<u>**Great Hall Teacher Pack**</u>

1. <u>**Introduction: Administration**</u>

The focus of this room is central and local administration in Ireland. Starting with the Mantlepiece, students are introduced to some of the administrative challenges crown government faced in Ireland. The next station, the chairs, offers a brief discussion on the Desmond lordship, of which Kilcolman Castle was a part. The table explores how local administrations, like that of Desmond and Edmund Spenser, operated. And finally, the chest examines tenurial agreements as the basis of the manorial economy.

2. <u>**Extra textual context and sources**</u>

The Mantlepiece: Administration

Old English alienation: For centuries, the Old English had held the highest administrative offices in Ireland but, following the Kildare rebellion of 1534 they found themselves undergoing gradual displacement in favour of English-born Protestant officials. As higher offices in the administration and judiciary fell vacant, they were replenished with appointees from England. As crown bureaucracy expanded during the latter half of the century, new offices were created, including provincial presidencies, but the vast majority of these were awarded to the friends and family of English viceroys or court favourites who were eager to reinforce their own factional networks. Although the transferal of power was gradual, many within the Old English community were anxious that their positions were under threat. This sentiment was expressed in the excerpt from "Discourse for Reformacion of Ulster by Collonies" presented on the room tour. In the source, the author defends the loyalty, skill, and expertise of the wider Old English community, arguing that centuries of Irish experience qualified them to lead Irish affairs. His opinions can be compared to the harsh criticisms made by New English commentators, like the one below.

   a) Written shortly after the 1598 overthrow of the Munster plantation, the anonymous author of "The Supplication of the Blood of the English Most Lamentably Murdered in Ireland, Cryeng Out of the Yearth for Revenge" argued that experience had shown the English crown that no man of Irish birth (Gaelic Irish or Old English) could be trusted:

   "If wee should preasume to perswade yo^{re} ma^{tie} to trust none Irishe, wee should perswad yo^{u} to the safest course for yo^{re} kingedome, the safest course for yo^{re} subiects, the safest course for yo^{re} selfe Althoughe assuredly there are some, whose faith if it were thoroughly knowne doth well deserve trust. Yet that some are soe fewe as that it is better for yo^{u} to trust none, then to hazard the lightinge on them that are disloyall."[1]
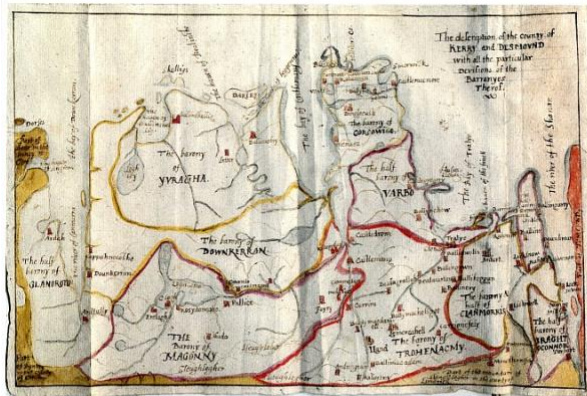
---

[1] Maley (ed.), 'The Supplication', pp. 36-7.

<u>Historiographical Discussion</u>: Comparing these two opposing declarations on Old English loyalties, students should consider how historians interpret and represent conflicting source material when writing about the past. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using sources like these? To what extent should modern readers consider the experiences and motivations of the authors? Are some accounts and/or opinions more believable or reliable than others?

<u>Research Exercise</u>: Based on the declaration made in the "Discourse for Reformacion of Ulster by Collonies" and "The Supplication", students should find examples of Old English or Irish individuals who were loyal to the English crown and those who were not. They should examine the experiences of those individuals and determine why those individuals acted as they did. They should also consider issues surrounding crown loyalty more generally: did the Irish actually owe allegiance to the English crown?

The Chairs: Desmond Lordship

This map of Counties Kerry and Desmond is part of the Clancarthy Survey (Carew MS 625), which was commissioned in July 1597 with the intention of expanding the Munster planation. The survey assesses the earl of Clancarthy's lands in Kerry and Desmond by mapping out his lands and detailing his revenues. Using this as an example, students can examine the survey to see additional maps and descriptions of how lordships were divided into multiple baronies. They can also investigate the physical and economic composition of Irish lordships in terms of castles, lands, rents, fishing rights, etc. The entire survey is available on *Corpus of Electronic Texts*: https://celt.ucc.ie//published/E580000-001/index.html

The Table: Local Administration:

<u>Student-led Research Exercise</u>: Students should research some of the key differences between brehon law and English common law. They can focus on one particular aspect, like laws concerning marriage and divorce, or more general differences, like how brehon and common lawyers were educated, or how laws were enforced in terms of judgement and penalties. A great deal of this information is available online, so students should be able to do this on their phones

or devices in class. They should be encouraged to use primary sources, like Sir John Davies works which are reproduced on *Corpus of Electronic Texts*:
https://celt.ucc.ie/publishd.html#davies

The Chest: Tenurial Agreements

This station can also be considered in connection with the tour of the armoury. It is important to note that Ireland was a highly militarised society where defence was often more important that profit. How local lords supported their military retinues was one of the key features of lordship and politics in early modern Ireland.

2(a). Additional Resources

Documentary: Fergal Keane, *The Story of Ireland: The Age of Conquest*, (BBC, 2011)
- This documentary explores the "reconquest" of Ireland under the Tudors. It addresses issues of government, colonialism, violence, and religion. It can be used as a visual aid to enhance understanding of the topics covered by the history tours in each room.

3. Bibliography

Brendan Bradshaw, *The Irish Constitutional Revolution of the Sixteenth Century* (Cambridge, 1979)

Ciaran Brady, *The Chief Governors: The Rise and Fall of Reform Government in Tudor Ireland, 1536-1588* (Cambridge, 1994)

Ruth A. Canning, '"May she be rewarded in heauen for righting her poore subiects in Irelande": Lawyer Richard Hadsor and the Authorship of an Elizabethan Treatise on Ireland', *The Irish Jurist*, Vol. 55 (2016), pp. 1–24.

Steven G. Ellis, *Ireland in the Age of the Tudors, 1447-1603: English Expansion and the End of Gaelic Rule* (Harlow, 1998), pp. 106-110.

Anthony M. McCormack, *The Earldom of Desmond, 1463-1583*. (Dublin, 2005).

Valerie McGowan-Doyle, 'Elizabeth I, the Old English, and the Rhetoric of Counsel', in B. Kane and V. McGowan-Doyle (eds.), *Elizabeth I and Ireland*, pp. 163-183.

Hiram Morgan, "Overmighty Officers: 'The Irish Lord Deputy in the Early Modern British State'," *History Ireland*, Vol. 7, No. 4 (1999), pp. 17-21.

K.W. Nicholls, *Gaelic and Gaelicised Ireland in the Middle Ages* (Dublin, 2003), pp. 50-76.

David B. Quinn, "Anglo-Irish Local Government, 1485-1534," *Irish Historical Studies*, Vol. 1, No. 4 (1939), pp. 354-381.

4. **Teaching Plan**

<u>Discussion Questions</u>

1) Did Old English and New English ideas about political reform differ?

2) In the "Discourse for Reformacion of Ulster by Collonies", what was the author's argument and how did he support it?

3) Does "Discourse for Reformacion of Ulster by Collonies" function as a declaration of loyalty?

4) Why did English commentators, like the author of "The Supplication", argue that the Old English were untrustworthy? Are there examples which might have supported his argument?

5) How did Old English lords, like the earls of Desmond, adapt the administration of their lordships to accommodate Gaelic Irish and Old English tenants?

6) How does Edmund Spenser describe the Old English? Do you think his assessment is accurate?

7) Brehon law and common law prescribed different punishments for different crimes and lawyer John Davies was critical of the fact that Brehon law did not use the death penalty for certain crimes. Why do you think Brehon law favoured the use of fines over execution? How might this type of punishment have been a stabilising influence? Conversely, how could the use of a death penalty have caused greater instability?

8) What key concern formed the basis on which tenurial agreements were formed in early modern Ireland?

9) What was coyne and livery?