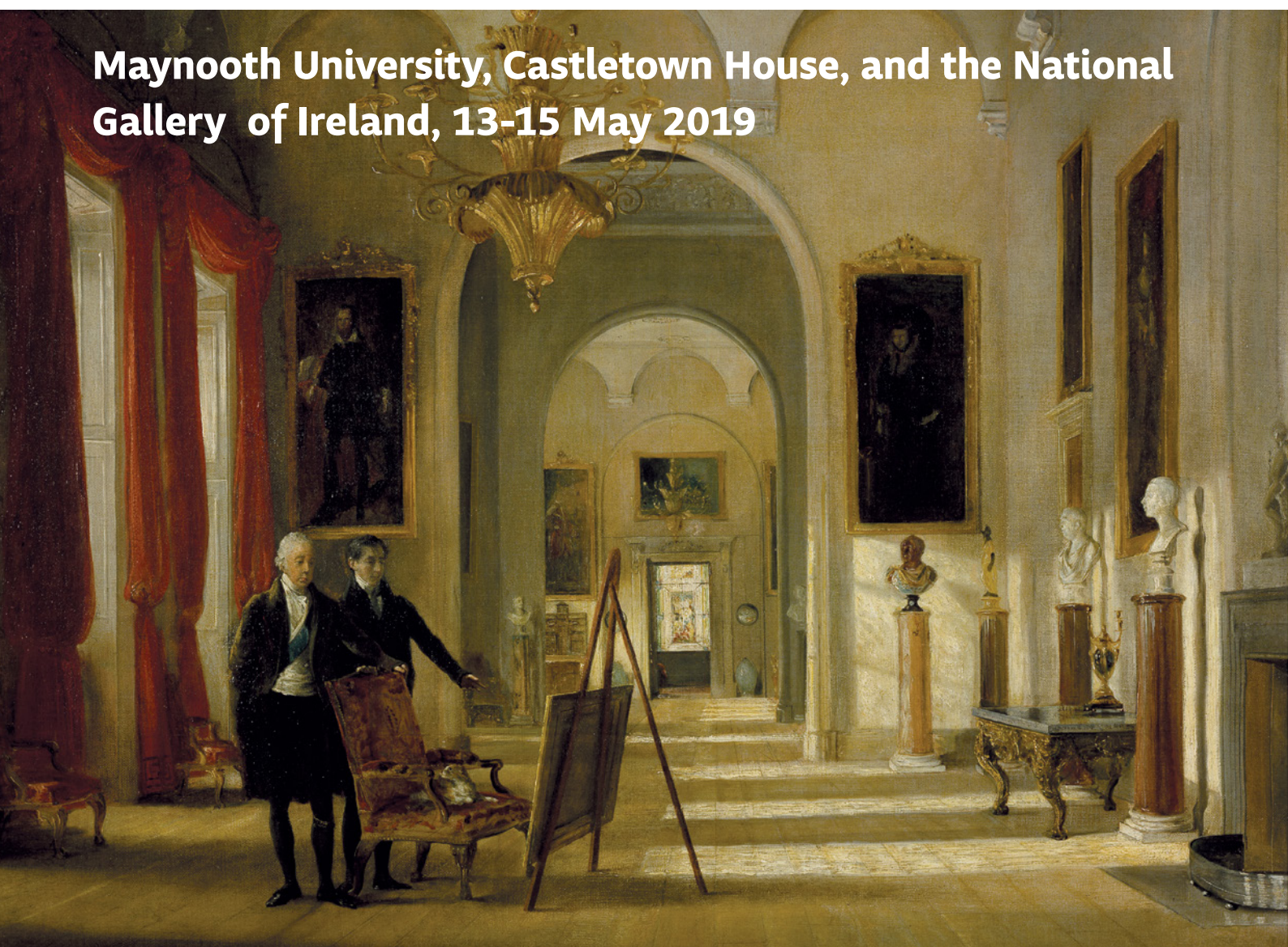


The Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates,  
History Department, Maynooth University, presents  
**The 17th Annual Historic Houses Conference**

# COUNTRY HOUSE COLLECTIONS: THEIR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Maynooth University, Castletown House, and the National  
Gallery of Ireland, 13-15 May 2019



SUPPORTED BY:





The theme of the Seventeenth Annual Historic Houses Conference, to held at Maynooth University, Castletown House, and the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin on 13-15 May 2019 will be **‘Country House Collections: Their Past, Present & Future’**.

Country houses have been defined by their contents as much as by their architecture and the families who occupied them. They have boasted assemblies ranging from antiquities, paintings, decorative arts, books and manuscripts, to antiquarian, ethnographic or scientific collections. Outdoors their gardens were often adorned with collections of other sorts, monuments, sculpture, and horticultural specimens. Rarely have such collections survived intact – sales, destruction, fire, or theft have been repeated occurrences. Country house collecting has been about dispersal as well as acquisition.

The conference will look at how and why collections were amassed, examine their break up, and consider the afterlife of objects as they moved into the art market, the museum world, or elsewhere. How does the identity of a house change if its contents have been removed? What were the reasons for such dispersal, were these actions chosen or enforced? What happens to a collection once it has begun to be dismembered, and how are objects viewed and understood in new locations by different audiences? The conference will also discuss the role of art in country houses today, and conclude with a forum debating the future of such collections.

Front cover: John Jackson, The Long Gallery, Castle Howard, c.1810

Below: The Long Gallery, Castletown House © Country Life Picture Library



IN ASSOCIATION WITH:



**DAY 1      MONDAY 13 MAY, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY**

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09.15-10.00      Registration and coffee, Renehan Hall, South Campus

10.00              Welcome and Introduction

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10.30-11.45      **SESSION 1**

**William Laffan** The Knight of Glin as a Collector

**Terence Dooley** “They found hens roosting on valuable oil paintings”: Big House Looting during the Irish Revolution

**Elena Porter** Creating Value at Country House Contents Auctions in England, 1919-1939

Q&A

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11.45-13.00      **SESSION 2**

**Panel 2A**      **Glascott Symes** The Gibtons: a Dublin Family’s Role in the Furnishing of Country Houses, 1790-1842

**Kerry Bristol** After Adam: Nostell and its Collections, 1817-2019

**Jessica Cunningham** “Consumed to Ashes”: The Destruction of Castlecomer House, 1798

Q&A

**Panel 2B**      **Jane Eade** Ham House: 400 years of Collecting and Patronage and the Question of Authenticity

**Elizabeth Rogers** Capturing Female Curiosity in the Eighteenth-Century Country House Collection: A Place of Education Past, Present, and Future

**Emily Burns** Pictures and Papers: Charting the Evolution of the Petworth Collection Through its Archives

Q&A

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13.00              Lunch

Hugh Douglas Hamilton  
Sir Rowland Winn and his Wife in the Library at Nostell Priory, c.1767-6  
© National Trust



Powerscourt House on Fire





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14.00-15.15 **SESSION 3**

**Panel 3A**

**Lisa Lambert** Worthy of Investigation: The Farmleigh Library

**Robert O'Byrne** The Library at Marlfield, County Tipperary: Its Collection and Destruction

**Anne Hodge** Decorative Maps for the Saloon at Carton House: The Earl of Kildare's Estate Atlases, 1756-1760

Q&A

**Panel 3B**

**James Rothwell** Selling the Family Silver and Returning it Home: National Trust Collections and Displays

**Ludovica Neglie** Portrait Miniature Collections in Irish Country Houses

**Lizzie Jamieson** From Stable to Museum: the Formation of Carriage Collections in the 20th Century

Q&A

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15.15 Tea

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15.45-17.00 **SESSION 4**

**Panel 4A**

**Salvijus Kulevicius** Old Manor Collections in Modern Society: The Assimilation of Foreign Heritage in Lithuania

**Stephen Hague** "It was voted to refurnish the house as far as possible": Alternate Approaches to Country House Collections in the USA

**Michael Davis** Poltalloch House and the Presence of Loss

Q&A

**Panel 4B**

**Lesley Whiteside** Borrowers, Collectors, Curators, and Thieves: the Origins and Development of the Cairnes-Purdon Archive

**George Gossip** Snapshots in Time

**Nicola Kelly** The Connolly Archive, Castletown House

Q&A

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17.15 Reception

The Gallery, Cleveland House, 1808



The Library, Farmleigh



**DAY 2      TUESDAY 14 MAY, CASTLETOWN HOUSE**

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09.15      Convene at Castletown House

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09.30-10.45      **SESSION 1**

**Frances Bailey** Mount Stewart and the Londonderry Collections from Wynyard and Londonderry House

**Alec Cobbe** Lady Betty Cobbe's Worcester Service for Newbridge House

**Ian d'Alton** "There seem to be many more people here than I thought we'd asked": Collecting and Curating Characters in the Irish Big House

Q&A

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10.45      Coffee

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11.15-12.30      **SESSION 2**

**Paul Collins** Risk and Recovery in the Heritage Sector

**Wendy Philips** Checks and Balances: Respecting Private Owners and Protecting the National Heritage

Q&A

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12.30      Lunch

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13.45-15.00      **SESSION 3**

**Judith Hill** What Role has Knowledge of Collecting and Collections Played in the Evaluation, Interpretation and Presentation of Farmleigh, Co Dublin?

**Suncica Habus** Laval Nugent and the First Public Museum in Croatia

**Christopher Warleigh-Lack** Hillsborough Castle: Creating a Modern Collection

Q&A

The Crimson Drawing Room, Castletown House  
© Davison Associates



Worcester flowered basket cover and stand  
Cobbe Collection, photo by Alexey Moskvín





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15.00      Tea

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15.30-16.45      **SESSION 4**

**Cora McDonagh** “For the gratification of the public and the improvement of the fine arts”: Public Display of Private Artwork from Irish Country Houses 1814-1914.

**Philip Cottrell** “What in the world do you want with art in Manchester?”: Sir George Scharf’s Survey of Country House Collections, 1856-57

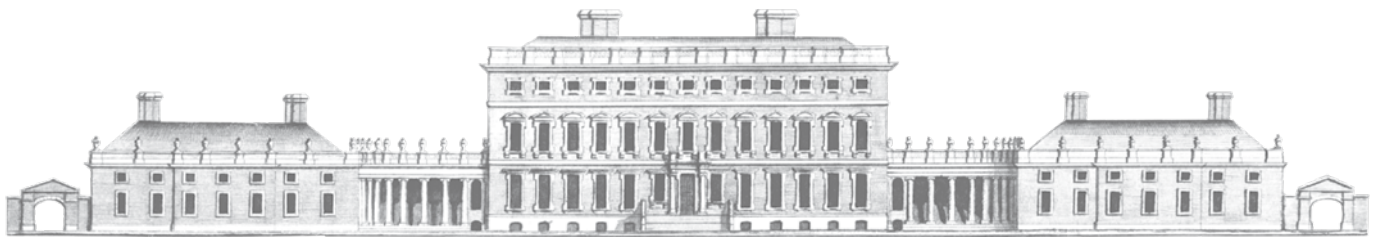
**Martin Postle** Raynham Hall: The Curious Case of the Townshend Heirlooms

Q&A

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16.45      Tour of Castletown House

19.00      Conference Dinner, Pugin Hall, Maynooth



The Staircase, Castle Leslie



The Tapestry Room, Russborough House



**DAY 3      WEDNESDAY 15 MAY, NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN**

09.45	Assemble at National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square entrance
10.00	Tours of the Gallery featuring works from the Beit and Milltown collections
11.15	Coffee

**11.45-13.00      SESSION 1**

**Adrian Le Harivel** Old Master Gifts to the National Gallery of Ireland and their Relation to Country House Collections

**James Miller** The Rise and Decline of the Country House Sale 1970-2010

**Harriet Landseer** Restituting and Redisplaying the Lobkowitz Collections

Q&A

**13.00      Lunch****14.00-15.15      SESSION 2**

**Adriaan Waiboer** Alfred, Otto, Alfred: The Beits as Art Collectors

**Catherine O'Donnell and Jessica Supple** The Future is Relevant: Engaging Young People with Country House Collections

**Christopher Ridgway** Giving it all Away in the 20th Century

**15.15      Panel and Forum: The Future of Country House Collections****16.00      Closing remarks****16.15      End of conference**

Nicolas Poussin (1594-1665)  
The Holy Family with Saints Ann, Elizabeth and John the Baptist, 1649  
Milltown Gift, 1902  
© National Gallery of Ireland



Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675)  
Woman Writing a Letter, with her Maid, c.1670  
Presented, Sir Alfred and Lady Beit, 1987 (Beit Collection)  
© National Gallery of Ireland



# CSHIHE 17th Annual Historic Houses of Ireland Conference

## Maynooth University, Castletown House, and the National Gallery of Ireland

**13-15 May 2019** (RIAI CPD approved)

### REGISTRATION OPTIONS

TO REGISTER ON LINE (WHERE PAYMENT CAN BE MADE BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD) PLEASE GO TO  
**<http://shop.nuim.ie/index.php?app=ecom&ns=prodshow&ref=1850033>**

IF YOU CHOSE THIS METHOD OF REGISTRATION PLEASE **DO NOT** FILL IN THE BOOKING FORM BELOW.

ALTERNATIVELY IF YOU WISH TO PAY BY CHEQUE **MADE PAYABLE TO MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY** PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND RETURN WITH THE RELEVANT BOOKING FEE TO THE CSHIHE, JUNIOR INFIRMARY, SOUTH CAMPUS, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY, MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE BY **WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2019**.

### BOOKING FORM

One-day conference only fee	<b>€80 per person</b>	No of attendees:	<input type="text"/>
		Please circle date attending:	<input type="text"/> 13th <input type="text"/> 14th <input type="text"/> 15th
Two-day conference only fee	<b>€150 per person</b>	No of attendees:	<input type="text"/>
		Please circle dates attending:	<input type="text"/> 13th <input type="text"/> 14th <input type="text"/> 15th
Three-day conference only fee	<b>€200 per person</b>	No of attendees:	<input type="text"/>
Conference Dinner	<b>€50 per person</b>	No of attendees:	<input type="text"/>
Total amount enclosed € <input type="text"/> Payment must be made in Euro only.			

### REGISTRATION DETAILS

First name(s):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Surname(s):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E-mail or postal address(es):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Telephone no(s):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Institutional affiliation/position (if any):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Dietary or other requirements:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

PLEASE NOTE: Parking permits are not required for the duration of the conference. Attendees may park on South Campus, outside of the designated pay parking areas without charge.

### BOOKING INFORMATION

**\* Places will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis for the conference and dinner.** Payment of conference registration fee and/or conference dinner fee must be received to guarantee a booking. Receipt of payment will be acknowledged by e-mail unless otherwise requested. Refunds for cancelled bookings will not be made.

Please note that information provided above (name, institutional affiliation and e-mail address only) may be compiled into a delegates listing to be distributed at the conference. Please tick here if you do not wish your information to be included in the delegates list ☐

**Enquiries: E-mail [cshihe@mu.ie](mailto:cshihe@mu.ie)**

**Twitter @historicirishho**