

# Foreword

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THE KNIGHT OF GLIN

THIS IS OUR FIFTH *JOURNAL*. WE ARE AGAIN DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THE ESTATE OF the late Paul Mellon for the funding of this publication. It marks the new editorship of Nicola Figgis who takes over from Seán O'Reilly. Nicola is currently a lecturer in the History of Art department at University College Dublin, and has been well known for her research on Irish artists in Rome. She is about to embark on a study of the very important Irish artist, Nathaniel Hone the Elder. She was a collaborator with Brendan Rooney on the magnificent new catalogue, *Irish Paintings in the National Gallery of Ireland* (NGI, 2001), and we are very pleased that Brendan himself has been appointed administrator of the Centre for the Study of Irish Art at the NGI.

I think you will find this volume full of diverse topics. Freddie O'Dwyer continues his investigations into a new aspect of the politics and architecture of the Board of Works during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Loreto Calderón and Christine Casey have identified a new plaster worker of the eighteenth century, and Jane Fenlon offers a detailed insight into the history of Bridge House in Kilkenny. We have two Italian-sourced articles: the altar rails at Monasterevin by Beatrice Whelan, and the two statues of Aeolus at Powerscourt by Patrick Bowe. Patricia McCabe shares her new research into the accoutrements of the Lords Chancellor of Ireland. No one has yet published an individual study of the Honan Chapel in Cork, and we are therefore delighted with Paul Larmour's contribution to this volume. Finally, we have a list of the recent acquisitions of the Irish Architectural Archive.

Let me repeat again that we welcome submissions of material from all scholars working in the fields of architecture and the decorative arts in post-medieval Ireland. And now the *Journal* has introduced colour printing, we can encourage more articles on the history of Irish painting.