The Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates, History Department, Maynooth University, presents
The 17th Annual Historic Houses Conference
COUNTRY HOUSE COLLECTIONS: THEIR PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE
Maynooth University, Castletown House, and the National Gallery of Ireland, 13-15 May 2019
The theme of the Seventeenth Annual Historic Houses Conference, to held at Maynooth University, Castletown House, and the National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin on 13-15 May 2019 will be ‘Country House Collections: Their Past, Present & Future’.

Country houses have been defined by their contents as much as by their architecture and the families who occupied them. They have boasted assemblies ranging from antiquities, paintings, decorative arts, books and manuscripts, to antiquarian, ethnographic or scientific collections. Outdoors their gardens were often adorned with collections of other sorts, monuments, sculpture, and horticultural specimens. Rarely have such collections survived intact – sales, destruction, fire, or theft have been repeated occurrences. Country house collecting has been about dispersal as well as acquisition.

The conference will look at how and why collections were amassed, examine their break up, and consider the afterlife of objects as they moved into the art market, the museum world, or elsewhere. How does the identity of a house change if its contents have been removed? What were the reasons for such dispersal, were these actions chosen or enforced? What happens to a collection once it has begun to be dismembered, and how are objects viewed and understood in new locations by different audiences? The conference will also discuss the role of art in country houses today, and conclude with a forum debating the future of such collections.
DAY 1  MONDAY 13 MAY, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

09.15-10.00  Registration and coffee, Renehan Hall, South Campus
10.00  Welcome and Introduction

10.30-11.45  SESSION 1
William Laffan  The Knight of Glin as a Collector
Terence Dooley  “They found hens roosting on valuable oil paintings”: Big House Looting during the Irish Revolution
Q&A

11.45-13.00  SESSION 2
Panel 2A  Glascott Symes  The Gibtons: a Dublin Family’s Role in the Furnishing of Country Houses, 1790-1842
Kerry Bristol  After Adam: Nostell and its Collections, 1817-2019
Jessica Cunningham  “Consumed to Ashes”: The Destruction of Castlecomer House, 1798
Q&A

Panel 2B  Jane Eade  Ham House: 400 years of Collecting and Patronage and the Question of Authenticity
Elizabeth Rogers  Capturing Female Curiosity in the Eighteenth-Century Country House Collection: A Place of Education Past, Present, and Future
Emily Burns  Pictures and Papers: Charting the Evolution of the Petworth Collection Through its Archives
Q&A

13.00  Lunch

Hugh Douglas Hamilton
Sir Rowland Winn and his Wife in the Library at Nostell Priory, c.1767-6
© National Trust

Powerscourt House on Fire
14.00-15.15  **SESSION 3**

**Panel 3A**  
Lisa Lambert  Worthy of Investigation: The Farmleigh Library  
Robert O'Byrne  The Library at Marlfield, County Tipperary: Its Collection and Destruction  
Anne Hodge  Decorative Maps for the Saloon at Carton House: The Earl of Kildare's Estate Atlases, 1756-1760  
Q&A

**Panel 3B**  
James Rothwell  Ham House: 400 Years of Collecting and Patronage and the Question of Authenticity  
Ludovica Neglie  Portrait Miniature Collections in Irish Country Houses  
Lizzie Jamieson  From Stable to Museum: the Formation of Carriage Collections in the 20th Century  
Q&A

15.15  Tea

15.45-1700  **SESSION 4**

**Panel 4A**  
Salvijus Kulevicius  Old Manor Collections in Modern Society: The Assimilation of Foreign Heritage in Lithuania  
Stephen Hague  “It was voted to refurnish the house as far as possible”: Alternate Approaches to Country House Collections in the USA  
Michael Davis  Poltalloch House and the Presence of Loss  
Q&A

**Panel 4B**  
Lesley Whiteside  Borrowers, Collectors, Curators, and Thieves: the Origins and Development of the Cairnes-Purdon Archive  
George Gossip  Snapshots in Time  
Nicola Kelly  The Connolly Archive, Castletown House  
Q&A

17.15  Reception
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<td><strong>SESSION 1</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Frances Bailey Mount Stewart and the Londonderry Collections from Wynyard and Londonderry House</td>
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<td>Alec Cobbe Lady Betty Cobbe's Worcester Service for Newbridge House</td>
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<td>Ian d'Alton “There seem to be many more people here than I thought we'd asked”: Collecting and Curating Characters in the Irish Big House</td>
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<td>Paul Collins Risk and Recovery in the Heritage Sector</td>
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<td>Wendy Philips Checks and Balances: Respecting Private Owners and Protecting the National Heritage</td>
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<td>Judith Hill What Role has Knowledge of Collecting and Collections Played in the Evaluation, Interpretation and Presentation of Farmleigh, Co Dublin?</td>
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<td>Suncica Habus Laval Nugent and the First Public Museum in Croatia</td>
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<td>Christopher Warleigh-Lack Hillsborough House: Creating a Modern Collection</td>
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15.00  
Tea

**SESSION 4**

Cora McDonagh  “For the gratification of the public and the improvement of the fine arts”: Public Display of Private Artwork from Irish Country Houses 1814-1914.

Philip Cottrell  “What in the world do you want with art in Manchester?”: Sir George Scharf’s Survey of Country House Collections, 1856-57

Martin Postle  Raynham Hall: The Curious Case of the Townshend Heirlooms

Q&A

16.45  
Tour of Castletown House

19.00  
Conference Dinner, Pugin Hall, Maynooth
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<tr>
<td>09.45</td>
<td>Assemble at National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion Square entrance</td>
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<td>10.00</td>
<td>Tours of the Gallery featuring works from the Beit and Milltown collections</td>
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<td>11.15</td>
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<td>Adrian Le Harivel Old Master Gifts to the National Gallery of Ireland and their Relation to Country House Collections</td>
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<td>James Miller The Rise and Decline of the Country House Sale 1970-2010</td>
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<td>Harriet Landseer Restituting and Redisplaying the Lobkowitz Collections</td>
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<td>Adriaan Waiboer Alfred, Otto, Alfred: The Beits as Art Collectors</td>
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<td>Catherine O’Donnell and Jessica Supple The Future is Relevant: Engaging Young People with Country House Collections</td>
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<td>Christopher Ridgway Giving it all Away in the 20th Century</td>
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<td>15.15</td>
<td>Panel and Forum: The Future of Country House Collections</td>
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<td>16.00</td>
<td>Closing remarks</td>
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REGISTRATION OPTIONS
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BOOKING FORM

One-day conference only fee  €80 per person
No of attendees: ____________________________
Please circle date attending: 13th  14th  15th

Two-day conference only fee  €150 per person
No of attendees: ____________________________
Please circle dates attending: 13th  14th  15th

Three-day conference only fee  €200 per person
No of attendees: ____________________________

Conference Dinner  €50 per person
No of attendees: ____________________________

Total amount enclosed €__________ Payment must be made in Euro only.

REGISTRATION DETAILS
First name(s): ____________________________________________________________
Surname(s): ______________________________________________________________
E-mail or postal address(es): ________________________________________________
Telephone no(s): __________________________________________________________
Institutional affiliation/position (if any): _____________________________________
Dietary or other requirements: _____________________________________________

PLEASE NOTE: Parking permits are not required for the duration of the conference. Attendees may park on South Campus, outside of the designated pay parking areas without charge.

BOOKING INFORMATION
* Places will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis for the conference and dinner. Payment of conference registration fee and/or conference dinner fee must be received to guarantee a booking. Receipt of payment will be acknowledged by e-mail unless otherwise requested. Refunds for cancelled bookings will not be made.

Please note that information provided above (name, institutional affiliation and e-mail address only) may be compiled into a delegates listing to be distributed at the conference. Please tick here if you do not wish your information to be included in the delegates list. [ ]

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