CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND IDENTITY IN LATE MEDIEVAL IRELAND

Irish inhabitants of the ‘four obedient shires’ – a term commonly used to describe the region at the heart of the English colony in the later Middle Ages – were significantly anglicized, taking on English names, dress, and even legal status. However, the processes of cultural exchange went both ways. This study examines the nature of interactions between English and Irish neighbours in the four shires, taking into account the complex tensions between assimilation and the preservation of distinct ethnic identities and exploring how the common colonial rhetoric of the Irish as an ‘enemy’ coexisted with the daily reality of alliance, intermarriage, and accommodation. Placing Ireland in a broad context, Sparky Booker addresses the strategies the colonial community used to deal with the difficulties associated with extensive assimilation, and examines significant shifts in what it meant to be ‘English’ or ‘Irish’ in the face of these challenges.

Sparky Booker is a lecturer at Queen’s University Belfast and specializes in medieval Irish social, cultural, and legal history. Her publications have examined the interactions between the English of Ireland and the Irish in the later Middle Ages, and explored intermarriage, sumptuary law, ecclesiastical patronage, and the Irish in urban society. Recent work examines female litigants in medieval Ireland, and analyzes litigant strategies and the influence of wealth, status, ethnicity, and gender on women’s legal activities. Booker is keenly interested in public history, and as a member of the Friends of Medieval Dublin, she was co-founder and co-editor of the *Tales of Medieval Dublin* lecture series and accompanying book.
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CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND
IDENTITY IN LATE MEDIEVAL
IRELAND

The English and Irish of the Four Obedient Shires

SPARKY BOOKER
Queen’s University, Belfast
For my mother and father
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## ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AFM</td>
<td>Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters, ed. J. O’Donovan, 7 vols (Dublin, 1848–51).</td>
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<td>AH</td>
<td>Archivium Hibernicum</td>
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<td>AHR</td>
<td>American Historical Review</td>
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<td>Alen’s Reg.</td>
<td>Calendar of Archbishop Alen’s Register, ed. C. MacNeill (Dublin, 1919).</td>
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CJR  Calendar of the Justiciary Rolls of Ireland, ed. J. Mills et al., 3 vols (Dublin, 1905–56).


Dryburgh and Smith, Handbook  P. Dryburgh and B. Smith (eds), Handbook and Select Calendar of Sources for Medieval Ireland in the National Archives of the United Kingdom (Dublin, 2005).

Dryburgh and Smith, Inquisitions and Extents  P. Dryburgh and B. Smith (eds), Inquisitions and Extents of Medieval Ireland (Kew, 2007).

List of Abbreviations

eDIL  Electronic Dictionary of the Irish Language
         (Dublin, 2007), www.dil.ie.
EHRR  English Historical Review
Ellis, Ireland in the Age of the Tudors  S. G. Ellis, Ireland in the Age of the Tudors, 1447–1603, 2nd edn (Harlow, 1998).
Frame, English Lordship  R. Frame, English Lordship in Ireland, 1318–1361 (Oxford, 1982).
Gwynn and Haddock, Medieval Religious Houses Ireland  A. Gwynn and R. N. Haddock, Medieval Religious Houses: Ireland, with an Appendix to Early Sites (Harlow, 1970).
HI  History Ireland
Hore and Graves, Southern and Eastern Counties  H. Hore and J. Graves (eds), The Social State of Southern and Eastern Counties of Ireland in the Sixteenth century (Dublin, 1870).
IER  The Irish Ecclesiastical Record
IHS  Irish Historical Studies
IG  The Irish Genealogist
IJ  The Irish Jurist
JCLAHS  Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society
JCKAS  Journal of the County Kildare Archaeological Society
JMEMS  Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies
JMH  Journal of Medieval History
JRSAI  Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries Ireland
Lydon, The Lordship of Ireland  J. Lydon, The Lordship of Ireland in the Middle Ages, 2nd edn (Dublin, 2003).
List of Abbreviations

Lydon, Law and Disorder

MacLysaght, Surnames
E. MacLysaght, The Surnames of Ireland, 4th edn (Dublin, 1997).

MacLysaght, Irish Families

MacNiocaill, Crown Survey
Crown Survey of Lands 1540–41 with the Kildare Rental begun in 1518, ed. G. MacNiocaill (Dublin, 1994).

Maginn and Ellis, The Tudor Discovery of Ireland
C. Maginn and S. G. Ellis (eds), The Tudor Discovery of Ireland (Dublin, 2015).

Murphy and Potterton, The Dublin Region
M. Murphy and M. Potterton, The Dublin Region in the Middle Ages (Dublin, 2010).

NAI
National Archives of Ireland

NLI
National Library of Ireland

NHI

Nicholls, Gaelic and Gaelicised Ireland

OED

Ormond Deeds

Quinn, ‘Bills and statutes’

Reg. Fleming

Reg. Mey
Registrum Iohannis Mey, eds W. G. H. Quigley and E. F. D. Roberts (Belfast, 1972).
List of Abbreviations


Reg. Prene TCD MS 557 (Register of Archbishop Prene, 2 vols, transcribed by Bishop Reeves).


PP Past and Present

PRILA Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy

Richardson and Sayles, Irish Parliament in the Middle Ages


RnM Ríocht na Midhe


SA Seanchas Ardmhacha

s.a. sub anno

SHR Scottish Historical Review


List of Abbreviations

Studies  Studies: An Irish Quarterly Review
TCD  Trinity College Dublin
THSC  Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion
Topic  Topic: Studies in Irish History
TRHS  Transactions of the Royal Historical Society
White, Extents  Extents of Monastic Possessions, 1540–1, ed. N. B. White (Dublin, 1941).
WHR  Welsh History Review

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