

Contents

<i>List of maps</i>	<i>page</i> viii
<i>List of tables</i>	ix
<i>List of figures</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xiii
<i>A note on pronunciation</i>	xvi
<i>A note on the Chronicle of Ireland</i>	xix
Introduction	
1 Ireland in the seventh century: a tour	8
(i) The lands of the southern Uí Néill	15
(ii) The lands of the Connachta	36
(iii) The north-east	54
2 Irish society <i>c.</i> 700: I. Communities	68
(i) Free and unfree, noble and commoner	68
(ii) Communities	80
(a) Kinship	84
(b) <i>Gens</i>	96
(c) Neighbours	100
(d) <i>Túath</i>	102
(e) The household (<i>muintir</i>)	106
(f) The retinue, the warband and the company of boys (<i>déis, fian</i> and <i>macrad</i>)	112
(g) Fosterage	115
(h) Church and monastery	117
3 Irish society <i>c.</i> 700: II. Social distinctions and moral values	124
(i) The problem of incommensurable status	124
(ii) The hierarchies of status	129
(iii) Honour and moral values	136

vi	<i>Contents</i>	
4	Ireland and Rome	145
	(i) From the Late Iron Age to Early Christian Ireland	145
	(ii) Irish settlements in Britain	158
	(iii) Language and identity in western Britain	163
	(iv) The ogam inscriptions in Ireland and the beginnings of literacy	172
	(v) The Latin culture of Ireland and Britain before 600	176
5	Conversion to Christianity	182
	(i) The evidence	183
	(ii) Conversion and culture	185
	(iii) Palladius	202
	(iv) Patrick	214
	(v) The development of the mission	233
6	The organisation of the early Irish Church	241
	(i) Bishops and monastic <i>paruchia</i>	241
	(ii) Scholars, bishops and abbots	264
	(iii) Bishops, scribes, scholars and the <i>túath</i>	271
7	Columba, Iona and Lindisfarne	282
	(i) The sources	283
	(ii) Columba's education	290
	(iii) The foundation of Iona	293
	(iv) Columba and the Picts	299
	(v) Iona and the English	308
	(vi) Insular art	326
8	Columbanus and his disciples	344
9	The Paschal controversy	391
	(i) Time, power and the calendar	391
	(ii) Exegesis	396
	(iii) The development of the controversy	405
	(iv) The seriousness of the issues	411
10	The primatial claims of Armagh, Kildare and Canterbury	416
	(i) Bishops, metropolitans and archbishops	416
	(ii) The <i>Collectio Canonum Hibernensis</i> and the Book of the Angel	421
	(iii) Kildare and the <i>Romani</i>	428
	(iv) The claims of Wilfrid and Theodore	429
	(v) The dating of the Irish texts relevant to the issue of an Irish archbishopric	438
11	The origins and rise of the Uí Néill	441
12	The kingship of Tara	469
	(i) Perceptions of Tara	469

<i>Contents</i>		vii
	(ii) Tara and Tailtiu	476
	(iii) Tara and the kingship of Ireland	481
	(iv) Druimm Cete, the Uí Néill and Osraige	488
	(v) The partiality of <i>Baile Chuinn</i>	491
	(vi) Non-Uí Néill kings of Tara	494
	(vii) The annals and the king-lists	501
	(viii) Variations in the power of the king of Tara	507
	(ix) The Airgialla and the Uí Néill	512
	(x) The kingship of Tara in the laws	518
13	The powers of kings	522
	(i) The fiscal resources of kings	525
	(ii) Free peoples and 'base-client peoples'	530
	(iii) <i>Frithfolad Muman</i>	534
	(iv) <i>Fortúatha</i> , 'external peoples'	548
	(v) The <i>óenach</i>	556
	(vi) The <i>cáin</i>	559
	(vii) The power of the Uí Néill in the eighth century	569
14	Conclusion	586
	<i>Appendix: Genealogies and king-lists</i>	600
	<i>Glossary: Irish and Latin</i>	630
	<i>Bibliography</i>	635
	<i>Index</i>	671