



CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF  
**HISTORIC IRISH**  
HOUSES & ESTATES  
*Lárionad tithe stairiúla na bÉireann*

**Eleventh Annual**  
**Historic Houses of Ireland Conference**  
*‘Castletown, the Conollys and  
Country House Collections’*

**Castletown House**

**9 – 10 May 2013**

**(RIAI CPD approved)**

**PROGRAMME**

*Supported by:*



**NUI MAYNOOTH**  
Ollscoil na hÉireann Mh. Maon



**OPW**  
The Office of Public Works  
Oifig na n-Obairchoilte Poblaithe



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## *Day 1*

### *Castletown and the Conollys: fresh perspectives*

**10.00-10.45** Registration; Tea/Coffee

**11.15** **Conference Opening:** Terence Dooley, NUI Maynooth

**Welcome Address:** Commissioner John McMahon, Office of Public Works

#### *Session 1*

*Chair:* Marian Lyons, Head of Department of History, NUI Maynooth

**11.30** Marie-Louise Legg, *Katherine Conolly at Castletown, 1729-47*

**12.00** Patrick Walsh, *Between the Speaker and the Squire: the untold story of William Conolly junior*

**12.30** Lunch

#### *Session 2*

*Chair:* Alison FitzGerald, Department of History, NUI Maynooth

**13.30** Karol Mullaney-Dignam, *Princes, poets and polo: Castletown in the Edwardian era*

**14.00** Emer Crooke, *'The public ... has only the vaguest notion of what it is desirable to preserve': the OPW and the Irish country house, 1930-60*

**14.30** Jeanne Meldon, *The story of a trust and its collection: the history of the Castletown Foundation*

**15.00** Tea/Coffee

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### Session 3

*Chair:* Kevin Baird, Irish Heritage Trust

- 15.30** Kerry Bristol, *'Our gallery was in great vogue': Lady Louisa Conolly's Pompeiian redecoration of the Long Gallery at Castletown*
- 16.00** Christine Casey, *Carton, Castletown and the Ticinese phenomenon*
- 16.30** End of proceedings

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## *Day 2*

### *Country House Collections*

#### Session 1

**Introduction to Castletown:** Mary Heffernan, Office of Public Works

*Chair:* Mary Heffernan, OPW

- 09.30** Jo Mangan and Tom Swift, *'Big House Festival': reigniting a 300-year tradition of arts and entertainment at Castletown*
- 10.00** Dawn Williams, *Prelude Speaker: contemporary Castletown*
- 10.30** Tea/Coffee

#### Session 2

*Chair:* Edward McParland, TCD

- 11.00** Christopher Ridgway, *Widening the canon: defining country house collections in the twenty-first century*
- 11.30** Gareth Fitzpatrick, *Four houses, three dukes, two countries, one collection*
- 12.00** Helen Clifford, *The East India Company at home 1757-1857: eastern goods in the British country house*
- 12.30** Jane Fenlon, *Magnificence on display – seventeenth-century tapestries in the Ormonde collections*
- 13.00** Lunch

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### Session 3

Chair: Patrick Guinness, President IGS

- 14.00** Brian Crowley, *'Such is O'Connell at Derrynane': understanding O'Connell through his ancestral home*
- 14.30** Ana Dolan, *The Conolly Folly restoration by the National Monuments Service*
- 15.00** Gretta Doyle and John Olley, *Louisa's riverside walks at Castletown: their creation and their restoration*
- 15.30** Christopher Ridgway, closing remarks
- 16.00** Optional tour of house

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