

HISTORIOGRAPHER'S REPORT 2026

Several books have appeared since my last report that are of major interest to students of the Church of Ireland's history. They include *The Church of Ireland under the Stuarts* (ed. Patrick Little) and *Ireland from Restoration to Union; 1660-1800: essays in honour of Jacqueline Hill*, the latter carrying Raymond Gillespie's *The death of Mark Quin*, a Dublin apothecary and former lord mayor who took his own life in Christ Church Cathedral', and Colm Lennon's chapter on *Civic unity and the problem of urban poverty: a case study of St Audoen's parish, Dublin, 1633-1799*. The Irish Manuscripts Commission has published *The letter book of Richard Boyle, first earl of Cork 1629-1634*, filling a significant gap in the state papers of the period. Miriam Moffitt's *Soupers and Jumpers: Protestant missions in Connemara 1848-1951*, first published in 2008, arrived in a new and revised edition. 2025 also saw the publication of Amy Boylan and Janee Allsman (ed.) *Elie Bouhérou: the collections and communications of a Huguenot refugee*, Ireland's first public librarian and the publication by the Anglo-Catholic History Society (UK) of Michael Yelton's *Anglo-Catholicism and the Church of Ireland*.

Architects who contributed to the Church's built heritage are the subject of Dagmar Ó Riain-Raedel and Richard Wood's *The Hill Architects: a Cork architectural dynasty, 1827-1951*. Also having reference to Cork is David A. Fleming's *Building Mitchelstown 1779-1830*. Further dealing with the province of Munster have come *Saint Mary's Cathedral, Limerick*, Bryan Macmahon's *Calamity and controversy: the famine years in Dingle and West Kerry* and Rachel Finnigan's *Memories of gentry houses in Skibbereen and Douglas, County Cork*.

Eileen Murphy and Colum Donnelly (eds) *Antrim: history and society* is the 32nd volume of the county series and contains William Roulston's *The provision of places of worship of the Established Church of Ireland in County Antrim, 1660-1740*. Alan King's *A tale of two towers: an illustrated history of bellringing at Saint Nicholas' parish church, Carrickfergus*, covers a related theme.

Several long-standing series contain much of relevance to the history of the erstwhile Established Church. For instance, the Anglican Records Society has published registers of the dioceses of Elphin and Ardagh for 1921. Researchers will also find much material in titles coming from the Irish Legal History Society, such as Niamh Howlin and Felix M. Larkin (eds.) *Confluences of law and history*.

The 'Revisionism' controversy has for decades engaged the attention of historians. Inevitably, there has been debate on the writing of Church of Ireland history. The Church has followed this path, as sometimes cherished attitudes to its history were abandoned. Many historians have found in this Church a subject worthy of their attention. The Church has facilitated their writings through its investment in library services and publishing.

Students of the history of the Church of Ireland have had at their disposal the seven volumes of *A new history of Ireland* and can keep abreast by consulting The Royal Irish Academy's database of Irish history online and its Dictionary of Irish biography.

I acknowledge with many thanks the assistance I received from the Library of the Representative Church Body.
Canon Dr Kenneth Milne