

**Newsletter, 18th issue** This is the eighteenth in a series of annual Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) newsletters, intended to keep those associated with the research project, based in the Royal Irish Academy, informed of progress and events. Series editors: Raymond Gillespie, H.B. Clarke, Jacinta Prunty, Michael Potterton; consultant editor: Anngret Simms; cartographic editor: Sarah Gearty; editorial assistants: Jennifer Moore, Frank Cullen. Maps produced in association with Ordnance Survey Ireland.



### New publications

*Drogheda/Droichead Átha*, no. 29 in the series, was published in May 2019. It had two launches, the first in the Highlanes Gallery, Drogheda by Peter Kennedy (President of the RIA) and the second in Academy House by Virginia Teehan (Heritage Council) at the close of the annual IHTA Seminar. The project was also honoured by an invitation to Áras an Uachtaráin to present a copy of *Drogheda* to President Michael D. Higgins in April (below) with representatives from Louth County Council and Highlanes Gallery.



Frank Cullen, Michael Potterton, Howard Clarke, Aidan Gilsenan, Jacinta Prunty, Sarah Gearty



*Renaissance Galway: delineating the seventeenth-century city* by Paul Walsh, an ancillary publication to IHTA no. 28, *Galway/Gaillimh*, was launched at the Milwaukee Irish Festival in August by Minister Ciaran Cannon and map librarian of the American Geographical Society Library, Marcy Bidney. The Irish launch took place in Galway City Museum by the deputy mayor Cllr Denis Lyons.



Renaissance Galway launch: Jane Conroy (MRIA/NUIG), Paul Walsh and Cllr Denis Lyons.

*John Roque's Dublin: a guide to the Georgian City* by Colm Lennon and John Montague and *Dublin 1847: city of the ordnance survey* by Frank Cullen were reprinted with new covers. For more on the publications see [www.ihta.ie](http://www.ihta.ie).

### Dublin suburbs

*Rathmines* by Seamas Ó Maitiú is due to be published in 2020 and work continued on *Drumcondra* (Ruth McManus), *Kilmainham/Inchicore* (Frank Cullen) and *Ringsend/Irishtown* (Jacinta Prunty). The series is edited by Colm Lennon and Jacinta Prunty with Angela Byrne as editorial assistant. It is part-funded by the Heritage Section of Dublin City Council.

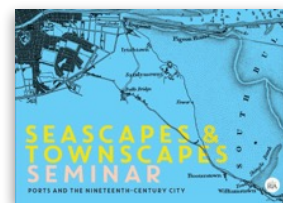
### Research

*Dungarvan* (John Martin) will be published in 2020. Research advanced for the following towns: *Ballyshannon* (Angela Byrne), *Tullamore* (Michael Byrne), *Tralee* (Marc Caball), *Cork* (Howard Clarke/Máire Ní Laoí), *Cavan* (Jonathan Cherry/Brendan Scott), *New Ross* (Linda Doran), *Clonmel* (David Fleming), *Westport* (Eamon O'Flaherty/Siobhán Sexton), *Arklow* (Jim Rees). Other towns in progress are *Cahir*, *Carlow*, *Cashel*, *Naas*, *Newry* and *Roscommon*. Over the summer months, Aidan Gilsenan, a SPUR (Summer Programme for Undergraduate Research) student from Maynooth Univer-

sity, carried out research for Cork in a number of repositories, but principally in the Registry of Deeds. The IHTA was grateful to receive funding and support from Galway City Council, the Moore Institute, NUI Galway, Cork City Council and Louth County Council.

### IHTA Seminar and public lecture

In 2019 the project partnered with Dublin Port and the Historic Towns Trust to convene 'Seascapes and townscapes: ports and the nineteenth-century city' seminar. To open the seminar, Colm Lennon delivered the public lecture on 'The shaping of Dublin Port' in Dublin Port HQ after a tour of the port. The seminar took place in Academy House with Jacinta Prunty (Maynooth University), Frank Cullen (IHTA) and Zofia Maciakowska (Polish Academy of Sciences) comparing ports in the morning session. In the afternoon John Moore (University of Glasgow), David



Atkinson (University of Hull) and Ned Mc Hugh (IHTA) examined the ports of Glasgow, Kingston-Upon-Hull and Drogheda. For the plenary panel (below), Colm Lennon, Jacinta Prunty (both IHTA), Lar Joye (Dublin Port), Sylvia Loeffler (NCAD) and Niall Brady (Archaeological Diving Company) discussed the topography of Dublin Port. The day concluded with Virginia Teehan (Heritage Council) launching *Drogheda/Droichead Átha* in Academy House.



Ned McHugh and Virginia Teehan

The 2020 IHTA Seminar will take place on Thursday 14 May 2020 with a public lecture the previous evening, both in Academy House. This year the theme will focus on town and country. Booking details to follow in the Spring.

**News from Europe**

The 2019 meeting of the International Committee for the History of Towns took place in Budapest in September. It was the golden jubilee of the first publication in the European project. During the Atlas Working Group session, Anngret Simms (left) spoke on the first 50 years of the project. Sarah Gearty and Jennifer Moore (below left) presented on the digital direction of the IHTA and during the conference Michael Potterton (below) lectured on evidence of international trade in Irish archaeology. The list of published



European atlases continues to grow in numbers exceeding 540 across Europe. They can be accessed in the European Project section of the website [www.ihta.ie](http://www.ihta.ie). Anngret Simms presented on the European Project to Members of the Royal Irish Academy during a seminar in Academy House in October.

**IHTA Digital and Online**

A digital version of *Clontarf* with study maps was made available via the IHTA website to owners of the publication. The IHTA Digital Working Group met in June to discuss progress with digitising Map 2 in ArcGIS. *Drogheda* is the first IHTA fascicle to have Map 2 created in ArcGIS, which was achieved under the direction of Rachel Murphy with support from Esri Ireland and Ordnance Survey Ireland. For IHTA Online, towns will be made available from 3–5 years after initial publication and 2020 will see *Youghal* and *Galway* being made available. Not all maps and illustrations are available. To access this resource see <https://www.ria.ie/irish-historic-towns-atlas-online>.

**Atlas activities**

In January, Raymond Gillespie, Rob Goodbody and Gillian O'Brien contributed to the Dublin Research History Network as part of their 'Buying and selling: Dublin markets, 1500–2019' from the IHTA perspective. Contributions were made to Heritage 2030 and an article by Anngret Simms and Sarah Gearty appeared in a special volume on Ireland in the *Urban History* journal in February. Sarah Gearty attended the Collaborative Town Centre Health Check workshop, organised by the Heritage Council, in Dundalk on historic border towns in April. Ned McHugh gave a public lecture in the Highlanes Gallery in May to coincide with the week of the launch of *Drogheda*. The Mapping Urban Ireland exhibition, with the RIA Library, was updated and put on display in the Linen Hall Library, Belfast in June. The *Drogheda* exhibition travelled to the Millmount Museum where it went on display for three months from July. Ned McHugh delivered another public lecture to mark the opening of the exhibition.



August was a busy month for the IHTA. Paul Walsh and Jennifer Moore were invited to the Milwaukee Irish Fest by Patrick Fitzgibbon and Marguerite Helmers who convened the cultural programme of the festival. Over 120,000 visitors attend the music and cultural festival and many



Jennifer Moore, Marcy Bidney (AGSL), Paul Walsh, Ciaran Cannon TD, Marguerite Helmers

visited the exhibition of historic Galway maps. Paul Walsh delivered a lecture on the Pictorial map ahead of the launch of *Renaissance Galway*.



Marcy Bidney, the map librarian of the American Geographical Society Library at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where there are over 1.5 million cartographic objects, also facilitated a visit by Paul and Jennifer. On return to Ireland, Paul Walsh gave a lecture to the Rathmichael Historical Society based on the map.

Raymond Gillespie and Howard Clarke formed part of a panel on 'Landscapes and townscapes' with Keith Lilley (HTT) at the Examine Europe Workshop in Trinity College. During Heritage Week, Séamas Ó Maitiú spoke about 'Uncovering historic Rathmines' in the Registry of Deeds. Frank Cullen (pictured) had a map display and met with the public during Culture Night in September when over 1,300 people visited Academy House and gave a lecture to the Ulster Museum on the ports of Belfast and Dublin.



As part of the Dublin Festival of History, Jennifer Moore gave two public workshops, 'Behind the maps' focusing on the Dublin atlas series in October. Howard Clarke spoke on Limerick port at St Martin's Fair: celebrating the medieval history of Limerick. NUIG hosted a seminar on the Pictorial map with Pádraig Lenihan, Annaleigh Margey, Brid McGrath, Nollaig Ó Muraíle and Paul Walsh discussing various elements of the impact of the map. The seminar was chaired by Nicholas Canny MRIA and organised by Dan Carey MRIA ahead of its launch that evening in Galway City Museum. Later in October, the Atlas also held a board meeting in Maynooth University for the first time.

Sarah Gearty partook in a film for an online exhibition as part of Treasures of the Oireachtas focusing on maps.

**John Andrews**

The editors, former and current staff and the whole IHTA network were deeply saddened to learn of the death of John Andrews on 15 November 2019, who played a crucial role in the establishment of the Irish Historic Towns Atlas.



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