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No. 18

IRISH HISTORIC TOWNS ATLAS

ARMAGH

By
CATHERINE McCULLOUGH
and W.H. CRAWFORD

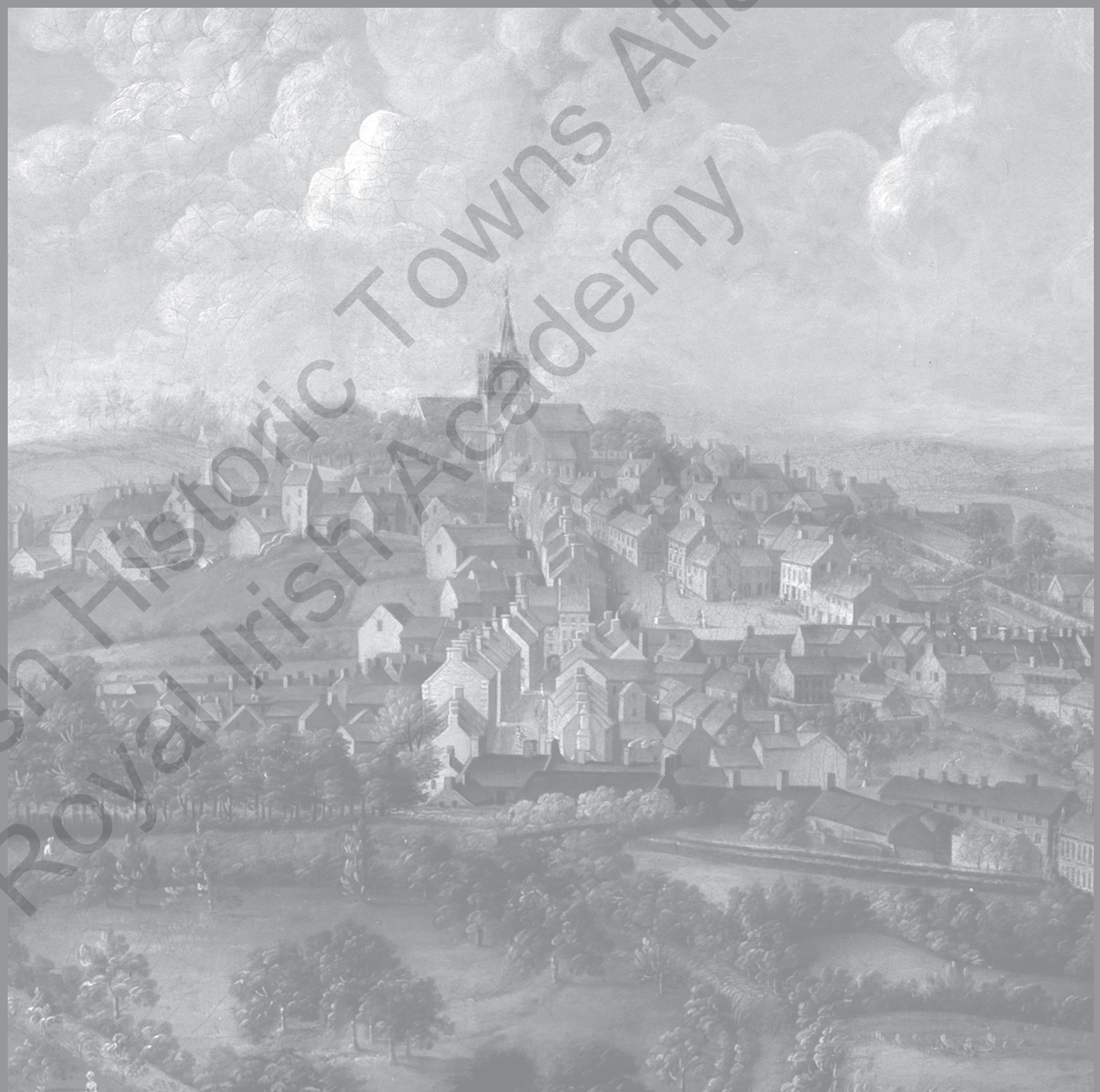
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Royal Irish Academy

ARMAGH

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PREFACE

Urban history as it is practised today is much more than the local study of a particular town. As part of social and economic history it needs a comparative approach. The topographical aspects of towns, the layout of streets, rivers and canals, the site of public buildings and defence works and the general setting of the town in its geographical environment, are particularly well suited to such a comparative approach. The International Commission for the History of Towns, therefore, having recommended since its foundation in 1955 the publication of historic towns atlases in its member countries, set out in 1968 a number of guidelines concerning the scale and contents of the principal maps to be included in these atlases.

The Commission's guidelines have been followed more or less strictly by most of the many countries and regions where historic towns atlases have been published since. Among these countries Ireland with its Irish Historic Towns Atlas has produced a model in this respect.

Ghent, 1995

Adriaan Verhulst†
President of the International
Commission for the History of
Towns

INTRODUCTION

It was in a spirit of co-operation after the second world war that in 1955 the International Commission for the History of Towns recommended the publication of a series of European national historic towns atlases to encourage a better understanding of common European roots and to facilitate comparative urban studies. Since then fascicles for c. 460 towns and cities in seventeen European countries have been published, more or less on the lines recommended by the Commission. This volume is part of Ireland's contribution to the scheme.

At an interdisciplinary symposium on 'Irish towns and medieval Europe', organised in 1978 by the Board of Medieval Studies in University College, Dublin, the idea of an Irish historic towns atlas was first publicly discussed following a lecture by Heinz Stooß from Münster on the German towns atlas project. In June 1981 the Council of the Royal Irish Academy agreed to publish the Irish Historic Towns Atlas and the government of the Republic of Ireland subsequently provided funds for the employment of a cartographic editor. The joint editors of the first four fascicles were J.H. Andrews (Department of Geography, Trinity College, Dublin) and Anngret Simms (Department of Geography, University College, Dublin). H.B. Clarke (Department of Medieval History, University College, Dublin) was appointed as an additional editor in 1990, Raymond Gillespie (Department of History, National University of Ireland Maynooth) in 1994, and Jacinta Prunty (Department of History, National University of Ireland Maynooth) in 2008. John Andrews retired as editor and became consultant editor in 1992. K.M. Davies was cartographic editor and project co-ordinator from 1981 to 1999. On her retirement Sarah Gearty was appointed to the position. Angela Murphy became editorial assistant to the project in 2001. Angela Byrne was with the project staff from 2003 to 2010 and Jennifer Moore joined the team in 2006.

The editorial board has been complemented by an editorial committee in which the editors have been joined over a period of time by Terry Barry (Department of Medieval History, Trinity College, Dublin), John Bradley (Department of History, National University of Ireland Maynooth), M.J.D. Brand (former Director, Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland), Mary Clark (City Archivist, Dublin City Library and Archive), M.E. Daly (College of Arts and Celtic Studies, University College, Dublin), Richard Haworth (formerly of the Department of Geography, Trinity College, Dublin), A.A. Horner (School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy, University College, Dublin), Richard Kirwan (former Director, Ordnance Survey Ireland), Tomás Ó Carragáin (Department of Archaeology, University College Cork), Philip Robinson (formerly of the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum), Geraldine Ruane (Chief Executive, Ordnance Survey Ireland), Katharine Simms (Department of Medieval History, Trinity College, Dublin), Matthew Stout (Department of History, St Patrick's College, Drumcondra) and Kevin Whelan (University of Notre Dame). The atlas is indebted to Ordnance Survey Ireland and Land and Property Services (formerly Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland) for practical support from their respective institutions. Valuable assistance has also been received from the staff of the Royal Irish Academy. The editorial board is grateful to the many funders who provided grants towards production and research for the towns and cities contained in this volume: American Ireland Fund, Armagh City and District Council, Derry City Council, Dundalk Town Council, Environmental Fund (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government), Galway County Council, Heritage Council, Honourable The Irish Society, Limerick City Council, Louth County Council, Marc Fitch Fund (Oxford), Murray Ó Laoire Architects and Ulster Local History Trust.

The atlas has been planned as a series of fascicles, one or more for each town or city in a selection representing various size-categories, various regions of the country from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, and various periods of origin, growth and change, with some bias in favour of the medieval period but not excluding the estate towns, industrial towns and resort towns characteristic of more modern times. Large cities are divided chronologically according to available cartographic sources. The principal map in each fascicle is a large-scale

(1:2500) representation of the town as it is believed to have stood at a period as close as possible to 1840. The reconstruction is based on the manuscript town plans made by the Ordnance Survey in 1832–42 and on the manuscript maps compiled at the same time or soon afterwards by the General Valuation Office. Use is also made of surviving contemporary estate maps and, where necessary, of the earliest (1833–46) published Ordnance Survey maps at six inches to one mile (1:10,560). The reconstructions include buildings, streets, roads, paths, yards, gardens, orchards, parks, fields and surface watercourses. Contemporary names are used wherever possible. The base map on which these data are assembled is the most accurate available nineteenth-century town plan, which in most cases is the one published by the Ordnance Survey on a scale of either 1:1056 or 1:500 at some time during the period 1855–95.

A second map shows the town in its mid-nineteenth-century setting at 1:50,000. This has been prepared from the first (1855–95) edition of the one inch to one mile (1:63,360) Ordnance Survey map of Ireland. The third map common to all fascicles is a modern Ordnance Survey town plan at 1:5000. A selection of facsimile maps is included, some with their accompanying reference tables. Where possible there are also growth maps and large scale single period maps reconstructing significant phases of development before the end of the nineteenth century. Other graphic material includes the town's armorial bearings, if any, a modern air photograph and facsimiles of early views. The text accompanying the maps comprises an introductory essay, topographical information on the town as a whole and its component parts, selected documentary and literary extracts where appropriate, and a bibliography.

The maps and topographical information are derived directly from primary sources and to that extent are less likely to become out of date. But readers may also expect to be given an interpretation of the sources, and this is the role of the introductory essay. Each town is described in relation to its physical site and setting, and its development is reviewed in chronological sequence from the beginnings of urban life to the end of the nineteenth century, with a brief indication of its twentieth-century history. In the case of large cities, this is done over a series of linked parts. The essay is intended to deal primarily with the form and layout of the town as expressed in the accompanying maps. Individual buildings may receive attention as topographical entities, but the atlas does not usurp the functions of an archaeological or architectural survey. In the same spirit, political and socio-economic factors are introduced in so far as they seem relevant to an understanding of the townscape and not as ends in themselves.

The bibliography lists important items devoted to a single town or city for the period, especially those of topographical relevance, and is not necessarily confined to works cited in the footnotes. Other sources mentioned in the footnotes are not separately tabulated, except where their titles have been abbreviated in a way that requires explanation. Abbreviations of more general application are listed inside the back cover of each fascicle. Grid references follow the Irish Grid co-ordinate system as shown on current paper Ordnance Survey maps, and throughout the atlas placenames are spelt as in the maps of Ordnance Survey Ireland or Land and Property Services Northern Ireland.

Finally the atlas expresses the belief that large-scale plans constitute the best kind of source material for a comparative analysis of the topography of European towns, whether as a starting point for retrospective topographical research or as a basis for studying the changes associated with modern urban expansion. As such, it is proving useful not only to students and teachers of history, geography, archaeology and architecture, but also to planners, conservationists and local government officers, and thus directly or indirectly to all residents and visitors in the towns or cities concerned.

December 2011

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