

THE ARCHITECTURAL PATRONAGE OF THE EARLY ANGLO-NORMAN LORDS OF IRELAND

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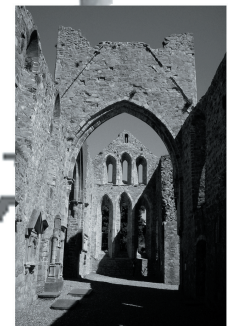
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Some of the most famous medieval Irish buildings were erected as a result of the patronage of the early Anglo-Norman lords in Ireland. Although many of these buildings were added to and altered subsequent to their initial construction, much of their original fabric can still be seen. The Irish lordship did not exist in a vacuum but was a small part of the grand Angevin Empire and many of the great Norman families in Ireland held lands across the Empire. More to the point, the architecture constructed within each lordship was in essence a network of family monuments, tied to family estates across the Angevin world. From whatever background these men came, whether from a landed Norman family, as a younger son of a lesser vassal, or as a lowly knight, they forged for themselves mighty lordships and upon them built grand fortresses and were benefactors of new church and monastic buildings. The aim of my research is to examine the patronage of the early Anglo-Norman lords, both ecclesiastical and secular, and to determine if their voices can be witnessed in the architecture of the monuments that they endowed.

- Were they making particular choices with regard to plan, design, layout, and features and what were the thoughts behind such decisions?
- What links can be drawn between what was built in Ireland and what was built on their estates abroad?
- What were their individual motives in choosing particular plans for their castles or endowing particular monasteries?
- How much did they really have a say in what was built and can this be determined by the examination of what is left behind in both visual and textual sources?
- Were they importing materials and masons as well as ideas, and from where?
- Can any correlation be drawn between the patronage of the Anglo-Norman lords in Ireland and those in Wales and Scotland?
- Were they imparting on their buildings a visual representation of their own identities and ethnic backgrounds?



Carlingford Castle



Grey Abbey

Holm Cultram



Trim Castle



Fore Abbey

Ferns Castle



Tintern Abbey



St Taurin, Evreux

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Exploring the Human Condition The Architectural Patronage of the Early Anglo-Norman Lords of Ireland

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