

Foreword

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THE TASK OF INTRODUCING EACH ANNUAL EDITION OF *IRISH ARCHITECTURAL AND Decorative Studies* has, since volume III (2000), been the preserve of the late Desmond FitzGerald, 29th Knight of Glin and president of the Irish Georgian Society for the last two decades. In this issue, William Laffan has written a thoughtful and apposite obituary, and, fittingly, the opening article examines the cultural biography of Glin Castle in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. I will offer a few words on the general state of affairs.

The editorial advisory board has recently been augmented with new appointments: Dr Alison FitzGerald, Department of History, National University of Ireland Maynooth; Dr Anna Moran, Faculty of Visual Culture, National College of Art & Design; and Dr Finola O’Kane Crimmins, School of Architecture, University College Dublin. Combined with the existing panel, the election of these distinguished scholars will serve to uphold and enhance the academic credibility of the journal.

Given the annual nature of this publication, it has been customary to highlight forthcoming titles that will be of interest to members of the Society. Foremost among these are Peter Harbison’s *William Burton Conyngham and his Irish circle of Antiquarian Artists*, Finola O’Kane’s *Ireland and the Picturesque: design, landscape painting and tourism in Ireland, 1700-1830* (Yale University Press, 2012), and Christine Casey and Conor Lucey’s edited volume, *Decorative Plasterwork in Ireland and Europe: ornament and the early modern interior* (Four Courts Press, 2012). Ellis Wasson’s recently published *The Role of the Ruling Class: adaptability in the British transition from Ancien Régime to Modern State* (2010) represents a valuable resource for studies devoted to the Irish country house.

The publication of this volume of the journal has been made possible by the generous funding provided by the Apollo Foundation and the J. Paul Getty Jr. Charitable Trust. We are confident that the breadth of scholarship and diversity of topics contained herein, all of which would have greatly appealed to the broad historical interests of the late Knight of Glin, will encourage continued sponsorship for the foreseeable future.