

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY



ADMITTANCE OF  
NEW MEMBERS  
18 MAY 2007  
PROGRAMME



# ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

*Ireland's Academy for the sciences and humanities*

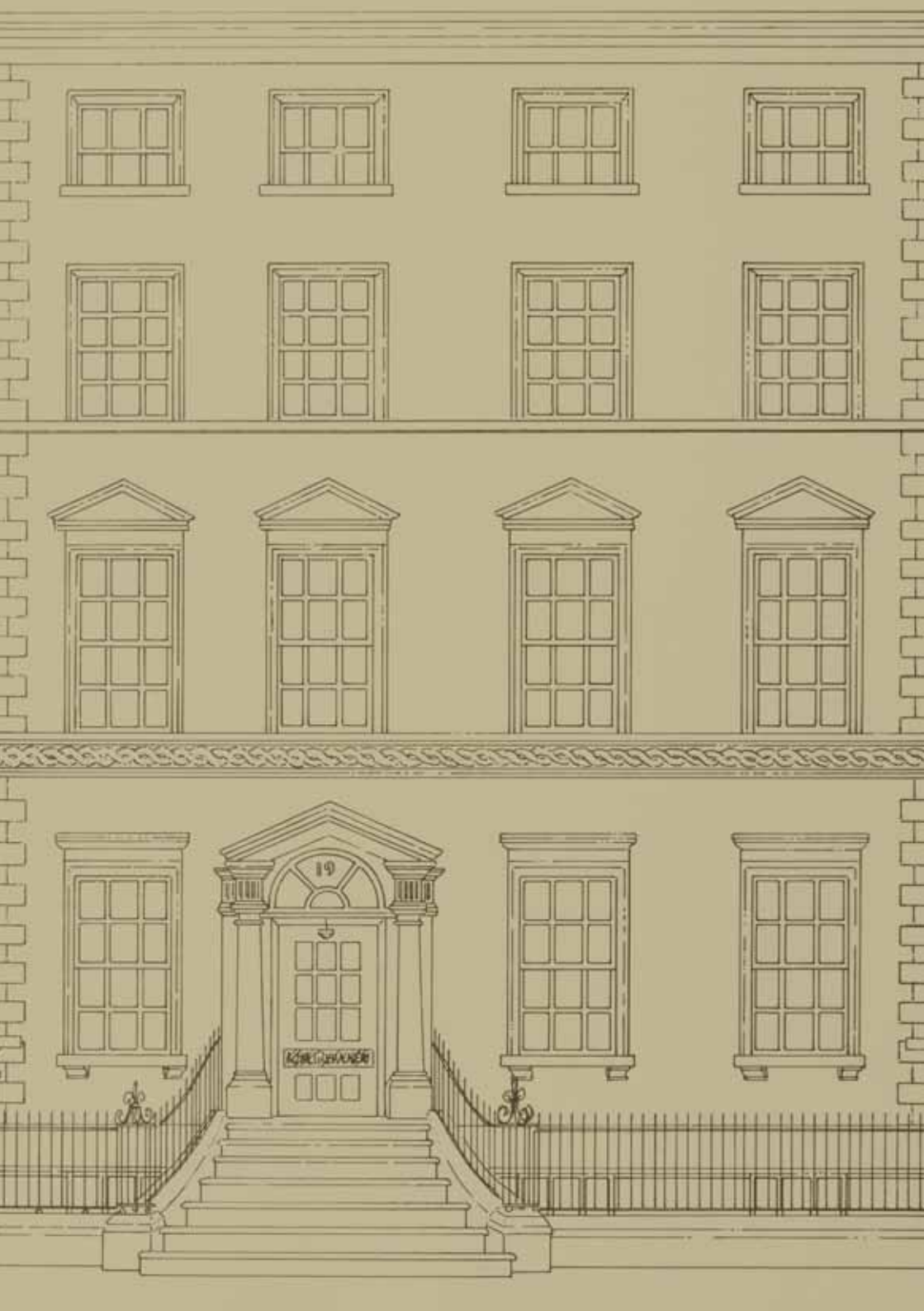
## ADMITTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS

*Friday, 18 May 2007*



*Academy House  
19 Dawson Street  
Dublin 2*

  
**RIA**  
ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY



## PROGRAMME

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- 2.00 p.m.                      Photographs of New Members  
in the Members' Room and Gold Room
- 3.00 p.m.                      Tea and Coffee for guests and sponsors  
of new Members in the Council Room
- 4.00 p.m.                      Formal Admittance Ceremony in the  
Meeting Room
- 5.00 p.m.-6.30 p.m.        Wine Reception in the Oak Room,  
Mansion House, Dawson Street, Dublin

*Note: Members and guests may return to Academy House  
to collect their belongings up to 7.00 p.m.*





## THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

- ☞ The Royal Irish Academy, the academy for the sciences and humanities for the whole of Ireland, will vigorously promote excellence in scholarship, recognise achievements in learning, direct research programmes and undertake its own research projects, particularly in areas relating to Ireland and its heritage.
- ☞ It will reflect upon, advise on and contribute to public debate and public policy formation on issues of major interest in science, technology and culture.
- ☞ It will continue to offer an independent forum to Irish scholars, it will provide a network of support for scholarly disciplines through its network of committees and commissions, it will maintain and enhance its unique library, it will publish scholarly papers and it will represent the world of Irish learning internationally.

## MEMBER'S DECLARATION OF OBLIGATIONS

**W**e, whose names are underwritten, having been elected Members of the Royal Irish Academy, for advancing the study of Science, Polite Literature and Antiquities, do hereby promise, each for himself/herself, that we will endeavour to promote the good of said Academy, and to pursue the ends for which the same was founded; that we will be present at the meetings of said Academy as often as we conveniently can, especially at the annual elections, and upon extraordinary occasions; and that we will observe the Statutes and By-Laws for the time being of said Academy.



## OFFICERS OFFICIATING IN THE CEREMONY

### PRESIDENT

Professor Jim Slevin

### SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Professor Andrew Mayes

### TREASURER

Professor Julian Ross

### SECRETARY FOR THE ACADEMY

Professor Howard Clarke

### SECRETARY FOR POLITE LITERATURE AND ANTIQUITIES

Professor Jane Conroy

### SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE

Professor David Fegan

### SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Professor John Corish

## THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

National Academies have been created to promote high levels of scholarship in their country of origin, to act as a national and international body for the various academic disciplines, to advise government in the fields of science, research and education and to promote collaboration between scholars and different learned institutions at home and abroad.

The Royal Irish Academy was founded by royal charter in 1785 as Ireland's academy for the sciences and the humanities. The Council of 21 Members and the President are the governing authority. Council incorporates two general committees: the Committee of Science and the Committee of Polite Literature and Antiquities. The Academy is a registered charitable organisation and is funded principally by an annual grant-in-aid from the Higher Education Authority. It also has a number of corporate and institutional sponsors for specific events and activities. Most importantly, the Royal Irish Academy has remained an independent forum in the world of scholarship in Ireland.



## MEMBERSHIP

The Royal Irish Academy draws its membership from the whole island of Ireland, both North and South. Membership is awarded to persons who have attained the highest distinction by their unique contributions to education and research. Each year, up to twenty-four new Members are elected. Members of the Academy are entitled to use the letters MRIA after their names.

At its inception in 1785, the Academy had 88 members; now there are over 385, almost equally divided between the sciences

and the humanities. Each Member is formally admitted in a special ceremony, which has remained essentially the same since 1785, when they subscribe to the Member's Declaration of Obligations and sign the Roll Book of Members.



## ACADEMY HOUSE AND LIBRARY

The Academy's home is Academy House, a historic building in the centre of Dublin, which also houses a library of international importance. Up to the mid-nineteenth century, the Academy took responsibility for preserving archaeological finds in Ireland, which eventually formed the Royal Irish Academy collection in the National Museum. The Academy Members also built up a unique manuscript, pamphlet and early printed book collection. The Academy Library today contains over 2,000 manuscripts, including the largest corpus of Irish language manuscripts in a single repository, the oldest surviving Irish manuscript, the Cathach, or Psalter of St. Columba, and other important early texts.



## TRADITION OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

The Academy has a proud tradition and history. From the beginning it has published scholarly papers and conducted research projects. Over the years it has continued to promote advanced research and public understanding of the relevance of research to society. It has established relations with all of the Irish universities and educational institutions abroad and it represents Ireland on more than 30 international scholarly organisations.

The Academy publishes a continuing series of research papers since 1785 in its journal, *The Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, which appears in three sections: *Mathematical Proceedings*, *Biology & Environment* and *Section C*, which covers history and archaeology. In addition, the Academy publishes *Ériu* (the leading journal in Irish philology and literature), the *Irish Journal of Earth Sciences* and *Irish Studies in International Affairs*. The Academy's series and monographs are frequently based on its own research projects, details of which are below.



## THE ROLL BOOK OF MEMBERS

**T**he RIA Members' Roll Book was established on 16 March 1802. Although the Roll contains the names of all Members of the Academy since its foundation in 1785, the names of Members elected before 1802 were written in retrospectively. Since that time almost all Members have signed in person.

The first pages of the Book consist of a handwritten copy of the Royal Charter given to the Academy by George III, the original of which was signed by him at the Court of St James's on 28 September 1785. The founding President, Lord Charlemont, had already initiated the first meeting of the new Irish Academy on 18 April 1785 in his residence on Rutland (Parnell) Square, which is now the Dublin City Hugh Lane Gallery. The royal charter grants the Academy the right to make its own Statutes and By-laws.

The Roll Book also has the original Obligation to which Members subscribed in 1785, the first paragraph of which is still in use today. The second paragraph, in which each Member promised that he, his heirs and executors would pay to the Treasurer of the Academy the sum of two pounds five shillings and six pence every year, was eliminated in 1873.

The Roll Book also contains a note signed by Albert, Prince of Wales, on 21 April 1868 when he visited Academy House as an Honorary Member, to view the Academy's museum in the company of Oscar Wilde's father, William Wilde, also a Member of this Academy.

The original founding Members of the Academy numbered thirty-eight and they are all listed in the Charter. Today the Roll Book holds the names of over 2500 Members, 369 of whom are living, including those who sign the Roll today. The first women Members were elected in 1949. Some of the most famous are:

Sir William Rowan Hamilton (1827)

George Petrie (1828)

Sir Robert Kane (1831)

Robert Mallet (1832)

Sir William Wilde (1839)

Henry Grattan (1857)

Sir Robert Ball (1870)

Robert Lloyd Praeger (1891)

W.B. Yeats (1924)

Erwin Schrodinger (1931)

E.T.S. Walton (1935)

Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1951)

Seamus Heaney (1996)

All the Presidents of the Irish State, from W.T. Cosgrave (1927) to Mary McAleese (1998), were elected Members of the Academy and have also signed the Roll.



## CITATIONS FOR THE ADMITTANCE OF NEW MEMBERS

18 May 2007



### JOHN R. BARTLETT

John Bartlett has been a Fellow of Trinity College Dublin since 1976 and is the author of a number of highly acclaimed books dealing with ancient Near Eastern history and Biblical studies. He is one of the few scholars of his generation who is a trained classicist, a field archaeologist and an ancient historian. He has been described by peers in America and in Britain as a scholar of the first rank for his work on the Old Testament world, using his extensive knowledge of field archaeology in Palestine and Jordan. In particular his paper on the neighbours of the biblical Israelites, the Edomites, established him, as one colleague puts it, as ‘the greatest living authority on this ancient people’. His book *The Bible: Faith and Evidence* has also been highly praised as representing a middle way between the scepticism of modern times and the old uncritical attitude to the Bible. In retirement, he has spent five years studying maps of the Transjordan region from Roman times to the nineteenth century.

### RUTH M. J. BYRNE

Ruth Byrne is Vice-Provost and Professor of Cognitive Science in the School of Psychology and the Institute of Neuroscience at Trinity College Dublin. Her research examines the nature of human reasoning and the counterfactual imagination of ‘what

might have been'. Her 1991 book *Deduction* advanced a new theory on human thinking that stimulated investigations by other psychologists, philosophers, linguists and artificial intelligence workers throughout the world. It is now accepted as the main theory of human reasoning for teaching undergraduates in psychology. Her most recent book *The Rational Imagination: How People Create Alternatives to Reality* has been praised by many top thinkers, including the Nobel Laureate in Economics, Daniel Kahneman, as a major contribution to the understanding of the human mind.

### SEÁN CROMIEN

Seán Cromien is a distinguished public servant and was Secretary General of the Department of Finance from 1987 to 1994. He has vast experience in the administration of Irish public bodies. He is a Fellow of the Irish Management Institute and was President of the Institute of Public Administration from 1992 to 1998. He was a member of the Interim and Caretaker Boards of the National Museum of Ireland from 1994 to 2005. From March to September 1997 he was Acting Director of the National Library of Ireland. In retirement he has been involved in reviews of the Department of Justice; the Department of Agriculture and Food; the Department of Education and Science; and the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. He is currently a member of the Governing Body of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin; the Council of the Institute of European Affairs; and the Executive Committee and Council of the Zoological Society of Ireland.

### VICTOR F. DIXON

Victor Dixon is a graduate of the University of Cambridge and retired as Professor of Spanish at Trinity College Dublin in 1999.

He is one of the world's leading experts on classical Spanish drama and has an international reputation in both the English-speaking and the Spanish-speaking worlds. He is especially known for his work on the prolific sixteenth-century Spanish poet and playwright, Lope de Vega. Through a systematic study of the estimated 350 plays by Lope, he was able to recover an unknown play that had been misattributed to another writer. He has translated, produced and even acted in plays of the Golden Age and it is his interest in the performance of the plays as spectacle that has afforded him a special insight into their workings. He continues to be very active in research and publication, more recently on the twentieth-century Spanish dramatist, Antonio Buero Vallejo, on whom he is also considered an international authority.

### J. OLIVER DOLLY

Oliver Dolly originally graduated from NUI Galway and since 2003 he has been one of the first Science Foundation Ireland Research Professors, in the International Centre for Neurotherapeutics at Dublin City University. He worked for almost thirty years at Imperial College London, where he acquired a worldwide reputation for his work in molecular neurobiology. He made seminal discoveries in biochemistry that have radically changed the way in which people think about ion channel structure and function in human nerves. His basic research on the potential of botulinum toxins provided a basis for the development of therapies for a range of movement disorders and diseases. He continues to lead first-rate multidisciplinary investigations into the actions of other neurotoxins. The importance of his research is reflected in the very large number of citations by other scientists around the world, in international awards, and in the numerous invitations that he receives to give lectures at premier international conferences.

## EUGENE C. FREUDER

Gene Freuder is a mathematics and computer science graduate of Harvard and MIT, and he came to University College Cork in 2001 as one of Ireland's first Science Foundation Ireland Principal Investigators. He is currently Professor of Computer Science at UCC and Director of the Cork Constraint Computation Centre. His pioneering papers in the field of constraint reasoning in the 1980s began a whole new area of research in artificial intelligence. His published papers are among the most frequently cited in the world of computers and information science. In Cork his large multidisciplinary research projects continue to produce exciting new results and the Cork Constraint Computation Centre works on applying his techniques to real-life situations. He has placed Cork on the map in terms of artificial intelligence research. He was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a Fellow of the American and European Artificial Intelligence Societies in recognition of his contributions to the field of constraint computation.

## PETER J. GREGSON

Peter Gregson has been President and Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast since 2004. Educated at Imperial College London, he became, in 1995, Professor of Aerospace Materials and, in 2000, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Southampton. He is credited with over 150 papers in the fields of advanced aerospace aluminium alloys and the performance of load-bearing medical devices. His in-depth understanding of how to improve the balance of strength and toughness in aluminium alloys contributed significantly to the commercial manufacture and safety of aerospace materials. He went on to apply the same scientific principles in the development of computational and

experimental modelling of medical implants such as the artificial knee and hip. A novel interdisciplinary programme involving a satellite and an implant manufacturer has led to the first hip implant in which the fibre architecture has been designed to distribute the loads and integrate with the surrounding tissues, similar to the natural joint. A clinical trial is presently ongoing. He has an outstanding international reputation as an engineer and as a leader of academic-industrial research collaborations.

### ADRIAN HARDIMAN

Adrian Hardiman is a professional lawyer and a judge of the Supreme Court. He studied history at University College Dublin where he was President of the Students' Union and Auditor of the Literary and Historical Society. He was called to the Bar in 1974 and later to the Bars of the UK and Northern Ireland. He is generally acknowledged as one of the most outstanding advocates of his generation. In February 2000 he received the signal honour of appointment to the Supreme Court directly from the Bar. Mr Justice Hardiman has written a number of very important judgements since joining the Supreme Court. He also retains a strong interest in Irish history.

### BRIAN J. HARVEY

Brian Harvey is Professor of Molecular Medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and has been Director of Research at the RCSI since 2004. He graduated in physics and physiology from University College Dublin and obtained his PhD in physiology in 1982 under the direction of our esteemed Member, Professor Roddy Kernan, also at UCD. He subsequently spent twelve years in France, first working with the Atomic Energy

Commission and later as *chargé de recherche* with the CNRS at the marine station in Villefranche-sur-Mer. He returned to Ireland in 1993 to take up a professorship in cell physiology at University College Cork. He is considered to be a world leader on the mechanisms by which steroid hormones generate rapid biological responses. His research has also been influential in providing an understanding of sodium ion absorption in a wide number of tissues such as amphibian skin, fish gills and the mammalian kidney. In 1994 Professor Harvey received the Conway Medal in biomedical science from the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland. In recognition of his twenty-five years of service to French-Irish scientific collaboration, he was made a Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite by President Jacques Chirac in 2006. He was elected to the Academia Europaea in 2002 and received the Prix Servier in 2005 for his research in respiratory physiology.

### PETER B. HEFFERNAN

Peter Heffernan has been the Chief Executive of the Marine Institute — Ireland's national agency for marine research — since 1993 and is now also a professor in Marine Science at NUI Galway. From 1985 to 1992 he was an Associate Professor at the University of Georgia and led the Shellfish Research Laboratory there. He returned to Ireland in 1992. He has published over forty scientific papers in marine science and has developed the Marine Institute from the days when it consisted of one staff member in 1993 to a large research organisation with two hundred staff and a 35 million budget today. The Marine Institute serves a wide number of areas of research and development, protecting the marine environment and supporting scientific work for Irish fisheries, oceanography and aquaculture. National marine research funding programmes operated by the Marine Institute supported over fifty projects in 2006.

## DESMOND HIGGINS

Desmond Higgins is Professor of Bioinformatics in the Conway Institute at University College Dublin. He was educated at Trinity College Dublin where he obtained a BA in Botany in 1981 and a doctorate in Zoology in 1988. Bioinformatics is a multidisciplinary area, falling between molecular biology, evolution and computational science. In 1988 he developed computer software called Clustal, which became the worldwide solution to the problem of lining up sets of DNA sequences so as to measure them accurately on a PC, something that previously had had to be done manually. The programme is now used on a daily basis in virtually every molecular biology laboratory around the world. His papers describing Clustal are among the most frequently cited by any author in any field, and as a result he is one of Ireland's best-known biological scientists. His research has been cited more than 37,000 times by other scientists. Professor Higgins was awarded the Royal Irish Academy silver medal in Biochemistry in 2004.

## DOROTA S. IWANIEC

Dorota Iwaniec was born in Poland, where her family suffered under the Nazis. In a career that first took her to the University of Leicester and subsequently to Queen's University Belfast, she has devoted herself to researching family violence and childhood abuse and trauma, particularly among children who fail to thrive without any obvious medical cause. She is now Emeritus Professor of Social Work at QUB, having been Founder and Director of the Centre for Child Care Research there. She is one of the world's leading authorities on childhood trauma, having conducted over thirty-five research projects, given dozens of keynote addresses to international conferences, led a multi-disciplinary care centre, and established research links that span

the continents. She has an international reputation for her meticulous, groundbreaking work on the emotional abuse and neglect of children. Her standing is borne out by the success of her books, such as *Children who Fail to Thrive* (the result of a twenty-year programme, the longest longitudinal study in the world), which had the rare honour of being highly commended by the British Medical Association. Many of her other books are used as guides for practitioners across several disciplines and are read widely in many languages. In 2002 Professor Iwaniec was given the honorary title of Academician in the British Academy of Social Sciences and in 2005 she received the Save the Children Northern Ireland Women of Achievement Science Award.

### MICHAEL T. KANE

Michael Kane is an Emeritus Professor of Physiology at NUI Galway. He was educated at University College Dublin and at Cornell University where he gained his PhD in physiology in 1965; he was awarded a DSc by the National University of Ireland in 2005. His research has concentrated on two main areas: firstly, the investigation of factors affecting growth and development in pre-implanted mammalian embryos and mouse embryo stem cells; and, secondly, the control of ovarian follicular growth. The significance of his work has become progressively more appreciated with the development worldwide of *in vitro* fertilisation, and his research has been extensively cited in the international literature. He was a Conway medallist of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland in 1990.

### PHILIP R. LANE

Philip Lane is Professor of International Economics and Director of the Institute for International Integration Studies at Trinity

College Dublin. He received his economics education at TCD and at Harvard University, and was Assistant Professor of Economics and International Affairs at Columbia University before returning to Ireland in 1997. His research has focused on topics such as financial globalisation, European monetary union and the analysis of macroeconomic policies. He has also written extensively on Irish economic policy questions. He is a research fellow of the London-based Centre for Economic Policy Research and an international research fellow of the Kiel Institute of World Economics. His research has been recognised by the 2001 inaugural Bernacer Award in Monetary Economics, a European Central Bank Fellowship and a Government of Ireland Research Fellowship.

### COLM LENNON

Colm Lennon is a graduate of both University College Dublin and NUI Maynooth, and he is currently Associate Professor of History at the latter. He has made a distinguished contribution both to the history of Dublin, his native city, and to the understanding of religious change in early modern Ireland. He is the author of the definitive biography of Richard Stanihurst, the writer and historian who was one of the most influential Dubliners of the sixteenth century. Professor Lennon's work on religious and political change in the city, *The Lords of Dublin in the Age of Reformation*, stands out as a particularly comprehensive examination of the city during a formative period of its history. It has been described as 'one of the most significant and ground-breaking books on early modern Irish history published in the late twentieth century, establishing a template for understanding the urban world of sixteenth-century Ireland'. He is the recipient of a Government of Ireland Senior Research Fellowship.

## BRIAN MACCRAITH

Brian MacCraith was the founding Director of the National Centre for Sensor Research at Dublin City University and is currently serving as Director of the SFI-funded Biomedical Diagnostics Institute there. He was appointed to a personal chair in physics in 2004. Professor MacCraith obtained his PhD in physics at University College Galway in 1982 and, since joining DCU in 1986, he has played a major role in international sensor research. He has pioneered the application of sol-gel technology and fluorescence enhancement for use in optical sensors. This has resulted in the development of sensor systems for the determination of oxygen and carbon dioxide in industrial and environmental applications. His configurations have become a model replicated by many senior researchers worldwide, as is evidenced by the very high level of citations of his published work. He has published over 130 papers and has received a number of awards. He was recently appointed Chair of the Nano-Ireland Task Force in Nanobiotechnology. He has been praised for his ability to remain at the cutting edge of research whilst at the same time leading major research activities involving many top scientists and industrialists.

## CHRISTOPHER MORASH

Christopher Morash is Professor of English at NUI Maynooth, where until recently he was Director of Media Studies. He was educated at the University of Dalhousie in Canada and at Trinity College Dublin where he took his PhD. He has published widely on nineteenth-century literature and on Irish drama. He has produced distinguished research in three areas: the literature of the Great Irish Famine, the history of Irish theatre, and the history of print and non-print media in Ireland. Among his outstanding books are *Writing the Irish Famine* (1995) and the award-winning

*History of Irish Theatre 1601-2000* (2002). His next publication will be *A History of Irish Media 1550-2004*, to be published by Cambridge University Press in 2008. In the spring of 2007 he is teaching at Beijing Foreign Studies University where he is helping to establish an Institute of Irish Studies.

### CARMEL NAUGHTON

Carmel Naughton has been a leading figure over many years in the support of our cultural and educational heritage in both parts of the island of Ireland. Mrs Naughton is a generous patron of the arts and has served on a number of boards connected with Irish art and theatre. From 1996 to 2002 she was Chairperson of the Board of the National Gallery of Ireland and played a leading role in the initiation and completion of the gallery's magnificent Millennium Wing. She has also been instrumental in preserving and promoting our national heritage of Irish language and literature and making it available to academic communities outside Ireland. She took an active interest in the promotion of Irish studies in the US through the development of the Keough Institute for Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, creating the Naughton Fellowships to enable visiting professors to carry out research there. She has given essential support to the digitisation of the RIA's treasured ancient Irish manuscripts, so that they can be viewed electronically throughout the world. In July 2006 the Government recognised Mrs Naughton's positive influence and contributions by appointing her to membership of the Board of the Irish Heritage Trust.

### RUAIRÍ Ó hUIGINN

Ruairí Ó hUiginn is Professor of Modern Irish at NUI Maynooth. He graduated from University College Dublin in

1976 and received his PhD from Queen's University Belfast. He has published extensively on the language and literature of all periods of the Irish language from Old to Modern, and through his linguistic work he has established himself as a leading authority on the historical syntax of the language. In particular he has produced a comprehensive analysis of the Connacht dialects that is of lasting value and essential reading for scholars of Modern Irish. Professor Ó hUiginn is unusual as a scholar in that he covers the full range of Early and Modern Irish literature and learning. His literary studies range from the Táin and other similar early sagas to the modern period, and all have been highly praised. He is an editor of the series *Léachtaí Cholm Cille*, published annually, and since 2006 has been Head of the School of Celtic Studies in NUI Maynooth.

### JENNIFER O'REILLY

Jennifer O'Reilly received her third-level education at the University of Nottingham and since 1978 she has lectured at University College Cork, first in the Department of Medieval History and now as a Senior Lecturer in the History Department. She has been central to the development of the study of iconography and the history of art at UCC. She is a pioneering figure, of international significance, in exploring the relations between text and image in early medieval visual art and literature. Dr O'Reilly has brought an immense range of scriptural, patristic and hagiographical learning to bear on subjects as diverse as the Book of Kells and related gospel books, Adomnán's *Life of St Columba*, Bede's historical and exegetical writings, the Codex Amiatinus, Anglo-Saxon Crucifixion iconography, the Cluny altar, and the iconography of St Thomas Becket. These many studies are unified by fundamental insights and themes, such as the respect that Bede and other Anglo-Saxon monastic scholars had for Irish learning and the ways in which the Early Christian cultures of

Britain and Ireland were deeply indebted to each other, as well as to the wider culture that they shared. By her formidable research and publications, Dr O'Reilly has opened up a new world of historical evidence on medieval spirituality, its sources and range of expression.

### CIARAN REGAN

Ciaran Regan is a graduate of University College Dublin and, after working abroad for a number of years, he returned to UCD in 1980, where presently he is Professor of Neuropharmacology and Vice-President for Research in the College of Life Sciences. His main area of research relates to understanding the mechanisms of structural change that determine long-term memory and how those mechanisms respond to targeting with novel drugs. He is the overall co-ordinator of the Applied Neurotherapeutic Group at UCD, a collaborative research initiative jointly funded by Wyeth Discovery (New Jersey) and SFI. Under his direction, this group is undertaking a comprehensive study to identify new treatments for brain illnesses, including schizophrenia. His research accomplishments have been recognised by the award of the Conway Medal of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland and by the award of the Royal Irish Academy Medal for achievement in Pharmacology and Toxicology. He is also the author of the popular text *Intoxicating Minds*, on the role of mind-altering drugs in society.

### WILLIAM A. SCHABAS

William Schabas is Professor of Human Rights Law at NUI Galway, where he directs the Irish Centre for Human Rights. Educated in Canada, he was the Director of the Law School at the Université du Québec in Montreal before moving to Ireland in the year 2000. One of the world's authorities on the crime of genocide, the

abolition of the death penalty and the international criminal justice institutions, his work has been cited in judgments of the highest international and national courts. He has served as one of three international members of the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He has combined high-quality academic research and analysis with insights acquired through practical experience. He has demonstrated a passionate belief in human rights principles and criminal justice whilst also subjecting them to rigorous scrutiny. His most frequently cited publication is *The Abolition of the Death Penalty in International Law*. Professor Schabas's writings have become indispensable reading for anyone working or teaching in the fields of international criminal law and human rights, and in the Irish Centre for Human Rights at Galway he has successfully created an international centre of academic excellence.

### SAMSON SHATASHVILI

Samson Shatashvili was educated in Tbilisi State University and the University of Leningrad. He spent three years at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton before taking up a position at Yale. In 2002 he was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy in Trinity College Dublin. He helped to establish and now directs the Hamilton Mathematical Institute in TCD, named after our most famous Irish mathematician and former President of the Royal Irish Academy, William Rowan Hamilton. Professor Shatashvili has made major contributions to the development of string theory, which attempts to unify the forces of nature in a novel geometrical setting. His work is widely recognised by the international mathematical community. As a mark of his distinction, he was recently appointed to the Louis Michel Chair, a prestigious visiting professorship at the Institut des Hautes Etudes Scientifiques in Paris, which is considered to be the leading research institute in mathematics in Europe.

## JENNIFER TODD

Jennifer Todd is Associate Professor of Politics at University College Dublin. She was educated at the University of Kent at Canterbury and at Boston University. Her early degrees were in philosophy and she began her studies by analysing the relationship between the works of early photographers, in particular Mathew Brady's American Civil War work. She then concentrated on the conflict in Northern Ireland, culminating in a series of articles and a book, co-authored with J. Ruane, *The Dynamics of Conflict in Northern Ireland* (1997), which is now acclaimed as a classic study. Her publications on the meaning of boundaries, and on the shifting dynamics of national, ethnic, religious, class and colonial identity, place her at the forefront of the field of ethnic relations. This field has become central to the understanding of social processes and mechanisms in societies made up of people from different cultures. She has been described as 'one of Ireland's truly international scholars, producing some of the best works on collective identity available today'. In her teaching of large cohorts of students on Northern Ireland, when it was unfashionable to do so through the many years of political violence, Professor Todd brought enlightenment where there was so much prejudice and misinformation.

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

*Current major projects ongoing in the Academy include.*



### DICTIONARY OF IRISH BIOGRAPHY

The aim of this project is to prepare for publication a definitive multi-volume reference work dealing in the main with the lives of deceased prominent Irish men and women.



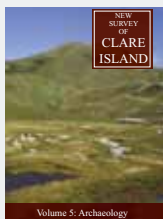
### FOCLÓIR STAIRIÚIL NA NUA-GHAEILGE

Is é is cuspóir acadúil don tionscadal aircív ríomhraithe foclóra a chruthú don Nua-Ghaeilge.



### IRISH HISTORIC TOWNS ATLAS

A series on individual towns, representing different periods of urban developments in Ireland. Each contains a large-scale (1:2500) colour map reconstructing the town in c. 1840, historical plans, views and illustrations, and a detailed text section with explanatory maps.



### NEW SURVEY OF CLARE ISLAND

This new survey will demonstrate changes in the environment of the island since the Academy's original survey in 1909-1911.



### DICTIONARY OF MEDIEVAL LATIN FROM CELTIC SOURCES

The Dictionary of Medieval Latin from Celtic Sources is an integrated database and dictionary project, designed to contribute to the fields of Patristic, Medieval, Celtic, and Latin studies.



### DOCUMENTS ON IRISH FOREIGN POLICY

A comprehensive, accurate and reliable documentary record of major Irish foreign policy decisions and actions of the twentieth century.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Academy Times Public Lecture  
**THE ENGINEERING OF MODERN  
INNOVATIVE STRUCTURES**

Speaker: Rory McGowan, Director, Arup Partnership

Date: 29/5/2007

Time: 6.30 pm

Venue: Trinity College Dublin

Academy Times/DIAS Joint Public Lecture  
**DECIPHERING THE BIG BANG**

Speaker: Nobel Laureate John Mather, NASA

Date: 12/6/2007

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Burke Theatre, TCD

Academy Discourse  
**SECRET WISDOM: GNOSTICISM AND  
EARLY CHRISTIANITY**

Speaker: Stephen Emmel, Professor for Coptology,  
University of Münster

Date: 20/9/2007

Time: 6.00 pm

Venue: Academy House

To subscribe to our mailing list for future events,  
visit our website at: [www.ria.ie](http://www.ria.ie)

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