

Clontarf 1014-2014

Overview

There are few more emblematic dates in Irish history than that of the Battle of Clontarf, fought on Good Friday, 1014, when the high-king Brian Boru lost his life in the hour of victory against his Scandinavian and Irish foes.

To mark the 1000th anniversary of Clontarf and of Brian's death, a major international conference of academic experts will be held on 11-12 April 2014 in the Edmund Burke Theatre, Trinity College Dublin. Uniquely, the conference brings together all of the leading experts in the field from universities throughout Ireland (including Queen's Belfast, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, University College Cork, NUI Maynooth, and University of Limerick), Great Britain (including the Universities of Cambridge, St Andrews, and Liverpool), and further afield, including the Universities of Utrecht and Helsinki, as well as specialists from the National Museum of Ireland and elsewhere.

The objective of the **Clontarf 1014-2014** conference is to establish the truth of what really happened at the Battle of Clontarf for a twenty-first century audience. The methodology is explicitly interdisciplinary. For the first time, all the world's leading authorities on the subject from the fields of Irish history, Scandinavian history, Celtic studies, and archaeology, will be brought together in one public forum. This will be a unique opportunity to re-evaluate the significance of Brian Boru, the high-kingship of Ireland, and the impact of the Vikings on Ireland in the light of the cutting-edge research. The conference will also bring the Battle of Clontarf into the realm of public discourse, raising public awareness of the millennium, dispelling (or perhaps reconfirming) myths, and shedding new light on the significance of 1014 in Ireland's historical development.

Further Information:

All events take place in the Edmund Burke Lecture Theatre (Arts Building), Trinity College Dublin

Admission to the conference is open to the public free of charge.

Further information:

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Websites: <http://www.tcd.ie/history/clontarf/>

Registration:

<http://clontarfconference.eventbrite.ie>

Clontarf 1014-2014

National conference to mark the millennium of the Battle of Clontarf

ADMISSION FREE

ALL WELCOME



TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN
COLÁISTE NA TRÍONOIDE, BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF DUBLIN

Friday 11th -
Saturday 12th
April 2014

**Edmund Burke Lecture
Theatre**
(Arts Building)
Trinity College Dublin

16th Medieval Dublin Symposium in
partnership with Dublin City Council



- 09.15-10.00 **Opening Address:**
'Ireland in 1014: the great of church and state'
Donnchadh Ó Corráin
- Late Viking-Age Ireland**
- 10.00-10.45 'Irish politics in the late Viking Age'
Colmán Etchingham
- 10.45-11.15 Tea and coffee break
- 11.15-12.00 'The (legendary) rise of Dál Cais'
Bart Jaski
- 12.00-12.45 'The unique nature of Dál Cais DNA'
Catherine Swift
- Brian Boru And The High-Kingship**
- 14.00-14.45 'Brian and the kings of Leinster'
Edel Bhreathnach
- 14.45-15.30 'Brian and the Uí Néill kingship of Tara'
Eoin O'Flynn
- 15.30-16.00 Tea and coffee break
- 16.00-16.45 'Brian, Armagh and the Irish church'
Denis Casey
- 16.45-17.30 'The archaeology of Brian Boru'
Linzi Simpson



- 09.15-10.00 **Brian and the Battle of Clontarf**
'What actually happened at the Battle of Clontarf?'
Seán Duffy
- 10.00-10.45 'The wider world of learning: the making of Clontarf'
Máire Ní Mhaonaigh
- 10.45-11.15 Tea and coffee break
- 11.15-12.00 'Scandinavian kingship and the Battle of Clontarf'
Clare Downham
- 12.00-12.45 'Clontarf – the archaeological evidence'
Andrew Halpin
- The Legacy of Brian and Clontarf**
- 14.00-14.45 'Meic Briain and Uí Briain'
Paul McCotter
- 14.45-15.30 'Brian Bórainmhe and the Battle of Clontarf in later Irish tradition'
Meidhbhín Ní Úrdail
- 15.30-16.00 Tea and coffee break
- 16.00-16.45 'The Hiberno-Scandinavians after Brian'
Alex Woolf
- 16.45-17.30 'The high-kingship after Brian'
Marie Therese Flanagan

Trinity College Dublin has a unique connection to Brian, being the home of the so-called Brian Boru's Harp whose image is the national symbol of Ireland. Although the harp has no known link to Brian and is considerably later in date, Trinity College does in fact house 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 his visit to the primatial city in 1005 in which he is described as Imperator Scotorum ('Emperor of the Gaels'). Trinity College 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.

