

The Leabhar Breac

Royal Irish Academy / 27–28 April 2023

- Conference fee: €50
- Registered students/unwaged: €25
Tea/coffee, reception on Thursday
and light lunch on Friday included.

Advance booking essential [here](#)

Attendance is capped and offered on a first-come basis.
Enquiries: library@ria.ie or phone 01-6090600

The Royal Irish Academy manuscript *An Leabhar Breac/The Speckled Book* was written in Irish by Murchadh Riabhach Ó Cuindlis (a scribe of the *Book of Lecan*), at Cluain Lethan in Músraige Tíre, in north Co. Tipperary and at other locations, between the years 1408 and 1411. In the 16th century the manuscript was held by the Mac Egans of Duniry, the most prominent of the hereditary legal families of late medieval Ireland, whence it also received the title of *Leabhar Mór Dúna Doighre/The Book of the MacEgans*. It is the largest Irish vellum manuscript created by one scribe and contains religious and biblical material derived from Latin, Irish literature and history, including the lives of St Patrick and St Brigid, the Litany of Our Lady, *Féilire Óengusso Céili Dé*, the humorous saga *Aisling Meic Conglinne*, and some reworkings of biblical history. This two-day conference will explore the historical, ecclesiastical, literary and illustrative aspects of *An Leabhar Breac*, this most impressive example of a predominantly religious manuscript compilation in the Irish vernacular.

DIAS

Institiúid Ard-Léinn | Dublin Institute for
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**Ollscoil
Mhá Nuad**
Ollscoil na hÉireann
Má Nuad



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann
Royal Irish Academy



Thursday, 27 April

1pm Registration

1.45pm–2pm

Barbara McCormack

Welcome and opening remarks

2pm–2.45pm

Elizabeth Boyle

The Sacred Geography of the *Leabhar Breac*

2.45pm–3.30pm

Ruairí Ó hUiginn

The *Leabhar Breac*, Connacht and Ceallach

3.30pm–4pm Tea/coffee

4pm–4.45pm

Westley Follett

Leabhar Breac as a Fifteenth-Century Window on the *céli Dé*

4.45pm–5.30pm

Conor McDonough

Rereading the Sermons in the *Leabhar Breac*

5.30pm

Drinks reception and launch of *Book of Uí Mhaine*, ed. Elizabeth Boyle and Ruairí Ó hUiginn (Dublin: Royal Irish Academy, 2023)

Friday, 28 April

9.30am–10.15am

Nike Stam

Ach ach, as tind ar toirrhimm: Murchadh's Commentary to the *Féilire Óengusso*, and how it can cause Sleepless Nights

10.15am–11am

Anna Chacko

Critical Strategies in *Aislinge Meic Con Glinne* ('The Vision of Mac Con Glinne') from the *Leabhar Breac*: a Reconsideration of Some Distinctions between the 'B' and 'H' Versions

11am–11.30am Tea/coffee

11.30am–12.15pm

Nollaig Ó Muraile

An Leabhar Breac: Scribe, History and Contents

12.15pm–1pm

Bernadette Cunningham and Raymond Gillespie

The Later History of the *Leabhar Breac*

1pm–2.30pm Lunch

2.30pm–3.15pm

Chantal Kobel

Fort margan co mbáni bieit inna líni: Elements of Readability in the *Leabhar Breac*

3.15pm–4pm

Liam Breatnach

The Facsimile of the *Leabhar Breac* and the Case for a Diplomatic Edition

4.00pm–4.45pm

Karen Ralph

'The Flesh that was Crucified in a Hideous, Awful Death': the *Leabhar Breac* and Crucifixion Imagery in Late Medieval Ireland

4.45pm

Ruairí Ó hUiginn

Closing remarks

