

Tutorial 1

1169 and all that: the “English” invasion of Ireland?

For the first tutorial we will look at one of the most famous documents on medieval Irish history – *The History and Topography of Ireland* by Gerald Barry or Giraldus Cambrensis. It is a tract that describes the Irish landscape in the years before the invasion of Ireland by Henry II. For your tutorial reading please read the following:

Tutorial Reading

- 1) The extract from *The History and Topography of Ireland*
- 2) The dictionary of national biography article on Giraldus Cambrensis, the author of the tract.
- 3) Chapters 1-3 in Sean Duffy, *Ireland in the Middle Ages*

As you go through the readings think about the following questions, which we will discuss in class.

Questions to Consider

- 1) Who was Giraldus Cambrensis? Why would he describe Irish manners and customs in this way?
- 2) Why did Henry II invade Ireland?
- 3) How accurate is Cambrensis’s description of Ireland? How can historians use this source to recreate Irish society in medieval times?