



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Jay Roszman
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Sciences
Amount and year awarded:	€2,500 in 2022
Title of project:	The Queen's Colleges and the British Empire, 1850-1921

Summary of findings:

This funding has allowed me to begin research on the vast topic of the Queen's Colleges and the British Empire.

It was an extremely productive research award, which has supported initial research at Special Collections at QUB, Special Collections at the University of Galway, the National Archives at Kew, India Offices at the British Library, the private papers of Queen's College alumni at the Weston Library, Oxford, the diaries and papers of UCC President Sir Bertram Windle at the University of Birmingham, and the papers of Sir Thomas Larcom at the NLI. Along the way, I've also made key connections with library and research staff at the University of Galway and Queen's University Belfast.

Although findings have yet to be written on this initial research, some preliminary suggestions from what I have seen:

First, there is clear scope for a large project that explores the ways the Queen's Colleges of Belfast, Cork and Galway positioned themselves across their existence to train students for imperial careers. Indeed, I think there is clear ground to explore how the colleges acquired artefacts, books and expertise to equip potential students for imperial careers, as well as promoted imperial service as a viable, respectable career for students to aspire to. This opens up interesting questions to consider: how does this promotion complicate our understanding of Irish attitudes to the British Empire in the later 19th century? How does imperial training influence the opposition to the Queen's Colleges from the Roman Catholic hierarchy? How might we reimagine Irish contributions to imperial systems and their legacy in an increasingly complicated political environment in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?

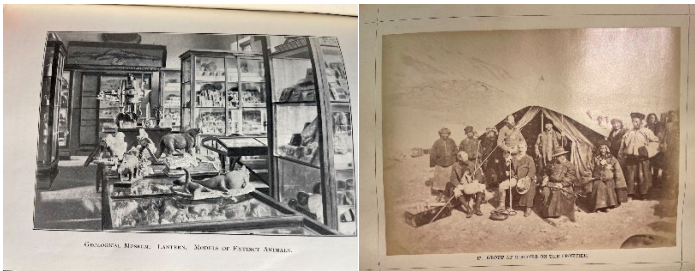
Second, distinct from a history of the Queen's Colleges as institutions, my initial research has demonstrated the viability of a project that systematically explores the networks of Queen's graduates across a variety of imperial institutions, including: the India Civil Service, the Indian Medical Service, the Department of Indian Public Works (and Engineers), the Consular service, the Royal Navy (as surgeon's) and the Army Medical Service. These alumni wrote reports on Indian famines, participated in trade missions in new climes, documented the flora and fauna of remote parts of the world and tried to understand the role of tropical infectious diseases. Some died far from home, while others retired after long and illustrious careers. There are literally hundreds of stories that might surface from further research into these networks. As a result, I think there is clear scope for a public-facing exhibition based



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on research exploring these stories that could travel to the former Queen's Colleges, as well as scope for a website that dynamically maps imperial careers across the globe. Such a project could employ a number of PhD students and/or postdoctorate researchers (it certainly would be outside the ability of this researcher to accomplish on his own).

In short, the RIA's investment in my project has confirmed the rich material available and put me in a better position to make an informed, reasoned argument for a significant research project from the Irish Research Council. The North-South fund, or potentially UK bodies such as the AHRC (in collaboration with a QUB partner).



Plans for continuing collaboration:

Professor Olwen Purdue has a number of commitments and it will depend on what funding is available to apply for as to whether a formal collaboration will continue. However, this initial funding from the RIA has allowed me to develop connections with other staff at QUB and NUIG which will be crucial to future funding applications.

Published work and publication plans:

I will be writing an article for submission to a peer-reviewed journal as a direct result of this research. The research thus far will also form a part of a future book project.

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

I will be presenting aspects of this research at the 2023 meeting of the North American Conference of British Studies; a symposium of the University of Rutgers British Studies Seminar (New Jersey, USA), and the 2024 meeting of the American Conference of Irish Studies.