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# The Book Of Kells: An Illustrated Introduction To The Manuscript In Trinity College, Dublin (Second Edition)



## Synopsis

"Beautiful [...] by far the best modern short account of one of the great monuments of early Irish civilization [...] required reading for anyone interested in the subject." The Irish Times The Book of Kells is a masterpiece of medieval art [...] a brilliantly decorated version of the four Gospels with full-page depictions of Christ, the Virgin and the Evangelists as well as a wealth of smaller decorative painting. The strange imagination displayed in the pages, the impeccable technique and the very fine state of preservation make The Book of Kells an object of endless fascination. This edition reproduces the most important of the fully decorated pages plus a series of enlargements showing the almost unbelievable minuteness of the detail; spiral and interlaced patterns, human and animal ornament [...] a combination of high seriousness and humor. The text is by Bernard Meehan, the Keeper of Manuscripts at Trinity College, Dublin. 110 color illustrations

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is essentially a scholarly introduction to the Book of Kells, the ancient illuminated manuscript of the gospels housed at Trinity College in Dublin. The text is laced with 117 mostly color photographs of the book's beautifully illustrated pages. For religious and art collections. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

For the fiscally conservative library, this fine, small book is an ideal substitute for the recent \$18,000 facsimile of Ireland's renowned Book of Kells, the most famous of all illuminated medieval Gospels.

This representation might not include all 680 illuminated pages, but it does offer 110 color illustrations, including dozens of enlargements, that permit the reader to ponder the excruciatingly complex ornamentation which makes the Book a masterpiece of Celtic interlacing. Meehan, keeper of manuscripts at Trinity College Dublin, which has housed the Book since the seventeenth century, provides erudite but direct commentary about the Book's background, its motifs and themes, and even the material from which it is constructed. Patricia Monaghan

This book has just what I hoped it would: good, sufficient-sized images of the book of kells. (I'm sure the text is good too, although I have not yet had time to read it. I purchased the book mainly for the images, but my quick glance of the text proves satisfactory as well). I am VERY happy with this purchase, and would gladly recommend it.

I first bought this book just to look at the pictures, to be honest. The text was a bonus. I now have a much better understanding of the culture of the times when the Book of Kells was produced. Ties in with other reading I am doing on the period.

This used book was in excellent condition; although there was an inscription in the front cover (which actually lent a charming personalization to the book) showing it had been given as a gift. The illustrations and descriptions are very good; the history is very well written - concise and easy to understand. Because we had the book, we skipped the long time to be spent at Trinity College and devoted our one day in Dublin to other attractions--The National Gallery, Archaeological Museum, (admission to museums and the National Gallery is free) Temple Bar, the old jail, etc. Others in our group who did go to see The Book of Kells did not have the history of it and did not fully understand or appreciate what they were seeing. Therefore, if you are going to Dublin and wish to see The Book of Kells, I would suggest reading this book first to comprehend what it is all about. Our next visit to Dublin will include a visit to Trinity College to view The Book of Kells.

Plenty of information and wonderful photographs of the Book of Kells. Good resource for anyone wanting to know more or teaching about the Book of Kells.

Beautifully illustrated and the gift was well received!

Again and again

GREAT

The printing quality was not as accurate as some other earlier editions of this book

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