

MAPPING, MEASUREMENT AND METROPOLIS: HOW LAND SURVEYORS SHAPED EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY DUBLIN. By Fínnian Ó Cionnaith. Pp xxiv, 246, illus. Dublin: Four Courts Press. 2012. €40.50.

A well-researched, well-written and well-produced book, *Mapping, measurement and metropolis* will enhance the knowledge of anyone interested in maps and mapmaking in Ireland in the eighteenth century. It is the product of much painstaking research and we learn a great deal about the various facets of the art and science of mapmaking. However, the subtitle 'how land surveyors shaped eighteenth-century Dublin' does not completely capture the book. Certainly there is consideration of land surveyors in Dublin, especially in the final sections, but the book is not confined to Dublin and not all sections have a strong focus on Dublin. This is for very good reason. As the book makes clear on many occasions, there is limited information available on the cadre of surveyors that worked in the city, or even in Ireland, and there are only a few sources, such as John Rocque, Bernard Scalé or the archives of the Wide Streets Commissioners, where material is consistently available under all of the headings. Thus the book is a series of distinct sections which are further sub-divided, rather than a narrative, the length and depth of which vary considerably. However, the author has amassed a considerable store of data and worked it very well.

The first section deals with the profession of surveying. We learn about the unregulated nature of the profession and there are some interesting anecdotes about the practical difficulties that a surveyor might face. While we can speculate on how a surveyor might have been educated from sources elsewhere, the author has few Irish records on which to base a discussion of education, training or apprenticeship. We get some glimpses of how lucrative or not was the career of surveyor using the examples of the earnings of Rocque and Sherrard (working for the Wide Streets Commissioners) but these are hardly typical. This section both illuminates and frustrates. While enjoying the variety of information which is presented, we come up against the difficulty of limited information for Dublin.

The next section introduces the equipment and the methodology of measurement. There is a useful, though brief, survey of the main instruments that surveyors might have used and the units of measurement employed. Chains, plain tables, the circumferentor and the theodolite are discussed but lack of specific local data limits the discussion. We are offered a fascinating account of the argument around magnetic variation and the practical problems it posed, but a longer discussion would have been welcome. We gain many insights into the skills needed to translate field measures onto paper and the text takes us briefly through the issues around compilation. More detailed accounts of copying and the problem of error then follow while the issues of plagiarism and the importance of the Down Survey as a baseline are also covered. Finally, we read how maps were engraved, printed and coloured and how they were embellished with cartouches, north points and aids to areal determination for prestige and practical reasons. Rocque and Scalé are important resources in this discussion but there are references to other Irish or Dublin maps.

It is in the final sections that the book turns to a greater focus on Dublin. We read about Brooking, Rocque, the Dublin City Surveyors as well as Thomas Sherrard and his (and that of some others) work for the Wide Streets Commissioners. The chapters on Brooking and Rocque are based largely on descriptions of the maps and will probably be well known to many but the other discussions provide very interesting windows into the 'back office' of map production in the city. The chapter on the City Surveyors is one of the more substantial and spans the period from about 1690. These were the people who assisted Dublin Corporation with its required maps which ranged from those associated with leases to technical matters such as water distribution. Because the scale of their work is overshadowed by that of the Wide Street Commissioners, these people are less well known and this chapter redresses this. In the discussion on the Wide Streets Commissioners which follows we learn much about Sherrard and how important he was

in advancing the W.S.C.'s agenda and how his business and that of the W.S.C. interacted.

Because of its nature, this is a book than can be dipped into as well as read from cover to cover. The reader will find much of interest and diversion and the detailed and copious footnotes will offer a deeper engagement with the source material. It deserves a place on the bookshelf of anyone with an interest or fascination with maps. The production is up to the usual high standards of Four Courts Press.

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THE MILITIA IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY IRELAND: IN DEFENCE OF THE PROTESTANT INTEREST.
By Neal Garnham. Pp x, 198. Woodbridge, Suffolk: The Boydell Press. 2012. £65.

In the early modern period, throughout the Atlantic world, the right to bear arms was a cherished badge of citizenship. More than the right to vote, legal ownership of a firearm marked a person out as a full member of the state, nation or polity and was therefore a highly prized prerogative, not to be bestowed lightly or carelessly, and certainly not on those whose previous actions or current demeanour rendered them suspect. (On these latter grounds, for most of the eighteenth century, Irish Catholics and Scottish and Irish Presbyterians qualified for exclusion.) In many countries – notably England, Scotland, the American Colonies, but also, though less clamorously, in France and the Low Countries – this worship of weaponry in private hands revealed itself in impassioned debates about, and demands for, a well-regulated militia. Such a force of armed part-timers, citizens residing at home, civilised by the presence of their wives and children and defending their localities, was widely seen by those mindful of potential threats to civil rights as both morally superior to, and an essential counterweight against, a professional army whose members were notoriously shut away in gloomy barracks where they were bereft of homely comfort and subjected to savage discipline; and hence, it was declared, all too easily deployed by an oppressive prince against his subjects and their liberties.

Hitherto, the 'militia issue' in various countries has received well-merited attention from historians: J. R. Western, *The English militia in the eighteenth century* (London, 1965), John Robertson, *The Scottish Enlightenment and the militia issue* (Edinburgh, 1985) and Joyce Lee Malcolm, *To keep and bear arms: the origins of an Anglo-American right* (Cambridge, MA, 1994) might all be commended in this regard. Unusually, we may say that Irish historiography too has been relatively well served in this area: Sir Henry McAnally's pioneering study, *The Irish militia 1793–1816: a social and military study* (Dublin, 1949) was reviewed by G. A. Hayes-McCoy in *I.H.S.*, vii, no. 26 (Sept. 1950) pp 127–9, where he pronounced it to be 'a valuable addition' to Irish military history and then went on to criticise it for focusing on the 'trees rather than the wood', i.e. largely ignoring the Irish militia's bad conduct during the 1798 rebellion. More recently, Ivan F. Nelson has supplemented though not superseded McAnally in his *The Irish militia 1793–1802: Ireland's forgotten army* (Dublin, 2007), where he offers a fuller account (and defence) of the Irish militia during the rebellion. Neal Garnham's book takes its place among these earlier accounts of the Irish militia. He situates the Irish militia issue (or 'issues' as he insists) among those already addressed by Robertson, Western and others in their specific national contexts, and he breaks new ground in focusing on the early history of the militia in Ireland, tracing its origins from the early seventeenth century, through the eighteenth century and concluding, after a number of ebbs and flows, with the setting up in 1793 of the Irish militia that was the subject of McAnally's and Nelson's labours. A central theme is that the force established in 1793 was one whose composition was very far from that envisaged by its earlier promoters – indeed was diametrically opposed to it.