

GROUP FOR THE STUDY OF IRISH HISTORIC SETTLEMENT NEWSLETTER

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Annual Outing 2013

Trim

See page 46 for details

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€5 (Free to members)

Editorial

Welcome to the 2012–13 edition of our Newsletter.

My thanks again to our president Bernadette Cunningham for her sterling work on the notices of books and research guides which are the backbone of our publication. This year she has also provided a report on our very successful outing to Loch Ree on page 32.

Thanks to our article contributors, Gearoid O'Brien, Bernadette Cunningham, and Aengus Finnegan for excellent papers. My thanks to our reviewers, Paddy Duffy, Bernadette Cunningham, Raymond Gillespie, Margaret Murphy and David Fleming.

This year our outing is to Trim. We will be based in the Trim Castle Hotel. The list of speakers and lectures, and information concerning registration and fees may be found on page 46 of this Newsletter.

Dr Margaret Murphy and Dr Ingelise Stuijts gave lectures on behalf of GSIHS on Heritage Day, 25 August last in the Helen Roe Theatre of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, 63 Merrion Square. Read a report on page 10 of this newsletter. These lectures were beautifully delivered and the large numbers attending demonstrated the interest of the general public in the research that we do. Many thanks to Margaret and Ingelise for continuing the very high standard and for bringing the activities of our Group to the general public.

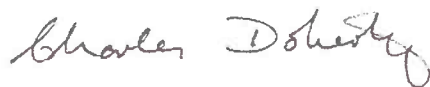
Our Secretary David Fleming has written a detailed synopsis of the lectures delivered at our Fifth Thematic Conference held in All Hallows College, 24–26 February, 2012 on page 34. The theme was *Climate, Environment, Settlement and Society*. We hope that it will not be long before we are in a position to organise another thematic conference.

Please note our statement on page 33 concerning the importance of maintaining the subjects history and geography at the core of the Junior Cycle curriculum. We would ask you to be alert to developments in this area and use what influence you may have to preserve these core subjects.

I hope you will find this issue of the Newsletter of interest. I would make a special appeal to our conference speakers to contribute articles for the next issue. The articles in this issue are a guide to the length required. Our web site is:

<http://www.irishsettlement.ie/>

After you first log on make a bookmark of the site. Give it a name (why not **GSIHS**). Place it in your menu-bar for easy reference and then all future visits will require just one click.



April 16, 2013

Articles



Figure 1 Islanders under sprint sail on Lough Ree

Gearoid O'Brien

Island Living: the modern story of life on the Black Islands on Lough Ree

(Senior Executive Librarian
Aidan Heavey Library, Athlone)

In my paper for the conference I dealt with life on several islands on Lough Ree but in this article I will confine myself to life on the Black Islands. I have always had a great interest in Lough Ree but when I met (and married) Angela Hanley, and learned that her grandfather had been born on The Black Islands and reared in Athlone, following the drowning of his father on Lough Ree, I found that I became fascinated with the social history of the Lough Ree islanders. Anyone who knows an islander knows that they are special people, people who have been moulded by the strictures of island life, people who have been happy to live on the clippings of tin and people whose trust has to be earned – and rightly so. They are (and were) a resourceful people who learned how to live within the law, well most of the time, and who had principles to which they firmly adhered. From my own researches I am convinced that many of the families which had become established on the islands of Lough Ree in the nineteenth century were descendants of people who

had lost their lands in confiscations in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and had taken to their boats in search of a new way of life. This ties in with the anecdotal evidence of a number of families including the Hanleys on the Black Islands and the Ganleys on Inchmore both coming down from Roscommon, the O'Hara's on the Black Islands coming from Co. Sligo and I believe the Duffys on Hare Island coming from Roscommon.

The Black Islands is the name given to an attractive archipelago of low-lying islands in the civil parish of Cashel, Co. Longford. The islands are in the barony of Rathcline and the Poor Law Union of Ballymahon. The largest island is King's Island (area c.17 acres), the other islands include Nut Island (c.16 acres), Sand Island (c.4 acres), Long Island (c.3 acres), Horse Island (c.2 acres), Red Island (c.2 acres) and Girls Island which is about a half an acre in extent. The Black Islands, although they have no recorded ancient history, are nevertheless a most interesting sociological entity.

The settlement of King's Island would seem to be a relatively modern development. There is no record in the Tithes Applotment Books for Co. Longford of any occupation of the island, but there is every reason to believe that a community dwelt there at that time. The first record we

have is the census returns for 1841, which indicate that the Black Islands had three households with a combined population of twenty-two people: ten male and twelve female. The earliest named inhabitants turn up in Griffith's Valuation of 1854 where Daniel Hanly, Michael Hanly and John O'Hara are recorded as occupiers of houses and land. Between them they farmed the seven islands and their landlord was a Mr Phipps.

We know from the census returns that there were consistently three houses on the islands from 1841 onwards. In 1841 the population was twenty-two but thirty years later this had dropped to ten, possibly indicating that almost half the population had emigrated. We know anecdotally that certain Hanly family members settled in Providence, Rhode Island. By 1901 the figures had once again risen above twenty.

In recent years the islands have been uninhabited, the last two islanders to live on the Black Islands were Paddy Hanly, a direct descendant of Daniel Hanly who was on the island in 1854, and the late Nancy (Babs) Conroy who was descended from Michael Hanly, the second Hanly on the island at the time of Griffith's Valuation. Both Paddy Hanly and Nancy (Babs) Conroy left the island in the 1980s to live on the mainland at Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon. The O'Hara family had died out on the island many years earlier.



Figure 2 The boats arrive home at the Black Islands, Lough Ree

The Island Life

The author, Richard Hayward, visited the Black Islands nearly seventy years ago when he was conducting research for his book *Where the River Shannon flows*. He was struck by the great hospitality of the families. He learned that post was delivered to the island twice a week from Newtowncashel and that the children of the island were educated at the National School on the mainland, in Tipper. The islanders were professional fishermen and farmers who made their livelihood by grazing a few cattle, by fishing for eels on long lines and by netting trout. As with all islanders they were a resourceful breed, they were self-sufficient organic farmers

long before this way of life became popular. Mrs Hanly having given Hayward a meal "fit for a king" pointed out a cottage at the east end of the "street" and indicated that it was once a "wee pub". Hayward was astonished by the need for a pub on such a small island but given the vagaries of the lake and the harsh winters of the nineteenth century it seems that the islanders were taking no risks. This pub or shebeen did not survive within living memory, but obviously, as with so much other lore, Mrs Hanly had heard about it from an earlier generation of islanders. I have been very fortunate to visit the islands in the company of Paddy Hanly, the last man to farm the islands, and he has pointed out to me the dried out remains of a fish-pond. These ponds were used either communally or by individual families to hold trout and other fish which were caught out of season. This gave the islanders a great advantage as they could bring their fish to market in quantities as soon as the season opened.

There are several reports of fish being sold out of season. One of which was reported in the Westmeath Herald newspaper of 24th December 1859. It concerned a case which came before the Court in Athlone on 20th December. Mary Hanly, of the Black Islands was summoned at the instance of John Dalton for having in her possession nineteen trout on the 24th of the previous month, that being the close season. Margaret Jennings, a fish huckster, in whose possession the trout were found by the water-guard, was the chief witness for the prosecution. She appears to have been a somewhat reluctant witness who, rather than having an honest desire to uphold the law, obviously feared that she too could be gaoled for her part in the offence. Her evidence was that the defendant had brought the trout, in a basket, to Mary Duffy's house where they had then changed hands for 4s. 6d.

Mr Potts said that the water-guard should have summoned all parties. The plaintiff's attorney said that he would not ask "the whole fine incurred to be inflicted" but instead he asked the fine to be fixed as if Mary had sold only two trout out of season. The outcome was that the defendant was found guilty and fined £1 with 8s. 6d. costs or a month imprisonment. The defendant preferred the alternative and hoped that their "reverences" would allow her to spend Christmas with the children, which privilege we are told was granted and so Mary spent the month of January in gaol on a point of principle.

In the late 1950s the ESB bought out the fishing rights of the islanders – one Lough Ree islander

tells me that in their family it used to be said that “Cromwell put us on the island and the ESB put us off the island”.

L.T.C. Rolt in his classic book: *Green and Silver* states that the Hanlys and O’Haras had “for generations lived by netting trout and setting eel lines on the lake. On several occasions while we lay at our Athlone moorings we had watched them coming rowing down the river to land their boxes of eels for despatch by rail. As one would expect, they are consummate watermen, both men and women being virtually unchallengeable in pleasure boat events at Athlone Regatta.” The traditional boat used by the islanders was the open lake boat with sprit sails. While the islanders belonged to the parish of Cashel they also had a strong affinity with Athlone. They regularly brought their catch to Athlone as described by Rolt. Once they had their business transacted they usually headed to Finnerty’s bar and grocery in the Market Square where they stocked up with provisions and usually stayed to “wet their whistle.” Whenever the menfolk had too much to drink the job of rowing back to the islands was undertaken by the women.



Figure 3 A group of islanders from the Black Islands relax on “the street” in front of their homes in the 1940s

The Black Islands had 3 families in 1901 and a total of 24 inhabitants. By 1911 this figure had dropped to just 18. The islands have been uninhabited since the 1980s but like all the islands on Lough Ree they remain as fascinating entities deserving of special studies in so many disciplines not least of which is their modern social history.

Suggestions for further reading:

Hayward, R., *Where the River Shannon flows* (London: Harrap, 1940)

Rice, H.J., *Thanks for the memory* (Athlone: Athlone Printing Works, 1952)

Rolt, L.T.C., *Green and silver* (London: Allen & Unwin, 1949)

I can’t think of the islands on Lough Ree without thinking of the many brave people who eked out a living from farming and fishing on islands which at certain times of the year were far from hospitable. Weather was always the great enemy – many a sudden squall resulted in the drowning of skilled boatmen and many times over the years islanders were marooned on the islands unable to access food supplies from the mainland for example in the 1947 great freeze, in 1963 and in the winter of 2010.

There is a story told, perhaps an apocryphal one regarding the Black Islands. During the great freeze of 1947 it seems that an itinerant tinsmith was mending pots and pans on the Roscommon shore of Lough Ree and a good snowfall had covered the land. In the distance he saw a glow of light from a remote cottage and decided that it might be worth his while going down the lane to see were there pots to be mended. Once he set out the cottage seemed to be further than he first believed but he decided to carry on regardless. Eventually tired and hungry he made his way to the cottage, knocked on the door and the woman of the house nearly fell out of her standing when he asked “Well, Mam, do you have any pots that need mending?”. She called her husband and they brought the man into the house and offered him typical island hospitality. After awhile the man of the house said “Aren’t you the brave man crossing an ice-covered lake to mend pots and pans?”.

Until then the tinsmith was unaware that he had crossed a lake. He declared himself afraid of water. He stayed on the island, fixed all the pots and pans in exchange for his keep and was delighted when the ice melted and the islanders could take out a boat and return him to terra firma.

Whether it’s true or not it’s a good story and it reminds us of the hardships endured by generations of islanders on the Black Islands and indeed on all the islands of Lough Ree.

Gearoid O’Brien is a joint-author with Sean Cahill & Jimmy Casey of *Lough Ree and its islands* (Athlone: Three Counties Press, 2006).



Figure 1 'Bethlehem' in Francis Grose, *The Antiquities of Ireland* (London, 1791–95)

Bernadette Cunningham
'Bethlehem': the Dillons and the Poor
Clare convent at Ballinaclyffey, Co.
Westmeath
 (Royal Irish Academy)

Introduction

Among the more unusual ruins depicted by Daniel Grose in his *Antiquities of Ireland*, is the long low building that for a short few years in the mid-seventeenth century was home to a community of Irish Poor Clare nuns (See figure 1 above). It is in a remote location in the townland formerly Ballinaclyffey, now Bethlehem, on the eastern shore of Lough Ree, in Co. Westmeath, some fifteen kilometres north of Athlone, and facing the headland known as Saint's Island. Bethlehem is on the mainland, not on an island, and the location of the Poor Clare convent is not to be confused with the island in the centre of the lake known as Nun's Island (a much earlier settlement), further to the south. Why did the nuns locate at Bethlehem, and why did they move away just a few short years after taking up residence in this convent, never to return?

The Poor Clares

The Order of the Poor Clares, the Second Order of St Francis, was and is an order of nuns in the Catholic Church, founded 800 years ago in Italy

in the year 1212. It was essentially an enclosed order, in which members undertook to live a life of contemplation, under a vow of poverty. The founder was Saint Clare of Assisi in association with Saint Francis of Assisi and through the centuries the strong link between the Order of the Poor Clares and the Franciscan Order has continued, an association found in the case of the Irish Poor Clares also. There are passing references to pre-Reformation 'Poor nuns of St Francis' in Galway in 1511, but there is no continuity between that community and the new initiative to establish an Irish convent of Poor Clares in 1629.¹ In that year six Irish women established a Poor Clare community in Dublin. They had joined the Order in Gravelines in the diocese of Ypres in the Spanish Netherlands where an English convent had been founded by Mary Ward in 1607.² Then, in 1629, encouraged perhaps by the revival of Franciscan activity in Ireland, a small group moved from the Netherlands to Dublin, where they planned to live under the Rule of St Clare, one of the strictest rules in the church, at a location on Cook Street or nearby Merchant's Quay, on the south side of the River Liffey.

The Irish women who had joined the Poor Clares in the Spanish Netherlands, and who subsequently returned to Ireland to establish a convent in Dublin, were all of Old English origin. They were named in Mother Bonaven-

ture Browne's memoir written in the 1670s as 'Sister Mary Joseph [Dillon] and Sister Cecily Francis [Dillon], daughters of Viscount Dillon of Costello, Sister Martha Mariana [Cheevers] of the highest stock in Wexford, Sister Magdalen Clare Nugent, daughter of an important gentleman, Sister Mary Peter [Dowdall], a native of Dublin, and Sister Brigid Anthony Eustace'.³ The initial Dublin foundation of the Poor Clares expanded rapidly with twelve novices joining the community. Their residence was close to that of the Franciscan friars at Merchant's Quay, a proximity that was symbolic of the close links between the Franciscan friars and the Poor Clares at a familial and a community level. However, within two years of arriving in Ireland the entire convent abandoned Dublin and relocated to a much more secluded rural location in Westmeath, on land owned by the Dillon family on the shores of Lough Ree.

Choosing Bethlehem

The place selected was given the name Bethlehem (a name already in use for a Poor Clare convent in Ghent) and a convent was built there, where the community resided for over ten years, from about 1631. The name of the convent later came to be used as a local place-name, and navigation charts from the 1830s refer to 'Bethlem point' on the lakeshore.⁴ Why Westmeath, and why such a seemingly remote location? In planning to develop on a green-field site, there were several considerations to be taken into account in choosing where to locate a convent. As always, there were basic considerations such as a reliable water supply. But, for a contemplative order, there was the understandable desire to choose 'a place isolated from cities and from earthly commerce',⁵ and this the Lough Ree site certainly provided. In addition, for an order of nuns such as the Poor Clares, it was usual to locate in proximity to a Franciscan house, from which the chaplains to the nuns could be drawn. A Franciscan friary had been in existence at Athlone since the mid thirteenth century, the church being consecrated in 1241.⁶ However, the Athlone friary buildings were destroyed in 1567–8 (the same year that Sir Henry Sidney built the new bridge over the Shannon at Athlone), but the friars appear to have remained in community a few miles from Athlone, using a temporary house of refuge 'Oilean na mBraithre' at Killinure, in the parish of Bunown. Significantly, however, in 1626, a few years before the Poor Clares arrived in Westmeath, the Franciscans considered it safe to build a new house at Athlone near the old friary, an indica-

tion of the vibrancy and renewal of the order by the 1620s, and the newfound confidence of a renewed Catholic church (though they did not abandon the Killinure site before the 1640s).⁷ For the nuns, a further consideration in choosing a location was that of proximity to family. Although the provision of substantial dowries for novices was designed to fund the lifestyle of a contemplative nun, they could never be entirely self-sufficient, and ongoing family support was desirable. There was a long history of patronage of religious houses by Irish women through the medieval period, and a case can perhaps be made that the Bethlehem convent, too, may owe its existence partly to the patronage of women.

The Dillons

To understand why Ballinaclyffey townland was chosen, we need to consider the Dillon family on whose land this new purpose-built convent was located. The two Dillon women who were among the founders of the Irish Poor Clares in the 1620s were daughters of Theobald Dillon, from the barony of Kilkenny West, Co. Westmeath. He had gained considerable prosperity as a political agent and land speculator in late sixteenth-century Connacht, and by the early seventeenth century owned vast tracts of lands in the counties of Roscommon and Mayo, as well as in Westmeath.⁸ By 1622 he was able to purchase the English title Viscount Dillon of Costello Gallen, which helped confirm his enhanced status in Irish society.⁹ He and his wife, Eleanor Tuite, had a large family. Two of their sons, Edward and George, studied at Douai and became Franciscan priests,¹⁰ while two daughters, Eleanor and Cecily, joined the Poor Clares.¹¹ Bob Hunter has shown that the extended Dillon family were also known for providing safe places in which Catholic clergy could reside in Meath and Westmeath in the seventeenth century at a time when the open practice of Catholicism was contrary to the law of the land.¹² Like the other Catholic Old English families whose daughters joined the Poor Clares, the Dillons enjoyed above average prosperity and would have encountered little difficulty in providing generous dowries for their daughters as they joined the order.

Eleanor and Cecily Dillon had apparently grown up at Kilfaghny castle (in the parish of Tubberclaire). This was the headquarters of very extensive landed estates that had been amassed by their father. The income from these lands had been estimated in 1629 as £1,500 per annum, and Dillon could afford to pay £2,500 for

his peerage.¹³ After the Restoration in 1660 the Viscount Dillon properties were deemed to comprise 53,301 plantation acres in Mayo, 5,864 in Roscommon and 5,030 in Westmeath.¹⁴ Despite their wealth, this staunchly Catholic family went through a turbulent period in the 1620s, with the deaths of several prominent family members. By the time Theobald Dillon, the first Viscount, died on 15 March 1625 (older sources say 1624), his eldest son had already died. He was succeeded by his grandson, the fifteen-year-old Lucas, as 2nd Viscount. Lucas Dillon married the Catholic Lady Mary MacDonnell, 2nd daughter of Randall MacDonnell, earl of Antrim in 1625, but then Lucas died young in April 1629, at the age of 19, leaving as his son and heir, Theobald, who was just 3 months old. Lodge's *Peerage* records that Lucas Dillon's ceremonial funeral cortege proceeded by coach from Kilfaghny castle to Athlone, where he was buried in the friary on 14 Sept 1629.¹⁵ When his infant son also died in 1630 he was succeeded by Lucas's younger brother, Thomas, who became fourth viscount in 1630 at the age of 15, and who promptly declared himself a protestant. (He is said to have re-converted in 1646).¹⁶ In these circumstances, if the Dillon sisters and other Poor Clare nuns were to receive support in Westmeath when looking for a permanent location for their convent, the male representatives of the main line of the family were hardly in a position to help. There were, however, two influential Catholic political leaders among the Dillon siblings, Sir Lucas Dillon, who was MP for Roscommon in 1634 and 1640,¹⁷ and Sir James Dillon who similarly represented Co. Westmeath,¹⁸ and these may have been a significant source of support in the turbulent 1640s. Back in the early 1630s, however, when the nuns relocated to Westmeath, the constant figure is the matriarchal Eleanor Tuite, widow of the first Viscount. She continued to live at Kilfaghny castle until close to the time of her death in 1638. As had been the case with others in the family, she had a close association with the Franciscans – not least because two of her sons had joined – and she had probably been among their patrons over the years. The logical implication is that she was also a key person in ensuring the viability of the Poor Clare convent at Bethlehem. At the end of her life, she moved to Killinure where she died at a great age in the care of the Franciscans on 8 April 1638 and she, too, was buried in the Franciscan friary at Athlone.¹⁹

Other influential women also appear to have become involved to some extent with the world of the Poor Clares. Elizabeth Rhodes, wife of

Thomas Strafford, Lord Deputy Wentworth visited them, as did Katherine Villiers, widow of the duke of Buckingham, who married the Catholic Randall MacDonnell, earl of Antrim, as her second husband. In addition, the Bethlehem convent became something of a Dillon enclave with six Dillon nieces joining at Bethlehem within a few years.

The close links between the Poor Clares and the Franciscan community that had been a feature of the original convent in Dublin continued after the nuns built their new convent at Bethlehem. The guardian of the Franciscan friary at Killinure/Athlone, also close to the lake shore, was chaplain to the Poor Clare convent.²⁰ The lake would probably have provided the normal means of travel for the chaplain. It is more than a coincidence that the guardian of the friary at Killinure in 1630 was Revd George Dillon, brother of two of the Poor Clare nuns.²¹ That same George Dillon signed a testimonial for some historical work by Mícheál Ó Cléirigh and the Four Masters in December 1630,²² and Ó Cléirigh made repeated visits to the Franciscan house at Athlone in these years. Thus, Mícheál Ó Cléirigh was already known in the locality when in October 1636 he made a transcript of the Irish translation of the Rule of St Clare, for the use of the nuns.²³

Abandoning Bethlehem

The Bethlehem convent prospered for a number of years and the numbers grew to about 30. A daughter house was established in the town of Drogheda, Co. Louth, in 1641, to accommodate the growing numbers. That proved to be a short-lived venture, however, because of the political instability of mid-century. The outbreak of rebellion in Ireland in 1641 had serious repercussions for the Order and in 1642 the Poor Clares were forced to abandon not just their newly established convent in Drogheda but also the rural foundation at Bethlehem, in Co. Westmeath. The community was dispersed, some going to Wexford, Waterford, Sligo and Longford – essentially they went home to their families. Others from the Bethlehem convent remained with a local patron Turlough MacCoghlan, a wealthy Catholic MP, and yet others sought the protection of Sir Lucas Dillon, eldest surviving brother of the Dillon nuns, a leading political and military figure in Roscommon during the 1640s.²⁴

Then, in January 1643 the Bethlehem nuns obtained permission from the Franciscan provincial, Fr Anthony Geoghegan, to found a convent at Galway.²⁵ Indeed, such a move had been con-

sidered even before the outbreak of rebellion in October 1641. A letter from Fr Valentine Browne to Hugh de Burgo dated 29 August 1641 observed that 'There are of the town and county of Galway religious Clares, and do intend to go from Bethlehem to Galway. For many reasons they are deferred to go thither as yet'.²⁶ Browne also advocated the idea that one of the former Franciscan friary buildings in the west of Ireland, probably Claregalway, be made available to the Poor Clare sisters, but this did not happen.²⁷ The Franciscan Valentine Browne had a direct interest in the matter as he was a relative of Mother Mary Bonaventure Browne of the Galway convent. The initiative to establish a convent in Galway proved successful, and by July 1649 the Poor Clares had acquired permission from Galway Corporation to build a convent with garden and orchard on 'Islanaltenagh' a location that came to be better known as 'Nuns' Island'.²⁸ The sheriff, Martin Blake of Cummer, Co. Galway, ensured that the sisters were permitted to occupy the site, and on the pictorial map of the town dated 1651 the convent building of the Poor Clares, together with a low bridge to the next island, is clearly marked.²⁹ The site filled a basic requirement for such a settlement in that it was near a reliable source of water, and the nuns had the right to the first salmon caught in the river each year.

Unlike the stone building at Bethlehem, built to last but used only for ten years, the first convent on the Galway site was built of timber, at a cost of £200stg, paid for out of the dowries of members of the community.³⁰ The Poor Clares brought with them from Bethlehem to Galway a wooden statue of the Madonna and child, known as 'Our Lady of Bethlehem', which is still in the Galway convent. It appears to be late medieval, probably continental, and the circumstances in which it came into the possession of the Poor Clares is not known. It is still in current use as a devotional object in the Galway convent.

New Poor Clare convents were also established in the late 1640s in Loughrea, Co. Galway,³¹ and in Athlone, an indication of the vibrancy of the community. The exact site in Athlone town is not known, but it seems the nuns did not return to Bethlehem.³² Sr Cecily Dillon became abbess of Athlone, having previously been abbess in Dublin and in Bethlehem. These particular locations at Loughrea and Athlone were probably chosen on the grounds of the presence of influential local Catholic patrons, notably the earl of Clanricard, the centre of whose lordship had

traditionally been at Loughrea (later moving to Portumna), Sir Turlogh MacCoughlan, an influential Catholic whose patronage the Athlone Franciscans enjoyed, and Sir James Dillon, brother of two of the nuns, who was also influential in Athlone during the 1640s. However, none of these towns proved to be a safe haven in the early 1650s.³³ The Poor Clares were forced to leave Galway after the town surrendered to Sir Charles Coote, leader of Oliver Cromwell's forces in April 1652.³⁴ The convents at Loughrea and Athlone were also dispersed in 1653. Many of the community went to Spain, and only a few lived long enough to return to Ireland in the 1670s. When they returned, the community re-established themselves at Galway, not Bethlehem.

Stories survive of an attack on the Bethlehem convent by soldiers in the early years of the war of the 1640s. While some of the ubiquitous 'Cromwell was here' stories may be doubted, it seems clear that English soldiers attacked and commandeered the Bethlehem convent in 1642, though Cromwell himself had not yet arrived. Richard Bellings' *History of the war and confederation* refers to soldiers being garrisoned there, the nuns having fled under the protection of Sir James Dillon.³⁵ Two companies of soldiers were quartered in the convent, though it made little strategic sense, being 'a place too far distant from the rest of the men; near the enemy'.³⁶ The anonymous *Aphorismical discovery of treasonable faction*, which also recounted events of the 1640s, told a story of Roundheads attacking the nunnery, dressing up in the nuns' habits, and generally desecrating the site. The dating is uncertain, but both versions appear to relate to events that took place in June 1642.³⁷ The late-seventeenth-century narrative of the early history of the Poor Clares, written by Mother Bonaventure Browne for the use of the Galway community, contains a history of the early years at Bethlehem and includes a story of an attack on the convent that has echoes of the *Aphorismical discovery* narrative. In her version, the story was elaborated to become a moral tale, including a specific reference to disrespect for the Mass and to the subsequent suicide of the one surviving roundhead who had been guilty of the attack, but had not been killed on the day.³⁸

Conclusion

In terms of historic settlement in the Lough Ree region, the story of the Bethlehem convent reveals the significance of family links, the need for the convent to be close to benefactors and potential patrons, as well as topographical con-

siderations such as access to water. It was also necessary for the nuns to be adjacent to the Franciscans, on whom they normally relied to celebrate mass and to serve as confessors to the nuns. This helped dictate the various locations chosen by the Poor Clares – in Dublin, Athlone, Galway and Drogheda – in the mid seventeenth century, though of course the other conditions about nurturing family links and being close to benefactors applied to the Franciscan friars also. As the Bethlehem community soon discovered, they could not survive in isolation; and while the peace of a lakeshore setting might be appropriate for meditation, no convent or friary could function without good community support. The Athlone friars returned to the town from their place of refuge in Killinure as soon as it was safe to do so in the mid 1620s, Athlone then emerging as an increasingly prosperous town.³⁹ When the Poor Clares moved from Bethlehem to Galway in the early 1640s their location at Nun's Island, on the outskirts of a wealthy city proved a more viable long-term place in which to settle, than the aesthetically pleasing, but significantly more remote site on the shore of Lough Ree.

- ¹ Cathaldus Giblin (ed.), *Liber Lovaniensis* (Dublin, 1956), p. 7. Various versions of the Chronicle of the Order, derived from the 1670s memoir of Mother Mary Bonaventure Browne, give 1625 as the date of the first Dublin foundation, but this date appears to be incorrect (Galway, Poor Clare Convent, Chronicle of Mother Mary Bonaventure Browne; Dublin, Poor Clare Convent, Harold's Cross, 'Register 3', consulted on National Library of Ireland (NLI), microfilm P 3500); Colmán Ó Clabaigh, *The Friars in Ireland, 1224–1540* (Dublin, 2012), p. 112.
- ² Peter Guilday, *The English Catholic refugees on the continent, 1558–1795* (London, 1914), pp 28–9, 166; M.C.E. Chambers, *The life of Mary Ward, 1585–1645*, ed. H.J. Coleridge (2 vols, London, 1882–7).
- ³ C. O'Brien (ed.), *Recollections of an Irish Poor Clare in the seventeenth century* (Galway, 1993), p. 1.
- ⁴ Admiralty chart. *Lough Ree on the River Shannon*. Surveyed by Commander James Wolfe (1837). The nunnery is marked on the first edition (1838) of the 6 inch Ordnance Survey maps of Westmeath (sheet 15), but is not named.
- ⁵ See Ó Clabaigh, *Friars in Ireland*, p. 55, for this Dominican concept in the fifteenth century.
- ⁶ A. Gwynn and R.N. Hadcock, *Medieval religious houses: Ireland* (Dublin, 1970), p. 243.
- ⁷ Brendan Jennings (ed.), 'Brevis synopsis Provinciae Hiberniae FF Minorum', *Analecta Hibernica*, 6 (1934), p. 145.
- ⁸ B. Cunningham, 'Theobald Dillon: a newcomer in sixteenth-century Mayo', *Cathair na Mart: Journal of the Westport Historical Society*, 6:1 (1986), pp 24–32; B. Cunningham and R. Gillespie, *Stories from Gaelic Ireland: microhistories from the sixteenth-century Irish annals* (Dublin, 2003), pp 59–86; Liam Cox, 'The Dillons, lords of Kilkenny West: part one', *Ríocht na Míde*, 11 (2000), pp 71–87.
- ⁹ Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Eighth report* (London, 1881), appendix 2, p. 30.
- ¹⁰ Brendan Jennings (ed.), *Louvain papers, 1606–1827* (Dublin, 1968), p. 72n.
- ¹¹ John Lodge, *The Peerage of Ireland*, revised by Mervyn Archdall, 7 vols (London, 1789), iv, pp 182–9; Helena Concannon, *The Poor Clares in Ireland, c.1629–c.1929* (Dublin, 1929), p. 9.
- ¹² Robert J. Hunter, 'Catholicism in Meath, c.1622', *Collectanea Hibernica*, 14 (1971), p. 9.
- ¹³ Gerald Dillon, 'The Dillon peerages', *Irish Genealogist*, 3:3 (1958), 87–92.
- ¹⁴ Lodge, *Peerage of Ireland*, iv, p. 188.
- ¹⁵ Lodge, *Peerage of Ireland*, iv, p. 185.
- ¹⁶ Richard O'Ferrall and Robert O'Connell, *Commentarius Rinucianus*, ii (Dublin, 1936), pp 467–8, cited in Jane Ohlmeyer, *Making Ireland English* (New Haven, 2012), p. 167.
- ¹⁷ Elaine Murphy, 'Dillon, Sir Lucas (1579–1656)', in *Dictionary of Irish biography* (9 vols, Cambridge, 2009), iii, pp 306–7.
- ¹⁸ Elaine Murphy, 'Dillon, Sir James (c.1600–c.1667)', in *Dictionary of Irish biography*, iii, pp 290–1.
- ¹⁹ Cox, 'The Dillons, lords of Kilkenny West', p. 80.
- ²⁰ Galway, Poor Clare Convent, MS A 1, Profession of Sr Catherine of St Francis Browne was signed by Fr Patrick Plunkett, the guardian at Athlone. Killinure was the location of the temporary refuge of the Athlone friars.
- ²¹ George Dillon was son of Theobald, and thus brother to Ellen and Cecilia Dillon (Jennings (ed.), *Louvain papers*, p. 57).
- ²² UCD-OFM, MS A 16, fol. xiii recto. This manuscript can be viewed on the Irish Script on Screen website (www.isos.dias.ie).
- ²³ Ó Cléirigh's manuscript, which was subsequently added to by Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh, survives as the opening part of Royal Irish Academy, MS D i 2; for an edition, see Eleanor Knott (ed.), 'An Irish seventeenth-century translation of the Rule of St Clare', *Ériu*, 15 (1948), pp 1–187. The manuscript can be viewed on the Irish Script on Screen website (www.isos.dias.ie).
- ²⁴ Galway, Poor Clare Convent, MS A 3. Copy of a letter from a member of the Galway community, presumably Mother Cecily Dillon, dated 27 September 1642, the original of which was formerly in St Isidore's College, Rome; O'Brien (ed.), *Recollections of an Irish Poor Clare*, pp 10–18.
- ²⁵ Galway, Poor Clare Convent, MS A 2, Licence to found in Galway. The document is signed by Fr Anthony Geoghegan, and since the date 30 Jan 1642 is presumably old style, then the year in question was 1643.
- ²⁶ Cited in Celsus O'Brien, *Poor Clares, Galway, 1642–1992* (Galway, 1992), p. 17.
- ²⁷ Jennings (ed.), *Louvain papers*, no. 189, 12 March 1643.
- ²⁸ Galway, Poor Clare Convent, File A (large documents).
- ²⁹ Galway, Poor Clare Convent, MS B 7. The relevant section of the 1651 map is reproduced in O'Brien, *Poor Clares, Galway*, p. 18.
- ³⁰ Galway, Poor Clare Convent, Chronicle, pp 15–16.
- ³¹ Galway, Poor Clare Convent, MS A 6, [1647] agreement signed by nine Poor Clares concerning the establishment of the Loughrea convent. The agreement was overseen by two Franciscan priests, Fr George Dillon, then guardian of Galway, and Anthony de Burgo, confessor to the nuns; O'Brien (ed.), *Recollections of an Irish Poor Clare*, p. 11.
- ³² O'Brien (ed.), *Recollections of an Irish Poor Clare*, p. 12.
- ³³ Galway, Poor Clare Convent, MS A 7, A letter from the Franciscan Provincial, Fr Thomas MacKiernan, granting permission to the Poor Clares to leave the convent when danger, disease or enemy approached the city. Dated 27 June 1650; see also Benignus Millett, *The Irish Franciscans, 1651–1665* (Rome, 1964), pp 224–34.
- ³⁴ O'Brien (ed.), *Recollections of an Irish Poor Clare*, p. 11.
- ³⁵ John T. Gilbert (ed.), *History of the Irish Confederation and the War in Ireland, 1641–1643*, vol. 1 (Dublin, 1882), pp 84–5.
- ³⁶ Gilbert (ed.), *History of the Irish Confederation*, vol. 2, p. 134.
- ³⁷ John T. Gilbert (ed.), *A contemporary history of Affairs in Ireland from 1641 to 1652 [Aphorismical discovery of treasonable faction]*, vol. 1, part 1 (Dublin, 1879), p. 58.
- ³⁸ O'Brien (ed.), *Recollections of an Irish Poor Clare*.
- ³⁹ Harman Murtagh, *Athlone: Irish Historic Towns Atlas* (Dublin, 1994), p. 2.

GSIHS contribution to National Heritage Week



As part of its contribution to Heritage Week 2012, the Group hosted two free public lectures on Saturday, 25 August, in the Royal Society of Antiquaries, 63 Merrion Square.

The first lecture was entitled *Arrivals and departures: a day in the life of medieval Dublin* and was delivered by GSIHS committee member Dr Margaret Murphy (Carlow College). This illustrated lecture opened a window on everyday life in medieval Dublin, c.1300, focusing particularly on the traffic in and out of Dublin's gates. Margaret began by describing the city at the beginning of the fourteenth century using historic maps to show the extent of the area within the walls and the position of the all-important gates. Dubliners were well aware of their dependence on the goods which daily flowed in from the hinterland but had a pragmatic approach to removing unwanted waste products and undesirable residents like lepers and vagrants to the suburban areas. The lecture then went on to describe a typical day in medieval Dublin using the activities of a family of shoemakers to exemplify the theme of arrivals and departures.

The second lecture was delivered by Dr Ingelise Stuijts (Discovery Programme) and had the tongue-twisting title of *What wood would a woodcutter cut if a woodcutter would cut wood: tree products entering a city and leaving in a whiff of smoke*. This paper nicely took up the theme introduced by the first paper of goods coming into the city from the hinterland and focussed particularly on wood and charcoal. Ingelise, an environment archaeologist, described the different wood products and their uses and the management techniques employed in the woodland areas around Dublin. Using archaeological and documentary evidence, the lecture illustrated how a typical domestic household in medieval Dublin needed a very wide range of different woods for building purposes, utensils, fuels and so on. It provided a further important reminder of the inter-connectedness of town and country in this period.

The lectures were attended by up to 80 people, many of whom were also taking the opportunity to find out about the activities of the Royal Society of Antiquaries and the Discovery Programme at 63 Merrion Square. The Group would like to thank the RSAI for the use of the Helen Roe Theatre and the two speakers on the day. This was the second year that the Group has organised Heritage Week lectures and it is hoped to continue the activity in 2013. Ideas for lectures are always welcome and should be directed towards a member of the committee.

Aengus Finnegan
Island names of Lough Ree and their
chronology
(Fiontar, DCU)

Lough Ree is a large shallow lake of many islands, outlying rocks and hidden shoals. Its indented shoreline traces the outline of numerous wooded points, sheltered bays and reedy inlets. All of these features exist within a fluid margin. The gentle and generally low-lying run of the surrounding landscape ensures regular inundation, to a greater or lesser extent, and shorelines on the map are merely a snapshot in time – acreages of islands vary depending on the season, some disappear altogether. Their names however are largely fixed, the results of the 19th century Ordnance Survey. The Survey's pre-famine record of the Irish landscape, its imprint of the impingement of the cultural on the physical, is on a scale unlikely ever to be surpassed. Fixed though these names are, in anglicised form, they are not mere labels. Of Ireland's c.62,000 townland names over ninety per cent have their origin in the Irish language (Mac Giolla Easpaig 2009), and it is in the Irish forms of placenames, their original forms, that a huge store of information on Ireland's historical settlement can be found.

The placenames of Lough Ree contain evidence of the many layers of human settlement in and around the lake and its islands from the early Christian period down to the present day. I have concentrated mainly on island names in this paper and it is possible to break down these names into three chronological categories.

1) The names of the larger islands capable of supporting human settlement. These names are by and large very old, in some cases this is confirmed by early references (Hareisland < *ailleand aingin* ATig. 702) while in other cases the very grammatical structure of the names themselves can point us to the time period in which such structures were most productive in the language. Names consisting of Noun + Noun compounds are regarded as belonging to the earliest strata of Irish toponymy. This structure is considered not to have been productive after c.400 AD (Mac Giolla Easpaig 1981). As can be seen in the list below three names with such a structure, *Cláinse*, *Féarinse* and *Muicinis*, occur among the island names of Lough Ree. This incidence

is significant. Nationally, only about 650 townland names, out of a total of 62,000, have been recognised to date as being of this structure.

Muicinis (<i>Muckinish</i>)	< 400 AD
Cláinse (<i>Clawinch</i>)	< 400 AD
Féarinse (<i>Ferrinch</i>) ¹	< 400 AD
Inse Bó Finne (<i>Inchbofin</i>)	400–600 AD
Inse Ainín (<i>Hareisland</i>)	400–600 AD
Inis Cloithrinn (<i>Inchcleraun</i>)	400–600 AD
Inse Éanach [< Oendaimh] (<i>Inchenagh</i>)	400–600 AD
Inse Toirc (<i>Inchturk</i>)	c.800 AD
Rinn Eanaigh (<i>Rinanny</i>)	c.800 AD
Inse Mór (<i>Inchmore</i>)	c.800/900 AD
Oileán na Naomh (<i>Saints Island</i>)	c.900 AD

The structure Noun + Qualifying Genitive (*Inis Toirc*) has been dated to the period after 400 AD, as has the structure Noun + Qualifying Adjective (*Inis Mór*), though it is likely to be somewhat later, nearer to 900 AD (Ó Muraíle, pers. comm. 2012).² The many early references (see below) to the larger islands on Lough Ree, relate, undoubtedly, to insular ecclesiastical settlement on the lake in the early Christian period.

Inchcleraun	<i>Inis Clothrann</i>	Mart. D.	660
Hareisland	<i>ailleand aingin</i>	ATig.	702
Inchbofin	<i>Indsi bó finde</i>	ATig.	754
Inchenagh	<i>Inis Oendaimh</i>	Mart. T.	830c.
Inchmore	<i>Inis Mór</i>	ARÉ	960
Saint's Island	<i>Oilén na Naemh</i>	ARÉ	1005

2) Many of the smaller islands on the lake, while less suitable for permanent habitation (or ecclesiastical settlement), are large enough to be of some economic significance. Most of the names of these islands, on a number of grounds, can be dated to the later Medieval period.

Inse Uí Ruairc (<i>Inchyrouke</i>)	> 1100
Inse Charbad Diarmada (<i>Inchmadermot</i>)	> 1200
Oileán an Ghainimh (<i>Sand Island</i>)	> 1150
Oileán na gCnó (<i>Nut Island</i>)	> 1150
Oileán na gCailleadh Dubh (<i>Nun's Island</i>)	> 1150
Oileán Chairbre (<i>Carberry Island</i>)	> 1500
Oileán Réamoinn (<i>Remons Island</i>)	> 1500

The earliest Irish surnames date to the second half of the 10th century (Ó Cuív 1986). As such, a placename with the structure Noun + Surname (*Inse Uí Ruairc*) is unlikely to be earlier than c.1100, and indeed may be much later.³ The Structure Noun + Definite Article + Qualifying Genitive (*Oileán an Ghainimh*, *Oileán na gCnó*),

¹ *Féarinse* or *Ferrinch*, is something of an outlier in that though a relatively large island, it is unlikely ever to have had permanent settlement, being very low-lying and subject to almost complete flooding in winter.

² Míchéal Ó Mainnín's unpublished schema on the chronology of Irish placenames is cited by (Broderick 2012: 55).

³ *Inse* may mean 'inch, water meadow, holm' here rather than 'island', as *Inchyrouke* is in fact a lowlying peninsula. It may once have been an island. It is not a townland and the earliest reference I have found to date is from 1794 (*Innse Uí Ruairc* PÉ 543).

while in evidence as early as the 9th century, seems to have become common in placenames in the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries (Flanagan 1980), (Toner 1999) & (Mac Gabhann 2006–2009). Placenames of the structure Noun + Personal Name may date to the early medieval period but in the case of *Oileán Chairbre* (Carberry Island) and *Oileán Réamoinn* (Remons Island) a 16th century date seems likely. Carberry Island lies just off the Coosan shore, within the territory of the Ó Braoin (the barony of Brawny) and ‘the name *Cairbre* was used in the O Braoin family’ (Walsh 1957: 114) in the 16th century: ‘Many mac Carbery O Bryan late of Cossan’ Inq. Jac I, 30. Réamonn was a personal name in use among both the Dillons and the MacCarons (*Mac Car-ghamhna*) of Kilkenny West in the 16th century: ‘Remon fitz Pierce Dyllon’, ‘Remon mc Carron’ (*Crown Lands* 301).

It is interesting to note that the earliest references to most of these smaller islands occur in English sources (Nut Island (*Oileán na gCnó*): *Illangno* Chanc. L. 1379), reflecting such sources’ primary concern with grants, rents, fisheries, and succession. Medieval Irish language sources tend not to be so all encompassing, rarely recording placenames beyond those of some political, historical or ecclesiastical significance, or in the literary context of the *dindsenchas* or lore of places, where placenames provide a backdrop or even a back story to the narrative.

3) The names of many of the smallest islands on the lake, those often completely flooded in the winter, and the names of other minor features and navigational hazards, fall into the third category – most of these names being of relatively recent origin (> 1700). Minor area and feature names (non-administrative units), having by their nature a limited currency, seem unlikely to survive for more than a few generations. Such names, recorded for the first time by Ó Braonáin (PÉ, 1794), in navigational charts (c.1800), in the Ordnance Survey (1837), by local historians, or in my own recent field-work (2007–12) include both English and Irish names. Navigational hazards such as ‘Adelaide Rock, Hexagon Shoals, Napper Rocks’ are almost always English names and reflect the tradition of recreational sailing and boating on the lake by the local ascendancy in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Many of the names of the smallest islands appear in ‘translated’ or anglicised form on the

Ordnance Survey first edition maps but have retained their Irish names locally: Bushy Island > ‘Lanasky’ [= *Oileán na Sceiche*], Goats Island > ‘Lanagower’ [= *Oileán an Ghabhair*], Little Island > ‘Lanageish’ [= *Oileán na Géise*] (local forms after Cahill et al. 2006: 160, in quotation marks). Apheresis (loss of the initial unstressed syllable in the word *oileán*)⁴ is also apparent in ‘Red Island’ (locally /’l’an ru:/ < *Oileán Rua*), and Ilanfan (locally /’l’an fan/ < *Oileán Fionn*).⁵ A final example is Pollmaura Island, a low-lying island just off the shore at Doonis, Co. Westmeath. The first element here is *poll* ‘hole, pond, pool’ and the second is the personal name *Máire*. The local form retains lenition (*Poll Mháire*).⁶

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Abbreviated References

- ATig.** ‘The Annals of Tigernach’, ed. W. Stokes, in *Revue Celtique*, 16–18 (1895–1897). Reprint (2 vols.) Llanerch Publishers (Felinfach, 1993).
ARÉ *Annála Ríoghachta Éireann. Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters I–VII*, ed. J. O’Donovan (Dublin, 2nd edition 1856).
Chanc. L. *A Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters c.1244–1509*. Trinity College, Dublin. Available online at <http://chancery.tcd.ie/>.
Crown Lands *Crown Surveys of Lands 1540–1, with the Kildare Rental begun in 1518*, ed. G. Mac Niocaill (Dublin, 1992).
Inq. *Inquisitionum in officio rotulorum cancellariae Hiberniae asservatarum repertorium I (Lagenia)*, ed. J. Hardiman (Dublin, 1826).
Mart. D. *The Martyrology of Donegal: A Calendar of the Saints of Ireland*, ed. J.H. Todd & W. Reeves, The Irish Archaeological and Celtic Society (Dublin, 1864).
Mart. T. *The Martyrology of Tallaght*, ed. R.I. Best and H.J. Lawlor (Dublin, 1931).
PÉ *Príomhshruith Éireann* = ‘The River Shannon Poetically Described by Michael Brennan’, *É. Ó Tuathail, Éigse*, 6:3 (1951), 193–240.

⁴ See Finnegan (2013) for further discussion of the dialect of Irish formerly spoken in this area.

⁵ Recorded from Pateen Slevin (c.80), Portlick, Co. Westmeath (February 2007). Pateen was born on Inchturk.

⁶ Recorded from Jack Higgins (89), Doonis, Co. Westmeath (February 2007).

Pre-announcement of Summer Conference

14-15th June 2013

Hotel Kilkenny, College Road, Kilkenny

'Irish Food Products – A Historical Perspective'

A.T. Lucas, Director of the National Museum wrote in 1960/1962 that '...from prehistory to the close of the 17th century, corn and milk were the mainstay of the national food'

What is the basis for this proposition, and is it still seen to be broadly correct?

Preliminary programme, subject to change

FRIDAY 14th June: 15.00-19.00

Registration/tea and coffee: 14.00-15.00

Liam Downey (University College Dublin) and Ingelise Stuijts (The Discovery Programme)
Introduction lecture 'Overview of current knowledge'

Session 1: Dairy products

David Dickson (Trinity College Dublin): Dairy products in former times

Jessica Smyth (Bristol University): The origins of dairying in Ireland

Patricia Lysaght (University College Dublin): Folklore associated with food products in Ireland

Dinner 20.00-22.00 hrs

SATURDAY 15th June: 9.00-15.00

Session 2: Cereal products

Michael O'Connell (NUI Galway): Cereal production in ancient Ireland:
evidence from the fossil pollen records

Susan Lyons (University College Cork)/Meriel McClatchie (University College Dublin):
Cereal production in past and nutrition value

Mick Monk (University College Cork): From field to food in Ireland's past:
the processing and nutritional value of cereals with particular reference to oats

Session 3: Meat products

Finbar McCormick (Queen's University Belfast): Archaeological evidence for meat consumption

Regina Sexton (University College Cork): Meat products in former times

Fiona Beglane (Sligo IT): Archaeological evidence of meat use and its nutritional values

Niamh Daly (University College Cork)/Jacqueline Cahill Wilson (Discovery Programme): Application of
geochemistry: Isotope analyses using Strontium, Oxygen, Carbon and Nitrogen

Closing session

Colin Rynne (University College Cork): Industrial archaeology with particular regard to brewing and distilling

Lunch: 14.00-15.00

Excursion St Francis Abbey Brewery, Parliament Street, Kilkenny: 15.30-17.00 hrs

Conference Costs (including tea/coffee and lunch on Saturday):

Non-members: €60

Members: €50

Students: €30

Optional: Conference dinner 14th June €30 in Hotel Kilkenny

Optional: Excursion costs: €8

Hotel Kilkenny offers a **special rate for conference delegates** (available until 14th May)

o Friday 14th June: €70 (single) €100 (double/twin) including breakfast

o Saturday 15th June: €70 (single) €100 (double/twin) including breakfast

OR €120 if taking a 2 night stay in a single room

To register – contact [aghistoryireland@gmail.com]
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AGRICULTURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF IRELAND
CUMANN STAIR THAIGHIAÍOCHT NA hÉIREANN

Bernadette Cunningham

Notices of Recently Published Books

This is a selection of recently published books thought likely to be of interest to readers of *Áitreabh*. Some notices are partly derived from information supplied by the publishers.

The origins of the Irish

J.P. Mallory

(London: Thames & Hudson, 2013. 320p.

illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780500051757. £19.95)

In an engagingly written book, Mallory draws on archaeology, genetics, geology, geography, linguistics, literature and mythology to study how the Irish people came into being. The 'Irish' in question here are the occupants of the island of Ireland in the fifth century or thereabouts, several centuries before the arrival of the Norse and Anglo Normans, though Mallory is careful to emphasise that there is no such thing as a 'pure Irish' people. Stressing that the Irish did not have a single origin, he examines the potential sources of Ireland's earlier colonists and considers why they might have chosen to settle in Ireland. Traditional literary interpretations of prehistoric settlement in Ireland are assessed in the light of the latest (very tentative) genetic research into the biological origins of the Irish.

Iverni: a prehistory of Cork

William O'Brien

(Cork: Collins Press, 2012. xii, 284p. illus.

Hbk. ISBN 9781848891494. €39.99)

This is the first general study of the prehistory of the Cork region and it looks at the archaeology of some 8,000 years of human life, from the end of the Ice Age to the arrival of Christianity in the fifth century AD. The major developments in human society during this period are outlined, along with the most important ancient sites and monuments of the region. The results of many archaeological excavations from the past decade are summarised and the most important artifacts from the pre-Christian era found in Cork (however that geographical entity may have been described in pre-Christian times) are examined.

Excavations on Donegore Hill, Co. Antrim

J.P. Mallory, Eiméar Nelis and Barrie Hartwell

(Dublin: Wordwell, 2011. xi, 269p. illus. Pbk.

ISBN 9781869857806. €30)

In 1981 the Belfast Archaeological Group discovered the site at Donegore Hill, 30 km west of Belfast, while field-checking air photography sites, and they recovered Neolithic pottery and

flint implements from a ploughed field near the summit of the hill. The next year the Department of Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast, carried out a partial field survey and surface collection of the site and then followed this with test excavations as part of its field school in 1983. Material recovered from the excavations indicates at least three, possibly four, main phases of occupation from the early Neolithic to late Bronze Age, and these are reported on and discussed in this long-awaited volume.

Making sense of an historic landscape

Stephen Rippon

(Oxford University Press, 2012. xviii, 396p.

Hbk. ISBN 9780199533787. £80.99)

This is a study of English medieval communities and their landscapes; the development of territorial structures, land use, agriculture, fieldscapes and domestic houses. Local variation in the character of the countryside provides communities with an important sense of place, and this book suggests that some of these differences can be traced back to prehistory. Rippon uses the Blackdown Hills in southern England, which marked an important boundary in landscape character from prehistory onwards, as a specific case study to be applied as a model for other landscape areas. Although focused on the more recent past, the volume also explores the medieval, Roman, and prehistoric periods. An expensive book, destined for the library market only, it would seem.

Rural settlements and society in Anglo-Saxon England

Helena Hamerow

(Medieval History and Archaeology)

(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. xii,

194p. Hbk. ISBN 9780199203253. £65.99)

In the course of the fifth century, the farms and villas of lowland Britain were replaced by a new, distinctive form of rural settlement: the settlements of Anglo-Saxon communities. Hamerow examines the appearance, life-cycles, and function of their buildings from the fifth to the tenth century; the relationship of Anglo-Saxon settlements to the Romano-British landscape and to later medieval villages; the role of ritual in daily

life; what distinguished 'rural' from 'urban' in this period; and the relationship between farming regimes and settlement forms. A central theme throughout the book is the impact on rural producers of the rise of lordship and markets and how this impact is revealed through the remains of their settlements.

The Boyne Currach: from beneath the shadows of Newgrange

Claidhbh Ó Gibne

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 168p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846823794. €17.50)

This book tells the fascinating story of a remarkable vessel with prehistoric origins: the Boyne currach. Well-informed and imbued with stories from around the globe, it is written in an energetic and accessible style. An overview of the history of the Boyne currach and related skin boats is followed by a how-to guide with instructions on how to build your own currach, including the materials needed, where to source them and how to master the age-old techniques of weaving and binding. The final section of the book details the Newgrange Currach Project, a unique endeavour to recreate the currach used by the builders of the Newgrange passage tombs to transport stones from far away. On completion, it will embark on a journey mirroring that believed to have been taken by the Neolithic tomb-builders, travelling as far south as Spain.

Encounters between peoples: proceedings of a public seminar on archaeological discoveries on national road schemes, August 2011

Edited by Bernice Kelly, Niall Roycroft and Michael Stanley

(Archaeology and the National Roads Authority monograph series, 9)

(Dublin: NRA, 2012, vii, 128p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780956418081; ISSN 1649-3540. €25)

In these conference proceedings we encounter early prehistoric farming communities in Co. Wexford, assembly and ritual during the Iron Age in Co. Meath and the diverse peoples who inhabited the townland of Camlin, Co. Tipperary, over five millennia. Encounters between peoples also presents material evidence for interactions between communities of differing religion and ethnicity during the historic period, including a study by Jacinta Kiely and Paul McCotter of a Gaelic farmstead at Killeisk in north Tipperary and an Anglo-Norman moated site at Bushertown, Co. Offaly. James Lyttleton contextualizes the evidence for plantation-era archaeology uncovered during recent road schemes.

Of most interest to this reader was the essay assessing some excavated sites on the route of the proposed M17 in Co. Galway, where some post-medieval and modern settlement patterns are reported on by Brian Mac Domhnaill.

Settlement and community in the Fir Tulagh kingdom: archaeological excavations on the M6 and N52 road schemes

Paul Stevens and John Channing, with contributions by Anne Connon, Margaret Murphy, Aidan O'Sullivan, Pat Randolph-Quinney & Tim Young. Academic editor Niall Brady

(National Roads Authority with Westmeath County Council, 2012. xiv, 178p. Includes CDROM. Pbk. ISBN 9780956418098. €25)

Two new roads, the M6 (Kinnegad to Kilbeggan) and N52 Mullingar to Belvedere, cross through this ancient territory of the Fir Tulach. Along these routes, Valerie J. Keeley Ltd excavated three early medieval sites for Westmeath County Council and the National Roads Authority. Rochfort Demesne provided a fascinating insight into the development of an enclosed settlement (ringfort). A remarkable collection of over 1,000 early-late medieval burials within a mainly local and agrarian population is revealed at Ballykilmore. Finally, a high level of art and industry is accredited to a monastic community at Clonfad, culminating in unique evidence for the manufacture of a brazed iron handbell. The excavations are individually described and illustrated in detail in this book, with discussion and analysis of the archaeological, historical, scientific and environmental background in the wider early medieval context. The book is accompanied by a CD which includes two additional scientific and technical chapters on the large assemblage of human remains and significant metallurgical analysis.

Of Troughs and Tuyères: the archaeology of the N5 Charlestown bypass

Richard Gillespie and Agnes Kerrigan

(NRA scheme monographs, 6)

(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2010. xii, 412p. Illus. Includes CDROM. Pbk. ISBN 9780956418012. €25)

This book reports on the results of more than forty excavations carried out by Mayo County Council archaeologists in advance of the construction of the N5 Charlestown Bypass in east Mayo. It presents an exploration of six millennia of human activity evidenced by Neolithic structures, well-preserved Bronze Age *fulachtaí fia* (also known as ancient cooking sites),

early medieval enclosed settlements and nineteenth-century vernacular buildings. The discoveries have reconstructed past landscapes, revealed ancient contact with the wider world and provided significant insights into past technologies and crafts. The book highlights the significance of the west of Ireland in the unfolding archaeological story of this island.

In the lowlands of south Galway

Finn Delaney and John Tierney

(NRA Scheme Monograph, 7)

(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2011. x, 225p. Illus. Includes CDROM. ISBN 9780956418043. €25)

This report describes over twenty archaeological sites excavated by Eachtra Archaeological Projects on the route of the N18 Oranmore to Gort road scheme, which traverses a landscape in which human communities have come and gone for 10,000 years. The plain where their lives unfolded was a constant backdrop, a mosaic of grasslands, hazel woods and karstic limestone bedrock, with an indented Atlantic coastline, all overlooked by Sliabh Aughty and the Burren. The excavations are individually described in this book but the authors also try to understand the evidence from each period in its broad landscape setting and thus offer the reader a bird's-eye view of life on the lowland plain of South Galway, from prehistory to modern times.

Cois tSiúire: nine thousand years of human activity in the lower Suir Valley: archaeological excavations on the route of the N25 Waterford City Bypass, volume 1

Edited by James Eogan and Elizabeth Shee Twohig

(NRA Scheme Monograph, 8)

(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2011. xv, 356p. Illus. Includes CDROM. Pbk. ISBN 9780956418036. €30)

This volume presents the results from over sixty significant archaeological excavations on the route of the N25 Waterford City Bypass. Among the discoveries were an early seventh-century AD vertical watermill at Killotheran, the earliest such mill yet identified in Ireland, and the internationally significant, ninth-century AD Viking settlement uncovered at Woodstown. The book contains excavation summaries written by the excavation directors, which are complemented by a series of specialist overviews that place the discoveries in their regional, national and international contexts.

The authors demonstrate that from the earliest times the Lower Suir Valley was home to vibrant communities who were outward-looking and dynamic, and who benefitted from the natural advantages provided by the varied landscapes and resources available along the Suir valley.

Borderlands, Archaeological investigations along the route of the M18 Gort to Crusheen road scheme

Shane Delaney (and others)

(NRA scheme monograph, 9)

(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2012. viii, 184p. Illus. Includes CDROM. Pbk. ISBN 9780956418067. €25)

Borderlands describes archaeological investigations along the route of a national road project on the border of south Galway and north Clare, where discoveries were made from the Neolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, medieval and early modern periods. There was evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age settlement at Rathwilladoon, consisting of vestigial building remains, pottery and chipped-stone tools. Investigation of over a dozen sites at Caheraphuca widened the scope of inquiry into the enigmatic burnt mounds or *fulachtaí fia* of the Bronze Age by bringing detailed pollen analysis and environmental reconstruction to bear on the little valley where these were found. Iron Age ring-ditch burials were recorded at Ballyboy, yielding cremated human bone, an exceptional collection of glass and amber beads, and a tiny bone dice. Iron Age metalworking was represented by a smelting furnace and charcoal kilns at Rathwilladoon and Derrygarraff. A group of exceptionally well-preserved early medieval cereal kilns was recorded at Curtaun, near a large ringfort. Unusually, these were protected by a curvilinear wooden structure, possibly remains of a 'kiln house', and were re-used in the later medieval period.

Beneath the banner: the archaeology of the M18 Ennis bypass and the N85 western relief road, Co. Clare

Nora Bermingham, Graham Hull, and Kate Taylor

(NRA scheme monograph, 10)

(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2012. xii, 186p. Illus. Includes CDROM. Pbk. ISBN 9780956418074. €25)

Descriptions of twenty-eight archaeological excavations along the route of the M18 Ennis Bypass and N85 Western Relief Road, Co. Clare

are provided in this book. The results amount to a timeline investigation of human settlement and landscape change in the Fergus River valley, in central Clare, from early prehistory to modern times. Cremation cemeteries of Bronze Age to Iron Age date at Manusmore occupied elevated locations that seem to have had a special relationship with the Fergus estuary. Cahircalla More is a very rare example of an early medieval ringfort that was occupied by a blacksmith and his forge. At medieval Clare Abbey, excavations for a parking area recovered important objects relating to its history as an Augustinian house and, afterwards, a post-Reformation secular household. The investigations were not confined to prehistoric and medieval times, but also recorded the fieldwalls, trackways, houses and limekilns of a vanishing early modern landscape. Accompanying the account of all these discoveries is a series of short scholarly essays that explains their significance in the story of changing human communities in the central Clare lowlands over time.

Life and death in Iron Age Ireland in the light of recent archaeological excavations

Edited by Chris Corlett and Michael Potterton

(Research papers in Irish archaeology, 4)

(Dublin: Wordwell, 2012. 330p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781905569724. €35)

The Iron Age is without doubt the most enigmatic period in Irish archaeology. Until recently, it was thought that the Irish Iron Age was almost entirely absent from the excavation record. With hundreds of large-scale excavations throughout the country and newly discovered sites from every period, until recently there was little that was definitely 'Iron Age'. However, when C14 dates started coming back from many projects, it gradually became clear that the Iron Age has been there all along – frequently masquerading as something from another period. Preconceived ideas about the dating and significance of the artefactual record of the period are now being challenged. The new evidence from recent archaeological excavations has the potential to transform our understanding of the Irish Iron Age and finally dispel the myths of Ireland's supposed dark age. The information contained in the 26 essays in this volume form a significant contribution to this process.

Breaking ground, finding graves: reports on the excavations of burials by the National Museum

of Ireland, 1927–2006 (2 vols)

Edited by Mary Cahill and Maeve Sikora; principal osteoarchaeologists: Laureen Buckley and Barra Ó Donnabháin; principal illustrators, Niamh Ó Broin and Angela Gallagher (National Museum of Ireland, monograph series, 4)

(Dublin: Wordwell in association with the National Museum of Ireland, 2011. xxvii, 670p.; xxi, 604p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781905569 618 (vol. 1); ISBN 9781905569625 (vol. 2). €50 set.)

This large-format, two-volume publication gathers together over 400 reports on excavations of burials carried out by or on behalf of the National Museum of Ireland between 1927 and 2006. Although many burial sites excavated by the Museum's staff have been published already, a significant number have remained unpublished until now. None of the sites reported here were selected for excavation. They were all found accidentally by people engaged in some forms of earth-moving activity, from changing the position of a shrub in a garden at Lisnaskill, Co. Waterford, to semi-industrial activity in quarries such as Martinstown, Co. Meath. The monograph includes some 113 specially commissioned radiocarbon dates from 74 sites and is comprehensively illustrated. Volume 1 covers the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Volume 2 covers the Iron Age, early medieval, late medieval, post-medieval and later periods. There is also an inventory of sites where human remains have been recorded.

Rathlin Island: an archaeological survey of a maritime landscape

Wes Forsythe and Rosemary McConkey

(Archaeological Monograph Series, 6)

(Belfast: The Stationery Office. Northern Ireland Environment Agency, 2012. xxviii, 482p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780337097041. £30)

Sponsored by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, this archaeological survey of land and shore has resulted in the most complete account of Rathlin's past yet produced. The island's archaeological heritage reflects its long occupation, from stone-age tools to the products of modern engineering. In addition to the more well-known elements of the island's archaeological heritage, this large-format illustrated volume also deals in some detail with maritime life and traditions through shipwrecks, landing places, kelp production and fishing.

Excavations at Knowth, 5: the archaeology of Knowth in the first and second millennia AD George Eogan, with contributions by Madeleine O'Brien, Cathy Johnson, and others (Monographs in Archaeology. Excavations at Knowth, 5)

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2012. xlix, 909p. Illus. Includes CDRom. Hbk. ISBN 9781904890621. €50)

Knowth has been an important site over a succession of stages of habitation, as the excavated finds described in this very large volume confirm. They reflect Knowth's evolution from ancestral burial ground, to royal residence of North Brega, site of Anglo-Norman and Cistercian habitation, post-medieval settlement cluster, and nineteenth-century farmstead, and now a National Monument and part of the Brugh na Bóinne World Heritage Site. Volume 5 of the "Excavations at Knowth" series presents the findings relating to the use of the site from the Late Iron Age to the modern era. The huge array of finds excavated at Knowth associated with the period under consideration are presented, with an accompanying CD-ROM cataloguing the un-illustrated finds. A series of appendices deals with such topics as the metal content of a selection of the Roman, Viking, and Early Christian artefacts from Knowth, and the findings of a geophysical survey conducted on one area of the site in late 2011, among others.

The Irish 'monastic town': is this a valid concept? Colmán Etchingham

(Kathleen Hughes Memorial Lectures, 8)

(Cambridge: Hughes Hall & Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, University of Cambridge, 2010. ii, 34p. Pbk. ISBN 9780956235312. ISSN 1475-9098. No price given)

This pamphlet deals with the economic function of Irish church settlements, examining the supposedly town-like character of ecclesiastical settlements in Ireland from the ninth to the eleventh century. Having reviewed the historiography of the 'monastic town' concept, Etchingham proceeds to argue that the gatherings at such places described by the Irish word *óenach* had a political rather than commercial rationale. He concludes, too, that the evidence for market activity and traders at monastic sites is slim. In an examination of the evidence for Kells in the eleventh and twelfth centuries, Etchingham makes the case that the monastic economy was almost entirely an agrarian one. He concludes

that 'the economy of an Irish ecclesiastical settlement . . . was orientated towards farming, with an elite that appropriated the surplus of agrarian labourers on a predictable, customary and hierarchically determined basis, and whose non-customary transactions concerned land.'

Limerick and south-west Ireland: medieval art and architecture

Edited by Roger Stalley

(BAA Conference Transactions, 34)

(Leeds: Maney, for the British Archaeological Association, 2012. vii, 270p.

Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781907625077. £76; Pbk. 9781907625084. £36)

Limerick cathedral is much to the fore in this volume, with important papers on its fabric, its splendidly preserved misericords and the lavish crozier and mitre of the bishops. Other essays are concerned with some of the more distinctive aspects of Ireland – Hiberno-Romanesque sculpture, the well preserved cloisters of the Franciscan friaries, the mighty fortress at Bunratty and the numerous small castles or tower houses. Analysed in print for the first time is the eclectic array of medieval stained glass, inserted into the windows at Bunratty during restoration in the 1950s. A major theme underpinning many of the essays is the degree to which Irish craftsmen and builders engaged with the rest of Europe, and the nature of their relationship with English practice. The extent to which the advent of Gothic was a colonial phenomenon, an inevitable consequence of the Anglo-Norman conquest of Ireland after 1170, is likewise considered, so too the extent to which Ireland developed its own identity in architecture and sculpture in the later middle ages. While travellers from abroad regarded Ireland as one of the most remote regions of the western world, 'situated at the end of the earth', these essays make it clear that the province of Munster was still very much an integral part of Christian Europe. The contributors to this essay collection are Roger Stalley, Ragnall Ó Floinn, Robin Frame, Brian Hodgkinson, Tomás Ó Caragáin, Jenifer Ní Ghrádaigh, Richard Gem, Aisling O'Donoghue, Danielle O'Donovan, Rachel Moss, T.E. McNeill, Colm J. Donnelly, Rory Sherlock, Heather Gilderdale Scott, John Cherry and Christa Grössinger.

The use of social space in early medieval Irish houses with particular reference to Ulster

Iestyn Jones

(BAR British Series, 564)

(Oxford: Archaeopress, 2012. 220p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781407310022. £36)

This study takes as its subject matter the use of social space in early medieval Irish houses (c.AD 600–1200). During this period there was a shift from curvilinear to rectilinear house forms. Excavation reports, published and unpublished, are the main focus for this research. The Old Irish legal tract *Críth Gablach*, composed during the earlier part of the early medieval period, is also analysed with reference to its information about houses and social status. The earlier chapters include a review of earlier research in Ireland and elsewhere including a range of archaeological and anthropological house-related research.

Lug's forgotten Donegal kingdom: the archaeology, history and folklore of the SíL Lugdach of Cloghaneely

Brian Lacey

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. x, 141p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823435. €29.95)

Using archaeology, history, place-names, mythology and folklore, this book examines one of the smallest territorial units in Ireland from the beginning of history c.600, and traces its development to c.1100. It argues that these people from a remote area of Donegal constituted a tiny kingdom that had an ongoing association with the pagan god Lug – Lugh Lámhfhada. The book demonstrates how their original devotion to Lug was transmuted through conversion to Christianity, reconstituted in aspects of the cult of St Colum Cille and of a probably invented local saint – Beaglaoch. From c.725, their territory and influence were expanding – eventually giving rise to the powerful O'Donnell and O'Doherty families of the later Middle Ages. This illustrated book makes the Donegal landscape itself speak in a revealing manner, and offers a unique insight into wider early medieval history and religious culture.

Hidden history below our feet: the archaeological story of Belfast

Ruairí Ó Baoill

(Holywood, Co. Down, Tandem Design, 2011. 199p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780956967107. £14.99)

Intended as an accessible introduction to the archaeology of Belfast, this illustrated book is in five chronological sections, each accompanied by a fold-out panorama of the Belfast region, and a series of maps and diagrams. It provides a summary gazetteer of archaeological sites, accompanied by an historical overview

as prompted by archaeological discoveries. It also offers one detailed case study for each period. 1. The prehistoric archaeology of Belfast, with a focus on the Giant's Ring; 2. Early Christian Belfast, documenting the recorded ecclesiastical sites in the region and with a special focus on Shankill Church and graveyard; 3. Medieval Belfast, particularly the castles; 4. Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Belfast, with a case-study of the Belfast Potthouse; 5. Nineteenth and twentieth-century Belfast documenting the increasing industrialisation of the town and with a special focus on Ballymacarrett glass-works.

Ilteangach, ilseiftiúil: féilscríbhinn in ómós do Nicholas Williams

In eagar ag Liam Mac Amhlaigh agus Brian Ó Curnáin

(Dublin: Arlen House, 2012. 480p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781851320684. €20)

Amongst the essays in this bilingual collection, which might be missed by many readers interested in the Irish landscape, is one by Thomas Charles-Edwards: 'Some thoughts on early Irish roads and travel' (pp 71–95). This takes up an old debate between D.A. Binchy and Eoin MacNeill about the nature of travel in early medieval Ireland, using documentary evidence to identify the various kinds of roads, highways, horse roads, by-roads, curved roads, and cow tracks, and who might have travelled on them and why.

Medieval Dublin XII: proceedings of the Friends of Medieval Dublin symposium, 2010

Edited by Seán Duffy

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2013. 306p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823343. €50, Pbk. ISBN 9781846823350. €24.95)

This twelfth volume of proceedings of the annual Friends of Medieval Dublin Symposium contains reports on recent archaeological excavations in and around Dublin city. Claire Walsh found for the first time evidence of a Hiberno-Norse community living outside the walled city in the Coombe, and Alan Hayden traces the later archaeology of the area in excavations along the route of the Coombe Bypass. The Liberties was also the location of Judith Carroll's excavations of medieval industrial activity at Thomas Street and Vicar Street, while Rosanne Meenan reports on her excavations in the vicinity of the medieval St Peter's Church at Stephen Street Lower. Edmund O'Donovan discusses excavations at St Nathi's Church in

Dundrum, which revealed a series of fortified enclosures around the early monastic foundation, and Geraldine Stout attempts to reconstruct the precincts of the great Cistercian abbey of St Mary. Historical studies include Grace O’Keefe’s examination of the connection between Dublin and Bristol in the Middle Ages, Colm Lennon’s study of the medieval manor of Clontarf and Áine Foley’s investigation of the sheriffs who administered the medieval county of Dublin. Ellen O’Flaherty reports on manuscript materials for the history of medieval Dublin preserved in the library of TCD.

Parke’s Castle, Co. Leitrim: archaeology, history and architecture

Claire Foley and Colm Donnelly, with contributions by Sarah Gormley, Ruth Logue, and William Roulston

(Archaeological Monographs Series, 7)

(Dublin: Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2012. xii, 145p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781406427141. €15)

Excauation of Parke’s Castle, also known as Newtown Castle, was carried out in the early 1970s but the report remained unpublished until now. The archive of those excavations was revisited in 2005 and CAF was commissioned by the National Monuments Service to prepare the findings for publication. Some of the artefacts (pottery and animal bone) uncovered in the excavations had been mislaid in the long interval between excavation and publication, but otherwise comprehensive paper files and research notes were available. (Luckily, there were no personal computers available in the 1970s or the research notes might also have proved irretrievable.) New contributors were commissioned to write for this volume, including William Roulston who has provided an essay on the historical context of the site, encompassing both the O’Rourkes, the pre-plantation occupants, and the Parke family who were the early seventeenth-century settlers there. Colm Donnelly has contributed an essay on landscape and architecture, while Claire Foley (who led the original excavations), Sarah Gormley and Ruth Logue report on the excavations. Also included is a chapter on the finds, with contributions by twelve specialists. The book concludes with an evaluation by Colm Donnelly and Claire Foley of the successive tower-houses at the site, both the Gaelic O’Rourke castle that appears to have been quite an impressive structure and the relatively modest plantation castle financed by Robert Parke, c.1630.

Dunluce Castle: archaeology and history

Colin Breen

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. xviii, 230p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823312. €39.95; Pbk. ISBN 9781846823732. €19.95)

Constructed at the end of the 15th century, the castle was first occupied by the MacQuillans and later by the MacDonnells who embarked on an extensive programme of rebuilding. It was finally abandoned in the late seventeenth century. Archaeological excavation and survey have uncovered the remains of medieval buildings and large sections of a town built around the site from 1608 but destroyed in the 1640s. Colin Breen’s study of the castle surveys its historical context and documents the various architectural phases of the castle, including recent conservation of this historic monument.

The Reformation of the landscape: religion, identity and memory in early modern Britain and Ireland

Alexandra Walsham

(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. xvi, 637p. Hbk. ISBN 978-199243556, £37; Pbk. (2012). ISBN 9780199654383. £24.95)

Alex Walsham presents a strikingly original and richly textured study of the relationship between the religious changes of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and the physical environment of Britain and Ireland. Looking beyond churches, cathedrals and monasteries, she explores how the Protestant and Catholic Reformations affected perceptions and practices associated with trees, woods, springs, rocks, mountain peaks, prehistoric monuments, and other distinctive topographical features. A significant proportion of the examples considered are drawn from Ireland. The book examines how the theological and cultural transformations of the early modern era were in turn shaped by the landscapes in which they occurred. The author argues that landscape played a critical role in forging confessional identities and in reconfiguring social memory. The landscape helped people understand who they were and where they came from, helping them come to terms with the changing world around them.

Dublin and the Pale in the Renaissance, c.1540–1660

Edited by Michael Potterton and Thomas Heron

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2011. 447p. Illus.

8 pls. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822834. €50)

Seventeen essays in this multidisciplinary collection examine aspects of life in the English Pale in early modern Ireland. The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with 'history and architecture' and the second with 'music, language & letters'. In the history and architecture section, there are case studies of Rathcoffey castle, Co. Kildare; the White Castle, Athy, Co. Kildare; Thomas Wentworth's unfinished residence at Jigginstown; and an early modern house at Carstown, Co. Louth. Other essayists discuss late medieval Kilkenny; the Gaelic Irish of east Leinster and their countrymen at the London court; powerful Geraldine women; church settlement; and the Renaissance architecture and funeral monuments of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin.

The friars in Ireland, 1224–1540

Colmán Ó Clabaigh

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. xxv, 389p. Illus. Hbk ISBN 9781846822247. €60; Pbk. 9781846822254. €29.95)

This book surveys the history, lifestyle and impact of the friars in Ireland from the arrival of the Dominicans in 1224 to the Henrician campaign to dissolve the religious houses in 1540. It is the first sustained attempt to examine the mendicant phenomenon as a whole rather than focusing on individual religious orders or friaries. The first three chapters give a chronological overview of the arrival and initial expansion of the friars in the thirteenth century, through the upheavals of the fourteenth century and the emergence of vigorous reform parties within each order in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. The second part of the book is thematic, dealing with topics such as patronage, lifestyle, pastoral impact and liturgy and devotion. Chapter eight comprises a well-illustrated treatment of the art and architecture of the friaries, including some of the best-preserved examples of Ireland's medieval built heritage.

A carnival of learning: essays to honour George Cunningham and his 50 conferences on medieval Ireland in the Cistercian Abbey of Mount St Joseph, Roscrea, 1987–2012

Edited by Peter Harbison and Valerie Hall

(Roscrea: Cistercian Press, 2012. xvi, 264p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781900163040. €40)

Contributors to this book have been regular participants at the Roscrea Medieval conferences, held each spring and autumn for the last twenty-five years at Mount St Joseph, Roscrea.

A mixture of the personal, local and universal, the essays capture the flavour of those memorable conferences, and the great diversity of topics discussed. There are essays on hagiography, manuscripts, books and libraries, monasteries, liturgy, antiquities, architecture, and medieval politics. Amongst the ecclesiastical sites discussed in this volume are Clonfert, Seir Keiran, Monasterboice, Strade, Durrow, Roscam, and of course Roscrea itself. The book is beautifully designed and illustrated, a fitting tribute to George Cunningham who has done so much over the years to further the study of medieval Ireland in all its variety, and to make it fun.

Clanricard's castle: Portumna House, Co. Galway

Edited by Jane Fenlon

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. xi, 180p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823442. €45)

Major archaeological excavation in the grounds of the house in recent years has revealed fascinating evidence of the layout and arrangement of the buildings and gardens while architectural conservation works by the Office of Public Works have helped preserve and partially restore this important historic monument. This well-illustrated book contains ten essays by experts in the fields of architecture, history, archaeology and art history, each throwing light on a different aspect of the planning, development and features of one of Ireland's most significant seventeenth-century buildings. Portumna castle was commissioned by Richard Burke, 4th earl of Clanricard, in the second decade of the seventeenth century, and this volume also examines his career in the context of his place in Irish society and his links with the English court, so as to understand what purpose this great house was meant to serve.

Clanricard and Thomond, 1540–1640: provincial politics and society transformed

Bernadette Cunningham

(Maynooth Studies in Local History, 100)

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 71p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846823527. €9.95)

As royal authority expanded in early modern Connacht, English common law replaced Gaelic custom and local lordships were gradually transformed into landed estates on the English model. The willingness of the Burkes of Clanricard and the O'Briens of Thomond to condone a process of anglicization, under the auspices of a provincial presidency, allowed them stabilize their authority within a new political structure. By the early seventeenth century the

earls of Clanricard and Thomond were working to consolidate their English-style landed estates in changed political circumstances. When government-sponsored plantation threatened in the 1620s and 1630s, the active, if self-interested, participation by the earls in the political wrangles over land titles in the province further enhanced their power both locally and in the broader political sphere. By comparing the processes of political and social change in the two lordships, this study illustrates the centrality of local political considerations in determining the direction of societal change in early modern Connacht.

Making Ireland English: the Irish aristocracy in the seventeenth century

Jane Ohlmeyer

(New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2012. xxii, 668p. Hbk. ISBN 978030011 8346. £40)

This is an ambitious study of the ninety-one families that made up the Irish peerage in the seventeenth century. It examines the significance of the peerage in establishing English power and contributing to the process of 'making Ireland English' in the early modern period. While the focus is primarily political, chapter 4 on the landed nobility is an important essay in political geography, recognising that land was the key to political power in early modern Ireland. Chapter 11 on the Restoration land settlement draws on Kevin McKenny's unpublished statistical analysis of the sources for landholding in seventeenth-century Ireland to argue the case for the relative stability of the landed hierarchy between 1641 and 1670, despite the presence of both upward and downward social mobility. Royal patronage, Ohlmeyer argues, was a key determinant of the fortunes of individual aristocratic families and their landed estates. This is a detailed and nuanced interpretation of the Irish aristocracy in the seventeenth century, enhanced by numerous maps and tables, many of them reliant on the evidence preserved in the 'Books of Survey and Distribution'.

'The mirror of Great Britain': national identity in seventeenth-century British architecture

Edited by Olivia Horsfall Turner

(Reading: Spire Books in association with the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain. 288p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781904 965381, £34.95)

Some essays of Irish interest are included in this publication which arises out of the 2010

Symposium of the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain. Brenda Collins writes about 'The Conway estate in County Antrim: an example of seventeenth-century English building styles in Ireland', and Rolf Loeber has contributed two chapters on the architecture of the early seventeenth-century Ulster and midland plantations. The first of Loeber's essays is on pre-plantation architecture and building regulations while the second is on the new architecture of the plantation era.

Ulster transformed: essays on plantation and print culture c.1590-1641

R.J. Hunter; prepared for publication and introduced by John Morrill

(Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation in association with Geography Publications, 2012. xxii, 490p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781903688 977. £19.99)

A selection of the most important historical essays by R.J. Hunter (1938-2007) are reprinted in this volume. They include six essays that originally appeared in the relevant county volumes of the Geography Publications county history series, on pre-plantation society and the plantation in various Ulster counties. Other essays are drawn from a range of national and local journals, and from conference proceedings and festschriften. The volume is appropriately illustrated and a detailed map of Co. Armagh landownership, c.1610 is also included as an insert. The first chapter, simply entitled 'The Ulster Plantation' was written jointly by R.J. Hunter and Raymond Gillespie and is published here for the first time. Another previously unpublished essay on 'Plantation society: Antrim and Down, 1603-41' is also included. Most of the nineteen essays are on aspects of plantation and urbanization, but the volume also contains three essays on the early modern book trade.

The Ulster Plantation in the counties of Armagh and Cavan, 1608-1641

R.J. Hunter; foreword by David Edwards

(Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2012. xvii, 459p. Hbk. ISBN 9781903688 960. £19.99)

Originally written in the mid 1960s as a research thesis at Trinity College Dublin, this seminal local study of the Ulster Plantation is well known to historians, but is only now being published for the first time. The historical background of Armagh and Cavan in the sixteenth century provides a backdrop for a systematic chronological analysis of the plantation as it evolved from 1610 to 1641. The narrative in-

cludes a wealth of local detail on the granting and re-granting of estates, the fate of the native Irish, the development of towns, and an assessment of rural conditions, including the impact of the plantation on the landscape. Two distinct chapters towards the end are devoted to detailed analysis of the Co. Armagh estates of Trinity College Dublin, and the estates of the archbishopric of Armagh.

There are technical difficulties in preparing for publication a thesis begun almost 50 years ago. While the text is essentially unchanged here, some technical adjustments have been made to the footnotes for this edition, such as the substituting 'TNA' for 'PRO' and 'NAI' for 'PROI', where national archives have changed their names in the intervening years. However, where manuscripts have been transferred to new archives, such as the material from the Armagh Archiepiscopal Registry now in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI, DIO 4), or the Brownlow papers from Watson and Neill, Solicitors (now also in PRONI, D/1928), neither the notes nor the bibliography has been updated. Similarly many of the estate collections previously in private custody and now in the National Library of Ireland have since been sorted, catalogued, and assigned new catalogue numbers. In respect of the TCD archives, whereas Hunter noted in the 1960s that 'the college's archives are in a disorganized state', and resorted to devising his own scheme to describe the locations of various documents in the college muniments, these collections have now been comprehensively resorted and recatalogued. Sadly, too, R.J. Hunter's maps, which accompanied the original thesis and are referred to throughout the text, are not reproduced in this edition; they appear to have gone missing from TCD library in the intervening years.

Strabane Barony during the Ulster plantation 1607–1641

Edited by Robert J. Hunter

(Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2011. xiv, 82p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781903688953. £7.99)

This in-depth local study of Strabane barony during the Ulster plantation is the work of a group of historians and students led by Bob Hunter, first published locally in 1981. Strabane was allocated to undertakers from Scotland, and among the themes studied here are pre-Plantation Strabane, the background of the Scottish settlers, the development of the town of Strabane, the socio-economic conditions in

the barony in the plantation era, and aspects of plantation architecture.

Inhabiting the landscape: place, custom and memory, 1500–1800

Nicola Whyte

(Oxford: Windgather Press, 2009. x, 181p. ISBN 9781905119240. £20)

Focusing on post-medieval Norfolk, Nicola Whyte recaptures the essential character of ordinary people's experience of landscape. She shows how perceptions were deeply rooted in the comprehension of material antiquities, the annual round of work, public events and religious ritual, and the complex web of rights and jurisdictions mapped out in the fields. People valued and gave meaning to the landscape for a wide range of reasons, many of them unconnected with the economic potential of the land. Landscape features outside the confines of the church and the graveyard – pilgrimage routes, crosses, wells and springs – played an important part in the ideological shift of the Reformation. Parish boundaries, and in particular the annual ritual of 'beating the bounds' at Rogationtide, reveal much about the shifting pattern of local allegiances and competition over resources. Places of execution and the graves of suicides were 'mnemonic spectacles' defining both geographical and behavioural limits. The local history of enclosure and rights to commons is the story of nascent capitalism in rural England, a clash of values between modern productivity and ancient tradition that involved the reinterpretation and renegotiation of the past. Informed by the latest archaeological theory, this book shows how landscape development was a dynamic, experiential process, in which world-views changed as well as woods, hedges and fields.

At the anvil: essays in honour of William J. Smyth

Edited by Patrick J. Duffy and William Nolan; associate editors David J. Butler and Patrick Nugent

(Dublin: Geography Publications, 2012. xxvi, 784p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780906602638. €45)

A must-have volume for anyone interested in Irish historic settlement, this book contains 29 substantial essays on varied aspects of Irish historical geography. There are three important medieval contributions by Matthew Stout, Mark Hennessy and Francis Ludlow. Early modern essays are by John Morrissey, John Mannion, Annaleigh Margey, Arnold Horner, J.H. Andrews, K.J. Rankin, Patrick Nugent and An-

ngret Simms. Patrick J. O’Flanagan is the sole contributor on an eighteenth-century topic: William Bowles, geographer and natural scientist. The modern era is dealt with in essays by Patrick J. Duffy, Gerry Kearns, Kevin Whelan, Denis Pringle, Mary Kelly, Proinnsias Breathnach, Denis Linehan, David J. Butler, Brian Graham, Catherine Nash and Joseph Ruane. Robert A. Dodgshon revisits E. Estyn Evans’s writings on the nature of rural settlement on the Atlantic periphery in the light of recent research in Cornwall, Wales and the Scottish highlands. L.J. Proudfoot and William Jenkins each discuss aspects of the Irish abroad while David Nally considers aspects of colonialism in a global context. Anne Buttimer revisits ideas of nature and the sacred. Finally, Catherine Delaney, Robert Devoy, and Simon Jennings discuss mid to late Holocene relative sea-level changes in south-west Ireland. The volume also contains a bibliography of the writings of Willie Smyth, which serves an extremely useful purpose in allowing the researcher to distinguish once and for all between the writings in historical geography of the two W.J. Smyths who contemporaneously held posts as professors of geography in Irish universities.

The plantation of Ulster: ideology and practice
Edited by Éamonn Ó Ciardha & Micheál Ó Siochrú

(Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2012. xiii, 269p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780719086083. £70.)

The Ulster Plantation’s historical, political, cultural, environmental and visual legacies impacted heavily on developments in both Ireland and Britain for centuries. The thirteen academic essays in this volume explore the context of the Plantation from the perspectives of both colonizers and colonized. The practicalities of the Plantation as it worked on the ground in Ulster are dealt with in the early part of the book, while literary and religious dimensions to the social and cultural transformation of the province are considered in later essays. The book originated in two academic conferences held in 2009 to mark the 400th anniversary of the plantation of Ulster. Despite institutional sponsorship for these commemorative events, the ensuing publication is an expensive book destined almost exclusively for the academic library market.

Conquest and land in Ireland: the transplanta-

tion to Connacht, 1649–1680

John Cunningham

(Studies in History, new series)

(London: Boydell Press for the Royal Historical Society, 2011. viii, 184p. Hbk. ISBN 9780861933150. £50)

Mid-seventeenth century Ireland experienced a revolution in landholding. Coming in the aftermath of the Cromwellian conquest, this major shift in the social and ethnic distribution of land and power reshaped Irish society. One of the most notorious elements of the Irish land settlement was the scheme of transplantation to Connacht, which aimed to transfer Catholics out of three provinces and replace them with Protestant settlers. This book reconstructs the implementation of the transplantation scheme in the 1650s and assesses its far-reaching consequences in the context of wider themes of colonialism, state formation and ethnic cleansing.

Cavan town, 1610–2010: a brief history

Edited by Brendan Scott

(Cavan: Cavan Town Council, 2012. v, 110p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780957165014. No price given)

Six essays on the history of Cavan town are combined in a commemorative volume to mark the granting of a royal charter to the town in November 1610 under the scheme for the plantation of Ulster. The book is well illustrated with historic maps and architectural images. The book opens with an overview of the history of the town from 1300 to 1900, and there are also essays on the Meeting Houses of Cavan, the Cavan Workhouse and photographic sources for the history of the town. The book ends with a chronicle of Cavan Urban District Council from 1899 to 2010. The contributors are Jonathan Cherry, Brendan Scott, Patrick Cassidy, Liam Kelly and Georgina Laragy.

Sligo: Irish Historic Towns Atlas

Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg

(Irish Historic Towns Atlas, No. 24)

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2012. 27p. + loose sheets of maps and prints. Includes CDROM. ISBN 9781904890775. €30)

The atlas maps and documents the development of the town of Sligo, from its origins in the thirteenth century down to the twentieth century. An introductory essay explains

the geographical context of the original settlement, and describes the development of the townscape through the centuries. This is followed by detailed topographical data, arranged in a standard classified form. Accompanying the text is a series of maps and illustrations on loose sheets, including a map that reconstructs Sligo in 1837 at a scale of 1:2500.

Ennis: Irish Historic Towns Atlas

Brian Ó Dálaigh

(Irish Historic Towns Atlas, No. 25)

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2012. 27p. + loose sheets of maps and prints. Includes CDROM. ISBN 9781908996008. €30)

The atlas uses historic maps and topographical data to document and illustrate the evolution of Ennis, from its origins in the thirteenth century down to the twentieth century. This is preceded by an historical essay on the origins of the town and its evolution over time. As in other atlases in the series, map 2 offers a detailed reconstruction of Ennis in 1841, at a standard scale of 1:2500. The use of a standard scale for the main reconstruction map in all the atlases in the series, allows for comparative studies of urban development throughout Ireland and elsewhere in Europe.

Economy, trade and Irish merchants at home and abroad, 1600–1988

L.M. Cullen

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 320p. Hbk. ISBN 978184682 3190. €55)

Nineteen essays by Louis Cullen on economic and social topics, including three not previously published, are collected together in this volume. Development (rural and general), trade, banking shipping, smuggling, and merchants at home and abroad provide the main themes. The collection includes an important study of ‘The social and cultural modernization of rural Ireland, 1600–1900’, originally published in Paris in 1980. Essays published for the first time in this volume include one on ‘Malthus, Ireland and famine’ and another on ‘Wealth, wills and inheritance, 1700–1900’, a study of the wealth of the farming class in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Ireland.

Rooted in the soil: a history of cottage gardens and allotments in Ireland since 1750

Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 224p.

Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823268. €45. Pbk. 9781846823275. €24.95)

Written by former curators at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, this book investigates the cultivation of fruit and vegetables in Irish cottage gardens since the mid-eighteenth century, in a variety of historical contexts including improvement, co-operative initiatives, and most recently environmentalism. A variety of political, economic and moral motivations for gardening are considered and the kinds of plots and gardens that resulted are described. The book complements the earlier work by the same authors on *A history of Irish farming, 1750–1950* (Dublin, 2008).

Belfast 400: people, place and history

Edited by S.J. Connolly

(Liverpool University Press, 2012. 392p.

Illus. Hbk. 9781846316340. £25; Pbk. 9781846 316357. £14.95)

This collaborative volume seeks to tell the story of Ireland’s second city in all its complexity. Why did this waterlogged river-mouth persist over centuries as a site of human settlement? Why did a minor outpost of British settlement become Ulster’s most important urban centre? How did Belfast develop, by the beginning of the twentieth century, into one of the world’s great industrial cities? The nine essays in the volume span the centuries from prehistory to the present, with contributions by Ruairí Ó Baoill, Philip Macdonald, Raymond Gillespie, Stephen Royle, S.J. Connolly, Gillian McIntosh, Sean O’Connell, and Dominic Bryan. It is published to mark the 400th anniversary of the granting of a royal charter to Belfast in 1613.

Mapping, measurement and metropolis: how land surveyors shaped eighteenth-century Dublin

Finnian Ó Cionnaith

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 278p. Illus.

Hbk. ISBN 9781846823480. €45)

This comprehensively illustrated book charts the exceptional impact that a small group of land surveyors had on the development of Dublin city during the eighteenth century. This book examines an industry that was simultane-

ously a mixture of art, science and business and left the city with a diverse and vibrant cartographic heritage. Its practitioners ranged from professionals and artists to frauds and rogues. Dublin's surveyors dealt with the city's richest lords and its poorest tenants, providing the images onto which some of the most interesting and important stories of eighteenth-century Dublin are told. Despite their relatively small numbers, they played a unique and fundamental role in shaping Dublin into what it is today. *See review in this issue.*

Irish provincial cultures in the long eighteenth century: essays for Toby Barnard
Raymond Gillespie and R.F. Foster, editors
 (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 272p. Illus., 8 pls. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823756. €45)

In this book, thirteen historians of eighteenth-century Ireland recreate the lost world of those who carved out a middle position between the aristocracy and the tenantry of provincial Ireland. Essays chart the sometimes easy but often difficult relationships between local and wider worlds, consider the societies that those in provincial Ireland made for themselves and document the material goods with which they adorned the places they occupied. By considering aspects of the long eighteenth century as diverse as music, wine consumption, buildings, paintings, plasterwork and print as well as the better-known subjects of the law, landlord improvement and literary patronage, this volume builds a fascinating picture of a restless society trying to adapt itself to the needs of a complex and divided world.

William Burton Conyngham and his Irish circle of antiquarian artists
Peter Harbison
 (New Haven & London: Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. Yale University Press, 2012. xvi, 226p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780300180725. US\$85)

In the second half of the eighteenth century, William Burton Conyngham (1733–1796) worked to assemble albums of engravings that would illustrate the beauty of the Irish landscape. He assembled a very significant collection of drawings of antiquities by a variety of artists. He also commissioned Gabriel Beranger, Angelo Bigari and John James Barralet to sketch antiq-

uities including abbeys, churches, castles and dolmens not previously illustrated. Peter Harbison's lavishly illustrated book reconstructs Burton Conyngham's collection of antiquarian drawings. His wide-ranging discussion of the artists represented in the collections is followed by a detailed catalogue of the known sketches.

Pathfinders to the past: the antiquarian road to Irish historical writing, 1640–1960
Edited by Próinséas Ní Chatháin & Siobhán Fitzpatrick, with Howard Clarke
 (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. xvii, 183p. Illus. ISBN 9781846823459. €50)

Marking the 150th anniversary of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, this collection of essays on some of Ireland's most important antiquarian researchers spans four centuries. The scholars whose contributions to the development of Irish historical writing and archaeology are explored in this volume include Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh, Walter Harris, Richard Pococke, James Hardiman, George Petrie, Robert MacAdam, William Reeves, Philip Doyne Vigors, A.H. Lane-Fox Pitt Rivers, T.J. Westropp, H.S. Crawford, R.A.S. Macalister, and J.J. Tierney. *See review in this issue.*

Mapping Sligo in the early nineteenth century, with an atlas of William Larkin's map of County Sligo, 1819
Arnold Horner
 (Dublin: Wordwell, 2011. viii, 62, 22p. Illus. maps. Hbk. ISBN 9781905569526. €35)

This large map of Sligo by the prolific surveyor and road engineer William Larkin, and compiled for the county grand jury, was started sometime in the early 1800s and was finally published in 1819. Arranged together, its six engraved sheets produce an image measuring around 180cm by 170cm. Larkin thereby displayed the county in unprecedented detail. Published nearly two decades before the Ordnance Survey six-inches-to-one-mile maps, and appearing a generation before the Great Famine of the 1840s, Larkin's map has a particular interest for local studies. Even though it was engraved and printed, this map never seems to have been widely available. The present version (based on the British Library's map) makes its content more generally accessible by using modern imaging techniques to produce a high-def-

inition version in atlas format (reduced to approx 70%). A commentary is also given, to set Larkin's work in context. This book is the third to offer an analysis of William Larkin's county mapping, earlier volumes having focused on his maps of Offaly (King's County) and Meath. Although not without faults, these and other county maps reveal a wealth of information about early nineteenth-century Ireland. Separately, Wordwell has also produced the same map as a single sheet, reduced to approx 50% of its original size.

Atlas of the Great Irish Famine, 1845–52
Edited by John Crowley, William J. Smyth and Mike Murphy. GIS consultant, Charlie Roche; Editorial assistant: Tomás Kelly
(Cork: Cork University Press, 2012. xvi, 710p. illus. Hbk. 9781859184790. €59)

This impressive atlas is certainly a landmark publication for 2012. It comprises over fifty individual chapters, case studies, and some 200 maps that offer readers a variety of perspectives on an event of extraordinary significance in modern Irish history. There are contributions from a wide range of scholars from archaeology, geography, folklore, history, economics, the arts and literature. As well as addressing the question of why the Famine occurred, the atlas seeks to illustrate in detail its varying consequences throughout the island of Ireland. This is done using a combination of text, maps and other illustrations.

Over seventy of the thematic maps published in this volume are derived from a computerized database of twenty-one categories of information contained in the censuses of 1841 and 1851. The maps are constructed using various combinations of these categories of data for each civil parish in the country. For each of the four provinces, there is also a series of in-depth local case studies of particular aspects of the Famine experience. These can serve as a model for similar case studies in other regions, because they are just a small sample of the many such studies that could be conducted for each parish in the country. In reality, for the reader interested in the impact of the Famine in their own particular locality or place of origin, it is the thematic maps that present the most valuable information for many parts of the country, and they do so in a way that allows easy comparison between civil parishes within each county and beyond. The computer databases of the 1841 and 1851

censuses which underpin the thematic maps, if made publicly available, would be a tremendous resource for local historians researching and seeking to understand in more detail the impact of the Great Famine in their own locality as well as facilitating comparisons between different regions.

A section entitled 'the scattering' considers many aspects of the exodus from Ireland that followed the onset of Famine, with case studies of Liverpool, Glasgow, Toronto, New York City and elsewhere. The modern legacy is also assessed, from forgetting to remembering, and the way the Famine has been represented in literature and art. The atlas also seeks to situate the Great Irish Famine in the context of a number of world famines, and concludes with a section on hunger and famine today, an indication of the ongoing Irish sense of affinity with other regions that have suffered catastrophic famines, an attitude of mind which is one of the many lasting cultural impacts of Ireland's Great Famine.

Belfast: the emerging city, 1850–1914

Editor: Olwen Purdue

(Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2013. xxiv, 322p. Hbk. ISBN 9780716531456. €60; Pbk. 9780716531678. €22.95)

Eleven essays capture the excitement of a city evolving into a vibrant social, economic and cultural hub in the late nineteenth century. By 1901 Belfast had emerged as Ireland's largest city, a busy port with important trade links to major ports in Great Britain and the Empire, a city to which people flocked in search of work and through which people travelled as they migrated out of the country. Paul Harron examines the growth of the cityscape in an essay entitled 'Big vision city: the physical transformation of Belfast by provincial architects, 1870–1910', while Brian Lambkin, Patrick Fitzgerald and Johanne Devlin Trew combine forces to explore the topic of migration in Belfast history in all its forms, emphasising the need to consider 'not only immigration, internal migration, emigration, return migration and the dynamic interaction among all these aspects, but also the formation of 'diasporas' . . . and the 'family' type of relationship that connects diasporas and their home places'. They draw particular attention to the many important resources now available online for such study.

Portraits of the city: Dublin and the wider world
 Gillian O'Brien and Finola O'Kane, editors
 (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 280p. Illus.
 Hbk. ISBN 9781846823466. €50)

This book places Dublin at the centre of a discussion about the significance of the historic urban landscape. Bringing together experts in art history, architectural history, urban studies, literature and geography, this multidisciplinary collection examines key issues that affect cities across the world. It combines studies of often-neglected aspects of Dublin's past with case studies of Boston, Baghdad, London, Chicago, New York, Birmingham AL, Lisbon and Jerusalem. This thought-provoking collection frames the debates that will determine the way in which cities perceive, commemorate, preserve, conserve or destroy their historic urban landscapes. *See review in this issue.*

Where bridges stand: the river Lee bridges of Cork City

Antóin O'Callaghan

(Dublin: History Press Ireland, 2012. 159p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781845887469. €14.99)

Aimed at a general readership, *Where bridges stand* tells the story of how the city of Cork grew around, and in harmony with, the bridges that span the twin channels of the River Lee. It provides insights into the people and historical context associated with the building projects that saw Cork grow from a medieval walled town to the thriving modern city that it is today.

Ancient and holy wells of Dublin

Gary Branigan

(Dublin: History Press Ireland, 2012. 127p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781845887537. €16.99)

This is an illustrated gazetteer of some 128 holy wells in County Dublin. It includes the relevant townland name, reference points and GPS coordinates for each site. It is not easy to keep track of such sites in a largely urban environment, but this book attempts to provide the general reader with current information as well as some historical and cultural context for each site that has been identified.

William Steuart Trench and his management of the Digby estate, King's County, 1857–71

Mary Delaney

(Maynooth Studies in Local History, 101)

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 56p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781846823534. €9.95)

This book investigates the realities on the Digby estate in King's County from 1857 to 1871, under the management of William Steuart Trench. Trench was a professional land agent who had previously worked on the Bath Estate in Co. Monaghan and the Lansdowne estate in Co. Kerry. There were vast improvements in both the architecture of the village of Geashill and in the topography of the estate during the Trench years. Such improvements gained both national and international recognition for Lord Digby and earned Trench the legacy of an improver who was well ahead of his time. However, not all members of the community shared in this prosperity and while the physical legacy of Trench lives on, it is overshadowed by the realities of an agent who broke leases, levelled people's homes and banished the poor.

Land, popular politics and agrarian violence in Ireland: the case of County Kerry, 1872–86

Donnacha Seán Lucey

(Dublin: UCD Press, 2011. ix, 270p. Illus. maps. Pbk. ISBN 9781906359669. €28)

This book explores the dynamics of mass political mobilisation and agrarian violence in Kerry during the 1870s and 1880s under the influence of the Land League (1879–82) and the National League (1882–7).

Split personalities: Arklow, 1885–1892

Jim Rees

(Arklow: Dee-Jay Publications, 2012. 297p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780951923962; Pbk. ISBN 9780951923979. €14.95)

This local study investigates the twin campaigns for land reform and home rule in a small town environment. Tenant rights and urban workers rights, as promoted by the National League, successor to the Land League, are the main focus of the study. These topics are considered within the context of the leading individuals active in local politics in the town of Arklow in the 1880s and 1890s.

The changing fortunes of the Headfort estates, 1870–1928

Joe Mooney

(Maynooth Studies in Local History, 102)

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 72p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846823541. €9.95)

In 1870, Thomas Taylour succeeded his father as marquess of Headfort and inherited estates of over 20,000 acres in Cavan and Meath. He had experience as an estate manager, had land and capital in England and took over estates in Ireland at a time of prosperity and rising rents. Headfort's son by his first marriage predeceased him and the estate was left to his second son Geoffrey Taylour. Inexperienced and lacking access to capital in England the new marquess had to deal with a new political and economic reality, where capital was in short supply and tenant proprietorship was seen as the only solution to the Irish land question. His response differed from his predecessor in that he now dealt directly with the tenants and their agent and subsequently became more involved in the wider community both locally and nationally. This book contrasts the different economic and political situations in which both marquesses found themselves, their responses to these situations and the outcomes for themselves, family and tenants.

Ballyfin: the restoration of an Irish house and demesne

Kevin V. Mulligan

(Tralee: Churchill House Press, 2011. 243p. illus. Hbk. 9780955024641. €40)

Set at the foot of the Slieve Bloom Mountains in the centre of Ireland, Ballyfin, in Co. Laois, is

a place of history, tranquility and great natural beauty. The site has been settled since ancient times and was ancestral home to the O'Mores, the Wellesley-Poles, and latterly, the Cootes; for much of the twentieth century Ballyfin was used as a school. The house was the work of the great Irish architects Richard and William Morrison. Over the last decade it has been restored to become a small hotel. This book explores the history of the house, landscape and people of Ballyfin.

Bank architecture in Dublin: a history to c.1940

Michael O'Neill

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 110p. illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781902703381. €17.50)

This book, commissioned as an action of the Dublin City Heritage Plan, opens with an historical introduction to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century banking, beginning with private banking concerns, the emergence of the Bank of Ireland and the arrival of large joint-stock companies. The architecture of the impressive head-office buildings and their sumptuous banking halls are treated chronologically and thematically, tracing Italianate and later Ruskinian Gothic influences, cash-office arrangements, and the impact of politics reflected in building materials and sculptural decoration. The spread of bank branch architecture away from the core around College Green is traced throughout the city and the emerging suburbs up to the arrival of avant-garde architecture. An appendix on documentary sources for further research and a pictorial architectural synopsis conclude this study.

Bernadette Cunningham

Newly published sources and guides to sources

Excavations 2009: summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland

Edited by Isabel Bennett

(Dublin: Wordwell, 2012. xlv, 237p. Hbk. ISBN 9781905569670. €30)

Summaries of recent archaeological excavations are published here in an accessible print format. The volume covering excavations carried out in 2009 is rather slimmer than those in preceding years, reflecting the impact of the economic downturn on archaeological work.

Some 866 excavations are reported on for 2009 as compared with 2,214 in 2006. While this very useful series is now well established, Isabel Bennett is careful to point out in her introduction that these should not be treated as definitive reports on the sites mentioned. They are rather preliminary summaries, recording the initial results and tentative interpretations. Given the length of time that can elapse before a final excavation report is issued, this series is indispensable.

The 'Annals of Multifarnham': Roscommon and Connacht provenance

Edited and translated, with an introduction, by Bernadette Williams
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 200p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823336. €55)

Written by Stephen de Exonia in the 1270s, and ranging in date from AD 48 to AD 1274, the latter part of these annals has Roscommon or its close environs as the main focus of interest. These closing years would have been known to the compiler from personal experience, and thus the evidence for a Connacht provenance is very strong. The building of the king's castle and the establishment of the Franciscan friary in Roscommon are among the events recorded in these annals. The Latin text of these annals was first published in 1841 by the Irish Archaeological Society, in an edition by Aquilla Smith. This new edition gives the original text in Latin, with an English translation on facing pages. Williams corrects errors and misreadings in the earlier edition that had long puzzled historians. The first half of this new book comprises a detailed analysis of the annals, including an explanation as to why they were for so long erroneously called the 'Annals of Multifarnham'. This is followed by a complete edition of the text of the annals from Trinity College Dublin, MS 347. A glossary, bibliography, and index is also provided.

'Men and arms': the Ulster settlers, c.1630

Edited by R.J. Hunter; prepared for publication by John Johnston
(Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2012. 276p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781908448941. £12.99)

This is an edition of the muster roll of Ulster, compiled between 1629 and 1633, now preserved in British Library, Additional MS 4770. Arranged by county and barony, the men mustered are listed under the names of their landlords. Most were settlers and, in the absence of comprehensive estate or parish records, the muster roll is the best available proxy for a census of the British population in Ulster in the early seventeenth century. In all, 13,147 adult males are listed, from the nine counties of the province of Ulster. The muster roll reveals where the settler families in Ulster lived; it indicates variations in social status and wealth among the settlers, and provides insights into the movement of settlers between different planter estates.

The vestry records of the parish of St Audoen, Dublin, 1636–1702

Edited by Maighréad Ní Mhurchadha
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 192p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823763. €55)

A medieval foundation dedicated to the seventh-century French saint, St Ouen, patron saint of Normandy, St Audoen's church, located at Cornmarket, Dublin, is one of the most distinctive churches in the city. St Audoen's has long played a prominent part in the life of Dublin. Although the vestry minute books do not survive, their contents are partially reconstructed here, using printed extracts from the originals which were published in the *Irish Builder* along with previously unpublished transcripts in Marsh's library made by the Revd Christopher McCready. The source provides valuable insights into the life of the parish and the city of Dublin in the seventeenth century.

William Ashford's Mount Merrion: the absent point of view

Finola O'Kane
(Tralee: Churchill House Press, 2012. 96p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780955024665. €30)

Mount Merrion estate extended southwards from Dublin's Merrion Square to Dundrum and Bray, an estate between town and country that enjoyed extended vistas over Dublin Bay. Viscount Fitzwilliam commissioned the landscape painter William Ashford (1746–1824) to produce a series of drawings of the estate, and the album of drawings, dating from 1806, is preserved in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. Finola O'Kane's large-format edition reproduces all of the drawings in the album, together with a selection of Ashford's other work. In her substantial introductory essay she studies Mount Merrion's history, architecture and landscape design. Along the way she discusses the nature of eighteenth-century landscape painting and its potentially subversive points of view.

Ordnance Survey Letters Londonderry, Fermanagh, Armagh-Monaghan, Louth, Cavan-Leitrim: letters relating to the antiquities of the counties of Londonderry, Fermanagh, Armagh-Monaghan, Louth, Cavan-Leitrim containing information collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey in 1834–1836

Edited, with an introduction, by Michael Herity
(Dublin: Fourmasters Press, 2012. xxvi, 442p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781903538180)

Correspondence from several counties is combined in this volume of Ordnance Survey Letters dating from the mid 1830s. They are an important source of local information collected by scholars working in the topographical department of the Ordnance Survey and reporting their findings, and their adventures, in these letters.

Francoise Henry in Co. Mayo: the Inishkea journals

Edited by Janet T. Marquardt; translated from French by Huw Duffy
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. xi, 152p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823244. €35; Pbk. ISBN 9781846823749. €17.50)

In 1937 Francoise Henry, an art historian, visited the north island of Inishkea, off the north-west coast of Co. Mayo, in advance of excavations in search of early medieval remains. She kept technical notes on the archaeological material, but also personal journals recording her observations on the natural world, local culture, and on the trials of working on a remote island which was, by then, no longer inhabited. This book is an edition of her personal journal, in which she describes the environment and the local people who assisted in the work, on each of her four visits to the island between 1937 and 1950. Francoise Henry's Inishkea journal is among the large collection of her papers preserved in the Royal Irish Academy library in Dublin.

MEDIEVAL SETTLEMENT RESEARCH GROUP

Since 2008, a journal entitled *Medieval Settlement Research* has been published annually by the Medieval Settlement Research Group in Great Britain. Prior to that, the same Group published research articles in the *Annual Report of the Medieval Settlement Research Group*, which has appeared annually since 1986. Details of the contents of these publications, together with information about how to subscribe, or simply to join the online mailing list may be found on the Group's website, <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/msrg/>

Irish History Online. A bibliography of writings on Irish history

Irish History Online includes bibliographic information on books and pamphlets, articles from journals published in Ireland or internationally, and chapters from books of essays, including Festschriften and conference proceedings. Coverage aims to be comprehensive for material published since 1936. Selected items published before 1936 are also included. Searches can be made by author/editor, by title or keyword from title, by subject, by person as subject, by place as subject, by journal title or series, or by publication details.

The Irish History Online home page also provides useful links to a wide range of institutions and databases containing source material for Irish history and local studies. The free information available through these links includes place-names, Ordnance Survey maps, reports on archaeological excavations, editions of annals and other texts, and a range of library and archival resources. Links are also provided to key subscription-based resources, such as the Dictionary of Irish Biography and JSTOR.

Irish History Online was established in 2003 with funding from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS), during which time a fully searchable online database was created, based on 'Writings on Irish History', originally published in *Irish Historical Studies*, later on microfiche, and subsequently in booklet form. The online project was developed in conjunction with the Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish History from 2003 to 2009, with the assistance of Peter Salt (RHS).

Since 2010 Irish History Online has functioned separately from the RHS bibliography, so as to allow Irish History Online to continue as a free service. In January 2010, Irish History Online transferred to the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, and is now maintained and updated by a team of voluntary editors and compilers comprising Máirín Cassidy (formerly UCD Library), Ciaran Nicholson (formerly TCD Library), and Bernadette Cunningham (RIA Library), with the assistance of the Academy's IT Department and the Academy Library. The convenor is Prof Jacqueline Hill (NUI Maynooth).

At the beginning of 2013 the Irish History Online database contained over 80,000 records, with further data being added every week. More than 3,600 new entries were added during 2012. Irish History Online offers a much more comprehensive guide to publications on all aspects of the history of Ireland since the 1930s than has ever been made available in any other bibliographic resource. Irish History Online is updated regularly and is free to use.

Irish History Online
Royal Irish Academy
19 Dawson Street
Dublin 2
Ireland

Email: iho@ria.ie

<http://www.irishhistoryonline.ie/>

Lake settlement at Lough Ree

Report on the Forty-first Annual Regional Conference of the Group for the Study of Irish

Historic Settlement, Lough Ree, 11–13 May, 2012

The annual regional conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement was held in association with the Old Athlone Society, Westmeath Heritage Forum, Roscommon Heritage Forum and Waterways Ireland on the weekend of 11–13 May 2012. The conference was part funded by the Heritage Council under its 2012 Heritage education and outreach grant scheme. The principal venue for the conference was the Hodson Bay hotel, situated on the western shore of Lough Ree, just outside Athlone, in Co. Roscommon. The focus of the conference was the historic settlement of Lough Ree and its hinterland.

Friday 11 May 2012

The opening session of the conference on Friday afternoon was devoted to early Christian settlement in the Lough Ree region with lectures by Dr Matthew Stout (St Patrick's College, Drumcondra), on 'Early medieval settlement at Lough Ree', presented from the perspective of an historical geographer, followed by Charles Doherty (University College Dublin), who examined the surviving documentary and literary evidence for 'Lough Ree and its territories in the early medieval period'. The keynote speaker on Friday evening was Dr Paul Gibson (NUI Maynooth), whose illustrated talk entitled 'Ireland's hidden physical and human landscapes – and how to find them' reported on the findings of his researches that have involved using geophysical techniques as an alternative to, or sometimes in conjunction with, archaeological excavation. Dr Gibson provided an overview of the geology of the midland region, illustrating the differences between the area to the west and east of Lough Ree.

Saturday morning, 12 May 2012

The first session on Saturday morning on the theme of Vikings and Normans was opened by Professor Alfred Smyth (University of Kent) whose informative lecture, illustrated with maps, was on 'The strategic and cultural importance of Lough Ree in ninth- and tenth-century Ireland'. Dr Kieran O'Connor (NUI Galway) followed this with an innovative interpretation of the site of Rindown castle and its surroundings. In the second session on Saturday morning Dr Ingelise Stuijts (Discovery Programme) compared the vegetation in different regions of the immediate hinterland of Lough Ree, and highlighted areas for further study, after which Aengus Finnegan (NUI Galway) provided an enlightening synopsis of his recent doctoral research on place-names in the barony of Kilkenny West, on the eastern shore of the lake.

Field trip, Saturday afternoon, 12 May 2012

Saturday afternoon was devoted to a four-hour boat trip on Lough Ree for 70 delegates. The boat departed from the pier at Hodson Bay after lunch on Saturday 12 May, crossing first to the eastern side of the lake to visit the inner lakes, passing close by Friar's Island, and Killinure. The boat then turned and headed northwards passing to the east of Hare Island, and then Inchmore and Inch Bofin, passing close to Bethlehem on the way. Once north of Inch Bofin the tour headed westwards passing to the north of the Black Islands and on towards the Rindown headland, before turning south to return to Hodson Bay. Given the lack of infrastructural development for visits to the main islands on the lake, it was not possible to visit the remains of the major medieval ecclesiastical settlements on the islands, and the tour was conducted entirely from the boat. Dr Harman Murtagh provided a detailed historical and environmental commentary throughout that was unfailingly informative and entertaining.

Sunday morning, 13 May 2012

Following the early morning AGM of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, the first paper of the day was presented by Dr Rolf Loeber (University of Pittsburgh) who placed the landed estates of the Lough Ree region in the early modern period in the context of comparable estates and landscapes throughout Ireland. This was followed by Dr Bernadette Cunningham (Royal Irish Academy) who traced the history of the Poor Clare settlement on Dillon lands at Bethlehem on the eastern shore of the lake. After coffee, George Gossip (Irish Historic Houses Association) presented a lecture on the sporting lodges on the shores of Lough Ree. This was accompanied by illustrations of the widely varied sporting lodges of the region. Mary Shine Thompson (St Patrick's College, Drumcondra) provided a very comprehensive commentary on the key literary texts and travel accounts that have featured Lough Ree.

Sunday afternoon, 13 May 2012

The final conference session was devoted to lectures on navigation and island life. Colin Becker (Inland Waterways Association of Ireland) recounted the history of the development of inland navigation on the lake in the second half of the twentieth century, while Gearoid O'Brien (Westmeath County Library) looked at the history of the families who have lived on the islands on the lake during the twentieth century.

There was a large attendance throughout all conference sessions, which even necessitated moving to a larger venue within the hotel (a change that was smoothly facilitated by the hotel manager on duty). Lecture sessions were followed by lively discussion, and there was much interaction between local residents and visitors to the area on the history and future potential of this midland lakeland environment. The GSIHS conference committee members were particularly appreciative of the high level of participation by members of the Old Athlone Society and by local residents with intimate knowledge of the islands and the lake shore. The programme of lectures for the weekend conference was ably coordinated in advance by Dr Harman Murtagh and Dr David Fleming, while Niamh Crowley and Harman Murtagh were the main organizers over the course of the weekend. Lecture sessions were chaired by GSIHS committee members Bernadette Cunningham, Charles Doherty, David Kelly, Margaret Murphy, Geraldine Stout and Matthew Stout. This was one of the most dynamic and rewarding conferences in the group's history, and it is intended that publication of selected conference proceedings will follow. The Lough Ree conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement received funding from the Heritage Council under its 2012 Heritage, education and outreach grants scheme. Funding was also pledged by the Westmeath Heritage Forum, Roscommon Heritage Forum, Waterways Ireland and the Old Athlone Society.

Bernadette Cunningham
President, Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement
2 July 2012

Geography and history in the Junior cycle curriculum

The Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement has campaigned in support of maintaining geography and history as core subjects in the junior cycle of the second level curriculum. Irrespective of the career paths chosen by students, in the sciences or humanities, Ireland needs citizens in all walks of life who have knowledge of the country in which they live, its evolving landscapes and its people's past. Amongst our educated citizens of the future, we need industrialists who understand the environmental impact of their enterprises, economists who understand past economic trends, architects and developers who understand floodplains, hotel workers who can communicate an appreciation of our Irish heritage and landscape, journalists with the understanding that an historical perspective brings. We need citizens with a broad education, and a proper understanding of the environment in which they live. The best opportunity to provide a foundation in history and geography to all our citizens is in the junior cycle of the second level curriculum. As a country we cannot afford not to teach history and geography to all students at second level. The place of these subjects in the core curriculum in the junior cycle must be preserved.

Climate, Environment, Settlement and Society

Report on the Fifth Thematic Conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic

Settlement, All Hallows College, 24–26 February, 2012

Co-organised in conjunction with the Irish Environmental History Network and the Discovery Programme, the conference was attended by a very large number of people on all three days. The conference examined the impact of climate and environment upon settlement in Ireland.

Michael O'Connell (NUI, Galway) opened the conference with a broad-ranging paper on 'Climate, environment and farming in Ireland during the last two millennia: insights from palaeoecology'. He argued that the last two millennia are characterised by major environmental change at most spatial scales including global and European. As regards climate, the period was characterised by climatic anomalies including the Little Ice Age, which, if duration as well as intensity is taken into account, is arguably the major anomaly of the post-glacial period. During the last two millennia, terrestrial environments and farming practices also underwent major change. The early first millennium AD saw the expansion of the Roman Empire, the influence of which extended far beyond its administrative boundaries to include Ireland. As the Roman Empire ended, the so-called Dark Ages, during which farming and economic activity was greatly reduced in most parts of central Europe, contrast with developments in Ireland where most indicators point to renewed human activity and, in particular, increased pastoral and arable farming, and woodland clearances that were probably more widespread than at any time prior to this. Thus, a series of changes was set in train that ultimately led to the landscape and settlement patterns that we are familiar with today. As elsewhere in Europe, the post medieval period and particularly the Industrial Revolution and the development of the chemical industry profoundly changed farming and farming practices in much of Europe and, ultimately, the effects of these later developments had a bearing on even the most peripheral regions, including those parts of Ireland on the Atlantic seaboard. The following day, **Michael Baillie** (QUB) demonstrated how 'Tree rings hint at environmental triggers for settlement change'. Tree ring dates for buildings and archaeological structures have been accumulating for several decades. It is possible to interrogate not just the master oak chronologies but the start and end dates of populations of timbers to provide pictures of human activity across Ireland. In turn, changing distributions of activity through time can be compared with traumatic events deduced from the tree ring patterns themselves. Professor Baillie's paper reviewed a series of events and gaps in the tree ring record as well as clear episodes of tree regeneration, and made suggestions on what may have been happening in the sixth, seventh, tenth and fourteenth centuries.

Mick Monk (UCC), spoke about 'Climate, environment and settlement in early medieval Ireland', arguing that our understanding of the early medieval period is in the process of considerable change as a consequence of the explosion in archaeological evidence from development-led excavations during the boom years. Even as the evidence for settlement, agriculture and environment begins to be assessed he argued that, in the future, all Ireland whole-period overviews will be of limited value. Over recent years, Mick has focused on the importance of the arable component in agriculture in early medieval Ireland and its influence on settlement and society. A particular vehicle used for his study was the corn-drying kiln, the incidence of which has vastly expanded in recent years, being the second most frequently discovered site on National Road Authority funded excavations. The paper focused on all aspects of these structures including their location, dating, structure and archaeobotanical/plant remains content. Their dates, along with those from other site-types not alone provided a chronology for crops growing nationally and regionally but also, by comparison with evidence from bog hydrological and tree ring studies, evidence for climatic variations. The paper discussed this evidence in the broader context of other indicators for changes in farming practice and settlement.

One of the three co-organisers of the conference, **Ingelise Stuijts** (Discovery Programme), spoke about 'Trees and their products in Irish daily lives: from faggots to beams and shingles, and dirty ditch fills'. Her paper examined the period between c.900 and 1500 AD, which was a very dynamic period of change for society and settlement. The paper focused on wood in all aspects of human lives; from humble firewood to structural timbers, from various objects used in common households and rubbish thrown in ditches or burnt. Using the remains of wood and charcoal, which have been located in increasing numbers over the last ten years, Ingelise highlighted how documentary and archaeological evidence do not always paint a similar picture.

Gill Plunkett (QUB) addressed the conference on ‘peatland-based investigations of cultural responses to climate change in the last two millennia’. Bogs have long been recognised as important archives of palaeoenvironmental data: pollen studies reveal fluctuating levels of landscape openness that give an indirect record of changes in land-use and climate variability can be reconstructed through bog surface wetness (BSW) studies using peat humification, plant macrofossil and/or testate amoebae analyses. Irish bogs also boast a rich archaeological heritage in terms of the timber structures and array of artefacts they preserve. Palaeoenvironmental reconstructions frequently rely on ¹⁴C-based age models, and are thus subject to varying levels of dating imprecision. This inherent smudging of dates can be alleviated to some extent if tephra layers can be identified that can link and/or date studied sequences, but there remains the problem of tying the evidence back to the wider archaeological record. One approach to addressing this issue is to carry out combined pollen and BSW studies from an individual site to examine if changes in land-use coincide or follow climate shifts in order to test if the latter had a likely impact on the subsistence economy. Another is to consider if the dating of the peatland archaeological features can reveal when past societies were and were not engaging with specific types of activity and to compare this to the BSW evidence, as these environments will have been particularly susceptible to changes in climate. The paper presented examples of these approaches for examining human-environment interactions in Ireland since the Late Iron Age.

One of the other co-organisers, **Frank Ludlow** (Harvard University) addressed the conference on ‘the causes and societal impacts of meteorological extremes as revealed through the environmental record of the medieval Irish Annals’, arguing that these documentary sources provide an extensive environmental record, consisting primarily of recorded extreme meteorological phenomena and conditions such as severe windstorms, flooding and drought, have been often overlooked by modern scholars. The paper examined the environmental content of the Annals, focusing in particular upon the detailed history of extremes of low temperature which can be reconstructed from these sources (by use of recorded occurrences of severe frost, heavy snow, frozen water bodies, etc.), and explored the impacts these extremes had on society and the biosphere, as well as the likely volcanic origin of many of these extremes by use of the GISP2 ice-core record from Greenland.

After Saturday lunch, **Margaret Murphy** (Carlow College), enlightened attendees with a wonderful paper on ‘dirty old towns’, highlighting how medieval towns had a number of beneficial effects on the rural regions which surrounded them. They provided markets for agrarian produce, supplied manufactured and imported goods to rural consumers and offered opportunities for employment, education and leisure. Towns also had a number of negative impacts on their hinterlands which were considered. Although small by European standards medieval Irish towns produced waste in the form of human sewage and effluent from urban-based industries such as tanning. This was usually disposed of in the surrounding countryside or put into rivers. The paper examined some of the strategies adopted by towns for improving the urban environment and asked whether this was done at the expense of the adjacent countryside. Urban demands for certain products, especially for timber and fuel, resulted in the reduction of these resources in their surrounding areas with obvious consequences for settlement and land-use.

Jim Galloway, of the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, provided a comparison with the Irish experience with a paper on ‘storms, flooding and economic change in the later middle ages in the Thames Estuary’. The paper demonstrated how north-western Europe was subject to periods of intense storm activity between the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries, which impacted upon settlement, economy and environment in many areas. In coastal districts major storms were often associated with tidal surges which wrought considerable damage, sometimes leading to prolonged flooding of farmland, abandonment of settlements and harm to ports and harbours. The paper summarised recent research on the experience of the Thames and its estuary, where storm-surges forced the abandonment of extensive areas of reclaimed land during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. This environmental challenge was, however, mediated by economic and social factors, and had its greatest effect in the period of economic and demographic decline following the Black Death. In some locations the flooding of farmland gave rise to new commercial fisheries, as lords and tenants sought to adapt both to environmental change and to the decline in demand for agricultural produce.

A second comparison was provided by **Tim Soens** (University of Antwerp), with a paper entitled ‘cultures of disaster or amphibious societies? Institutional responses to flood disasters in Flanders and Northern Germany, fourteenth-sixteenth centuries’. He argued that from the fourteenth century onwards, flood disasters after storm surges became increasingly frequent throughout the North Sea area. His paper investigated responses to flood disasters, by isolating institutions that helped to mitigate or remedy

the impact of flooding, and questioned why some institutional innovations were introduced in one region, but not in another, and why similar institutions were apparently successful in one region, but aggravated the catastrophic impact of flooding elsewhere.

On Sunday morning, **David Dickson** (TCD) explored the relationship between ‘environment and the infrastructural development of eighteenth-century Dublin’, arguing that the city’s major physical expansion in that century has conventionally been explained by reference to proprietorial geography and novel commercial pressures. These were of course a large part of the story, but the paper reflected on the role of environmental factors, both natural and anthropogenic, in shaping the urban infrastructure and the city’s commercial and residential development. The impact of major flood episodes, estuarine geology, smoke pollution, and foul odour was reviewed, with particular attention being given to the early and uneven patterns of suburbanization.

David Fleming (UL), one of the co-organisers of the conference, spoke on the ‘climate, reclamation and settlement in eighteenth-century Ireland’ which argued that the Irish climate and more generally the environment had mostly been benign forces for those who lived in the country. Yet severe climatic events could result in damage and devastation. Variations from the normal climatic conditions could upset sowing and harvest times, with a consequent impact on the costs of living and, if severe enough, life itself. Storms and floods could wreak havoc on settlements and farmland, or upset communication. The paper examines the less well-known, but nevertheless, severe disruptions caused by the weather in eighteenth-century Ireland, and the impact they had for settlement. It also examined how individuals sought to expand settlement into areas which had long been thought inappropriate or unsuitable for building or farming. In the eighteenth century the metropolis of Dublin and the cities of Cork, Waterford and Limerick spread into areas that had been marsh or subject to tidal and riverine flooding. The countryside too witnessed similar developments as the economy and an increasing population as well as notions of ‘improvement’ encouraged farmers and landowners to reclaim bog, mountain and barren land for agricultural production and settlement.

Kieran Hickey (NUI, Galway) closed the conference with a very enlightening paper entitled ‘a bolt from the heavens! the historical record of lightning in Ireland and its impact on settlement and people’. He informed the conference that on average two people are annually killed by lightning in Ireland and substantial damage to houses and other structures also occurs. This death and destruction occurs as a result of cloud to ground lightning strikes and occasionally ball lightning events. The paper examined the long historical record of lightning strikes in Ireland and showed that they were a far more serious threat to buildings and settlement in medieval times than at present. The paper also analysed the events in terms of their causes, spatial and temporal variability. The paper then looked at the scale of the impacts of lightning strikes both medieval and modern on settlement and people.

The Group is very grateful to those who supported the conference through financial assistance: specifically the Department of History, University of Limerick, the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Limerick, The Office of the Vice-President Research, University of Limerick, and The Long Room Hub, Trinity College, Dublin.

David Fleming
Honorary Secretary,
Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement

Reviews

***Landholding, society and settlement in nineteenth-century Ireland: a historical geographer's perspective* (Geography Publications, Dublin, 2010)**

T. Jones Hughes

(Hardback (ISBN 978 0 906602 591) 366 pp €30.)

Studies in local history have an obvious territorial dimension, where locality, scale, and place are significant. Most things happen in *local* places. In this sense, historical geographers and historical geography have a lot to contribute to local history studies. Our inherited landscape is the context in which our pasts took place. The past is more comprehensible at *local* level where we can connect with a sense of place – the natural environment combined with material things like the fields, hedges and buildings, and the social realities of community, names, memory and culture.

This book which gathers together the writings of Tom Jones Hughes who was professor of Geography in UCD from 1950–1988 and founder of a distinctive ‘school’ of historical geography in Ireland, contains a wealth of insights into aspects of settlement history and Irish landscape history and is well worth inspection by local historians. In many ways, the popularity of the *Atlas of the Irish rural landscape* (Cork University Press, 1997, 2011) and the *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine* (Cork, 2012), edited by historical geographers, is a tribute to the legacy of Jones Hughes.

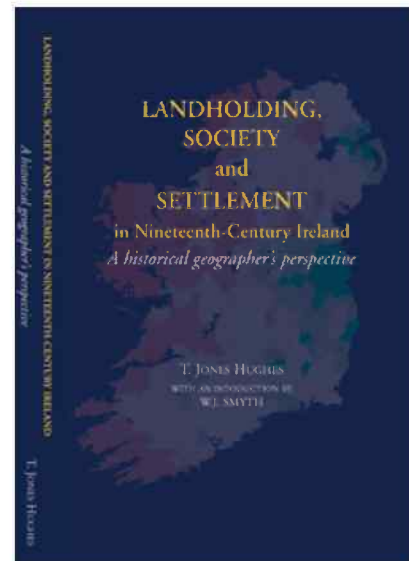
His development as an historical geographer owed much to the publication in the 1950s of Estyn Evans’ *Irish heritage*, T.W. Freeman’s *Ireland* and *Pre-Famine Ireland*, and Conrad Arensberg’s *The Irish countryman*. Throughout his career he highlighted the value of the 1841 and 1851 censuses and focussed in particular on the riches in Griffith’s Valuation to produce original insights and hand-drawn maps of land and property valuations, landed estates and farmholdings. Historians had largely ignored these sources – it was historical geographers who exploited them to their full potential.

His experience of Ireland was built on a series of early intensive case studies in Inishbofin (1956), East Leinster (1958), the Mullet and Cooley peninsulas (1959 and 1961), as well as studies of counties Tipperary, Meath, Cavan, and Wexford. Other chapters in the book deal with the ‘Origin and growth of towns in Ireland’ (1960), ‘Administrative Divisions and the development of settlement in nineteenth-century Ireland’ (1964), ‘Society and settlement in nineteenth-century Ireland’ (1965), ‘Town and Baile in Irish placenames’ (1970), ‘Village and town in mid-nineteenth century Ireland’ (1981), ‘The large farm in nineteenth-century Ireland’ (1982), ‘The estate system’ (1986).

Townlands, parishes, baronies, and electoral divisions were the territorial parameters through which he revealed Ireland’s complex geographies, administrative divisions by which generations of undergrads took small steps in their BA dissertations. He saw the parish and the townland as fundamentally important territorial entities to explain past and present rural society especially. He was particularly interested in the social significance of the Catholic parish. The resilience of county identities (‘Mayo men and Meath men,’ p. 249) in units which were created by colonial authorities, but which of course had a pre-existence in Gaelic Ireland, was a source of endless curiosity to him.

From his arrival in Ireland, Jones Hughes was fascinated by Ireland’s contrasts with the world of his early experience in Britain, not least its landscape that was ‘littered with ruins’ (p. 255) – contrasts which flowed, he was convinced, from its colonial history. And he engendered a parallel curiosity in his research students whose eyes were opened to the idiosyncracies of their taken-for-granted landscapes. Lowland Louth, he noted, had as many farms under 15 acres as along the western seaboard in 1851; two thirds of holdings in Meath, ‘a county which possessed some of the richest soils’, were under 30 acres. All over East Leinster farms of over 100 acres were the exception. This was a curious world to a stranger from Britain.

One difference which he noted many times was the striking fact that in Ireland these small farms did not have names – townlands were the dominant geographical reality. In the Mullet peninsula in 1959, ‘the



existence of the isolated farmhouse remains unrecognised in the Irish landscape ... individual holdings are recognised by the names of the families who work them and the townlands to which they belong' (p. 25). His reliance on documentary sources in this case meant that he missed out on the rich legacy of fieldnames in the Irish landscape which are currently being surveyed and recorded throughout the countryside.

In many ways, the nitty gritty details of landholding structures were revealed in Griffith's Valuation for Cooley in 1961. High proportions of one-roomed landless houses were 'strung along trackways skirting the edge of the grazier's holdings', with the townland's 'empty grassy core dominated by the grazier's mansion' (p. 39). By the mid-sixties his knowledge of Ireland and its regions had deepened allowing him to make his acutely-observed generalisations about the Irish past and present. His writings were peppered with confident regional characterisations like 'grazier country', 'fattening regions', 'hill country', 'the foothill country' along the Carlow-Wicklow border (p. 287), 'the wetter western fringe in counties Meath and Westmeath (p. 281), the 'lonely countrysides' of south Meath (p. 269), 'the most forlorn of places' like ancient diocesan centres in Clonfert, Kilmore (p. 254).

He was concerned to examine the inscriptions on landscape and society of what he represented as 'colonial intrusions'. Coming from Wales, Jones Hughes had an abiding interest in the landowning colonial elites in nineteenth-century Ireland who remained disconnected from the native population in culture, religion and language. One third of Wicklow county, or 195,000 acres, he said, was the property of four individuals in 1876 (p. 158). Landlordism's landscape legacy in sumptuous mansions and parklands was manifested in an immense amount of regimentation of people and places at the hands of landowners, land agents, as well as government officials – many of whom were former army officers used to command and control (pp 260–1). What happened in Ireland set it apart from Britain and western Europe.

He summarised the essential characteristics of landownership and power, as in the Navan – Kells region, for example: 'Conyngham of Slane, Headfort of Kells, Nicholson of Balrath, Preston of Bellinter ... Boyne of Stackallen, Dillon of Lismullin, Garnett of Williamstown, Rothwell of Rockfield, Russell of Ardsallagh and Tisdall of Charlesfort. Not one Irish name was found among the occupiers of this sumptuous collection of mansions. They were essentially an example from Meath of a privileged group of alien landowners huddled together on some of the most productive land in the island. Their presence in such numbers helped to sustain Meath's standing as Ireland's premier county during the colonial period' (p. 91).

The overwhelming majority of landowners had a transitory and superficial impact locally. They rarely established local ties through marriage. The estate system established a 'thin if imposing facade' (p. 258) with 'many hitherto well-known family names vanishing from the Irish scene without a trace' (p. 264). He interprets the early-nineteenth-century building of attractive churches and glebe houses for the Established Church of Ireland as a costly hollow gesture often encountered in colonial situations (p. 338).

His studies of towns and villages in the nineteenth century confirmed his assumptions of their colonial origins. Extreme examples such as Binghamstown, one of the 'lonely towns of the Connacht coast' (p. 19), supported his view of the town/village as a major tool in the coloniser's arsenal during and after the plantations (p. 242). Landlord settlements like Abbeyleix, Stradbally, Summerhill, Cootehill and many others survived 'as delicate curios in the present landscape', but with the demise of landlordism the town had become 'the museum-piece in our landscape' (p. 247). It is likely that Jones Hughes's views on Irish towns were influenced by their condition in the 1950s and 60s – dull, grey, crumbling legacies of the nineteenth century, with a redundant architecture unappreciated by the community at large, or as Minister Kevin Boland characterised it in the sixties, the heritage of the 'belted earls' of the Irish Georgian Society.

From late 1950s, this book collects many of Tom Jones Hughes's ground-breaking papers which shaped the subsequent direction of historical geographical studies in Ireland. Geographical Publications, Dublin, has performed an important task in publishing this collection.

P.J. Duffy
NUI Maynooth

Pathfinders to the past: the antiquarian road to Irish historical writing, 1640–1960

Edited by Próinséas Ní Chatháin & Siobhán Fitzpatrick, with Howard Clarke

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. xxvii, 183p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823459. €50)

The fourteen essays in this volume highlight the contributions of selected scholarly gentlemen to antiquarian researches in Ireland. Spanning more than three centuries of antiquarian endeavour, the dedication and enthusiasm of these antiquaries in successive generations helped ensure the survival of many significant artefacts. Their work also laid the foundations for the emergence of professional archaeology in twentieth-century Ireland.

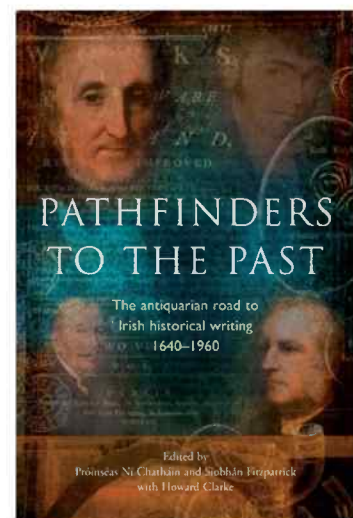
The essays in this collection were originally delivered as lectures at various venues throughout Ireland in 1999, to mark the 150th anniversary of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, a society with a long and honourable tradition of antiquarian research and publishing. Lectures were held in all four Irish provinces, and the ensuing book reflects that even geographical coverage. Given that the essays were originally researched and delivered as lectures some 10 years prior to the landmark publication of the *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (9 vols, Cambridge, 2009), most of the contributors felt obliged to provide essentially biographical essays. Being rather longer than the corresponding essays in the DIB, they succeed in complementing, rather than merely duplicating the biographical material in that publication.

Inevitably, in a book on Irish antiquarian scholarship, there is a particular focus on the nineteenth century, a century that saw the flourishing of a range of antiquarian and other learned societies, where like-minded gentlemen could share knowledge. Indeed, while the essays deal with individual scholars, the significance of the learned societies that they established or to which they belonged, and the antiquarian journals that they wrote for or edited, are dominant themes throughout. These range from Walter Harris's involvement as a founder member of the Physico-Historical Society in the 1740s, through to Sir George Petrie's involvement in a range of learned societies including the Irish Archaeological Society and the Royal Irish Academy in the nineteenth century, and the various groupings of Cork antiquarians, including the South Munster Antiquarian Society and the Cork Cuvierian Society. Robert Shipboy MacAdam merits inclusion in this collection because of his role as editor of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology* in its early years from 1853 to 1862.

Many of these gentlemen were, of course, members of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland (RSAI) itself, but they tended to be active in related organisations also. Thus, for example, P.D. Vigors served on the council of the RSAI at the end of the nineteenth century, but also founded the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead as a means of advancing work on a particular aspect of antiquarian scholarship he deemed particularly important.

Antiquarians with a particular interest in the documentary record are studied here alongside others whose primary interest was in archaeological fieldwork or in assembling personal collections of antiquities. The eventual transfer of most of those personal collections to museum environments by the early twentieth century should not permit us to lose sight of the importance of individual initiative in ensuring the survival of artefacts that might otherwise have been lost. It is true, however, that much information on the provenance of early archaeological finds went unrecorded, or was lost on the death of individual collectors, many of whom would presumably have known a great deal more about the provenance of items they 'discovered' than they ever committed to paper.

In some of the shorter essays in *Pathfinders to the past*, relatively little space is devoted to explicit assessment of how antiquarian scholarship evolved through the work of the various individuals studied. Yet, when read together, there is a pleasing coherence to the volume, and the progression from the eighteenth-century world of Walter Harris (ably discussed by Diarmaid Ó Catháin) through to T.J. Westropp, H.S. Crawford, and R.A.S. Macalister in the early twentieth century is clear enough. New initiatives such as T.J. Westropp's adoption of photography in the 1870s as a research tool is noted by Liam Irwin, while Dorothy Kelly explores the research context of the sketches, rubbings and photographs by H.S. Crawford now in the RSAI library. Muiris O'Sullivan's essay on R.A.S. Macalister documents the emergence of professional archaeology in twentieth-century Ireland, and considers the impact of the



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Ancient Monuments (NI) Act (1926) and the National Monuments Act (1930), while Aideen Ireland also notes how treasure trove legislation led to a change in attitude towards private collections of antiquities. This is an informative collection of essays, attractively presented. The footnotes, though extensive, are brief, sometimes to the point of obscurity, with manuscript sources generally cited without a page number being given. A consolidated bibliography would have been useful. The antiquaries that are the focus of individual essays in this collection are Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh, Walter Harris, Richard Pococke, James Hardiman, George Petrie, Robert Shipboy MacAdam, William Reeves, P.D. Vigors, A.H. Lane-Fox Pitt Rivers, T.J. Westropp, H.S. Crawford and R.A.S. Macalister. One other essay discusses the collecting activities of a range of Cork antiquaries of the nineteenth century, particularly in the context of the Cork Exhibitions of 1852, 1855, 1883 and 1902. Richard Caulfield, John Lindsay, Zachariah Hawkes, John Windele and Thomas Hewitt are among those discussed. The volume ends with a short essay on the Latin scholar J.J. Tierney.

Several potential companion volumes readily suggest themselves. There is certainly scope for another similar volume on past scholars and collectors who probably made equally significant contributions to antiquarian research in Ireland since the seventeenth century; men such as Sir James Ware, Thomas Molyneux, Thomas Colby, Thomas Crofton Croker, George Victor du Noyer, J.H. Todd, William Wakeman, George Coffey, William Stokes, William Wilde, amongst others. A substantial volume on scholarly publishing by the various learned societies concerned with antiquarian research in Ireland, both local and national in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, is long overdue. (This subject has recently been touched on by Elizabeth Tilley in the *Oxford history of the Irish book, IV: the Irish book in English, 1800–1891* (Oxford, 2011), in a chapter on ‘The Royal Irish Academy and antiquarianism’.) A comprehensive cultural and intellectual history of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, would also be most welcome.

Bernadette Cunningham
Royal Irish Academy

Portraits of the city: Dublin and the wider world

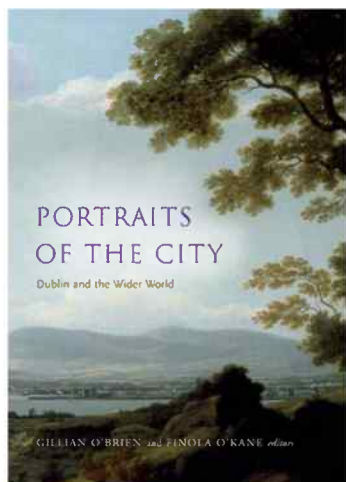
Edited by Gillian O’Brien and Fionla O’Kane

(Dublin: Four Courts Press 2012. 280p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823466 €50)

Mapping measurement and metropolis: how land surveyors shaped eighteenth-century Dublin

Finnian Ó Cionnaith

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012. 278p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823480. €45)



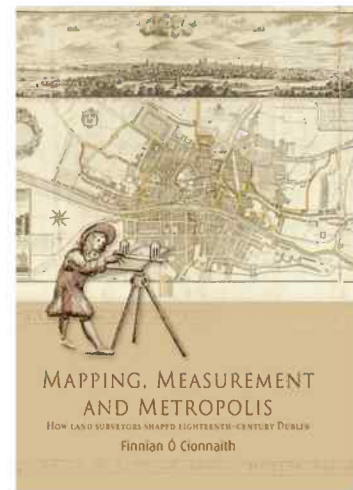
Despite their apparent dissimilarities these books have much in common. One (O’Brien and O’Kane) is a large format, heavily illustrated collection of essays that are the proceedings of a conference while the other is a more workmanlike monograph based on a PhD thesis with correspondingly less lavish illustration (although there are fourteen colour plates). Ó Cionnaith’s work is focused on one place, Dublin, over a relatively narrow chronological period while the other sweeps from Baghdad to Chicago taking in London, Dublin and Boston on the way and lurches from the eighteenth century into the future. Yet both books are concerned with the shape of urban spaces and how such spatial organisation comes about.

The volume edited by O’Brien and O’Kane lacks the focus and discipline of Ó Cionnaith’s work. Originating in a conference held in 2010, which in turn emerged from a wider research project entitled ‘Framework for cultural significance’, *Portraits of the city* contains eighteen papers, most of which are case studies of how the urban landscape has been presented over time.

In the context of trying to understand Dublin’s portrait of itself the editors set out their agenda: ‘This book is thus conceived as a comparative portrait of cities’ (p. 19). Yet there is little comparative work in this volume. The individual case studies are left to stand on their own with little explanation of their significance. Why, for instance, should a study of Luke Gardiner’s making of north-side Dublin in the eighteenth century, bear comparison with the late twentieth-century development of the Civil

Rights District in Birmingham, Alabama. This is not to say that there is nothing to learn from such a comparison but the matter is simply not developed in this volume. Occasional essays in the volume do rise above this problem, most notably that jointly written by Stephen Daniels and Finola O’Kane on building projects in Dublin and London by the Trench family in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This essay highlights the importance of representation of the two places and suggests ways in which representations of one place affected how the other was perceived and how plans for development were formulated in that context. As with individuals, urban landscapes do engage in what Stephen Greenblatt has called in another context ‘self fashioning’, albeit with the help of their creators. That much is clear from the work of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas project but what is less clear is the process by which this happens. While this volume provides some raw material that may help to delineate those processes it fails to engage with the wider questions that are implicit in the introduction. Moving from the overall strategy of the volume to its component parts reveals, as in most edited volumes, much that is new and exciting as well as weaker contributions. Readers of this newsletter will no doubt be most interested in the five Irish historical essays (out of a total of eighteen essays) in this volume: that by Daniels and O’Kane referred to above, Merlo Kelly on Luke Gardiner’s remaking of north Dublin, Conor Lucey on urban design in late eighteenth-century Dublin, Samantha L. Martin-McAuliffe on the Iveagh Markets and Gillian O’Brien on commemoration in Dublin. Martin-McAuliffe’s essay stands out as an innovative and interesting exploration of the interaction of architecture and anthropology in shaping the social world of street trading in twentieth-century Dublin, set in the context of the philanthropy of Lord Iveagh in building the markets.

Finnian Ó Cionnaith’s *Mapping measurement and metropolis: how land surveyors shaped eighteenth-century Dublin* is a much more focused work. Drawing on John Andrews’ magisterial *Plantation acres* (1985) which highlighted the importance of the land surveyor in Irish estate management since the seventeenth century, this book resurrects the importance of the surveyor in the shaping of the city. The difference in approach between this book and that edited by O’Brien and O’Kane is clear in their respective treatments of Luke Gardiner’s project in the late eighteenth century to transform the northern part of Dublin city. In *Portraits of the city* this is dealt with in an essay by Merlo Kelly who provides a number of important insights into the project from the perspective of a practising architect. Thus Kelly is interested in space and its arrangement, in the limitations of plot patterns, and the importance of developers in arranging space through their purchases and building endeavours. In short, the hero of the story is Gardiner himself.



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In Ó Cionnaith’s work the hero is Thomas Sherrard, the surveyor, who was ‘extensively involved’ with the north inner city, producing ‘multiple maps’ of the area to be developed (p. 169). Moreover Sherrard reappears in the book as an even greater giant looming over the development of eighteenth-century Dublin through his activities with the Wide Streets Commissioners. These are two different perspectives on the same problem and Kelly and Ó Cionnaith complement each other well, one concerned with the mechanics of development and the other considering the outcome. Ó Cionnaith’s book is focused on the mechanics of development with the surveyor as the hero. There is little unexamined. Five sections deal with the profession of surveying, the science of surveying (and here Ó Cionnaith’s experience as a practising surveyor shows), the art of surveying, the shape of the city in the eighteenth century and the impact that surveying would have in the future of Dublin. The cumulative effect of these sections is greater than the sum of their parts. There were few areas of Dublin life on which the surveyor did not have an impact and therefore this book, while an excellent history of a much neglected but vital profession, reveals much about the evolution not only of map making but of the social fabric and development of late eighteenth-century Dublin.

Two books on the evolution of the morphology Dublin (both specifically and within a context) are certainly a sign of the vibrancy of this sort of settlement study today. Both will undoubtedly fuel and encourage further work towards realising how complex cities are as settlement sites.

Raymond Gillespie
NUI Maynooth

Colonial Ireland 1169–1369

Robin Frame

(Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2012. pp195, ISBN 978-1-84682-322-0. Pbk. €15.75)

Robin Frame's *Colonial Ireland* was first published in 1981, one of the nine volumes in *The Helicon History of Ireland*. It pulled off that difficult feat of being both a stimulating read for the specialist and an accessible introduction to medieval Ireland for the undergraduate. It is exactly the sort the book one urges students to buy, read and reread and now, thanks to Four Court Press, this core text is available in a new, updated and reasonably priced edition.

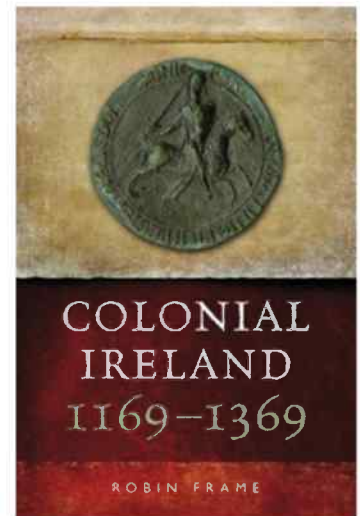
The original structure of six chapters covering the period from the arrival of the first Anglo-Normans in 1169 to the appointment of William of Windsor as king's lieutenant in Ireland in 1369 is retained. The introduction has been amplified and a ten page postscript added 'to bring out the longer-term significance of some of the topics'. The further reading section has been much expanded to reflect the huge increase in the number of works published on medieval Ireland since 1981. The new edition also includes over 30 plates, half in colour, to supplement the maps and tables of the original.

One of Frame's six chapters deals with settlement, both rural and urban. Reading through this chapter one constantly finds examples of ideas proposed by Frame in 1981 which subsequent work has validated or corroborated. For example, in 1981 Frame proposed that the smaller land grants of the sub-infeudation process must have followed existing Irish territorial boundaries in much the same way as the larger grants to the likes of de Lacy and Strongbow mirrored the land holding units of Gaelic kings. The detailed work of MacCotter on the territorial division of the *trícha cét* and its relationship to the Anglo-Norman 'cantred' has now confirmed this proposition. Similarly, Frame's contention that the history of the medieval Irish lordship needs to be placed in the wider European context has now become the orthodox view.

Frame expands his original discussions of castle building, manor formation and landholding to take account of the numerous regional studies that have appeared in recent years. His 1981 observation that 'the intensity of settlement, the social complexion and the modes of magnate control varied from area to area' remains just as relevant in the light of current knowledge. The settlement chapter ends with a summary of urban development which covers some of the more important port and inland towns and a discussion of the social and political significance of Dublin.

Colonial Ireland in this newly updated edition will no doubt be read with enjoyment and profit for at least the next thirty years. The author and Four Courts Press deserve our gratitude.

Margaret Murphy
Carlow College



News from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA), Royal Irish Academy

Sarah Gearty, Cartographic editor



Figure 1 Walking tour of Sligo, Sligo City Hall, 25 February 2012

Western Towns

Western towns have been a recent focus of the IHTA project. *Sligo* (by Fíona Gallagher and Marie-Louise Legg) and *Ennis* (by Brian Ó Dálaigh) were published in 2012. Local launches, lectures, exhibitions and walking tours in both towns were organised to mark the culmination of many years of work by the authors and IHTA team. Officers of the Royal Irish Academy enjoyed the opportunity to visit Sligo and Ennis and celebrate the publications with local friends and collaborators. An exhibition based on material in the atlases entitled 'Ennis and Sligo: two Irish historic towns compared' is on display in the Royal Irish Academy until June 2013.

Coming soon: Dublin, part III, 1756 to 1847

The next publication from the IHTA will be no. 26, 'Dublin, part III, 1756 to 1847' by Rob Goodbody (due end of 2013). Highlights of this fascicle will include a reproduction of the four-sheet revision by Bernard Scalé (1773) of John Rocque's large-scale survey of 1756, and the extensive topographical information section, which currently contains details of over 11,000 sites in Dublin city (defined as the area within the canals that was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in large scale in 1838).

Meanwhile, authors are progressing work on several other towns. Youghal (Tadhg O'Keeffe and David Kelly) and Galway (Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh) are well advanced. A draft of the gazetteer section for Galway is available to download (<http://www.ria.ie/Research/IHTA/Online-Resources/Galway-Gazetteer-Online.aspx>) and offers a preview of topographical information on about 1,200 sites in Galway. A similar pre-publication gazetteer is also available for Cork. See www.ria.ie/research/ihta/publications.aspx for a full listing of published towns, ancillary publications and forthcoming atlases.

Comparative urban study — new publications

Last year saw the landmark publication of the third volume in the IHTA bound series. *Volume III* contains the town atlases of *Derry~Londonderry*, *Dundalk*, *Armagh*, *Tuam* and *Limerick* and is impressive in size (300 large format pages). Minister Ruairi Quinn spoke passionately about the importance of understanding our towns, their history and topography, when he launched *Volume III* in the Royal Irish Academy in May 2012.



Figure 2 Present-day IFSC (north of the R. Liffey) and Windmill Lane area between City Quay and Pearse Street (south of the R. Liffey) from *An Accurate survey*, Dublin, 1773, by Bernard Scalé (Royal Irish Academy). This area was not mapped by John Rocque in his earlier large-scale survey of 1756.

Digital atlas of Derry-Londonderry

The project is collaborating with Derry City Council (Bernadette Walsh, City Archivist) and Queen's University Belfast (Keith Lilley and Lorraine Barry) in creating an experimental web-GIS resource that uses content from IHTA, no. 15, *Derry-Londonderry* by Avril Thomas. A selection of early plans and thematic maps from the atlas are layered and historical details of streets and key sites within the walled city are available in pop-up boxes. This will be launched in Derry in June 2013 as part of the celebrations for Derry for 'UK city of Culture'.

Annual seminar 24 May 2013

The second in the current series of annual IHTA seminars 'Maps and texts: using the Irish Historic Towns Atlas, Anglo-Norman, Gaelic and plantation towns' will take place in the Royal Irish Academy on Friday 24 May 2013. All are welcome to register free of charge, see www.ihta.ie for more details.

Irish Historic Towns Atlas: editors H.B. Clarke, Anngret Simms, Raymond Gillespie, Jacinta Prunty; consultant editor: J.H. Andrews; cartographic editor: Sarah Gearty; editorial assistants: Angela Murphy, Jennifer Moore. The IHTA is part of a wider European scheme with c.480 towns/cities published internationally to date. www.ihta.ie



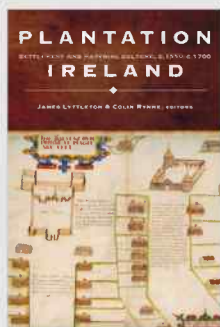
Figure 3 Minister Ruairi Quinn with editors Jacinta Prunty, Anngret Simms and Howard Clarke at the launch of *Volume III*, Royal Irish Academy, 25 May 2012



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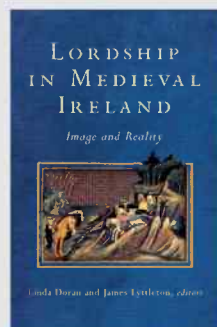


Plantation Ireland *Settlement and Material Culture, c.1550-c.1700*

James Lyttleton & Colin Rynne, editors

'This book exemplifies the positive results of ongoing collaborative research between archaeologists, geographers and historians ... the wealth of diagrams, photographs and maps serve to enhance the text ... Recommended reading for the general reader and the specialist alike.' Dr Benjamin Hazard, UCD

336pp; colour ill. Hbk. (2009) €55/\$74.50

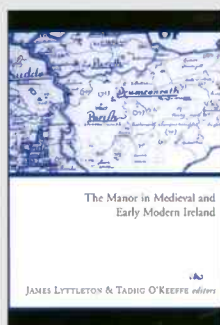


Lordship in Medieval Ireland *Image and Reality*

Linda Doran & James Lyttleton, editors

'A valuable contribution to understanding the ways in which those who held power at a local level in medieval Ireland, whether of Irish/Gaelic stock or of English/settler origin, exercised their authority ... an excellent stimulus to thinking about how we conceptualize the use of power in a divided island in the Middle Ages.' Brendan Smith, *H-Albion*

304pp; ill. Hbk. (2008) €55/\$65



The manor in Medieval and Early Modern Ireland

James Lyttleton & Tadhg O'Keeffe, editors

This book contains a collection of interdisciplinary essays by young scholars on manors and manorial settlement in Ireland between the late twelfth and seventeenth centuries.

'The contributors must be applauded for their initiative and originality.' John Bradley, *Irish Historical Studies*

224pp; ill. Hbk. (2004) €55/\$70



Gaelic Ireland, c. 1550-c. 1700 *Land, Lordship and Settlement*

P.J. Duffy, David Edwards & Elizabeth FitzPatrick, editors

One of the definitive books on Gaelic Ireland in publication. Now in paperback, it includes a place-name index, a personal-name and a collective-name index.

'A welcome and most valuable pioneering collection of essays.' J. Bond, *Medieval Archeology*

454pp; ill. Pbk. (2001) €9.95/\$19.95



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FORTY- SECOND ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Trim Castle Hotel, Trim

10–12 MAY 2013

Historic Settlement Trim and Meath

3:30 pm Registration

4:00 pm Opening and welcome

Loreto Guinan (Heritage Office, Meath County Council)

Speakers:

Robbie Meehan (Consultant Geologist, Navan Co. Meath)

The making of Meath: its geology

Professor Paddy Duffy (NUI Maynooth)

Along the Boyne: settlers and settlement?

Dr Michael Potterton, (Keynote Speaker)

Caput: the rise and fall of medieval Trim

Matt Seaver, (Living with the Dead in Early Medieval Ireland Project, UCD)

Enclosing the dead among the living: enclosed settlements and burials in early Medieval Meath AD 400–1100

Dr Michael O'Neill (Freelance architectural historian)

Medieval church buildings in Meath: architecture and afterlife

Dr Mark Hennessy (TCD)

Trim c.1550–c.1900: from outpost of the Pale to Victorian county town

Arnold Horner (UCD)

Architectural transition in seventeenth-century Meath: a geographer's perspective

Rachel Barrett (Archaeological Survey of Ireland)

Life in the Workhouses of Co. Meath, 1838–50

Joe Mooney, (Teacher and Historical Researcher, Co. Meath)

Adapting to change, the Headfort Estates in Meath and Cavan, 1870–1928

William Nolan (Geography Publications)

Making rural places: the Land Commission and Rathcairn in the 1930s

Geraldine Stout (Archaeological Survey of Ireland)

The Bective Abbey excavations

Trim Castle workshop: Saturday 2:15 pm (Leaders: David Sweetman and Alan Hayden)

Walking Tour of Trim: Saturday 4:00 pm (Guides: Dr Michael Potterton and Noel French)

Field Trip to Bective Abbey (by car): Sunday 2:30 pm (Guide: Geraldine Stout)

Reception: Saturday 7:15 pm

Conference Dinner: Saturday 8:00 pm (Jules Restaurant, Trim Castle Hotel): €25/£20 per person. This price is for those not staying in Trim Castle Hotel.

Conference Fee: €50/£40. Students €20/£16. *Fee includes coffee and tours*

Individual Sessions [Saturday/Sunday]: €15/£10

Annual membership fee: €15/£13

Annual student membership fee: €7/£6

Sunday 9:30 am Annual General Meeting of Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement (Tower Suite)

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<http://irishsettlement.ie/membership/>

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<http://irishsettlement.ie/membership/>

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Contributions are invited on topics related to historic settlement in Ireland and the Irish-sea region, the history, conservation and interpretation of the cultural landscape and on local and regional studies. These should be sent to the Editor, Mr Charles Doherty, 13 Bancroft Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24; or e-mail: charles.doherty@upcmail.ie

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