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Fifty Years a Publishing!

Welcome to our new catalogue, and our many offerings for the coming year – our 50th! Founded by the late Michael Adams in 1970, Four Courts Press expanded rapidly from its original core areas of theology and Celtic Studies, into a humanities-wide list. Publishing some 40 titles a year, we now have around 700 titles in print.

In our golden jubilee year, we are proud to bring you our new titles. Never has it seemed that the traditional humanities subjects have been under more threat; their worth questioned, and their contribution belittled. So then, why do we bother with books on human rights (pp 6, 7), media and propaganda (pp 30, 31), diplomacy (pp 32, 33), national identity (pp 13, 26–8), inequality (18–19, 28) and government accountability (pp 21, 22)? They matter, and we think that they will continue to matter.

In scale, we range from the very local (pp 5, 12, 18–19, 24–8) to the national, with studies of inventions and natural wonders (p. 34), and of burial (p. 4). Close examinations of manuscripts and objects (pp 3, 10, 15, 20) rub shoulders with investigations into castles (pp 12, 14) and kingship (pp 5, 8). We visit the world of one traditional Irish singer (p. 36), a particular Dublin street (pp 18–19) and Gaelic Ulster in the Middle Ages (p. 9).

We thank our readers for their support and interest, and our authors for continuing to allow us to bring you their work. It is our privilege, and like the Dude, we endure. We go again …

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Four Courts Press applies a peer-review policy to all its publications. Details of this policy are to be found on our website.

The cover shows residents of Henrietta Street, Dublin in July 1909, © Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.

Some abbreviations and conventions used:

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Manuscripts in the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: cultures and connections

Claire Breay & Joanna Story, editors

Manuscripts that were made and used in the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms before the Norman conquest of England are treasure troves of art and text. Many of these books and documents were brought together in the British Library exhibition, ‘Anglo-Saxon kingdoms: art, word, war’. Together, these manuscripts illuminate extensive intellectual connections as well as widespread scribal and artistic networks that developed within the islands of Britain and Ireland, and further afield across much of early medieval Europe. Using new scientific methods, as well as textual criticism, art historical analysis and historical research, the essays in this richly illustrated volume, written by leading scholars, present innovative research that focuses on manuscripts that were copied, decorated or used in the early English kingdoms and their neighbours, across a 500-year period from the advent of Christianity among the English, c.600, to the age of conquest in the eleventh century.

Claire Breay is head of Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts at the British Library and curated the Library’s recent ‘Anglo-Saxon kingdoms’ exhibition. Joanna Story is professor of early medieval history, U Leicester.
Mapping death: burial in late Iron Age and early medieval Ireland

Elizabeth O’Brien

Burial rites and associated events can provide a unique insight into the attitudes and beliefs of diverse communities at any given moment in time. This book – the outcome of forty years of research – takes an interdisciplinary approach to burial practices in Ireland in order to interpret and to chart the development of burial rites as they appear in the archaeological record of the late Iron Age (c. 200 BC-AD 300) and early medieval period (c. AD 400-800). Sources used include archaeological excavation evidence; 14C (radiocarbon) dating evidence; strontium and oxygen isotope evidence for movement of peoples; and osteo-archaeological evidence. This is combined with a careful and discerning examination of references to death, burial and associated events that appear in Irish hagiography, penitentials, laws and canons compiled during the seventh and eighth centuries. Topics covered include: the transition from cremation to inhumation; re-use of ancient ancestral burial places; occasional use of grave-goods; funeral feasts; atypical or deviant burials; mobility of people within and into Ireland; the exceptional burials of some women; the cessation of burial of Christians among their ancestors; and burial in early church cemeteries.

Elizabeth O’Brien, a graduate of UCD and U Oxford, and a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, has lectured and published widely on the subject of burial in late Iron Age and early medieval Ireland.
The kings of Aileach and the Vikings, AD 800–1060

Darren McGettigan

The kings of Aileach came to prominence in the north of Ireland c.AD 800, just as the first Viking fleets began to raid the coasts of Ulster. At first, Viking activity in this area followed a similar pattern to raiding activity elsewhere on the island. But it began to diverge after 866 when Áed Findliath, a high-king of Ireland from the Cenél nEógain dynasty, destroyed Scandinavian settlements in what is now Co. Antrim.

It appears to have been the intention of the Cenél nEógain to allow Viking strongholds to survive further south in Ulaid territory at Strangford Lough and Carlingford, and later on also at Ruib Mena on Lough Neagh. However, these longphuirte too were eventually destroyed by the Irish of the north of Ireland, the final ones in a spiral of violence that surrounded the death of the famous king of Aileach, Muirchertach of the Leather Cloaks, who was killed by the Vikings in 943.

This book also tells the stories of other noteworthy early medieval high-kings of Ireland who sprang from the Cenél nEógain dynasty, including Niall Glúndub, who was killed at the battle of Dublin in 919, leading the combined armies of the Northern and Southern Uí Néill against Viking invaders known as the grandsons of Ívarr. Also included is his grandson Domnall Ua Néill, whose over-ambitious plans caused by the expulsion of the Vikings from the north of Ireland led to the collapse of the traditional Uí Néill high-kingship of Ireland.

Darren McGettigan is the author of Red Hugh O’Donnell and the Nine Years War (Dublin, 2005), The Battle of Clontarf, Good Friday 1014 (Dublin, 2013) and Richard II and the Irish kings (Dublin, 2016).

The Gaelic Finn tradition II

Sharon J. Arbuthnot, Síle Ní Mhurchú & Geraldine Parsons, editors

The Gaelic Finn tradition encompasses literature and lore centered on the figure of Finn Mac Cumaill. The essays in this volume cover, as with those in the earlier volume, The Gaelic Finn tradition (2012), numerous aspects of this tradition, including texts both medieval and modern, collectors and collections of oral Finn material, the landscapes of Finn Mac Cumaill and the reception of the Finn Cycle outside the Gaelic world.

Contents: Sharon J. Arbuthnot (QUB), The Reeves Agallamh as a lexical resource; John Carey (UCC), The death of Diarmaid: Pessinus to Ben Bulben?; Elizabeth FitzPatrick and Paul Naessens (NUIG), Medieval boundary landscapes and hunting places in fianaigeacht; Joseph J. Flahive (RIA), ‘A chloidhimh chléirchin an chluig’ and the concept of the literary cycle in medieval Ireland; Maxim Fomin (UU), Tecosca Cormaic and fianaigeacht tradition; Anja Gunderloch (U Edinburgh), John Francis Campbell, William Robertson and the collection of fianaigeacht tales and ballads in nineteenth-century Scotland; Sim Innes (U Glasgow), Dúsgadh na Féinne (1908): Katherine Whyte Grant’s Scottish Gaelic kinderspiel; Martina Maher (U Edinburgh), The Cin Dromma Sneachtai-fianaigeacht complex in Egerton 1782; Bernhard Maier (Tübingen U), Late Victorian ideas about Ossian and the origins of Celtic studies in Scotland and Germany; Kevin Murray (UCC), Editing Acallam na Senórach; Síle Ní Mhurchú (UCC), The poetic contention in Agallamh Oisín agus Phádraig; Rebecca Shercliff (U Cambridge), The narrative unity of ‘Finn and the man in the tree’; Natasha Sumner (Harvard U), The Fianna and the folklore collectors.

Sharon J. Arbuthnot is an assistant editor, eDIL, School of Arts, English and Languages, QUB. Síle Ní Mhurchú is a lecturer in the Department of Modern Irish, UCC. Geraldine Parsons is a lecturer in Celtic and Gaelic, U Glasgow.
Adomnán’s Lex Innocentium and the jurisprudence of warfare

James W. Houlihan

This book studies the Irish law dating from AD 697, called Lex Innocentium or the Law of the Innocents. It is also known as Cáin Adomnáin, being named after Adomnán (d. 704), ninth abbot of Iona, who was responsible for its drafting and promulgation. The law was designed to offer legislative protection for women, children, clerics and other non-arms-bearing people, primarily, though not exclusively, in times of conflict. It will be of interest to historians, both professional and lay, in many fields, with special relevance for historians of warfare, of the laws of war and of attitudes towards violence in general. The study seeks to identify the place of this law in the history of the laws of war and, in so doing, examines many of the relevant sources in the Christain West, with conclusions that some will find surprising.

James W. Houlihan practised law as a solicitor in the Irish Midlands for many years. On his retirement he completed a MA and a PhD in UCD.

Spring 2020
272pp
€50 / £45 / $70

Recently published

Adomnán of Iona: theologian, lawmaker, peacemaker
Jonathan Wooding, editor

‘[This book’s] core strength clearly lies in the attention paid to Adomnán’s writings, the Vita Columbae and De Locis Sanctis ... this is a volume to be welcomed, and an appropriate commemoration of the anniversary of Adomnán’s death. Substantial and stimulating’, Máire Herbert, Northern Scotland.

‘The volume includes contributions of archaeological interest ... What strikes the reader is the unusual regard and, indeed, affection for their subject, which is evident in almost all the contributions, with few exceptions. This, perhaps more than all else, makes the volume a fitting testament, thirteen hundred years after his death, to Adomnán the man’, James Houlihan, Peritia.

(2010) 336pp ills
€55 / £50 / $74.50

The making of medieval Derry
Ciarán J. Devlin

‘[T]his is a most comprehensive and in many ways a revolutionary work which ... will stand the test of time and find a place on the bookshelves of anyone who cares about the often colourful and complicated history of our people’, Diarmuid Ó Doibhlin, The Furrow.

(2019) 454pp ills
€24.95 / £19.95 / $35
Law and the idea of liberty in Ireland from Magna Carta to the present

Peter Crooks & Thomas Mohr, editors

Magna Carta is among the most famous documents in the history of the world, credited with being the first effective check in writing on arbitrary, oppressive and unjust rule – in a word, on tyranny. The fame of Magna Carta spread as England, and later Britain, came to girdle the globe in its power. This volume in the ILHS series is the first to examine the importance of Ireland in the story of Magna Carta’s dissemination. Four centuries before Magna Carta crossed the Atlantic, it had already been implanted across the Irish Sea. A version of the charter, issued in November 1216 in the name of the boy-king Henry III, was sent to Ireland, where it became fundamental to the English common law tradition in Ireland that survives to the present. This volume – the proceedings of a conference marking the 800th anniversary of the transmission of Magna Carta to Ireland – explores the paradoxes presented by the reception of Magna Carta into Irish law, above all the contested idea of ‘liberty’ that developed in Ireland. Contributors examine the legal, political and polemical uses to which Magna Carta was put from the thirteenth century onwards, as well as its twentieth- and twenty-first-century invocations as a living presence in contemporary Irish law. The volume also includes a new edition and translation of the Magna Carta Hibernie (‘The Great Charter of Ireland’) – an adaptation of the 1216 issue of Magna Carta found in the Red Book of the Irish Exchequer, which was destroyed in 1922.

Contributors: Sparky Booker (QUB), Paul Brand (U Oxford), Ian Campbell (QUB), Coleman Dennehy (UCL/UCD), Seán Duffy (TCD), Adrian Empey (Church of Ireland Historical Society), Patrick Geoghegan (TCD), James Kelly (DCU), Colum Kenny (DCU), John Larkin (Attorney General for Northern Ireland), Bláthna Ruane SC.

Peter Crooks is a lecturer in medieval history at TCD, and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He is co-editor of The Geraldines and medieval Ireland: the making of a myth (Dublin, 2016). Thomas Mohr is a lecturer at the School of Law, UCD. He is honorary secretary of the Irish Legal History Society and the author of Guardian of the Treaty: the Privy Council appeal and Irish sovereignty (Dublin, 2016).
Plantagenet Ireland

Robin Frame

For two centuries after 1199, Ireland was ruled by Plantagenet kings, lineal descendants of Henry II. The island became closely tied to the English crown not just by English law and direct administration, but through other networks, above all the allegiance of a settler establishment led by aristocratic, ecclesiastical and civic elites that benefited from being within the orbit of royal patronage and service.

This book contains fifteen interlinked studies, several of which appear here for the first time. The opening chapters trace Ireland’s changing place within a wider Plantagenet realm that itself altered geographically and institutionally during the period. In the thirteenth century Gaelic leaders were pushed to the geographical and political margins. In the fourteenth, English control and English custom retreated, posing fresh challenges to the crown and its ministers. Despite the alarmist claims of settler communities, Plantagenet Ireland was far from collapsing. Later chapters explore the altered distribution of power across the island. English chief governors, some of whom had experience of other borderlands of the Plantagenet realm, exercised power in a mixture of cultural modes, which enabled them to draw in, rather than simply confront, Gaelic lords and marcher lineages.


The Irish–Scottish world in the Middle Ages

Seán Duffy, David Ditchburn & Peter Crooks, editors

In this volume, the proceedings of the 2nd Trinity Medieval Ireland Symposium (marking the 700th anniversary of the invasion of Ireland by Edward, brother of King Robert Bruce of Scotland), experts explore crucial aspects of Irish–Scottish links in the Middle Ages.

Contents: Dauvit Broun (U Glasgow), Ireland and the beginnings of Scotland; Thomas Owen Clancy (U Glasgow), Scotland and Ireland before 800; James E. Fraser (U Guelph), Ireland and the Christianization of Scotland; Bernard Meehan (TCD), The art of early medieval Ireland and Scotland; Benjamin Hudson (Penn State U), The literary world of early medieval Ireland and Scotland; Alex Woolf (U St Andrews), The Scottish and Irish church in the tenth to twelfth centuries; R.A. McDonald (Brock U), Ireland, Scotland and the kingdom of the Isles; Michael Penman (U Stirling), The Bruce invasion of Ireland: a Scottish perspective; Seán Duffy (TCD), The Bruce invasion of Ireland: an Irish perspective; Robin Frame (Durham U), The earldom of Ulster between England and Scotland; Katharine Simms (TCD), Scotland and the politics of Gaelic Ulster; Martin MacGregor (U Glasgow), Identity and culture in late medieval Scotland and Ireland; Michael Brown (U St Andrews), Scotland and Ireland in the late Middle Ages.

Seán Duffy, David Ditchburn and Peter Crooks lecture in the Department of History, TCD.
Gaelic Ulster in the Middle Ages: history, culture and society

Katharine Simms

The Plantation of Ulster followed from the perceived recalcitrance and military strength of its Gaelic lords. This book examines the prelude to their final rebellion. After a brief survey of medieval Ulster’s heritage from the Iron Age and Early Christian period, it gives a detailed narrative of Ulster history from the eleventh to the early sixteenth century, relating the politics and culture of the province to developments in the rest of Ireland and Europe. It then delves into the ‘plain living and high thinking’ of its somewhat enigmatic society, operating largely independently of towns or coinage, describing in turn its chieftains, churchmen, scholars, warriors, court ladies and other women, and the amusements and everyday life of the people.

Katharine Simms lectured in medieval history at TCD until 2010. She has written From kings to warlords: the changing political structure of Gaelic Ireland in the later Middle Ages (Woodbridge, 1987), Medieval Gaelic sources (Dublin, 2009), and many articles on Gaelic Ireland.
Trinity College Library Dublin: a catalogue of manuscripts containing Middle English and some Old English

John Scattergood with the assistance of Niamh Pattwell & Emma Williams

The world-famous collection of manuscripts in Trinity College Dublin Library largely consists of items that came to the college in 1661 from the library of Archbishop James Ussher, primate of all Ireland, who had been a fellow and professor there. Ussher’s manuscripts were mainly in Latin, but he also collected material in English, Irish and other languages – including a number of ancient eastern languages. His interests were principally in theology and history, and some practical sciences, and though, later, other donors contributed other valuable items, the character of the collection remained what it was. Among the Middle English items, there are many religious texts, in both poetry and prose, a lot of which are unique to this collection. Among the histories appear ten copies of the popular Brut Chronicle, of which five are in Middle English and two (MSS 489 and 505) are richly illuminated, Robert Bale’s Chronicle of London 1189–1461, translations of Giralduis Cambrensis’s Expugnacio Hibernica, and William Lambarde’s invaluable text (MS 631), made in 1563, of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle to the year AD 1001, copied from a manuscript destroyed by fire in 1731. John Benet’s personal miscellany (MS S16), compiled over many years in the middle of the fifteenth century, preserves many unique texts relating to the Wars of the Roses. This catalogue, put together by its authors over many years, is the first to concentrate on these manuscripts and to describe them in detail.

John Scattergood is professor (emeritus) of medieval and Renaissance English literature at TCD, where Niamh Pattwell and Emma Williams were both students in the School of English. Niamh Pattwell is now lecturer in medieval English literature at UCD. Emma Williams is at present a senior vice president with Microsoft, based in Seattle.
Ireland and the Crusades
Edward Coleman, Paul Duffy & Tadhg O’Keeffe, editors

The crusades – a broad term encompassing a disparate series of military expeditions, with the avowed intent of preserving/expanding Christianity and the heterodoxy of the Roman Church – were a quintessential phenomenon of moral and religious life in medieval Europe. Traditionally, Ireland’s connection with the crusades has been seen to be slight. In recent years, however, new research has begun to replace this view with a more nuanced picture. This is an interdisciplinary volume of essays from leading scholars working in this field, which re-examines Ireland’s connection to the crusading movement in its many forms.

Contents: Edward Coleman (UCD), Ireland and the crusades: a historiographical survey; Jean Michel-Picard (UCD), St Bernard’s writings and Cistercian impact; Maeve Callan (Simpson College), Ireland’s invasion and a colonial plea to the papacy; Catherine Swift (Mary I.), Veteran crusaders in Irish urban environments; Paul Duffy (IAC Archaeology), Ireland and the Cathar Crusade; Ciaran McDonnell (ind.), From the Baye Valley to the Holy Land: the crusading tradition of Geoffrey de Genville and Jean de Joinville; David McIlreavy (IAC Archaeology), Reconstructing the Ballyman preceptory of the Knights Templar in Ireland; Dave Swift (Claoimh), Arms and armour iconography from Irish effigy tombs during the age of the crusades; Helen J. Nicholson (Cardiff U), The military religious orders in Ireland, their patrons and their purpose; Tadhg O’Keeffe (UCD), The chief houses of the Knights Templar from the eastern Mediterranean to Ireland; Kathyrn Hurlock (Manchester Metropolitan U), Crusading rhetoric and Anglo-Irish relations, c. 1300–1600; Paolo Virtuani (UCD), The properties of the Knights Hospitaller in medieval Ireland; Daniel Tietzsch-Tyler (ind.), Crusading influences on Irish castle building; Thomas Ivory (UCD), From the East! The medieval hospital; Emer Purcell (MU), A note on the St Michan ‘Crusader’.

Edward Coleman is a lecturer and assistant professor in the School of History, UCD. Paul Duffy is a senior archaeologist with IAC Archaeology. Tadhg O’Keeffe is a full professor in the School of Archaeology, UCD.

Winter 2020
256pp colour ills
Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-861-4
€55 / £50 / $74.50

Recently published

Arrogant Trespass: Anglo-Norman Wexford, 1169–1400
Billy Colfer

New in paperback: Arrogant Trespass is the first sustained treatment of the Anglo-Normans in Wexford since Orpen’s century-old work. Profusely illustrated, meticulously researched and tightly written, this model study has stood the test of time and is now a classic of Wexford history.

(2019) 316pp ills
€19.95 / £17.95 / $27.95

Ireland under the Normans, 1169–1333
Goddard Henry Orpen

New in paperback: ‘Do not on any account bring this book on a train journey, because you’ll miss your station. Everyone who has any interest whatsoever in Irish history should read this and keep it in the house. A wonderful book’. Lucille Redmond, Books Ireland.

(2019) 682pp
€35 / £30 / $45

The Deeds of the Normans in Ireland / La Geste des Engleis en Yrlande
Evelyn Mullally, editor

New in paperback: ‘Dr Mullally’s lively translation captures the spirit of adventure which underlay the events described in the Geste des Engleis en Yrlande, and students of these events now have at their disposal a scholarly modern edition from which to work’, Peter.  

(2019) 180pp large format
Pbk ISBN 978-1-84682-817-1
€19.95 / £17.95 / $29.95
Medieval Dublin XVIII: proceedings of the Friends of Medieval Dublin Symposium 2016
Seán Duffy, editor

This volume contains a wealth of new research on Dublin’s medieval past, including paired papers by Joseph Harbison and René Gapert that re-examine skulls found on the site of the Hospital of St John the Baptist, Thomas Street. Alan Hayden reports on his excavation of property plots fronting onto Kevin Street and New Street and what they tell us about the supposed fourteenth-century decline of Dublin, and Aisling Collins explains the significant findings from the dig of the church and graveyard at St James’s. Antoine Giacometti examines a medieval tanning quarter that showcases leatherworking and shoemaking, complementing work by John Nicholl that analyses footwear styles based on evidence excavated from Chancery Lane. This aspect of life is illustrated too in the findings of Paul Duffy’s excavations in Thomas Street, which reveal a great deal about crafts in the western suburb. Franc Myles reports on the findings of his excavation at Keysar’s Lane beside St Audeon’s church in High Street, including some fascinatingly decorated medieval floor tiles; Jon Stirland reports on the discovery of two parallel ditches of possible early medieval/medieval date located to the rear of 19–22 Aungier Street; and Edmond O’Donovan describes his discoveries in the internal courtyard at the site of the Bank of Ireland at College Green. Historical papers include Denis Casey’s analysis of Dublin’s economy in its twelfth-century Irish context and Brian Coleman’s study of taxation and resistance in fifteenth-century Dublin. Thomas W. Smith shines light on papal provisions to ecclesiastical benefices in thirteenth-century Dublin, while Stephen Hewer examines the oldest surviving original court roll of the Dublin bench, dating from 1290.

Moygara Castle, County Sligo and the O’Garas of Coolavin
Kieran O’Conor, editor

Moygara Castle, with its four towers, gatehouse and high curtain walls, is one of the most impressive masonry-built monuments in north Connacht. Constructed in the late fourteenth/early fifteenth century by the O’Garas, the castle functioned as a centre of their lordship of Coolavin.

This study of Moygara Castle marshals various fields of expertise – history, archaeology, architecture, geography, genealogy, geophysical survey and DNA analysis – to provide much-needed information about life in later-medieval Gaelic Ireland.

Contributors include Anne Connon, Phyl Foley, Rory Sherlock, Paul M. Kerrigan, Kevin Barton, Kieran O’Conor, Maura O’Gara-O’Riordan, Máire Ní Chearbhaill.

Kieran O’Conor is senior lecturer in the School of Geography and Archaeology, NUIG.
Athassel priory and the cult of St Edmund in medieval Ireland

Francis Young

The English royal saint Edmund, king and martyr (d. 869), was venerated in Ireland from at least the twelfth century, and Athassel priory in Co. Tipperary was the centre of a cult focused on a miraculous statue of the saint. This book argues that understanding the veneration of St Edmund and other English saints in Ireland is essential to understanding the complex identity of the ‘English of Ireland’, the descendants of the Anglo-Norman invaders. The history of Athassel priory, a nominally ‘English’ monastery patronized by the Burke dynasty, reflected the changing fortunes of Englishness in late medieval Ireland. Although apparent attempts to make St Edmund an additional patron saint of Ireland in the late Middle Ages proved unsuccessful, the spread of the name Éamon (a Gaelicized form of Edmund) in Gaelic Ireland in the fifteenth century has left a lasting legacy of this unusual cult of an English saint in Ireland.

Francis Young obtained his PhD from Cambridge U and is a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He is the author of twelve books including Edmund: in search of England’s lost king (London, 2018).
Ireland encastellated, AD 950–1550: insular castle-building in its European context

Tadhg O’Keeffe

Despite an ever-expanding literature on Irish castles, the relationships between the castle-building tradition in Ireland and those of contemporary Europe have attracted very little attention among Irish scholars. This book seeks to remedy this by approaching the corpus of Irish castles as a non-Irish scholar might do. Is there a case for dating the first castles in Ireland to the tenth century in line with the revised chronology of castle-building on the Continent? Are castles in Ireland typical of their periods by contemporary standards in England and France in particular? Are any castles in Ireland genuinely innovative or radical by those contemporary standards? What inferences about Ireland’s place in medieval Europe can be drawn from the evidence of its castles and their forms?

Tadhg O’Keeffe is full professor of archaeology, UCD. His earlier books include Romanesque Ireland: architecture and ideology in the twelfth century (Dublin, 2003), Medieval Irish buildings, 1100–1600 (Dublin, 2015), and Tristernagh Priory, Co. Westmeath: colonial monasticism in medieval Ireland (Dublin, 2018).

Irish houses and castles, 1400–1740

Rolf Loeber

This volume assembles Rolf Loeber’s groundbreaking articles on Irish houses and castles from the late medieval period to the mid-eighteenth century. Read together, these articles, mainly from journals that are not widely available, become a coherent and fresh survey of the theme and the period, marked by Rolf’s trademark archival depth and ability to bring together architectural and cultural history in a rewarding way. This richly illustrated book features one hundred maps, plans and illustrations, redrawn and updated to form a visual panorama of the period.

Contents: An architectural history of Gaelic castles and settlements, 1370–1600; The geography and practice of English colonisation in Ireland, 1534–1609; The architectural impact of the plantations in Ireland: Ulster and the Midlands; Irish houses and castles, 1660–90; Early Classicism in Ireland: architecture before the Georgian era; The architecture of Irish country houses 1691–1740: continuity and innovation; Publications on Irish history, art history and literature by Rolf Loeber.

The churchwardens’ accounts of the parishes of St Bride, St Michael Le Pole and St Stephen, Dublin, 1663–1742

W.J.R. Wallace, editor

The parish of St Bride, united with the parishes of St Michael Le Pole and St Stephen, served an area just outside the Dublin city walls, based around Bride Street, Ship Street, Golden Lane, Stephen Street and Chequer Street. The accounts of its churchwardens complement the records of its vestry, and reveal how the parish recovered following the Restoration and developed in the eighteenth century. Information on the parish church, the clergy and patterns of worship, the role of the parish officers and their interactions with the city in areas such as poor relief, firefighting and policing provide valuable insights into the local and ecclesiastical history of inner-city Dublin.

W.J.R. Wallace is editor of Clergy of Dublin and Glendalough (Belfast, 2001), Clergy of Meath and Kildare (Dublin, 2004) and The vestry records of the parishes of St Bride, St Michael Le Pole and St Stephen, Dublin, 1662–1742 (Dublin, 2011).

Spring 2020

192pp


€50 / £45 / $70

An Irishman’s life on the Caribbean island of St Vincent, 1787–90: the letter book of Attorney General Michael Keane

Mark S. Quintanilla, editor

This book makes available the previously unpublished correspondence of Michael Keane, an eighteenth-century Irish attorney general of St Vincent. From Ballylongford, Co. Kerry, Keane’s Irish-West Indian odyssey brought him first to the British colony of Barbados and after 1763 to the Ceded Islands, which Great Britain acquired at the conclusion of the Seven Years War. From his base in St Vincent, he founded sugar estates and worked on behalf of Irish Atlantic interests that had become dispersed throughout the colonial world, including Catholic, Protestant and Non-Conformist merchants, as well as absentee Irish-West Indian planters and merchants in Barbados, Nevis and St Kitts, who looked to him to protect their interests in the colony. His letter book provides a rare look into the world of the plantation attorney and manager.

(2019) 202pp

Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-791-4

€45 / £40 / $65

An Ulster slave owner in the revolutionary Atlantic: the life and letters of John Black

Jonathan Jeffrey Wright, editor

Born in Ulster, John Black left Ireland for the West Indies in 1771 and never returned. Setting first in Grenada, he moved on to Trinidad in 1784 and established himself as a major slave owner and a prominent figure among the island’s planter elite. An Ulster slave owner in the revolutionary Atlantic presents and contextualizes a series of twenty revealing letters written by John Black during the period 1799 to 1836. Addressed to his brother George, who lived outside Belfast, Black’s letters represent an attempt to maintain familial relationships across the distance of the Atlantic and reveal the close connections tying Ulster to the West Indies during the early nineteenth century. They shed light on the difficulties of mercantile life in an age of political and economic unrest and, above all, offer a vivid portrait of a world that revolved around the institution of slavery – a world of which Ulster was emphatically a part.

(2019) 184pp


€45 / £40 / $65
Law and revolution in seventeenth-century Ireland

**Coleman A. Dennehy, editor**

In October 1641, violence erupted in mid-Ulster that spread throughout the whole kingdom and lasted for more than a decade. The war was neither unpredictable nor was it out of step with the rest of the Stuart kingdoms, or indeed Europe generally. As with all wars, particularly the multi-national and multi-denominational, the Irish wars of the 1640s and 1650s had many complex and interrelated causes. Law, the legal system and the legal community played a vital role in the origins and the development of the conflict in Ireland that took it from a dependent kingdom to becoming part of a republican commonwealth. Lawyers also played a fundamental part in the return of the legal and political ‘normality’ in the 1660s. This collection of essays considers how the law was part of this process and to what extent it was shaped by the revolutionary developments of the period. These essays arise from a conference held in 2014 in the House of Lords at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, under the auspices of the Irish Legal History Society.

**Contributors:** Andrew Carpenter, Stephen Carroll, John Cunningham, Coleman A. Dennehy, Neil Johnston, Colum Kenny, Neasa Malone, Aran McArdle, Brid McGrath, Jess Velona, Philip Walsh and Jennifer Wells.

Coleman A. Dennehy teaches at the University of Limerick, is a Humanities Institute (UCD) research associate and a former IRC Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellow, having previously taught history at University College London and law at the University of Vienna. In addition to many articles and chapters, he published an edited collection, *Restoration Ireland* (Aldershot, 2008) and also a monograph, *The Irish parliament, 1613–89* (Manchester, 2019).

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The operations of the Irish House of Commons, 1613–48

**Brid McGrath**

This is the first operational account of the Irish House of Commons in the early Stuart period, a time of immense change in early modern Ireland, when the parliament’s structures and operations were established in a manner that would endure until the Act of Union.

This book describes the structures, powers, personnel, culture and operations of the lower house of the Irish parliament, including electoral practice, the legislative process, economics of parliaments, including costs, taxation and MPs’ wages, MPs’ individual and collective relationships with government, the House of Lords and their own constituents, the crown and the English parliament. It also explores how the parliament, its personnel and work changed during the period of the Confederation of Kilkenny and during the government of lord deputies Arthur Chichester and Thomas Wentworth.

Brid McGrath is an acknowledged authority on early modern Irish parliaments and towns, the author of a large number of articles and chapters on early modern civic and state governance and the editor of *The Minute Book of the Corporation of Clonmel, 1608–1649* (Dublin, 2006), *Acts of the Corporation of Coleraine, 1623–1669* (Dublin, 2017) and, with Aidan Clarke, of the *Letterbook of George, 16th earl of Kildare* (Dublin, 2013).
The daughters of the first earl of Cork: writing family, faith, politics and place

Ann-Maria Walsh

Based on the recovery and analysis of the letters and private papers of the wife, daughters, daughters-in-law and granddaughters of Richard Boyle (1566–1643), first earl of Cork, this book examines how these women perceived and wrote their lives as individuals and as members of their famous family. The book explores the theme of identity through close readings of the extant texts from a number of perspectives: the figuration of Ireland; gender; the impact of civil war rupture; Protestantism; and legacy-making. This original showcasing of the Boyle women’s largely forgotten female-voiced texts further illuminates how these women used the occasion of family writing and record-keeping to develop self-presentation strategies that allowed them to situate their lives at the centre of the transformations that were taking place in early modern Ireland and Britain.

Ann-Maria Walsh teaches in the School of English, Drama and Film at UCD.

Spring 2020 (previously announced)
192pp colour ills
€50 / £45 / $65

Social life in pre-Reformation Dublin, 1450–1540

Peadar Slattery

‘[T]his is an impressive book by any standards. Dr Slattery has transformed our understanding of late medieval Dublin and its inhabitants in a most readable manner’, Henry A. Jefferies, History Ireland.

(2019) 298pp colour ills
€45 / £40 / $65

Society and administration in the Ulster Plantation towns, 1610–89

Brendan Scott, editor

Although much has been written on the Ulster plantation, no sustained work on its urban aspects has been undertaken since the research of Robert Hunter a generation ago. This collection aims to fill this gap, with essays on a range of subjects such as poverty and the Irish in urban Ulster, Catholicism and Protestantism in the Ulster towns and the archaeology and geography of urban Ulster, as well as studies of administration and life in specific Ulster Plantation towns.

(2019) 212pp ills
Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-735-8
€50 / £45 / $70
The best address in town: Henrietta Street, Dublin and its first residents, 1730–80

Melanie Hayes

Once Dublin’s most exclusive residential street, throughout the eighteenth century Henrietta Street was home to country’s foremost figures from church, military and state. Here, in this elegant setting on the north side of the city, peers rubbed shoulders with property tycoons, clerics consorted with social climbers and celebrated military men mixed with the leading lights of the capital’s beau monde, establishing one of the principle arenas of elite power in Georgian Ireland.

Looking behind the red-brick facades of the once-grand terraced townhouses, this richly illustrated volume focuses on the people who originally populated these spaces, delineating the rich social and architectural history of Henrietta Street during the first fifty years of its existence.

Commissioned by Dublin City Council Heritage Office in conjunction with the 14 Henrietta Street museum, by weaving the fascinating and often colourful histories of the original residents around the framework of the buildings, in repopulating the houses with their original occupants and offering a window into the lives carried on within, this book presents a captivating portrait of Dublin’s premier Georgian street, when it was the best address in town.

Melanie Hayes is a research fellow in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Trinity College Dublin, working on an Irish Research Council Laureate project, CraftValue. She was an academic researcher during the development of the 14 Henrietta Street museum by Dublin City Council, and continues to be involved with the museum.
**Spectral mansions: the making of a Dublin tenement, 1800–1914**

*Timothy Murtagh*

In 1800, Dublin was one of the largest and most impressive cities in Europe. The city’s townhouses and squares represented the pinnacle of Georgian elegance. Henrietta Street was synonymous with this world of cultural refinement, being one of the earliest and grandest residential districts in Dublin. At the end of the eighteenth century, the street was home to some of the most powerful members of the Anglo-Irish Ascendancy. Yet, less than a century later, Dublin had been transformed from the playground of the elite, into a city renowned for its deprivation and vast slums. Despite once being ‘the best address in town’, by 1900 almost every house on Henrietta Street was in use as tenements, some shockingly overcrowded.

How did this happen? How did a location like Henrietta Street go from a street of mansions to one of tenements? And what was life like for those who lived within the walls of these houses? This is a story of adaptation, not only of buildings but of people. It is a story of decline but also of resilience. *Spectral mansions* charts the evolution of Henrietta Street over the period 1800 to 1914. Commencing with the Act of Union and finishing on the eve of the First World War, the book investigates the nature and origins of Dublin’s housing crisis in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Commissioned by Dublin City Council Heritage Office in conjunction with the 14 Henrietta Street museum, the book uses the story of one street to explore the history of an entire city.

*Timothy Murtagh* completed his PhD at TCD in 2015. Since 2015, he has acted as a historical consultant to the 14 Henrietta Street museum, as well as being a committee member of the Dublin Historical Research Network.
Studies in Irish Georgian silver
Alison FitzGerald, editor

Irish silver, for long renowned among collectors and connoisseurs, is increasingly being considered as an aspect of the material world of the past. Its making, acquisition and use tells much about past attitudes and behaviour. At the same time, careful examination of surviving articles not only adds to appreciation of the design and craftsmanship but also to Ireland’s participation in international fashions. This volume, with new research by established and emerging scholars from Ireland and the UK, advances the study across a broad range. The contributions examine the circumstances in which silver objects were made, sold, valued and dispersed in Georgian Ireland. It considers specialized branches of the trade including the production of freedom boxes and jewellery, the sourcing of metals and materials, the value of inventories as evidence and regional patterns and preferences. This book builds on recent literature on the history of silver, second-hand markets, guilds and luxury goods, to recover and reconsider Ireland’s silversmithing.

Alison FitzGerald is a lecturer in history, MU. She has published widely on the history of Irish silver, including a monograph, Silver in Georgian Dublin: making, selling, consuming (London, 2016), and an essay in the catalogue Ireland: crossroads of art and design, 1690–1840 (New Haven, 2015).

Summer 2020 (previously announced)
288pp large format, colour ills
€50 / £45 / $70

Recently published

The Museum Building of Trinity College Dublin: a model of Victorian craftsmanship
Christine Casey & Patrick Wyse Jackson, editors

This volume addresses the most influential Victorian building in the city of Dublin and explores the new standard it set in the use of Irish decorative stone, the employment of native craftsmen and the unprecedented eclecticism of its design. The geology, quarrying, building, carving and architectural design that created this spectacular structure are explored by established scholars and experts in the field. Richly illustrated in full colour, this book captures the sumptuous polychromy of the building and the profuse detail of its carved ornament.

(2019) 398pp large format, full colour
Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-789-1
€50 / £45 / $70

The building site in eighteenth-century Ireland
Arthur Gibney

’It does not take long to realise that the real joy of this book is its focus. It is a spirited and descriptive narrative of the mechanics of building… Indeed, it is Gibney’s appreciation of the human skills needed to erect complicated structures and the way that various trades connect in the process that helps lead the reader expertly through the subject’, Paul Holden, Architectural History.

(2017) 296pp large format, full colour
€35 / £30 / $50
The politics of Dublin Corporation, 1840–1900: from reform to expansion

James H. Murphy

Dublin Corporation, the city’s council, was an ancient and prestigious body. In 1840 its system of voting was reformed to allow for more representation by Catholics and in 1841 Daniel O’Connell was elected its lord mayor. At the end of the century the boundaries of the city were significantly extended. The intervening sixty years saw the corporation struggle to find a role for itself. Could it be a ‘civic parliament’, a place where national issues were debated in the absence of self-government? Could it manage efficiently to run a debt-ridden city with crumbling infrastructure? Could it find a solution to the city’s pressing need for a new water supply? Would it sink into conflict over party politics or religious differences? Might it become merely the instrument of outside political forces? This book tells the story of Dublin Corporation for the first time, focusing on the visions and conflicts of its members.

James H. Murphy has been professor of English at DePaul U, Chicago, and Boston College. He is the author of five previous monographs on the political history and the history of fiction of Ireland in the nineteenth century.

Spring 2020
240pp
€50 / £45 / $70
Archives of the Tholsel Court, Dublin

*Toby Barnard & Bridget McCormack, editors*

The Tholsel Court was established for the settlement of small debts, with the (lord) mayor and sheriffs of Dublin presiding. The surviving records, held in Dublin City Library & Archive, range from the early seventeenth to the mid-eighteenth century, and are in secretary hand. This transcript by Bridget McCormack makes these records accessible, while the introduction by Toby Barnard contextualizes them.

*Toby Barnard* FBA is emeritus fellow in history at Hertford College, Oxford. *Bridget McCormack* is one of Ireland’s leading palaeographers.

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The Mansion House Fund, 1880

*David O’Regan, editor*

The Little Famine of 1880 resulted from disastrous harvest failures in Ireland in the late 1870s. Hunger and poverty were evident throughout the country and a rapid response was needed to prevent a repeat of the catastrophic loss of life that occurred during the Great Famine of the 1840s. The lord mayor of Dublin, Edmund Dwyer Gray, set up the Mansion House Fund, which collected money from Irish emigrants in Britain, America, Canada and Australia. The Fund then distributed relief to 836 local committees, based in every county of Ireland. This selection of documents from Dublin City Library & Archive tells the story of the Little Famine in the words of those who suffered and those who succoured.

*David O’Regan* is an archivist and barrister.

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Vindicating Dublin: the story behind the controversial dissolution of the Corporation in 1924

*Aodh Quinlivan*

Dublin Corporation was dissolved by the Free State government on 20 May 1924, following an inquiry in the Mansion House. According to one prominent historian, the decision to dissolve it was not clear-cut and seemed ‘to give some credence to the belief that the Cosgrave government was determined to reduce the autonomy of local authorities’. This is the first book on this intriguing topic and provides an insight into a controversial and far-reaching episode.

*Aodh Quinlivan* is director of the Centre for Local and Regional Governance, UCC.

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Directory of historic Dublin guilds (2nd ed.)

*Mary Clark & Raymond Refaussé, editors*

First published in 1993, and winner of the Phillimore Prize, this directory is re-issued in an expanded format, with full colour illustrations throughout. A must-have for local and family history.

*Mary Clark* is the Dublin City Archivist. *Raymond Refaussé* is formerly librarian and archivist, Representative Church Body Library.
The Mansion House and the Irish Revolution / Teach an Ardmeara agus Réabhlóid na hÉireann, 1912–1923
Michéál Mac Donncha

‘Mac Donncha has brought together in this book the key events that happened in the Mansion House in those tumultuous years. He has done so with an inter-mixture of text and illustration. The work is attractively printed and produced, and its range of photographs from the period includes some seldom seen ... An unusual feature of this fascinating book is that the story is told in English for the first 69 pages, and then, if one turns the book around, the story is re-told in Irish, but with additional photographs’, Thomas J. Morrissey, Irish Catholic.

(2019) 144pp, half in English, half in Irish
Hbk ISBN 978-0-9505488-6-9
€25 / £22 / $35

The goldsmiths of Dublin: six centuries of achievement
Douglas Bennett

‘A welcome addition to a series which focuses on the history of the city’s urban landscape ... The author of this volume ... is synonymous with the study of Ireland’s precious metal trade ... One of the strengths of this book is the lively detail, often drawn from manuscript sources, of Dublin’s politics, at guild, civic, and national level ... Bennett deftly employs engaging examples to remind the reader of the very human stories behind the corporate structure of the goldsmiths’ guild ... Bennett is to be commended for this fascinating survey of the last surviving trade guild in Dublin’, Alison FitzGerald, Irish Arts Review.

‘Douglas Bennett has drawn on the records of the Company, the medieval guilds and a wide range of other sources to recount the history of the Company. He is well-equipped for the task as an author of note about the city (The encyclopedia of Company. He is well-equipped for the task as an

(2018) 106pp
Hbk ISBN 978-0-9505488-6-9
€25 / £19.95 / $39.95

Dublin City Council and the 1916 Rising
John Gibney, editor

‘Essential reading for all who want to have a fuller understanding of the tumultuous events that occurred in our capital city a hundred years ago ... Following an insightful introduction by the editor, the book is arranged into two sections, part 1 dealing with “Dublin City Council: the Elected Members and the 1916 Rising” and part 2 focusing on “Dublin Corporation Employees and Institutions in the 1916 Rising”, with an appendix with biographical notes on the staff involved in the Rising. The book is lavishl illustrated ... The level of detail is impressive’, Michael Merrigan, Ireland’s Genealogical Gazette.

(2016) 336pp colour ills
€45 / £40 / $74.50
Special Price €9.95 / £8.95 / $14.95

Bridges of Dublin: the remarkable story of Dublin’s Liffey bridges
Annette Black & Michael B. Barry

‘Excellent illustrations accompany the fascinatingly informative text’, Irish Times.

‘The book covers 24 structures in detail, every span across the Liffey from Lucan Bridge to the sea. Each bridge is documented with a large 2-page photo ... and a range of other images including drawings, historical paintings and etchings, and old photography. More recent structures are often accompanied by photographs taken during construction. The associated text provides not just a history of each bridge, or the stories associated with it, but something of a history of Dublin and wider Ireland ... Overall, this is a very impressive book, not only for students of Dublin’s architectural and engineering history, but for anyone with an interest in bridges’, The Happy Pontist.

(2015) 256pp large format, full colour
Hbk ISBN 978-1-907002-25-0
€35 / £30 / $65
€25 / £19.95 / $39.95

The Ha’penny Bridge, Dublin
Michael English

‘This is a gorgeous book – a wonderful blend of erudite but lightly rendered text and well-chosen illustrations. The production values are of the highest as we have come to expect in this series’, Séamas Ó Mairí, Dublin Historical Record.

(2016) 272pp large format, full colour
Pbk ISBN 978-1-907002-29-8
Special Price €9.95 / £8.95 / $19.95

The Mansion House, Dublin: 300 years of history and hospitality
Mary Clark, editor

This is the first major work on the Mansion House and includes essays on its history, architecture and antique furnishings.

(2015) 180pp large format, full colour
€35 / £30 / $65
Special Price €9.95 / £8.95 / $14.95

Exercise of authority: surveyor Thomas Owen and the paving, cleansing and lighting of Georgian Dublin
Finnian Ó Cionnaith

‘[This book] is full of interesting facts on the Dublin Paving Board ... Exercise of authority usefully examines largely unexplored aspects of the development of Georgian Dublin, complementing well-known accounts of the city’s architecture by authors like Maurice Craig and Edward McParland’, Frederick O’Dwyer, Irish Arts Review.

(2016) 160pp colour ills
€29.95 / £24.95 / $45
Pbk ISBN 978-1-907002-30-4
€19.95 / £17.50 / $35
The archives of the valuation of Ireland, 1830–65
Frances McGee
‘This expert guide leads the reader on a journey that explores the history of property valuation in nineteenth-century Ireland through the prism of a set of remarkable records ... The author masterfully handles the complex subject ... This is an extraordinary book and a delight to read. The passion of the author clearly resonates throughout’, Stephen Scarth, Archives and Records.

The valuation records, by virtue of their content and survival, are an invaluable source for the study of 19th-century Ireland ... Frances McGee was an archivist in the Public Record Office/National Archives for 40 years where among other things, she worked on the valuation records. It is this intimate connection between the archivist and the collection ... which develops an understanding of each volume, each map, each piece of paper and how they came together to form a coherent collection. It is this knowledge which has made possible the production of a guide providing the researcher with an accessible overview of the collection, a detailed exposition of its contents and a sense of its place in the development of nineteenth-century Ireland', Raymond Refaussé, Irish Archives.

(2018) 242pp colour ills
€19.95 / £17.95 / $29.95

Medieval Irish buildings, 1100–1600
Tadhg O’Keeffe
‘It is hard to exaggerate the utility of this book for the student of Irish architectural history. It is a wonderful addition to the invaluable Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History of which this volume is number 18 in the series’, Michael O’Neill, Irish Archives.

(2015) 328pp colour ills
Special Price €9.95 / £8.95 / $14.95

For details of other titles in this series visit our website.
Representing Belfast’s pasts

Raymond Gillespie & Jonathan Jeffrey Wright, editors

From port to commercial centre, and from textile town to centre of shipbuilding, Belfast has adapted, chameleon-like, to changing circumstances. Each of these changes has resulted in a reimagination of the city’s past to make it usable for the present. That has taken many forms. As the town grew in the nineteenth century, local historians, most particularly George Benn, provided Belfast with a narrative that chronicled and explained its past and charted the topographical development from small village to international industrial city. Benn and his fellow antiquarians were not alone. Others joined in the quest for a usable past for this emerging city. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries novelists, artists, travellers, photographers, Irish-language enthusiasts and memoir writers all created their own images of Belfast’s past. These essays reveal the works they created in an effort to explain their own worlds to contemporaries through the medium of the past.

Contents: Fionntán de Brún (MU), Breandan Ó Buchalla and I mbéal Feirste cois cuain; Raymond Gillespie (MU), Dust of the world: imagining seventeenth-century Belfast; Raymond Gillespie & Jonathan Wright (MU), The evolution of a Belfast historian: George Benn and his histories; Alice Johnson (ind.): Nineteenth-century travellers and their narratives of Belfast; Joseph McBrinn (UU), John Luke’s painting and the construction of Belfast’s past; Olwen Purdue and Lucy Wray (QUB), Imagining Belfast’s poor: Alexander Hogg’s photographs of Belfast; Jonathan Wright (MU), Remembering Belfast’s pasts: the memoirs of Batt, Gaffikin, McTear and Forrester.

Raymond Gillespie & Jonathan Jeffrey Wright teach in the Department of History, MU. They have each published extensively on the history of Belfast.

Winter 2020
240pp ill
£55 / £50 / $74.50

Recently published

Bodenstown revisited: the grave of Theobald Wolfe Tone, its monuments and its pilgrimages

C.J. Woods

[“A] fascinating and in-depth account of Tone’s final resting place and its place in Ireland’s history ... Who said what, what the themes were, how many were there, the effects of splits, etc. are all elaborated upon by C.J. and in a short review I cannot do justice to C.J.’s tremendous research, including producing a speaker’s lists for each nearly annual commemoration since 1873 ... [This book adds] to our knowledge of Tone, his writing and how he was remembered, a must-read”, Aengus Ó Snodaigh, History Ireland.]

(2018) 288pp ill
£50 / £45 / $70

Preaching in Belfast, 1747–72: a selection of the sermons of James Saurin

Raymond Gillespie & Roibeard Ó Gallachóir, editors

‘This edition offers the reader a transcription of 24 of the 61 sermons written by the Reverend James Saurin (1720–72), vicar of Belfast 1747–72, and preserved in St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast. ... The 24 sermons are supported by an excellent introduction, which presents biographical information on James Saurin, a snapshot of the Church of Ireland community in Belfast, and some general information on how the sermons were used and modified ... [This edition offers] valuable insights into the preoccupations and beliefs of a second-generation Irish Huguenot clergyman and the Church of Ireland community in Belfast in the second half of the eighteenth century’, Jane McKee, Huguenot Society Journal.

(2015) 294pp
£55 / £50 / $74.50
The Irish Revolution, 1912–23
Mary Ann Lyons & Dáithí Ó Corráin, series editors

Roscommon
John Burke

The history of Roscommon in the 1912–23 period is one of transition to new political allegiances while clinging to old economic priorities. Almost wholly dependent on agriculture to fuel the local economy and sustain the county’s people, the fight for land was the ever-present backdrop to Roscommon’s early twentieth-century history. By 1912, the organization that had provided leadership in that fight – the Irish Parliamentary Party – was on the cusp of achieving home rule, a measure believed to have the potential to settle the land issue. The need to protect the home rule bill saw thousands in Roscommon join the Irish Volunteers and proclaim their opposition to anti-home rule unionists. The First World War led to the suspension of home rule and a call by Irish MPs for their followers to support the British war effort. However, a combination of factors caused many in Roscommon to reassess their political allegiance. Sensationally, in February 1917, Roscommon elected the first Sinn Féin-backed MP. This proved a decisive step in the demise of the Irish Parliamentary Party and the success of Sinn Féin, which reinvigorated the fight for the land as part of its efforts for a republic.

In 1919 Roscommon men took up arms against the British to pursue Sinn Féin aims, only to turn the weapons on one another three years later when conflict over the continued pursuit of the Irish Republic led to civil war. In tracing the history of Roscommon during these years of instability, Burke’s careful research has produced a comprehensive and accessible study that illuminates and explains the changes and continuities that defined the period.

John Burke holds a PhD in history from NUIG. Among other works, he is the author of Athlone, 1900–1923: politics, revolution and civil war (Dublin, 2015).

Kildare
Seamus Cullen

This is the first comprehensive, single-volume history of County Kildare during the Irish Revolution. Based on rigorous research in British and Irish archives, it charts the fortunes of home rule in Kildare, explaining the slow development of the Irish Volunteers and the position of the local unionist community vis-à-vis home rule. The key role played by British army units from Kildare in suppressing the 1916 Rising is highlighted. The county had the highest concentration of British military personnel in Ireland, and was home to the Curragh, the most extensive military camp in the country. This study challenges the depiction of Kildare as a ‘quiet county’ during the War of Independence by highlighting the pivotal role it played in the intelligence war and the county’s strategic communications importance for both Crown forces and republicans.

During the Civil War period Kildare was to the forefront of national events with the evacuation of the British army, which had a major negative impact on the local economy, and the utilization of military barracks as prisons by the Irish government. Politically, the Irish Revolution in Kildare did not see an ultimate triumph for republicanism in any form. While the emergence of Labour was notable during the revolution, after 1923 Kildare returned to its Redmondite roots, though under a pro-Treaty guise.

Seamus Cullen holds a PhD in history from DCU. Among other works, he is author of The Emmet Rising in Kildare: conspiracy, rebellion and manhunt in County Kildare, 1803–1806 (Dublin, 2004) and co-editor of Fugitive warfare: 1798 in North Kildare (Naas, 1998).
The Irish Revolution, 1912 –23
Mary Ann Lyons & Dáithí Ó Corráin, series editors

Leitrim

Patrick McGarty

Using a wide variety of sources in Ireland and Britain, Patrick McGarty has produced an absorbing, comprehensive and insightful exploration of County Leitrim during the Irish Revolution. This study details social, political, cultural and military developments from the introduction of the ill-fated third home rule bill in 1912 through the First World War, War of Independence and Civil War.

The period 1912–23 witnessed extraordinary upheaval and unrest at both national and local levels. In Leitrim there was a decisive political transformation with the collapse of the Irish Parliamentary Party and the remarkable rise of Sinn Féin. McGarty pays close attention to how various modes of resistance were deployed first against British rule and, after the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, against the pro-Treaty Irish government. These included political violence and widespread campaigns of boycott and intimidation and this study provides new insights into the nature and implications of both republican and state violence.

McGarty offers a novel and compelling account of the Irish Revolution in a so-called ‘quiet’ county.

Patrick McGarty is a senior lecturer at the School of Health and Social Sciences, IT Tralee. A native of Mohill, County Leitrim, he has lectured extensively on Leitrim in the 1912–23 period.

Antrim

Brian Feeney

At the beginning of the twentieth century Antrim had the largest Presbyterian population on the island of Ireland. It also encompassed most of Belfast – the largest city in Ireland – which dominated the economy of the north-east. Belfast was tightly integrated into Britain’s politics and economy, and the vast majority of its inhabitants, who were overwhelmingly Presbyterian and unionist like the rest of the county, were determined to keep it that way.

In Antrim there was no land war, the majority of the population supported the Crown forces, and only a minority voted for home rule. Belfast was the centre of Ulster unionist resistance to home rule, and the location of the headquarters of the Ulster Unionist Party and the UVF. This carefully researched study explores the political, economic and social links between Ulster unionist leaders in Belfast and the Conservative Party in Britain, which proved decisive in obstructing the Irish Revolution.

The book examines the outbreak of intense sectarian violence in Belfast and Lisburn in 1920, the ‘Belfast Pogrom’. It describes the reconstitution of the UVF as the Ulster Special Constabulary and, controlled by unionist politicians, the USC’s role in repressing the nationalist community. Using recently released documents, Feeney analyses the personnel, actions and constraints the IRA’s 3rd Northern Division faced, and provides the first comprehensive account of the campaign in north Antrim.

Brian Feeney was head of history in St Mary’s University College, Belfast. A columnist with the Irish News, his publications include Sinn Féin: a hundred turbulent years (Dublin, 2002), A pocket history of the Troubles (Dublin, 2004), and as co-author, Lost lives: the stories of the men, women and children killed in the Northern Ireland Troubles (Edinburgh, 1999).
Louth
Donal Hall

Derry
Adrian Grant
‘[Derry] was unique in its demographics and geography ... Grant presents a perspective that is ordinarily overlooked’, History Ireland. ISBN 978-1-84682-659-7 (2018).

Limerick
John O’Callaghan

Monaghan
Terence Dooley
‘A clear-eyed commitment to uncovering the experience of revolution in Monaghan, however messy or disillusioning, informs Dooley’s general approach ... In sum, Dooley’s book is a feast, a triumph, and a treat’, Tim Wilson, Irish Literary Supplement. ISBN 978-1-84682-616-0 (2017).

Waterford
Pat McCarthy
‘Pat McCarthy offers an impressively comprehensive picture, with chapters on a scene-setting cross-section of Waterford’s economy and society in 1912, the impact of war and rebellion, the rise of Sinn Fein, the War of Independence, the Anglo-Irish treaty, the Civil War, and the sum of it all as the dust settled on the Free State in 1923’, Saothar. ISBN 978-1-84682-410-4 (2015).

Tyrone
Fergal McCluskey
‘This book sets a high standard for the county histories to follow and more than meets the aims of the editors to deal with not only the events of the period (political and military) but to look at the labour movement, the role of women and the class politics which McCluskey shows to be very important’, Eoin Magennis, Seanchas Ard Mhacha. ISBN 978-1-84682-300-8 (2014).

Sligo
Michael Farry

Defending Trinity College Dublin, Easter 1916: Anzacs and the Rising
Rory Sweetman
This book ‘flatly contradicts the general consensus about Trinity in 1916, which is that Pearse and his colleagues felt it was off limits because any attack on a Protestant institution would look too sectarian ... Sweetman’s reconstruction suggests that on Monday night, a three-hour gun battle ensued between Anzacs on Trinity’s West Front parapets and rebels on the rooftops of Fleet Street ... [T]his is a superb piece of historical excavation and a reminder that even well-trodden ground can sometimes yield up new treasures’, Sunday Business Post.

The making of inequality in the Irish Free State, 1922–37: women, power and gender ideology
Maryann Gialanella Valiulis
‘Valiulis details how promises made in the 1916 Proclamation led women to believe they had earned the right to contribute as equal citizens in the foundation of the Irish Free State ... The book notes how this ideal of equality was far from the truth; the constitution limited a woman’s place, and their right to employment outside the home ... Valiulis engages artfully with historiography to show how the formerly liminal role of women was in fact a false depiction. She contrasts antiquated historiographical notions of “hysterical women” with the primary source material which reveals the women who fought for their promised equality in a new state they had helped to construct ... [T]his book was an enlightening read ... It illustrates the central role of women from 1916 to 1937 ... Valiulis also leaves the reader with some interesting afterthoughts concerning equality in modern Ireland’, Aisling Shalvey, Women’s History Association of Ireland.
A life in Cork, Dublin and Westminster: the reminiscences of Ignatius O’Brien, lord chancellor of Ireland, 1913–18

Edited and with an introduction by Daire Hogan and Patrick Maume

Ignatius O’Brien was the youngest son of a struggling Cork business family. After somewhat unhappy experiences at a Cork Vincentian school and the Catholic University of Ireland, he studied to become a barrister while supporting himself as a reporter on Dublin newspapers. Over time he built up a reputation in property and commercial law, and an ultimately successful career led to him being appointed a law officer and later lord chancellor under the post-1906 Liberal governments.

He avoided party politics, but was a moderate home ruler who attributed the troubles besetting relations between Britain and Ireland to a failure to implement moderate reforms in time. After being created Baron Shandon on his removal as lord chancellor, he moved to England, where as a member of the House of Lords he was involved in various peace initiatives.

His reminiscences of and reflections on the relatively self-contained world of mid-Victorian Cork, of student and journalistic work and play in Land War Dublin, of the struggles of an aspiring barrister on circuit and of the declining years of Dublin Castle, provide new insights into Irish life in the closing decades of the union. He also gives his impressions of prominent contemporaries, including Charles Stewart Parnell, Edward Carson and Lord Chief Justice Peter O’Brien (‘Peter the Packer’).

The publication by the Irish Legal History Society of this important memoir is accompanied by detailed notes and commentaries on its legal and political context by Daire Hogan and Patrick Maume.

Daire Hogan is a solicitor and former president of the Irish Legal History Society.

Patrick Maume is a researcher with the Royal Irish Academy’s Dictionary of Irish biography, who has published extensively on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Irish history.
Newspapers and journalism in Cork, 1910–23: press, politics and revolution

Alan McCarthy

Newspapers played a key role in shaping and reflecting public opinion during the Irish Revolution, 1910–23. County Cork was home to Skibbereen’s *Southern Star* and *Skibbereen Eagle*, and Cork city institutions the *Cork Examiner* and *Cork Constitution*, along with the *Cork Free Press*. These papers were joined by a number of fascinating but short-lived radical papers like Terence MacSwiney’s *Fianna Fáil*.

This book is not just concerned with the journalistic output of these papers and their diverse political outlooks, but also their staff, engaging with newsboys and editors alike. This inverts typical historical approaches, which traditionally use newspapers primarily as historical sources, whereas this study showcases them as historical forces. Of course, these papers operated during an incredibly violent time. This book highlights how editors and journalists at this time did not sit on the sidelines during the conflict but were centrally involved and experienced very real danger; newspaper owners and employees were threatened, attacked and shot.

This book examines the experience of these papers, and the consequential, and often devastating censorship and suppression they experienced. Engaging with the leading issues of the day and acting as a microcosm of the conflicts and disputes that engulfed Ireland as a whole, the newspapers of Cork city and Skibbereen entered the revolutionary decade with opposing views and many enjoyed a rivalry that added a spice to their coverage. This is the story behind these storytellers.

Alan McCarthy was conferred with a PhD by UCC in 2019. He has published his research in various book chapters and articles and has contributed to radio and television documentaries regarding the Irish revolutionary period and modern Irish history.

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Electioneering and propaganda in Ireland, 1917–21: votes, violence and victory

Elaine Callinan

This book provides an illuminating and unique analysis of the political rivalry between all the major parties during Ireland’s revolutionary years. Politicians, propagandists and their voluntary supporters instigated forceful election campaigns to promote ideologies that aimed to alter or imbed their principles into the minds of ordinary people. The goal was victory at the ballot box during the by-elections, general elections and local government elections of this era.

Callinan places her study within the wider contexts of the modernization of propaganda during the Great War and the expansion of consumerism to conduct an examination of election activity – from candidate selection and fundraising to door-to-door canvassing, and everything in between. Running alongside war and revolution were the political struggles, and they equalled any of the military upheavals that transformed politics in Ireland.

Elaine Callinan holds a PhD from TCD and is a lecturer in modern Irish history at Carlow College, St Patrick’s.
**Periodicals and journalism in twentieth-century Ireland 2: a variety of voices**

*Mark O’Brien & Felix M. Larkin, editors*

Periodicals have been at the core of journalistic activity since before the foundation of the state but have remained an area long neglected within media history. This volume, featuring essays by leading media historians, presents an insight into recent periodicals research in Ireland, much of which has focused on the magazines produced by various interest groups, the relationship between culture and commerce and how periodicals critiqued the national press. Alongside case studies of key periodicals such as *Fortnight*, *In Dublin*, *Status* and *The Phoenix* the volume also examines periodicals produced over the course of the twentieth century by religious bodies, the Irish-language lobby, the women’s-rights movement and the gay-rights campaign. Focusing on key periodicals, proprietors, editors, contributors and controversies, it evaluates the contribution of periodical journalism to the ideas and debates that helped shape twentieth-century Ireland.

**Contents:** Felix M. Larkin on periodicals and the press; Sonya Perkins on culture and commerce in periodicals; Caitríona Clear on women’s magazines of the 1960s; Barra Ó Seaghdha on the *Catholic Bulletin*; Ian d’Alton on the *Church of Ireland Gazette*; Sonja Tiernan on the *Irish Housewife*; Declan O’Keefe on religious periodicals; Regina Úi Chollátáin on *Comhar*; Mark O’Brien on *GCN*; Tony Keating on *Honest*; Michael Kennedy on the *Leader*; Andy Pollock on *Fortnight*; Martina Madden on *In Dublin*; Pat Brennan on *Status*; and Joe Breen on the *Phoenix*.

Art O’Brien and Irish nationalism in London, 1900–25
Mary MacDiarmada

London-born and reared, Art O’Brien’s journey from wealthy electrical engineer to leader of Irish militant nationalism in London was, by any measure, quite extraordinary. This book uses the life of O’Brien (1872–1949) as a central axis on which to construct an analysis of Irish nationalism in London from 1900 to 1925.

O’Brien was a member of the Gaelic League, Sinn Féin, the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Republican Brotherhood and the Irish Self-Determination League of Great Britain. He also established a prisoner-relief organization and had significant involvement in gun-running for the 1916 Rising and the War of Independence. Appointed London envoy of Dáil Éireann in 1919, he was a close confidant of Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and Éamon de Valera and was a mediator in various peace initiatives between the British and Sinn Féin during 1920 and 1921.

Yet, despite his extensive contribution to the Irish revolution, little is known of O’Brien’s activities. Based on rigorous research in British and Irish archives, this book recounts the vital contribution he made to the prosecution of the Irish revolution. It also recounts the hitherto little-known story of Irish cultural, political and militant nationalism in London between 1900 and 1925.

Mary MacDiarmada completed a PhD at DCU and is currently a research fellow in the School of History and Geography there.
The ideal diplomat? Women and Irish foreign affairs, 1946–90

Ann Marie O’Brien

This is the first full study to examine the appointment and experiences of women in the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs from 1946 to 1990. Focusing on the appointment and careers of Irish female diplomats, it examines their experiences in a historically male-centred career. In 1946, Sheila Murphy, a twenty-year veteran of the department, received her first diplomatic appointment and this sparked the beginning of women entering the department and attaining diplomatic status. Their inclusion in the elite Irish diplomatic corps, however, was not without its challenges. Only a handful entered the department in these early years and for these women the marriage bar was in place within the civil service, equal pay for equal work did not exist and they had to fight against the internalized image of the diplomat as a male agent. This book tells the story of these women’s work did not exist and they had to fight against the internalized image of the diplomat as a male agent. This book tells the story of these women’s careers, from the pioneering women of the 1940s through to the trailblazers of the 1990s. Women were involved in and participated in Irish foreign affairs throughout the twentieth century and their contribution to Irish diplomacy deserves to be told.

Ann Marie O’Brien holds a BA and an MA from MU. She graduated in 2017 from U Limerick with a PhD in history, which was funded by the Irish Research Council. She has published in Irish Historical Studies and Irish Studies in International Affairs.
Ingenious Ireland: a county-by-county exploration of Irish mysteries and marvels

Mary Mulvihill

Ingenious Ireland is a unique study of this country’s natural wonders, clever inventions and historic industries. Richly illustrated, meticulously researched and lucidly written, it brings the reader on a fascinating county-by-county tour of Ireland, with details of what to see and places to visit.

It is ‘Peppered with quirky snippets, esoteric and entertaining facts … slivers of little-known history come to light on every page … [T]his book should not be devoured at a single sitting but savoured slowly, uncovering morsels of recondite information to surprise your friends’, Paul Clements, Irish Times.

Find out why half of Ireland really belongs to North America and why Connemara rain is so salty. Marvel at the natural wonders that surround you, among them the oldest fossil footprints in the northern hemisphere, and the disappearing springs of Fore. Read about the advent of railways and modern timekeeping. Discover why the shamrock is a sham, and the Dublin Bay prawn is a fraud.

Meet the ingenious Irish and wonder at the range of their inventions: from Milk of Magnesia to the hypodermic syringe; from the steam turbine to the ejector seat; from the modern tractor to the first guided missile.

Mary Mulvihill’s knowledge was encyclopaedic and her enthusiasm for unravelling the mysteries and marvels of Ireland irresistible. Dip into Ingenious Ireland and you may discover that history was made on your own doorstep.


Mary Mulvihill was a pioneering science writer and broadcaster. A former editor of Technology Ireland who has written widely on science, she held a degree in genetics and an MSc in statistics from TCD. She has a diploma in journalism from DCU, and DCU Special Collections now host her archive. She was instrumental in founding WITS (Women in Technology and Science) and edited Stars, shells & bluebells – biographies of Irish women scientists and pioneers (WITS, 1997).
Dublin City University, 1980–2020: designed to be different

Eoin Kinsella

Dublin City University has grown rapidly from its origins as the National Institute for Higher Education, Dublin, which admitted just 200 students when it first opened in 1980. NIHED emerged from a fundamental review of the third-level sector during the 1960s and 1970s. The path to university status in 1989 was not smooth, requiring strong leadership, vision and significant philanthropic support during a time of economic crisis. DCU is one of Ireland’s youngest universities, and over the past four decades has become one of the most successful young universities in the world. It has been widely recognized as an innovative institution, strongly engaged in local, national and international communities and networks. Today the university has more than 17,000 students across three campuses in the north of the city, integrating four formerly independent colleges. This book relates the major achievements and many challenges in the forty years of DCU’s growth, examining key policy and strategy decisions, the contributions of leading personalities, and the collective experiences of staff and students.

Eoin Kinsella is a graduate of UCD, and has worked as a historical consultant with a wide variety of public and private bodies. He is the author of Leopardstown Park Hospital, 1917–2017: a home for wounded soldiers (Dublin, 2017) and Catholic survival in Protestant Ireland, 1660–1711 (Woodbridge, 2018).

A history of the Irish Red Cross

Shane Lehane

Since its establishment in 1939, the Irish Red Cross Society (IRCS) has played a key part in the medical, social, religious, cultural, political and diplomatic history of twentieth-century Ireland. Over the decades, it has provided first-aid services in both wartime and peacetime; it has acted as the state’s main agency for international humanitarian relief measures; and it has pioneered public-health and social-care services that were subsequently developed by the state. This book assesses the work and historical impact of the IRCS and examines the important role this voluntary organization has played in modern Ireland.

An oral history of University College Galway, 1930–1980: a university in living memory

Jackie Uí Chionna

This book tells the story of University College Galway from 1930 to 1980, through the reminiscences of dozens of people who were there. Interviews were conducted with everyone from college presidents to grounds staff, from students who began their college lives in the 1930s, to the post-free-education student activists of the 1970s. Based on ‘The University in Living Memory’, an oral history project initiated by the National University of Ireland Galway in 2007, this is a portrait of a university that changed considerably over time, but retains the affection of those who have been associated with it over many decades.
Music

Recently published

The Egan Irish harps: tradition, patrons and players
Nancy Hurrell

This book ‘tells the compelling story of John Egan, the leading self-taught harp maker in Dublin in the early 19th century. Egan invented a modernised harp for Ireland, called the Portable Irish Harp, the forerunner of the modern Irish harp … A fascinating study of the Egan harps, the book comes with an exquisite 16-page colour inset of 44 plates featuring a range of the instruments alluringly displayed – some with winged-maidens or Grecian figures playing lyres – in museum collections in Ireland, Britain, Europe and America’, Irish Times.

‘[A] well-written history of the long-lasting influence of canny and successful instrument manufacturer John Egan … Nancy Hurrell has written a fine history that should appeal even to non-specialists. Her detailed research, generous use of illustrations, and clear technical explanations make this an authoritative book. Hurrell’s foregrounding of the importance of women in the popularity of the portable harp is much appreciated, from marriageable young ladies to a one-woman act on through to the commercial success of John Egan’s daughter’, American Harp Journal.

(2019) 302pp colour ills
Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-759-4
€50 / £45 / $65

Documents of Irish music history in the long nineteenth century: Irish Musical Studies 12
Kerry Houston, Maria McHale & Michael Murphy, editors

This book explores various aspects of Ireland’s musical past through the lens of historical documents. It addresses topics including the social history of music, the patronage and composition of sacred music, the reception of opera, the emergence of the céilí, military band music, sources of traditional music, music and politics, music education, visiting and immigrant musicians, national identity, and the deployment of traditional melodies in art-music genres. This volume is part of the Irish Musical Studies series, which is published in association with the Society for Musicology in Ireland.

(2019) 280pp ills
€55 / £50 / $74.50

Elizabeth Cronin: the complete song collection
Dáibhí Ó Crónin

Elizabeth (Bess) Cronin, ‘The Queen of Irish Song’, as Séamus Ennis called her, is probably the best-known Irish female traditional singer of our time. Her reputation was such that collectors came from far and near to hear and record her singing. This new printing of a work first published in 2000 offers the complete Bess Cronin collection (in Irish and English) with texts of all the songs, and a biographical essay. The author, a grandson of Bess Cronin, brings to this publication a unique range of qualifications: access to Bess Cronin’s own autograph song-lists; transcriptions of her songs made by his uncle, Seán Ua Cróinín; notes and comments by Bess Cronin recorded by the author’s father, Donncha Ó Cróinín; and photographic material not previously seen. This personal, family material is combined with unique access to the BBC, IFC, and private American recorded material to offer a comprehensive account of an extraordinary singer and her distinctive singing style.

Summer 2020
332pp ills and CD
Pbk ISBN 978-1-84682-869-0
€29.95 / £27.50 / $39.95
Comhairle Bhéaloideas Éireann: The Folklore of Ireland Council publications

The Otherworld: music and song from Irish tradition
Ríonach uí Ógáin & Tom Sherlock, editors

This book ‘offers a tantalizing insight into its subject, while simultaneously enticing the reader to explore the field further. … This is an intensely rich, innovative, and fascinating representation of an aspect of Irish folklore which has, until now, remained relatively hidden within the archives’, Thomas Johnston, Irish Literary Supplement.

(2012) 160pp ills, with 2 CDs.
Pbk ISBN 978-0-9565628-3-8
€25 / £20 / £39.95

Seáinín Tom Sheáin: from Árainn to the silver screen
Tomás Ó hÓgáin

This book, which shares forty-two pieces of folk narrative collected from Seáinín Tom Ó Díoráin in the 1930s, provides a more complete picture of the storyteller and of the process behind the creation of the first Irish-language film.

(2019) 282pp ills
€65 / £55 / $85

The Mount Callan Garland: songs from the repertoire of Tom Lenihan, Knockbrack, Miltown Malbay, County Clare
Collected and edited by Tom Munnelly with music transcriptions by Marian Deasy

(2017) 188pp ills, 2 music CDs
€25 / €22.50 / $39.50

National University of Ireland publications

Éigse: A Journal of Irish Studies
Liam Mac Mathúna, editor

Éigse is devoted to the cultivation of a wide range of research in the field of Irish language and literature. Many hitherto unpublished texts in prose and verse ranging from Old Irish down to the modern language and including items from oral narration have appeared in its pages. It regularly includes important contributions on grammar, lexicography, palaeography, metrics and the history of the Irish language, as well as on a wide variety of Irish literary topics.

Volume 40
(2019) 424pp
Pbk ISBN 978-0-901510-76-1
€25 / £20 / $39.95

For previous volumes of Éigse see our website.

Lorg na Leabhar: a festschrift for Pádraig A. Breacabháin
Coimhín Breacabháin, Meidhbhín Ní Órdail & Gordon Ó Ríain, editors

This collection of essays honours the enormous contribution by Professor Pádraig A. Breacabháin to learning in a diverse range of fields including medieval Latin, early Modern Irish, palaeography, literary history, eighteenth-century verse, and modern Irish literature and language. The contributors engage with written material relating to early, medieval and modern Irish as well as with oral traditions in Gaelic-speaking areas of Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.

(2019) 534pp
Hbk ISBN 978-0-901510-77-8
€65 / £55 / $85

Lia Fáil
Liam Mac Mathúna, editor

Lia Fáil was originally published by the National University of Ireland as a journal of Irish research. Four volumes, edited by Douglas Hyde, were published between 1925 and 1932. This elegant facsimile edition reproduces all four books in a single volume.

(2013) 570pp
€50 / £45 / $74.50

Recently published

Life, lore and song / ‘Binneas an tSiansa’: essays on aspects of Irish tradition in honour of Ríonach uí Ógáin
Kelly Fitzgerald, Bairbre Ni Fhloinn, Meidhbhín Ní Órdail & Anne O’Connor, editors

In this book, twenty-seven contributors offer a variety of scholarly and personal tributes to Ríonach uí Ógáin, professor emeritus of Irish Folklore and former director of the National Folklore Collection.

The book engages with themes that have characterized her substantial contribution to scholarship both nationally and internationally, exploring topics such as the historical connections between traditional archives in Ireland, Scotland and the Nordic countries, folklore and folklife collecting, Irish folk tradition and ethnology, traditional music and song, and Irish manuscripts and poetry as rich sources of Irish tradition.

Contributors: Anna Bale (UCD); Angelo Baurke (UCD); Nicholas Carolan (Irish Traditional Music Archive); Síle de Cléir (UL); Kelly Fitzgerald (UCD); Cathal Goan (UCD); Barbara Hillers (Indiana U, Bloomington); Criosáir Mac Cárthaigh (UCD); Margaret A. Mackay (U Edinburgh); Liam Mac Mathúna (UCD); Maureen Murphy (Hofstra U); Éilís Ní Dhuibhne-Almqvist (Folklore of Ireland Society/ Cummann le Béaloideáis Éireann); Bairbre Ní Fhloinn (UCD); Meidhbhín Ní Órdail (UCD); William Nolan (UCD); Stífán Ó Cadhla (UCC); Seán Ó Cathain (UCD); Pádraig Ó hEalaí (NUIG); Anne O’Connor (Editor, Béaloideas); Anne O’Dowd (NMI); Diarmuid Ó Giolláin (UC); Liam Mac Mathúna, professor emeritus of Irish Folklore and former director of the National Folklore Collection.

(2019) 368pp colour ills
€55 / £50 / $74.95
A dictionary of Irish saints
Pádraig Ó Ríain

"This book, the crown of a lifetime’s work, is to be celebrated. It is an important book, one that every library worthy of the name will want to have, but we can also see it being snapped up by those thousands of people now greatly interested in all aspects of our past", Peter Costello, Irish Catholic.


Church and settlement in Ireland
James Lyttleton & Matthew Stout, editors

'The contents of this book make significant contributions to the subject of the title and it can therefore be recommended as a “must read” for any student of the church in Ireland', Archaeology Ireland.


The early Finn Cycle
Kevin Murray

'The distinction of this very impressive and clarifying book is that Murray is himself a new kind of synthetic historian. His is a remarkable feat of synthesis, a full and generous-spirited account of the scholarship on the cycle', Bernard O'Donoghue, TLS.


Irish reading societies and circulating libraries founded before 1825: useful knowledge and agreeable entertainment
Keith Manley

'This book is an important contribution not just to library history but to the history of the book and its readers', The Library.


Medieval Irish pilgrims to Santiago de Compostela
Bernadette Cunningham

'Not only a monument of scholarship, but a book that is eminently readable ... [T]his splendid book will stand the test of time', Adrian Empey, SEARCH.


The Glynn family and their businesses are placed within the wider context of networks developing between the urban, provincial and metropolitan industrial class, networks that helped shape Irish society and its economy in the long nineteenth century. The family is discussed primarily from a social point of view, while their business and trade enterprises are also explored.

Paul O'Brien received his doctorate from the Department of History at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick, where he lectures in the Academic Learning Centre. In 2016, he was a research fellow at Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris. He is a recipient of the Military Heritage Trust of Ireland award for his research into recruitment practices during the First World War.

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This cover, designed by Karen Vaughan, incorporates a Glynn family photo taken in front of Leadmore House, Kilrush, c.1904.
The Sunday papers: a history of Ireland’s weekly press  
Joe Breen & Mark O’Brien, editors

‘Undoubtedly one of the most compelling and controversial epochs in Irish journalism’, John Burns, Sunday Times.

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Walter Devereux, first earl of Essex, and the colonization of north-east Ulster, c.1573–6  
David Heffernan

‘This is an excellent reading of a hitherto lesser-known and understood episode in Tudor Ireland and the author is to be commended’, Brendan Scott, Bréifne.

€60 / £50 / $80

The Irish brigade in the Pope’s army, 1860: faith, fatherland and fighting  
Donal Corcoran

In 1860, some 1,300 young men from Ireland answered the call to cross Europe and defend Pope Pius IX’s Papal States, the territory he ruled on the Italian Peninsula, from advancing armies.

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Ann Power

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Louise Ryan

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Seán Farren, editor

John Hume is regarded as the key architect of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement. This book collects extracts from Hume’s speeches, articles and interviews, and adds a contextual narrative, chronicling his entire career.

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