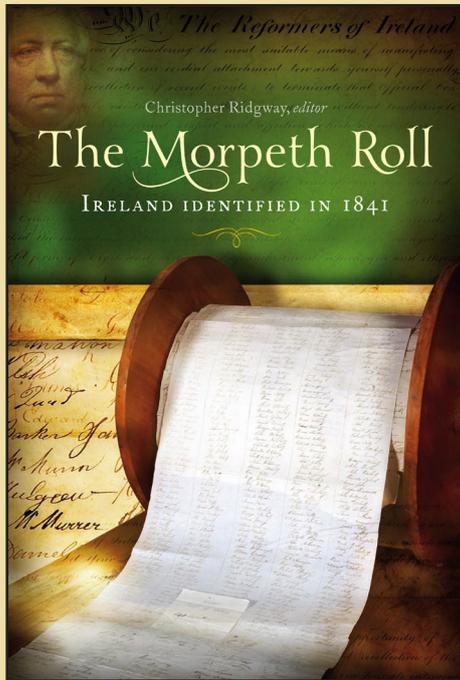




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## THE MORPETH ROLL *Ireland identified in 1841*

Christopher Ridgway, EDITOR

In 1841, on stepping down as chief secretary, George Howard, Lord Morpeth, received a grand farewell testimonial from the people of Ireland. This took the form of over a quarter of a million signatures on sheets of paper wrapped around a gigantic bobbin; when unwound, the testimonial measures a staggering 420 metres, more than three times the length of Dublin's Croke Park. Signatories included 'The Liberator' **Daniel O'Connell** and his sons; **Thomas Davis**, editor of *The Nation* and leader of the 'Young Ireland' movement; **Charles Bianconi**, an Italian immigrant who revolutionised public transport in Ireland; **Charles Gavan Duffy**, journalist, Young Irelander and politician; and the son of politician **Henry Grattan**.

After decades of lying in obscurity in Castle Howard, North Yorkshire, the Morpeth Roll has been the subject of intense research, digitization and conservation. It is now being seen in public for the first time in 170 years as part of a touring exhibition throughout Ireland, held in conjunction with **The Gathering** (2013).

This lavishly illustrated book of essays discusses the significance of the roll and examines what it can tell us about pre-Famine Ireland. The roll is not only a document of national significance, it is also a unique mechanical object on its winding spool, presenting very special challenges for display and interpretation.

### 2013–14 EXHIBITION

An exhibition on the Morpeth Roll will travel throughout Ireland in 2013–14. The exhibition will tell the story of why the roll was created and how it was pieced together. The exhibition will be hosted in the following venues:

20 Apr. – 12 May 2013	Westport House, Co. Mayo
21 May – 30 June 2013	Derrynane (OPW)
8 July – 11 Aug. 2013	The Main Guard, Clonmel
16 Aug. – 26 Oct. 2013	Kilkenny Castle
1 – 29 Nov. 2013	NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare
5 Dec. 2013 – 26 Jan. 2014	Naughton Gallery, Queen's U, Belfast
3 Feb. – 4 Apr. 2014	Dublin Castle

For further information or to arrange an interview with Christopher Ridgway, please contact Anthony Tierney, Four Courts Press at (01) 453 4668 or via email at [anthony.tierney@fourcourtspress.ie](mailto:anthony.tierney@fourcourtspress.ie)