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Nottingham

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Graphic satire and the UK in the long nineteenth century

A one-day symposium convened by Professor Fintan Cullen and Dr Richard A Gaunt, University of Nottingham, Tuesday 5th September 2017

Keynote speaker: Professor Brian Maidment, Liverpool John Moores University; confirmed.

Brian Maidment has been attached to Liverpool John Moores University since 2012 after a distinguished career at a number of other UK universities. A recognised scholar of nineteenth-century illustrated literature and Victorian periodicals, he is the in-coming President of the US-based Research Society for Victorian Periodicals (2016-18). Perhaps his most acclaimed books are 'Comedy, Caricature and the Social Order 1820-50' (Manchester UP, 2013) and 'Reading Popular Prints, 1790-1870' (Manchester UP, 1996) while he has also published widely in journals, contributed essays to a large number of books as well as being a regular book reviewer and he has written extensive pieces on the internet. In recent years he has taught at Yale University and was a Visiting Scholar at the Lewis Walpole Library. He is presently working on Robert Seymour, the first illustrator for Dickens' 'Pickwick Papers'.

This one-day international symposium seeks to interrogate the nature of the United Kingdom's status as a global power in the long nineteenth century (c.1780-1920) by considering the varied ways in which it was viewed, and represented, in graphic satire during this period. The years from c.1780- 1920 encompassed events with widely-felt repercussions, generating interest and commentary well outside the countries in which they occurred. In turn, these events required the United Kingdom – which came into existence with the union between Great Britain and Ireland in 1801 - to consider its reach, role and reputation on a global scale. In the period up to 1815, for example, the American Wars of Independence (1775-83), the French Revolution of 1789, the wars against Revolutionary and Napoleonic France (1793-1815) and the Battle of Waterloo (1815), all made the United Kingdom think outside its purely domestic political situation. The establishment of peace terms in 1815 ushered in what historians once described as the 'Pax Britannica' or century of 'British' peace. Over the course of the next century, the United Kingdom became increasingly defined by the range of its global interests, both in terms of its formal and informal empire, its diplomatic activity and its continuing participation in naval and military conflict. By the end of the period, the United Kingdom's global status was challenged by the repercussions of World War One (1914-18) and the impending dissolution of the Union with Ireland (1922).

The symposium provides an opportunity to explore the United Kingdom's global relationships in this period in graphic political and personal satires. It builds on a growing body of work which explores the subject from the perspective of individual satirists such as Gillray, Rowlandson, Cruikshank and Doyle, as well as studies of well-known satirical print titles like Punch and personifications of 'Britishness' such as John Bull. Papers which consider the United Kingdom's global relationships from the perspective of the constituent parts of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales

and Ireland) and from overseas will be presented, as will papers which reflect upon issues of race, gender, nationhood and ethnicity across the period in question. We have received a good response to our call for papers and have invited eight speakers to present 30 minute papers. The key note speaker, Professor Brian Maidment will speak for about 50 minutes. In terms of experience, the eight speakers range from a retired professor to a number of early career scholars from the UK, Ireland, Poland, Australia and Germany. All the talks relate to Britain in the long nineteenth century with the papers making reference to France, Germany, the USA, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. The eight speakers have all confirmed attendance at the conference, they are:

Dr Allison Stagg, Technische Universitat/Freie Universitat Berlin, Germany: 'A British Caricaturist in Philadelphia: William Charles and the War of 1812/ the Anglo-American War'

Dr Matthew Potter, Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK: ' "When England grew out of her saucy youth": the German reception of British political cartoons of the Napoleonic period'

Dr Carly Hegenbarth, Independent Researcher, UK: 'Catholic Emancipation, a cross-Irish channel elite and satirical printmaking between Dublin and London in the late 1820s'

Dr Pawel Hamera, Pedagogical University of Cracow, Poland: ' "A balm of the sorrows of Erin": Irishness in Robert Seymour's caricatures'

Professor Peter Gray, Queen's University Belfast, UK: 'Representations of Irish Famine and Rebellion in the British Satirical Press, 1845-49'

Dr Emily Mark-FitzGerald, University College Dublin, Ireland: 'An alien in Wexford: Harry Furniss and Ireland'

Dr Richard Scully, University of New England, Australia: 'Britain in the Melbourne Punch, and the colonial Charivaris of Australasia, 1855-1901'

Professor Lesley Milne, University of Nottingham, UK: 'Britain as depicted in French and German humorous-satirical magazines during the First World War'

It is hoped that a potential volume of symposium proceedings will appear in the future.