

Citation

Professor Louis Cullen

Professor Louis Michael Cullen has been described as the most prolific, most wide-ranging and the most enterprising historian of his generation in Ireland. He was educated at the National University of Ireland, Galway, undertook research at the London School of Economics, and had a brief foray into the Irish Diplomatic Corps before he abandoned diplomacy for a lecturing position in economic history (the first of its kind in Ireland) in Trinity College Dublin in 1963 where he has remained as an esteemed member of faculty. His positions have included Professor of Irish History, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Senior Fellow and member of College Board.



His interest in Irish economic history has led to a number of seminal publications; one of which *The Emergence of Modern Ireland 1600-1900* (1981), included two chapters 'diet in a changing society' and 'hospitality and men' which brought food and diet into the Irish historical mainstream. In 1992, he contributed a chapter 'Comparative Aspects of the Irish diet 1550-1850' to Hans J. Teuteberg's edited book *European Food History: A Research Review*.

At the same time Louis Cullen situated his research findings on Ireland in a broader context through the series of conference he promoted comparing Irish economic performance through the centuries publishing such works as *Culture et pratiques politiques en France et en Irlande XVIe-XVIIIe siècle: actes colloque de Marseille 28 septembre-2 octobre 1988* (1990) and *A History of Japan 1582-1941*. In 1998, he also wrote the definitive study: *The Brandy Trade under the Ancien Régime: Regional Specialisation in the Charente*.

His many achievements have already been recognised by Membership of the Royal Irish Academy, by External Fellowship of the British Academy, by a Visiting Fellowship at All Souls University and by honorary doctorates from Queen's University, Belfast and the University of Strathclyde.