BRAY

IRISH HISTORIC TOWNS ATLAS

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No. 9

BRAY

By K.M. DAVIES

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Royal Irish Academy
19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2
1998

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Urban history as it is practiced today is much more than the local study of a town or settlement. As part of social and economic history it means a comparison of towns with each other and of towns in different parts of the country and Europe. When the town is the layout of streets, rivers and canals, the localisation of public buildings and defence works and the land use and types of ground it is a geographical environment, 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 many countries of Europe, has now a number of guides concerning the scale and content of the principal maps to be included in these atlases. The Commission’s guide has been followed more or less strictly by most of the many counties and regions where historic towns atlases have been published, so that it is likely that a cross section of Irish Historic Towns Atlas has produced a model in this respect.

GEOGRAPHY

The Irish Historic Towns Atlas project was initiated by the Irish Historic Towns Association in 1955. The project was supported by the Royal Irish Academy and the Architectural and Historical Survey of Ireland. The Atlas was intended to provide a comprehensive guide to the history and development of towns in Ireland. It was funded by the Department of Education and Science, and the project was co-ordinated by Dr. B.A. Cribbin, the Director of the Architectural and Historical Survey of Ireland.

The Atlas was divided into three volumes:

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- *Introduction*
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- *Modern Ireland*

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- *Historical Maps of the Villages*

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**Further Reading:**
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**Access:**
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Cover Illustration: Edmund Moreau's painting and contemproary view of Bray (c. 1880)