

## ***In Memoriam: Dermot McAleese***

By Patrick Paul Walsh, Society President (2022-2025)

In memoriam of the late Professor Emeritus Dermot McAleese (1942-2025) who served as the 51<sup>st</sup> President of the Society from 1995 to 1998. Born in Dublin, he was educated at Belvedere College before attending University College Dublin and graduating in commerce and then economics. The initial phase of an academic career first took root in Accra at the University of Ghana from 1964 to 1966. He then proceeded to be awarded a PhD in 1971 at Johns Hopkins University in the United States for a thesis titled 'Import Demand, Protection and the Effects of Trade Liberalisation on the Irish Economy'.

His return to Ireland was marked by joining the Economic and Social Research Institute before being recruited by the Department of Economics at Trinity College Dublin in 1972. Around this time, he authored 'Capital Inflows and Direct Foreign Investment in Ireland 1952-1970' for our Journal, alongside a sustained series of articles in outlets such as the *Economic and Social Review* that scrutinised tariffs and trade at a crucial juncture in Ireland's economic development as it entered the European Economic Community (EEC).

Among his major authored and edited books include *Inflation in the Irish Economy: a Contemporary Perspective* (1980) (edited with Loudon Ryan); *Ireland and the European Community* (1984) (edited with P.J. Drudy); *Competition and Industry: the Irish Experience* (1989); *Overseas Industry in Ireland* (1991) (edited with Anthony Foley); and, *Economics for Business* (1997 and subsequent editions).

His career in Trinity was marked by election as Fellow in 1976 and then appointment in 1979 as the Whately Professor of Political Economy (1832) (endowed in the name of our Society's founder and first president Richard Whately) and concurrently serving from 1999 to 2004 as Dean of the Faculty of Business Economic and Social Studies. Following retirement 2004, he served as Pro-Chancellor at Trinity College from 2005 to 2017. In 2012, the Dermot McAleese Teaching Assistant Awards were inaugurated and continue to be awarded annually by Trinity College's School of Social Sciences and Philosophy.

In public service, he served as a Director of the Central Bank of Ireland from 1979 to 1996, and his expertise was called upon to chair commissioned public reports on both Dun Laoghaire Harbour and public service pensions. Further to serving as the President of the Irish Economic Association (1988-1990) and as Chairman of the Economic and Social Research Institute (1988-1991), he had maintained significant interests internationally via postings as a visiting professor to the World Bank as well as lecturing in France, Morocco, and China.

As the Society was celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> year, the presidential address he delivered in the 1997-1998 session was titled 'Economic Policy and Performance: the Irish Experience' which was significant for what he then identified as a 'New Policy Consensus' comprising three pillars: competition and the market system; macro-economic stability; and, trade liberalisation and openness. He had also served as Honorary Secretary and as a Vice-President of the Society.

Professor McAleese's legacy has been vast and continues to be impactful having represented a distinguished career dedicated not only to education and scholarship but also to public service. He is survived by his wife, Camilla, and two daughters and five grandchildren.

### ***Society Contributions:-***

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

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