



2022 Annual Review



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy

About the Royal Irish Academy

The Royal Irish Academy, founded in 1785, is Ireland's leading body of experts supporting and promoting the sciences and humanities. As an all-island independent forum of peer-elected experts we recognise world-class researchers and scholars, and champion Irish academic research.

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.

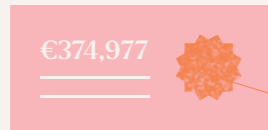
We lead important national research projects, particularly in areas relating to Ireland and its heritage.

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

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2022 at a glance



An increase of €117,986 on 2021 ↑

Research grants awarded totalling
€374,977



Number of awards and prizes given
16

96 Honorary

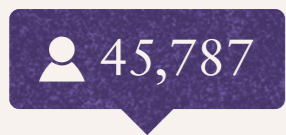


555 Ordinary

Total number of members (MRIA)
651



Total views of livestreamed events
13,940



Followers across social channels
45,787



Number of grant schemes
13



Bookings for RIA events
7,309

14 additional awardees since 2021 ↑



Number of grant awardees
60

99 (44%) Male ↑



126 (56%) Female ↑

Applications to the Young Academy of Ireland
235



Visits to ria.ie
603,139



Current research projects
9



Listens to RIA podcasts
55,549

Research Projects



ARINS: Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South
11 podcasts released; 8,482 listens



Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources
250,000 unique visitors to confessio.ie since launching in September 2011



New Survey of Clare Island
10 volumes published since 1999, project completed this year



Dictionary of Irish Biography
85 lives added in 2022; 10,764 lives total



Grangegorman Histories
667 listens to 'Instituting Grangegorman' podcast



Documents on Irish Foreign Policy
544 documents published in *Vol. XIII*, covering 1965–69



Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge
90 million words in Corpas Stairiúil na Gaeilge



Digital Repository of Ireland
Currently 160 digitised collections to access



Irish Historic Towns Atlas
30 atlas fascicles covering 27 Irish towns, with 17 towns in progress

Library and Publications

The Academy manages nine academic research projects at the leading edge of scholarship in their respective disciplines. Academy projects work with areas 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. The Academy also publishes books aimed at communicating scholarly material to a wider public, as well as landmark series, scholarly books and journals.



Library
80,000+ printed materials
617 total readers in 2022



Publications
11 books published in 2022,
totalling 4440 pages



Academic Journals
Over 200 years of journal
articles now 'free to read'

Connect With Us

The Academy has an active presence across all the major social networks, sharing updates in real time about the work of our programmes and research projects. Find all of our social accounts below and follow us to be kept up to date with the latest news!



Royal Irish Academy

- RIAawson
- royalirishacademy
- /RoyalIrishAcademy
- royal-irish-academy
- royalirishacademy
- the-royal-irish-academy
- theroyalirishacademy

Digital Repository of Ireland

- dri_ireland
- dri_ireland
- /digitalrepositoryireland

Future Earth

- futureearth_ire

Royal Irish Academy Library

- Library_RIA
- rialibrary
- /RoyalIrishAcademyLibrary

Dictionary of Irish Biography

- DIB_RIA

ARINS: Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South

- ArinsProject
- arins_ria_kniis

Irish Historic Towns Atlas

- IHTA_RIA
- /IHTARIA

Documents on Irish Foreign Policy

- DIFP_RIA

Young Academy of Ireland

- YoungAcademyIrl
- youngacademyireland
- /YoungAcademyIrl

Foclóir na Gaeilge

- Focloir_RIA

President's Foreword

Immediately following the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on 24 February 2022, the Academy issued a statement of support for Ukraine and for its researchers and scholars. That was followed by a further statement in March calling on scholars and universities to avoid collaborating with Russian Universities that had publicly condoned that invasion. The Academy continues to act as a coordinator for displaced Ukrainian researchers and scholars in Ireland and to liaise with the national clearing centre in Maynooth University.

This year began with national public health restrictions in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic and, consequently, a virtually deserted Academy House. Council and Executive meetings, Discourses Committee meetings and workshops were all held remotely. Executive and staff continued to work from home and the Academy's IT Department facilitated all virtual meetings efficiently. With the arrival of Spring there was a gradual and greatly welcomed change. After two years, activities in the Academy began to gradually open up thanks to the benefits of scientific research and the successful roll-out of the vaccination programme.

While it was not possible to have the Stated General Meeting (SGM) in March in person, Admittance Day in May was fully attended and greatly enjoyed in person in St Ann's Church. From March onwards, Discourses and meetings with small audiences were held in the Members' and Council Rooms and, with the subsequent removal of all restrictions, a well-attended Discourse was held in University College Cork in July.

Autumn saw a fully restored and normal programme of events for members and the general public, many in the beautifully restored Meeting Room, which was reopened in October following the completion of a programme of electrical maintenance and upgrades by the Office of Public Works.

The SGM on 30 November and our Festive Evening event on 1 December were greatly enjoyed by many members, some of whom were meeting each other for the first time since the November 2019 SGM. A celebration for those members admitted virtually in 2020 and 2021 was held just before Christmas.

Sadly, because of the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, the lunch for members from Northern Ireland institutions scheduled for 12 September had to be cancelled. The Council meeting scheduled for the same day, however, went ahead as planned in Queen's University Belfast.

Despite these curtailments, 2022 was a busy year that witnessed a growing recognition among policy makers and the wider public of the Academy's contribution to evidence-based research and the value of open and informed debate in an independent and scholarly forum. The work of the ARINS project in probing sensitive attitudes to the possibility of a united Ireland was an important example of how the Academy can lead discussions on challenging and relevant issues. So, too, was the work of the Climate Change and Environmental Sciences Committee, to name but one other example among many. The lively attendance and interest during our first Academy Research Open Day on 4 October, led by Vice President Jane Conroy, was further evidence of the growing awareness of the importance of

the research activities of the Academy. The Research Open Day led to an invitation to the RIA's Documents on Irish Foreign Policy project, who had co-curated the National Archives' centenary exhibition on the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, to present on the Treaty exhibition before members and staff of the Oireachtas.

Throughout the year, the Academy strengthened and deepened our relationship with the Department of Higher and Further Education, Research, Innovation and Science as well as with other key government departments and agencies.

The all-island focus of the Higher Education Futures project also led the Academy to work increasingly closely with stakeholders such as the Shared Island Unit in the Department of the Taoiseach. Part of that project included a workshop on developing stronger links among the institutions of higher education on both sides of the border. The workshop, which was held in collaboration with the John and Pat Hume Foundation in Derry in October, also considered plans for further joint cross-border activities.

Our Publications department marked the anniversaries of events that were fundamental in the formation of the State through its superbly produced books. For the *Ireland 1922* series, we were privileged to have the Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, deliver his address titled 'History and the role it plays in our identity and contemporary politics' to an invited audience in the Meeting Room on 30 November ([watch his address here](#)).

The Library gradually opened its doors to readers and continued to show the Academy's precious holdings to invited guests, including many members of the diplomatic corps.

Once international travel was again possible, we were delighted to host a steadily increasing number of overseas guests as part of the Academy's Discourse series. The President of the Royal Society visited as did officers of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Learned Society of Wales.

Working closely with Executive staff across the Academy, members contributed their time and energy to the interdisciplinary committees and to a broad range of activities that feature in the following pages of this Review.

We bade farewell to our outgoing Executive Director Dr Tony Gaynor in August and, in September, the Academy's new Executive Director, Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan took up her new role.

I wish to thank the Council whose members provided the strategic focus of the Academy throughout the year together with Science Secretary, Catherine Godson; PL&A Secretary, Dan Carey; Policy and International Relations Secretary, Brian Norton and Vice Presidents Jane Conroy (Research), Mary Kelly (Sustainability) and Claire Connolly (YAI). Anita Maguire continued to oversee the implementation of the Diversity Report.

As my term as President draws to its close, the March 2023 SGM will usher in my successor. I have been privileged to serve as the President of the Royal Irish Academy. Doing so during the grip of a global pandemic was not easy and I am greatly indebted to the advice and support of the officers: Senior Vice President, Gerry McKenna; Secretary, Mary O'Dowd and Treasurer, Patrick Honohan.

**Dr Mary Canning (PRIA),
President**



Executive Director's Foreword

I joined the Royal Irish Academy in September 2022 taking over from Dr Tony Gaynor who left at the end of July. I would like to thank Tony for his leadership of the RIA during a difficult period and his collegiality in sharing his expertise and insights with me to ensure a smooth transition. I'm delighted and honoured to have been appointed as Executive Director and will strive to ensure that the Academy continues to be seen as trusted source of evidence, reason and insight.

While the pandemic has been disruptive and has required significant change in our activities and their mode of delivery, members and staff alike have shown considerable agility and resourcefulness that has allowed us to innovate in our approach to events. This has facilitated us to bring together more diverse voices and perspectives with broader geographical reach. We intend to build on this progress and harness the advantages offered by technology by fully realising our ambition to become a 'Digital Academy', while not losing sight of the importance of personal connection and face-to-face interactions.

Our Strategic Plan 2019–2023 approved the creation of an all-island interdisciplinary Young Academy as a key strategic priority. The establishment of the Young Academy of Ireland (YAI) will support and provide a voice to professionals at an early stage of their career and facilitate their important

contributions to the development of all-island research, educational and cultural life. Following extensive consultation with the research community, the Academy Council approved the adoption of the YAI Charter and applications for membership opened in July. Over 200 applications were received, and it is envisaged that the first cohort of members of the YAI will be announced by Spring 2023. I would like to acknowledge the contribution made by members of the YAI Working Group to the development of the Charter, by members of the YAI Selection Committee in assessing the applications and the support provided by Accenture.

The Academy continues to mobilise the insights and knowledge of its network of multidisciplinary expertise to inform public policy. There have been active and productive engagements with government, the broader political system, Higher Education Institutions and advocacy groups on the future of higher education on the island of Ireland and research policy. The RIA made a substantial submission to the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (D/FHERIS) on the sourcing of science advice in Ireland and is pleased to be an invited member of the D/FHERIS Evidence for Policy Advisory Group.

In November, the RIA published a statement on academic freedom, which recognised academic freedom as an

enabling condition intrinsic to the pursuit and advancement of truth, knowledge and understanding, and reaffirmed our commitment to work with sister academies and other concerned bodies to ensure that the principle of free and independent research is upheld.

This year we also saw the turnover of the Academy's multidisciplinary committees after a four-year term. We thank the outgoing committee members for their outstanding contributions to the Academy's strategic goals. We look forward to continuing this work with our incoming committee members who represent a broad spectrum of academics, researchers and industry experts from across the island of Ireland, all of whom were selected, following an open call, based on their discipline expertise and public engagement experience.

In line with our Strategic Action Plan 2019–2023, there were positive advances made in respect of ensuring greater gender, disciplinary, institutional and overall diversity among members of the Academy as well as academic committees and working groups. We are committed to sustaining and strengthening our efforts to equality, diversity and inclusion into the future across all our activities and amongst our members and staff to better represent the full panoply of perspectives that need to be brought to bear to address the significant societal challenges we face.

Our public outreach efforts continued, and we were delighted to welcome visitors for Culture Night and our first Academy Research Open Day, which showcased the breadth of research and scholarly activities within the Academy. Other outreach activities included hosting events for Heritage Week around the country, and across Dublin for the annual Dublin Festival of History and the Dublin Book Festival.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Academy. The work of the RIA relies upon the expertise and commitment of the staff who, working in partnership with members, deliver upon the Academy's strategic objectives to recognise and foster excellence in research to advance the public good, be an independent voice on higher education and public policy and represent the world of Irish scholarship internationally. I look forward to 2023 when I will get the opportunity to meet many more of our members and stakeholders as we look to our next Strategic Plan cycle.



Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan,
Executive Director



Research Open Day



Senator Malcolm Byrne opened the Academy's inaugural Research Open Day, pictured here with (l to r) Executive Director, Dr Siobhán O'Sullivan, Vice President for Research, Jane Conroy MRIA and RIA President Mary Canning PRIA.

On 4 October the Royal Irish Academy ran its inaugural Research Open Day. The aim was to showcase the work of our projects, library and publications through a rich programme of lectures and demonstrations.

Research Open Day opened windows onto research in action, allowing people to see all of the RIA's projects together, to understand how they work and what they and our library and publications efforts contribute to our society. Throughout the day, the public had the opportunity to attend lectures on various aspects of our research as well as live demonstrations on how to use our resources, with Academy staff members available to answer any queries.

Research Open Day was run as a hybrid event and a recording of the entire programme is available on the [RIA YouTube channel](#).

[The full programme is available to view online.](#)

Research Projects



Dictionary of Irish Biography

The Dictionary of Irish Biography (DIB) is Ireland's national biographical dictionary, covering all eras and aspects of the island's history. Featuring comprehensive, scholarly biographies encompassing every sphere of human activity, the DIB is an indispensable work of reference for scholars, students, journalists, broadcasters, genealogists, diplomats and the general reader interested in Ireland's past or in the art of biography and life writing.

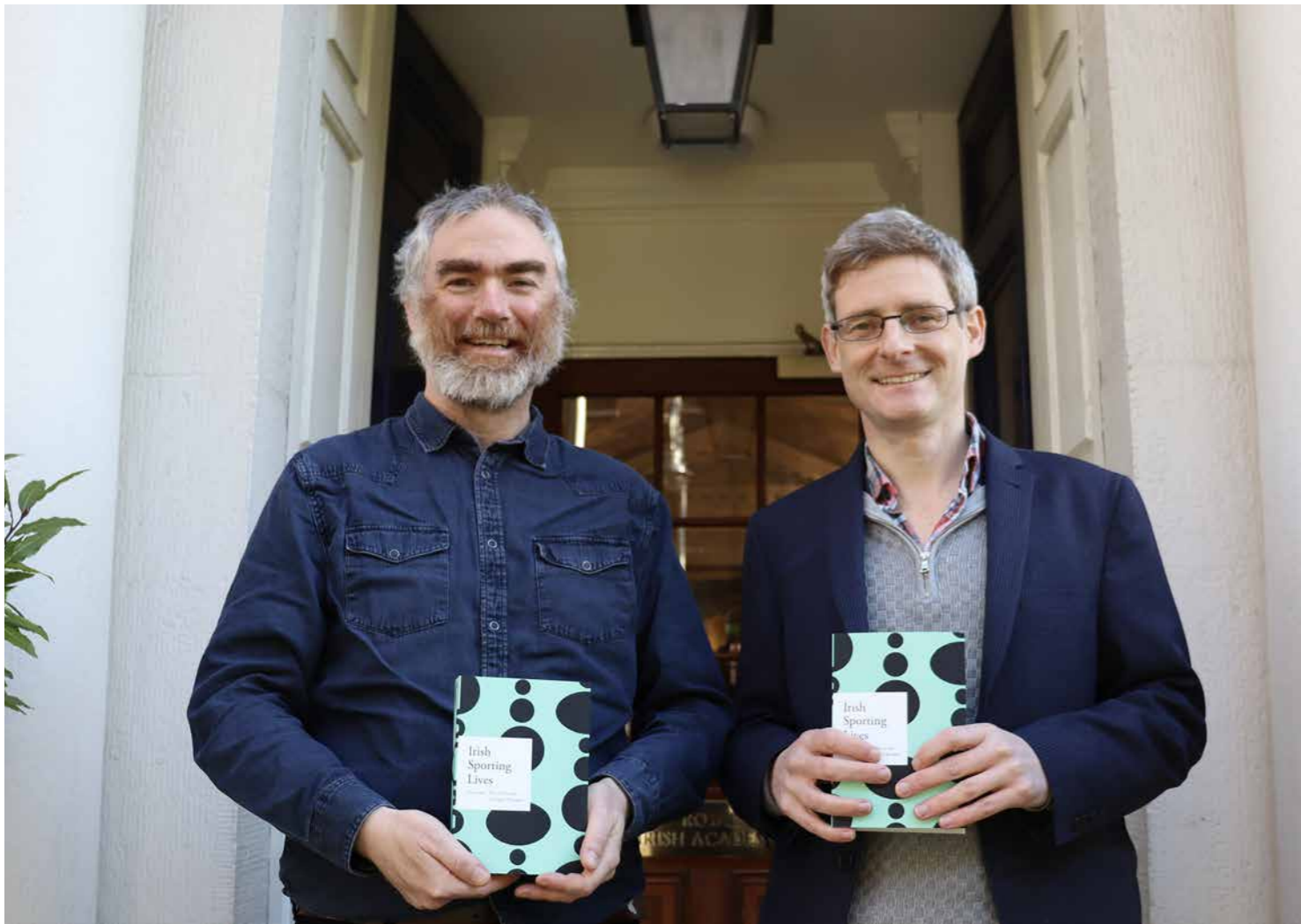
Updates

Two substantial updates to DIB were published in March and September consisting of 79 new biographical entries drawn from a mixture of the recently deceased and 'missing persons'—interesting figures recently come to light thanks to new scholarship. The publication in November of *Irish sporting lives* saw a further six entries published, bringing the total added in 2022 to 85.

Our 2022 entries included the actors Maureen O'Hara and Eileen Colgan, politicians Jackie Healy-Rae and Desmond Boal, broadcasters Terry Wogan and Bill O'Herlihy, actor/directors Daisy Bannard Cogley and Fred O'Donovan, singer Val Doonican, playwrights Brian Friel and Christina Reid, and the founder of the Irish Hospice Foundation, Mary Redmond. While the majority of the entries were researched and written by the DIB team, we were also pleased to publish a number of entries from external contributors, to whom we are very grateful for lending us their time and expertise.

First published in both hard copy and online in 2009 and updated twice yearly, the DIB now features nearly 11,000 lives, in biographies ranging from 100 to 15,000 words in length.

The second in our ongoing *Lives* series, published in collaboration with RIA Publications, was launched in November. *Irish sporting lives*, edited by Terry Clavin and Turlough O'Riordan, presents sixty biographies drawn from more than 540 entries on people active in the sporting realm who feature in the DIB. Six of these entries were commissioned specifically for the volume, which celebrates the diversity of Irish sporting history by focusing on serial winners and glorious losers, trailblazing women, role models and rogues, alongside audacious sporting founders, enduring legends and forgotten or overlooked greats.



Irish sporting lives editors Turlough O'Riordan (l) and Terry Clavin (r).



Dr Eoin Kinsella joined the Dictionary of Irish Biography as Managing Editor in August.



Among the high-profile contemporary figures added this year were (l to r) actor Maureen O'Hara (1920–2015), writer Brian Friel (1929–2015), founder of the Irish Hospice Foundation, Mary Redmond (1950–2015), broadcasters Terry Wogan (1938–2016), and Bill O'Herlihy (1938–2015).
Image credits: RTÉ Archives, Bobby Hanvey, Wikimedia Commons.

Collaborations

DIB made a substantial contribution to the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland (VRTI) project by providing the XML code for all our biographical entries, which were assimilated into the VRTI knowledge graph and database. DIB provided similar data to Maynooth University's MACMORRIS project, which focuses on cultural activity in Ireland, 1541–1691. Our links with VRTI and MACMORRIS are ongoing, and we will continue to collaborate with both projects.

Retirement

In July, DIB bid farewell to its retiring Managing Editor, Dr James Quinn. James joined the DIB as an editorial assistant in 1995. Two years later he took up the position of Executive Editor, and along with then Managing Editor James McGuire played a key role in the landmark launch of the DIB in November 2009. His successor, Dr Eoin Kinsella, has previously worked with two RIA research projects: Origins of the Irish Constitution and DIFP.

Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources

For over a thousand years after the fall of the Roman Empire, Latin served as the chief written language of western Europe. At the same time, its localised spoken versions developed individually, evolving into the various separate Romance languages. Latin also served as the language of Christianity and learning beyond the frontiers of the former empire, and Ireland adopted it as such. As time passed, society, culture and technology evolved: Latin also did, yet standard dictionaries of Latin concern themselves only with the language as it was used in the Roman Empire. The Union Académique Internationale co-ordinates a scheme whereby learned academies in Europe each prepare an historical dictionary of medieval Latin for their own regions; when assembled, these will provide comprehensive coverage of Latin in the Middle Ages.

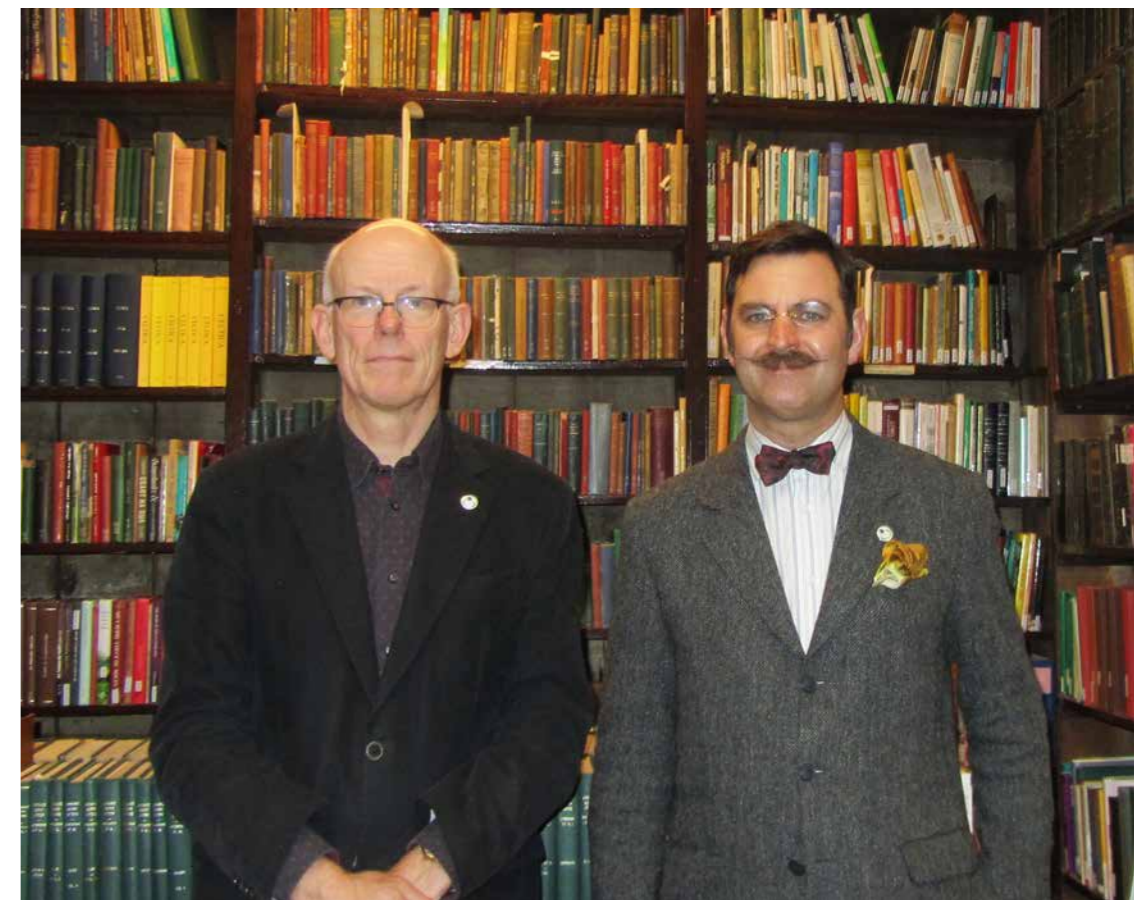
The RIA undertook a remit to cover the historically Celtic-speaking nations and active research began in 1980. This proved to be a fortuitous time when advances in computer science began to be applied to the humanities, including lexicography. Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources (DMLCS) research focussed from the outset on analysis of a specially constructed, searchable database of texts (now the online Archive of Celtic Latin Literature (ACLL)) rather than using the traditional method of readers preparing slips for words that attracted their attention. The method that DMLCS has pioneered results in a systematic evaluation and treatment of every individual word in the corpus; for this reason it has become the worldwide standard for scholarly dictionaries, including our sister project Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge, and the Scottish Faclair na Gàidhlig. DMLCS officially advises the Faclair and has provided seven sessions of consultation in 2022.

The Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources, is approaching the completion of its first phase on schedule for completion in 2025.

The second volume of the *Non-classical lexicon of Celtic Latinity*, I – Z, will join the first volume, A – H (2005) and the Supplement (2015) that followed the expansion of the ACLL database (2010). As work advances, the project team is preparing the groundwork for the next module of the dictionary, which will investigate the evolving meanings of vocabulary inherited from Classical Latin. A third and final expansion of the online ACLL text database (including the project's contribution to the publication of texts through the Scriptores Celtigenae partnership with Brepols) will incorporate the full corpus of printed Celtic-Latin literature. The text database and individual dictionary modules will electronically integrate to present a self-interpreting comprehensive corpus of medieval Celtic Latinity.

Outreach

- Anthony Harvey represented DMLCS in Poland with his paper 'Cicero in Clonmacnoise or Caesar in Kilkenny: Seeking the roots of the Hiberno-Latin tradition' at the Poznań Conference of Celtic Studies.
- Joseph Flahive presented 'Early Irish loanwords into Latin: shedding some Blaqth' to the Irish Conference of Medievalists at Queen's University Belfast, an institution with which DMLCS has enduring links.
- Anthony Harvey's 'Language and history in early Duhallow: the case of the Liscahane Oghams' appeared in print in *Dúchas: Iris Staire Dhúiche Ealla / The Duhallow Historical Journal*.



Editor Anthony Harvey and Assistant Editor Joseph Flahive at Research Open Day.

Digital Repository of Ireland

The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) has been a longstanding advocate and implementer of Open Science principles and practices at national and European levels. Data sharing and preservation are key aspects of open research—at its core, the DRI, a certified trustworthy digital repository, provides long-term preservation for Ireland’s humanities, social sciences and cultural heritage data, making it openly available in line with the FAIR data principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). We also support the development of Open Science as a field, by participating in advisory groups, contributing to collaborative research projects, and serving as the coordinating body for Ireland’s National Open Research Forum (NORF).



Accepting the Digital Preservation Award for ‘Safeguarding the Digital Legacy’ at a ceremony in Glasgow were (l to r) Kieran O’Leary, Digital Preservation Manager at National Library of Ireland, Archiving Reproductive Health Digital Archivist and Coordinator Clare Lanigan and Postdoctoral Researcher and Digital Archivist Dr Lorraine Grimes with Patricia Sleeman, Digital Archivist at United Nations High Commission for Refugees.

Image credit: Digital Preservation Coalition

Throughout 2022, we worked with a broad team of stakeholders from the European repository community to articulate the foundations of a new European network of FAIR-enabling Trustworthy Digital Repositories. The working paper that emerged from this effort links to the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC), which DRI is supporting via the EOSC Future project, an EU-funded Horizon 2020 project which aims to bring together research communities and infrastructure providers to give European researchers access to a wide web of FAIR outputs and related services. Our work on this project includes a close collaboration with the Research Data Alliance (RDA), the global network aimed at improving data sharing. We are also partners in the CODATA-led Horizon Europe-funded WorldFAIR project to advance implementation of the FAIR data principles in the cultural heritage domain. While these two projects focus on the fundamentals of open research and the FAIR principles directly, we also apply these principles to other funded research projects, such as the Wellcome-funded Archiving Reproductive Health project, which won the prestigious 2022 Digital Preservation Award for Safeguarding the Digital Legacy as well as an Open Scholarship Prize. Through our practices, our policy work and our education programme, we are committed to making research more accessible, transparent and reproducible.

Over the course of the year, DRI has made key contributions to the implementation of Open Science practices at a national level through our work with NORF. NORF was established in 2017 to drive the Irish agenda for open research and its current work supports national strategic objectives for open research and research culture as outlined in Impact 2030: Ireland’s Research and Innovation Strategy. Ireland’s National Open Research Coordinator has been based at the DRI since 2020 and has been working on the development and delivery of a National Action Plan for the implementation of open research across Ireland.

In 2022 DRI was asked to coordinate the next stages of the NORF, including the administration of a €1.725-million Open Research Fund aimed at advancing open research practices through a competitive, internationally peer-reviewed grants programme. Projects supported by this fund will implement priority actions in Ireland’s National Action Plan for Open Research.

Read more about DRI’s work with NORF, as well as our support more broadly for FAIR and Open Science, and browse open, preserved collections at www.repository.dri.ie



OIFIG AN AIRE GHNÓTHÁI EACHTRACHA
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH 2
DUBLIN 2

27 Meán Fómhair, 1968.

A Thaoisigh, a chara,

With reference to your letter of the 18th instant regarding the suggestion made to you by Deputy Anthony Esmonde that a small Irish Parliamentary delegation be sent to Nigeria to negotiate a cease-fire.

I feel that no good purpose would be served by such a gesture. It might rather have the effect of encouraging both the conflicting parties to carry on the disastrous war, with all the slaughter and starvation, in the hope that outside pressure would force his opponent to sue for peace.

I feel too that on a few occasions during the past year the prospects of achieving a speedy and stable peace were destroyed by over-publicised attempts to force the contestants to agree to an unconditional cease-fire and a return to the status quo ante.

Is mise, le meas,

Frank Aiken

Seán Uas. Ó Loinsigh, T.D.,
Taoiseach.

One of the 544 documents published in *DIFP Vol. XIII* – a letter from Minister for External Affairs Frank Aiken to Taoiseach Jack Lynch written during the Nigerian-Biafran War of 1967–70, which looms large as a theme in the volume (National Archives, 97/6/228).

Documents on Irish Foreign Policy

Documents on Irish Foreign Policy (DIFP) was established in 1997 as a partnership between the Royal Irish Academy, the National Archives and the Department of Foreign Affairs, and publishes volumes of archival material relating to Irish foreign policy since 1919. These diplomatic documents cover a vast range of subjects, sometimes far beyond the traditional definition of diplomacy; as a project publishing edited source material on late twentieth-century Irish history, DIFP is unique nationally and internationally in the wide variety of content it publishes.

In 2021–2, DIFP played a central role in co-curating the structure and content of the National Archives' enormously successful centenary exhibition *The Treaty 1921: records from the archives*, presented in partnership with the RIA, the Office of Public Works and the National Library of Ireland. The exhibition was visited by 16,000 visitors during its run in Dublin Castle from December 2021 to March 2022. The exhibition catalogue, co-edited by Dr John Gibney of DIFP and Zoë Reid of the National Archives was launched in Dublin Castle in March of this year.

DIFP operates on a two-year publication cycle, with the first year devoted to research, and the second to the production and publication of the volume in hand. The objective is to make documentary material from what are vast archival collections more easily accessible, specifically material that sheds light on how foreign policy evolved and decisions were reached. Over the course of the initial research year a cache of thousands of documents emerges, it is whittled down by the project staff and the academic editors and is then copy edited for accuracy and annotated extensively in preparation for publication.

The DIFP series is arranged chronologically, with each volume covering a discrete span of years, generally demarcated by the terms of governments. The latest instalment in the series, *Volume XIII* covers the tumultuous years from April 1965 to June 1969, the upheaval of the late 1960s in Europe, the United States and the Middle East being reflected in its contents, alongside issues closer to home including the beginning of the 'Troubles'. The vast bulk of the documents published in the series come from the records of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of the Taoiseach, which are now held in the National Archives in Dublin (where DIFP is physically based). Documents in DIFP volumes have already been released under the 30-year rule specified under the National Archives Act of 1986, though on occasion material has been declassified prior to inclusion. The thirteenth volume in the series *Documents on Irish Foreign Policy, Vol. XIII: 1965–69* was published in December, and research for DIFP XIV, which covers the years 1969 to 1973, has already commenced.

For more information visit www.difp.ie



Máirtín Ó Cadhain, 1906–70
(reproduced by kind permission of
Iontaobhas Uí Chadhain)

Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge

This year has seen Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge reach the halfway point in our five-year plan of work undertaken in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media. Our digital corpus of Irish texts, which is the foundation for our lexicographical work, has grown during this period to comprise 4,200 texts containing almost 90 million words. This huge database of linguistic evidence has been edited, ordered and processed using the latest technology customised for the Irish language; this has allowed a list of over 750 thousand headwords to be compiled, and work has thus begun on drafting entries for the dictionary.

The firm foundation for the Academy's dictionary of modern Irish is therefore at the point of completion. The vision of a digital corpus of the entire literary output of the modern era (1600–2000) in the Irish language has been realised; this corpus has been built after a sustained effort of multiple Academy staff over twenty years.

Our next phase of work will see the editorial team building the dictionary proper, and delivering the long-held aim of an authoritative, comprehensive dictionary for modern Irish.

Our suite of web-based research tools for Irish literature and linguistics has also grown to include *Foclóir Uí Chadhain*, the dialect dictionary compiled between 1937 and 1946 by the Gaeltacht author and essayist Máirtín Ó Cadhain (1906–1970). A review is underway of our online publication of *The Gaelic Journal/Irisleabhar na Gaedhilge*, a new version of which will give readers enhanced access to this critical Irish-language source for so much of the thinking and philosophy of the Irish revival, appearing between 1882 and 1909.

Is amhlaidh i mbliana atá Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge leath bealaigh trína bheart oibre cúig bliana a socraíodh in 2020 i gcomhar leis an Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán. Tá borradh tagtha ar ár gcorpas de théacsanna Gaeilge, a bheas mar dhúshraith don obair foclóireachta, agus tá breis agus 4,200 téacs anois ann agus chóir a bheith 90 milliún focal iontu sin. Tá an bunachar ollmhór teanga seo curtha in ord agus in eagar digiteach againn, agus próiseáil déanta air de réir na modhanna is úrscothaí; cruthaíodh liosta 750 míle ceannfhocal don fhoclóir agus táimid tar éis dul ag obair ag forbairt iontrálacha foclóra as an méid sin.

Is gearr, mar sin, go mbeidh an dúshraith leagtha d'fhoclóir na nua-Ghaeilge, agus go mbeifear ag tosú go córasach ar an bhfoclóir féin a chur i dtoll a chéile. Chuir Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann faoina choinne féin leagan digiteach a chruthú den litríocht Ghaeilge ar fad a cruthaíodh idir an bhliain 1600 agus 2000, rud atá nach mór curtha i gcrích anois, tar éis iarracht taighde a mhair fiche bliain agus an dua a chaith iomad ball foirne de chuid an tionscadail leis. Tá tús curtha leis an gcéad chéim eile, mar atá iontrálacha foclóra a chruthú, ar phrionsabail stairiúla, le haghaidh foclóir údarás cuimsitheach a chur ar fáil don nua-Ghaeilge.

Táimid tar éis cur leis na huirlisí taighde litríochta agus teangeolaíochta ar líne atá againn, agus *Foclóir Mháirtín Uí Chadhain* anois ar an bhfód, agus an-tóir air. Tá ábhar breise á réiteach chun cur leis an méid atá ansin, agus tá athbhreithniú ar siúl ar ár mbunachar digiteach *Irisleabhar na Gaedhilge/The Gaelic Journal*, agus beidh leagan nua ar fáil amach anseo a chuirfidh deis leasaithe ar fáil teacht ar a bhfuil san iris sin, inar foilsíodh oiread de smaointeoireacht agus d'fhealsúnacht na hAthbheochana.

Grangegorman Histories

Grangegorman Histories is a public history project of Dublin City Council, Grangegorman Development Agency, HSE, Local Communities, National Archives, Royal Irish Academy and TU Dublin. The project aims to uncover, catalogue and commemorate the histories of the Grangegorman area.

Over the past 250 years, Grangegorman, on the north side of Dublin's inner city, has been the site of a workhouse, a prison and a large psychiatric facility. The site is currently being redeveloped as a health and education campus for the HSE, TU Dublin and the local community.

The project's milestones this year included:

- Launch of 'Exploring Grangegorman' a series of introductory essays published on the project website (grangegormanhistories.ie), researched by experts on a range of histories of the site.
- Launch of the 'Instituting Grangegorman' podcast, documenting the history of the original Richmond Lunatic Asylum.
- The commissioning and publication of 'Grangegorman Histories: resources for further study' a listing of the locations of primary and secondary source records of the histories of Grangegorman.
- Installation on the construction hoarding of an artwork by Fidelma Slattery reflecting the histories of the site.

For Culture Night, Grangegorman Histories delivered a series of three guided history walking tours of the Grangegorman site. These walking tours were the first in-person activities for the project since May 2019. The tours were led by Dr Ciaran Wallace, Deputy Director of *Beyond 2022* and historian of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century municipal politics in Dublin. The tours were fully booked as soon as they were announced, and it was also offered as part of the TU Dublin Walk21 conference programme.

The walking tour was structured around the eleven protected structures on the site (Clocktower Building, TU Dublin Lower House, Boundary Wall, Church of Ireland Church, Bradogue, St Laurence's Church, Glasmanogue, Rathdown House, North House, the Laundry and Orchard House). The histories of the site explored during the tour included the ambition for the original asylum and penitentiary on the site, the history of the treatment of people with mental illness and intellectual disabilities, the treatment of soldiers between 1916 and 1919, the history of sport, the history of national school education on the site, and the nineteenth-century practice of transportation of female convicts from Grangegorman to Van Diemen's Land (now Tasmania).

Culture Night tour group with by Dr Ciaran Wallace and a view of The Clock Tower (1816) in the background.
Image credits: Conor Mulhern, courtesy of Grangegorman Development Agency



View of the illustrated mural on Grangegorman campus, designed by the RIA's Graphic Design Manager Fidelma Slattery. The 70 metre long mural responds to the vision and values of the Grangegorman Histories project.

Irish Historic Towns Atlas

The Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) traces the topographical development of Irish towns and cities through its series of atlases, ancillary publications and programme of engagement.

Recent releases—IHTA, no. 30, Dungarvan/Dún Garbhán (John Martin), Dublin suburbs, no. 2, Rathmines (Séamas Ó Maitiú) and Drogheda c. 1180 to c. 1900 pocket map (Ned McHugh)—were launched in-person at events in the Royal Irish Academy and Dungarvan Library in 2022. The annual IHTA seminar, which returned to Academy House in May, was run as a hybrid event featuring a series of workshops by thirteen speakers who explored how the Atlas is used in education by researchers, teachers and students as well as in practice by heritage professionals, archaeologists, architects and planners, archivists and librarians. The seminar culminated with a plenary lecture by David Dickson MRIA.

The gradual reopening of institutions allowed a full return to research in libraries and archives and events around the country. IHTA resumed its in-house Summer Programme for Undergraduate Research (SPUR) in partnership with Maynooth University, with Kevin Comiskey joining the project for a six-week studentship. The Westport atlas (editors Siobhán Sexton, Eamon O’Flaherty) received a boost with a grant from the Heritage Council Stewardship Fund awarded to Mayo County Council, which facilitated eight weeks of research by Ben Callan (Maynooth University). As part of this, a tour and programme of talks took place in Westport (in collaboration with Westport Historical Society), just one in a series of IHTA-focused events during Heritage Week, which also involved a trip

to Waterford for an Atlas session with city and county librarians. The current focus of the IHTA team is now on Cork (editors H.B. Clarke and Máire Ní Laoi), with a view to publication in 2023 (supported by Cork City Council) with several other towns and Dublin suburbs (supported by Dublin City Council) also in the pipeline for publication.

Internationally, it was a landmark year. The IHTA is part of a wider European scheme with over 580 atlases published across nineteen countries and governed by the International Commission for the History of Towns (ICHT). For the first time since 1984, the annual conference of the ICHT took place in Ireland. Co-hosted with the UK, it built on an existing collaboration between the IHTA and the British Historic Towns Atlas and was jointly convened by the Royal Irish Academy, Maynooth University, Queen’s University Belfast and Dublin City University, with support from Derry City Council. Addressing the theme ‘Crisis in urban order’, the week-long programme of conference papers, receptions, walking tours, workshops and exhibitions took place in Maynooth University and the Royal Irish Academy in advance of a field trip north with stops in Kells, Co. Meath, Cavan town and Enniskillen, ending in Derry city for the final two days. Fifty delegates travelled from fifteen countries and a gallery of photographs records the activities of the week. Earlier this year, the IHTA joined colleagues from Hungary, Germany and the UK as part of a dedicated series on Maps of the European Historic Towns Atlas in the Bodleian Libraries’ The Oxford Seminars in Cartography (TOSCA) annual programme.

International Commission for the History of Towns and European Historic Towns Atlas delegates with Brian Lacey on tour of the city walls Derry, 17 September.



Sarah Gearty, John Martin (author, Dungarvan) and Bernadette Guest (Heritage Officer, Co. Waterford) at the launch of recent IHTA publications in Academy House, 19 May.



Ben Callan and Eamon O’Flaherty with members of the Westport Historical Society at the IHTA Heritage Week event in the Clew Bay Heritage Centre, 15 August.



New Survey of Clare Island

On Saturday, 3 September, up to 90 guests attended an afternoon of events on Clare Island to celebrate the *New Survey of Clare Island* series. The event, organised by the Royal Irish Academy and Cliara Development Company, kicked off with a walking workshop.

Pete Coxon MRIA led the walking group to the remarkable fossil pine forest in Maum, before describing to all assembled how the massive glaciers of the Late Glacial Maximum shaped the landscape of the island over 20,000 years ago. Paul Gosling then guided the group towards examples of early human settlement on the island, pointing out mounds known as *Fulacht fiadh*—hearths where the island’s prehistoric community kindled fires and boiled water—and a Neolithic court tomb, originally identified by local experts Ciara Cullen and Peter Gill. Matthew Jebb concluded the workshop by describing Robert Lloyd Praeger’s exhaustive survey of the vegetation of the island and the naming of *Erica erigena*, the Irish heath.

In a separate guided workshop, Con Manning led a tour of the Abbey and described the remarkable wall paintings surviving on its vaulted ceiling and the walls of its chancel, a very rare example in Ireland.

After lunch, official proceedings commenced when Jane Conroy MRIA, Vice-President for Research at the Royal Irish Academy, officially launched the latest—and final—volume of the *New Survey* series: Volume 10: *Land and freshwater fauna*. This was followed by speeches by John Breen, co-editor of NSCI Volume 10, and Martin Steer MRIA, Managing editor of the NSCI series. Finally, Deirdre Cunningham, Heritage officer for Mayo County Council, presented a full set of the original and new surveys to the Clare Island library.

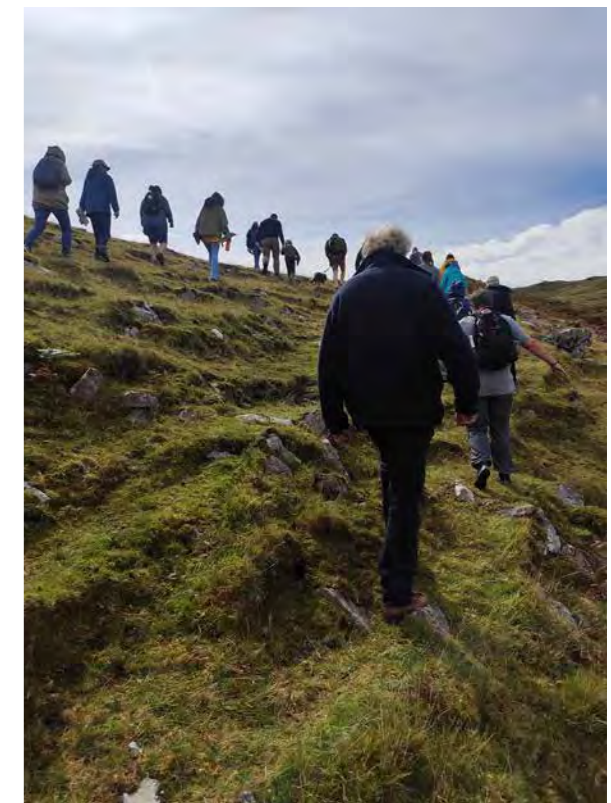
Read more about the *New Survey of Clare Island* series on www.ria.ie/publications



Gathering on Clare Island on 3 September, to celebrate the *New Survey of Clare Island*.
Image credit: Michael O’Connell MRIA



View of Clare Island
Image credit: Michael O’Connell MRIA



Dr Paul Gosling guiding the walking group across the archaeological sites on Clare Island

Multidisciplinary Committees



The President and officers of the Royal Irish Academy extend their thanks to all outgoing committee members for participating in the valuable work of the multidisciplinary and standing committees (2018–22). More than 250 people gave their time to a multidisciplinary committee or standing committee during this period. These include academics from every university on the island of Ireland and many Institutes of Technology as well as senior representatives from cultural institutions, charities, government departments and bodies such as An Taisce, the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland, Teagasc, the HSE and the Heritage Council. We are very grateful for their time, expertise and insights.



Individuals who voluntarily served on committees (2018–22)
250



Vaccine Questions from the Life and Medical Sciences committee
Survival and The History of Emotions from the Historical Studies committee

Major podcast series produced (2018–22)
3



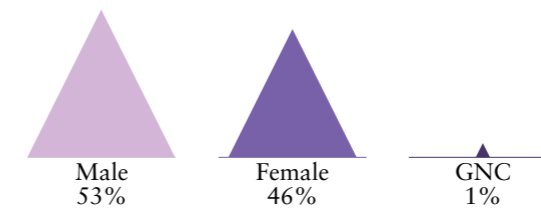
Number of events (2018–22)
89

5 Sciences



7 Humanities and Social Sciences

New multidisciplinary committees (2022–26)
12



Gender split of new multidisciplinary committees
53% male, 46% female, 1% gnc

Science Committees

Next generation construction in Ireland: education, research and training as key enablers

The Engineering and Computer Sciences and Geography and Geosciences committees brought together a unique combination of academics and construction professionals to discuss 'Next generation construction' in Ireland at a conference in the RIA in November.

Next generation construction refers to modern methods of construction such as modular building, 3D concrete printing and the use of digital technology in construction. The utilisation of next generation construction in Ireland would improve the productivity and competitiveness of the construction sector as well as addressing climate change and environmental challenges in the industry. Adoption of next generation construction will require a human capital pipeline of workers equipped with pioneering expertise and skills.

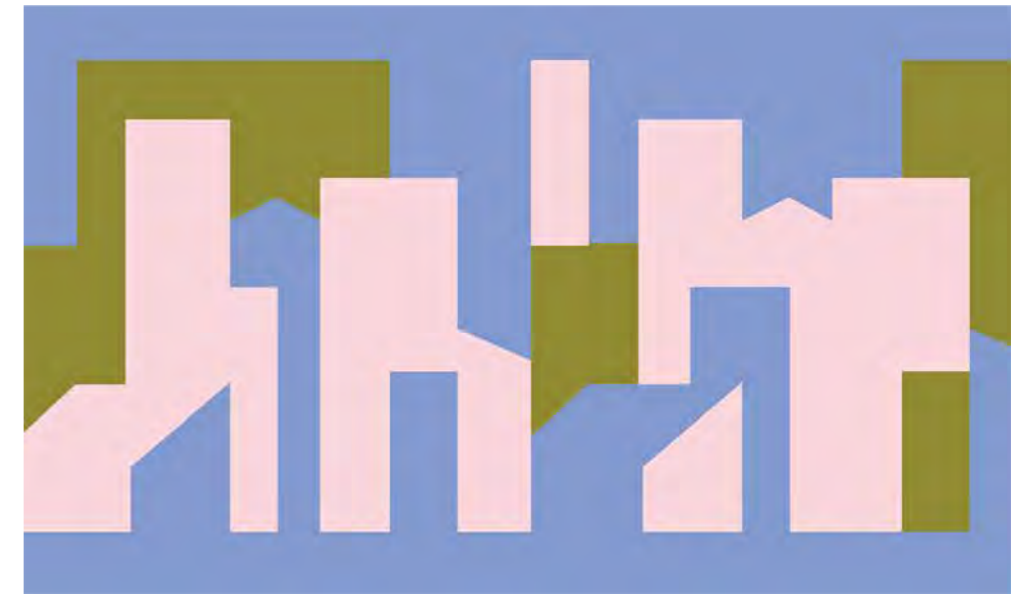
The aims of the conference were to:

- Assess the likely evolution of the construction industry over the coming decade and beyond to help identify the key skills, knowledge and research needed to underpin this evolution.
- Provide a platform for the sharing of knowledge and practice focused on the conference theme, amongst professionals from across education and industry.
- Develop a series of key actions for decision makers on how best the education, research and training sectors in Ireland can support the emergence of a vibrant Next Generation Construction sector.

The conference was opened by P.J. Rudden, Chairman of the Innovation and Digital Adoption subgroup at the Construction Sector Group in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DEPR). Discussion sessions on modern methods of



(l to r) Sean Downey, Construction Industry Federation; Brian Norton MRIA; Professor Aoife Ahern; and Orla Feely MRIA.



construction, digital adoption and policy and sustainability issues in construction followed. Each session was opened by two short stimulating talks by experts—one from an academic researching the topic and one from a leading construction industry practitioner—which were then joined by other professionals in a panel discussion. [The full list of speakers can be found online at www.ria.ie](http://www.ria.ie)

The programme was deliberately designed to provide for substantial audience involvement and discussion time. The audience was made up of professionals from engineering and sustainability companies, construction sector professionals, academics studying construction, engineering and sustainability, representatives of the HR, insurance, training and apprenticeship sectors and policy makers from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. In Spring 2023 a conference report will be available with suggestions for action

to industry, higher education, policy makers and government based on contributions made in the discussion sessions.

Former President of Engineers Ireland, Orla Feely MRIA chaired the conference. Professor Aoife Ahern (Dean of Engineering, UCD), Sean Downey (Construction Industry Federation) and Brian Norton MRIA chaired the three discussion sessions.

The event was organised by the RIA in partnership with the Construction Industry Federation and sponsored by the Higher Education Authority, Enterprise Ireland and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. The organising group was co-chaired by ECS Committee 2018–22 members, Professor Padraic O'Donoghue, University of Galway and Professor Gerald Farrell, TU Dublin who were joined by members from the two Academy committees—Dr Avril Behan, PJ Rudden, Dr Richard Manton and Dr Marguerite Nyhan.

Humanities and Social Sciences Committees

Ireland 2030: panel discussions delving into key issues facing society on the island of Ireland

The Committee for Ethical, Political, Legal and Philosophical Studies, together with Coiste Léann na Gaeilge, Litríocht na Gaeilge agus na gCultúr Ceilteach, led a truly multidisciplinary event series in May, with the modest aim of examining what Ireland might look like in 2030.

The Committee's Ireland 2030 [webinar series](#) provided a space to think about and discuss ways in which meaningful human agency can be regained, specifically on the island of Ireland and in a time of globally accelerated change. Speakers ranged from the rural to the urban, Irish and international, cultural and technological, theoretical and practical, and a similarly diverse and international audience tuned in weekly for this exciting set of discussions.



Government forward-planning initiatives have in the past several years been overshadowed by emergencies that have demanded all our attention: climate change, Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine. These emergencies have forced us into a reactive, crisis-response mode of thinking. There is a sense that events are unfolding so fast that we can hardly keep up. This raises the question: are we still shaping our future? Or are we merely adapting, breathlessly, to the rapid changes that characterise life in the twenty-first century?

Four half-day webinars took place on consecutive Thursdays in May, examining different aspects of life in Ireland, and how these will shape and influence our culture into the next decade.

- **Panel 1: Technology and Irish Culture**

The first session looked at the challenges and opportunities for the Irish language that technology provides, from existential concerns to the very practical matters of digitisation and translation.

- **Panel 2: Digital Citizenship and Governance**

The second session looked at the role of the digital citizen and the ways in which new technologies have (and will) changed the practice of democratic citizenship and government, in Ireland and globally. Speakers addressed the ambivalent influence of these new technologies: the mechanisms for greater representation of citizens' voices and aggregation of human interests, but also the filtering and channelling of news sources, which allows communities to become ever more separate and siloed.

- **Panel 3: Sustainability**

The third session addressed issues of sustainability, and asked the question, what is it that we want to sustain? Is it the economy, or human flourishing in a broader and richer sense? Rather than constantly striving to avert environmental disaster, perhaps new thinking can be applied to frame it in a more positive way.

- **Panel 4: The Role of the State**

The final session centred around the role of the state in managing the lives of its population, and whether the COVID-19 pandemic has forced a rethinking of the role of government in providing for its citizens.

[Recordings are available online](#) for each of the sessions, and the organisers are currently exploring the possibilities of publishing several of the papers delivered during the series.

The series was curated by Philipp Rosemann MRIA, and sessions were organised by committee members Ríona Ní Fhrighil, Fionntán de Brún, Birgit Schippers, Louise Mallinder, Edward Moxon-Browne MRIA, Muiris MacCarthaigh and Mary Shanahan. Sponsorship was provided by the University of Galway's Republic of Conscience and Queen's University Belfast.

Grants and Awards

Archaeology Research Excavation Grants
3 Grants / €35,938 Granted

Archaeology Research Grants
8 Grants / €29,807 Granted

Directed Research in World Heritage Sites
2 Grants / €14,995 Granted

Archaeology Legacy Grants
4 Grants / €91,822 Granted

Charlemont Grants
16 Grants / €33,328 Granted

Ireland Scotland Bilateral Grants
1 Grants / €14,600 Granted

Praeger Grants
4 Grants / €8,940 Granted

Nowlan Digitisation Grants
1 Grants / €9,956 Granted

Hunter Research Bursaries
2 Grants / €2,691 Granted

Hunter Digital Fellowship
1 Grants / €52,900 Granted

Decade of Centenaries Bursaries
13 Grants / €80,000 Granted

Radiocarbon Dates Scheme
5 Grants

Total
60 Grants
€374,977 Granted



Amateur dramatic group, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan (early 1920s). Image credit: Monaghan County Museum.

Decade of Centenary Bursaries

This year the RIA was consulted by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media's Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations as part of the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries programme. The EAG requested that the Academy work in partnership to create opportunities to support ongoing research and scholarship at national and local level by expanding the RIA's existing Grant programme to include a specific 'Decade of Centenaries' bursary scheme and the Academy was pleased to do so in February.

The aim of this scheme is to encourage new local research and local history studies (local, national and regional) as a means of recognising the significant contribution of local historians in furthering fields of study relating to the struggle for independence and the Civil War period within their communities. The scheme also aims to prioritise making the outputs of the research freely available to the public with a view to contributing to a significant and publicly accessible legacy for the Decade of Centenaries.

The scheme received a strong response from across the sector and the RIA, under the recommendations of a specially convened assessment panel was delighted to offer fourteen bursaries across the country.

Among the projects to be funded are:

- Emmet O'Connor will be carrying out comprehensive research into the Waterford farm strike (1923), which will include the creation of a podcast and an associated conference.
- Síobhra Aiken's project entitled 'Languages of forgetting: multilingual responses to the Irish Civil War' will offer audiences engagement with our multilingual history in various languages—including in their own indigenous languages. This project aims to recuperate forgotten Irish-language responses to the Irish revolution while also addressing the responses to Ireland's Civil War in other languages, both in Ireland and internationally, with a particular interest in Ulster Scots responses on this turbulent period and partition.
- Peter Leary's research on 'Customs in practice: the introduction of a customs barrier on the Irish border, 1 April 1923' will highlight the ways in which both governments and communities navigated the changed reality of the border and the processes of state-building that ensued. The research programme includes a public access agenda.
- In Cork, Mary O'Mahony of the Kilmurry Historical and Archaeological Association will expand and digitise her research relating to '94 days: the longest hunger strike, Cork and Brixton 1920'. This will include online data visualisations of the material.

Details of all funded projects can be found [here](#).

We look forward to seeing the various outputs from these projects and also to running this scheme again in 2023.

Gold Medals

The Academy Gold Medals celebrate the achievements of leading scholars in Ireland whose work has made an international impact, demonstrating the global reach and recognition of expertise in Ireland. These awards recognise the exceptional research taking place in higher education in Ireland that impacts our lives, benefits society and inspires the future generations of aspiring researchers. The Gold Medals have become the ultimate accolade in scholarly achievement in Ireland.

On 4 April, An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin, T.D. presented two Trinity College Professors with the Royal Irish Academy 2021 Gold Medals. Ruth Byrne MRIA, Professor of Cognitive Science received the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal in the Social Sciences and Jennifer McElwain MRIA, Professor of Botany received the Royal Irish Academy 2021 Gold Medal in the Environmental Sciences and Geosciences.

Ruth Byrne MRIA is a globally acknowledged scholarly leader in the field of Cognitive Psychology. She is a psychological scientist who has advanced our understanding of the human mind. Professor Byrne has made a distinguished scholarly contribution to psychology through her research on human reasoning and imagination including experimental and computational investigations of reasoning and imaginative thought.

Jennifer McElwain MRIA is an internationally recognised pioneer in the reconstruction of paleo-atmospheric composition using fossil plant proxies. For over two decades her research has focused on the interface between the biological and geological sciences, where she has crafted a unique niche as a renowned palaeobotanist, bringing palaeoecological insights to contemporary plant science and an Earth system perspective to palaeobotany. She has achieved this by positioning her work at

the forefront of experimentally testing and applying paleo-CO₂ proxies to intervals of past environmental and biotic change.

Dr Linda Doyle MRIA, Provost, Trinity College Dublin welcomed the President of the Royal Irish Academy, Mary Canning PRIA to the Provost's House for the awarding ceremony. The Taoiseach presented the Gold Medals to Professor Byrne and Professor McElwain at an event attended by fellow members of the Royal Irish Academy, colleagues in academia, family and friends.

The Royal Irish Academy 2021 Gold Medal in the Environmental Sciences and Geosciences was sponsored by the Geological Survey Ireland and the Geological Survey Northern Ireland.



Ruth Byrne MRIA and Jennifer McElwain MRIA with their Gold Medals.

Kathleen Lonsdale Chemistry Prize

The Kathleen Lonsdale RIA Chemistry Prize is awarded for outstanding doctoral research in the chemical sciences carried out on the island of Ireland. The award is named in honour of the famous Irish x-ray crystallographer.

Dr Priyanka Ganguly won this year's prize, which is generously supported by Henkel. Dr Ganguly's award-winning PhD research responded to two global challenges: sustainable energy production and environmental pollution from pharmaceutical effluent. She aimed to develop new nanomaterials that could harness solar energy to produce hydrogen and to degrade environmental pollutants.

Dr Ganguly's research was working towards solving two fundamental challenges of the 21st century: sustainable energy production and environmental remediation of pharmaceutical effluents and antimicrobial disinfection. Her experimental work included the synthesis of novel nanomaterials and exploring their use as photocatalysts for hydrogen generation, degradation reactions and antimicrobial disinfection under visible light.

Dr Priyanka Ganguly wins Kathleen Lonsdale RIA Chemistry Prize 2022.
Image credit: London Metropolitan University.



Dr Ganguly carried out her PhD research at the Atlantic Technological University (formerly IT Sligo) under the supervision of Professor Suresh Pillai and Dr Ailish Breen. After completing her PhD Dr Ganguly took up a post as a Marie Curie Early-Stage Researcher at the University of Glasgow and is currently a Lecturer in Analytical Chemistry in the School of Human Sciences at London Metropolitan University.

Every third level institution in Ireland was invited to nominate a recent PhD graduate. Applications were judged by a panel of members of the RIA's Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Sciences Committee. Professor Christine O'Connor, TU Dublin, chaired the 2022 assessment panel. She said that *'This years' applicants have been of an extremely high standard. To have such a high calibre of applicants following what has been a very disruptive time in their research displays resilience and determination of both the researchers and their supervisors. The applicants demonstrated how their research aims to address global challenges and dissemination of the outputs in such high impact journals and scientific fora demonstrates Ireland as being world class in chemical sciences research.'*

Michel Déon Prize for non-fiction

At a ceremony in the Mansion House on 15 September, Sally Hayden was announced as the winner of the prestigious 2022 Royal Irish Academy Michel Déon Prize for non-fiction for her debut book *My fourth time, we drowned* (Harper Collins, 4th Estate).

Professor Michael Cronin, Chair of the Royal Irish Academy’s judging committee said **‘Sally Hayden’s work is a vivid, harrowing and compelling account of human destitution, about what happens when Europe turns its back on African refugees seeking to flee the twin horrors of persecution and hunger. Hayden shares with the other shortlisted authors—Nicholas Canny, Doireann Ní Ghríofa, Rosaleen McDonagh, Susan McKay, and Sophie White—a remarkable ability to give voice and bear witness to the many forms of exclusion, both past and present, in the private lives and public debates of our society.’**

The €10,000 prize for the winning author is funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs. The prize is awarded in France every second year by the Académie française and Sally Hayden will also get the opportunity to give The Michel Déon Lecture in France in 2023.

For more information on the Michel Déon Prize see:
www.ria.ie/grants-awards/prizes/michel-deon-prize



Michel Déon Prize nominees: (l to r): Susan McKay, Sally Hayden, Sophie White, Rosaleen McDonagh, Nicholas Canny and Doireann Ní Ghríofa, pictured with Mary Canning PRIA and Maeve Collins of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mary Canning PRIA and Maeve Collins (DFA) with Sally Hayden.



Pictured at the ceremony in the Mansion House were (l to r) Alice Déon, daughter of Michel Déon, with Sally Hayden and previous Irish winners of the Michel Déon Prize, Breandán Mac Suibhne (2018) and Conor O’Clery (2020).

US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards

The 2022 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards – a joint initiative of the Royal Irish Academy and the American Chamber of Commerce, Ireland (AmCham) – were announced at the AmCham annual dinner on 20 May at the Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road, Dublin. The awards were presented in the presence of the President and Officers of the Academy, representatives of the Irish operations of US Multinational Companies, Higher Education Institutions in Ireland and other distinguished public figures. Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Simon Harris, T.D. gave the keynote address.

These awards recognise excellence in research innovation, creation, process and invention by multinationals as well as SMEs, higher education institutions and research centres with links to the US multinational sector. The awards were sponsored by BT Ireland and EY Ireland, and *The Irish Times* was the media partner.

Three awards were presented on the night in the categories of Innovation in Sustainability, Innovation in Talent Development and Innovation in Enabling Technology.



(l to r) Miriam O’Keeffe, American Chamber of Commerce Ireland, Feargal de Freine, EY Ireland, Mary Canning PRIA and Peter Evans, BT Ireland.



Innovation in Sustainability Award Winner: Maynooth University with Microsoft Ireland for ‘Terrain – AI’

This award recognised a team demonstrating transformational change in environmental, economic or social sustainability.

Maynooth University’s ‘Terrain-AI’ is jointly funded by Microsoft and Science Foundation Ireland. The project aims to help understand the impact of human activity on land use to enable more sustainable land use.



Innovation in Enabling Technologies Award Winner: Janssen Sciences Ireland for ‘Solving the buffer solution bottleneck through process intensification’

This award recognised a team that showed outstanding innovation in technologies that drive digital engagement. The winning project allowed for a faster, more sustainable and more cost-efficient production of biological materials.



Innovation in Talent Development Award Winner: Stryker for the Stryker engineering apprenticeship programme

This award recognised an organisation for their outstanding performance in managing and promoting creativity and collaboration in the development of talent. The winning project, the Stryker engineering apprenticeship programme was developed to meet the diverse engineering requirements at Stryker and to futureproof the talent pipeline.

Membership Updates



Honorary Members

Polite Literature and Antiquities



KAREN CORRIGAN is professor of Linguistics and English Language and director of research in Linguistics at Newcastle University and a world-leading scholar in Language Variation and Change. Her most recent book is *Linguistic communities and migratory processes: newcomers acquiring sociolinguistic variation in Northern Ireland* (DeGruyter Mouton, 2020). She is president of the International Society for the Linguistics of English and member of the leadership council of the United States's National Museum of Language.



NIAMH MOLONEY is professor of Law at the London School of Economics and chair of the Irish government's Commission on Taxation and Welfare. Through her research on the public regulation of finance, she has become one of Europe's pre-eminent scholars in this complex and evolving field. Her writings display a superb command of the interplay of economics, politics and market dynamics that underlies the technicalities of regulation.



ANN RIGNEY holds the chair of Comparative Literature at Utrecht University and is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of Academia Europaea. She is a distinguished literary historian and critic, and is particularly known for her ground-breaking books in the field of cultural memory studies. She currently holds a European Research Council Advanced Grant for the project 'Remembering activism: the cultural memory of protest in Europe' (ReAct).



JANE ROBERTS is emeritus professor of English Language and Medieval Literature of the University of London, where she is an honorary senior research fellow in the Institute of English Studies. Her work combines philological, historical and palaeographical expertise, and she is a leading figure in the history of Old English and manuscript studies. Her leading role on the Thesaurus of Old English and on the Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary places her at the forefront of her field.

Science



RÓNADH COX is the Brust Professor of Geology and Mineralogy at Williams College, Massachusetts. She is prominent internationally within the coastal erosion and geomorphology community. Professor Cox was recently a recipient of a National Science Foundation grant for a project entitled 'Boulder beaches—the understudied archive on high-energy coasts', which uses Ireland's coastline as the basis for the first comprehensive study of boulder beaches.

New Members

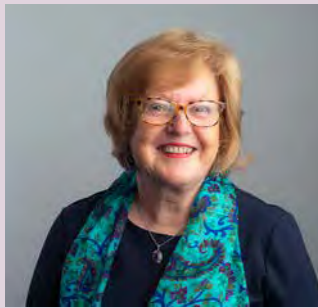
Polite Literature and Antiquities



KATHERINE (KATH) BROWNE is professor of Geography at University College Dublin. Her research interests lie in social and cultural geographies, and in people's spatial experiences of sexualities and genders. In 2019 Professor Browne was awarded a European Research Council Consolidator Award for the project 'Beyond oppositions', which seeks to create forms of engagement that do not deny difference, but seek to explore difference, differently.



MARY COSGROVE has been professor in German at Trinity College Dublin since 2016. A graduate of University College Dublin, she previously held senior academic posts at Edinburgh and Warwick universities. She has published ground-breaking work on modern and contemporary German literature and was Germanic Editor of the *Modern Language Review*, 2016–21. Her 2014 book, *Born under Auschwitz: melancholy traditions in postwar German literature* (Boydell and Brewster), was a Choice recommended title.



MARY DOYLE is currently a visiting fellow in public policy at the Trinity Long Room Hub Research Institute in the Arts and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin. Mary has had a distinguished career in the Irish public service over a lengthy period, where she served in three departments—the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Health and Children and the Department of Education and Skills. She has an in-depth knowledge of the policymaking system and has a particular interest in the interaction between academic research and policymaking.



GLADYS GANIEL is reader in Sociology at Queen's University Belfast. She has an international reputation for the originality and quality of her work on religion and peacebuilding and on contemporary religious practices. Her three key pioneering monographs have had global impact in her discipline and have also helped to shape wider public understandings of religion. Dr Ganiel's research has been funded by the Irish Research Council and the Department of Foreign Affairs.



ANDREAS HESS is professor of Sociology at University College Dublin. His interests are wide-ranging, with a particular focus on historical sociology and the history of ideas (particularly in the United States), and he has also written about the Basque country. His books include studies of the political philosopher Judith Shklar and of Alexis de Tocqueville and Gustave de Beaumont, especially their visits to Ireland.



JOANNE MANCINI is associate professor of History at Maynooth University. Displaying an impressive disciplinary and geographic range, her prize-winning books have illuminated the origins of artistic modernism in the United States and demonstrated how fundamental looting, iconoclasm and other destructive art practices have been to imperial war. She is the 2021–22 Terra Visiting Professor at the John F. Kennedy Institute at the Freie Universität Berlin.



HANNAH MCGEE is deputy vice-chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, University of Medicine and Health Sciences. She is a distinguished scholar in Psychology—specifically psychosocial aspects of health. Professor McGee is a former president of the European Health Psychology Society, and the Minister for Health has appointed her as deputy chair of the National Research Ethics Committee for COVID-19 and member of the Public Health Reform Expert Advisory Group.



ORLA MULDOON is founding professor of Psychology at University of Limerick. She is one of the first two women in Ireland to hold a European Research Council Advanced Award. Her work highlights that psychological trauma derives from changes in social resources. She was awarded the Sanford Prize from the International Society of Political Psychology. She is the current editor of *Political Psychology* and a regular op-ed contributor to *The Irish Times*.

New Members



SIOBHAN MULLALLY is established professor of Human Rights Law and director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the School of Law, University of Galway. Her scholarship in human rights law is at the intersection of gender, women's rights, migration, asylum and multiculturalism. She is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons and a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.



TADHG Ó HANNRACHÁIN, professor of History at University College Dublin, has, through three monographs, explained how the denominational map of Europe was reconfigured in the two centuries that followed the Protestant Reformation. The pre-eminent authority on Catholic renewal on 'the margins of Europe', he has also detailed the religious complexities that resulted from the migration of people, lay and clerical, female and male, Protestant and Catholic.

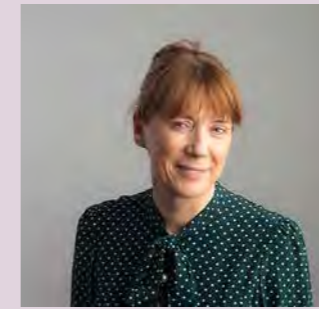


DAVID STIFTER is professor of Old and Middle Irish at Maynooth University. He is an established scholar and researcher with international standing and leadership in the field of Celtic Studies and Medieval Irish Philology. He was recently a recipient of a European Research Council Consolidator Award for the Chronologicon Hibernicum project, a probabilistic chronological framework for dating Early Irish texts.



VIRGINIA TEEHAN is chief executive of the Heritage Council. Trained as an archivist, she has also curated exhibitions, produced television and film documentaries, and served on the board of the National Museum of Ireland. She has previously served as director of the Hunt Museum and director of cultural projects at University College Cork.

Science



GERALDINE BOYLAN is professor of Neonatal Physiology, University College Cork and director of INFANT, the Irish Centre for Maternal and Child Health Research. She is a leading figure internationally in Newborn Neurophysiology and has championed the use of signal processing and Artificial Intelligence for the identification of infants at risk of brain injury. Her research innovations have now been translated to the patient bedside, benefitting newborns worldwide.



MARY CANNON is a consultant psychiatrist and professor of Psychiatric Epidemiology and Youth Mental Health at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, University of Medicine and Health Sciences. She is a leading researcher in youth mental health and childhood and adolescent risk factors for mental illness. She has published over 200 papers and has been listed as a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher in 2020 and 2021. Professor Cannon is a recipient of many prestigious awards from the Health Research Board, the Wellcome Trust and the European Research Council. She has served on numerous grant panels and governmental committees, including the task force on Youth Mental Health.



MARIE DONNELLY is chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council, which has recommended a series of five-year carbon budgets, leading to a 51% emissions reduction by 2030. From a thirty-year career with the European Commission, Marie brings extensive experience in international dialogue, legislative negotiations and energy policy design to the work on climate actions. She continues to inspire through membership of the governance committee of MaREI (the SFI Research Centre for energy, climate and marine research and innovation) and of University College Dublin's Energy Institute.



GARY DONOHOE is the established professor of Psychology at University of Galway. He is a leading figure internationally in the cognitive neuroscience of mental health, and his work focuses on understanding and treating factors relevant to social and occupational function. Professor Donohoe is a recent European Research Council award recipient and a current Health Research Board research leader in youth mental health and early psychosis.

New Members



FIONA DOOHAN is professor of Plant Health at University College Dublin and a co-founder of the SME CropBiome. She is an expert in the development of sustainable methods for crop production; co-chairs the All-Island Food Integrity Initiative; and sits on the Scientific Committee for the Global Wheat Initiative. Professor Doohan is a recipient of the NOVA UCD Innovation and the Enterprise Ireland Champion of Research awards.



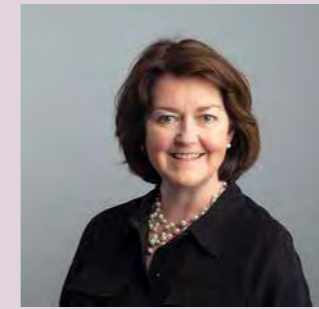
LINDA DOYLE was appointed as the 45th provost of Trinity College Dublin in 2021, the first woman in the College's history to hold that position. She is a fellow of the college and holds a personal chair of Engineering and the Arts. Her expertise is in the fields of wireless communications, cognitive radio, reconfigurable networks, spectrum management and creative arts practices.



DAVID JONES is professor of Pharmaceutical and Biomaterial Engineering in the School of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast, where he is also pro-vice-chancellor (for Education and Students). He is an internationally recognised leader in polymer-based implanted medical devices and enhanced pharmaceutical dosage forms. He has received numerous awards, including the Griffith Medal from the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining, and has founded two successful campus/start-up companies.



PATRICIA KEARNEY is professor of Epidemiology in the School of Public Health, University College Cork. She is an internationally recognised Epidemiologist and Clinical Trialist, with an outstanding record in Population Health and Health Services Research and its effective translation for improved health. Her Health Research Board Research Leader projects include an evaluation of the national clinical programme and modelling of the population burden of diabetes.



MAIREAD KIELY is professor in Human Nutrition at University College Cork. She is an international leader in the field of micronutrient research, in particular Vitamin D and its impact on health and child development. Professor Kiely is an expert in nutritional risk assessment and contributes to several international advisory groups in public health nutrition.



JAMES O'GARA is professor of Microbiology at University of Galway. His work focuses on the mechanisms underpinning biofilm production and antimicrobial resistance in staphylococci, including MRSA. These investigations have made important contributions to our understanding of staphylococcal virulence, and to the identification of novel therapeutic targets to address the global challenges posed by these pathogens.



STEFAN OSCARSON is full professor of Chemical Biology at University College Dublin. He is one of the world leaders in the field of carbohydrate chemistry and has made major contributions to the development of new methods in protecting group techniques, glycosidation and new spacers and methods for glycoconjugate formation. His synthetic work underpins the development of drug and vaccine candidates against various infectious diseases.



PATRICK WYSE JACKSON is associate professor of Geology, curator of the Geological Museum, and head of the School of Natural Sciences at Trinity College Dublin. He is an international authority on fossil bryozoans—a large phylum of invertebrate animals—and the foremost expert on the history of Irish geology. He currently leads a major project on Irish building stones, to inform government about heritage conservation.

Member Bereavements

REV. JOHN BARTLETT, BA, MLitt, MA (Oxon), MA, LittD (Dubl 1970, 1994), FTCD (Emeritus), Retired Professor of Biblical Studies, TCD and Church of Ireland Theological College.
Elected in: 2007.

ROGER DOWNER, PhD (Western Ontario 1970), DSc, LLD (QUB 1984, hc 2003), DSc (hc Waterloo 2004). President Emeritus, UL. On Council and in Office: VP 2013–2014, SVP 2014–17
Elected in: 2004.

MIRIAM HEDERMAN O'BRIEN, PhD(Dubl 1980), Barrister at Law (King's Inns Dublin 1954), BA (Dubl 1953), PhD (hc Maynooth 1995), LLD (hc NUI 2001), LLD (hc UU 2002). Public Policy Analyst and Lawyer.
Elected in: 2005.

GEORGE LEONARD HUXLEY, BA, MA, LittD (hc Dubl), DLitt (hc QUB). Adjunct Professor of Mathematics and Ancient Classics, MU, Honorary Professor of Classics, TCD. On Council and in Office: Sec PL&A 1979–86, SVP 1984–85, 1996–98, SVP 1999–2000, 2000–2002, Honorary Librarian 1990–94, Special Envoy 1994–99.
Elected in: 1971.

ARTHUR EDWARD KINGSTON, BSc, PhD (QUB 1956, 1960). Emeritus Professor of Theoretical Atomic Physics, QUB.
Elected in: 1985.

SR CARMEL MCCARTHY, BA, MA (NUI 1966, 1968) STL, STD (Fribourg 1972,1980)
Elected in: 2008.

RICHARD SINNOTT, BA, MA (NUI), PhD (Georgetown). Emeritus Professor of Political Science, UCD.
Elected in: 2012.

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS WHELAN, BA, DPA, Dip Stat (NUI), MSc (LSE), PhD (Lond)
Emeritus Professor of Sociology, UCD and former Research Professor, ESRI.
Elected in: 2006.

Members' Celebration Day

We were delighted to welcome most of our 2020 and 2021 elected members to the RIA on Friday, 16 December for a celebratory day to acknowledge their achievements and for members to share in their success with family, friends, colleagues and proposers. Members elected in 2020 and 2021 were admitted in online ceremonies during the COVID-19 pandemic period. Our members had the opportunity to sign the Academy's historic roll book and receive their scrolls from the President, Mary Canning PRIA.



2020 (top) and 2021 (bottom) Members gathered in the Academy with Mary Canning PRIA.

Public Engagement: Access to Experts



Academy Discourses

This year, we welcomed the return of in-person Discourses to the Academy. These public lectures were presented in a hybrid format, so they were accessible to all audiences and are available to watch online. Our 2022 Discourse speakers were:

- Patrick Honohan MRIA, Former governor, Central Bank of Ireland in conversation with Frances Ruane MRIA, Honorary Professor of Economics, TCD and former Director ESRI on 'The changing world of money and finance'.
- Sir Adrian Smith, President of The Royal Society in conversation with Orla Feely MRIA, Vice President for Research, Innovation and Impact, UCD on 'The future of higher education'.
- Dr Lalita Ramakrishnan, Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at the University of Cambridge, UK delivered a Discourse on 'Tuberculosis: the persistent global scourge of humanity'.
- Dr Larisa R.G. DeSantis, Ph.D., Chancellor Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Vanderbilt University, Nashville on 'Decoding the past to conserve our future'.
- Dr. Jochen Boehler, Acting chair holder for Eastern European History, Jena University, Germany; Professor Charlotte McDonald, Professor of History, Victoria University, Wellington New Zealand; Professor Marjaana Niemi, Faculty of Social Sciences, Tampere University, Finland; Mary E. Daly MRIA, Emeritus Professor of Modern Irish History, UCD; and Robert Gerwarth MRIA (Chair), Professor of Modern History, UCD on '100 years on: Ireland; Finland; New Zealand and Poland – a comparative history'.
- Professor Michael Ignatieff, former President and Rector of Central European University in conversation with Ben Tonra MRIA, Professor of International Relations at the UCD School of Politics and International Relations on 'Academic freedom: threats within and without'.
- Sir Peter Ratcliffe, Nuffield Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford on 'Understanding human oxygen sensing: adventures of a physician in science'.

Watch recordings of the 2019–22 Discourse Series on the [RIA YouTube Channel](#).



RIA Senior Vice President Gerry McKenna MRIA, Professor Michael Ignatieff, Ben Tonra MRIA and Anne Fuchs MRIA.

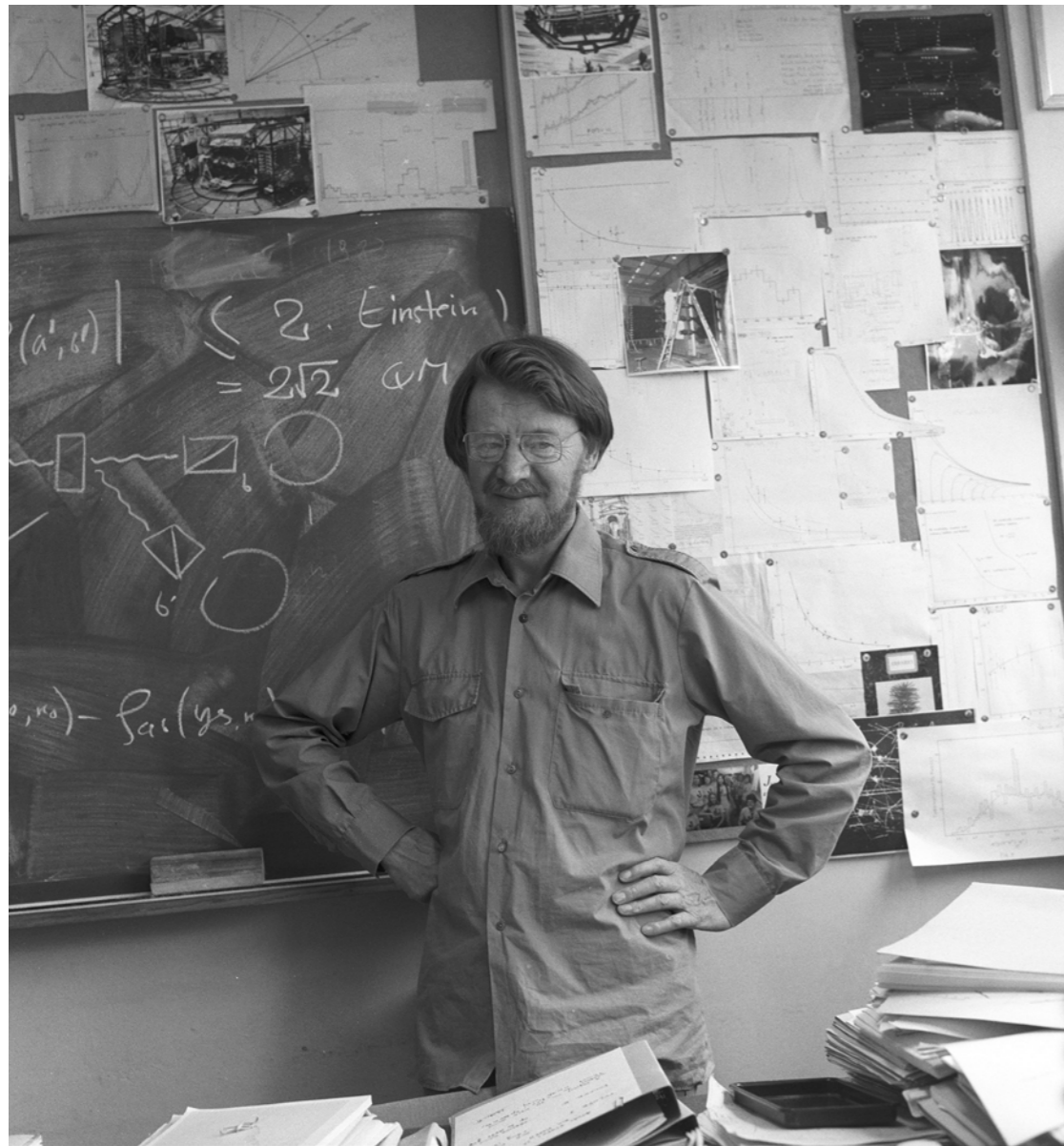


Nobel laureate Sir Peter Ratcliffe pictured (centre) with (l to r) Aldo Francis, Eoin David Roche and Cathal Rafferty, 2nd year Medicine students at UCD School of Medicine.

John Bell Day

On 4 November 1964 John Bell (1928–90) from Tate’s Avenue, Belfast, changed the world of science by laying the foundation stone for quantum computing with his quantum theory. We want to make John Bell a role model for the young people of Northern Ireland, to inspire them to see education and science as a route through which they can fulfil their greatest ambitions as Bell did. Since November 2014 the RIA has worked with Queen’s University Belfast to celebrate John Bell Day.

This year’s **John Bell Day** guest speaker was Professor Susana Huelga, Professor of quantum physics at Ulm University. The topic of her lecture was ‘Coherent effects in biological processes. A new twist for Bell-type arguments’. Professor Huelga’s lecture was livestreamed to an audience of 179 attendees.



John Stewart Bell (1928–1990)
at CERN, June 1982

Members' Research Series

The **Members' Research Series** reinforces the Academy’s Strategic Plan to support scholarship and promote awareness of how science and the humanities enrich our lives and benefit society. In this blog series, members talk about their research fields in order to raise awareness of their work and to facilitate collaboration within the wider academic community. The blogs are written in a format that aims to inform non-specialist readers about new advances in a number of interesting fields.

Read the full series online at www.ria.ie

Any members who wish to contribute to the series should contact communications@ria.ie



Deirdre Madden MRIA

Professor Madden’s work is driven by the endless diversity and topicality of the issues that arise in the intersection of health law, medicine and ethics.
[Read her blog](#)



James O’Gara MRIA

Professor O’Gara’s research seeks to improve the treatment options for chronic infections by finding new ways to overcome antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and to eradicate biofilms.
[Read his blog](#)



Claudia Kinmonth MRIA

Dr Kinmonth’s interdisciplinary research, drawing from texts, manuscripts, poetry, oral history, artworks and objects, allied to her experience as a restorer and woodworker, enhances appreciation of how the rural majority of Ireland lived and allows insight into the materials and methods used by past generations.
[Read her blog](#)

Publications

The handover: Dublin Castle and the British withdrawal from Ireland, 1922

In January the Academy's publishing house marked the year in which Ireland gained its independence with the publication of *The handover: Dublin Castle and the British withdrawal from Ireland, 1922* by John Gibney and Kate O'Malley. The book's documents illustrate the 1922 handover of power by the outgoing British administration to the Provisional Government of Ireland led by Michael Collins.

The Treaty, 1921: records from the archives

The Treaty, 1921: records from the archives, was officially launched at Dublin Castle, published in collaboration with the National Archives of Ireland.

Irish Art 1920–2020: Perspectives on change

Editors Catherine Marshall and Yvonne Scott supervised the printing of their new book, *Irish art 1920–2020*, ensuring that the illustrations were reproduced to a high standard. The works by artists from across the century were chosen by the contributors to consider how some of the established perspectives in Irish visual culture were challenged and represented during this period.

Excavations at Knowth, Volume 7

Archaeologists gathered at midsummer at Knowth to mark the publication of *Megalithic Art*, the final volume in the *Excavations at Knowth* series by the late George Eogan MRIA. Archaeological Editor Elizabeth Shee-Twohig MRIA outlined the six main styles of the carvings at the UNESCO World Heritage site, which comprise 46% of all such art in Ireland.

Days in the life: reading the diaries of Michael Collins

The proofs of *Days in the life: reading the diaries of Michael Collins* were finalised and sent to print in July, to arrive in time for the 100th anniversary of Collins' death in August. The National Archives has digitised the diaries and this accompanying book shows in rich detail the collection of hurried notes, necessary lists, names and appointments, and things yet to do during a period of extraordinary change in the life of the man.

Sisters

Sisters, edited by Siobhán Fitzpatrick and Mary O'Dowd MRIA, was published during Heritage Week. The book introduced us to nine families of Irish sisters, some well-known and others who have been overlooked in the historical records. The essays take readers on a journey through the centuries from the 1600s to the turbulent years of the independence struggle in 1900s Ireland and uncover the influence, support and rivalries of family.

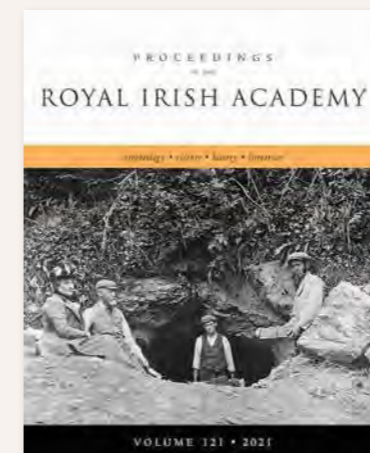
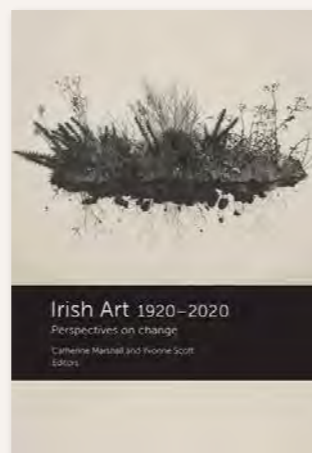
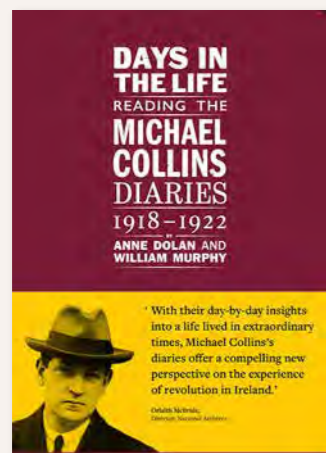
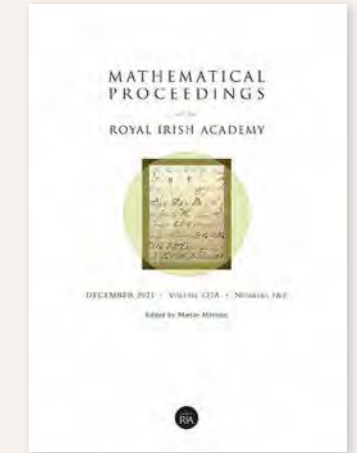
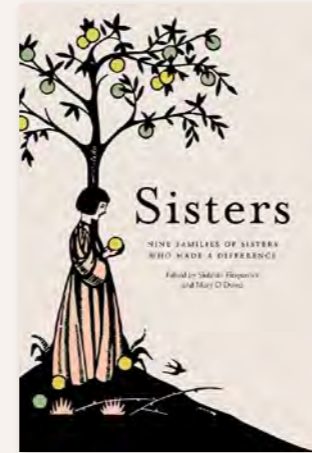
Irish sporting lives

Irish sporting lives was published in November. Editors Terry Clavin and Turlough O'Riordan selected 60 biographies to showcase serial winners and glorious losers, heroes and villains, trailblazing women, role models and rogues, and to encourage people to explore the wealth of entries in the Dictionary of Irish Biography.

Irish Journal of Earth Sciences

The 2022 volume of the *Irish Journal of Earth Sciences* published in December features an appreciation of the late editor, Matthew Parkes. This collection of articles celebrates Matthew's legacy and his contribution to the geological community.

Publications



The megalithic art from Knowth — completing *Excavations at Knowth*

On Midsummer evening, 21 June 2022, the seventh and final volume of our *Excavations at Knowth* series was launched. It was fitting to celebrate *The megalithic art of the passage tombs at Knowth, County Meath*—the final element of our project to publish the outcome of 60 years of research at and about Knowth—on site.

The evening was tinged with sadness as we were without the late George Eogan MRIA, who directed the excavations programme that began at Knowth—now part of the Brú na Bóinne UNESCO World Heritage property—in June 1962. We are indebted to Elizabeth Shee Twohig MRIA, whose involvement as archaeological editor for volume seven ensured we could finish the series.

In the *Megalithic art* volume, Knowth's 390 recorded carved stones, constituting c. 46% of all megalithic art in Ireland and a significant proportion of European megalithic art—the most at a single location anywhere—are catalogued and published for the first time. Having the complete Knowth catalogue available in one resource makes it possible now for all Irish megalithic art to be considered together, and explored in its entirety in the international context. This squares the circle in research on Ireland's megalithic art and its development, how it compares to or differs from international comparators, and what can be determined in terms of influences.

Completing the *Excavations at Knowth* series and bringing the research on this national monument into the public domain is a stellar achievement, of which the Academy should rightly be proud.

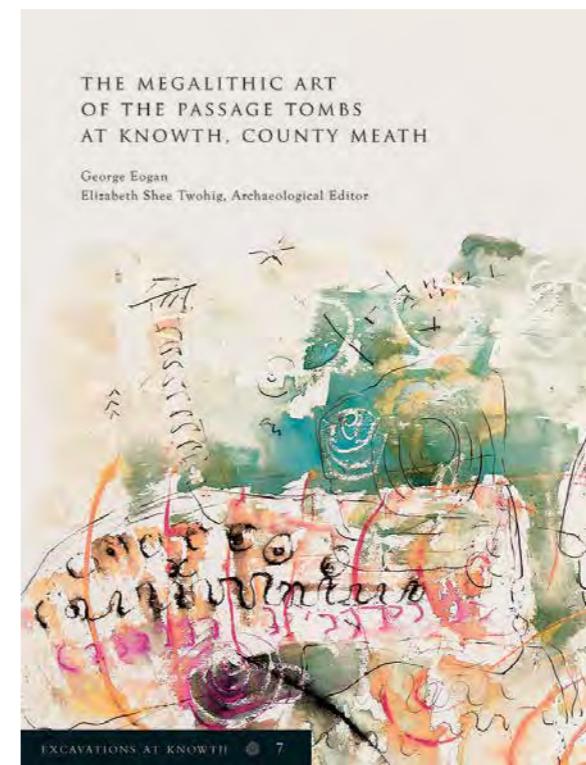
Read more about the *Excavations at Knowth* series on www.ria.ie/publications



Knowth book launch (l to r): Ruth Hegarty, Managing Editor of Publications, with Minister Patrick O'Donovan, T.D.; Fiona Eogan; Minister Malcolm Noonan, T.D.; Elizabeth Shee Twohig MRIA; and Excavations at Knowth Editorial Board members Dr Ann Lynch; Michael MacDonagh, National Monuments Service; Ian Doyle, The Heritage Council; and Gabriel Cooney MRIA.

Image credit: Photographic Archive, National Monuments Service, Government of Ireland.

View of the excavations around Tomb 1 at Knowth, looking to the north-east. Image credit: Knowth excavation archive



Megalithic art motifs carved on Kerbstone 72, Tomb 1 at Knowth. Image credit: Ken Williams.

Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South (ARINS)



Analysing and Researching Ireland North and South (ARINS) is a collaboration between the RIA and the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies at the Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame. ARINS convenes experts to provide evidence-based research and analysis on the most significant questions of policy and public debate facing the island of Ireland, north and south.

Irish Studies in International Affairs

The collaboration has facilitated a rapid establishment of a prolific interdisciplinary research project. To date, Irish Studies in International Affairs has published over thirty open access articles with accompanying responses that navigate a range of topics from various perspectives on the Arts, census results, constitutional options, Dayton peace agreement parallels, education, economic, election and franchise challenges, flags and symbols, films and representation, German reunification, labour market legacies, language legislation, pensions, policing, the problems of the subvention, security and sport, examining and exploring cross border parallels from welfare payments to the welfare of women. Combined with a monthly podcast and blog series, ARINS reached eighty thousand readers and listeners in 2022.

Events

ARINS in-person events, all held under Chatham House rules, allowed for the teasing out of questions raised in the research. In June, members of the ARINS group on participatory democracy hosted a two-day roundtable at the RIA. In October, eight members of the ARINS group were invited to make a presentation to the Seanad by the Seanad Public Consultation Committee on the Constitutional Future of the Island of Ireland. In November ARINS presented to RIA Members at the Stated General Meeting.

Cross-border cooperation in the arts

The report on cross-border cooperation in the arts written by Steven Hadley and the Audience Agency identified several research gaps and made policy recommendations including the development of a strategic framework for cross-border cooperation and the need to improve the data collected for the arts sector to facilitate evidence-based policymaking.

Gendering Constitutional Conversations

The report on Gendering Constitutional Conversations on women's inclusion through constitutional discussion written by Professor Fidelma Ashe was launched in Dublin on 6 December.

Public Opinion Poll

The results of the joint Irish Times/ARINS IPSOS public opinion polling of people will contribute to ARINS' efforts to bridge the gap in perceptions and understanding within and between communities north and south.

The ongoing challenges for ARINS are to ensure research explores and tackles the essential questions, expresses a representative range of views, and reaches all demographics even those who might not traditionally be heard in an academic environment.

Documents and Agreements

A repository of British and Irish Treaties titled Documents and Agreements is planned with Pembroke College Oxford's Quill Writing Peace project.

Scholarships

Scholarships addressing cross-border environmental security challenges north and south, and fellowships acknowledging the role of quiet peacebuilders are in the planning.

Debates

A 2023 collaboration with *The Irish Times* debates will draw in younger voices and a series of events examining Britishness and Irishness will reflect new perspectives to the project.

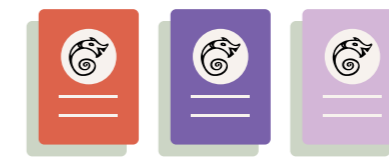
All reports, publications and podcasts are available on www.arinsproject.com

Young Academy of Ireland



Ireland became the 51st country in the world to set up a 'Young Academy' when the RIA opened its call for membership for the new Young Academy of Ireland (YAI) this summer, inspiring the next generation of talent and giving early career researchers a critical voice at a time when it is needed most.

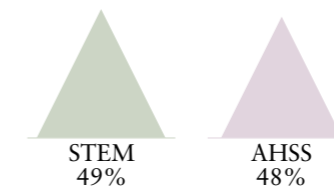
Almost all Higher Education Institutions were represented in the applications including the new TUs (South-East Technological University, Technological University of the Shannon, and TU Dublin). Applications were received from the private sector, charities and NGOs, but most applications came from the academic sector. The YAI selection committee will review applications for membership in January 2023 and it is expected that the new cohort of members will be in place in Spring 2023.



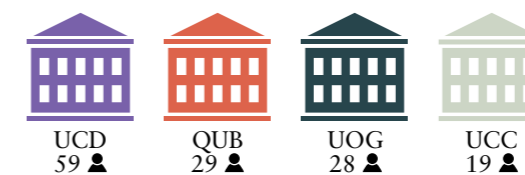
A total of 235 applications were received



126 (56%) female applicants
99 (44%) male applicants



49% Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM)
48% Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS)



Highest number of applications by institution:

- University College Dublin (59)
- Queen's University Belfast (29)
- University of Galway (28)
- University College Cork (19)



Policy and International Relations



The Academy's *Roadmap for Research for Public Policy* (2021) continued to gain traction, and its key messages on the benefits and value of evidence-informed policymaking and independent, authoritative and trusted science advisory structures have been widely cited and influential. The RIA is contributing to the development of a strategic framework for connecting research expertise to civil servants via its membership of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (D/FHERIS), Evidence for Policy Advisory Group, and to initiatives to enhance researchers' capacity to partake in engaged study through its membership of the IUA-Campus Engage project group.

In September, the Academy made a substantial submission to the D/FHERIS public consultation on the sourcing of science advice. In the same month, the Academy brought together experts from the European Commissions' Joint Research Centre, the Science Advice for Policy by European Academies project and York University to offer an international perspective on principles and structures for national science advisory structures.

In November, the Academy published its first institutional statement on academic freedom, which was finalised by a members working group led by Maeve Cooke MRIA, Jennifer Todd MRIA and Luke Drury MRIA.

The Academy will continue to explore this issue in 2023 as well as looking to issues of independence and citizen participation in science advice.

Academic institutions have long played a key role in providing evidence on the climate crisis as well as potential mitigation strategies, but what is the academic system itself doing with this evidence? In May the All European Academies (ALLEA) Climate Sustainability in Academia working group published *Towards climate sustainability of the academic system in Europe and beyond*. The report suggests that, as it stands, the academic system is currently not sustainable, and requires a substantial change in culture across stakeholders to reduce its climate impact. The report also identified challenging goals for academia, not least for the Irish higher education system. In November, the RIA convened a workshop that brought together key stakeholder groups to discuss the programmes and strategies developed across Irish higher education to embed sustainable practices and reduce the levels of emissions in their operations.

The European Research Area (ERA) has as its goal the creation of a common research and innovation area to help Europe stay competitive in the global race for knowledge and innovation. In September, the ALLEA ERA working group released a statement welcoming the implementation of the ERA policy action points. ALLEA and the RIA will continue to closely monitor and inform the implementation of these priorities through their active participation in ERA forum subgroups.

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines are instrumental to advancing our fundamental understanding of the world around us and play a critical role in helping us respond to the complex challenges that society is faced with today. In October, the Academy hosted a two-day business meeting by the ALLEA Science Education Working Group, chaired by Professor Cliona Murphy, DCU, including a public international symposium examining strategies to tackle barriers to the progression of effective STEM teaching and learning in classrooms.

International representation

Academy representatives were prominent in international science advisory projects and taskforces examining open science (ALLEA – Luke Drury MRIA), research integrity (ALLEA – Dr Maura Hiney, Health Research Board), STEM education (ALLEA – Professor Cliona Murphy, DCU), climate sustainability of the academic system (ALLEA – Professor Diarmuid Tormey, DCU), predatory academic practices (IAP – Diane Negra MRIA) and implementation of the European Research Area (ALLEA – Daniel Carey MRIA).

International appointments

Luke Drury MRIA was appointed to the post of Vice-President at the ALLEA General Assembly, May 2022.

Diane Negra MRIA was appointed to the Board of the Inter Academies Partnership, November 2022.

Higher Education Futures

Since the launch of the Higher Education Futures series of discussion papers in November 2021, the Policy and International Relations department has continued to promote and disseminate the findings and actively engage on higher education policy on the island of Ireland. These endeavours also resulted in the successful collaboration with the John and Pat Hume Foundation. The RIA and the Hume Foundation jointly hosted a conference on the provision of higher education in the north-west of Ireland on 11 October in Derry-Londonderry. The conference brought together several prominent speakers from Ireland and Northern Ireland, industry, academia and civil society. The keynote speakers included John Fitzgerald MRIA, Professor John Goddard OBE and Danny McCoy, Chief Executive Officer, Ibec.

The Higher Education Futures Conference was held in the RIA on 25 November. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Maria Leptin, President, European Research Council (ERC) who discussed ‘the impact of reforming research assessment.’ The conference also received a presentation from Professor Alberto Melloni, of the European Commission’s Chief Scientific Advisors. Themes of this well-attended conference included: national and international changes in research assessment and the research funding landscape; academic freedom and trust in scientific endeavour; climate change, environmental sustainability in academia; and universities as drivers as creativity, innovation and social progress. A private session offered an opportunity for a more in-depth discussion on policy for science developments, between the President of the RIA, ERC President and key stakeholders.



Professor Maria Leptin, President of the European Research Council (ERC), keynote speaker at the Higher Education Futures conference, pictured with Mary Canning PRIA and Gerry McKenna MRIA on 25 November.



‘Exploration and Transformation: The future of higher education in Ireland’ conference speakers gathered in the Academy.

Future Earth Ireland

Following a successful three-year term, the Future Earth Ireland committee has agreed to a one-year extension of their work to allow them to complete some planned projects that were interrupted by pandemic restrictions. The Academy is delighted to have this very productive and engaged group remain part of our activities for the 2022–23 term.

The Chair of Future Earth Ireland, Dr Diarmuid Tormey of Dublin City University, was a member of the ALLEA (All European Academies) working group that published a report in May 2022 entitled *Towards Climate Sustainability of the Academic System in Europe and beyond*.

In September, Future Earth Ireland collaborated with the Irish Film Institute to host a screening of the environmental film *Heart of Oak*. The film screening was followed by a panel discussion of distinguished environmental experts. The screening was sponsored by Dublin City Council.



Library



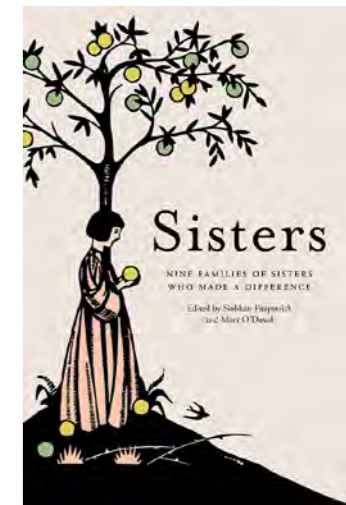
Outreach

Celebrating Sisterhood

The Library continued its celebration of sisterhood through the lunchtime lecture series 'Sisters II', which ran from August until November. The series culminated with a lecture on the Owenson sisters by Claire Connolly MRIA, Professor of Modern English, UCC, which was followed by a launch of the essay collection *Sisters: nine families of sisters who made a difference*, edited by Mary O'Dowd MRIA and Siobhán Fitzpatrick. Featuring the lives and achievements of nine families of sisters who made their mark on Irish life, the collection of essays celebrates the artists, publishers, writers, educationalists, philanthropists, revolutionaries and suffragists who made a difference in their own times.

Visits and Tours

The Library welcomed a number of individuals and groups throughout the year, including students enrolled on the Ritual Chant and Song MA at the University of Limerick and the Diploma in Genealogy at University College Cork; delegates from the Renaissance Society of America and the Society of Swedish Literature in Finland; groups from the National Print Museum, the Loughcrew Megalithic Centre and the Dublinia Viking Museum. Delegates from the 87th IFLA World Library and Information Congress, which took place in Dublin from 26–29 July, also visited the Library.



Broadcaster Miriam O'Callaghan launched *Sisters* with her sisters Kathleen and Margaret. Also pictured are some of the book's contributors: Margaret Ward, Sonja Tiernan, Claire Connolly MRIA and Ann-Maria Walsh with editors Mary O'Dowd MRIA and Siobhán Fitzpatrick.

Exhibitions

Keepers of the Gael

The Library was delighted to continue its collaboration with Galway City Museum in 2022 as part of the *Keepers of the Gael* exhibition, which explored Gaelic culture and society through keepers of the arts—learned families of historians, poets, lawyers, physicians and musicians. From April until September, the Academy’s manuscript 23 Q 6, Ó Duibhdábhoireann’s legal tract, was on display at the Museum.

Madam Dragonfly: Cynthia Longfield, 1896–1991

In September the Library exhibited material relating to the Anglo-Irish ethnologist and explorer Cynthia Longfield, which focused on her voyage to the Pacific Islands on the *St George*, alongside botanists, ethnologists and archaeologists. The exhibition featured the photographs, notebooks and diaries illustrating Longfield’s expedition between 1924–25. A selection of rare entomological works of this collection—covering a period from the mid-seventeenth century to the 1920s—were on display and showed in bright colours her interest in insects from around the world.



‘Madam Dragonfly: Cynthia Longfield, 1896–1991’ exhibition on display in the Library

The life and career of Professor Jan Łukasiewicz

In the autumn an exhibition recounting the life and academic achievements of one of the twentieth century’s leading figures in the field of logic. The exhibition was produced by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and prepared by leading experts in the field—Professor Jacek J. Jadacki (University of Warsaw) and Dr Eoin Kinsella (Dictionary of Irish Biography). Professor Łukasiewicz was formally appointed as professor of mathematical logic at the Academy in September 1946, a position which was created specifically for him and funded by the Irish government as part of a scheme to employ displaced academics after the Second World War. Delivering his first public lecture at the Academy in late 1946 he continued to lecture here for the rest of his life. The exhibition was officially opened by Éamon Ó Cuív T.D. on 11 October in the Royal Irish Academy and will embark on a nationwide tour in 2023.

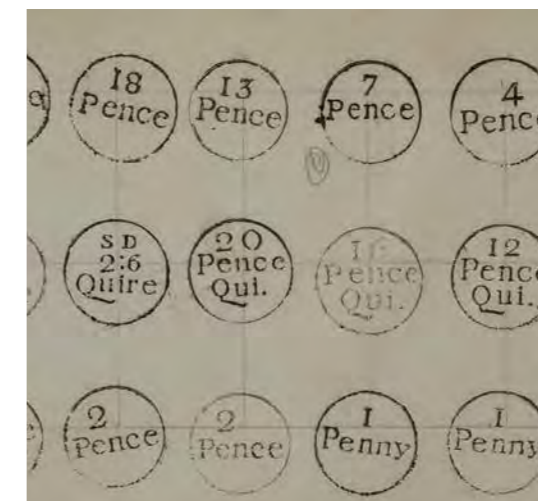


Ambassador Anna Sochańska (l), and Éamon Ó Cuív TD (r) with dancers from ‘Koniczyna’, Polish folk dance group at the exhibition launch.

Television and Radio

Window on the Irish Soul

On 6 December 1922, the anniversary of the Anglo-Irish treaty, the newly independent Irish Post Office issued the first official Irish stamp, the well-known twopenny green Map of Ireland design. British stamps, overprinted in Irish, had been in use since the previous February but the Map of Ireland stamp was the first of a series of new stamps specifically designed to represent Ireland and its culture. During 1923, three other designs appeared, the Sword of Light, Provincial Arms and Celtic Cross and these four stamp designs made up a set of definitive or permanent stamps that endured for nearly fifty years. The 2022–23 centenary of Irish stamps provides an opportunity to consider how these little pieces of paper, intended to indicate payment of postage, have also served over the years to publicise, at home and abroad, the achievements and aspirations of Ireland and its people. Drawing on material held in their collections, the library of the Royal Irish Academy and the An Post Museum and Archive collaborated on the production of a small digital exhibition titled *Window on the Irish Soul – 100 years of Irish stamps*, which can be viewed online: www.centuryofstamps.ie



John Bourke Stamp album (1774)

The popular TG4 series *Molscéal* broadcast an episode in April dedicated to the RIA Library, on which Professor Pádraig Ó Macháin spoke about our extensive Irish language manuscript holdings. One of the manuscripts discussed was MS 23 F 16, a collection of court verse by various poets compiled by the scribe Feargal Dubh Ó Gadhra in the mid-seventeenth century. Previously bound by Bryan Higgins of the City of Dublin in October 1715, the manuscript was rebound in 1986 by Matthew Hatton.

[Link to episode.](#)

The Library also featured in the new season of *Creedon’s atlas of Ireland*, which aired on Sunday, 21 August. The episode featured the *Stowe Missal* (MS D ii 3), a ninth-century devotional text with excerpts from St John’s Gospel, as well as *Lebor na hUidre / The Book of the Dun Cow* (MS 23 E 25) and *Leabhar Breac / The Speckled Book* (MS 23 P 16).

[Link to episode.](#)

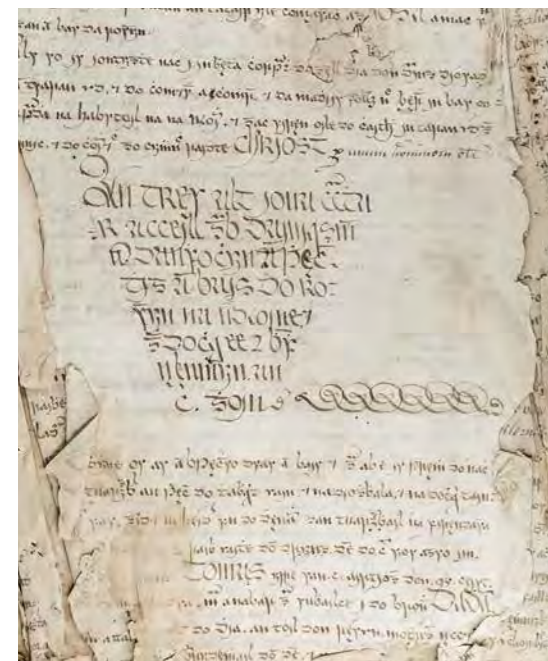


John Creedon filming in the Library for his RTÉ series ‘Creedon’s Atlas of Ireland’.

Collections

Blackrock College Manuscript

The Library acquired an early eighteenth-century manuscript in the Irish language in May. The manuscript, which was kindly donated by Blackrock College, is a composite volume of religious texts and poetry, including *Trí biorghaoithe* an bháis ('The three shafts of death') by the 17th-century author Séathrún Céitinn (Geoffrey Keating), the poem *Abair frium, a Shéadna / sgéala deiridh an bheatha* ('Tell me about the end of the world, Séadna') and a short poem by Aindrias Mac Cruitín(?) [1650–1738]. A scribal note gives the date of writing as 2 July 1707 and the scribe's name as Daniel Tyne, who was also the scribe of Academy manuscript 23 H 28. The Blackrock College Manuscript, as it is now known, represents an important addition to the Academy's Irish language manuscripts and we would like to record our thanks to Dr Jessica Cunningham, Blackrock College Archivist, and Dr Eoghan Mac Cárthaigh, TCD, for facilitating and advising on this donation.



Blackrock College Manuscript.

Digital collections

The Library published *Tionscadal Gréasáin Cheirníní Doegen* (Doegen Records Web Project) on DRI, at the start of this year. This valuable collection of nearly 400 sound recordings was made between 1928 and 1931 as part of a systematic Irish dialect survey. The recordings consist of folktales, songs and prayers, along with items of Irish vocabulary by native Irish speakers from 17 counties in three provinces:

The Darley collection of eighteenth-century drawings features chimney-pieces with different marble and decorative options which would most likely have been working documents shown to potential clients as evidenced by various pencil annotations of scale rules, measurements, names, addresses and prices. The Darleys were an important family of stone-cutters, sculptors, builders and architects who were active across two centuries in Dublin and Co. Down.



White Statuary Chimney-piece (1785) from the Darley Collection of chimneypieces.

Conservation

Several important items were conserved during the year, including an item of Michael Collins memorabilia presented by Eda Sagarra and Clodagh Forshaw in 2011. The bloodstained handkerchief was gifted to Kevin Roantree O'Shiel (1891–1970), who had been Collins's legal adviser on Northern Irish affairs. The handkerchief was accompanied by a letter from Michael's older brother Seán Collins. The Library also coordinated the conservation of an important collection of watercolours by renowned Dutch artist Gabriel Beranger, generously donated by the family of the late Judge Paul Carney in 2021.



Cromlech on the south side of Kiltarnan hill, 2 miles from Killgobbin (Beranger Collection).

View of the Grand Canal, taken between the first bridge and the first lock looking towards Dublin (Beranger Collection).

Collaborations

Inks & Skins project

The ground-breaking IRC-funded Inks & Skins project, led by Pádraig Ó Macháin, Professor of Modern Irish in University College Cork, saw researchers undertake XRF and Raman spectroscopic analysis on several Academy manuscripts in 2022. Dr Fenella France and Prof. Ó Macháin carried out FORS analysis of the Cathach in July and Academy Librarian Barbara McCormack attended the first Inks & Skins seminar in May. www.inksandskins.org

OS200 project

This IRC and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)-funded project is a collaboration between Queen's University Belfast and University of Limerick, which aims to gather historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps and texts to form a single freely accessible online resource for academic and public use. To date the Library has contributed images and metadata for approximately 40 volumes of OS letters containing the correspondence from the OS topographical scholars to their Dublin headquarters as they travelled around the country. Project funding has also enabled the digitisation of approximately 1,600 pen and ink drawings from the OS Memoirs collection.

Beyond 2022

The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland, which is led by Trinity College Dublin, was launched in June. The Treasury now features over 2,000 images of manuscripts from the Academy's collections, including transcripts of documents relevant to the work of the Ordnance Survey's topographical department in the nineteenth century from the OS Extracts and Inquisitions collection, and transcripts of town charters and privileges from patent rolls: www.virtualtreasury.ie

Irish History Online

[Irish History Online](http://IrishHistoryOnline.org) (IHO) is the national bibliography of Irish history. It is part of a European network of national historical bibliographies from fourteen countries. Irish History Online is an ongoing project to provide an authoritative listing of what has been written about Irish history from earliest times to the present. IHO welcomed back volunteers in May after a hiatus of nearly two years and since then, they have been working their way through the backlog of material to be entered into the IHO database.

Senate Casket in Leinster House

We were delighted to see the Senate Casket displayed in Leinster House for a special commemorative sitting of the Seanad Éireann on 12 December, marking its centenary. The Senate Casket was commissioned in 1924 by historian and senator, Alice Stopford Green (1847–1929) as a gift to the first Senate of the Irish Free State. Stopford Green intended that the Casket should hold a vellum roll containing the signature of every member of the first Irish Seanad and that it should be placed on the Chairman's desk in the chamber for the duration of each session. The casket was executed by Miss Mia Cranwill (1880–1972), an artist who specialised in metalwork of the highest quality, and was presented to the Seanad on 26 November 1924. It was later transferred to the Academy in 1936 by a resolution of the Senate.

Funding and Donations

The Academy would like to thank all our funders, supporters and sponsors for their generosity which allows us to nurture our best young academics, to preserve our treasured library resources for current and future researchers, and to present engaging, informative and challenging events and publications that impact public thinking and policy formation.

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Senate Casket (1924)

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Contact Karen Muldowney in confidence:
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