

individualism and an unwillingness to conform to movements organised at national level, as evidenced by the controversial career of Patrick Lavelle. The Achill mission's attempt to introduce aspects of a more modern society such as education, land reclamation and a hospital service failed miserably.

The editors express the hope that the volume will form the first in a series. Some of the themes raised, such as the implications of the physical isolation of the county, or, a theme strangely neglected by the essays in the volume, the rebellious nature of Mayo's inhabitants as evidenced in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and again in the nineteenth century, could well serve as a focus for future studies. Indeed, focussing on particular themes or problems might prove a more useful approach to Irish local history than becoming involved in a rather circular debate as to what constitutes a community.

MARY O'DOWD

*Department of Modern History, Queen's University of Belfast*

NATIVES AND NEWCOMERS: ESSAYS ON THE MAKING OF IRISH COLONIAL SOCIETY, 1534-1641. Edited by Ciaran Brady and Raymond Gillespie. Pp 259. Dublin: Irish Academic Press. 1986. IR£25 hardback, IR£9.95 paperback.

THE last twenty years have witnessed a major expansion in research and writings on Irish history, 1534-1641. Arguing that this expansion has created an unfortunate gap in knowledge between the specialist and the general reader, the editors of *Natives and newcomers* aim to make the findings of recent research more widely available and 'to open up discussion on a number of key themes in the development of Irish society' (p. 7). Given the book's format and modest length, this is an ambitious undertaking. In fact, the volume comprises a short but valuable historiographical introduction, eight essays by different authors on particular topics, and a co-operative bibliography. There are some useful tables but no maps. And since there is no attempt at a political narrative or a chronological framework of events, the book is perhaps best seen as a companion volume to the various surveys of early modern Ireland.

In this role the volume is of the first importance. It should prove a boon to students and specialists alike. There are no light-weight essays; and each of the authors offers a judicious combination of 'facts', historiographical discussion, and new research and ideas — in differing proportions according to the state of each topic. Some of the essays develop neglected subjects: Anthony Sheehan's ambitious essay on Irish towns offers a challenging interpretation of urban developments, while Mary O'Dowd's wide-ranging survey of the Gaelic economy and society is particularly valuable on surrender and regrant and the Gaelic response to anglicisation. Bernadette Cunningham's chapter also deals with the Gaelic response, but more politically and concentrating on the surviving Gaelic sources. Deftly sidestepping one of the intellectual minefields created by the Bradshaw v. Canny controversies, the essay provides a rounded and convincing interpretation of change in Gaelic attitudes, although the use of available Scottish material, such as that edited for the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society, might have added a further dimension.

Three more essays also contribute to current debates. Michael McCarthy-Morrogh persuasively deploys new evidence in support of his argument that early Stuart Munster was predominantly an extension of the English West Country rather than part of the English colonial system, although his assertion that 'the use of Irish was almost the only thing strange about the province' (p. 189) is surely an exaggeration. And Alan Ford and Colm Lennon contribute to the debate about the Irish reformation. Ford's essay on the protestant reformation concentrates on the early Stuart church, providing a useful summary of the arguments in his major book on the subject. This is particularly welcome because a recent review of the book by Professor Canny (in *I.H.S.*, xxv,

no. 97 (1986), pp 105-15) appears to misrepresent Ford's position. The reasons for the failure of the Tudor church are actually discussed in the following chapter by Colm Lennon on the Counter-Reformation, which advances substantially the case for an Elizabethan date for the breakdown of the government's reform initiative.

The book opens and closes with the editors' own contributions. Ciaran Brady's very perceptive essay on the framework and problems of government in the Tudor period provides an important corrective to recent attempts to interpret changes in Tudor government and patterns of conquest in terms of competing ideologies. The essay's very success highlights the absence of an early Stuart counterpart in the volume, although Raymond Gillespie's contribution on the causes of the 1641 rising takes up a few of the points raised by Brady. In line with recent trends in the historiography of the English civil war, Gillespie emphasises short-term causes and the essentially conservative aims of the Ulster rebels. (Incidentally, his Table '1' (*recte* 'I') on p. 206 contains an unfortunate misprint: the Ulster share in Irish customs in 1640-41 should read 6.5 (%), not 16.5.) Unfortunately, Gillespie's contention that the rising marked the end of an era (p. 213) remains undeveloped: the book lacks a conclusion, which might usefully have considered the general direction of change in the years 1534-1641 even though, as the editors point out, the essays are not intended to provide an uniform view of the period.

Overall, *Natives and newcomers* is a very stimulating volume which will undoubtedly provoke further debate and discussion in what is already a lively area of research. It is full of new ideas and insights into the period, some of them controversial, although pressures of space clearly meant that the contributors could frequently offer only a preview of arguments which will presumably be developed elsewhere. Both specialists and students will find this challenging book essential reading on the period.

STEVEN G. ELLIS

*Department of History, University College, Galway*

THE GORGEOUS MASK: DUBLIN, 1700-1850. Edited by David Dickson. Pp x, 182. Dublin: Trinity History Workshop. 1987. IR£9.50, hardback, IR£4.50 paperback. (Trinity History Workshop Publication 2.)

THIS is a collection of essays on aspects of the social and economic history of Dublin in the eighteenth and early to mid nineteenth centuries, and is the work of the editor and a dozen history students of Trinity College, Dublin. The workshop's first publication was *Ireland and the First World War* (Dublin, 1986). The main theme of the work under review is the contrast between the great wealth of upper-class Dublin and the 'Neapolitan squalor' of the poorer quarters.

The opening essay by Tighernan Mooney and Fiona White gives an account of the gentry's 'winter season' in Dublin, based on analysis of newspaper advertisements for theatrical and musical events from the 1760s to 1800. The authors conclude that the number and content of events in the season was not necessarily determined by whether or not the parliament was in session. An interesting piece by Eamon Walsh traces the history of Dublin's premier street, Sackville (now O'Connell) Street, from its laying out in the 1750s until 1850. Using sources such as Registry of Deeds memorials, trade directories and printed voters' lists, Walsh describes the street's evolution from an aristocratic residential area to one of primarily commercial and business use.

The editor, David Dickson, in collaboration with Richard English, contributes a piece on the La Touche family, 'perhaps the wealthiest, certainly the most enduring financial dynasty of Anglo-Ireland'. Particular attention is paid to the La Touches' banking firm, which outlived most of its contemporaries in what tended to be an ephemeral business. The La Touches' political involvements are also touched upon, from James Digges La Touche's association with radical Charles Lucas in the 1740s, to the opposition to the union of four of the five La Touches in the last College Green parliament.