

OLLSCOIL NA hÉIREANN, GAILLIMH
THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

3rd ARTS EXAMINATIONS 2000-2001

SEMESTER I

HISTORY

Course HI 369 - MEDIEVAL IRELAND 9th-13th CENTURY

Dr. Seán Duffy
An tOllamh Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh
Anne Connors

Time allowed: **TWO** hours
Answer **THREE** questions

1. Discuss how any **two** of the following can be used as sources for medieval Irish history. Be sure to include in your answer an assessment of both the advantages and disadvantages associated with each as an historical source:
 - (i) the Irish annals
 - (ii) Irish saga literature
 - (iii) Irish genealogies
 - (iv) Irish hagiography
 - (v) The *Expugnatio Hibernica* and the *Song of Dermot and the Earl*.
2. Discuss the degree of integration of the Vikings into Irish society during the tenth and eleventh centuries.
3. Explain the factors contributing to the breakdown in usual dynastic succession practices in both the northern and southern halves of Ireland (*Leth Cuinn* and *Leth Moga*) in the mid-tenth century.
4. Assess the impact of Brian Bóruma on medieval Irish politics.
5. In what ways is the *Banshenchas* representative of learning and culture in pre-Norman Ireland?
6. Analyse the importance of Dublin in pre-Norman Ireland.
7. How does the career of Muirchertach Ua Briain (d. 1119) illustrate Ireland's growing ties to Britain and the Continent in the twelfth century?

8. In what ways did the Irish church change between the ninth and twelfth centuries and in what ways did it remain the same?
9. Trace the changes in the 'kingship of Ireland' in terms of both concept and reality from the ninth century through to the twelfth.
10. With regard to the coming of the Normans to Ireland, it has been said that **'None of [the native Irish annals] conveys a sense of the momentous events that were gathering irresistible force on the fringe of the Irish scene and were soon to transform the country out of all recognition'**. (F.X. Martin, 'Diarmait Mac Murchada and the coming of the Anglo-Normans'. In Art Cosgrove (ed.), *A New History of Ireland* Vol. II. Oxford, 1993, p. 47). Discuss the reasons why the contemporary annalists' apparent lack of awareness about the implications of the Norman invasion might be seen as both understandable on the one hand and hopelessly short-sighted on the other.