

**Newsletter, 15th issue** This is the fifteenth in a series of annual Irish Historic Towns Atlas (IHTA) newsletters, intended to keep those associated with the project informed of progress and events. The IHTA is a Royal Irish Academy research project. Series editors: Anngret Simms, H.B. Clarke, Raymond Gillespie, Jacinta Prunty; consultant editor: J.H. Andrews; cartographic editor: Sarah Gearty; editorial assistants: Angela Murphy, Jennifer Moore, Frank Cullen. Maps produced in association with Ordnance Survey Ireland and Land and Property Services Northern Ireland.



**We would like to wish all our authors, contributors, researchers and those interested in the project a very Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year**

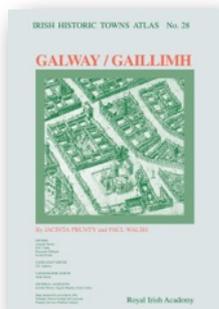


### New publications

On the 1 November 2016, President Michael D. Higgins launched IHTA no. 28 *Galway/Gaillimh* where he paid tribute to the 'scholarship and to honour authors Jacinta Prunty and Paul Walsh' in Galway City Museum. President Higgins described the atlas as a 'valuable tool' as it 'is the product of so many different scholars cooperating and ... a marvellous piece of cooperation'.

Paul Walsh gave an illustrated talk 'From medieval borough to modern city' on the preceding Saturday 29 October in Galway City Museum and, on the evening of the launch, both Jacinta and Paul delivered a free public lecture to a full house in St Nicholas's Collegiate Church in collaboration with the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society.

There is an accompanying bilingual exhibition on display in Galway City Museum that will run until January 2017. It is free to attend and contains many of the beautiful maps and illustrations from the atlas. The launch and exhibition were widely covered in local and national press and on Galway Bay FM (<https://www.ria.ie/news/irish-historic-towns-atlas/ihta-galwaygaillimh-launch>).



President Higgins at the launch



Galway, 1589, Brian Fitzwilliam (British Library)



President Higgins with Paul Walsh and Jacinta Prunty at the launch

### Dublin suburbs series

Colm Lennon has advanced 'Clontarf' the first of the suburbs series, due for publication in 2017. Other suburbs to be published over the coming years are Drumcondra (Ruth McManus), Kilmainham/Inchicore (Frank Cullen), Rathgar/Rathmines (Seamus Ó Maitiú) and Ringsend/Irishtown/Sandymount (Jacinta Prunty). The series is edited by Colm Lennon and Jacinta Prunty and is part-funded by Dublin City Council.

### Research

Drogheda (Ned McHugh) is in production and is hoped to be published later in 2017. Angela Byrne (Ballyshannon), Michael Byrne (Tullamore), Marc Caball (Tralee), Howard Clarke/Máire Ní Laoi (Cork), Jonathan Cherry/Brendan Scott (Cavan), Linda Doran (New Ross), John Martin (Dungarvan), Jim Rees (Arklow) all progressed work on their drafts. Other towns in progress are Cahir, Carlow, Cashel, Loughrea, Naas, Newry and Roscommon. Work was initiated on Westport (Eamon O'Flaherty). During the summer four SPUR students from Maynooth University — Keith Harrington, Ryan Heerey, Cora McDonagh and Daniel O'Dwyer — progressed research on the Dublin suburbs and generated data for a GIS on the Maynooth atlas. Editing continued on the second volume of Maps and Texts, proceedings from the second set of IHTA seminars, and it is planned for publication in 2017.

### Workshops and seminar

This year's theme 'Medieval townscapes: comparative perspectives through the Irish and British historic towns atlases' was convened in collaboration with the Historic Towns Trust, co-organised by Keith Lilley (QUB) on Friday 20 May 2016. There were over 100 attendees who listened to papers discussing the similarities and differences in the urban landscapes of Bristol and Galway; Kilkenny and Norwich; Limerick and York; Caernarfon and New Ross; London and Dublin, with Terry Slater (University of Birmingham) presenting the plenary paper 'Comparing medieval towns in Britain and Ireland: a plan analytical approach using historic towns atlases'. This Irish/British collaboration was celebrated at a reception in Iveagh House, St Stephen's Green, Dublin, hosted by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Irish and British HTA workshop



Walking tour with Howard Clarke

The seminar was preceded by an Irish and British Historic Towns Atlas roundtable workshop on Thursday 19 May in Academy House. Themes were people and institutions, developing knowledge, changing methodologies and reaching out. Howard Clarke led a walking tour of medieval Dublin after the session.

Other workshops during the year focused on the Dublin suburbs atlases and sources for the creation of IHTAs.



Members of the IHTA, BHTA and other European colleagues at the IHTA Seminar in May 2016

### News from Europe

Anngret Simms attended the annual meeting of the International Commission for the History of Towns (ICHT) in Kiel, Germany (15–16 September 2016) where she is the joint convenor of the atlas working group.

The list of published European atlases continues to grow with numbers exceeding 520 across Europe. They can be viewed on the European section of the IHTA website (<https://www.ria.ie/research-projects/irish-historic-towns-atlas/european-project>).

### IHTA Digital

The IHTA Digital Working Group held three meetings during 2016. Rachel Murphy started a project via Maynooth University on 'Digitising town plans: devising new methodologies for the Irish Historic Towns Atlas' funded by the Irish Research Council, which looks at the creation of Map 2 (1:2500) using ArcGIS with Drogheda as a sample. In June, Sarah and Rachel travelled to Münster to discuss new methodologies with the Institute for Comparative Urban History atlas team and similar exchanges were had in QUB. Collaboration with OSI continued with support from Aoife Shinnors in the creation of GIS prototypes for Galway and Maynooth as well as sharing data sources such as Map Genie and atlas data for GeoHive (<http://www.geohive.ie>).

### IHTA Online

Eneclann (The Irish Family History Centre) scanned the back catalogue of IHTAs and the RIA IT department provided crucial support. The digital editions of the atlases are being launched thematically over several months starting with towns of monastic and then Viking origin (available now <https://www.ria.ie/irish-historic-towns-atlas-online>). These will be followed



by Anglo-Norman, early modern, Gaelic and plantation towns and towns in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Owing to copyright reasons, not all maps and views are available, but where possible, the core maps (Maps 1, 2 and 3), growth maps and legend sheets are included. The relevant chapter from *Reading the maps* are also available for download.



Anngret Simms launches IHTA Online with Derek Cosgrove and Jennifer Moore

The IHTA is now an official member of the Digital Repository of Ireland where IHTA files and maps will be available via the repository.

The RIA has a new website and all information with links to IHTA online, the European project, atlas publications, events etc. can be found at [www.ihta.ie](http://www.ihta.ie).

### Atlas activities

The focus of this year's 'Youghal celebrates history' was the atlas of Youghal by David Kelly and Tadhg O'Keeffe. This took place in September in St Mary's Collegiate Church, Youghal. Speakers included Howard Clarke, Anngret Simms, Sarah Gearty, Tadhg O'Keeffe, David Kelly and Linda Doran.

Jennifer Moore gave a talk 'Behind the maps: using the IHTA' to the Dublin City Libraries assembly in September. This precedes a series of workshops for librarians that will be held in collaboration with Dublin City Libraries on the uses of the atlases in 2017. All 21 Dublin branch libraries were sent a full set of the Dublin atlases to go with this initiative. John Martin delivered a lecture in Dungarvan on the relationship between Youghal and Dungarvan during Heritage Week. Sarah Gearty was part of a 'Heritage and Preservation' panel at an 'Institutions and Ireland: public cultures' conference in the Long Room Hub in Trinity. Howard Clarke delivered the Maurice Kennedy lecture to the retired faculty of UCD in October. On Culture Night the RIA had over 1,400 visitors through the doors, many of whom became engrossed in the map displays from the IHTA.

### Atlas team

This year Raymond Gillespie took over as chair of the editorial board consisting of Anngret Simms, Howard Clarke and Jacinta Prunty. In the New Year Michael Potterton (Maynooth University) will take a seat around the editorial table as a new editor. We wish him the very best and look forward to working with him in the years to come. In the office, Sarah Gearty, Jennifer Moore and Frank Cullen continued to work on various aspects of the atlas from St Ann's House. Anne Rosenbusch and Angela Byrne also carried out work for the project during the year. We look forward to new publications and projects as well as the completion of some ongoing ones in 2017.



Launch party at Galway/Gaillimh in Galway City Museum 1 November 2016.

LtoR: Sarah Gearty, Mary Daly PRIA, Jennifer Moore, Brendan McGowan, President Higgins, Anngret Simms, Sabine Higgins, Paul Walsh, Jacinta Prunty, Howard Clarke, Mayor Noel Larkin, Frank Cullen, Laura Mahoney, Anne Rosenbusch, Raymond Gillespie, Eithne Verling.

### 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](mailto:publications@ria.ie))

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