

Newsletter 2014-2015

Inside this Issue

Welcome Message

Research News

Student News

Past Events

Upcoming Events

Message from the Head of Department

I'm delighted to welcome all our readers to our third annual Alumni Newsletter. One hundred years ago Europe witnessed a countdown to conflict, which would plunge the whole continent, and with it much of the rest of the world, into the horrors of the First World War. One thousand years ago, on the western edge of Europe, armies clashed at Clontarf in a battle which still resonates in Irish memory. During the past years members of the Department have been to the fore in reflecting on the importance of these events, including in the public media, and the newsletter includes reports on some of these occasions. Trying to understand events like these, global or local, and present them to audiences inside and outside Trinity, remains a vital part of what we do in the History Department.

We have faced challenges this year, but we remain buoyant as we pursue our goal to offer the best of teaching and of research in History. In May Professor Ciarán Brady was admitted as a Member of the Royal Irish Academy. Membership of the Academy, founded in 1785, is regarded as the highest academic honour in Ireland and a well-deserved tribute to Professor Brady's scholarship.

My colleagues continue to publish widely, producing books which convey fresh research but also open out new pathways into the past. I would like to mention work by two of our more recently appointed staff. Professor Ciarán O'Neill's book *Catholics of Consequence: Transnational Education, Social Mobility, and the Irish Catholic Elite, 1850-1900*, was published in June by Oxford University Press. It examines the education and subsequent lives of Irish Catholic boys and girls who attended elite schools in Ireland or were schooled in Britain or Continental Europe, in convent or public schools. Professor Susan Flavin's new book *Consumption and Culture in Sixteenth-Century Ireland* takes a very fresh look at life in Ireland in the 1500s through focusing on dress and diet, how these changed and what this meant for Ireland in relation to the wider world of the time. Her book will be published by Boydell in the autumn.

On a sadder note, we are losing our two office staff, Jennifer Scholtz and Pamela Hilliard. Pamela in particular will be known to many cohorts of students, especially Freshman students, for whom she was a reassuring and ever-helpful presence in the Department. We wish them both well in their new lives. They will be greatly missed.

We are grateful for all the support which alumni continue to offer the Department, not least through the very successful Gradlink Mentoring programme. We hope that you will enjoy the newsletter, and some of the events which are coming up in the next year.

Robert Armstrong

Head of Department of History



Adam Freidrich Zürner, *World Map with Celestial Views* (c.1718).
Fagel Collection, Portfolio 1, Map 1

Research News

The Fagel Project

The golden age of exploration will be brought to life by a new interactive website featuring thousands of magnificent 18th century maps which is being developed by researchers at Trinity College Dublin. The Fagel Project will see 10,000 maps including battle plans, urban streetscapes and maps of discoveries in the new world made available as a free online resource. It is part of an ambitious new digital humanities project being undertaken by the Departments of History and Computer Science at Trinity.

'Golden Age of Exploration' to be brought to life by Trinity Website, featuring unique 18th-Century map collection.

The beautiful maps, the majority of which are in colour, form part of Trinity's magnificent Fagel collection, a library assembled by the Fagel family in Amsterdam from 1630 to 1800. Regarded as one of the finest pre-1800 map collections in the world, the Fagel maps are unique in terms of quality and standard of preservation.

The collection contains maps from all parts of the world, with a particular emphasis on Europe, regions where the Dutch had trading or colonial interests or areas of recent discovery. It includes over 900 detailed urban street plans, several hundred battle plans showing all major conflicts in Europe from 1650 to 1800 and sea and celestial atlases.

Under the direction of Professor Micheál Ó Siochrú, the multidisciplinary team will create a fully interactive website showcasing the entire map collection. The website will allow users to view the maps as an image gallery with full zoom functions and also via a Google Maps interface which will overlay the 18th century maps on modern topography. The Google interface will include a "time" feature which will allow users to drill down through maps of the same area drawn up at different periods to explore how the area developed.

The website will also incorporate a number of novel visualisation tools including 3-D modelling of selected battle plans and urban streetscapes. Similar projects undertaken by the research team include the award-winning Down Survey of Ireland map project – see <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/>.

The initial phase of the Fagel Project has been supported by a philanthropic donation. The project is also being supported by Google, which is supplying the Fagel team with software tools and direct technical support and a major funding bid is being prepared for the European Horizon 20/20 scheme.

Speaking about the Fagel Project, Professor Ó Siochrú commented: "The creation of the Fagel map website gives these glorious treasures of Trinity Library a new lease of life and will provide an invaluable resource for all who wish to understand the development of European identities and of Europe's relationships with the wider world."

The project website can be viewed at <http://fagellibrary.eu/>



Map of the British Empire in America from the Fagel Collection

New Book Published by Professor David Dickson on *Dublin: the Making of a Capital City*

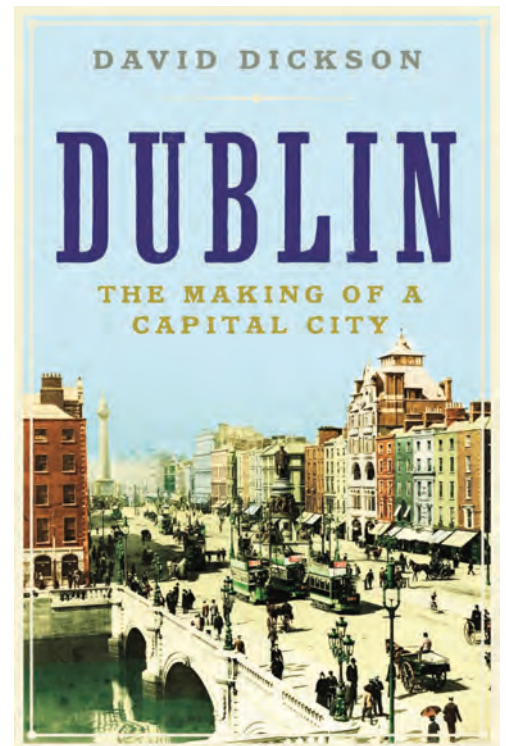
(London: Profile Books, 2014)

Ever since the publication in 1936 of Constantia Maxwell's *Dublin under the Georges*, Trinity historians have made a number of very substantial contributions to the historiography of Ireland's capital and of its place in the wider history of Ireland, Britain and Europe. David Dickson's new book is the first attempt to provide a scholarly survey of the city's history that spans its whole evolution from the ninth to the late twentieth century. The book draws on the work of numerous historians, geographers and archaeologists, but the particular contribution of Trinity researchers – past undergraduates, postgraduates, academic staff and librarians – is readily apparent.

Close to Joyce's *Ulysses* in length, the book traces the unfolding, not of one day in the imagined life of the city, but the lives of perhaps fifty generations of Dubliners. It reveals how much Dublin was always a hybrid place, a melting

pot and sometimes a collision point for Viking, Gaelic and Anglo-Norman settlers, for New English and Ulster Scots, Huguenot and Jewish immigrants, and it argues that much of the city's cultural singularity, both within Ireland and globally, was the result of that hybridity.

The principal focus of the book is the post-medieval emergence of Dublin, first as a seventeenth-century court town, then as a parliamentary metropolis in the eighteenth century, then the politically and religiously polarized town of the nineteenth century, and in the first half of the twentieth century the embattled centre of a new nation. It concludes with some reflections on the vast city-region that had taken shape by 2000, and where this fits into the subsequent sad story of the Celtic Tiger. For further details see www.amazon.co.uk/Dublin-The-Making-Capital-City/dp/1861973098/ref



Conference Report: The Curragh Mutiny in Context

This conference, held to mark the centenary of a crucial event in British as well as Irish political history, took place at the Curragh on 21 March 2014. The convenors were Professor Eunan O'Halpin and Professor Anne Dolan of the Centre for Contemporary Irish History, and the event was supported by the defence forces.

Leading historians of the era from Ireland and Britain were joined by senior Irish and British legal figures to explore issues arising from the Curragh 'Incident', 'Mutiny' or 'Crisis'. The event took place in Ceannt Barrack, the Curragh. Attendees included former Taoiseach Liam Cosgrave and Professor Risteard Mulcahy, whose fathers were members of government during the Irish 'army crisis' of March 1924, and the Honorable George Fergusson, Governor of Bermuda, whose grandfather Sir Charles Fergusson commanded the 5th Division at the Curragh in March 1914.

Following the historical presentations, barristers Roger Sweetman SC and Professor Eoin O'Dell BL presented contrasting analyses of the legal issues. These were deliberated on by a panel of judges: Mr Justice Ronan Keane (Chief Justice of Ireland, 2000-2004), Mr Justice Donal O'Donnell (Supreme Court of Ireland) and Sir Richard Aikens PC (Court of Appeal of England and Wales).

The conference was attended by a capacity audience of over one hundred people. All speakers agreed on the gravity and wider political consequences of the crisis of March 1914, but neither the historians nor the lawyers were unanimous on the specific question of whether or not any laws were actually broken because the army was never given direct orders to do what the officers at the Curragh said they would refuse to do.

The conference proceedings are being edited for publication by Eunan O'Halpin and Anne Dolan as *The Curragh Incident in Context: Soldiers and Politics in Britain and Ireland in the Twentieth Century*. The conference proceedings can be viewed via the TCD Decade of Commemorations website at: www.tcd.ie/decade-commemoration/

Student News

Ancient and Medieval History and Culture

Final Year Student Isobel Robertson talks about her experience of undertaking the degree course.

Ancient and Medieval History and Culture (AMHC) has been an excellent opportunity to pursue our own individual interests. Unlike most other students, we have had the chance to pick modules from three different departments (History, Classics, and History of Art) which has given us incredible variety. This year, for example, I studied both anthropology (in Classics) and archaeology (in History), and hugely enjoyed the chance to continue both subjects into my final year. Other students continued in History of Art, while some chose to focus on a single discipline.

This chance to personalise our degree is something that has developed since our first year compulsory introductory courses, helping us to examine issues from a wide variety of perspectives. In our third year, we

all took an AMHC-only course on Rome, taught by staff from all three Departments. It examined the city of Rome via a series of broad themes, rather than concentrating exclusively on one period or aspect.

The same approach was taken in our field trips (I was lucky enough to take part in the January 2013 trip to Florence), where we were given a great deal of freedom to choose our own research topics. It was an invaluable chance to develop our own ideas, as well as visit the places we had studied, and spend time with other students and staff. Studying AMHC has made for a hugely enjoyable four years, and I consider myself lucky that the course was established in time for me to take advantage of everything it offers.

GradLink Mentoring Programme

In 2012 the School of Histories and Humanities launched the 'GradLink' Career Mentoring Programme. We are delighted to report that the programme ran again this academic year, building on the success of the pilot programme. This interactive learning and educational programme is offered to Junior Sophister students in the Department to assist them in their personal and career development. The success of the programme is underpinned by the commitment of alumni of the Department, who mentor our students over the course of an academic year.

Following a launch event in late October, students are matched with a graduate mentor, based on the students' area of interest. Mentors and students meet 2-3 times over the course of the programme. A mid-way mentoring event is also held



Alumni mentors who participated in the 2013-14 GradLink mentoring programme

in January to allow mentors and students participating in the programme to reconnect. This year's mid-way event was jointly addressed by Fiona Ross, Director of the National Library of Ireland and Colm Ó Mongáin, RTÉ Editor and Presenter, both graduates of the Department.

A total of 26 graduates participated in this year's mentoring programme. History graduate mentors hailed from a diverse range of careers including: public relations, media, banking, law, management and politics, working for institutions such as

the American Chamber of Commerce, Bank of Ireland, the Houses of the Oireachtas, Goldman Sachs and Google.

The Department is very grateful to graduates of the Department who have given of their time voluntarily to participate in this programme. The 2014-2015 GradLink launch will take place on Tuesday 28 October 2014. If you are interested in becoming a mentor please contact the GradLink Programme Coordinator, Nonie Gaynor at shhmentoring@tcd.ie or visit www.tcd.ie/alumni/mentoring

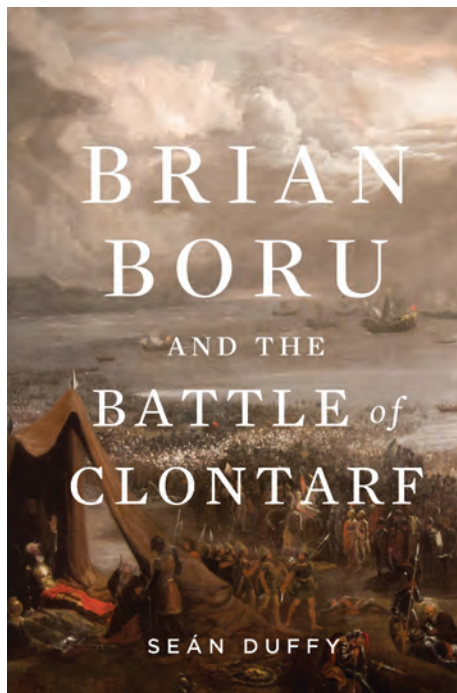
Past Events

Clontarf 1014-2014

National Conference to mark the Millennium of the Battle of Clontarf

A highlight of the Department's year was the conference held in the Edmund Burke Theatre on 11-12 April 2014 to mark the millennium of the Battle of Clontarf, one of the landmark events in Irish history. Organized by Professor Seán Duffy in partnership with Dublin City Council, the conference – which was open to the public and admission-free – heard from leading experts in the fields of Irish history, Scandinavian history, Celtic studies, and archaeology, speakers being drawn from universities throughout Ireland, Great Britain and further afield, as well as specialists from the National Museum and elsewhere.

The conference was also the sixteenth in a sequence of annual symposia organized by Professor Duffy and the Friends of Medieval



Dublin, the proceedings of which appear annually in the series *Medieval Dublin*, published by Four Courts Press. The fruits of this special Clontarf Conference will appear in 2016 as Volume XVI in the series.

The purpose of the Conference was to establish the truth of what really happened at the Battle of Clontarf for a twenty-first

century audience and re-evaluate the role of Brian Boru in the light of the latest research. Speakers also discussed recent investigations into the subject of the high-kingship of Ireland and of the role of the Vikings in medieval Ireland, and the capacity attendance of 400 had some myths dispelled (while some that we thought were myths were confirmed as facts).

The Conference made a substantial contribution to raising public awareness of the importance of Ireland's medieval heritage and was one of the focal points in the national programme of events to commemorate the millennium of Clontarf. In the run-up to it, Seán Duffy also published his own book on the topic, *Brian Boru and the Battle of Clontarf* (Dublin: Gill & Macmillan, 2013) and to coincide with the Conference both the *Irish Times* and the *Irish Independent* ran special supplements; the March-April issue of the best-selling *History Ireland* magazine was also devoted entirely to the subject, for which Professor Duffy acted as guest editor.

Trinity College made the perfect location for the Clontarf Conference since it has a unique connection to Brian Boru. Trinity is home to Brian Boru's Harp which, although considerably later in date, is the national symbol of Ireland. The College also houses the only artefact surviving today which we can definitively state the high-king saw and perhaps touched: the world-famous *Book of Armagh* with its inscription marking Brian Boru's visit to the primatial city in 1005 in which he is described as *Imperator Scotorum* ('Emperor of the Gaels').

Trinity also houses the largest collection of medieval manuscript sources for the Battle of Clontarf including the famous *Cogadh Gaedhel re Gallaibh* ('The War of the Irish with the Foreigners') which, more than anything else, created the later mythical image of Brian Boru. These and other priceless artefacts form the centrepieces of an exhibition in the Long Room of Trinity's Old Library, opened to coincide with the Conference. The exhibition runs throughout the summer: www.tcd.ie/Library/about/exhibitions/boru/



Audience at the Clontarf Conference in College, April 2014

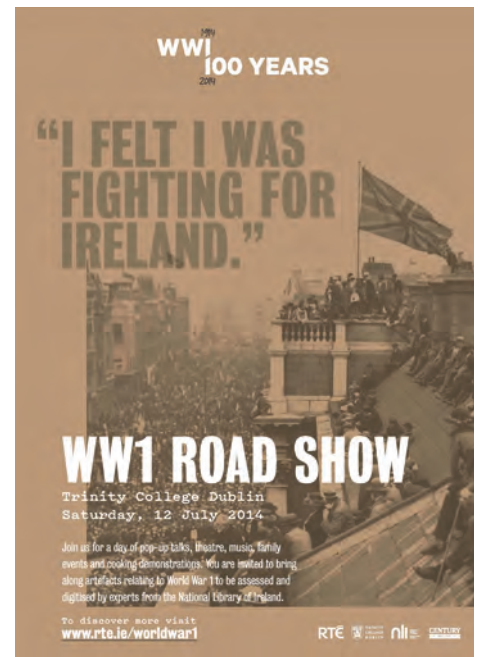
Past Events

World War One Roadshow at Trinity College Dublin

The World War One Roadshow was held at Trinity College Dublin on Saturday 12 July 2014, in partnership with the National Library of Ireland and RTÉ as part of a major retrospective to mark the centenary of World War 1. The day long programme featured a Family History Collections Day where members of the public were invited to register to bring along family items, letters and mementos related to the war for cataloguing for an online European archive and for reviewing by a team of experts from the National Library of Ireland.

A series of pop-up talks and lectures were held on the Great War and Trinity College Dublin's own history during this period. A number of the Department's historians delivered lectures during the course of the day. Drs Ciaran Wallace and Tomás Irish from the Department led walking history tours of campus related to the Great War.

The World War One Roadshow forms part of Trinity College Dublin's engagement with the Decade of Commemorations celebrations. Further information is available at: <http://www.tcd.ie/decade-commemoration/>



Upcoming Events

The James Lydon Lectures in Medieval History and Culture

Alumni and guests are invited to attend the James Lydon Lecture in Medieval History and Culture, which will take place on Tuesday 21 October 2014 at 7pm in the Thomas Davis Lecture Theatre. The public lecture entitled *War, Enslavement and Chivalry in Irish and European History* will be delivered by Professor John Gillingham, London School of Economics, Emeritus. The Lydon Lectures are organised by the Medieval History Research Centre. Further information is available on the following page.

Please RSVP by email to lydon.lectures@gmail.com or register online at www.tcd.ie/history/Lydon.Lectures

Annual Lecture in U.S. History, 2015

The Annual Lecture in U.S. History will be given on 11 March 2015 at 7pm in the Robert Emmett Theatre, Arts Building, Trinity College Dublin. Patricia Sullivan, Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, will speak on, 'Robert F. Kennedy, Civil Rights, and the Racial Crisis of the 1960s'. Sullivan, a leading expert in civil rights history, will speak about Kennedy's dynamic engagement with African American equality in the years before he was assassinated in 1968. The lecture precedes a public symposium on the history of the U.S. during the 1960s to be held at the Trinity Long Room Hub on the afternoon of 12 March. Alumni are most welcome to attend.

Contemporary Irish History Seminar Series

The Contemporary Irish History Seminar Series has run weekly in term-time since January 2001, from 4 to 5.30pm each Wednesday in the Neill Hoey Lecture Room in the Long Room Hub. It provides a platform for the exposition and exploration of new research in recent Irish history. It is open to the public and to people with direct knowledge of matters and issues under discussion as well as to the academic and postgraduate research communities. Alumni are particularly welcome.

The programme for the autumn semester 2014/15 will shortly be available at www.tcd.ie/history/research/seminars.php

Upcoming Events

The James Lydon Lectures in Medieval History and Culture

This lecture on **War, Enslavement and Chivalry in Irish and European History** will be delivered on 21 October 2014 by Professor John Gillingham (Emeritus Professor of History at the London School of Economics). Professor Gillingham is an historian of extraordinary range, best known as author of the standard textbook on *The Angevin Empire* (1984; 2nd edn 2001), and the biography of *Richard I* ('The Lionheart') in the distinguished Yale English Monarchs series. Professor Gillingham has written a series of seminal essays on the history and historiography of medieval Ireland, many of which appear in his collected essays: *The English in the twelfth century: imperialism, national identity and political values* (2000).



Matthew Hale, *After the Raid 1898*

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Registration:

www.tcd.ie/history/Lydon.Lectures



Professor James Lydon

It was in the millennium between the fall of Rome and the Reformation—commonly known as the 'Middle Ages'—that Europe emerged as something more than an idea, and many of the institutions, cultural forces and political ideas we associate with the 'modern' world were born. What is the continuing relevance of this era for contemporary Irish and European society? And how are we to understand medieval history and culture on its own terms, rather than through the distorting prism of presentist concerns? These are among

the most urgent and problematic questions facing medieval scholarship today. The Lydon Lectures provide a platform for a distinguished lecturer to reflect on these issues and to convey specialist findings to a mixed audience of academic specialists, students and members of the public. The series is named for James Francis Lydon who died on 25 June 2013. Professor Lydon was a towering figure in the Department of History, Trinity College Dublin. The Lydon Lectures are organized by the Medieval History Research Centre.

The James Lydon Lectures in
Medieval History and Culture

Public Lecture on

WAR, ENSLAVEMENT AND CHIVALRY IN IRISH AND EUROPEAN HISTORY


by Professor John Gillingham

London School of Economics, Emeritus

Tuesday 21 October 2014 at 7pm

Thomas Davis Lecture Theatre (Room 2043)

ADMISSION FREE ALL WELCOME



*Oregon Maple
Library Square
Planted early 1800s*

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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Get connected with 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!
www.tcd.ie/alumni/frontgateonline

Get Involved

Trinity has a long tradition of outreach and community engagement. To find out about the numerous ways you can get involved with Trinity both at home and abroad, see www.tcd.ie/alumni/volunteer

Upcoming Alumni Events

Christmas Commons
3 December 2014

Christmas Homecoming
22 December 2014

www.tcd.ie/alumni/events

www.tcd.ie/history

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