



Marshland to metropolitan city: exploring Cork through the Irish Historic Towns Atlas

Lapp's Quay, Cork / 15 May 2024 / 9:00–17:30

This year's annual IHTA seminar, hosted by Cork City Council, marks the launch of Irish Historic Towns Atlas no. 31 *Cork/Corcaigh* by H.B. Clarke, MRIA and Máire Ní Laoi, published by the Royal Irish Academy in May 2024. It will explore the city of Cork from its origins on a marshland site to the thriving metropolitan city we know today.

Building on a long tradition of map-making and local history, speakers will focus on recent research and new collections as presented in the Irish Historic Towns Atlas from various perspectives — archaeology, architecture, art history, cartography, historical geography and urban history — in seeking to understand and celebrate the unique sense of place and urban character of Cork city.

Programme overleaf



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council

9.00–9.15 Registration
9.15–9.30 Opening & welcome: Lord Mayor Cllr Kieran McCarthy
9.30–9.45 Introduction: Sarah Gearty (Royal Irish Academy)

9.45–11.00 **Session 1: Evolution and early development**
Chair: Michael Potterton (Maynooth University)

- **From marsh to early urban settlement**
Maurice F. Hurley (Consultant Archaeologist)
- **Urban growth and expansion: the development of the town walls of Cork**
Ciara Brett (Cork City Council)
- **Cork's historic urban military landscapes**
Finola O'Kane (University College Dublin)

11.00–11.15 **Tea/coffee break**

11.15–12.30 **Session 2: Collections**
Chair: Sarah Gearty (Royal Irish Academy)

- **Recent map collecting at University College Cork**
Crónan Ó Doibhlin (University College Cork Library)
- **Cork in the visual arts, 1750–1950**
Michael Waldron (Crawford Art Gallery)
- **Cork Wide Streets Commissioners maps, plans and drawings collection**
Brian McGee (Cork City and County Archives Service, Cork City Council)

12.30–13.30 **Lunch**

Demonstration of Digital Atlas of Cork/Corcaigh by Rachel Murphy (University of Limerick)

13.30–15.05 **Session 3: Topographical themes and areas**
Chair: David Dickson (formerly Trinity College, Dublin)

- **Unveiling the past: investigating Cork convents through space and time**
Danielle O'Donovan (Independent) & Gillian O'Brien (Liverpool John Moores University)
- **Aspects of printing and literature in Castle Street in the eighteenth century**
Michael Lenihan (Cork City Libraries)
- **Changing places and naming changes: placenames and renaming in Cork city**
Tom Spalding (University College Cork)
- **Mapping and remembering 150 years of Blackpool**
Maura Cronin (formerly Mary Immaculate College)

15.05–15.30 **Tea/coffee break**

15.30–16.45 **Session 4: Built heritage**
Chair: Ruth McManus (Dublin City University)

- **Beautiful city by the Lee**
John Hegarty (Fourem Architects)
- **Industry in Cork city, c. 1750–1930**
Colin Rynne (University College Cork)
- **Civic and church building in Cork through the centuries**
Frank Keohane (Independent)

16.45 **Session 5: Closing remarks**
Chair: William Smyth (formerly University College Cork)
– **Summation of the day**
Howard Clarke (formerly University College Dublin)

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