Codices Hibernenses Eximii III: Book of Uí Mhaine

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Publication date: 20 April 2023

About Codices Hibernenses Eximii III: Book of Uí Mhaine

Third in the series Codices Hibernenses Eximii, the Book of Uí Mhaine is miscellaneous in content, comprising a wide range of texts in Old, Middle and Early Modern Irish, in prose and poetry, and covering a diverse range of genres from history to poetry, grammar to dindshenchas, glossaries to genealogies. Miscellaneous, however, should not necessarily be understood to mean random. Certain thematic clusters can be identified, and the layout and juxtaposition of texts appear to be both deliberate and meaningful. While the manuscript contains much that represents senchas, that is, the learned historical discourse of medieval Ireland, there is also much about the manuscript that is more innovative, not least ‘the free mixture and association of contemporary poetry and older poetry in a single book’. Many of the poems in the manuscript are of particular social or political importance, and a significant number of them are uniquely preserved in the Book of Uí Mhaine.

The book, which is the third in the Royal Irish Academy’s Codices Hibernenses Eximii series, presents revised versions of contributions to a conference on the manuscript by Nollaig Ó Muraíle, Bernadette Cunningham, Raymond Gillespie, Ruairí Ó hUiginn, Michael Clarke, Marie-Luise Theuerkauf, Liam Breathnach, Paul Russell, Deborah Hayden, Pádraig Ó Macháin, Micheál Hoyne and Karen Ralph.

It is edited by Elizabeth Boyle and Ruairí Ó hUiginn.

Contributor information

Elizabeth Boyle is Lecturer in Early Irish at Maynooth University. Her primary research interest is the intellectual and religious culture of early medieval Ireland. She is the author of History and Salvation in Medieval Ireland (2021); and her essay collection Fierce Appetites, published by Penguin, was shortlisted for the Irish Book Awards non-fiction book of the year in 2022.

Ruairí Ó hUiginn MRIA is Senior Professor, School of Celtic Studies, Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Professor Ó hUiginn received his doctorate from Queen’s University, Belfast. He is the editor of Codices Hibernenses Eximii I: Lebor na hUidre (2015) and Codices Hibernenses Eximii II: Book of Ballymote (2018).