

IRELAND AND THE IBERIAN ATLANTIC

Migration, Military and Material Culture

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(Eds.)



ALBA*tros*

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INTRODUCTION

EVER since the first international gathering of scholars to discuss various aspects of the historical and cultural relationships between Ireland and Spain, at Salamanca in 2004¹, there has been a magnificent expansion in the field of Irish connections with Spain, and with the Iberian Atlantic World. While such studies in the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries still hold strong, recent years have seen new areas of research in the field expanding into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The publication of the proceedings of the first international conference on the theme of *Irlanda y el Atlántico Ibérico-Ireland and the Iberian Atlantic*, took place in Seville in 2008. Subsequent publications of similar thematic conference proceedings included *Redes de nación y espacios de Poder – Power Strategies: Spain and Ireland*, that took place in Madrid and Valladolid in 2011, and *La presencia irlandesa durante las Cortes de Cádiz – The Irish presence at the Cortes of Cadiz*, that commemorated the bi-centennial of that famous constitutional assembly, and took place in Madrid in 2012². These developments would not have been possible only for the generous support that they have received from the Irish Government Department of Arts, Heritage and An Ghaeltacht, the Spanish Government Ministry of Defence, Junta de Andalucía, the Spanish Embassy to Ireland, the Irish Embassy to Spain, Instituto Cervantes, Real Academia de la Historia (Madrid), The Royal Irish Academy, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Universidad Complutense Madrid, Universidad Pablo de Olavide Sevilla, University College Dublin –Eminent Europeans of Irish Origin Project, Trinity College Dublin– Irish & Scottish Military Migration to Spain Project, National University of Ireland Maynooth-The Irish in Europe Project, National University of Ireland Galway –The Moore Institute, Centro de Ciencias Humanas y Sociales, Escuela de Estudios Hispano-Americanos, Comisión Española de

¹ The proceedings were published in Downey, Declan M. and Crespo MacLennan, Julio (eds.), *Spanish-Irish Relations through the Ages*, Dublin 2008. It was grant-aided by Instituto Cervantes Dublin and supported by the Spanish Embassy to Ireland, and it sold out within six months of publication.

² The publication details of the series of the proceedings are: Pérez Tostado, Igor y García Hernán, Enrique (eds.), *Irlanda y el Atlántico Ibérico. Movilidad, participación e intercambio cultural*, Valencia 2010; Recio Morales, Óscar (ed), *Redes de nación y espacios de Poder: La comunidad irlandesa en España y la América Española, 1600-1825: Power Strategies: Spain and Ireland, 1600-1825*, Valencia 2012; García Hernán, Enrique y Lario de Oñate, María del Carmen, *La presencia irlandesa durante las Cortes de Cádiz en España y América, 1812: Política, religión y guerra*, Valencia 2013. Some few remaining copies may be obtained from the publisher: albatros.ediciones@gmail.com

Historia Militar, and Consejo Hispano-Irlandés de Estudios Históricos. This has facilitated a most welcome evolution and expansion in the historiography of Irish-Iberosphere relations. For example, in this tome the association of that towering figure of early nineteenth-century international liberalism, Daniel O'Connell, with Spanish liberals and his influence upon them receives unprecedented exposure and critical analysis. Indeed the series of previous conferences and their associated publications and rich research yields as outlined in the two chapters providing historiographical perspectives in this book, testify to the strength and vibrancy of Irish-Iberian historical studies over the past two decades. That energy continues to drive current research into the historical experiences of Irish emigres in Spain and its World, and of their descendants throughout the period from 1500 to 1900.

This internationally-peer reviewed and edited collection of essays derives from the second International Conference on Ireland and the Iberian Atlantic World that took place in Seville on 27th and 28th October, 2016. However, the conference title is perhaps a misnomer, as some of the papers, included in this volume, drew attention to the Irish presence in the Spanish Philippines and in its Pacific coastal possessions in Latin America and in Spanish North America. Such an historiographical trajectory is only natural given the significantly sizeable presence of persons of Irish origin in the Spanish political, military, ecclesiastical and commercial establishment and its global reach. This collection is larger in size and more varied in content than previous publications in the series, incorporates studies on merchants, natural scientists, military figures, administrators, statesmen, intellectuals, scholars, nuns and clerics. However, among the various contributions, such elite figures are leavened by the inclusion of vagabonds, scoundrels, swashbucklers, swindlers and perhaps even an alleged necromantic sorcerer! Thereby, the general reader is provided with a more comprehensive range of fascinating human characters and experiences, as well as contributions and extractions by those of Irish origin who engaged with and integrated into Iberian Society throughout the Mediterranean, Atlantic and Pacific Worlds.

Another notable feature in this book, is the inclusion of essays concerning the recent marine archaeological recovery of bronze cannons and various artifacts connected with the Great Armada of 1588 off the Irish coast, especially at Streedagh in County Sligo. This has awakened much renewed interest in that great endeavour by King Philip II. Therefore it is both timely and appropriate that these new archaeological discoveries, and also including that of a Spanish treasure ship off the southwest Irish coast of County Cork that was wrecked 390 years ago, as well as some new historical perspectives on the *Armada Invencible* on its 420th anniversary are included in this publication.

During the editing process of the volume, we received the sad notice of the demise of Samuel Fannin. For many years he was a dedicated enthusiast for the history of Irish-Iberian relations and he attended conferences on the subject regularly. His interest focused in the Irish merchant families who settled in the peninsula. He combed

the municipal, provincial, military and ecclesiastical archives of Málaga, Cádiz, Puerto de Santa María, San Fernando, Seville, Córdoba, Granada, Madrid, Bilbao, Huelva and A Coruña, to name a few, and he was always eager to generously put his archival knowledge at the service of other researchers³. His own writing covered the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and addressed famous but poorly understood individuals such as Alexander O'Reilly⁴. However, his work concentrated mainly on following the trail of Irish mercantile families such as the Carews, Colgans, Leys, Murphys, O'Crowleys, Ryans, Terrys and Walshes through the ports of Southern Spain. His most salient studies are those focused on the regions of Cádiz⁵ and Cartagena⁶. There, he painstakingly reconstructed collective biographies to understand how migration, family and business relations intermingled to form diasporal communities. It is a great loss to all who had the privilege to get to know him. Two among his many friends, María del Carmen Lario Oñate and Thomas O'Connor, have contributed a portrait of him for this volume. He will be greatly missed and affectionately remembered.

Hereby we express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to all who have contributed essays to this book, to all our peer-reviewers, to all our sponsors who have so generously supported this publication, and to Albatros Ediciones for producing this handsome volume.

DECLAN M. DOWNEY & IGOR PÉREZ TOSTADO

Editors

³ Fannin, Samuel. "Spanish Archives of Primary Source Material for the Irish", in *Irish Genealogical Research Society* <http://www.irishancestors.ie>, 2013, 1-33; Fannin, Samuel, "The Ryan and the Terry families in Spain", in *The Irish Genealogist*, 10, 2, 1999, 245-249. His name was also a fixture in the acknowledgements of other researchers, both Irish and Spanish, connected to his area of interest. See for example: Bolufer Peruga, Mónica, *La vida y la escritura en el siglo XVIII. Ines Joyes: Apología de las mujeres*, Valencia 2008, 11, 30 (note 29), 39 (notes 44 and 46); Terry, Kevin (ed.), *Terrys of Cork, 1600-2000: a local historical perspective*, Cork 2005, XIII, 192.

⁴ Fannin, Samuel, "Alexander 'Bloody' O'Reilly: 'A monster of fortune'", in *History Ireland*, 9, 3, 2001, 26-30.

⁵ Fannin, Samuel, "Sons of Milesius, legend and politics: the successful integration of some Irish emigrants to eighteenth-century Spain", in *The Irish Genealogist*, 12, no 1, 2001, 19-36; Fannin, S., "The Irish community in eighteenth-century Cadiz", in O'Connor, Thomas and Lyons, Mary Ann (eds.), *Irish migrants in Europe after Kinsale, 1602-1820*, Dublin 2003, 135-147; Fannin, S., "Carew, Langton and Power, an Irish trading house in Cádiz, 1745-1761", in Villar García, María Begoña and Pezzi Cristóbal, Pilar (dirs.), *Los extranjeros en la España moderna: actas del I Coloquio Internacional, celebrado en Málaga del 28 al 30 de noviembre de 2002*, vol. 1, 347-352.

⁶ Fannin, Samuel, "Los MacDonnells de Boyle en Irlanda y de Cartagena en España", in *Cartagena Histórica*, 25, 2008, 25-34.