

OBITUARY

Mr. Colin J. Robb

MR. COLIN Johnston Robb, who has died at Timpany, Ballynahinch, Co. Down, was one of Northern Ireland's best known historians and Archivists and contributed extensively to the Press and historical journals.

From boyhood he had an interest in the past, the late Mr. F. J. Bigger, the celebrated Irish historian, who was a friend of his father, coached him in documentary research.

Mr. Robb, born in Belfast, went to Shaftesbury House tutorial college and entered the office of the late R. S. Hill, civil engineer, architect and surveyor, as an indentured apprentice. It was intended that he should later join the family firm, Fretelli Robb, Bologna, Italy, textile engineers and mill and factory building consultants. He served, however, for a time in the old Royal Irish Constabulary and in 1923 commenced practice as a consulting engineer and surveyor.

In the 20s he became a consultant in church restoration, and the liturgical arts, and also the study of classical domestic architecture, but he was better known to the public as a freelance historical journalist and contributor to the Belfast Telegraph.

He is survived by his wife.