been very different. The particular location of female labour reserves was in part a result of previous patterns of industry and employment. In the north-east of England and the west of Scotland, for example, the former dominance of traditional industries employing a predominantly male workplace; the nature and status of males employment which placed heavy demands on female domestic labour in the home; and the lack of alternative employment opportunities for women, firmly entrenched a strict division of labour between men as waged workers and women as housewives and mothers. Those were all important

elements in producing large reserves of female labour in the regions and in providing growth industries with a new source of labour. Moreover, it was not only the numbers of available women workers which attracted new investment, but also the type of female labour available. Many of these women were married, had no experience of working before and were therefore considered to be a reliable, feasible and high source of labour.

In the case of Ireland, it can be argued, that regional labour reserves have occupied a vital role in industrial investments and that the state has become increasingly involved in their creation. Government policy of attracting multinational investment to Ireland has resulted in a regional change in employment trends.

"In 1981 there was a higher female component in the industrial workforce in the West (27%) than in the East (24%); in Mayo, Sligo and Donegal the proportion exceeded one-third. Between 1971-81, the number of female industrial employees grew in the West by 48%, and declined in the East by 10%. (Breathnach 1985, 190)

This large relative increase in industrial employment in the West can be contributed in no small measure to the abundant supply of female labour in these remoter parts of Ireland. Much of the employment was created by subsidiaries of larger trans-national companies, particularly American and Japanese companies. Much of this is simply involved in component part production with inter-corporate trading. Low levels of skill were required and this type of work is considered to be particularly suited to female labour,

younger females especially. The wage expectations of females is generally lower than those of males, for a whole variety of reasons. Thus the cheap, ununionised, readily available pools of female labour in the West is very attractive to foreign companies, labour being a very important component in the overall cost of production.

Both of these studies have shown that gender relations, that is, social relations between men and women, vary between different areas of both countries. Consequently the nature of and variation in gender relations have been integrally related to the changes which have taken place in the organisation of and location of industry and employment

The geography of female employment also has significant implications for new patterns and forms of inequality in Ireland and Britain. While the change in the gender composition has been a national phenomenon in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England, it has been accentuated in the more underdeveloped region of Western Ireland and in the other industrial areas of Scotland, Wales and the north of England. Furthermore, this change in the gender composition has also meant a change in the gender of those excluded from employment. The nature of work itself has also undergone a related transformation.

It has been increasingly recognised that the creation of new jobs in itself is not a sufficient guarantee of future economic development in depressed areas. It may well be that the low skill and low wage structure of many of the new jobs, done by women, in these regions have perpetuated or even exacerbated existing patterns of inequality. Their creation has certainly altered the form of regional

development.

Since existing patterns of regional development are, in part, the product of former divisions of labour between men and women, a specific examination of the geography of female employment should constitute a major part of regional analysis.

There is a necessity for a gender perspective in geography since we cannot fully interpret human behaviour unless we take into account all the societal patterns and structures which exist. Without an understanding of the gender roles which underlie the workings of society, we cannot hope to present a reasonable analysis of the spatial behaviour of humans. If geographers include in their methodologies and analytical frameworks the realistic involvement of women in society, they will benefit from much more detailed explanations within their subject matter.

It is hoped that in the future the gender perspective in geography will not focus exclusively on women, nor be taken solely by women. These female geographers are concerned with the structure of social and spatial relations that contribute to inequalities on the basis of gender. Consequently men too must be included in the analysis: as oppressors in certain situations, as oppressed in others. Geographers have also ignored the gender basis of male behaviour. A truly gender perspective thus embraces the gender roles of women and men.

JE SUIS PERDU or Loose Canons in France 1990

(To be sung to the air of 'Bridges of Paris' in a French accent, accompanied by a 12-piece orchestra of French accordians, or to save cost French fiddles, and a lone indecently-kilted Donegal bagpiper of the O'Dochartaigh clan). Annotated with an authorised commentary on events which may perforce baffle most non-members of the French 90 expedition.

How would you like to be
In Pleine-Fougeres Brittany,
When they've run out of Muscadet and the biere
And the street lights have no electricite?
Or would you rather be
Over in Normandy
Knee-deep in open fields, villages grand,
Or where the Germans concreted the sand
Fifty long years ago?

The bus left Maynooth after tea
To head for Rosslare and the sea
The disco was fair, though the dancers were bare
And the bagpipes were shrieking 'Ou est lingerie'?
As Campbell and Turley McNeill

A lecherous chorussing trio
Were leaping about like some lagerful louts
Making everyone seasick with bottles of stout (iii)
And no sleep till long after three

We hoofed in into Pontorson
And crossed the mighty Couseson (iv)
In search of a disco, or even a bistro
With real food like burgers and gravy and chips - so
Its then that the tragedy struck-

Antoin fell right into a siuch (v)
And we were all stuck there right out in the sticks
-Had to walk in the dark about 12 kilometres
From La Madison disco to home

There was a fine hullabaloo
At 8.45 I'll tell you
Some shagger kept shakin me to get on the bus -
But I was asleep and said what's all the fus?
I woke up in Mont St Michel *So sorry!*
And near a big statue as well (vi)
To some guy who landed on Canada's shores
Before my great grandad and long before yours
Then I dreamt I was back in Ireland.

We all went on etudes rurale
In polders round Dol de Bretagne
We interviewed gravediggers, cures and men (vii)
To see if they knew their farm sizes and when
The young people all went away

And what they all did every day
-And what we found out was that field trips are fun
-When can we sign on the next one?

And when we all landed in Caen
Poor Vera was accident-prone
She stepped near a stair and was walking on air
-And was plastered in Paris, Le Havre and Rosslare
Versailles was just like the Roost
Back home in Main Street Maynooth
With marble and mirrors and statues galore
Though its too loo for the ladies is superior
(to the holes in the ground back in France)

Le chauffeur s'appelle Yannick
In Normandy he is unique
For driving and drinking and dancing le jig
And speaking ze French with ze accent Gallic
He took us to Paris by night
Where Noel gave Colm a fright
"Je suis perdu" he said
"How about you -
The bus has gone clean out of sight" (viii)

And Mary and Jane had a ball
As they rolled down along the Pegalle
It looked so enticing, though the burgers were pricey
And the bus wouldn't stop there at all
And the front row all mentioned before
Went sleepless till long after four

Had petit dejeuner at the dawn of the day
 And slept on the bus till the parfumerie
 Woke them all with heads eyes and footsore

So its springtime in old gay Paree
 As we're walking the Champs Elysees
 Sinead's feeling frisky and so romantique
 When a French gallant whispers
 -Says "Hey ma petite -
 "How would you like to be
 Down by the Seine with me
 Under the bridges of Paris with you
 I'll make your dreams come true"

NOTES

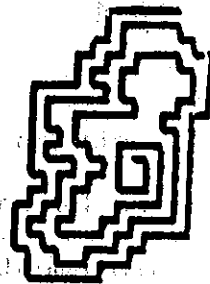
- (i) "Pleine-Fougères" - a small town on the Normandy-Brittany border where everyone goes to bed about 8.00 pm and where The Travellers Rest (Hotel des Voyageurs to the locals) didn't open on Saturday night. The proprietor took courage on Sunday and opened, but his worst fears were realised when all his stock was consumed by the ravenous horde. Where Antoin Ban exposed his talents playing reels, jigs, hornpipes, jazz, blues and hard rock on the bagpipes.
- (ii) "Concreted the sand" - Scene of emotional lament on warpipes by aforementioned O'Dochartaigh on a German gun of gargantuan proportions at Arronanches which was

put out of action by USS Arkansas on evening of 4 June 1944.

- (iii) "bottles of stout" - merely used for rhyming purposes and has no bearing on the consumption patterns of the aforementioned lechers.
- (iv) "Mighty Couesnon" - River separating Brittany from Normandy, flowing through Pontorson with quicksands at its estuary near Mont St Michel across which William the Bastard (later, fortunately for him, the Conqueror of England) and Harold invaded Brittany in 1064 (see Bayeux Tapestry c1070), and later crossed, it is said, by a party from Maynooth desperate for a disco on night of Saturday 31 March 1980.
- (v) "Siuch" - this is colloquial Irish meaning drain, dyke or ditch and un-fortunately the author doesn't know the French for it. But the circumstances of his falling into this declevity are indeed a mystery to me.
- (vi) "Big statue" - to Jacques Cartier in St. Malo commemorating his discovery of Canada. We all know of course that St Brendan from Kerry got there first.
- (vii) "Gravediggers" - see Sally O'Donoghue; "cures" (ie parish priests) - see Jason Campbell et al; "men" - see Sinead Callahan et al et al.
- (viii) Another version suggests he said "That bus has left us in the right pickle"

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The Geographical Society of Ireland was founded in 1934 with the object of promoting an interest in geography. Its membership is drawn from teachers in schools, colleges and universities; people working in the public service and research; and all others who find geography interesting and stimulating. The Society seeks to provide information and promote discussion about a wide range of topics of geographical interest both within Ireland and abroad.

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