

Daniel O'Connell 250

*Architecture, designed landscapes
and visual culture study day*



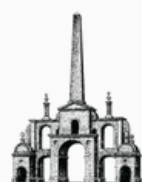
To mark 250 years since the birth of Daniel O'Connell, the Irish Georgian Society and Dublin City Council, in association with Ulster Architectural Heritage, are hosting a study day where scholars will examine O'Connell through the lens of architecture, designed landscapes and visual culture.

Wednesday 12th November 2025. City Assembly House, 58 South William St., D.2.



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE



Irish
Georgian
Society

Daniel O’Connell (1775-1847) remains one of the iconic figures of Irish history. His mobilisation of popular political support in the form of mass agitation for Catholic Emancipation and later the repeal of the Act of Union remain pivotal moments in the development and emergence of modern Ireland. Recently his reputation as a figure in British, as well as Irish, radicalism has been appreciated in his efforts to reform parliamentary processes, Jewish emancipation, and the abolition of slavery, among other causes. When John Henry Foley’s monument to O’Connell was erected on Dublin’s main street later in the nineteenth century, the crowd which assembled was estimated to be half a million people. While his political career has been the subject of sustained scholarly attention, his influence, impact and legacy on Irish architecture, designed landscapes, and material and visual culture remains opaque.

To mark the 250th anniversary of his birth, Dublin City Council and the Irish Georgian Society, in association with Ulster Architectural Heritage, have invited twelve scholars to examine O’Connell’s representation in both life and death in painting, sculpture and caricature; his use of spectacle and symbolism as part of his political strategy; his legacy as manifest in the architecture of the O’Connell Memorial Church in Cahirciveen, Co. Kerry, and the monuments at the Dublin cemeteries of Goldenbridge and Glasnevin; how he personally shaped the architecture and designed landscape at his ancestral home at Derrynane, County Kerry and the ephemera created to celebrate the centenary of his birth in 1875.

By focusing on these understudied aspects of O’Connell’s legacy, the study day encourages new and exciting research, providing scholars with an opportunity to collaborate and share knowledge of one of Ireland’s great national figures.

Venue

The study day will take place in the historic City Assembly House, which is the headquarters of the Irish Georgian Society. At the time of the election of Daniel O’Connell to the position of Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1841 (the first Roman Catholic Lord Mayor since 1690), the City Assembly House was in use by Dublin Corporation (now Dublin City Council) as its assembly rooms and therefore was where O’Connell first presided during his time in office.

Accessibility

The City Assembly House is wheelchair accessible.

Booking Link

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/daniel-oconnell-250-architecture-designed-landscapes-and-visual-culture-tickets-1768901755769>

Front cover image: City Assembly House (built 1766) with sculpture of Daniel O’Connell from O’Connell Street monument (conceived 1866) by John Henry Foley (1818-1874)

Acknowledgements

The Daniel O’Connell 250 study day is delivered in partnership by Dublin City Council and the Irish Georgian Society, in association with Ulster Architectural Heritage. The study day is supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, and is in receipt of funding from the Department of Culture’s State Commemorations Advisory Committee which allows for the reduced attendance price of €30. The Society also wishes to thank the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage’s National Built Heritage Service for their support of the broader IGS Conservation Education Programme 2025 of which this study day forms an action. Furthermore, we wish to thank the Heritage Council for their support of the IGS through its Heritage Organisations Support Fund 2025. Additionally, the IGS wishes to thank Ecclesiastical Insurance for their sponsorship of the O’Connell study day.



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



Irish
Georgian
Society



An Roinn Cultúir,
Cumarsáide agus Spóirt
Department of Culture,
Communications and Sport



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreacht
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



NBHS

An tSeirbhís Oidhreacht
Tógtha Náisiúnta
National Built
Heritage Service

Programme at a Glance

09:15 – 09:30 Registration	
09:30 – 09:45	Welcome Remarks by Jacqueline Hall , Chair, Irish Georgian Foundation Official Launch by Lord Mayor of Dublin, Councillor Ray McAdam
Session I: Daniel O’Connell and Dublin Buildings Chair: Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer, Dublin City Council	
09:45 – 10:05	Prof David Fleming , <i>O’Connell and Civic Ceremony: Symbolism and politics</i>
10:05 – 10:25	Dr Livia Hurley , <i>Daniel O’Connell and Goldenbridge Cemetery</i>
10:25 – 10:45	Dr Jacqueline Eleanor Hayes , <i>The Daniel O’Connell Funerary Monument in Glasnevin Cemetery: Its design and significance</i>
10:45 – 11:00	Q&A
11:00 – 11:30	Tea and Coffee Break
Session II: Representations of O’Connell in Visual and Material Culture Chair: Dr Audrey Whitty, Director, National Library of Ireland, State Commemorations Advisory Committee	
11:30 – 11:50	Dr Kathryn Milligan , ‘An Invasion of Pen and Pencil’: Picturing the 1875 O’Connell centenary
11:50 – 12:10	Ben Casey , “Will you let me know how my speech and picture get on?": <i>Portraiture of Daniel O’Connell</i>
12:10 – 12:30	Prof Emeritus Paula Murphy , ‘Chisel the likeness of The Chief’ - <i>Commemorating Daniel O’Connell in the nineteenth century</i>
12:30 – 12:50	Prof Emeritus Maurice J. Bric , <i>Daniel O’Connell in Caricature, 1820-30</i>
12:50 – 13:00	Q&A
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch

Keynote Address & Session III

Chair: Dan Calley, Chair, Ulster Architectural Heritage

14:00 – 14:40	Dr Patrick Geoghegan , <i>King Dan: Ireland's Human Rights Campaigner and Dublin's Lord Mayor</i> (Keynote + Q&A)
14:40 – 15:00	Brian Crowley , <i>The Liberator in Chains: Daniel O'Connell in Richmond Bridewell, 1844</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Comfort Break

Session IV: From Derrynane to Dublin: Daniel O'Connell, Memory, and the Irish Cultural Landscape

Chair: Donough Cahill, Executive Director, Irish Georgian Society

15:15 – 15:35	Victoria McCarthy , <i>The Lure of Derrynane: The designed landscape of Daniel O'Connell</i>
15:35 – 15:55	Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman , <i>The Politics of Stone and Style: The O'Connell Memorial Church in Cahirciveen</i>
15:55 – 16:15	Donal Fallon , <i>O'Meara's Irish House: Pints and Patriotism on Wood Quay</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Q&A
16:30 - 17:00	Closing Remarks



*Daniel O'Connell, 1836 by Bernard Mulrenin (1803-1868).
Courtesy of the National Portrait Gallery, London.*

Session I - Daniel O'Connell and Dublin Buildings

Chair: Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer, Dublin City Council

O'Connell and Civic Ceremony: Symbolism and politics

Prof David Fleming - School of History & Geography, University of Limerick

O'Connell was a master at using symbolism in his campaigns to mobilise popular opinion. When he became Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1841, he had the additional benefit of the ceremony and regalia that came with that office. However, attempts were made to limit his capacity to exercise this cultural power. This paper explores how O'Connell used his year as Lord Mayor to circumvent these restrictions and to demonstrate how a Catholic politician might uphold the dignity of the mayoralty of Dublin.

Professor David Fleming teaches at the School of History and Geography at the University of Limerick. He is a historian of the social and political development of eighteenth-century Ireland, and has published on topics ranging from provincial politics, poverty, religious conversion, associational behaviour and prostitution. He is currently working on a study of the use of ceremony and symbolism in the early modern Irish state.

Daniel O'Connell and Goldenbridge Cemetery

Dr Livia Hurley - Design Fellow, School of Architecture, UCD

This short talk discusses the founding of a new non-denominational garden cemetery for Dublin and a first for the country, initiated by O'Connell and the Catholic Association in 1829. While the talk illustrates the status and lineage of Goldenbridge against a heightened political background in Ireland, the focus will be on the architectural aspects of the graveyard, its configuration by canal engineers Charles Tarrant and David Henry, and its unique open-air Ionic temple at its centre designed and built by Patrick Byrne in 1834–5.

Dr Livia Hurley is a graduate of the School of Architecture at TU Dublin and has a PhD in architectural and urban history from University College Dublin. Her practice encompasses research, writing, conservation and teaching, and she has lectured and published widely on architecture in Ireland. She is a Design-Fellow at the School of Architecture, UCD; Chair of the Irish Georgian Society Conservation Awards Jury and a Trustee of Lambay Island, County Dublin.

Session I - Daniel O'Connell and Dublin Buildings

Chair: Charles Duggan, Heritage Officer, Dublin City Council

The Daniel O'Connell Funerary Monument in Glasnevin Cemetery: Its design and significance

Dr Jacqueline Eleanor Hayes - Independent Scholar

The Daniel O'Connell funerary monument was designed to honour him as founder of the cemetery, a national hero who succeeded in achieving civil rights for Catholics, and who relied on moral force alone to achieve political objectives. The plan was for the monument to stand out in the cemetery, integrating it into a landscape already well established at the time of his death, but also dominating it. The design was to be distinctly Irish, giving prestige to the cemetery because of the national and international fame of O'Connell, and further promoting the cemetery as the national acropolis. The cemetery authorities aimed to commemorate national heroes in line with the constitutional nationalism of O'Connell, but this exclusivity did not last, as other traditions sought to establish the legitimacy of their movements in the cemetery that commemorated O'Connell.

Dr Jacqueline Hayes graduated with a degree in History and History of Art from the University of London in 1975. She later studied for postgraduate degrees in the History of Art Department, UCD, graduating with a master's degree in Medieval Studies in 1985, and a PhD in cemetery sculpture in 2014. Her research for her PhD, undertaken under the supervision of Professor Paula Murphy, was a study of the funerary monuments in the 19th century garden cemeteries of Glasnevin and Mount Jerome. While studying for her PhD, Jacqueline contributed an essay on cemetery sculpture to the third volume of the RIA series on Art and Architecture.

*O'Connell Memorial Tower,
Glasnevin Cemetery.
Courtesy of Dublin City Council.*



Session II - Representations of Daniel O'Connell in Visual and Material Culture

Chair: Dr Audrey Whitty, Director, National Library of Ireland.
Member of State Commemorations Advisory Committee.

‘An Invasion of Pen and Pencil’: Picturing the 1875 O'Connell Centenary

Dr Kathryn Milligan - Assistant Librarian, Edward Murphy Library, NCAD

Prominent due to its scale and global reach, the 1875 O'Connell Centenary celebration in Dublin was also notable for the varied visual and material record that the occasion produced. Extant visual works span painting, illustration, and photography: there is also a material record, including trade banners, sashes and commemorative medals. Centering on a large and notable painting of this event, now in the National Gallery of Ireland, this paper will delve into the centenary celebrations and the accompanying visual culture, looking at how the events were conceived, planned, and ultimately captured on paper for posterity.

Dr Kathryn Milligan is Assistant Librarian at the Edward Murphy Library, National College of Art and Design. As an art historian, her research focuses on the depiction of Dublin and the city as a site of exhibition and artistic exchange. Recent and forthcoming publications include essays on nineteenth-century exhibition culture, the White Stag Group, and Walter Osborne's domestic paintings. Kathryn's monograph, *Painting Dublin, 1886 - 1949: Visualising a Changing City* was published by Manchester University Press in 2020.

“Will you let me know how my speech and picture get on?”: The portraiture of Daniel O'Connell

Ben Casey, PhD Student, Maynooth University

Daniel O'Connell keenly understood the importance of portraiture in cultivating his public image. When one of his engraved portraits was published in the September 1810 edition of Walker's Hibernian Magazine, O'Connell asked his wife Mary to keep him informed of the public's reaction. Although he was often dissatisfied with how he was depicted, this paper argues that portraiture nevertheless played a crucial role in shaping the public's perceptions of O'Connell. In addition to examining well-known and recognisable paintings, it also considers portrait engravings, commemorative handkerchiefs, and other ephemeral formats to better understand the commercial appeal and political significance of his image in early nineteenth-century Ireland.

Ben Casey is a PhD student in the History Department at Maynooth University. His project, entitled 'Picturing the professions, depictions of the professions, 1760-1830' is supported by a Research Ireland Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship. His research examines how members of the legal and medical profession were depicted in image and text during a period associated with the commercialisation of leisure and significant developments in the art market. Ben is the 2024 recipient of the Irish Georgian Society's Desmond Guinness Scholarship.

Session II - Representations of Daniel O’Connell in Visual and Material Culture

Chair: Dr Audrey Whitty, Director, National Library of Ireland.
Member of State Commemorations Advisory Committee.

‘Chisel the likeness of The Chief’ - Commemorating Daniel O’Connell in the nineteenth century

Paula Murphy - Emeritus Professor, School of Art History & Cultural Policy, University College Dublin

Public monuments were erected to Daniel O’Connell in Dublin (2), Limerick (1) and Ennis (1) in the nineteenth century. All gave rise at the time to procedural issues, such as how should O’Connell be presented, what material should be used, what sculptor should be selected for the work, who would fund the process? This talk will explore the monuments in the context of these different concerns, with particular reference to the national monument on O’Connell Street which was immersed in controversy.

Professor Paula Murphy specialises in the history and theory of sculpture. Her publications include *Nineteenth-Century Irish Sculpture*, *Native Genius Reaffirmed* (Yale, 2010); *Sculpture 1600-2000, vol. 3 Art and Architecture of Ireland* (RIA/Yale 2014); *Ireland: the Matter of Monuments* (co-editor Dr. Colleen Thomas, LUP, 2024). She was awarded RHA Gold Medal, 2015, and Senior Fellowships in Washington DC at Smithsonian American Art Museum (2016/17); Capitol Historical Society (Autumn 2017).

Daniel O’Connell in Caricature, 1820-30

Maurice J. Bric - Emeritus Professor of History, University College Dublin;
Director of the annual Daniel O’Connell Summer School

This lecture will discuss how Daniel O’Connell was depicted in contemporary cartoons and caricatures. Special attention will be given to the topics of Catholic Emancipation and the developing campaign for Reform.

Professor Maurice J. Bric is Emeritus Professor of History at UCD and Director of the annual Daniel O’Connell Summer School in Cahirciveen/Derrynane. He has written extensively on the politics and society of the eighteenth and nineteenth century Atlantic world. He is a member and former Vice President of the Royal Irish Academy.

Following page: O’Connell sculpture (carved 1843), City Hall, Dublin by John Hogan (1800-1858). Courtesy of Dublin City Council.



Session III & Keynote Address

Chair: Dan Calley, Chair, Ulster Architectural Heritage

KEYNOTE

King Dan: Ireland's Human Rights Campaigner and Dublin's Lord Mayor

Prof Patrick Geoghegan - Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub, TCD

For almost five decades, Daniel O'Connell campaigned for civil and political rights in Ireland, and for human rights on the world stage. A fearless opponent of oppression wherever it was to be found, he mobilised the Irish people in a peaceful, democratic mass movement that was studied across the world. This lecture will explore the great campaigns of O'Connell's life, why he succeeded, and how he put his ideals into action as an MP and as Lord Mayor of Dublin. It will also assess his legacy on this the 250th anniversary of his birth.

Professor Patrick Geoghegan is the Director of the Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity's Arts and Humanities Research Institute, and the author of an acclaimed two-volume study of O'Connell, *King Dan: The Rise of Daniel O'Connell and Liberator: The Life and Death of Daniel O'Connell*. An expert on constitutional nationalism and revolutionary politics in the 18th and 19th centuries, he was the organiser of an O'Connell 250 Symposium in Trinity College Dublin in July. He presents the award-winning Talking History on Newstalk.

The Liberator in Chains: Daniel O'Connell in Richmond Bridewell, 1844

Brian Crowley - Curator of Collections for Royal Hospital Kilmainham & Pearse Museum, Office of Public Works

From May to September 1844, the eyes of the world were on Richmond Bridewell where Daniel O'Connell and the leaders of his repeal movement were imprisoned in the wake of the cancellation of the planned monster meeting in Clontarf. This lecture will concentrate on how O'Connell's movement turned these months of imprisonment into a propaganda triumph. This paper will look in particular at the material culture associated with this episode, which included specially commissioned portraits of O'Connell and his fellow prisoners, the collection of 'O'Connell relics' by his faithful secretary T. M. Ray, elaborate gifts given to O'Connell during his imprisonment and the incredible ceremonial chariot created for O'Connell's formal release from the prison.

Brian Crowley is employed by the Office of Public Works as Curator of Collections for Kilmainham Gaol and the Pearse Museum. As well as curating exhibitions in Kilmainham and the Pearse Museum, he has also worked on the display and development of the collection in Derrynane house for many years. He has published several historical essays and an illustrated biography of Patrick Pearse entitled *Patrick Pearse, A Life in Pictures*. Recent publications include articles on Kilmainham Gaol and the Famine, the LGBT+ history of Kilmainham and Countess Markievicz's prison prayer book.

Session IV - From Derrynane to Dublin: Daniel O'Connell, Memory, and the Irish Cultural Landscape

Chair: Donough Cahill, Director, Irish Georgian Society

The Lure of Derrynane: The designed landscape of Daniel O'Connell

Victoria McCarthy - Independent Scholar and Architectural Conservation & Heritage Officer, Kerry County Council

Against a mountainous backdrop of rock and purple heathers, aquamarine water and white sandy beaches, magnificent cliffs, and yawning precipices, Derrynane's green oasis of woodland brought the culture of improvement into sharp relief. Writing in 1845, the architect James Bourke proposed external improvements to "give the building the character which it would be desirable it should have – worthy of the place and worthy of the proprietor." This lecture will focus on the relationship between man and place and will explore how Daniel O'Connell created a designed landscape at Derrynane, a carefully crafted setting from where to project the ideology of tolerance and improvement. The talk will conclude with a reflection on the legacy of Derrynane, a cultural landscape of international significance.

Victoria McCarthy is the Conservation Officer with Kerry County Council, a role she has held since 2015. Victoria was a Research Ireland-funded PhD candidate at the School of Architecture, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College Dublin researching designed historic landscapes of County Kerry from 2022-2025. She was also the recipient of the Irish Georgian Society's 2023 Desmond Guinness Scholarship.

The Politics of Stone and Style: The O'Connell Memorial Church in Cahirciveen

Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman - Associate Professor in the Department of History, University of Limerick

The Daniel O'Connell Memorial Church of the Holy Cross was designed by George Coppinger Ashlin and built between 1882 and 1909. A tribute to Daniel O'Connell in his native town, it was funded by an international fundraising campaign. This paper considers the formal language of the building as an example of the expressionist use of archaeology in late nineteenth-century Catholic architecture, as well as the significance of key materials used throughout the building.

Dr Niamh NicGhabhann Coleman is Associate Professor in the Department of History in University of Limerick. Niamh's research focuses on the histories and heritages of religious architecture. She is currently working on a monograph titled *Ambition and Magnificence: Roman Catholic Architecture in Ireland, 1829-1936*. She is a committee member of the Catholic Historical Society of Ireland. She received her PhD at TCD under the supervision of Professor Roger Stalley as the doctoral fellow on the Irish Research Council-funded 'Reconstructions of the Gothic Past' project. She was a postdoctoral researcher on the Monastic Ireland project (a collaboration between UCD, Fáilte Ireland, and the Discovery programme), which developed digital resources for accessing Irish medieval built heritage.

Session IV - From Derrynane to Dublin: Daniel O'Connell, Memory, and the Irish Cultural Landscape

Chair: Donough Cahill, Director, Irish Georgian Society

O'Meara's Irish House: Pints and Patriotism on Wood Quay

Donal Fallon - Public Historian and author of *The Dublin Pub: A Social and Cultural History* (New Island Books, 2025)

One of the most distinctive public house exteriors in the history of Dublin, O'Meara's Irish House on Wood Quay paid homage to constitutional nationalist figures like Henry Grattan and Daniel O'Connell, amidst striking Celtic Revival imagery. Visible in Joseph Strick's 1967 film *Ulysses* (where it played the role of Barney Kiernan's) the pub is a much lamented part of the built landscape of Dublin's public houses. This talk will explore O'Meara's, placing it in the context of similar structures around Ireland which honoured the pursuit of an Irish parliament.

Donal Fallon is the author of *The Dublin Pub: A Social and Cultural History* (New Island Books, 2025). Historian in Residence to 14 Henrietta Street, he is a graduate of Maynooth University, University College Dublin and Ulster University.



*O'Meara's Irish House Pub, Wood Quay, Dublin, 1956 (1870).
Demolished 1968. Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive.*



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE



Irish
Georgian
Society

This symposium is convened by the Irish Georgian Society and Dublin City Council in association with Ulster Architectural Heritage, Northern Ireland

Irish Georgian Society

City Assembly House
58 South William Street
Dublin 2, D02 X751.
Email: info@igs.ie
X/Twitter: [@IrishGeorgian](https://twitter.com/IrishGeorgian)
Website: www.igs.ie

Heritage Office

Planning and Property
Development Department
Dublin City Council,
Civic Offices, Wood Quay
Dublin 8, D08 RF3F.
Email: heritage@dublincity.ie
X/Twitter: [@Heritage_Dublin](https://twitter.com/Heritage_Dublin)
Website: www.dublincity.ie

Ulster Architectural Heritage

The Old Museum Building
7 College Square North
Belfast, BT1 6AR.
Email: info@uahs.org.uk
X/Twitter: [@ulsterahs](https://twitter.com/ulsterahs)
Website:
[https://www.ulsterarchitectu
ralheritage.org.uk/](https://www.ulsterarchitecturalheritage.org.uk/)