

BOOK LAUNCH

“Memorialising Emigré Dignity” *the Cultural Heritage of the College of the Irish College Leuven*

Venue: Royal Irish Academy
Date: 6pm, Friday 5 September 2025

Launch Programme

- Up to 5pm **Viewing *An Cathach***, St. Columba’s Psalter *aka* the *O’Donnells’ Battle Book*
Reading Room, Royal Irish Academy
- 5.30pm: **Preparatory installation:** deployment of support personnel, stock of books, pull-ups, equipment, Irish Harp in Council & Members’ space, registration
- 5.45pm: **Arrival and registration** of participants, sponsors, speakers, and audience
- 6.00pm: **Reception and mutual introductions**, *hosted by co-author*
Amb. Francis M. O’Donnell, Fellow, World Academy of Art & Science;
President, O’Donnell Clan Association; & of Genealogical Society of Ireland
- 6.15pm **Welcome to the Royal Irish Academy**
Barbara McCormack, Academy Librarian, RIA
- Formal presentation of copy to the Royal Irish Academy**
- 6.30pm: **Welcome to the Book Launch** - Introductory remarks; *co-author*
Dr. Mary Katharine Simms, MRIA; Fellow Emeritus, Trinity College Dublin
- Guest Speakers**
Prof. John McCafferty, Chair of the Irish Manuscripts Commission and
Director of the Mícheál Ó Cléirigh Institute, UCD
- Dr. Benjamin Hazard, School of History, UCD and*
Editor & Researcher, Irish Manuscripts Commission
- Print Co-Sponsors**
Mr. Luke McInerney, Leas-Cathaoirleach/Vice-Chair, and Director of
Publications, Clans of Ireland, co-sponsor
- Paul Manzor, CEO/Eneclann – Irish Family History Centre*
- 07.15pm **Keynote Speaker**
Former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, Fellow, World Academy of Art & Science &
Co-Chairman, InterAction Council of Former Heads of State & Government
- 07.30pm **Classical Irish Harp Recital** (Carolan’s Concerto, et al.)
Dr. Mary Louise O’Donnell, Creative Associate, Arts Council of Ireland,
Musician-in-Residence, Tallaght University Hospital
- pre-8pm **Closing remarks** (Closure/end at 8pm)