

# Sources for Early Modern Irish History, 1534–1641

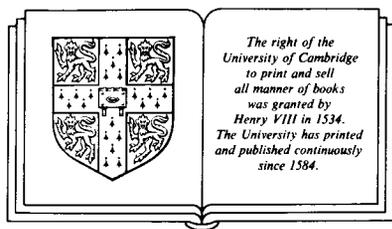
R. W. DUDLEY EDWARDS

*Emeritus Professor of Modern Irish History, University College, Dublin*

and

MARY O'DOWD

*Lecturer in Modern History, The Queen's University, Belfast*



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

CAMBRIDGE

LONDON NEW YORK NEW ROCHELLE

MELBOURNE SYDNEY

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, UK  
40 West 20th Street, New York NY 10011-4211, USA  
477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia  
Ruiz de Alarcón 13, 28014 Madrid, Spain  
Dock House, The Waterfront, Cape Town 8001, South Africa

<http://www.cambridge.org>

© Cambridge University Press 1985

This book is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception  
and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements,  
no reproduction of any part may take place without  
the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 1985  
First paperback edition 2002

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress catalogue card number: 84-20019*

ISBN 0 521 25020 X hardback  
ISBN 0 521 27141 X paperback

# Contents

<i>Acknowledgements</i>	page ix
<i>Abbreviations</i>	x
Introduction	i
<b>I IRISH CIVIL CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>3</b>
Chief governors and office-holders	4
Council	12
Seals, chancery and exchequer	16
Courts, central	23
Courts, prerogative	30
Parliament	32
Extraordinary commissions	39
<b>2 IRISH CIVIL LOCAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>42</b>
Provincial	43
Non-provincial units	46
<b>3 ENGLISH AND OTHER CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIONS AND IRELAND</b>	<b>52</b>
The English administration and Ireland	52
Other central administrations and Ireland	58
<b>4 IRISH ECCLESIASTICAL ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>60</b>
Before the breach	61
Church of Ireland	64
The presbyterian church	75
Roman catholic church	76
<b>5 CONTEMPORARY ACCOUNTS AND DESCRIPTIONS</b>	<b>83</b>
Continental accounts of Ireland	83

## *Contents*

Contemporary Anglo-Irish and English commentaries and accounts of Ireland	85
6 MAPS AND DRAWINGS	106
Maps	106
Drawings	125
7 ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS	129
State archives	130
Public institutions in Ireland	141
Public institutions in Britain	151
Public institutions outside Ireland and Britain	159
Non-public archival collections	160
Dispersed collections	164
8 HISTORIOGRAPHY	167
<i>Index</i>	214

## *Introduction*

This work attempts to provide a critical guide to the written sources for early modern Irish history: 1534–1641. The task of researchers in this area was made particularly difficult by the burning of much relevant documentary material in the Public Record Office of Ireland at the beginning of the Irish civil war in 1922 and by the destruction of other records before and since then. The problem of the loss of documents has to a large extent determined the way in which this volume has been organised. The first four chapters assess the administrative sources, civil and ecclesiastical, central and local, Irish, English and foreign. The approach in these chapters is administrative in order that all the documentation produced by early modern institutions in Ireland or elsewhere in relation to Ireland can be noted. This enables the surviving documentation to be fitted into an administrative context and emphasises the need to consider the surviving documents in relation to what has been destroyed. The approach in the next two chapters is chronological as the contemporary writings, maps and drawings are described. The references in these chapters are necessarily selective but the chronological arrangement allows the most significant types to be noted. In chapter seven archival collections with early modern material are briefly described. The large number of repositories listed here was considered necessary because of the destruction of so much of the archives of the central and local Irish administrations. Many of the documents noted here are not archival in the strictest sense of the word, for which reason it was thought useful to indicate where possible the provenance of the documents noted. Throughout the book much attention is also given to transcripts, abstracts and calendars of documents in the Public Record Office of Ireland before 1922. The utilisation or, in many cases, the neglect by historians of the resources of

### *Sources for early modern Irish history 1534–1641*

the record office before 1922 is noted in the final chapter which attempts an historiographical survey of early modern Irish history with particular reference to the use of documentary material.

The authors are conscious of the fact that the book deals only with written sources. Non-written sources such as buildings and artefacts are ignored. There are many physical remains of early modern Ireland still to be seen in the Irish landscape but only a few have been the subject of any detailed study. Architectural historians tend to concentrate on the post-restoration period while post-medieval archaeology has only recently been introduced to Ireland. There has been some interesting work done in the area of urban archaeology but we still do not know the answer to many basic questions concerning the dwellings and material life of the inhabitants of early modern Ireland.<sup>1</sup>

Apart from architecture and archaeology other disciplines which might contribute to our knowledge of early modern Ireland include numismatics, geography and anthropology, but to date little has been done in these areas.<sup>2</sup> This book might, we hope, prove helpful to students of disciplines other than history anxious to explore early modern Ireland for their own purposes. It is, however, intended primarily for students of history, particularly postgraduate students looking for information about sources and where to find them. The book is unlikely to provide hardened researchers in the field with much new information or insights. They may indeed be more conscious of its defects than its merits. It is inevitable in a work of this kind that there will be many omissions. The recent increase in research into early modern Irish history has led to the discovery of many hitherto unknown or unrecognised sources for the period. It has sometimes been difficult to keep abreast of all this new information about sources and their location. There have been numerous amendments made to the text already but doubtless many more will need to be made within the next few years.

<sup>1</sup> For reports on excavations of post-medieval sites in Ireland see recent editions of the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*.

<sup>2</sup> See M. Dolley, 'The Irish coinage 1534–1691', *A new history of Ireland*, vol. iii, *early modern Ireland 1534–1691*, ed. T. W. Moody, F. X. Martin and F. J. Byrne (Oxford, 1976) for a preliminary study of the numismatic evidence for the period.