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Funerary Monuments and Memorials in St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh

JAMES STEVENS CURL



Dean Drelincourt's monument,
with effigy by Rysbrack (© James Stevens Curl)

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Chantrey's monument
to Primate Stuart
(© James Stevens Curl)

The funerary monuments and memorials in the Church of Ireland (Anglican) Cathedral Church of St Patrick, Armagh, include fine works by celebrated sculptors including Bacon, Chantrey, Farrell, Marochetti, Nollekens, Roubiliac, Rysbrack, and others, yet are not widely known. Professor Stevens Curl's book describes and illustrates all of them, as well as giving details of the artists and their subjects, thereby filling an unaccountable gap in the literature.

Those who visited Armagh in the past often waxed enthusiastic over the monuments. Among them was William Makepeace Thackeray: he singled out for praise the superb marble statue of Primate Stuart by Chantrey, an artist considered by some scholars to compete

with Flaxman as the greatest English sculptor of the early-nineteenth century. Rysbrack's figure of Dean Dreilincourt was hailed by another observer as 'an exquisite piece of workmanship, perfected by the hand of taste', and it is clear that the Armagh monuments are of national and international importance.

Funerary monuments in churches often add richness and interest to interiors, and in this respect Armagh Cathedral is no exception: its collection of memorials deserves proper recognition, adequate recording, and scholarly description (with illustrations). This is the rationale for Professor Stevens Curl's study, which provides for the first time a comprehensive guide to these remarkable survivals, some of which are world-class in terms of excellence. The work was published on 1 June 2013 in two versions (identical except for the binding and Subscription-Number): a Limited Hardback Edition of 250 numbered signed copies; and a Softback Edition, unsigned and not numbered.

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PROFESSOR JAMES STEVENS CURL has held Chairs in Architectural History at two universities, has twice been Visiting Fellow at Peterhouse, University of Cambridge, is a Member of the Royal Irish Academy, a Fellow of the Societies of Antiquaries of London and of Scotland, a Member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, a Member of the Church Monuments Society, and Joint Patron of the Mausolea & Monuments Trust. Now in his eighth decade, he has established an international reputation for impeccable scholarship, lucidity of style, and thorough investigations in little-charted waters. His output over the last half-century and more includes *Georgian Architecture in the British Isles 1714-1830*; *Freemasonry & the Enlightenment: Architecture, Symbols, and Influences*; *Spas, Wells, & Pleasure-Gardens of London*; *Oxford Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture*; *The Egyptian Revival: Ancient Egypt as the Inspiration for Design Motifs in the West*; *The Victorian Celebration of Death*; and *Victorian Architecture; Diversity & Invention*, as well as innumerable papers, articles, reviews, and occasional pieces on a wide range of topics. He is Professor of Architecture at the School of Architecture and Design, University of Ulster.

THE BOOK

Two editions of the book have been published, designed by Nicola Willmot of Two Plus George Ltd, www.twoplusgeorge.co.uk, and published by Historical Publications Ltd, www.historicalpublications.co.uk.

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