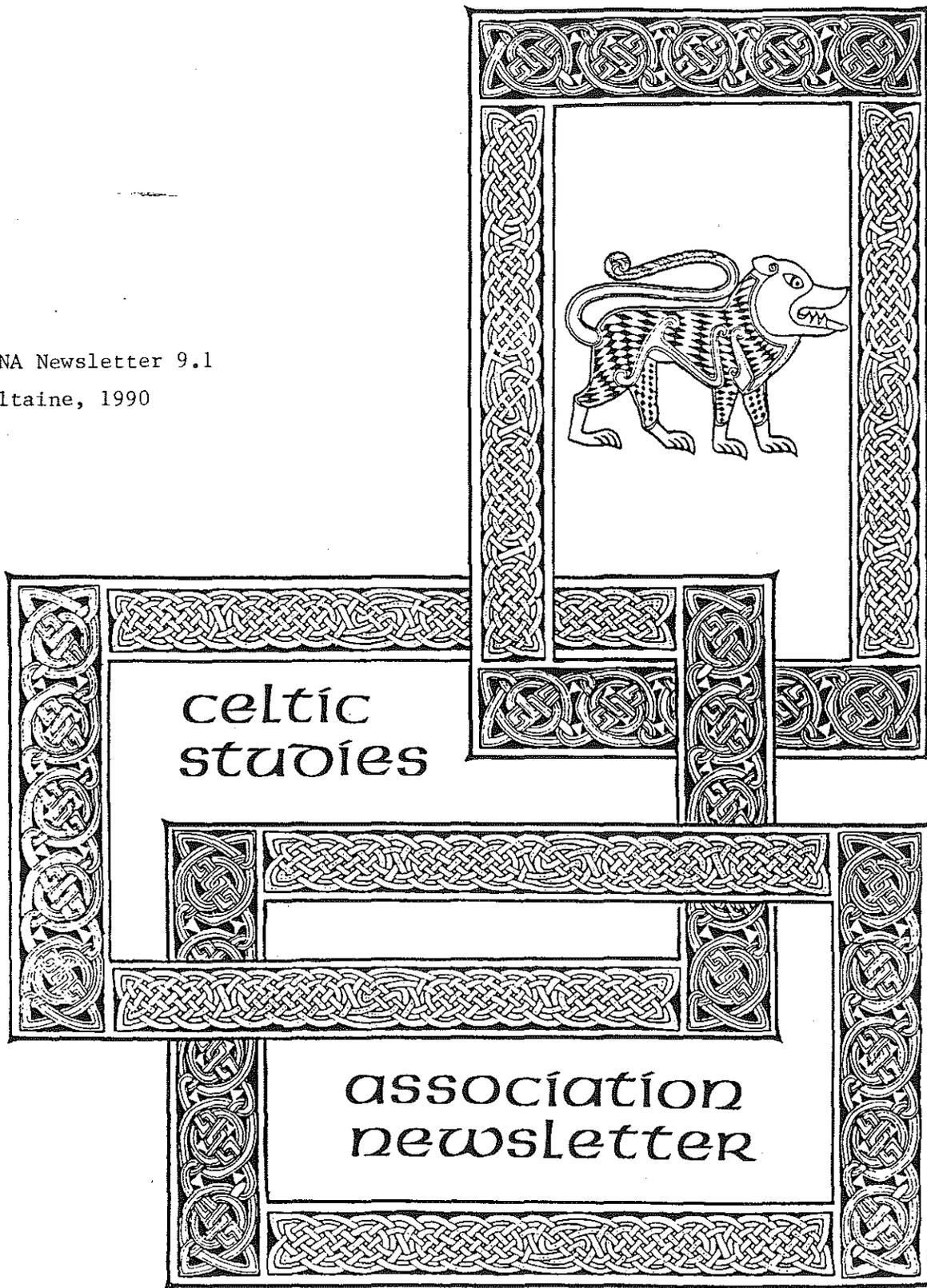


CSANA Newsletter 9.1
Bealtaine, 1990



THE CELTIC STUDIES ASSOCIATION OF NORTH AMERICA

Officers:

A.T.E. Matonis, President
Joseph Falaky Nagy, Vice-President
Kathryn Lorenz, Acting Secretary-Treasurer

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Incorporated as a non-profit organization, the Celtic Studies Association has a membership drawn from the United States, Canada, Ireland, Wales, England, Europe, and Japan. CSANA produces a bi-annual newsletter (which appears in the Spring and the Fall) and a bibliography of Celtic Studies. The 1983-85 bibliography may be ordered through the Secretary-Treasurer (Kathryn Lorenz, Romance Languages, Univ. Cincinnati, 45221-0069).

Membership in CSANA is open to those with a serious interest in Celtic Studies. Dues are \$15 per year, or, for non-US residents, the equivalent of fifteen American dollars payable to "CSANA" in a check or international money order, to be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer. Members are entitled to receive the bibliography and the newsletter; they may also, for \$1, order a list of current CSANA members from the Secretary-Treasurer.

The next issue of the CSANA Newsletter will be sent out in October '90. Information should be sent to: Joseph Falaky Nagy, English, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., LA CA 90024.

CSANA IN BERKELEY, 1991

The 1991 CSANA conference will be held as planned on the campus of the University of California, Berkeley, in late April. Dates will be announced in the Samhain issue of the Newsletter. The text chosen for the 1991 seminar is the Gododdin. The seminar will be directed by Brendan O Hehir of UC Berkeley.

CONFERENCE NEWS

Among the many papers offered at the American Conference for Irish Studies at the University of Missouri, St. Louis (April 25-28), were "Celtic or Roman: The Current Debate on the Genesis of Old-Irish Civilization" by Donnchadh Ó Corráin of University College, Cork; "An Archaeologist's Report on the Navan Complex" by J. P. Mallory of Queens University, Belfast; and "The Book of Kells" by Bernard Meehan of Trinity College.

The 1990 CSANA Conference was held in conjunction with the University of California Celtic Conference, sponsored by the UCLA Celtic Colloquium, at UCLA on May 3 through 6. Speakers included Máire Herbert (University College, Cork), Dafydd Johnston (University of Wales, Cardiff), Timothy O'Neill (Dublin), and Richard Sharpe (Oxford).

The Tenth Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium was held on May 11 and 12. Among the papers given were "Gwyn eu Byd: Some Comments on the Myrddin Poems" (John Bollard), "The Father-Son Conflict in Early Irish Literature" (Sheryl Forste-Grupp), and "Celts, Women, and the Rise of the English Gentleman: The Politics of Culture in Early Modern Britain" (Nerys Patterson).

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CSANA BUSINESS MEETING

At the Los Angeles meeting (May 3-6) those attending voted to keep yearly membership dues at fifteen dollars, since there are no realistic prospects for establishing a CSANA journal (which would have required higher dues) in the near future.

As planned, the 1992 CSANA conference will be held in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, at St. Francis Xavier University. Robin Chapman Stacey of the University of Washington invited the membership to hold the conference in Seattle in 1993, and the invitation was accepted.

President Matonis announced that the 1985-86 Bibliography is being proofread and will soon be ready to print.

FESTSCHRIFT FOR ERIC HAMP

At the UCLA CSANA meeting, Professor Eric P. Hamp of the University of Chicago was presented with a Festschrift (entitled Celtic Language, Celtic Culture) that had been prepared for him by his many colleagues and students. The volume was edited by CSANA members A.T.E. Matonis and Daniel F. Melia, who made the official presentation. To order the book (\$45.00 + \$2.00 shipping), please contact the publishers, Ford and Bailie, P. O. Box 2156, Van Nuys, CA 91404 (818-780-7607).

UC CORK SUMMER SCHOOL

The Eleventh International Summer School in Irish Studies, consisting of four weeks of integrated courses (including lectures, discussions, and field trips) on

the topic of "Who Are the Irish?: Approaches to Identity," will be offered at UC Cork from July 3 to July 27. The School will be staffed by senior professors and lecturers from UCC--and invited guest speakers. The fee, including tuition, bed/breakfast in twin-bed accommodations, and travel and meals on field trips--is 850 Irish pounds. More detailed information is available from Dr. Máirtín Ó Fathaigh, Director, Summer School in Irish Studies, Department of Education, University College, Cork, Ireland (tel.: 353-21-276871; fax: 353-21-275948; internat. telex: 76050 UNIC EI).

ABERYSTWYTH SUMMER SCHOOL

The Fourth Aberystwyth Summer School, jointly organized by the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, the National Library of Wales, and the Department of Extra-Mural Studies will be held from July 21 to August 4. Its theme will be "The Arthur of the Welsh." This theme is also the title of a forthcoming book (from University of Wales Press), and many of the contributors to the volume (edited by Dr. Rachel Bromwich, Dr. Brynley Roberts, and Prof. A. O. H. Jarman) will take part in the Summer School, which is intended both for professional scholars and for students interested in all aspects of the Arthurian complex. Apart from the main course lectures at nine and eleven o'clock each morning, there will be afternoon text-study classes on the early Welsh Arthurian poetry and on Culhwch and Olwen, offered by the staff of the Centre and the University College of Wales. These classes will be offered at several levels in order to cater for a wide range of experience among the participants. Fees, inclusive of full board, residence, tuition, trips, and the use of academic and sporting facilities, will be 450 British pounds. English will be the language of all lectures and classes except for the Welsh learners' class. For more information and application forms, please contact the Celtic Summer School's organizer, Mr. Gerald Morgan, Summer School, U.C.W. Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 9 Marine Terrace, Aberystwyth, Wales (Tel.: 970-617616).

1991 CONGRESS OF CELTIC STUDIES

The announced dates for the Ninth International Congress of Celtic Studies to be held in Paris are July 8 through 12. For more information, please contact: Secretariat, IXe Congrès Études celtiques, École pratique des Hautes Études, 4e Section, 45-47, rue des Écoles, 75005 Paris, France.

DIACRITICS' CORNER: A Celtic Compound and a Phrase

Waste not, want not. I had spelt out the derivation of a couple of locutions with particularly interesting developments as examples for an encyclopedia entry, but they were forced out for lack of space. Here they are; they might do for class use:

OIr. teglach 'family' < *teγ(4)l̥y̥ (perhaps with devoiced l̥) < Ogam Ir. *tega+slōgas < Goidelic *tego+slougos 'house/tech + host, group/sluag' = Welsh teulu < *teilū (by assimilation) < *t̥iγi4+l̥y̥ < British *tigiso+slougo- (with raising of *e before intervocalic *s) < PCelt. *tegiso+ (with raising of *e before intervocalic *s) < *tegeso+ (remodelled with compounding *-o- vowel) ← IE *teges+ (original s- stem compounding form); Goidelic treated the first member as if it were an o- stem using the same compounding *-o- vowel which was originally taken from the productive thematic stems.

Breton guechall ~ guejall 'once upon a time' (: guech 1628 'time, fois', by sandhi devoicing < pl. guežou [with ž written j] < Mid. Bret. guizyou [with zy > ž as in English pleasure] = Welsh gweithiau, pl. to guez = Vannetais gueh, Cornish gwyth fem.) < Mid. Bret. guezall, i.e. guez + all (note no nasalization mutation on initial vowel of the second member in a phrase in British Celtic) = OIr. fecht n-aill < PCelt. *uekton+alli (neuter) 'another time (temporal accusative)', with *uek-to- (neut.) nominalized participle *uegh-+-tó- (: Latin uehō uectum 'carry [-ied], transport[ed]') + archaic form for 'other'.

Eric P. Hamp
University of Chicago

REPORT ON THE INDEX TO BINCHY'S CORPUS IURIS HIBERNICI

For several years, I have been compiling an orthographic index of the Corpus Iuris with the aid of computers and scanners. The object is to produce a list of every word-shape in the 2300 pages of the text, giving the page and line number at which each word occurs. We are preserving the distinction between capitals and lower-case letters to show the manuscript distinction between "text" and glosses, and between roman and italic type to show editorial expansions. Because we are in no position at this point to interpret the language correctly in every case, we have made no effort to lemmatize the index aside from placing some scribal abbreviations next to the words which they represent. Words which appear on every page (e.g. do) will not appear in the index. We hope to be able to produce the index in a form dense enough to allow for printing as a single volume.

A byproduct of the index will be a concordance giving each word in the text in a context of the ten surrounding words. The concordance will almost certainly be uneconomical to print, but our hope is to make it available in microform. The completed project should be in microform by October of this year, although no actual publication schedule is available at the moment.

Daniel F. Melia
University of California, Berkeley

BOOK NEWS

CSANA member James Doan's dissertation Cearbhall Ó Dálaigh: An Irish Poet in Romance and Oral Tradition is soon to be available (for \$72) from Garland Press (1-800-627-6273) in their new Harvard Dissertations in Folklore and Oral Tradition series, edited by Albert Lord.

REVIEWS

Wendy Davies. Small Worlds: The Village Community in Early Medieval Brittany. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1988. Pp. xii + 227.

Historians are truly the prisoners of their sources: so relentlessly aristocratic are the majority of documents which remain to us that even the most responsible of scholars will find it easier to write volumes about the few than to pen a single paragraph about the many. Nowhere are the distortions implicit in such an approach more evident than in the field of early medieval history, where the traditional focus on court and kingdom has obscured almost entirely the intensely local and introspective nature of ordinary life in the early Middle Ages. Wendy Davies' new book does a great deal to redress this historiographical imbalance. Grounded as it is in nearly a decade's worth of research in the ninth- and tenth-

century charters contained in the Breton Cartulaire de Redon, her work marks an important contribution to our understanding of village life not just in Brittany itself, but in Europe as a whole. The charters on which her account is primarily based record in some detail the commercial and legal history of properties acquired by the monastery of Redon after its foundation in 832. Since the majority of individuals mentioned in the collection were local proprietors of a distinctly peasant class, their doings cannot fail to be of interest to historians seeking to reconstruct the social and economic networks which gave these communities their coherence and identity. It is difficult to imagine a better window onto the lives of everyday men and women.

Davies has organized her work in a manner designed to highlight the unique potential of her material. The book mirrors in its structure the mental and political outlook of medieval village life: a brief introduction to the history and economy of the Redon region is followed by a series of studies radiating outwards from village center to Redon seigneurie and to the Carolingian world of which southeastern Brittany was somewhat tenuously a part. Her principal focus--and this is very much the point--are the decidedly local social groupings, personalities, and mechanisms through which personal and political identities were achieved and expressed in the early Middle Ages. The range of topics considered is extraordinary: from kinship and lordship bonds and commercial affiliations, to the highly intricate and complex maneuverings associated with dispute settlement in an intimate communal setting. Davies' work advances immeasurably our understanding of how early medieval society worked, and her insights into the sophisticated fluidity of village existence are profound. Furthermore, her findings on such topics as the property rights of women in Breton society, the importance of currency in the local economy, the development and prerogatives of a monastic seigneurie, and the impact of the Carolingian "state" on its constituent communities, will make her book of interest to a wide variety of historians. This is an extremely important work, one which ought to be read and assimilated by anyone seriously interested in the period.

That having been said, there are some difficulties of which the prospective reader will wish to be aware. Ironically, some of these are structural. Her decision to pattern the work in what is essentially a series of concentric circles makes for a great deal of repetition. Indeed, the book reminds one of a reference grammar: almost every passage is accompanied by footnotes enjoining the reader to consult this section or that for further discussion of the subject. Usually this is more frustrating than obfuscatory, but occasionally it confuses her discussion of key issues. For example, she uses the term "aristocrat" frequently throughout the book, but defines it only in Chapter Seven. And readers who have followed with interest her extended discussion(s) of machtierns will discover only on page 207 that she believes them to be little more than overseers of local transactions, a conclusion which raises anew (although her account does not) the possible relationship with the Irish naidm she had earlier rejected (on page 142). More seriously, many of the references are not to passages in the book itself, but to articles published elsewhere. Since these pieces draw on the same material and confront many of the same issues, often in greater depth, readers will need access to the corpus as a whole to understand her views fully.

One other observation must be made, as much in a spirit of regret as of criticism. It is hard to imagine a scholar better placed to put the Redon material in its proper context than the person whose earlier work on the Book of Llandaff taught us so much about another early Celtic society. And yet Davies seems in this book deliberately to avoid what she calls the "hoary old question" of ethnic parallels and origins. It is true that Breton society was particularly complex in

this respect: Roman, Frank, and Celt all left their traces there. Context, however, has been a major preoccupation of the traditional historiography of the early Middle Ages, for better or worse. Davies drops a number of hints about the possible survival of Roman fiscal obligations or recording procedures, but she nowhere discusses the question directly, and it is impossible therefore to gauge how extensive she believes the Roman inheritance to be. Her reluctance to adduce parallels from other Celtic lands is especially regrettable, given how few Urkunden there are extant from Ireland and Wales. Furthermore, some aspects of Breton society--the policing function of sureties, for example--appear as a result more peculiar and inexplicable than they actually were. Davies has done an admirable job of recreating the "small worlds" within which medieval peasants lived. Perhaps in future works she will tell us more about the wider worlds of which these communities were themselves a part.

Robin Chapman Stacey
University of Washington

Martin Rockel. Taliesin Aneirin: Altwalisische Heldendichtung. Leipzig: Verlag Philipp Reclam, 1989. Pp. 201.

This compact volume is primarily suited to the German-language general reader and student. It reproduces on facing pages the Welsh text with fresh German translations of the poems of Taliesin found in the Caerwyn Williams edition, Dublin, 1968 (pp. 10-39), and of the Gododdin in the CA arrangement incorporating the A and B texts (pp. 42-149). It seems not to draw on Jackson 1969. The preface (pp. 5-7) acknowledges Jarman's help. The juxtaposition of these texts is useful.

Perhaps of greater interest to most readers of these lines is the commentary (Erläuterungen, pp. 151-87), giving short topical digests on older Welsh poetry, the bards, Taliesin and the "Book of Taliesin," his poetry, Urien, Aneirin and the Llyfr Aneirin, the Gododdin people and their country, and the "Gododdin." Text notes (pp. 189-94) and identification of names (pp. 195-99) are kept to a compressed scope.

A large Central and East European readership can benefit from this enterprising and instructive introduction which brings them direct to the text itself. It is ironical that after a century Berlin should meet Welsh philology as an exotic requiring presentation. Rockel is to be commended as well as thanked.

Eric P. Hamp
University of Chicago

A Brief History of the Tradition CSANA Oriental Banquet

In April, 1977, a year after its founding, CSANA began meeting in conjunction with the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference, an association which lasted until 1981. In 1977, Lexington, Kentucky, was not the culinary mecca of the U.S., but the members of CSANA were anxious to find a restaurant in which to have a convivial meeting after the meeting. Accordingly, Edgar Slotkin, owing to his superior knowledge of intracoastal foodways, was deputized to secure a suitable venue: one able to seat about 15 people at one table and to serve them edible, or at least non-lethal, food. Edgar's discovery, perhaps the only restaurant in Lexington able to meet both criteria in those benighted days, was a restaurant called the Hong Kong Garden, which turned out to serve quite decent food at reasonable prices, and by the time we left Lexington in 1982 the tradition had been established. Most of the restaurants we have banqueted at since have been Chinese, although other oriental cuisines have been tried as well. Particularly notable in the non-Chinese category

was the excellent Korean dinner at the interestingly named "Flushing Palace" during the 1984 meeting at CUNY Queens. Perhaps we will try Thai food at the 1991 meeting in Berkeley.

Daniel F. Melia
University of California, Berkeley

CORRIGENDUM TO THE PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER

Incorrectly reported in the last issue were the dates for the Fifth International Conference on the History of Linguistics, to be held on the campus of University College, Galway. The correct dates are September 1-6, 1990. For more information, please contact Dr. Anders Ahlqvist, 5.ICHoLs Organizer, University College, Galway, Ireland (91-24411/2499).

Please remember that the CSANA Newsletter depends upon the draughts of knowledge with which you, dear readers, supply its editor (Joseph Falaky Nagy, English, UCLA, 405 Hilgard Ave., LA CA 90024). His profuse thanks go to Martha Lynn Cowan, James Doan, Robin Evanchuk, Patrick Ford, Eric Hamp, Máire Herbert, Leslie Jones, Daniel Melia, Gerald Morgan, James Porter, Kathryn Lorenz, and Robin Chapman Stacey for their help with this issue.