

The White Quadrangle

Research

Summary of Research Areas:

Physical architecture and acoustics of the UCC quadrangle:

Designed by Deane & Woodward in the mid nineteenth century, the quadrangle is Victorian Gothic probably based on drawings of one of the quadrangles at Oxford University in England.

Ogham Stones

We are interested in the Ogham stones themselves, and some of the myths that have accrued around them. In particular that Ogham may once have been a sign language; that the names of the letters in the alphabet in Irish are the names of trees and plants, and that the tongue of Ogma, the strong god of eloquence (said to have created the Ogham script) was believed to be linked to the ears of his followers by thin gold chains.

Quadrangle Flora

We are interested in the range of trees and shrubs growing in the borders in the UCC quadrangle, and in front of the Boole library. There are some beautiful common names such as Moon Seed, and Winter Sweet. There is even a pomegranate which never flowers, let alone fruits in the Irish climate.

St. Finbarre

We are interested in the life / myth of St. Finbarre:

"It was then spring-time; nevertheless, ripe nuts fell from the hazel tree above them, filling their laps with nuts." (Ó Riain 1994: 67) / "The Lord then released Barra's hand, and from that day on no one could look at the hand because of its brightness. That is why he always covered it with a glove." (Ó Riain 1994: 81) From Ó Riain, Pádraig. *Bheatha Bharra, Saint Finbarr of Cork: The Complete Life*. (London: Irish Texts Society. 1994)

Boolean Mathematics

George Boole was Professor of Mathematics at UCC from 1849 – 64. He is something of an unsung hero in the annals of the computer; for the first time Boole formed a simple universal expression of algebraic linguistics that came to be know as Boolean Logic. The three most basic logical operations upon which his entire structure is built are 'and', 'or', and 'not'.