

ollscoil na héireann, gaillimh
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY

B.A. Examinations 1998-99

SEMESTER 2

HISTORY

Course HI 368 — **EARLY IRISH SCRIPT**

Dr Seán Duffy
D. Ó Cróinín
N. Canny

Time allowed: **TWO** hours
Answer Question 4 and **TWO** other questions

1. What are the distinctive features in the make-up and manufacture of the earliest Irish manuscripts?
2. What are the distinctive features of 'The Insular System of Scripts'?
3. Write a brief description and evaluation of *three* of the following manuscripts: The Cathach of Colum Cille; Durham A.II.10; the Ussher Gospels; the Antiphonary of Bangor; the Schaffhausen Adomnán; the Würzburg St Paul; the Book of Armagh.
4. Transcribe the passage marked on the attached facsimile, and describe the importance of the manuscript for the history of Early Irish Script.
5. Discuss the evidence for Lindisfarne as the pivotal manuscript for the dating of Insular illuminated gospel-books.
6. What is the importance of the 'Durham-Echternach Calligrapher'?
7. Write on the significance of the earliest Echternach manuscripts.
8. Assess the arguments for the Northumbrian origin of the Book of Durrow and the Book of Kells.

