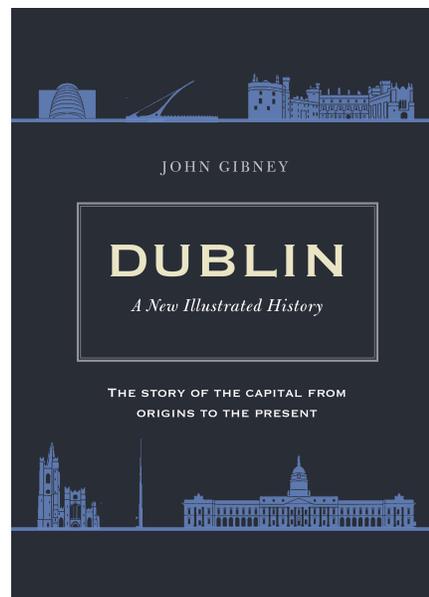


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Dublin

A New Illustrated History

John Gibney



‘A Dubliner is surely just someone who lives, works and makes their life in Dublin, as broadly defined as the old city and its suburban hinterland.’ Dubliner John Gibney has walked the streets of Dublin and guided many people around its historical sites and sights. In his new book, *Dublin – A New Illustrated History* (The Collins Press, price €29.99), Gibney weaves a multitude of tales to explain how the city of Dublin developed, from its origins to the present day.

Gibney, an acclaimed historian and walking-tour guide, said, ‘Dublin has been here for over a thousand years and, for better or worse, is not going anywhere in the foreseeable future. Approaching 21st-century Dublin by boat, the topography of the sight before you – the hill of Howth, the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains – is much the same as that which greeted sailors or raiders preparing to make landfall over a thousand years ago. What has changed dramatically is the impact of human settlement; the city lights at night reveal the scale of that settlement in spectacular fashion.’ He forms a rich tapestry of the capital’s social, political, cultural and architectural past through anecdotes about personalities, goings-on, buildings, literature and song over the centuries.

Unlike other histories, this sweeping portrait starts with the prehistoric settlements from which the city’s two names, Dublin and *Baile Átha Cliath*, are drawn, charting its growth through the Vikings and Normans, the Georgian, Victorian and Revolutionary eras, into the new millennium. Gibney continued, ‘The limelight of Dublin’s early origins tends to be hogged by the Scandinavians known as Vikings who settled in the region from the ninth century onwards, but there were Irish people living in the vicinity of what became Dublin long before the Vikings arrived.’

Each chapter brings a different period to life with lavish artworks, maps, artefacts and photos. The absorbing episodes and characters that fill these pages guarantee that it is no mere local history. Rather, it is an illuminating chronicle of our nation’s nerve centre that will captivate everyone interested in the ebb and flow of Irish life.

Price €29.99 / £26.99 • Hardback • 348 pages • Full colour • October 2017
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Notes on *Dublin – A New Illustrated History* by John Gibney

Dubliner **John Gibney** has been guiding people on historic walking tours of the city and teaching history for nearly two decades. As well as lecturing in history at Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin, he has been a research fellow at the University of Notre Dame and was Education and Outreach Officer at Glasnevin Cemetery Museum. He lives in Dublin and is the author of a number of history books.

Did you know that: the Liffey used to be much wider and wilder? In 770, an army was apparently drowned while trying to cross.

Did you know that: the Irish name, Baile Átha Cliath, refers to one ancient settlement. Dublin, however, refers to another, the monastic settlement known as Duibhlinn, the perimeter of which is often assumed to survive in a circular street pattern near Whitefriar Street, south of Dublin Castle, in the south inner city.

Did you know that: Dublin took its name from another geographical feature, a murky tidal pool marking the junction where the River Poddle met the River Liffey, which was probably located in the vicinity of Dublin Castle.

Did you know that: the Danes emerged as the dominant grouping among the Vikings of Dublin, with the arrival of Olaf the White as king of Dublin marking the advent of a period when the Vikings of Dublin became a significant factor in Irish affairs. The initial role of the Vikings in Irish life was as raiders, but over time, to cut a long and complex story short, the Dublin Vikings, despite not coming from an urbanised culture themselves, morphed into traders and also into mercenaries, renting themselves out to the fragmented world of the Irish lords in their own inter-dynastic squabbles. The extent of the Viking trade network is evidenced by some of the artefacts that have been found in the city: silk from the Silk Road, and coins from as far away as Samarkand and Baghdad.

Image on page 9: The re-emergence of Viking Dublin: excavations at Wood Quay, October 1978. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Dublin City Council Photographic Collection)

Image on page 19: Christ Church Cathedral, overlooking the Wood Quay site. The cathedral lay at the eastern end of a ridge, on the site of the church originally built by Sitric. The origins of the current structure date back to the 1170s, and throughout the Middle Ages it was the main cathedral of the English colony in Ireland. It was built on the site of an earlier cathedral and was originally associated with an Augustinian monastery, but became a cathedral of the Church of Ireland in the sixteenth century, after the Reformation. Christ Church overlooked the medieval core of the city, and while its location has changed beyond all recognition it remains one of the last visible remnants of the medieval city. Its medieval character is more obvious in the interior: the exterior was heavily renovated in the late nineteenth century thanks to the generosity of the distiller Henry Roe. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Dublin City Council Photographic Collection)

Image on page 21: Cook Street in the 1970s, showing the largest remnant of the wall above ground, with a car and passers-by for scale. Behind the wall is the medieval spire of St Audoen's; the church itself was built circa 1200. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Dublin City Council Photographic Collection)

Image on page 26: The tomb of Strongbow in Christ Church, as depicted in a nineteenth-century lantern slide. It had long been an attraction for curious visitors, but the current version is a reconstruction; the original was badly damaged when the roof collapsed in 1562. (Trevor Ferris)

Image on page 28: The 1172 charter granted to Dublin by Henry II. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive)

In 1172 Henry issued Dublin's first charter, granting Dublin to the 'men of Bristol', and according them the same rights. While there were extensive links between Dublin and Bristol even prior to this, from Henry's point of view it was a convenient means of rapidly rewarding loyal subjects in Bristol and opening the door to new, and dependable, settlers in what was, for him and them, a new town.

Did you know that: while women were excluded from political life and office, however, they did enjoy some legal and economic rights, and they could become citizens and own property. They were often appointed as co-executors of their husband's will, which was a concrete indication of status and respect. Both Gaelic and colonial Ireland were patriarchal societies, in which women were very often obliged to focus on the domestic sphere, whether as homemakers or servants. Yet women were not simply confined to hearth and home. They could join at least some of the guilds, though not as full members, and other occupations were open to them: brewing, tavern-keeping, baking, even labouring (though women labourers were poorly paid relative to their male counterparts).

Image on page 30: The two sides of the seal of Dublin, dating from 1230. The seal represented the authority of the city, as confirmed in the various charters. In this case, the obverse depicts a fortification that may foreshadow the image of three castles

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that eventually became the Dublin coat of arms. The archers hint at the necessity for the city to be defended, while the niches above the gate seem to show severed heads. Dublin's maritime heritage is highlighted by the depiction of a merchant vessel on the reverse. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive)

Image on page 40: The base of Isolde's Tower. Its traditional name was apparently taken from the daughter of a legendary king, though it was later known as Newman's Tower after it was leased to a property speculator, Jacob Newman, in 1604. Newman soon began to fill in the Poddle estuary and reclaim much of the surrounding area. In the event of an attack on the city, Newman would have had to return the tower to the authorities. Even as late as the seventeenth century, it was still seen as vital to Dublin's defences, though by the end of the eighteenth century, it seems to have been in ruins. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Dublin City Council Photographic Collection)

Image on page 48: Three of the 'mummies' of St Michan's. The eleventh-century church of St Michan's was, for much of the Middle Ages, the only parish church north of the Liffey, in the emerging suburb of Oxmantown. Given the medieval origins of this church, it is sometimes claimed that these wizened characters are equally old; one was traditionally dubbed the 'Crusader'. The vault in which they are interred was not used before 1685, alas, and probably formed part of the seventeenth-century renovation of the church. Their precise age remains uncertain.

Did you know that: in 1537, following an Act of Parliament the previous year, Dublin's religious houses began to be shut down, beginning with the dissolution of the nunnery of St Mary de Hogges. All its buildings were destroyed. The Reformation proceeded apace as institutions were dissolved in Dublin even though they had intended to lease out and sell their lands beforehand. The dissolution of religious institutions created an unexpected market for land in Dublin and elsewhere. Monastic lands were desirable, and indeed some religious institutions, seeing the way the wind was blowing, sold off lands and possessions to families within the Pale, who often managed to strike a hard bargain in the circumstances. But the rapid demolition of some religious buildings seems to have been done in order for the building material to be sold off on the side by the vice-treasurer, William Brabazon.

Did you know that: in 1541 came the Act for the Kingly Title in which Ireland was formally transformed into a kingdom under Henry VIII and his successors, as opposed to a lordship technically held by the kings of England by grant of the papacy. In this new dispensation, the various factions in Ireland could be brought under one single jurisdiction, as loyal subjects of a Crown to which they would pledge their allegiance.

Did you know that: during the Nine Years' War, the English had to bring soldiers and weapons to Ireland, and they often arrived in Dublin. Because the Liffey was quite shallow and hard to navigate, smaller boats would bring the goods into the city from outlying ports such as Dalkey and Ringsend. This is what was happening on 11 March 1597, as barrels of gunpowder were being unloaded at Wood Quay. These would normally be taken away for safe keeping. But on that day, the dock workers refused to do this because they were unhappy at their low wages and bad working conditions. By the early afternoon of 11 March, there were 140 barrels of gunpowder sitting on the quays. At around 1 p.m. on a dry and windy day, they exploded. The damage was enormous: between twenty and forty houses were destroyed, with major damage in Cook Street, Fishamble Street and Bridge Street. The steeple of St Audoen's was badly damaged; there is a memorial to Stephen Sedgrave, the crane operator who was killed along with his family, in the church. The explosion caused the single greatest loss of life in Dublin's history: 126 were killed, fifty of whom were deemed 'strangers' to the city.

Did you know that: in 1599 one George Burroes was granted a lease on a substantial site near Hawkins Street to make bricks, which were used with increasing frequency in the early seventeenth century (unfortunately, virtually no structures remain from this era, though the impressive Boyle monument in St Patrick's Cathedral, erected by Richard Boyle, Earl of Cork, is a notable exception indoors).

Did you know that: 'Georgian' is a term taken as shorthand for the 'long' eighteenth century; the period from the accession of George I as king of Britain and Ireland in 1714 to the death of King George IV in 1830.

Image on page 97: The Royal Barracks, seen from the south banks of the Liffey. This was, when completed, the largest barracks in Europe and was one of a major network of barracks constructed in eighteenth-century Ireland. Apart from providing for Ireland's security, these barracks helped the British government to sidestep British suspicions of the maintenance of permanent standing armies that might be used to coerce the population in peacetime (as opposed to forces raised specifically in wartime) by keeping such forces out of sight and out of mind in Ireland. (National Library of Ireland)

Image on page 105: Essex Bridge and the original Custom House. The first bridge on this site collapsed during a flood in 1687, killing a hackney driver and a horse. It was rebuilt, and in 1722 a statue of George I by John van Nost the Elder was erected on a conjoining pedestal; it can be seen on the right of the image. Alas, the pedestal on which the statue rested altered the flow of the Liffey, causing the river to erode the foundations of the bridge. In the 1750s the statue was removed and the bridge was rebuilt under the direction of George Semple. Until the construction of Carlisle (now O'Connell) Bridge in 1795, Essex Bridge was the

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last bridge on the Liffey; ferries took people across the river, which was open to traffic from this point on. (National Library of Ireland)

Image on page 109: A nineteenth-century depiction of the music hall on Fishamble Street, the venue for the most famous cultural event of Georgian Dublin, when the German composer George Friedrich Handel's ten-month stay in Dublin reached its zenith with the premiere of his *Messiah* on 13 April 1742; bottom: an advertisement for the Irish premiere of Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* (written to celebrate the defeat of Scottish Jacobites at the Battle of Culloden) in the same venue in 1748; like many such performances (including that of the *Messiah*) it was harnessed to a charitable purpose. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive)

Image on page 142: 'Mr Crosbie ascending in his air balloon on Wednesday the 19th of January 1785.' As related by J.T. Gilbert, Crosbie ascended from Leinster Lawn in a balloon at 2.30 p.m., and drifted out over the Irish Sea. The balloon apparently crash-landed, but fortuitously did not sink, and the balloon acted as a de facto sail. Having been inclined to eat 'a morsel of fowl', Crosbie was 'rescued' and the balloon was towed back to Kingstown, though not before briefly ascending again with a terrified sailor who was trying to secure it. The scion of minor gentry from Wicklow, Crosbie had apparently been a member of a gang comprising Trinity College students known as the 'Pinkindies', who in 1779 had ransacked Margaret Leeson's brothel on Drogheda Street; Leeson suffered a miscarriage after being assaulted in the incident and sought to have Crosbie prosecuted for murder. She was persuaded to drop the charge but successfully had him imprisoned and fined for the damage to her premises. (National Library of Ireland)

Image on page 153: Dublin and its surrounding counties, from Daniel Augustus Beaufort, *Memoir of a Map of Ireland* (London, 1792). These were to be the epicentre of the national rising planned by the United Irishmen for 1798; the seizure of mail coaches from Dublin and their subsequent non-arrival at their destinations was to be the signal for the rebellion to begin. In the end, the rising in most of the surrounding counties was swiftly and brutally dealt with by the authorities. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Dublin and Irish Collections)

Image on page 161: The execution of Robert Emmet outside St Catherine's Church on Thomas Street. While a memorial marks the spot, Emmett's final resting place is famously unknown. (Library of Congress)

Image on page 185: Prospect (Glasnevin) Cemetery around the turn of the twentieth century. The original cemetery consisted of the small section known as Curran Square, on the right of the map. Having opened in 1832 it grew dramatically in the Victorian era, being landscaped as a so-called 'garden' cemetery. By the second half of the century it had become increasingly associated with the interment of a range of prominent figures, most notably Danisel O'Connell, who had founded the original committee that established the cemetery and who was re-interred in 1869 beneath an enormous replica of an early Christian round tower. (Glasnevin Trust)

Image on page 189: The new premises of the Kildare Street Club as seen from the playing fields of Trinity College, from the *Illustrated London News*, 1861. Originally established in the 1780s as a gentlemen's club, its expanding membership in the nineteenth century saw the construction of the new clubhouse in the 1850s, in a prominent location and adorned with a range of elaborate sculptures, most famously a whimsical depiction of monkeys playing billiards. In the second half of the century it was heavily associated with the landed gentry, being strongly Protestant and unionist in composition. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive)

Image on page 205: Members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police charge Trinity College students on College Green, 12 March 1858. The occasion was the arrival into Dublin of a new lord lieutenant, the Earl of Eglinton. The charge was apparently precipitated by students throwing, among various missiles, fireworks at the horses and oranges at the constables themselves. (National Library of Ireland)

Image on page 206: The Phoenix Park murders, as reported by the *Illustrated London News*. On 6 May 1882 'The Invincibles', a splinter group of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB), assassinated the two most senior British officials in Ireland: Chief Secretary Frederick Cavendish and Under-Secretary Thomas Burke. The two men were attacked as they walked in the Phoenix Park near the vice-regal residence; their assailants hacked them to death with surgical knives and escaped in cabs (one of which was driven by one James Carey, nicknamed 'Skin the Goat'). The killings caused uproar against the backdrop of the Land War and Charles Stewart Parnell's campaign for Irish Home Rule. A number of those involved were executed (Carey was imprisoned), and a tradition survived in Dublin folklore that there was a spot on Chesterfield Avenue on which grass would not grow; this was apparently where the Invincibles had wiped the blood off their knives on the grass. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive)

Image on page 222: A view of the vast temporary structure erected to house the Great Exhibition of 1853. Organised by the industrialist and railway magnate William Dargan, and held on the grounds of Leinster House, it was consciously modelled on London's Great Exhibition of 1851 as a showcase for Irish manufacturing in its broadest sense. It was visited by enormous

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crowds, not to mention Queen Victoria and her husband, Prince Albert. Its success ultimately prompted the foundation of the National Gallery, on a site adjacent to where the exhibition pavilion had stood. (Library of Congress)

Image on page 253: Richmond Barracks, near Inchicore, in the early twentieth century. Dublin possessed a significant number of military installations, and service in the British armed forces offered regular employment and was thus extremely common. Late Victorian and Edwardian Dublin was, in many ways, a garrison town. (National Library of Ireland)

Image on page 254: Soldiers on Abbey Street at the 'Soldiers' rendezvous', set up at the Methodist church in Abbey Street to provide non-alcoholic refreshments and facilities for troops. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archives, Postcards and Views Collection)

Image on page 272: The destruction of the Four Courts following the detonation in the Public Record Office, June 1922. A vast and irreplaceable trove of documentation dating back to the Middle Ages was also destroyed; fragments of paper and parchment were carried aloft to waft down across Dublin in the hours that followed. (National Library of Ireland)

Image on page 277: A street trader on George's Street, early twentieth century. (Library of Congress)

Image on page 294: Gentlemen calling to the bar possibly in Mulligan's in Poolbeg Street in the 1950s. Note the conspicuous absence of women. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Fáilte Ireland Tourism Photographic Collection)

Image on page 297: 'Bring us back a parrot': according to urban myth, this was the line shouted by young wags at the Guinness barges, such as this one, that were used to transport kegs of beer from the Guinness brewery to the docks until 1961; note the retractable funnel. Guinness also operated their own fleet of freighters. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Fáilte Ireland Tourism Photographic Collection)

Image on page 303: A day in the sun: Dubliners enjoy good weather on a bank holiday weekend in Dun Laoghaire, 1953. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Fáilte Ireland Tourism Photographic Collection)

Image on page 311: The Irish House, built in 1870 on the corner of Winetavern Street and Wood Quay; it was famous for its elaborate (or garish) revivalist exterior. It was demolished to make way for the Dublin City Council offices at Wood Quay, but some of the exterior statues are retained by the Dublin Civic Trust. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Fáilte Ireland Tourism Photographic Collection)

Image on page 314: The Dublin Bookshop on Bachelor's Walk in the early 1960s. The Liffey quays were a favoured location for book stalls and book shops, though most were gone by the 1990s. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Fáilte Ireland Tourism Photographic Collection)

Image on page 317: Ballymun was built in the 1960s on the northern fringes of the city, in order to rehouse tenement dwellers from the inner city in more modern housing with better facilities. By the 1980s it had acquired a reputation for social problems such as unemployment and drug abuse. The seven towers, named after the signatories of the 1916 proclamation, were demolished in the twenty-first century, as the area was redeveloped. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive)

Image on page 329: A playful elephant in Dublin Zoo in the 1970s. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive Fáilte Ireland Tourism Photographic Collection)

Did you know that: in 1970 the parking meter made its debut on the streets of Dublin.

Image on page 348: The Ha'penny Bridge, 1966. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Fáilte Ireland Tourism Photographic Collection)

Image on page 350: Crowds throng O'Connell St to welcome the Irish international soccer team home after Euro '88; their first appearance at an international tournament. (Courtesy of Dublin City Library and Archive, Dublin City Council Photographic Collection)