

An Irish Merchant Community in 17th and 18th Century Tenerife

This research activity is preparatory work for an exhibition entitled 'An Irish Merchant Community in 17th and 18th Century Tenerife'. It draws on the archive of the Cólógan family of Tenerife, which is of almost unparalleled size and quality and which documents every aspect of the business, domestic, personal, political and religious lives of an expatriate Catholic Irish community. There also survives a wealth of related 'material culture' in Tenerife (portraits, houses, chapels, furniture, etc.) of exceptional quality and interest. This community, with its extensive archives and artefacts, is hardly known in Ireland, and will provide the basis for an exhibition of considerable scholarly and popular interest. The exhibition plan and mock-up under preparation will be used as the basis to seek funding for a full-scale exhibition. The outline exhibition plan will also be a tool for demonstrating the importance and interest of the Cólógan Archive to representatives of cultural institutions in the Irish cities most closely connected with the Tenerife community (Waterford, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Dublin), as well as potential partner academic institutions.