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The study of early modern Ireland has experienced a renaissance since the 1990s, with the publication of a number of major monographs examining developments in the country during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries from a variety of different perspectives. Nonetheless, these works still tend to group around traditional topics in political, military or religious history and significant gaps remain. The idea behind this new series is to identify key themes for exploration and thereby set the agenda for future research. Manchester University Press, a leading academic press with a strong record of publishing Irish-related material, is the ideal home for this venture.

The fifth volume in the series is the second monograph to appear. Written by a leading young scholar with a growing reputation, the book focuses on the Irish Parliament, a key institution central to the tumultuous events of the seventeenth century. Despite its importance, knowledge of how parliament functioned has not been explored in detail, with students of Stuart Ireland lacking an equivalent to Richardson and Sayles’ seminal guide for the medieval period. This book finally fills that gap. Despite government efforts at harmonisation, it reveals that the early modern Irish Parliament developed along significantly different lines to its counterparts at Westminster and Edinburgh. While the book addresses the idea of Irish constitutional exceptionalism in detail, it also succeeds in placing the Irish Parliament firmly within the wider historiographical context of Stuart constitutional history. We expect it to establish itself as a foundational study for all students of the early modern period.

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