



Irish Sagas & Folk Tales

Books Reviewed:

[Irish Sagas & Folk Tales](#) [1]

Issue:

[105](#) [2]

Reviewer:

[Robert Dunbar](#) [3]

~~Editor's Choice:~~

off

Media type:

Book

BfK Rating:

3

The myths, legends and folktales which constitute the vast body of material generally referred to as 'Irish folklore' continue to provide a rich resource for re-telling. In recent years these have become increasingly attractively produced, often with full colour illustrations, a fact which may make this edition of O'Faol\$ain's versions (in spite of P J Lynch's new cover design) seem rather dated. First published some forty years ago, the book offers a selection of some of the best known of the ancient epic stories - 'The Children of Lir', 'The Fate of the Sons of Usnach', episodes from 'The Cattle Raid of Cooley' - together with some examples of what O'Faol\$ain calls 'Tales for the Chimney-Corner', these being adapted, in the main, from originals first collected in the late nineteenth century. Even in re-tellings such as these, occasionally weakened by a flatness of tone and a pedestrian pace, the magic, romance and intrigue of these dramatic narratives remains.

Running Order:

30

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