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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 Uachtarain to present a copy of Drogheda to President Michael D. Higgins in April (below) with representatives from Louth County Council and Highlanes Gallery.

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.

John Roque’s Dublin: a guide to the Georgian City by Colm Lennon and John Mountague 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.

Dublin suburbs
Rathmines by Seamas Ó Maitíu 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/Maíre Ní Laoi), 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 Caher, Carlow, Cashel, Naas, Newry and Roscommon.

Over the summer months, Aidan Gilsenan, a SPUR (Summer Programme for Undergraduate Research) student from Maynooth University, 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 townscape: 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 McHugh (IHTA) examined the ports of Glasgow, Kingston-Upon-Hull and Drogheda. For the plenary panel (below), Colm Lennon, Jacinta Prunty (both IHTA), Lar Joyce (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.

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.
Over 120,000 visitors attend the music and cultural festival and many guests were invited to the Milwaukee Irish Fest by Patrick Fitzgibbon and Marcy 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. 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 created 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](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 guests visited the exhibition of historic Galway maps. Paul Walsh delivered a lecture on the Pictorial map ahead of the launch of Renaissance Galway.

Marcy Moore, 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 towns’ with Keith Lilley (HTT) at the Examine Europe Workshop in Trinity College. During Heritage Week, Séamas Ó Muaidh 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. NUII hosted a seminar on the Pictorial map with Pádraig Lenihan, Annaleigh Margey, Bríd McGrath, Nollaig Ó Muairle 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.