

A portrait of William Molyneux, a man with dark hair, wearing a white cravat and a dark brown coat, set against a dark background. The portrait is on the left side of the cover.

WILLIAM
MOLYNEUX'S

*The Case of Ireland's Being
Bound by Acts of Parliament
in England, Stated*

A critical edition with introduction and notes by
Patrick Hyde Kelly

Regarded as the most celebrated Irish political pamphlet published before 1801, William Molyneux's *Case of Ireland, stated* (1698) was written to demonstrate that English statutes did not become of force in Ireland until they had been re-enacted by the Irish parliament. For all its fame, *The Case's* mass of legal precedents and seemingly contradictory arguments make it a work that requires elucidation for the modern reader. This new edition presents a critical text, based on the manuscripts of *The Case* in the Trinity College Dublin library, together with explanatory notes, and a re-examination of the historical background and the sources on which Molyneux drew. The arguments in *The Case*, set out in a form analogous to presenting a legal case in court, are shown to be a significant response to the contemporary pamphlet debate on Irish woollen exports and the legal competence of the Irish house of lords, rather than the stand-alone publication the book has often been treated as.

Patrick Hyde Kelly is a fellow emeritus of Trinity College Dublin. A specialist in the history of political and economic thought in late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century Ireland and Britain, he has edited *Locke and money* (2 vols, Oxford, 1991) for The Clarendon Edition of the Works of John Locke.

FOUR COURTS PRESS

ISBN 978-1-84682-741-9



9 781846 827419

www.fourcourtspress.ie