

Ireland and the Spanish Empire, 1600-1815

Óscar Recio Morales

304pp. Dublin 2009. ISBN: 978-1-84682-183-7. €65.00

In the wake of the Irish-Spanish defeat at Kinsale (1602), through army careers and the concession of nobility titles, Spanish kings placed the Irish exiled lords and gentry in an advantageous position on a par with the nobility in the early modern Spanish world. Imposition of orthodox Catholicism within the Spanish realms implied the social inclusion of certain 'nations' such as the Irish and the exclusion/repression of other groups who were not assimilatable into that society – Jews, Moriscos and Gypsies. Not all Irish migrants were soldiers, nor were they all men. Not all obtained honours and integration and, even for the Irish nobility, assimilation could be difficult. This book covers this complexity of Irish migration to the Spanish empire, from 17th-century Hapsburg Spain to 18th-century Bourbon Spain, from Europe to the new World, from Madrid, Brussels or Cadiz to Havana, Lima and Chile. Even though Ireland did not form part of this empire, the contribution of Irishmen and Irishwomen to this multinational empire was remarkable. The Irish 'nation' played a key role in the army, commerce, medicine, literary life and 18th-century Spanish Enlightenment.

Ireland and Spain in the Reign of Philip II

Enrique García Hernán

400pp. Dublin 2009. ISBN: 978-1-84682-166-0. €65.00

A new and welcome contribution to Irish-Spanish historical studies has come with the publication of *Ireland and Spain in the reign of Philip II*. As the title reveals, this book treats of the close historical ties that have existed between both countries, which were forged and reached their zenith in the tumultuous, action-packed times of 16th and early 17th century Europe. Originally written in Spanish by Enrique García Hernán and published under the title *Irlanda y el Rey Prudente* (2 vols, Madrid, 2000 and 2003), this revised synopsized and updated work, impeccably translated by Liam Liddy, offers a lavish portrait of the political, military and religious relations between both countries which, in their desire to rid the world of their common enemy, England, went to untold lengths to achieve this objective and, in the process, came within a whisker of changing the course of history.

Irish Influence at the Court of Spain in the Seventeenth Century

Igor Pérez Tostado

192pp. Dublin 2008. ISBN: 978-1-84682-110-3. €55.00

This book examines how early modern immigrant communities sought to influence the politics of their host governments. This study analyses the political activity of the Irish communities who settled in the territories of the Spanish Monarchy during the middle decades of the seventeenth century. Based on extensive original research in several archives across Europe, Irish political activity is set in the context of the dynamics of early modern diplomatic relations. It argues that the degree of political influence of these groups was in direct relation to the bonds they constructed through their emigration experiences, their organisation within the host community, the invention of a shared identity and a project of future, and their self-representation to the Spanish society.

The Irish constructed a strong bond, identified as 'reciproca correspondencia', or mutual support in the name of a shared religion, and of a belief in a common racial origin (the Milesian legend). The book demonstrates that, in spite of their resourcefulness, efforts and endurance, the Irish in Spain did not achieve their ultimate goals. Their chances of success or failure depended on everyday experiences of political practice in the courtly society, as well as upon many external complex factors beyond the control of any immigrant community.

Philip II of Spain: Patron of the Arts

Rosemarie Mulcahy

388pp + 16pp colour ills. section. Dublin 2004. ISBN: 1-85182-773-0. €65.00

The image of Philip II (1527-98) as stern and assiduous defender of his political inheritance and of the Catholic faith is tempered and enriched by the image of patron and collector of art. During the forty-two years of his reign (1556-98) through widespread patronage and persistent guidance he transformed the arts in Spain, then largely provincial, into the international and modern. The building of the Escorial – known in its own time as the eighth wonder of the world – and other royal residences attracted artists and craftsmen to enter the royal service, among them Titian, Anthonis Mor, El Greco, Federico Zuccaro, Pompeo, Leoni and Alonso Sanchez Coello.

Part of Philip's collection was to form the basis of the Prado Museum when it was founded in the nineteenth century. Although Philip is recognized as one of the most important art patrons of the Renaissance little has been published in English on his remarkable achievement. This book gives a sense of the variety of talent, both Spanish and foreign, that flourished under Philip II's patronage and provides fascinating insights into the king's artistic projects. The topics covered include: the function of the religious art, court portraiture, art and diplomacy and artists' working methods. The volume contains 16 colour plates and over 100 black and white illustrations.

Irish Communities in Early Modern Europe

Thomas O'Connor & Mary Ann Lyons

400pp. Dublin 2006. ISBN: 1-85182-993-8. €65.00

The third collection of essays by the Irish in Europe Project, this book explores the emergence of Irish communities across Europe from Sweden to the southerly tip of Spain. Topics include Irish entrepreneurs in Sweden's industrialization; Irish merchant dynasties in Ostend and Seville; the material culture of Irish émigré families in 18th-century France; rivalry within communities of Irish students in Paris, Toulouse and Cahors; Irish involvement in international diplomacy in Rome and Spain; Napoleon's Irish Legion and Irish participation in the battle of Cremona; literacy among Irish immigrants in Spain, and the translation of Irish Counter-Reformation literature.

Irish Migrants in Europe after Kinsale, 1602-1820

Thomas O'Connor & Mary Ann Lyons

208pp. Dublin 2003. ISBN: 1-85182-701-3. €55.00

The battle of Kinsale, 1601, fought during the Nine Years War of 1594-1603, marked a turning point in Irish history. However, although the political power of the Gaelic nobility was broken and royal authority in the kingdom was enhanced, Ireland remained strategically important for other European powers, especially Spain and, later, France. Therefore, when political, social and religious changes at home caused many Irish to migrate, temporarily or permanently, they headed for Habsburg and Bourbon territories.

The essays in this collection explore the motivation for migration in the early 17th century. They chronicle important aspects of migrants' integration into European networks of influence and they indicate the role of the European influence in modernizing the migrant communities and the country that produced them.