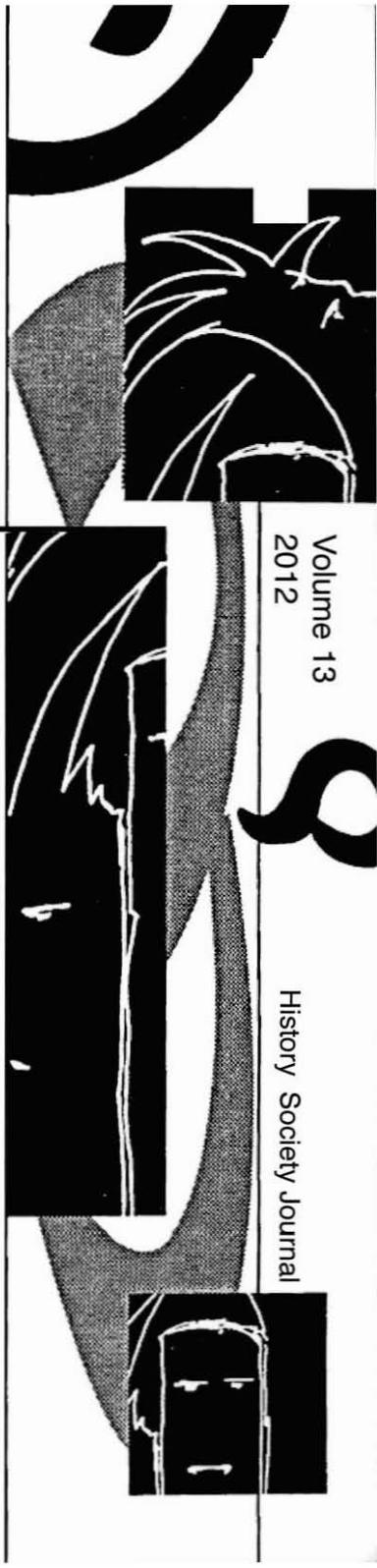


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Cover design by Jennifer McCaffrey and Nora McGillicuddy, Limerick School of Art and Design, Limerick Institute of Technology. The cover incorporates the concept of past, present and future, which is depicted, firstly by the use of the Buddhist symbol *Aum*. The idea is secondly represented by three illustrative heads looking in different directions. They symbolise the search for history by past, present and future historians.

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Our grateful acknowledgement goes to the editorial committee of Jeffrey Leddin, Zara Power and Martin Walsh. Paul Hayes, the previous editor, was generous with help and advice. We'd like to express special recognition to Ger Browne of Browne Print and Design for the high production value of this edition.

Last but not least, we would like to extend our appreciation to all the contributors' efforts in helping bring this work to fruition.

Preface

Once again historical concerns dominate newspaper and magazine headlines, and television and radio programmes. Politicians, commentators, journalists as well professional historians are thinking, talking and writing about 'commemoration' and also about the 'diaspora'. The former focuses attention on the period 1912-22 and how best to commemorate past events while the latter centres on the causes and consequences of emigration in the past, present and future. Both themes seem exclusive yet both rely on historical scholarship to provide the context and on historians to explain the complexity of past events. These twin themes, like the past in general, are contested with different meanings and interpretations and it is the role of historians to elucidate this complexity and not serve political agendas. Constructing the past is a challenge and is challenging and the essays in volume illustrate how that challenge can be met.

Essays are included on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, on a range of themes such as politics, culture, war, folklore, gender and nationalism and they are situated within an Irish, British, European, African, American and Asian contexts. Each of these essays offers new insights and interpretations and makes a valuable contribution to the cannon of history. I congratulate the University of Limerick History Society and the editors of the 2012-13 issue. Jutta Kruse and Gearóid Ó Faoleán, Ph.D. students in the Department of History, have dedicated extensive time and effort to producing this journal, maintaining high production and scholarship standards and developing an on-line version of the journal.

Bernadette Whelan M.A. Ph.D.
Head,
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University of Limerick

Editorial

We are very pleased to present this year's selection of articles from both Ireland and abroad. These student and early-career contributions reflect the breadth of scholarly engagement with a diversity of historical issues.

Articles range from domestic issues such as the vaccination controversy in the early-twentieth century to often giant steps into the 'next big thing' in terms of entertainment media as well as more light-hearted but equally enlightening issues as 'bleeding' statues in conflict-struck Tipperary and the tribulations of a charitable German. Works on the cold war-era; one specific to the sub-Saharan Somali nation and another more broadly but comprehensively on the containment policy as well as population issues, gender and denominationally-specific, from nineteenth-century Bulgaria and inter-war France complete this edition.

As in past years, many fine essays could not be included because of lack of space in the printed edition. However, this year we have the added facility of online-publication for two contributions. We hope that this facility will be expanded and maybe eventually completely replace the production of costly hardcopies. This brings us to the establishment of the new *History Studies* website www.ul.ie/historystudies. For now, it provides an online presence for the journal and allows for free access to past volumes. In future, other functions may be added. In this context, we would like to thank Mairead Loughran and Kristofer Harte of Information Technology Division of the university without whom we would have been lost in this regard.

Jutta Kruse and Gearóid Ó Faoleán,

Editors

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