

# Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement NEWSLETTER

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## CONTENTS

### Editorial

- Arnold Horner, Architectural transition in seventeenth-century County Meath . . . 1
- Bernadette Cunningham Notices of Recently Published Books . . . . . 6
- Bernadette Cunningham Newly published sources and guides to sources . . . . . 16
- Brian Coleman and Rhiannon Carey Bates Reports on the  
Forty-second Annual Regional Conference, Trim, 10-12 May, 2013 . . . . . 19
- Teresa Kennedy Reflections on Heritage Week, 2013 . . . . . 22
- Reviews . . . . . 23
- Keith Smith, Elaine Periera Farrell and Annejulie Lafaye Monastic  
Ireland project . . . . . 28
- Sarah Gearty News from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA), Royal  
Irish Academy . . . . . 33
- Forty-third annual conference programme . . . . . 36

Annual Outing 2014

Bantry Miles.

See page 36 for details

€5 (Free to members)

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## Editorial

Welcome to the 2013–14 edition of our *Newsletter*. *Newsletter supremo* Charles Doherty has given me the opportunity to write this year's editorial to mark my first year as president of the Group. Having the Group trust me with this office is quite daunting. I am sure the first thing that every president hopes for is that everything does not come crashing down during their administration. I am confident that the Group is robust enough to survive and perhaps even to grow during my term. There is a steep learning curve for all of us taking up new offices this year. Our new secretary, Margaret Murphy and new treasurer David Fleming have the advantage that their predecessors remain on the committee. I have been able to get excellent advice from our former presidents Bernadette Cunningham and Charles Doherty. One of the great strengths of the Group is the continued participation of former presidents. I recall the wonderful photograph taken on the steps of Portumna Castle. I can't go wrong with such dedication and wisdom to guide me in the years ahead.



**Figure 1** One half of the Group's past presidents on the steps of Portumna Castle in 2009 – a formidable legacy. From left to right: Margaret MacCurtain, Charles Doherty, Harman Murtagh, Michael O'Hanrahan, Ray Gillespie, Annagret Simms.

One of my hopes for my term is that the geographical spread of participants will remain strong. In recent years, active participation from the north and south has not been as dynamic as it should be. Our next two conferences – this year in Bantry and next year in Ulster – provide an opportunity to beef up support for the Group throughout the island. It is a mark of the genius of our founding fathers and mothers that the Group itinerates to a different province every year giving an opportunity to renew contacts when they have lapsed. I wonder which of our early members came up with that brilliant idea?

I am very fortunate that our strong publishing record is set to continue during my term. Three books are in the pipeline and I hope they do not all arrive at once like the proverbial buses (is there a proverb about buses?). *Agriculture and settlement in Ireland*, edited by Margaret Murphy and Matthew Stout, will be out this year, and *Lough Ree* and *Environment and settlement* are hot on its trail. *Agriculture and settlement* is to be published this summer by Four Courts Press. Naturally, one of my hopes is that our association with this publisher should continue. *The Irish Ringfort* was the first of our Group's books to be published by FCP in 1997 – five others have followed. It is such a pleasure to work with these publishers and we have profited by having our work associated with such a prestigious press. Long may this partnership continue.

Having someone other than the editor of the *Newsletter* write this year's editorial gives us a chance to thank Charles Doherty for his sterling work as editor since 2003. The *Newsletter* is a very important part of what we do and over the years it has become more professionally presented. Former secretary, president and editor Michael O'Hanrahan was a key figure in bringing the *Newsletter* into the modern world. Preparing a newsletter is a lot of work and all of it is voluntary – no, the editor does not get a salary top-up from the Group's tuck shop – and I want to thank all our past editors. Do we know who they were? As a student I used the early volumes extensively, for it was in those pages that some of the best early work on ringfort distribution can be found. Similarly, the *Newsletter* has been a forum for ground-breaking work on High-Medieval settlement and estate management. The *Newsletter* is available online and it is in all the copyright libraries in Britain and Ireland. I hope our editor will continue in his role and that our members will continue to write for the *Newsletter*.

This year the society continued its years-old tradition (three years to be precise) of having a morning of lectures as our contribution to Heritage Week. Howard Clarke and Ruth McManus provided lectures on either end of Dublin's settlement history; Howard spoke on the Dublin suburbs of the Viking period and Ruth on life in the suburbs of Dublin in the early-twentieth century. Both were very well received and both demonstrated to the audience the type of interdisciplinary research that is the hallmark of the GSIHS. The lectures took place in the Helen Roe Theatre of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. We cherish our continued association with the Royal Society of Antiquaries – a society that is even more venerable than our own.

If you are reading this at the conference in the bright Bantry sunshine, thanks for coming. If you are reading this at home or online, we hope you will continue to support the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement and remain (or become) an active participant in all its activities.

Matthew Stout (President)

May 5, 2014

## Articles

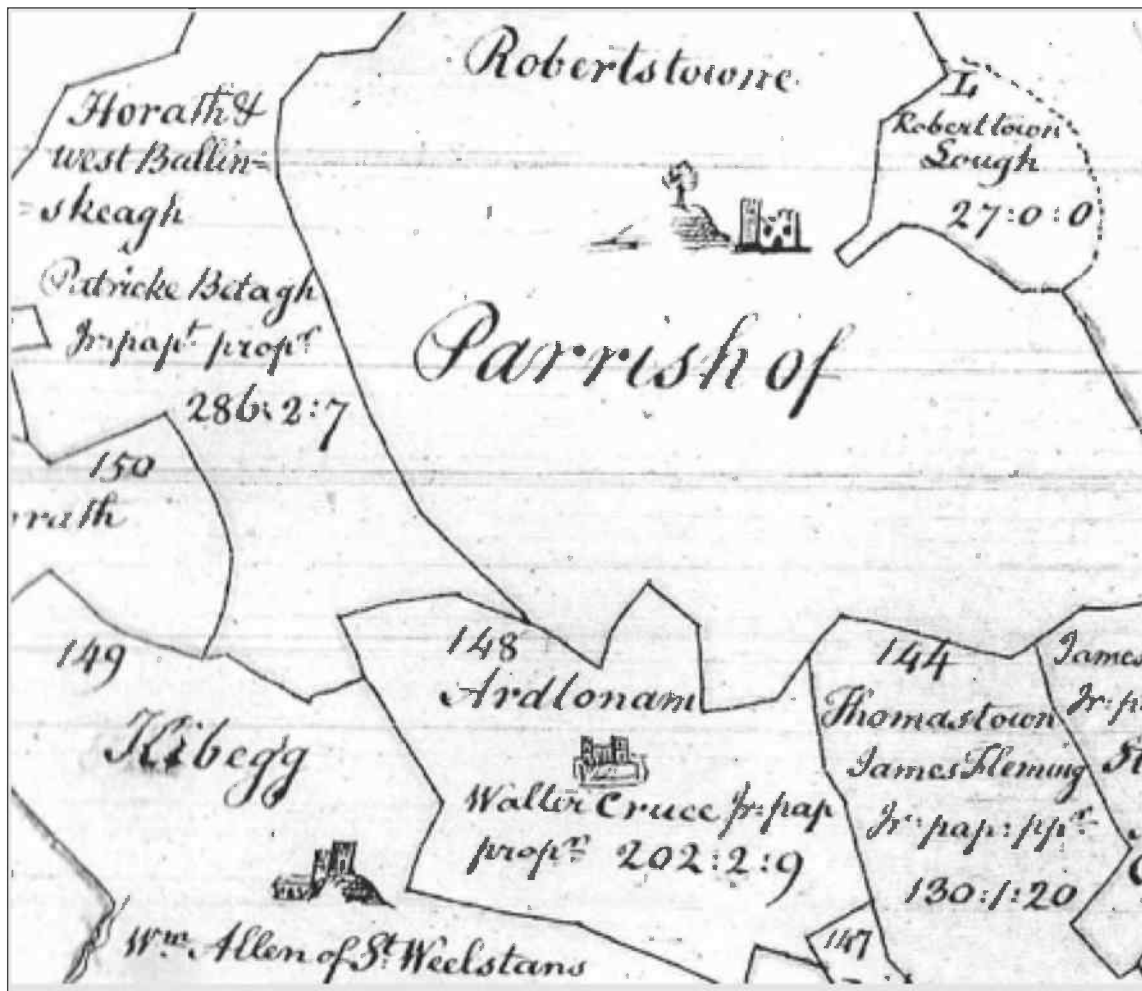
Arnold Horner

(Formerly Senior Lecturer  
in Geography, UCD)

### *Architectural transition in seventeenth-century County Meath*

This talk (presented at the GSHIS conference in Trim, May 2013) sought to explore some critical sources that elaborate on the changing architecture of Co. Meath during the seventeenth century. At the start of the 1600s the fortified building still dominated the non-ecclesiastical stone-built architecture, whereas

by the end of the century country mansions and unfortified stone farm-houses represented a very substantial transition. It is tempting to see the turbulent decades of 1640–1660 as pivotal, greatly accentuating the changed Ireland with new landlords, a new hegemony and new commercial imperatives that had been foreshadowed in some regions by earlier plantations. However, this is only part of the story, and in the case of Co. Meath it may be preferable to take a longer-term perspective across the whole century, recognising that ‘modernisation’ was already being accommodated well before the trauma of Cromwell.



**Figure 1** Images of fortified buildings and ‘hybrid’ combinations on the Down Survey map for parish of Kilbeg barony of Kells (source: NLI microfilm)

Outside of the plantation regions, surviving examples such as Portumna, Rathfarnham and (in Co. Meath) Athlumney castles are prominent evidence for an architectural transition that took roots during the first half of the seventeenth century. The mid-century Down and Civil Surveys provide a corroborating documentary per-

spective with, particularly in parts of the Dublin area, a scatter of references in both surveys to mansion houses and ornamental stands of trees. Exceptionally rich detail is available for north Co. Dublin in the Civil Survey of 1654–6. In this well-settled neighbouring area various types of stone houses and mansions already greatly out-



numbered the fortified ‘castles’ that had earlier prevailed, with the availability of surplus capital for improvement further expressed in large numbers of out-building facilities and in an interest (as in contemporary England) in ornamenting the surrounds of houses with avenues, orchards and clusters of trees.

Indicative of the kind of detail available for north Dublin is the Civil Survey entry for a large house at Wyanstown, parish of Clonmedan, where Thomas Conran, Irish Papist, was proprietor in 1640. The Civil Survey records ‘ye walles of a large stone house, two gate houses, one Pigeon house & severall office houses with 2 Bawne Walls & a Base Court wall all of Lime & Stone. 3 of ye aforesd houses Thatcht’. This complex was valued at £1000, and was associated with ‘one orchard & garden plott & many Ashtrees as well in Grove as hedgerows set for ornament. The premises being likewise well inclosed & Quicksetted. Also in ye Towne severall Thatcht Tenements. Some underwood valued at £100’. Similar large-house complexes are recorded elsewhere in the county along the coast (for example Kenure, Malahide, Howth), near Dublin city and along the Liffey valley into adjacent parts of Co. Kildare. Beyond these big houses, however, evidence of surplus capital investment is discernible in some smaller houses also being recorded in ornamental settings, for example the Civil Survey records a thatched house with a barn, a stable and two small cabins at Beaverstown, parish of Portrane, that was valued at just £20 and which had ‘a small grove of trees set for ornament’. There are 25 Civil Survey references to ‘a grove of Ash trees set for ornament (or similar)’ across north Co. Dublin, as well as 75 references to orchards. Unfortunately somewhat less detail is usually offered about the settings of houses in the Civil Survey for Co. Meath and there are no valuations of properties.

As part of a rich ‘core area’ stretching inland from Dublin and the coast to the north, seventeenth-century Co. Meath can be nonetheless recognised as a region with significant enterprise and surplus capital, a well-embedded social organisation and an established settlement infrastructure. It was (and is) a county with a mix of the conservative and the innovative, with the capability to take up new economic and social initiatives, and on occasion to incorporate the new in architecture and design. Although remaining staunchly Catholic, its Old English so-

cial hierarchy appears to have been receptive to other changes in economy and lifestyle that had become so evident in Tudor and later in early Stuart England. While some continued on in their castles and tower houses, others adopted more relaxed and increasingly more fashionable living arrangements.

Although not without their frustrating ‘silences’, settlement-focused sources from the mid-seventeenth century and from around 1700 provide valuable perspectives on the ‘architectural transition’ from medieval to early modern in Co. Meath. The Civil Survey indicates some significant inter-barony variations. Life in the eastern and south-eastern baronies of Duleek, Ratoath and Dunboyne appears to have been reasonably secure with many more houses than castles, whereas there were many more castles or fortified houses, and also more destruction, along the north and north-west ‘frontiers’. Yet there is also an impression of the landscape being highly organised across the county as a whole in such features as the dense network of 162 local mills and in a deeply-embedded road network (see figure 3 on page 5) that is only partly depicted in the maps of the Down Survey. The embedded nature of the road network is as evident in the north-west as in the south-east, with eight roads converging on the old-established market town of Kells.

The architectural transition was also evident, if slightly patchily, in the north-west. The Down Survey records Ardloman, owned by Walter Cruce in the parish of Kilbeg, as the site of a ‘very Strong Castle with four Turretts Encompassed with a double Trench or work drawn According to the late practice in fortification the Castle being to (sic) low that the Ramparts of Earth defend most of it from Common Shott’ (see figure 1 on page 1). In contrast, at neighbouring Robertstown owned by Margaret Barnewall (Barnwell), there was ‘a faire Stone House with Gardens and Orchards [...]’ In these and other records, the term ‘a fair stone house’ appears to me to be widely used as shorthand for a much less-fortified and better-appointed ‘modern’ residence of a type that had become widespread by the end of the century. Even in the 1650s, however, such houses were evidently so prevalent that William Farrand, the Down Survey compiler for Kilbrew, barony of Ratoath, felt obliged to record another Barnwell residence there as if it were an exception, explaining that it was ‘a large stone House (built Castle Wayes)’.



**Figure 2** Localities in Co. Meath where Trustees' Survey descriptions are available (Source: BL Add 41149. Map drawn by Stephen Hannon)

The Down Survey parish maps, together with the small group of maps made for the lands of Edward Roberts about 1659 and the still little-used yet quite exceptionally-detailed records for 300+ townlands from the Trustees' Survey of 1700–02, also indicate the existence of a wider, denser settlement network than is suggested by the Meath Civil Survey. As in north Co. Dublin, villages were widespread, with some evidently large as at Ratoath and Dunboyne, but cabins and cottages were also more widely dispersed, and frequently located in smaller clusters or in more informal 'villages'. However, by 1700–02, the prospects for many of these smaller villages were in decline. Although some still existed (enough to confirm their former significance), the commercial, increasingly cattle-oriented economy had greatly reduced the *raison d'être* for the clustering and widespread distribution of the labour force. The Trustees' Survey signals a landscape (and an architecture) that is largely hidden or ignored in the 1650s surveys suggesting that neighbouring districts sometimes displayed great contrasts, with a few of the old castles still in occupation, but elsewhere radically different buildings and surrounds in a country house mode.

The Trustees' Survey (see figure 2 on page 3) provides numerous, often atmospheric, verbal thumbnail sketches of a changing local world. At Archerstown, barony of Ratoath, once a seat of the Barnewells and now part of a golf course, neither the Civil Survey ('a farme house & some cottages') nor the Down Survey ('some cabbins') recorded much. The Trustees' Survey description in contrast is both effusive and informative, recording (inter alia, spelling and punctuation modernised):

a very good house built with stone & lime like a cross with 20 rooms in it, a good orchard and gardens, with a great deal of wall fruit, good stables, coach-houses, barn & malt-house, a good pigeon house, indifferent well stocked, a bridge leading to the avenue of the house, with a small river running under it, that affords good eel and pike. The avenue guarded with good stone walls with sycamore and ash trees to the number of 72, which is very ornamental to the seat. It is very well situated on rising ground with a small young grove about it [...] There's now standing on it twelve acres of winter corn, as bear & wheat &c and 26 acres of summer corn as oats, peas and barley.

There is but one cabin in the said town  
where the herder liveth [...]

At Archerstown in 1700, therefore, there stood a very large house with substantial out-buildings, an orchard, gardens and an ornamental avenue. Part of the surrounds were in tillage, yet in this harbinger of the future south Meath, there was just one cabin where a herder lived. Contrast this with the landscape at Moyrath, barony of Lune, where there were 21 farm houses and cottages together with a very good strong castle and a good stone house upon the glebe. Fifty years earlier, Moyrath had been recorded as belonging to Sir Thomas Nugent, Irish Papist, with the Civil Survey laconically noting 'a castle a house ruined and some cottages'. Some 130 years later, the Ordnance Survey map depicts just Moyrath Castle and a small number of other buildings. Only in the Trustees' Survey is there a real hint that the local human landscape was once very different. Landscapes populated with cabins / cottages and very different to the much emptier pastures shown later by the Ordnance Survey are described for various other townlands in south Meath, among them Upper Culmullin, barony of Deece, 'with four good farm houses, one with stone walls and the other with mud and the roofs thatched, and about 18 cabins', and Portlester, barony of Lune, where, besides an old stump of a castle 'surrounded with a stone wall' and a couple of stone houses, there were '18 Cotter's houses in ye Town'.

This presentation aimed to show that the land-

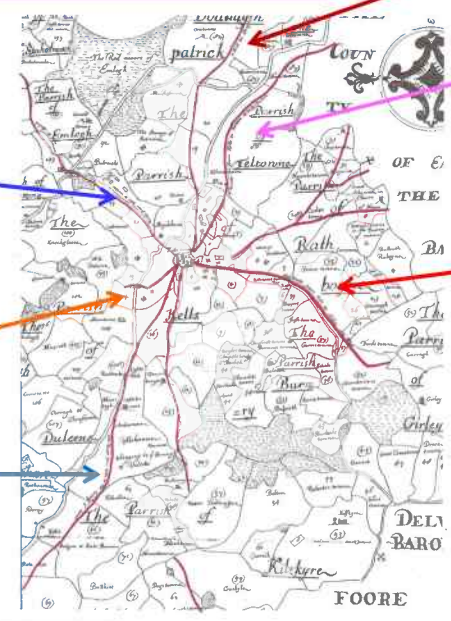
scape and architecture of Co. Meath in 1700 reflected an ongoing transition, and that this was a process that was already in train well before 1640 and which gathered further momentum with the return of peace after c.1660. County Meath undoubtedly experienced political displacement and social fracturing during the Cromwellian transformations. Yet the changes to the countryside / landscape relate at least as much to those deep-rooted, longer-term, and really quite general processes affecting both economy and lifestyle which Professor Louis Cullen has so effectively depicted as the social and cultural transformation experienced in the transition from medieval to modern. The buildings and landscape of Co. Meath c.1700 may be best interpreted as reflecting 'normal' secular, early modern trends in the business and social organisation of land-holding and farming, developments that effected the reorganising of farm systems, a movement to pasture, the decay and removal of the villages and the enclosure of open countryside. As always there were laggards and innovators with these changes. But the essential message is that key documentary sources for Co. Meath reveal a landscape around 1700 that has been produced with significant social capital, a county that displays the outcomes of enterprise and investment, that is more rich than wasted, an arena where the contemporary processes of local change have been driven by the kind of social and economic forces and fashions that operated across many of the more affluent rural parts of early modern Europe.

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# Roads to/from Kells 1650s



A Road to Drogheda

A Road from Kells to Navan & so to Dublin

a Road from Kells to Nubber and to Ardee

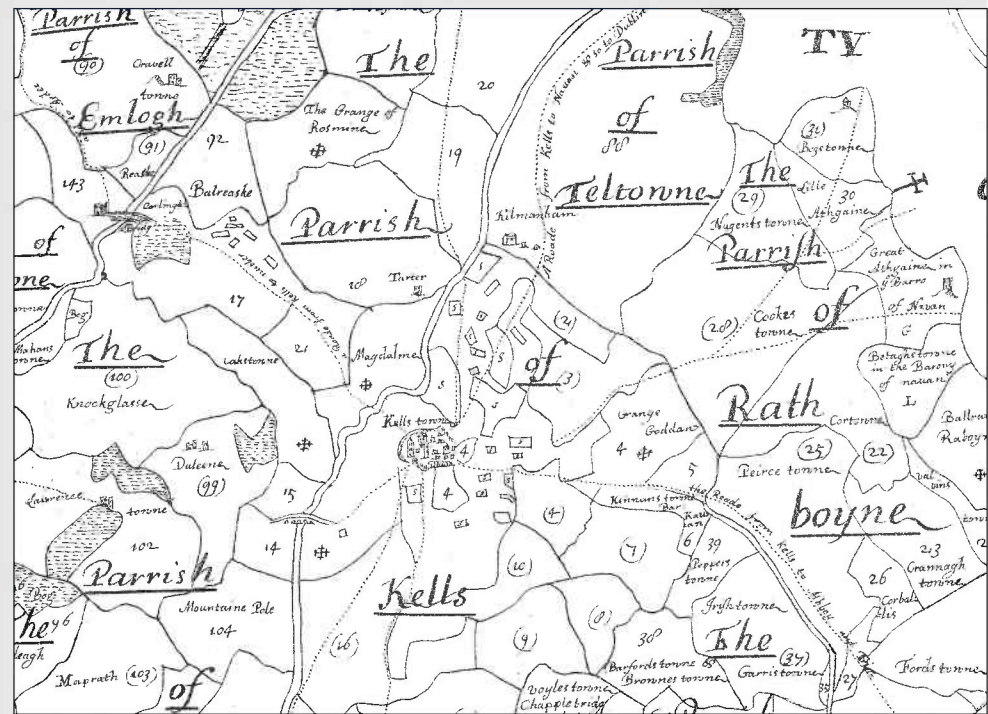
Bridge symbol

the Road from Kells to the County of Cavan

the Road from Kells to Rathboy and Trim

N.B! North is on Left Side of Map

The road network leading to the market town of Kells as shown on the Down Survey barony map of c.1655



Roads, denoted by dotted lines, around Kells. Barony of Kells Down Survey map. South is at the left.

Figure 3 Kells Roads

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 geology of Laois and Offaly***

**John Feehan**

**[[Tullamore]: Offaly County Council in association with Laois County Council and the Geological Survey of Ireland, 2013. xvi, 403p. Hbk. ISBN 9780957453319. €40)**

A comprehensive and authoritative description of the geology of Laois-Offaly is presented in this beautifully illustrated book. As Peadar McArdle explains in a foreword, this geology has many practical implications. People have extracted coal and peat as energy sources, while stone and gravel provide building materials. The region's water resources, much coming from underground, have sustained the population and its farming way of life. All of this information provides a rich and fitting backdrop to understanding the region's present environment and biodiversity, an area in which Feehan is the recognised expert.

***Tara: from the past to the future: towards a new research agenda***

**Edited by Muiris O'Sullivan, Chris Scarre and Maureen Doyle**

**(Dublin: Wordwell, 2013. xii, 579p. Hbk. ISBN 9781905569762. €50)**

This is the third in a series of Tara-related volumes from the UCD School of Archaeology following two excavation monographs, *Dumana nGiall: the Mound of the Hostages* (O'Sullivan, 2005) and *The Rath of the Synods* (Grogan, 2008). Conceived originally as a collaborative discussion and contextualisation of the data from the earlier volumes, this present collection of papers extends also into a wider discussion of the archaeology and meaning of Tara. The editors emphasise the need for an agreed, flexible, Tara research agenda to guide future research.

***Harvesting the stars: a pagan temple at Lismullin, Co. Meath***

**Aidan O'Connell; academic editor Eoin Grogan**

**(Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2013. x, 206p. Pbk. ISBN 9780957438002. €25)**

**(NRA Scheme Monographs, 11)**

Aidan O'Connell directed excavations along the route of the controversial M3 motorway, including the Iron-age site at Lismullin, close to the hill of Tara, which is discussed in this volume. The site was designated a National Monument after its discovery. O'Connell, together with a team of more than 20 contributors, interprets the post-enclosure as an open-air pagan temple, and discusses why and by whom it was built, and what purpose it was designed to serve. Technical reports on the excavation and geophysical surveys, as well as specialist research reports on artefacts and medieval history, are included on the accompanying CD-ROM. Illustrations that require to be in large format to be viewed at an appropriate scale are also published in digital format.

***The Western Stone Forts project, volumes 1 and 2: excavations at Dún Aonghasa and Dún Eoghanachta***

**Claire Cotter**

**(Dublin: Wordwell, 2012. 2 vols. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 978905569694. €50)**

The results of the Western Stone Forts Project are published in two phases. Volumes 1, 2 and the e-publication, volume 3, make up the first phase. There is an introduction to the project, and excavation reports on the structural evidence and on material remains and environmental evidence. The excavation reports are comprehensive. Amongst the material in the e-publication are the finds catalogues and a selection of ancillary studies containing articles of wider interest.

***Unearthing the archaeology of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown***

**Edited by Christiaan Corlett**

**(Dún Laoghaire: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, 2013. 165p.**

**ISBN 9780955782978. €10)**

Development-led excavations in the rural/urban fringe of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown underpin this collection of essays, drawn together by Christiaan Corlett. There are 24 essays, in four sections arranged chronologically from prehistoric to early Christian, to medieval and finally post medieval, all written to

draw public attention to the more significant recent archaeological discoveries in Carrickmines, Laughanstown, Brennanstown, Kilgobbin, Shankill, Cherrywood, Cabinteely, Dalkey and Dundrum. Some of the sites discussed are previously unknown chance finds in the course of excavations undertaken when the lands in which they lay were targeted for development. Other sites, such as Carrickmines castle and Dundrum Castle, were the subject of excavations in recent years and are also discussed in some detail in this volume.

***Secrets of the Irish landscape: the story of the Irish landscape is the story of Ireland***

**Edited by Matthew Jebb with Colm Crowley (Cork: Cork University Press, 2013. viii, 233p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 978178205010. €29)**

Conceived as an accompaniment to an RTE television series of the same name, presented by Derek Mooney, this book has a rather clearer focus and is rather better edited than the documentary series. In large coffee-table format, and heavily illustrated, the idea behind the book is to reveal the landscape and the natural world explored by R.L. Praeger in the early twentieth century, and elegantly described in *The way that I went* (1937). The Praeger link proved difficult to sustain, and the interpolation of snippets about Praeger seem like interruptions. Intended to reach a popular readership, there are no source notes, but the contributors are mostly well known scholars. Chapters are contributed by Matthew Jebb, Paul Dunlop, Peter Coxon, Conor Meade, Colin Kelleher, Robin Edwards, Fraser Mitchell, Peter Woodman, Michael O'Connell, Micheline Sheehy Skeffington, Michael Monk, Seamus Caulfield, Mike Baillie, Eamonn P. Kelly, Ronan O'Flaherty, Tomás Ó Carragáin, Stephen Harrison, Regina Sexton, Patrick McAfee, Éanna Ní Lamhna, Patrick J. Duffy, Richard Collins and Peter Murray. This wide-ranging and informative book is a pleasure to browse.

***Ancient Ireland: exploring Irish historic monuments***

**Tarquin Blake and Fiona Reilly (Cork: Collins Press, 2013. x, 310p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781848891852. €29.99)**

In coffee-table format, this well-illustrated volume is a gazetteer of Ireland's principal historical monuments. The entries are arranged by county, with four or five sites discussed for each county.

***The Mill at Kilbegly: an archaeological investigation on the route of the M6 Ballinasloe to Athlone national road scheme***

**Neil Jackman, Caitríona Moore and Colin Rynne, with contributions by Gary Conboy (Dublin: National Roads Authority, 2013. x, 192p. Pbk. ISBN 9780957438019. €25) (NRA scheme monographs, 12)**

A remarkable discovery was made in 2007 by archaeologists conducting routine test excavations in a bog in south Roscommon on the route of the new M6 motorway west of Athlone. The Kilbegly horizontal watermill, built in the late seventh or early eighth century, was found in excellent condition, preserved in the bog. Millraces, millpond, flume or penstock, mill undercroft or wheelhouse, wheel-hub, axle and paddles were all found, along with tools and other objects associated with the mill. This proved to be a discovery of European significance, and the report on the finds published here offers a wealth of new information on aspects of early mills and milling. The accompanying CD-ROM contains the fully illustrated stratigraphic and interpretative reports, with specialist analyses of samples and artefacts, published in PDF format.

***Music and the stars: mathematics in medieval Ireland***

**Edited by Mary Kelly and Charles Doherty (Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. xix, 249p. illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823923. Cat. €50, Web €45)**

Mathematics as the language of the universe, interwoven into the fabric of Irish technology and buildings, and finding expression in Ireland's greatest medieval artistic achievements, is a key theme of this collection of essays. The essays explore the history of mathematics in medieval Ireland in the context of western European scholarship, and draw attention to the renown of Ireland's early monastic schools as centres of scientific learning. Charles Doherty's introductory essay reviews the influence of mathematical principles on medieval art and architecture, particularly the Irish high crosses and round towers. Robert D. Stevick explores the proposition that major creations of medieval art, particularly as found in the Book of Kells, were informed by mathematics, and even advocates applying computer techniques to the mathematical principles involved, as a way of restoring and perpetuating the tradition. Immo Warntjes explains that science in the early Middle Ages was almost entirely based on mathe-

mathematical models, while the influence of Arabic science in the eleventh century prompted a move towards empirical analysis. Warntjes explores the preconditions for the adoption of Arabic science in medieval Ireland. Other essays are contributed by Dáibhí Ó Cróinín, Pádraig P. Ó Néill, Marina Smyth, Maura Walsh, David Howlett, Siobhán Fitzpatrick and Howard Clarke, and there is a thoughtful afterword by Anthony Harvey.

***Credo: Christianisierung Europas im Mittelalter***  
Band 1. Essays; Band II: Katalog  
Herausgegeben von Christoph Stiegemann,  
Martin Kroker und Wolfgang Walter  
(Petersberg (Germany): Michael Imhof Verlag, 2012. 2 vols. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9783865688279 (set). €69.99)

A major exhibition on Christian Europe in the Middle Ages was held at Paderborn during 2012–2013. This illustrated exhibition catalogue includes a number of essays of Irish interest (in German). Michael Ryan writes on early medieval Irish art, surveying high crosses, manuscripts and metalwork. Dáibhí Ó Cróinín writes on Willibrord and early Anglo-Saxon missions and Ragnall Ó Floinn writes on relics and reliquaries.

***Literacy and identity in early medieval Ireland***  
Elva Johnston  
(Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2013. vii, 238p. Hbk. ISBN 9781843838555. £60)

This book offers an interdisciplinary examination of the Irish literate elite and their social contexts between c.400–1000 AD. It considers the role played by Hiberno-Latin authors, the expansion of vernacular literacy and the key place of monasteries within the literate landscape. Also examined are the crucial intersections between literacy and orality, which underpin the role of the literate elite in giving voice to aristocratic and communal identities. Johnston places these developments within a broader European context, underlining the significance of the Irish experience of learning and literacy.

***Princes, prelates and poets in medieval Ireland: essays in honour of Katharine Simms***  
Edited by Seán Duffy  
(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. xxiv, 599p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822803. Cat. €55, Web €49.50)

This is a major collection of essays on medieval Ireland, with a fitting emphasis on the Gaelic world. Among those of special in-

terest to readers of *Áitreabh* are Elizabeth FitzPatrick's chapter on 'The landscape and settlements of the Uí Dhálaigh poets of Muintir Bháire', and Howard Clarke's 'Quo vadis? Mapping the Irish 'monastic town''. A wider perspective on medieval urban settlement is provided by Anngret Simms in a chapter entitled 'Unity in diversity: a comparative analysis of thirteenth-century Kilkenny, Kalkar and Sopron'.

***Dedicated to Sligo: thirty-four essays on Sligo's past***

Edited by Martin A. Timoney  
(Sligo: Publishing Sligo's Past, 2013. 304p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780957554702. €40)

The essays on aspects of Sligo's past presented in this volume range from the prehistoric to the twentieth century. There are numerous archaeological contributions and several essays on place-names. There are also editions of documents – notably William Henry's 'Hints towards a natural and topographical history of the County of Sligo' (1739), contributed by Martin Timoney. David Fleming writes of 'Estate, kin and loyalty: the Taaffe family and their property in eighteenth-century Sligo', while Wendy Lyons describes 'Hazelwood House: Sligo's first and most important Palladian house', and there are several biographical essays on local personalities from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. That the volume even includes a book review is an indication that this publication serves as a cumulative volume reflecting the interests of the long-established Sligo Field Club which, unusually for such organisations, has always lacked a journal of its own.

***Medieval and monastic Derry: sixth century to 1600***

Brian Lacey  
(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. x, 166p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823831. €24.95, Web €22.45)

The story of Derry in the millennium prior to the Ulster Plantation, and the stories told about that foundation through the ages, are analysed here.

See page 26 in this issue for review.

***The making of medieval Derry***

Ciarán J. Devlin  
(Dublin: Veritas, 2013. 380p. Hbk. ISBN 9781847305046. €30)

**T**his is a history of the medieval diocese of Derry, drawing on the evidence of the annals, genealogies and literary sources, as well as ecclesiastical material, to tell the story of the diocese from the early Christian period. Themes include the organisation of the early Christian church, political influences on the establishment of the medieval boundaries of the diocese, and the decisions of the Synod of Ráth Breasail (AD 1111) in relation to Ardstraw. A lengthy section on the 'life of the late medieval diocese' summarises the history of each individual parish, explaining the place-name and identifying the erenagh lands where possible. Where the sources allow, some parishes are treated in very considerable detail. Later sections include essays on some bishops and other notable persons in the medieval diocese. There is a short section on medieval religious orders, and the final part on 'how people lived' addresses topics such as weather, land, social customs, clothing, food and drink.

#### ***Medieval Dublin XIII***

**Edited by Seán Duffy**

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. 332p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823893. Cat. €50, Web €45., Pbk. ISBN 9781846823909. Cat. €24.95, Web €22.45)

**T**his volume has important studies on the political, social and literary history of Dublin from the Viking Age to the dawn of the modern era. Eoin O'Flynn reconstructs the relationship between the Vikings of Dublin and the Clann Cholmáin kings; Denis Casey looks at the ruling élite of the Viking town; Andrew Woods examines the use of coins in the Hiberno-Norse town; Lenore Fischer discovers later Dublin traditions about the Battle of Clontarf; Paul MacCotter reconstructs the lands of the medieval archdiocese of Dublin; Declan Johnston examines the 'Black Monday' massacre of the citizens (said to have occurred in 1209 and which became an annual pageant for centuries afterwards); Niall Ó Súilleabháin describes the system of municipal government in Anglo-Norman Dublin; Linzi Simpson reports on archaeological excavations in the Front Square of Trinity College that unearthed the earliest college buildings and the earlier priory of All Hallows; Grace O'Keeffe discusses the connections between Dublin and Bristol in the Middle Ages; Bernadette Williams reassesses the evidence for the arrival of the Dominicans in the early thirteenth century; Caoimhe Whelan reminds us of the career of the Dubliner James Yonge, an im-

portant figure in the literary circles in late medieval Ireland; John Montague shows how the famous 1756 map by John Rocque can be used to shed light on the medieval city; and Niall McCullough outlines an architectural and urban design framework plan for the Ship Street-Werburgh Street area.

*See page 23 in this issue for review.*

#### ***Urban culture in medieval Wales***

**Edited by Helen Fulton**

(Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2012. Xv, 334p. Hbk. ISBN 9780708323519. £85; Pbk. ISBN 9780708325032. £25)

**T**his collection of twelve essays explores aspects of town life in medieval Wales, considering how people lived and worked and how they spent their leisure time. Drawing on evidence from historical records, archaeology and literature, the essays capture the diversity of town life and urban identity. Rather than focusing on economic aspects, the emphasis is on the cultural and social experiences of town residents in the past that helped shape a Welsh urban identity.

#### ***Buttevant: a medieval Anglo-French town in Ireland***

**Edited by Eamonn Cotter**

(Buttevant: The editor, 2013. x, 197p. Illus. ISBN 9780957675506. €35)

**R**ecent research by Tadhg O'Keeffe and others has begun to reveal the medieval origins of Buttevant and demonstrate its significance as a European medieval New Town. These towns were distinguished by the regularity of their layout, and this volume presents research that sets medieval Buttevant clearly in this western-European context, with particular emphasis on French towns. Incorporating the proceedings of a successful 2011 conference, there are essays by Jean-Loup Abbé, Paul MacCotter, Tadhg O'Keeffe, Anne-Julie Lafaye, James O'Brien, Dagmar Ó Riain-Raedel, and the editor himself.

#### ***The English Isles: cultural transmission and political conflict in Britain and Ireland, 1100–1500***

**Edited by Seán Duffy and Susan Foran**

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. 184p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846822230. Cat. €55, Web €49.50)

**N**ew research on the impact of medieval English imperialism is found in this interdisciplinary collection of essays, which ranges across Ireland, Wales and Scotland. Following the editorial introduction there are es-



says by Patrick Wadden, John Reuben Davies, John Gillingham, Matthew Hammond, Dauvit Broun, Niav Gallagher, Freya Verstraten Veach, Katharine Simms and Steve Boardman. Of particular interest to the present reviewer is the essay by Freya Verstraten Veach on 'Anglicization in medieval Ireland: was there a Gaelic Irish 'middle nation'? She unearths considerable, if fragmentary, evidence to demonstrate that anglicization among the native Irish can be discerned quite early following the English invasion. That acculturation in a colonial context is a two-way process should not be surprising. What Verstraten Veach discerns in the evidence for the anglicised Gaelic Irish in Anglo-Norman Ireland might best be termed biculturalism. Just as bilingual individuals can switch between languages as occasion demands, so too, bicultural individuals and communities from the Gaelic world 'were able to adjust to English or Anglo-Irish customs when required, while remaining firmly rooted and at home in Gaelic culture' (p. 136). This phenomenon was not confined to the medieval period, but might be regarded as a defining characteristic too of the 'colonial' world of early modern Ireland.

***Clogh Oughter Castle, Co. Cavan: archaeology, history and architecture***

Conleth Manning

(Dublin: Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2013. viii, 232p. Pbk. ISBN 9781406427776. €30)

(Archaeological Monograph Series, 8)

This is a comprehensive study of the castle of Clogh Oughter, a national monument, which is located on a small island in Lough Oughter, Co. Cavan. The volume includes a detailed report on the 1987 excavation of the site including specialist analysis of the finds. This is preceded by contextual chapters on the setting of the castle, and its history written from the extant documentary sources. Other chapters provide a detailed, well-illustrated description of the castle, and a report on the conservation work that has been undertaken at the site.

***Crisis and survival in late medieval Ireland: the English of Louth and their neighbours, 1330–1450***

Brendan Smith

(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. xviii, 260p. Hbk. ISBN 9780199594757. £65)

Medieval Louth was one of the areas most densely colonized by English settlers, and ties with England remained strong. This study draws on original documentary source

material to explore the world of English settlers in medieval Louth. It focuses particularly on the impact of Louth's frontier location and its relationship with the larger English world of which it was a part. The evolution of the settlement over time is traced, not least the replacement of many settlers by Irish tenants, and the context and implications of the changes that occurred are teased out.

***The royal manors of medieval Co. Dublin: crown and community***

Áine Foley

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2013. xiv, 226p. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823886. Cat. €55, Web €49.50)

The dynamics of Anglo-Irish society in the later Middle Ages are explored in this study of the royal manors of Crumlin, Esker, Saggart and Newcastle Lyons, all in south County Dublin, from the late 12th to the late 14th centuries. These manors represented the largest direct stake that the English monarchy maintained in Ireland, and they remained in the personal gift of the monarch for centuries. Foley argues that the creation of manors in Anglo-Norman Ireland was the most important factor in determining how the rural community in the colonized areas developed. And while the colony declined in the late 14th century, the rural communities who lived on these manors proved remarkably resilient.

***Wexford castles: landscape, context and settlement***

Billy Colfer

(Cork: Cork University Press, 2013. x, 268p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781859184936. €49)

(Irish Landscapes, 4)

In this handsomely illustrated volume – the third by the same author in the 'Irish Landscapes' series – the late Billy Colfer explores settlement and political conflict in medieval Co. Wexford through the twin lenses of landscape and castle building. Reading the castle buildings as texts, he interprets the cultural assumptions and historical circumstances that shaped them. The Norman strategy of building castles as a means of dominating and settling conquered territory is explained, and the progress of the colony as measured by the surviving colonial architecture is assessed. The topographical context of the settlement is closely studied, and the mountainous north and west is strongly contrasted with the lowlands in the east and south of the county, with consequent differences in

the settlement patterns of these contrasting regions. An illustrated gazetteer of 51 Co. Wexford tower houses with surviving fabric is also included, while the former existence of some 137 tower houses in the county is established. The focus throughout is on the tower houses that persist as a physical reminder of the late medieval colony in south Wexford although this book also explores aspects of the cultural legacy of Wexford's Norman past.

***The Jacobean plantations in seventeenth-century Offaly: an archaeology of a changing world***

**James Lyttleton**

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. viii, 344 p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823930. €55; Pbk. ISBN 9781846824920. €29.95)

An archaeological study of the impact of colonization on local communities in early modern Ireland, exploring both physical and mental worlds.

*See page 23 in this issue for review.*

***The life and times of Sir Frederick Hamilton, 1590–1647: 'The Bragger'***

**Dominic Rooney**

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. xviii, 267p. Illus. Hbk. 9781846823961. Cat. €55, Web €49.50, Pbk. 9781846824241. Cat. €24.95, Web €22.45)

Sir Frederick Hamilton was an ambitious 17th-century Scottish nobleman who secured a grant of land during the Leitrim Plantation in 1620. Unlike many other grantees, he and his English wife, Sidney, took up residence on their estate and enlarged it through purchase or mortgage from their British and Irish neighbours. After a period of military involvement in the Thirty Years War in Europe, Hamilton returned to consolidate his situation in Leitrim, where his strong castle that he had built at Manorhamilton in the 1630s served him well during the turbulent years that followed the 1641 rebellion. Rooney's study explores the development of the new town of Manorhamilton in the environs of the castle, and offers insights into the progress of the Leitrim Plantation.

***Plantation: aspects of seventeenth-century Ulster society***

**Edited by Brendan Scott and John Doohar**

(Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2013. xii, 127p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781909556096. £19.99)

Adopting a multidisciplinary approach, this collection of essays, arising from two conferences organised by the Ulster Local History Trust, explores a number of themes relating to the Plantation of Ulster. The essays range from overviews to case studies of particular areas, individuals or groups. The experiences of the Irish, English and Scots are all brought into view and analysed from a range of perspectives. The essays challenge some preconceived notions and offer fresh thinking on many aspects of the plantation era. Contributors include Patrick Fitzgerald, Raymond Gillespie, William Roulston, John B. Cunningham, Brendan Scott, Elaine Murphy and Andrew Robinson.

***Ulster since 1600: politics, economy and society***  
**Edited by Liam Kennedy and Philip Ollershaw**

(Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. xviii, 355p. Hbk. ISBN 9780199583119. £37)

This collection of 20 essays surveys the history of the province of Ulster from the seventeenth-century plantation down to the recent 'Troubles'. Chapters most pertinent to the topic of historic settlement include 'People and population change, 1600–1914' by Liam Kennedy, Kerby A. Miller and Brian Gurrin; 'Migration and emigration, 1600–1945' by Donald M. MacRaild and Malcolm Smith; and 'Agriculture and rural policy since 1914' by Alan Greer.

***An historical, environmental and cultural atlas of County Donegal***

**Edited by Jim Mac Laughlin and Seán Beattie**

(Cork: Cork University Press, 2013. xvi, 619p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781859184943. €59)

This illustrated volume contains approximately 90 essays from over 50 contributors. There is a strong heritage focus with topics including historic and recent emigration, the marine environment, fishing and the coastal economy, tourism and travel, art and architecture, farming, transport, and the natural and built landscape. For an 'atlas', the volume contains surprisingly few maps.

***Maps & texts: exploring the Irish Historic Towns Atlas***

**Edited by H.B. Clarke and Sarah Gearty**

(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2013. xxiii, 311p. Pbk. ISBN 9781908996145. €30)

The 20 essays in this volume are concerned with making comparisons to discover what is unique about urban places and what is

generic. The contributors ask questions about whether there are general morphological similarities or differences between towns and types of site, and how various features of urban life interacted and changed over time. Drawing on the 25 atlases published to date in the 'Irish Historic Towns Atlas' series, and informed by Estyn Evans' quest to discover the 'personality' of particular places, these studies seek to broaden the ways in which the historic town atlases might be used to consider morphology as a social process in the making of urban Ireland. Many of the essays are contributed by authors who have previously worked on individual fascicles in the Irish Historic Towns Atlas series. There are contributions too by scholars such as Brian Graham and Keith Lilley on theoretical approaches and methodologies for the study of Irish historic towns.

***City of Derry: an historical gazetteer to the buildings of Londonderry***

**Daniel Calley**

(Belfast: Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, 2013. xv, 189p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780900457661. £20, Pbk. ISBN 9780900457678. £14)

A survey of the social history and architecture of Derry/Londonderry which celebrated its status as the 'City of Culture' in 2013, is presented in this volume by Daniel Calley, who explains eloquently that 'The greatest inspiration for this volume is the city itself. Its many steep streets, usually with Foyle views, walls, mixture of styles and periods and use of native materials, notably the beautiful combination of schist and Dungiven sandstone create a unique setting of international importance. This precious legacy is a fragile one. Every time a building is demolished, a plastic framed window inserted, a cast iron lamp-post cut from the ground, or a garden is built upon, a tiny unique thread is rent from the city's fabric, forever lost.'

***A portrait of Dublin in maps: history, geography, people, society***

**Muiris de Buitléir**

(Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 2013. viii, 199p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780717156160. €29.99)

Vividly coloured maps abound in this eclectic atlas of the city of Dublin. Following a brief section on historic maps, the main focus is on the more modern city. Almost every conceivable topic that can be treated cartographically is dealt with. Thus there are maps depicting tangle elements of the city infrastructure, rang-

ing from geology to drainage, water supply and electricity supply. There are maps of transport networks including old tram lines and modern bus routes. There are also maps that summarise census-based data and other official statistics, not just population density, but also housing types, social class, economic status, religious affiliation and language skills. A larger page size might have shown the maps to better advantage.

***The Church of Ireland: an illustrated history***  
**Consultant editors, Claude Costecalde and Brian Walker**

(Dublin: Booklink, 2013. 400p. Illus. ISBN 9781906886561. €38.80)

Editors and photographers from throughout Ireland have collaborated on this book. It opens with a lengthy essay by Kenneth Milne on the history of the Church of Ireland, followed by a series of thematic essays on architecture, education, language, liturgy, philanthropy, music and stained glass. The second part of the book is arranged by diocese and comprises short articles on each parish or group of parishes, accompanied by numerous illustrations of church buildings.

***Ireland and the picturesque: design, landscape painting and tourism, 1700–1840***

**Finola O'Kane**

(New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2013. x, 229p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780300185386. £45)

This book charts the creation of picturesque Ireland while exploring in detail the role and influence of landscape painting in the planning, publishing, landscaping and design of Ireland's historic landscapes, towns and tourist routes. It serves, too, as a history of the physical shaping of Ireland as a tourist destination, one of the earliest, most calculated and most successful in the world. O'Kane argues for a much greater degree of Irish influence on the course of European landscape theory and design than has previously been claimed.

***Women, architecture and building in the east of Ireland, c.1790–1840***

**Ruth Thorpe**

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2013. 67p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846824005. Cat. €9.95, Web €8.95) (Maynooth Studies in Local History, 110)

Prior to the twentieth century, the world of architecture and building was considered a male domain, but there is clear evidence that women of the landed class in Ireland were designing, commissioning, and supervising projects long before this. Amongst the women studied in this short book are Lady Helena Domville who rebuilt Santry village, in Co. Dublin, and Anna Maria Dawson who worked on the design of Townley Hall, Co. Louth, as well as on more modest houses in counties Antrim and Down. Many elite women combined a sense of moral, social and religious duty with a passion for designing and building, resulting in philanthropic projects such as schools and almshouses. Recovering the architectural contribution of these women allows a better understanding of many buildings of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

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***Estates and landed society in Galway***

Patrick Melvin

(Dublin: Eamonn de Búrca for Edmund Burke Publisher, 2013. xxvi, 484p. Illus. ISBN 9780946130474. Hbk. €75)

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, Co. Galway had 108 landowners with holdings of more than 3,000 acres, and these landed families and their estates are the subject of this ambitious study. Among the themes of the individual chapters are the origins of the estates, estate management, social life, marriage, landlordism, local government, politics, class and identity. There is much detail here on the Galway merchant families' landed interests throughout the county, as well as on the estates of the dominant Co. Galway landowners, the Burkes, earls of Clanricard. The landed estates, their management and development are the principal focus of this encyclopaedic work on nineteenth-century Galway estates and their owners.

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***Donegal in transition: the impact of the Congested Districts Board***

Seán Beattie

(Dublin: Merrion, 2013. xiv, 298p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9781908928306. €21.95)

The Congested Districts Board (CDB) operated from 1891 to 1923. Its remit was to seek to raise living standards by promoting industrial development, investing in maritime resources, increasing agricultural output, and opening up new opportunities for women through arts and crafts. Beattie argues that its most enduring legacy in Donegal was probably

the way the CDB inspired confidence in the capacity of a rural development agency to generate reform and improve living standards.

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***The parish of Corofin: a historical profile***

Michael Mac Mahon

(Corofin, Co. Clare: The author, 2013. xvii, 397p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN9780953866724. €25)

Leamaneh Castle, the Burren National Park and Lake Inchiquin are some well known landmarks that mark out the geography of the north Clare parish of Corofin, made up of the civil parishes of Killinaboy and Rath. This scholarly book tells the story of the parish from early Christian times down to the twentieth century. In the early Christian period, the area formed part of the church lands of two monastic foundations. Among the monastic treasures to survive from this locality are the Tau Cross of Killinaboy and the crozier and bells of St Blathmac. In the late medieval period, the territory was home to two of the most powerful branches of the O'Briens, the barons of Inchiquin and the Leamaneh/Dromoland O'Briens, and good use is made here of the rich surviving estate papers in studying the development of the region in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the early nineteenth century Corofin was the birthplace of the Terry Alts, a secret society devoted to agrarian protest, often by violent means, in defence of tenant rights. Later chapters narrate the story of the nineteenth-century revival of the Catholic church, the Great Famine and the War of Independence, and there are also specialist chapters on customs, lore and legend, and a very informative illustrated 'parish walkabout' containing descriptive entries for many townlands and architecturally significant buildings in the parish.

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***Killimor: our parish and our people***

Edited by Angela Geoghegan; associate editor Nuala McGann

(Killimor (Ballinasloe): Killimor & District Development Society, 2013. 769p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780957304406, €35, Pbk. €25. Includes CDRom of Killimor school records, 1863–2013)

Eight years of research promoted by the Killimor and District Development Society has culminated in the publication of a fine, multi-author, local history of Killimor parish in east Galway. Following a brief medieval section, which includes a substantial contribution by Christy Cuniffe on the medieval parish church, the focus of later chapters is on the nineteenth and

twentieth centuries. The nineteenth-century section begins in chapter 2 with a profile of each townland, drawn from a variety of standard sources ranging from the Ordnance Survey name books to the 1901 and 1911 census, and demonstrates just how much information can be gleaned for any townland in the country from such sources. Later thematic chapters on land, the Famine, emigration, business life and education are approached in the same methodical way, drawing on a wide range of standard sources, both national and local. Paul Duffy contributes a chapter on the engineering heritage of the parish, while Ann O'Toole writes on Hearnbrook House and estate.

***'Were you at the Rock': the history of mass rocks in Ireland***

**Tony Nugent**

(Dublin: Liffey Press, 2013. vii, 150p. Illus. Pbk. 9781908308474. €19.95)

Mass rocks dot the Irish landscape, as reminders of the era of the penal laws when Catholics were not officially permitted to openly attend mass. A typical 'Carraig an Aifrinn' was a natural flat-topped rock in a secret location, where visiting priests could celebrate mass for the local community. Part one of this book traces the history of the penal laws from 1695 through to the early nineteenth century, with reference also to the difficulties faced by Catholics in the Tudor and Stuart era. Part two, which is arranged by county, identifies many of the extant mass rocks, and discusses the history and folklore of each site. Location maps and OS grid references are provided, together with photographs of the sites.

***Marcella Gerrard's Galway estate, 1820–70***

**Tom Crehan**

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. 64p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846824012. Cat. €9.95, Web €8.95) (Maynooth Studies in Local History, 107)

This book explores the transition that took place in an east Galway landed estate in the mid nineteenth century. It considers how the landlord, John Gerrard, reacted to the social and economic changes that took place before, during and after the Famine. His efforts to convert the estate from a tillage-based rental property to a grazing operation rendered large numbers of tenants surplus to requirements. Many were evicted and their houses destroyed. The publicity generated by the Gerrard evictions at Ballinlass in 1846 is examined in some detail as it reveals the tenants' perspective on the clear-

ances and also the public defence that the landlord felt compelled to offer. The fate of the estate following the death of John Gerrard and his wife Marcella Netterville, and its subsequent division among three distant relatives, is also explored.

***The Great Famine in Stranorlar, County Donegal***

**Crona Cassidy**

([Naas]: Chris Lawlor, 2012. 180p. Pbk. ISBN 9780953294749. €10)

Stranorlar was the location of the workhouse for its rural hinterland, an area that experienced much poverty in the decades before 1845. Rapid demographic growth and emigration were significant trends before the Great Famine and relationships between tenants and their landlords were strained. Cassidy documents the scale of the local disaster of the Famine, before tracing the beginnings of social and economic recovery in the 1850s.

***Connemara's walled gardens: Clifden and environs***

**Gary Brow**

([Clifden?]: The author, 2012. 64p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 978095740505905. €12)

This book considers the gardens that were designed for food production to supply the big houses of Connemara in the nineteenth century. It discusses many of the technicalities such as distance from house and orientation, water supply, drainage, manure, shelter and trees, walls, mortar, lime kilns, glasshouses, and icehouses. This is followed by a gazetteer of the principal houses, with sketch maps of the gardens, and some well-chosen illustrations of the remnants of each garden and its associated house.

***Portmarnock and the Plunketts, 1850–1918: the Portmarnock Brick and Terracotta Works***

**Alan Costello**

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. 61p. Pbk. ISBN 9781846824036. Cat. €9.95, Web €8.95) (Maynooth Studies in Local History, 106)

Red brick and terracotta are integral to Dublin's built heritage from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. This fascinating book tells the story of how some of that brick was



made by the Plunketts at Portmarnock, Co. Dublin, in the Victorian period. The outstanding material products made by the Portmarnock Brick and Terracotta Works were such that many of the most significant architects of the day specified them by name, and many remarkable buildings of the period were constructed and decorated using Portmarnock's striking red brick and moulded terracotta. Combining a diverse range of primary sources the author seeks to respond to Maurice Craig's assertion that the relationship between buildings and geology is often ignored in our history. The result is the illumination of a little known and largely unrecorded part of our architectural and social history.

***Leanbh deireanach an Bhlascaoid: Gearóid Cheaist Ó Catháin***

Fiona Crowe

(Baile Átha Cliath: Coiscéim, 2013. ix, 59p. Pbk. ISBN. €7.50)

This book relates the experience of Gearóid Ó Catháin, the last child to live on the Blasket Islands in Co. Kerry. It is based on interviews with him, and offers many insights on the life of the community on the islands in the last years before they were evacuated in 1953. An English-language version of the book, to be entitled 'The loneliest boy in the world', is planned by Collins Press for 2014.

***The Great Blasket: a photographic portrait***

Daithí de Mórdha and Micheál de Mórdha

(Cork: Collins Press, 2013. 224p. Illus. ISBN 9781848892743. €24.99)

The first photographs on the Great Blasket were taken by Alma Curtin in 1891. For the next sixty years or so the islanders and the island would be photographed by many who visited, including the children of people who had emigrated. The result is an extraordinary chronicle of a way of life and kinship, of the life and death of the Great Blasket, evacuated in 1953 but never abandoned. Based on the holdings of Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir/The Great Blasket Centre, this collection captures the spirit of

the island community, from the excitement of discovery by the outside world in the late nineteenth century, through to the decline of the 1940s and the legacy since 1953.

***The buildings of Ireland: South Ulster; the counties of Armagh, Cavan and Monaghan***

Kevin V. Mulligan

(New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2013. xix, 633p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9780300186017. £35)

(Buildings of Ireland) (Pevsner architectural guides)

Part of a long-running series, the 'South Ulster' volume in the Irish 'Pevsner' series, is most welcome. The general introduction provides an historical and artistic overview, and this is followed by a detailed gazetteer, treating the architectural highlights of each city, town and village in the counties of Armagh, Cavan and Monaghan. New buildings as well as old are noticed here, and the style is engaging and authoritative. A wonderful handbook to have to hand when exploring Ireland's built heritage.

***Surveying our heritage: the National Monuments Service: marking 50 years of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland***

(Dublin: Archaeology Ireland, for the National Monuments Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2013. 51p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780954820718. Issued as a supplement to *Archaeology Ireland*, no. 106, winter 2013)

This commemorative booklet looks back at the work of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland over the past 50 years. There are essays by Paul Walsh, Helen Lanigan Wood, Brian Duffy, Victor Buckley, Paul Gosling, Denis Power, Geraldine Stout, Michael Gibbons, John Bradley, Margaret Keane, Eamon Cody, Muiris de Buitléir, Con Brogan, Tom Condit, Gillian Barrett, and Claire Breen. A good read.

Bernadette Cunningham  
*Newly published sources and guides to sources*

***Excavations 2010: summary accounts of archaeological excavations in Ireland***

**Edited by Isabel Bennett**

**(Dublin: Wordwell, 2013. xlv, 272p. Pbk. ISBN 9781905569809. €35)**

In 2010, most excavation work in Ireland was carried out in Co. Wexford, with 160 sites reported on, mainly prompted by preparatory work on the M11 Gorey to Enniscorthy Motorway Scheme and the N25 New Ross bypass. Otherwise, Dublin and Galway dominate the year's work reported in this volume although there are summary reports on excavations in all 32 counties.

***Historic Landscape Characterisation in Ireland: best practice guidance***

**George Lambrick, Jill Hind and Ianto Wain**

**(Kilkenny: Heritage Council, 2013. 92p. Pbk. ISBN 9781906304218. No price given)**

**(Heritage Council of Ireland Series)**

This booklet issued by the Heritage Council offers guidance on the development of a process of Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) in Ireland, to assist in meeting two major international obligations, first by contributing to general landscape conservation in the light of Ireland's ratification of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) and, secondly, in the context of the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive. Landscape was defined by the ELC in 2000 as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'. Historic Landscape Characterisation is a method of identifying the contribution of the past to the landscape. It is not concerned exclusively with particular sites or monuments. It recognises the historic character, interest and value of widely different places and environments (rural, urban, coastal or marine). Historic Landscape Characterisation contributes to practical landscape management by considering how monuments and landscape patterns are related. It complements other historic environment records such as the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The Heritage Council has been advocating Historic Landscape Characterisation since 2006, and this booklet of 'best practice guidance' is a further step towards achieving this objective. It will be very familiar

territory to most members of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement.

***Letterbook of George, 16th earl of Kildare***

**Edited by Aidan Clarke and Bríd McGrath**

**(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2013. xiv, 148p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865283. €35)**

Amongst the large collection of the Leinster Papers purchased by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in 1974 from the Fitzgeralds, dukes of Leinster, there is an early seventeenth-century letterbook kept by the 16th earl of Kildare. The volume comprises mainly copies of the incoming correspondence for the years 1628 to 1634 received by George Fitzgerald, 16th earl of Kildare (1612–1656/7). A persistent theme throughout is the condition of the Kildare estates. The present edition of the letters is supplemented by a transcript of British Library, Additional MS 19,937, containing a schedule of lands in Ireland belonging to the earl of Kildare or to Lettice, granddaughter of Gerald Fitzgerald, earl of Kildare, and widow of Sir Robert Digby, but in the possession of others. The editors' introduction sets out the context of the documents. Indexes of persons and places mentioned in the texts are also supplied.

***Roderick O'Flaherty's letters to William Molyneux, Edward Lhwyd, and Samuel Molyneux, 1696–1709***

**Edited with notes and an introduction by Richard Sharpe**

**(Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2013. xix, 538p. Hbk. ISBN 9781908996046. €40)**

Fifty-seven letters between scholars interested in Ireland's natural history, Irish antiquities and learning in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries are published in full, with detailed notes, in this collection. Richard Sharpe has also provided a lengthy introduction, which offers a wide-ranging study of the intellectual and cultural world of Roderick O'Flaherty and his circle.

***The Bordeaux-Dublin letters, 1757: correspondence of an Irish community abroad***

**Edited by L.M. Cullen, John Shovlin and Thomas M. Truxes**

**(Oxford: Oxford University Press for the British Academy, 2013. xxvi, 330p. Hbk.**

**ISBN 9780197265628. £70)**

**(Records of Economic and Social History)**

Letters carried aboard a ship, the *Two Sisters of Dublin*, captured at sea in 1757, in the midst of the Seven Years War (1756–1763) are edited here. Most of the letters lay unopened for 250 years until they were rediscovered in the UK National Archives in 2011. The letters from members of the Irish community in Bordeaux and their relatives, friends and trading partners in Ireland communicate the concerns and understandings of ordinary people in a diasporic community during wartime. Written by sailors, merchants, servants, prisoners of war, priests, clerks, and many women, the letters vividly illustrate the social and economic structures of the expatriate merchant communities of the Atlantic world. They underline the central role of familial relationships in structuring commerce, and illustrate how communities were sustained across wide expanses of ocean by streams of correspondence, by favours asked and received, and by a flow of commodities, gifts, money and patronage. The letters offer access to eighteenth-century advice on parenting and glimpses of family conflict; insights on the food history of the period; a window on Irish clerical education in France; and impressions of the links sustained by members of the Huguenot community in France with relations abroad.

*Letterbook of Richard Hare, Cork merchant, 1771–1772*

Edited by James O'Shea

(Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission, 2013. xix, 277p. Hbk. ISBN 9781906865177. €35)

Some 265 correspondents, mostly in Britain, but also in Ireland, the West Indies and Europe, are represented in this Cork letterbook. While mercantile activity is obviously the main focus, there is information here, too, on properties in Cork city, and on farming and landed estates in the wider hinterland.

*Ordnance survey letters Wicklow and Carlow: letters relating to the antiquities of the Counties of Wicklow and Carlow, containing information collected during the progress of the Ordnance Survey 1838–1840*

Edited with an introduction by Michael Herity

(Dublin: Fourmasters Press, 2013. vi, 294p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781903538197. €50)

Letters dating from the winter of 1838–9 describing fieldwork on local antiquities and place-names of east Wicklow, written by Eugene O'Curry, and west Wicklow, written by John O'Donovan and Thomas O'Connor, are re-published in this volume. By the summer of 1839 the Ordnance Survey researchers were in Co. Carlow, and continued to report on their findings by letter to the superintendent of the Irish Ordnance Survey Office, Thomas Larcom. Their descriptions of the antiquities and place-names are of lasting value, and are well edited in this edition, which also includes selected antiquarian sketches incorporated by the letter writers.

*The streets of Dublin, 1910–1911*

By Alderman Thomas Kelly, TD; edited by Sheila Carden; illustrations by David Rowe (Dublin: Dublin Civic Trust, 2013. 216p. Illus. Pbk. ISBN 9780956388315. €14.99)

Written by Thomas Kelly, more than a hundred years ago, and first published in *Sinn Féin*, the Irish nationalist newspaper in 1910 and 1911, the 45 essays published here offer a fascinating insight into the history of Dublin. Kelly describes the streets and trades of the Dublin he knew. His historical essays take the reader back through the nineteenth century, and sometimes much earlier. Kelly demonstrates a particular interest in the cultural and social life of the city in the nineteenth century.

### 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.

It is an unrivalled listing of current and recent publications on Irish history, complementing the listings of articles in older Irish periodicals listed on the National Library of Ireland's 'Sources' database. 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 primary sources, and a range of library and archival resources.

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*. The online project was developed in conjunction with the Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish History. 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. (The BBIH is available on subscription from Brepols.)

Irish History Online is edited and updated by a team of voluntary editors and compilers comprising Mairín Cassidy (formerly UCD Library), Ciaran McCabe (NUI Maynooth), and Bernadette Cunningham (RIA Library). The convenor is Prof Jacqueline Hill (NUI Maynooth). Ciaran Nicholson (TCD Library) retired as a compiler of IHO in 2013 after many years of meticulous work compiling new data on monographs and collective volumes.

At the beginning of 2014 the Irish History Online database contained over 85,000 records, with new data being added every week. More than 4,000 new entries were added during 2013, mostly relating to publications of the preceding two years. 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 hosted by the Royal Irish Academy and is free to use.

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

Email: [iho@ria.ie](mailto:iho@ria.ie)

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

### Annual conference of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland 26–27th June



Queen's University Belfast is running a two-day international conference exploring the nature and development of Urban Spaces in nineteenth-century Ireland. Taking a broad view of the nineteenth century, panels are being constituted from, but not limited to, the following areas: history; architecture; geography; environmental studies; literature; politics; cultural nationalism; poetry; demography; migration; gender; childhood.

**Plenary Speakers:** Professor Roey Sweet, University of Leicester  
Professor David Dickson, Trinity College Dublin

**Conference organisers:** Dr Georgina Laragy (School of History and Anthropology)  
Dr Olwen Purdue (School of History and Anthropology)  
Dr Jonathan Wright (School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology)

For any queries please email: [urbanspaces@qub.ac.uk](mailto:urbanspaces@qub.ac.uk) Web: <http://ssnci.com>

## Historic Settlement: Trim and Meath

*Two reports on the Forty-second Annual Regional Conference of the  
Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement, Trim, 10–12 May 2013*

The Group instituted a Student bursary scheme to encourage young scholars to attend our annual conference. It was hoped that this would give talented young scholars a taste for settlement studies and bring fresh blood into our organization. In return for our modest bursary each recipient was asked to write a report on the conference that they attended. This is an interesting exercise in how each of us can perceive the same event in a slightly different way.

### Report I

The forty-second annual regional conference of the Group was held in association with the Meath Archaeological and Historical society. The Trim Castle Hotel, in the shadow of the eponymous edifice, was the venue for the conference. The focus of the conference was the historic settlement of Trim and Meath.

#### Friday 10 May 2013

Heritage Officer Loreto Guinan opened the conference by welcoming the Group to Trim on behalf of Meath County Council, reserving particular praise for the Group's engagement with local historical and heritage societies. Geraldine Stout then introduced the first session of the conference, on the theme of 'Geology and settlement'. Dr Robert Meehan, Consultant Geologist, laid the figurative groundwork for the conference with his lecture on 'The physical form of County Meath; its topography, bedrock, subsoils and soils' in which he emphasised the overriding importance of geography and geology on settlement history. Prof. Paddy Duffy (NUI Maynooth) then delivered his lecture 'Along the Boyne: settlers and settlement' which provided a natural succession to Dr Meehan's paper, turning from the geographical to the human landscape. Prof. Duffy emphasised the level of continuity in the settlement patterns of Meath, particularly the Boyne valley which he dubbed a "landscape palimpsest". The first day of the conference was brought to a close by keynote speaker Dr Michael Potterton, who tracked Trim's rise to regional predominance as the heart of the great de Lacy lordship of Meath, and the subsequent ebb in its fortunes as the centuries progressed, in his paper 'Caput: the rise and fall of medieval Trim'.

#### Saturday morning, 11 May 2013

Matt Seaver of UCD kicked off the morning with an investigation into interment practices and their relationship to settlement patterns in pre-Norman Meath entitled 'Enclosing the dead among the living: enclosed settlements and burials in early Medieval Meath AD 400–1100'. Dr Michael O'Neill followed with a study of the medieval church buildings of Co. Meath, drawing particular attention to similarities between the west front of St Patrick's cathedral in Dublin and ecclesiastical architecture at Killeen, Dunsany and elsewhere in Meath. The next session of the day saw Dr Mark Hennessy of TCD deliver a lecture on the changing fortunes and appearance of the town of Trim from the sixteenth to the early twentieth century as it went from neglected frontier town to Victorian centre of local government, before its eventual eclipse by Navan. Arnold Horner (UCD) then explored 'Architectural transition in seventeenth-century Meath' from a geographer's perspective, using maps and other evidence to trace the shift from the tower-house and other fortified dwellings to the more commodious 'Big House' of the eighteenth-century gentry; together with such associated social and settlement phenomena as the arrival of the market economy.

#### Saturday afternoon, 11 May 2013

In the afternoon the Group headed across the road for the Trim Castle workshop. David Sweetman and Alan Hayden took the Group through the phases of the castle's construction, as well as later developments, with their unparalleled knowledge of the site and an enthusiasm that was not diminished by the wet conditions.

Next on the agenda was the walking tour of Trim. Two separate tours were available to Group members, one led by Noel French and the other by Michael Potterton. The present writer opted for the latter tour, which focused on the evolution of Trim from river-crossing to regional power centre over the course of the Middle Ages. The tour had a particular focus on the town's ecclesiastical heritage, including



the striking Yellow Steeple, and on the probable location of the Patrician church of Trim, and was entertaining and informative throughout.

### **Sunday morning, 12 May 2013**

Following the Group's AGM, the first talk of the morning was delivered by historian Rachel Barrett on 'Life in the Workhouses of Co. Meath, 1838–50', aided by photographs of the current state of several Meath examples of these iconic relics of nineteenth-century Ireland. Local historian Joe Mooney then gave a paper focusing on the other end of the nineteenth-century social spectrum. 'Adapting to change: the Headfort Estates in Meath and Cavan, 1870–1928' detailed the attempts of one of the county's leading aristocratic families to deal with changing times and vagaries of fortune.

The final session of the day saw William Nolan (Geography Publications) speak on the topic of the Ráth Cairn Gaeltacht, Ireland's experiment with internal colonisation, in his paper entitled 'Making rural places: the Land Commission and Rathcairn in the 1930s.' The lecture touched on linguistic nationalism, political cronyism and folklore of the Cromwellian transplantation; it also emphasised the importance of the Land Commission in the creation of the modern Irish rural landscape, particularly in the grazier lands of Co. Meath. Geraldine Stout (Archaeological Survey of Ireland) then finished the conference by sharing the fruits of her years of labour in 'The Bective Abbey excavations'.

### **Field Trip, Sunday afternoon, 12 May 2013**

Following directly on from the final lecture, the Group was treated to a detailed tour of Bective Abbey by Geraldine Stout. Dr Stout tracked the vicissitudes in the abbey's fortunes, from original wealth to the leaner years of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries and its eventual conversion into a Tudor gentleman's dwelling. This enthusiastic and informative tour provided a satisfying and enjoyable conclusion to a highly successful conference.

Brian Coleman

GSiHS Student bursary recipient 2013

## **Report II**

The annual conference of the Group for the Study of Irish Historic Settlement was held at Trim, Co. Meath in May 2013. The seminar brought together experts from a variety of disciplines to share their insights into various aspects of historic settlement in County Meath.

Loreto Guinan, Heritage Officer for Meath County Council, opened the conference. The lectures, which took place over a three-day period, followed a chronological and thematic format. Consultant Geologist, Dr. Robbie Meehan, who spoke about prehistoric Meath, gave the initial lecture. He explored the geology of the area and set the scene for the succeeding lectures. Dr. Meehan surveyed the topography of Meath, the vast number of archaeological sites and the efforts of the nineteenth-century cartographers to map the county. This led to Professor Paddy Duffy's paper who urged the audience to 'think about landscape as a legacy imposed' which must be viewed 'in terms of layers or horizons from the prehistoric to the early medieval to the modern'. He emphasized that the demarcation of parishes and other boundaries has left territorial legacies on the landscape – representing the way in which mankind has 'carved up' the land. Professor Duffy highlighted the lasting footprint which the early medieval church had on the landscape; he cited the Round Towers as an example of this characteristic. These iconic buildings dictated the formation and layout of the medieval streets that encircled them. It is a morphology that is evident today in technologies such as Google-Earth.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Michael Potterton rounded off the evening session with a presentation on the archaeology of medieval Trim. He referred to an enthusiasm for 'digging' up Trim since 1995. The pre-Celtic Tiger years featured five excavations, whereas 115 digs were licensed after 1995. Dr. Potterton's history of the town showed how its fortunes were inextricably linked with that of the castle and how the different stages of building and rebuilding reflected the fortunes of the town.

Saturday's conference was split into three parts. The first session featured the ecclesiastical history of Meath, followed by an architectural appraisal of the county and the town, which culminated in a workshop and walking tour of medieval Trim. The first speaker in this session, IRC scholar Matt Seaver, spoke

about the relationship between settlement evidence and early medieval burial evidence. Concentrating on twelve sites, Seaver suggested that the early medieval Irish were perhaps interested in connecting with an imagined past since many of the sites in question showed a continuity of use. Architectural historian, Dr. Michael O'Neill, returned to the ecclesiastical theme in his architectural survey of the later medieval church in Meath. He drew attention to the patrons of medieval Meath who were *au fait* with contemporary building styles in Dublin and beyond, which is reflected in the ecclesiastical architecture. Before breaking for lunch Dr. Mark Hennessy and Dr. Arnold Horner continued the architectural themes. Dr. Mark Hennessy pinpointed three distinct phases in the built history of Trim – the landscape of the Elizabethan town, or the 'gap-toothed' town, that could not bear the weight of its expectations; the post-Cromwellian town, which saw a major shift in socio-economic powers; and the Georgian phase, which in Austin Cooper's words gave rise to a 'poor village' with no extensive redesign. Dr. Arnold Horner described the architectural transition of seventeenth-century Meath, emphasizing a county with a mix of the conservative and the innovative. The varied pace of change and settlement pattern, as reflected in the sources, was largely dictated by the transplantation, the conflict and the carnage of Cromwell.

Saturday afternoon was given over to a guided walk around medieval Trim (led by Dr. Michael Potterton and Noel French), and a tour of Trim Castle (given by David Sweetman and Alan Hayden). The attendees were split into four groups as each of the experts guided a group through their specialist fields, walking in the footsteps of Trim's medieval townsfolk.

Rachel Barrett opened the final day of the conference, and talked about the workhouses of nineteenth-century Meath. She detailed the national history of these institutions, which were a blight on the landscape, whilst referencing the local examples. The poor law guardians of the Trim workhouse were sympathetic to the inmates and even went against the higher authorities by purchasing meat for dinner at Christmas and Easter. Nevertheless, the situation at Trim was dire and mirrored the national picture. On the other side of the social divide were the landed gentry who were the focus of the next presentation. Through an examination of the Headfort Estate, Joe Mooney illustrated the nineteenth-century landlord / tenant relationship. The focus shifted in the penultimate paper, which was given by Professor William Nolan. In jovial style, Professor Nolan scrutinized the Land Commission of the 1930s. There were fifteen million acres of land dealt with by the Land Commission and yet no reference was ever made to the Commission by or in relation to NAMA. His case study of Rathcairn detailed a 'colony migration' to Co. Meath in which the Land Commission had transferred a Gaeltacht community to less prosperous and boggy lands of west Meath. Archaeologist, Geraldine Stout, presented the final lecture. As a precursor to our afternoon tour of Bective Abbey, Geraldine Stout gave us a lively run through of the excavations that took place there over a three-year period. She discussed the impact of an individual monument on the greater landscape, the motivations of the Cistercians in Ireland and the monastic and secular life of the abbey precincts. The heavy clouds and rainfall on that afternoon did not darken the afternoon visit to the Abbey.

Rhiannon Carey Bates

GSiHS Student bursary recipient 2013



## Reflections on Heritage Week

*Contributions by GSIHS: Howard Clarke, 'Politics, sex and violence in the suburbs of medieval Dublin' and Ruth McManus, 'Making a home in early 20th century Dublin: servants, lodgers and the respectable classes'*

As a keen supporter of Heritage week over a number of years I look forward to seeing the event guide each summer. By flicking through the pages of the brochure or searching the on-line version it is possible to make decisions about events, places and lectures that appeal. Visitors may have become accustomed to various sites over the years, but by the inclusion of events or lectures during Heritage Week, familiar sites can have new appeal. Alternatively, societies can hold events and lectures that can introduce subjects or themes to a more general audience. Heritage Week allows individuals who have an interest in heritage, culture and local history have access to lectures where the speakers are experts in their particular fields.

The *Group for the study of Irish historic settlement* organised their Heritage Week programme in the premises of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland in Dublin's Merrion Square and for me this was the highlight of Heritage Week 2013. This event appealed because it brought the two disciplines of history and geography together. As a person who attends talks on Medieval Dublin, Howard Clarke was familiar to me. His lecture entitled 'Politics, sex and violence in the suburbs of medieval Dublin' was adapted from a lecture he had given some years earlier. Clarke was followed by Ruth McManus, whose lecture was entitled 'Making a home in early 20th century Dublin: servants, lodgers and the respectable classes'. The appeal of these topics, but more especially the speakers, is what drew me to the *Irish historic settlement* event. So much so, that friends with similar interests, decided to attend also.

Howard Clarke's lecture, as already mentioned, was based on an earlier version of a commemorative lecture given in 2003 entitled 'The four parts of the city, high life and low life in the suburbs of medieval Dublin'. He began by describing the topography and morphology of medieval Dublin to give context to the rest of the lecture. By the introduction of documented characters he gave life to the medieval city of Dublin where real people lived and went about their daily lives. He cited several examples of medieval crime and the element of 'sex' was in the form of prostitution, which surely existed, but not documented in a Dublin setting. By way of comparison Howard's description of nocturnal boat-trips along the London Thames was quite humorous. This lecture brought the medieval city of Dublin to life but more especially its citizens, and spurred me on to locate a copy of the original 2003 lecture for perusal. For anyone interested in imagining medieval Dublin and society at that time, it is a good read.

Howard Clarke was followed by Ruth McManus who transported the audience from medieval Dublin to Dublin of a century ago. Earlier Howard Clarke had discussed 'suburbs' as places where the medieval city had more or less overflowed beyond the city walls. McManus continued the theme of 'suburbs' by choosing to discuss the emerging suburbs of the late 19th century where white collar workers began setting up home. She picked Drumcondra in the north of the city as a case study with particular reference to Hollybank Road. McManus discussed the middle-class of the area and the live-in servants and boarders who shared their homes. McManus made reference to *Mrs. Beeton's book of household management* (London, 1907) and the *Every woman's encyclopaedia* (London, 1910) which caught my attention. Both these large volumes are available to read on line at [archive.org](http://archive.org) and are worth investigating for anyone interested in seeing what middle-class women were reading one hundred years ago. By looking at contemporary sources McManus was able to piece together the story of middle-class Dubliners and their lives. Her selection of Hollybank Road in Drumcondra as a case study and the picture it presented could be transferred to similar roads across the city.

I thoroughly enjoyed both the lectures that the *Group for the study of Irish historic settlement* organised for Heritage Week 2013. These lectures were informative as well as enjoyable and provided the opportunity for people with similar interests to get together and listen to experts discuss topics they are passionate about and enjoy a coffee afterwards. I look forward to seeing what's planned for Heritage Week 2014.

Teresa Kennedy  
MA Student  
Department of History  
NUI Maynooth

## Reviews

### *The Jacobean plantations in seventeenth-century Offaly: an archaeology of a changing world*

James Lyttleton

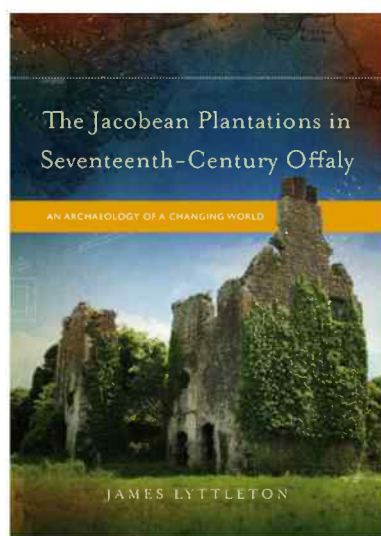
(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2013. 344p. Hbk. ISBN 978-1-84682-492. Cat. €55.00, Web €49.50, Pbk. ISBN 978-1-84682-393. Cat. €29.95, Web €26.95)

### *Medieval Dublin XIII: Proceedings of the Friends of Medieval Dublin Symposium 2011*

Edited by Seán Duffy

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2013. 332p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9871846823893. Cat. €50, Web €45., Pbk. ISBN 9871846823909. Cat. €24.95, Web €22.45)

In an earlier, more heroic, age the distinction between archaeologists and historians was a clear one. The historians' hands were soiled only by the dust from lesser used collections of papers while archaeologists positively revelled in the mess of excavation and the cross country traverse. Historians worried about the world occupied by the literate who could compose carefully phrased documents while archaeologists dealt with the fragments of pottery belonging to pre-literate societies. Documents revealed nuanced patterns of change over short periods of frenetic activity while archaeological chronology was measured in grand sweeps of not less than a thousand years. Much has now changed. Archaeologists now delve into literate worlds, read documents and try, not always successfully, to construct narrow chronologies. Not even nineteenth-century Ireland is safe from the archaeologist's spade as pioneered by Charles Orser. To prove that all this is valid, 'historical archaeology' has acquired the trappings of a discipline in the form of the *Cambridge companion to historical archaeology* (2006) although it still waits to be raised to 'Oxford companion' status.

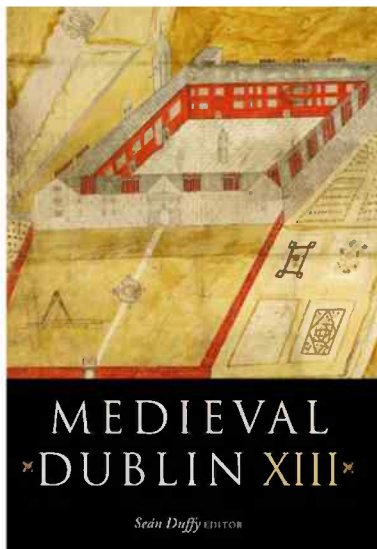


James Lyttleton's work is a product of this attempt to blend the techniques of the archaeologist and the historian in an examination of English colonisation in Offaly in the early seventeenth century. Fittingly the book falls, broadly, into two parts. The first three chapters, on the ideology of plantation, the practicalities of settlement and the resulting landscape, are largely the result of reading the secondary literature on seventeenth-century colonisation. The following four chapters, the main section of the book, are the result of reading the buildings created within this context of colonisation. These deal with the tower house, the fortified house, the 'ordinary' house and the remains of the church. Since James Lyttleton is by training an archaeologist the more accomplished part of this volume is the second part. Perhaps the most impressive chapter in the volume is that on the house in early modern Offaly which opens up a whole new world of the appearance of the early modern farmhouse and the relationship between domestic architecture and social life. The rise of privacy and the triumph of 'civil society' are central features of the seventeenth-century experience and are well treated here. These might be linked with the ideas of death and burial discussed elsewhere in the volume. One area touched on in this volume but certainly worthy of further exploration is the furnishing of many of these fairly modest houses, often recorded in the 1641 depositions. Again the magnificent inventory of Geashill from 1628 provides evidence of how the opposite end of the social spectrum furnished their houses.

This is a pioneering book and it carries all the problems of such a work. The archaeologist's love of theory, with sweeping perspectives of the complexities of colonisation and religious change, may not endear him to the historian, many of whom prefer the local and the specific to generalisations about colonisation. Again historians may have problems with the idea of 'gendered' buildings (pp 86–93, 151–3) while the rise of theory in archaeology makes this a reasonable way to consider structures. However, for all these quibbles the reality is that nothing exists at this level of synthesis or detailed exposition of the plantation archaeology and society for other parts of the country. Historians will want more documents and greater precision in the concepts used while most archaeologists will demand more gendering and landscape context. This is a brave attempt to make the two sides of the discussion meet. Sir Moses

Finlay once set down the criteria for success for any historical work : ‘does it stimulate reflection and bring one closer to understanding?’ This book certainly does.

Since 2000 the Friends of Medieval Dublin have produced an annual volume, edited by Seán Duffy, based on the proceedings of their annual seminar and published by Four Courts Press. Over the years the project has prospered, growing from a relatively modest book of just over 230 pages in 2000 to a much more substantial one of some 330 pages in its, lucky for some, thirteenth volume. In all some 3,500 pages have been generated by almost 130 contributors on the workings of medieval Dublin. These contributors have come from a wide range of backgrounds: historians, archaeologists, geographers, literature scholars and architectural historians have all graced the pages of the series. Some were scholars at the top of their field (a few such as Phil Connolly, Jim Lydon and Leo Swan are no longer here) while those starting out can boast of beginning their distinguished careers in the pages of the medieval Dublin series. Editing such a diverse group of people, akin to herding white mice in the snow, is no mean feat and it is a tribute to Seán Duffy that many of those who have written for the series have contributed more than one essay with Linzi Simpson taking the title of ‘mother’ of medieval Dublin, having contributed to almost every volume of the series (*Medieval Dublin II* being the exception).



The result of all this is a corpus of material on the medieval world in accessible form that, to the best of my knowledge, no other European city can match. It is a project with which the editor, contributors and Dublin City Council can be justly proud to have been associated. The secret of the series is its eclectic nature. In the early years as the Celtic bulldozer redeveloped sites across the city the series became the home for excavation reports that otherwise may never have seen the light of day. In more tranquil days the emphasis has shifted to more reflective historical work. In the first two volumes roughly half the essays reported on recent archaeological excavations while in the present volume historians have ousted the archaeologists since there is only one archaeological essay on some rather small scale works at Trinity College, Dublin. However even this, the most recent volume, continues the eclectic character of the series. *Medieval Dublin* has always taken a broad view of its subject, faring out from the city into the county or diocese when it was deemed necessary and into the early modern period when it

was thought profitable. This volume is no exception since there are essays on the church lands of the diocese of Dublin (although the map on p. 82 seems to have lost its legend explaining the significance of the different types of shading) and examinations of how early modern Dubliners wrote the story of the battle of Clontarf and how the same people remembered the story of ‘Black Monday’ in 1209. Most of the essays restrict themselves to a more familiar medieval chronology with the Vikings on one side of Clontarf and mercantile and religious themes on the other. One unusual innovation in this volume is an essay by the distinguished architect and historian of Irish urban morphology, Niall McCullough that considers what might be done (but has not yet been begun) with the archaeological landscape of the Ship Street-Werburgh Street area.

I have not discussed individual contributions in any detail and those who wish to know exactly what the volume contains will find a short outline in the ‘Notices of recently published books’ section in this newsletter. Overall this volume is another triumph for the series. For those who have collected the series since its inception this a worthy addition to the shelf. For those who have not been assembling a collection of this unique resource for the medieval city this volume makes a good place to start with a well-designed and attractively produced volume, the paperback of which is keenly priced.

Raymond Gillespie  
NUI Maynooth



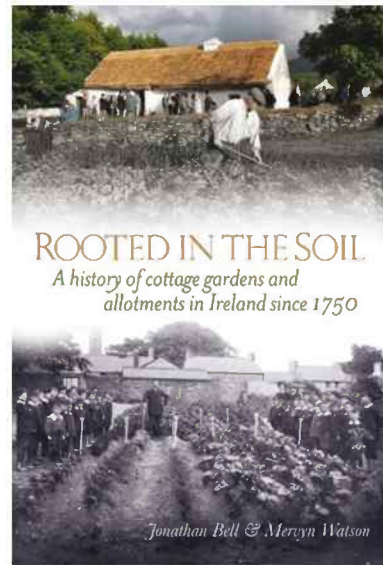
***Rooted in the soil: a history of cottage gardens and allotments in Ireland since 1750***

Jonathan Bell and Mervyn Watson

(Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2012), 224p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 978-1-84682-326-8. Cat. €45.00, Web €40.50, Pbk. ISBN 978-1-84682-327-5. Cat. €24.95, Web €22.45)

In recent years having an allotment was a fashionable appendage to Celtic Tiger living, and for a time it seemed that the urban middle classes were willing to dirty their hands and produce food for their own table, at least in small quantities. But whether this fashion has weathered the recession which followed is still a moot point. For many years since the Second World War, allotment or cottage gardening had become a hobby rather than a normal way of life for many small tenant farmers, labourers, cottiers and townspeople. It is timely therefore that this book by Jonathan Bell, head curator in the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, and Mervyn Watson, a former curator at the same institution, has been produced. The book is no doubt a by-product of their other book, *A history of Irish farming* (2008).

Although the book's title suggests that this survey begins in mid-eighteenth-century Ireland, very little is produced from this period, which is a pity as there are a number of sources that might have been drawn upon. Instead, the book is firmly rooted in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and here is where its strength lies. The first chapter sets the tone by outlining the debate which simmered throughout the whole period about whether it was desirable to encourage small allotments and gardens. On the one hand, it was thought that small gardens could provide food enough for the table of a labourer's family, and thereby avoid the threat of shortage, while also providing an antidote for the perceived laziness believed to be inherent in the Irish peasant classes. By doing so, it created a healthy, self-confident group. On the other, encouraging gardening of this sort created a dependency, and consumed time which distracted from a man's normal work. Others argued that the countryside would be beggared and over populated were cottiers provided with plots. The authors demonstrate how the first view became ascendant in the aftermath of the 1840's Famine with the decimation of the cottier class, and the subsequent political and social debates about land reform.



© Four Courts Press

The arguments offered by agriculturalists, horticulturists and other commentators encouraged many to experiment. Among them was the prolific writer Martin Doyle, who produced numerous articles and books about the application of horticultural principles to the cultivation of small gardens. His ideas echoed developments in England, where in 1830, the Labourer's Friend Society had been founded to organise the allotment movement. In 1836 a branch was established in Wexford with the objective of improving the labourer's condition and the dissemination of agricultural information among the poor. This was the first of many initiatives of its kind. Experiments too were undertaken; especially those at Ralahine Co. Clare in the 1830s, where the landlord John Scott Vandeleur attempted to create a co-operative, self-sufficient settlement, and by Lord Clonbrock in Roscommon, but the long-term results were disappointing. Nevertheless, the authors argue that these early initiatives prepared the ground for future growth. Indeed it seems that societies, such as the Dublin's Vacant Land Cultivation Society (1910), the Mount Street Club (1934), and Belfast's Christian Civic Union, took the lead long before local and state authorities were enticed to do so. Through their lobbying, local corporations in the Irish Free State were given the power in 1926 to provide public allotments.

The authors provide convincing evidence to suggest that these societies produced beneficial results, particularly in attracting unemployed men in the first half of the twentieth century to embrace the activity. The three decades leading to the First World War was the heyday for allotment gardening. Although in decline thereafter, the economic isolation of the country during the Second World War encouraged a significant, though short-lived revival. In Belfast the number of allotments doubled, from 1,000 prior to the war to 2,200 at its end, while in Dublin the number grew from 3,496 to about 8,000 in the same period. In 1942, 3,600 acres were cultivated for vegetable and fruit growing across the Irish Free State. Urban expansion destroyed many designated allotments, though some planners saw the benefit of providing green space within housing schemes for gardens, inspired by the 'garden city'

principles developed in Britain. With the emergence of the supermarket from the 1960s and 1970s, the allotment became less of a necessity as food became cheaper.

While much literature was produced and classes held on how, when and what to cultivate, the reality was that many, if not most, cottage gardens produced a limited range of vegetables. The potato consumed most of the ground, and to a lesser extent cabbages and turnips. Horticulturists and teachers lamented the contrast with the English garden, which produced all sorts of fruits and vegetables. The authors investigate the role of agricultural schools, initially established through private initiatives, and later by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, as well as the slow development of horticulture within the national school curriculum, though they reserve their opinion on whether these schemes were ultimately successful or not.

The book identifies the physical, social, moral and psychological arguments used in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to encourage gardening on small plots. Far from being a solitary activity, the book highlights the strong co-operative and communal basis in which many schemes operated. In doing so the authors have drawn on a disparate range of sources, for which they must be congratulated. Although at times dense with information on implements and techniques, what is revealed is a deep knowledge of the subject, without which the book might have lacked grit. The book will not only entice the gardener from his plot on those wet and lazy days, but will also attract those interested in how the seemingly innocuous activity of tilling the soil can be bound up in social and ideological questions.

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### ***Medieval and monastic Derry: sixth century to 1600***

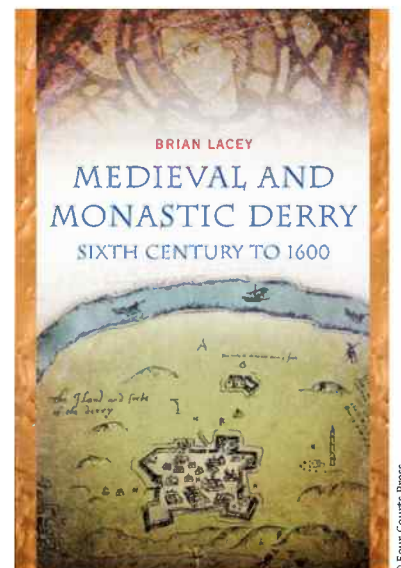
Brian Lacey

(Dublin: Four Courts, 2013. x, 166p. Illus. Hbk. ISBN 9781846823831. €24.95, Web €22.45)

I have learned more about my native city of Derry and the county of Donegal from the works of Brian Lacey than from anyone else. Brian's magisterial *Archaeological Survey of County Donegal* published in 1983 brought him into contact with every inch of the County, giving him a unique insight into the topography and monuments of the area that was the natural hinterland of Derry.

This book traces the history of Derry from its origins up to its capture by Sir Henry Docwra in 1600. It was from this point onwards that Derry assumed the shape with which we are familiar today. The first chapter deals with the physical location of Derry. While it is not immediately obvious, the city sits upon what had been, in prehistoric times, an island in the river Foyle. The area lying beneath the city walls on the west side is known as the 'Bogside' and throughout the middle ages and into modern times this was a wet marsh that could only be crossed at two points. This was a former channel of the river that had silted up. The earliest name of the island was *Daire Calgaig*, 'the Oak wood of Calgach'. Brian suggests that this man was the father of Tipraite whose death is recorded in the Iona annals in 595 AD. If this attribution is correct Calgach was a member of the Cenél nÉnnai and his secular fortification was probably on the island.

The shadowy kingdom of the Cenél nÉnnai lay between the Foyle and Lough Swilly from east to west and from Raymoghly or Rateen in east Donegal to the line of mountains from Derry through Holywell Hill to the north. The more famous Cenél Conaill (Columba's people) were to the south of the Cenél nÉnnai and conquered their territory, including the 'island' of Derry c.578 AD. To the north of Derry in the Inishowen peninsula was the kingdom of Cenél nEógain – who were in the process of expanding across the Foyle into Co. Derry and who were eventually to give their name to Tír Eóghain (Tyrone). Brian suggests that the grant of Derry to the church followed the conquest of the area by the Cenél Conaill making it a border monastery.



Chapter 2 deals with the legend surrounding the foundation of the church of Derry. We all grew up in Derry in the sound knowledge that Colum Cille founded the monastery. The rebuilt church of the Long Tower (dedicated on Sunday 30 May 1909) told the story in magnificent stain glass windows, and slabs in the floor indicated the position of the earlier churches on the site. Brian takes the legend (in its medieval and modern version) apart and explains how it came into existence and for what reasons. In chapter 10, 'Memorializing and reinterpreting Columban Derry', the development of the legend is discussed in depth and read against the aspirations of both the Catholic and Protestant traditions. It would seem that 'Despite a formidable ancient and modern tradition, contemporary historical evidence does not support either a 545/6 date for the establishment of the monastery or the identification of Columba as its founder' (p. 23). The earliest annalistic reference to Derry is in 619 AD (Mc Carthy's corrected date), recording the death of Fiachra son of Ciarán, glossed in other annals as the 'other founder of Derry'. He was a nephew of the Cenél Conaill king, Áed mac Ainmirech and a second cousin, once removed, of Colum Cille himself. If he was the founder of the church then it was part of the Cenél Conaill appropriation of the site.

There is an uncertain reference in the annals to Derry in 669 AD. In 724 AD the death of Caech Scuili *scriba* of Derry is recorded. This entry shows that by the early eighth century Derry had a school and a scholar of high rank. The only other entry for the eighth century is the burning of *Daire Calgaigh* in 788 AD. This burning may have been deliberate as part of a military campaign that culminated in the defeat of the Cenél Conaill in the battle of *Clóitech* (Clady on river Finn in Co. Tyrone) in 789 AD. They were now confined to the area south of the Barnesmore Gap. In 833 the Cenél nEógain defeated the Vikings at *Daire Calgaigh* showing that they were the new overlords of the area. In 882 Muirchertach son of Niall (almost certainly Niall Caille, king of Tara who died in 846) died as abbot of *Daire Calgaigh* and other 'cities'. Clearly Derry was the head of a confederation of churches at this time and closely associated with secular authorities. Brian sees this as the beginning of significant change in the monastery particularly since there follows a sequence of heads of the church there to whom is given the title *princeps*, 'head', 'governor' – a term used into the twelfth century.

Brian is sceptical of the association of Cináed son of Domnall (died 921) with Derry since he is a member of the Cenél Conaill. But such scepticism may be unnecessary. The Cenél Conaill were still a powerful force and had ambitions to regain their former dominance. This was realized briefly during the reign of Ruaidrí ua Canannáin, high-king 944–50 AD. They were clearly powerful enough to take advantage of the death of the Cenél nEógain king, Niall Glúndub, in 919 and Cináed's abbacy in Derry may be an indication of their growing power. I would suggest that the same reasoning applies to Caencomhrac son of Maeluidhir, bishop and abbot who died in 927. Reeves showed his descent from the south Donegal Cenél mBogaine and I think this is likely to be correct. The death notice of Adhlann son of Éichneach son of Dálach in 952 describes him as *comarbha* of 'Daire Colaim Chille'. This is the first time that this name is used of Derry in the annals. Adhlann was a member of the Síl Lugdach who were now infiltrating the original homeland of Cenél Conaill north of Barnesmore and claiming Colum Cille as their saint. Much of the succeeding propaganda is concerned with this association.

With the rise of the Cenél nEógain king, Domnall ua Lochlainn, Cenél Conaill aspirations were put on hold. He made Derry his capital. The political tension between the Cenél nEógain and the Cenél Conaill, it is argued, prevented Derry from becoming the seat of any diocese until the middle of the thirteenth century. Under Mac Lochlainn patronage, however, Derry prospered. It succeeded Kells at the head of the Columban organization led by the great scholar Flaithbertach Ó Brolcháin. During the twelfth century it 'must have been as close to being a town as anything was in Gaelic Ireland' (p. 149). The Mac Lochlainn power finally collapsed in the 1240s. A compromise between the Cenél Conaill and the Mac Lochlainns was worked out by about 1180, and following their political demise they held office in Derry until the end of the Middle Ages.

Nothing came of a plan by the de Burghs in the early fourteenth century to develop a town there. By 1500 the Uí Dochartaigh built a castle in the town for their overlords the Uí Domhaill kings of Cenél Conaill, and a pilgrimage brought much economic advantage. The capture of the town by the English during the war with Shane O'Neill brought about the dissolution of the religious houses and the destruction of the *Tempull Mór*. The life of the medieval town ended with the arrival of Sir Henry Dowcra in 1600.

This is a beautifully written and well-illustrated book. It is thought provoking in line with the author's previous work and he and Four Courts are to be congratulated on another fine production.

Charles Doherty / Editor / Áitreabh



# Monastic Ireland AD 1100–1700: landscape and settlement

Keith Smith

(with the assistance of Elaine Periera Farrell and Annejulie Lafaye)



**Figure 1** The Cistercian abbey at Jerpoint (southwestern view)

**M**onastic Ireland: *landscape and settlement* is a collaborative research project that seeks to clarify how monasteries and friaries founded between AD 1100 and 1700 shaped the distribution and form of Irish urban and rural settlement. The aim of the project is to analyse the role played by monastic communities in developing settlements, and their part in the colonisation and social control of already established populations, in the context of broader trends across Europe. The particularly rich survival of archaeological, architectural and documentary sources in Ireland means that the Irish evidence is ideally placed within the vibrant arena of European monastic studies to answer key questions relevant to the Europe as a whole.

The project is led by Dr Rachel Moss, with Dr Edel Bhreathnach and Dr Malgorzata Krasnodebska-D'Aughton as co-investigators, representing a collaboration between TCD, the Discovery Programme and UCC. Dr Anne Julie Lafaye has been appointed as post-doctoral researcher and Dr Elaine Pereira Farrell and Dr Keith Smith as research assistants.

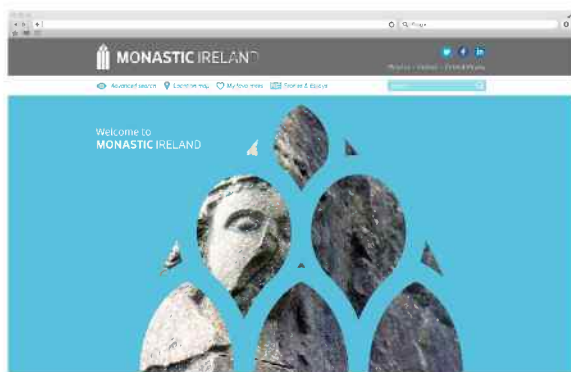
**Phase 1** of the project, funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Fáilte Ireland and UCD seed funds since 2010, set out to create a digital humanities resource which has successfully assembled a comprehensive base of data (historical synopses, image archives, primary source transcriptions and tourist information) of up to 300 monastic houses in Ireland. This part of the project has been led by Dr Bhreathnach, with Dr Moss and Dr Malgorzata-D'Aughton as co-investigators and Dr Smith as the research assistant, with Ciaran Fitzpatrick as the graphic designer. Dr Niamh Nic Ghabhannn, University of Limerick, spent the first eighteen months developing the project. Phase 1 will be available on the dedicated Monastic Ireland website ([www.monastic.ie](http://www.monastic.ie)) in a manner that will make it usable by all levels of user – from academic, to cultural tourist, to primary and secondary schools. Phase 1 has been supported by the Monastic Wales project ([www.monasticwales.com](http://www.monasticwales.com)), which was developed by Prof. Janet Burton (University of Trinity St Davids, Lampeter), Dr Karen Stöber (University of Lleida, Catalunya) and Dr Julie Kerr (University of St Andrews).

**Phase 2** of the project is funded by the Irish Research Council and, building upon the existing work, will expand the research dimension of Phase 1. It is envisaged that the researchers will combine

more traditional desk-based study and field observation with new geo-spatial technologies not usually harnessed in the disciplines of art history and history. Digital surveying techniques, including LiDAR and geophysical survey and scanning techniques, have the potential to reveal subtle changes in building fabric, and evidence of settlement not visible to the naked eye. This will provide new information, which will complement and clarify more traditional sources, research and teaching methods. The key themes covered in this phase will focus on the twelfth-century transformation of monasticism in Ireland, the spread and influence of the 'new' orders in Ireland and the Dissolution and later survival.

### Monastic Studies in Ireland to date

Medieval monasticism has been subject to re-evaluation in recent years. In light of international interest in the field, a number of collaborative projects have been established to promote new scholarly debates. In 2012, Brepols launched *The Journal of Medieval Monastic Studies* (JMMS) edited by Prof. Janet Burton and Dr Karen Stöber. The Monastic Wales project, led by Prof. Burton and Dr Stöber, seeks to establish a comprehensive monastic history of medieval Wales, and has led to the creation of a database and website intended for use as both a research and educational resource. It was the model on which the Monastic Ireland project was based. The Irish project draws also on the scholarship currently being directed by Prof. Eva Schlottheuber (University of Düsseldorf), Dr Neslihan Senocak (Columbia University), Dr Colum Hourihane (Princeton, Index of Christian Art) and a range of other European projects.



**Figure 2** Monastic Ireland website homepage ([www.monastic.ie](http://www.monastic.ie))

Monastic Ireland will progress beyond existing work of earlier eminent scholars who worked on the history of Irish monasticism, the religious orders and their archaeological and architectural legacy. Aubrey Gwynn and Neville Hadcock's *Medieval Religious houses: Ireland* (1970) is an invaluable resource when studying Irish monastic foundations, providing details for each foundation, together with the primary and secondary sources available. Harold G. Leask's *Irish churches and monastic buildings*, in three volumes (1955–60), is still an essential point of reference for monastic architecture. Diane Hall's *Women and the church in medieval Ireland* (2003) is a useful survey of

medieval nunneries in Ireland, both historically and materially. Hall's work also serves as an important balance to the historiography, given the predominance of the male orders in the scholarly tradition. For the mendicant orders, Colmán Ó Clabaigh's *The friars in Ireland, 1224–1540* (2012) offers the most complete survey to date concerning the four mendicant orders in Ireland, dealing with their history, lifestyle and settlements. Further recent research includes the 'Reconstructions of the Gothic Past' project, led by Prof. Roger Stalley and Dr Rachel Moss in TCD ([https://www.tcd.ie/History\\_of\\_Art/research/centres/triarc/rgp/](https://www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/research/centres/triarc/rgp/)). This has provided students and scholars with an online academic resource of gothic architecture in Ireland. The Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies Monasticon Hibernicum project, offers an equally comprehensive bibliographical and data resource for early medieval monasticism in Ireland and compliments the work of the Monastic Ireland project ([www.monasticon.ie](http://www.monasticon.ie)).

### Research Questions & Modules of the Irish Research Council project

#### 1. Transformation from the late eleventh to the thirteenth centuries

Although Ireland had various monastic traditions and a rigorous vein of asceticism, particularly represented in the so-called *Céli Dé* movement, from the sixth century, the Irish church went through a process of religious renewal and institutional reformulation, inspired by a wider European phenomenon, from the mid-eleventh century. Scholars who have contributed greatly to our knowledge of these transformations in Ireland include Aubrey Gwynn and in recent years Marie Therese Flanagan, who has re-assessed written sources, such as royal charters, conciliar acta and liturgical texts to shed new light on this period.

A number of issues remain unanswered, some of sources (e.g. sermons) have not been explored in depth and local studies are still incomplete. Besides, archaeological, architectural and iconographic investigations are essential to this equation. Consequently, it is the aim of *Monastic Ireland* to produce case studies of specific settlements and clusters of foundations through a multi-disciplinary approach. The initial focus will be on Leinster and in particular on places such as Baltinglass, Casteldermot, Drogheda, Ferns, Glendalough, Kildare and Naas. This module will focus on late eleventh to thirteenth century and will investigate the fate of pre-Norman monastic settlements and their communities, if particular orders were more likely to settle at these sites (e.g. the Canons Regular) and how existing ecclesiastical structures persisted – or otherwise – into the late medieval period. Did tensions arise over ownership of ecclesiastical estates between ‘old’ monastic communities and incomers such as the Cistercians? In addition, the landscape of worship and pastoral care will be examined. With the expansion of the cult of Mary and continental saints into Ireland, were the Irish saints still being venerated? Were there two strands of saints’ cults: the cults of the holy well and the chantry chapel? How did the new diocesan structure and the arrival of the new orders impact the provision of pastoral care? This module will be conducted by Drs Bhreathnach and Farrell.

## 2. The spread of the ‘New Orders’ and their interface with local politics and social provision

The creation and the success of the mendicant orders in the thirteenth century marked a time of great changes across western Christendom. The Church had been struggling to respond to the new spiritual needs of ever growing urban populations, and was facing the internal crisis and the threat of heresy. The mendicant orders were able to answer these needs; they chose to settle in urban areas, where they could reach larger populations, preaching and providing pastoral care, as well as having access to the alms and donations they relied on to live. Their success was undeniable, and in Ireland it was no different.

What was different however, was both the political and demographic context they encountered: lesser urbanisation and smaller settlements, but also a thriving Anglo-Norman colony, with growing existing towns and the founding of numerous new ones. Invaluable work has been achieved about the history of the orders and the architecture of their remains here, but when telling the story of the friars in Ireland, traditionally the focus has been on the two-nation narrative of thirteenth-century urban, Anglo-Norman foundations against a different strand of fifteenth-century rural, Gaelic ones. This approach has lacked a multi-disciplinary dimension and also contextualisation drawing on the evidence in Britain and Europe. This second module will introduce a new approach to the study of the new orders in Ireland, looking at their interface with local politics and social provision, in the wider context of their settlements elsewhere. This will combine detailed historical and archaeological research into medieval sites throughout Ireland – which survive in greater numbers and in better condition than in many countries. It will also include a study of the nunneries founded in Ireland during this period, as female communities have often been left out of the narrative when it comes to the role of religious orders and their settlements in medieval Ireland.

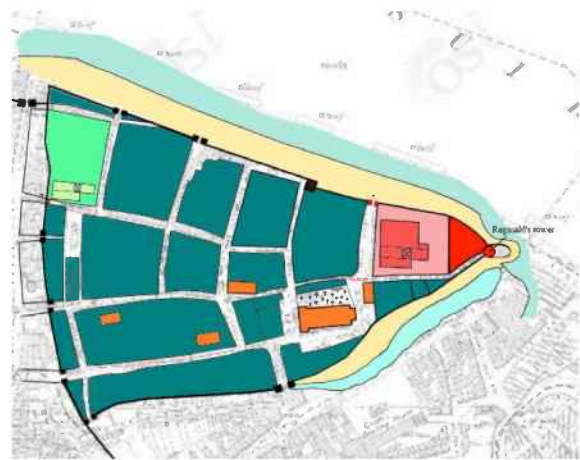


Figure 3 Plan of medieval Waterford City

As part of the module, the project will study the landscape setting of religious houses located in boroughs and cities: to what degree did they influence urban morphology (and by association social control) and can these patterns be traced elsewhere? The attention will also turn onto the landscape of ‘rural’ mendicant friaries: what were the factors that drove their foundation in certain areas and how were similar factors accounted for in other regions of Britain and Europe? How can these seemingly rural friaries inform our knowledge of more ephemeral aspects of settlement and religious practice both leading up to, and following the Dissolution? Finally, the module will also look into issues of space



and liturgy, with a study of the landscape of liturgy and pastoral care: what can material and iconographic elements within friary and monastery churches tell us about the liturgical and spiritual life of monks, friars, patrons and the general populace? This module will be conducted by Dr Malgorzata Krasnodebska-D'Aughton and Dr Annejulie Lafaye.

### 3. The Dissolution and survival: the fate of the monastic houses 1540–1740

While the focus of the previous modules centres upon the early years of Irish monasticism and the later development of various forms of monasticism and religious life in Ireland, the third module addresses the most turbulent period in this history of the religious orders in Ireland, beginning with the Dissolution of the monasteries in the 1540s and culminating with the height of the Penal Laws c.1740. It was during this period that the relationships developed between religious communities and their patrons were tested to breaking point. The powerful Irish and Old English Catholic families became embroiled in struggles against the Protestant crown administration in Ireland to maintain their power and preserve their status. As religious identity became intrinsically linked with politics, the religious orders and their foundations became physical manifestations of Catholic power and reminders of a shared history. However, this proved to be a double edged sword, as they also became focal points for crown aggression and suppression.



**Figure 4** Mary Maguire Chalice of 1633 and paten. (Image courtesy of Fr Allan Savage and the Trustees of St Patrick's parish, Québec City, Canada)

Module 3 will examine this most destructive and challenging of periods for the monastic orders in Ireland. The first consideration is the use of monastic structures for defence and administration. This will explore the use of some abbeys and priories as centres for estate management, the transformation of urban friaries into administrative buildings or military barracks, in tandem with the continued existence of religious orders throughout the country with a view to establishing which buildings were selected and how they were adapted or preserved.

Further strands of the research project will examine the material culture of the religious orders in an effort to understand the extent of continued patronage and protection of the religious communities. It will also be used to get a clearer picture of the support network in Ireland and on continental Europe, while also revealing the ability of the orders to return to their foundations, or at least nearby, after periods of persecution and enforced exile. The role of internationally based Galway merchant families and perseverance of local protectors and benefactors is an important facet of this study. This cultural and social perspective will reveal a great deal about the hidden histories of the religious communities at the breaking of Catholic power in Ireland in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. This module will be conducted by Dr Rachel Moss and Dr Keith Smith.

### Monastic Ireland Website and Database

The fundamental aim of the Monastic Ireland website is to provide visitors with access to educational, practical and entertaining information on a range of monastic sites throughout Ireland, which has been researched to an academic standard. This information will be accompanied by collections of images (photographs and antiquarian pictures) specific to each site, which will present the user with an entertaining and reliable introduction to Irish medieval sites. In addition, the database will be an image and textual resource for scholars once the detailed metadata is entered for all sites.

A key element of the website will be simplicity and ease of navigation. The home page will feature a simple map of Ireland together with search facilities. The map is interactive and the selection of an individual county will open a new page with a grid of the existing religious houses. The search options will allow users to search by province, county, religious order, artistic feature or a general 'a-z' search. Selecting each of these will open a drop down menu allowing further specification. Upon selection, the user will be taken to a new page with the same grid of relevant religious foundations.

Selection of the specific site will open up the section devoted to the individual foundation. Each religious site included in the website will centre upon its own ground plan, which will allow clear and easy access to all available texts and images associated with the site. This 'visitor' friendly layer of the website will be easily navigable and will serve as an onsite tour guide, outlining the history of the religious foundation, important individual and key historical events associated with the site. It will seek to educate the visitor of the foundation's past and also highlight architectural and artistic features of note, detailing the location and significance of the object, while providing other images associated with it and suggesting other similar items of interest on site.

A second 'educational' layer will be added in due course. This will comprise of a practical information and material that would be suitable for school groups, local history societies, etc. Dr Smith is working on this part of the project in collaboration with Dr Danielle O'Donovan, 'Bridge 21 Project', TCD.

A further 'academic' layer will provide a substantial bibliography for each site, as well as a list of archival sources, antiquarian images, early photographs held in libraries or archives together with links to the website's own image database and collection of essays from leading scholars in the field. Looking to [www.gothicpast.com](http://www.gothicpast.com), a good example of open-source software being used to create digital resources for the study of medieval Irish architecture, the database and website will be created using the same Omeka free open source software. Rather than using a custom-made content management system, Omeka will go some way to allow for future changes and sustainable development of the data. The initial aim of the project is to have the website launched and initially featuring twenty well-known sites by the summer of 2014. A remaining sixty sites will be entered by end of 2014.



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

Sarah Gearty, Cartographic editor



**Figure 1** General Post Office, O'Connell Street, Dublin and surrounding area, 1847, Ordnance Survey, 1:1056 (National Library of Ireland)

## Dublin, part III, 1756 to 1847

The next publication from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA), Royal Irish Academy (RIA) will be no. 26, 'Dublin, part III, 1756 to 1847' by Rob Goodbody. Highlights of this fascicle will include detailed reconstruction maps of the city in 1847 at 1:2500 and 1:5000; a reproduction of the four-sheet revision by Bernard Scalé (1773) of John Rocque's large-scale survey of 1756; and select maps from the Wide Streets Commission (Dublin City Library and Archives) and Longfield collections (National Library of Ireland). The text section will include the usual topographical information, which currently contains details of over 10,000 sites for Dublin city including about 2,800 street histories. This long-awaited publication is due to be released and launched in Autumn 2014.

## Dublin 1847: city of the Ordnance Survey

The large-scale Ordnance Survey town plans (1:1056) are central to the forthcoming Dublin atlas. The first printed edition of the plans of 1847 in 33 sheets form the endpoint of the part III fascicle. Frank Cullen, who has been working as editorial assistant with the atlas team since April 2013, has been drafting a text to accompany 50 extracts from these maps. His book, *Dublin 1847: city of the Ordnance Survey* is due to be published at the end of 2014. It will follow a similar format to *John Rocque's Dublin: a guide to the Georgian city* by Colm Lennon and John Montague (RIA, 2010).

## Other towns

Dublin is the focus of publications in 2014 but several authors are busy working on future atlases. Youghal (David Kelly and Tadhg O'Keeffe) and Galway (Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh) are well advanced and due for publication in 2015–16. Other towns in progress are Cahir, Carlow, Cashel, Cavan, Clonmel, Cork, Drogheda, Dungarvan, Loughrea, Naas, Newry, Tullamore and Waterford; and Colm Lennon and Jacinta Prunty are the series editors of a new series dealing with Dublin's suburbs and villages. See [www.ria.ie/research/ihta/publications](http://www.ria.ie/research/ihta/publications) for a full listing of published towns, ancillary publications and forthcoming atlases.



**Figure 2** Youghall exchange and quay from Thomas Dineley, 'Observations on a voyage through the kingdom of Ireland', 1681 (National Library of Ireland)

### Comparative studies — new publication

Last year saw the publication of the first proceedings of the IHTA seminar series *Maps and texts: exploring the Irish Historic Towns Atlas* (ed. Howard Clarke and Sarah Gearty). This book follows on from Howard Clarke and Jacinta Prunty's *Reading the maps: a guide to the Irish Historic Towns Atlas* (RIA, 2011) and attempts to broaden the ways in which historic town atlases might be used and considers morphology as a social process in the making of urban Ireland. Twenty individual essays offer three different perspectives on urban life in Ireland. First, pairs of comparable towns, and in one case three towns, are explored — Armagh and Kells, Kilkenny and Limerick, Kildare and Tuam, Ennis and Longford, Belfast and Derry~Londonderry, Athlone, Longford and Mullingar. Secondly, aspects of urban life such as religion, manufacturing and education are the focus. Finally, three critiques offer a broader view into various approaches and tools for understanding towns and their history, shape and diversity. Contributors are J.H. Andrews, Angela Byrne, Patrick J. Duffy, Raymond Gillespie, Paul Gosling, Brian Graham, Mark Hennessy, Arnold Horner, Colm Lennon, Keith Lilley, Jennifer Moore, Harman Murtagh, Brian Ó Dálaigh, Eamon O'Flaherty, Fergus O'Ferrall, Tadhg O'Keeffe, Jacinta Prunty, Stephen A. Royle, Anngret Simms.

### Cities of Culture – Derry and Limerick

To celebrate Derry as the UK city of Culture in 2013 the IHTA collaborated with Derry City Council and Queen's University Belfast in creating an experimental web-GIS resource that uses content from IHTA, no.



15, *Derry~Londonderry* (RIA, 2005) by Avril Thomas. The Digital atlas of Derry~Londonderry is available via [www.ria.ie/digitalatlasderry](http://www.ria.ie/digitalatlasderry).

IHTA, no. 21 Limerick by Eamon O'Flaherty was published in 2010. To mark Limerick as City of Culture 2014 the IHTA, Hunt Museum and Clare County Library have organised a one-day seminar (23 October 2014, Hunt Museum, Limerick) entitled 'Learning from the Past: Mapping Our Future?', which will compare some of the western towns (Sligo, Galway, Ennis, Limerick and Tralee) from the atlas series and will ask what the evidence of the past tell us about how these communities once flourished and what, from past evidence, can we utilise to inform future planning.

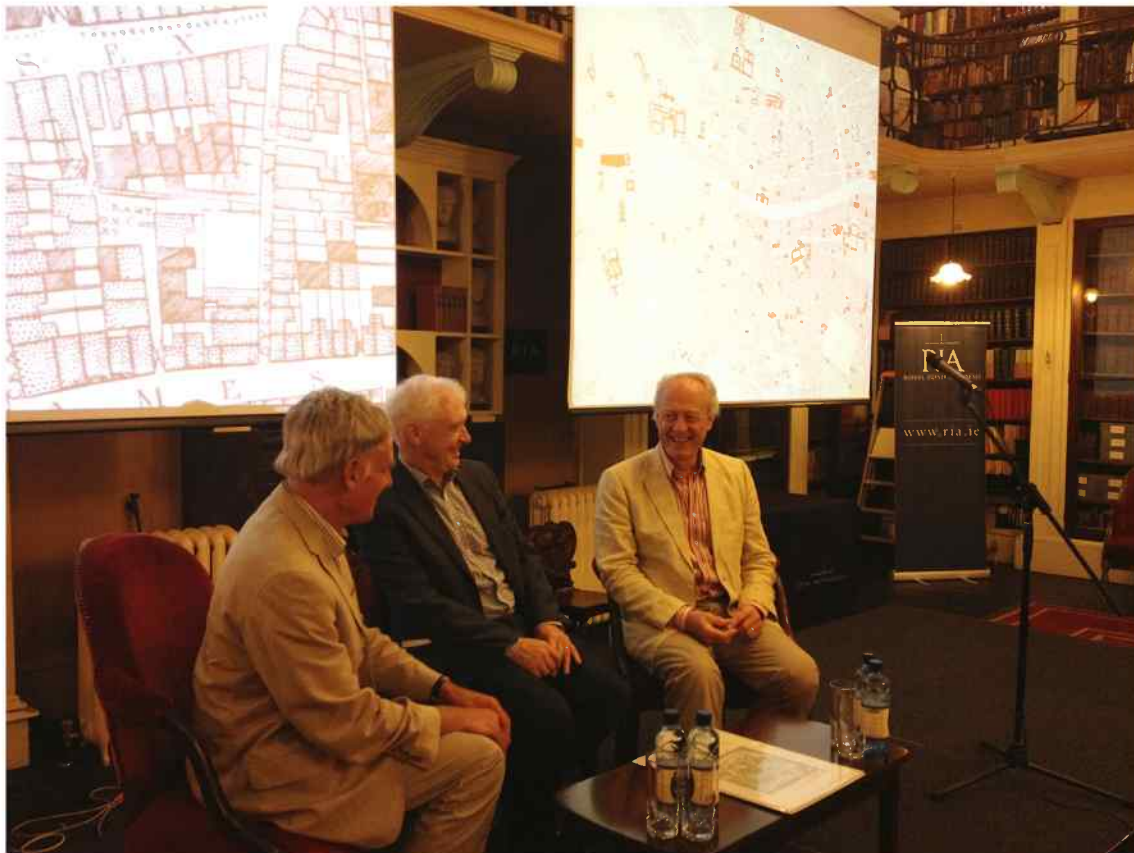
### Annual seminar 23 May 2014

The third in the current series of annual IHTA seminars 'Maps and texts: using the IHTA, Georgian and Victorian Towns' will take place in the RIA, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin on Friday 23 May 2014. All are welcome to register free of charge, see [www.ihta.ie](http://www.ihta.ie) for more details.

### Heritage Week exhibition and events 23–31 August 2014

Jacinta Prunty will speak on 'The map-making of the Ordnance Survey: challenges on every front' on Wednesday, 27 August 2014 in the RIA, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin at 1 pm. This lecture will mark Heritage Week and will also kick off an IHTA/RIA library Autumn lecture series and exhibition called 'Mapping city, town and country: the Ordnance Survey in Ireland'. Further details in due course from [www.ria.ie/library](http://www.ria.ie/library)

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: Jennifer Moore, Frank Cullen. The IHTA is part of a wider European scheme with c.500 towns/cities published internationally to date. [www.ihta.ie](http://www.ihta.ie)



**Figure 3** IHTA Dublin authors Howard Clarke, Colm Lennon and Rob Goodbody at last years' Heritage Week event 'Cartographic Conversations: Dublin 1610 to 1847', RIA, Dublin, 21 August 2013

## FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

### Maritime Hotel, The Quay, Bantry

9–11 MAY 2014

### Historic Settlement: Bantry and West Cork

**7:00 pm Registration and opening reception**  
(Windward Suite, Maritime Hotel)

**Speakers:**

**Keynote speaker:** Dr Colin Breen (University of Ulster)

*A remote landscape? Bantry and Beara – a landscape cultural history*

Dr Paul MacCotter (UCC)

*Medieval Bantry, Beara and An Fonn Iartharach*

Dr Connie Kelleher (DAHG)

*Pirates as settlers: evidence for early seventeenth-century piracy in southwest Munster*

Eamonn Cotter

*Dún na Séad Castle: a plantation house at Baltimore, Co. Cork*

Colm Moloney (Rubicon Archaeology)

*Safe haven: the effectiveness of the defensive network of Bere Island in the early nineteenth century*

Professor David Dickson (TCD)

*What was special about the landscape of eighteenth-century west Cork?*

Professor William Smyth (UCC)

*The Great Famine in West Cork: the wider regional contexts*

Dr Nigel Everett

*Planters and improvers around Bantry Bay, 1750–1921*

James Hourihane

*Bantry – a place apart*

**Field Trip:** Saturday 2:00 pm by bus to Mizen Peninsula taking in Mount Gabriel Copper mine, Altar Wedge Tomb and other sites

(Leader: Professor William O'Brien)

**Field Trip:** Sunday 2:30 pm Tour of Bantry and environs (Leader: James Hourihane)

**Tour of Bantry House and Gardens**

**Reception:** Saturday 7:15 pm

**Conference Dinner:** Saturday 8:00 pm (Windward Suite, Maritime Hotel): €25/£20 per person.

This price is for those not staying in the Maritime Hotel.

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

**Individual Sessions [Saturday/Sunday]:** €15/£13

**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  
(Windward Suite)



**COMMITTEE 2013-14**

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Margaret Murphy (Hon. Secretary)	
David Fleming (Hon. Treasurer / Hon. Editor)	Linda Shine
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The annual subscription for 2014-2015 (€15 / £13, students €7 / £6) is due on 1st. May 2014. A subscription renewal form may be downloaded from <http://www.irishsettlement.ie/>

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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](mailto:charles.doherty@upcmail.ie)*

*Contributors are requested, where possible, to send materials, text and graphics by e-mail. For further information visit our web-site.*

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