



Barony map from the Bibliothèque nationale de France.

# HISTORY

Newsletter | Summer 2013



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## WELCOME

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Welcome to this, the second, of our annual Newsletters for alumni. It has been a busy and significant year for the History Department – and this Newsletter includes reports on just some of the highlights in our research, teaching and pastoral activities. The year was, in some ways, capped for us in May, when the latest QS World University Rankings were published. These revealed that TCD's History Department was rated 33rd best in the world. Most of my colleagues remain, quite rightly, deeply sceptical about the methodology applied in determining such ratings. Nonetheless, there is little doubt that the league tables attract attention across the globe and they are increasingly considered, not least by international students thinking of studying abroad.

Trinity shone in particular in arts and social science subjects, with English, Politics and Modern Languages joining History as the College's top ranked subjects – and making TCD by far the best performer in Ireland. This achievement is all the more remarkable because of the difficult financial circumstances in which we all find ourselves. In an era of budgetary cuts we value more than ever the support that we receive from our alumni and friends, especially funding for our students and for the library.

As yet, the cuts have not had an impact on our core, permanent staff. But with a significant number of retirements expected in the next few years, we are vulnerable. Moreover, our staffing base is, by international standards, very, very small. Indeed, we would seem to be the smallest History Department in the top fifty of the latest rankings. The challenge that we face over the next few years in maintaining our emphasis on the delivery of excellence in research and teaching is, then, immense.

We are grateful to those of you who have supported us over the years. Our new careers initiative involving alumni – the 'Gradlink' Mentoring Programme – which is featured in the newsletter was a particular success.

Robert Armstrong has been elected to succeed me, for a period of three years, from 2013 to 2016. I wish him well dealing with the challenges the lie ahead. Robert's own year was perhaps capped by conferment of a Provost's Teaching Award for 2013. These prestigious awards are made to only a select number of staff who make an outstanding contribution in the pursuit of teaching excellence. Candidates are nominated by students and colleagues and the awards are only made after a full evaluation of each candidate's teaching portfolio, undertaken by an academic panel chaired by an external assessor. It is encouraging that we have a new departmental head who is so fully committed to all that is best about Trinity.

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and I look forward to your feedback. Do stay in touch and perhaps we will see you at the coffee morning during the alumni weekend or attend one of our alumni events during the year.



*David Ditchburn*

## STAY IN TOUCH

If you would like to receive this newsletter and any future correspondence by email, please contact us at [histhum@tcd.ie](mailto:histhum@tcd.ie)

**Get connected with Trinity's Front Gate Online!**

Update your details, search and contact fellow alumni, register for events, join the career network and other groups – all in one place. Register today at

[www.tcd.ie/alumni/frontgateonline](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/frontgateonline)

# RESEARCH NEWS

## MAPPING IRELAND: THE DOWN SURVEY PROJECT

The Down Survey Project, funded by a research fellowship grant from the Irish Research Council, was developed in TCD's History Department by Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú and his team David Brown and Eoin Bailey. It is the most complete genealogical and historical resource for early modern Ireland available online. The website (<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie>) was launched on 13 May 2013 in the Trinity Long Room Hub by Professor William Smyth (UCC), editor of the *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine*, and Ed Parsons, Chief Geospatial Technologist at Google. The public response has been remarkable, with over 100,000 visits to the website in the first few weeks.

But what is the Down Survey? Following the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland (1649-53), the English state was obliged to redeem debts owed to soldiers and merchant 'adventurers' with land in Ireland seized from Catholic insurgents. William Petty, physician-general of the English army in Ireland, was employed to perform an exact, mapped survey of the lands, called the Down Survey as 'a chain was laid down, and a scale made'. This survey, undertaken by groups of soldiers under Petty's supervision, was the most ambitious and detailed mapped survey of any country and set the standard for future colonial surveys. The maps, produced at county, barony and parish level, were to be used with the Books of Survey and Distribution, a

compilation of all the previous surveys into land ownership down to townland level.

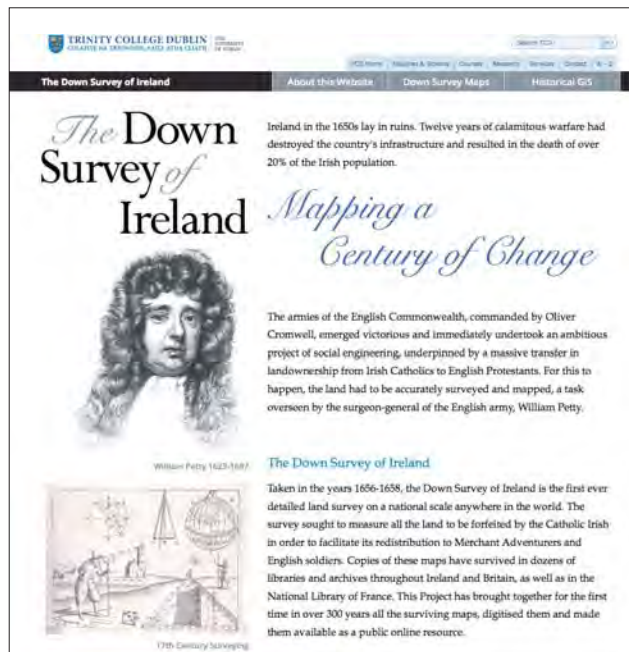
The result was a single source of maps and data but unfortunately a fire broke out in the Surveyor General's office in 1711 destroying the maps for Connacht and for parts of Munster and Leinster. A small number of copies had been made before the fire and numerous copies were made of the surviving maps prior to the complete destruction of the manuscripts in the Four Courts at the outbreak of the civil war in 1922. These copies are now in a host of libraries and archives throughout Ireland, Britain and France. This project brings the collection together again for the first time in over three hundred years.



Barony map from the Headfort set, National Archives of Ireland.

## RESEARCH NEWS (cont'd)

### MAPPING IRELAND: THE DOWN SURVEY PROJECT



Screen shot from the home page of the Down Survey website.

Additional sources included in the project are the 1659 Census and recordings of murders in the 1641 Depositions. The 1659 census covers much of the country and records the number of inhabitants of each townland and the names of some of the principal tenants. The 1641 Depositions are a collection of 8,000 witness statements kept at Trinity College. They became the chief evidence for the hotly contested allegation that Irish Catholics had massacred hundreds, if not thousands, of their Protestant neighbours. The Down Survey project in Trinity College has reassembled these surveys and sources, and rendered them into a single digital Geographical Information System (GIS).

It is now possible to view your own parish or county as it appeared in the seventeenth century, overlay the maps onto modern maps and ascertain local winners and losers in terms of land ownership. The project is a process not a product in the sense that we will continue to refine and improve the information available to us, as well as add new sources when they become available. The possibilities are endless. Enjoy!

*Micheál Ó Siochrú*

### MAKING WAR, MAPPING EUROPE, 1792-1920

Professors Joseph Clarke and John Horne have just won a substantial European Science Foundation 'HERA' award for their role in an international research project, 'Making War, Mapping Europe: Militarized Cultural Encounters, 1792-1920'. The HERA programme was established to fund exciting new research in the humanities across Europe and competition for this award was intense. The European Science Foundation received over six hundred applications and the award made to the TCD historians is one of just fifteen successful projects. Much of the grant will go towards employing two postdoctoral fellows in TCD who will work closely with Professors Clarke and Horne on the project.

Also working together with colleagues from the Freie Universität Berlin and from the UK universities of Swansea and York, the TCD team will explore the experience of soldiers and civilians as they came in contact during the conflicts of the 'long' nineteenth

century. Spanning the period from the French revolutionary wars of the 1790s (the focus of Clarke's research) to the aftermath of the First World War (Horne's area of expertise) the project will analyse how the era of mass armies inaugurated by the French Revolution involved millions of men in unprecedented cultural encounters across Europe, the Mediterranean world and the Middle East. From Napoleon's invasion of Italy and Egypt in the 1790s to the British occupation of Palestine during the First World War, warfare helped redefine the relationships between Europeans and between Europe and the extra-European world throughout the 'long' nineteenth century. By focussing on the experience of ordinary soldiers during these wars, the project will explore how conflict shaped the collective mental map of Europe and its borders in the modern age.

*Joseph Clarke*

# NEW CAREERS INITIATIVE

## HISTORY ALUMNI MENTOR STUDENTS

The School of Histories and Humanities launched its first Careers Mentoring Programme ('Gradlink') in January 2013. The programme is an interactive learning and educational experience, offered to Junior Sophister students in History and intended to assist them in their personal and career development. History graduates are crucial to the success of the scheme and ten of the Department's alumni, now working in a diverse range of careers, mentored students on this year's programme. The graduates involved included Linda Barry (Institute of International and European Affairs); Úna Faulkner (IMPACT); Lorna Jennings (Hume Brophy); Ciara Kerrigan (National Library of Ireland); Heidi Loughheed (IBEC); Ruadhán Mac Cormaic (Irish Times); Eileen O'Brien (Blackhall Publishing); Fleachta Phelan (Comhlanh); Graham Roe (Oxfam); and Sarah Shiel (Tandem Design). Following the launch event, students were assigned a graduate mentor, based on their area of interest. Mentors and mentees met two to three times over the duration of the programme, which runs for the academic year.

A mid-way mentoring event, held in March was addressed by Professor Ian Robertson, an internationally recognised psychologist and motivational speaker, who spoke to students and mentors on 'The Winner Effect – Success and How to Use it'.

The Department values maintaining strong links with its graduates in order to draw on the breadth of experience



*History graduate Graham Roe with JS students at Launch of Gradlink Mentoring Programme.*

which they can contribute to undergraduate learning. Students benefit enormously from the exchange of ideas with graduates and gain useful insights into optimising and managing their career development. For their part, graduates feel that as well as 'giving something back' and keeping in touch with College, they also benefit on a more personal level. Thank you to our mentors for their enthusiasm, commitment and time in participating in our inaugural mentoring programme.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact our Global Officer, Nonie Gaynor, at [ngaynor@tcd.ie](mailto:ngaynor@tcd.ie).

*Nonie Gaynor*

*'I would definitely recommend [Gradlink] to a friend and would participate again. It reminded me that there is, indeed, a life outside of university and that we should be thinking about that now, and where we want to go in the future. The variety of mentor careers was commendable ... It also made the future seem less intimidating and allowed us to discuss important strategies and tips with mentors and how to get a foot on the ladder of our career of choice.'*

*(Junior Sophister participant in Gradlink)*

### ALUMNI APPEAL THANKS

Many thanks to all who donated to the Trinity Alumni Appeal. Your generosity has helped many students in History. If you would like to donate to the 2013 appeal, please go to [www.tcd.ie/development/alumniappeal](http://www.tcd.ie/development/alumniappeal) or phone +353 1 896 2088.

## STAFF NEWS

### INTRODUCING CIARAN O'NEILL

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Many readers will remember Bill Vaughan, the Department's specialist in nineteenth-century history. Bill retired in 2009 and he was eventually replaced in 2011 by Ciaran O'Neill, Ussher Lecturer in Nineteenth-century History. Ciaran specialises in the social and transnational history of Ireland and holds degrees from NUI Galway and the university of Liverpool. He was also Irish Government Scholar at Hertford College, in the university of Oxford, in 2010-11. His first book, *Irish Elites in the Nineteenth Century*, an edited collection, was published by Four Courts Press in March 2013. A monograph entitled *Catholics of Consequence: Transnational Education, Social Mobility, and the Irish Catholic Elite, 1850-1900* will be published by Oxford University Press in the coming months. At TCD Ciaran directs a freshman module on modern British history. He also lectures on the 'Ireland and the Union' senior freshman module, as

well as directing two sophister options, the List 3 class 'Ireland and Empire, 1801-1947' and the year-long List 1 class 'Elites, Power and People: A Social History of Nineteenth-century Ireland'. At postgraduate level Ciaran directs the new and hugely successful M.Phil. in Public History and Cultural Heritage, now entering its third year in existence. Dr O'Neill is currently secretary of the Society for the Study of Nineteenth Century Ireland, and a founding member of the Transnational Ireland network.

### IN BRIEF

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**Professor John Horne** has spent the academic year 2012-13 at the Institute for Advanced Study at the university of Freiburg in Germany, where he was awarded a prestigious fellowship to pursue on-going research on World War I. The award included funding for a full-time replacement at TCD, **Dr Patrick Bernhard**, who offered a diverse range of modules including a year-long List 1 class on 'Advertising and Consumerism: Reconfiguring European Society in the Twentieth Century'. Meanwhile **Professor Eunan O'Halpin** spent Michaelmas Term in Delhi, to further his research on Ireland and India. And **Professor David Fitzpatrick** was in Cambridge for much of Hilary Term, following his appointment to the prestigious Parnell Visiting Fellowship in Irish Studies for 2012-13.

Congratulations to **Dr Catherine Lawless** (BA 1990; PhD 1999) who returns to TCD from Limerick University to become Director of the Centre for Gender Studies—she will undertake some teaching in History too. **Dr Peter Crooks** (BA 2002; PhD 2007) is also returning, in his case from Norwich, following his appointment to a post in Medieval History. Meanwhile, **Dr Elaine Murphy** (PhD 2007) has been appointed to a lectureship in Maritime History at Plymouth University. Two of our recent postdoctoral fellows have also gained permanent lectureships – **Dr Scott Spurlock** in Church History at Glasgow University and **Dr Laura O'Brien** in History at Sunderland University.

# UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

## FIRSTS IN IRISH STUDIES

In 2007-8 College introduced a new degree programme in Irish Studies. The programme involves staff from several departments, though the departments of History, English and Irish contribute the core of the course. This year saw the first Irish Studies student to be awarded Schol. That student, **Caitlín Nic Íomhair**, who also gained a first class degree and gold medal, now reflects on her experience of the last four years.

Irish Studies was the obvious choice for me. As an Irishwoman, I wanted truly to understand my culture and its origins, and as a student I couldn't seem to decide on which two subjects I was most passionate about. The course is unique in allowing us to be at once very focused on one culture—and so develop an unusual level of familiarity with it—and very broad, so that nothing interesting need be dismissed as irrelevant. The result is both a telescopic and microscopic view of Irish culture which can then be related to the outside world.

Irish Studies is an intellectually challenging course which forces you to interrogate what you might previously have taken for granted. It is not always a comfortable experience; we look at myths, oversights, contradictions and tensions in Irish culture. Nor do we 'just' learn about Ireland. Far from being insular, we try to relate Irish experiences to the wider world, and students have the freedom to branch out from Irish-focused modules altogether in later years. Even within the core course, a broad range of perspectives are combined with a coherent focus. The result is a far deeper understanding of your country and your role in it, and a critical perspective on seemingly 'natural' constructs like the nation.

As much as learning the different skills required for the study of history, literature and language, we learn how to relate those disciplines to one another. With guidance from expert teaching staff in their field, we combine knowledge from each discipline to gain a fresh perspective on each discipline, and a holistic understanding of Irish culture. It is very interesting to see how different subjects challenge and support one another and much is revealed in the gaps between their interpretations. There is great variety to the course. Classes are small and, because students have the freedom to focus on the subjects they are most passionate about, we learn from each other as well as from the lecturers.

Irish Studies is an academically rewarding course but it is also meaningful on a deeply personal level. Students are encouraged to think for themselves and challenge their own motives. The result is a personal engagement and academic understanding of Irish culture firmly rooted in the language, literature and history of the country. At the end of four years, we have a strong basis in each discipline and a uniquely informed perspective of the nation as a whole.



## Remember.

### The Power of a Legacy to Trinity

There's an old saying that the true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade one does not expect to sit. When you leave a legacy to Trinity however big or small, you're planting a tree which will grow to provide shelter to many. You're empowering ground-breaking research which will benefit people in Ireland and all over the world. You're supporting students from all backgrounds to access a Trinity education. You're helping preserve our unique campus and heritage for new generations. When you remember Trinity in your will, you join a tradition of giving that stretches back over 400 years – and reaches far into the future. For more information about leaving a Legacy to Trinity, please contact Eileen Punch.



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## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

### BURNING IN SCOTLAND

In November 2012 four members of staff, Professors Joseph Clarke, Anne Dolan, Micheál Ó Siochrú and David Ditchburn, accompanied a dozen postgraduate students for a weekend at 'The Burn'. The Burn is a beautiful country mansion, built in 1791 and set in the middle of the stunning Angus countryside in Scotland. It is administered by the governors of London House for Overseas Graduates and it has long since hosted academic occasions. The purpose of the visit was to enable TCD postgraduate students to present papers on their research to an audience of staff and graduate students from TCD and the university of Aberdeen. For



several students it was the first opportunity they have had of presenting the findings of their work – and of facing sustained and penetrating questioning from a friendly but critical audience. The papers ranged from a discussion of proto-crusades in the eleventh century by Axel Kelly (BA 2010), now working for his PhD with Professor Ian Robinson, to a consideration of Irish Protestant nationalism in the twentieth century by Conor Morrissey, supervised by Professor David Fitzpatrick. While the Department met the costs of meals and accommodation, students paid their own air fares, some aided by generous grants from alumni. This was the third occasion in the last six years that students from the two universities have staged such an event. The value of the occasion was emphasised by previous participants, some of whom were so impressed that they too have offered to contribute to the costs of future visits.

## UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

### ***Friday, 23 August 2013***

Re-live your student days by visiting the Arts Building for a  
**special alumni coffee morning at 10:30am**

Celebrate your lifelong connection to Trinity by taking a trip down memory lane with old friends and academics over a cuppa. To book your place online - [www.tcd.ie/alumni/weekend/](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/weekend/)

### ***Friday, 13 September 2013***

The Department of History cordially invites alumni to a  
**wine reception at 5:30pm in the Long Room Hub, TCD**

in advance of the lecture

**at 7:00pm in the Thomas Davis Theatre, Arts Building**

entitled **“All but King of Ireland”: The Great Earl of Kildare**

delivered by Professor Steven Ellis (NUI Galway) as part of the Inaugural Medieval Ireland Symposium

**The Geraldines and Medieval Ireland: The Making of a Myth**

Reserve your place online at [www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/upcoming/](http://www.tcd.ie/alumni/news-events/upcoming/)  
or rsvp to [hishum@tcd.ie](mailto:hishum@tcd.ie) by 30 August 2013

### ***Tuesday, 18 February 2014***

All History alumni are kindly invited to attend the following public lecture:

**‘Being Jewish in World War Two France’**

**at 7:30pm, Burke Theatre, Arts Building**

Holocaust Memorial Lecture: Professor Renée Poznanski (Ben Gurion University, Israel)



## NEWS FROM THE CENTRES

### EARLY MODERN

The Centre for Early Modern History enjoyed a very successful inaugural year. The Centre promotes understanding of the culture, society, economy, religion, politics and warfare of the early modern period. It organises seminars, conferences and lectures, and covers Ireland, Britain and Europe and areas beyond Europe. In December the Centre held its first annual public lecture. The speaker was Andrew Pettegree, Professor of Modern History at the university of St Andrews. Pettegree spoke to the title 'Tabloid Values: On the Trail of the World's First News Hound'. His lecture discussed the voracious appetite for news in early modern communities. However, in an era of slow and uncertain communication, assessing the reliability of rumour, reports and despatches was by no means easy. In this context, Pettegree explored the contribution to the building of a commercial news market of Abraham Verhoeven, who helped shape our concept of how news should be reported and presented. The Centre offers thanks to the College Visiting Professorship Benefaction Fund for its support of this lecture. For more information about this Centre please consult [www.tcd.ie/history/research/centres/early-modern/](http://www.tcd.ie/history/research/centres/early-modern/)

*Graeme Murdock*



*Andrew Pettegree, Professor of Modern History at the university of St Andrews.*

### MEDIEVAL

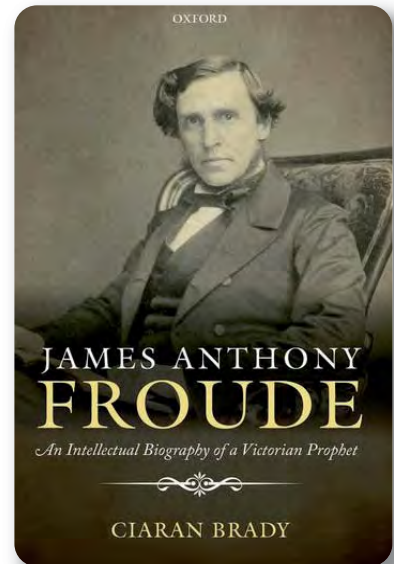
While the Department's newest research centre in early modern history enjoyed a busy year, so too did the Department's oldest research centre, the Medieval History Research Centre. The medievalists are now comfortably ensconced in their new accommodation in South Leinster Street – some readers will recall the less than salubrious rooms in Pearse Street (and before that in Westland Row) that the Centre previously occupied. The library still, however, constitutes the focal point of a sizeable community of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, as well as staff, who come together for a weekly research seminar. Among the past year's highlights was the first Annual Lecture in the History of Medieval and Renaissance Medicine, staged jointly with the Edward Worth Library. The lecture, co-organised by Worth librarian Elizabethann Boran (BA 1987; PhD 1996), was delivered by Professor Samuel Cohn of Glasgow University, one of the world's leading experts on the history of plague and syphilis. Meanwhile, in another seminar Professor Howard Clarke solved the mystery of who designed the Bayeux Tapestry. For more information about this Centre please consult [www.tcd.ie/history/research/centres/medieval/](http://www.tcd.ie/history/research/centres/medieval/)

## NEW BOOKS

### Ciaran Brady, *James Anthony Froude: An Intellectual Biography of a Victorian Prophet*

Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013; 528pp, hbk, £45. ISBN-13: 9780199668038

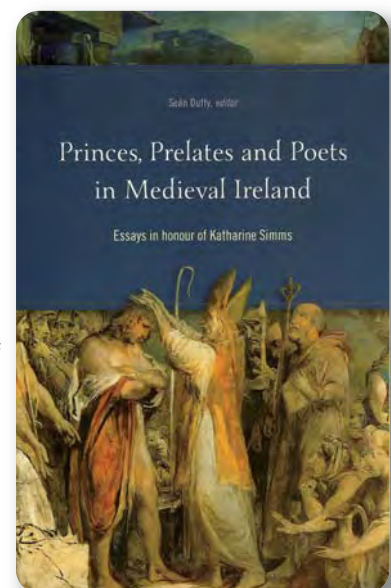
Ciaran Brady's latest book is about James Anthony Froude, among the most frequently cited but gravely misunderstood figures in Victorian intellectual life. Known in part by students of historiography, literary scholars, theological students, specialists in nineteenth century theories of race, imperialism and education and historians of Ireland, his life and thought have been fragmented and the significance of his often provocative writings and actions has been seriously underrated and misconstrued. This book is an attempt to redress this neglect. The first study to attempt a coherent survey of Froude's intellectual life from his early days as an Oxford *enfant terrible*, to his final years as a pillar of the establishment and unapologetic reactionary, Ciaran Brady's study is based upon a close and critical reading of all of Froude's published work and his unpublished correspondence, much of which has been newly discovered. It reveals an underlying consistency in Froude's convictions which, despite the multiple voices he employed to address a wide variety of audiences, rested on a deep sense of personal ethical obligation, derived in part from the traumas of childhood, and from his acute understanding of the implications of the failure of Protestantism. The book offers a series of original readings of some of Froude's most controversial works—his early novels of doubt, his histories of England and Ireland and his scandalously intimate biography of Thomas Carlyle. But it also points to some profound tensions in Froude's moral outlook which were to lead him to take great risks in the presentation of his message, which ultimately threatened to undermine the thrust of even his finest work and his own standing as a public moralist. For further information and reviews see [www.amazon.com/James-Anthony-Froude-Intellectual-Biography/dp/0199668035](http://www.amazon.com/James-Anthony-Froude-Intellectual-Biography/dp/0199668035)



### Seán Duffy (ed.), *Princes, Prelates and Poets in Medieval Ireland. Essays in Honour of Katharine Simms*

Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2013; 600 pp, hbk, €55.  
ISBN-13: 9781846822803

This volume is one of the largest and most authoritative collections of essays that have been published in many years on the theme of medieval Ireland. Presented to mark the retirement of Katharine Simms, the doyenne of studies of Gaelic Irish society in the later Middle Ages and formerly Senior Lecturer in the TCD History Department, the book is focussed around themes that have characterized Simms' contributions to the field: from the changing function of kingship and lordship in Gaelic and Anglo-Norman Ireland, to the organization of the medieval Irish church, to examination of the formation and achievement of Ireland's learned classes, particularly the poets. Contributors include several TCD graduates, including Elizabeth Fitzpatrick (PhD 1977), Robin Frame (PhD 1971), Annette Kehnel (PhD 1995), Brendan Smith (PhD 1990), Colin Veach (PhD 2010) and Freya Verstraten (PhD 2008).



## EXTRAMURAL STUDY



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# IN MEMORIAM

## PROFESSOR JAMES LYDON, 1928-2013

*James Lydon, Lecky Professor of [Medieval] History (1980-93), passed away on 25 June. Here, Seán Duffy offers a personal memoir of a great medievalist.*

The death took place, on 25 June, of James Francis Lydon, Lecky Professor of [Medieval] History, a towering figure in the History Department and the College, which he served loyally for a third of a century, latterly as Senior Fellow on the College Board, until retirement in 1993. Successor in the Lecky Chair to his hero, Edmund Curtis, and to Jocelyn Otway-Ruthven, he combined the best of both, exuding Curtis's empathetic warmth for the human story of Ireland's past while sharing the Ot's fascination for Anglo-Irish institutional history.

A graduate in 1950 of English and History at NUI Galway, his MA (1952) supervisor was the great economic historian, M.D. O'Sullivan. Jim Lydon then obtained a research fellowship at the Institute of Historical Research at London University, completing a doctoral thesis under J.G. Edwards and Sir Maurice Powicke on 'Ireland's participation in the military activities of the English kings in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries' (1955). Appointed first to a lectureship in Galway, in 1959 he came to Trinity as a junior lecturer. He was elected a Fellow in 1965 and appointed Lecky Professor in 1980. He wrote three books – *The Lordship of Ireland in the Middle Ages* (1972), *Ireland in the Later Middle Ages* (1973) and *The Making of Ireland* (1995) – and he edited three landmark essay-collections.

Professor Lydon was one of those rare individuals who warrant the term inspirational: when our memory of all other university lecturers has become a blur, there remains the man simply known as 'Lydon' to generations of history students in College. Arriving in Trinity hoping to study modern history, hearts sinking at the wall-to-wall medievalism of the Junior Freshman year, disaffection evaporated in the magisterial presence of this man who could make 800-year-old events seem exhilarating and utterly relevant. And while some electrifying speakers are in truth poor scholars and some stylish writers deadly bores, 'JFL' was that rarity: an enthralling lecturer, a dedicated

archival researcher, a joy to read, a great man with whom to have a pint.

Although the kindest of souls underneath, he could be terrifying and devastatingly critical: woe betide the Fresher sidling in late to lectures or postgrads not putting their whole heart into presenting at his fabled Thursday evening seminar. But the antidote to all was the power of his praise: when Lydon praised you, you walked on air. Surely the gift of unstinted encouragement – a real and warm enthusiasm for effort sincerely made – was the greatest of his many gifts. Through it, he motivated ordinary people to produce extraordinary work and his love for Ireland's medieval past inspired many whom he taught to become teachers of history themselves and advocates for history among the generations to come. *Go dtreoraí na haingil isteach sna Flaithis é.*



*James Lydon with his former student, the late Sheelagh Harbison, pictured at the launch of a collection of his essays, edited by Peter Crooks, in 2008.*

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