



20

REVIEW

18

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY



## Corporate friends

Thanks to our Corporate Friends Programme which helps the Academy to fulfil its mission to foster and promote excellence in research in the sciences and the humanities.



### **Abbott Laboratories Ireland Limited**

Abbott is a diverse, global healthcare company which creates and distributes products that address the full range of healthcare needs – from disease prevention and diagnosis to treatment and cure. With nearly 70,000 employees worldwide and global sales of approximately \$22 billion in 2014, Abbott serves people in more than 150 countries. The company is headquartered in the United States, in north suburban Chicago, Illinois. In Ireland, Abbott employs almost 3,000 people across 11 sites and serves the Irish market with a diverse range of health care products including diagnostics, medical devices and nutritionals. Abbott has been operating in Ireland since 1946.



### **Intel**

Intel in Ireland has come to represent a diversity of activities across the spectrum of Intel business, from advanced manufacturing to cutting edge research and design. The core of advanced manufacturing capability, which Intel has developed in Ireland, is a key enabler for numerous research and development initiatives that are carried out across the country. A dedicated team is involved in Silicon Nanoelectronics Research and collaborates extensively with research institutes such as the CRANN Nanoscience Research Centre in Trinity College Dublin and the Tyndall National Research Institute in Cork, as well as other universities and companies from across Ireland and Europe.



### **Xilinx**

Xilinx is the inventor of the FPGA, programmable SoCs, and now, the ACAP. Their highly flexible programmable silicon, enabled by a suite of advanced software and tools, drives rapid innovation across a wide span of industries and technologies - from consumer to cars to the cloud. Xilinx delivers the most dynamic processing technology in the industry, enabling rapid innovation with its adaptable, intelligent computing. Xilinx has a history of developing programmes for its employees and surrounding communities that provide a social impact through outreach, volunteerism, teambuilding and philanthropy. Areas of focus include education, health, arts and social services.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

.....

# Centenary Commemorations

Conferences; poem; video; newspaper supplements; discourses; book; exhibitions

**70 million** words added to the digital  
Corpus of historical Irish

**Inaugural** RIA Michel Déon Prize  
for non-fiction awarded

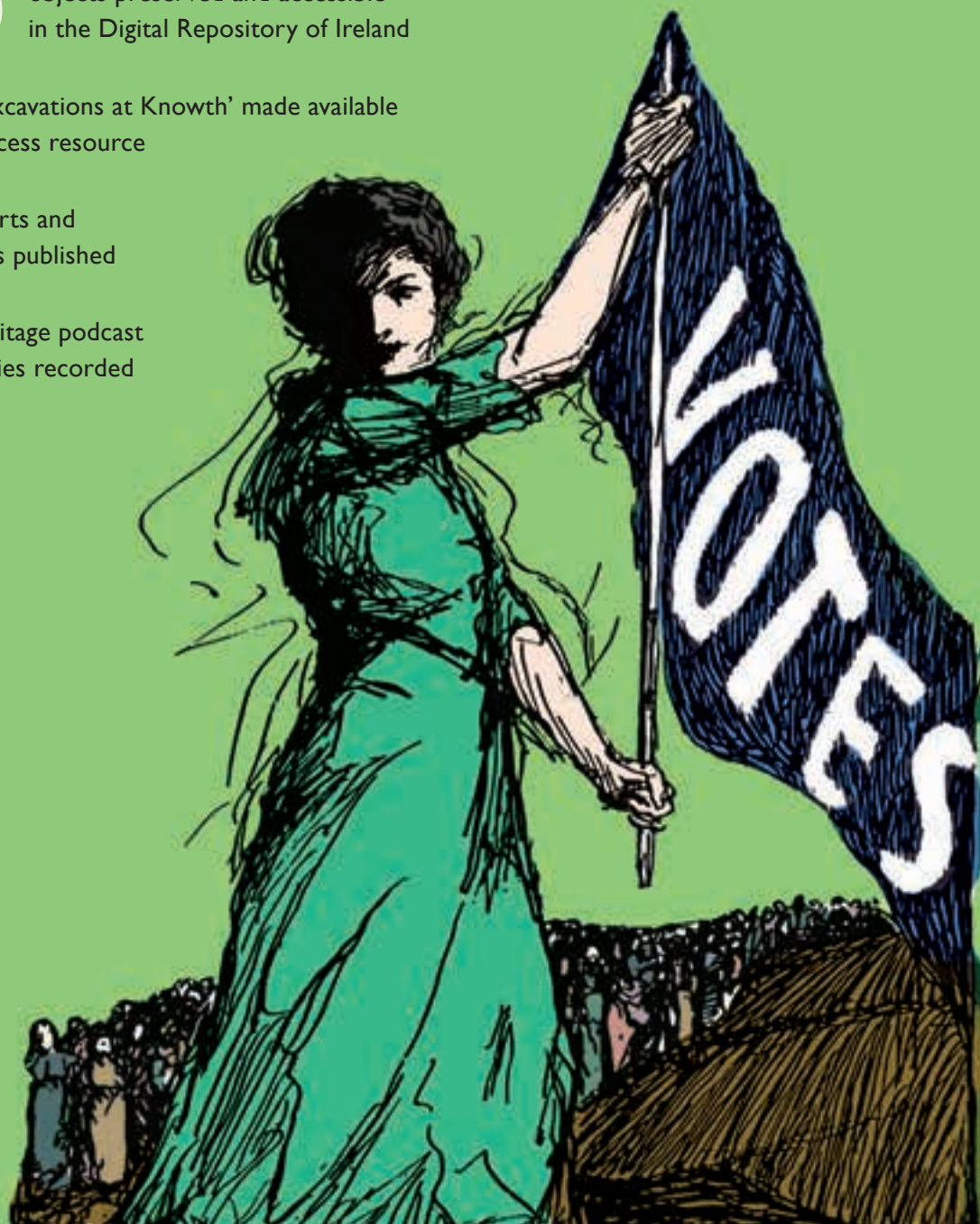
**10,500** lives online in the  
Dictionary of Irish Biography

**25,000** objects preserved and accessible  
in the Digital Repository of Ireland

**6** volumes of 'Excavations at Knowth' made available  
as an open access resource

**11** policy reports and  
submissions published

**New** heritage podcast  
series recorded



## **Peter Kennedy, President**

Across the developed world, academies are self-governing communities of leaders of scholarly enquiry. Independent from political, commercial and ideological interests, they are uniquely placed to provide access to an unparalleled resource of intellectual excellence, experience and expertise. The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) is proud to be Ireland's leading body of experts in the sciences and humanities and to play our unique role both on the island of Ireland and internationally.

2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the parliamentary vote for women in Ireland. During the second half of the year, the RIA Library staged a fascinating exhibition and lecture series entitled 'Prodigies of learning: Academy women in the nineteenth century'. The exhibition celebrated the important contributions made by Princess Yekaterina Dashkova, Mary Somerville, Caroline Herschel, Margaret Stokes and Maria Edgeworth, all of whom were made Honorary Members of the RIA in

recognition of their scholarly achievements in their respective fields. Miss Edgeworth, who was born in 1768, communicated with the then President, Sir William Rowan Hamilton, on the matter of admitting women to the Academy. Over a hundred years passed before the Academy finally elected women to full membership in March 1949.

In 2018, the Academy made significant progress in improving the diversity of expertise both in its membership and governing Council. Informed by research in political science, the voting regulations have been updated in recent years to promote representation from a larger number of institutions and academic disciplines. At the Stated General Meeting in March, the members of the Academy made history by electing a new Council of which half the members are female, half are male, and 40% come from five institutions outside Dublin.

The Academy reached a number of significant publication milestones during the year. We marked the 50th anniversary of the discovery of the passage tomb at Knowth by publishing free online the six volumes in the 'Excavations at Knowth' series. These have been made available through the Digital Repository of Ireland, our national digital repository for Ireland's humanities,

social sciences and cultural heritage data. We also launched volume XI in the 'Documents on Irish Foreign Policy' (DIFP) series. DIFP is a fine example of how the Academy works symbiotically with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the National Archives of Ireland to document the historical record in a way that none of the three bodies could do alone.

Such a collaborative and convening role is also central to our policy activities. We are committed to stimulating open, informed debate and providing high-quality, objective, evidence-based inputs for decision-makers both nationally and internationally. We do this by bringing stakeholders together and listening to an inclusive range of voices and opinions, each of which is characterised by extensive experience and excellence in their field. For example, in June, we hosted a forum on research infrastructures that included universities, institutes of technology, funding bodies and other stakeholders, and we subsequently prepared a submission to government entitled 'Research infrastructures in Ireland:

strengthening foundations, building for the future'. At the European level, the Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA) project is an initiative for academies across the EU to provide expert advice to inform policy-making in the Commission. The Academy contributed to the first evidence review report on 'Food from the Oceans', which addresses the question 'how can more food and biomass be obtained from the oceans in a way that does not deprive future generations of their benefits?'. The key messages of the European report were shared with an Irish audience of policy-makers via a breakfast briefing.

While celebrating the many great achievements of the year, we continue to recognise that we face challenging financial times. The Academy's core funding from the Higher Education Authority is insufficient to cover our annual operating costs. Unlike universities, which can supplement their state grant through student income, the Academy has no such funding stream. This has meant that we have had to diversify our sources of income in recent years through

The Executive Committee of the Royal Irish Academy (l to r) Pat Shannon, MRIA; Peter McHugh, MRIA; Lesley Goulding; Mary O'Dowd, MRIA; Hugh Shiels; Mary Canning, MRIA; Peter Kennedy, PRIA; Stephen Gardiner, MRIA and Pat Guiry, MRIA.



room rentals, publishing, a Corporate Friends programme and sponsorship of our Discourse series. Interestingly, these initiatives have brought many benefits to the Academy: a greater number of people using our facilities and reading our published work, increased awareness of our important role as a neutral forum for debate, and opportunities to attract high-profile speakers and make new friends.

Nobel laureate in Chemistry Professor Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, President of the Royal Society, presented a fascinating discourse on antibiotics and cell biology in June, while Fields Medallist Martin Hairer delivered the 2018 Hamilton Lecture, which explored probability in the context of 'coin tosses, atoms and forest fires' in October. We entered a new partnership with DFAT and the Académie française to establish the inaugural Michel Déon prize for the best work of non-fiction by a writer living in Ireland. In December we hosted a vibrant panel discussion in the Discourse series featuring Ireland's four former female Tánaistí. We rounded out the year with the publication of Eavan Boland's poem 'Our future will become the past of other women' in seven languages.

We have also faced some difficulties during 2018. Member of Council Tom Brazil died suddenly in April. Tom was a brilliant and selfless academic whose contributions to the development and implementation of our strategic plan have shaped the Academy for the better in recent years. We remember him as we develop our new strategic plan for 2019–23. A three-year secondment of our Executive Secretary, Laura Mahoney, to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform has meant that the Officers have had to increase their involvement in the day-to-day management of the Academy. Accidental damage to the premises in August and the resulting disruption to our business have also been concerns.

I want to acknowledge the extraordinary dedication shown by the Senior Vice-President Mary Canning, Secretary Pat Shannon, Treasurer Stephen Gardiner and acting Executive Secretary Lesley Goulding during this challenging period. We have been supported by the fine members of staff of the Academy, as well as members and other volunteers who work so hard every day for the good of this great institution.



PETER KENNEDY, PRIA

A YEAR IN VIEW  
.....



Geraldine Byrne Nason, MRIA with Eavan Boland, Hon. MRIA at the UN in New York in December 2018 before the first public reading of a specially commissioned poem 'Our future will become the past of other women'.



Martin Hairer, 2014 Fields Medallist, who delivered the 2018 Hamilton Day lecture and masterclass.



Women in Leadership masterclass with Frances Ruane, MRIA – (l to r) Niamh O’Gorman (Accenture), Rebecca Gilmore (Accenture), Elizabeth Daly (IBM), Michelle Cullen (Accenture), Sandra Collins (NLI), Frances Ruane, MRIA, Tania Banotti (Creative Ireland), Nicki O’Connor (HEA), Claire O’Connell (Moderator), Marah Curtin (Davy). Sponsored by Accenture.





The 'Women in government' discourse was held in December. (l to r) Joan Burton, TD, Mary Harney, Frances Fitzgerald, TD and Mary Coughlan.



Brandán Mac Suibhne winner of the inaugural Royal Irish Academy Michel Déon Prize for non-fiction for his book *The end of outrage: post-famine adjustment in rural Ireland*.



Samantha Power, United States Ambassador to the United Nations (2013–2017) with DIFP's Michael Kennedy during the filming of 'Who Do You Think You Are?', April 2018.

The 'Women on Walls' portraits by Vera Klute and Blaise Smith which hang in Academy House were on exhibition at the UN in New York in March 2018. The exhibition, supported by Accenture, was hosted by Geraldine Byrne Nason, MRIA, Ireland's Ambassador to the UN and chair of the 62nd session of the Commission on the Status of Women.





Professor Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, Nobel Laureate and President of the Royal Society after his discourse in June 2018 with John Pethica, MRIA. Stakeholders brainstorming on rural economic development at the first workshop of the Rural Conversations Series, held in NUI Galway in November 2018.





Above: (l to r) Ed Mulhall, journalist in conversation with Cody Keenan, Washington Irish Programme writer in residence and former speech writer for President Barack Obama during his masterclass in August 2018 at Academy House.



US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards, May 2018. HEI Award winner, Connect Centre for Future Networks (l to r) Miroslaw Narbutt, TU Dublin (formerly DIT); Andrew Hines, UCD and SFI CONNECT; and Jan Skoglund, Google. Photo credit American Chamber of Commerce/Julien Behal.



(l to r) Eavan Boland, Hon. MRIA; Eleanor Maguire, Hon. MRIA; Martin Mansergh, MRIA and France Córdova, Hon. MRIA, at Admittance Day May 2018.



Jo da Silva, winner of The Institution of Structural Engineers' 2017 Gold Medal delivering her lecture 'Design, Disasters and Development' in January 2018 for a joint Royal Irish Academy/ARUP event in Dublin.



Catherine Day, MRIA, Former Secretary General, European Commission with Noel Dorr, MRIA, who was the respondent for her January 2018 discourse 'Will the post Brexit EU be different?'



In May 2018 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Royal Irish Academy jointly organised a lecture by Lord John Krebs on the topic of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of inevitable climate change.



Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, TD and Alvin Jackson, Hon. MRIA, author of *Judging Redmond & Carson* on the steps of Academy House, March 2018.

Below: Michael Cronin, MRIA, (TCD); Professor Nicholas Boyle (FBA); Anne Fuchs, MRIA, (UCD, Chair of the IHA); Professor Noel Fitzpatrick, (DIT, outgoing chair of the IHA) and Dr Mel Farrell (Director, IHA) pictured after the Irish Humanities Alliance, 'Beyond Markets' event in May 2018.







NEW MEMBERS  
.....

## **Fran Brearton**

is Professor of Modern Poetry at Queen's University Belfast. Her publications, including *The Great War in Irish poetry* and *Reading Michael Longley*, have established her as a figure of major influence in the world of modern Irish poetry, an influence reflected in her work with the QUB Seamus Heaney Centre for Poetry (including as Director) and the Heaney Legacy Centre.



## **Stephen Buckley**

is Professor of Mathematics at Maynooth University and currently President of the Irish Mathematical Society. He is an international leader in both harmonic and geometric analysis. He has also published papers in algebra. His contributions to mathematics within Ireland include participation in enrichment activities for gifted young people preparing for the International Mathematical Olympiad and the design of advanced courses through the medium of Irish.



## **Pádraig Carmody**

is an Associate Professor and Head of Geography at Trinity College Dublin. He has published extensively on African development and has received, or been the lead on, successful grants from various agencies, such as the MacArthur Foundation. He is former editor-in-chief of *Geoforum* and received the 2018 Kwadwo Konadu-Agyemang Distinguished Scholar Award in African Geography, Africa Specialty Group, Association of American Geographers.



## **Claire Connolly**

is Professor of Modern English in University College Cork. She has written groundbreaking studies of Irish Romantic literature, including her award-winning *Cultural history of the Irish novel, 1790–1829*, and she has made an outstanding contribution to the development of Irish studies internationally. She has been appointed the Parnell Fellow in Irish Studies at Cambridge University for 2018–19.



## **Paul Giller**

is a zoologist and ecologist specialising in community ecology, freshwater biology and biodiversity and ecosystem functioning in freshwater and terrestrial habitats, and the author of 140 peer-reviewed publications and seven books. He has taught and researched in University College, Cork for over 35 years, including 15 years in senior management, and has taught or researched in the UK, USA, Sweden, South Africa and France. He has served his subject at the highest level and has made significant contributions both nationally and internationally.



## **John Martin Gregg**

is Professor of Condensed Matter Physics and Materials Science at Queen's University Belfast. His research concentrates on understanding the properties of nanoscale ferroelectrics and ferroic domain walls. He has written editorial articles on the subject for both *Nature* and *Science* magazines and received the International Award of Ferroelectrics and their Applications (formerly the Ikeda Prize) from Japan for his work in this field.



## **Áine Hyland**

is former Vice-President and Professor Emerita of Education at University College Cork. She is a leading authority on educational history and policy and has published widely in these areas. She is also, or has previously been, a member of a number of other public policy fora including the Constitution Review Group, Tusla, the Barristers' Professional Conduct Tribunal and the Press Council of Ireland.



## **Balz Kamber**

holds the Chair of Geology and Mineralogy at Trinity College Dublin. He is an internationally renowned geochemist. His research interests are wide, ranging from reconstruction of the geology of the very early Earth to present day geological processes, from fundamental questions to applied problems of societal relevance, and from the development of new and enhanced analytical methods to modelling.



## **Gerry Kearns**

is Professor of Human Geography at Maynooth University. His research focuses on the intersection of historical, political and medical themes, especially relating to Ireland and Irish identities. His book, *Geopolitics and empire*, won the Murchison Award from the Royal Geographical Society for a significant contribution to geographical scholarship and he was noted as a Distinguished Historical Geographer by the Association of American Geographers.



## **Boris Kholodenko**

is Stokes Professor of Systems Biology and Deputy Director of Systems Biology Ireland at University College Dublin. He is studying the function of signal transduction networks in cancer, an area he has pioneered over the last two decades. Boris has developed groundbreaking methods for the reconstruction, mathematical modelling and dynamic, predictive analysis of these networks, whose malfunction is at the heart of cancer.



## **Claudia Kinmonth**

is an independent scholar. After studies in furniture and Design History at the Royal College of Art/Victoria and Albert Museum, she completed a Ph.D on Irish vernacular furniture. She is guest curator of exhibitions in the Crawford Gallery, Cork and the McMullen Museum of Art, Boston. Her books *Irish country furniture 1700–1950* (1993) and *Irish rural interiors in art* (2006) are considered seminal works.



## **Alan Kramer**

is Professor of European History at Trinity College Dublin. He is internationally known for his research on the First World War and the cultural history of violence. He is a general editor of the website '1914–1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War' and is currently working on an international project on fascist warfare and a monograph on the global history of concentration camps. Professor Kramer is a recipient of the internationally prestigious Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History, a fellow of the Humboldt Foundation and winner of the Research Prize of the Humboldt Foundation, 2015–16.



## **Patrick Lonergan**

is one of Ireland's foremost theatre scholars. He is author or editor of seven books, including the widely-used *Methuen book of modern Irish drama*; his *Theatre and globalisation* was winner of the Theatre Book Prize in 2008. As academic director of the Abbey Theatre digitisation project, he has made possible a new era in Irish theatre scholarship.



## **Martin Mansergh**

has had a distinguished career as a public servant and government minister. He played a crucial role in the Northern Ireland peace process. He has written and commented widely on modern Irish history and he is Vice Chair of the government's Expert Advisory Group on the Decade of Centenaries.



## **Christopher McCrudden**

is Professor of Human Rights and Equality Law at Queen's University Belfast. He is internationally renowned for his work on human rights and constitutional change, religious norms and human dignity. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and the recipient of the American Society of International Law's prize for outstanding legal scholarship.



## **Gerardine Meaney**

is Professor of Cultural Theory in the University College Dublin School of English, Drama, Film and Creative Writing, and Director of the UCD Centre for Cultural Analytics. Her work, focusing on Irish literature of the past 150 years, has concerned itself with the dynamics of cultural change, gender, nationality and ethnicity, and is notable for its ground-breaking nature, its use of digital tools and its interdisciplinarity.



## **Andy Meharg**

is Chair of Plant and Soil Science at Queen's University Belfast. He is a world leading biogeochemist whose research focuses on how pollutants transfer through environmental media into agronomic, human and wildlife food-chains by combining analytical chemical, ecological, genetics and (eco) toxicology approaches. Notably, he has set the international agenda regarding the dietary exposure of humans to the carcinogen, arsenic.

## **Grace Mulcahy**

is Professor of Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology at University College Dublin School of Veterinary Medicine. She is a leading figure nationally and internationally. Her research, which is funded by SFI (two successive PI grants) and the EU (three Framework Programme grants), focuses on understanding of helminth host-parasite interactions, using ruminant infections with liver fluke as a model system. Grace served as Dean of Veterinary Medicine from January 2007 to August 2016.

## **Fergal O'Brien**

is Chair of Bioengineering and Regenerative Medicine in the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and is Deputy Director of the AMBER Centre. He is a leading innovator in advanced biomaterials for tissue repair; has published about 200 articles in leading journals and trained over 40 PhD students. He is a recipient of numerous prestigious awards including most recently a €3 million Advanced Grant from the European Research Council.

## **Philip Orr**

is an independent scholar, playwright and public intellectual who brings the fruits of research into the public square to advance peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland. The author of major monographs on the First World War and a former teacher of English, he now uses drama as the vehicle for stimulating public discussion about the role of history in the making of identity.



## **Alan Stitt**

is the first McCauley Chair of Experimental Ophthalmology at Queen's University Belfast. He is internationally recognised for his translationally-orientated research in diabetic retinopathy, retinal angiogenesis and vascular remodelling. His team have identified several key pathogenic mechanisms, targets for drug development and the potential for stem cell therapy for a range of sight-threatening retinal vascular diseases. He holds a Royal Society Wolfson Merit Award.



## **Gregory Toner**

is Professor of Irish at Queen's University Belfast. He has published widely on many aspects of Early Irish literature and on Irish onomastics. He is editor of the electronic version of the Royal Irish Academy's Dictionary of the Irish Language (eDIL) and has produced a supplement for an extended and revised version. He is honorary editor of the Irish Texts Society.



## **Koen Verbruggen**

worked in the resource industry in Ireland, Canada, Australia and Africa. He was appointed Director of the Geological Survey of Ireland in 2013. In 2015–16 he served as President of EuroGeoSurveys. He managed INFOMAR, one of the largest civilian seabed mapping projects in the world, and the Tellus national programme. He fostered close collaboration with the Geological Survey of Northern Ireland. He has striven to highlight the quality of Irish geoscience at national and international level.



## **Graeme Watson**

is Professor of Theoretical Chemistry at Trinity College Dublin and a member of CRANN, the TCD Institute for Materials Science. He is internationally recognised for developing and applying computational models to material science problems including energy generation and storage (such as photovoltaics and fuel cells) and environmental catalysis.



## New Honorary Members



**Eavan Boland** is one of Ireland's finest poets. From her first collection, *New territory* (1967), she has written some of the most memorable and significant poetry of our time, in works including *Night feed* (1982) and *In a time of violence* (1994). She is currently a Professor of Humanities and Director of the Creative Writing Programme at Stanford University, where she has taught since 1996. She is also the author of books on the art of poetry (notably *Object lessons*, 1995) and a public intellectual.



**France A. Córdoba** is an astrophysicist, the 14th director of the National Science Foundation, President Emerita of Purdue University, and Chancellor Emerita of the University of California, Riverside, where she was a distinguished Professor of Physics and Astronomy. Córdoba's scientific contributions have been in the areas of observational and experimental astrophysics, multi-spectral research on x-ray and gamma ray sources and space-borne instrumentation.



**Eleanor Maguire** is Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College, London. She is one of Ireland's pre-eminent scientists, with a stellar reputation for her work on the brain structures supporting memory, spatial navigation and mental time travel. She has won many awards for her work including the Royal Society Rosalind Franklin Award. She has been elected FMedSci and is a Fellow of the Royal Society.



**Thomas O'Loughlin** is Professor of Historical Theology at the University of Nottingham. He is an authority on the origins and evolution of the liturgy and theology of the early Christian Church, as well as being a leading scholar in the field of Early Insular Christian history. He has published landmark books on Gildas, the most important early Welsh Christian writer, and on Adomnán, the most important Irish Church figure of the seventh century.



## Bereavements

**Brazil, Thomas Joseph** BE, PhD.  
Professor of Electronic Engineering, UCD  
On Council and in Office: 2007–09; Sec  
2009–13; 2016–18. Elected: 2005  
Died: 13 April 2018

**Cavalli-Sforza, Luigi Luca** MD(Pavia  
1944), MA(Cantab 1950), DSc(hc Columbia,  
Cantab, Calabria, Bolgna, Cagliari, Rome).  
Emeritus Professor of Genetics, University  
of Stanford. Elected: 2007  
Died: 31 August 2018. Honorary member

**Colleran, Emer** BSc, PhD, LLD(hc).  
Professor of Microbiology, NUIG.  
Elected: 2003. Died: 30 June 2018

**Cromien, Seán Patrick** BA(NUI 1950).  
Retired Secretary General Department of  
Finance. Elected: 2006  
Died: 6 August 2018

**Meehan, Elizabeth Marian** BA(Sussex  
1976), DPhil(Oxon). Emerita Professor  
of Law and Former Director, Institute  
of Governance QUB. On Council and in  
Office: VP 2003–04, 2004–07, 2014–15, VP  
2015–17, 2017–18. Elected: 2002  
Died: 6 January 2018

**Metnieks, Arvids Leons** PhD(Dubl).  
Former Research Associate, School of  
Cosmic Physics, DIAS. Elected: 1962  
Died: 17 May 2017

**Moore, John J** DSc(NUI). Lecturer in  
Theology. Former Professor of Botany  
UCD. On Council: 1972–73. Elected: 1967  
Died: 20 September 2018

**O’Sullivan, William Ivo** BSc, MSc,  
PhD(NUI). Retired Senior Lecturer in  
Chemistry UCD. Elected: 1974  
Died: 26 February 2018

**Ryan, William James Loudon** MA, PhD,  
DEconSc(NUI), DSc(Ulster). FTCD. Former  
Governor Bank of Ireland. Elected: 1986  
Died: 19 November 2018

**Scott, Alexander Brian** BA, DPhil(Oxon).  
Emeritus Professor of Latin, QUB  
Elected: 1980. Died: 16 November 2018

**Simms, David John** MA(Dubl),  
PhD(Cantab). FTCD. Emeritus Professor  
of Mathematics, TCD. On Council and in  
Office: 1981–83, VP 1983–84, 1984–85,  
1986–87, VP 1987–88, 1988–90, 1994–95, VP  
1995–96, 1996–98. Elected: 1978  
Died: 24 June 2018

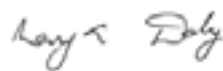
**Sutherland, Peter Denis** PhD(hc, from  
fifteen universities). Chairman (London  
School of Economics and Goldman Sachs  
International), Former Attorney General  
of Ireland, EC Commissioner, Chairman of  
Allied Irish Bank and BP plc and Director-  
General of GATT, WTO. Elected: 2002  
Died: 7 January 2018

## The 13th Executive Secretary

In August 2018 the Academy said goodbye, or perhaps *au revoir*, to our Executive Secretary, Laura Mahoney, who took up a new role in the Department of Expenditure and Public Reform. Laura had been in the Academy for almost all of her working life. A graduate of Sussex University, she came to UCD to take a master's degree in Politics. She joined the RIA in 1999, and over the past nineteen years, she has played a central role in shaping today's Academy. One of her first assignments was to support the first strategic plan. In that role she worked with RIA President David Spearman, and three future Presidents Michael Ryan, Jim Slevin and myself. It was a perfect initiation for a future Executive Secretary. She was also responsible for co-ordinating the Academy's successful funding applications for PRTL 4 and 5, and has worked tirelessly to secure the sustain-

ability of the Digital Repository of Ireland. In 2009 she became Head of the Academy's administration. She took on the role of acting Executive Secretary in 2010; that position was finally made permanent in 2013.

Laura has been at the heart of the Academy for almost twenty years. A majority of the current MRIsAs have been elected during that time. She has played a major role in making the Academy more widely known throughout Ireland, and building closer links with fellow academies. The RIA/AmCham Innovation Awards, Women on Walls and similar outreach projects owe much to her vision, and her capacity to promote the Academy's interests with a quiet charm. These attributes will serve her well in her new role. We wish Laura every success and hope that she finds time to revisit Academy House.



MARY E. DALY, MRIA



Mary E. Daly, MRIA, with Laura Mahoney, Executive Secretary (2010–18).

WE ENGAGE  
.....

## Centenary of female suffrage

'Our future will become the past of other women' by Eavan Boland Hon. MRIA was commissioned by the Irish government and the Royal Irish Academy to commemorate the centenary of female suffrage. The poem was read at the UN on 5 December and published in Irish and the six official languages of the UN as a limited-edition book illustrated by Paula McGloin.



*The Irish Times* produced a dedicated 'Vote 100' website which featured the poem in all 7 languages accompanied by the illustrations and biographies of the women mentioned in the poem from our *Dictionary of Irish Biography*.

A specially commissioned video piece was produced by Ken Wardrop to commemorate the poem using archive footage and narration by actor Fiona Shaw. This was sponsored by the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht and Allianz.

*The Irish Times* collaborated with the Royal Irish Academy to publish a special supplement for 'Vote 100' to mark the centenary of female suffrage. This was sent to every school in the country with the support of the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government.

Below: Eavan Boland, Hon. MRIA, with Paula McGloin, illustrator and Aifric Mac Aodha, translator of the poem into Irish.





Panel discussion for 'Representation, gender and politics: past and present' Suffrage Conference (l to r) Senator Ivana Bacik; Senator Gabrielle McFadden; Senator Alice Mary Higgins; chair Jane Suiter, Dublin City University; Clare Daly, TD; Louise O'Reilly, TD; Fiona O'Loughlin, TD.

## **Representation, gender and politics: past and present Suffrage Conference**

2018 marked 100 years since the commencement of the Representation of the People Act 1918 and the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act 1918, which allowed women to stand for and vote in general elections for the first time.

This conference, produced in partnership with the Houses of the Oireachtas, was a critical exploration of the history whilst also celebrating the lives and experiences of women in Irish politics, past and present. It drew together academics and politicians in a reflection on the female suffrage movement, women's activism, and politics and gender in Ireland today. Panellists included Maria Luddy, Mari Takayanagi, Margaret Ward, Senia Pašeta, Diane Urquhart, Sonja Tiernan, Senator Ivana Bacik, Fiona O'Loughlin, TD, Senator Alice Mary Higgins, Clare Daly, TD, Louise O'Reilly, TD, Senator Gabrielle McFadden, Yvonne Galligan, Fiona Buckley, Gail McElroy and Sarah Childs.



## **REPRESENTATION, GENDER AND POLITICS: PAST AND PRESENT**

Reflecting on the centenary of the Representation of the People Act (1918)

**1 FEBRUARY 2018**

Royal Irish Academy, 19 Dawson St, Dublin 2



'Women in government: four former Tánaistí in conversation' was held in December to mark the centenary of the 1918 parliamentary elections. (l to r) David McCullagh, RTÉ; Mary Harney; Mary Coughlan; Joan Burton, TD and Frances Fitzgerald, TD.

## Discourses

The Academy's Discourse lecture series is the oldest and most prestigious series of talks in Ireland. The 2018 Discourse series was sponsored by Mason Hayes and Curran. Videos are available at [ria.ie](http://ria.ie)

10 January 2018

### 'Will the post Brexit EU be different?'

Catherine Day, MRIA, Former Secretary General, European Commission

6 March 2018

### 'Redmond and Carson: bloodshed, borders and beyond'

Alvin Jackson, Hon. MRIA, Sir Richard Lodge Professor of History, Edinburgh University

18 June 2018

### 'Antibiotics and the cell's protein factory'

Professor Sir Venki Ramakrishnan, Nobel Laureate and President of the Royal Society

25 September 2018

### 'Recent insights into how the Earth works: embracing uncertainty'

Professor Chris Bean, School of Cosmic Physics, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies

7 November 2018

### 'Securing connected devices: an arms race'

Máire O'Neill, MRIA, FIAE, Research Director, Centre for Secure Information Technologies, Queen's University Belfast.

12 December 2018

### 'Women in government: four former Tánaistí in conversation'

Joan Burton, TD, Mary Harney, Mary Coughlan and Frances Fitzgerald, TD with David McCullagh, RTÉ.

MASON  
HAYES &  
CURRAN



Professor Chris Bean, School of Cosmic Physics, Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies

## **Masterclass Series**

The Academy's masterclass series has been running since 2012 and is an opportunity for early career researchers to informally meet and engage with leaders in their field. The series has been successful in motivating researchers and giving them an opportunity to forge relationships and networks with their peers from other institutions.

10 January 2018

### **Catherine Day, MRIA**

Former Secretary-General of the European Commission and current Chair, Governing Body of University College Cork

7 March 2018

### **Alvin Jackson, Hon. MRIA**

Sir Richard Lodge Professor of History at the University of Edinburgh

19 April 2018

### **Dr David Birkett**

Henkel Ireland Operations and Research Ltd

18 June 2018

### **Professor Sir Venkatraman 'Venki' Ramakrishnan**

Group Leader of the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology (LMB) in Cambridge and President of the Royal Society

25 September 2018

### **Professor Chris Bean**

School of Cosmic Physics, DIAS

16 October 2018

### **Professor Martin Hairer**

Imperial College London and Hamilton Speaker 2018

7 November 2018

### **Máire O'Neill, MRIA, FIAE**

Research Director, Centre for Secure Information Technologies, Queen's University Belfast



The fifth women in leadership masterclass was led by Zahra Bahrololoumi, Senior Managing Director, Technology UK + Ireland, Accenture

## **Women leaders inspiring next generation**

The 'Women in Leadership' masterclass series began in 2018, in association with Accenture. Building on the 'Women on Walls' initiative, the series successfully brought together outstanding women leaders to share their experiences with and inspire Ireland's next generation of female leaders. The masterclass series speakers in 2018 were: Frances Ruane, MRIA; Dr Ena Prosser, Fountain Healthcare Partners; Mary Kelly, MRIA; Dr Orleigh Quinn, Secretary-General of the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation; and Zahra Bahrololoumi, Senior Managing Director, Technology for the UK and Ireland, Accenture. The series will run again in 2019 with another sixty participants.

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

Anonymous participant who attended Orleigh Quinn masterclass.







## **Hamilton Day 2018**

On 16 October 2018 the Royal Irish Academy celebrated the 175th anniversary of Sir William Rowan Hamilton's discovery of quaternion algebra. The guest speaker was 2014 Fields Medallist Martin Hairer (pictured, left), Imperial College London, a leading scientist in the field of probability theory. Hamilton Day is supported by ARUP and *The Irish Times*.

# ARUP

## **'How secular should the state be?'**

On 21 March 2018, Cécile Laborde FBA (pictured, left), Oxford University, spoke about the appropriate status of religion in a liberal state. She argued that disaggregating religion into its various dimensions modifies the contrast between religious and non-religious beliefs, practices and identities, and supports a 'minimal secularism' that shows more respect for ethical and political pluralism than other approaches entail.

This event was supported by UCD's School of Politics and International Relations and the UCD Newman Centre.



## **The Road to the Good Friday Agreement**

In March 2018 a conference in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade was held to recognise the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. Its focus was on the

role of Irish officials who had worked on the Northern Ireland peace process.

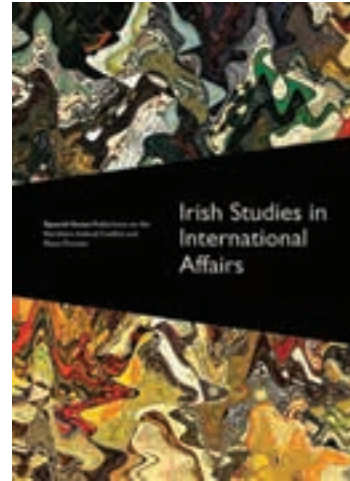
The conference sought an open dialogue and exchange in order to gain fresh insights into the relationships, trust and values integral to the peace process.

Panellists (back l to r): Richard Ryan, Daithí Ó Ceallaigh, Paddy Teahon, Tim Dalton, Martin Mansergh MRIA, Barbara Jones, Ted Smyth, Tim O'Connor, David Donoghue, Michael Lillis, Margaret O'Callaghan (front l to r) Sean Donlon, Mary E. Daly, MRIA, Noel Dorr, MRIA, Sean O hUiginn.



## **Special issue of Irish Studies in International Affairs**

To mark the 20th anniversary of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement a special issue of *Irish Studies in International Affairs* was produced and is available as a free download from [ria.ie](http://ria.ie). The volume gathers together ten articles published in the journal between 1994 and 2018.



## **Dáil Éireann: the first 100 years**

The second conference in our centenary commemorations was held on 11 December 2018. Leading academics contributed to a series of panel discussions on the origins, consolidation and evolution of Dáil Éireann, while the media discussed the public perceptions of the Dáil today. This event was organised in partnership with the Houses of the Oireachtas as the first in their series of events marking the beginnings of Dáil Éireann. More information at [dail100.ie](http://dail100.ie)

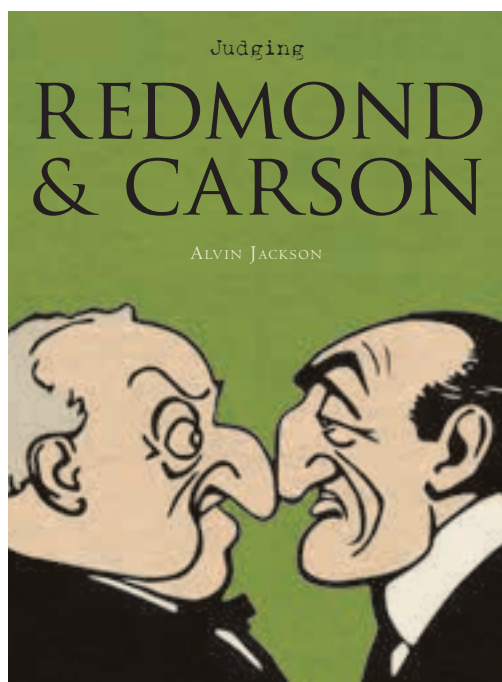
## **Judging Redmond and Carson**

Professor Alvin Jackson, Hon. MRIA has written the first dual and comparative biography of John Redmond and Edward Carson, who remain two of the biggest names in modern Irish history.

The Irish launch of *Judging Redmond & Carson* followed on from a symposium on the Irish Parliamentary Party marking the centenary of John Redmond's death. Speaking at the launch an Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, TD, said the book represented a 'more nuanced and mature approach to the conflicts that

Aine Lawlor, RTÉ, Chair with Frances Fitzgerald, TD at Dáil Éireann: The first 100 years.





shaped the Irish state and the state of Northern Ireland as each approach their centenary. I think it is time to approach the past with empathy and a spirit of generosity and respect for the context in which decisions were made and not how we would have preferred things to have happened,' he said. 'I think if we approach the past with respect, tolerance and understanding we can approach our challenges in the present in the very same way too.'

The symposium was the official State commemoration for Redmond's death and was organised by the National University of Ireland (NUI); the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; the Royal Irish Academy and the School of History in UCD.

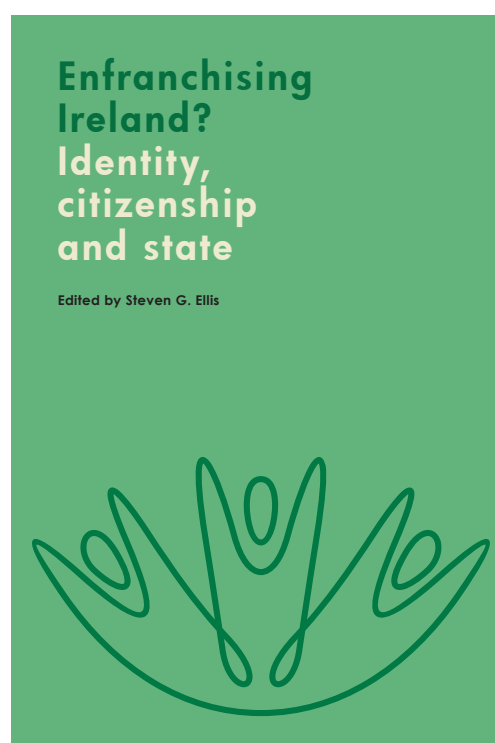
Alvin Jackson gave talks during 2018 in the UK, the US and Ireland. In 2019, the focus turns to Northern Ireland with an event planned on Carson in collaboration with Queens University Belfast. This book is part of the 'Judging' series which includes *Judging Shaw*. An exhibition based on *Judging Shaw* toured over 20 locations in 2018 including

the Victoria and Albert Museum in London where the author Fintan O'Toole gave a talk on Shaw and the nature of celebrity in December. The tour continues in 2019, part of the Academy's programme for the Decade of Centenaries.

## **Enfranchising Ireland: Identity, citizenship and state**

*Enfranchising Ireland: Identity, citizenship and state*, edited by Steven G. Ellis, MRIA was launched on 6 June 2018. The book, which evolved from a conference in 2016, was launched by David Stanton, TD, Minister of State for Equality, Immigration and Integration at the Department of Justice and Equality.

This RIA publication explores the origin and evolution of the concepts of citizenship and identity in Ireland from a broadly historical perspective, tracing their development in



terms of rights and duties, from classical times, through the medieval period and partition in Ireland, to the present difficulties surrounding Brexit and the refugee crisis.

Contributors: Ian d'Alton, Enda Delaney, Steven G. Ellis, Thomas Leahy, Mary Ann Lyons, Bryan McMahon, Niall Ó Dochartaigh, Catherine Steel, Ulrike M. Vieten, Nira Yuval-Davis.

## **Heritage podcasts: 'Survival of cultural heritage'**

Cultural heritage sites and collections had been at the forefront of the 1916 centenary, as well as island-wide Decade of Commemorations events. The fundamental condition and care of heritage sites, archives and collections held in the public trust face significant challenges following years of recession. What is the future for the protection of Irish cultural heritage? How will we define and preserve the material and physical legacy of the island in local, national and global terms?

These questions regarding contemporary Irish heritage preservation are addressed by leading academics and heritage professionals in this podcast series, sponsored by The Heritage Council to mark the European Year of Culture 2018. The series is available on our website and includes:

- 'National libraries as memory keepers' - Sandra Collins (pictured, top right), Director, National Library of Ireland;
- 'Digital cultural heritage' - Natalie Harrower (pictured, right), Director, Digital Repository of Ireland;
- 'Placing value on our past - managing Ireland's archaeology' – Michael MacDonagh, Chief Archaeologist, National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;



- 'Northern Ireland, heritage and memory - dealing with the troubling remnants of conflict in a volatile state' – Laura McAtackney, School of Culture and Society, Aarhus University;
- 'The accidental oral historian' - Katherine O'Donnell, School of Philosophy, University College Dublin;
- 'In time of inquisition: preserving and using the archives of the Irish Catholic Church' – John McCafferty, School of History, University College Dublin;
- 'Is contemporary collecting a risky business? Current practice and future questions' – Lynn Scarff, Director, National Museum of Ireland;
- '14 Henrietta Street – the making of a museum' – Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer, Dublin City Council.

## **Multilateralism and interdependence: prospects and challenges**

This conference addressed the mounting challenges facing multilateral institutions and the processes of cooperation between states. It was opened by the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney. The keynote speaker was David Donoghue, former Irish Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The conference explored the evolution, current state and future prospects of multilateralism and interdependence and also the implications for Ireland as a State and as a member of the EU and the UN.

Volume 28 of the journal *Irish Studies in International Affairs* was launched at a reception in Iveagh House following the conference. The conference was supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and by the Department of Defence.

## **Maria Edgeworth 250 celebration - 'Women writing Ireland'**

Maria Edgeworth, Hon. MRIA, was one of the first female members of the Royal Irish Academy. This panel discussion, in celebration of the 250th anniversary of Edgeworth's birth, brought together Irish female authors in a discussion about women writing in Ireland today. Margaret Kelleher (UCD) chaired the discussion with Marina Carr, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, Éilís Ní Dhubhne and Claire Kilroy. Claire Connolly, MRIA (UCC) who is a cultural historian of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Ireland opened the event with an introductory talk on Edgeworth's significance.







WE ADVISE  
.....

## **Tackling Climate Change: rhetoric or reality?**

In May the Environmental Protection Agency and the Royal Irish Academy jointly organised a lecture by Lord John Krebs on the topic of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to the impacts of inevitable climate change. Lord Krebs described the situation in the UK 10 years on from the 2008 Climate Change Act, which was deemed a pioneering commitment to setting a legally binding target for reducing national emissions. Lord Krebs served as Chairman of the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee from 2010–14 and was the founding Chair of the UK Climate Change Committee Adaptation Sub-Committee 2009–17, and remains a member of that committee.

## **Negative emission technologies: what role in meeting Paris Agreement targets?**

The Royal Irish Academy as a member of the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), hosted a breakfast briefing on the latest EASAC report ‘Negative emission technologies: What role in meeting Paris Agreement targets?’ Mike Jones, MRIA, represented the Academy on the EASAC Environmental Steering Panel, and presented the report. It found that negative emission technologies (NETs) have ‘limited realistic potential’ to halt increases in the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at the scale envisioned in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change scenarios. The report suggests that rather than assuming future technologies will be

The EASAC Environmental Steering Panel who met in Academy House in September 2018.



able to remove large amounts of carbon dioxide from the air, the focus should instead be on strengthening mitigation measures. The report recommends that parties concentrate on rapidly reducing greenhouse gas emissions, better controlling deforestation and soil degradation, and developing viable business models for carbon capture and storage implantation.

## **Predicting our energy future**

Dr Paul Deane, UCC, delivered the Engineering and Computer Science Speaker Series 2018 to audiences in Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick. His lecture titled 'The humble science of predicating our energy future' examined what Ireland might look like in 2050. The interactive talk facilitated audience engagement and explored the past and future of energy, showing how science can help us to create and understand a sustainable future. This lecture series was sponsored by Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

## **Genome editing**

In April 2018 the Life and Medical Sciences Committee presented a one-day conference addressing the wide-ranging implications of gene editing. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Robin Lovell-Badge, one of the key experts who help

society navigate the increasingly complex terrain of the new gene editing technologies. The full day conference held panel discussions on human health, major issues related to the practical use of gene editing technologies for animal health and plant life, and the ethical considerations of the applications of gene editing. The conference was sponsored by the Health Research Board.

## **Rural Conversations**

Rural Conversations is a series of three workshops that will run in 2018–19 providing a forum for rural development stakeholders that will take place in three cluster regions: the west, the north-east and the south-east. The three separate topics being discussed at the individual cluster venues are economic development, social cohesion and sustainable rural communities. Each conversation will stimulate three to five recommendations from a variety of rural, regional and national stakeholders attending the workshops. The first of these conversations, held in NUIG in November 2018, has been recorded in a rapporteur's report, which will be used to help inform rural policy.





Pictured at the formal launch of the Academy's Brexit reports (l to r) Peter Kennedy, PRIA; Lewis Purser, IUA; Gerry McKenna, MRIA; Jane Ohlmeyer, MRIA; Dan O'Brien, Institute of International and European Affairs and Vincent Landers, Department of Education and Skills

## **Brexit and Northern Ireland**

On 10 January 2018 a panel discussion took place in Academy House to mark the formal launch of the Academy Brexit reports. Participants included representatives from the Department of Education and Skills, the Institute of International and European Affairs (IIEA) and the Irish Universities Association. Among the audience were several Ambassadors to Ireland (Hungary, France, India) and various embassy staff, university presidents and vice presidents for research, and representatives from government departments and agencies including the Higher Education Authority and the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.

Later that month the policy team joined forces with the Academy's North-South Standing Committee to submit a briefing concerning the Northern Ireland Budgetary

Outlook 2018–20 that focused on widening participation and improving the quality of Higher Education. Several other important submissions were made in 2018 including a response to the Mid-Term Review of Innovation 2020 and a consideration of the update of the Higher Education Authority 1971 Act, and the draft national statement on the transition to an Open Research Environment.

## **Investigating research infrastructures**

The Research Infrastructures Working Group convened and conducted a survey in April 2018. The results painted a worrying picture with 90% of STEM researchers and 85% of AHSS respondents identifying gaps and deficits in the availability of research infrastructures relevant to their discipline. Building and equipment maintenance, access to online databases, core

support for research work and inadequate IT facilities were highlighted as critical issues for all disciplines. Building on this preliminary exploration, the working group held a discussion workshop in June 2018 to facilitate a sector-wide discussion on the actions necessary to address the identified and widely accepted weaknesses in the existing research infrastructure base. Following this, the Academy released a pre-budget submission, 'Research infrastructures in Ireland: strengthening foun-

dations, building for the future', and spoke extensively with key policy stakeholders to highlight the main issues identified by the research community. This was followed up with the release of a survey report and the work of the group culminated with a recommendations report, 'Future-proofing and improving research infrastructures in Ireland', which detailed a set of high-level evidence-based recommendations that would address the issues raised.

(l to r) Jennifer Brennan, THEA; Peter Kennedy, PRIA; Gemma Irvine, HEA and Lewis Purser, IUA who were speakers at the RIA Research Infrastructures Workshop in June 2018.





WE AWARD  
.....



## **Hamilton Broombridge**

On 16 October 1843, Sir William Rowan Hamilton discovered quaternion algebra while walking along the Royal Canal from Dunsink Observatory to the Royal Irish Academy. This was one of those very rare Eureka moments in the history of science. So excited was he by his discovery that he scratched his equation on the wall of Broome Bridge, Cabra. To commemorate that Eureka moment the Academy, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT), ran a curated competition open to staff, alumni and students of the

nearby DIT Dublin School of Creative Arts. The winner of this publicly funded commission to the value of €25,000 and sanctioned by the National Transport Authority as part of the Luas Cross City Project was Emma Ray (pictured, above), a former student of DIT Fine Art.

It is proposed that the commissioned art piece will be installed in Broombridge Luas Depot, and unveiled for Hamilton Day 2019.





(l to r) Dr Matthew Holloway, Henkel Technology Centre sponsor of the 2017 Young Chemist Prize with winner Dr Junsi Wang and her nominator Professor Sylvia Draper (TCD)

## **Dr Junsi Wang wins Young Chemist Prize 2017**

The Young Chemist Prize, which is sponsored by Henkel, is awarded to the most outstanding Irish Ph.D. thesis in the general area of the chemical sciences. Each year the winner of the prize is put forward to compete for the IUPAC-Solvay prize. The recipient of the 2017 prize is Dr Junsi Wang, an accomplished, early career chemist who has made an impactful contribution to her research field. Dr Wang was the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Award from Dalian University of Technology, China. Following this, she moved to Ireland after obtaining a competitive Irish Research Council scholarship

to carry out her Ph.D. studies in Trinity College Dublin under the supervision of Professor Sylvia Draper. Dr Wang's winning paper, 'In search of strong light-harvesting and long-lived Ru(II) and Ir(III) triplet photosensitisers', focuses on a process called upconversion. This has been shown to improve the efficiency of solar cells and to broaden the application of photodynamic therapy in the treatment of certain types of cancer. Dr Wang's research results have made an impactful contribution to this field.

For 2018/19 this award will be renamed the Kathleen Lonsdale Chemistry Prize and sponsorship by Henkel will continue with an expanded programme of activity.



(l to r) Malcolm 'Mac' MacLachlan, MRIA, Professor of Psychology and Social Inclusion at Maynooth University and John Walsh, Professor of Structural Geology and Director of iCrag at University College Dublin.

## Gold Medals

The 2017 Royal Irish Academy Gold Medals were awarded in the Environmental Sciences and Geosciences and in the Social Sciences. The Academy Gold Medals are supported by the Higher Education Authority.

Following a rigorous assessment process involving both local and international external assessors, the Gold Medal in the Environmental Sciences and Geosciences was awarded to John Walsh, Professor of Structural Geology and Director of iCrag at University College Dublin and the Gold Medal in the Social Sciences was awarded to Malcolm 'Mac' MacLachlan, MRIA, Professor of Psychology and Social Inclusion at Maynooth University.

Minister of State for Higher Education Mary Mitchell O'Connor, TD, presented the medals at a ceremony in Academy House on 23 March 2018.

The Royal Irish Academy Gold Medals were established in 2005 to acclaim Ireland's foremost thinkers in the humanities, social sciences, physical and mathematical sciences, life sciences, engineering sciences and the environment and geosciences. The Gold Medals are awarded to two outstanding academics each year and are recognised as a truly national expression of celebration for scholarly achievement.



OxyMem winners of the SME category in the US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards with (l to r) Ray Fitzpatrick, AIB; Tom Flanagan, NovaUCD; Minister Heather Humphreys, TD; Stephen Masterson, Ulster Bank; Wayne Byrne, OxyMem Ltd.; Peter Kennedy PRIA; Barry O'Sullivan, American Chamber of Commerce and Orla Feely MRIA, UCD

## **US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards**

The US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards, organised by the American Chamber of Commerce and the Royal Irish Academy, acknowledge research innovations that originate in Irish organisations with US links. These ideas are underpinned by innovation research and have a strong social and/or economic impact. The winners of the 2018 Awards were announced at the American Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner on 18 May at the Clayton Hotel, Ballsbridge in Dublin.

The event was attended by Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Business,

Enterprise and Innovation, leading members of the Irish and US corporate sector, representatives of Ireland's leading Higher Education Institutes and research centres along with leading academics including the president and officers of the Royal Irish Academy.

### **SME Award: OxyMem**

Based in Westmeath, OxyMem, a NovaUCD spin-out company, is the leading innovator in energy efficient wastewater treatment. Their winning research innovation is the application of the Membrane Aerated Biofilm Reactor, a breakthrough technology focused on wastewater aeration.

## **HEI Award: Connect Centre for Future Networks**

The team at the Connect Centre for Future Networks, based on previous research by Dr Andrew Hines and supported by Google, achieved this award for ViSQOL, a software platform for evaluating audio quality on the Internet by 'looking' at sounds. ViSQOL can predict sound quality in a wide range of Internet scenarios, from streaming music and video conferencing to virtual reality 3D spatial audio.

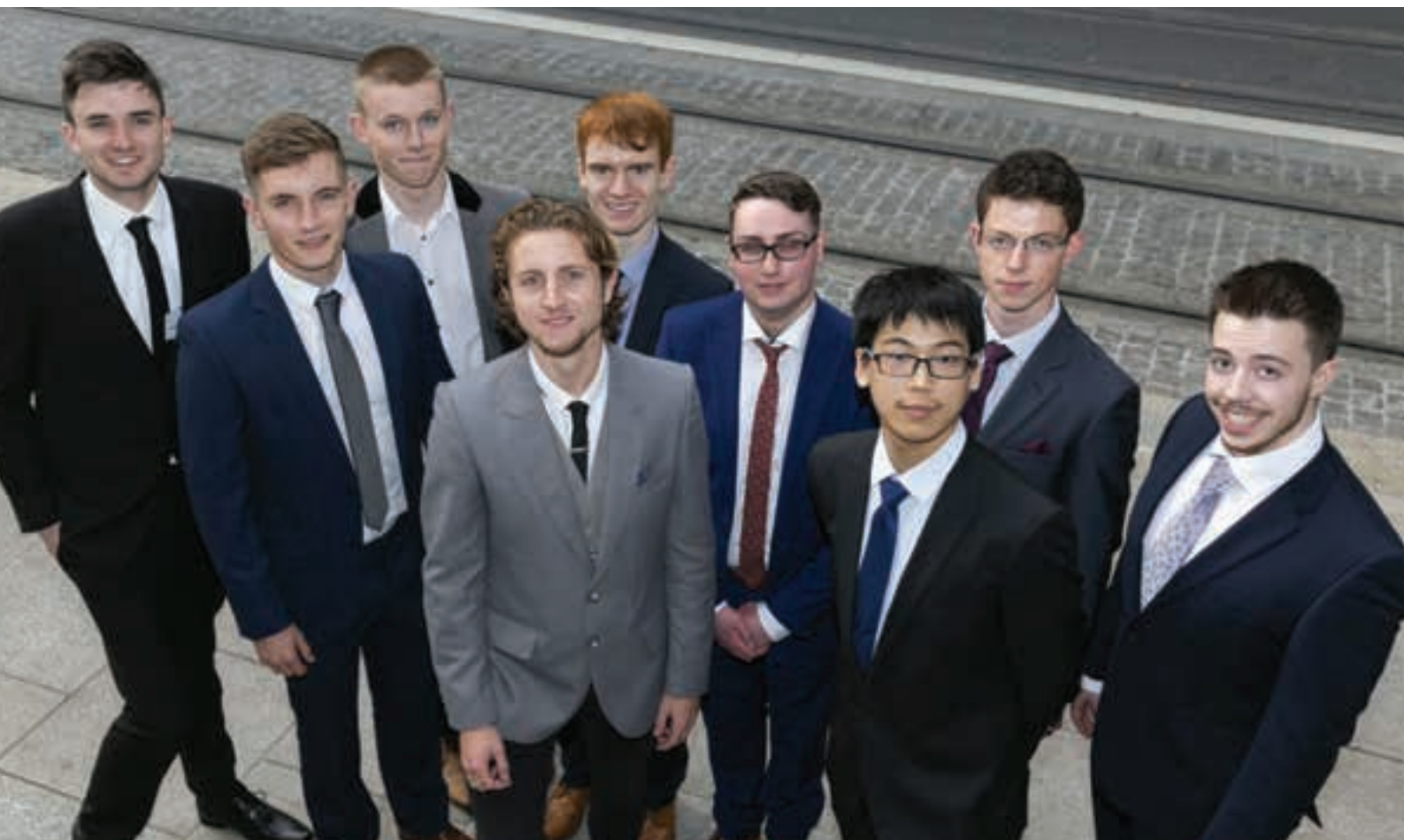
## **MNC Award: Xilinx**

The Xilinx Ireland team successfully designed a software defined radio microchip in 16nmFET technology, an industry first to address the emerging cost, power size and flexibility requirements in emerging 5G cellular networks.

The awards are jointly presented by the Royal Irish Academy and the American Chamber of Commerce Ireland, with sponsorship from KPMG, Ulster Bank and *The Irish Times*.

## **2018 Hamilton Prize Winners**

The Hamilton Prize, sponsored by ARUP, is part of the Hamilton Day celebrations. This award ceremony honouring the top nine undergraduate mathematics students in their penultimate year, took place at Academy House and was attended by family and friends of the recipients as well as representatives from their university departments and members of the mathematics community in Ireland. The 2018 Hamilton prize winners (pictured l-r below) are: Adam Cohalan, University College Cork; Gavin Elliott, Dublin Institute of Technology; Troy Gawley, National University of Ireland, Galway; Nathan Keenan, Maynooth University; Chaoyi Lu, University College Dublin; Jamie Lutton, Queen's University Belfast; Ronan O'Gorman, Trinity College Dublin; Eamonn Organ, University of Limerick; Eanna Reilly, Dublin City University.





Michel Déon (1919–2016). Photo: Ulf Andersen

---

# MICHEL DÉON PRIZE

---

The inaugural Royal Irish Academy Michel Déon Prize for non-fiction was awarded on 3 December 2018 to Breandán Mac Suibhne for his book *The end of outrage: post-famine adjustment in rural Ireland*.

The €10,000 prize is sponsored by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and is jointly organised with the Académie française. The winner will give ‘The Michel Déon Lecture’ in France in 2019.

French writer Michel Déon, who made Ireland his home from the 1970s until his death in 2016, was one of the leading French writers of the 20th century. To reflect his interests, the eligible categories for the prize were autobiography, biography, cultural studies, history, literary studies, philosophy and travel. Authors of any nationality currently living on the island

of Ireland who had published a non-fiction book in the period from July 2016 to July 2018 were eligible.

Over 240 titles were nominated for the prize. In shortlisting the titles the judging panel were looking for originality, quality of writing and contributions to knowledge and/or public debate.

The other shortlisted books for the prize were: *I found my tribe* by Ruth Fitzmaurice

(Chatto & Windus); *The vanquished: why the First World War failed to end* by Robert Gerwarth (Allen Lane); *Hard border: walking through a century of partition* by Darach MacDonald (New Island); *The popular mind in Eighteenth-century Ireland* by Vincent Morley (Cork University Press); and *Notes to self: essays* by Emilie Pine (Tramp Press).

The Académie française will award the Michel Déon Prize in 2019 and the Royal Irish Academy will award it again in 2020.



## Grants

The Royal Irish Academy is internationally renowned for its role in promoting excellence in scholarship and recognising achievements in learning. The Academy began providing research grants in 1876, and this legacy of supporting academic researchers in Ireland continues today. Our grants programmes support researchers in developing international networks, undertaking archaeological excavations and fostering academic engagement across a range of disciplines in Ireland and abroad.

The Academy has a long association with archaeology grants and these are now awarded in partnership with the National Monuments Service (Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht) and Queen's University Belfast. The archaeology grants awarded in 2018 were for research, research excavation and C14 radiocarbon dates.

The Academy, together with the National Monuments Service, run an Archaeological Research Excavations grant scheme. This



is the only fund in Ireland that supports independent research excavations on the island of Ireland and welcomes applications for new excavations, continuing excavations and post-excavation work. This longstanding fund has financed more than 90 excavations in Ireland, thus enabling scholars to make a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the past.

Other grant schemes run in 2018 included the Charlemont Grants, the Eoin O'Mahony Bursary in Irish History, the Royal Irish Academy–Royal Society International Exchange Cost Share Programme and the R.J. Hunter Research schemes. Full details of all our grants schemes are available online at [ria.ie/grants](http://ria.ie/grants).

In 2018 the Academy appointed Niamh McCabe (pictured, below) as Senior programme manager – grants.

## Funding impactful research collaboration Grant

The Royal Irish Academy–Royal Society International Exchange Cost Share Programme is a joint programme of the RIA and our partners, the Royal Society, in the UK. This grant scheme enables transnational collaboration between research teams in the UK and Ireland in the natural sciences, including physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, engineering, agricultural, biological and medical research, the scientific research aspects of archaeology, geography and experimental psychology. The UK is a major research collaborator with Irish research in these areas and the Academies joint awards recognise, support and enable next generation collaborations between our research communities.



The 2018 Charlemont scholars at the awards ceremony on 19 February 2018.

In 2018 the Academy was proud to support the innovative and impactful research of Professor Ken Duffy, Maynooth University and Dr Paula Bourke, Dublin Institute of Technology, both of whom are seeking to better understand aspects of antimicrobial resistance.

## **Charlemont Grants**

The Charlemont grants are the Royal Irish Academy's premier research grant for early career researchers and are directly funded by the Academy. The grants support international travel for research purposes by early career researchers in any discipline and are specifically designed to support the

next generation of researchers in taking those crucial first steps towards their own independent research careers and develop international collaborations.

In 2018 the RIA was proud to support visits to the UK, mainland Europe, USA, Africa, Asia and Australia, covering disciplines from anthropology to mechanical engineering, illustrating the width and breadth of research supported by the Academy.

A total of 30 researchers from twelve Irish institutions and one independent researcher were funded for amounts up to €2,500.



## R.J. Hunter Fellowship

A research colloquium was organised to mark the end of phase one of the R.J. Hunter Postdoctoral Fellowships. This was chaired by Mary O'Dowd, MRIA, Queen's University Belfast and included presentations on the outcomes of the completed research projects by recipients Dr Gerard Farrell, Trinity College Dublin and Dr David Heffernan, Queen's University Belfast. These projects, entitled 'An ethnohistory of Gaelic Ulster, 1500–1700' (Dr Farrell) and 'Theory and Practice in the Ulster Plantation, c. 1609–41' (Dr Heffernan), were fully funded through the scheme. David Dickson, MRIA, Trinity College Dublin, also gave an insightful and engaging talk on remembering Bob Hunter and his legacy. Other speakers included Mary E. Daly, MRIA.

R.J. Hunter (below) was a highly respected (and much loved) historian of the Ulster

plantation, who spent the bulk of his academic career teaching at the University of Ulster. His varied research interests included the role of the English settler in the Ulster plantation, the history of Ulster trade and migration from and to Britain and North America and development of towns, and the cultural and intellectual history of Ulster from 1580 to 1660.

The R.J. Hunter Grants Scheme was established in 2014 using funding generously made available by his daughter, Ms Laura Hunter Houghton, through the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland.

Phase one of the R.J. Hunter scheme saw the funding of a number of bursaries, as well as the aforementioned two postdoctoral fellowships. The next phase of the R.J. Hunter scheme will be announced in 2019.



## Supporting archaeology research past and present

*'It instantly occurred to me that I was standing in a second virtually intact structure that had been built more than 5,000 years previously...I concluded that I was the first person to enter these great tombs in more than 1,000 years—what a great privilege!'*

GEORGE EOGAN, 1 AUGUST 1968.

*'It is a huge monument, a Neolithic communal routeway...  
It's the most impressive geophysical underground site that I've ever seen.'*

MATTHEW STOUT, JULY 2018.

Fifty years separate those two events, but our interest is in what unites them. George Eogan, MRIA was speaking about the day he first made his way into the Eastern Tomb beneath the Great Mound at Knowth in 1968, and Matthew Stout is referring to the dig undertaken last summer to explore a site revealed by a geophysical survey in 2015 at Newgrange Farm. Both refer to archaeological discoveries within the Boyne Valley, but these two events share more than just their location, and the Royal Irish

Academy has had a significant part to play in both.

The long dry spell this summer was notable archaeologically speaking for the many fantastic, indeed monumental, revelations within the Boyne Valley. Here are George Eogan's recollections in the summer of 1968, six years into excavations at Knowth, and just one year since a large passage tomb had been discovered on the western side the Great Mound;

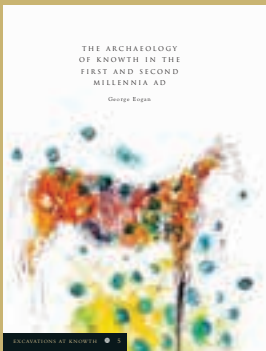
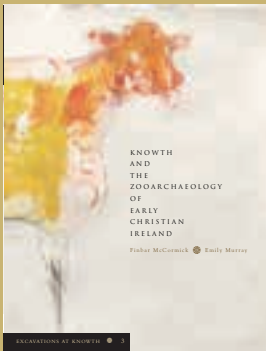




Tom Fanning, Ann Gannon and George Eogan, Eastern Tomb passage entrance, Knowth, 1 August 1968.  
 © National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Photo Jim Bambury.

*In 1968, excavation focused on the area outside and around the western perimeter of the large mound, with an expansion of the area adjacent to the entrance to the newly discovered western tomb and the opening of several new cuttings along the south-western and later the eastern side... On 30 July 1968 ... a small hole appeared along the main east-west baulk ... The following day I entered this cavity, which revealed the junction of an elaborate complex of four passages. ... the fourth had orthostats with some megalithic art visible... The next day, 1 August, ... all four passages were explored in detail, and this confirmed... what appeared to be a longer, megalithic passage ... exploration of the fourth passage started. Structurally, it differed from the souterrains [of the first three passages] as it was of orthostatic construction... I thought this part of the passageway was a two-tiered construction, so I climbed up to enter the 'upper story', on which it was possible to continue inward... a void emerged... looking up revealed a splendid and intact corbelled roof that was spanned by a single capstone... it was not possible to continue by going up... I decided to proceed by... jumping down... I later discovered that it was a drop of 2.5m... I was standing in a substantial almost circular space, clearly representing a large chamber with three recesses... The right-hand recess contained the most superb decorated basin stone that I had ever seen. Another surprise was the richness and abundance of megalithic art ... even some of the roof corbels were decorated... After the discovery of the western passage and chamber the previous year, to uncover another, larger passage tomb was hard to comprehend. Up to then, I always thought that Newgrange was unique, but now there was an even larger and more complicated site. It was a day of great excitement but more importantly a day when a major contribution to archaeological studies took place.*

*(The passage tomb archaeology of the Great Mound at Knowth,  
 Excavations at Knowth 6, Dublin, 2017: 34–6)*



and funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

In the summer of 2018 a four-week excavation was undertaken by Geraldine and Matthew Stout at Newgrange Farm. This work—to examine elements of two parallel sets of large pits that form a passage or corridor and appear to indicate an ancient processional way to Newgrange—was the first excavation to take place in what is now the Brú na Bóinne UNESCO World Heritage Site since the completion of the Knowth excavations in the mid-1990s. It was in part funded by the award of a 2018 Research Excavation Grant of €6,500. This element of the archaeology grants programme is the only fund in Ireland that supports independent research excavations on the island. This longstanding fund has financed more than 90 scholars to date, making a substantial contribution to our knowledge of the past.

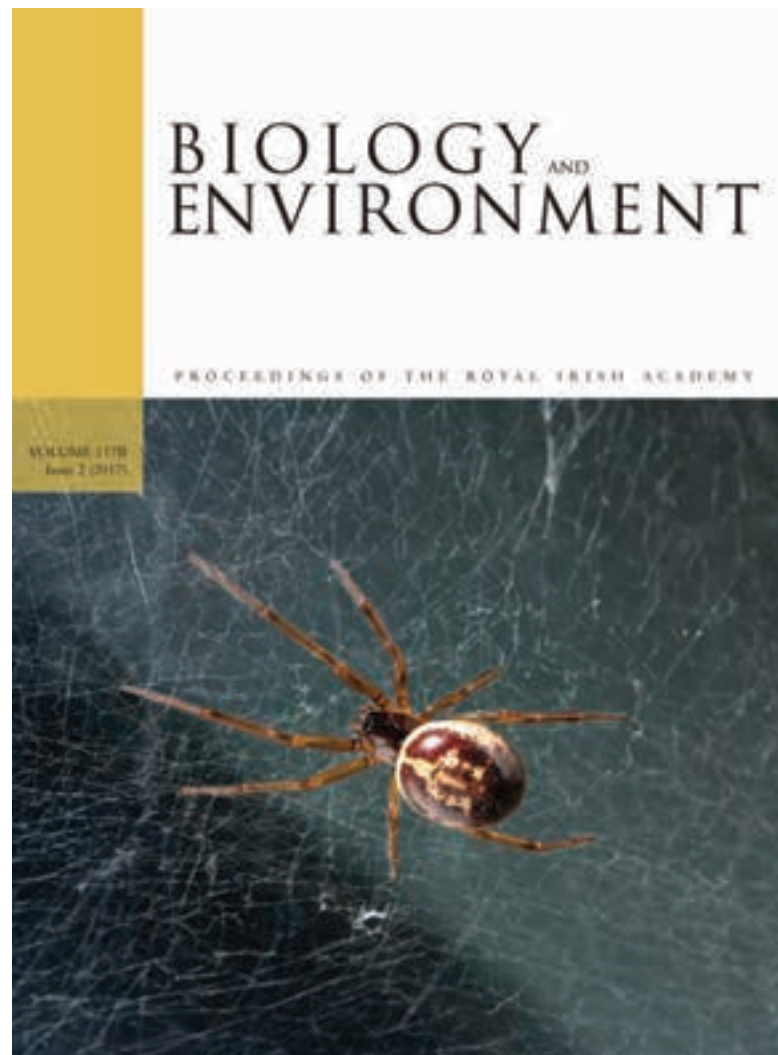
It is now almost 60 years since the original excavation grant was awarded for the research work at Knowth. That initial outlay has come to fruition in the form of a body of knowledge spanning six millennia of ritual and settlement at this world-renowned national monument. This knowledge is now distilled into the Academy's *Excavations at Knowth* series of publications (six volumes of which have been published, with a seventh currently in preparation). Through the RIA Publications partnership with the Digital Repository of Ireland, this research was made available as a free online resource this summer to mark the golden jubilee of the rediscovery of the Eastern Tomb.

Perhaps the research being funded at other sites of our archaeological heritage by the most recent round of grants will result in the similar riches being revealed into the future.

The excavations and other fieldwork at Knowth that resulted in this contribution to archaeological studies (publication of which is still ongoing) were, as Professor Eogan acknowledges, facilitated by the existence of a programme of research grants that the Royal Irish Academy has long been associated with. Initially, those grants were made available through the Office of Public Works on the recommendation of the Academy's National Committee for Archaeology, and later were awarded directly by the National Monuments Service. Today, the successor to this grants scheme continues to be operated by the Academy in partnership with the National Monuments Service

## The rise and rise of the noble false widow spider

An article in *Biology and Environment* this year sparked widespread media interest, given that it made it 'tempting to conjure up an apocalypse-like scenario with hordes of false widow spiders decimating native lizard and other vertebrate populations', as Professor Bruce Osborne, the editor of the journal, described in his editorial. The article, *Biting off more than one can chew*, by John P. Dunbar *et al.*, discusses the consumption of a viviparous lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) by a false widow spider (*Steatoda nobilis*) in Dublin, the first evidence that this invasive species of spider can feed on native Irish vertebrates. The potential consequences of this observation captured the imagination of news outlets such as *The Irish Times*, the *Independent*, *Silicon Republic* and *Green News.ie*, all of which published articles in response to the paper. The status of the viviparous lizard as a protected species both in Ireland and in Northern Ireland only makes the concerns over the impact of this invasive spider species on native communities and ecosystems more pressing. These findings must be considered in the wider context of the novel effects that exotic introductions can have, many of which are difficult to predict.





WE SUPPORT  
.....



(l to r) Mark Coen, Aoibhinn ní Shúilleabháin, Adrian Grant and Mel Farrell panellists at the Early Career Researchers workshop in November 2018.

## Supporting Early Career Researchers

The Early Career Researchers Working Group convened early in 2018 and conducted a number of focus groups during the course of the summer. The aim was to get a snapshot of the perceptions and experiences of early career researchers (ECRs) in higher education institutions on the island of Ireland, north and south of the border. A factsheet outlining the findings of these sessions was presented at a workshop on the topic in November in Academy House. The workshop both heightened awareness and generated very engaging discussions surrounding the challenges ECRs are facing in Ireland. The presentations were very well

received and helped facilitate an interactive workshop with audience members where it became evidently clear that there is a strong interest in this under-researched area in Ireland, with the findings of the scoping project in particular having strong resonance with attendees. In attendance were representatives from the Technological Higher Education Association, Irish Universities' Association, Higher Education Authority, Irish Research Council, Health Research Board, Science Foundation Ireland and many third level institutes from around the island. The Academy will continue to focus on this under-researched area in 2019.



## **An international focus**

The Royal Irish Academy participates in a range of international bodies such as European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC), All European Academies (ALLEA) and Science Advice for Policy by European Academies (SAPEA). The aim of these groupings is to ensure that policymakers have access to the best science advice and information possible before they make their decisions. Academy members play a significant role in many of the working groups associated with these bodies.

This helps to build the profile of Irish science internationally, which is a key ambition of overall Irish higher education and research policy. It also brings an Irish-based perspective to European policy discussions and helps to promote the Royal Irish Academy. Our policy breakfast briefings series then brings the evidence back to Ireland.

The Academy currently chairs the ALLEA E-Humanities Working Group, and is represented on groups such as the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics, ALLEA Working Group on Truth, Trust and Expertise, EASAC Working Group on Climate Change and

The ALLEA Working Group 'Truth, Trust and Expertise' with Maria Baghramian, MRIA and Onora O'Neill, Hon. MRIA, are conducting a pan-European, multidisciplinary investigation into the nature of and relationship between truth, trust and expertise.



Health, the EASAC Environment Steering Panel and the European Commission's FAIR data expert group. In September 2018, the Academy hosted the ALLEA Permanent Working Group on Science and Ethics and the EASAC Environment Steering Panel in Academy House.

The Academy wishes to thank all of our international delegates and volunteers for the time, effort and expertise they bring to this important work programme.

## **Amplifying the voice of members**

The RIA's Policy Oversight Group enables Academy members to share their expertise and experiences with policy and decision-makers. The policy work of the RIA is supported by the voluntary efforts of a large number of members and stakeholders. The Academy is very grateful to all of those who generously give their time and resources to this work.

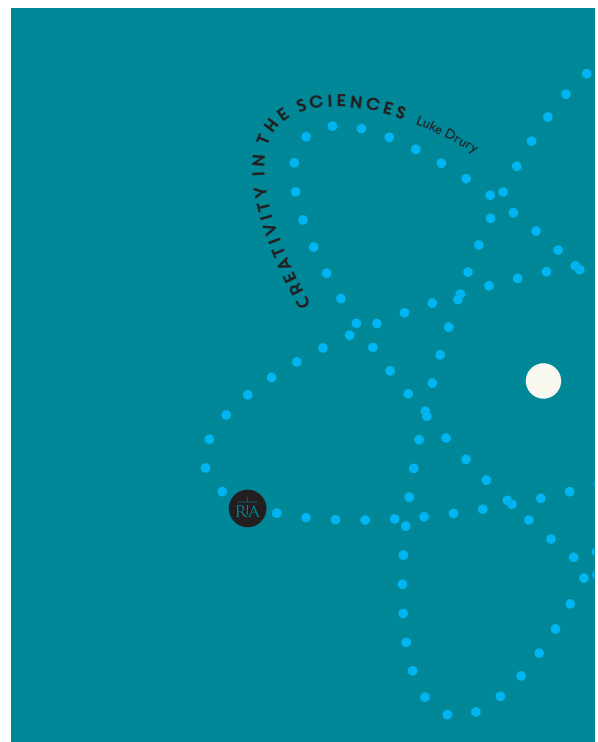
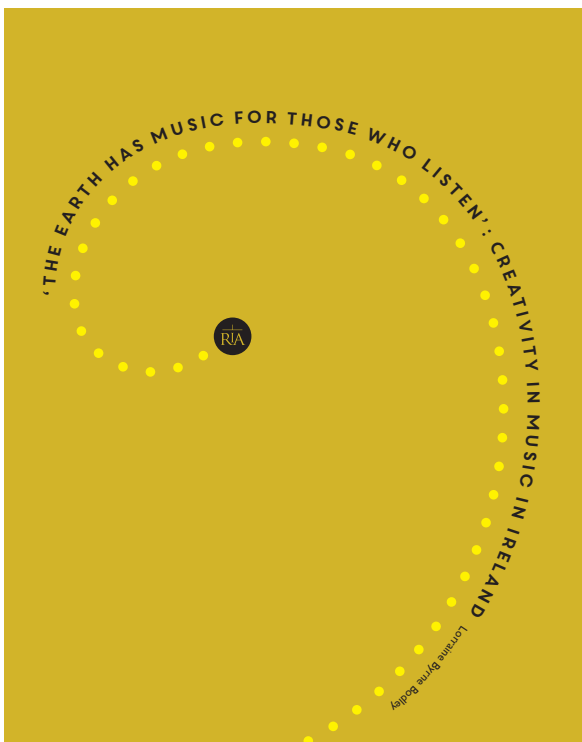
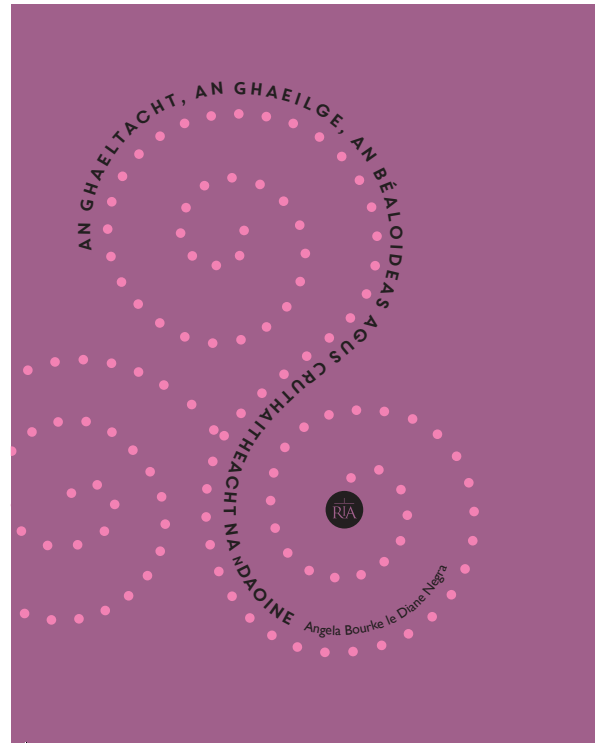
Each year the Policy Oversight Group consults extensively with members and stakeholders to identify the policy issues it will examine at in-depth. In 2018, it formed working groups looking at: the adequacy of the research infrastructure system and how it might be improved; understanding the experiences of early career researchers; and exploring aspects of creativity. The Academy is a member of several significant national policy fora including the National Research Integrity Forum, the National Doctoral Education Forum, the Irish Humanities Alliance and the Higher Education Research Group.

## **Policy publications and events**

2018 saw many important policy publications and events including the fifth paper in the Royal Irish Academy-British Academy Brexit Briefing Series, *The Belfast / Good Friday Agreement, the Island of Ireland Economy and Brexit*, which was co-authored by Michael Darcy and Frances Ruane, MRIA, and released in November. A joint RIA-British Academy Roundtable, *Ireland and Brexit: where next?*, was also held at the British Academy in London with addresses by the Irish Ambassador to the UK, Mr Adrian O'Neill, Chris McCrudden, MRIA, Mary E. Daly, MRIA and Conor Gearty, Hon. MRIA and FBA. 2018 also saw a visit from the President and CEO of the Royal Society of New Zealand to discuss shared experiences and learnings from their perspective.

## **Protecting culture and heritage Report**

In response to the Creative Ireland Programme, the Academy organised a working group to discuss how, recognising the very large amount of work that has already been done under the auspices of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, it can best contribute to further discussions of policies and priorities. Through this Working Group on Culture and Heritage, the Academy has drawn on a wide level of knowledge and expertise to prepare short papers with the aim of contributing to the policy debate about selected cultural and heritage issues. The papers cover a wide range of



topics including a response to the Creative Ireland programme, creativity in the sciences, creativity in music and folklore and vernacular creativity. They were authored by Mary Canning, MRIA, Luke Drury,

MRIA, Lorraine Byrne Bodley, MRIA, and Angela Bourke, MRIA with Diane Negra, MRIA. These papers (pictured above) were officially launched on 6 December.



Anna Davies, MRIA who was elected to the board of the International Science Council in 2018.

## **Bringing the message home**

A key focus of the Academy's international work is to ensure the findings of its working groups are communicated to Irish policymakers. This is done through a series of breakfast briefings and papers that explain the relevance of the reports in the Irish context.

The Policy and International Relations unit hosted three breakfast briefings in 2018:

- Mike Jones, MRIA (Trinity College Dublin): Negative emissions technologies: What role in meeting Paris Agreement targets? (EASAC);
- Aifric O'Sullivan (University College Dublin): Opportunities and challenges for research on food and nutrition security and agriculture in Europe. (EASAC);
- Stephen Hynes (National University of Ireland Galway) and Professor Poul Holm (Trinity College Dublin): Food from the Oceans. (SAPEA).

## **International Science Council representation**

In 2018, at the inaugural meeting of the new International Science Council (ISC), the Academy nominated Anna Davies, MRIA to the board. We are pleased to report that Professor Davies was successfully elected and is now an active member of the ISC board. This is an excellent development for Irish science as it ensures Ireland has a strong voice and representation in this prestigious new organisation.

WE EXPLORE  
.....

## Dictionary of Irish Biography

During the last year the Dictionary of Irish Biography (DIB) has continued to provide a comprehensive and valuable chronicle of the lives of notable figures who helped shape Ireland and the wider world.

This year supplementary volumes 10 and 11 of the Dictionary of Irish Biography were published in hard copy to complement the original nine-volume publication in 2009. These printed volumes include over 600 articles on figures who died in the years 2003–10, such as Charles Haughey, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Mo Mowlam, John McGahern, Nuala O'Faolain, Maureen Potter,

George Best and Alex Higgins. The publication of these new hard copy volumes will allow access to the DIB's recent work to those without an online subscription and significantly increase that work's readership.

2018 saw close to 80 individuals (most of whom died in 2011–13) who made a significant contribution to various aspects of Irish life added to the online dictionary. They include politician Garret FitzGerald; the poet Seamus Heaney, MRIA; the author Maeve Binchy; the artist Louis le Brocquy; the anti-apartheid campaigner Kader Asmal; Gaelic footballer Paudie O'Shea; the sportswriter Con Houlihan; and the comedians Frank Carson and Hal Roach. Such an achievement would not have been possible without the excellent work of the

(l to r) Níav Gallagher, Terry Clavin, James Quinn, Liz Evers, Patrick Maume and Frank Cullen who work on The Dictionary of Irish Biography.



project's long-serving editorial secretary, Linde Lunney, and its copy editor, Lawrence White, both of whom retired in 2018.

The DIB's readership continues to broaden with publication of specialised volumes such as *Transatlantic lives: the Irish experience in colonial America*, edited by Linde Lunney, James Quinn and William Roulston, and published in 2018 by the Ulster Historical Foundation. The work marks the three-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of significant emigration from Ulster to North America in 1718, and features a thematic introduction by Professor Patrick Griffin of the University of Notre Dame and sixty biographical essays from the Dictionary. While colonial administrators, soldiers and

clergymen predominate, the selection also includes educators, doctors, writers, artists, printers, merchants and even a (female) pirate to give some sense of the diversity of such emigrants and their varying contributions to the economic and cultural development of the colonies.

## **Publication of Documents on Irish Foreign Policy volume XI**

The 11th volume in the Documents on Irish Foreign Policy series was launched by Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney TD on 13 November

Minister for External Affairs Frank Aiken and Ireland's Permanent Representative to the UN, Frederick H. Boland, photographed prior to an afternoon meeting of the 12th session of the UN General Assembly in New York, 12 September 1957 (UN Photo TW/75201).





L-R: Peter Kenndy, PRIA; Kate O'Malley; Eunan O'Halpin, MRIA; An Tánaiste, Simon Coveney TD; Michael Kennedy; Bernadette Whelan, MRIA and Fiona Flood.

2018. Spanning the years 1957 to 1961 the volume covers Ireland's 'golden age' of independent activism at the United Nations and Ireland's 1961 application for membership of the EEC. As the volume was being launched news was breaking of an agreement reached between EU and British Brexit negotiators. The Tánaiste intertwined history and current affairs in his launch speech and the past, present and future of Irish foreign policy was a constant topic of conversation amongst the crowd present in the packed ballroom at Iveagh House.

## **Documents on Irish Foreign Policy (DIFP) outreach through 2018**

Outreach is a hugely important part of the work of the Academy's DIFP team. Throughout 2018 DIFP's Michael Kennedy, Kate O'Malley and John Gibney maintained high-profile visibility as public historians.

From Kate's regular lectures at events across Ireland to her history slot on '1968' during RTE Radio One's flagship 'Drivetime' programme, John's revival of the DIFP blog on the RIA website and his and Michael's appearances at the 'Mindfield' event at the Electric Picnic music and arts festival, it was a busy year.

In September, John and Michael also appeared on RTE's prime-time television show 'Who Do You Think You Are'. John brought singer Damien Dempsey through his roots in nineteenth century Dublin whilst Michael spoke to journalist and diplomat Samantha Power and revealed the secret wartime role her grandfather played in Irish-American relations. Michael also featured in RTÉ One's 'Great Lighthouses of Ireland' series. With funding now secured from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for another staff member, the continued requests for DIFP to engage with the public's appetite for history and research



for *DIFP XII* about to commence in January 2019, there is every sign that the team will be as active across Ireland in 2019 as the year just past.

## **Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources (DMLCS)**

The DMLCS is recognised internationally as a reliable source of information and guidance in the craft of lexicography generally, detailed advice having been sought and provided in recent months to kindred projects based in Norway, Ireland and Scotland, and to the Oxford English Dictionary. By researching, producing and publishing a digital archive of texts, and a dictionary of vocabulary found therein, the purpose of the DMLCS project is to interpret the Latin-language output produced by writers on Celtic territory, and by Celtic authors abroad, during almost a millennium of literate activity in the early Middle Ages. Of the non-Classical words that these writers used, a lexicon and a supplement covering letters A to H have been published, and work on letters K, L, M, N, Q, R, W, X, Y, and Z is complete. Articles embodying findings from DMLCS research are regularly published in peer-reviewed journals; these often build upon invited lectures given by members of the project's staff, most recently in Poznań, Berlin and Cambridge.

## **Foclóir Stairiúil na Gaeilge**

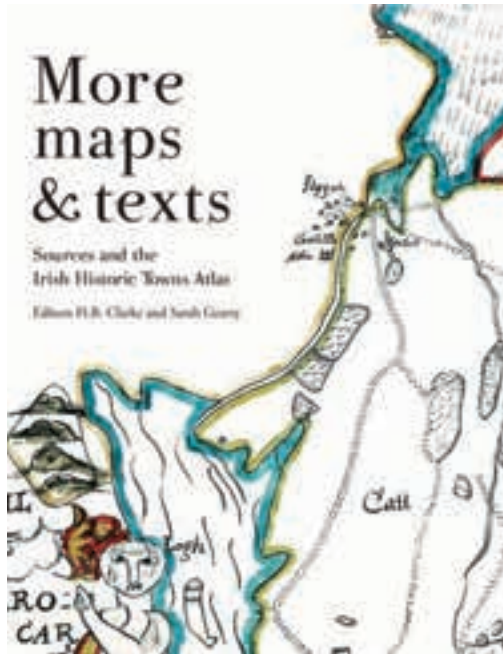
Tá fás leanúnach ar chorpas na Gaeilge stairiúla atá á réiteach ag foireann an tionscadail. Tá breis agus 70m focal sa chorpas digiteach anois, líon focal is ionann agus 75% den líon a socraíodh le haghaidh an Foclóir

Stairiúil a dhéanamh. Tá tús curtha le hiontrálacha don Fhoclóir a dhréachtadh agus a fhoilsiú; lena chois sin foilseofar Corpas an Bhlascaoid Mhóir ar líne go luath, agus Foclóir Mháirtín Uí Chadhain ina dhiaidh sin.

## **Historical Dictionary of Modern Irish**

The Academy's digital corpus of historical Irish has continued to grow, and now contains 70 million words, which is 75% of the word total envisaged for the digitisation phase of the Dictionary project. In anticipation of the lexicographical phase of the Dictionary commencing, entries have been compiled based on the historical Irish corpus and trialled with success. In parallel, sub-corpora encompassing the literature of Great Blasket island, and unpublished Irish material gathered by the Gaeltacht writer Máirtín Ó Cadhain are in preparation for online publication.





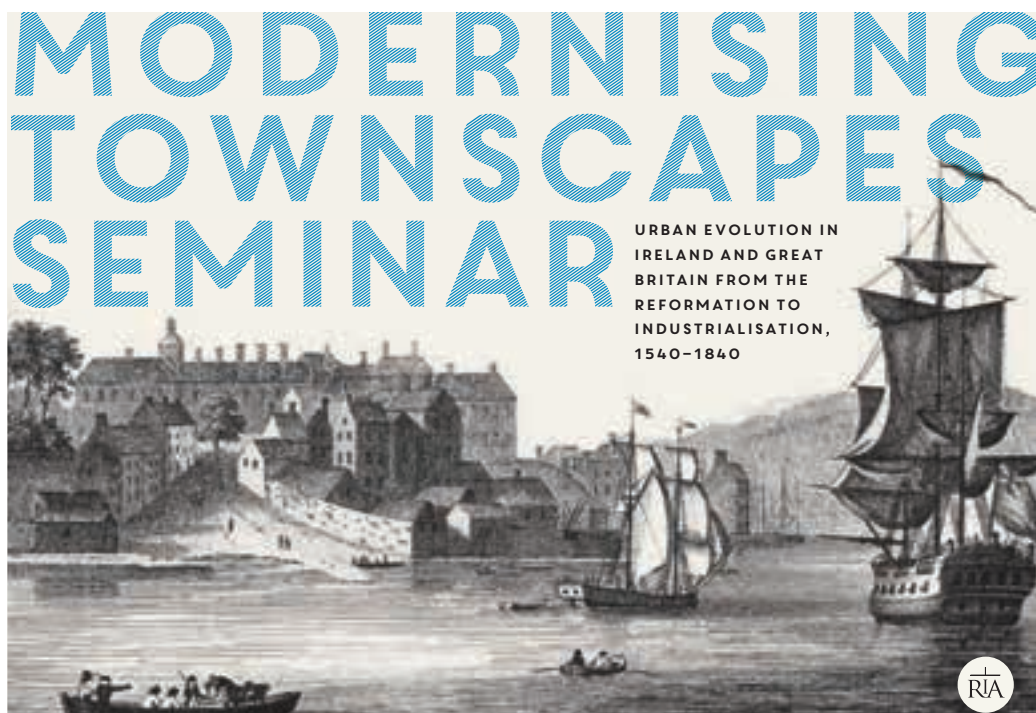
## More maps and texts

Comparison is the fundamental component in the most recent ancillary publication from the Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) project—*More maps and texts: sources and the Irish Historic Towns Atlas*, edited by H.B. Clarke, MRIA and Sarah Gearty (2018).

Following on from an earlier volume and based on the project's annual seminar series, the emphasis of the nineteen essays included in this latest volume is on cartographical and historical sources, their nature and utility for Irish urban history. Subjects range from the meaning of place names to the impact of canals and railways on towns. The twenty-eight published IHTA fascicles provide the basis for the research. *More maps and texts* was launched in the Royal Irish Academy by Professor Keith Lilley, Queen's University Belfast on Friday 18 May 2018.

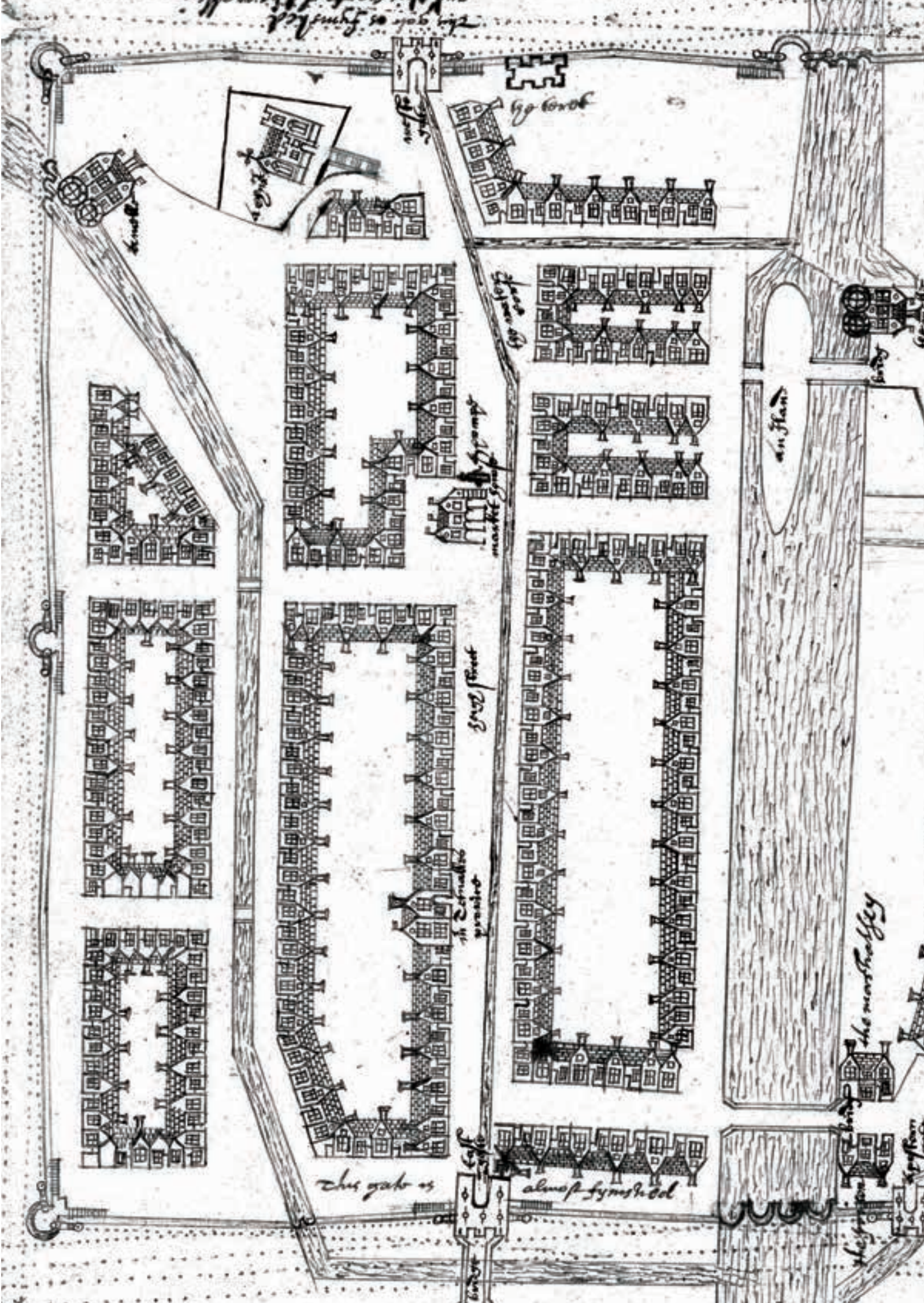
## IHTA – internationally

The use of digital technologies in the creation of town atlas maps and texts has been an area of exploration for the IHTA project and this year saw progress with the completion of the core map for Drogheda in Geographical Information Systems (GIS). The methodology used was showcased at an international workshop for the wider European historic towns atlas project that was hosted in the Royal Irish Academy on



Above: Flyer for the annual IHTA seminar that took place in May 2018.

Opposite: *Bandon*, map 5, c. 1620 (Detail). Reproduced courtesy of Trinity College Dublin.



*This gate is almost finished*

*the gate*

*by work*

*the prison*

*the wall*

*the wall*

*the market square*

*the hall*

*the street*

*the entrance*

*this gate is almost finished*

*the gate*

*the marshes*

*the prison*

16–17 May 2018. Editor Dr Michael Potterton was appointed to the International Commission for the History of Towns.

The well-established annual IHTA seminar continued the international theme and for the third year running compared Irish and British towns. Entitled ‘Modernising townscapes: urban evolution in Ireland and Great Britain from the reformation to industrialisation, 1540–1840’, the seminar was a joint effort with the British Historic Towns Atlas and was supported by the British Embassy Dublin. Professor Roey Sweet (University of Leicester) gave the associated public lecture on ‘Urban modernity and the historic city c. 1700 to 1840’.

## **IHTA – nationally**

IHTA authors continue to research towns and cities all over Ireland—Arklow, Ballyshannon, Carlow, Cavan, Cork, Dungarvan, Tralee, Tullamore, Westport and more are

in active preparation. Under the authorship of Ned McHugh, Drogheda is due to be published in 2019. Meanwhile, Dr Séamas Ó Maitiú is working on Rathmines, which will be no. 2 in the Dublin Suburbs series.

IHTA is available online and is now accessible via the Heritage Council’s website [HeritageMaps.ie](http://HeritageMaps.ie). This collaboration was marked at an event in Academy House on 2 October 2018, which was aimed at drawing together people who work in and contribute to urban heritage in Ireland.

## **IHTA – locally**

Originally published in 2003, IHTA, no. 13, Fethard by Tadhg O’Keeffe was used as the basis for the ‘Digital Atlas of Fethard’ ([digitalatlasfethard.com](http://digitalatlasfethard.com)), which was launched in 2018. This community project was co-ordinated by Dr Rachel Murphy and was funded by the Fethard Historical Society and the Heritage Council.

Fethard Historical Society walking tour of Fethard, Co. Tipperary as part of the launch and associated conference for the ‘Digital Atlas of Fethard’, 24 August 2018. Photo: Joe Kenny, Fethard.



Jennifer Moore of the IHTA ran two workshops in Academy House for the Dublin Festival of History in September/October 2018. The focus of the 'Behind the Maps' workshops was the three Dublin atlas fascicles (part I, to 1610 by H.B. Clarke; part II, 1610 to 1756 by Colm Lennon; and part III, 1756 to 1847 by Rob Goodbody).

Organised locally, IHTA-related lectures ran throughout the year in various towns and suburbs: Colm Lennon in Clontarf (January), Sarah Gearty and Martin Morris in Longford (March), Jacinta Prunty in Galway (January and June) and John Martin in Dunganvaran (March and August).

## Digital Repository of Ireland

In March 2018, the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) published its new Membership Model, detailing the benefits and fees of membership. This was part of a significant transformation for the DRI over the past 18 months as it moved from time-limited research project status within the Academy to a national infrastructure with core funding from the Department of Education and Skills, Higher Education Authority and Irish Research Council. DRI have also renewed their Board, published their latest series of metadata guidelines and continue to advocate for best practices in digital preservation, as well as the policy actions required to enable and support these practices.

Illustration from Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association Archive, deposited in DRI by Dublin City Library and Archive.

In April 2018, the DRI acquired the Core Trust Seal, a universal standard that reflects the core characteristics of trustworthy data repositories. This certification ensures that the social and cultural data deposited by our members remains safely preserved for the long term. All of these changes will ensure the long-term sustainability of the DRI.

New members of the DRI in 2018 include Dublin City Library and Archive, who possess a huge volume of valuable public collections including the Birth of the Republic Special Collection, the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Photographic Collection, the Irish Theatre Archive and the North Strand Bombing Oral History Project. The Royal Irish Academy also became a member and continue to use the DRI to give free access to collections from the Academy Library and Publications departments.





## Library exhibitions

In 2018 the Library contributed loans to a number of external exhibitions as well as running two in-house exhibitions. The first of these, 'Françoise Henry and the history of Irish art', based on the papers, photographs and original sketches by archaeologist and early Irish art specialist, Françoise Henry, MRIA, was displayed January to June. Dr Eileen Kane, a former colleague and doctoral student of Dr Henry, delivered a wonderful lecture 'Françoise Henry at

UCD: towards a history of Art History in Ireland', in conjunction with this very popular exhibition.

The second exhibition, 'Prodigies of learning: Academy women in the nineteenth century', was accompanied by a series of lunchtime lectures in November on each of the women. It explored the contributions to the sciences and humanities of the five women elected to honorary membership of the Academy between 1791 and 1876.

Above: One of Françoise Henry's illustrations in her *La Sculpture Irlandais*. Opposite: Mary Sommerville © Somerville College. Courtesy of the Principal and Fellows of Somerville College.



The exhibition reflected upon

- the extraordinary life and work of revolutionary and Director of the Imperial Academy of Sciences and the Imperial Russian Academy—**Princess Ekaterina Dashkova** (1743–1810);
- mathematician, astronomer and passionate advocate for women's education, **Mary Somerville** (1780–1872);
- first professional female astronomer and discoverer of eight comets and numerous nebulae, **Caroline Herschel** (1750–1848);
- writer on education and ground-breaking novelist **Maria Edgeworth** (1768–1849);
- artist and antiquarian researcher whose important publications influenced attitudes towards 'Celtic' art in the Irish Free State, **Margaret Stokes** (1832–1900).

## Book of Ballymote

Codices Hibernenses Eximii • 2 • Edited by Ruairí Ó hUiginn



### Book of Ballymote launch

On 1 November, the President of the Royal Irish Academy welcomed a large gathering to celebrate the launch of the Book of Ballymote, *Codices Hibernenses Eximii*, 2, which is dedicated to the memory of the doyen of Irish scholarship, the late Donnchadh Ó Corráin, MRIA. The output of a successful 2015 conference, the publication, edited by Ruairí Ó hUiginn, MRIA, takes a fresh look at questions relating to the background and contents of the Book of Ballymote. Liam Breatnach, MRIA, launched the volume on behalf of the Academy.

### Library digitisation projects

Irish Script on Screen (ISOS) paid their annual visit to digitise items from the Irish manuscripts collection. This year—phase 20—a record 12 manuscripts were digitised. To date there are 97 Academy manuscripts available on the widely used ISOS resource – [www.isos.dias.ie](http://www.isos.dias.ie).

The Library also began participation in the landmark ‘Beyond 2022’ project, which aims to digitally reconstitute the Public Record Office (PRO) records lost to future generations in 1922 due to the destruction of the Four Courts. The project is based in Trinity College Dublin and funded by the Irish Research Council and supported by Trinity’s ADAPT Centre, the Trinity Association and Trust and the Making Ireland Research Theme. The project is a collaboration between the National Archives (Dublin), the National Archives (UK), the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Irish Manuscripts Commission (IMC).

The project seeks to identify antiquarian transcripts, certified copies and other documents, which can help to create a corpus of digital materials reflecting the original PRO collection. The ‘Beyond 2022’ team has initiated a pilot project with the Academy Library to digitise the series of county-based Inquisitions transferred to the Library in the nineteenth century by Thomas A. Larcom, MRIA, as part of the Ordnance Survey records donated to the Academy. The digital records will be uploaded and linked to database entries and will be the subject of a trial using automated transcript software. The intention is to make the ensuing transcripts available for research along with the source documents.





## Pipe-playing pigs - new use for an old image

The image of a pig playing the pipes, known to all uilleann pipers, is featured on a recent An Post stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of Na Piobairí Uilleann. The original image is found in RIA MS D ii 2, a metrical Dindshenchas (lore of places).

## Donations

The Academy was delighted to receive the James C.I. Dooge Memoir Papers from the family of the late Jim Dooge (1922–2010), a former Academy president, an engineer and expert in hydrology. Honoured with memberships of numerous academies and professional societies in America and Europe, Jim Dooge was also a politician, policymaker and strategist. His unpublished memoir and ancillary papers relating to his work

with the Office of Public Works and to party matters, as well as a large collection of scientific offprints, were kindly donated by Cliona and Dara Dooge on behalf of the Dooge family in spring 2018.

We gratefully acknowledge the transfer by donation of 14 original ink drawings executed for the Academy publication—E. Eames and T. Fanning, 'Irish medieval tiles' (Dublin, 1988)—from the British Museum, which holds Elizabeth Eames's collection.

The donation by former Academy president, James Slevin, of a letter and supporting documents from the late Seamus Heaney, MRIA, on the occasion of his selection for the Academy's Cunningham medal award are gratefully acknowledged.

The Library was delighted to take receipt of the beautiful Folio Society facsimile edition of the medieval Luttrell Psalter

(detail below) published in 2006. We acknowledge the generosity of the donor, Cornelius J. Colgan.

Through the good offices of Bernard Browne, the executors of Monsignor Lory Kehoe (1935–2017) donated a collection of books relating to County Wexford that were not previously held by the Library. We acknowledge with thanks the Gately family, Ita Cummings and Angela Kelly, and Bernard Browne.

Thanks to Mr David Elyan, London, for the gift of a scrapbook of cuttings relating to *The Dubliner* journal; this completes The Dubliner archive 1961–73.

## Funding

We acknowledge with thanks the Irish Historical Studies subvention of €2,000 towards the costs of Irish History Online and thank the following for significant funding donations during 2018: Blayney Blades Women's Group, Castleblayney; Dr P. Cohen; Irish Ancestry Research Centre Ltd., Cork; and Sovereign Alliance Tours. We also acknowledge the generosity of donors who wish to remain anonymous.

## Donors of books and archives 2018:

Members: H.B. Clarke; M. Clayton; L.O. Drury; R. Gillespie; P. Harbison; G. Huxley; U. Kockel; J. Lunney; B. McCormack; D. Ó



Cróinín; M. O'Dowd; N. Ó Muraíle;  
J.Waddell.

Friends: P.J. Ashe; G. Beggan; D. Begley;  
R.J. Bennett; Bodleian Library, Oxford; M.  
Bourke; The British Museum; C. Brosnan;  
B. Browne; Carlow County Museum;  
Clare County Library; G. Cloonan; Coiste  
Léann na Gaeilge, Litríocht na Gaeilge agus  
na gCultúr Ceilteach; C.J. Colgan; Cork  
Institute of Technology; Cork UP; Crow's  
Rock Press; W. Cumming; I. Cummings; B.  
Cunningham; F.A. D'Arcy; Dictionary of  
Irish Biography; Discovery Programme;  
C. Dooge; D. Dooge; Dublin City Council;  
Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies; T.P.  
Dungan; D. Elyan; N. Feeney; S. Fitzpatrick;  
FNG; Foxrock Local History Club; Gael  
Linn; M. Gately and M. Gately; J. Gibney;

U. Gormley; Hemen Verlag; The Heritage  
Council / An Chomhairle Oidhreachta;  
Heron-Allen Society; Holy Faith Convent,  
Glasnevin; A.J. Hughes; J. Hussey; A. Ireland;  
Irish Georgian Society; IHTA; A. Kelly; H.  
King; M. Lee; H.F. Leslie-Jacobsen; Lillyput  
Press; Mayo.ie; M. McCarthy; D. MacHale; L.  
Mac Peaircín; D.A. Murray; National Gallery  
of Ireland; R. Ó Ciaráin; J.P. O'Connor;  
Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society;  
V. O'Mara; F. O'Sullivan; Na Píobairí Uilleann;  
M. Quirke; Royal College of Surgeons in  
Ireland; B. Smith; Society of Irish Foresters;  
J. Stanford; Teagasc; Trinity College Dublin; K.  
Waldron; C.J. Woods.

We also acknowledge the generosity of  
all donors to the Academy who wish to  
remain anonymous.



# Summary of Accounts for the Year ended 31 December 2017

## General Purposes Current Account\*

<b>Income</b>	<b>€</b>
Grant-in-aid	2,742,000
HEA Funding - Pension Legacy & FMPI	259,422
Members subscriptions	73,249
Sale of Publications	149,632
Sale of Proceedings	69,487
Miscellaneous	160,312
Room Rental	81,522
Dept of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht	167,204
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>3,702,828</u></b>
<b>Direct Expenditure</b>	
Audit, Law, Bank, Professional Charges	84,624
Fuel & light	31,034
Furniture, Equipment, Household & Rent	62,588
Discourses	13,597
Miscellaneous	31,245
General Insurances	14,018
Information Technology	119,674
Supplementary Pensions	111,496
Postage and telephone	36,569
Printing Administrative	12,920
Salaries & Wages	1,328,668
Stationery & Office equipment	22,232
Training & Development	34,603
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>1,903,268</u></b>
<b>Allocations</b>	
Library	317,210
Editorial Office	368,281
General Publications	122,103
Foclóir na Nua-Gaeilge account	393,091
Celtic Latin Dictionary account	105,256
International Exchanges & Fellowships account	27,788
International Unions and General Assemblies account	31,621
Irish Historic Towns Atlas account	139,630
Dictionary of Irish Biography account	381,209
<b>Total of Allocations</b>	<b><u>1,886,189</u></b>
Total of Expenditure	3,789,457
<b>Income</b>	<b>3,702,828</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b><u>3,789,457</u></b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit EOY</b>	<b>(86,629)</b>
Brought forward from previous year	<u>42,294</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u><u>(44,335)</u></u></b>

\*The above accounts are shown on a cash receipts basis. Under the provisions of the Comptroller and Auditor-General (Amendment) Act 1993, the Academy's accounts are subject to audit on an accruals basis by the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

# Summary financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2017

The summary financial statements presented here have been extracted from the financial statements of the Royal Irish Academy as approved by the Council of the RIA and audited by the Comptroller & Auditor General, whose report was signed on 19th December 2018. Review full financial statements online at: [ria.ie/reports/financial-statements](http://ria.ie/reports/financial-statements)

## Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	€	€
<b>Income</b>		
Oireachtas grants	3,001,422	2,827,515
Funding and other income	2,419,096	2,256,321
Income (deferred)/released in the period	(85,839)	268,091
Deferred pension funding	848,000	762,000
	<u>6,182,679</u>	<u>6,113,927</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Staff costs	5,074,411	4,890,036
Accommodation and establishment	136,780	147,441
General administration	481,238	520,521
Publication costs	175,807	249,700
Conference and meeting expenses	103,800	181,492
Book purchases and international subscriptions	61,525	67,977
Grants and awards	163,804	139,023
Depreciation	28,019	26,335
	<u>6,225,384</u>	<u>6,222,525</u>
<b>Operating deficit</b>	(42,705)	(108,598)
Unrealised gains on investments	80,620	76,520
Transfer (to) / from Capital Account	(38,402)	11,728
Transfer (to) Endowment Funds	(56,175)	(52,896)
<b>Deficit for the year</b>	<u>(56,662)</u>	<u>(73,246)</u>

## Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	€	€
<b>Fixed assets</b>		
Property, Plant & Equipment	76,169	37,767
Heritage assets	20,000	20,000
Funds and Projects Financial assets	<u>3,386,845</u>	<u>3,271,862</u>
	<u>3,483,014</u>	<u>3,329,629</u>
<b>Current assets</b>		
Inventory	212,196	201,903
Receivables	43,977	64,747
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>2,234,330</u>	<u>2,141,367</u>
	<u>2,490,503</u>	<u>2,408,017</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b> (amounts falling due within one year)		
Payables	(246,047)	(227,036)
Deferred income	<u>(3,324,670)</u>	<u>(3,145,724)</u>
<b>Net current liabilities</b>	(1,080,214)	(964,743)
<b>Total assets less current liabilities before pensions</b>	<u>2,402,800</u>	<u>2,364,885</u>
Deferred pension funding asset	19,978,000	18,042,000
Funded Scheme Assets	2,132,000	2,130,000
Pension Liabilities	<u>(22,110,000)</u>	<u>(20,172,000)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<u>2,402,800</u>	<u>2,364,885</u>
<b>Financed by:</b>		
Capital account	76,169	37,767
Endowment funds - Expendable	2,041,089	1,984,914
Endowment funds - Permanent	20,000	20,000
Retained Revenue Reserve	<u>265,542</u>	<u>322,204</u>
	<u>2,402,800</u>	<u>2,364,885</u>

The Academy's financial statements have been prepared under the accruals method of accounting, and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles under the historical cost convention, except for income from the Oireachtas Grant, which is accounted for on a receipts basis.

Financial Reporting Standards recommended by the recognised accountancy bodies are adopted as they become operative.