



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF
**HISTORIC IRISH
HOUSES & ESTATES**

Lárionad tithé stairiúla na hÉireann

Welcome to the

*Seventh Annual Historic Houses
of Ireland Conference
NUI Maynooth ~ 18-19 June 2009*

Conference Programme



An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



CONFERENCE SESSIONS

THURSDAY 18 JUNE 2009

12.30	Arrival and Registration	<i>Callan Hall</i>
14.00	Welcome Dr Terence Dooley	<i>Callan Hall</i>
14.05	Opening Address <i>Professor R.V. Comerford, Head of Department of History, National University of Ireland Maynooth</i>	<i>Callan Hall</i>
14.45	Tea/Coffee	<i>Pugin Hall</i>
15.15	Session I: Aspects of culture in the historic Irish house <i>Chair: Professor Fiona Palmer, Head of Department of Music, National University of Ireland Maynooth</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Karol Mullaney-Dignam (Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses & Estates): ‘Music in the Irish Country House’: an interdisciplinary research initiative ◆ Patricia McCarthy (Art & Architecture of Ireland Project, Royal Irish Academy): Private Theatricals: good clean fun or socially disruptive? ◆ Caroline Blunden & Jane Blunden: Aspects of change and culture at the Gate Lodge, Castle Blunden, Co Kilkenny 	<i>Callan Hall</i>
16.40	Session II: International perspectives <i>Chair: Professor Margaret Kelleher, Director, An Foras Feasa: The Institute for Research in Irish Historical & Cultural Traditions</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Vicomte Olivier de Rohan (Société des Amis de Versailles) Castle and manor houses in Brittany ◆ Olga Sinitsyna (Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow) & Natalia Kopelyanskya (Russian Institute of Cultural Studies): Historical, architectural & social aspects of some Moscow estates of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries 	<i>Callan Hall</i>
17.45	Supper	<i>Pugin Hall</i>
19.00	Keynote Address I <i>Chair: Professor John Hughes, President, National University of Ireland Maynooth</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dr Martin Mansergh, TD, Minister of State at the Department of Finance with special responsibility for the OPW 	<i>Callan Hall</i>
20.00	Wine reception Featuring a reading by DESMOND FITZGERALD, KNIGHT OF GLIN from his forthcoming publication <i>Glin Castle: Seven centuries of change</i>	<i>Rehehan Hall</i>

CONFERENCE SESSIONS

FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2009

- 08.45 **Arrival and Registration** *Callan Hall*
- 09.30 **Session I: Repatriation, Redefinition, Relevance** *Callan Hall*
Chair: Professor Christopher Ridgway, Curator, Castle Howard
& Adjunct Professor, Department of History, NUI Maynooth
- ◆ **James Lomax (Temple Newsam House, Leeds Museum & Galleries):**
Repatriating the heirlooms: Temple Newsam redefined
 - ◆ **Tim Knox (Sir John Soane's Museum, London):**
Coming home. The return of historic contents to two Northern Ireland houses:
Florence Court & Prehen House
 - ◆ **Emma Plunkett-Dillon (National Trust Wales):**
The National Trust in Wales: making our houses and collections relevant to a
devolved nation
- 11.10 **Tea/Coffee** *Pugin Hall*
- 11.40 **Session II: Education & the future of the historic house in Ireland** *Callan Hall*
Chair: Professor Tom Collins, Dean of Teaching and Learning,
National University of Ireland Maynooth
- ◆ **Terence Dooley (Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses & Estates):**
The CSHIHE, education and the built heritage
 - ◆ **Sean Ó Broin (Examinations & Assessments Manager, State Examinations Commission):** An overview of construction studies at post-primary level
- 12.45 **Short presentation by the Irish Historic Houses Association** *Pugin Hall*
- 13.00 **Lunch** *Pugin Hall*
- 14.00 **Session III: Aspects of some Yorkshire country houses** *Callan Hall*
Chair: Mr Martin Colreavy, Chief Architect, Department of Environment,
Heritage & Local Government
- ◆ **Peter Brown (Fairfax House, York):**
Secrets in the Stucco - symbolism and metaphor in the ceilings at Fairfax House,
York
 - ◆ **Caroline Carr-Whitworth (Brodsworth Hall):**
Conservation not restoration at Brodsworth Hall: presenting the changing fortunes
of a country house
- 15.15 **Keynote Address II** *Callan Hall*
Chair: Professor Christopher Ridgway, Curator, Castle Howard
- ◆ **Prof R.F. Foster, Carroll Professor of Irish History, Hertford College, Oxford University:** Claiming imaginative possessions: the revision of Irish heritage
- 16.00 **Discussion Forum: The present economic recession & the future for Irish historic houses & estates**
Panel: Kevin Baird (Irish Heritage Trust); John Ducie (An Taisce); Desmond Fitzgerald,
Knight of Glin (Irish Georgian Society & private house owner); Brian Lucas (Dept of
Environment, Heritage & Local Government); Colm Murray (Heritage Council); Damian
O'Brien, (Fáilte Ireland); Finola Reid (Historic Gardens Consultant).
- 17.15 **Closing remarks**
- 19.20 Departure of shuttle bus from Main entrance, South Campus, NUI Maynooth
- 20.00 **Conference Dinner at Castletown House**

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

A-Z

Jane and Caroline Blunden

Ms Jane Blunden was born in Malta and educated in Ireland. She is a film maker and journalist who has travelled the world for newspapers and worked with American television news. She helped to conserve and return wild horses to Mongolia, later writing a travel guide to that marvellous yet unexplored area. She is currently collaborating with a Chinese doctor on a medical textbook. She lives between the Cotswolds and Kilkenny with her partner Robin.

Ms Caroline Blunden studied Chinese language and painting at the Central Academy of Fine Art in Beijing. She currently runs a successful business, Blunden Oriental, which promotes and exhibits contemporary Chinese painting. She wrote a Cultural Atlas of China which has been translated into 9 languages, and currently lives and works between London and Kilkenny.

Their conference presentation will concern the diverse cultural heritage and history of their family home, Castle Blunden and Blunden Villa, the Gate lodge which they have renovated and plan to bring their passion for the Orient to bear on the development of the grounds and gardens of their home. The sisters share a deep love of music, landscape, and National Heritage. Plans to develop the gardens at the Gate Lodge in an Eastern Style and events influenced by Eastern Culture are currently being planned.

Caroline Carr-Whitworth

Mrs Caroline Carr-Whitworth has been the Curator, Art for English Heritage's northern region since 1991, a post she has shared with Dr Crosby Stevens since 1997, and was involved in the five-year project to open Brodsworth Hall to the public. Before that she was Assistant Curator, Decorative Arts at Bradford Art Galleries and Museums, and has studied at Oxford and Leeds Universities.

Her conference paper will explore the background to English Heritage's decision, after it took on Brodsworth Hall in 1990, not to restore its Victorian interiors to their original appearance, but to stabilise and conserve them as far as possible as they were found. This has meant retaining later alterations and additions, and even some rooms which were abandoned as the owners and their staff adapted to changing circumstances in the 20th century. The house can therefore be both challenging and fascinating for visitors. The talk looks at some of the conservation issues encountered at Brodsworth, and at how this story of the decline as well as the grandeur, the hard work as well as the leisure, of country house life is presented to visitors.

Peter Brown

Mr Peter Brown is the Director of Fairfax House, York. In 1760 Viscount Fairfax asked architect John Carr to design his townhouse in York, but wanted the ceilings to be fashioned by the immigrant Italian stuccatore, Guiseppe Cortese. His conference paper explores the complex working relationship between the three men and illustrates some of the extraordinary images which have resulted from this collaboration.

Surviving documents show that Fairfax and his daughter Anne were devout Roman Catholics, although in letters to his friends, the Viscount expressed little confidence in the long term survival of this faith in England. It is his troubled and melancholy state of mind which probably explains the intensity of feeling so powerfully expressed in the stucco-work at Fairfax House.

Much of the imagery is taken from Cesare Ripa's *Iconologia* and Phillipe Maffei's *Gemme Antiche Figurate*, but the introduction of flags and other subtle emblems, plus the presence of Eagles, Wild Geese and even Dragons in the Great Staircase ceiling, offers us a much more interesting and provocative interpretation. Together they express his Lordship's commitment to the Roman Catholic faith, but perhaps more dangerously, they reveal his support for the discredited Jacobite movement.

R.V. Comerford

Opening Address

Professor R.V. Comerford is head of the Department of History at NUI Maynooth. His main area of research centres on political mobilisation and its social and cultural bases, in modern Ireland in the first instance, but also in other places, particularly the Netherlands.

Current concerns include: confessionalism; the politics of culture and ethnicity; democracy; trans-national history; and historiography.

His most prominent works include *Charles J. Kickham (1828-82): a study in Irish nationalism and literature*, (Dublin, 1979), *The Fenians in context: Irish politics and society, 1848-82*, (Dublin, 1985; 2nd edition, 1998) and *Ireland* (London and New York, 2003) (Inventing the Nation).

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

A-Z

Terence Dooley

Dr Terence Dooley is Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates at NUI Maynooth.

He specialises in Irish social & political history of the nineteenth & twentieth centuries, particularly the land question, the fortunes of great houses & estates, the work of the Irish Land Commission and the local politics of the revolutionary period. He also has expertise in policy matters concerning heritage and restoration. His recent publications include *'The land for the people': the land question in independent Ireland* (2005); *The big houses and landed estates of Ireland: a research guide* (2007) and *The murders at Wildgoose Lodge; a study of agrarian crime and punishment in pre-Famine Ireland* (2008).

His conference paper will give an overview of the work and achievements of the CSHIHE in connection with them of education and the built heritage of Ireland.

R.F. Foster

Keynote Address II

Professor Roy Foster is a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, where he was a Foundation Scholar in History, he subsequently became Professor of Modern British History at Birkbeck College, University of London, as well as holding visiting fellowships at St Anthony's College, Oxford, the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, and Princeton University.

In 1991 he became the first Carroll Professor of Irish History at the University of Oxford and was elected a Fellow of the British Academy since 1989. His previous books include *'Charles Stewart Parnell: The Man and His Family'* (1976), *'Lord Randolph Churchill: A Political Life'* (1981), *'Modern Ireland 1600-1972'* (1988), *'The Sub-Prefect Should Have Held His Tongue: Selected Essays of Hubert Butler'* (1990), *'Paddy and Mr Punch: Connections in Irish and English History'* (1993), and *'Luck and the Irish: A Brief History of Change from 1970'* (2007).

His keynote address (II, Friday, 15.15) is entitled *'Claiming imaginative possessions: the revision of Irish heritage'*

Tim Knox

Mr Tim Knox, FSA, the Director of Sir John Soane's Museum in London, is a direct descendant of the Knoxes of Prehen, being the four-times great-grandson of Colonel Andrew Knox of Prehen (1761-1840). Born in Africa in 1962, and brought up in Nigeria and Fiji, he was Head Curator of the National Trust from 2002 – 2005 and, before that, its Architectural Historian. He is a Trustee of the Pilgrim Trust, the Stowe House Preservation Trust, and the Friends of Prehen. He serves on the Government's Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and the *Comité Scientifique* of the Palace of Versailles. He regularly lectures and writes on aspects of architecture, sculpture and the history of collecting, and is a collector himself. He lives in London.

His conference paper will look at the heartening story of the return of historic chattels to Florence Court, Co. Fermanagh, under the will of the widow of the 6th Earl of Enniskillen in 1998, and through the subsequent efforts of the National Trust. By contrast, the contents of Prehen, Co. Derry, were scattered in 1921 by order of the Custodian for Ireland under the terms of the 'Trading with the Enemy (Amendment) Act', having been confiscated in 1914 from the last Knox owner, an officer in the Kaiser's army. Tim Knox tells of ongoing efforts by the Friends of Prehen to recover the historic contents of his former family home.

James Lomax

Mr James Lomax was educated at Downside and Cambridge. He has been a curator at Temple Newsam (Leeds Museums and Galleries) since 1977, with a five year interlude at Manchester City Art Galleries. He has curated or co-curated numerous exhibitions, including *John Singer Sargent and the Edwardian Age* (1979), *Country House Floors* (1987), *Country House Lighting* (1992), *The Art of Thomas Chippendale* (2000). He has published catalogues of the silver at Temple Newsam and Dunham Massey, Cheshire, and contributed to numerous journals and periodicals. He is a former Hon Editor of the Furniture History Society, a former Chairman of the Silver Society and is Hon Curator of the Chippendale Society.

In September 1922, for the first time in 300 years, the great Tudor – Jacobean mansion of Temple Newsam was sold. The Hon Edward Wood (later Earl of Halifax) had little difficulty in persuading Leeds Corporation to buy the 900 acres of park for £35,000, while the house was included at no extra charge. However, none of the contents were included: thus the 200 or so paintings by masters such as Titian and Rubens, furniture by Chippendale and Linnell, porcelain from Meissen, Chelsea and Derby, complete silver dinner services and all the paraphernalia of country house life vanished overnight. The mansion became a lifeless empty shell. Slowly it evolved into a 'country house art museum', gathering momentum under the leadership of Philip Hendy (later Director of the National Gallery) and many superb works of art, especially of the decorative arts, were acquired from sales, dealers and private benefactors during the 40s, 50s and 60s.

This phase probably culminated in the saving of the great library writing table made for nearby Harewood House by Otley-born Thomas Chippendale in 1965. The downside was that the identity and character of the house itself became lost. However, since the 1980s there has been a continuing policy to restore the building and its interiors to their former glory, and to return as many of the heirlooms lost in 1922 as possible. Some of the ways in which this has been achieved will be discussed in his conference presentation.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

A-Z

Martin Mansergh

Keynote Address I

Dr Mansergh, TD, is Minister of State at the Department of Finance with special responsibility for the Office of Public Works and at the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism with responsibility for the Arts. In 2004 he was appointed to the Council of State by President Mary McAleese. He was Political and Northern Advisor to three Taoiseigh and leaders of Fianna Fáil over 21 years, 1981 – 2002. He is the author of *The Legacy of History for Making Peace in Ireland* (Mercier Press, 2003).

Dr Mansergh's keynote address (I, Thursday, 19.00) will explore the importance of heritage buildings in contemporary Ireland. For historical reasons, there is little romantic or sentimental attachment on the part of the public to many of our historic buildings, or identification with their original occupants. Their value and importance often tended to be disparaged and underrated in post-independence Ireland. In more recent years, the realization that, in many cases, they belong to us now, that they are a real asset and worth refurbishing, and can in many cases serve new uses without losing their essential character.

Patricia McCarthy

Dr Patricia McCarthy is currently working on the architecture volume of the Art and Architecture of Ireland project at the Royal Irish Academy, and has been commissioned to write an account of the early building of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. She has recently completed her PhD at Trinity College Dublin on 'The planning and use of space in Irish houses 1730 to 1830'. Her publications include 'A favorite study': *building the King's Inns* (Dublin, 2006), and articles in *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies* and in *Country Life*. Most recently her essay 'Stables and horses in Ireland, c. 1630-1840' was published in Yvonne Scott and Rachel Moss (eds), *The Provost's House stables: building and environs, Trinity College Dublin* (TRIARC, 2008).

In the latter part of the eighteenth century theatrical performances in private houses swept the country. In some cases house owners built theatres onto or close to their houses to facilitate this new craze. Lord Aldborough built theatres at his houses in Dublin and at Belan. Theatricals were performed on a regular basis at both Carton and Castletown House, and at the countess of Ely's 'Attic Theatre' in her Dublin house. Dr McCarthy's conference paper will examine the locations of such theatricals, the plays that were performed and the people who acted in them. Some members of the upper classes formed groups, and acted in plays in each others' houses, inviting friends, relatives and tenants as their audience. Sometimes servants were the invited audience for dress rehearsals and, on occasions, they even acted alongside the families. Newspaper reports regularly gave their readers accounts of the evenings' proceedings. Rather like the features in *Hello* magazine today, eighteenth and early nineteenth-century writers drooled over the opulence of the dresses and jewels, the excellence of the acting (untrue in most cases), and the elegance of the (sometimes temporary) theatre. Also looked at will be the effect of private theatricals on the public theatres, and how the art of the theatre could help those

Karol Mullaney-Dignam

Since completing her PhD in 2008, Dr Karol Mullaney-Dignam has been employed at the CSHIHE, NUI Maynooth where she co-ordinates various educational, fundraising and promotional activities, and organises CSHIHE events including seminars, tours and the annual conference. She is involved in a number of research and development projects at the CSHIHE and is also an occasional lecturer at the Department of History, NUI Maynooth.

Dr Mullaney-Dignam's conference paper outlines the origins and significance of the 'Music in the Irish Country House' research initiative which is being launched at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. This interdisciplinary project marks an exciting collaboration between the Department of Music and the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses & Estates, Department of History at NUI Maynooth. The project aims to investigate the circumstances by which particular musical materials came to exist in Irish country houses, the context within which such materials were employed and the traditions of music represented by or disseminated using these materials from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. It also points to the role which private music collections have in enhancing the knowledge of primary source materials available for the study of music in Ireland.

The project originated in an internship awarded in 2008 by An Foras Feasa and the Departments of History & Music at NUI Maynooth to conduct a pilot study of the musical materials held at Birr Castle, Co. Offaly. This paper will outline the findings of that study and the importance of the materials discovered at Birr Castle in terms of a more extensive project of identifying and utilising private music collections for the contextualisation of music and musical activity in Ireland. The future for cultural tourism and heritage lies in collaboration and co-operation between scholars of humanities subjects, such as music and history, owners and managers of historic properties and those involved in promoting and marketing the industry in Ireland.

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

A-Z

Sean Ó Broin

Mr Sean O Broin was a secondary school teacher of Technical Graphics and Construction Studies for many years and also served as an Inspector for the Department of Education. He now serves as Examinations and Assessments Manager with the State Examinations Commission.

His paper will look at the question of student experiences in this subject by analysing the syllabus of the course and its main components of theory, practical and projects. The presentation will take the audience through the creation and/or restoration of three student projects with the aim of giving the audience an idea of what a student encounters and learns from a heritage aspect by doing these projects. Also discussed will be the good aspects and the failings of the Construction Studies syllabus as well as a look forward toward the new course syllabus.

Olivier de Rohan

Vicomte Olivier de Rohan is the Président de la Société des Amis de Versailles. Since its creation, the Society has pursued a double objective. Firstly, it has striven to contribute to Versailles' international prestige. This has been achieved through the Society's ever increasing membership, whose benefits include a programme of lectures and cultural visits, both in France and abroad, as well as free access to the Palace and various other advantages.

The Society's second main goal is to raise funds to enrich the collections and maintain Versailles. It seeks to encourage gifts and donations in order to assist the Single Public Institute of Versailles and Trianon's property, which enhances and restores the Palace and the park.

Emma Plunkett-Dillon

Since completing her PhD on the landscapes of the Burren, County Clare Dr Emma Plunkett-Dillon has worked as an archaeologist for the National Trust. As well as managing a team of archaeologists covering Wales, West Midlands and West, and South West England her archaeological responsibilities include a range of properties in South Wales. Recent projects include the restoration of Dinefwr, a Grade I registered park in Carmarthenshire. As historic properties adviser she represents the historic environment on the senior management team in Wales and provides input on all aspects of our responsibilities to include collections, buildings and landscapes. Emma takes an active interest in policy and how the Welsh Assembly Government protects its heritage. She is a member of the Ancient Monuments Advisory Board and represents the National Trust on the Historic Environment Group which advises the Minister for Culture.

The National Trust owns approximately 50,000 hectares of Wales. This includes one in every six miles of the coastline, significant parts of Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons and several large agricultural estates. It makes a significant contribution to preserving the habitats, landscapes and heritage of Wales but all too often this role is overlooked because we are perceived as an organisation whose sole purpose is to look after large houses. This problem is compounded by the belief that these houses are 'English' and have little relevance to the people of Wales.

The challenge for the Trust is to ensure that houses such as Chirk, Erddig, Penrhyn, Powis, Plas Newydd, Dinefwr and Llanerchaeron are valued by local communities and to encourage the wider population to develop a sense of pride and ownership. This presentation will set out the different strategies which the Trust have developed to include supporting groups of volunteers, outreach activity especially in local schools, community participation in conservation, revised interpretation and ensuring staff are properly trained.

Olga Sinitsyna and Natalia Kopelyanskaya

Dr. Olga Sinitsyna is the Deputy Director of the Russian State Library of Foreign Literature. She is a member of the National Award Committee for Preservation of Cultural Heritage and a lecturer at the faculty of Museology at the Russian State University of the Humanities.

Natalia Kopelyanskaya is an art historian at the Research Laboratory Museum of design and planning, Russian Institute of Cultural Studies, Moscow. They will make a joint presentation at this year's conference on life on a Russian Estate. They will outline historical, architectural and social aspects of certain Moscow estates of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.



Seventh Annual Historic Houses of Ireland Conference

CONFERENCE DISCUSSION PANEL

A-Z FRIDAY 19 JUNE 16.00

Kevin Baird:	Chief Executive Officer, Irish Heritage Trust
John Ducie:	Properties & Conservation Officer, An Taisce: The National Trust for Ireland
Desmond Fitzgerald:	Knight of Glin: Glin Castle, Co. Limerick
Brian Lucas:	Principal Officer of Heritage Policy and Architectural Protection in the DoEHLG
Colm Murray:	Architect, Heritage Council
Damian O'Brien:	Product Management Officer, Cultural Tourism & Heritage, Fáilte Ireland
Finola Reid:	Historic Gardens Consultant

CONFERENCE SESSION CHAIRS

Professor Tom Collins

Professor Tom Collins is Head of Department and Dean of Teaching and Learning at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. As Head of the Education Department, he has oversight of the Department's extensive programme of under-graduate and graduate provision in teacher education and related areas. As Dean, he holds institution wide responsibility for all aspects of pedagogical innovation, particularly with regard to staff development and the application of new technology in teaching and learning. His research interests include issues to do with inclusion and education, access, pedagogical innovation and educational policy. He is currently chair of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

Mr Martin Colreavy

Mr Martin Colreavy is the Chief Architect in DoEHLG with a specialist role in Heritage, Architectural Policy and Urban Design and was responsible for the new Government Policy Documents on Urban Design, such as *Quality Housing for Sustainable Communities 2007* and currently the proposed Government Policy on Architecture and the built Environment 2009-2015. He is currently RIAI Honorary Treasurer 2008-2009 and Chair RIAI Urban Design Education Committee. He has extensive experience as a Senior Architect in the private sector, working both in Ireland and Germany. He has been involved in many major award winning developments in the last 15 years in Civic Design, Urban Design, mixed-use developments, Healthcare, Educational buildings, and Housing for both McCullough Mulvin Architects and Murray O'Laire Architects.

Professor Fiona Palmer

Professor Fiona Palmer joined the Department of Music in October 2007. Fiona is a double bassist, mezzo soprano and flautist. As an active professional musicologist and performer her publications focus on music and musicians in the marketplace. She is currently engaged in researching the first one hundred years of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society's history (1840-1940). Fiona's most recently completed monograph is Vincent Novello (1781-1861): Music for the Masses (Ashgate Publishing, December 2006). This is the first large-scale reappraisal of the career of the pioneering London-based editor and publisher.

Professor Margaret Kelleher

Professor Margaret Kelleher has lectured in the Department of English, NUIM since 1996 and is currently Director of An Foras Feasa. She is the author of *The Feminization of Famine: Studies of the Inexpressible* (1997) and, most recently, co-editor (with Professor Philip O'Leary) of *The Cambridge History of Irish Literature*. She has published widely in the areas of nineteenth-century Irish literature and culture, Irish women's writing and comparative famine studies. She is currently working on a study of bilingualism in nineteenth-century Ireland.

Professor Christopher Ridgway

Professor Christopher Ridgway has been Curator at Castle Howard since 1985. He is Co-Chair of the Yorkshire Country House Partnership, a member of the conservation Committee for the National Trust of Scotland and Visiting Fellow, Dept of History, University of York. He has lectured widely in the UK and overseas on the history of Castle Howard, its architecture, collections, and landscape, on which he has also published extensively. This year Professor Ridgway was appointed as Adjunct Professor at NUI Maynooth. His role will be to expand the expertise and international connections of the centre.