MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

From time to time, as we cross paths with our alumni, we are reminded of the interest so many of you have expressed in maintaining contact with the department: in attending events, have a chance to meet up with old and new students and staff, or simply to keep up to date with what is going on. So in response, here is our first Alumni Newsletter and it will, I hope, initiate more regular and extensive contact with our former students. We plan to get this out to all of our alumni eventually, but it will take time to gather together everyone’s contact details – so please tell your friends from your College years to get in touch with us and we will add them to our mailing list.

Our website will provide ongoing updates of news and fuller details of the programme, so we hope you will consult it regularly. In particular, we look forward to seeing you at lectures and events, at extra-mural courses, or even gracing the Reading Room again as a post-graduate!

In this Newsletter you will see details of three symposia and an exhibition, all scheduled for this term. In particular, our first Alumni Lecture will take place in December, intended especially for you and your friends. For old times’ sake, some of these will be given by past and present staff members, the first to be delivered by Peter Cherry. Full details will be on the website and we hope to see you there!

Yvonne Scott
Head of Department and Director of Triarc

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

The most important development of recent years has been the formation of the School of Histories and Humanities in 2005, in which four disciplines joined forces: History, Classics, History of Art and the Centre for Gender and Women’s Studies. This was a coming together of willing allies that slightly pre-dated the College’s restructuring programme. The Departments in our school continue to operate their own degrees and activities under a Head of Department, but there is a School Executive Committee overseeing separate committees for Research, Postgraduate Teaching and Learning and Undergraduate Teaching and Learning. That may sound like a lot of committees, but all of them conduct business relevant only to us (as opposed to big central College committees), and even (or especially) long-standing members of staff find that there has been a big improvement in the quality of academic discussion. It has all developed into an extremely effective and strong alliance. The first Head of School was Jane Ohlmeyer, Erasmus Smith’s Professor of Modern History (2005-8), who did a wonderful job of pulling everything together. She was followed by Roger Stalley, Professor of the History of Art (2008-2010) and recently myself. We have been very lucky in having, since the beginning, the same (and outstanding) Administrative Officer, Dr Debra Birch. We also have excellent colleagues in our IT officer, Pat Carty and our Extra-mural director, Patricia Stapleton.

Brian McGing
Regius Professor of Greek and Head of School of Histories and Humanities
OUR DEGREES

MODERATORSHIP IN THE HISTORY OF ART AND ARCHITECTURE
The undergraduate degree retains fundamentally the same tried-and-tested structure that will be familiar to all of our alumni. A major change in recent years has been the effect of semesterisation which has seen the change from three teaching terms to two longer ones each incorporating a ‘reading week’ (no lectures), and with the third ‘term’ designated for the exams. Within the degree, the ongoing commitment to extending the geographical reach of the programme beyond the western tradition has been realised through the modules dedicated to Japanese and Indian art. A long-held ambition to add to the Department’s expertise by providing a specialisation in medieval manuscripts was realised by the appointment in 2010 of Dr Laura Cleaver (see page 5).

ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL HISTORY AND CULTURE (AMHC) DEGREE
Three years ago, the School welcomed the first students in this new single-honors degree, presented jointly by the disciplines of History of Art, History and Classics, who brought together their combined experience in ancient and medieval history and culture. The new degree course allows students to get to grips with the art and architecture of Antiquity and the Middle Ages, both in the classroom and through visits to sites across Europe. Last year saw the students examining medieval manuscripts in Durham Cathedral and braving Hadrian’s Wall in mid-winter, and this year students will travel to Florence to explore works of art and architecture from the ancient world to the Renaissance. Back in the seminar room, as they progress through the course, students choose from a wide range of modules examining aspects of history and culture, such as ‘Roman Letters’, ‘Norman Conquests’, or ‘The Art of Sanctity’. We look forward to celebrating with our first graduates from the course in 2013.

POSTGRADUATES
The MPhil in Irish Art History is entering its tenth year, with a new cohort of students about to begin the course. While the brief continues to be the study of Irish art of all periods, examined in a broader international context, the content has evolved quite significantly since is inception, and additions to the programme have responded to feedback from our alumni and from potential applicants, as well as changing needs filtering through from the art environment. The programme now includes a module on Curating Art in Theory and Practice in response to the interest shown in the work of galleries, museums and curating. A new module entitled Art, Gender and Identity will be presented by alumna Dr Catherine Lawless, the new Director of the Centre for Women’s and Gender Studies.

The survey course, Irish Art and its Contexts, has been a long-standing staple of the degree, providing an overview of the history of Irish art from pre-Christian times to the present. This team-taught module has been revised and updated by Dr Philip McEvansoneya and includes lectures by a range of experts from various institutions as well as the Department. This lecture series is available on an extra-mural basis.

Alumni who are considering returning to study may be interested in this one-year taught masters, which combines teaching on various aspects of Irish art, and a dissertation. For further information consult the Department’s website (http://www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/) or contact Course Director, Dr Yvonne Scott at scotty@tcd.ie. The Department continues to host a lively cohort of research post-graduates with almost thirty currently researching new topics, many with the benefit of prestigious awards achieved against stiff competition, from IRCHSS, College awards including the Ussher Fellowship, and other sources.
POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

The collegial research environment is enhanced through the presence of post-doctoral Fellows. Congratulations to Karen Brown who was awarded an IRCHSS Cara Award under the joint mentorship of alumna, Dr Alyce Mahon at Trinity College, Cambridge, and Yvonne Scott. Her first two years will be spent at Cambridge, with her final year in the History of Art Department here in Dublin.

Following a generous benefaction from Clare and Tony White, a Post-Doctoral Fellowship was established enabling its first incumbent, Dr Eimear O’Connor, to develop her PhD research on Sean Keating. During her tenure, she has curated several exhibitions of the artist’s work most recently at the Crawford Gallery in Cork, and the RHA in Dublin. Her monograph on the artist is due to be published in 2013. The closing date has just passed for applicants for the new White Post-Doctoral Fellowship, and the successful candidate will be announced before Christmas.

DO YOU MISS ATTENDING LECTURES?

If you miss attending lectures then you might like to know that the majority of the Department’s lecture courses are available on an extra-mural basis. See www.histories-humanities.tcd.ie/extramural/ – places may be limited.

INAUGURAL ALUMNI EVENT

PETER CHERRY

DISCOVERING VELÁZQUEZ: KUDOS AND CASH

Wednesday 12th December:

On Wednesday 12 December 2012 Peter Cherry will deliver a lecture entitled Discovering Velázquez: Kudos and Cash. The event will take place at 7pm in the Emmet Theatre, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin. This event is open to alumni and their guests and will be followed by a wine reception. A formal invitation will be issued shortly. Please keep the date!

The retirement lectures in recent years by Eddie McParland and by Roger Stalley brought such an enthusiastic response from alumni we thought that we should get the staff to give lectures to alumni and guests now, rather than wait until the staff were leaving! We look forward very much to seeing you at our inaugural alumni event.
STAFF NEWS

In 2010 Laura Cleaver was appointed to a new position as the Ussher Lecturer in Medieval Art. This post was awarded to the Department to expand the range of departmental expertise in medieval manuscripts. Funding for Ussher posts was highly competitive so it was a coup for the Department to achieve this prestigious outcome.

Laura Cleaver, Ussher Lecturer in Medieval Art.

NEW RESOURCES

Many alumni will be familiar, by now, with the Provost’s House Stables building. Sensitively renovated in 2007 by award-winning architects O’Donnell+Tuomey, and launched in 2008, it provides an environment conducive both to contemplation and collegiality. More than 170 years old, the building, originally designed by Frederick Darley junior (1798-1872) to accommodate the horses and carriages of the Provost and his visitors, and to house the grooms and stable-boys, the spaces were readily transformed to their new use with minimal impact on the integrity of the original building. The stable stalls were transformed into study carrels, the hayloft into a reading room, and the carriage rooms into a seminar/lecture space. While surrounded by high stone walls, and a cobbled courtyard shaded by trees, with floors of thick granite slabs, and broad timbers pockmarked by pitchforks, this traditional stables building provides contemporary research facilities with wifi, datapoints, and computers. The renovation was supported by a generous philanthropic donation.

Alumni will remember the large Reading Room and Slide Library (room 5083) for staff and students of the History of Art. With the change from slides to digital media for showing images, the slide-drawers and lightboxes have been archived leaving room for other purposes. This enabled us to reconfigure the space and to create a new, spacious, well equipped seminar room with fresh air and natural light! (This will touch a chord with those who remember the cramped space and stuffy atmosphere of the old seminar room, where the door had to be kept open throughout classes!) The initial phase has been completed and the new seminar room is big enough for small lectures. Over the next few months the refit will be completed with improvements in the quality of image projection.
OUR RESEARCH

ROGER STALLEY

RECONSTRUCTIONS OF THE GOTHIC PAST

The last few years in the Department have seen exciting developments in the area of digital technology, and these include the launch of a web site devoted to Gothic architecture in Ireland – www.gothicpast.com. The site is built around several thousand photographs of cathedrals, abbeys, friaries, covering sculpture as well as architecture. The bulk of the photographs come from the collections of Edwin Rae (an American professor) and Roger Stalley; as well as recent views, the site includes evocative images of ancient monuments long before modern restorers took over. The site is interactive, so any enthusiastic ‘Goths’ who studied in the Department can upload their own observations and images. The hope is that the site will become a focus for everyone interested in Irish medieval architecture. As well as photographs, there are also drawings (mainly from Dr Danielle O Donovan’s collection), and in due course the site will include research papers and theses. The site is still in its infancy, and thousands more photographs will eventually be uploaded. Don’t forget to take a look – www.gothicpast.com – you never know what you might find (try ‘cadaver’ in the search box for example!). The creation of the site would not have been possible without the award of a major grant from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS) covering the period 2008-11. This provided funding for a project on Irish Gothic (entitled ‘Reconstructions of the Gothic Past’) led by Roger Stalley, which has involved conferences, symposia, and the preparation of a book – Irish Gothic architecture: construction, decay and reinvention – to be published by Wordwell Press in the autumn of 2012.

YVONNE SCOTT

BACON’S BOOKS: FRANCIS BACON’S LIBRARY AND ITS ROLE IN HIS ART

Artists’ libraries have proven a rich resource in exploring the triggers to creativity in visual art. Bacon was an avid reader, and lived and worked surrounded by books, many of them illustrated, that he readily plundered for ideas in pursuit of his unique, often disturbing, imagery. The Department, in collaboration with Dublin City Gallery, the Hugh Lane, has secured an IRCHSS Research Development Initiative award to support the Bacon’s Books project. Jointly led by Yvonne Scott and by Barbara Dawson, Director of the Gallery, the project aims to complete a searchable digital catalogue of the almost 1,300 books, now owned by the Gallery, that belonged to the artist Francis Bacon at the time of his death. The expertise of Dr Margarita Cappock, a renowned Bacon expert, and Dr Monika Keska, Research Assistant to the Project, are central to the project. Prof Nicholas Grene, Department of English, is a research associate.

For more information, and details of the forthcoming Bacon’s Books symposium, see the Departmental website: http://www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/.
Our Research (cont’d)

Angela Griffith and Philip McEvansoneya

Drawn to the Page: Irish Artists and Illustration C.1830-1930
an exhibition to be held in the Long Room, Trinity College Dublin,
24 October 2012 – 21 April 2013.

Drawn to the Page: Irish artists and illustration c.1830-1930, will explore Irish artists’ involvement in book illustration from the nineteenth century to the first decades of the twentieth century. The period covered by the exhibition is widely recognised as the heyday of European book and periodical illustration to which many Irish artists made significant and influential contributions. The College Library has in its collection some of the finest illustrated texts from the project period, many of which are illustrated using hand-cut plates or blocks. The exhibition will allow a close examination of illustration as an artform in its own right. It will also point to a number of contextual issues including the aesthetic and cultural value of illustration; the materials and processes of illustration production and publishing; the typologies of illustrated publishing such as books, broadsheets and periodicals, and the dissemination of such materials. Among the artists to be included are: Daniel Maclise, George Petrie, William Mulready, Charles M. Grey, F.S. Walker, Margaret Stokes, Robert Goff, Jack B. Yeats, Elizabeth C. Yeats, Harry Clarke, Joseph Campbell, Robert Gibbings, Mabel Annesley, and E.M. O’Rourke Dickey. The exhibition will also include four original etchings of Trinity College and its environs by the artist Myra K. Hughes (1884-1918). Hughes was one of the first Irish artists to produce and exhibit modernist etchings in Ireland.
OUR RESEARCH (cont’d)

PETER CHERRY

DIEGO VELÁZQUEZ PORTRAIT

Peter Cherry was in the news last year for his attribution to Diego Velázquez of a previously unknown portrait, which represents an unidentified middle-aged man in typically austere Spanish costume. It appears to have been painted in the early 1630s, after the artist’s return from Rome. The rarity of portraits by Velázquez of individuals outside the royal family make the find doubly important. In this respect, it would be nice to know the identity of the sitter. It was sold at Bonhams London in December for £3m and is now with the New York dealer Otto Naumann.

‘Portrait of an unknown man’ by Diego Velázquez.

LAURA CLEAVER

HISTORY BOOKS IN THE ANGLO-NORMAN WORLD c.1100-1300

Laura Cleaver is leading an interdisciplinary research project called History Books in the Anglo-Norman World c.1100-1300, funded by a Marie Curie Action Grant (FP7). The project explores how people in the Anglo-Norman world in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries expressed ideas about their past in texts and images. During this period history seems to have become a major interest for both the educated elite and a growing audience who accessed ideas through vernacular texts. New chronicles and annals were produced, together with accounts of the histories of particular peoples, nations and subjects. This project examines the manuscripts in which history was recorded, with a particular emphasis on the use of diagrams and narrative imagery to convey ideas about the past. The histories created in this period stretched back via Biblical history to the creation of the world by God, but also concentrated on more recent events, including conquests and social and political changes, as men and women sought to make sense of the world they lived in and how it had come into being. In addition, one of the strands of this work will look at how authors and artists used their ideas about the past to try to predict the future, as they contemplated both human and divine conceptions of time, culminating in the Last Judgement. In the last year it has been a great pleasure to welcome three international visiting researchers to TRIARC who have been working on relevant manuscripts in Trinity’s collections: Dr Kati Ihnat has been exploring a collection of Marian Miracles, Laura Slater has concentrated on an unusual image of Christ’s genealogy in the Winchcombe Psalter, and Dr David Woodman has been examining two copies of John of Worcester’s chronicle. Post-doctoral appointments will soon be made in connection with this project. In addition a network of Research Associates has helped to bring a range of perspectives to the work being undertaken. The project also hosted a series of stimulating and inspiring guest lectures on medieval historiography, with invited speakers including Professor Stephen Church (University of East Anglia), Dr Jane Hawkes (University of York) and Dr Michael Staunton (University College Dublin). For further information, publications, and future events see: http://www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/research/history-books.php.
OUR RESEARCH (cont’d)

CHRISTINE CASEY
ARCHITECTURE AND PLASTERWORK

In 2011 Christine Casey received a Paul Mellon research support award for fieldwork in Great Britain and an Environment Fund award for photography of European and English plasterwork interiors. Both awards relate to a monograph on architecture and stucco ornament currently in preparation.

REPRESENTATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

Staff in the History of Art Department are regularly invited to participate in boards of institutions and foundations involved in aspects of the history of art and architecture.

Recent new roles:
Peter Cherry has just been appointed Membre Titulaire for Ireland of the Comité International d’Histoire de l’Art (CIHA), the international committee representing art history in thirty-five member states across the globe. He replaced outgoing representatives, Kathleen James Chakraborty (UCD), and Yvonne Scott, TCD.

In May 2012 Christine Casey joined the board of the Castletown Foundation.

EVENTS

PAST EVENTS:

STUDENT STUDY TOUR
Many of you will fondly remember the annual student study tour, the excitement of seeing in reality the art and architecture so familiar from slides and lectures. And perhaps less fondly the aching feet from hours spent in museums, galleries and on architectural site visits.

This year, the tour was to Paris; no matter how often one visits it as a lecturer, each group of students refreshes that experience of witnessing the original artworks for the first time.

ROGER STALLEY’S MEDIEVAL JOURNEYS
After more than forty years of inspirational teaching and ground-breaking research, Roger Stalley retired from College last December. The event was marked by a lecture, given by Roger, that traced the trajectory of his own pilgrimage of discovery of the art and architecture of the Medieval past. Alumni will remember the infectious enthusiasm of his teaching, and all who attended the lecture were satisfied that nothing had changed. This had nothing to do with the fact that all were welcomed to a reception in advance of the talk (Roger’s ideal) – and there was a gratifyingly large turnout from his many friends, colleagues and former students.
EVENTS (cont’d)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday 5th October: Art Without Borders: Cultural Exchange and Influence in Irish Art History
A student-led symposium, organised by post-graduate candidates Katy Milligan and Karen Ralph, will take place on Friday 5th October, in the Trinity Long Room Hub, with keynote address by Sean Rainbird, Director of the National Gallery of Ireland. For details, go to the Departmental website, or click on: http://artwithoutborderstcd.wordpress.com.

Friday 19th and Saturday 20th October: Bacon’s Books Symposium
A symposium entitled Bacon’s Books will take place on 19th and 20th October, 2012. The opening keynote will be given by Martin Harrison, editor of Francis Bacon: the catalogue raisonné, while the closing keynote will be delivered by Prof Martin Hammer, University of Kent. Further details of this free event are available on the websites of the Hugh Lane Gallery (http://www.hughlane.ie/) and the Department (http://www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/), and you may now register your interest in attending with Yvonne: scotty@tcd.ie.

Saturday 17th November: Drawn to the Page: Irish Artists and illustration c.1830-1930 a public symposium
In conjunction with the exhibition Drawn to the Page: Irish artists and illustration c.1830-1930, the History of Art Department and TRIARC will host a public symposium which will be held in Trinity College, on 17 November 2012. Speakers will be invited from a range of backgrounds and will examine the role of Irish artists and illustration within the wider social, historical and cultural contexts of the period. It is intended that the papers will be published in an illustrated volume. Full details of this event will soon appear on the Departmental website (http://www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/), but you may now register your interest in attending with Angela griffiam@tcd.ie or Philip pmcevans@tcd.ie.

Wednesday 12th December: Inaugural Alumni Event
Peter Cherry Discovering Velázquez: kudos and cash
On Wednesday 12 December 2012 Peter Cherry will deliver a lecture entitled Discovering Velázquez: Kudos and Cash. The event will take place at 7pm in the Emmet Theatre, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin. This event is open to alumni and their guests and will be followed by a wine reception. A formal invitation will be issued shortly. Please keep the date!

The retirement lectures in recent years by Eddie McParland and by Roger Stalley brought such an enthusiastic response from alumni we thought that we should get the staff to give lectures to alumni and guests now, rather than wait until the staff were leaving! We look forward very much to seeing you at our inaugural alumni event.

ON THE COVER:

IRELAND’S FAVOURITE PAINTING
During the summer RTE television ran a series devoted to finding Ireland’s favourite painting. Various celebrities were invited to give their opinions and a public poll was conducted. The outcome was that Frederic William Burton’s Hillel and Hildebrand, better known as The meeting on the turret stairs, gained the top spot. The meeting on the turret stairs is in watercolour and gouache on paper and measures 95.5 x 60.8 cm. It was painted in 1864 and was bequeathed to the National Gallery of Ireland in 1900 by Margaret Stokes, a life-long friend of Burton. The painting is reproduced courtesy of the NGI © National Gallery of Ireland.
BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

DECORATIVE PLASTERWORK IN IRELAND AND EUROPE

On May 30th Decorative plasterwork in Ireland and Europe, edited by Christine Casey and Conor Lucey and published by Four Courts Press, was launched in the eighteenth-century Exam Hall at TCD by Mr Beat Loeliger, Swiss Ambassador to Ireland. The launch was preceded by a public lecture in the Trinity Long Room Hub on the subject of Christine Casey’s current research, Ticinese plasterwork in Europe, Britain and Ireland. The book is the outcome of a conference convened at Trinity in 2012 which drew speakers from six European countries. A grant from the Environment Fund supported the conference and publication, with supplementary grants from TRIARC and the Arts & Social Sciences Benefactions Fund. International contributors include Alastair Laing, curator of paintings and sculpture at the National Trust, Professor Andrea Spiriti of the University of Como/Varese, Dr Barbara Rinn of the Freies Institut für Bauforschung Marburg, Dr Martin Krummholz, Institute of Art History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech republic and Dr Clare Gapper, an authority on early-modern plasterwork in Britain. Conservators of plasterwork also contributed: Ian Constantinides and Richard Ireland (UK) and Wijnand Freling (Netherlands). Irish contributors include Professor Alistair Rowan, Dr Joseph McDonnell and James Coghill. James graduated from TCD in 2011 and his essay stems from a first-class Senior Sophister dissertation on a private collection of drawings for quadratura and stucco. A foreword to the book was written by the Altmeister of stucco studies, Dr Geoffrey Beard OBE, FSA, who was prevented from contributing to the conference due to ill health. The book is dedicated to the late Desmond FitzGerald, 29th Knight of Glin and the launch proceedings included a tribute to him. The theme of the book and conference will be further developed in the academic year 2012-13 through a lecture series on architecture and ornament jointly held by the Department of History of Art & Architecture at TCD and the School of Art History & Cultural Policy at UCD. The series, entitled ‘Ornament Matters’, begins on October 16th at 7.30 pm in the Neill/Hoey Theatre of the Trinity Long Room Hub. The first lecture, ‘The decorative architecture of Fischer von Erlach’, by Martin Krummholz has been kindly supported by the Austrian Embassy to Ireland.

GOTHIC LEGACIES: FOUR CENTURIES OF TRADITION AND INNOVATION IN ART AND ARCHITECTURE

A volume of essays, Gothic Legacies: four centuries of tradition and innovation in art and architecture, co-edited by Laura Cleaver has recently been published by Cambridge Scholars, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
IN MEMORIAM

DESMOND FITZGERALD, 29th KNIGHT OF GLIN (1937-2011)

The contribution of Desmond FitzGerald to the study of Irish art and architecture requires little introduction to graduates of this Department. His collaboration with Professor Anne Crookshank for more than four decades resulted in a series of monographs on Irish painting which remain definitive, as does his own work on Irish furniture. His support and encouragement of post-graduate research at TCD was of immense value to young scholars and the gift of his photographic archive to TRIARC continues to inform scholarship. On September 28th 2012 a day of tribute was held at Castletown House in County Kildare to honour the Knight’s interests in the decorative arts. Of the five papers by former colleagues and friends, two were delivered by Dr Edward McParland and Dr Christine Casey.

LOUIS LE BROCQUY (1916-2012)

It is less than five years since the Provost’s House Stables was officially launched by artist Louis le Brocquy, whose encouraging words and high praise for the building as a locus for the study of Irish art history were echoed by those of his friend, then Provost John Hegarty. Le Brocquy was an apt choice to cut the ribbon; his contribution to Irish art has been immense, encompassing a long and productive career combining themes and issues of direct local significance with those of international, even global import. It was with sadness that staff in Triarc and the Department learned of his death earlier this year, and our condolences are extended to his wife, artist Anne Madden, and to his family. A College bench commemorating the Stables launch, and dedicated to Louis, is located in the cobbled courtyard.

KEEP IN TOUCH

We intend to communicate with you regularly, updating you on what has been happening in History of Art and Architecture at Trinity and also to keep you informed about our future plans. We also encourage you to keep in touch with the Department and update your contact details by logging onto www.tcd.ie/alumni/update. Please send any feedback, comments or news items for the newsletter to Nonie Gaynor at ngaynor@tcd.ie.

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