How Deirdre and the Sons of Uisneac Took the GPO: Parody in James Stephens’s Deirdre (1923)

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Abstract

This article looks at the parodical aspects of James Stephens’s novel _Deirdre_, published in 1923. It uses Linda Hutcheon’s theoretical framework on parody to analyse how Stephens both follows the medieval tradition and the Revivalists, and distances his work from their influence. He breathes life into the age-old narrative of Deirdre by adding dialogues, psychological insights and humour to the story, but also by implicitly comparing the Sons of Uisneac to the Irish Volunteers of 1916. This serves to glorify the rebels, whom he had portrayed in his witness account _The Insurrection in Dublin_, but the depiction of the fratricidal fight at the end of the legend also acts as a critique of the Irish civil war.

Full Text:

PDF

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.13128/SIJIS-2239-3978-23383

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