



IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION

# Strategic Development Plan

2023–2027



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IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION

# Strategic Development Plan

2023–2027



ROINN AN Uachtaráin  
 SAID WIRISTEAN UAG  
 BAILE ÁTA OLIAT  
 (DUBLIN)

Rev. Thomas  
 McNeil  
 Provost  
 D. Mc Caffrey  
 Butler  
 J. J. Hogan  
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Beggs  
 T. F. O'Reilly  
 O'Donoghue  
 O'Neill  
 Hogan



# Contents

4 Foreword

6 Looking forward

8 As publisher

## **II Publishing Programme 2023-2027**

12 As collaborative partner

13 As advisor

14 As promoter of awareness

16 As supporter of digital initiatives

## **I8 IMC Digital Resources**

19 Outcomes 2018–2022

24 Organisation chart

# Foreword

The IRISH MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION (IMC) plays an indispensable role as the nationally and internationally recognised publisher of primary sources for Ireland. IMC's remit is founded on the principles of dissemination, preservation and promotion of original source material — in public and private ownership — for the history and cultural heritage of Ireland and its peoples.

Since its foundation in 1928 IMC has reported on manuscripts and papers of literary, historical and general interest relating to Ireland, and has advised on their preservation and publication. Its principal function is as publisher, in print and digitally, of editions of manuscripts and out-of-print works of historical and cultural significance.

IMC relies on its grant from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media together with earnings from its publications. The membership of the Commission consists of practising historians drawn from all the universities in the island of Ireland, as well as archivists, librarians and genealogists. The director of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland sits on the Commission, as do the directors of the National Library of Ireland and the National Archives, Ireland. The members receive no remuneration for their indispensable contribution to the management and peer-reviewing of publications; without this selfless involvement the Commission could not fulfil its remit. This tradition of service to both scholarship and the state has been maintained since the Commission's warrant of appointment was signed on 10 October 1928 by President of the Executive Council





W. T. Cosgrave. The IMC, in short, is a board of experts whose aim is to bring the materials for the making of the history of Ireland and its peoples to the widest possible audiences.

Operating within the financial exigencies of the past decade, IMC still delivers on its remit in a cost-effective manner. The value and vital importance of studying history as well as the availability of sources for interpreting history was highlighted by President Michael D. Higgins in his address at the launch of the *Cambridge History of Ireland* on 30 April 2018 when he said “Our history is the inheritance of all our people, its interpretation a matter for all of us, and a republic worthy of the name would seek to organise the material of history to make it as accessible as possible to all the people.”

This strategic plan for 2023–2027 builds on the Commission’s *Strategic Development Plan 2018–2022* which provided a roadmap for IMC development over the past five years (see Outcomes 2018–2022) and is informed by an online survey of stakeholders carried out in November–December 2022.

Like its predecessor, *Strategic Development Plan 2023–2027* emphasises IMC’s principal function as publisher of primary sources, while underlining IMC’s responsibility for promoting public and institutional awareness of the need to preserve, catalogue and make accessible primary sources wherever they are to be found.

I would like to thank all those who contributed in whatever way to the preparation of *Strategic Development Plan 2023–2027*. The Commission owes a particular debt to the members of its Strategic Review Committee: Dr Peter Crooks, Dr Cathy Hayes, Professor David Hayton, Dr Niamh Howlin and Ms Nicola Morris. Ms Aideen Ireland, formerly of the National Archives, Ireland, who generously accepted an invitation to act as Chair of the Committee, made an invaluable contribution.

The *Strategic Development Plan 2023–2027* was formally adopted by the Commission on 27 March 2023.

John McCafferty  
Chair, Irish Manuscripts Commission



# Looking forward

## Vision

The vision of IMC is to promote public and institutional awareness of, and access to, primary source materials for the histories, cultures and heritage of Ireland and its peoples.

IMC serves, in particular, the cultural heritage and academic communities in conjunction with its services to the general public and is committed to supporting the Government's strategic objectives for national cultural heritage.

## Strategic priorities 2023–2027

This plan builds specifically on the outcomes of the previous strategic development plan and more generally on the international reputation gained by IMC over almost 100 years of publishing the primary sources for the histories, cultures and heritage of Ireland and its peoples.

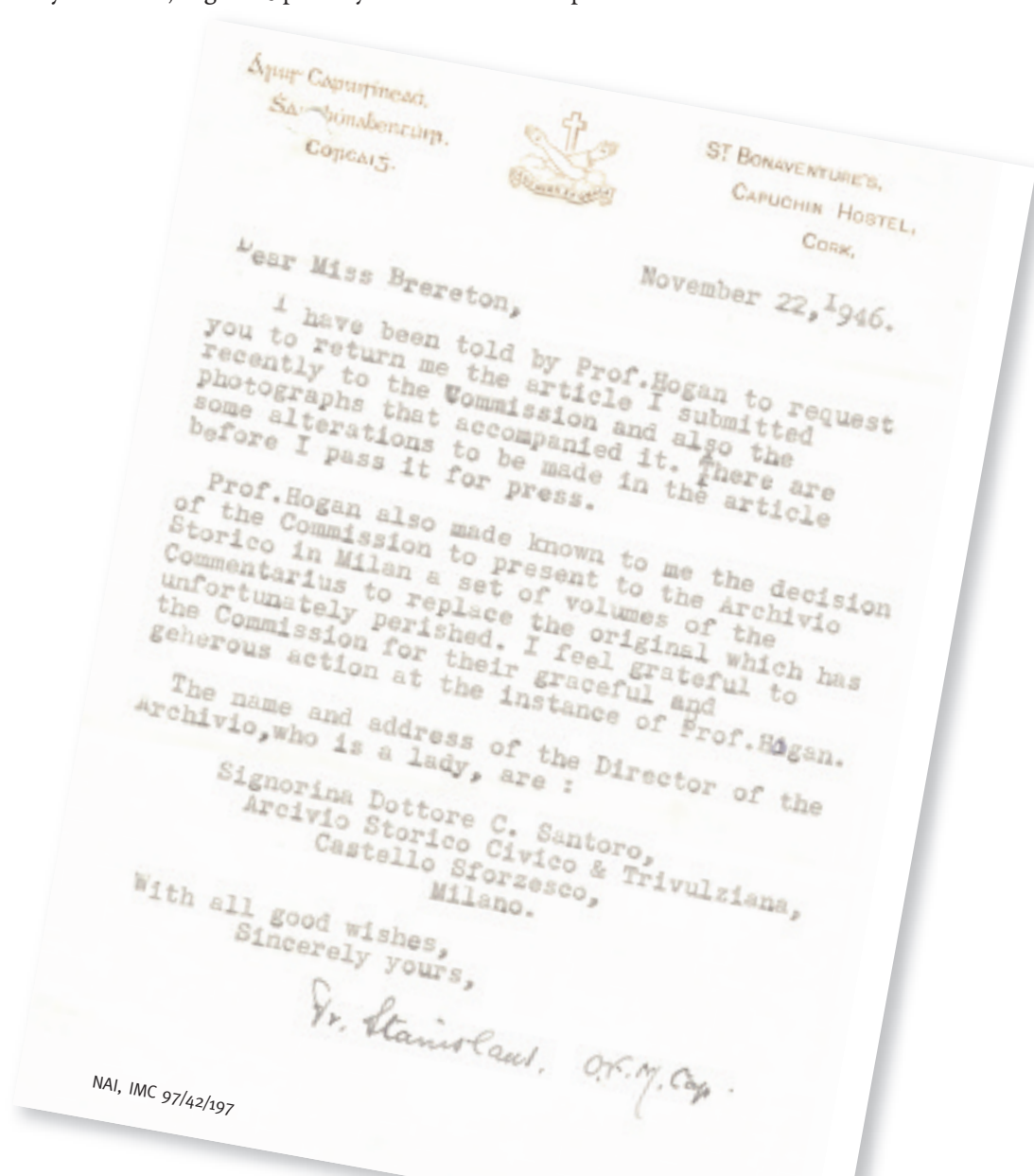
The following strategic priorities have been identified for the next five years:

- IMC will further expand and develop its role as **leading publisher** of primary source materials for the histories of Ireland and its peoples, building on its reputation as publisher since 1928;
- IMC will further develop its role as **collaborative partner** in order to present the rich treasury of sources for the history of Ireland and its peoples to the widest possible audience;
- IMC will fulfil its remit as **expert advisor** on issues and policies relating to manuscripts, historical records and cultural objects. It will proactively and reactively provide advice, based on its collective institutional experience and the expertise of its individual members, to the Government, the national cultural institutions and other cultural bodies and institutions;





- IMC will further develop its activities as **promoter of awareness of the need to preserve primary sources**. It will provide encouragement and advice to institutions (public or private), the business community, charities, voluntary bodies and individuals on the preservation of records in their keeping, be they current or non-current;
- IMC is committed to producing digital resources and aims to have all of its publications digitised for its centenary in 2028 with a view to eventual publication online. As both **advocate and practitioner of digitisation**, IMC will promote international best practice, pursue the digitisation of its publications, and promote content from Irish cultural institutions on cultural heritage portals and repositories such as the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland, Digital Repository of Ireland and Europeana.



# As publisher

## Leading publisher of primary source materials for the histories of Ireland and its peoples

The Commission is known internationally for the quality of its publications; each publication is peer-reviewed and produced to the highest scholarly standards, ensuring quality and reliability and the long-term preservation of the primary sources on which these editions are based: 'enlightened subvention, modest enough, has ensured that the Manuscripts Commission has shone like a beacon' ('Textual healing' – *Times Literary Supplement*, London, 8 May 2009).

In the period 2023–2027, IMC will further expand and develop its role as publisher of primary source materials for the histories of Ireland and its peoples, providing the research infrastructure for those engaged in historical research worldwide.

## Objective

IMC will seek to achieve this priority by publishing in print an average of four volumes per year, as well as publishing electronic editions.

The following actions are required to achieve this strategic priority:

## Publishing programme for 2023–2027

1. IMC is committed to a major publishing programme of ten multi-volume editions and eleven single-volume editions of primary sources and three issues of its serial publication (see p. 11);
2. IMC will seek to publish in digital format previously unpublished primary sources which, in the view of the Commission, are best suited to electronic publication;
3. IMC will seek collaboration with National Archives, Ireland (NAI), National Library of Ireland (NLI) and Public Record Office of Northern Ireland with a view to embarking on joint projects;

## Sourcing of material to be published

4. Each year IMC receives a substantial number of publishing proposals from a variety of individuals. It will continue to encourage and develop such proposals.





5. IMC will identify vulnerable or overlooked collections;
6. IMC will consider unpublished sources of potential value to local and family historians and genealogists as future IMC editions;
7. IMC will target Irish language sources of historical importance;
8. In order to increase access to sources for Irish history IMC encourages proposals relating to translations of non-English language sources.

Given budgetary constraints IMC Chair will present to each meeting of the Commission a list of approved projects and their likely completion dates.



# As publisher

continued

## Promoting IMC publications

Activities designed to underpin the promotion of IMC publications, and IMC's reputation, nationally and internationally, will be maintained and new actions initiated:

9. IMC will use broadcast, print and social media to promote its publications;
10. IMC will further develop the existing marketing and communications strategy to target scholars, academics, archivists, librarians, genealogists and students of history and culture, both nationally and internationally, as well as the general public;
11. IMC will promote its publications among members of regional and local history and genealogical societies across the island;
12. IMC will continue to update the design of its website to better support the services it offers, particularly in relation to digital resources;
13. IMC will increase awareness and distribution of the publications catalogue, online and in print.





## PUBLISHING PROGRAMME 2023–2027

### MULTI-VOLUME EDITIONS

- Mapping Ireland, c. 1550–1636: an illustrated catalogue of manuscript maps of Ireland (ed. Annaleigh Margey) (2023) (2 vols)
- Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, Tudor Period, 1553–1565 (ed. Ciaran Brady; gen. ed. Nicholas Canny) (2023)
- Irish chancery rolls, c. 1300–1500 (principal ed. Peter Crooks) (2024) (5 vols simultaneously)
  - Books of survey and distribution (eds David Brown and Micheál Ó Siochrú) (2024) (5 vols simultaneously)
- The Ernie O'Malley interviews (eds Eve Morrison and Anne Dolan) (2024–7) (12 vols serially)
  - The Italian correspondence of Cardinal Paul Cullen (ed. Anne O'Connor) (2025) (3 vols simultaneously)
- Commentarius Rinuccinianus Vol. I (ed. James McGuire, translated by Gráinne McLaughlin et al.) (2025–7) (5 vols serially)
- The Moore letters, 1783–1859 (eds David Dickson and Breandán Mac Suibhne) (2026) (3 vols simultaneously)
  - The annals of Ballitore, 1766–1819 (ed. Magda Stouthamer-Loeber) (2027) (3 vols simultaneously)
- Historia: the history or annals of the Irish mission of the Capuchins up to the year 1655 (eds Jason Harris and Nóirín Ní Bheaglaoi) (2027) (2 vols simultaneously)

### SINGLE-VOLUME EDITIONS

- Trustees reports arising from the Act of Resumption 1701 (eds C. Ivar McGrath and Frances Nolan) (2023)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 53 (eds Peter Crooks, Elva Johnston and Timothy Murtagh) (2023)
- The letterbook of Richard Boyle, 1st earl of Cork, 1629–1633 (eds Aidan Clarke<sup>†</sup>, Bríd McGrath and David Edwards) (2023)
  - Calendar of entries in the Papal Registers relating to Great Britain and Ireland. Papal Letters, vol. XXIII, Part 2, 1523–1534, Clement VII, Lateran Registers (ed. Alan Macquarrie) (2023)
  - 'As I think I am: being the life of an Anglo-Irish man'. A memoir by Hugh Alexander Law (ed. Conor Mulvagh) (2024)
- Business in Ireland, 1782–1860: records of business partnerships in the Registry of Deeds (eds Máire Mac Conghail and Seán Magee) (2024)
- Letters to and from internment camps in Ireland, 1920–1921 (ed. William Murphy) (2025)
  - Inquest reports of Dr Joseph E. Kenny, Dublin City Coroner, 1900 (eds Ciara Breathnach and Ian Walsh) (2025)
  - Analecta Hibernica No. 54 (ed. Elva Johnston) (2025)
- A new edition and translation of the Statute of Kilkenny, 1366 (ed. Keith Busby) (2026)
  - Receipt books from Birr Castle, Co. Offaly (ed. Danielle Clarke) (2026)
- The correspondence of Mary Ann McCracken, 1770–1866 (ed. Cathryn McWilliams) (2027)
  - The letters of the seventeenth-century Boyle women (ed. Ann-Maria Walsh) (2027)
  - Analecta Hibernica No. 55 (ed. Elva Johnston) (2027)



# As collaborative partner

The IMC is a body of subject-matter experts with specialist knowledge in primary and secondary sources. The IMC will demonstrate its ongoing relevance to its core mission by developing cooperative initiatives.

## Objective

The IMC will leverage this expertise in cooperation with, but not restricted to the national cultural institutions, professional bodies and groups, educators, departments and agencies to advance and promote the utilisation of primary records.

In order to achieve this objective IMC will:

14. Further develop special projects and collaborations — such as the 1922 salvaged materials project with the NAI and its core partnership with the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland — in order to present the rich treasury of sources for the history of Ireland and its peoples to the widest possible audience;
15. Explore and develop specific partnerships where at-risk records may be secured and preserved for public access;
16. Support specific collection processing initiatives, in particular where the collection is identified as being of timely or research importance;
17. Maximise access to its own publications through formal membership of the Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI) and other relevant Open Access repositories;
18. Develop and progress interdisciplinary fora and events where its position as a neutral body can enable the invitation to, and inclusion of, disparate constituencies.



Salved 1922 records from NAI



## As advisor

IMC will be an expert advisor on issues and policies relating to manuscripts and historical records.

### Objective

IMC will achieve this priority by providing advice to the Government, the national cultural institutions and other archival, cultural and academic bodies and institutions. Such advice will be based on IMC's collective institutional experience and the expertise of its individual members.

### Advising

The following actions are required to achieve this strategic priority:

19. IMC will exercise its statutory obligations in relation to the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997, section 48(3) and 48(5) to advise the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, at the Minister's direction. It will make recommendations where appropriate to the Minister under section 48(6);
20. IMC will advise the NAI and the NLI on the acquisition and publication of historical manuscripts relating to Ireland and its peoples;
21. IMC will identify issues of importance on which it can assist in developing policy or providing advice to cultural heritage policy makers;
22. IMC will offer informed advice to the Government, and when appropriate to the Oireachtas, on the opening up of records and papers, closed to the research community, held in institutions under state control;
23. Drawing on its own experience (**As promoter of awareness**, p. 14), IMC will advise the Government on the need for a national policy on records preservation, access to preserved records and the use of preserved records by researchers, educators and the general public;
24. IMC will offer expert advice to academics and researchers as requested.



# As promoter of awareness

## Preserving records for the future

Promoting awareness, advice and advocacy is a central objective of IMC and it will further develop its awareness, advice and advocacy strategies among professionals in history and cognate disciplines, archivists, librarians, genealogists, educational, cultural and vocational institutions, the business community, custodians of private collections and the general public.

## Objective

IMC will achieve this priority by continuing to provide encouragement and advice to institutions (public or private) and to individuals on preserving records in their keeping, whether current or non-current, by advocacy, and by continuing to heighten awareness that such records are, or may soon be, primary sources for Irish histories and cultures.

## Raising awareness

The following actions will be pursued in order to achieve this strategic priority:

25. The Preservation and Access Awareness Committee (PAAC) will continue to liaise with like-minded statutory bodies (including NAI, NLI, city and county archivists, Archives and Records Association, Ireland and the Local Government Archivists and Records Managers) and with relevant representative professional groups and individuals. Where feasible, it will contribute to joint awareness, access and advocacy initiatives and the development of national policy. The Committee will continue to provide information and offer advice about preserving records (particularly business records and the records and papers of voluntary bodies), via the website and an updated flyer, to specialist institutions and will contribute to organising an event to examine issues around access. The PAAC will continue to report twice-yearly to the IMC;
26. IMC will continue to participate in archival preservation and access initiatives, including the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland;

- Zoe Reid** @NAIKeeper · Apr 29, 2018
- Day 29 [#Archives30](#) The [#handwriting](#) in the Books of Survey and Distribution, was 'faced' in places. Written with [#irongall](#) ink & compiled in the 1680s after the Cromwellian conquest of Ireland, these 20 vols were digitised by the [@Irishmanuscript](#) 2016 after [#conservation](#).
- 



# As supporter of digital initiatives

## Best practice in producing digital resources

Digital access to historical sources, and their increasing discoverability online, has transformed academic research, teaching and public engagement. This work helps foster an international community of scholars and citizen researchers, engaged with flagship projects and digitised manuscripts ranging from the medieval period to contemporary history.

While print-publication remains the core activity of the Commission, IMC is committed to promoting and supporting digital access to primary source materials, where relevant and sustainable, according to the standards of international best practice.

## Objective

IMC will use digital technologies to extend the reach of the Commission's latest publications, enhance public access to and discoverability of IMC digital editions and other IMC digital resources, and raise awareness of digitised manuscripts and datasets concerning primary source materials.

## Increasing IMC's digital impact

IMC has identified the following actions as central to realising its objectives for enhancing access to digital resources in the period 2023–2027:

31. IMC will continue to contribute, as a partner, to digital initiatives involving major primary sources, central to the remit of the IMC, such as the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland;
32. IMC will identify partners for important digitisation projects, facilitating collaboration that will increase impact and awareness of primary sources for the histories of Ireland and its peoples;
33. IMC will promote the use of digitisation protocols that are compliant with international best practice;
34. IMC will continue digitising on an annual basis IMC editions already available in print, with the objective that by 2028 all IMC publications will be digitised;
35. IMC will employ the knowledge and expertise of its board and partner institutions to identify and apply suitable and efficient methods of digitisation, compliant with international best practice, to the varied styles of IMC publications;





## Strategic Development Plan 2023–2027

36. IMC will assess all new publication proposals for suitable digital output, if relevant and sustainable, to appear alongside or following print publication;
37. IMC will continue to make IMC legacy editions available online to the widest possible audiences internationally, using appropriate standards and digital platforms;
38. IMC will ensure the long-term preservation of, and open access to, IMC legacy editions through membership of the DRI;
39. IMC will enhance the impact-value, cross-searchability and dissemination of the Commission's digital assets through partnership with third level institutions, libraries, archives and the DRI; enabling the use of IMC Digital Editions and resources as pedagogical supports for students and researchers, further increasing the impact of the Commission's work and promoting awareness of primary sources for the histories of Ireland and its peoples;
40. IMC will promote the release and publication of its Digital Editions, searchable datasets and collaborative projects to the wider community to reach students, academics, researchers and genealogists.

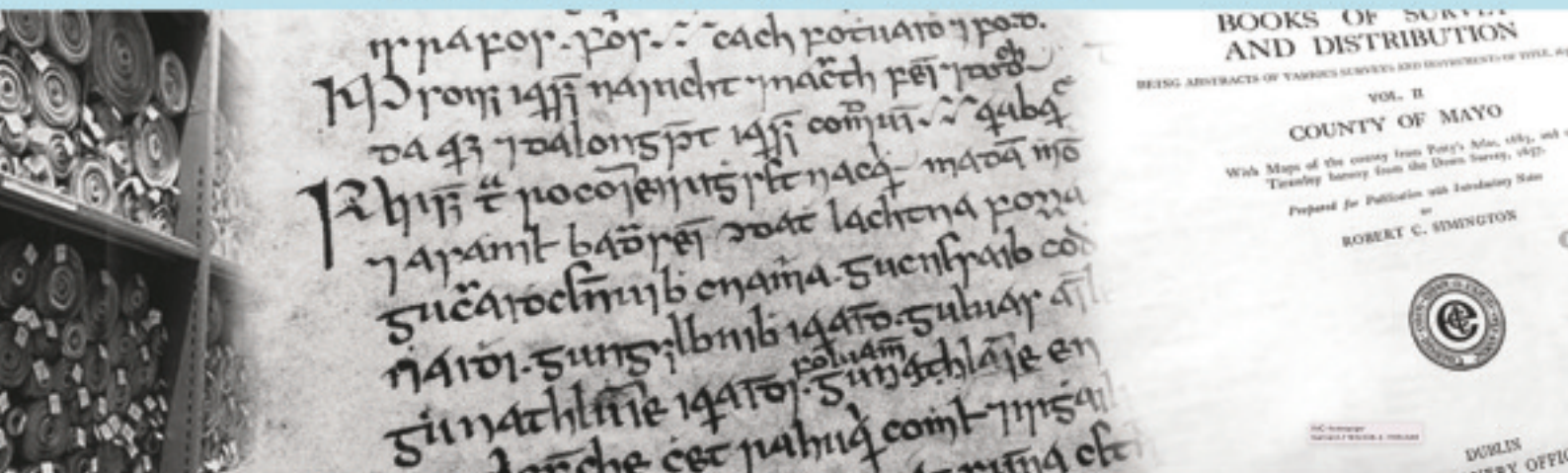


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### The Irish Manuscripts Commission

The Irish Manuscripts Commission is committed to promoting public awareness of primary source materials and their importance for the history, heritage and culture of Ireland. The Commission is recognised nationally and internationally as a publisher of primary sources for the histories and cultures of Ireland.



## IMC DIGITAL RESOURCES

### Current

#### IMC Digital Editions

##### Download and search PDFs of out-of-print IMC editions

- The civil survey, 1654–56, ed. Robert C. Simington (10 vols, 1931–61)
  - Calendar of Ormond deeds, ed. Edmund Curtis (6 vols, 1932–43)
- The correspondence of Daniel O'Connell, ed. Maurice O'Connell (8 vols, 1973–80)
- Correspondence of Emily, Duchess of Leinster, 1731–1814, ed. Brian FitzGerald (3 vols, 1949–57)
- Registry of Deeds Dublin, abstracts of wills, eds Eilis Ellis and P. Beryl Eustace (3 vols, 1954–84)
  - Books of survey and distribution ... 1636–1703, ed. Robert C. Simington (4 vols, 1949–62)
  - Corpus inscriptionum insularum Celticarum, ed. Robert A. S. Macalister (2 vols, 1945–49)
- Commentarius Rinuccinianus ... 1645–49, ed. Fr Stanislaus Kavanagh (6 vols, 1932–49), vols I and VI
  - Wild Geese in Spanish Flanders, 1582–1700, ed. Rev. Brendan Jennings
  - The Inchiquin manuscripts, ed. John Ainsworth
- King's Inns admission papers, 1607–1867, eds Edward Keane, P. Beryl Phair and Thomas U. Sadleir
  - Guide to Irish Quaker records, ed. Olive C. Goodbody
- Fitzwilliam accounts, 1560–65 (Annesley Collection), ed. Ada K. Longfield
- Dowdall deeds, eds Charles McNeill and Annette Jocelyn Otway-Ruthven
- Knights' fees in counties Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny, ed. Eric St. John Brooks
  - The Tanner letters, ed. Charles McNeill
- Extents of Irish monastic possessions, 1540–41, ed. Newport B. White
  - The Kenmare manuscripts, ed. Edward MacLysaght
  - Calendar of the Orrery papers, ed. Edward MacLysaght
- An Leabhar Muimhneach: maraon le suim Aguisíní, ed. Tadhg Ó Donnchadha
  - The Book of Fenagh: supplementary volume, ed. Robert A. S. Macalister
- A 'Census' of Ireland circa 1659, ed. Séamus Pender
  - Déssi genealogies, ed. Séamus Pender
- Irish monastic and episcopal deeds, 1200–1600 ... [from the Ormond collection], ed. Newport B. White
- Lebor Bretnach: the Irish version of the Historia Britonum ascribed to Nennius, Anton G. van Hamel Genealogical tracts I, ed. Toirdhealbhach Ó Raithbheartaigh
- A topographical index of the parishes and townlands of Ireland in Sir William Petty's MSS barony maps (c. 1655–9) and Hiberniae Delineatio (c. 1672), ed. Yann M. Goblet

#### Franciscan Accounts

Searchable database of expenditure for Broad Lane, Cork for 1764 to 1921

Search c. 40,000 entries by date and free text.

Based on the 2012 edition *The account books of the Franciscan House, Broad Lane, Cork, 1764–1921* edited by Clare Murphy and Liam Kennedy.

#### Analecta Hibernica

Simple search of all published issues

Search Nos 1–52 by volume number, contributor or title.

### Forthcoming

#### Sources for Irish Women's History

Searchable database of over 20,000 records in 221 repositories on the island of Ireland with an advanced search by keyword, date, repository and collection.

#### IMC Digital Editions – end of 2023

An additional 70 PDFs for out-of-print IMC editions will be made available.

#### The Italian correspondence of Cardinal Paul Cullen – end of 2024

Searchable database of c. 970 letters in Italian between Cullen and correspondents in Italy  
Transcription corresponding to the three-volume English translation edited by Anne O'Connor.

# Outcomes 2018–2022



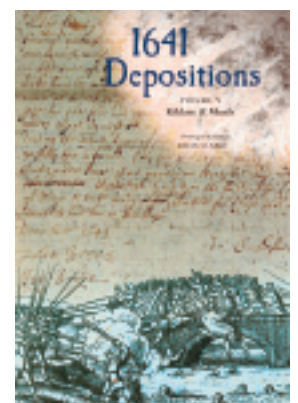
Strategic  
Development Plan  
2023–2027

The following outcomes were achieved in the period covered by the Strategic Development Plan 2018–2022.

## Publications:

IMC published the following 18 editions, calendars, journal-issues and pamphlets (in 19 volumes) in the period 2018–2022:

- Poema de Hibernia: a Jacobite Latin epic on the Williamite wars (eds Pádraig Lenihan and Keith Sidwell)
- Calendar of Papal letters relating to Great Britain & Ireland, vol. XXIII, part 1, 1523–1534, Clement VII (ed. Alan Macquarrie)
- The letters of Katherine Conolly, 1707–1747 (eds Marie-Louise Jennings<sup>†</sup> and Gabrielle Ashford)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 49 (ed. James Kelly)
- Documents relating to the Bogs Commissioners, 1809–1813 (ed. Arnold Horner)
- 1641 Depositions, vol. V: Kildare & Meath (principal ed. Aidan Clarke<sup>†</sup>)
- Irish Jesuit annual letters, 1604–1674 (ed. Vera Moynes, 2 vols)
- The diary (1689–1719) and accounts (1704–1717) of Élie Bouhéreau (eds Marie Léoutre, Jane McKee, Jean-Paul Pittion and Amy Prendergast)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 50 (ed. James Kelly)
- 1641 Depositions, vol. VI: Laois & Offaly (principal ed. Aidan Clarke<sup>†</sup>)
- The Act Book of the diocese of Armagh, 1518–1522 (ed. John McCafferty)
- The Eoin MacNeill Lecture 2019 — Sustaining identity and peace-building through community archives (by Anne Gilliland)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 51 (ed. James Kelly)
- Campaign journals of the Elizabethan Irish wars (ed. David Edwards (pub. 2014), pub. in paperback 2021 (reprinted 2022))
- The Irish religious censuses of the 1760s: Catholics and Protestants in eighteenth-century Ireland (eds Brian Gurrin, Kerby Miller and Liam Kennedy)
- Irish maritime trade in the Restoration era: the letterbook of William Hovell, 1683–1687 (ed. James O'Shea)
- The Eoin MacNeill Lecture 2022 — Intricate threads and bigger pictures: lives in archives (by Ludmilla Jordanova)
- Analecta Hibernica No. 52 (ed. Elva Johnston)





# Outcomes 2018–2022

*continued*

## **Covid-19 pandemic:**

Outcomes for 2018–2022 were affected by the public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic which lasted from March 2020 until March 2022. The restrictions affected IMC workflows and publishing plans but also the ability to hold in-person meetings and events such as book launches and public lectures.

## **High-profile projects:**

IMC progressed its commitment to six high-profile projects in the period 2018–2022:

- *Commentarius Rinuccinianus* — publishing for the first time a full English translation of the five-volume *Commentarius* series, originally published in Latin only;
- *Historia* — publishing for the first time a transcription from the Latin manuscript with a full English translation of a major but little-known source for the history of the Capuchin mission in Ireland up to 1655;
- 1641 Depositions series — publishing in 12 volumes a fully edited and indexed print version of witness statements taken following the outbreak of hostilities in Ireland in autumn 1641;
- *Irish chancery rolls, c. 1300–1500* — publishing a five-volume print edition based on the online CIRCLE project hosted by Trinity College Dublin;
- *Books of survey and distribution* — in collaboration with the Down Survey project based at Trinity College Dublin — a five-volume print edition of the twenty manuscript volumes of the NAI Quit Rent Office set will be published to complement the searchable database made available online through the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland in June 2022;
- *Mapping Ireland, c. 1550–1636: an illustrated catalogue of manuscript maps of Ireland* — a large format, two-volume work gathering manuscript maps and surveys for early modern Ireland, some of which have never been published before.

**Publication approvals:** at the end of 2022 thirty-five proposals stood formally approved by IMC.

**New proposals:** new publishing proposals continue to be submitted to IMC in a steady stream. In the period 2018–2022 between four and ten proposals were received annually.

**New website:** An updated website based on WordPress templates, including a responsive mobile site, was launched in February 2020. Web services (digital resources, online shop, publications catalogue, news) were arranged to reflect use of the website.

**Public engagement:** in September 2018 and again in 2019 IMC participated enthusiastically in Culture Night. Visitors were shown examples of IMC publications, provided with a short lecture on IMC's activities and encouraged to be archives aware.



IMC moved from participation in Culture Night to the Dublin Festival of History organised by Dublin City Library and Archive. Taking part for the first time in 2020, IMC published three videos on its YouTube channel on the theme 'After the fire: The Irish Manuscripts Commission and the writing of Irish history'. The videos reflected IMC's work to mitigate past losses and provide edited sources, calendars and lists — in print and latterly online — to be used as the basis for the writing and understanding of Irish history.

In 2021 IMC published twelve short videos on its YouTube channel around the theme 'Generous effort' — a reference to a speech by senator Alice Stopford Green made in the Seanad on 4 June 1924. Presenting the final report of the Committee on Irish Manuscripts to the Dáil on 4 June 1924 she said, 'I urge, therefore, that if we wish to encourage the self-respect of the Irish nation and the respect of other people for this nation there must be the most generous effort made to give us our history, and to give it to us on lines of full and adequate knowledge'. IMC has been producing just such sources since 1928 and several scholars were invited to talk about their favourite IMC edition. Their choices reflect their passion for what they do and their enthusiasm for the records left by our predecessors.

The first in-person IMC Festival of History event was held on 8 October 2022. IMC members demonstrated approaches to searching the Books of Survey and Distribution in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland.

**Launches:** in 2018 and 2019 IMC held six book launches of which one was held outside of Dublin, in the Irish Embassy to the Holy See in Rome in November 2018. Between March 2020 and March 2022 in-person events were not possible due to Covid-19 public health restrictions and launches resumed in March 2022 with a joint launch for all publications published during the previous two years. A further launch was held in Cork in December 2022.

# Outcomes 2018–2022

*continued*

**Eoin MacNeill Lecture:** during the period 2018 to 2022 two MacNeill Lectures were given. In May 2019 the third Eoin MacNeill lecture was given by Professor Anne Gilliland, Associate Dean for Information Studies, Director of Archival Studies and Professor and Director of the Center for Information as Evidence, at the University of California, Los Angeles. The lecture was entitled ‘Sustaining identity and peace-building through community archives’ and was published in pamphlet form in 2020. In May 2022 the fourth Eoin MacNeill Lecture was given by Professor Ludmilla Jordanova, Emeritus Professor of History and Visual Culture and Director of the Centre for Visual Arts and Culture, Durham University between 2015 and 2019. The lecture was entitled ‘Intricate threads and bigger pictures: lives in archives’ and it was published in pamphlet form in late 2022.

**Irish Archives Resource (IAR):** IMC promoted, and continues to promote, access to archival sources through its continued support of the work of the IAR. IMC is represented on the IAR Steering Committee which seeks to maintain and develop the portal launched in 2011 through which the collections of many smaller archive services throughout Ireland can be searched.







**Digital assets:** In late 2020 IMC made 57 of its Digital Editions — copies of out-of-print works — available to download for free as PDFs. Work on a new digital resource began in early 2022 and a revised and updated version of the Women’s History Project (WHP) *A directory of sources for women’s history in Ireland*, first published by IMC on CD ROM in 1999, will be added to the Digital Resources section of the IMC website in early 2023. The revision of the WHP database was funded by the Mná 100 programme of the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and the Media with matched funding from IMC.

**Collaborative projects:** IMC extended its collaboration with NAI sponsoring the conservation assessment of the salvaged materials from the 1922 fire at the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) and providing advice on their historical significance. In 2018 IMC became a Core Partner in Beyond 2022, a project to reconstruct the collections of the PROI in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland which was launched at Dublin Castle on 27 June 2022. In 2021, through the aegis of Beyond 2022, IMC sponsored the work of an archivist to list the previously unexamined salvaged 1922 records with a view to publication of the list.



# Organisation Chart

The following diagram details the personnel and organisation of the Irish Manuscripts Commission as of December 2022.





# KEEP IN TOUCH

[www.irishmanuscripts.ie](http://www.irishmanuscripts.ie)



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Tá Coimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann maoinithe ag  
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