

Ollscoil na hÉireann, Gaillimh
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

B.A. Examinations 2002-3

SEMESTER 2

HISTORY

Course HI 368 — **THE DEVELOPMENT OF IRISH SCRIPT FROM THE
BOOK OF DURROW TO THE BOOK OF KELLS**

Prof. Wendy Davies
Prof. D. Ó Cróinín
Prof. N. Canny

Time allowed: **TWO** hours

Answer Question 1 and **ANY TWO** other questions

1. Transcribe the passage marked on the attached facsimile, and describe the importance of the manuscript for the history of Early Irish Script.
2. What are the various techniques that scholars use to help date and locate the earliest Insular manuscripts?
3. Write a brief description and evaluation of *three* of the following manuscripts: The Cathach of Colum Cille; the Ussher Gospels; the Antiphonary of Bangor; the Schaffhausen Adomnán; Vat. Lat. 68; the Würzburg St Paul; the Book of Armagh.
4. What are the distinctive features of the earliest Irish manuscripts, and how do they relate to T.J. Brown's 'Insular System of Scripts'?
5. Why is the older Durham Gospels (Durham A. II. 10) a pivotal manuscript for the history of Insular illuminated gospel-books.
6. What is the importance of the 'Durham-Echternach Calligrapher'?
7. What is the historical background of the earliest Echternach manuscripts?
8. What are the arguments for the Northumbrian origin of the Book of Durrow and the Book of Kells?



Hand-out for Question 1, HI 368 - The Development of Irish Script

Echternach Gospels, f. 1^r

Continet textu e^{ss}e eu^{ng}el^{is}ta^{rum} cu^m suis canoⁿib^{us} vel eaz^{um} r^{eg}ione,
 ORCTUR. PROLOGUS Canonum .iiii. eu^{ng}el^{is}ta^{rum}
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 pae .clamo .sso hinc^{on}i salutem

PROLOGUM opus
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 mecum exultat
 Ri . ut post ex
 emplaria
 scripturatum toto or
 be dispersa quafiq
 nam arbitet sedeam
 Quia interseuaria
 quaefut illa quaecum
 greca consentiant ue
 ritate decernam plus
 labor sed periculosa
 praesumptio iudicare
 deceteris ipsum ab om
 nibus iudicatum sem
 motane linguas . Ga
 uescentem multum co
 ntra retrahere par
 uulorum quiseum
 docus pariter uelut
 docus cum iudicatis

uolumen consumpser
 Gasaua quam semel
 inibit uiderit discre
 pane quoo leatua
 nonfiam erumpat
 inuocemne falsarium
 medamans esse sacri
 legum . quicquidam atq
 quid iustitib^{us} libris
 aduere motane opp
 rigere . aduersus qua
 inuolam duplex can
 me consulatur . quoo
 Ga quisummus sacer
 doses fieri iubes Ga uerū
 nonesse quoo uaria
 Ga am maledictionum
 testimonio comprobau
 flent locum exempla
 rib^{us} praesert adhibent
 Respondent quib^{us} ut
 sunt penes quos codices