

The buildings themselves, for the most part, are from this period. The world-famous Library (completed in 1732) has often, with the Hall and Chapel, been falsely attributed to Wren. One of the most beautiful of Dublin's buildings, it also houses literary treasures, such as the Book of Kells. The great facade towards College Green was built by 1759, and the Examination Hall, designed by William Chambers from the originals by Keene and Saunders, was finished by 1787. The fine Provost's House was completed by 1760, in time for residency by Adams. The flavor of the major architecture at Trinity is decidedly eighteenth century.

This was also the era of Trinity's most illustrious graduates, from Swift and Berkeley to Edmund Burke. In all fields, but most particularly in literature and politics, Trinity students made their mark.

Berkeley and Swift - both Kilkenny trained - were quite disparate personalities. Swift's great literary masterpieces, Gulliver's Travels and Tale of a Tub, were seconded by his intense sympathy with the Irish people. Time and again, he lashed out at their oppressors and at their own apathy in securing independence. His stay at Trinity is rather mysterious - his degree was granted by special favor, the circumstances of which have never been satisfactorily explained.

Berkeley's public career overshadows his academic one, but his association with Trinity lasted 25 years, both as student and as fellow. For 17 of those years, he kept notebooks in which can be traced the genesis of his later philosophic work.

One of Trinity's most charming undergraduates was, undoubtedly, Oliver Goldsmith. His career presents several interesting sidelights into university life at the time. Goldsmith was always characterized as a merry, sociable character, with little of the stern discipline that seems to have been expected of most of the students. His failure at mathematics was colossal - but he was not helped in any way by his rather bullying master, Dr. Theaker Wilder. In addition to his troubles with mathematics, Goldsmith