

2019

annual
review



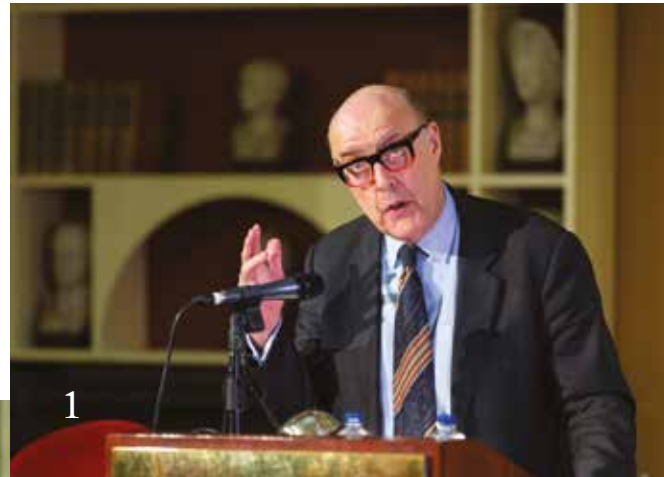
Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy



A year in review

January

- 1 15 January – Academy Discourse and Masterclass with Sir David Cannadine, President, British Academy: ‘The Irish dimension to British history: From the Act of Union to Brexit’
- 2 22 January – Plan S Open Access science publishing briefing session
- 3 29 January – Consultation forum on Heritage Ireland 2030
- 4 29 January – Masterclass with 2017 Gold Medal winner, Professor John Walsh, University College Dublin



February

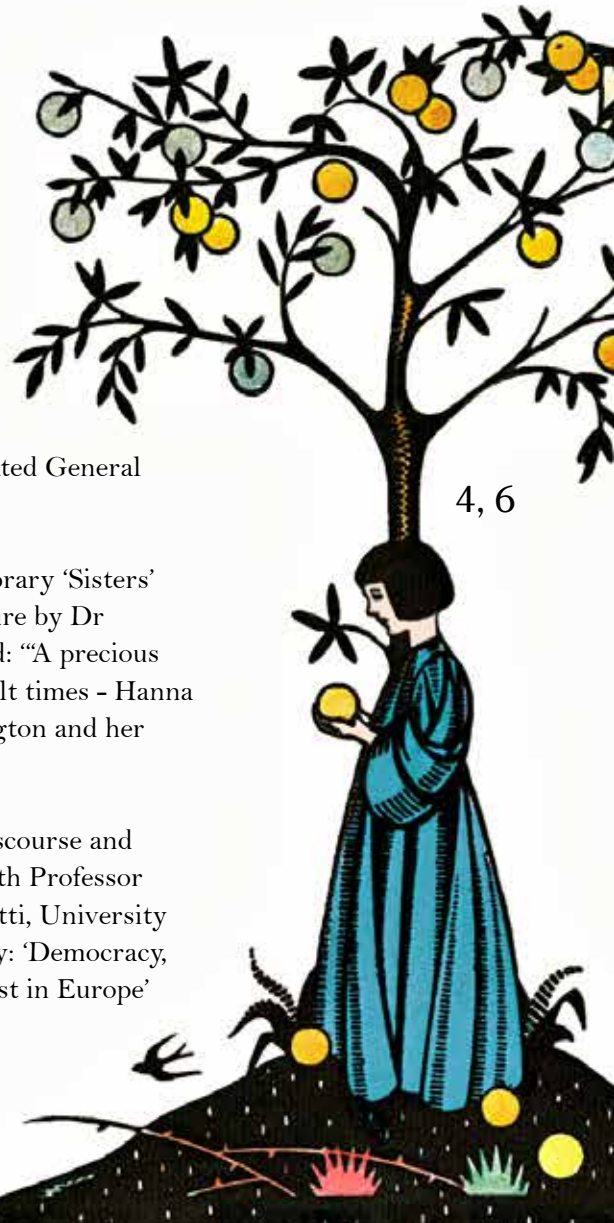
- 1 7 February – McCrea Lecture and Masterclass with Rob Ivison, European Southern Observatory: ‘The European Southern Observatory in 2019, and the evolution of galaxies as probed by ALMA’
- 2 8 February – Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) and Digital reservation Coalition (DPC) student conference, ‘What I Wish I Knew Before I Started’
- 3 12 February – Royal Irish Academy Gold Medals awarded to Kathleen James-Chakraborty, MRIA and Stephen J. Smartt, MRIA
- 4 25 February - ‘Judging Redmond and Carson’: Alvin Jackson, MRIA, in conversation with Richard English, MRIA, Queen’s University Belfast
- 5 26 February – DRI briefing on the European Commission’s report on FAIR data: ‘Turning FAIR into Reality’
- 6 28 February – Rural Conversation No. 2: ‘Enhancing social cohesion among communities in rural Ireland’, Dundalk Institute of Technology





March

- 1 4 March – Women in Leadership Masterclass with Michaela Blott, Xilinx
- 2 6 March – DRI members forum
- 3 7-8 March – Library manuscript conference – “A little remnant of the work of the ancients” 23 N 10: the Book of Ballycummin’
- 4 13 March – Library ‘Sisters’ lunchtime lecture by Dr Sonja Tiernan: “Two girls in silk kimonos”: The Gore-Booth sisters, childhood and political development’
- 5 16 March – Stated General Meeting
- 6 27 March – Library ‘Sisters’ lunchtime lecture by Dr Margaret Ward: “A precious boon” in difficult times - Hanna Sheehy Skeffington and her sisters’
- 7 29 March – Discourse and Masterclass with Professor Michele Nicoletti, University of Trento, Italy: ‘Democracy, Truth and Trust in Europe’





April

- 1 2 April – Women in Leadership Masterclass with Dr Rhona Mahony
- 2 3 April – Library ‘Sisters’ lunchtime lecture by Dr Lucy Collins: “Who will ever say again that poetry does not pay?": The Yeats Sisters and the Cuala Press’
- 3 4 April – Rural Conversation No. 3: ‘Building vibrant and sustainable communities in rural Ireland’, Waterford Institute of Technology
- 4 10 April – Library ‘Sisters’ lunchtime lecture by Dr Gabrielle M. Ashford: ‘Ties that endure – the lives and correspondence of three eighteenth-century sisters – Katherine Conolly, Jane Bonnell and Mary Jones’
- 5 11 April – Coiste Léann na Gaeilge Masterclass with Professor Máire Ní Annracháin
- 6 15 April – Discourse and Masterclass with Wayne Powell, Scotland’s Rural College – ‘Global food and nutrition security: the role of innovation’
- 7 15 April – President of Ireland Michael D. Higgins received an advance copy of Irish Historic Towns Atlas no. 29 *Drogheda/Droichead Átha* from author Ned McHugh
- 8 17 April – Library ‘Sisters’ lunchtime lecture by Mary O’Dowd, MRIA: ‘The Shackleton sisters: Irish Quaker women c. 1750–1850’
- 9 18 April – Taoiseach Leo Varadkar TD, Judge Caroline Costello and Peter Kennedy, PRIA. ‘Unexpectedly a Republic’ - A panel discussion on the 70th anniversary of Ireland becoming a republic, and launch of DIFP/UCD online exhibition ‘Republic to Republic: Ireland’s international sovereignty, 1919–1949’





May

- 1 1 May – Panel discussion: ‘Social media and democracy: How do we balance rights and responsibilities?’
- 2 4 May - DIFP public outreach: Michael Kennedy acted as historical consultant to Dalkey Tidy Towns as they excavated a WW2 ‘Éire’ sign (Air Corps)
- 3 8 May –Members’ Seminar by Andrew Carpenter, MRIA: ‘Constructing and editing a literary anthology’
- 4 8 May – Launch event for Polish Embassy Exhibition – ‘A forgotten Polish hero of the Great Irish Famine: Paul Strzelecki’s struggle to save thousands’
- 5 14 May – Heritage Ireland 2030, Library & Archives forum





6 14 May - Launch of Irish Historic Towns Atlas, no. 29, *Drogheda/ Droichead Átha* by Ned Mc Hugh in the Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda

7 16 May – Grangegorman histories seminar: ‘Historical mental health records: the ethics of access and preservation policies’

8 16 May – Virginia Teehan, Heritage Council pictured at Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) 2019 Seminar: ‘Seascapes and Townscapes’

9 16 May – IHTA public lecture by Colm Lennon, MRIA: ‘The shaping of ‘Dublin Port’, Dublin Port Company HQ

10 17 May – Former Taoiseach Enda Kenny, TD pictured at American Chamber of Commerce, Ireland annual dinner with the presentation of the US Ireland Innovation Awards



11 23 May – Standing Committee for International Affairs annual conference: ‘One hundred years of Irish foreign policy: looking back, looking forwards’, which was followed by the launch of volume 29 of *Irish Studies in International Affairs* at Iveagh House

12 24 May – Admittance Day for new members

13 27 May – Nicola Sturgeon, MP, First Minister of Scotland in conversation with Dearbhail McDonald

14 28 May – Women in Leadership Masterclass with Jane Ohlmeyer, MRIA



June

- 1 7 June – Dr Xinxin Xiao winner of Kathleen Lonsdale RIA Chemistry Prize
- 2 10 June – International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics 2019 Symposium reception
- 3 11 June – Climate change and health workshop
- 4 12 June – Library lunchtime lecture by Professor Peter Gray, Queen's University Belfast, and Assoc. Professor Emily Mark-FitzGerald, University College Dublin: 'Count Paul Strzelecki and the Great Famine'
- 5 18 June –Members' Seminar by George Sevastopulo, MRIA: 'Investigations of the provenance of stone used in buildings and monuments in Ireland: a progress report'



- 6 18 June – Ireland in the European eye symposium and launch event in Berlin, Germany
- 7 19 June – Conference: 'Eighteenth-century manuscript culture in the wider Gaelic world: The manuscripts of Rev James McLagan (1728–1805) in context'
- 8 20 June – Siobhán Fitzpatrick, Librarian pictured with Stephen Walker, Tenor, at 'Discovering Thomas Moore: Ireland in nineteenth-century Europe' exhibition launch at the Royal Irish Academy Library, in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast

- 9 24 June – Open Science forum in collaboration with the Higher Education Authority and the Department of Business Enterprise and Innovation
- 10 25 June – Life members coffee morning
- 11 26 June – Cultural heritage, creativity and education workshop with Tania Banotti, Helen O'Donoghue and Virginia Teehan

July

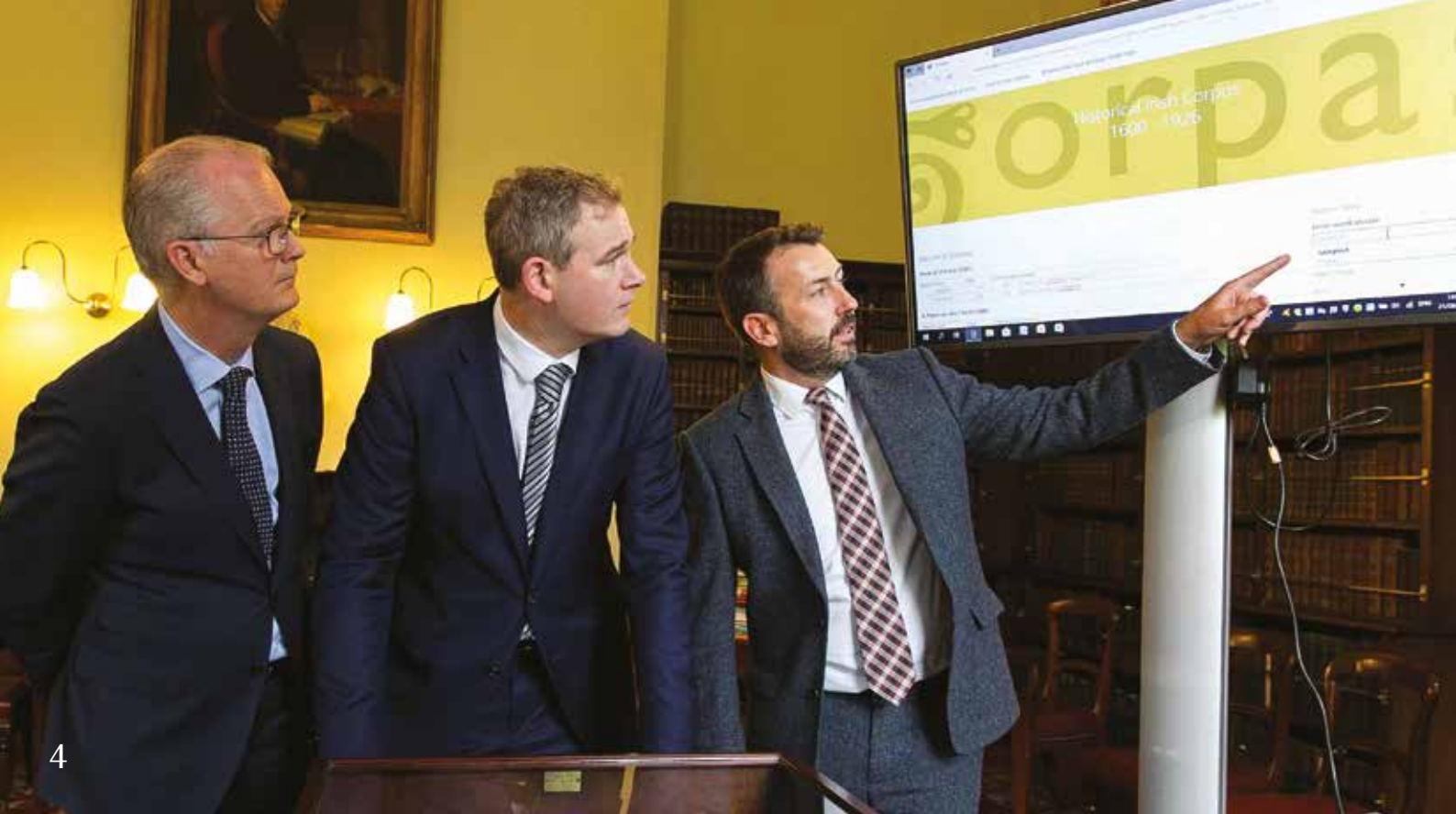
- 1 3 July – Women in Leadership Masterclass with Mary Harney
- 2 22 July – Climate Change and Environmental Sciences workshop with Frank McGovern
- 3 29 July – Welcome Reception for the 20th International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA) Congress



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August

- 1 15–18 August – *Renaissance Galway: delineating the seventeenth-century city* from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas, launched with an accompanying exhibition and lecture, 2019 Milwaukee Irish Fest
- 2 19 August – Heritage Week ‘Collecting history: A tour of Academy House and Library’
- 3 21 August – Heritage Week lunchtime lecture by Professor Paul Rouse: ‘A photographic history of hurling’
- 4 21 August – Visit of Government Chief Whip and Minister of State for the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands, Seán Kyne TD, to announce a commitment to fund the 5-year plan of the Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge research project.
- 5 22 August - Registry of Deeds ‘Eureka! Seminar’ IHTA seminar for Heritage Week 2019
- 6 30 August – Launch of the Dictionary of Irish Language website

September

- 1 4 September – ‘Rural Conversations’ report launched by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring TD
- 2 17 September – Women in Leadership Masterclass with Barbara Harvey
- 3 17-20 September - The European Historic Towns Atlas project celebrated fifty years of publication at the annual conference of the International Commission for the History of Towns in Budapest
- 4 19 September – Representing Ireland lunchtime lecture by Dr John Gibney: ‘Sinn Féin ‘diplomats’ and the Irish revolution, 1919–23’
- 5 20 September – Culture Night
- 6 25 September – Lecture by Nobel Laureate Thomas Cech: ‘Building labs for interdisciplinary science: Janelia Farm and BioFrontiers’
- 7 26 September – Royal Irish Academy breakfast briefing: ‘Truth, Trust and Expertise’
- 8 26 September – Representing Ireland lunchtime lecture by Dr Kate O’Malley: ‘Radicals to statesmen: relations between Ireland and India, 1919–64’
- 9 26 September – Jennifer McCarthy winner of the inaugural DRI Early Career Research Award with Natalie Harrower, DRI Director, pictured at the DRI National Archives lecture



October

- 1 1 October – Discourse and Masterclass with Emma Teeling, MRIA: ‘How do we study bats and rats to find the secret of everlasting youth?’
- 2 2 October – IHTA Workshop for Dublin Festival of History: ‘Behind the maps: navigating the Irish Historic Towns Atlas’
- 3 3 October – Representing Ireland lunchtime lecture by Dr Michael Kennedy: ‘Women in Irish diplomacy’
- 4 7 October – ‘Hamilton Did It’ poster campaign on Luas stops
- 5 8 October –Members’ Seminar by Anngret Simms, MRIA: ‘The European Historic Towns Atlas and comparative urban history’
- 6 9 October – Library lunchtime lecture by Harry White, MRIA: ‘Re-imagining Moore’
- 7 10 October – Biennial Conference: ‘Revealing the past: archaeological excavation and research in Ireland’
- 8 10 October – author Paul Walsh at the IHTA ‘Renaissance Galway seminar’ in the Moore Institute, National University of Ireland Galway
- 9 16 October – Hamilton Day prizewinners and launch of Emma Ray’s commemorative artwork at Broombridge Luas





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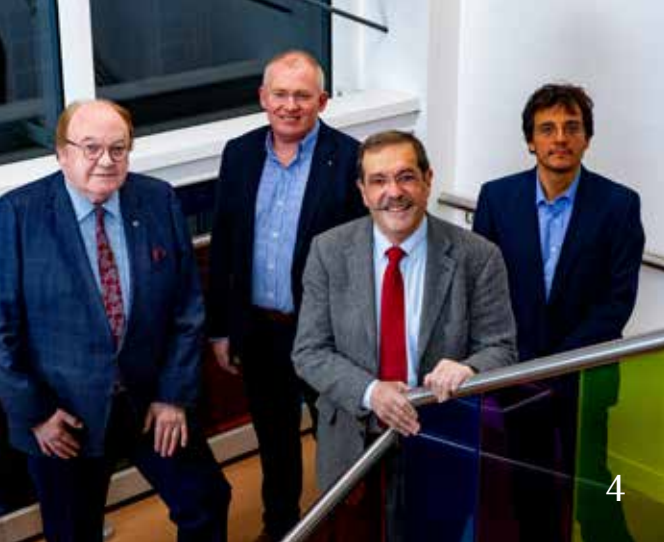
10 17 October – ‘Writing the script: letters and literacy in medieval Ireland’ – Workshops marking the publication of *A history of Ireland in 100 words* with the authors and calligrapher Timothy O’Neill

11 17 October – ‘Words, images, and everyday objects: connecting the past’ workshop with the authors of *A history of Ireland in 100 words* and

archaeologists from the Centre for Experimental Archaeology and Material Culture, University College Dublin

12 17 October – ‘Diplomatic Dublin’, a walking tour presented by Dr John Gibney

13 30 October – Library lunchtime lecture by Dr Tríona O’Hanlon: ‘Thomas Moore in Paris’



November

- 1 4 November – Members’ Seminar by Claudia Kinmonth, MRIA: ‘Irish Country Furniture 1700–2000; revising and recycling our past’
- 2 5 November – Discourse with Brigid Laffan, MRIA, European University Institute ‘Ireland’s decisive choice for Europe’
- 3 6 November – Library lunchtime lecture by Dr Daniel Roberts: ‘Genius of the East?: Moore’s orientalism’
- 4 6 November – John Bell Day lecture in Queen’s University Belfast (l to r) Professor Gerry McKenna, RIA; Professor Robert Bowman, QUB; guest speaker Professor Alain Aspect, ForMemRS, Université Paris-Saclay and Professor Mauro Paternostro, QUB
- 5 6 November – Launch of the Irish Humanities Alliance’s Humanities Strategy, ‘By imagination we live’, by Professor Dame Marina Warner
- 6 7 November – *Ireland in the European eye* Irish launch at the Goethe-Institut Dublin
- 7 8 November – Presentations and a panel discussion on ‘Irish-language literature in Europe: a survey of translations and reception patterns in continental countries’
- 8 12 November – Heritage Ireland 2030 Museums in Ireland: policies for the future
- 9 13 November – Library lunchtime lecture by Dr Sarah McCleave: ‘Sentiment and song in *Moore’s Irish melodies* and *Lalla Rookh*’



- 10 13 November – Official launch *A history of Ireland in 100 words* cultural heritage professionals and researchers’ event in Trinity Long Room Hub
- 11 15 November – ‘French turkeys and roof-holes: What words reveal – medieval Ireland and the outside world’ workshop with the authors of *A history of Ireland in 100 words*
- 12 15 November – ‘Writing the script: Letters and literacy in medieval Ireland’ workshop
- 13 18 November – Launch of Oireachtas Science Parliamentary Pairing
- 14 20 November – Library lunchtime lecture by Professor Úna Hunt: ‘The politicisation of the harp through Moore’s Irish melodies’
- 15 21 November – DRI ‘Engaging with Europeana for
- 16 22 November – *A history of Ireland in 100 words* by Sharon Arbuthnot, Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Gregory Toner (pictured) shortlisted for the An Post Irish Book Awards
- 17 27 November – Open Science event
- 18 27 November – Tánaiste Simon Coveney, TD launches *Ireland: a voice among the nations*
- 19 28 November – Discourse with Eleanor Maguire, Hon. MRJA, University College London: ‘The Anatomy of Memory’
- 20 30 November – Stated General Meeting





December

- 1 3 December – The family of Kevin Carroll, MRIA (1926–2016) presented the Academy with his signed first-edition copy of *Finnegans wake*
- 2 5 December – DPASSH 2019: Practical approaches to open research in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences - a collaborative event between DRI and Queen's University Belfast
- 3 10 December – Dictionary of Irish Biography 10-year anniversary lecture with Fintan O'Toole, which was followed by a launch event for volumes 10 and 11
- 3 10 December – Inaugural winner of the RIA Michel Déon prize, Breandán MacSuibhne, at the Irish Embassy in Paris before delivering his Michel Déon lecture



Peter Kennedy

President

This year we launched our Strategic Plan 2019–2023, which sees the Academy re-emphasising its all-island character, its independence and its focus on excellence, while continuing to grow, diversify and modernise. The three pillars of the strategy are:

- Serve Ireland and the public good through the Academy’s research and scholarly resources and by drawing on the knowledge and insight of its members
- Represent Ireland by engaging and leading in activities that strengthen international recognition of the Academy’s scholarship
- Build a modern Academy by increasing diversity and providing new impetus to the life and work of the Academy

The implementation phase began following the election of the new council in March. In order to deliver specific outcomes, the three vice-presidents have taken ownership of key portfolios: Professor Gerry McKenna (All-island), Professor Anita Maguire (Diversity) and Professor

Jane Conroy (Research). This reflects the importance that the president and council have placed on these topics.

The Academy is about sharing expertise and promoting scholarship. We are grateful for the support of the HEA in sponsoring our Gold Medals, which the Minister for Education and Skills, Joe McHugh TD presented to Stephen J. Smartt, MRIA, (Queen’s University Belfast) and Kathleen James-Chakraborty, MRIA, (University College Dublin) in February. We also hosted a range of distinguished speakers during the year, including Nobel Laureate Professor Thomas Cech who spoke at the Academy in September. Princeton Mathematician Professor Maria Chudnovsky delivered the 2019 Hamilton Lecture on 16 October. Earlier the same day, a commemorative artwork by Emma Ray was unveiled at the Broombridge transport hub to recognise the invention of quaternions by former Academy President Sir William Rowan Hamilton. Our flagship Discourse series attracted large audiences to hear experts in the sciences, humanities and social sciences talk on a range of topics, including British-Irish history, global food security, Ireland’s choice for Europe and memory failure.



Serving Ireland is a central pillar of our strategy. 2019 marked the centenary of the first Dáil and the seventieth anniversary of the republic. The Academy partnered with the Houses of the Oireachtas and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) on a number of commemorative events and publications, including *Republic to Republic: Ireland's international sovereignty, 1919–1949* and *Ireland: a voice among the nations*. The ongoing collaborations with the Oireachtas, DFAT and other government departments are central to our mission of serving Ireland.

We also partnered with the Department of Rural and Community Development in a project called 'Rural Conversations', exploring economic development, social cohesion and sustainable communities around the country. We also embarked on a five-year collaboration with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to complete the definitive Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge.

The Academy's collections are important not just for

academic research; they also provide a platform to educate the wider public about our national heritage through publications and exhibitions. The 2019 RIA publication *A history of Ireland in 100 words* draws on the Academy's Dictionary of the Irish Language to tell a socio-economic story of the country through the evolution of a hundred medieval Irish words. In June the Library mounted a major six-month exhibition to mark the 240th anniversary of the poet, singer and songwriter Thomas Moore's birth. An exquisite and timely addition to the Academy's collection for display as part of this exhibition was Moore's own copy of his long poem 'Lalla Rookh', which was acquired with the assistance of a generous financial gift.

The Academy plays a key role as an independent forum for dialogue and debate on matters of concern in the world of education and research. One such issue, Open Science, has the potential to transform fundamentally the way in which research is performed and outputs are shared. The Academy facilitated two



Executive committee 2019

important stakeholder fora during the year to hear and address the concerns of funders, publishers and researchers in a fast-changing landscape.

As the world evolves, so must the Academy. In 2019 further progress was made in terms of the governance and administration of the modern Academy. Four years ago, the Academy changed its voting procedures in an effort to increase the diversity of its council membership. Following a three-year review of the effectiveness of this strategy, which has seen nearly 50-50 male-female participation in council, rich disciplinary, regional and institutional diversity, the membership decided to continue with the new voting procedures. Dr Tony Gaynor joined as executive secretary in March and implemented a range of reforms which have resulted in more effective business processes. Following an organisational review, we expect to see further improvements in 2020.

2019 has been challenging from a financial perspective. Funding cuts incurred during the worst years of the financial crisis have depleted our reserves, leaving the Academy in a difficult financial position. The treasurer deserves great credit for

stabilising the finances over the past two years. We are grateful to members, friends and corporate partners who have made generous financial donations to support the work of the Academy.

As I come to the end of my term as president, I am proud of what has been achieved over the past three years. I hope we are a more efficient, more diverse, more welcoming and more family-friendly organisation, respected for our intellectual rigour and integrity. I am grateful to have worked with some outstanding individuals. I want to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication shown by the Senior Vice-President Dr Mary Canning, Secretary Professor Pat Shannon, Treasurer Professor Stephen Gardiner and Executive Secretary Dr Tony Gaynor during difficult times. The president and council have been supported by the fine members of the staff of the Academy, as well as members and other volunteers who work so hard every day for the good of this great institution.

Tony Gaynor, Executive Secretary

I joined the Royal Irish Academy in March 2019. Prior to joining the Academy I worked in the Department of Education and Skills, where I had responsibility for the governance and funding of the higher education sector. I had previously worked in various other areas across the spectrum of education, including teacher education, curriculum development and early years education. I also enjoyed previous roles in the Department of the Environment and Local Government (as it was called when I joined it in 1999) and the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Given my responsibilities in relation to the higher education sector, I was always very interested in the Royal Irish Academy as it occupies a relatively unique position in the education landscape. In addition, I had trained as a historian and completed my PhD in history on ‘The politics of law and order in Ireland in the 1790s’ with Trinity College Dublin in 1999, so I was familiar with a lot of the research work and publications of the Academy from that perspective. The quality of the Academy’s research, projects, library, discourses and publications had always impressed me.

The Academy is a really interesting place to work. I enjoy working with the teams

of highly motivated professionals and engaging with our network of some 500 members who are experts in their respective research fields who give generously of their time to the Academy in order to contribute to the public good.

The Academy has experienced a number of challenges in recent years, particularly in terms of its finances, but it also faces a range of opportunities. A key challenge for me since joining the Academy has been to work with colleagues and members to stabilise the financial position of the organisation, to strengthen our governance framework, and to lay solid foundations for the delivery of the objectives in our new Strategic Plan 2019–2023.

This is an exciting time for the Academy. The new Strategic Plan provides a clear vision for the future of the organisation, through the identification of three strategic goals and nine major objectives for completion in the years ahead. We have developed a Strategic Implementation Plan to translate these goals and objectives into measurable actions.

Our plans include significant new initiatives such as the development of an Early Career Researcher Academy (‘Young Academy’) and an annual ‘Research day’,

which will celebrate the quality of the work being produced by our research projects and assist in the dissemination of key findings.

A key focus for me is on ensuring that the Academy continues to be as relevant and impactful as possible. One element of this is trying to cluster Academy activities around key themes or issues to maximise our impact. I would also like the Academy to work more closely with government departments and state agencies to ensure that the valuable policy work we are undertaking can inform public policy making to the greatest extent possible.

Strengthening our impact and relevance will also involve examining how we communicate our activities. The intention is to ensure that the Academy's contribution to public discourse in Ireland (and further afield) is effectively communicated to as wide an audience as possible.

As we move into the implementation phase of the Strategic Plan it is crucial that the Academy can deliver on its commitments. To this end we have commissioned an organisational review that will provide a valuable external perspective on areas where we may need to adapt as an organisation in order to deliver on our strategic goals as efficiently and effectively as possible.

I look forward to working with Academy colleagues, our members and a range of external stakeholders to ensure that we deliver on all of our commitments in our Strategic Plan in the years ahead.



Tony Gaynor

Strategic Plan 2019– 2023

Patrick M. Shannon, MRIA, Secretary

In May 2019 the Academy launched its fourth Strategic Plan (2019–2023). This underpins the Academy’s values of independence, excellence, scholarship and collaboration and its all-island and international character. It provides a roadmap to guide the Academy in its future growth, diversification and modernisation.

The planning and preparation of the new Strategic Plan involved a detailed review and analysis of the previous five-year plan in order to assess its successes and challenges, and also to act as a pointer for activities and actions for the new plan. This was followed by an intensive period of engagement and consultation with members, Academy staff and external stakeholders in order to seek their views on current and future activities and to identify particular issues of strategic importance. In addition to online questionnaires, workshops and meetings with staff and members took place both in Academy House and regionally, including in Belfast, Galway

and Dublin. A number of one-to-one consultations took place with key external stakeholders in government departments and agencies in Dublin and in Belfast. These engagements were all extremely valuable with a vast array of very constructive comments and suggestions being provided by all participants. In distilling and reflecting on these, the Strategic Plan Committee was able to identify some key perceptions, themes and directions that resonated with members, Academy staff and external stakeholders. This was a vital ingredient in the development of the plan. An outline draft of the key elements was presented to members and Academy staff, with feedback from these presentations helping to refine the final shape and detail of the Strategic Plan 2019–2023.

The Strategic Plan restates the RIA's purpose as Ireland's scholarly academy, and an independent and strong voice serving

the public good through debate and analysis in research and higher education. It recognises the three main strands of the Academy's role to:

1. Recognise and foster excellence in research to advance the public good
2. Be an independent voice on higher education and public policy
3. Represent the world of Irish scholarship internationally

Because it is based on the strength of the Academy's core values and on our unique role as an independent voice grounded in scholarly excellence and trust, I am confident that the plan will enable the Academy to provide a unique service to modern society. It provides a robust platform on which we can, working together, build a strong and sustainable Academy, in which excellence in scholarship and learning are paramount.

The Strategic Plan 2019–2023 is deliberately very ambitious and clear in its goals. The strategic goals are threefold:

1. **Serve Ireland and the public good through the Academy's research and scholarly resources and by drawing on the knowledge and insight of its members**
2. **Represent Ireland by engaging and leading in activities that strengthen international recognition of the Academy's scholarship**
3. **Build a Modern Academy by increasing diversity and providing new impetus to the life and work of the Academy**

For each of the strategic goals there are three major objectives designed to strengthen, enhance, foster, promote, showcase and support key elements of the goals. Each strategic goal is also supported by a number of key actions that will deliver the goals. In all nineteen key actions are identified.

The work of the Academy is carried out through our staff, our members and our committees, working groups and boards, in partnership with our external partners. Working together, we will use the new Strategic Plan to build an inclusive and modern Academy that values and develops our membership and staff. Research-mindedness and excellence will permeate and underpin all our activities, while an enhanced communication plan will support the Academy's activities both externally and internally. As we continue to face financial and other challenges, we will make optimum use of our facilities and our infrastructure to enable us to achieve the goals of the new plan. We will examine in detail all our activities in order to maximise our relevance and impact within our areas of expertise. We will seek to strengthen our financial sustainability in order to allow us to achieve our strategic goals. In all our activities we will adhere to the highest standards of governance, management and oversight.

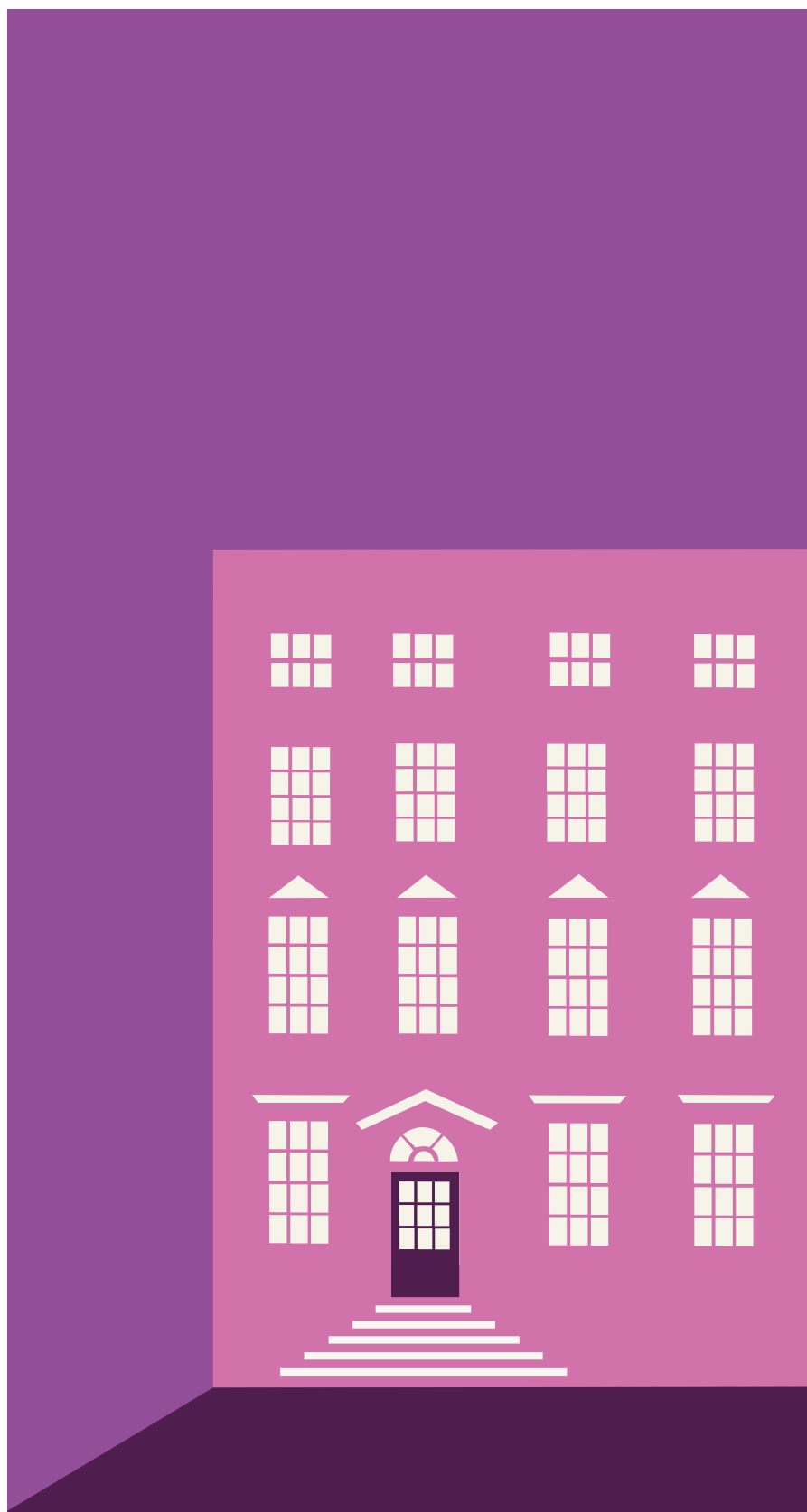
In order to realise the goals, objectives and actions of the new Strategic Plan, a detailed implementation plan has now been developed and is being acted upon.

This identifies key actions, with timelines, costs, responsibilities and measures/indicators of success. The implementation process is being led by Dr Tony Gaynor, the Executive Secretary, and supported by Academy staff and members from across the spectrum of our activities.

I would like to thank all the members of the Strategic Plan Committee, chaired by Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Hon. MRIA, for their dedication and hard work, and also all the Academy officers, council and Academy staff for their support throughout the process. I would also like to thank our new executive secretary and the team with responsibility for co-ordinating and driving forward the implementation plan.

I look forward to seeing the development, in the coming months and years, of the vibrant and inclusive Academy envisaged in the Strategic Plan 2019–2023 as a strong advocate and respected leader in the third-level sector, in public service and in representing Irish scholarship both nationally and internationally.

The full Strategic Plan can be found on ria.ie.





The establishment of a Young Academy for Ireland

Peter E. McHugh, MRIA,
Secretary for Policy and
International Relations

I was delighted and heartened to see plans to establish a Young Academy in Ireland firmly enshrined in the new Strategic Plan for the Royal Irish Academy, which was launched on Admittance Day 2019. Congratulations to Jocelyn Bell Burnell, Hon. MRIA, (Chair, Strategic Plan Committee) and Pat Shannon, MRIA, (Secretary, Royal Irish Academy) for leading the development of an excellent Strategic Plan and in particular for committing the Academy to the Young Academy objective.

Consistent with this Strategic Plan goal, I believe that the time is right for the Academy to do this and I believe that it would be hugely beneficial to both the Academy and to Ireland to work towards such an objective.

I have had the honour of serving as Policy and International Relations Secretary of the Academy since 2016, and one of the duties of the role is to be the Academy representative in a number of international academy network organisations, including ALLEA (European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities) and EASAC (European Academies' Science Advisory Council). At meetings of these organisations I have heard reports on substantial developments in a number of countries in this domain; at some of the meetings representatives from young academies have presented and contributed alongside the 'senior' academy counterparts, and I can attest to the energy, dynamism and innovative nature of the ideas that the Young Academy representatives brought to the proceedings.

I envision that the benefits of a Young Academy for Ireland are manifold, and include:

- An all-island direct link to the younger, high-performing scholars and research stars in Ireland (north and south) in an academy context
- A framework for the Academy to hear the 'voice' of the very best of our younger researchers, across the science, social science and humanities domains, in a coordinated way. I believe that this is potentially of great benefit when making representations to government, policy makers and other stakeholders
- A framework for young researchers to enhance their profiles (nationally and internationally) through academy membership
- An environment for young researchers to network, and to generate new collaborations and synergies
- A framework to enhance awareness of the Academy and of academy membership generally amongst younger researchers
- An ability to improve gender representation and gender balance. For example the Global Young Academy organisation in 2018 reported 43 per cent female membership, with a goal of 50 per cent gender balance.

Again, consistent with the Strategic Plan, I believe that the Academy is ideally placed and, indeed, the natural driver for the establishment of a Young Academy in Ireland; in most cases that I am aware of there is a very strong affiliation between a national Young Academy and a national 'senior' academy.

There are numerous examples of best practice internationally on the formation and operation of young academies. Countries that have set up young academies in recent years include Scotland, Belgium, Germany, Finland, Poland, Norway, Denmark, Spain, Canada, Japan, Israel and India. Membership criteria, terms and conditions are clearly laid out, and there is no assumption of automatic follow-on membership of the 'senior' academy, which is a concern that is sometimes raised. The young academy membership gives the scholar a period of time to benefit from academy membership and for them to make the very best of the opportunity, but when it comes to 'senior' academy membership they have

'The young academy membership gives the scholar a period of time to benefit from academy membership and for them to make the very best of the opportunity, but when it comes to 'senior' academy membership they have to compete on an equal footing with everyone else being proposed for membership.'

to compete on an equal footing with everyone else being proposed for membership. Using the example again of the Global

Young Academy, and quoting from their eligibility criteria 'Applicants should be in the early to middle years of their independent careers. The majority of the GYA members are aged 30–40 and the typical period from completion of a PhD or similar degree is 3-10 years.' Also, the membership duration is five years.

In summary, given the strength of the potential benefits to Ireland and to the Academy, I believe that the time is right for the establishment of a Young Academy in Ireland. And, as members of the Academy, I believe that we should all now engage with the Academy through the Strategic

Plan implementation phase, and give our active support and energy to the successful development and establishment of a Young Academy that is optimally designed for the Irish context.

An appreciation of Mary E. Daly, PRIA

Michael F. Ryan, MRIA

**Elected to
membership
in 1991**

**Vice-President:
1996–97
On Council
1997–2000**

**Secretary:
2000–04,
On Council
2007–08**

**Vice-President:
2008–09
On Council
2009–11**

**President
2014–17**

The Academy had to wait 229 years for the election of its first female president, Mary E. Daly. Several distinguished women had served the Academy well and had been elected to important posts as officers but there was so much of circumstances and timing that finally filled the presidency with a deserving and distinguished woman. Her career as a scholar from her graduation in history in University College Dublin, her D. Phil at Oxford to the many roles she played in her *alma mater*, not least as teacher, but also as Principal of the College of Arts and Celtic Studies for many years. She has been very productive in publishing on nineteenth and twentieth century history with strong emphases on social, political and administrative themes. She has served on a number of prominent government advisory bodies and boards including the Higher Education Authority, the inquiry into the mother and child institutions (which continues) and advising government on the commemoration of the ‘decade of centenaries’ events which saw the emergence of the modern Ireland with its two jurisdictions and the tasks of nation-building which followed the War of Independence. We can attribute the profound effect that the Academy had on the commemorations to her tireless advocacy.

Daly was a specialist but also a utility player in the Academy, in the university and in public affairs.



Humanities and Social Sciences Committees

1.

Coiste Léann na Gaeilge,
Litríocht na Gaeilge agus
na gCultúr Ceilteach

2.

Ethical, Political, Legal and
Philosophical Studies Committee

3.

Historical Studies Committee

4.

Social Sciences Committee

5.

Study of Languages, Literature,
Culture and Communication Committee

6.

Standing Committee
for Archaeology

7.

Standing Committee
for International Affairs

130
volunteers

make up these committees.

50%

of the committee
members are males
and

50%

are females.

They drive the programme
of work in the Academy
and give of their time and
expertise freely to do so.

Rural Conversations

The Social Sciences Committee in collaboration with the Department of Rural and Community Development continued the Rural Conversations project (a series of rural stakeholder discussion forums) during 2019. On 8 November 2018, the first Rural Conversation took place in National University of Ireland Galway on the topic of economic development in rural Ireland. In 2019 two further Rural Conversations took place; on 28 February in Dundalk Institute of Technology on social cohesion and on 4 April in Waterford Institute of Technology on vibrant and sustainable communities in rural Ireland.

Over 200 stakeholders from a cross-section of rural community stakeholders, government agencies, government support agencies and academics attended the Rural Conversations. Stakeholders discussed the topics under consideration and offered their views and suggestions in response to questions posed at each of the three events. Their views were collated into published reports that were produced for each

of the events. Also, each of the events was recorded and made available as podcasts on the Academy's website.

A final report of the complete series, with a synopsis of the findings, was launched by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr Michael Ring TD, in Academy House on 4 September 2019.

To date there have been over 450 downloads of the reports and over 1,700 listens to the podcasts.

Stakeholders' feedback from these consultative events helped inform the development of the next phase of government policy on rural development.



‘An overarching theme throughout these events was the need for a holistic, multi-generational community approach to rural community development. Cohesion is needed both within and between local development groups, underpinned by simple, constant access to information on activities and available supports.’

Áine Hyland, MRIA

Insights from the consultation with stakeholders included:

- There is a need for a flexible definition of ‘rural’
- People are at the heart of vibrant and sustainable rural communities
- It is necessary to balance the rural eco-system by recognising the need to care for rural culture and heritage infrastructure and surrounding nature while developing the economy
- A sustainable rural infrastructure needs to be built
- Where we meet is changing
- Social and technological platforms can be harnessed as a catalyst for community cohesion
- The value of local media should be recognised
- Current and future rural community leaders need to be supported
- The evolving volunteer infrastructure must be recognised
- Tradition can be passed through the generations
- The co-creation of rural education and development initiatives should be encouraged
- Rural health and safety services need to encompass on-call community health-care and homecare support structures, although these may be able to accommodate cross-community care
- Tradition and technology need to be balanced in rural business development
- New farm business models are producing linked avenues of development in bio-diversity, ecology and tourism
- The changing nature of work is offering remote employment opportunities
- A holistic government policy and inter-departmental coherence is needed among those who engage with rural communities
- The value of rural living and its contribution to society must be articulated



Social Media and democracy: How do we balance rights and responsibilities?

34

The Social Sciences Committee organised a panel discussion of the challenges and opportunities that digital and social media present in our society and the growing case across Europe for online content regulation and controls. The panel included Dr Maria Helen Murphy, Maynooth University; Professor Brian O'Neill, TU Dublin; Gavin Sheridan, CEO and co-founder of Vizlegal; and Professor Eugenia Siapera, University College Dublin, and was chaired by committee member Helen Shaw. The panel addressed questions on balancing the civil freedom of expression that online media provide while protecting the common good, and the responsibilities of the internet global companies behind social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook to see how well Ireland is facing up to these challenges.

The discussion was recorded and uploaded to Soundcloud, where it has received over 300 listens.

One hundred years of Irish foreign policy: looking back, looking forwards

The Standing Committee for International Affairs held its annual conference on 23 May 2019. The conference, which was titled 'One hundred years of Irish foreign policy: looking back, looking forwards', marked the centenary of the establishment of Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, now the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). The International Affairs conference is always a highlight of the Royal Irish Academy's calendar and the 2019 conference examined the history, contemporary dynamics and future challenges of Irish foreign policy and foreign policy-making.

The keynote address was delivered by Mr Niall Burgess, Secretary General, DFAT and Dr Sinead Walsh, EU Ambassador to South Sudan provided the plenary.

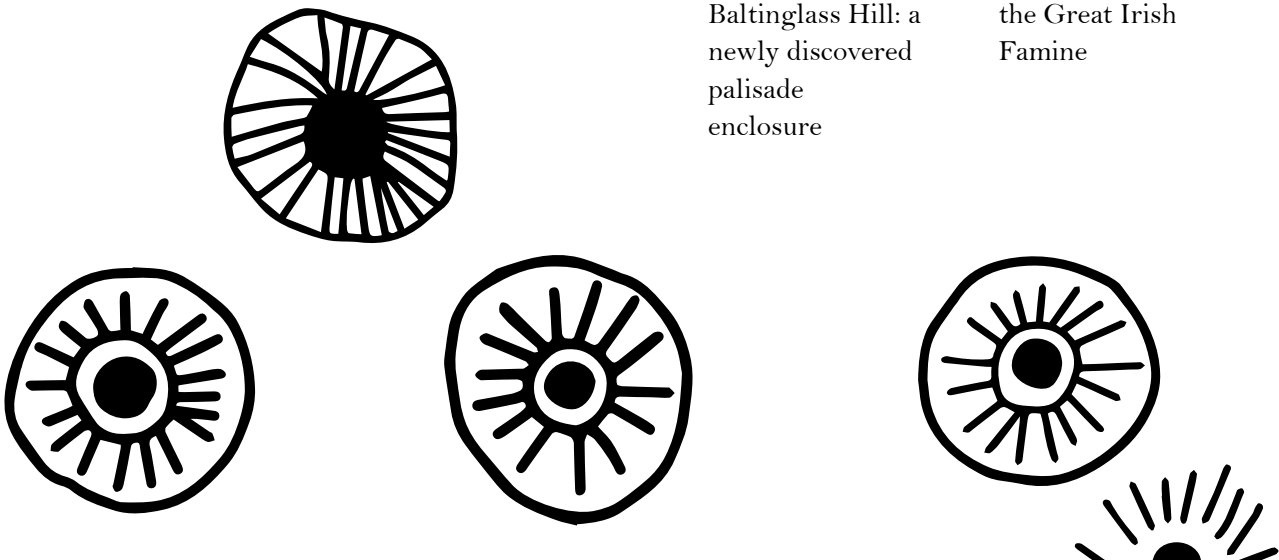
The conference was followed by the launch by Mr Niall Burgess of the journal *Irish Studies in International Affairs* at Iveagh House.

Revealing the Past

The Standing Committee for Archaeology presented their biennial one-day seminar 'Revealing the past: archaeological excavation and research in Ireland' in October. This was an opportunity for recent Academy archaeology grant recipients to showcase their research and recent discoveries. These archaeological grant schemes are supported by the National Monuments Service. There were also presentations of findings made through the Archaeology Radiocarbon Dates Scheme supported by Queen's University Belfast.

Research projects presented at the seminar covered topics ranging from the Ice-Age, Neolithic, through the medieval era and up to Famine times in locations around the island of Ireland: Wicklow, Waterford, Limerick, Meath and Kilkenny. Research showcased included:

- Ireland's ice-age world revealed: new discoveries from Ballynamintra Cave, Co. Waterford
- A medieval meeting place by the Boyne: excavation of a possible ferta at Dowth, Co. Meath
- Down by the river: looking for early Mesolithic people at Hermitage, Co. Limerick
- A good vintage: early medieval grape pips from Kilkenny
- Prehistoric ritual practices revealed at the Newgrange Farm excavation, 2018
- A clean slate: the science of writing on slate in late medieval Ireland
- Embracing the dead on Baltinglass Hill: a newly discovered palisade enclosure
- Feeding the poor: revealing relief food from dental calculus analyses in victims of the Great Irish Famine



Ireland in the European Eye

A panel discussion titled ‘Irish-language literature in Europe: a survey of translations and reception patterns in continental countries’ took place in the Royal Irish Academy on 8 November 2019. The panel discussion was a collaboration between Coiste Léann na Gaeilge, Litríocht na Gaeilge agus na gCultúr Ceilteach and the Study of Languages, Literature, Culture and Communication. The concept for this discussion grew out of the RIA publication *Ireland in the European eye*, which was

launched in Berlin on 8 June and had its Irish launch in the Goethe Institute, Dublin, on 7 November 2019.

The panel was chaired by Professor Bettina Migge, co-editor of the RIA publication *Ireland in the European eye*. The panel included co-authors of one of the book’s chapters; Professor Joachim Fischer (UL) and Dr Éamon Ó Ciosáin (MU), the book’s other co-editor Dr Gisela Holfter and Dr Ríona Ní Fhrighil (National University of Ireland Galway).



From left to right: Dr Joanna Kosmalska, University of Lodz; Dr Thomas Lier, Director, Goethe-Institut Irland; Dr Marieke Krajenbrink, UL; Dr Gisela Holfter, Director, Centre for Irish-German Studies, UL, and Professor Bettina Migge, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, UCD, co-editors of the book; Helena King, Senior Editor, RIA Publications; and Annagret Simms, MRIA.



The discussion dealt with the topic of communication across languages, literatures and cultures, with a specific focus on Irish language and literature in a European context. It addressed the European dimension of Irish literary production and the

cultural and political context of contemporary literary translation, broadening the debate about the Irish language by focussing on cultural communications in a multilingual European context.

‘By imagination we live’: a strategy for the humanities, 2020–2030

The Irish Humanities Alliance (IHA) hosted Professor Dame Marina Warner, writer, literary critic and Professor of English and creative writing at Birkbeck College at the Royal Irish Academy to launch its new strategy document, ‘By imagination we live’ in November.

The strategy is rooted in the conviction that the humanities have a major

contribution to make in addressing the most pressing social, political, cultural, technological and environmental issues of the twenty-first century. It outlines a significant all-island vision for the humanities that is based on an extensive and in-depth consultation with all-island IHA member institutions comprising the ten universities and the Royal Irish Academy, which hosts and supports the work of the IHA.

Conference on Eighteenth-century Manuscript Culture

The Coiste Léann na Gaeilge, Litríocht na Gaeilge agus na gCultúr Ceilteach held a one day conference entitled 'Eighteenth-century manuscript culture in the wider Gaelic world: The manuscripts of Rev James McLagan (1728–1805) in context' in June 2019.

The Rev. James McLagan (1728-1805) was a pre-eminent Scottish Gaelic scholar, poet, manuscript-collector, lexicographer as well as a military chaplain. His career with the Black Watch regiment saw him on active military service throughout Ireland, the Isle of Man and in the American War of Independence. Using McLagan and his extensive collection of Gaelic literary material as a point of departure, this event explored issues of eighteenth-century Irish, Manx and Scottish Gaelic manuscript and literary culture, with a particular focus on fiannaigheacht lays and 'Ossian', scholarly networks, oral tradition, historical and political contexts for manuscript creation and collection.

This event was part of the 'Gaelic Literature in Enlightenment Scotland: The McLagan Ossianic material' research network, funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and led by Celtic and Gaelic, University of Glasgow, with the support of the Royal Irish Academy's Coiste Léann na Gaeilge, Litríocht na Gaeilge agus na gCultúr Ceilteach.



Culture and Heritage Working Group

The Academy's Culture and Heritage Working Group (CHWG) acts as a facilitator for discussion of opinions and ideas on contemporary Irish cultural and heritage policy and practice. It works in partnership with other cultural and heritage bodies and groups and has strong links to the government's Creative Ireland programme and Heritage Ireland 2030.

In the light of government's Culture and Creativity capital plan, which aims to invest in a range of cultural activities and enterprises, the CHWG produced a set of position papers highlighting modes of creativity associated with public culture, public institutions and vernacular culture. Written by senior academics with strong ties to many of the state's cultural institutions, these papers constitute a set of reflections on the necessity for and social benefits of supporting enhanced attention to creativity in Irish life. These discussion papers explore aspects of creativity in the sciences, music, the Gaeltacht, the Irish language, folklore and the vernacular,

while papers on museums and on archival repositories and libraries are in development. All published discussion papers can be found on ria.ie

To mark the launch of the CHWG's discussion papers, a workshop on cultural heritage, creativity and education was held at Academy House in June 2019. The Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Joe McHugh, TD, delivered a speech to the 70 guests who attended the workshop. Following an address from the Academy's Senior Vice-President and the Chair of the Culture and Heritage Working Group, Mary Canning, a discussion with a panel of experts was moderated by the Academy's Polite Literature and Antiquities Secretary, Mary O'Dowd. The three panel speakers were: Tania Banotti, Director of Creative Ireland; Virginia Teehan, Chief Executive of the Heritage Council and Helen O'Donoghue, Head of Engagement and Learning at the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

The CHWG also held three forums throughout the course of 2019:

- **Consultation forum on Heritage Ireland 2030 in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, January 2019**

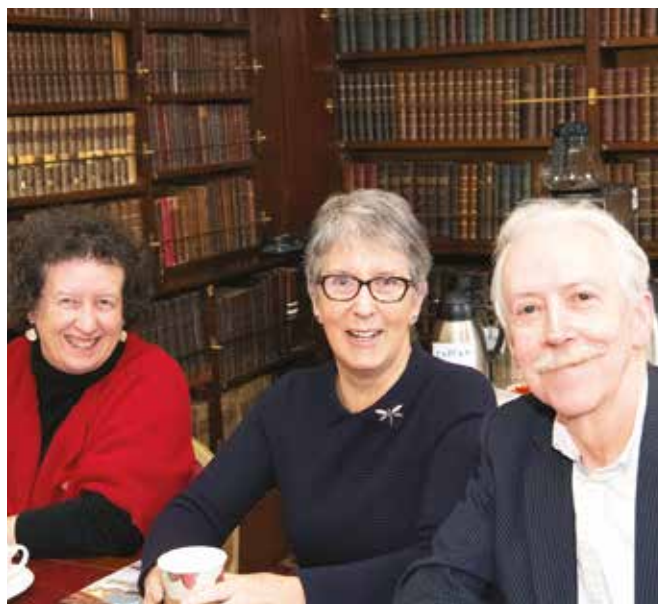
On foot of this, the Academy made an official submission to the Heritage Ireland 2030 consultation.

- **Discussion forum on libraries and archives within Heritage 2030, May 2019**

25 invited participants from the higher education, library, archive and publishing sectors outlined the challenges and opportunities facing libraries and archives in relation to heritage collections.

- **Discussion forum on the future of museums in Ireland, November 2019**

Since this event the Academy has published a public discussion paper that provides an outline of the discussion from the workshop and looks to better understand the issues raised by inviting stakeholders' responses to the questions posed within it. This feedback will inform the development of the Academy's final discussion paper on the future of museums.



Above (l-r): Dr Edel Bhreathnach, Dr Ann Lynch, Dr Mark Clinton
Below (l-r): Finola O'Kane Crimmons, MRIA, Ian Doyle, Heritage Council and Jane Stout, Trinity College Dublin



Science Committees

1.

Climate Change and
Environmental
Sciences Committee

2.

Engineering and
Computer Science
Committee

3.

Geoscience and
Geographical
Sciences
Committee

4.

Life and Medical
Sciences Committee

5.

Physical, Chemical and
Mathematical Sciences
Committee

93
volunteers

make up
these committees.

60%

of the committee
members
are male and

40%

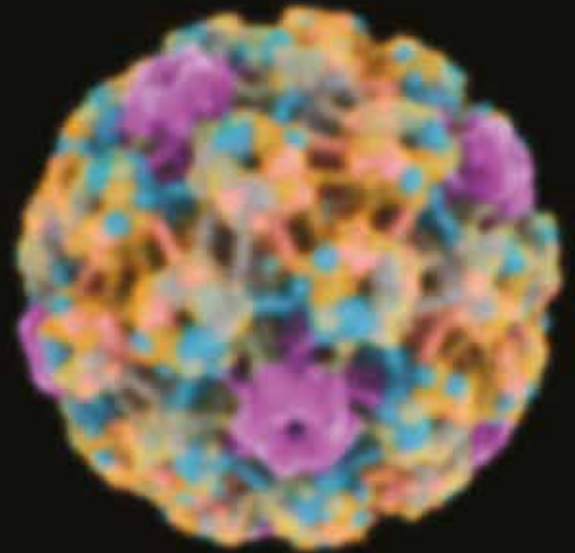
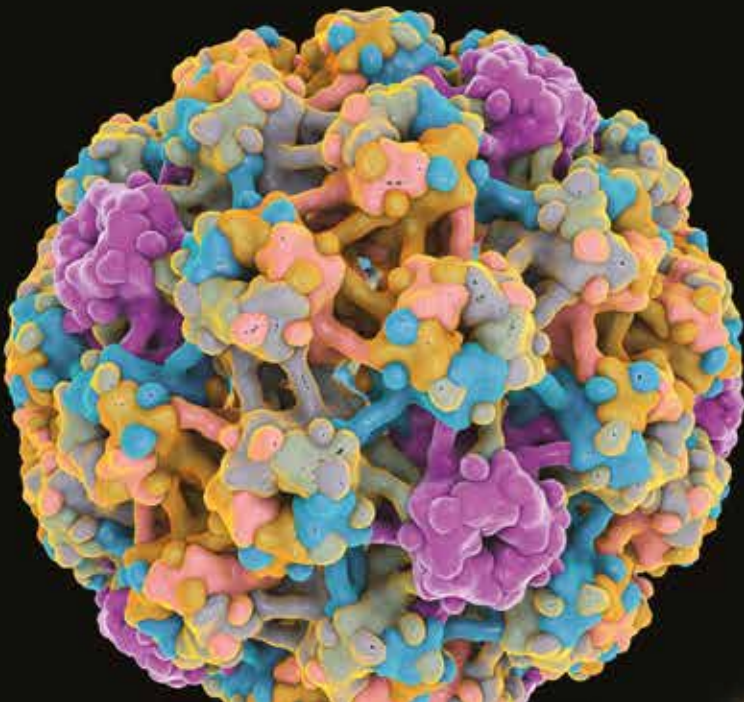
are female.

They drive the programme
of work in the Academy
and give of their time and
expertise freely to do so.

The risk posed by not vaccinating is far greater than any risk associated with receiving a vaccine says the Royal Irish Academy's Life and Medical Sciences Committee. The committee published an Expert Statement on Vaccinations to coincide with World Immunization Week (24–30 April 2019). The statement sought to provide clear and useful information about vaccination and the health benefits it provides to help the public make more informed decisions on vaccination.

Vaccination provides long-term protection against infectious diseases to people of all ages and failure to vaccinate

**Vaccination
isn't a personal choice,
it's a public one**



is not just a threat to the individual but to the whole community. Vaccines have prevented hundreds of millions of deaths from infectious diseases around the world, yet the powerful protection that vaccination can offer is now in danger. It is slowly being undermined by the incorrect view that vaccination is not safe.

The decision not to vaccinate also poses a threat to the general community. When more people are vaccinated there are fewer people left in the community who can spread the infection to others. Falling vaccination rates today have triggered several measles outbreaks in Ireland and other countries. These outbreaks can be prevented if the great majority of people are vaccinated. Smallpox, polio or diphtheria, once common illnesses that caused many deaths have been eliminated or are now held in check by vaccination. However, as the recent measles outbreaks have shown, these common but serious diseases will return if we do not vaccinate.

First introduced over 200 years ago, vaccines are one of the safest medical interventions available and save more lives every year than antibiotics or surgery. We now have vaccines that can prevent certain cancers, and more are being developed all the time.

Failing to vaccinate puts a child at risk of contracting measles, whooping cough and other childhood illnesses. Furthermore, the

health of others is put at risk by anyone carrying the infection, which can be passed on. These diseases can be very serious and even fatal in infants and young children if they are not protected by vaccination. Some parents are withholding or delaying vaccination, a decision usually influenced by misinformation, leading to the misplaced view that vaccination can be harmful. This misguided view is being driven at least in part by parents picking up so-called 'facts'

from social media and accepting unsubstantiated claims made by anti-vaccine lobby groups.

'As the recent measles outbreaks have shown, common but serious diseases will return if we do not vaccinate'

All medical procedures carry some level of risk and childhood injections are no exception. Before routine human use all vaccines must be shown to be safe and effective through stringent safety testing, clinical trials and constant monitoring by Irish and international agencies. The risk posed by not vaccinating is far greater than any risk associated with receiving a vaccine.

The human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine targets the virus that in later life can trigger cervical cancer. Some parents refused this vaccination for their children because of unfounded concerns about safety, despite the facts that the vaccine has been shown to have no long-term side effects and reduces the risk of developing cervical precancers by 90 per cent. High vaccine uptake is needed to reduce HPV infection and new cases of cervical cancer. Read the full expert statement on ria.ie.

Kathleen Lonsdale RIA Chemistry Prize

Dr Xinxin Xiao, a PhD graduate of University Limerick, was selected as this year's winner of the Kathleen Lonsdale RIA Chemistry Prize, sponsored by Henkel. This award is granted to the most outstanding Irish PhD thesis in the general area of the chemical sciences.

Dr Xiao is an accomplished early career chemist who has made an impactful contribution to his research field. Xinxin Xiao studied Materials Science and Engineering at the Shandong University, China (B.S., 2011) and obtained his M.Sc. in 2014 from the same university. He was awarded an Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship in 2014 to carry out his Ph.D. studies in the Department of Chemical Sciences at the University of Limerick under the supervision of Professor Edmond Magner.

Dr Xiao's winning paper 'Development of nanoporous gold based bioelectrodes' examines the use of nanoporous gold-based biofuel cells to generate electricity from body fluids. Such cells are of interest

in the development of implantable and wearable power sources for bioelectronic devices. During his Ph.D., Xinxin successfully demonstrated several prototype cells, including self-powered pulse generators mimicking those used in pacemakers, contact lens supported flexible biofuel cells that can generate power from lactate present in tears, and a self-powered drug release system that can enable controllable and on-demand drug delivery.

Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee

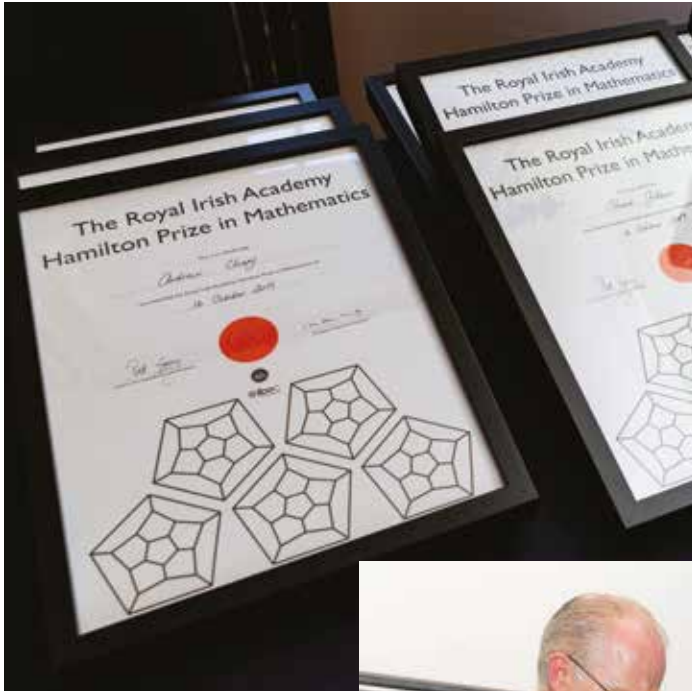
Environmental scholars are worried about the lack of public recognition and behaviour change around how serious climate change is for the future of our planet. Why are we not changing our behaviour and how can we encourage change? This was the first topic addressed in a new blog series from the Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee. Further blogs will be issued in this series and can be found at ria.ie

Hamilton Day

On 16 October each year, a day of celebrations is held to commemorate famed Irish mathematician Sir William Rowan Hamilton. However, the 2019 Hamilton Day was exceptional for the Academy as it was also the culmination of a project with Transport Infrastructure Ireland and TU Dublin to commission a commemorative artwork of Hamilton at the Luas Broombridge stop.

On Hamilton Day, Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure and Reform, Mr Paschal Donohoe, TD, launched the commemorative artwork by emerging artist Emma Ray (both pictured below) that celebrated Hamilton's 176-year-old act of graffiti. It celebrated the story of the 16 October 1843 when Irish mathematician Hamilton and his wife Helen were walking along the banks of the Royal Canal from Dunsink Observatory to the Royal Irish Academy where he was president. At Broome Bridge Hamilton had that very rare occurrence in science: a Eureka moment. He suddenly alighted





The 2019 Hamilton prize winners are Dara MacConville, Maynooth University; Francis Flanagan, University of Limerick; Shane Gibbons, University College Dublin; Andrew Cleary, Trinity College Dublin; Amanda Forde, National University of Ireland Galway; Andrew Joyce, Queen's University Belfast; Yimin Guo, TU Dublin; Thomas Sheerin, University College Cork; and Fergal McGuirk, Dublin City University



on the solution to a problem he had been working on for a long time and in his excitement, he took out his penknife and scratched his formula for Quaternion algebra onto the bridge: $i^2 = j^2 = k^2 = ijk = -1$. Quaternions would later be instrumental in putting the first man on the moon and be used for CGI in movies.

Emma Ray's artwork, which has been cut into the stone paving flags at the Luas stop, depicts the footprints of Hamilton and his wife: where Hamilton's footprints stop, his formula for quaternion algebra is illuminated in sequence. We hope that this artwork will inspire the next generation of Irish scientists and mathematicians.

In 2019 TU Dublin's School of Creative Arts ran a competition encouraging students to design a Luas campaign to raise awareness of Hamilton and his achievements. This design project was a collaboration between the RIA and students and staff on the BA Visual Communication at TU Dublin School of Creative Arts. Lily Gaertner, a recent graduate, drew from the rich local heritage of scientific discovery at Dunsink and Broombridge to produce a set of illustrations for a poster and digital campaign to promote the legacy of Hamilton and his impact on current technological

innovation. The poster headline was generated by a current final year Visual Communication student, Jake Skelly. The Luas poster campaign ran for four weeks, coinciding with Maths Week 2019 and Science Week 2019.

The Royal Irish Academy was honoured to have Professor Maria Chudnovsky of Princeton University (pictured left with Peter Kennedy, PRIA) to help celebrate

Hamilton Day 2019 which was generously sponsored by Ibec. She began with a masterclass for students in mathematics, chaired by Dr Aoibhinn Ní Shúilleabháin. The masterclass gave students the opportunity to learn from a leading expert in the field of graph theory.

Hamilton Day celebrations continued with the Hamilton Prize award ceremony,

honouring the top nine undergraduate mathematics students in Ireland. The ceremony and prizegiving took place at Academy House and was attended by family and friends of the recipients as well as representatives from their university departments and members of the mathematics community in Ireland. The evening culminated in the annual Hamilton Lecture, which Professor Chudnovsky titled 'Parties, doughnuts and colouring: some problems in graph theory'.

'We hope that this artwork will inspire the next generation of Irish scientists and mathematicians.'

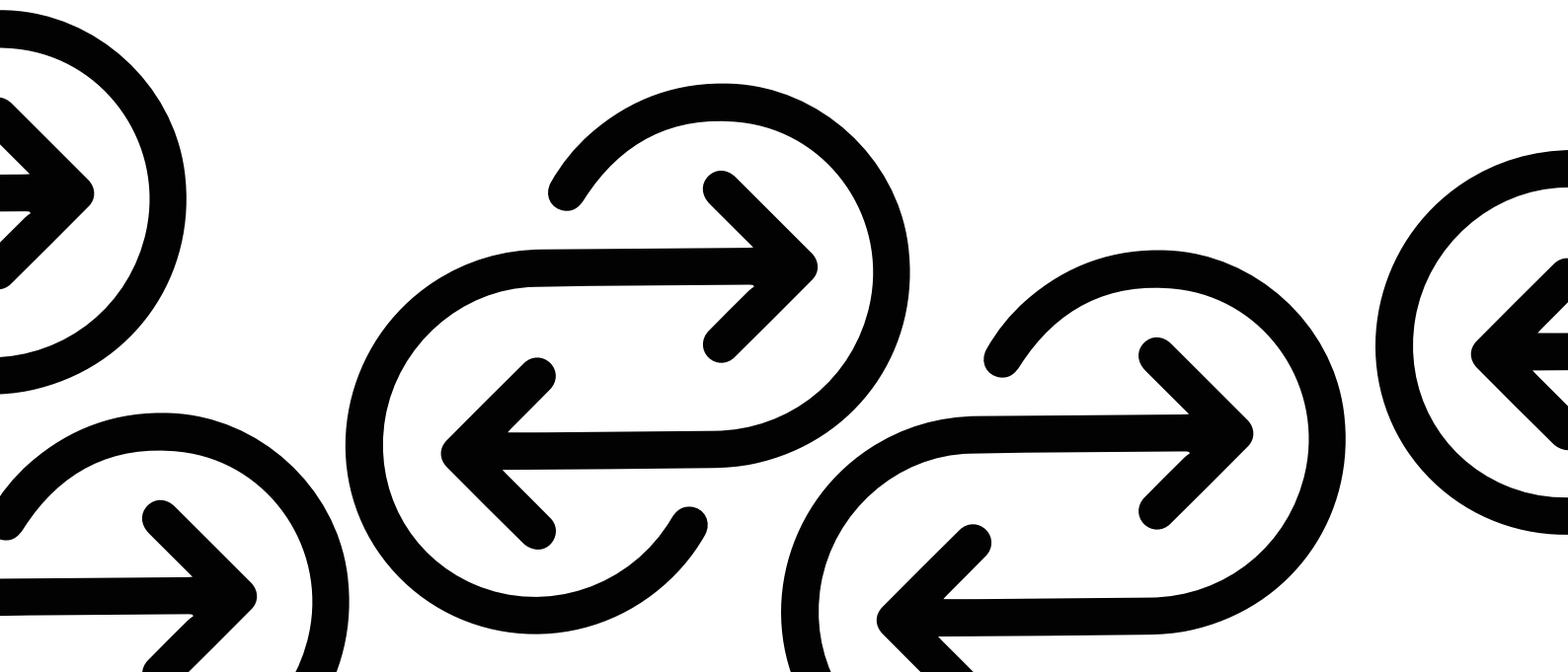
Oireachtas Science Pairing Scheme

The Royal Irish Academy Oireachtas Science Pairing Scheme will run from November 2019 to March 2020 and is a collaborative project between the Academy and the Houses of the Oireachtas. It is supported by Geological Survey Ireland and co-ordinated through the Geosciences and Geographical Sciences Committee.

In this scheme, members of the Oireachtas are paired with scientists and researchers working on issues of relevance in their constituency or committee work. The topics under consideration cover some of the key issues facing Ireland today, including housing, rural sustainability and energy.

Oireachtas members will have the opportunity to learn about the world-class research that is taking place in Ireland, and in return researchers and scientists will be able to follow the path that their work takes as it enters the legislative and policy sphere. This knowledge exchange project also builds an important network between academics and legislators, and we hope that the connections made during the scheme will lead to greater collaboration in the future.

TDs and senators taking part in the scheme include Deputies John Brassil, Declan Breathnach, Michael Harty, Jim O'Callaghan, Fiona O'Loughlin, Catherine Martin and Eamon Ryan, and Senators Ivana Bacik, Rose Conway-Walsh, Pippa Hackett, Anthony Lawlor and Catherine Noone. They are matched with academics and researchers working in Maynooth University, TU Dublin, National University of Ireland Galway, Dublin City University and Teagasc.



Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal Awards

The Royal Irish Academy Gold Medals were established in 2005 to acclaim Ireland's foremost thinkers in the humanities, social sciences, physical and mathematical sciences, life sciences, engineering sciences and the environment and geosciences. The Academy awards two Gold Medals every year. The medals, sponsored by the Higher Education Authority, celebrate the achievements of inspirational figures in higher education in Ireland and acknowledge the global impact of their work. The Gold Medals are considered the highest accolade in scholarly achievement in Ireland.

On Tuesday 12 February 2019 Minister for Education and Skills, Mr Joe McHugh, TD, presented the Royal Irish Academy 2018 Gold Medals to architectural historian, Kathleen James-Chakraborty, MRIA (University College Dublin) and astrophysicist, Stephen J. Smartt, MRIA (Queen's University Belfast) at a ceremony in Academy House (pictured below).

HEA | HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN tÚDARÁS um ARD-OIDEACHAS



‘The awards acknowledge the exemplary work and the outstanding achievements of Professors James-Chakraborty and Smartt, both in Ireland and internationally. The awards demonstrate the commitment of the academics to the highest standards of scholarship. They have been judged by their peers to have made outstanding contributions in their respective fields and their work is an inspiration to our future generations of researchers.’

Joe McHugh, TD



US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards

The US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards are a joint initiative of the Royal Irish Academy and the American Chamber of Commerce, Ireland. The awards recognise excellence in research innovation, creation, process and invention by an organisation, as a result of US Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Ireland. Sponsored by KPMG and Ulster Bank with media support from *The Irish Times*, these awards recognise and acknowledge exemplary ideas underpinned by innovative research that originate in Irish organisations, and that have a strong social and/or economic impact.



In May almost 700 guests, including senior business leaders of many of the US companies in Ireland, representatives from academia and leaders including former Taoiseach Enda Kenny, TD gathered at the annual celebration dinner for the awards presentation. At the event, the American Chamber presented a Special Recognition Award to IDA Ireland for their outstanding contribution to inward investment and creating a global Ireland.

The 2019 winners were:

UNESCO Chair Institute of Technology Tralee (Pictured top left) – winner of the award for an Irish Higher Education Institute or Research Centre with US corporate links

Their winning research innovation was Universal Fitness Innovation and Transformation (UFIT), an innovative capacity building programme based on rigorous research that provides bespoke resources to enable the fitness industry to embrace diversity and provide a quality, accessible service to people with disabilities. UFIT is promoted by IHRSA, the Boston headquartered industry body for a sector that has grown rapidly over the past four decades. Together the UNESCO Chair at the Institute of Technology Tralee and IHRSA are transforming the sector into one that embraces inclusion and diversity for the benefit of business and society. UFIT facilitates human rights objectives, while delivering economic and social benefits evidenced by the research. Through UFIT, IHRSA is now driving an

inclusive transformative change agenda in the industry, with more and more countries and sites on board. The IT Tralee UNESCO Chair partnership with IHRSA via UFIT has elevated disability inclusion to the top of the industries development agenda. The World Health Organisation is now embarking on the UFIT journey with Tralee UNESCO Chair and IHRSA globally to implement UFIT.

Allergy Standards Limited (pictured previous page, top right) – winner of the award for an Irish Microenterprise/SME with links to the US corporate sector in Ireland

Allergy Standards, based in Dublin, have developed the world's first scientific standards for consumer products to determine their capability to improve indoor air quality and achieve asthma & allergy friendly® certification. The certification programme is the only programme endorsed by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA). Allergy Standards Limited connects top brands to over 60 million Americans affected by asthma and allergies. Some of the world's leading manufacturers, such as LG, Dyson, Procter & Gamble, 3M and De'Longhi have certified a variety of their products providing a whole of home offering of healthier products to their customers.

Other brands include Mercedes, Crown Paints, Hollander and Welspun, all of which have certified products in all continents.

FotoNation (pictured previous page, middle) – winners of the award for the Irish operations of a US headquartered and controlled multinational company

FotoNation developed a Driver Monitoring System (DMS) designed to deliver a smarter driver experience. DMS is a safety product that uses modern artificial intelligence-driven approaches combined with smart intelligent camera designs that determine the distraction/drowsiness/inappropriate posture of the driver based on their facial and partial body image. Driver monitoring is increasingly becoming a very important feature for new cars, especially in the context of transitioning from no automation to autonomous driving, so that the car knows when it is safe to yield control to the driver. As cars become increasingly autonomous, DMS will transition into an in-cabin occupancy monitoring system (OMS), powered by a low-power high-performance chip designed to enable the system networks to infer in real time, with applications in safety, security, entertainment, social media and many others.

Grants

1.
Archaeology Research
Excavation Grants
2.
Archaeology Research Grants
3.
Directed Research in
World Heritage Sites
4.
Charlemont Grants
5.
The Royal Irish Academy-
Royal Society International
Exchange Cost Share
Programme
6.
Eoin O'Mahony Bursary
in Irish History

€147,250
awarded

across

6
grant
schemes

Total number of
grants
awarded:
41

Grants awarded

53%
female
47%
male

63%
of awardees
travel
for their research

Alice and Gwendoline Cave: assessing an Upper Palaeolithic site

In 2019 Dr Marion Dowd was awarded an Archaeology Research Excavation Grant, funded by the National Monuments Service for work on a project titled the 'Alice and Gwendoline Cave: assessing an Upper Palaeolithic site'.

Alice and Gwendoline Cave, which is situated in the townland of Cahircalla Beg, Co. Clare was originally excavated in 1902 (and published in the Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy in 1906). The cave has been subject to further research in recent years, including a 2011 Royal Irish Academy grant for a radiocarbon date of a brown bear patella with cut-marks (found in the cave in 1902), which contributed to the cave providing the first evidence of a human presence in Ireland during the Palaeolithic period.

The objective of the 2019 research excavation at the cave was to investigate the archaeological context of the Upper Palaeolithic butchered bear patella that was recovered at the site in 1902. To this end a series of soil samples and sedimentary blocks were taken to conduct lipid biomarker characterisation with compound specific carbon and hydrogen isotope analysis,

Photograph: Terry Casserly and Tim O'Connell



soil micromorphology and phytolith analysis. A small quantity of animal bone was also recovered, in addition to a series of possibly struck lithics. Two areas of *in situ* burning that had been identified by magnetic susceptibility in advance of the project were also investigated during the excavation.

This grant allowed Dr Dowd to establish the extent of the 1902 excavations, take samples from deposits beneath the level of the 1902 excavations, complete a detailed 3D scan of the cave and begin soil micromorphology, lipid biomarker and phytolith analyses, which will take place to establish the environment in and around the cave in the Late Palaeolithic.

Whilst interpretation of the findings is ongoing pending radiocarbon dating, animal bone analysis and lithic analysis, the results of this project will contribute to archaeological knowledge in the following areas: geomorphology, geophysics and prospection as well as our wider understanding of Ireland's Upper Palaeolithic period.

Photograph: Thorsten Kahlert



“I would like to gratefully acknowledge the support of the RIA for funding this research. The grant has allowed us to carry out cutting-edge archaeological scientific techniques at the site which have never before been used in Ireland. It allowed a multi-national team of experts to investigate an archaeological site of major significance in understanding Ireland’s Upper Palaeolithic.”

Dr Marion Dowd

The reconceptualisation of palliative care as a human right in international and regional human rights systems

In 2019 Dr John Lombard of the School of Law at University of Limerick was awarded a Charlemont Grant for a project on palliative care.

Dr Lombard's research explored the concept of a human right to palliative care. This project particularly concentrated on the right as it could be applied in Ireland as well as in England and Wales and involved a new collaboration with the International Observatory on End of Life Care (IOELC) at Lancaster University in the UK.

Dr Lombard used the opportunity afforded by the Charlemont Grant to develop and expand his research network and open national and international opportunities for collaborative engagement. He met with senior researchers as well as PhD candidates in the IOELC and worked alongside Professor Sheila Payne, an internationally recognised expert in palliative and end

of life care and a member of the United Nations Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. Dr Lombard believes that this experience has been instrumental in shaping his research and that it has also informed research that he is currently undertaking with Age Action Ireland.

During his research visit to Lancaster University, Dr Lombard also delivered a seminar on double effect reasoning and palliative care, which was recorded and made available to over 250 IOELC members.

The collaboration, which began as part of this project has continued since, and Dr Lombard has been invited to contribute an editorial on the topic of the intersection of law and palliative care for the *Palliative Medicine* journal, which is edited by the head of the IOELC, Professor Catherine Walshe. This leading academic journal on palliative medicine and its website receives

approximately 50,000 visitors each month. Dr Lombard is also working on a journal article about this work, which will be published in the *Human Rights Law Review*.

Following on from this work Dr Lombard was invited to speak about the contribution of a human rights-based approach to palliative care provision at the Palliative Care Research Network Annual Symposium and has been invited to deliver talks in hospices in Dublin and Limerick on the topic of palliative care and the right to health. To coincide with Palliative Care Week, he published a post on RTE Brainstorm titled 'Is access to palliative care a human right?'

Dr Lombard has also been invited to join a Horizon 2020 expert group on palliative sedation, which he attributes to the connections made through the IOELC.

He hopes that this role will allow him to contribute to discussions that

will shape palliative care practice across Europe over the coming years and that his research will be incorporated in the teaching of medical law at undergraduate and postgraduate level in the School of Law, University of Limerick.

'it was an honour to receive the RIA grant. The period of mobility was hugely important in making connections with other researchers and giving me the space and opportunity to think about the relationship of human rights and palliative care'

Dr John Lombard





Access to experts

The Royal Irish Academy has a proud tradition of inviting subject experts to speak to the public through the Academy's Discourse programme or to engage with future generations through its masterclass programmes.

In 2019 our Discourse Series, sponsored by Mason Hayes and Curran solicitors, enabled us to host public talks on a wide range of topics with both national and international speakers

- **Professor Sir David Cannadine**, Dodge Professor of History, Princeton University and President of the British Academy spoke on ‘The Irish dimension to British History: From the Act of Union to Brexit’
- **Professor Michele Nicoletti**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe spoke on ‘Democracy, truth and trust in Europe’
- **Professor Wayne Powell**, Principal and Chief Executive, Scotland’s Rural College spoke about ‘Global food and nutrition security: the role of innovation’
- **Emma Teeling**, MRIA (pictured overleaf, top), Professor of the School of Biology and Environmental Science and Founding Director of the Centre for Irish Bat Research, University College Dublin spoke about ‘How do we study bats and rats to find the secret of everlasting youth?’

- **Brigid Laffan**, MRIA, Director and Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute spoke about ‘Ireland’s decisive choice for Europe’
- **Eleanor Maguire**, Hon. MRIA, Wellcome Principal Research Fellow and Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at the Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging at University College London, spoke about ‘The anatomy of memory’

Where their schedules allowed these speakers also engaged with university nominated early career researchers in a more intimate masterclass setting. Each masterclass is facilitated by a Chair and allows for a unique format where the participants can sit around a table with a high-profile expert and have a face-to-face discussion, rather than sit in a lecture theatre. The objective of the masterclass is to engage and motivate early career researchers and forge relationships and networks. The response from participants is overwhelmingly positive with our participants indicating the masterclass was very beneficial.

MASON
HAYES &
CURRAN

‘I really liked the manner in which the masterclass was conducted and facilitated. The speaker and the chair were excellent and very interesting. The class members all contributed to the very thought-provoking discourse’

‘The whole class was enjoyable and instructive. The organisation of the room around a round table made it convivial, and the speaker was brilliant’



Women in leadership Masterclasses

The Academy runs a Women in Leadership masterclass series, which is supported by Accenture. These masterclass sessions are an ideal opportunity to inspire, motivate and mentor the next generation of women leaders and also work as a great networking opportunity for participants. Our speakers for the 2019 series were:

- **Michaela Blott**, Distinguished Engineer at Xilinx
- **Dr Rhona Mahony**, former Master of the National Maternity Hospital
- **Jane Ohlmeyer**, MRIA, Erasmus Smith’s Professor of Modern History at Trinity College Dublin and Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub Arts and Humanities Research Institute
- **Mary Harney**, former Tánaiste
- **Barbara Harvey**, Managing Director in Accenture Research and lead for Accenture’s research on workplace equality



‘I liked the small group setting and that we got an opportunity to ask questions directly to the speaker but it also allowed the group to share their experiences’



‘The insight gained from the other participants was also great, as it became clear that many of the challenges experienced by those in leadership roles are common, regardless of the specific position’

‘The speaker genuinely inspired me and I liked the sense of solidarity in the room, of common experiences’



Our international relations work

The Academy and its members provide independent, timely and authoritative scientific advice to Irish and international decision-makers on a wide variety of issues. Through our participation in international academic networks and our work with sister academies globally, we ensure that the voice of Irish science contributes to future policy and practice development.

Our main networks are:

- All European Academies (ALLEA)
- European Academies' Science Advisory Council (EASAC)
- Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA)

We ensure that Irish scientists are represented on our international networks' working groups and steering groups. Such representation helps to build the profile of Irish science internationally, which is a key goal of Irish higher education and research policy. The participation of Irish scientists in these networks also brings an Irish perspective to European policy discussions. The Academy's international relations work is based on the belief that scientists and scholars have a duty to ensure that policymakers and decision-makers have access to the very best academic research and also that this research is explained to them in a thorough and accessible manner.

The Royal Irish Academy is currently represented in the following groups:

- EASAC Working Group on Ocean Circulation
- EASAC Working Group on Climate Change and Health
- EASAC Environment Steering Panel
- EASAC Biosciences Steering Panel
- EASAC Energy Steering Panel
- ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics

- ALLEA Horizon Europe Working Group
- ALLEA Working Group on Truth, Trust and Expertise
- ALLEA Working Group on Science Education
- SAPEA Working Group on Making Sense of Science for Policy
- SAPEA Working Group on Transforming the Future of Ageing

Over the course of 2019, our delegates have represented us in European cities such as Berlin, Amsterdam, Brussels, Copenhagen, Helsinki, London, Ljubljana and Bern.

As a proud member of these international networks, we publicise all of their publications on ria.ie and on our Twitter feed (@RIAdawson) to our 19.64K followers. These reports are compiled at the request of the European Commission's Science Advice Mechanism and written by expert working groups composed of academic experts drawn from across the European Union. The reports offer timely, evidence-based synthesis of scientific research on policy issues identified by the European Commission and provide fresh perspectives on the policy questions that our elected representatives look to address.

‘EASAC’s report on ‘Negative Emissions Technologies’ has significantly informed Ireland’s stated ambitions to become a competitive, low-carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.’

We ensure our stakeholders are up to date on new developments by disseminating these reports networks to key academics, politicians and policymakers, and to the Oireachtas Library & Research Service, which provides information and research services to Ireland’s politicians.

A key part of our dissemination plan is to hold awareness-raising events at the Royal Irish Academy. These events, which are presented by experts who contributed to the reports, seek to highlight the relevance of the research in an Irish context. For example, in June 2019 we held a workshop to mark the launch of ‘The imperative of climate action to protect human health in Europe’. Chaired by Mike Jones, MRIA, the Academy’s nominee to EASAC’s Environment Steering Panel, the workshop featured an in-depth presentation from Professor Pat Goodman, the Academy’s contributor to the report, and a discussion with a panel of environmental and public health experts. In 2020 we will hold events to highlight SAPEA’s reports on ‘Transforming the Future of Ageing’ and ‘Making Sense of Science for Policy under Conditions of Complexity and Uncertainty’.

These reports can have a significant influence on policy formation in a number of key areas. For example, EASAC’s report on ‘Negative Emissions Technologies’ has significantly informed Ireland’s stated ambitions to become a competitive, low-carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050. Similarly, many of the challenges

identified in EASAC's 'Food Nutrition and Security' report are featured in Ireland's Food Wise 2025, a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector in Ireland. The ALLEA Working Group on Science Education has prepared a survey on Climate Change Education Initiatives in Europe. A statement based on the findings of this survey, which identifies common trends, gaps, strengths and weaknesses in relation to the content and pedagogical approaches to climate education, will be submitted to the European Commission.

Opposite: Maria Baghramian, MRIA and Luke Drury, MRIA, our representatives on the ALLEA working group on *Truth, Trust and Expertise*.



Collaboration at work: Open Science

The announcement by the European Commission that the principle of Open Science is to become the *modus operandi* of Horizon Europe, followed by the publication of Plan S, major work on the FAIR data principles, and the significant undertaking of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) has ensured that Open Science/Open Research is fast becoming a dominant global research policy focus. It is an umbrella term that encompasses openness at all stages of the research cycle, from open access to publications, through open access to FAIR research data, to open peer review and open scientific processes. The rationale for open science is simple: publicly funded research should be openly available to the public. Furthermore, scientific knowledge is a product of social collaboration and its ownership belongs to the community. There is also an argument that greater access to scientific inputs and outputs can improve the efficiency and transparency of the research system by reducing duplication costs in collecting, creating, transferring and reusing data

and scientific material, allowing more research from the same data, and multiplying opportunities for domestic and global participation in the research process. Open Science encompasses all disciplines, including arts and the humanities, and

‘Open Science brings many unknowns and the specifics of how it will change the research environment, particularly within individual disciplines, are the subject of much discussion.’

also includes open educational resources (OER), open educational practices (OEP) and open pedagogy. The concept has acquired support from all sectors: governments, funders, higher education institutions and researchers.

As more funders (including Science Foundation Ireland) sign up to Plan S, it seems that we will soon experience disruptive change in the research system. This has caused some concern as Open Science brings many unknowns and the

specifics of how it will change the research environment, particularly within individual disciplines, are the subject of much discussion. At present, journal metrics and indicators such as the ‘H-index’ are often used as a proxy for research quality. However, existing metrics are biased in particular directions and fail to account for the benefits of open practices to our larger

scientific understanding. Many questions arise from the reassessment of traditional research structures and metrics, such as: How will research be evaluated in the future? What might replace journal metrics as the main indicator for research excellence? How will research evaluation differ between disciplines?

It seems clear at this stage that a more open system of research sharing and collaboration will challenge how research systems currently recognise and reward high quality research. As these changes occur globally, Ireland has a national decision to make: How will we manage and achieve an open science environment that supports research? How will we best connect our research outputs with those across Europe and globally? We may need a culture change in how we do research. It may be that the quest to achieve a more knowledge-based society will mean the focus of the future will be on maintaining research integrity in an open research environment.

The National Open Research Framework (NORF), which is jointly governed by the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation published principles on the transition to open research in July 2019. In late 2019 they announced funding for a role at the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI), located at the Royal Irish Academy, to develop a National Action Plan. The Academy is currently focused on examining how researchers can be assisted and supported during this period of change. In January 2019, the Academy partnered with the HEA to deliver a community

briefing on the contents and implications of Plan S. In February, the Academy offered a briefing by the European Commission's FAIR data expert group on the implications of the 'Turning FAIR into Reality' report. The ALLEA E-Humanities working group, chaired by Dr Natalie Harrower, the Director of the DRI, is soon to publish recommendations to Humanities researchers for FAIR data management; Dr Harrower also contributes to the development of the EOSC via the Executive Board's FAIR working group.

In June 2018, we convened a roundtable discussion of the Chairs of our multidisciplinary committees to examine the issues from a disciplinary perspective and formed a working group to guide activities in this area.

In November 2019, an awareness raising event and discussion session gave researchers the opportunity to offer views on how best to implement new research assessment methodologies. The RIA is committed to working with NORF to ensure these views are properly represented.



New Members

Alan Barrett

is Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute. In addition to his many academic papers on issues such as immigration and population ageing, he has contributed significantly to economic policy in Ireland. He was a member of the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council and is currently a member of the Climate Change Advisory Council. He has chaired the annual National Economic Dialogue since 2015.

Liam Barry

is a full professor in the School of Electronic Engineering at Dublin City University. He is an international leader in the fields of optical communications and photonic systems. He holds ten patents in the photonics domain and is co-founder of two successful photonics companies (Southern Photonics and Pilot Photonics). He attracted the most prestigious conference in the optical communications field to Dublin in 2019.

Paolo Bartoloni

is Professor of Italian at the National University of Ireland Galway. He is a leading cultural theorist who has made significant contributions to international scholarship in the areas of comparative literature, translation studies, contemporary philosophy and Italian cultural history and has written extensively on major European intellectual figures such as Giorgio Agamben, Martin Heidegger, Walter Benjamin, Giuseppe Ungaretti and Italo Svevo.

Yvonne Buckley

is Professor of Zoology at Trinity College Dublin. She has made world-leading advances in population ecology, with applications in conservation and invasive species management. She received an IRC Laureate award for the project THRIVE to determine how plant populations persist in a changing world.



Christine Casey

is Professor in Architectural History at Trinity College Dublin. Casey's scholarship highlights the artisans who built and decorated buildings in Dublin and across Europe. Her latest book, *Making magnificence: Architects, stuccatori, and the eighteenth-century interior* (Yale University Press, 2017), was awarded the Alice Davis Hitchcock Medallion by the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, for its outstanding contribution to the knowledge of architectural history.



William Crawley

is an award-winning journalist and broadcaster with the BBC, presenting television and radio programmes on current affairs, politics, arts, science, religion and ethics. Among the many documentaries he has presented are the landmark natural history series *Blueprint* (which now forms part of the Ulster Museum's permanent natural history exhibition); the global thinkers interview series entitled *William Crawley meets*; and *The man who shrank the world*, an exploration of the scientific genius of Lord Kelvin.



Diarmaid Ferriter

is Professor of Modern Irish History at University College Dublin. His research focuses on the social, political and cultural history of twentieth-century Ireland. The author of numerous books, he is a consistently innovative interpreter of the modern Irish historical experience. He is the author of a weekly column in *The Irish Times* and a familiar presence in the broadcast media on historical and other subjects.



Alison Forrestal

is senior lecturer in history at National University of Ireland Galway and an authority on pre-revolutionary France and religion. Her acclaimed *Vincent de Paul, the Lazarist Mission, and French Catholic Reform* (Oxford University Press, 2017) explains how French Catholic reformers dedicated themselves to social and spiritual regeneration and innovation. She is currently investigating how achievements in France later became a platform for Catholic expansion on a global scale.



Andrew Fowler

is a Research Professor of Applied Mathematics at the University of Limerick and a senior research fellow at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. He is best-known for his work in glaciology, in which he is a leading international figure. He is the author of books on mathematical modelling and on mathematical geoscience, and co-author of a forthcoming book on chaos.



Yuri Gunko

is Professor of Inorganic Chemistry in Trinity College Dublin. He is a world-leading expert in the area of inorganic materials chemistry. He has developed strong links with Irish industry and has been responsible for important developments in the teaching of nanoscience. Potential applications of his research range from solar energy conversion and adhesive technology to imaging of biological samples and nanomedicine.



Moyra Haslett

is Professor of Eighteenth-Century and Romantic Literature at Queen's University Belfast. Her many monograph publications include *Pope to Burney*, *Scriblerians to Bluestockings* (Palgrave, 2003) and *Byron's Don Juan* (Clarendon Press, 1997) for which she was awarded the Rose Mary Crawshay prize by the British Academy. She is currently principal investigator for the Irish Song database and general editor for major book projects from the university presses of Cambridge and Oxford.



Alan Irvine

is Professor of Dermatology at Trinity College Dublin. Alan has a long-standing research record in hereditary skin disease. For more than two decades he has produced consistently high-impact basic and clinical research in epithelial biology and genetic skin disease. He holds visiting professorships to U Minnesota and U Penn, honorary professorship in Dundee University and is Director of the International Eczema Council. He is also a scientific advisor to several charities including the Irish Skin Foundation and British Skin Foundation.



Tom Lodge

is Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies and a Dean at the University of Limerick. He has published more than 120 journal articles and book chapters on the contemporary political history of South Africa. Among his seven widely cited books is the highly influential *Black politics in South Africa since 1945* (Longman, 1983), which has shaped thinking on this subject over three decades.

Kieran McEvoy

is Professor of Law and Transitional Justice and senior research fellow at the Senator George J. Mitchell Institute at Queen's University Belfast. He is a leading figure internationally on societies transitioning from conflict, most notably on issues such as dealing with the past, human-rights protections and reparations. He is the recipient of awards from the Economic and Social Research Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the British Academy and the Leverhulme Trust.

Fearghal McGarry

is Professor of Modern Irish History at Queen's University Belfast. He has become a distinctive and authoritative voice in the history of revolutionary and post-revolutionary Ireland, in books that have reached both an academic audience and a wider public. He is also an active exponent of public history, at a time when issues of commemoration and memorialisation are of central importance to our society.

Paul Moynagh

is Head of the Department of Biology and director of the Human Health Research Institute at Maynooth University and has a part-time affiliation as Professor of Immunology in the Institute for Experimental Medicine at Queen's University Belfast. His research focuses on delineating the roles of Pellino proteins in immunity. He is the recipient of the NUI Centennial Prize for Academic Publishing and the 2014 Biochemical Society (IASBS) medal.



Valeria Nicolosi

is Professor of Nanomaterials and Advanced Microscopy in Trinity College Dublin. She is an expert in high resolution microscopy specialising in two-dimensional nanomaterials and their applications to energy storage. She has the distinction of being the first Irish person to hold six ERC grants and has made numerous presentations supporting women in science and the work of the ERC.



Dáithí O'Ceallaigh

has played major roles both in bilateral and in multilateral diplomacy. He worked for many years on British-Irish and north-south relations, culminating in service as Irish ambassador to the United Kingdom from 2001 to 2007. As Irish ambassador to the United Nations institutions at Geneva in 2008, he oversaw negotiation of the Dublin Convention on Cluster Munitions, to ban weapons that have a devastating impact upon civilians in conflict and post-conflict regions across the world.



Olivia O'Leary

is a journalist, broadcaster, public commentator and writer of international standing. Her work—praised for its perceptiveness, literary skill and humour—makes an exceptional contribution to Irish society. She is currently the presenter of 'The poetry programme' on RTÉ Radio 1 and is a regular contributor to 'Drivetime', RTÉ's flagship radio evening news and current affairs programme. She is the recipient of numerous awards and three honorary degrees.



Ivan Perry

is Professor of Public Health and Dean of the School of Public Health at University College Cork. He is an epidemiologist with an international profile in public health nutrition. Since 2008, he has been principal investigator on the Health Research Board's Centre for Health and Diet Research—one of Europe's leading interdisciplinary centres of excellence in public health nutrition.



Catherine Stanton

is a senior principal research officer in Teagasc and a research professor at University College Cork. She has published hundreds of research papers on the molecular analysis of food components that impact on human nutrition and health. She is also a founding principal investigator at the APC Microbiome Ireland research institute.

Rowland Stout

is Professor of Philosophy and the Director of the Centre for Ethics in Public Life at University College Dublin. Through four influential books and numerous articles he has developed a novel conception of human agency, in terms of a sensitivity to reason and the norms of rational thought, thus establishing himself as one of the most original contemporary philosophers of action and mind.

Isabel Torres

is Professor of Spanish Golden-Age Literature at Queen's University Belfast and the outgoing President of the Association of Hispanists of Great Britain and Ireland. She is an international corresponding member of the Royal Spanish Academy, perhaps the highest form of recognition for any Hispanist. She has published extensively on the poetry of the Spanish Golden Age, and holds a Queen's University Teaching Award.

Michael Zaworotko

holds the Bernal Chair of Crystal Engineering and an SFI research professorship at the University of Limerick. His research relates to the creation of new metal-organic and multicomponent pharmaceutical materials, aimed carbon capture, water purification and better medicines. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and the Learned Society of Wales.



Honorary Members

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin is a Regents Professor at the University of Minnesota, USA. She is a world-leading scholar and practitioner in the fields of law, political science and public policy, whose expertise has been recognised by, amongst many others, the European Commission, the United Nations Human Rights Council, and the International Criminal Court. Most recently, she co-edited the *Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

John O’Keefe is a Nobel Prize-winning cognitive neuroscientist who has made the pivotal discoveries on which our understanding of the brain’s GPS system is founded. His discovery of ‘place cells’ inaugurated the modern era of the exploration of the brain’s cognitive map. His many other discoveries have indelibly altered our understanding of brain function, with implications extending from patients with dementia to intelligent robotics.

Richard Sharpe is Professor of Diplomatic at Oxford University. A scholar of international repute, he has been awarded many academic distinctions. His work spans several areas: hagiography, Anglo-Norman charters, Medieval Latin, manuscript and print culture. In each of these he is an acknowledged authority. Many of his publications relate to Ireland and he is currently compiling a detailed catalogue of printed works in the Irish language 1571–1871.



Bereavements

Andrews, John Harwood. MA(Cantab), PhD(Lond), MA, MSc, MLitt(Dubl). FTCD. Retired Professor of Geography, TCD. Elected in 1978. Died 15 November 2019.

Atiyah, Michael Francis. FRS, Former President, Royal Society of Edinburgh. Elected in 1979. Died 11 January 2019. Honorary member.

Beierwaltes, Werner Anton Vincenz. Promotion Phil., Habilitation, Dr(h.c.) Ioannina Bundesverdienstkreuz. Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. Elected in 1986. Died 22 February 2019.

Burke, Philip George. BSc(Lond 1953, 1956), DSc(hc Exeter, QUB). FRS. Emeritus Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, QUB. Elected in 1974. Died 4 June 2019.

Elgie, Robert. BA(Oxon 1987), PhD(LSE 1992). Professor of Government and International Studies, DCU. Elected in 2017. Died 14 July 2019.

Fitzpatrick, David Patrick Brian. BA(Melb), PhD(Cantab). Professor of Modern History, TCD. Elected in 2001. Died 19 February 2019.

Gell-Mann, Murray. BSc (Yale), PhD (MIT). Robert Andrews Millikan Professor Emeritus of Theoretical Physics, California Institute of Technology. Elected in 2003. Died 24 May 2019. Honorary member.

Gooding, David Willoughby. MA, PhD(Cantab 1952, 1954). Emeritus Professor of Old Testament Greek, QUB. Elected in 1977. Died 30 August 2019.

Herries Davies, Gordon Leslie. MA(Dubl, Manc), PhD(Dubl). FTCD(Emeritus). Retired Professor of Geography, TCD. Elected in 1979. Died 22 February 2019.

Holland, Charles Hepworth. BSc(Manc 1950), MA(Dubl 1968), PhD(Lond 1956). Emeritus FTCD, Former Professor of Geology and Mineralogy, TCD. Elected in 1971. Died 26 December 2019.

Jeaneau, Edward. Professor, Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies, University of Toronto. Elected in 1991. Died 10 December 2019. Honorary member.

O'Donoghue, Brendan. Former Secretary General, Department of the Environment and retired Director, National Library of Ireland. Elected in 2001. Died 4 September 2019.

Wright, Barbara. MA, LLB, PhD(Cantab), LittD(Dubl). Emerita Professor of French Literature, TCD. On Council and in Office: 1990-91, VP 1991-92, 1998-2000, SVP 2000-01, 2001-02, 2007-2010. Elected in 1988. Died 14 December 2019.

Our research projects

76

The Royal Irish Academy currently runs seven academic research projects at the leading edge of scholarship in their respective disciplines. These projects and their research outputs give the institution particular academic strengths in Irish history, cartography, digital archives and lexicography. Academy projects draw on resources in which the Academy Library and its collections are exceptionally rich, including Irish language and literature, linguistics, the history and culture of Ireland and archaeology. Academy research projects publish regularly and play a vibrant role in academic and public life in Ireland and across the globe.

Dictionary of Irish Biography

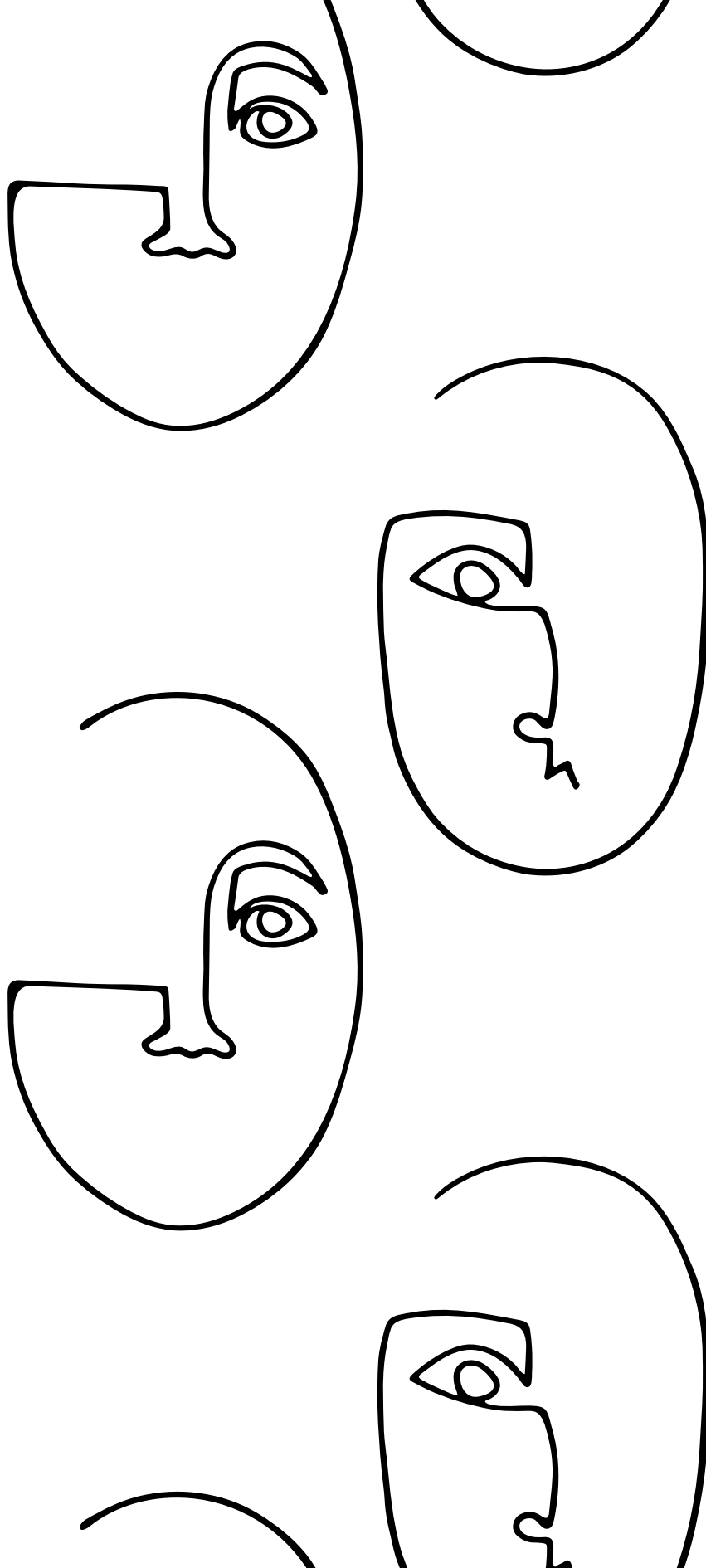
Terry Clavin

The Royal Irish Academy recently marked the 10th anniversary of the publication of the most comprehensive and authoritative biographical dictionary published for Ireland, the Dictionary of Irish Biography (DIB). Devised, researched, written and edited under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy, the DIB was first published in an online edition and in a nine-volume print edition in 2009, and contained 9,014 signed biographical articles of subjects

who died prior to 2003. The online version is available to subscribers at dib.cambridge.org and is freely available in most libraries. This educational resource of huge potential is also freely available to use in schools via Scoilnet.

Since 2009 the DIB has published online updates every six months, with online revisions and corrections also being performed biannually. Approximately 80 new biographies are added yearly to the DIB and entries are published at least five years after the subject's death. Despite the breadth of coverage of the first nine volumes, inevitably some interesting and important figures were omitted; to correct this, 'missing persons' biographies overlooked in the original DIB are regularly added to the online dictionary. In 2018 the print editions of volumes 10 and 11 were published, comprising over 600 subjects who died between 2003 and 2010, and 157 missing persons.

The DIB has published 279 'missing persons' as well as 625 biographies of subjects who died during 2003–13. Notable recent biographies include Charles Haughey, Seamus



Heaney, Maeve Binchy, John McGahern, George Best, Maureen Potter, Gerry Ryan, Liam Clancy, Ronnie Drew, Joe Dolan, Mary Raftery and Conor Cruise O'Brien. The 2020 entries will include biographies of Garret FitzGerald, Ian Paisley, Albert Reynolds, Christine Buckley, Lillian Barry and Jackie Healy-Rae.

As far as possible DIB entries contain comprehensive factual information: details of birth and death, family, education, significant awards, distinctions and promotions. A list of the sources used is included at the end to guide those interested in further research. DIB entries are more than mere catalogues of events: rather, they attempt to appraise the circumstances that shaped an individual's life such as formative influences and their physical and social environment. That said, for the purposes of brevity a certain amount of knowledge is assumed

regarding well-known events or contexts (i.e., the 1916 Rising, the Northern Ireland 'Troubles', Irish party politics, the influence of the catholic church). DIB articles are broadly chronological, though sometimes a thematic structure is necessary if a subject has parallel careers.

Perhaps the most significant change that has occurred since the first publication of the DIB is the ready availability of historical material online. This potentially makes readers less reliant on the DIB even though information online can be erroneous, garbled and biased. In response to this challenge the DIB now offers longer, more intensively researched biographical articles. We can do so thanks to the digitisation of the Irish newspaper archives. During the preparation of the original DIB there had not been enough time for researchers to trawl through the newspaper archives. However, since then the



Pictured before the lecture marking the ten-year anniversary of the publication of the DIB (l-r) Patrick Geoghegan, chairman of the DIB advisory board; Kate O'Malley, DIB managing editor, Fintan O'Toole, Irish Times; and James Quinn, former DIB managing editor

ability to perform accurate word searches in the digital archives of the majority of national and many local newspapers has made the Irish print media a most important source for our research. Moreover, most of the careers of the post-2009 DIB entries fall within the final decades of the 20th century, a period when the Irish newspaper sector expanded the range and sophistication of its coverage, and in doing so became a richer and more useful source for historians.

The DIB is now entering a new phase. The Academy plans to make the entire Dictionary freely available online, making the DIB a national resource that the general public can enjoy while also allowing students of history at all levels and ages to view it anywhere and anytime. A more dynamic online presence will allow the DIB team to repurpose some of the biographical entries into themed collections and resource packages that can support specific aspects of the school curriculum. The late Seamus Heaney, when launching the hard copy volumes in 2009 said, the project ‘presents us with a resource of enormous importance, not only for professional students and scholars, but for every literate person on the island, it is an epoch-making event in the history of Irish scholarship.’ The next stage in the project is to make this resource open access and available to all. Any why not? It provides us with a unique history of our island, not through the prism of events and potential biased agendas, but through its people, warts and all.

Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources

Anthony Harvey

The principle objective of the Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources (DMLCS) project is to compile an authoritative, documented guide to the meaning and usage of all the unusual words found in Latin texts written during the Middle Ages by Celtic (mostly Irish) authors, or by Celts abroad. There are many thousands of such words: some of them went on to be borrowed into other languages, eventually giving even such everyday terms as English ‘flavour’ and ‘totally’. Other Celtic-Latin coinings were abstruse from the start.

Understanding them adequately is essential for the comprehension of each of the hundreds of texts involved, yet this vocabulary is not to be found in any standard Latin dictionary. In determining the etymologies and meanings of these words systematically for the first time so as to fill this gap, as well as tracking their use geographically and across a thousand years of history. The project contributes to the Academy’s strategic goal of serving the public good by conducting fundamental research that aims to be both innovative and definitive.

As the project’s digital archive of texts is built up, and the dictionary is compiled, and

familiarity with the material is developed, it becomes increasingly possible to conduct over-arching reviews of the Celtic-Latin phenomenon that have some claim to objectivity. In recent years this has rendered possible, for the first time, substantiated comparisons of Hiberno-Latin with the Latin of Wales; detailed analyses of the Latin usages of particular authors (such as abbot Adomnán of Iona and the self-styled Virgilius Maro Grammaticus) or places (such as the Isle of Man); surveys of the French influence on Celtic-Latin texts written after the Norman invasions; detection and description of the various logical methods used in seventh-century Ireland to coin new Latin words; the development of a taxonomy of the different kinds of ghostwords; assessments of Celtic-Latin technical terminology, and so on. Often prompted by invitations to DMLCS staff to speak at various conferences, these Academy contributions to learning go on to be further disseminated by publication in peer-reviewed journals and anthologies. The project thus helps to fulfil another of the institution's strategic goals, a bibliography of the offerings in question being available on the website at ria.ie.

In compiling a territorially-defined dictionary of medieval Latin, DMLCS takes its place as one of a family of projects being conducted across Europe with parallel objectives. Conceived under the auspices of the Union académique internationale, these projects together provide lexicographical treatment of medieval Latin texts from most of the areas where such works were composed (England, the German-speaking countries, Italy, the Czech lands, Poland,



Sweden, Romania, the various communities of Spain, and so on). At the same time, in basing its lexicography on a digitally searchable corpus of its sources, DMLCS is one of a group of ventures using similar methods to compile dictionaries of the various historical and minoritized languages other than Latin that have been employed by Celtic authors. These ventures are working increasingly closely together and by now include Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru (the national dictionary of the Welsh language) and Faclair na Gàidhlig (the Scottish universities' dictionary of the Gaelic of that country), as well as the Academy's own FNG project (working on modern Irish, as reported elsewhere in this publication) and eDIL (the digitised new edition of the Academy's original dictionary of pre-modern Irish).

Both the Latin and the Celtic ventures all either commenced in the pre-digital age or else were founded after DMLCS; as the longest established dictionary project in either category to have been computer-based from the start, DMLCS often finds itself in a position to give advice to the others. By such involvement in external engagement and leadership, DMLCS contributes to the strategic goal of strengthening international recognition of the Academy's scholarship.

Digital Repository of Ireland

Natalie Harrower

The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) provides long term preservation and sustained access to digital data from Ireland's higher education and cultural sectors, with digital collections and research data spanning the social sciences, humanities and arts. As well as preserving a wealth of data, DRI makes this data available in

line with the FAIR principles (findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable) via its searchable, open access portal at dri.ie. To deposit data in DRI, institutions join as members; by the end of 2019, DRI had nineteen members with diverse collections from across Ireland. Headquartered at the Royal Irish Academy, the DRI also has staff at Trinity College Dublin and Maynooth University.

Alongside the provision of data preservation and publication services, DRI operates as a community hub for best practices in digital preservation and data discovery, as well as a go-to centre for training, research, policy development and advocacy in a range of areas dealing with data governance and digital archiving. We offer a range of training activities and knowledge-building events, as well as a yearly forum to update members on new and planned developments, and to provide an opportunity for community exchange. In September, DRI launched a collaborative lecture series with the National Archives of Ireland, with an inaugural invited lecture on personal digital archiving.

In 2019 DRI announced its first Community Archive Scheme, where a low or unfunded archive is awarded DRI membership and support services for a year, in order to preserve and promote an important collection. The scheme was established to actively diversify DRI's collections, open the repository to smaller organisations and community efforts, and give voice to archival material that enriches our social and cultural understanding of

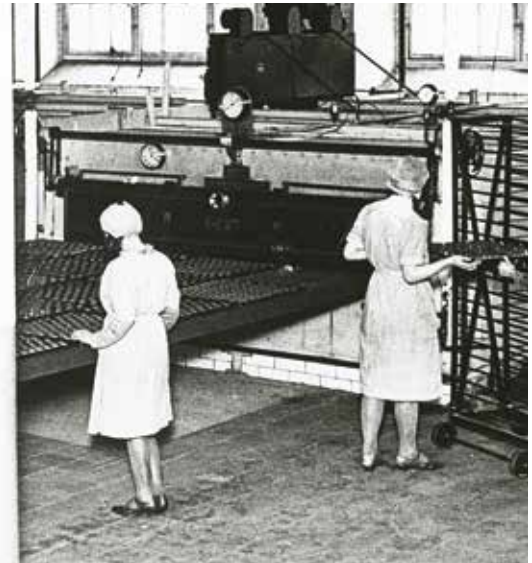


DPASSH 2019 in Queen's University Belfast (l-r): Dr Kathryn Cassidy; Dr Deborah Thorpe; Dr Natalie Harrower; Tímea Biro; Dr Aileen O'Carroll and Kevin Long.

Jacob's Biscuit Factory Archive

This collection comprises photographs, photographic albums and slides. The images date from the late 19th century to the early 21st century. The photographs reflect the company's history as a major employer in Dublin city, and in Liverpool, and as a global exporter of biscuits. Images are reproduced with courtesy of Valeo Foods and Dublin City Library and Archive. CC-BY-NC-ND.

Visit dri.ie to view the collection.



Above: female employees operating a drawplate oven which is loaded with trays of biscuits. Left: male employees making cases. Below: a Jacob's delivery van loaded with cases. A number of different locations are printed on the cases including; Singapore, Ireland, and Mombasa.



Ireland. The first winner of this scheme was the Cork LGBT Archive, which worked with DRI staff to publish a rich and engaging collection in October 2019. By focusing on Cork's LGBT community these collections mark the social change that has taken place in Cork, and more broadly in Ireland, and are a celebration of local and grassroots activism. The call for applicants was opened for a second round, and the 2020 winner is the Asylum Archive, which documents the direct provision system in Ireland since 2007.

An important element of DRI's work is promotion of the collections that are being preserved in the repository. In late 2018 we launched the DRI Early Career Research Award, to encourage postgraduate students working in the field of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences to use DRI collections for their research. The award provides a bursary for the best use of DRI data or collections in Masters or PhD work. The inaugural award was made in September 2019 to archaeologist Jennifer McCarthy, whose extensive use of the archaeology reports in the Transport Infrastructure Ireland Digital Heritage collections allowed her to reinterpret aspects of a Middle to Late Bronze Age settlement site at Youghal, Co. Cork.

'An important element of DRI's work is promotion of the collections that are being preserved in the repository.'

In August 2019, DRI marked the ingest of its 50th collection with a social media campaign that put a spotlight on each of these collections. By the end of the year, a further nine collections have been ingested, with several others underway. Notable among these collections is Monaghan County Council's collection 'Border Roads to Memories and Reconciliation', which includes oral histories of people living and working on the border. In addition, DRI has been collecting its own oral histories through 'The Atlantic Philanthropies Archives Project,' a partnership with Cornell University archives to create digital exhibitions of projects funded by Atlantic in Ireland, through the curation of Atlantic business records, new oral histories that speak to the projects, and expert commentary. This project has helped us to develop expertise in archival exchange and interoperability, business records archiving, and around interview consent and transcription.

DRI is also developing methods of collecting digital ephemera from complex sources. The 'In Her Shoes' collection is a pioneering collection of born digital material that has been gathered, but not yet published. The collection records the posts from a Facebook Group that campaigned in the lead-up to the Referendum

on the 8th Amendment. The collection is significant on two fronts. First, the content provides us with a large dataset from a reproductive health movement and allows us to develop best practice around the ethics of cataloguing and preserving such material. Second, it provides us with a technical and archival challenge, developing workflows for extracting archival packages from social media posts, which are short, ephemeral, and nebulous in nature.

DRI is active in a number of international associations, including the All European Academies (ALLEA) via the E-Humanities working group, which is chaired by DRI's Director, Dr Natalie Harrower. In 2019, the working group held an open consultation on draft recommendations for Humanities researchers to create FAIR research data; the consultation received over 200 comments and the final publication will be released in February 2020. See www.allea.org. DRI is also heavily involved in the Research Data Alliance, a grassroots alliance of working groups supported by national funders from around the world that emerge to address specific challenges in the sharing of research data. In 2019, DRI continued as a partner in European Commission Horizon 2020-funded Research Data Alliance Europe project, supporting researcher involvement, dissemination of Research Data Alliance (RDA) outputs, and the growth of RDA's impact.

Work with the RDA underpins DRI's strategic commitment to supporting Open Science/Open Research, particularly in terms of research data management. Throughout 2019, DRI continued to expand its expertise in this area, and contribute to international initiatives. DRI's director serves on the National Open Research Forum, the National Archives Advisory Council, and the Executive Board of the EOSC (European Open Science Cloud) via the FAIR working group. In December DRI partnered with Queen's University Belfast to host the Biennial Conference DPASSH (Digital Preservation in the Arts Social Sciences and Humanities). The theme was 'Practical Approaches to Open Science in the Arts Social Sciences and Humanities (ASSH)' and it brought together experts from across Ireland and the UK to tackle the challenges of implementing the Open Science agenda for ASSH: www.dpash.org

DRI is jointly funded by the Higher Education Authority and the Irish Research Council, via a core operating grant from the Department of Education and Skills. DRI also received project funding in 2019 from the Atlantic Philanthropies, the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, and the Connecting Europe Facility for the Europeana Common Culture project.



Photo by Mark Stedman.

Documents on Irish Foreign Policy

John Gibney

L-R: Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney, TD; Dr John Gibney, assistant editor, DIFP; Dr Kate O'Malley, managing editor, DIB; Dr Michael Kennedy, Executive Editor, DIFP; Niall Burgess, Secretary General, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Peter Kennedy, PRIA.

2019 proved to a busy year for Documents on Irish Foreign Policy (DIFP), with numerous projects involving collaborations with colleagues inside and outside the RIA. In January 2019 DIFP expanded with the addition of a third permanent member of staff, and officially commenced the research and production cycle for *DIFP XII*, covering the years 1961–65 and due for publication in November 2020.

2019 marks the centenary of the establishment of the Irish foreign service, as the modern Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). It had its origins in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established as one of the first four government departments of the first Dáil in January 1919 (Ireland

has the unusual distinction of having had a foreign policy and a diplomatic service before there was an internationally recognised independent Irish state). In 2017 DIFP was commissioned by DFAT to produce a lavishly illustrated centenary history of Irish foreign policy from 1919 to the present. The resulting book *Ireland: a voice among the nations*, written by John Gibney, Michael Kennedy and Kate O'Malley was published in October 2019, and was launched in Academy House on 27 November by Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr Simon Coveney, TD.

The book is the latest of a number of ancillary projects undertaken by DIFP in recent years and was conceived of as a history of Irish foreign policy, rather than as an institutional history of the department itself and is intended to explore, in a broad sense, how a small state like Ireland has related to the wider world, by examining how Irish diplomats and politicians responded to the challenges presented by the upheavals of the twentieth century and beyond. It is also a companion volume to the regular DIFP series. By its nature, however, visual material—photographs, images, ephemera—are not published in the regular volumes of documents. The centenary volume offered an opportunity to create a visual history of Ireland's foreign relations, using

material from archives and libraries in Ireland, the UK, the USA and across continental Europe, not to mention a range of material in private hands that was generously made available by many current and former diplomats. The book itself contains *c.* 230 images that were whittled down from an initial selection of over 1000 and marks an unprecedented co-operative venture between DIFP and RIA Publications.

DIFP is a partnership project between the RIA, DFAT and the National Archives of Ireland (NAI). The regular DIFP series publishes selected documents related to Irish foreign policy, the majority of which are held in the collections of the NAI (which is where the project is actually housed). In 2019 DIFP also embarked on a new collaboration with the NAI's newly established education and outreach unit. To mark the centenary year of the foundation of Ireland's diplomatic service, DIFP has been co-curating a series of monthly mini-exhibitions throughout 2019 in the National Archives relating to the history of Irish foreign policy and DFAT itself. Subjects covered to date have included the first Dáil's diplomatic service in the revolutionary period; St Patrick's Day in Nigeria in 1962; Ireland's accession to the League of Nations in 1923; the history of Iveagh House, which has been the home of DFAT

Opposite: Emily Coll of the UN Department of Public Information Visitor Services (who was originally from Bruree, Co. Limerick) briefs a group of visitors to the UN in New York, 16 October 1958. Taken from *Ireland: a voice among the nations*.





Minister for Industry and Commerce Patrick McGilligan also became Minister for External Affairs after the assassination of Kevin O'Higgins. It was feared that External Affairs would be downgraded, but McGilligan, an international lawyer by training, reinvigorated Ireland's approach to the League of Nations. He oversaw the first expansion of Ireland's diplomatic service, opening missions at the Vatican, Paris and Berlin in 1929, and Ireland's successful election to the Council of the League of Nations in 1930. His years in office also saw the successful negotiation of a number of trade treaties, including with France. The cartoon depicts McGilligan and French minister to Ireland M. Charles Alphanand. Taken from *Ireland: a voice among the nations*.

‘The range of the archival material held in the UCD collections is comprehensive enough to make it possible to chart the development of Ireland’s constitutional relations from 1919 to 1949. DIFP has published material from these collections since the first volume in the series was released in 1998.’

and its predecessors since 1941; meteorological assistance given to the Allies during the Second World War; Irish aid relief in Europe after the Second World War; the outbreak of the Troubles in August 1969; the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939; the Chernobyl disaster; and Ireland’s membership of the United Nations. Each exhibit was on display in the lobby of the NAI before rotating to be displayed outside the NAI reading room for another two months.

The centenary project also produced another offshoot, in the form of an online Google Arts and Culture exhibition curated by DIFP and UCD Archives, titled ‘Republic to Republic: Ireland’s international sovereignty, 1919-1949’. While the NAI houses the major institutional collections of relevance to DIFP, UCD Archives is the leading repository in the state for the personal papers of many of the key politicians and diplomats involved in shaping independent Ireland’s foreign policy (such as W.T. Cosgrave, Kevin O’Higgins, Eamon de Valera, Frank Aiken, and many others). The range of the archival material

held in the UCD collections is comprehensive enough to make it possible to chart the development of Ireland’s constitutional relations from 1919 to 1949. DIFP has published material from these collections since the first volume in the series was released in 1998. These collections contain photographs, manuscripts and personal effects that would not normally be published as part of the DIFP series. In the course of researching our ‘Ireland: a voice among the nations’ far more material than could be used for the centenary book was uncovered. Therefore, given that the material had been identified, we proposed this online collaboration with UCD Archives to showcase it in public. An online exhibition was launched on 18 April 2019 as part of the RIA symposium marking the seventieth anniversary of the declaration of the Republic and Ireland’s departure from the Commonwealth. A printed booklet cataloguing the exhibition also proved a great success, and the exhibition was launched with an online campaign in conjunction with colleagues from the Dictionary of Irish Biography.

Galláin an Fhoclóra: Reflections on our progress on Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge

Charles Dillon

Milestones and landmarks are critically important in long-term research work; they give dedicated researchers the added incentive of working towards shorter-term goals, and they afford funders, supporters and the wider Academy the opportunity to appreciate the value of the research work as it proceeds to the ultimate aim. Such milestones are particularly invaluable when the research work involves dictionary production, which takes time—consider that it was in 1907 that the great Celtic scholar Kuno Meyer stated our objective for us: ‘a comprehensive and as far as possible, exhaustive dictionary of the Irish language’. There have been many milestones along our path, from the publication of the letter D by Carl Marstrand in 1913, and the arrival of the second contribution in 1932, to the completion in 1975 of the *Dictionary of the Irish Language* covering most of Old and Middle Irish (i.e. pre-1650).

A landmark year

In this context, 2019 has been a landmark year for lexicographical research in the Academy, and has seen the realisation

of some key developments. The *Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge* project has reached the end of a five-year plan of activity which began in 2015, a plan agreed and part-funded by the Academy’s partner in the *Foclóir* project, the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht. It has consequently been a busy year of effort to deliver on the final milestones envisaged in the plan, but also one of reflection on the progress made and on the future needs and objectives of this national linguistic project. In addition, *eDIL*, the 16-year project of retro-digitisation of the Academy’s *Dictionary of the Irish Language* came to an end in August 2019, having provided an invaluable resource which, with the *Irish Script on Screen* project, has revolutionised scholarly approaches to the study of Old and Middle Irish. The ancillary RIA publication, *A history of Ireland in 100 words*, which was published in October 2019 is a fitting testament to the novelty of approach and discovery which *eDIL* has enabled; it takes a quirky look at the vocabulary of the early language, and uses it to afford a glimpse of the social and cultural history of medieval Ireland, while assessing also its resonances in the language as spoken and written in our own time.

Project milestones reached

This year the FNG team completed our digital collection of Irish texts to the year 1958, the year which saw the standardisation of the spelling of the Irish language. The completion of the corpus to this watershed date means we now have a digital databank of Irish which amounts to over 5000 texts and 60 million words. Therefore, the foundation for our



Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge team (Colm Ó Cuaig, Deirdre D'Auria and Charles Dillon) with Government Chief Whip and Minister of State for Gaelige, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Mr Seán Kyne, TD.

historical dictionary is progressing very well towards completion, with work now gathering pace as the spelling within texts becomes standardised and the quality of texts more legible by our scanners and processors. In tandem, work has begun on the design of what will be our dictionary entries, with key decisions taken by the editorial board on definitions, on meta-language and on presentation allowing us to progress into making use of our corpus to shape and formulate the entries which will comprise *Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge*.

As a supplement to this digitisation and lexicographical work, over 19 million words of text were made freely searchable and readable online in Autumn 2017, in addition to the release online, in Spring 2016, of 19 editions (1882–1909) of *Irisleabhar na Gaedhilge / The Gaelic Journal*, to mark the centenary of the Easter Rising.

Next steps

There has also been the need, of course, to plan for the next phase of the project's development, which will build on the

successes and achievements recently made. The period to 2025 will see two major landmarks reached, namely the completion of the digital corpus of Irish (containing 90 million words), and the beginning of the process of creating dictionary entries. The major task to be initiated is to add an oral Irish component to our digital foundation, so that we can draw on oral sources to complete the evidential picture for language use. This will be a central plank of our work over the next three years. Customised dictionary-writing software will be procured, and work will begin on producing the dictionary proper, based on our well-laid foundations. There will follow a substantial shift in the activity of the project, as attention turns away from digitisation and corpus production, towards lexicography and dictionary production.

A New Funding Agreement

Our funding partner, the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht has joined us in our ambition for the next stages of the *Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge* project, and have committed, in a deeper partnership, to an increased level of funding for the

life of our next five-year plan. Our milestones are now theirs, as our work forms part of pledges made by the Department in both their *Action Plan 2018–2022* and in the broader *20-year Strategy for the Irish*

Language 2010–2030. We look forward to our continued partnership with the Department in delivering the ambitious and challenging goals outlined in our five-year plan.

I mbliana, tháinig deireadh le plean oibre cúig bliana ag Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge, a comhaontaíodh i 2015 leis an Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, atá mar chomhpháirtí ag Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann sa tionscadal taighde náisiúnta seo. Is bliain ghnóthach a bhí ann, mar sin, agus sinn ag iarraidh bailchríoch a chur ar na cuspóirí a bhí le soláthar faoin bplean, ach san am céanna bhí deis ann ár machnamh a dhéanamh ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta, agus ar na riachtanais agus na cuspóirí a bheidh ann feasta leis an tionscadal a fhorbairt mar is oiriúnach.

Tá corpas digiteach na Gaeilge anois críochnaithe chomh fada leis an mbliain 1958, an bhliain a cuireadh an caighdeán i bhfeidhm ar litriú na Gaeilge. Ó cuireadh an méid seo i gcrích a fhad le 1958, tá bunachar Gaeilge scríofa againn anois ina bhfuil breis agus 5000 téacs agus os cionn 60 milliún focal Gaeilge. Mar sin, ní heagal a rá go bhfuil an dúshraith don Fhoclóir Stairiúil ar shéala a bheith iomlán forbartha, agus tá luas nua ag teacht faoin obair anois óir tá litriú caighdeánach i gceist sna téacsanna agus is fusa iad a phróiseáil dá réir. In éineacht leis sin, tá an obair tosaithe ar iontrálacha don fhoclóir; tá cinntí tábhachtacha déanta ag an mBord Eagarthóireachta,

maidir le sainmhínte agus le cruth na hiontrála, rud a chuirfidh ar ár gcumas na hiontrálacha a dhréachtú ón gcorpas atá réitithe againn don Fhoclóir Stairiúil.

Tá an gá ann freisin, ar ndóigh, dearcadh chun cinn agus pleanáil leis an tionscadal a fhorbairt agus tógáil ar an méid atá bainte amach cheana. Sa tréimhse seo chugainn a fhad le 2025, bainfear amach dhá chuspóir mhóra de chuid an tionscadail, mar atá an corpas digiteach Gaeilge a chríochnú (90 milliún focal), agus tús a chur le scríobh an fhoclóra féin. Tá gné mhór amháin den obair sin le tionscnamh – an teanga labhartha a chur san áireamh sa dúshraith theicniúil, sa chaoi go mbeimid in ann tarraingt ar fhoinsí labhartha mar fhianaise ar úsáid na Gaeilge. Beidh sé seo ina ghné lárnach dár gcuid oibre sna trí bliana atá le teacht. Tá an dúshlán romhainn freisin an ghníomhaíocht a aistriú ón digitiú agus tógáil corpais go dtí an fhoclóireacht agus an scríobh foclóra.

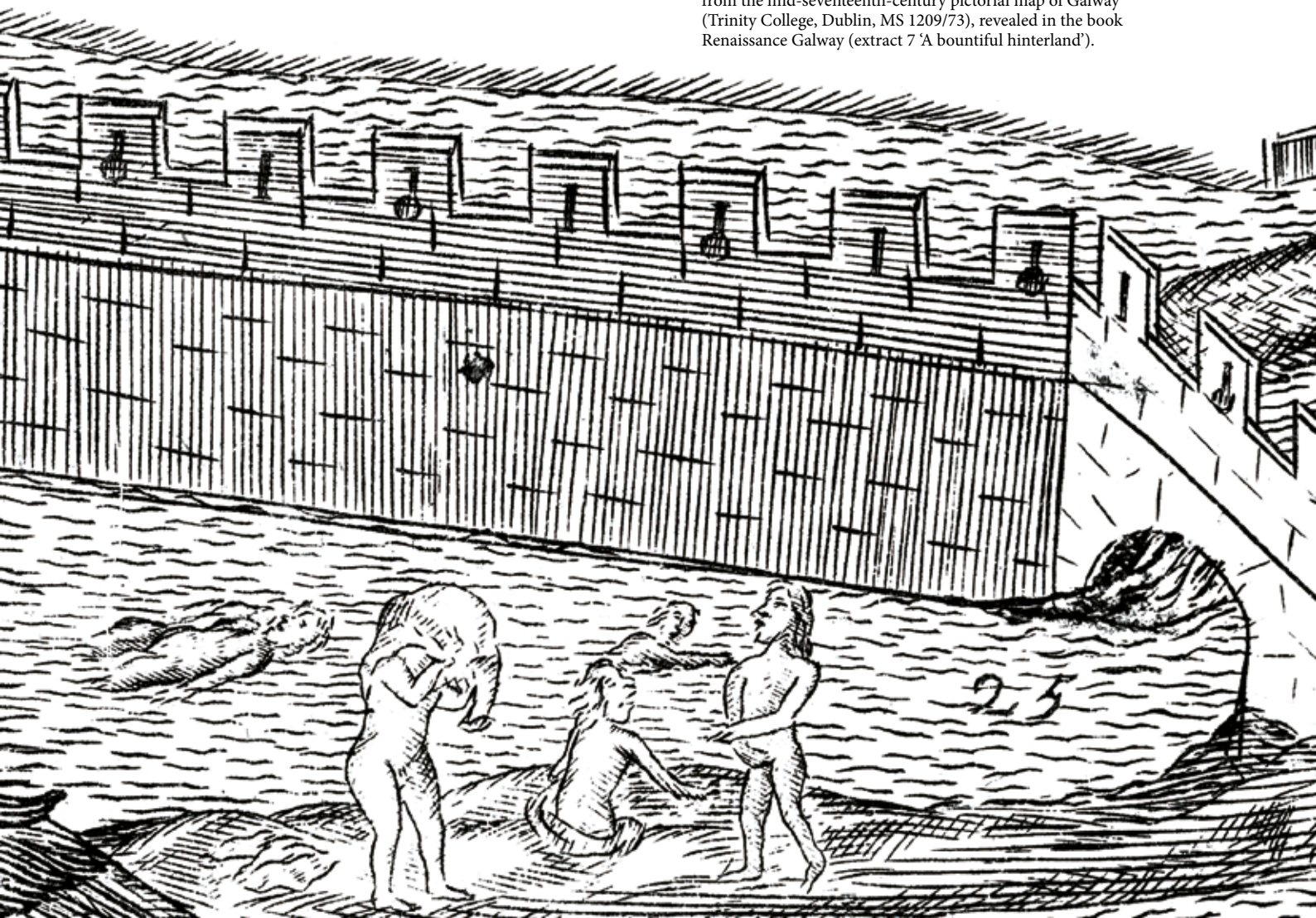
Bhí gliondar orainn gur fhógair an Príomh-Aoire agus Aire Stáit sa Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta, Seán Kyne TD go raibh an Roinn sásta lenár bplean uailmhianach don tionscnamh oiread agus gur gheall sé maoiniú €920k don Acadamh thar an tréimhse cúig bliana atá romhainn amach.

From plots to press and beyond: a year of Irish Historic Towns Atlas research, production and co-operation

Sarah Gearty

For most, a first encounter with the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) will involve delving into one of the published 'fascicles', either in print or online. Each one is devoted to a particular Irish town or city and presents a range of maps and illustrations with an accompanying text. The initial experience may range from providing the answer to an historical question to triggering a sense of wonderment about a place. When browsing *Dublin, part III, 1756 to 1847*, Roddy Doyle found the 'urge to write was strong', recognising the value

Boys swimming in one of the town's mill races — details from the mid-seventeenth-century pictorial map of Galway (Trinity College, Dublin, MS 1209/73), revealed in the book *Renaissance Galway* (extract 7 'A bountiful hinterland').



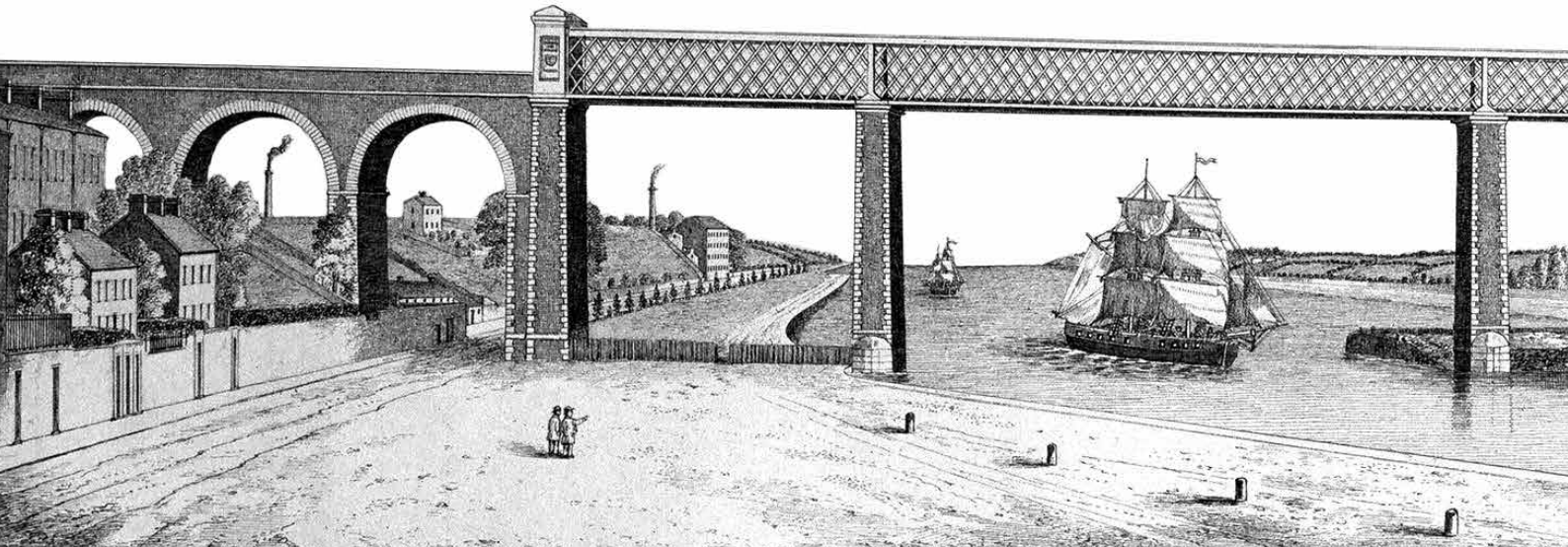
of the published atlas as a starting point for further study and as an impetus for new ideas.

Some of this momentum is harnessed by the IHTA project via public seminars, exhibitions, online resources and ancillary publications, which are based on the atlas series (numbers 1–29). *Renaissance Galway: delineating the seventeenth-century city* was released in September 2019 and builds on research initiated for IHTA, no. 28, *Galway/Gaillimh* by Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh (2016). The subject of the book is the remarkable and vast ‘pictorial map’ of Galway from the mid-seventeenth century, which was intended as a wall hanging. Only two copies of the original printed map have survived, and it is the well-preserved version from Trinity College Dublin manuscripts department that is reproduced in thirty-eight extracts in *Renaissance Galway* with commentaries by author Paul Walsh. *Renaissance Galway* was produced by the IHTA team and supported by Galway City Council in advance

Engraving of the Boyne Viaduct by Laurence Fagan, c. 1865, is one of the many items reproduced from the Municipal Art Collection in the Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda.

of Galway 2020 (European Capital of Culture). It was launched in the US at the Galway-focused 2019 Milwaukee Irish Fest (15–18 August 2019) with a lecture and exhibition available to the 120,000 visitors. Meanwhile the book prompted further interrogation into aspects of language, architecture and cartography at a seminar on the pictorial map hosted by the Moore Institute, National University of Ireland Galway on 10 October 2019.

Though the subject of each IHTA is in essence local, key maps at standard scales and the thematic layout of the gazetteer (Topographical Information) are aimed at facilitating comparison of towns nationally and internationally. An annual seminar held in the Royal Irish Academy, convened in recent years in association with the British Historic Towns Atlas, explores the broader aspects of urban form and society. Ports—with their unique topography and identity as gateways—were the subject of the 2019 seminar (16–17 May 2019) with case studies presented from Glasgow, Hull, Drogheda, Belfast and Dublin. The event was supported by Dublin Port Company and featured a trip to the present-day port complex for a public lecture and tour.



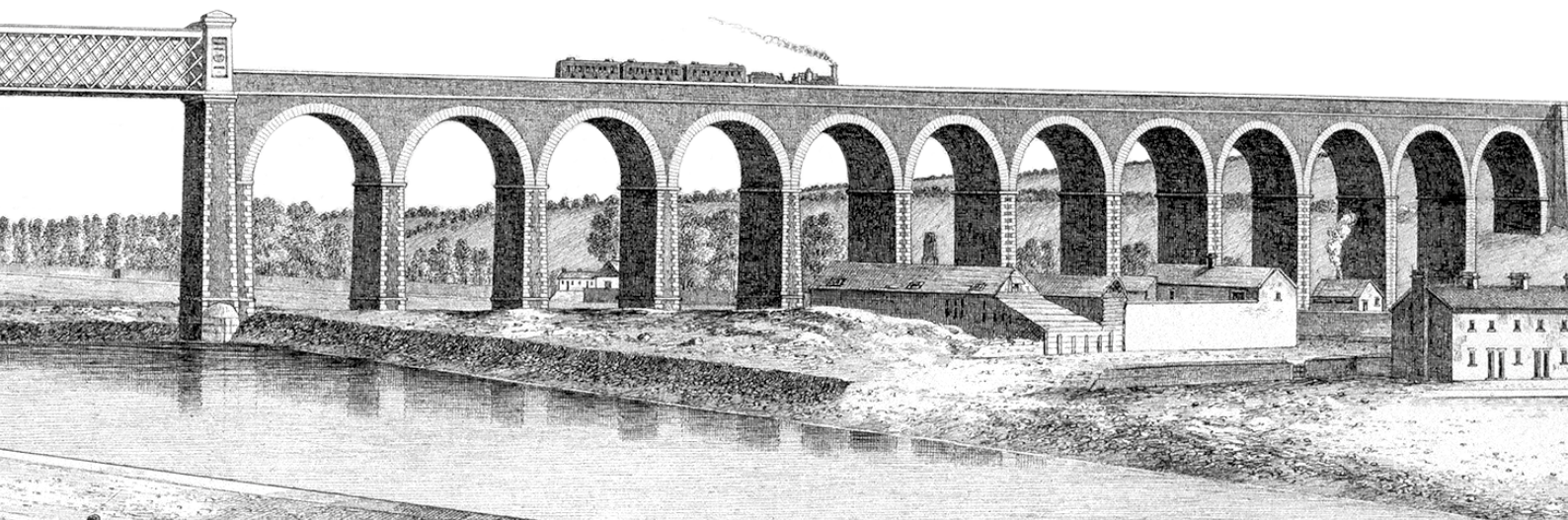
‘Broad in scope but forensic in detail, investigations brought the author right down to plot level, where the form and function of each individual building contributes to understanding the overall topography of the town.’



Just as the publication of each atlas offers the wider world a new way of seeing that town, it also marks the end of a long and energetic phase of research, editing and cartography. The most recent atlas—no. 29, *Drogheda / Droichead Átha*—was published in May 2019 and represents about ten years of committed work by the author, honorary editors and editorial team in the Royal Irish Academy. Author Ned Mc Hugh is a retired secondary school teacher with a long association with Drogheda. Although he had worked and published on many aspects of the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century town, research for the IHTA required an unprecedented trawl of the sources noting particulars of urban sites from the origins of the town in the twelfth century up to 1900. Broad in scope but forensic in detail,

investigations brought the author right down to plot level, where the form and function of each individual building contributes to understanding the overall topography of the town. Dates of construction and dilapidation and details of purpose and ownership were collected from cartographical and documentary sources and systematically recorded in the gazetteer, where each site was refined and categorised with intensive editorial input following IHTA methods.

Understanding the evolution of Drogheda was aided by the many early maps, topographical illustrations and photographs that have survived. These are held in various repositories across Ireland and the UK and are brought together as reproductions in the atlas. This process involved particularly tricky





photography in the case of Drogheda, where capturing images of maps by Robert Newcomen (1657) and Taylor and Skinner (1778) each 1 x 1.5 metre in size and Willem Van der Hagen's painting of the town from c. 1720, which survives directly on the plasterwork high above the fireplace in the entrance hall to Beaulieu House, required several efforts and particular Thematic and topographical maps are created especially for each atlas. Standard maps at specific scales are produced with the help of Ordnance Survey Ireland and facilitate comparison of towns across Ireland and elsewhere in Europe. The main map (Map 2) depicts each individual plot in the town in the mid-nineteenth century. For Drogheda this was created fully in-house for the first-time using ArcGIS (proprietary Geographical Information Systems software from ESRI). The methodology was developed over a number of years and offers a prototype for digitally mapping historic towns that will continue beyond the static map presented in *Drogheda*.

Drogheda went to press in January 2019 and the IHTA team spent the early part

of the year pouring over printers' drafts. Publication represents a significant milestone in the IHTA catalogue and in the town of Drogheda itself, where the atlas was officially launched on 14 May 2019. Behind the scenes authors were busy researching their chosen towns for future atlas publications on Arklow, Ballyshannon, Carlow, Cavan, New Ross, Tralee, Tullamore, Waterford and Westport. Dungarvan and Cork were the focus of production in the later part of the year; with Rathmines also reaching 'final draft' stage in the ancillary series on Dublin suburbs, which also includes Drumcondra, Kilmainham/Inchicore and Ringsend/Irishtown, with no. 1 *Clontarf* having been published in 2018.

An early copy of *Drogheda* was presented to President Michael D. Higgins in Áras an Uachtaráin in April 2019. He noted the value of the atlas as a tool for education and tourism, emphasising that 'for heritage to arrive, history must come first' and remarking on the co-operation implicit in the IHTA enterprise, which involves at its core editors, staff and authors drawn



Opposite: view of Drogheda, looking north east c. 1720 by Willem Van der Hagen (Beaulieu House, Co. Louth).

Launch of *Renaissance Galway: delineating the seventeenth-century city* (l-r): Jacinta Prunty, IHTA/MU; Gary McMahon, Galway City Council; Jane Conroy, MRIA, NUIG; Denis Lyons, Deputy Mayor, Galway City Council; Paul Walsh (author); Eithne Verling, Director, Galway City Museum; Sarah Gearty, IHTA; Jennifer Moore, IHTA.

from a variety of institutions, disciplines and backgrounds and stretches from the local to the international. Much of this contribution is done in a voluntary capacity—editors and authors receive no payment for their work and time. Local authorities offer their support via their Heritage/Conservation officers, City and County Archivist and Librarians who act as contact points around the country and through financial backing: Dublin City Council, Galway City Council and Louth County Council provided grants in 2019. The Highlanes Gallery and Millmount Museum, Drogheda; Galway City Museum; the Registry of Deeds, Dublin; Linen Hall Library, Belfast offered suitable venues and hospitality for lectures, launches and exhibitions related to the atlas during the year. ‘Behind the maps’ workshops were run in the Royal Irish Academy as part of the Dublin Festival of History in October. Nationally, the IHTA was just one of many partners taking a collaborative approach in the Heritage Council’s town centre workshops in Ballina and Dundalk and the various consultation forums

organised for Heritage 2030. Within education, student workshops were held in the Waterford Institute of Technology and the IHTA ran a six-week studentship scheme with Maynooth University History Department (SPUR) during the summer. The annual meeting of the International Commission for the History of Towns allows for the opportunity to discuss and showcase work on Irish towns alongside their counterparts overseas. In September IHTA colleagues joined representatives from twenty countries in celebrating fifty years of historic town atlas publication in Europe with a workshop dedicated to planning the next fifty years of the atlas endeavour. Irish towns, with a dedicated atlas project and their own particular heritage, will continue to be part of that evolving story at home and abroad.

Visit ihata.ie for the latest publications, related events and free access to digital editions of the IHTA series.

New Survey of Clare Island

Jonathan Dykes

2019 was not only the 110th anniversary of Irish naturalist Robert Lloyd Praeger's ambitious survey of the natural history and cultural heritage of Clare Island; the year also marked the 20th anniversary of the publication of the first volume of the Royal Irish Academy's New Survey of Clare Island. Fortuitously, 2019 was also the year that the Academy published *Clare Island* by John Feehan, who, in his preface explains:

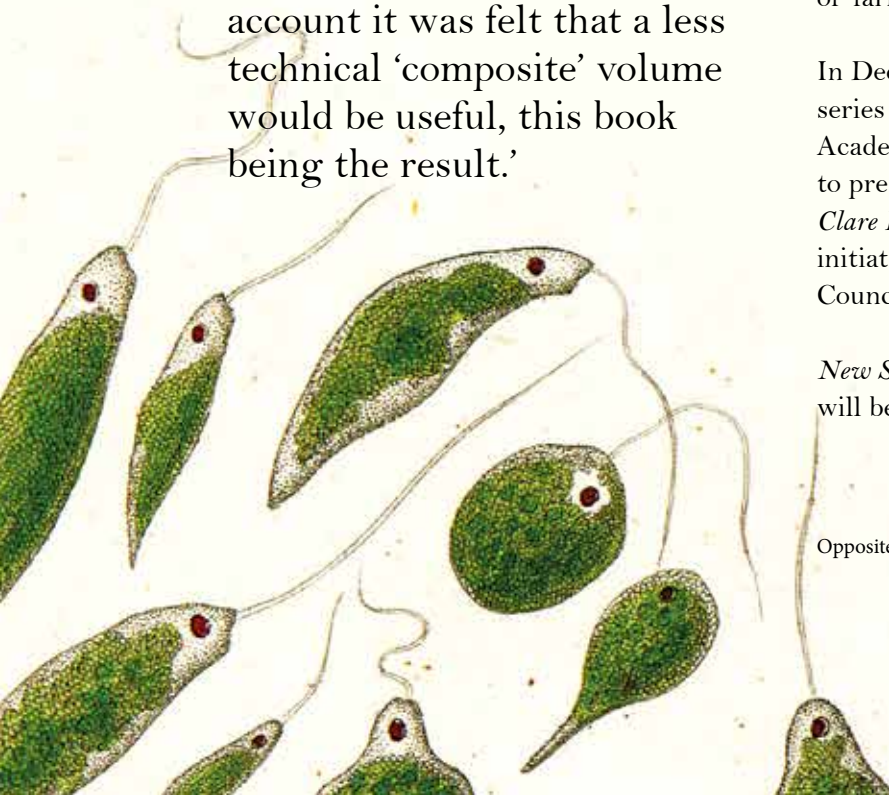
‘Many of the volumes of the New Survey are targeted at a specialised readership and are not readily accessible to the general reader, on which account it was felt that a less technical ‘composite’ volume would be useful, this book being the result.’

Feehan distils the results of those two important surveys to shine a spotlight on the richness of life surviving on Clare Island, covering, among other things, the geology and geomorphology of the island; the soil types deposited on the island after the Ice Age; terrestrial flora and fauna as well as freshwater flora and fauna; the island's archaeology and early history and the progress of agriculture over time. The author interweaves the natural and cultural heritage of the island and shares his wider ecological knowledge to help us understand the role each species plays in the life of the island. In doing so, he looks not only to the past and present of Clare Island's natural and cultural heritage, but to its future, and in particular to the future of farming on the island.

In December 2019 John Feehan, NSCI series editor Martin Steer, MRIA and Academy staff travelled to Clare Island to present complimentary copies of *Clare Island* to the island residents. This initiative was supported by Mayo County Council.

New Survey of Clare Island, Volume 9: Birds, will be published in the summer of 2020.

Opposite and left: images from *Clare Island* by John Feehan

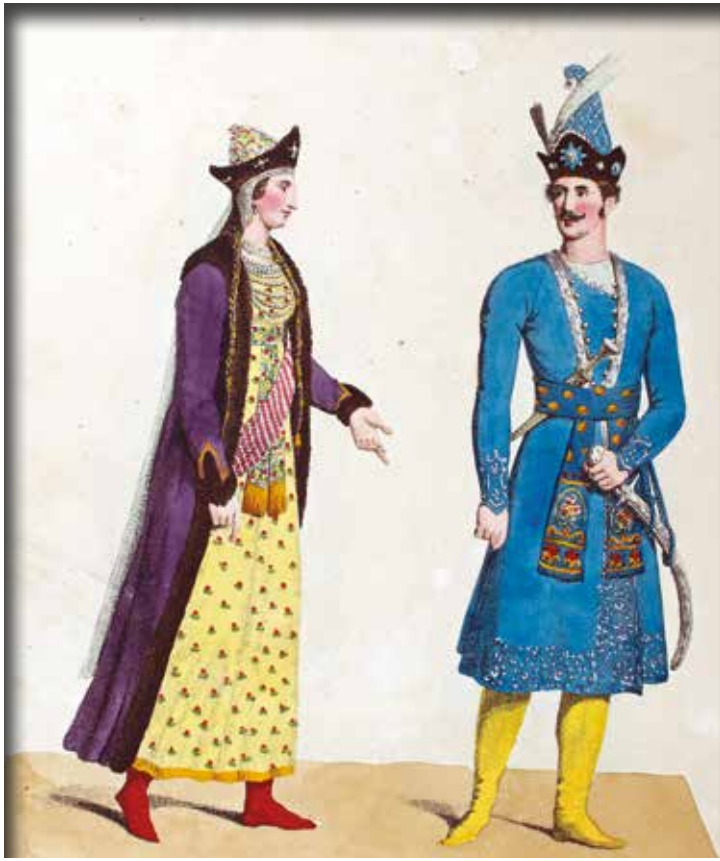




‘Few places on Earth, and none elsewhere in Ireland, have yielded such a concentrated inventory of knowledge about the natural world.’

Michael Viney – foreword to *Clare Island*





Library

Siobhán Fitzpatrick

Re-imagining Bard of Erin, Thomas Moore

This fascinating exhibition commemorating the 240th anniversary of Moore's birth on 28 May 1779, was curated by Dr McCleave, Queen's University Belfast. It explored Moore the writer and poet and especially Moore's success as an Irish writer with an international reputation in positioning Ireland within Europe via cultural exchange. Drawing mainly on Moore's own library—donated to the Academy by his widow in 1855—and the ERIN (Europe's Reception of the Irish Melodies and National airs) electronic resource, a Horizon 2020-funded Queen's University Belfast project, the exhibition was launched by Harry White, MRIA on 20 June. The receptive audience were also treated to a short recital of Irish melodies by Feis Ceoil prize-winner, Stephen Walker.

The exhibition explored the range of Moore's reading and research on Islam, the Koran and the east, then in vogue across Europe, and the reach of *Lalla Rookh*, his bestselling

**'Thomas Moore
is an originary
and formative
presence in the
development of
European music
and letters in
the first half of
the nineteenth
century'**

Harry White, MRIA

1817 poem, which was published in multiple London and American editions and translated into Romance, Scandinavian and Slav languages as well as Arabic. Readers throughout Europe and beyond were enthralled by the adventures of Indian princess Lalla Rookh journeying to marry a Kashmiri king. En route she meets a minstrel, Feramorz, who accompanies her on her journey. She falls in love with Feramorz who is, of course, her betrothed in disguise!

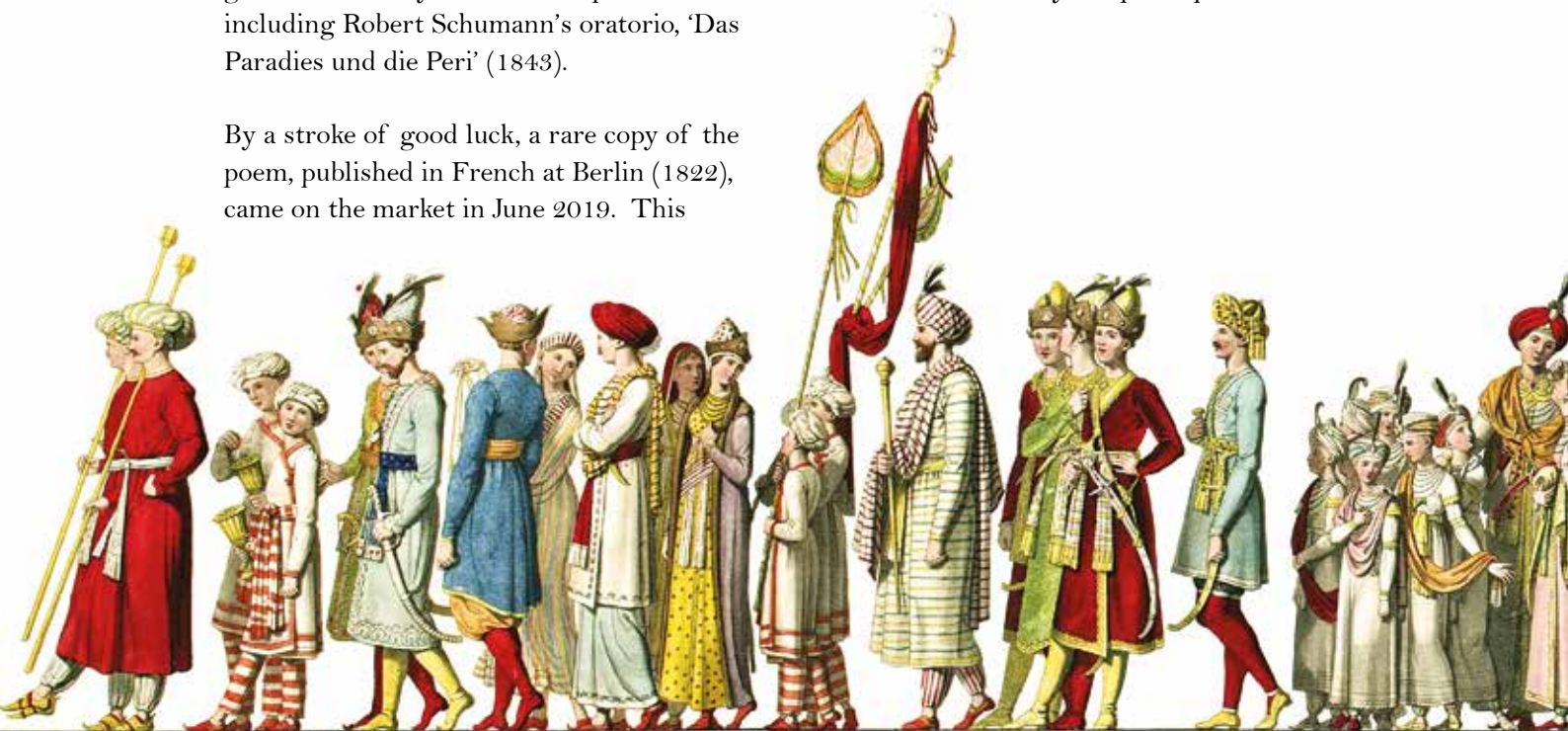
The tale within the narrative of the Peri (a Persian spirit denied entry to heaven who has to complete three quests in order to earn a place in Paradise), gave rise to many musical interpretations, including Robert Schumann's oratorio, 'Das Paradies und die Peri' (1843).

By a stroke of good luck, a rare copy of the poem, published in French at Berlin (1822), came on the market in June 2019. This

'Readers throughout Europe and beyond were enthralled by the adventures of Indian princess Lalla Rookh journeying to marry a Kashmiri king. En route she meets a minstrel, Feramorz, who accompanies her on her journey. She falls in love with Feramorz who is, of course, her betrothed in disguise!'

copy — *Lalla Roûkh: divertissement mêlé de chants et de danses, exécuté au Château Royal de Berlin le 27 janvier 1822 [sic] pendant le séjour de ... Msgr. Le Grand-Duc Nicolas et Mad. La Grande-Duchesse Alexandra Féodorovna* ... — records a musical production of the poem at the court of King Wilhelm III of Prussia on the occasion of the visit of his daughter, Grand Duchess Alexandra Feodorovna and her husband Grand Duke Nicolas of Russia (later Tsar Nicolas I). The lavish tableau vivant, in which the Royal guests and courtiers took part, before an audience of 3,000, was directed and choreographed by Count

Carl von Bruhl (1772–1837), whilst the music was directed by Gaspare Spontini



(1774–1851), Kapelmeister to the court. News of the amazing performance spread far and wide—Byron and Goethe heard of it and Chateaubriand, minister of France to the Berlin court in whose opinion it was ‘the most splendid and tasteful thing he had ever seen’. The Berlin copy was acquired by Moore for his personal library but it was retained by his widow when she donated the bulk of his collection to the Academy. It is one of only six known copies, its value enhanced by its provenance.

This wonderful book, with 23 colour illustrations (pictured here), was displayed in the exhibition and seen by the many visitors to the Academy throughout the summer, during Heritage Week and on Culture Night when over 1,300 people explored Academy House, the display and much more. Later, audiences would attend a lecture series exploring aspects of Moore’s *oeuvre* and influence, his portrayal of the Orient, his time in Paris, his lyrics and the politicisation of the harp through his Irish melodies.

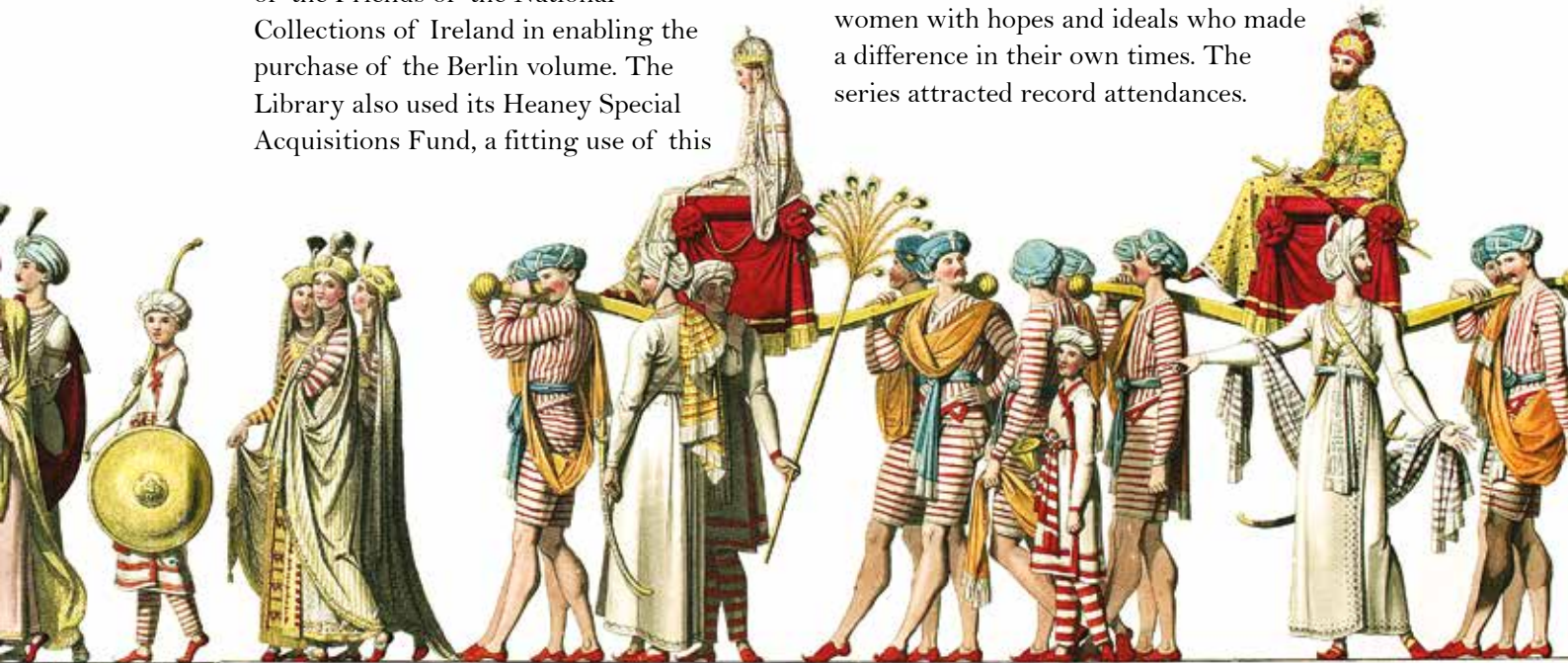
The Academy acknowledges the generosity of the Friends of the National Collections of Ireland in enabling the purchase of the Berlin volume. The Library also used its Heaney Special Acquisitions Fund, a fitting use of this

funding perhaps, as the late Seamus Heaney, MRIA, was a lifelong admirer of Thomas Moore and his work.

We also thank the Board and Director of the National Gallery of Ireland for enabling the loan of Daniel Maclise’s illustrated edition of the *Irish melodies* to the exhibition.

Enterprising Sisters

Continuing the theme of women’s history, the focus of the Library’s 2018–19 exhibition—‘Prodigies of learning: Academy women in the 19th century’—and in recognition of the landmark Sex Disqualification (Removal) 1919 Act which removed the barriers to women’s participation in certain professions, we organised a series of five lectures celebrating sisterhood. The lectures explored the lives and achievements of five memorable families of sisters from diverse backgrounds across four centuries who made their mark on Irish life. Including artists, publishers, writers, educationalists, philanthropists, revolutionaries and suffragists, these were independent women with hopes and ideals who made a difference in their own times. The series attracted record attendances.



'A little remnant of the work of the ancients'

RIA MS23 N 10: the Book of Ballycummin (pictured left)—was the subject of the fourth Irish Manuscripts Conference, organised by the Library in partnership with Roinn na Sean-Ghaeilge, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Má Nuad and with the support of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Celtic Studies, 7–8 March.

Best known by its shelfmark '23 N 10' the manuscript was probably produced in Ballycummin, Co. Roscommon, in the sixteenth century. Described in the nineteenth century as a 'little remnant of the work of the ancients', the book is particularly significant because it preserves tales which are amongst the oldest surviving literature in Irish. These tales would originally have been recorded in a now-lost manuscript called Cín Dromma Snechta. Aside from wonderful examples of Old Irish narrative literature, the manuscript also preserves legal texts, poetry and wisdom literature from early medieval Ireland. Twelve speakers explored all aspects of the production, survival and significance of the 'Book of Ballycummin' and the marvels of medieval Irish literature contained within it. New and exciting hypotheses were posited, based on recent research facilitated by the digital version of the book, made possible by Irish Script on Screen (www.isos.ie)—the major Gaelic manuscripts resource, now in its twentieth year. Recorded conference lectures are podcast at: <https://soundcloud.com/the-royal-irish-academy>



Adding to the archives

The Library's core activity is the provision of research facilities to Irish and international scholars and students and in this context we continue to add to the archival and other research collections. We were privileged to accept the following donations this year:

Emigration records

We are very grateful to Dr Gaye Ashford who donated her family's collection of ships surgeon's records relating to voyages aboard HMS Tartare and emigrant ship John Barry, 1823–5. William Burnie, a Scottish surgeon based in Cobh, looked after passengers on both voyages with care and compassion. The second voyage, aboard the John Barry (1825) was part of the Peter Robinson Emigration Scheme, records of which are held in Cork and Canada.

The collection consists of two volumes of manuscript notes-records. The first, contains information on the HMS Tartare, and the medical conditions and general accounts of the emigrants. The second volume relates only to the John Barry voyage. It contains a wealth of information in a daily log: from weather conditions, the character of the people, details of their medical symptoms, childbirth and infant death, dietary information, the religious material provided. The collection has historical, social, emigration, genealogical, naval, cultural and medical significance, as well as potential interest to nutritionists and meteorologists. The collection is supplemented by two volumes

of transcripts compiled by Dr Ashford and an Index to the individuals named in the volumes, with their places of origin given, where found.

Crustacea

Mr Paul Harding, Cambridgeshire was the recipient of several Praeger grants for the investigation of woodlice in Ireland during the 1980s and listed three Academy Library natural history collections—Moffatt, Pack-Beresford and Phillips. Mr Harding has graciously donated his research papers related to Crustacea in Ireland.

James Joyce, *Finnegans wake*

**'Three quarks for Muster Mark!
Sure he hasn't got much of a
bark. And sure any he has it's all
beside the mark.'**

On 3 December the Library received a bequest item from the estate of the late Peter Kevin Carroll, MRIA, University College Dublin. An autographed first edition copy of *Finnegans wake* (London and New York: Faber and Faber, Viking Press, 1939) was presented by representatives of the Carroll family, Deirdre Cooney Carroll and Kieran Carroll to Academy Vice-President, Dr Mary Canning. The volume has an interesting provenance. The late Murray Gell-Mann, Hon. MRIA, Nobel laureate and discoverer of 'quarks', inscribed the copy for Kevin Carroll in Dublin on 16 October 2002 on the occasion of Gell-Mann's Academy lecture 'On Hamilton,

bridges and contemporary science'. Many years before, Carroll had drawn his friend's attention to the occurrence of quarks in Joyce's work. Gell-Mann recalled this in his inscription:

'For Kevin Carroll:
Dublin, 16 October, 2002
Thank you, Muster Mark, for the
three quarks, Murray Gell-Mann'

Shining a light on archival resources

Having participated in a pilot digitisation project with the landmark 'Beyond 2022' initiative, an international collaboration funded by the Irish Research Council with the aim of reconstituting the lost archive (1922) of the Public Record Office, the Library has officially become a Participating Institution in the programme. We hope to contribute many more resources for exploration and research over the coming years.

Inks & Skins

The Library also entered a partnership with another ground-breaking IRC-laureate led project, a UCC project (Roinn na Nua-Ghaeilge and the Tyndall Institute) researching the materiality of the late-medieval Gaelic vernacular manuscript (1100-1600). This study of inks and vellum will focus initially on the Book of Uí Mhaine (RIA MS D ii 1), employing multi-spectral imaging and XRF spectroscopic analysis.

Funding was received from the following in 2019

I. Beausang; M. Turpin Belsito; D. Butler; P. Cohen; P. Donlon, MRIA; K. Ermolin; G.L. Huxley, MRIA; R. Kelly; Lit. & Hist. Seekers Group, Dublin; Marino Institute of Education; S. May; A. & Á. Meek; S.B. Murphy; E.M. Ní Dhubhagáin (Dugan); M. Rogan; B. Whelan, MRIA; multiple anonymous donors. Donations were used to fund the upgrade of the Thomas Moore harp display case and conservation of the harp itself; conservation of OS 6-inch maps Tipperary and Tyrone and medical tract MS 23 E 24; Irish History Online compilation; outreach activities.

The following bodies provided sponsorship for

- Acquisition of Thomas Moore's personal copy of *Lalla Roúkh* (Berlin, 1822) **Friends of the National Collections of Ireland**
- Catalogue and leaflets related to 'Discovering Thomas Moore' exhibition **Queen's University Belfast**
- The Fourth Irish Manuscripts Conference **DIAS School of Celtic Studies;**
- Maintenance of Irish History Online **Irish Historical Studies Publications**

The Library acknowledges all individuals and institutions for their support of our collections and connected activities.

Donors of books and archives 2019

Members: J.F. Atkins; J.R. Bartlett; N.Canny; the late P.K. Carroll; K.J. Cathcart; R. Gillespie; M. Guiry; P. Harbison; I. Maher; M. Mansergh; J. Ross; A. Titley; G. Toner.

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Moore, *Irish melodies illustrated by D. MacLise* ... (London, [1866]), NGI Library Special Collections. On loan to the Royal Irish Academy by kind permission of the Board and Director of the National Gallery of Ireland.

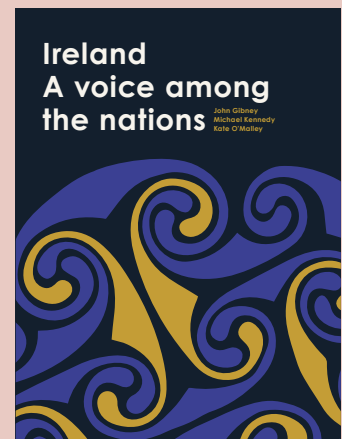
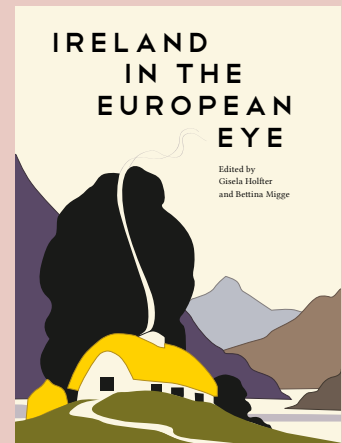
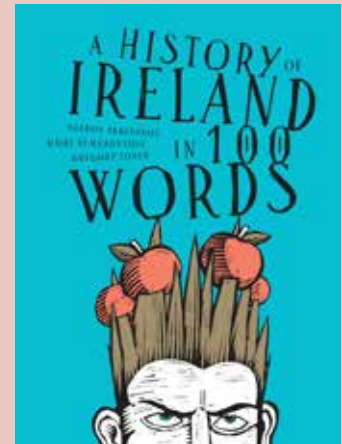
Books & Journals

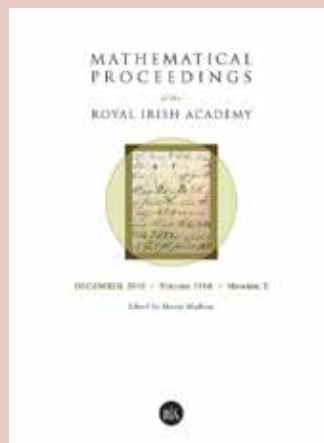
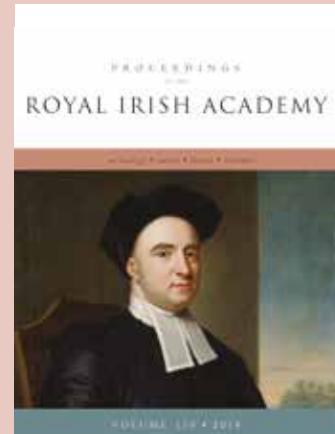
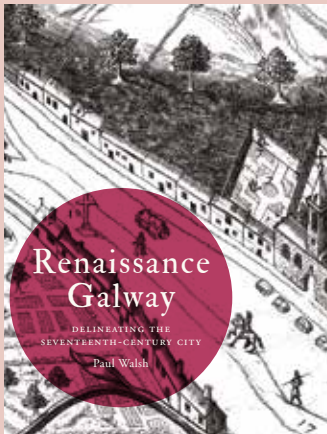
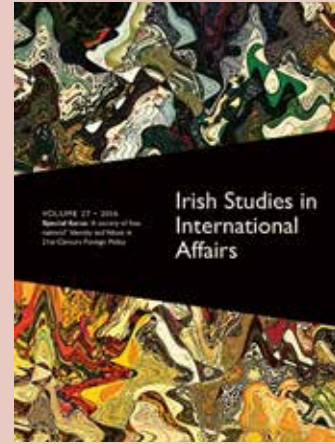
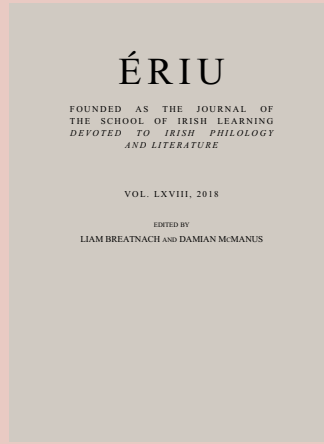
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From murder to beekeeping and everything between

The words we use say something fundamental about us and how we think. They give others an indication of what we know, what is important to us, and how we perceive our environment. Words offer glimpses into how people live and how they process that experience.

The words that have come down to us from Gaelic Ireland are a product of the rich and varied textual culture that was written, initially in ecclesiastical centres, from about the sixth century CE. The range of the material produced in medieval Irish is remarkable. It includes legal tracts covering everything from murder to bee-keeping, as well as chronicles preserving year-by-year accounts of noteworthy occurrences. A vast secular literature was created, encompassing tales and poems about kings and heroes, warriors and women. Stories were told of journeys to

the Otherworld, of wonderful beasts and of beautiful paradises. These tales provided allegories for Christian living and told of the shaping of the Irish landscape. They recalled battles and other notable events.

Through this enormous literary outpouring, churchmen and scholars provided us with an insight into the beliefs, habits and daily lives of the Irish—how they ate, drank, dressed, loved and lied. This book offers a history of Gaelic Ireland through words used by its people.

A history of Ireland in 100 words by Sharon Arbuthnot, Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Gregory Toner, MRIA with illustrations by Joe McLaren, was published in October 2019. It was shortlisted for 'best Irish-published book of the year' at the An Post Irish Book Awards 2019.



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We make a significant contribution to public debate and policy formation on issues in science, technology and culture. We bring together academia, government and industry to address issues of mutual interest by providing an independent forum.

We lead important national research projects, particularly in areas relating to Ireland and its heritage.

We represent the world of Irish learning internationally, have a unique globally recognised library and are a leading academic publisher.

Cover illustrations by Joe McLaren
taken from *A history of Ireland in 100 words* by
Sharon Arbuthnot, Máire Ní Mhaonaigh and Gregory Toner, MRIA



19 Dawson St, Dublin, D02 HH58
Tel: +353 1 676 2570. ria.ie / @RIAdawson