



Biographical Portraits of the Past Presidents of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland

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FOREWORD

This compilation of 56 presidential biographies supplements other previous works that have charted the influence and heritage of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland.¹ Under the stewardship of its Presidents, this learned society has continued to act as a disseminator and repository of knowledge on Ireland's social and economic concerns.

We wish to acknowledge the cooperation and advice of all those who either supplied directly or guided us towards information and material which otherwise would have remained elusive. We remain open to update any further information that can be supplied to furnish more detail, especially as some Presidents led more prominently chronicled careers than others.

We also wish to acknowledge the assistance of Arielle Balicki and Katie Bloodgood of Boston University in helping to trace original source materials.

We invite holders of any relevant copyright claim to contact the Society. We apologise for any errors or omissions and would be grateful to be notified of any amendments or corrections that should be incorporated in updated versions of this work.

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[Paul Sweeney](#)
[Bill Keating](#)

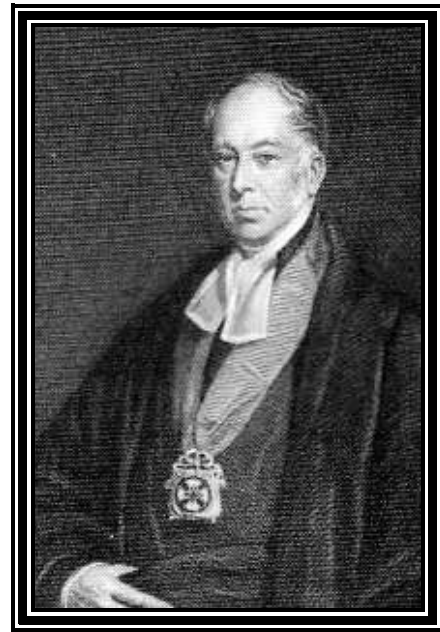
¹ S. Shannon Millin, *The Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland: Historical Memoirs with Portraits* (Dublin: E. Ponsonby, 1920); R. D. Collison Black, *The Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland Centenary Volume, 1847-1947* (Dublin: Eason, 1947); Kieran A. Kennedy (ed.), *From Famine to Feast: Economic and Social Change in Ireland, 1847-1997*, (Dublin: Institute of Public Administration, 1997); Mary E. Daly, *The Spirit of Earnest Inquiry* (Dublin: Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, 1997); K.J. Rankin, 'The Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland', in *The Oxford History of the Irish Book, Volume IV: The Irish Book in English, 1800-1891*, James Murphy (ed.) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011) pp.563-574.

Richard Whately

1st President of the Society (1847-1863)

Born: 1st February 1787 (London)

Died: 8th October 1863 (Dublin)



Richard Whately was the founding President of the then Dublin Statistical Society in 1847. He served as the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin from 1831 until his death in 1863. He had a scholarly as well as clerical career having become an established authority in the emerging field of political economy. He had been appointed Drummond professor of political economy at Oxford in 1829 but in a surprise move in 1831 became Archbishop of Dublin. Soon after arriving in Ireland he developed a strong interest in Irish education by overseeing the emergence of the national school system and publishing key educational texts which included further editions of his *Easy Lessons on Money Matters: For the Use of Young People*. He notably had a good working relationship with his Catholic counterpart, Archbishop Daniel Murray.

Whately also established a chair in political economy at Trinity College Dublin. Identified as a liberal individual, he was actively involved in government commissioned reports on poverty and land holding. The intensifying tragedy of the Great Famine motivated his founding of the Dublin Statistical Society, based on the premise that statistical analysis could be utilised to better inform policy solutions to the substantial social and economic problems that Ireland was then experiencing.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Whately, Richard. 'Report of the Council'. - Dublin: Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society, Vol. I Session 1, 1847/1848, pp1-11](#)

[Whately, Richard. 'Address of His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin'. - Dublin: Journal of the Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, 1851, pp1-6](#)

[Hancock, W. Neilson. 'Obituary notice of the late Most Rev. Richard Whately, D.D. Lord Archbishop of Dublin, President of the Society'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV Part XXVI, 1863/1864, pp9-13](#)

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Mountifort Longfield

2nd President of the Society (1863-1867)

Born: 8th August 1802 (Bandon)

**Died: 21st November 1884
(Dublin)**

Mountifort Longfield was a judge and economist, and he served as the first Whatley professor of political economy at Trinity College Dublin. Longfield was educated at Trinity, first studying natural science before specialising in law. On examination, he was awarded the first Whately chair in political economy in 1832 but in 1834 became regius professor of feudal and English law which he remained throughout his life.

Apart from academia, he practised as a property lawyer (becoming a QC in 1842) and his expertise was recognised as a commissioner on Incumbered Estates which evolved into his appointment as a judge of the Irish landed estates court which he remained until his retirement in 1867. He was a founding member of the Dublin Statistical Society and his contributions to the Society related to legislative proposals on the issue of land debentures, comments on poor relief, and observations on taxation. These supplemented other publications of lectures he had given on the poor law, political economy, commerce and absenteeism.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Longfield, Mountifort, 'Address delivered at the opening of the Ninth Session of the Society'. - Dublin: Dublin Statistical Society, Vol.1, Part IV, 1856, pp153-164](#)

[Appendix to the foregoing address \[by the President, Hon. Judge Longfield, at the opening of the eighteenth session\]. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV, Part XXIX, 1865, pp146-154](#)

[Longfield, Mountifort. 'The limits of state interference with the distribution of wealth, in applying taxation to the assistance of the public'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLII, 1871/1872, pp105-114](#)

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Thomas O'Hagan (Baron O'Hagan of Tullahogue)

**3rd President
of the Society
(1867-1870)**

Born: 29th May 1812 (Belfast)

Died: 1st February 1885 (London)



Thomas O'Hagan was a parliamentarian and judge, notable for his appointment as the first Catholic to be Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1868 when William Ewart Gladstone first became Prime Minister. On completion of his legal studies in London, O'Hagan was called to the Irish bar in 1836 and established a reputation as a criminal defence lawyer while also being a journalist (he edited the *Newry Examiner*).

Although associated with Daniel O'Connell, his legal career saw him co-opted into the political establishment. He briefly sat as Liberal MP for Tralee (1863-1865) before being appointed as a judge to the court of common pleas, and then the Irish Lord Chancellorship in 1868. Resigning in 1874, he was reappointed again in 1880 but had to stand down on account of failing health. He was a co-founding member of the Society, and his influence was very much directed towards aspects of law reform, especially the possible assimilation of English and Irish law regarding land issues. His address as President of the Social Science Congress published in the year of his death (1885) was a comprehensive commentary on social and legal concerns in Ireland at the time.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[O'Hagan, Thomas. 'Address by the Vice-President at the opening of the Nineteenth Session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV Part XXXI, 1865/1866, pp229-247](#)

[O'Hagan, Thomas. 'Address at the opening meeting of the twenty-fourth session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. V Part XXXIX, 1870/1871, pp219-237](#)

[O'Hagan, Thomas. 'Lord O'Hagan's address, as president of Social Science Congress, Dublin, 3rd October 1881'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXIII, 1884/1885, Appendix, pp1-30](#)

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James Anthony Lawson

**4th President
of the Society
(1870-1872)**

**Born: 10th February 1817
(Waterford)**

**Died: 10th August 1887
(Co. Dublin)**



James Anthony Lawson was a noted academic, lawyer, judge, and politician. Educated in Trinity College Dublin, he adopted a legal career but was appointed as the Whately professor of political economy (1841-1846). He served in legal offices such as solicitor general and attorney general for Ireland (succeeding Thomas O'Hagan in both posts) before being elected as Liberal MP for Portarlington (1865-1868). On electoral defeat, he was appointed a judge who was to preside at several notable political trials. His known antipathy to the Land League and the Fenian movement over the years led to him being targeted for a failed assassination attempt in 1882.

On the founding of the Society in 1847, Lawson served as a Secretary (until 1851) during which time he was a regular contributor on issues such as taxation, demography, agriculture, commerce, and law. During his academic tenure he established himself as an authority on economic and legal matters with publications that addressed political economy and historical chancery cases.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Lawson, James A. 'On the policy of direct or indirect taxation'. - Dublin: Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society, Vol. I Session 2, 1848/1849, pp1-8](#)

[Lawson, James A. 'On the connexion between statistics and political economy'. - Dublin: Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society, Vol. I Session 1, 1847/1848, pp3-9](#)

[Lawson, James A. 'Address at the opening of the twenty-fifth session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLI, 1871, pp47-58](#)

[Lawson, James A. 'On the practicability of codifying English law, with a specimen code of the law of evidence'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLI, 1871/1872, pp74-89](#)

[Lawson, James A. 'President's address at the opening of the twenty-sixth session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLIII, 1872/1873, pp169-177](#)

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**William Monsell
(Baron Emly
of Tervoe)**

**5th President
of the Society
(1872-1875)**

**Born: 21st September
1812 (Dublin)**

**Died: 20th April 1894 (Co.
Limerick)**



William Monsell was an active politician and prominent landholder, with his main estate in Tervoe, Co Limerick. Educated at Winchester College and then Oriel College, Oxford, Monsell involved himself in politics at an early stage but unsuccessfully contested Limerick City in 1837. However, from 1847-1874 he served as the Liberal MP for Limerick County. A popular landlord, Monsell was a proponent of agricultural and land reform and under the influence of Cardinal John Henry Newman had converted to Catholicism. He served in a range of junior ministerial offices such as President of the Board of Health, Paymaster-General, and Postmaster-General but never reached cabinet rank.

On his retirement from the House of Commons, Monsell was created Baron Emly. He came to politically disagree with Gladstone's Home Rule initiatives and aligned himself with Liberal Unionism, losing much of his previous popularity in the process. He remained a social and educational reformer having founded schools in Rathfarnham and Limerick, and in his contributions to the Society commented on a range of topics including land reform, civil service administration, and taxation. His involvement in the Society undoubtedly informed his voluminous contribution to parliamentary debate and governmental policy.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Monsell, William. 'Address at the opening of the Twenty-second Session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. V, Part XXXVI, 1868/1869, pp53-69](#)

[Monsell, William. 'Address at the opening of the Twenty-eighth Session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLVI, 1873/1874, pp347-365](#)

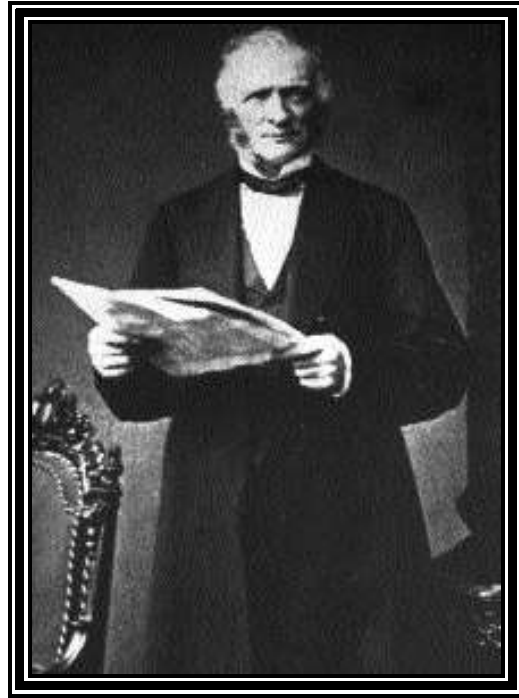
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Jonathan Pim

6th President of the Society (1875-1877)

Born: 10th June 1806 (Dublin)

Died: 6th July 1885 (Co. Dublin)



Jonathan Pim, from a well-known business Quaker family, was a philanthropist and Liberal politician, serving as MP for Dublin City from 1865-1874. Pim had an active interest in social concerns from an early stage in endorsing a Quaker proposal to replace landlordism with peasant proprietorship. During the ravages of the Great Famine, Pim headed a relief committee that raised funds from Quakers abroad, notably making loans for the purpose of promoting local industries and modernising agricultural practices. He furnished detailed statistical reports aimed at effecting reform and became critical of government relief efforts.

On election to parliament, he dedicated himself to the land question and was actively involved in the passage of the landmark 1870 Land Act. Although reformist on issues such as the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, he opposed Home Rule principles, to which his eventual 1874 defeat was attributed. Among his society contributions, Pim focussed on land ownership and special needs education.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Pim, Jonathan. 'On partnerships of limited liability'. - Dublin: Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society, Vol III Session 5, 1851/1852, pp.1-16](#)

[Pim, Jonathan. 'On the connection between the condition of tenant farmers and the laws respecting the ownership and transfer of land in Ireland'. - Dublin: Dublin Statistical Society, No. 70, 1853, pp1-10](#)

[Pim, Jonathan. Address delivered at the opening of the Eighth Session of the Society'. - Dublin: Dublin Statistical Society, Vol.1, Part 1, 1855, pp6-27](#)

[Pim, Jonathan. 'On the necessity of a state provision for the education of the deaf and dumb, the blind, and the imbecile'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV Part XXVI, 1863/1864, pp26-41](#)

[Pim, Jonathan. 'Address at the opening of the thirtieth session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VII, Part XL, 1875/1876, pp1-26](#)

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John Lentaigne

7th President of the Society (1877-1878)

Born: 21th June 1803 (Dublin)

**Died: 12th November 1886
(Co. Dublin)**

John Lentaigne was educated at Clongowes Wood and Trinity College Dublin, where he studied medicine and then became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. A brief flirtation in politics was ended by electoral defeat in 1852 for a Co. Dublin seat. However, Lentaigne managed to cultivate a wide range of interests that included archaeology, zoology, and education (serving as a Commissioner). His most public roles concerned the inspection of prisons and industrial schools but his public service also extended to being magistrate for Co. Monaghan as well as serving as its High Sheriff. He was knighted in 1880, having earlier received a papal knighthood from Pius IX. Although his recorded contributions are limited as was his tenure as Society President, his expertise on penal reform was communicated to the Society.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Lentaigne, John, Sir. 'Address at meeting for inauguration of the Thirty-first Session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VII, Part LII, 1877/1878, Appendix pp1-28](#)

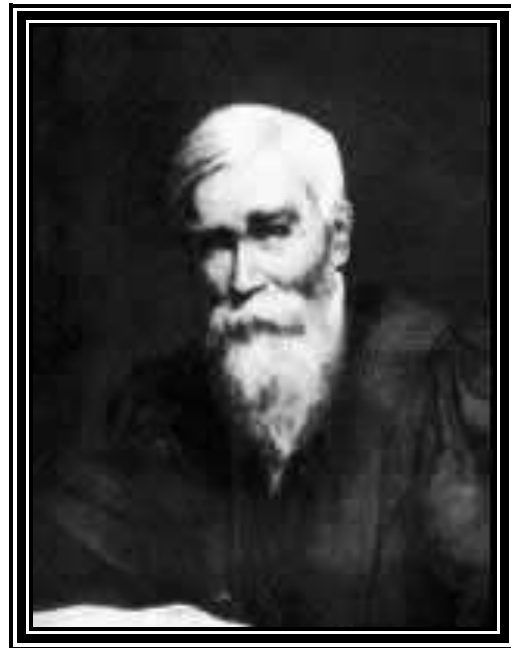
[Lentaigne, John, Sir. 'The treatment and punishment of young offenders'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXIII, 1884/1885, Appendix II, pp31-40](#)

John Kells Ingram

**8th President
of the Society
(1878-1880)**

**Born: 7th July 1823
(Co. Donegal)**

Died: 1st May 1907 (Dublin)



John Kells Ingram was a noted scholar with interests ranging from classics, metaphysics, mathematics, and economics. A precocious talent, Ingram matriculated at Trinity College Dublin in 1837 and came to excel in geometry as well as composing verse. Holding professorships in oratory and then Greek, he founded the Trinity journal *Hermathena* before taking office as the university librarian.

Although involved with the Society since its inception, Ingram did not present a paper until 1864 that amounted to a general commentary on Ireland's social and economic situation. However, he did author papers on poor relief and child poverty and his landmark discussion of the field of political economy (originally addressed to the British Association for the Advancement of Science) was published in full in the Society's Journal and was widely viewed as a milestone in further establishing the discipline. His best known works include *The History of Political Economy* (1888) which was translated into 11 languages and *Practical Morals* (1904). The London *Times* observed in an obituary that 'those who worked with Ingram in Trinity College were persuaded that he was the best educated man in Europe.'

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Ingram, John Kells. 'Considerations on the state of Ireland, an address delivered at the opening of the seventeenth session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV Part XXVI, 1863/1864, pp13-26](#)

[Ingram, John Kells. 'Address at the opening of the twenty-ninth session: The organization of charity, and the education of the children of the state'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLVIII, 1874/1875, pp449-473](#)

[Ingram, John Kells. 'The present position and prospects of political economy: being the introductory address delivered in the Section of Economic Science and Statistics of the British Association for the Advancement of Science'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VII, Part LIV, 1878/1879, Appendix, pp1-29](#)

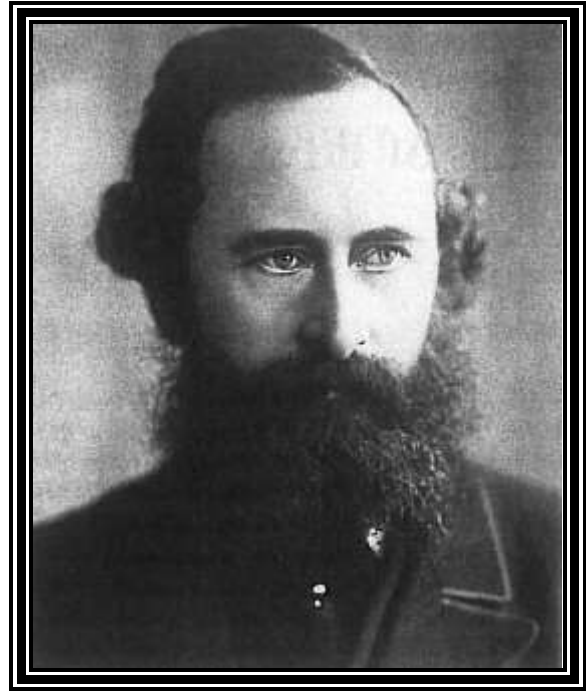
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Edward Dillon Mapother

**9th President
of the Society
(1880-1881)**

Born: 14th October 1835 (Dublin)

Died: 3rd March 1908 (London)



Edward Dillon Mapother was renowned as a prominent surgeon, dermatologist, author, and professor as well as being President of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and appointed the first Medical Officer of health for Dublin in 1864. In this latter office, which accompanied the introduction of civil registration, he became an authority on public health and he lobbied strongly for legislation on sanitation. From 1859-1888 he served as consultant surgeon to St Vincent's Hospital. He emphasised the link between poverty and mortality but in 1888 he moved to London to work as a dermatologist.

Public health was his main topic of interest at the Society, where he particularly appraised the Society on urban sanitation and the contemporaneous legal position but among the subthemes he is credited with exploring included the pressing issues of overcrowding, ventilation, sewerage, and preventable diseases. To one paper, he appended a legally forensic inventory of suggestions to help draft an act to promote public health in Ireland, the influence of which could be discerned in the 1866 Sanitary Act that aligned Irish regulations with British law. Another Mapother paper 'The Dublin Hospitals: their Grants and Governing Bodies' had stirred controversy when the author alleged that the election of medical officers at the Meath Hospital had been sullied by nepotism and sectarian prejudice.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Mapother, E. D. 'The sanitary state of Dublin'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV Part XXVII, 1864, pp62-76](#)

[Mapother, E. D.. 'The differences between the statutes bearing on public health for England and Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV, Part XXX, 1865, pp203-211](#)

[Mapother, E. D. 'The unhealthiness of Irish towns, and the want of sanitary legislation'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV Part XXXI, 1865/1866, pp250-275](#)

[Mapother, E. D. 'The Dublin hospitals - their grants and governing bodies'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. V Part XXXVII, 1869/1870, pp130-142](#)

[Mapother, E. D. 'Address at the opening of the thirty-fourth session of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LVII, 1880/1881, pp85-106](#)

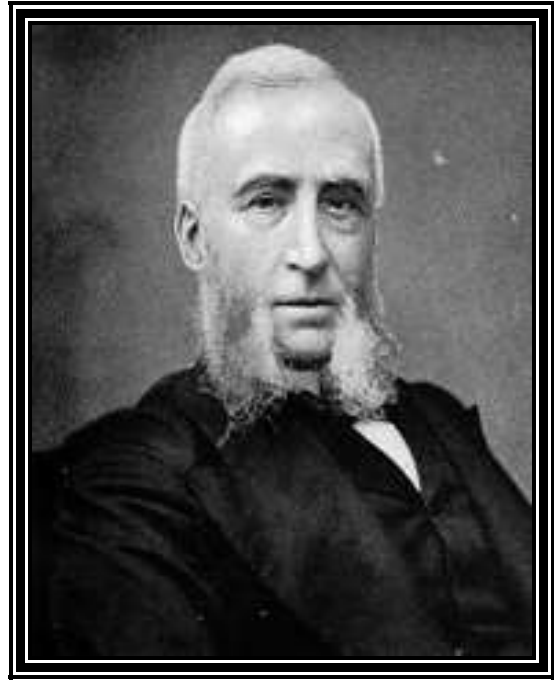
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William Neilson Hancock

**10th President
of the Society
(1881-1882)**

**Born: 22nd April 1820
(Co. Antrim)**

**Died: 10th July 1888
(Dumbartonshire)**



William Neilson Hancock only served for a short time as President of the Society, but in serving as Secretary from 1847-1881, he can be justifiably acclaimed to be the talisman in overseeing the Society's formative years. Studying at Trinity College Dublin, Hancock excelled in mathematics and was later awarded degrees in law. His appointment in 1846 as the new Whately professor of political economy channelled new energy in applying political economy to investigating socio-economic problems and disseminating research publicly. This was timely as the cataclysmic trauma of the Great Famine, then acutely manifesting itself, threw the social and economic conditions in Ireland into sharp, unprecedented relief, and generated an imperative to suggest new thinking in addressing urgent concerns.

Virtually all of Hancock's ensuing output was oriented towards informing and influencing policy. It would be rare exception for a year to pass without him presenting at least one paper yet between 1849-1853 Hancock had also held academic posts in Queen's University Belfast as well as maintaining a legal practice in Dublin. One overarching theme from his Society output was that Ireland's economic difficulties could be addressed by tackling the legal obstacles to the transfer of land and capital than attributing blame to the perceived weaknesses of the population. Hancock's command of Irish economic issues was communicated directly to Gladstone as well as government ministers and officials and in turn featured in enacted land legislation.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Hancock, W. Neilson. 'Some notes on the present position of the Irish land registry question'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VII, Part LII, 1877/1878, pp170-177](#)

[Hancock, W. Neilson. 'On strikes with respect to hours of labour'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV, Part XXX, 1865, pp216-218](#)

[Hancock, W. Neilson. 'On the general principles of taxation, as illustrating the advantages of a perfect income tax'. - Dublin: Dublin Statistical Society, Vol. 1, Part IV, 1856, pp285-301](#)

[Hancock, W. Neilson. 'On the utility of making the ordnance survey the basis of a general register of deeds and judgments in Ireland'. - Dublin: Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society, Vol. II, 1849-1851, pp1-12](#)

[Hancock, W. Neilson. 'On the condition of the Irish labourer'. - Dublin: Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society, Vol. I Session 1, 1847/1848, pp3-12](#)

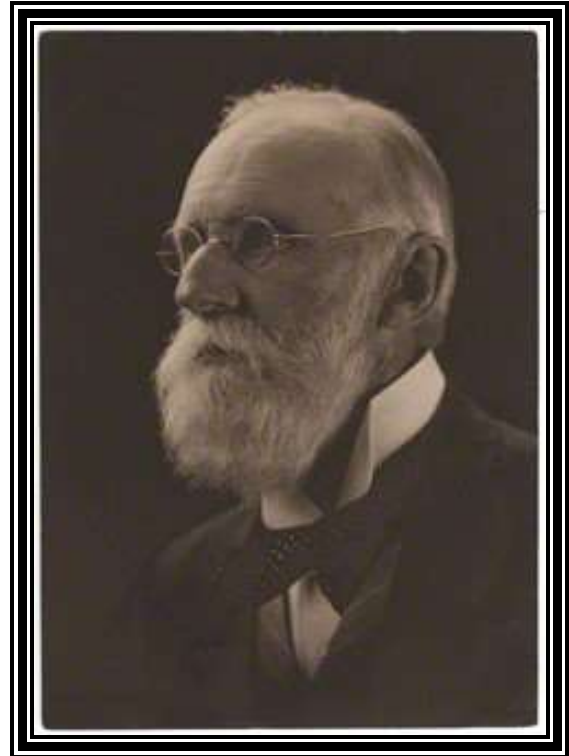
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**Thomas Spring Rice
(2nd Baron Monteagle
of Brandon)**

**11th President
of the Society
(1882-1884)**

Born: 31st May 1849 (London)

**Died: 24th December 1926
(Limerick)**



Thomas Spring Rice was the grandson of a Whig Cabinet minister who had served as President of the Royal Statistical Society in London between 1845-1847. Although educated in Harrow and Trinity College Cambridge, Rice returned to Limerick to administer the family estate having succeeded as 2nd Baron Monteagle. His interests included industrial and agricultural improvement and he is credited as a key influence in establishing the Irish co-operative movement. Politically a Liberal Unionist, he became involved with the group of southern gentry who came to advocate Dominion status for Ireland within the British Empire. In 1885, he had authored a pamphlet entitled *Liberal Policy in Ireland*. His family was also involved in discussions with Florence Nightingale about extending nursing services into workhouses.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Monteagle, Lord. 'Address at the close of the Thirty-sixth Session of the Society'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXI, 1882/1883, pp387-401](#)

James McDonnell

12th President of the Society (1884-1888)

Born: 19th December 1826

**Died: 25th November 1904
(Drogheda)**

James McDonnell, son of a surgeon Dr John McDonnell, was educated at TCD. He was admitted as a student to King's Inn in 1846, admitted to English Inns in 1848 and admitted to degree of barrister at King's Inn in 1850. He was elected to the Society in 1851 and lived in Gardiners Row, Dublin. He presented papers to the Society on tenant right, marriage, and registration. His presidential addresses drew on his legal expertise and also included eulogies to his predecessors, Mountifort Longfield, who had previously served as a mentor during his legal training, and John Lentaigne.

[McDonnell, James. 'The Report of the Registration of Titles Commission, 1857'. - Dublin: Dublin Statistical Society, Vol.II, Part XII, 1858, pp191-203](#)

[McDonnell, James. 'Marriage settlements; their social and economic effects'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. V, Part XXXV, 1868/1869, pp31-40](#)

[McDonnell, James. 'On the report of the Select Committee appointed "to enquire and report whether any and what steps ought to be taken to simplify the title to land, and to facilitate the transfer thereof, and to prevent frauds on purchasers and mortgagees of land", and on the first report of Her Majesty's Commissioners appointed "to enquire into the law relating to the registration of deeds and assurances in Ireland".' - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VII, Part LVI, 1879/1880, pp8-20](#)

[McDonnell, James. 'Address at the opening of the Thirty-eighth Session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXIII, 1884/1885, pp563-578](#)

[McDonnell, James. 'Address at the opening of the fortieth session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX, Part LXV, 1886/1887, pp107-119](#)

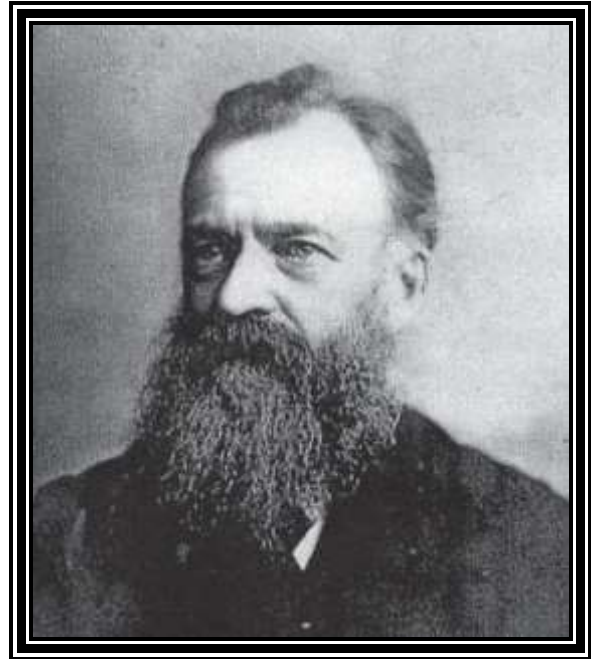
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Thomas Wrigley Grimshaw

13th President of the Society (1888-1890)

**Born: 16th November 1839
(Co. Antrim)**

**Died: 23rd January 1900
(Co Dublin)**



Thomas Wrigley Grimshaw was a physician and surgeon. He entered Trinity College Dublin in 1858 and graduated in Arts in 1860 before proceeding to degrees in medicine while working at Dr Steevens' Hospital and Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital in Dublin. He also became a physician to the Coombe Women's Hospital. At Sir Patrick Dun's he held in succession the Lectureships on Botany, Materia Medica, and Medicine in the school formerly attached to that hospital. He then served as Registrar General for Ireland from 1879 to 1900.

He was a member of the Irish Prisons Dietary Commission, 1880, and also a member of the Royal Barracks Dublin Sanitation Committee, 1887. The frequent epidemics in Dublin of enteric fever engaged his attention, and he delivered a series of lectures on the best preventing means and proposing sanitary improvements. He published numerous papers and pamphlets on fevers, zymotic diseases, and various other medical and sanitary subjects, official reports on births, marriages and deaths, agricultural emigration, banking, criminal and judicial statistics, and on the census.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Grimshaw, Thomas Wrigley. 'Notes on the statistics of waste lands in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXII, 1883/1884, pp522-525](#)

[Wrigley Grimshaw, Thomas. 'Child mortality in Dublin'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Appendix, 1889, pp1-19](#)

[Grimshaw, Thomas Wrigley. 'A statistical survey of Ireland, from 1840 to 1888'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXVIII, 1888/1889, pp321-361](#)

[Grimshaw, Thomas Wrigley. 'President's address'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXX, 1889/1890, pp439-448](#)

[Grimshaw, Thomas Wrigley. 'Irish progress during the past ten years, 1881-1890'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXXI, 1890/1891, pp571-601](#)

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John O'Hagan

14th President of the Society (1890-1891)

Born: 19th March 1822 (Newry)

**Died: 12th November 1890
(Co. Dublin)**



John O'Hagan was an Irish lawyer and writer. He was educated in the day-school of the Jesuit Fathers, Dublin, and in Trinity College, graduating in 1842. In 1842, he was called to the Bar and joined the Munster Circuit. In 1861 he was appointed a Commissioner of National Education, and in 1865 he became QC after Gladstone had passed his Irish Land Act, he chose O'Hagan as the first judicial head of the Irish Land Commission, making him for this purpose a judge of the High Court.

He had been political active as a Young Irelander although in London during the 1848 rising. After the Young Irelanders' demise, he concentrated on his legal career. He had been a founding member of the Society and appointed chair of political economy at the Catholic University of Ireland in 1854 while throughout his life he published more literary works.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[O'Hagan, John and Jackson, Arthur S. 'An inquiry into taxes on law proceedings in Ireland'. - Dublin: Proceedings of the Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, 1852, pp.1-26](#)

[O'Hagan, John & Jackson, Arthur S. 'An inquiry into taxes on law proceedings in Ireland'. - Dublin: Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, No. 7, 1852, pp1-22 with 5 page appendix](#)

[O'Hagan, John. 'On the exclusion of the evidence of accused persons'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLVIII, 1874/1875, pp475-484](#)

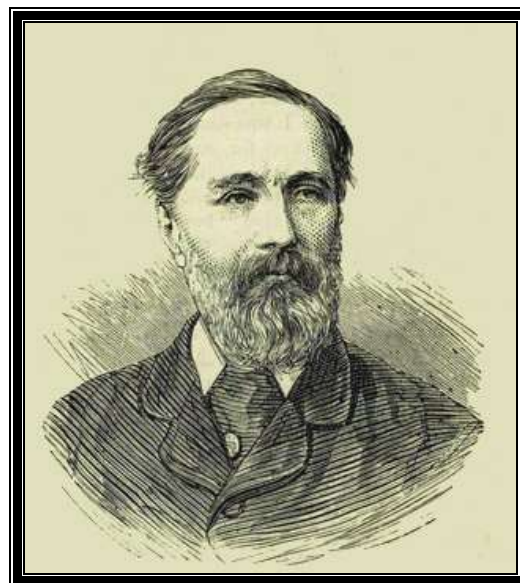
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William Findlater

**15th President
of the Society
(1891-1894)**

Born: 1st January 1824

**Died: 16th April 1906
(Co. Dublin)**



William Findlater was a solicitor and MP for Monaghan (1880-1885). Pursuing a career in the law, he established his own legal practice and on two occasions became president of the Incorporated Law Society. His name is associated with prized scholarships for trainee solicitors. He had active business and scholarly interests in the Dublin Chamber of Commerce and the Royal Dublin Society. He was elected as a Liberal MP and took a supportive role in the passage of the 1881 Land Act and in promoting tenant rights. He chose to stand for another seat in 1885 but was defeated. He had assumed the Society Presidency on the death of John O'Hagan. His presidential address covered what he saw was the essence and utility of statistics.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Findlater, William. 'President's address'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXXII, 1891/1892, pp636-648](#)

William Huston Dodd

16th President of the Society (1894-1896)

Born: 1844 (Co. Down)

Died: 17th March 1930 (Dublin)

William Dodd was born in Rathfriland, County Down, and was educated at the Royal Academical Institution and Queen's College, Belfast. In 1873, he was called to the Bar, served as a crown prosecutor and in 1894 he became President of the Society. He had been elected as a Liberal MP for North Tyrone in 1906 but shortly after was appointed a High Court judge, serving from 1907 to 1924. His specialisation was legal reform.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Dodd, William H. 'Prize essay on the differences in the organization of local courts in Ireland, Scotland, and England, for the discharge of the duties of judges and officers, suggesting such changes as would be expedient in case of an assimilation of jurisdiction in the local courts of the three kingdoms'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VII, Part LII, 1877/1878, pp189-201](#)

[Dodd, William H. 'On the law relating to the realization of judgments and decrees, with special reference to judgments and decrees against tenant-farmers'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VII, Part LV, 1878/1879, pp391-397](#)

[Dodd, William H. 'Some grievances of jurors'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LVIII, 1880/1881, pp223-227](#)

[Dodd, William H. 'Address at the opening of the Forty-eighth Session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X Part. LXXV, 1894/1895, pp47-63](#)

[Dodd, William H. 'Introductory address'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X Part LXXVI, 1895/1896, pp125-128](#)

Joseph Todhunter Pim

**17th President
of the Society
(1896-1900)**

Born: 1842/1843

Died: 2nd July 1925 (Co. Dublin)



Joseph Todhunter Pim was part of the Dublin Quaker family with mercantile interests in the city. A supporter of social and philanthropic movements, he was especially associated with overseeing the Dublin Hospital Sunday Fund. Pim presented papers on a range of topics ranging from transport, local government and free trade. He unsuccessfully contested South Dublin in 1886 as a Liberal Unionist. He was successive a director, deputy governor, and then governor of the Bank of Ireland.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Pim, Joseph, T. 'The condition of our railways considered with reference to their purchase by the state'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IV Part XXXIII, 1866/1867, pp370-393](#)

[Pim, Joseph T. 'Report of the Council at the opening of the twenty-fifth session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLI, 1871, pp59-64](#)

[Pim, Joseph. 'Report of the Council at the opening of the twenty-eighth session'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLVI, 1873/1874, pp366-368](#)

[Pim, Joseph T. 'Municipal government and taxation'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VI, Part XLVII, 1874/1875, pp410-430](#)

[Pim, Joseph T. 'Is our commercial depression due to free trade, and would it be relieved by limited protection'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VII, Part LI, 1876/1877, Appendix, pp1-33](#)

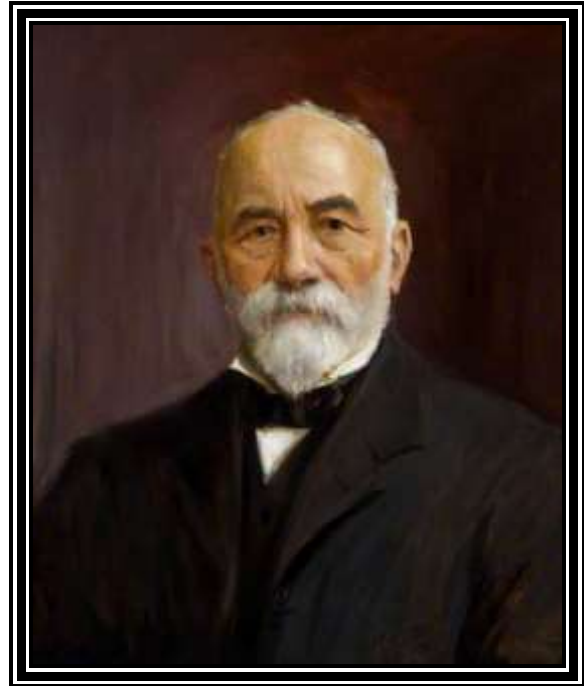
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James Johnston Shaw

**18th President
of the Society
(1900-1902)**

**Born: 4th January 1845 (Co.
Down)**

**Died: 27th April 1910
(Dublin)**



James Johnston Shaw was an economist, lawyer, and judge who excelled in Queen's College Belfast in the field of political economy. Although first intending to pursue a clerical career, he was elected professor of metaphysics and ethics at Magee College Derry at the age of 24. By 1873, he took up the law and studied in London. In 1877, he was appointed to the Whatley chair at Trinity College Dublin and called to the bar in 1878 and established his own legal practice. He served as a commissioner on the national education board as well as being a county court judge for Kerry. His education interests continued when he became Queen's University Belfast's first pro-chancellor in 1908.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Shaw, James J. 'The nationalization of the land'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXII, 1883/1884, pp492-508](#)

[Shaw, James J. 'Municipal trading'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXII, 1901/1902, pp77-92](#)

[Shaw, James J. 'Symposium on the Irish Court System - Suggested improvements in county court procedure'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Pt.LXXXIII 1902/1903, pp181-184](#)

[Shaw, James J. 'Fiscal policy: some lessons from the Blue Book'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXIV, 1903/1904, pp230-244](#)

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William Frederick Bailey

19th President of the Society (1902-1904)

**Born: 9th February 1857 (Co.
Limerick)**

**Died: 16th April
1917 (Dublin)**



William Frederick Bailey was a lawyer and writer. Bailey was educated in Trinity College Dublin, and called to the Irish Bar in 1881. He practised on the Munster Circuit and was Barrington lecturer in Political Economy TCD and Extern in English for the Intermediate Education Board. In 1880, Bailey was one of the secretaries to the Royal Commission on Irish Published Works (1880), and served as legal assistant to the Commissioners under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act 1885 before becoming a Privy Councillor in 1909. His works included 'Local and Centralised Government in Ireland' (1888) and 'Ireland since the Famine' (1902). He also published editions of poetry including the works of Gray and Coleridge and was considered part of the Irish literary revival as a patron of the Abbey Theatre and as Governor of the National Gallery of Ireland.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Bailey, William F. 'Magisterial reform: being some considerations on the present voluntary system, and suggestions for the substitution of an independent paid magistracy'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXXIII, 1884/1885, pp595-605](#)

[Bailey, William F. 'On fiscal relations of the United Kingdom and Ireland, with special reference to the state purchase of land'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXIV, 1885/1886, pp69-81](#)

[Bailey, William F. 'The woods, forests, turf-bogs, and foreshores of Ireland: opportunity for, and advisability of, establishing government management and protection'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXX, 1889/1890, pp468-477](#)

[Bailey, William F. 'The Ulster tenant-right custom: its origin, characteristic and position under the Land Acts'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X Part LXXIV, 1893/1894, pp12-22](#)

[Bailey, William F. 'Ireland since the famine: a sketch of fifty years' economic and legislative changes'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXIII, 1902/1903, pp129-156](#)

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Robert Edwin Matheson

**20th President
of the Society
(1902-1904)**

Born: 6th May 1845

Died: 10th January 1926



Robert Edwin Matheson's main service was as Registrar General for Ireland. He had entered the Irish Civil Service in 1868 and then entered Trinity College Dublin in 1873 before studying law at the King's Inns, Dublin and the Middle Temple in London. He was called to the Irish Bar in 1875 and appointed to the General Register Office in 1877. He became Assistant Registrar General in 1879 and was commissioner of Irish censuses held in 1881, 1891, and 1901. He became Registrar General in 1900 and was examiner in vital statistics and public health law at Trinity College Dublin.

The Society's Journal had regularly hosted calls for assimilative practices in previous decades with regard to vital registration and the conduct of censuses. Now, however, on account of closer ties with official practitioners such as Matheson, the Journal began to explore the methodological and technical dimensions of statistics in comprehensive detail. This was epitomized in Matheson's 'The Mechanism of Statistics' read in April 1889 which comprised an eight chaptered special appendix to volume nine of the Journal.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Matheson, Robert E. 'The mechanism of statistics'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX 1885-1893, Appendix pp3-25](#)

[Matheson, Robert E. 'The housing of the people of Ireland during the period 1841-1901'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXIII, 1902/1903, pp196-212](#)

[Matheson, Robert E. 'The principal results of the census of the United Kingdom in 1901'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXV, 1904/1905, pp289-310](#)

[Matheson, Robert E. 'A review of the general topographical index of Ireland 1901'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XII Part LXXXIX, 1908/1909, pp263-294](#)

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Arthur Warren Samuels

21st President of the Society (1906-1908)

Born: 19th May 1852 (Dublin)

Died: 11th May 1925 (France)



Arthur Warren Samuels was educated at the Royal School, Dungannon, Co.Tyrone before proceeding to Trinity College Dublin, where he graduated with first class honours, being a contemporary of both Edward Carson and Oscar Wilde. Called to the Irish bar in 1877, he specialised in marriage and property law. He entered the political sphere when serving as E.H. Lecky's election agent during his tenure as MP for Trinity College but was unsuccessful when contesting the seat himself in 1903. Samuels contributed various papers to the Society on divorce, finance, and legislative practice between 1887 and 1909.

Samuels' political ambitions never dimmed as he maintained a critical stance of home rule policies from a financial perspective. Samuels eventually became MP for Trinity College in 1917 and was quickly appointed as Solicitor-General for Ireland and then Attorney General. However, Samuels appointment to the High Court removed him from mainstream politics before the transition to the Irish Free State judicial system presaged his eventual retirement.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Samuels, Arthur W. 'The law of divorce in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX, Part LXVI, 1886/1887, pp186-192](#)

[Samuels, Arthur W. 'A suggestion for the removal of taxes on litigation in Ireland as a condition of the reduction of the judicial establishment'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X Part LXXVI, 1895/1896, pp135-143](#)

[Samuels, Arthur W. 'The financial relations of Great Britain and Ireland: the expenditure account'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X Part LXXVII, 1896/1897, pp292-320](#)
[Samuels, Arthur W. 'Irish Private Bill Legislation: a tribunal'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X LXXIX, 1898/1899, pp379-382b](#)

[Samuels, Arthur W. 'Some features in recent Irish finance'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XII Part LXXXVII, 1906/1907, pp1-42](#)

[Samuels, Arthur. 'The external commerce of Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XII Part LXXXIX, 1908/1909, pp193-218](#)

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Richard Robert Cherry

**22nd President
of the Society
(1908-1911)**

**Born: 19th March 1859
(Waterford)**

**Died: 10th February 1923
(Dublin)**



Richard Robert Cherry was educated at Trinity College Dublin and acted as auditor of the college historical society. He attended the King's Inn, Dublin, and the Middle Temple of London. He was appointed the Reid professor of constitutional and criminal law at Trinity and became a widely acknowledged authority on landlord and tenant relations. By 1900, he unsuccessfully contested the Liverpool Kirkdale constituency for the Liberal Party before winning the neighbouring Liverpool Exchange in the 1906 Liberal landslide. He had presented Society papers on free trade, land purchase, and money before his Presidential Address in 1911 on juvenile crime. As Attorney General for Ireland, Cherry was well placed to advise on the eventual 1909 Land Act and he was subsequently appointed a lord justice of appeal in 1909 and then Lord Chief Justice of Ireland in 1914. He retired in 1916 through ill health.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Cherry, Richard R. 'Free trade and Irish manufactures'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXI, 1882/1883, pp430-439](#)

[Cherry, Richard R. 'The Eric fines of ancient Irish law'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. VIII, Part LXII, 1883/1884, pp544-551](#)

[Cherry, Richard R. 'Considerations as to an extended scheme of land purchase'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX, Part LXV, 1886/1887, pp119-126](#)

[Cherry, Richard R. 'Decimal money'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXVII, 1887/1888, pp292-300](#)

[Cherry, Richard R. 'Juvenile crime and its prevention'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XII Part XCI, 1910/1911, pp435-450](#)

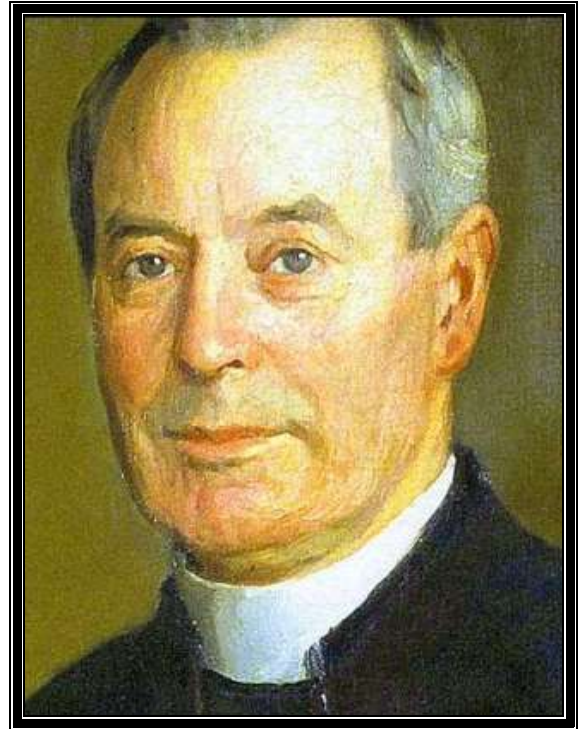
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Thomas Aloysius Finlay

**23rd President
of the Society
(1911-1913)**

**Born: 6th July 1848
(Co. Roscommon)**

Died: 8th January 1940 (Dublin)



Thomas Aloysius Finlay attended St Augustine's College, Cavan before entering the Jesuit College in Milltown, Dublin. He was later educated in France, Italy, and Germany before returning to teach in Limerick. Ordained as a Jesuit in 1880, his early contributions to the Society drew from his observations of German socialism and agriculture. He wrote widely on various topics in conjunction with his dual career as rector of Bevedere College, Dublin, and as professor of classics (later philosophy and then political economy) at University College Dublin. He was closely associated with the Irish Co-operative movement and his other Society papers highlighted his interest in education, poor relief, and labour relations. An undoubted polymath, Finlay continued his prolific output into his later years having overseen school textbooks, and also serving as a Commissioner of National Education as well as chairman of the trustees of the National Library, before officially retiring in 1930.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Finlay, T.A. 'Co-operative agricultural societies in Germany'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXXII, 1891/1892, pp605-613](#)

[Finlay, T.A. 'The progress of co-operation'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X Part. LXXVII, 1896/1897, pp229-237](#)

[Finlay, T.A. 'Practical education in our schools'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXV, 1904/1905, pp351-362](#)

[Finlay, T.A. 'Ethics and economics of poor relief'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XII Part LXXXVII, 1906/1907, pp43-51](#)

[Finlay, T.A. 'Labour associations in their relation to the state \[President's address 1911/1912\]'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XII Part XCII, 1911/1912, pp511-522](#)

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Charles Athill Stanuell

24th President of the Society (1913-1917)

Born: 1853

Died: 1922

Charles Athill Stanuell was a relatively prolific contributor of 14 papers to the Society's Journal in a 13 year span in the early 20th century. A resident of Ballsbridge area of Dublin, he was married to Ida Marion, with three daughters and three servants. He owned significant land in the Burrishoole barony of Mayo and also served as Secretary of the Incorporated Law Society of Ireland and was a contributor to the *New Ireland Review*. His main themes encompassed transport and agriculture and even the ramifications of the First World War upon Ireland.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Stanuell, Charles A. 'The example of Belgium: a possible effect of the war upon Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIII Part XCVI, 1915-1917, pp284-300](#)

[Stanuell, Charles A. 'The effect of the war on Irish agriculture'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIII Part XCV, 1914/1915, pp223-230](#)

[Stanuell, Charles A. 'The extension to Ireland of the Arbitration Act, 1889'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XII Part XC, 1909/1910, pp371-387](#)

[Stanuell, Charles A. 'The improvement of Dublin harbour'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XII Part XCII, 1911/1912, pp546-558](#)

[Stanuell, Charles A. 'The arterial drainage of Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXII, 1901/1902, pp119-126](#)

William Lawson

25th President of the Society (1917-1918)

**Born: 11th December 1850
(Dublin)**

**Died: November 1918
(Llandidrod Wells, Wales)**

William Lawson as a barrister and held a doctorate in law. He was educated in Cambridge where he was awarded a BA and LL.M He was called to the Irish Bar in 1873. He was admitted to Lincoln's Inn in 1871 and called to the English Bar in 1875. He was a Revising Barrister for Co. Dublin and joint author, with R.J. Kelly of a publication outlining details of The Representation of the People Act, 1918.

Lawson read his Presidential address in November 1917 on the subject of 'Infant mortality and the Notification of Births Acts, 1907, 1915'. He authored papers spanning 1887 to 1916. Lawson was also honorary secretary of the Society. He died while serving as the Society's President.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Lawson, William. 'On the desirability of establishing by Act of Parliament a corporate body to act as trustee, executor, administrator etc.'](#) - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX, Part LXVI, 1886/1887, pp181-186

[Lawson, William. 'The fusion of the two branches of the legal profession'](#). - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. IX Part LXXII, 1891/1892, pp632-636

[Lawson, William. 'Symposium on Income Tax: The liability of married women to income tax'](#). - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X Part LXXIX, 1898/1899, pp432-436

[Lawson, William. 'The social legislation of 1904 - registration of clubs \(Ireland\); licensing \(England\): applicability of it to Ireland'](#). The Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXV, 1904/1905, pp325-339

[Lawson, William. 'Infant mortality and the Notification of Births Acts, 1907, 1915'](#). - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIII Part XCVII, 1917-1919, pp579-597

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Sir William John Thompson

26th President of the Society (1918-1920)

**Born: May
1861 (Co. Fermanagh)**

**Died: 10th June
1929 (Dublin)**

Sir William John Thompson was a prominent physician who served as Registrar General of Ireland from 1909 to 1926. He was born in Tattyreagh, Co. Fermanagh and educated at TCD and the RCSI. He was awarded a BA in 1892, MB in 1894 and MD in 1895.

William Thompson was appointed house physician in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin in 1895. He was later demonstrator of anatomy at the RCSI and became a senior physician to Jervis Street Hospital. He was appointed registrar general in 1909 and supervised the compilation of the 1911 and 1926 Censuses of Population. He initiated the National Register Act (1910). He was President of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland in 1924 and was Physician-in-Ordinary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Sir William was knighted for his distinguished services to medicine in 1907.

Selected Society Contributions:-

['The first census of the Irish Free State and its importance to the country.' Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV, Part IV, 1925-1927, pp239-248.](#)

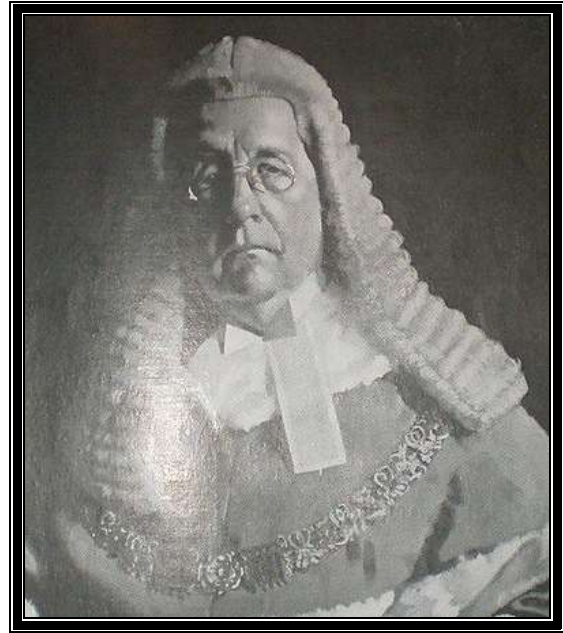
['Fifty years vital statistics in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIII Part XCVII, 1917-1919, pp572-605](#)

Sir Thomas Francis Molony

**27th President
of the Society
(1920-24)**

**Born: 31st January 1865
(Dublin)**

**Died: 3rd September 1949
(London)**



Thomas Molony was a barrister, Lord Chief Justice, Attorney General and Solicitor General of Ireland. He was educated at O'Connell Schools and Trinity College Dublin. He graduated in political science and history with a gold medal. Called to the Bar in 1887, he practiced on the Munster circuit. He was called to the English Bar (Middle Temple) in 1900. He was appointed Solicitor General for Ireland in 1912, lord justice of appeal in 1915 and Lord Chief Justice of Ireland in 1918 (he was the last holder of that office). He held office at a time of social and political instability. On one of his papers on crime, Molony says he read it "because it is one of interest, not only to lawyers and statisticians, but to every person who loves his country and would like to see it better and happier than it is." Molony played a leading role in consolidating the legal and political authority of the new government after War of Independence and the Civil War.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Molony, Thomas F. 'The prevention and punishment of crime'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 2, 1920-1923, pp117-132.](#)

[Molony, Thomas F., Sir. 'Insanity and crime'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 3, 1923-1925, pp143-157.](#)

[Molony, Thomas F. 'The treatment of young offenders'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 4, 1925-1927, pp437-453](#)

[Molony, Thomas F. 'Legal aid for poor persons'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV No. 1, 1930/1931, pp15-21'](#)

[Molony, Thomas F. 'Prison life in Eire and the English criminal justice act, 1948'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part II, 1948/1949, pp133-142](#)

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Charles Hubert Oldham

28th President of the Society (1924-1926)

**Born: 1860 (Monkstown,
Co. Dublin)**

**Died: 20th February 1926
(Dublin)**

Charles Hubert Oldham was educated in Trinity College Dublin where he excelled in physics and mathematics. He acquired legal training and was called to the Irish bar in 1890. Throughout his career, he was acknowledged as sympathetic to home rule and later nationalist policies. His appointment as a Barrington Lecturer (1895-1901) by the Society presaged his long engagement with economic subjects. He contributed papers on employment, education, shipbuilding, emigration, the economic impact of the First World War and statistics over a 30 year span which tallied with the rapid political and economic transition Ireland had experienced as it became independent. This also paralleled an academic career in which he became professor of economics at UCD.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Oldham, C.H. 'The fluctuating character of modern employment: Barrington lecture 1895/1896'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. X Part LXXVI, 1895/1896, pp128-135](#)

[Oldham, C.H. 'The bearing on industry of the impending changes in Irish education'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part LXXXI, 1900/1901, pp1-12](#)

[Oldham, C.H. 'The history of Belfast shipbuilding'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XI Part XCI, 1910/1911, pp417-434](#)

[Oldham, C.H. 'The incidence of emigration on town and country life in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIII Part XCIV, 1913/1914, pp207-218](#)

[Oldham, C.H. 'The interpretation of Irish statistics'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 3, 1923-1925, pp16-33](#)

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James Creed Meredith

29th President of the Society (1926-1929)

**Born: 28th November 1875
(Dublin)**

**Died: 14th August 1942
(Terenure, Dublin)**



James Creed Meredith served as President of the Supreme Court, Chief Judicial Commissioner of Ireland and Senator. Meredith was educated at Trinity College Dublin, where he graduated in ethics and logics in 1897, with a gold medal. He later gained a Masters and was awarded a Litt.D in 1912. He also graduated from the Royal University. He became a barrister in 1901 and became a KC in 1918. He was a senator for NUI in 1923 to 1939. In 1934, he was asked by the League of Nations to oversee the Saar Valley Plebiscite on the French-German frontier.

Meredith was appointed Chief Judicial Commissioner of Ireland in 1923 and to the Supreme Court of the Irish Free State in 1926. He sat on many government commissions including the commission of inquiry into the registration of shops, the widows pension commission, the town tenants' commission and he was a member of the proportional representation society of Ireland. His father was Sir James Creed Meredith of Clonewin House, Dublin, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland and his uncle was Sir Edward Newenham Meredyth, 9th Baronet of Madaleen, Co. Kilkenny. Meredith was a founding member of the United Irish League and he was a supporter of the original Sinn Fein.

His Presidential address was read 15th November, 1928 on 'Practical characterology.' A patron of the arts, he played a part in establishing the collection of Irish art at the Dublin Municipal Gallery of Art. He translated important works of Kant with detailed introductions, indices and notes and wrote a philosophical novel and a play.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Meredith, James C. 'Practical characterology'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 6, 1928/1929, pp1-22](#)

[Meredith, James C. 'The licensing of shops'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 4, 1925-1927, pp421-435](#)

[Meredith, James C. 'Desirable ameliorations of the law'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVI No. 3, 1939/1940, pp63-74](#)

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John Hooper

30th President of the Society (1929-1930)

**Born: 26th January
1878 (Cork)**

**Died: 29th December
1930 (Dublin)**



John Hooper was the first Director of Statistics for Saorstát Éireann. He was born in Cork, one of five sons of Alderman John Hooper, a journalist and Irish Parliamentary Party MP for South East Cork from 1885 to 1889. He was educated at Christian Brothers' College (CBC), Cork and, from 1891 at O'Connell Schools, Dublin and then at the National University of Ireland. He was awarded a first class honours BA (Mathematics) degree in 1898.

He joined the Civil Service in London in 1900 but availed of an opportunity to transfer back to Dublin in 1902. He was appointed to the Statistics and Intelligence Branch of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction. In 1917, he was appointed Superintendent of that branch and then, in 1923, became the first Director of Statistics when he was appointed head of the Statistics Branch in the new Department of Industry and Commerce where he served until his untimely death in 1930. He shaped the development of statistics for the new state and largely framed the Statistics Act, 1926. He was elected a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) shortly before his death. As well as President of the Society, he also served as Vice-President.

Selected Society Contribution:-

[Hooper, John. 'Intermediate Certificate Examination, 1928'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 6, 1928/1929, pp1-5](#)

John Charles Malcolm Eason

31st President of the Society (1930-1934)

Born: 22nd June 1880 (Dublin)

**Died: 28th September 1976
(Dublin)**



J.C.M. Eason, a businessman, was President of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, 1927. Educated in Trinity College Dublin he graduated with a BA in 1901, and was also President of the Philosophical Society in 1901. He joined the family wholesale and retail stationary business on graduation.

He was President of Dublin Chamber of Commerce and Civic Institute in 1927 and was first President of Assoc. Chambers of Commerce of Ireland. He was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 1920 for his efforts in the war savings committee. Eason was a member of various Government bodies on workingmen's compensation (1925-6); bankruptcy (1927-29); currency (1927-33); banking and credit (1934-8) and he was a member of the Road Traffic Advisory Board in 1939. Eason read his Presidential Address on the day he was elected, 14th November 1930, on expenditure and the sources of revenue during the years 1924-25 to 1929-30. He was also treasurer of the Society as well as Vice President.

Selected Society Contribution:-

[Eason, J. C. M. 'Trade statistics of the Irish Free State in 1924'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 3, 1923-1925, pp106-110](#)

[Eason, J.C.M. 'Unemployment: its causes and their remedies'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 4, 1925-1927, pp229-238](#)

[Eason, J.C.M. 'First impressions from the Census of Distribution, 1933'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV part 7, 1936/1937, pp19-30](#)

[Eason, J.C.M. 'Symposium on the Trade Statistics of the Irish Free State - The trade statistics of the Irish Free State : some notes by a business man'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVI No. 1, 1937/1938, pp6-9](#)

[Eason, J. C. M., E. J. Coyne, R. J. P. Mortished, R. Henderson, J. Johnston and J. McElhinney. 'Symposium on social security'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part III, 1949/1950, pp247-269](#)

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Joseph Brennan

32nd President of the Society (1934-1938)

**Born: 18th November 1887
(Bandon, Co. Cork)**

Died: 3rd March 1976 (Dublin)



Joseph Brennan was educated at Clongowes Wood, UCD, and Cambridge University. He joined the British civil service in 1911 and was soon redeployed to the Chief Secretary's Office in Dublin, serving in the under-secretary's private office during the 1916 Rising. Although associated and responsible for officially liaising with home rule politicians, he later supplied financial briefings to the Irish Treaty delegation in 1921. Brennan was tasked with building and leading the nascent Department of Finance of the new Irish Free State at just 36 years of age. He paved the establishment of official financial institutions such as the Central Bank of Ireland. Although he left the civil service in 1927, he assumed the chairmanship of the Currency Commission and remained a significant influence on Ireland's financial policies. He served as Governor of the Central Bank from 1943 before leaving office in 1953. His contributions to the Society unsurprisingly exhibited his expertise on debt and the money supply.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Brennan, Joseph. 'The currency system of the Irish Free State'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV No. 1, 1930/1931, pp23-32](#)

[Brennan, Joseph. 'The public debt of the Irish Free State'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV No. 5, 1934/1935, pp37-48](#)

[Brennan, Joseph. 'Monetary functions of commercial banks'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII No. 1, 1942/1943, pp62-84](#)

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Stanley G. Lyon

33rd President of the Society (1938-1942)

**Born: 26th January
1882 (Dublin)**

**Died: 8th September
1975 (Dublin)**



Stanley Lyon was Director of Statistics from 1931 until his retirement in 1947. He was educated in Drogheda and then at Clongowes Wood College. He was awarded a BA degree in Classics, Logic and Political Economy in 1898. He joined the Civil Service in 1901 and served for a short time in London before returning to Dublin in 1903. He worked in the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction from 1903 to 1919. In 1919, he was appointed Head of the Statistics and Intelligence Branch in the Irish Department of the Ministry of Labour. In 1923, he transferred with other staff as Superintendent of the Statistics Branch in the new Department of Industry and Commerce. He was appointed Director of Statistics in 1931 following John Hooper's untimely death. He was elected a member of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in 1932. As well as President of the Society, he also served as Vice-President.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Lyon, Stanley. 'The organisation of official statistics in Saorstát Éireann and in some other countries'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV No. 3, 1932-1933, pp29-61](#)

[Lyon, Stanley. 'The trade statistics of the Irish Free State: methodological aspects'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVI No. 1, 1937/1938, pp9-11](#)

[Lyon, Stanley. 'Symposium on Irish social services: unemployment—the statistical background'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII No. 1, 1942/1943, pp120-125](#)

[Lyon, Stanley. 'The Census of Population, 1946'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII, 1946/1947, pp579-593](#)

[Lyon, S. 'Nativity in Dublin in the years 1943, 1944 and 1945'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part I, 1947/1948, pp57-77](#)

George O'Brien

34th President of the Society (1942-46)

Born: 26th January 1892 (Dublin)

**Died: 31st December 1973
(Dublin)**



George O'Brien was an influential nationalist economic historian and barrister. He was educated at CUS, St Georges College in Surrey and Belvedere College. He graduated from UCD with a first in political economy in 1912. He studied in Kings Inns 1910 to 1913 and won several prizes. Called to the Bar in 1913, he abandoned it in 1918 and decided to pursue an academic career and was awarded a D.Litt from NUI in 1919. He wrote an economic history of Ireland in the eighteenth century and followed with two other volumes on Irish economic history. O'Brien was appointed to the chair of national economics in UCD in 1926 and held the position till he retired in 1961. He served in several government commissions including the de-rating commission in 1930, the commission on banking, currency and credit 1934 to 1938. He was awarded an honorary Litt.D by TCD and was on the board of several commercial firms including Guinness and Ryan Tourist Holdings. He was a founder of the IMI and chaired the executive committee of the ESRI from its foundation in 1960 to his death. He was a NUI member of the Senate 1948 to 1965.

He invited Keynes to read the inaugural Finlay Lecture at UCD in 1933 and became a good friend after. He discovered a packet of letters written by David Ricardo in Raheny which were used by Piero Sraffa in his completed edition of his works. He was a member of the RIA from 1920 and was vice president twice in 1944-5 and 1949-50. He read his Presidential address to the Society in 1942 on Economic Relativity. He was a friend to Horace Plunkett and joined the Irish Reconstruction Association and the Irish Dominion League. He was assistant editor of the *Irish Statesman* in 1919-20. He was on the board of the Abbey Theatre and involved in the controversy over the revisions of O'Casey's *Plough and Stars*.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[O'Brien, George. 'Some ethical and economic aspects of interest'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV No. 2, 1931/1932, pp58-67](#)

[O'Brien, George. 'Economic relativity'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII No. 1, 1942/1943, pp1-40](#)

[O'Brien, George. 'Some recent developments in economic theory'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVI No. 4, 1940/1941, pp1-30](#)

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Robert Charles (Roy) Geary

35th President of the Society (1946-1951)

**Born: 11th April
1896 (Dublin)**

**Died: 8th February
1983 (Dublin)**



Robert Charles (Roy) Geary was Ireland's most eminent statistician. He was educated at O'Connell Schools and at UCD where he was awarded a B.Sc. in 1916 and M.Sc. in 1917, both first class honours in mathematics. He studied at the Sorbonne in Paris from 1919 to 1921 on a travelling studentship in mathematics. He was awarded honorary degrees from NUI (D.Econ.Sc., 1962), QUB (D.Sc. (Econ)), 1968 and TCD (ScD, 1973).

Geary joined the Statistics Branch of the Department of Industry and Commerce in 1923 and was appointed the first Director of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) when it was established in 1949. One of his most notable contributions to official statistics was the development of the first set of national accounts for the period 1938 to 1944 that was published as a Government White Paper in 1946. He retired from the CSO in 1960 and then served as Head of the National Accounts Division in the UN Statistical Office from 1957 to 1960. He returned to Ireland in 1960 as Director of the newly established Economic Research Institute (ERI, later ESRI) and retired in 1966. He continued to work as a researcher in the ESRI until his death at the age of 87. He was very active internationally and served as Chairman of the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth from 1961 to 1967 and Vice President (1951-1957) of the International Statistical Institute. As well as President of the Society, he also served as Honorary Secretary from 1926 to 1946 and Vice-President. He read 11 papers to the Society. In presenting his last paper in 1982 in his 86th year he established two records, namely the oldest to do so and the time span between it and his first paper in 1925 being 57 years.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Geary, R. C. 'The future population of Saorstát Éireann and some observations on population statistics'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV No. 6, 1935/1936, pp15-35](#)

[Geary, R. C.. 'Some thoughts on the making of Irish index numbers'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII, Part 3, 1945/1946, pp345-380](#)

[Geary, R. C. 'Variability in agricultural statistics on small and medium-sized farms in an Irish county'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIX, Part V, 1956/1957, pp1-36](#)

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Joseph Johnston

36th President of the Society (1951-1953)

**Born: 2nd August 1890
(Co. Tyrone)**

Died: 26th August 1972 (Dublin)



Joseph Johnston was educated at the Royal School, Dungannon before preceeding to Trinity College Dublin and Oxford University. Her travelled widely before returning to Trinity to lecture on ancient history. He had developed an expertise in economics and from 1922-32 also served as a Barrington lecturer for the Society before being appointed an applied economics lecturer in Trinity. He was the North East Boundary Bureau's economic advisor in its preparations for the Irish Boundary Commission in 1925. He was a prolific author and was known in political circles for his 1913 polemic on Edward Carson as the Ulster crisis was evolving. His Society papers mainly focussed on agricultural economics but also expounded on transport matters. Johnston also served spells as a Senator.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Johnston, Joseph. 'Barrington lecture 1929/1930: national transport problems'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 7, 1929/1930, pp53-65](#)

[Johnston, Joseph. 'Aspects of the agricultural crisis at home and abroad'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV No. 5, 1934/1935, pp79-96](#)

[Johnston, J. 'An economic basis for an Irish rural civilisation'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part I, 1947/1948, pp13-24](#)

[Johnston, J. 'Raw materials for Irish animal husbandry'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part II, 1950/1951, pp392-402](#)

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James Beddy

37th President of the Society (1953-56)

**Born: 28th September 1900
(Cobh)**

**Died: 28th September 1976 (Dun
Laoghaire)**



James Beddy was an economist and public servant. He was the first Chairman of the Industrial Development Authority. He was educated at O'Connell CBS and in UCD where he received a BComm in 1924, a M.Comm and D.Econ.Sc for his dissertation *Profits: theoretical and practical aspects*, by NUI in 1940.

He had been a Senior Inspector of Taxes. Beddy was chairman 1952-65 of An Foras Tionscal, a member of the Commission on Emigration and other Populations Problems: 1948-1954 that reported in 1955, and chairman of the Transport tribunal, 1953-1957. This body recommended wholesale closure of railways and led to a 65 per cent reduction in lines and 75 per cent of stations.

He was also chairman of the Industrial Development Authority, 1949-65. He was on the board of Industrial Credit Company, serving as chair 1953-72 having been associated with it since its founding in 1933. Beddy was also on the council of ESRI, the Institute of Public Administration, and was also a member of the Royal Irish Academy, serving as its president 1954-6. He was awarded an honorary LLD by TCD in 1963. He was also a founder of the Irish Management Institute. He was also Honorary Secretary, and Vice President of the Society.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Kennedy, Henry et al. 'Discussion on the future of Irish external trade'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII No. 2, 1943/1944, pp309-324](#)

['Beddy, J. P. 'A comparison of the principal economic features of Éire and Denmark'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII No. 2, 1943/1944, pp189-220](#)

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James Francis Meenan

**38th President
of the Society
(1957-1959)**

**Born: 18th October
1910 (Dublin)**

Died: 25th May 1987 (Dublin)



James Francis Meenan was a barrister-at-law, economist, academic and author. He was educated at Clongowes Wood College and at UCD where he was awarded a BA in 1931 and an MA in 1932, achieving first place and first class honours in both. He was awarded a travelling studentship in 1932 and studied law and Mussolini's corporative state in Rome and Perugia. He was called to the Bar in 1935 and awarded an honorary LL.D. by the NUI in 1981.

James Meenan combined practising law with part time lecturing in political economy at UCD where he was assistant to George O'Brien. He became a full time assistant in 1942 and was appointed statutory lecturer in applied economics in 1951. In 1961, he was appointed to the chair of national economics and political economy. He served on a number of government commissions, including those on emigration, taxation and decimalisation and was appointed a director of the Central Bank in 1949.

He was chairman of the executive committee of the RDS from 1959 to 1980 and then president until he retired in 1980. He was a member of the executive of the ESRI for 20 years from 1963, being chairman from 1974 to 1983. He served on a number of boards, including Bank of Ireland. His published works include "The Irish economy since 1922" (1970) and "George O'Brien: A biographical memoir" (1980). As well as President of the Society, he also served as Honorary Secretary. He read nine papers to the Society.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Meenan, James. 'Some causes and consequences of the low Irish marriage rate'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland. Vol.XV, No. 3, 1932/1933, pp19-27](#)

[Meenan, James F. 'The impact of the war upon Irish economy'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVI No. 3, 1939/1940, pp17-28](#)

[Meenan, J. 'The political economy of development'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XX, Part I, 1957/1958, pp1-23](#)

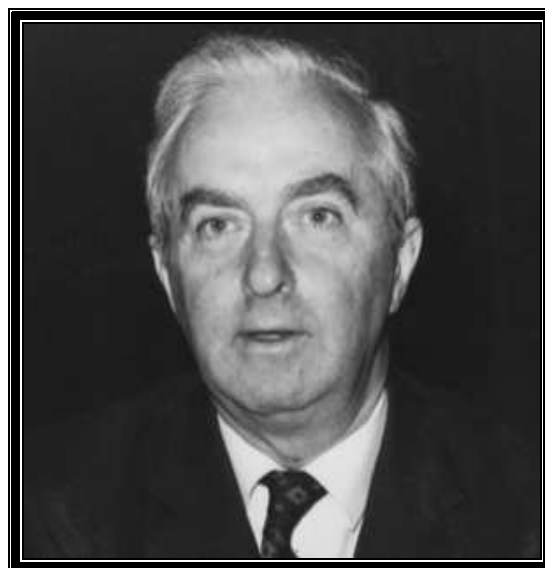
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William A. Honohan

39th President of the Society (1959-1962)

**Born: 13th June 1908
(Macroom, Co. Cork)**

Died: 17th March 1992 (Dublin)



William A. Honohan was a senior civil servant and actuary. He was Secretary-General in Department of Social Welfare and a member of the Commission on Emigration. Honohan was educated at CBS Marino, Dublin and then at University College Dublin where he attained a BA and MA in mathematical science. He was a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries. Honohan had been President of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland, 1972-1975 and was a founding member of the Economic and Social Research Institute. He attended the International Labour Conference where he was the Government Member of the Committee on Social Security in 1967. He gave his Presidential Address on 13th May 1960 on the subject of 'Providing for old age through private channels'. His son, Patrick Honohan, was a Council member of the Society in the early 2000s, Economics Professor at Trinity College and Governor of the Central Bank.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Honohan, W. A. 'Symposium on the Government Green Paper "A National Income-Related Pension Scheme"- Financial aspects of a national income-related pension scheme'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXIII, Part IV, 1976/1977, pp87-94](#)

[Honohan, W. A. 'Providing for old age through private channels'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XX, Part III, 1959/1960, pp178-198](#)

[Honohan, W. A. 'Irish Social Services: a Symposium. No.3: A short review of the general financial principles and methods of Irish and British social insurance schemes'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII No. 1, 1942/1943, pp116-119](#)

[Honohan, W. A. 'Irish actuarial data'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVII, Part 3, 1945/1946, pp381-403](#)

[Honohan, W. A. 'Pension fund principles'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVI part 2, 1938/1939, pp19-32](#)

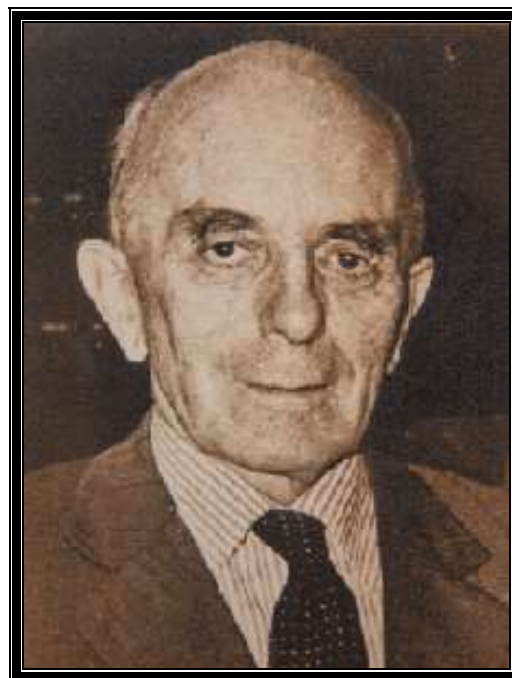
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Michael Donald (Donal) McCarthy

**40th President
of the Society
(1962-1965)**

**Born: 4th June
1908 (Co. Cork)**

**Died: 31st January
1980 (Cork)**



Michael Donald (Donal) McCarthy was an academic, public servant and university administrator. He was born in Middleton, Co. Cork and educated at Christian Brothers' School (CBS), Middleton, Rockwell College and at UCC where he was awarded first class honours degrees in BA (mathematics and mathematical physics) in 1928 and MSc (Mathematical Science) in 1934. He was awarded a PhD in Statistics in 1938. He received honorary degrees of D.Sc. (NUI, 1967) and LLD (TCD, 1971).

Donal McCarthy joined the Statistics Branch of the Department of Industry and Commerce in 1930. In 1931, he worked at UCC as lecturer in mathematics and was appointed to the Chair of Mathematical Physics in 1944. He joined the newly established Central Statistics Office (CSO) as Deputy Director in 1949 and became Director in 1957. He was chairperson of the UN Statistical Commission (a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council) from 1960 to 1964. In 1966, he was appointed Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI). He was appointed President of UCC in 1967 and retired on his 70th birthday in 1978. He was a talented sportsman who played hurling for UCC and Cork. As well as President of the Society, he also served as Honorary Secretary and Vice-President.

Selected Society Contributions:

[McCarthy, M. D. 'The 1961 Census of Population'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XX, Part IV, 1960/1961, pp73-93](#)

[McCarthy, M. D., Duncan, G.A., Whitaker, T.K. and Lynch, Patrick, contributors. 'Symposium on national income and social accounts'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part V, 1951/1952, pp473-514](#)

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Patrick Bourke

41st President of the Society (1965-1968)

**Born: 24th August 1899
(Co. Limerick)**

**Died: 9th August 1982
(Dublin)**

Patrick Bourke was educated at St Paul's CBS in Dublin, later joining the Irish Land Commission as a clerk in 1914. After moving to the Inland Revenue, he studied history and politics at Trinity College Dublin. After graduation, he was appointed as inspector of taxes at the age of 22. In 1924, he worked in the new tax section of the Provincial Bank of Ireland. He also received legal training at the King's Inn although he never practised after being called to the bar in 1929. Within the bank, he rose quickly and by 1936 was appointed the bank's chief officer. He helped oversee the bank transition into the Allied Irish Bank of which he remained a director until 1971. From 1955-75 he served as banking director of the Central Bank of Ireland.

Thomas Kenneth (T.K.) Whitaker

**42nd President
of the Society
(1969-1971)**

**Born: 8th December 1916
(Co. Down)**



Thomas Kenneth (T.K.) Whitaker is generally regarded as the greatest Irish public servant of the twentieth century. He was born in Rostrevor, Co. Down and educated at the Christian Brothers' School, Drogheda. He later obtained BA (Mathematics, Celtic and Latin), BSc (Econ) and MSc (Econ) degrees from London University by external study.

T.K. Whitaker entered the Civil Service in 1934 as a clerical officer and was then successful in competitions for higher grades becoming an administrative officer in 1938 in the Department of Education where he was private secretary to the Minister. He was transferred to the Department of Finance in 1938 and became Secretary in 1956. He moved to the Central Bank as Governor in 1959. The most notable feature of his career in Finance was leading the preparation of a policy document "Economic Development" which was published in 1958 along with the First Programme for Economic Expansion based largely upon it. The programme became a landmark in Irish economic history, primarily for its bold new ideas. This brought the stimulus of foreign investment into the Irish economy. Whitaker had presented a number of his ideas in earlier contributions to the Society.

In 1965, Whitaker was central to the organisation of the first meeting between Taoiseach Sean Lemass and Terence O'Neill, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland. He continued to advise Taoiseach Jack Lynch on Northern Ireland policy after he left the Department of Finance. Jack Lynch nominated him as a member of Seanad Eireann in 1977 as did Garret Fitzgerald in 1981. He served until 1982. He was Chancellor of the NUI from 1976 to 1996 and served as President of the ESRI and the Royal Irish Academy. He also chaired a number of other public bodies, including the Constitution Review Group, 1995-6. As well as President of the Society, he also served as Honorary Secretary.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Whitaker, T. K. 'Ireland's external assets'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part II, 1948/1949, pp192-216](#)

[Whitaker, T. K. 'Capital formation, saving and economic progress'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVIX, 1955/1956, pp184-209](#)

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Thekla Beere

43rd President of the Society (1971-1974)

**Born: 20th June 1901 (Granard,
Co. Westmeath)**

**Died: 19th February 1991
(Killiney, Co.Dublin)**



Thekla Beere was a senior civil servant and first woman Secretary General of a government department in Ireland and the first woman President of the Society. She was educated in Alexandra College Dublin and graduated in law from Trinity College, Dublin with an LLB and a BA Mod in legal and political studies. She also studied in the US on a Laura Spellman Rockefeller fellowship for two years from 1925 in Columbia University, in Berkeley (California) and the Brookings Institute in Washington. She served on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in Ireland, and was appointed chairman in 1970. The “Beere Report” of 1972 examined the elimination the marriage bar, maternity leave and equal pay and was an important milestone in the struggle for women’s rights in Ireland.

She had been Assistant Secretary of the Department of Industry and Commerce and was appointed Secretary of the Department of Transport and Power in 1959, the first woman Secretary in the Civil Service Department. Dr Beere was Governor of the Irish Times Trust; Governor of Rotunda Hospital and President of Irish Film Society and of An Oige. She was a founder of youth movement An Óige (youth hostelling) and a keen walker. She was also Honorary Secretary of the Statistical Society. She received an honorary LL.D., from Dublin University in 1960. While in the States she campaigned for the release of anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti. She regularly led the Irish delegation to the International Labour Organisation in Geneva and on retirement was on the Public services Organisation Review which led to major changes in the public service.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Beere, Thekla J. 'The language revivals in Finland, Norway and Wales'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XIV No. 7, 1929/1930, pp25-51](#)

[Beere, Thekla J. 'Cinema statistics in Saorstát Éireann'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XV No. 6, 1935/1936, pp83-110](#)

[Beere, Thekla. 'Schemes for the rehabilitation of youth in certain countries with special reference to labour service'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XVI No.2, 1938/39, pp33-52](#)

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Thomas P. (Tom) Linehan

**44th President
of the Society
(1974-1977)**

**Born: 8th April
1926 (Cork)**



Thomas P. (Tom) Linehan was Director of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) for 24 years having been appointed to the post in 1966 at the relatively young age of 41. He was educated at Christian Brothers' College (CBC), Cork and at UCC where he was awarded first class honours degrees in BE (Civil) in 1946 and BSc (Mathematical Science) in 1948.

Tom Linehan was one of the four people appointed to the newly created CSO post of statistician when it was established in 1949. As Director, he was very active and well known in international statistical circles. He was elected Chairman of the Bureau of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES) and served from 1979 to 1981. In 1985, he was chairperson of the UN Statistical Commission (a functional commission of the UN Economic and Social Council). He was a member of a number of other national and international bodies and, following retirement from CSO, continued to contribute to developments in statistics internationally.

Selected Society Contributions:

[Linehan, T. P. 'The structure of Irish industry'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XX, Part V, 1961/1962, pp220-253](#)

[Linehan, T. P. 'Symposium on statistics for policy and research - Some implications of recent proposals and recommendations particularly affecting the CSO'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXV, Pt. III, 1985/1986, pp23-70](#)

[Linehan, T. P. 'The development of official Irish statistics'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVII, Part V, 1997/1998, pp47-98](#)

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Brendan Menton

45th President of the Society (1977-1980)

Born: 20th August 1911 (Dublin)

Died: 1st August 2002 (Dublin)



Brendan Menton was an economist and football administrator who retired as Chief Economic Advisor in the Department of Finance in 1975. He was educated at O'Connell's Christian Brothers' School, Dublin. He later received primary and masters degrees and a Ph.D. from the University of London by external study.

Menton entered the civil service in 1931 as a clerical officer in the Department of Lands. He later worked in the Department of Industry and Commerce and joined the Central Statistics Office when it was established in 1949. He was recruited a year later to the Department of Finance where he became Director of Economic Service and later Chief Economic Advisor. He worked closely with T.K. Whitaker. For many years he was Irish spokesman at OECD economic policy meetings. He later worked as an advisor to Allied Irish Banks and the Confederation of Irish Industry.

He was co-founder of Home Farm football club, one of Ireland's great schoolboy clubs, in 1928 and wrote a history of the club in 1999. He served as president of the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) between 1980 and 1982.

Selected Society Contributions: -

[Menton, B. 'Theories of adjustment of the balance of payments under fixed exchanges'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part I, 1947/1948, pp25-41](#)

[Menton, B. 'Ireland and international monetary institutions'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XX, Part I, 1957/1958, pp80-98](#)

[Menton, B. 'Short-term economic forecasting'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXI, Part III, 1964/1965, pp15-43](#)

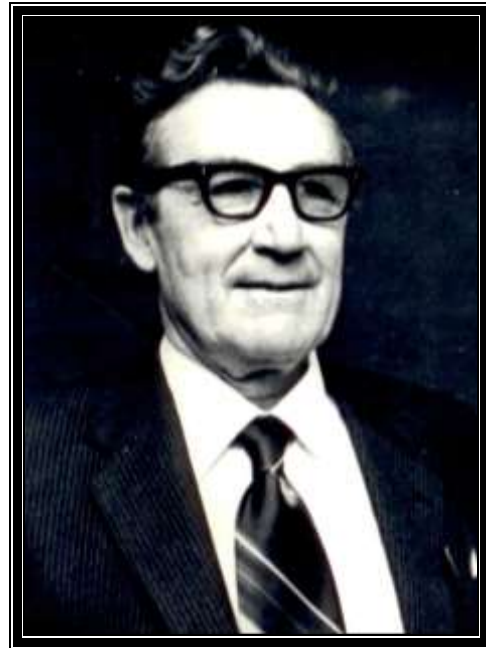
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Robert (Bob) O'Connor

46th President of the Society (1980-1983)

Born: 1916 (Co. Roscommon)

Died: 1997 (Dublin)



Robert (Bob) O'Connor was an agricultural economist who retired as Deputy Director of the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) in 1981. He was born in Tibohine, Co. Roscommon and educated at UCD where he was awarded B.Agr.Sc. and M.Agr.Sc. degrees. He later went on to study agricultural economics at Iowa State University and completed a Ph.D. at the NUI.

Bob O'Connor began his career as a teacher in Ballaghderreen Vocational School and later became headmaster of Elphin Vocational School. In 1954 he joined the Central Statistics Office (CSO) as Chief Farm Accounts Officer for the first National Farm Survey. He then served as Chief Executive of County Monaghan Vocational Education Committee from 1956 to 1958 until returning to the CSO in 1958 as Agricultural Economist. He moved to the ESRI in 1967 as Research Professor and was appointed Deputy Director in 1974. His many publications are concerned especially with natural resources, including agriculture, forestry, fishing and the environment. He served on a number of national and international bodies including the OECD, and the American, British, European and International Societies of Agricultural Economists. He was Chairman of the Roscommon County Board of the GAA in 1949-50. As well as President of the Society, he also served as Honorary Treasurer and Vice-President.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[O'Connor, R. 'Financial results on twenty-five farms in mid-Roscommon in 1948-1949'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part III, 1949/1950, pp270-292](#)

[O'Connor, R. 'An analysis of recent policies for beef and milk'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXII, Part II, 1969/1970, pp28-80](#)

[O'Connor, R. 'Employment creation and unemployment problems in Ireland in the 1980s'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXIV, Part V, 1982/1983, pp73-103](#)

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Robert Denis Collison Black

**47th President
of the Society
(1983-1985)**

Born: 11th June 1922 (Dublin)

Died: 7th December 2008 (Belfast)



Robert Denis Collison Black was an economist and historian of economic thought. He was educated at Trinity College Dublin, graduating in Economics and Political Science in 1941. He completed a PhD in 1943 on his presidential predecessor Mountiford Longfield and an M.A. in 1945. His first academic posting was at Trinity, where he was deputised for the Professor of Political Economy. He moved to Belfast in 1945 to take up a position in the Department of Economics at Queen's University. As historian of the Society he was responsible for producing the *The Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland centenary volume, 1847-1947; with a history of the Society*, a 1947 volume which contained a complete index of authors and subjects of the Society's Journal. Most of his career was spent at this university, where he advanced from Assistant Lecturer to Professor of Economics before retiring in 1985. His papers discussed trade and reflected on the Society's own historical context.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Black, R. D. Collison. *The Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland centenary volume, 1847-1947; with a history of the Society.* - Dublin: Eason & Son, Ltd.](#)

[Black, R. D. C. 'Theory and policy in Anglo-Irish trade relations, 1775-1800'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Part III, 1949/1950, pp312-326](#)

[Black, R. D. Collison. 'Of quantity and quality'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXV No. 3, 1985/86, pp209-233](#)

[Black, R.D. Collison. 'Measurement, measures and the millennium - the Society's activities in a long perspective'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXV No. 5, 1987/1988, pp163-183](#)

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Jerry J. Sexton

48th President of the Society (1986-1989)

Born: 6th March 1939 (Cork)



Jerry J. Sexton was a statistician and labour market specialist. Sexton had been a Senior Statistician in the Central Statistics Office for some years and then worked at the Economic and Social Research Institute from 1981 to 2004 where he became a Research Professor. He was a labour-market specialist and he also worked with both Eurostat and the Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD). Jerry Sexton was a member of the National Statistics Board from 1986 to 1994. He also authored several papers for the ESRI, FÁS, the National Economic and Social Council, and the then EEC that included papers on 'Changing profiles in occupations and educational attainment' and 'The economic and social implications of emigration.' His Presidential Address on 27 April 1989 was titled 'On producers and users of statistics'. He was also Vice President of the Society.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Sexton, J. J. 'A review of recent trends in output, employment and productivity in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXXVI, 2006/2007, pp1-43](#)

[Sexton, J.J. 'On producers and users of statistics'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVI, Pt. I, 1988/1989, pp163-180](#)

[Kent, M. P., and J. J. Sexton. 'The influence of certain factors on the physical growth and development of a group of Dublin city children'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXII, Part V, 1972/1973, pp188-206](#)

[Sexton, J. J. 'Retail trade in Ireland: a study of its structure and an analysis of trades over the period 1956/1966'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXII, Part II, 1969/1970, pp140-178](#)

[Sexton, J.J. 'Road freight transport in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXI, Part V, 1966/1967, pp96-124](#)

Kieran Kennedy

49th President of the Society (1989-1992)

**Born: 14th July 1935
(Newbridge, Co. Kildare)**

Died: 6th February 2013 (Dublin)



Kieran Kennedy was educated at UCD from 1954-60 and was awarded a Diploma in Public Administration, a B.Comm and a M.Econ.Sc. He attained post-graduate degrees at Oxford and at Harvard. He was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 1973 and awarded an honorary doctorate by Trinity College Dublin in 1993. He published many works on the economy. His 1971 work *Productivity and Industrial Growth: The Irish Experience* is recognised as a classic and he went to publish other books such as *Facing the unemployment crisis in Ireland* and also to edit *From famine to feast: economic and social change in Ireland 1847-1997*, a book that marked the Society's 150th anniversary. His areas of interest were employment, economic growth, and Irish economic and industrial development. He was ESRI Director from 1971 to 1996. He had been an executive officer for the Department of Finance in 1954 and was seconded to the Central Bank of Ireland.

He worked with then Taoiseach Charles Haughey on *The Way Forward* which developed the country's economic recovery plan from 1987. He was a member of the Swiss Irish Business Association (1988-91), the Committee on Local Government Reorganisation and Reform (1990) and the Government Advisory Group on Operational Policy for any Future Currency Crisis (1993). He was a member of the American Economic Association and the International Association for Research in Income and Wealth. He had also been Vice President of the Society. He gave his presidential address on 14th May 1992 on 'Real convergence, the European Community and Ireland'.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Kennedy, Kieran A. 'Symposium on economic growth in Ireland: where has it come from, where is it going? - Reflections on the process of Irish economic growth'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXX, 2000/2001, pp123-139](#)

[Kennedy, Kieran A. 'Real convergence, the European Community and Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVI, Pt. 4, 1991/1992, pp213-264](#)

[Kennedy, K. A. 'Symposium on Industrial Policy in Ireland - The Design of a new industrial strategy'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXIV, Part V, 1982/1983, pp34-41](#)

[Kennedy, Kieran A. et al., contributors. 'A symposium on increasing employment in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXIII, Part III, 1975/1976, pp37-77](#)

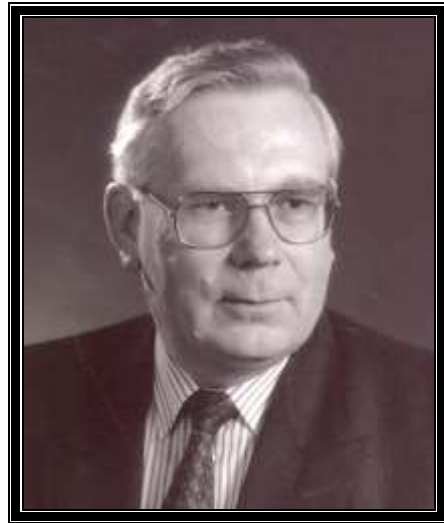
[Kennedy, Kieran A. 'Growth of labour productivity in Irish manufacturing 1953-1967'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXII, Part I, 1969/1968, pp113-154](#)

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Padraig McGowan

50th President of the Society (1992-1995)

**Born: 19th December
1935 (Co. Sligo)**



Padraig McGowan spent his career in the Central Bank of Ireland, retiring as Director General and Chairman of the Management Board in 2000. He was born in Co. Sligo and educated at Summerhill College, Sligo and at UCD where he was awarded a B.Comm., M.Econ.Sc and Ph.D.

Padraig McGowan joined the Central Bank in 1956. He was a member of the Management Board from 1977 with responsibility at various times for Economic Services, the Supervisory Function and the Financial Markets, External Reserves Management and Payments Function. While holding the latter post from 1990 to 1995 he was Deputy General Manager and Secretary to the Board. He was appointed Director General in 1995. When Director General, he was Alternate Member of the Council of the European Monetary Institute from 1995 to 1998 and also attended the Governing Council meetings of the European Central Bank (ECB) from its establishment in June 1998 and was a member of its International Relations Committee. He is the author of "Money and Banking in Ireland: Origins, Development and Future". As well as President of the Society, he also served as Honorary Secretary and Vice-President.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[McGowan, Padraig. 'The operation of monetary policy in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVI, Pt. 5, 1992/1993, pp1-54](#)

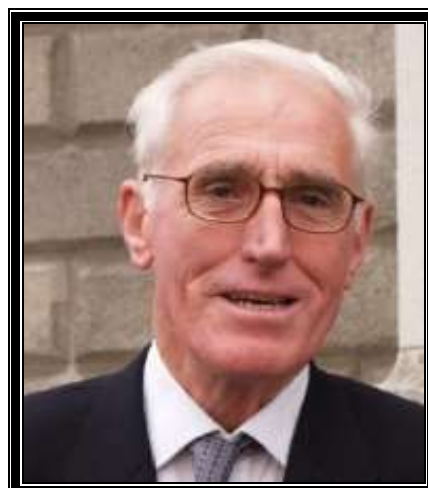
[McGowan, Padraig. 'Money and banking in Ireland - origins development and future'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVI, Pt. I, 1988/1989, pp45-137](#)

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Dermot McAleese

51st President of the Society (1995-1998)

Born: 15th April 1942



Dermot McAleese was Whately Professor of Economics in Trinity College Dublin. He was educated in Belvedere College and received a BComm in 1962 and M.Econ.Sc. from UCD in 1964. He received his PhD from the John Hopkins University in 1971.

He was a lecturer in Economics at the University of Ghana (1964-1966) and then a Research Officer in the Economic and Social Research Institute, Dublin before moving to TCD in 1972. Dermot McAleese was also Pro-Chancellor of Trinity College Dublin, 2005; Chairman of the Consultative Board of the Institute for International Integration Studies (TCD) in 2004; and Dean, Faculty of Business Economic and Social Studies (TCD) 1999-2004. He also served as Chairman of the Economic and Social Research Institute (1988-1991) and as Associate Fellow at the Irish Management Institute from 1985. He was also chairperson of the Commission on Pensions in the Public Sector 1996-2001 and was a Director at the Central Bank of Ireland from 1979-96.

Among his published works are *Ireland and the European Community; Economics for Business*; and, *Inflation in the Irish Economy: A Contemporary Perspective*. He read his Presidential Address on 16th October 1997 on Ireland's economic progress. He was also Honorary Secretary and Vice President of the Society.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[McAleese, D. 'Economic policy and performance: the Irish experience'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVII, Pt. V, 1997/1998, pp3-32](#)

[McAleese, Dermot. 'Capital inflows and direct foreign investment in Ireland 1952-1970'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXII, Part IV, 1971/1972, pp63-105](#)

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William (Bill) Keating

52nd President of the Society (1998-2001)

Born: 5th April 1947 (Co. Cork)



William (Bill) Keating spent his career in the Central Statistics Office (CSO), retiring as Assistant Director General (Economic Statistics) in 2010. He was born in Crosshaven, Co. Cork and educated at St. Finbarr's College, Cork and at UCC where he graduated with a BSc (Mathematical Science) in 1968.

Bill Keating joined the CSO as a statistician in 1968 and worked in the fields of demography, business statistics and economic statistics. While working in the latter area, he was elected chairman of the Committee for Monetary, Financial and Balance of Payments Statistics (CMFB), an advisory body to the EU concerned in particular with issues of government debt and deficit, for 2005-2006. As well as President of the Society, he also served as Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Vice-President.

Selected Society Contributions:

[Keating, W. 'Measuring the economy: problems and prospects'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXX, 2000/2001, pp1-32](#)

[Keating W. and Keane T. 'Irish industrial structure, 1979-1985: a longitudinal analysis'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVI, Pt. I, 1988/1989, pp181-234](#)

Brendan Walsh

53rd President of the Society (2001-2004)

Born: 6th May 1942



Brendan Walsh was professor of economics in UCD. He was educated in UCD where he received a BA in 1961 with a M.A. (Economics) from the University of Tennessee in 1962. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Boston College in 1966. Professor Walsh was Professor of Applied Economics and the National Economies of Ireland at UCD from 1980 until 2005 and then Professor Emeritus of the School of Economics. He was an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Actuaries in Ireland and is both Past President of the Economic and Social Research Institute in Dublin and the Irish Economic Association. He was Chairman of Ireland's National Statistics Board (2004-2009) and Director at Ap EnvEcon, a provider of government and business advisory services.

When at the Harvard Institute for International Development he was a Member of the Advisory Team to the Tehran Development Council and he headed economic and financial policy analysis to The Gambia during its structural adjustment programme. He has a prolific publication record with titles such as *Exports and Employment: The Irish Experience, 1985/1995*; *Aspects of Employment and Unemployment in Ireland*; *The Macroeconomy of Ireland*; and, *After the Celtic Tiger*.

Walsh was elected a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 1980 and of the National Planning Board of Ireland in 1984 and was the economist member of the Public Service Benchmarking Body. He was also Honorary Secretary of the Society.

Selected Society Contributions:

[Walsh, Brendan M. 'Recent trends in mortality and morbidity in Ireland: annual symposium - Wealthier and healthier: Ireland's demographic catch-up'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol.37, 2007/8, pp.95-112](#)

[Walsh, Brendan M. 'The transformation of the Irish labour market: 1980-2003'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXXIII, 2003/2004, pp83-115](#)

[Walsh, Brendan M. 'Symposium on the economic returns to education'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVII, Part V, 1997/1998, pp139-158](#)

[Walsh, Brendan M., and Whelan, B.J., 'The determinants of female labour force participation: an economic analysis of survey data'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXIII, Part I, 1973/1974, pp1-33](#)

['Walsh, Brendan M. 'Aspects of labour supply and demand, with special reference to the employment of women in Ireland'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXII, Part III, 1970/1971, pp88-123](#)

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Aidan Punch

54th President of the Society (2004 -2007)

Born: 31st October 1951 (Cork)



Aidan Punch has spent his career in the Central Statistics Office (CSO) and is currently Assistant Director General (Economic Statistics). He was born in Cork and educated at Colaiste Chriost Ri and at UCC where he graduated with a BSc (Mathematical Science) in 1968. He obtained a Masters in Public Administration from UCD in 1986.

Aidan Punch joined the CSO as a statistician in 1972 and worked in the fields of prices, national accounts, the labour market, demography, including census of population, and macroeconomic statistics. He was secretary of the National Statistics Board from its foundation in 1986 to 1990. At international level he was elected chairman of the European Population Committee for 2002-2003. As well as President of the Society, he also served as Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer and Vice-President.

Selected Society Contributions:-

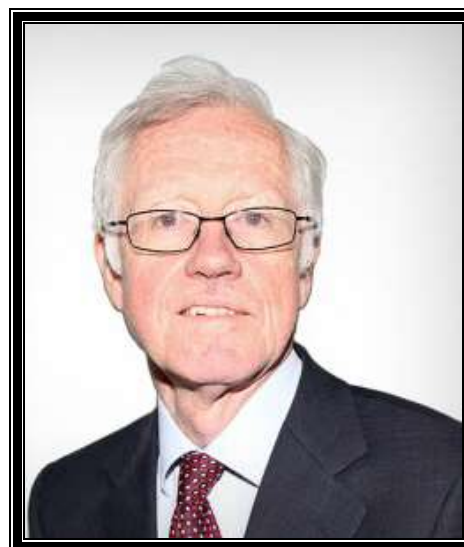
[Punch, Aidan. 'Marriage, fertility and the family in Ireland – a statistical perspective'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXXVI, 2006/2007, pp193-227](#)

[Punch, A. and Finneran, C., 'The demographic and socio-economic characteristics of migrants, 1986-1996'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVIII, Pt. I, 1998/1999, pp213-263](#)

Donal de Buitleir

55th President of the Society (2007-2010)

**Born: August 1949
(Clonmel, Co. Tipperary)**



Donal de Buitleir is a public servant and economist. He attended CBS High School and has a BA from University College Dublin in Economics, Politics and Statistics. There followed a Masters in Economic Science from UCD. He gained a Ph.D from UCD in 1980 and his thesis was “The Equity of Irish Personal Income Taxation.”

He was awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy *honoris causa* by the Dublin Institute of Technology and is an Eisenhower Fellow. He has been General Manager at the Office of the Chief Executive of AIB Group and Head of Group Taxation. Prior to that he was Assistant Secretary and Superintending Inspector of Taxes in the Office of Revenue Commissioners. He was Secretary to the Commission on Taxation, 1980-1985. He also worked in the Department of Economic Planning and Development in the Department of Finance.

Donal de Buitleir was a member of the Commission of Financial Management and Control Systems in the Health Service and was on the Board of Directors for the Health Service Executive (HSE) and has served as Chairman of the Business Regulation Forum and of the Civil Service Performance Verification Group, and was a Council Member of the Foundation for Fiscal Studies. He was also a member of The Institute of International and European Affairs. He gave his Presidential Address on 20 May 2010 on ‘An Exploration of the Nordic Model’ and he was also Vice President of the Society.

Selected Society Contributions:-

[de Buitleir, Donal. 'An Exploration of the Nordic Model'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXXIX , pp211-228](#)

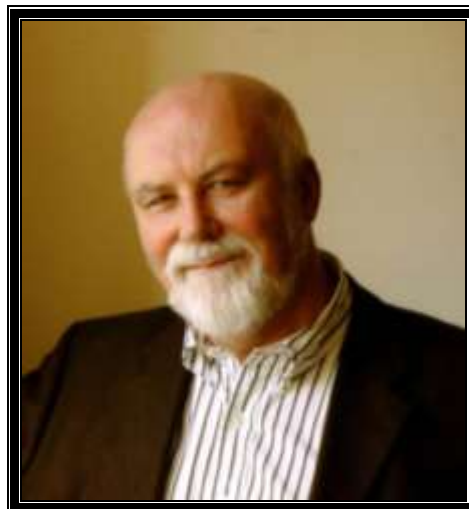
[de Buitleir, Donal. 'Symposium on Taxation: some implications of tax reform'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXV No.2a, 1983/1984, pp1-25](#)

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Paul Sweeney

56th President of the Society (2010-2013)

Born: 22nd April 1949 (Dublin)



Paul Sweeney was a trade union economist. He was educated at Blackrock College, Dublin and received a BA Mod in 1976 and M. Litt in economics in 1988 from Trinity College, Dublin. He was Chief Economist of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions, 2004-2013. He had been an economic consultant and previously worked for the ITGWU merging into SIPTU, and briefly as a tax inspector.

Sweeney has been a member of the National Competitiveness Council since 2004 and was a member of the National Statistics Board from 2004–2013. He was a member of the Economic and Employment Committee of the European Trade Union Confederation and of TUAC, the union advisory group to the OECD Council from 2004-2013. He was a board member of the ESB 1996-2001. He is chair of the independent think tank TASC Economists' Network. He has also published various works that include "Ireland's Economic Success", "Selling Out? Privatisation in Ireland" "The Celtic Tiger, Ireland's Economic Miracle Explained," and "The Politics of Public Enterprise and Privatisation."

He was a member of various government bodies including the first Company Law Review Group in 1994, the Mergers and Competition Review Group from 1996-2000. He read his Presidential Address on May Day, 1st May 2013, on the "Declining Labour Share of National Income."

Selected Society Contributions:-

[Sweeney, Paul. 'An inquiry into the declining labour share of national income and the consequences for economies and societies'. - Dublin: Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XLII, 2012-13, pp109-129](#)

[Sweeney, Paul. 'Symposium on the findings of the Industrial Policy Review Group'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVI No. 4, 1991/1992, pp191-211](#)

[Sweeney, Paul. 'Public enterprise in Ireland: a statistical description and analysis'. - Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXVI, Pt. II, 1989/1990, pp69-123](#)

[Sweeney, Paul. 'Symposium on taxation - The PAYE sector's perspective of taxation and trade union demand for reform'. Dublin: Journal of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, Vol. XXV No1 1983/1984, pp27-35](#)

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