

XI INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMPETITIONS 1962

GIJON, SPAIN.

The team representing Ireland at the above Competitions was :-

M. J. O'Flanagan, B.E.	Irish Official Representative on the Organising Committee.
R. J. Grimes, B. Comm.	Irish Technical Representative on the Board of Judges.
T. Bridgeman.	Technical Auxiliary for Carpentry and Joinery.
J. Bolton.	Technical Auxiliary for Plumbing.
S. Rossiter.	Technical Auxiliary for Fitting.
W.J.N. O'Brien, Dip. Eng.	Interpreter and Group Leader in charge of apprentices.

Competitors.

Fitting	A.	Thomas Tombs	Newbridge, Co. Kildare.
	B.	Anthony Alford	Tirrellspass, Co. Westmeath.
Turning	A.	Michael Greany	Killarney, Co. Kerry.
	B.	Francis Douglas	Waterford City.
Cabinetmaking	A.	Desmond Caulfield	Ranelagh, Dublin.
	B.	Patrick Lynch	Kells, Co. Meath.
Joinery	A.	Patrick Coates	Walkinstown, Dublin.
	B.	Donal Cooper	Terenure, Dublin.
Brickwork	A.	Noel Smith	Drimnagh, Dublin.
	B.	Patrick Cullen	Drimnagh, Dublin.
House Wiring	A.	Thomas Grandison	Sligo Town.
	B.	John Cullinane	Ballineen, Co. Cork.
Industrial Wiring	S.	George Stroughair	Kinnage, Dublin.
Carpentry	S.	Aidan Falpin	Rush, Co. Dublin.
Plumbing	S.	William O'Rourke	Crumlin, Dublin.
Silversmiths	S.	Desmond Byrne	Crumlin, Dublin.

In addition to the official team a group of observers also attended the Competitions to acquire experience of the organisation in order to assist in the holding of the XII Trade Competitions in Dublin in 1963. They included members of the following :-

- The Technical Branch of the Department of Education.
- The City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee.
- The Federation of Employers.
- The Trade Unions.
- The O'neard-Cneachairle.

The Organising Committee of the Trade Competitions chose the Official Representative of Ireland to open and close the Competitions in Gijon. Mr. O'Flanagan, speaking in Irish and Spanish, in the course of his address, formally announced that the next Competitions will be held in Dublin in July 1963 and welcomed all the participants to come to Dublin.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

COUNTRY	ENTRIES	MEDALS		
		GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
SPAIN	25	11	4	5
IRELAND	16	4	4	2
ENGLAND	28	3	7	8
JAPAN	9	3	3	0
BELGIUM	18	2	4	2
GERMANY	24	2	3	3
PORTUGAL	16	2	1	2
SWITZERLAND	5	2	0	1
AUSTRIA	8	0	0	2
HOLLAND	8	0	1	2

PLACES OBTAINED BY IRISH COMPETITORS

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
4	4	3	2	1	1	0	1	0	0

Note:-Although Ireland had three third places one of the candidates did not receive a medal because there were not sufficient candidates in his competition to warrant the award of a third prize.

THE TRADES IN WHICH IRELAND DID NOT COMPETE ARE :-

Constructional Steel Work	Panel Boating
Machine Design Drawing	Forging
Milling	Jewellery
Wood Patternmaking	Moulding
Painting	Welding
Stone Cutting.	

GOLD MEDALS WERE WON BY:-

NAME	SUBJECT	EMPLOYER	UNION
Francis Douglas	Turning B	Douglas Eng. Co. Waterford.	
Donal Cooper	Joinery B	J.F. Keating & Sons Dublin	A.S.W.
Noel Smith	Bricklaying A.	Murray & Sons Rathfarnham	A.G.I. Brick & Stonelayers
Aidan Malnin	Carpentry S	His Father	A.S.W.

SILVER MEDALS WERE WON BY:-

NAME	SUBJECT	EMPLOYER	UNION
Des Caulfield	Cabinetmaking A.	Hilton Bros.	I.N.U.W.
Patrick Coates	Joinery A.	North City Mills	A.S.W.
Patrick Cullen	Bricklaying B.	Murray & Sons	A.G.I.B.&S.
Desmond Byrne	Silversmiths S.	Gunning Bros	G.S.& A.T.

BRONZE MEDALS WERE WON BY:-

Thomas Tombs	Fitting A.	Bord na Mona	I.E. & E.T.U.
George Stroughaire	Industrial Wiring	W. & R. Jacobs	E.T.U.

Note: As there was a tie for first place in senior fitting two gold medals were awarded. For this reason Thomas Tombs was actually awarded a silver medal and the fourth competitor received a bronze medal.

In these Competitions there are always "hard luck" cases and, as with other countries, Ireland had some. The Irish plumber might well have gained first place but for being unwell with an abscess in his ear. The senior joiner was unable to become accustomed to the food and suffered from fatigue as his competition progressed. He obtained the highest marks for craftsmanship but lost marks on time and finished up in second place. The senior turner was unlucky to have spoiled a piece of material for which he lost marks and time by having to have this piece replaced.

The results in this, the XI International Trade Competitions, represent Ireland's best achievement to date and several factors have contributed to it. There was full co-operation by the Vocational Teachers concerned. They worked with enthusiasm to prepare the individual apprentices for the Competition. They spent many hours of their own free time and part of their summer vacation supervising the making of tests by their students.

Employers released their apprentices, with pay, for long periods for training in technical schools. Were it not for this excellent co-operation we could not have achieved the same results. Most of the employers must also be thanked for purchasing uniforms for their apprentices and for providing them with a substantial amount of pocket money.

Trade Unions concerned also gave their full support as well as financial assistance to their apprentices.

A special word of thanks is due to Mr. Denis Guiney of Clerys Ltd. for his very generous contribution in providing the uniforms at half price. Mr. Guiney himself was originally responsible for the selection of the different items of the uniform which is generally conceded to be the most attractive outfit in the Competitions.

Michael Walsh Travel Ltd. organised the travel arrangements. Gijon is in a remote part of Spain and it is very difficult to reach it. It was also the tourist season when it was most difficult to obtain hotel accommodation. All arrangements worked out exactly as planned. For the smooth and efficient travel arrangements special thanks is due to Miss Gibbons, who travelled with the party, and to Miss Henderson and Mrs Lennon who planned the itineraries.

The apprentices themselves, under their Group Leader, behaved excellently, not only during the Competitions but also on pleasure trips and at social gatherings. Their etiquette, deportment and general good behaviour were frequently admired. They were excellent ambassadors who helped to put the prestige of Ireland further ahead in these International Trade Competitions.

It will have been noticed that the All International Trade Competitions will be held in Dublin in July 1963 and a special representative Organising Committee has been set up by the Minister for Education to ensure its success. A more adequate representation than Ireland has hitherto been able to make, will be called for in this instance, because, as can be seen earlier in this report, there are many trades in which Irish apprentices should be entered. The co-operation of all concerned to ensure a full team, will be necessary.

PERSONAL.

R J Grimes.

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20-9-62.