New publications

IHTA, no. 27, Youghal by David Kelly and Tadhg O’Keeffe was published in May 2015. A welcome addition to the series, Youghal was celebrated at a launch in Academy House on 22 May with guest speaker Willie Smyth and locally in the town itself on 18 June, where Lord William Burlington did the honours in the Mall House. Tadhg gave a lunchtime lecture on the atlas to a full house in the Youghal library on the day of the launch and with David gave a walking tour of the town the following day. Since publication the atlas has been used in the creation of a scale model of Youghal, which is now on display in St Mary’s Collegiate Church.

Dublin 1847: city of the Ordnance Survey was published earlier this year. This book is similar in format to John Rocque’s Dublin (2010) and is an ancillary publication to IHTA, no. 26, Dublin, part III (2014) by Rob Goodbody. It contains forty-five extracts from the large-scale (1:1056) town plan of Dublin (1847), with commentaries. Dublin 1847 was launched by David Norris in City Assembly House on 3 March.

‘Galway’ by Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh is due for publication in 2016. In advance of the full atlas, a pocket map entitled Galway c. 1200 to c. 1900: from medieval borough to modern city (with support from the Heritage Council) has just been published. Similar in style to the pocket maps done for Belfast, Dublin, Limerick and New Ross, over 200 sites and streets are plotted on to a detailed Ordnance Survey Ireland modern base with an index.

Another publication of note from 2015 is Anngret Simms and H.B. Clarke (eds), Lords and towns in medieval Europe: the European Historic Towns Atlas project (Ashgate, Farnham, 2015). Copies are available for consultation in the IHTA office and RIA library.

Dublin atlases, suburbs and townships

In November, Dublin City Council (facilitated by Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer) approved funding towards atlases for Dublin suburbs and townships. This series will be edited by Jacinta Prunty and Colm Lennon.

Rob Goodbody has been busy since the publication of IHTA, no. 26, Dublin, part III delivering lectures to local societies and in the Dublin Festival of History in September. He was also awarded an Industrial Heritage Association of Ireland prize for his work on Dublin, part III in February.

We would like to wish all our authors, contributors, researchers and those interested in the project a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.
Research
With funding from Wexford and Waterford County Councils, summer research focused on New Ross (Linda Doran) and Dundalk (John Martin). Anne Rosenbusch and Paul Connolly (Maynooth University SPUR studentship) worked on the Registry of Deeds and Valuation records for both places. Other towns in progress are Cahirciveen, Cashel, Cavan, Clonmel, Cork, Drogheda, Louth, Naas, Newry, Roscommon, Tralee, Tullamore and Waterford. Work on Arklow (Pat Power and Jim Rees) and Ballyshannon (Angela Byrne) was initiated in 2015.

Seminars
This year’s IHTA seminar took place on 22 May in Academy House. The theme was ‘Irish towns as shared European Heritage’ and speakers Ferdinand O’Hill, Marjaana Niemi, Eamon O’Flaherty, Roman Czaja, Mark Hennessy and Jacinta Prunty compared Irish towns with counterparts in Austria, Finland, France, Poland and Ukraine. The plenary paper was presented by Michael Conzen, University of Chicago who also delivered an Academy masterclass to PhD students of urban form on 23 May.

We look forward to 2016 as the IHTA have partnered with the Historic Towns Trust, the organisation that oversees the British Historic Towns Atlas series, to convene a seminar comparing historic towns and cities of Britain and Ireland. ‘Medieval Townscapes: comparative perspectives through the Irish and British Historic Towns Atlases’ will be held on Friday 20 May 2016, Academy House — save the date.

News from Europe
Anngret Simms attended the annual meeting of the International Commission for the History of Towns (ICHT) in Zürich (3–5 September) and participated in the meeting of the Atlas Working Group. Jacinta Prunty has been appointed as one of the two Irish members of the ICHT and Anngret Simms has become an honorary member. Sarah Gearty is part of the new Digital Initiatives Group for the European Historic Towns Atlas, which is being steered by Daniel Stracke of Münster, Germany and she also took part in a ‘Digital Futures’ workshop in Leicester on 12 September, which was organised by ICHT British colleagues, Keith Lilley (now chair of the British Historic Towns Atlas) and Roey Sweet.

www.uni-muenster.de/Staedtegeschichte/en/portal/staedteatlante/n/karte.html links to an interactive distribution map of European towns atlases, produced and maintained by the Institute for Comparative Urban History, Münster, Germany.

At the invitation of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the IHTA went to Plovdiv, Bulgaria in September where Jennifer Moore assembled an exhibition and a lecture on the river cities of Belfast, Dublin and Limerick for their One Architecture Week.

IHTA Digital
In January, the project established the IHTA Digital working group. As part of this, Keith Lilley, Rachel Murphy and Paul Walsh were appointed to the IHTA editorial committee. Other collaborators include the Digital Repository of Ireland and Ordnance Survey Ireland. One strand of IHTA Digital is the creation of online editions of published atlases during 2015–16, with Eneclann. www.ria.ie/research-projects/irish-historic-towns-atlas/ihta-digital gives more details — check out the first digital edition IHTA, no. 10, Kilkenny, by John Bradley and the Digital Atlas of Derry~Londonderry, which has been updated by Lorraine Barry, QUB.

Teaching and learning: using the IHTA at third level
Thanks to a grant received from the National Forum for Teaching and Learning, the IHTA Users’ Group project was established in 2015, steered by Jacinta Prunty and co-ordinated by Anne Rosenbusch (Maynooth University). Work culminated with a workshop on 10 September, which involved colleagues from departments of architecture, history and geography in Dublin Institute of Technology (Noel Brady), Dundalk Institute of Technology (Conor Brady and Annaleigh Margey), Mary Immaculate College Limerick (Helene Bradley and Marie Taylor), St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra (Susan Hegarty and Jonathan Cherry) and Trinity College Dublin (Kevin Lougheed and Mark Hennessy).

Atlas activities
Jennifer Moore spoke at the My City My Home luncheon lecture series in the Hunt Museum, Limerick in February. Rob Goodbody and Frank Cullen guided those interested through historic Dawson Street, Dublin during a set of walking tours run with Hodges Figgis bookshop in March/April. For Heritage Week in August, Rob and Frank were joined by other Dublin authors Howard Clarke and Colm Lennon for more tours throughout Dublin city. Other IHTA related events for Heritage Week were a walking tour in Galway by Jacinta Prunty and a lecture in Dungarvan by John Martin.

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We regret the death of Mary-Louise Legg (née Jennings), co-author with Fiona Gallagher, of IHTA, no. 24, Sligo, who died in August.

Special offers
Contributors are entitled to buy IHTA publications at a 33.3% discount. Please contact the publications office in the Royal Irish Academy for details. (01-6762570 or publications@ria.ie)

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