**Description**

**John Derricke’s *Image of Irelande* (1581) and Early Modern Ireland: a Symposium** brings together a group of international scholars from across disciplines—including literature, history, archaeology, religion, art and architectural history, and Irish Studies—to discuss the meaning of Derricke’s *Image of Irelanee with a Discoverie of Woodkarne* (London, 1581) in relation to its immediate historical, literary, and artistic contexts and to contemporary early modern studies. Discussions will take place around a series of formal two-paper panels, a plenary, and a closing round-table. All events are free and open to the public.

**The Work**

Derricke’s *Image* is understudied today, despite being a key resource for early modern Irish studies. The work attests to the vast complexity of English and Irish relations, colonization, poetry, art, printing, and the forging of identity in the early modern British Isles.

The work, a book-length narrative in verse with elaborate woodcuts, describes the military campaigns in Ireland in the 1570s of Lord Deputy Sir Henry Sidney (father of the famous poet Sir Philip Sidney). The propagandistic, pro-English, anti-Catholic poem is crammed with figurative and cultural-historical details and is therefore of great interest to literary scholars (including Spenserians), archaeologists and historians. The twelve woodcuts are themselves well worth study: they are of the highest quality produced in sixteenth-century England (comparable to those in John Foxe’s *Book of Martyrs*) and, as a sophisticated narrative sequence, have received little scholarly attention to date in relation to print history, to each other, to their extensive captions (also in verse) and to the accompanying lengthy poem.

**Location**

Panels will take place at Case Western Reserve University with the Tuesday night plenary (by Professor Vincent Carey) at John Carroll University.

Optional events include a lunchtime visit to the Cleveland Museum of Art adjacent to CWRU.