

LAW & THE IDEA OF LIBERTY IN IRELAND

From Magna Carta to the Present

Irish Legal History Society Conference
Friday 25 and Saturday 26 November 2016
Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin

Academic Directors:

Peter Crooks (Trinity College Dublin) and Thomas Mohr (University College Dublin)

Speakers:

Claire Breay (British Library) • Sparky Booker (Queens University Belfast) • Paul Brand (Oxford) • Ian Campbell (Queens University Belfast) • Coleman Dennehy (UCL/UCD) • Seán Duffy (Trinity) • Adrian Empey (Church of Ireland Historical Society) • Patrick Geoghegan (Trinity) • James Kelly (DCU) • Colum Kenny (DCU) • John Larkin (Attorney General for Northern Ireland) • Bláthna Ruane SC

Registration: <http://www.ilhs.eu/>

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Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

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FROM MAGNA CARTA TO THE PRESENT

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Magna Carta is one of the most famous documents in the history of the world, credited with being the first effective check in writing on arbitrary, oppressive and unjust rule — in a word, on tyranny. The fame of Magna Carta spread across the world as England, and later Britain, came to girdle the globe in its power.

What is the place of Ireland in the story of Magna Carta's global dissemination? Four centuries before the Great Charter crossed the Atlantic, it was already implanted across the Irish Sea. A version of the charter issued in November 1216 in the name of the boy-king Henry III was sent to Ireland, where it became fundamental to the English common law tradition in Ireland that survives to the present.

The Irish Legal History Society will mark the 800th anniversary of the transmission of Magna Carta to Ireland with a conference entitled: '**Law and the Idea of Liberty in Ireland: From Magna Carta to the Present**'.

The conference will explore the legal-historical background to Magna Carta in Ireland, the reception of the charter into English law in Ireland, the political and polemical uses to which the charter was put, and its twentieth and twentieth-first century invocations as a living presence in contemporary Irish law. **Professor Paul Brand (All Souls, Oxford)** will deliver a keynote address on the impact of Magna Carta on the development of English law in medieval Ireland.

A particular concern of the conference will be to explore the paradoxes presented by the reception of Magna Carta into Irish law, above all the contested and often highly restrictive-idea idea of 'liberty' that developed in Ireland from the Middle Ages onwards.

PROGRAMME

Friday 25 November 2016

10.15	Registration
10.45	Welcome and opening remarks
11.00–12.30	Session 1
Claire Breay	‘Celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta at the British Library in 2015’
Seán Duffy	‘The political background to Magna Carta: King John and Ireland’
Peter Crooks	‘1216, 1366 and all that: Magna Carta and exclusionary liberties in late-medieval Ireland’
12.30–13.30	<i>Break</i>
13.30–15.00	Session 2
Adrian Empey	‘Conquest and common law’
Sparky Booker	‘The legal capabilities of female litigants in the courts of the colony, c.1350–1500’
15.00–15.30	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
15.30–17.00	Session 3
Ian Campbell	‘Magna Carta in Irish political theory, 1541–1660’
Coleman Dennehy	‘ <i>Nisi per legale iudicium parium suorum</i> : parliament, politics, and the right to trial by peer’
Colum Kenny	‘Myth, Mervyn and the “Irish Magna Carta” of 1662’
17.00	<i>Tea and coffee</i>
18.00	Keynote Lecture
Paul Brand	‘Magna Carta in Ireland, 1215–1320’

SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2016

11.00–12.30

Session 4

Jimmy Kelly

‘Era of Liberty? The politics of political rights in eighteenth-century Ireland’

Patrick Geoghegan

‘Daniel O’Connell, Magna Carta and the idea of liberty’

12.30–13.30

Lunch

13.30–15.00

Session 5

Tom Mohr

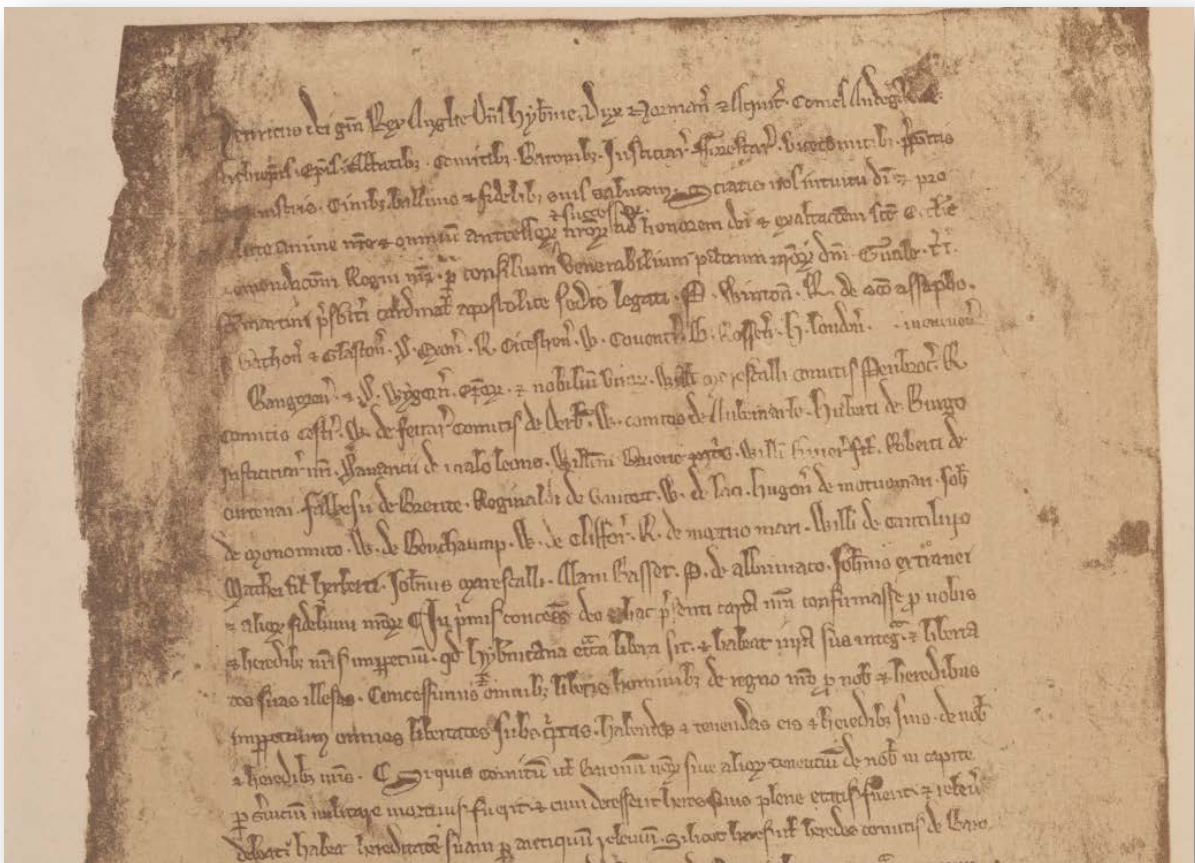
‘Liberty in an Irish Free State, 1922–37’

Bláthna Ruane

‘Magna Carta and modern Irish constitutionalism’

John Larkin

‘Magna Carta and the Irish statute books’



Facsimile image of the first folio of the ‘Magna Carta Hibernie’

From the Red Book of the Irish Exchequer (late 13th cent.), destroyed in 1922.