

Reviews

The Dublin Guild Merchant Roll, c.1190-1265, ed. Philomena Connolly and Geoffrey Martin. First supplement to the *Calendar of Ancient Records of Dublin* (Dublin: Dublin Corporation, 1992), xxiv, 159 pp., 6 plates.

As the first supplement in the *Calendar of Ancient Records of Dublin* series, and in commemoration of the Octocentenary of the Dublin municipality, Philomena Connolly and Geoffrey Martin's edition of the Dublin Guild Merchant Roll (hence DGMR) represents the first complete transcription of this important document since it was first unearthed by J.T. Gilbert in 1866 in the muniment room of the Dublin Corporation.

The DGMR itself comprises 43 parchment membranes which bear the names and entrance fees of over 8,400 members of the Dublin Merchant Guild enrolled annually from the years 1190-1265. The first heading does not appear until the 11th membrane, which suggests that an earlier portion has been lost. Philomena Connolly's transcription preserves the double column format of the original roll. Latin headings are retained as well as the Latin, French, or English spellings of names, towns and occupations. The footnotes provide marginalia, interlinear writing, and additions and omissions to the roll. The vertical strokes and mathematical shorthand used in the original DGMR for the entrance fees to the guild have been changed to arabic numerals and, where possible, Christian years have been added in brackets next to the regnal years or when the provosts or *prepositura* mentioned in the headings can be dated. Further, there are six plates dispersed throughout the volume showing various drawings found in the margins.

A series of useful appendices and indices follow the transcription. Appendix I provides a list of provosts and their years in office according to the headings found in the DGMR. Appendix II contains the "Roll of Free Citizens of the City of Dublin" previously printed by Gilbert in his *Historic and Municipal Documents of Ireland, 1172-1320* (1870). Although the Roll of Free Citizens covers only the years 1234-1249, names that appear in the DGMR and not in the Roll of Free Citizens indicate, interestingly enough, that enlistment in the merchant guild did not necessarily mean enrollment as a free citizen. Appendix III provides a total count by year of people admitted to both the DGMR and the Roll of Free Citizens. Appendix IV provides a codicological analysis of the parchment membranes and the binding of the DGMR. Each membrane is given a physical description including length, width and thickness of the parchment.

Following the appendices, a place-name index provides an index to the places of origin of the guildsmen with their alternate spellings and an index to occupations provides a list of professions found in both rolls.

As Geoffrey Martin writes in his introduction, the DGMR is perhaps one of the best preserved but certainly the earliest and most striking document of its kind to survive in Britain and Ireland. One has only to survey the wide variety of places of origin and occupations to get an idea of the breadth and vitality of this medieval guild. Philomena Connolly's transcription retains this document's uniqueness, while the appendices and indices establish a firm foundation for future research.

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