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The catalogue cover incorporates an image taken from p. 26 of David Caron's *Dublin's stained glass: a guide to the finest twentieth-century windows* (2025) (see p. 27). The Civic Window, by George W. Walsh, is located within Dublinia, and is reproduced here by kind permission of the artist and Dublinia; photograph by Jozef Vrtiel.

Of it David Caron writes: 'Walsh was a perfect choice for the commission, not only for his acknowledged artistry and craftsmanship but also for his track record of incorporating local references in his windows, whether for secular or religious locations. [...] Located in what is now the cafe is The Civic Window, and it reveals aspects of the city's history and key events that shaped present-day Dublin [...] In the lower section of the window, emerging from the far left and far right, is a theatrical-style pageant of different costumed men and women through the ages – Normans, the English settlers, those who came on the armadas, etc. – each group blending into the next, conveying the continuum of constant arrivals of different peoples over the centuries. Running along the entire base is the fast-moving River Liffey, the life blood of the city and the perennial focal point of settlement.'

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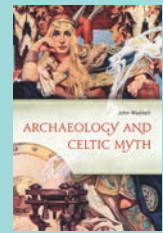
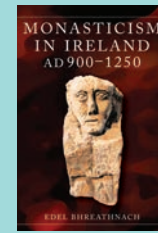
Four Courts Press has an Open Access option. Please contact the Press directly for details.

Some abbreviations and conventions used

DCU	Dublin City University
DkIT	Dundalk Institute of Technology
ILHS	Irish Legal History Society
ind.	independent
MU	Maynooth University
NCAD	National College of Art and Design
NUI	National University of Ireland
NUIG	National University of Ireland, Galway
OSB	Order of St Benedict
QUB	Queen's University, Belfast
RIA	Royal Irish Academy
TCD	Trinity College, Dublin
TUD	Technological University Dublin
U	university
UCC	University College, Cork
UCD	University College, Dublin
UCL	University College London
UG	University of Galway
UL	University of Limerick
UU	University of Ulster

Hbk	hardback
Pbk	paperback

Recently published



**Monasticism in Ireland,
AD 900–1250**

Edel Bhreathnach

Winner of the NUI Irish Historical Research Prize 2025.

Winner of the 2025 ACIS James S. Donnelly Sr Prize for Books in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

‘This scholarly work is a valuable contribution to the overall history of monasticism in Ireland’, Patsy McGarry, *Irish Times*.

‘[This book] studies, in incredible detail, “monasticisms” and Irish monastic life in an oft-forgotten period of medieval Irish history, drawing from a wide range of sources to paint a vivid and intriguing portrait of what monasticism looked like in Ireland during this period [... It] advances our knowledge of a previously elusive period in Irish monastic history with incisive clarity’, *Archaeology Ireland*.

(2024) 502pp colour ill.

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-117-9

€50 / £45 / \$70

**Archaeology and Celtic myth:
an exploration**

John Waddell

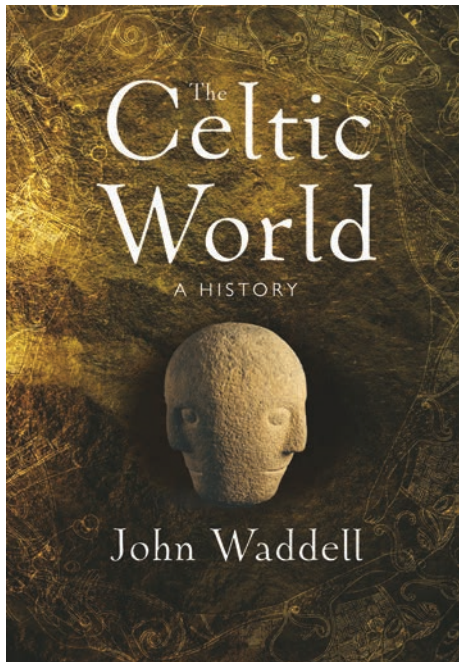
‘In [this book], Waddell explores Celtic myth from an archaeological base, resulting in an engaging text that challenges the reader’s perception of both Irish prehistoric monuments and Irish myth’, Katherine Leonard, *Journal of Irish Archaeology*.

‘Beautifully produced and elegantly written [...] Professional medievalists are likely to find Waddell’s book most useful for the rich, learned, and clear summaries of the Bronze Age and Iron Age archaeological data’, Mark Williams, *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies*.

(2015) 228pp colour ill.

Pbk ISBN 978-1-84682-590-3

€24.95 / £19.95 / \$29.95



The Celtic world: a history

John Waddell

At the dawn of history the Celts occupied a vast swathe of Europe from Ireland in the west to lands south of the Black Sea in Asia Minor. The study of this Celtic past has often been a disputed and debated territory and for centuries the true story of these Celtic-speakers of old was obscured by fanciful origin myths. Their origins and subsequent history were slowly revealed when linguistic studies and archaeological discoveries in the nineteenth century began to expose a rich and complex narrative that is still being clarified today. A series of dramatic finds in France and Germany in particular have brought these ancient peoples to scholarly and popular attention. This was a prehistoric world that offered an intricate picture of connectivity and diversity across much of Europe. These were people who have bequeathed us a remarkable archaeological heritage, an astonishing art style, several living languages, and, in Irish and Welsh, the most substantial body of early written texts in a non-Latin tongue in western Europe.

This book is a historical exploration of how our understanding of the ancient Celts and the concept of a European-wide world inhabited by Celtic-speaking peoples developed over time.

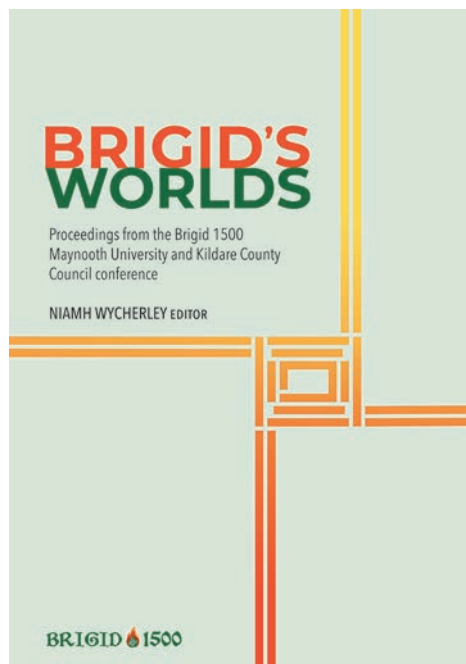
John Waddell is a former professor of archaeology, University of Galway. His books include *Archaeology and Celtic myth* (Dublin, 2014) and *Pagan Ireland: ritual and belief in another world* (Dublin, 2023).

Spring 2026

232pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-200-8

€29.95 / £24.94 / \$39.95



Winter 2026 (previously announced)

288pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-170-4

€50 / £45 / \$70

Brigid's worlds: proceedings from the Brigid 1500 Maynooth University and Kildare County Council conference

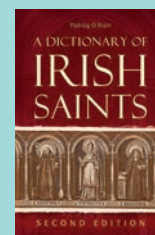
Niamh Wycherley, editor

Collecting essays from leading international academic experts on St Brigit of Kildare and early medieval Ireland, this book marks a unique historical and scholarly moment. Chapters explore the various institutional, literary, material, religious, gendered, political, and territorial worlds inhabited by Brigit, by her successors and by her devotees, from the fifth to the ninth centuries. The varied approaches offer rigorously researched insights into the early Irish Church, the role of women, early Irish society and the growth and spread of early Irish literary culture. Exploring the history of Brigit and her Church of Kildare from a multitude of disciplinary perspectives, the authors collectively investigate the local, national and international significance of, arguably, the most famous woman in Irish history.

Contents: Niamh Wycherley (MU), Introduction – St Brigit of Kildare's 1500th anniversary; Catherine McKenna (Harvard U), Brigit: the knowns and the unknowns; David Stifter (MU), The significance of 'Brigit'; Dorothy Ann Bray (McGill U, Montreal), The feast day of St Brigit and the festival of Imbolg; Sharon Greene (Abarta Heritage; UCD), Traces of Brigit's material world; Catherine Swift (UL), The nature of Brigit's community – as viewed through a Cappadocian lens; Tiago Veloso Silva (MU), Women's ecclesiastical patronage: the case of Kildare; Conor McDonough (UG), Brigit as Mary; Clare Stancliffe (Durham U), The early Lives of St Brigit revisited; Elizabeth Dawson (Carlow College, St Patrick's), The changing fortunes of St Brigit: navigating Uí Néill territory, Leinster & Kildare; Katja Ritari (U Helsinki), Female sanctity in the Lives of Brigit; Thomas Owen Clancy (U Glasgow), St Brigit and her cult in early medieval Scotland; Jean-Michel Picard (UCD), The cult of St Brigid in continental Europe and the manuscripts of Cogitosus's *Vita Brigidae*; Fabio Mantegazza (U Molise), The textual transmission of Cogitosus's *Vita sanctae Brigidae* through the names of Brigid's parents; Pádraig Ó Riain (UCC), From the Continent to Ireland: the written record of Brigid's feast day.

Niamh Wycherley is assistant professor of medieval Irish history in Maynooth University. Her monograph, *The cult of relics in early medieval Ireland* (Turnhout, 2016), won the NUI Publication Prize in Irish History 2017.

Recently published



A dictionary of Irish saints

Second Edition

Pádraig Ó Riain

'This dictionary, the work of more than 40 years, is an extraordinary achievement ... an important research tool for specialist libraries and for scholars of the vast heritage of Ireland. Highly recommended', E.J. Kealey, *Choice*.

'It is difficult to overemphasise the importance and scope of this extraordinary piece of scholarship. Simply indispensable', Brendan Scott, *Breifne*.

'[A]n outstanding contribution to the study of early Irish saints and their cults ... For students of early Irish literature, therefore, as well as historians, Ó Riain's *Dictionary* will form part of that select group of "indispensable books"', Thomas Charles-Edwards, *Irish Historical Studies*.

'[A] simply splendid book, which cannot be recommended highly enough to readers, for it provides an almost complete Irish hagiography', Peter Costello, *Irish Catholic*.

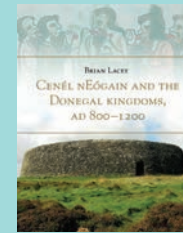
Professor Ó Riain has been working in the field of Irish hagiography for upwards of forty years, and the material for the over 1,000 entries in his *Dictionary* has come from a variety of sources, including Lives of the saints, martyrologies, genealogies of the saints, shorter tracts on the saints (some of them accessible only in manuscripts), annals, annates, collections of folklore, Ordnance Survey letters, and other documents. The body of the *Dictionary* is preceded by a preface, list of sources and introduction, and is followed by comprehensive indices of parishes, other places (mainly townlands), alternate (mainly anglicized) names, subjects, and feast days. This second edition also incorporates the material from *A supplement to A dictionary of Irish saints* (2022).

(2025) 684pp

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-162-9

€65 / £60 / \$84.50

Recently published



Cenél nEógain and the Donegal Kingdoms, AD 800-1200

Brian Lacey

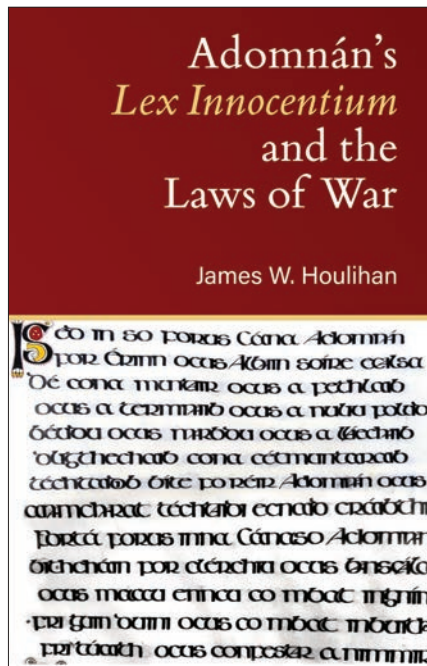
Cenél nEógain, a royal dynasty from Inishowen in Donegal, defeated its previously more successful opponent, Cenél Conaill – also from Donegal – at the battle of Clóitech in AD 789. All changed following that battle. From then on, the Cenél nEógain kingdom, known as 'Ailech', spread across Counties Derry, Tyrone (giving that territory its name), into Armagh, and dominated the whole territory of Ulster. The dynasty also attained, alternately, the higher kingship of Tara. After surnames appeared c.AD 1000, the Mac Lochlainns and O'Neills became Cenél nEógain's leading families. Meanwhile, the defeated Cenél Conaill struggled to maintain some degree of prestige following the emergence of a previously minor, upstart kingdom, originally from west Donegal, the Síl Lugdach. By c. 1200 the O'Neills and the leading Síl Lugdach family, the O'Donnells, were in position to rule the whole of Ulster until the English conquest c.1600. This book outlines in detail how that situation came about.

'Donegal's Inishowen peninsula and the county of Tyrone take their names from Cenél nEógain, a powerful medieval royal house that was part of the northern Uí Neill dynasty. The story of its rise and fall is brought dramatically to life in this terrific new book by Brian Lacey [...] Lacey's clear, upbeat writing, alongside nearly 100 photographs plus 50 royal family trees makes for an engaging and entertaining read. Anybody travelling northwest for a long weekend could do worse than pack a copy of this gripping book', Chris Doyle, *Irish Times*.

(2025) 318pp large format, iills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-171-1

€55 / £50 / \$74.50



Adomnán's *Lex Innocentium* and the laws of war

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. Since this volume was first published in hardback in 2020 serious breaches of the laws of war have occurred, particularly in Ukraine and Gaza, giving this book a grim relevance for the present day. The author cautions the reader to remember that the horrors of war are not just a phenomenon of the past.

'This is a remarkable study [...] Dr Houlihan's judgement on a variety of matters shows his deep understanding of and empathy with early Irish and early European societies', Charles Doherty, *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies*.

'A major milestone [...] It sets out not only the local and national importance of Adomnan's 'Law of the Innocents' but places it, for the first time, in its true international significance', Brian Lacey, *Donegal Annual*.

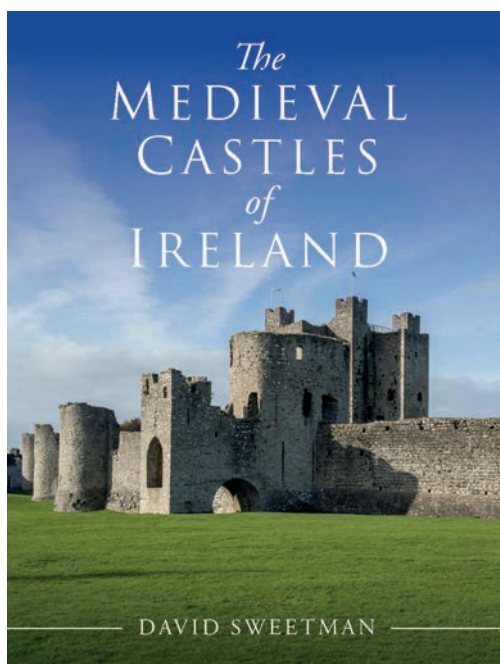
James W. Houlihan practised law as a solicitor in the Irish midlands for many years. On his retirement he completed a MA and a PhD in UCD.

Spring 2026 New Pbk edition

240pp

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-205-3

€24.95 / £22.50 / \$32.50



The medieval castles of Ireland

David Sweetman

While 'an Englishman's home is his castle', in Ireland virtually all castles were built for defensive purposes. *The medieval castles of Ireland* traces the development of the Irish medieval castle, drawing on the research and records of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland and David Sweetman's four decades of experience in medieval archaeology. It is the most thorough and accessible book available on Irish castles with 200 original drawings and photographs.

This new edition of David Sweetman's classic monograph takes the reader from early Anglo-Norman earthworks, the great fortifications like Trim Castle, through to the ubiquitous towerhouse and, finally, the fortified houses of the Elizabethan period. This book forms a basic framework and reference from which the student and academic can progress the subject of castle studies. At the same time, its accessible contents and stunning full-colour photography provide the general reader with an understanding of the buildings that are such a distinctive and dramatic feature in the Irish landscape.

'The last few decades have seen enormous advances in the study of castles and other defensive sites in this country. Now at last a comprehensive synthesis is available', John Waddell, *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society*.

'One man's deep understanding of these monuments is imparted in this book', Matthew Stout, *Archaeology Ireland*.

'An in-depth guide to typology and chronology in Irish castles. This work will be indispensable to future generations of "castle students". In addition, it will be an excellent guide for the general reader', Éamonn Cotter, *Journal of the Cork Archaeological and Historical Society*.

David Sweetman (1938–2023) was head of the Archaeological Survey of Ireland and Chief Archaeologist in what is now the National Monuments Service. He was a member of the Royal Irish Academy, a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (London), and an active participant in Irish castle studies groups in Ireland, Britain and France.

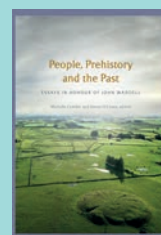
Summer 2026

224pp large format, full colour

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-214-5

€24.95 / £22.50 / \$32.50

Recently published



People, prehistory and the past: essays in honour of John Waddell

Michelle Comber and Kieran O'Connor, editors

'This is an impressive and beautifully presented text, with genuinely innovative and sometimes controversial contributions from some of Ireland's finest archaeological minds', *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*.

'[... A] fitting tribute to a man with such an extensive legacy. Colleagues, peers and friends are among the contributors to this varied and intriguing book. The authors have furthered Waddell's own research and have introduced new and exciting perspectives. This wide range of themes reflects Waddell's own broad realm of influence', *Archaeology Ireland*.

(2025) 288pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-164-3

€55 / £50 / \$74.50

The Uí Chellaig lords of Uí Maine and Tír Maine: an archaeological and landscape exploration of a later medieval inland Gaelic lordship

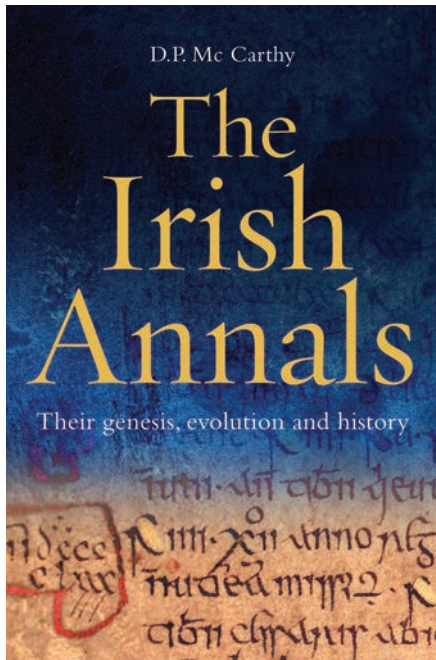
Daniel Patrick Curley

'*The Uí Chellaig lords of Uí Maine and Tír Maine* is an archaeological exploration and landscape study of one of the most significant lordships in late medieval Connacht. The Ó Cellaig lords were influential figures within medieval Gaelic society and this book details the settlements, economy and landscape of their inland lordship which covered an extensive part of the midlands. Illustrated throughout with informative maps and photographs, this book offers important insights into the Ó Cellaig lords and their local territories, and indeed into Gaelic medieval Ireland', *Archaeology Ireland*.

(2024) 320pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-091-2

€45 / £40 / \$65



The Irish annals: their genesis, evolution and history

D.P. Mc Carthy

'This ambitious and wide-ranging book surveys the extant manuscripts of all the major Annals known from medieval Ireland and offers challenging new interpretations of the methodologies of the chroniclers', Dr Bernadette Cunningham, *Irish Archives*.

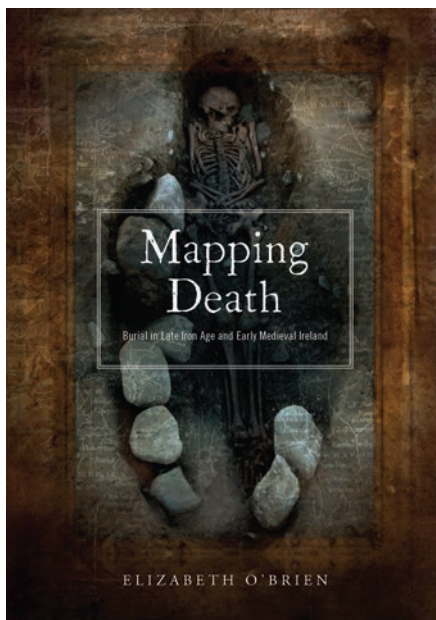
This is the first book to systematically survey the manuscripts of the Irish Annals, the unique mediaeval Christian chronicles which were maintained in Ireland from around the arrival of Christianity in the fifth century up to the late sixteenth century. It also provides a substantial review of the published scholarship concerning them and demonstrates that many of the hypotheses accepted as axiomatic in modern times are in conflict with the evidence of the Annalistic manuscripts and must therefore be rejected. By arranging these texts in a logical taxonomy and critically analyzing their textual and chronological features, this work deduces the most comprehensive account of the origins and the evolution of these Annals ever published. This in turn yields an outline history of the principal locations and compilers involved in the compilation of these Annals. Coloured plates of the primary manuscripts present the reader with a clear view of the character of each text.

(2025) New Pbk edition

448pp colour illis

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-198-8

€35 / £29.95 / \$45



Mapping death: burial in late Iron Age and early medieval Ireland

Elizabeth O'Brien

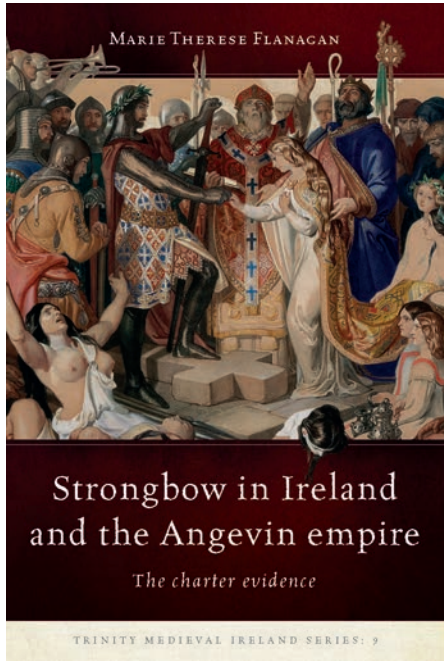
Burial rites and associated events can provide a unique insight into the attitudes and beliefs of diverse communities at any given moment in time. This book – the outcome of forty years of research – takes an interdisciplinary approach to burial practices in Ireland in order to interpret and to chart 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; c14 (radiocarbon) dating evidence; strontium and oxygen isotope evidence for movement of peoples; and osteo-archaeological evidence. These are 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 pagan ancestors; and burial in early Church cemeteries.

(2025) New Pbk edition

320pp colour illis

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-199-5

€29.95 / £24.95 / \$45



Autumn 2026

400pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-212-1

 €55 / £50 / \$74.50

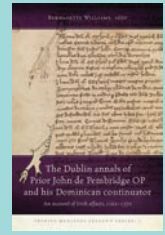
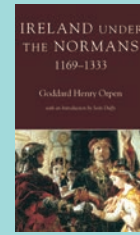
Strongbow in Ireland and the Angevin empire: the charter evidence

Marie Therese Flanagan

This book explores the career in Ireland of Strongbow, the first Anglo-Norman lord of Leinster, in the broader context of his interests and that of his family within the Angevin empire where he held lands in England, south Wales and Normandy. It draws on a body of documentary evidence that has not been sufficiently exploited in tracing the beginnings of the colonial advance into Ireland from 1167 onwards. Strongbow's charters are genuinely contemporary by comparison with the principal narrative accounts which date from around 1190, a generation after the intrusion of the first invaders. The charters of Strongbow's father, Earl Gilbert of Pembroke, are included for the light they shed on what exactly Strongbow inherited from his father in Pembroke. The charters of Strongbow's mother, Countess Isabel, highlight the family's landholdings in Normandy, while two charters of his wife, Aífe, shed light on her role as a widow sustaining family interests and adroitly negotiating across legal and cultural boundaries between Ireland and Britain. Last but not least, a charter of Strongbow's sister, Isabel, in which she anticipates that she could become heir to his estates, highlights that until Strongbow married Aífe in 1170 he was in the precarious position of not having a legitimate heir to succeed him.

Marie Therese Flanagan is professor emeritus, School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics, QUB.

Recently published



The Dublin annals of Prior John de Pembridge OP and his Dominican continuator: an account of Irish affairs, 1162–1370

Bernadette Williams, editor

'Medieval Ireland is renowned for its rich tradition of annals. This book adds to that legacy by presenting an edition and translation of a fourteenth-century text, offering valuable insight into this historical record ... Historians of medieval Ireland – particularly the years 1315 to 1346 – will find much here, including politics, warfare, details on the trial of Alice Kyteler, and even a scene of seven partridges flying into Dublin', *Medievalists.net*.

 (2024) 316pp

Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-965-9

 €55 / £50 / \$74.50

Ireland under the Normans, 1169–1333

Goddard Henry Orpen

Almost a century after the publication of his *magnum opus*, Goddard Henry Orpen's *Ireland under the Normans* remains a work of quite the most stupendous scholarship. Every monograph which has since appeared on this era of Irish history has paraphrased him, adjusted some of the details of his account, added some information where a new source has been unearthed, or sought to tell the same story in a different tone. His work cannot be superseded because it is the source and origin of the professional historiography of Anglo-Norman Ireland. The Four Courts Press edition is completely reset, and published in one volume, with an introduction by Professor Seán Duffy, FTCD.

 (2019) 682pp

Pbk ISBN 978-1-84682-818-8

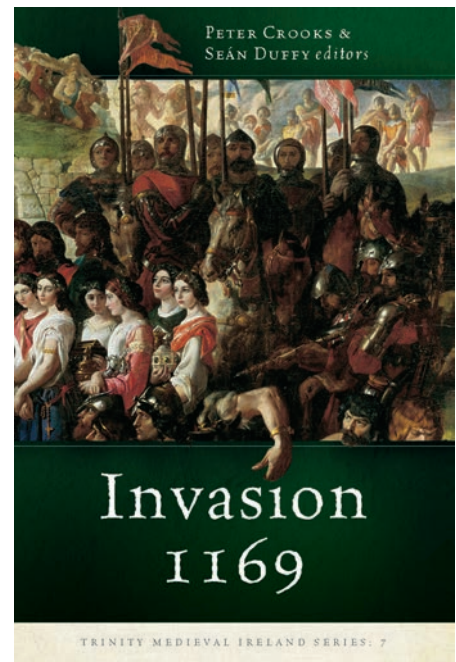
 €35 / £30 / \$45

Invasion 1169

Peter Crooks and Seán Duffy, editors

May 2nd, 2019, marked the 850th anniversary of the first landing in Co. Wexford in 1169 of the Anglo-Norman adventurers enlisted by the king of Leinster, Diarmait Mac Murchada. Their arrival marked the start of the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland. Within two years, Henry II would become the first reigning English monarch to set foot on Irish soil. In what was arguably the single-most consequential event in Irish history, King Henry formally brought the island under the lordship of the English crown, a constitutional relationship that endures to the present day in the case of Northern Ireland. The proceedings of the national conference marking the anniversary of that event are collected in this volume.

Peter Crooks is senior lecturer in medieval history at TCD. He is founding academic director of the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland and a member of the Irish Manuscripts Commission. **Seán Duffy** is professor emeritus of medieval Irish and Insular history at TCD and chairman of the Friends of Medieval Dublin.



Winter 2026 (previously announced)

320pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-124-7

€50 / £45 / \$70

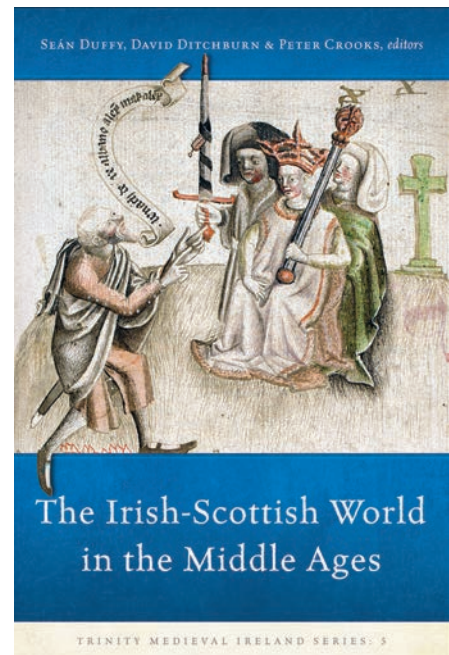
The Irish-Scottish world in the Middle Ages

Seán Duffy, David Ditchburn and Peter Crooks, editors

In this volume experts explore crucial aspects of Irish-Scottish links in the Middle Ages. Do the origins of modern Scotland lie in Ireland? To what extent did the legacy of Colum Cille of Iona define relations between the two regions – in political, ecclesiastical, literary and artistic terms? Is the Book of Kells 'Irish' or 'Scottish'? What were the impacts of Viking and then Anglo-Norman attempts at conquest? Did contacts intensify with the recruitment of Hebridean galloglass by the chieftains of Gaelic Ulster and elsewhere or were ancient bonds on the wane as the Middle Ages drew to a close?

Contributors include: Dauvit Broun (U Glasgow), Thomas Owen Clancy (U Glasgow), James E. Fraser (U Guelph), Bernard Meehan (TCD), Benjamin Hudson (Penn State U), Alex Woolf (U St Andrews), R.A. McDonald (Brock U), Michael Penman (U Stirling), Seán Duffy (TCD), Robin Frame (Durham U), Katharine Simms (TCD), Martin MacGregor (U Glasgow), Michael Brown (U St Andrews).

David Ditchburn and **Peter Crooks** lecture in the Department of History, TCD. **Seán Duffy** is professor emeritus of medieval Irish and Insular history at TCD and chairman of the Friends of Medieval Dublin.

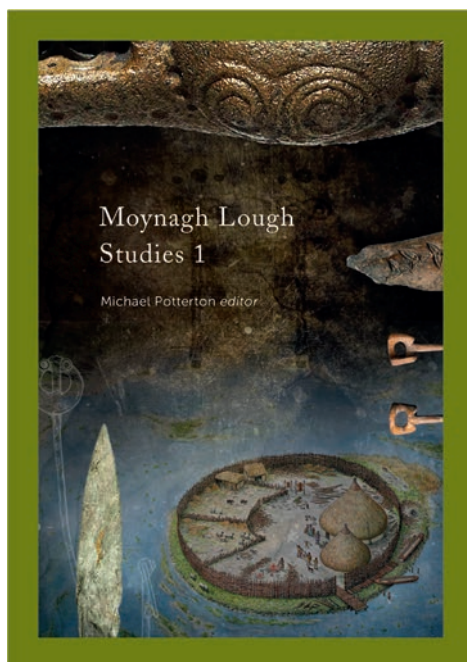


Summer 2026 (previously announced)

320pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-635-1

€50 / £45 / \$70



Moynagh Lough studies 1

Michael Potterton, editor

Moynagh Lough is one of the most significant archaeological sites ever discovered in Ireland. From 1980 to 1998 excavations were directed by John Bradley. This exceptional multi-period wetland site yielded a rich artefactual assemblage from multiple levels and phases – Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and medieval. Over the years, Bradley produced interim reports and published several articles about the findings, but when he passed away suddenly in 2014, the final excavation report remained incomplete. The Moynagh Lough Project was re-established in 2018 and several strands of post-excavation research have been completed. With twenty essays by a field of national and international experts and specialists, *Moynagh Lough studies* is the first book-length volume dedicated to this important archaeological site. It contains essays on medieval and prehistoric artefacts including bone, clay, crucibles, glass, leather, lithics, metalworking, textiles, quern-stones, and a very rare ogam-inscribed antler, as well as specialist reports on archaeo-botany, charcoal and wood, dendrochronology, faunal remains, a biomolecular study of coprolites, and the isotopic analysis of pig remains. There are contributions placing the site within its wider landscape setting, early medieval high-status sites, its international trade network, and its significance to the new Nobber Heritage Centre.

Michael Potterton is an associate professor in the Department of History at Maynooth University. Since 2018 he has been the Director and Principal Investigator of the Moynagh Lough Project (Phase 3).

Winter 2026 (previously announced)

352pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-127-8

€50 / £45 / \$70

Recently published



Landscapes of kingship in early medieval Ireland, AD 400–1150

Patrick Gleeson

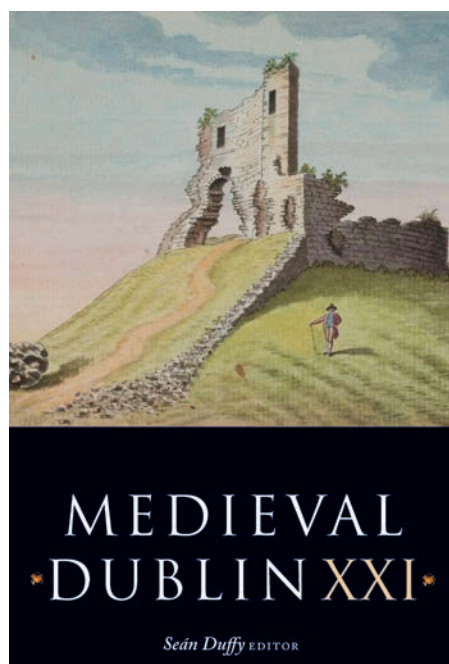
Kingship represents the core institution and central problem of early medieval Ireland and its study, but to date has mainly been analyzed through documentary sources. Yet, archaeological studies have offered a boon of rich data in recent decades that have transformed our understanding of royal places and wider society. Because kingship was vested in places in Ireland, a fundamental question is how the development of royal landscapes illuminates the evolution of kingship and that institution's wider societal roles. This volume harnesses this interdisciplinary evidence for the evolution of kingship through the prism of how societies formed and governed kingdoms, and the role that royal landscapes played in these discourses particularly. Framed around two major case studies, the Uí Néill and Éoganachta, and their regional hegemonies centred on the kingships of Tara and Cashel, it traces the evolution of diverse kingdoms throughout Ireland, and the role that places of power played in strategies of rulership and governance.

'Meticulously researched, exceptionally detailed and utterly absorbing, Gleeson examines ways in which Ireland's early rulers used their environment to maintain power [...] There is certainly plenty here for the archaeologist, historian, student, expert or anyone with a keen interest in early Irish culture, society and history', Chris O'Doyle, *Irish Times*.

(2025) 382pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-165-0

€50 / £45 / \$70



Medieval Dublin XXI

Seán Duffy, editor

This volume contains an abundance of new scholarship to shed light on Dublin's fascinating medieval past, including reports of major archaeological excavations: Antoine Giacometti reveals exciting new Viking-Age discoveries from excavations at a remarkable site at the edge of Kilmainham near Ballyfermot; Ian Russell reports on his excavation of an extraordinary medieval watermill at Abbey Street Upper; Alan Hayden explains the significance of a major quarry site he excavated at Chancery Lane and Ship Street Great; Paul Duffy describes his dig in Exchequer Street which may well have revealed the site of the medieval exchequer from which the street takes its name; Marc Piera discusses significant medieval discoveries on Kevin's Street, including a previously unknown moated enclosure surrounding the medieval church of St Kevin and a substantial lime kiln associated with the church's construction; and Chris Coffey describes the archaeological findings at the site of Thomas Molyneaux's house in Bride Street.

Russell Ó Riagáin examines the career of Echmarcach Rognvaldsson/Mac Raghnaill (d. c. 1064), who succeeded Sitriuc Silkenbeard as king of Dublin in the decades following the battle of Clontarf; Daniel Tietzsch-Tyler investigates Castleknock Castle in light of recent conservation works, arguing that it may be the oldest polygonal keep built in Ireland and possibly the inspiration for what few others were built here; Rebecca Devine provides a study of the evolution of royal murage grants towards the maintenance of the city walls in thirteenth-century Dublin; Bernadette Williams revisits John de Pembridge's famous chronicle of Dublin, examining the way in which it chooses to portray England's kings, their viceroys and their parliaments; and Ferenc Holyba uncovers the surviving evidence for the abortive university established in Dublin in the fourteenth century.

Seán Duffy is professor emeritus of medieval Irish and Insular history at TCD and chairman of the Friends of Medieval Dublin.

Autumn 2026

320pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-210-7

€50 / £45 / \$70

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-211-4

€29.95 / £24.95 / \$39.95

Recently published



The Latin Lives of St Laurence of Dublin

Maurice F. Roche

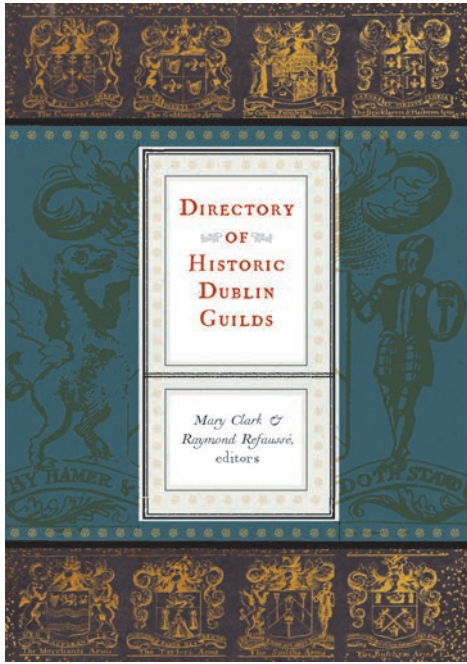
The four Latin Lives of St Laurence O'Toole, along with some other ancillary material, were critically edited by the late Maurice Roche for his doctoral thesis in 1981. The original thesis, comprising two volumes, included chapters on the life and career of Laurence, as well as detailed analyses of each of the Lives, revealing the relationships among them and highlighting the very diverse approaches of the hagiographers. The critical editions of the four Lives were followed by documents concerning Laurence's canonization and translation.

Working from a copy of the thesis provided by relatives, Charles Doherty and Mary Kelly bring Dr Roche's invaluable research to a general readership. The book will be of fundamental importance for scholars working in twelfth- and thirteenth-century Irish, English and European history. It offers a unique perspective into the settlement of Glendalough, including action-packed accounts of brigands' attacks and the saint's revenge, as well as providing a crucial insight into the church and society at this pivotal point in Irish history. The book also includes draft translations of the two most important Lives, which were found among Dr Roche's papers.

(2024) 464pp large format, colour ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-123-0

€50 / £45 / \$70



Autumn 2026

128pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-213-8

 €29.95 / £24.95 / \$39.95

Directory of historic Dublin guilds: 2nd edition
Mary Clark and Raymond Refaüssé, editors

Guilds were mutual benefit associations which flourished in the towns and cities of medieval Europe. The guild system was brought to Dublin by the Normans in the late twelfth century and dominated the commercial, political and social life of the city for 650 years. The guilds were abolished in 1841, with two exceptions, Goldsmiths and Apothecaries, but Tailors' Hall and Merchants' Hall survive to remind us of now-vanished guilds which helped to shape Dublin's history.

The *Directory of historic Dublin guilds* was first published in 1993 and was the winner of the international Phillimore Prize, awarded by the Society of Archivists. The *Directory* contributed to a renewed interest in Dublin's guilds, which in turn led to the discovery of more source materials, now included in this second edition, containing a brief history of each trade and craft guild, religious guilds and military guilds, with locations of surviving documents and artifacts.

Mary Clark was Dublin City Archivist, 1979–2021. **Raymond Refaüssé** was Librarian and Archivist of the Church of Ireland, 1984–2016.

Recently published

Religion, landscape and settlement in Ireland: from Patrick to present
Kevin Whelan

'[A] fast-moving, bracing and at times controversial analysis of how religious practice and religious identity have evolved over the long run, using the evidence of landscape and maps, archaeology and material culture', David Dickson, *History Ireland*.

Irish history is often past and furious and nowhere more contentiously than when discussing religion. This book is designed to be read with equal profit by those who know a little and those who know a lot about the role of religion in Irish history. It moves at a fast pace, it is extensively illustrated with fresh images and maps, it draws on diverse evidence in multiple languages and it uses examples drawn from every county in Ireland.

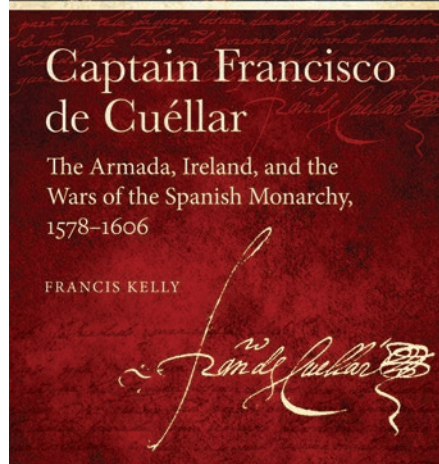
The volume covers commentators writing in Arabic, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Latin and Spanish. The focus is on the lived experience of real people in real places in real time, rather than on the abstractions of nationality, class and race. Because religion played such a decisive role in Irish life, the book is also an oblique-angle version of Irish history, conveying a sense of how we got to be where we are, even as we leave it behind.

'The sheer audacity of this undertaking is nothing short of breathtaking [...] Whelan's scholarly study points out the innumerable links between religion and Ireland's cultural heritage, links that can be seen in literature, folklore and the built environment', Eamon Maher, *Irish Times*.

 (2025) New edition in Pbk 302pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-166-7

 €24.95 / £22.50 / \$32.50



Spring 2026 New Pbk edition

312pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-208-4

€24.95 / £22.50 / \$32.50

Captain Francisco de Cuéllar: the Armada, Ireland, and the wars of the Spanish monarchy, 1578–1606

Francis Kelly

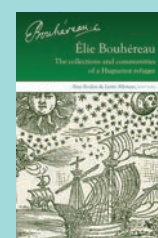
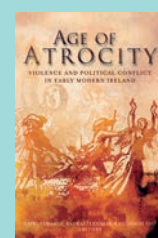
Captain Francisco de Cuéllar sailed with the Spanish Armada and is known to Irish history for the remarkable account of his experiences after he was shipwrecked in County Sligo, in September 1588. He lived among the Gaelic Irish of the north-west for seven months before he was helped to reach Scotland, and later, the Low Countries. But Cuéllar's Irish adventure was only one of many in a remarkable military career. Drawing on previously undiscovered documents from Spanish and Belgian archives, this book chronicles, for the first time, his entire military service. For almost three decades he traversed much of the Spanish empire and beyond. He participated in military operations on land and sea, commanding galleons and troops in some of the most celebrated campaigns of the era.

'Kelly's most admirable trait as a writer is that he reminds us of the extraordinary lives lived by men of war, so many now forgotten. As Kelly shows, occasionally they can be revived through the patient excavation of sources and the application of a lively historical imagination', Freddy C. Domínguez, *Journal of British Studies*.

'[C]aptures in vivid detail the life of a soldier of the late sixteenth century [...] De Cuéllar's memoirs of his time in Ireland gives a unique and fascinating historical insight into contemporary Gaelic culture and customs', Rory Finnegan, *An Cosantóir*.

Francis Kelly is a native of Manorbhamilton, County Leitrim. An alumnus of UG and UCC, he has written extensively about the Spanish Armada in Ireland.

Recently published



Élie Bouhéreau: the collections and communities of a Huguenot refugee

Amy Boylan and Janée Allsman, editors

Élie Bouhéreau (1643–1719) was a French medical doctor and scholar from a prosperous merchant family prominent in the Reformed Church of La Rochelle. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes Bouhéreau fled France, and the personal library and correspondence of this brilliant refugee wended their way through Europe to become one of the formative collections of Marsh's Library, Dublin, where he served as Ireland's first public librarian. This volume explores the worlds Bouhéreau traversed and impacted through investigation of his print and manuscript collections.

'This is a valuable collection of essays, casting fresh light on Bouhéreau's world and providing new insights into aspects of his life which have hitherto received little or no attention', Raymond Refaoussé, *Church of Ireland Journal*.

(2025) 240pp colour ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-129-2

€55 / £50 / \$74.50

Age of atrocity: violence and political conflict in early modern Ireland

David Edwards, Pádraig Lenihan and Clodagh Tait, editors

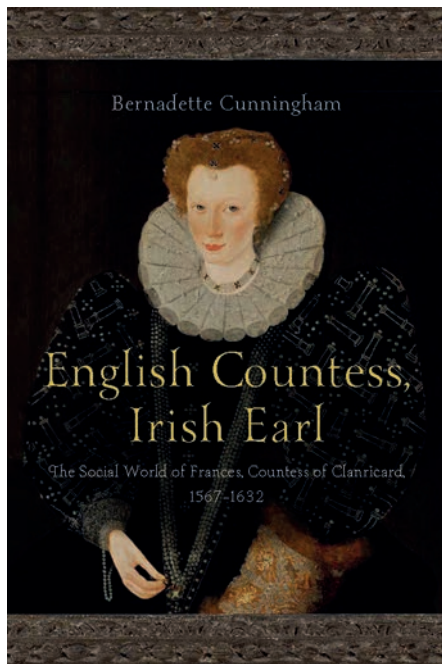
This book examines one of the bloodiest epochs in Irish history. Part one covers the sixteenth century, revealing how efforts by the Tudor monarchy to curb the powers of the autonomous Irish lords degenerated into a bitter cultural and sectarian conflict characterized by summary killings and massacres. The second part pays particular attention to the 1641 rebellion and the Confederate Wars.

'Age of atrocity reveals the true nature and extent of violence and atrocity in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries as a conquering England gains territorial supremacy', William J. Smyth, *Irish Times Books of the Year* (2007).

(2010) 320pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-84682-267-4

€24.95 / £19.95 / \$35



English countess, Irish earl: the social world of Frances, countess of Clanricard, 1567–1632

Bernadette Cunningham

Frances Walsingham was the only surviving daughter of an Elizabethan secretary of state, Sir Francis Walsingham. In modern times Frances has enjoyed numerous cameo appearances in books about prominent individuals in Tudor and early Stuart court society. There have been many studies of the careers of her father as administrator and royal spymaster, and of each of her first two husbands, Sir Philip Sidney, a soldier and renowned poet who died tragically young, and Robert Devereux, second earl of Essex, a charming and ambitious military leader who overstepped his role and paid with his life. Although she lived in a succession of patriarchal households, in a world where even elite women were regarded as legally and socially inferior to men, her story can be told.

When she married for a third time in 1603, her choice of an Irishman, Richard Burke, fourth earl of Clanricard, surprised seasoned court observers. Focussing on this English countess and the Irishman with whom she spent the second half of her life, this book offers new perspectives not just on the social and political networks that they cultivated and on which they relied, but also on wider aspects of English–Irish relationships in the early modern era. Theirs is a multi-faceted story of contrasting backgrounds, interlinked elite social networks, their building of new manor houses at Tonbridge in Kent and at Portumna in east Galway, their management of extensive landed estates in two countries, their position as Catholics (one a convert) in a Protestant state, the blended family they reared, and their own enduring relationship over three decades in the early Stuart era.

Bernadette Cunningham is a retired librarian based in Dublin. She has published widely on early modern Ireland and is a former winner of the Irish Historical Research Prize awarded by the National University of Ireland.

Summer 2026

200pp colour ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-207-7

€39.95 / £35 / \$50

Recently published



The Church of Ireland under the Stuarts

Patrick Little, editor

'This superb volume offers a more nuanced and carefully contextualised picture. Rather than simply confirming a narrative of failure, the contributors collectively complicate it — revealing not a monolithic and crumbling institution, but a more varied landscape of decline and resilience, and even (at times) flourishing [...] The essays offer fresh perspectives on clerical experience and the institutional life of the Church of Ireland beyond its better known figures and urban strongholds. They are concise but nuanced, and collectively they serve as valuable curtain-raisers for future scholarship. They convince the reader that the long seventeenth century was, if not quite the best of times, certainly more than simply the worst. I commend it to you heartily', Christopher West, *Church of Ireland Gazette*.

(2025) 214pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-088-2

€55 / £50 / \$74.50

The annals of the four masters: Irish history, kingship and society in the early seventeenth century

Bernadette Cunningham

Winner of the 2011 NUI Irish Historical Research Prize

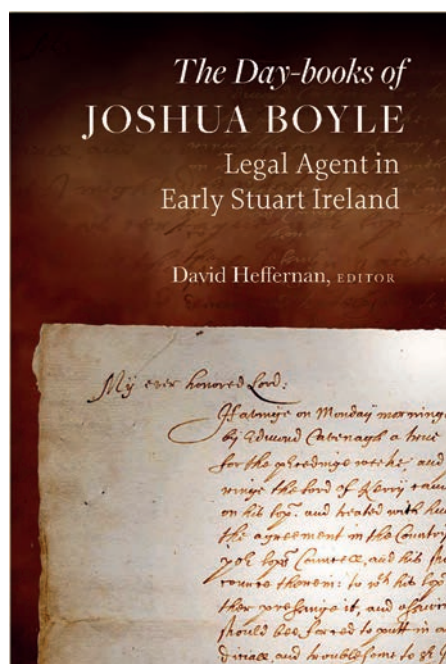
'Cunningham's work is a labour of love that deploys the best resources of professional scholarship and personal enthusiasm [...] in its understanding of the sheer central importance of its subject [...] this masterly book is unique', Mícheál Mac Craith, *Irish Economic and Social History*.

'This important book [...] is a fresh contribution to the study of early-modern intellectual life in Gaelic Ireland and its continental diaspora', Thomas O'Connor, *Catholic Historical Review*.

(2014) 348pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-84682-538-5

€29.95 / £27.50 / \$39.95



The day-books of Joshua Boyle, legal agent in early Stuart Ireland

David Heffernan, editor

Richard Boyle, first earl of Cork (1566–1643), was reputedly the wealthiest man in the Stuart dominions, with an estate of over 100,000 acres in Ireland. His rise from humble beginnings in his native Kent elicited a lot of questions about how he had made his money and acquired his vast estate. In the 1630s, as his rivalry with the viceroy of Ireland, Thomas Wentworth, escalated, his many enemies pounced and Boyle found himself mired in legal cases, sometimes challenging his title to lands he had acquired decades earlier. He lawyered up accordingly.

One of Boyle's legal agents was a cousin of his by the name of Joshua Boyle. This book presents six 'day-books' or diaries that Joshua composed for the earl's perusal between November 1638 and August 1639 while Cork was residing in England. In them we see Joshua moving between the courts in Dublin, where he liaised with the earl's senior lawyers, while also acting as a rent collector there for his master and as steward of his seat, Lismore Castle, in Munster. The 'day-books' provide a uniquely detailed insight into the court system of mid-seventeenth-century Ireland from the perspective of a mid-ranking legal agent, while also shedding light on the politics and society of Ireland in the period shortly before the outbreak of the 1641 rebellion.

David Heffernan is an independent historian of Tudor and early Stuart Ireland. He is the author of six books, including most recently, *The court minutes of the Worshipful Company of Clothworkers, London concerning their Londonderry estate, 1609–1676* (Irish Manuscripts Commission, Dublin, 2025).

Summer 2026

256pp colour ill

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-215-2

€55 / £50 / \$74.50

A volume in the ILHS series

Recently published



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

Brid McGrath

This is the first comprehensive 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; the 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 governments of lord deputies Arthur Chichester and Thomas Wentworth and during the period of the Confederation of Kilkenny.

'McGrath's book will be essential to those who want to understand how early modern Ireland worked', Ian Campbell, *Irish Jurist*.

(2023) 612pp colour ill

Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-814-0

€65 / £60 / \$84.50

A volume in the ILHS series

Modern History



Autumn 2026 (previously announced)

384pp colour ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-173-5

€50 / £45 / \$70

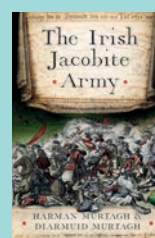
Regimental lineages and officer lists of the Irish Jacobite army

Harman Murtagh

Although numbers varied, at any one time the Irish Jacobite army mustered about forty-five regiments of infantry and nineteen of cavalry and dragoons. In all, just over a hundred regiments can be identified, together with more than a dozen independent troops and companies. This work lists the units, and briefly recounts the lineage and history of each. About 4,500 officers served in the army in Ireland between 1685 and 1691. The officers of each unit, where known, are listed with summaries of the biographical details of over a thousand. General officers together with those who served as artillerymen, engineers and in other roles are included. There are also lists of several hundred British and French officers who served in Ireland at the time. The work complements *The Irish Jacobite army* (2024), co-written by the author. Together, the two volumes provide the most comprehensive account of this remarkable army and its personnel. Fully indexed, it will also be a valuable reference book for genealogists.

Harman Murtagh is a former president of the Military History Society of Ireland and a former senior lecturer and visiting fellow at Athlone Institute of Technology, now the Technical University of the Shannon.

Recently published



The Irish Jacobite army

Harman Murtagh and Diarmuid Murtagh

'This book is hugely ambitious in its remit, and it has managed to examine its subject in both width and depth, while also supplying the wider context. It serves as a model of how military organizations can be examined in an intelligent and useful way [...] This volume has a wealth of detail on the organization of the Irish Jacobite army, but embedded within this are higher discussions on the quality and motivation of troops, the personalities of commanders and the conduct of an army on campaign [...] The Murtaghs' *Irish Jacobite army* offers us a new and definitive account of a crucially important Irish military formation, and as such it is hugely to be welcomed', David Murphy, *History Ireland*.

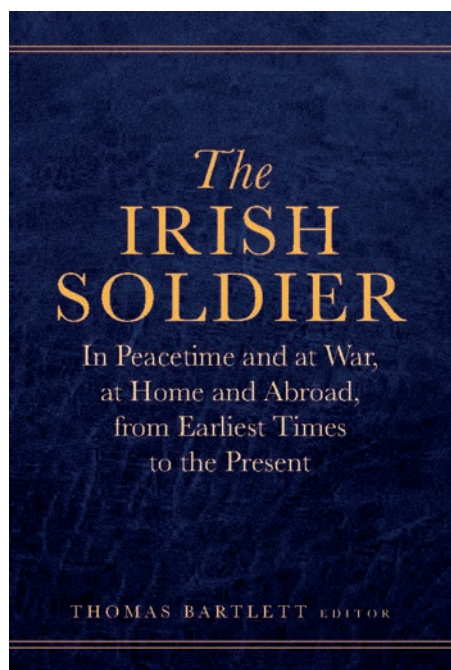
'The book's impressive range covers the peacetime armed forces period of the 1680s, followed by the Battle of the Boyne, when the army supported King James II, the exiled Stuart monarch, against the forces of William of Orange', Paul Clements, *Irish Times*.

'This is a work that embodies the lifetime's work of the two most widely-recognized scholars of the Irish Jacobite army; and, as such, it is a book that fulfils every expectation of being comprehensive', Kenneth Ferguson, *Irish Sword*.

(2024) 428pp colour ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-121-6

€45 / £40 / \$65



Winter 2026

700pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-216-9

€65 / £55 / \$84.50

The Irish soldier

Thomas Bartlett, editor

This edited volume presents some thirty chapters by a team of international scholars reviewing the Irish military experience throughout the world over the past 1000 years with each chapter seeking to address the question of whether or not there was anything distinctive about 'The Irish soldier'. **Contents:** Thomas Bartlett, Introduction; Catherine Swift, Irish fighting men in the era of Brian Boru; Caitlin Ellis, Viking armies in Ireland; Simon Egan, Warfare in later medieval Ireland; Ruth A. Canning, Elizabeth I's Irish soldiers; James O'Neill, Hugh O'Neill and the Irish military revolution; Pádraig Lenihan, The Irish soldier, 1641–1702; Declan Downey, Irish soldiery in the armies of Spain and Austria, sixteenth to eighteenth centuries; Tim Fanning, Irish soldiers on the frontiers of Spanish America; Pierre-Louis Coudray, The Irish military experience in France, 1690–1800; Samuel K. Fisher, The Irish soldier in the American Revolution; Andrew Dorman, The Irish soldier in eighteenth-century Ireland; Suzanne Forbes and Charles I. McGrath, The barracks network in Ireland and the Irish soldier in the British Army; Caitriona Kennedy, Wellington's Irish soldiers; Andrew MacKillop, Irish military identities in the English East India Company, c.1740–c.1820; Chandra Manning, Irish soldiers in the US Civil War; Paul Huddie, The Irish soldier in the Crimean War; Aoife Bhreatnach, Irish women in the nineteenth-century British Army; Tony Gaynor, Irish soldiers in Ireland, 1800–1914; Nicholas Perry, The Irish landed class and the British Army, c.1770–1920; Mark McGowan, Canada's Irish Catholic soldiers and the wars of empire, 1899–1945; Jeff Kildea, The Irish soldier in Australia in the twentieth century; Patrick McCarthy, The Irish soldier in the First World War; Edward Burke, Paramilitarism and the state in modern Ireland; Eve Morrison, The IRA at war: biography of a movement; Mary McAuliffe, The soldiers of Cumann na mBan: women, militancy, and the revolutionary wars of 1919–22; Fionnuala Walsh, Irish women and the British military in the two world wars; Jack Kavanagh, Building an army for the Irish Free State; Lar Joye, A social and political history of An Fórsa Cosanta Áitiúil, 1946–2005; Eunan O'Hallpin, Neutral soldiers amid global wars in the Emergency Army, 1939–45; Steven O'Connor, The Irish in the British Armed Forces during the Second World War; Seán Gannon, Irish soldiers and soldier-policemen: defending the British empire, 1900–60; Michael Kennedy, The Irish soldier in Congo: ONUC, 1960–4; Eoin Kinsella, Women in the Irish Army.

Thomas Bartlett MRIA, professor emeritus of Irish history at the University of Aberdeen, has published widely on Irish history and most recently was the general editor for the 4-volume *Cambridge History of Ireland* (Cambridge, 2018).

Recently published



Siege in Ireland, 1641–53

Pádraig Lenihan

Siege was the defining experience of the grindingly brutal and consequential Irish Wars of Religion (1641–53). Civilians were more likely to encounter siege warfare as participants and as victims than any other kind of military action. Pádraig Lenihan, an acknowledged expert on the period, conveys this experience by examining survivor testimony contained in the 1641 Depositions, the largest and most diverse body of direct and vivid accounts of the civilian exposure to war in the early modern period. Giving equal weight to the 'sharp end' of warfare and to 'war and society' issues such as recruitment, logistics and strategy, the author borrows and adapts methodologies from social and cultural history in order to understand how societies experience conflict and give meaning to it.

 (2025) 288pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-172-8

€45 / £40 / \$65

The Nine Years War, 1593–1603: O'Neill, Mountjoy and the military revolution

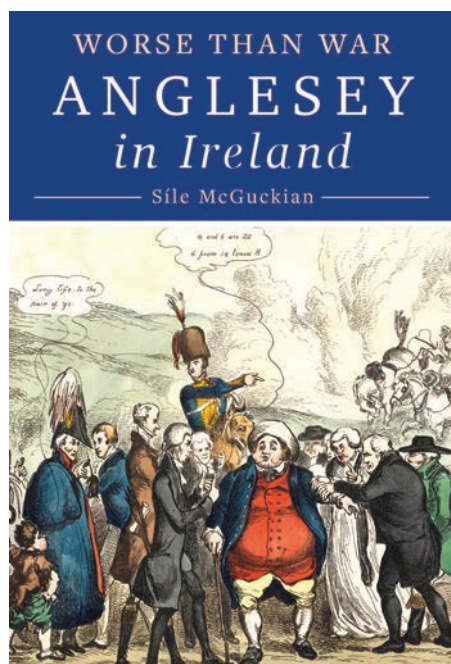
James O'Neill

'Laden with fascinating insights and accounts, the result no doubt of extensive research by the author into a period often mired in confusion, given the diverse and often opposing English and Gaelic Irish accounts, the book [...] offers a truly enlightening account of the breadth and devastation of the conflict as well as the circumstances faced by both politicians and the average person and it does succeed in bringing this formative and fascinating period in Irish history to prominence', *Irish Times*.

 (2018) 334pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-84682-754-9

€27.50 / £24.50 / \$35



Spring 2026

224pp colour illus

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-201-5

 €39.95 / £35 / \$55

Anglesey in Ireland, 1828–33: worse than war

Síle McGuckian

Henry Paget, 1st Marquess Anglesey (1768–1854), was a war hero who had fought alongside the duke of Wellington at the battle of Waterloo. A glamorous and engaging figure, when he was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland in 1828 he had little previous political experience but was determined to govern the country in a fair and equitable manner. Within months of his arrival he faced the first of three political crises that were to threaten the ability of the British government to maintain its control of the country: the campaign for Catholic emancipation; parliamentary reform; and the abolition of tithes (the ‘Tithe War’). As Anglesey repeatedly grappled with widespread violence and incidents of insurrection, many members of the government feared that they were facing the possibility of revolution.

Anglesey’s actions in Ireland were to result in his firing by Wellington, who was then the prime minister. However, his support for Daniel O’Connell and the Catholic Association was to prove instrumental in forcing the government to bring forward Catholic emancipation in the spring of 1829. Appointed to the lord lieutenancy a second time under the government of Earl Grey, Anglesey supported the struggle for parliamentary reform and the passage of the Great Reform Act, 1832. As he sought to introduce further reforms for Ireland, he was confronted with the escalating conflict of the Tithe War. This book explores how the policies, opinions, and personal relationships between Anglesey and Wellington, O’Connell, Sir Robert Peel, Lord Grey, Edward Stanley, and others, impacted on the unfolding events during this time of crises and the long-term consequences that they had for both Britain and Ireland.

Síle McGuckian completed her undergraduate degree in law at TCD and then obtained a DPhil from the University of Oxford. She practiced as a lawyer before becoming a historian after completing a PhD in history at UCD.

Recently published



Caricature and the Irish: satirical prints from the Library of Trinity College Dublin, c.1780–1830

Nicholas K. Robinson

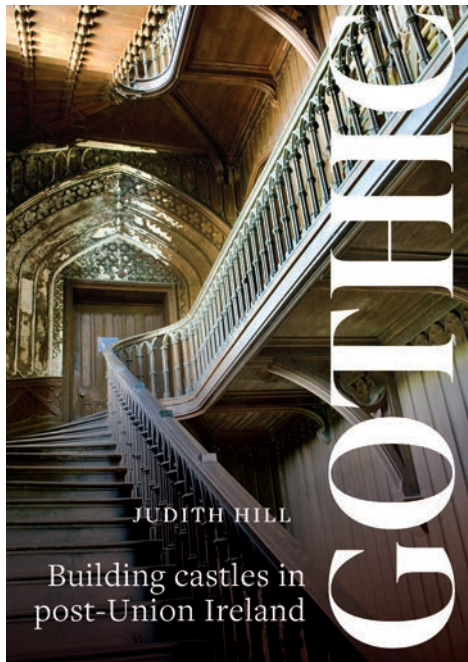
From the author’s extensive collection given to Trinity College in 1996, 105 caricatures, political and social, have been selected that poke fun at the Irish during London’s golden age of caricature. Some of them lampoon (or, occasionally, stand up for) celebrated or notorious individuals, among them Edmund Burke, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, the duke of Wellington, John Philpot Curran, Thomas Moore, Viscount Castlereagh and Lady Caroline Lamb. Others target the sturdily built Irish labourers who migrated to London in search of work, and whose undercutting of local wages was much resented. Many prints, too, were published in Dublin, where plagiarism was rife, alleviated occasionally by witty adaptations.

‘Robinson selects 105 prints, chronologically representing Irish people or themes during this pivotal era [...] showcasing the skills or audacity of a range of artists. The descriptive text is brief but displays Robinson’s enthusiastic eye for detail [...] This large coffee-table book is not a probing academic treatise, but it is a gateway to a vibrant topic. Its high-resolution images are sharply coloured, making it a pleasure to peruse’, Sylvie Kleinman, *History Ireland*.

 (2024) 240pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-135-3

 €40 / £35 / \$55



Gothic: building castles in post-Union Ireland

Judith Hill

Castles speak. Especially in an age when they are no longer necessary. The Act of Union of 1800, which brought Ireland into closer association with Britain, challenged the status of Irish landed proprietors, and not a few responded by building castles. In *Gothic: building castles in post-Union Ireland* Judith Hill explores the projects of two Irish proprietors: the Burys, later Lord and Lady Charleville, who commissioned Francis Johnston, then Ireland's most important architect, to design Charleville Castle; and Lawrence Parsons, later 2nd earl of Rosse, who re-imagined seventeenth-century Parsonstown House as early nineteenth-century Birr Castle.

Architecturally the castles belong to Georgian Gothic, a style that in Britain is overshadowed by later nineteenth-century Gothic and is largely overlooked in Ireland. In this fascinating new book Judith Hill investigates Georgian Gothic in its own terms as both a British and Irish phenomenon, demonstrating how antiquarian understanding, associative thinking, awareness of family pedigree and historized design ideas resulted in a uniquely Irish response to the Gothic revival.

Using the ample surviving archives related to both families, she argues that these architecturally original and significant castles eloquently expressed their builders' political and social concerns, making them artefacts of cultural unionism.

Judith Hill is an architectural historian and writer. Among her books are *Lady Gregory: an Irish life* (Stroud, 2005), *Irish public sculpture* (Dublin, 1998) and *The building of Limerick* (Cork, 1991).

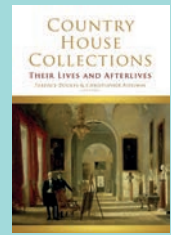
Summer 2026

320pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-202-2

€50 / £45 / \$70

Recently published



The big houses and landed estates of Ireland: a research guide

Terence Dooley

'Everyone who is interested in local history will be interested in Terence Dooley's research guide, which is packed with practical advice regarding the availability of primary sources, their locations, their strengths and their weaknesses', Arminta Wallace, *Irish Times*.

'Written in a matter-of-fact style, the book explains the background to the available historical records, outlining the purpose of the records that were kept, their state of preservation and their present whereabouts', Andrew Tierney, *Irish Arts Review*.

'Valuable not only to researchers, but to all who are interested in the history of rural Ireland', *Dublin Historical Record*.

(2007) 208pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-85182-964-4

€19.95 / £17.95 / \$39.95

Country house collections: their lives and afterlives

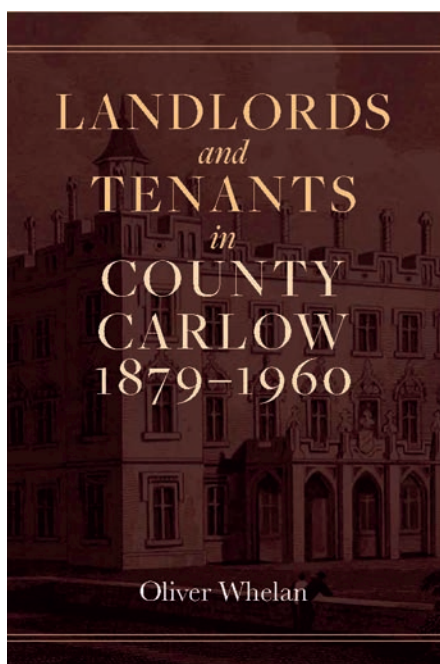
Terence Dooley and Christopher Ridgway, editors

'[An] imaginative audit through a succession of country houses which reads like a thriller. The essays are an inviting array of deeply-rooted knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm expressed in graceful scholarship. Such grounding brings a sense of confident fellowship so that throughout these beautifully illustrated chapters there runs the linking charm of mystery, doubt, transactions, reputation, affirmation, loss and reclamation. Here are personal stories of intense rivalry and immense wealth, of sadness, triumph and brilliantly intelligent gift-giving', Mary Leland, *Irish Examiner*.

(2021) 336pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-84682-975-8

€50 / £45 / \$70



Summer 2026

288pp

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-217-6

 €40 / £35 / \$60

Landlords and tenants in County Carlow, 1879–1960

Oliver Whelan

This book chronicles the ending of landlordism in Carlow. In the depression of the late 1870s tenants were supported by town merchants in their efforts to treat with landlords while the Irish Parliamentary Party, led by Parnell, helped by exerting pressure on the British government. In 1881, Gladstone's government established land courts to adjudicate on rents and provided loans to the tenants to buy their holdings. Under the Wyndham Act of 1903 most landlords sold to their tenants. In the 1920s the Free State compulsorily acquired the holdings of landlords who had not sold, and established the tenants as freeholders. The plight of evicted tenants and of small uneconomic farmers proved intractable. As the economy developed viable farms became bigger and most smallholders migrated to towns or emigrated. By the 1960s land division by the government was completed and only two big houses of the former landlords, Borris and Lisnavagh, remained in family hands.

Oliver Whelan is a retired director of the National Treasury Management Agency and holds a PhD in Irish history from Maynooth University.

Recently published



Land reform and legislation in Ireland, 1800–2024

Terence Dooley, Tony McCarthy and Annie Tindley, editors

This volume argues that it is impossible to understand the history of modern Ireland without understanding its relationship to land and land issues. It explores the provenance, mechanisms and impact of land legislation and land reform in Ireland from 1800 to 2024, one of the dominant issues in Irish politics, society, economy and culture through the whole period. It takes a holistic perspective, including histories of tenant-right movements and agitation, the views of landowners and governments, and the impact of land reform on the landscape, agriculture and the built environment of Ireland.

 (2024) 368pp

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-160-5

 €45 / £40 / \$65

Killester: from medieval manor to garden suburb

Joseph Brady and Ruth McManus

Killester: from medieval manor to garden suburb explores the development of Killester from its earliest days as Killester Demense, through its transformation in the early twentieth century as a garden suburb for ex-servicemen and onwards to the emergence of today's suburb. Its history has given it a unique character and this is richly illustrated by maps and photographs. This is the first of a series of studies, entitled *Dublin – Shaping the Suburbs*, that explores the development of Dublin's suburbs as many reach their centenary. This publication was commissioned by Dublin City Council as part of the Dublin City Strategic Heritage Plan 2023 to 2029, and is part funded by the Heritage Council.

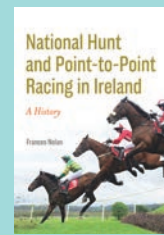
'[Contains] much valuable information on the lives and society of the residents with many useful pointers for contemporary policy makers [...] an excellent publication', Shay Cody, *Irish Labour History Society*.

 (2025) 150pp large format, full colour

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-193-3

 €17.95 / £14.95 / \$29.95

Recently published



National Hunt and Point-to-Point racing in Ireland: a history

Frances Nolan

'An outstanding new book by Frances Nolan gives a unique insight into the place of the horse in Irish life. In its conception, its research, its writing, and its presentation, it is of the very highest quality. On page after page, the book reveals how important horse racing has been to social and cultural life on this island. This is a love which prospers generation after generation and shows no sign of diminishing', Paul Rouse, *Irish Examiner*.

'Frances Nolan has done a terrific job in presenting this book, beautifully produced with stunning illustrations, in tracing the sport from the eighteenth century to the present day, also tracing the striking differences that pervaded after 1922. A must read for both horse lovers and horse riders', *Meath Chronicle*.

'Nolan deftly weaves colourful and telling anecdotes with the serious history of how Irish jump racing has been shaped by politics and economics', Ronnie Bellew, *Irish Independent*.

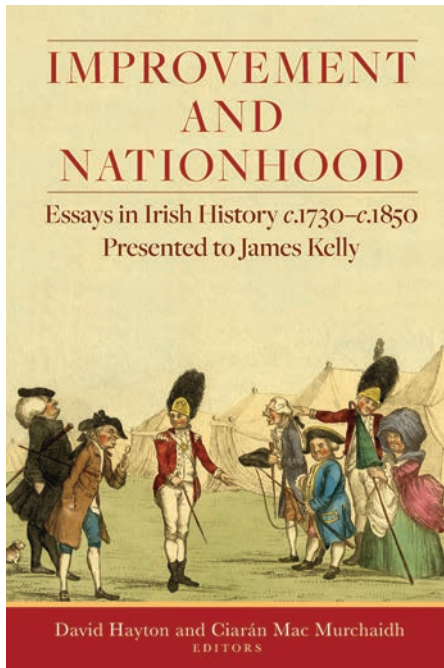
'This important book is highly recommended', Mark Costello, *Irish Field*.

'A national sport deeply linked in both our history and identity, from its humble beginnings to its world leading status. This is a really well written account of the story of National Hunt and Point-to-Point racing, and the rollercoaster it has taken people and horses on – living their dreams and the journeys they had to get there', Barry Geraghty (twice Irish Champion Jockey, Grand National Winner and 43 Cheltenham Festival winners).

(2025) 320pp large format, full colour

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-188-9

€29.95/ £24.95 / \$45



Winter 2026

320pp ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-220-6

€55 / £50 / \$74.50

Improvement and nationhood: essays in Irish history, c.1730–c.1850 presented to James Kelly

David Hayton and Ciarán Mac Murchaidh, editors

This collection of essays explores various aspects of Irish life from the beginning of the eighteenth century until the Great Famine, reflecting the interests and scholarly achievements of Professor James Kelly, one of the foremost historians of the period. The contributions cover a broad range of subjects but are united in their concern with the effects of political and social change on the mental landscape of Irish men and women in an era defined by economic improvement and developing senses of nationhood.

Contents: David Hayton (QUB), Electing and being elected in early Hanoverian Ireland; Andrew Sneddon (UU), Confessionalism and toleration in eighteenth-century Ireland; Anthony Malcomson, 'Edifying' Irish bishops of the eighteenth century and their contribution to domestic architecture; Brendan Twomey (TCD), Debtor imprisonment in eighteenth-century Ireland; Ciarán Mac Murchaidh (DCU), Irish catechisms and their use in eighteenth-century Ireland; Martyn J. Powell (University of Bristol), Military rioting in late eighteenth-century Dublin; Toby Barnard (Hertford College, Oxford), The Irish 'national tale' before 1801; David Dickson (TCD), Drogheda in the 1790s; Alison Fitzgerald (Maynooth University), Banking on Bonaparte: making a show of Napoleon in Georgian Dublin; Jonathan Jeffrey Wright (Maynooth University), Cortland Macgregor Skinner and the struggle for order: an American loyalist in post-Union Ulster; Bernadette Cunningham (RIA), Assembling the Royal Irish Academy's Hodges and Smith collection of Irish manuscripts, 1828–44; Peter Gray (QUB), The origins of Irish federalism, 1830–44; Sean Connolly (QUB), The politics of urban improvement: the Belfast improvement acts 1845–50; Ciarán Mac Murchaidh (DCU), A bibliography of the historical writings of James Kelly.

David Hayton, MRIA is emeritus professor of early modern Irish and British history, QUB. **Ciarán Mac Murchaidh** is professor of Irish at DCU.

Autumn 2026 Each Pbk c.72p €12.95 / £11.95 / \$17.95

John Boyle, the *Freeholder* and pre-Famine Cork society

Neil Cronin

John Boyle was an orphan with a difficult upbringing, impoverished and a social misfit, yet he achieved great prominence in early nineteenth-century Cork. A disruptor, he doggedly challenged the status quo. In politics, he was a vehement Vetoist and a forthright opponent of Daniel O'Connell. A lapsed Catholic in a religious age, he scorned all religions and clergymen. His nimble wit and considerable powers of oratory often plunged public gatherings into mayhem. In his journalism, he suffered frequent legal and physical admonishment, yet relentlessly championed the downtrodden and exposed the rottenness of contemporary society. An unfortunate obsession with publicizing the sexual proclivities of the prosperous and prominent of Cork society has soiled his reputation. Boyle's periodical, the *Freeholder*, provides a vivid chronicle of a city in transition, from wartime prosperity to post-Waterloo stagnation. ISBN 978-1-80151-221-3

The life and politics of Sir Thomas Henry Grattan Esmonde, 1862–1935

Brian Fennell

Politically active from 1885 to 1933, Thomas Henry Grattan Esmonde's career spanned the home rule struggle, the First World War, the revolutionary decade and the early years of the Free State. Elected as the youngest MP in 1885, he aligned with Parnell and became a committed advocate of Irish self-government, promoting home rule through parliamentary work and international fundraising tours across the British empire and the United States. In Co. Wexford, he played a central role in local government as the first chairman of Wexford County Council. This study also examines his decade-long role as a Free State senator and his battle to claim compensation from the very government he served following the Civil War burning of his ancestral home, Ballynastragh, highlighting his resilience and enduring political influence. ISBN 978-1-80151-222-0

Scandal, satire and the battle for reputation in Limerick's ascendancy, 1815–20

Brian Leahy

This gripping account unravels the explosive feud between barrister-poet Thomas Grady, the controversial banker George Evans Bruce, and the politically ambitious Windham Henry Quin, the future earl of Dunraven and builder of Adare Manor. When Grady's incendiary satire *The Nosegay* ignites a firestorm of legal battles and public outrage, reputations are shattered and alliances tested. The drama escalates to the halls of parliament, drawing in Whig reformers and captivating newspapers across Britain and Ireland. Through vivid storytelling and meticulous research into private letters, parliamentary records and newspaper archives, this book exposes how a fabricated narrative – crafted to destroy Bruce – endured unchallenged for two centuries, only now revealed as fraud. More than a tale of rivalry, this is a window into the power of words, the fragility of reputation and the making – and unmaking – of history itself. ISBN 978-1-80151-223-7

Ireland's first sanatorium: the St Ann's Hill Hydro, County Cork, 1843–1953

Sinéad McSweeney and Ronan Foley

The St Ann's Hill Hydropathic Establishment, or *The Hydro*, was Ireland's first and pre-eminent sanatorium. The Hydro was built in Co. Cork in 1843 and closed its doors 110 years later. Founded by Dr Richard Barter and run by three generations of his family, only ruins remain on a hill between Tower and Blarney. This book documents the Hydro's history from a range of sources, alongside two main themes. The first focuses on the social history of the Hydro, a world of its own, reflected in its resident inhabitants, a spectrum of Anglo-Irish society and international visitors. It was additionally a family home and a major employer in the region. The second theme considers the Hydro as a site of medical innovation, initially via a cold-water curative regime driven by a mid-nineteenth-century craze for hydrotherapy and later in the development of a new form of Turkish bath that spread around the world. ISBN 978-1-80151-224-4

Donegal town, 1474–1974

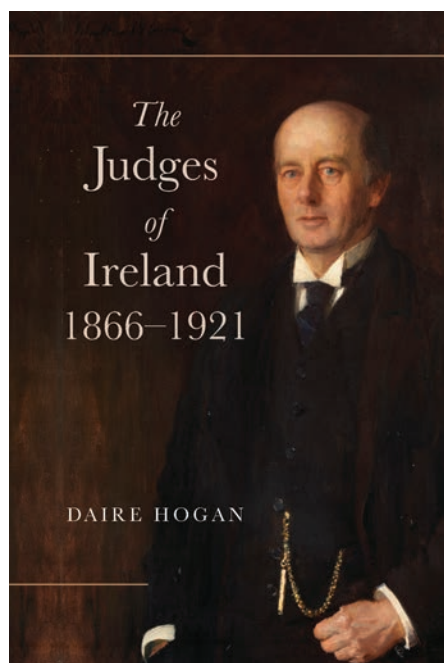
Matthew Potter

Owned successively by three great families, the O'Donnells (1474–1610), the Brookes (1610–76) and the Gores (1676–c.1950s), the most striking feature of Donegal town's history is its former political prominence. Under the O'Donnells, it was for 130 years the capital of *Tír Chonaill* – effectively an independent state and a minor international power (at least in a British/Irish context). As such, Donegal town was also the administrative centre of a huge area of north-western Ireland, stretching from Mayo to Antrim. Later, it suffered four sieges (1601, 1641, 1651, 1689) but was never captured; it was the principal estate town of the Gore family for 240 years, a parliamentary constituency for 187 years, the administrative centre of a poor law union for 85 years, and the archetypical Irish market town for two centuries. ISBN 978-1-80151-225-1

'A miserable thing to be a woman': Mary Anne Tyrrell (1821–94) and her landed estate

Lesley Whiteside

At the age of 32, Mary Anne Tyrrell, having suffered the early death of her parents, husband and two children, faced multiple challenges as a landowner. Living in a dilapidated house on a rundown farm with two infant sons and a teenage daughter, she lacked the training to manage her scattered estate in neighbouring baronies in counties Kildare and Offaly. She initially felt overcome by difficulties but by the end of her life she had some sense of fulfilment, having successfully raised her children and left the estate intact. Her story provides a rare glimpse into the ideas and attitudes of a free-thinking woman in a society that was still closed to feminism and the changes that it would bring. ISBN 978-1-80151-226-8

**Summer 2026**

520pp colour ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-204-6

€65 / £55 / \$84.50

A volume in the ILHS series

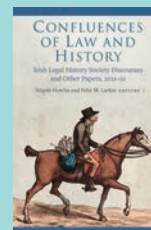
The judges of Ireland, 1866–1921*Daire Hogan*

The late 1860s and the 1870s are important years in the history of the Irish judiciary, and for the structure and culture of the courts. On New Year's Day 1878 the judicial framework was significantly modernized by the establishment of a single new High Court and Court of Appeal, in succession to a number of historic courts. In turn the political settlements, north and south, of the early 1920s resulted in new court systems.

This book is both an account of all those new court systems, and their origins, and a biographical study, individual and collective, of the senior judges of Ireland (approximately 80 men in total) in the last third of the nineteenth century and the initial decades of the twentieth century. It is an overall narrative of appointments, retirements and judicial issues in that era. Since there was then no fixed judicial retirement age, and the number of judicial positions was steadily being reduced, the opportunities for judicial promotion depended upon the happenstance of voluntary retirement or death of sitting judges. Irish judicial patronage was exercised by the prime ministers of the day, and the fortunes of aspiring judges were ultimately determined by the party politics of the United Kingdom as a whole. This exploration of how the courts and judges worked, and the nature of their connection to wider civic and political society, renders them and their relation to that wider society more accessible outside the field of legal history itself.

Daire Hogan is a solicitor and former president of the Irish Legal History Society, which has awarded him its gold medal. He has edited and contributed to a number of publications of the Society, and other works of legal history. He is a contributor to the *Dictionary of Irish biography* and the *Oxford dictionary of national biography*.

Recently published

**A sense of place: studies in Irish and British legal history in memory of W.N. Osborough***Sparky Booker and Kevin Costello, editors*

W.N. Osborough was described by the *Irish Times* on his death in 2020 as Ireland's 'greatest legal historian'. He wrote prolifically on Irish legal history and culture for over fifty years, re-established legal history as an undergraduate option in university law degrees and was the moving force behind the establishment of the Irish Legal History Society in 1988.

Throughout this volume the authors uncover new insights into the evolution and practice of law in Britain and Ireland and honour Nial's impressively wide-ranging interests, which spanned traditional periodizations and geographical divides.

(2025) 422pp colour ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-181-0

€55 / £50 / \$74.50

A volume in the ILHS series

Confluences of law and history: Irish Legal History Society discourses and other papers, 2011–21*Niamh Howlin and Felix M. Larkin, editors*

'[A] collection of papers composed for the Irish Legal Society by esteemed scholars, including Jane Ohlmeyer, Paul Bew, Patrick Geoghegan and regular *History Ireland* contributor Felix Larkin', Daragh Fitzgerald, *History Ireland*.

'A humdinger of a book [...] an eclectic mix of essays on aspects of Irish legal history from the early modern period to the twentieth century. It certainly boasts as authors a plethora of distinguished legal eagles and historians [...] These essays not only cover purely legal issues, but also constitutional, political, social, religious, cultural and economic overlaps with the law, attesting to its centrality, or perhaps sometimes its absence, in shaping and forming the intertwined history of these islands, and its significance in providing continuity and a sort of societal glue in times of stress and transition', *Ian d'Alton*.

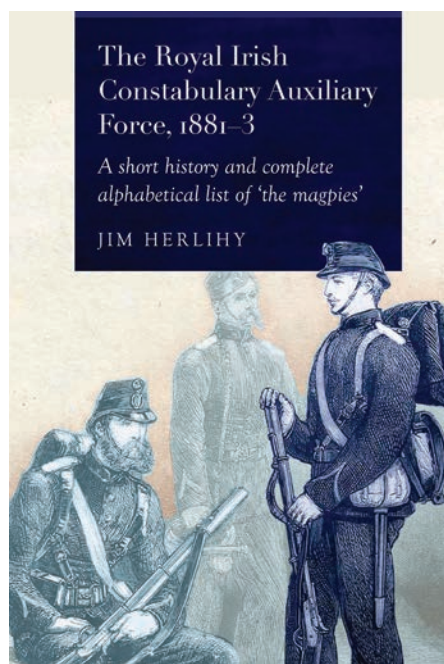
(2025) 422pp colour ills

Hbk ISBN 978-1-80151-085-1

€55 / £50 / \$74.50

A volume in the ILHS series

Legal History



Summer 2026 (previously announced)

192pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-191-9

€29.95 / £25 / \$45

The Royal Irish Constabulary Auxiliary Force, 1881-3: a short history and complete alphabetical list of the 'Magpies'

Jim Herlihy

To augment the Royal Irish Constabulary during the Land War, 1879-82, a new auxiliary police force was raised, entitled the Royal Irish Constabulary Auxiliary Force (RICAF). In December 1881 it began recruiting candidates from Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. Its 440 members, after a short period of training in the Curragh Military Camp in County Kildare, were armed and deployed to remote areas of the country, occupying specially adapted steel-clad and concrete-covered timber huts, with the primary mission of affording security to threatened landlords. The RICAF was disbanded in August 1883, and during its short existence suffered no casualties.

This book contains an alphabetical list of the 440 men who enlisted as sub-constables in the RICAF. Each entry includes the surname, forename, registered number, birth year, native county, previous occupation, height, religion, marital status, enlistment date, by whom they were recommended, constabulary division to which they were allocated, departure date and remarks. It also includes an in-depth analysis of the RICAF by religion; age; marital status; occupations; countries and counties of birth; and allocations by constabulary divisions. The book also contains a complete list of Protection Posts and RIC Hut Stations occupied by members of the RICAF during its existence, arranged by constabulary divisions and stations, and showing the distance in miles from each constabulary district headquarters. Finally, the RIC service records of the sixteen members who saw previous service in the RICAF are provided.

Jim Herlihy, a retired member of the Garda Síochána and a co-founder of the Síochána Historical Society, has worked on these sources for many years. His many publications include *The Dublin Metropolitan Police: a short history and genealogical guide* (Dublin, 2001); *The Royal Irish Constabulary: a short history and genealogical guide, 1816-1922* (2nd ed., Dublin, 2016) and *The Irish Revenue Police: a short history and genealogical guide to the 'poteen hussars'* (Dublin, 2018).

In the Irish Revolution series



MEATH
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Ciarán Wallace

Stretching from Ulster to Dublin, Meath encompasses a variety of farming landscapes and local economies. Using local newspapers and recently released archives, this book tells the story of the Irish Revolution in Meath, keeping the people's daily experience always in focus.

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ISBN 978-1-80151-113-1 (2025)

Dublin

Brian Hughes

'Hughes is careful to point out throughout that simplistic narratives of Irish versus British or nationalist versus unionist fail to do justice to this period of Irish history in Dublin. As he began, so he ends by emphasising that there were many different Dubliners whose fortunes were equally varied in the fledgling Irish Free State', David MacLiam, *The Historian*.

'The story of Dublin and the Irish Revolution is really a mosaic of thousands of smaller stories. Brian Hughes has done a truly impressive job in corraling so much into a single volume', Niall Quinn, *History Ireland*.

ISBN 978-1-80151-119-3 (2024)

Armagh

Donal Hall and Eoin Magennis

'The fifteenth volume in this excellently researched and wonderfully presented series of county histories of the Irish Revolution, Armagh is of particular importance to our understanding not only of the period, but of a tumultuous era', *Ireland's Genealogical Gazette*.

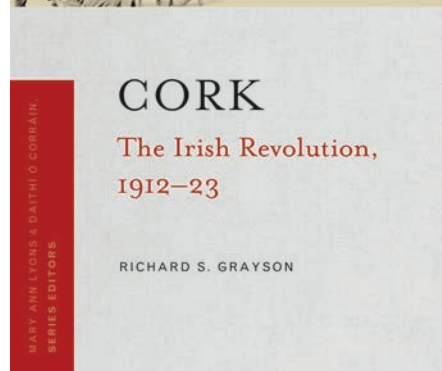
ISBN 978-1-80151-080-6 (2024)

Each Pbk c.224pp ills

€24.95 / £22.50 / \$35

The Irish Revolution, 1912–23

Mary Ann Lyons and Daithí Ó Corráin, editors



Autumn 2026

224pp illus

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-206-0

€24.95 / £22.50 / \$35

Cork

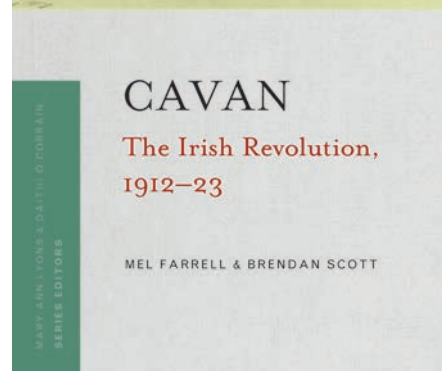
Richard S. Grayson

Events in the 'Rebel County' of Cork have played a central role in popular memory and the historiography of the Irish Revolution. The county contributes some of the most prominent aspects of the Revolution's central narrative: the figure of Clonakilty's Michael Collins and his death at Béal na Bláth; the murder of Tomás Mac Curtain; the hunger strike and death of Terence MacSwiney; and the actions of Tom Barry's West Cork 'Flying Column'.

This book takes a new approach to understanding conflict in Cork through analysis of patterns of death, spatially and chronologically, during the conflicts of 1912–23. It also analyses in new ways the scale and nature of the Cork IRA's operations during the War of Independence, and both IRA and National Army activities during the Civil War. In so doing, it suggests that some past work has been overly focused on violence in West Cork, especially a few specific incidents. It argues that, overall, West Cork was no more violent than the rest of the county; indeed, the bulk of deaths and operations took place in the area covered by the IRA's Cork No. 1 Brigade centred on Cork city.

At the same time, the story of the First World War is woven into that of the Irish Revolution, showing how the two informed each other. Cork had two strands of parliamentary nationalism (particularly William O'Brien's All-for-Ireland League but also the Irish Parliamentary Party), both of which supported the British war effort in different ways, ultimately leading to their replacement by Sinn Féin in 1918.

Professor Richard S. Grayson is head of the School of Education, Humanities and Languages at Oxford Brookes University, and has published extensively on Ireland's 1912–23 period.



Winter 2026

224pp illus

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-218-3

€24.95 / £22.50 / \$35

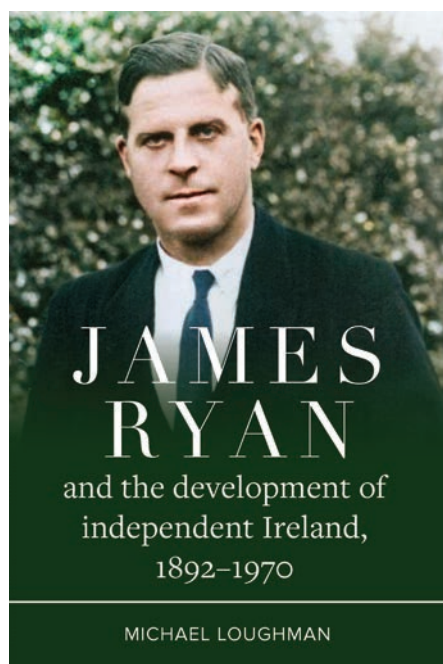
Cavan

Mel Farrell and Brendan Scott

Located in south Ulster adjacent to Counties Fermanagh and Monaghan, but also bordering Leitrim in north Connacht and the three north Leinster counties of Longford, Meath and Westmeath, Cavan has always occupied a distinct cultural, geographic and political space.

Nationalism's quest for an Irish parliament culminated in the long-awaited introduction of the third home rule bill in 1912. For unionism, the imminent introduction of home rule represented the destruction of all that they held dear – the union of Great Britain and Ireland. The fundamental difference between these two viewpoints formed the backdrop to Cavan's politics with thousands of unionists from the county signing the Ulster Covenant and Women's Declaration and joining the Ulster Volunteer Force and with thousands of nationalists there joining the Irish Volunteers. The gulf between nationalists and unionists would widen significantly after the 1916 Rising as nationalism pivoted from home rule to the quest for a fully independent Irish state. Against the background of the 1918 Conscription Crisis, Arthur Griffith's victory in the pivotal East Cavan by-election of June 1918 set Sinn Féin on course to a resounding victory in the subsequent general election in December. Thereafter, Cavan was at the vanguard of the new nationalist politics of Sinn Féin and the effort to establish a counter state through such activities as the Sinn Féin arbitration courts. Violence came to Cavan during the War of Independence with ten deaths and the arrival of the Auxiliaries and the Black and Tans. Cavan also witnessed a robust debate on the Anglo-Irish Treaty and, as a border county, adjusted to the realities of a partitioned Ireland after 1922. For Cavan's unionists, however, there was a sense of betrayal when the Ulster Unionist Council accepted a six-county Northern Ireland.

Mel Farrell and **Brendan Scott** have published and lectured widely on the 1912–23 period. Mel is the author of *Party politics in a new democracy: the Irish Free State, 1922–37*, while Brendan is the editor of *County Cavan and the revolutionary years, 1918–22*.



Spring 2026

246pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-203-9

 €24.95 / £22.50 / \$32.50

James Ryan and the development of independent Ireland, 1892–1970

Michael Loughman

Few figures in twentieth-century Ireland remained at the centre of Irish public life as long as James Ryan. First coming to prominence as the GPO's medical officer during the Easter Rising, Ryan, alongside his wife, Máirín Cregan, continued to play an active part in the struggle for independence that followed. His strident republicanism ensured he was on the losing side in the Civil War, but out of this defeat, he emerged as a founder of Fianna Fáil and one of Éamon de Valera's most trusted lieutenants.

As one of the longest-serving ministers in the state's history, Ryan presided over momentous periods of crisis and change not only for the departments he managed but also for the country itself. As Minister for Agriculture, Ryan steered the pillar of the Irish economy through the turbulence of the 1930s and 1940s. He later became the first minister in the newly established Departments of Health and Social Welfare, implementing substantial legislative reforms in the face of powerful vested interests. Finally, upon his appointment as Minister for Finance in 1957, Ryan worked closely with Seán Lemass to lift Ireland out of its economic malaise.

When James Ryan finally retired from public life in 1969, the then Taoiseach, Jack Lynch, observed that Ryan's life 'could well provide material for an absorbing and exciting book'. It has taken some time for such a work to emerge, but this book finally gives recognition to James Ryan and his role in the development of independent Ireland.

Michael Loughman holds a PhD in history from DCU where he is a Research Fellow in the School of History and Geography.

Recently published



The Civil War in Kerry and beyond: histories, memories and legacies

Bridget McAuliffe, Mary McAuliffe and Owen O'Shea, editors

'This richly layered and honest book does justice to the intensity of the impact of the Civil War in Kerry. It confronts the psychological, political, social, and economic consequences of a very intimate, distressing and grisly violence, and allows the necessary space for personal testimonies to breathe. The various contributors document not just what happened, but what it felt like, and what the consequences were for men, women and children. One of the positive outcomes of a decade of commemoration of our revolutionary period was that it prompted us to think anew about old enmities, through the unveiling of original and unflinching research, creating the new perspectives that this book showcases', Diarmaid Ferriter, professor of modern Irish history, UCD.

 (2025) 272pp ills

Pbk ISBN 978-1-80151-180-3

 €24.95 / £20 / \$35

Irish nurses in the NHS: an oral history

Louise Ryan, Gráinne McPolin and Neha Doshi

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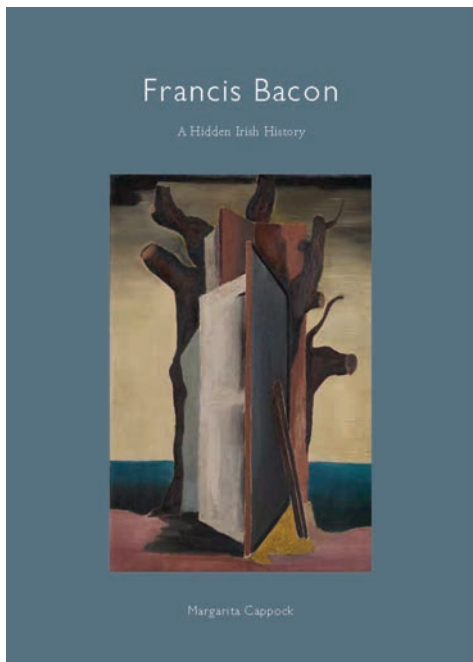
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Margarita Cappock

This book will shed new light on the Dublin-born artist, Francis Bacon (1909–92), and explore how the complex origins of Bacon's artistic life can be traced to his upbringing in Ireland.

Although his parents were English, Bacon and his four siblings were all Irish-born and his paternal and maternal families – the Bacons and Firths – had a forty-year association with Ireland from 1895 to 1937, a turbulent and violent period in Irish history. Involved in many facets of Irish society – military, equestrian, social, sporting and artistic – this book will reveal previously unknown and intriguing family connections in Ireland and further afield and explore how this influenced the young artist and his creative output. Bacon's attitude to Ireland was more nuanced and complex than the artist liked to reveal. Consisting of a series of ten 'vignettes', these thematic essays on Bacon's Irish history will feature previously unseen images and contemporaneous accounts. With a foreword by Colm Tóibín.

Margarita Cappock is an art historian, curator and published author. A graduate of University College, Dublin, she was formerly Head of Collections and Project Manager of the Francis Bacon Studio and Archive at the Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin. There she led the team and coordinated the documentation and reconstruction of Bacon's Reece Mews studio and its contents. She has lectured worldwide on Francis Bacon, acted as curatorial advisor for international exhibitions and made documentaries on the artist.



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