

10th International Insular Art Conference Cork and Dublin, 2 - 5 July 2025

Routeways and Reflections

Programme

Thanks to our sponsors: *National Monuments Service, National Museum of Ireland, Future Humanities Institute, University College Cork*

Wednesday 2 July - National Museum of Ireland: Archaeology, Kildare Street, Dublin

12.30pm Light reception in the museum

1.30pm Delegates one-hour tour of 'Words on the Wave: Ireland and St. Gallen in early medieval Europe' exhibition with Matthew Seaver, Maeve Sikora, and Diarmuid Ó Riain.

3.00pm Coach leaves from Nassau Street, Dublin, travelling to UCC/Crows Nest accommodation.

Thursday 3 July – University College Cork, Main campus, Cork, Boole 2

8.30am Registration

9.00am Opening of Conference: Griffin Murray

Session 1 Words on the Wave: Ireland and St Gallen

Chair: Maeve Sikora

9.10 Cornel Dora - 'Men incomparably learned in both secular and sacred writings' - Irish Influence in the Monastery of St Gall from the 7th to the 10th century.

9.30 Matthew Seaver – Words on the Wave, Exhibiting Irish related manuscripts from the Abbey of St. Gall at the National Museum of Ireland.

9.50 Pádraig Ó Macháin & Anna Hoffmann - Material and decorative features of Cod. Sang. 904.

10.10 John Gillis – Judging a book by its cover: the binding of St. Gallen Stiftsbibliothek Cod. Sang. 904.

10.30 Paul Mullarkey – The Lough Kinale book-shrine: construction, destruction and reconstruction.

10.50 Questions

11.05 Break Tea/Coffee

Session 2 Sculpture and Stone in Scotland

Chair: Jane Hawkes

11.30 Michael King – Reflections of texts on Pictish stone sculpture.

11.50 Jane Geddes – Roots and routes: from Roman models to Pictish art.

12.10 Martin Goldberg – Riders in Pictish and early medieval Irish iconography.

12.30 Ewan Campbell & Adrian Maldonado – The Lithification of Iona: archaeological insights into the cult of St. Columba.

12.50 Questions

1.05 Light Lunch

Session 3 Reflecting on Insular Metalwork

Chair: Conor Newman

1.45 Susan Youngs – Pins and the donkey.

2.05 Maeve Sikora – Irish hanging-bowl finds: some reflections.

2.25 Carol Neuman de Vegvar – Myth Congeniality: persistent fictions in drinking-horn studies.

2.45 Ashley Rickman – Illuminating the material: An enlightened re-examination of ‘apotropaic’ bird-of-prey ornamentation on Anglo-Saxon weaponry and armour.

3.05 Questions

3.20 Break

Session 4 Carved Stone Monuments in Ireland and Beyond

Chair: Jean Farrelly

3.40 Tomás Ó Carragáin, Kate Colbert & Diarmuid Ó Riain - The Digital Atlas of Early Irish Carved Stone: overview and initial results.

4.00 Diarmuid Ó Riain & Tomás Ó Carragáin - Clonmacnoise as a royal cemetery in the early medieval period: the archaeological and historical evidence.

4.20 Nora White – EMISoS: Early Medieval Irish Scripts on Stone.

4.40 Nancy Edwards – The Pillar of Eliseg: reflections on power, purpose and royal patronage.

5.00 Questions

5.20 Conference Photograph

5.30 Short tour of ogham stones at UCC with Nora White. Meet under the arch of the Main Quadrangle.

Friday 4 July – University College Cork, Main campus, Cork, Boole 2

Session 5 Metalwork in Ireland and the Continent: Mobility and Reflection

Chair: Susan Youngs

9.00 Conor Newman, Anna Gannon, Elisa Grassi, Cormac Bourke, Eleonora Destefanis & Ragnall O Floinn⁺ – A newly-discovered Insular reliquary from Brallo di Pregola (Province of Pavia).

9.20 Niamh Whitfield – The Decoration on the Londesborough brooch.

9.40 Sue Brunning – Routeways of the Ballycotton Cross.

10.00 Jennifer Gleeson – Through a lens of amber and glass: technical mastery in Insular metalwork.

10.20 Griffin Murray – Iconographical reflections: the Lismore crosier and the Cloyne cross.

10.40 Questions

10.55 Break Tea/Coffee

Session 6 Insular Texts and Visual Culture

Chair: John Gillis

11.20 Bernard Meehan – Chancel screens, Italy, Croatia and the Book of Durrow.

11.40 Barbet-Massin Dominique – The church consecration scheme in the manuscript Angers 477: from the tabernacle to the heavenly Jerusalem.

12.00 Thomas Keyes & Donncha MacGabhann - How long did it take to make the Book of Kells?

12.20 Carol Farr – When Insular visual culture got material: a case study of O.M. Dalton.

12.40 Questions

12.55 Light Lunch

Session 7 Sculpted Imagery in the Isles

Chair: Rachel Moss

2.00 Teresa Porciani – Religious imagery in northern Mercia: the stone crosses at Eyam and Bakewell, Derbyshire (c. 800–900).

2.20 Silvia Frattini – Centaurs, warriors and hunters: images of the secular world between Ireland and Scotland.

2.40 Colleen Thomas – Insular hermit images: connecting Egypt and Ireland.

3.00 Questions

3.15 Break

Session 8 Reception and Reflections Through Time

Chair: Martin Goldberg

3.35 Russell Ó Ríagáin - Insular military, missionary and scholarly uses of three iconographic alternatives to the cross at the crossroads of Late Antiquity.

3.55 Anna Dolan – The Testament of Stone: The long lives of the Irish High Crosses.

4.15 Jonathan Wooding – The Book of Kells Mosaics of the Melocco Brothers of Sydney (1911-1959).

4.35 Questions

4.50 Closing Remarks and Next Conference: Tomás Ó Carragáin

7.00 Conference Dinner: Kingsley Hotel, Victoria Cross, T12 P680

Saturday 5 July – Stone sculpture in County Tipperary

9.00am Bus leaving Gaol Cross, Western Road (51.8938, -8.4947), and will return by approx.

6pm. Fieldtrip leaders: Tomás Ó Carragáin, Nancy Edwards, and Griffin Murray. Sites will include: Toureen Peakaun, St. Berriherth's Kyle, and the high crosses at Ahenny and Kilkieran.