and genealogist Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh; he was also remembered as a practicing astrologer and miracle-maker, memorialized in a Galway folk tale involving the exorcism of a local woman who had become possessed around the time of Cromwell’s death. O’Flaherty was alleged to have exorcized the woman, but when she became quiet in his presence, he explained that the devil had left her, having instead ‘gone to the funeral of Oliver Cromwell.’

O’Flaherty had fled his home near Galway during the Cromwellian campaign and then returned under the Restoration, only to find his family’s lands in the possession of the lawyer and longstanding family enemy Richard “Nimble Dick” Martin. The Restoration reduced his holdings even further until O’Flaherty now lived, he wrote, as “a banished man within the bounds of my native soil.” He would nevertheless use his permanent wilderness years to pursue a futile case against Martin and compose his great work of classical, patristic and Irish antiquarian scholarship, the Ogygia, published in 1684. But when Thomas Molyneux called on O’Flaherty toward the end of his life in 1709, he found the scholar “very old and [living] in miserable condition” in a cabin. “I expected to have seen here some old Irish manuscripts,” Molyneux continued; “but his ill fortune has stripped him of these as well as his other goods, so that he has nothing now left but some few pieces of his own writing and a few old Romish books of History, printed in my time.”

While the Ogygia held out optimism for the accession of its dedicatee, the future Catholic king James Stuart, O’Flaherty would write that he lived as “a spectator of others enriched by my birthright; an object of condoling to my relations and friends, and a consoler of their miseries.” Like many others of his class, his fortunes had taken a downturn with Cromwell, his hopes revived under James, and then plunged some more. While he did not overtly recall Cromwell, his life was a testament to what the conqueror had left in his wake. The poet Seán Ó Gadhra, who once described how “transient was the dominion of Oliver,” found its shadow cast nevertheless over his friend O’Flaherty (“Is é Tuathal d’fhuaiscail na céadta,/ fuair Eoghan Mór a choir ar réiteach;/ is é Pádraig theagaisc creideamh do Ghaelaibh,/ is ní fada mhair Olivérus”). “Sad for me, as I write, since I shall not raise to the stars your writings, Ó Gadhra, wrote. But “rest gently in the tomb, Rogerus