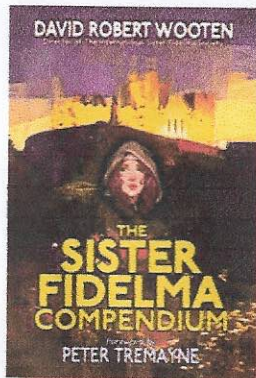


BOOK REVIEW

Seamus J. King
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***The Sister Fidelma Compendium:
A Reader's Guide to the Sister Fidelma
Mysteries of Peter Tremayne***
by David Robert Wooten

All the Fidelmaniacs 'round the world will be eternally grateful to David Robert Wooten for his compilation of this reader's guide to the Sister Fidelma Mysteries of Peter Tremayne. It should be added that no author was better qualified for the



task. Since 2000, when he set up a website devoted to the Sister Fidelma Mysteries, David has highlighted the historical setting of the stories

and the mysteries that have enthralled readers. The website was such a success that within a year the International Sister Fidelma Society was launched, which expanded the website to include a great deal more information on Peter, his books and focusing primarily on Fidelma. Soon after, David launched a print magazine, *The Brehon*, a thrice-yearly publication, which has expanded on our knowledge of Peter, carrying learned contributions from distinguished authors, as well as articles from Peter himself.

The result of all this effort is that it can truly be said that David Robert Wooten is probably the best authority in the world on the whole Fidelma



From the 2017 Féile Fidelma, (left to right) Seamus King visits with your Editor, Eibhlís Maher, and our dear friend, the late Denis Heffernan, during opening ceremonies held in the Vicar's Choral on The Rock of Cashel. Attendees of the 2019 Féile will recall that Seamus was taken in and in hospital in Cork during that weekend and was sorely missed.

phenomenon, apart from Peter himself. The *Compendium* is a comprehensive collection of all the information available on the Fidelma Mysteries. The sheer scale of the work can be gleaned from a cursory look at the Table of Contents, which contains over forty chapters and ranges over all the questions that the reader might ask in over four hundred pages. And some intriguing questions are asked and discussed, so that no query is missed. I will mention just a few of the chapter headings: 'Was Sister Fidelma a real Historical Person?' 'The Fascination for Sister Fidelma.' 'Frequently Asked Questions,' etc. And there's a Pronunciation Guide for those unfamiliar with the Irish language. Even a map showing the locales of the novels in Ireland and abroad.

It can truly be said that David Robert Wooten has shown incredible energy and expertise in putting this *Compendium* together. He deserves outstanding praise and has rendered us all beholden to him for an outstanding work. He has also revealed a knowledge of the Fidelma Mysteries that is unrivalled. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

