The editor apologizes that Beltaine 2016 (volume 33.2) did not appear.

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Incorporated as a non-profit organization, the Celtic Studies Association of North America has members in the United States, Canada, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Europe, Australia and Japan. Membership in CSANA is open to anyone with a serious interest in Celtic Studies. Dues are payable at Beltaine. The privileges of membership include a subscription to the peer-reviewed North American Journal of Celtic Studies (NAJCS, beginning 2017), a twice-a-year newsletter, access to CSANA’s bibliography of Celtic Studies, the electronic discussion group CSANA-L (contact Professor Joe Eska at eska@vt.edu to join), invitations to the annual meeting for which the registration fees are nil or very low, the right to purchase the CSANA mailing list at cost, and an invaluable sense of fellowship with Celticists around the world.

The published bibliographies (1983-87 and 1985-87) may be ordered from the Secretary-Treasurer, Professor Elissa R. Henken, Dept. of English, Park Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602, USA (Email: ehenken@uga.edu ). The electronic bibliography is available at: http://celtic.cmrs.ucla.edu/csana/csanabib.html. The electronic bibliography is available at cost in printed form to members who request it from Bibliographer Karen Burgess, kburgess@ucla.edu. The bibliographer welcomes updates, corrections, and information about publications that should be included.

Membership through April 30, 2017 (i.e. new and renewing members for 2016-17): Send checks in dollars or pounds sterling to Elissa R. Henken (Department of English, Park Hall, University of Georgia, Athens, GA 30602 USA). Checks in U.S. dollars, payable to CSANA, must be drawn on a U.S. bank or an affiliate of a U.S. bank (international money orders cannot be accepted). Cheques in British Sterling must be made payable to Elissa R. Henken. Payment may also be made by credit card through PayPal (send to ehenken@uga.edu; remember to pay in U.S. dollars; put CSANA in the e-mail subject line; in the Note box, type in your name, postal address, e-mail address, and for what exactly you are paying [dues year, membership rate, Yearbook number]). See membership form at the end of this newsletter for more information.

Membership beginning May 1, 2017 (i.e. new and renewing members for 2017-18): Go directly to the Ohio State University Press website, https://ohiostatepress.org/NAJCS.html and click on “ORDER NAJCS.”

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The North American Journal of Celtic Studies is available without a CSANA membership; click the Ohio State University Press link above and follow the “ORDER NAJCS” link to buy the journal without joining CSANA.
Letter from the president

Celtic studies provide a rich and varied landscape of topics for enquiry, and tying these topics together are the Celtic languages themselves. Certainly in recent centuries – and in earlier epochs, too – Celtic-language speakers have not been monoglots. Whether the additional language is English in Britain and Ireland, or French in Brittany, Celtic-language speakers today are, from their earliest years, also fluent in another language.

Concerns are rightfully raised about language survival when a language with fewer speakers and resources competes for attention with a dominant language. But two recent scientific studies should give comfort to those worried about the future of Celtic languages.

The studies – one by the University of Washington, the other by the National University of Singapore – looked at language learning in babies raised in bilingual environments. The Singapore study examined whether babies exposed to both Mandarin and English showed difficulties in switching between the languages when introduced to new vocabulary at 12-13 months of age. The study found that, not only did bilingual babies have no problem switching from one language to another, their ability to acquire Mandarin vocabulary was actually greater than babies raised solely in a Mandarin environment.

The University of Washington study used magnetoencephalography to measure brain activity in two groups of 11-month-old babies: one from English-only households; the other raised in bilingual English-Spanish homes. The babies were played a recording of speech sounds that included those exclusive to English, those exclusive to Spanish, and those common to both. The bilingual babies showed stronger brain activity when listening to the sounds than did the English-only babies.

Both studies indicate that bilingual environments not only do not harm children’s language acquisition, but actually improve their language-learning skills. In a Celtic context, this should allay fears that bilingualism somehow diminishes the quality of language acquisition in children. The bombardment of dominant-language media on radio, television or online is not necessarily detrimental to raising a new generation of Celtic-language speakers.

These new studies correlate with earlier research in adults that found language learning – even among those of us comfortably in middle age – improves brain function. So adult learners of Celtic languages are not only able to experience a more direct engagement with Celtic cultures, they also get to enjoy the side effect of making their brains work better.

Michael Meckler
Ohio State University
Announcements

CSANA launches peer-reviewed journal

CSANA seeks article submissions for the North American Journal of Celtic Studies (NAJCS), a peer-reviewed publication set to launch May 1. NAJCS seeks articles across all disciplines and time periods that bear upon Celtic studies.

The journal, edited by Joseph F. Eska, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, will be published annually in two volumes. Beginning May 2017, CSANA membership will include a subscription to NAJCS. The CSANA Yearbook will be discontinued, but back copies may still be ordered from Elissa Henken (up to volume 7; see membership renewal information above or the order form at the end of this newsletter) or Colgate University Press (vols. 8-12; visit www.colgatebookstore.com and enter “CSANA Yearbook” in the search bar at the top right of the screen).

The first volume of NAJCS contains:

- Charlene M. Eska, “A medieval Irish legal commentary on wakes and funerals from Anfuigell ‘Wrong judgment’”
- Damian McManus, “On the use of the Urlann in Deibhidhe and Séadnadh metres in Classical Irish verse”
- Paul Russell, “From plates and rods to royal drink-stands in Branwen and medieval Welsh law”
- Katharine Simms, “Poems to the medieval O’Donnell chiefs and their historical context”
- Natasha Sumner, “Fionn mac Cumhaill in twenty-first-century Ireland”

For submission guidelines and ordering information, visit https://ohiostatepress.org/NAJCS.html.

Summer school in Breton linguistic and cultural heritage

The University of Western Brittany is pleased to announce its third annual Summer School in Breton Language and Heritage Studies, scheduled June 19-July 1. Until a few years ago, international scholars and language enthusiasts with an interest in Celtic matters have had little opportunity to study the Breton language, literature and culture. Yet, it is sometimes forgotten that, along with Welsh, Breton is the most widely spoken Celtic language with over 200,000 native speakers. The course provides an excellent opportunity to study one of the two major living Brythonic languages and the only Celtic language to have survived in continental Europe.

Deadline to register for the school is May 15, but registration will be capped, so those interested are encouraged to register ASAP. Registration costs €380, not including accommodations.

Graduate, postgraduate students as well as teachers and researchers with an interest in linguistics, sociolinguistics, ethnology and Celtic studies are warmly encouraged to apply. Motivated undergraduate students as well as non-academics with an interest in languages or having knowledge of other Celtic languages are also more than welcome.
The Summer School will take place at the University of Western Brittany’s Pôle Universitaire Per Jakez Helias at Creac’h Gwenn, on the outskirts of the historic, medieval town of Quimper/Kemper, well known for its picturesque streets, its Cathedral and its world-renowned Henriot pottery.

Morning classes will be in Breton language, and no prior knowledge of Breton is necessary, as beginners and intermediate classes will be offered. Afternoon classes will focus on cultural heritage. Outings and social gatherings are also planned. Those wishing to prolong their stay by several days may take advantage of staying with some local families to get an immersive Breton language experience.

For full information or to register, visit [http://www.univ-brest.fr/summer-school-en/].

**DIAS Summer School applications due Feb. 28**

Applications and an €80 deposit are due Feb. 28 to the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies for School of Celtic Studies’ 2017 Summer School. Admission will be limited to students and scholars whose interests lie in Celtic Studies or related fields, such as Anglo-Saxon, linguistics, comparative philology, comparative literature, history, etc.

Completed applications with a statement of support from the applicant’s academic supervisor should be returned to the School Administrator by Feb. 28. The Summer School is scheduled July 3-14 and will cost €250. Lectures will be held at the Institute, 10 Burlington Road, Dublin 4.

For more information, email summerschool@celt.dias.ie or visit [https://www.dias.ie/2017/01/05/school-of-celtic-studies-summer-school-2017/]

Schedule for the Summer School:

- 9:30-11 a.m.
  - 1A. Introduction to Early Modern Irish: Dr Mícheál Hoyne (DIAS)
  - 1B. Middle Welsh: Professor Barry Lewis (DIAS)
- 11:30-1 p.m.
  - 2A. Introduction to Old Irish: Professor David Stifter (Maynooth University)
  - 2B. Old Irish Law Texts: Professor Liam Breatnach (DIAS)
- 2:30-3:30 p.m.
  - 3. Contemporary Irish Syntax: Professor James McCloskey (University of California, Santa Cruz)
- 4-5 p.m.
  - 4. Mediaeval Lordship and Gaelic Literary Tradition: Professor Ruairí Ó hUiginn (DIAS)

**Celtic master’s degree in Brittany**

The Centre for Breton and Celtic Research (University of Western Brittany, Brest) is pleased to announce the creation of a new, two-year, European-Union certified Master’s degree course entitled “Celtic languages and Cultures in Contact.”
Thanks to partnerships with the University of Ulster (Coleraine) and the University College Dublin, this Master’s degree program is one of a few in the world to offer students the possibility of learning all of the Celtic languages, medieval or modern. These languages will be studied over three semesters. The fourth and final semester will be dedicated to the specialized study of one of the medieval or modern Celtic languages in a partner institution in Ireland, Wales or Scotland. Students from outside of France who prefer to concentrate on Breton have the choice of remaining in Brittany to perfect their linguistic skills and delve more deeply into the local culture.

Students can concentrate in either medieval or modern languages and cultures. In addition to language study, students will follow common courses in the history of the Celtic languages, medieval and modern Celtic literatures, as well as the history of the Celtic countries. All students will take compulsory courses in research methodology, digital humanities and will engage in professional internships (for example, translating research articles, participating in ongoing research projects in the CRBC archives, etc.).

Tuition is only €250 annually.

For more information, contact program director Dr. Gary German at garygerman.crbc@yahoo.fr.

Council of Irish Chiefs and Clans of Ireland Prize in History

The Standing Council of Irish Chiefs and Chieftains and Clans of Ireland (Finte na hÉireann) in association with the History Department of Trinity College, Dublin and History/Ireland magazine is offering a prize of €500 for the winning entrant in an essay competition on Gaelic Ireland. Entry is open to all persons over 18 years who are NOT on the academic staff of a history department in any third-level institution.

Essay must be on a topic dealing with any aspect of the political, social or cultural history of Gaelic Ireland (within the date-range 400 to 1690 A.D), such as Irish kingship, lordship, land-holding, genealogy, family history etc. It should be approximately 2,000 words long and accompanied by full footnote references to sources used, with a bibliography at the end (footnotes and bibliography will not be counted as part of the word-length). It may be written in English or Irish.

The prize will only be awarded for an entry deemed to be of publishable standard. Subject to editorial approval, a version of the paper should appear in a subsequent issue of History/Ireland. Both the winner and other entrants whose papers are deemed of publishable standard may be invited to contribute their work to a projected volume of essays on Gaelic Ireland, which is a central goal of this competition.

Entries, with candidate’s name, address and contact details should be e-mailed (preferably) as an attached MS-Word file to mksimms@tcd.ie or posted to: Chiefs and Clans Prize, c/o Katharine Simms, History Department, School of Histories and Humanities, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin 2, Republic of Ireland. Deadline is June 1.
RIA Library hosts manuscript exhibit

The Royal Irish Academy Library is hosting an exhibition of manuscripts donated to the library 150 years ago. “Dublin documents: highlights from Charles Haliday’s manuscript collection” is on display at the Academy House, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2, through May 5.

Charles Haliday, MRIA, c.1798-1866, was a Dublin merchant, banker, historian, health reformer and avid collector. Haliday’s collection of books and pamphlets spans almost 300 years covering Irish and British social, economic, cultural and religious history. His collection of manuscripts is just as varied and ranges from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries. The exhibition will feature a selection of these manuscripts with particular emphasis on Dublin. Documents from the medieval Guild of St Anne, a sixteenth-century Privy Council book, an eighteenth/nineteenth century Secret Service money book and other highlights of the collection will be on view.

A lunchtime lecture is scheduled 1 p.m. March 1 by Professor Colm Lennon, MRIA, on the manuscripts of the Guild of St Anne’s Guild.

The exhibit is open 10 to 5 daily, except on conference days (check the library homepage for exceptions, and admission is free. Visit https://www.ria.ie/events/dublin-documents-highlights-charles-halidays-manuscript-collection for full information.

ASIMS annual prizes announcement

The American Society of Irish Medieval Studies announces two prizes – one for a graduate paper and the other for a published essay – in Irish medieval studies. Both are only open to ASIMS members and will be awarded at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo in May 2017.

- The ASIMS/Four Courts Press Michael Adams Prize will be awarded for the best essay/article in Irish medieval studies published in a book or journal during 2016. The prize is open to anyone from students to senior academics. Entries must be submitted by March 25. Preferred submission format is pdf email attachment; if submitting by post, send four paper copies to Dr. Westley Follett, Dept. of History, University of Southern Mississippi, 730 East Beach Blvd, Long Beach, MS 39560. Email: westley.follett@usm.edu. The entries will be judged by a panel consisting of a representative of Four Courts Press, a representative of ASIMS, and a chairperson nominated by Four Courts Press and ASIMS. The award carries a $500 prize, and a summary of the article will be printed in the ASIMS journal Eolas.

- The ASIMS Barry Prize, named in honor of Professor Terry Barry, TCD, in recognition of his lifelong commitment to graduate student scholarship, is an annual prize awarded for the best conference paper on a subject of relevance to Irish Medieval Studies delivered by a graduate student. The prize is open to graduate students from any field who either have presented or have written and intend to present a paper on a subject of relevance to Irish Medieval Studies at any conference during the year beginning with the Kalamazoo Congress in May 2016 and ending with the Kalamazoo Congress of 2017. Submissions will be judged by a panel drawn from the ASIMS
committee at the forthcoming Kalamazoo Congress. The winning paper will be announced at the annual Kalamazoo ASIMS dinner, and the winner will be contacted in writing. The prize will consist of a check for reimbursement of the current year’s Kalamazoo registration fee or a check of equivalent value. The winner must submit a summary of the presentation for publication in *Eolas*. Especially worthy entries may also be considered for eventual publication in the journal. Entrants must be ASIMS members and must submit proof of current graduate status and a pdf copy of the paper by April 15, 2017, to westley.follett@usm.edu.

Visit [www.asims.org](http://www.asims.org) for membership information.

**Irish Texts Society discount for CSANA members**

CSANA and the Irish Texts Society have agreed on a collaboration: in return for our helping announce ITS works, CSANA members in good standing will receive a 33 percent discount on ITS publications.

The Irish Texts Society continues to be a leader in the publication of scholarly editions and translations of Irish texts. ITS most recent “Main Series” (texts and translations) volume is *Anathomia Gydo* (ed. Eithne Ní Ghallchobhair, 2014), the only surviving medieval surgical text to have been translated into Early Modern Irish. Its most recent subsidiary series (lectures on past Main Series titles) volume is *The Poems of Blathmac son of Cu Brettan: Reassessments* (ed. Pádraig Ó Riain). ITS also is publishing, in fascicles, the ongoing *Historical Dictionary of Gaelic Placenames*.

To take advantage of the partnership, go to the ITS website, [www.irishtextssociety.org](http://www.irishtextssociety.org), where the full catalogue of ITS publications can be found. When ordering, you will be transferred to the Royal Irish Academy website where ITS books are listed with their prices. Enter the word "texts" in the box entitled "coupon code," and CSANA members in good standing will receive the 33 percent discount.

For questions about, or problems related to, ordering ITS volumes with the CSANA member discount, please contact CSANA Secretary/Treasurer Elissa R. Henken, ehenken@uga.edu.

**Early Irish and Celtic Studies Seminar Series**

Maynooth University is sponsoring two lectures (followed by wine receptions) in Early Irish and Celtic Studies in coming months. Both talks are scheduled 5 p.m. in the John Hume Building, Lecture Hall 4, and are free and open to the public:

- “Beyond Bergin’s Construction: The Syntax of Displacement in Old Irish,” Dr. Elliott Lash (Maynooth), March 23
- “I’m old; I’m new’: Layers of Medieval Welsh Poetry in the Book of Taliesin,” Professor Marged Haycock (Aberystwyth), April 27.

For more information, contact Dr. Deborah Hayden, deborah.hayden@nuim.ie.
Medieval history lecturer at Cambridge

The Faculty of History is seeking a lecturer with expertise in any area of European (including British) history prior to 1100. Candidates must have exceptional abilities in research and teaching. The post is based in central Cambridge and is available from October 2017. Depending on qualifications and experience, an appointment will be made at either the University Lecturer or University Senior Lecturer level.

The successful candidate will teach and examine within a broad area of pre-1100 medieval history and at all levels from first-year undergraduate to PhD.

For full information, including link to online application, visit http://www.jobs.cam.ac.uk/job/12720/. Closing date for applications is March 29.

CMCS launches website, offers CSANA discount

*Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies* now has a website — www.cmcspublications.com — where an order form can be downloaded. The annual subscription for individuals is still £10 for two numbers, including mailing (almost a give-away following sterling’s Brexit-related collapse against the dollar). CMCS also publishes books in short print-runs. The editor (Patrick Sims-Williams) is willing to offer the books still available at a 20% discount to CSANA members for the next three months (or while stocks last) — just write "CSANA member" somewhere on the form. Bestsellers include *Dating Medieval Welsh Literature* by Simon Rodway and the two-volume *Corpus of Latin Inscriptions of the Roman Empire Containing Celtic Personal Names* — useful for teaching, owing to the translations and the many maps in volume 2. The latest publications (2017) are Michael Siddons's massive *Welsh Genealogies 1500-1600* and the two-volume edition of *Liber Coronacionis Britanorum* by Patrick Sims-Williams. Despite its Latin title, *LCB* is a previously unknown Middle Welsh version of Geoffrey of Monmouth with 59 color illustrations, a unique feature so far as medieval Welsh narrative literature is concerned.

UCD offers Irish Studies MA scholarships

University College Dublin is offering scholarships worth up to €9,150 (essentially halving registration costs) for the coming academic year to international students in the university’s newly restructured one-year MA in Irish Studies.

UCD has a vibrant, popular undergraduate program in Irish Studies which attracts students from many countries and is relaunching the MA which offers a wide range of subjects contributed by the Schools of: Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore; History; English, Drama and Film; Archaeology; Sociology; Politics and International Relations; Art History and Cultural Policy; and Music.

Being in Dublin also provides students with access to many of Ireland’s key cultural institutions and libraries. The MA is now hosted by the School of Irish, Celtic Studies and Folklore.

Further information can be found at https://sisweb.ucd.ie/usis/IW_HU_MENU.P_PUBLISH?p_tag=PROG&MAJR=Z195
**Folklore CFP**

The journal *Folklore* invites submissions of original work not being considered elsewhere. We publish articles by scholars from a wide range of adjacent disciplines (e.g. anthropology, Celtic studies, history, human geography, linguistics, literature, psychology, and religion), as long as the topic and approach are of interest and relevance to folklorists. CSANA members might note that Folklore published four Celtic-centric articles in 2015 and several reviews of Celtic Studies books in 2016.

*Folklore* publishes full-length articles (max. 12,000 words); shorter, accessibly written “Topics, Notes, & Comments” pieces (max. 5,000 words); and annotated “Text Editions” (max. 12,000 words). More information at: [www.folklore-society.com/publications/folklore](http://www.folklore-society.com/publications/folklore), or email the Editor at: jessica.hemming@pobox.com.

**Conferences**

**Registration open for CSANA 2017!**

Registration is now open for CSANA’s 2017 meeting, scheduled April 27-30 in Vancouver, British Columbia, and sponsored by the Welsh Society of Vancouver.

Please make sure your CSANA membership is current for 2016–2017. If you would like to pay your conference registration by credit card, you may register via PayPal [here](http://www.folklore-society.com/publications/folklore), or wait until your arrival and register onsite with a Canadian cheque or cash. The conference is $35; the Saturday evening banquet, at Red Ginger, is $40, and it must be paid by 6 pm on Friday, 21 April, as we will need to have a firm number to give the restaurant. If you need to hold a space at the banquet but plan to register on site, please let Antone Minard know how many via email ([antone_minard@sfu.ca](mailto:antone_minard@sfu.ca)).

Additionally, we are asking attendees if you are willing to donate $20 to our hosts, the Vancouver Welsh Society, which brings a year’s out-of-town membership. Not only is this a nice way of thanking our hosts for the generous donation of the venue and of supporting their mission, it also ensures our compliance with the Society’s liquor license, which requires a specific member-to-guest ratio in order to serve.

For those using PayPal, when you click on the link, you will see the Welsh Society Register page. Please enter the data and it will go through a data check process. Any format of ZIP code / post code will be fine. Upon completion, an email is generated and sent to the Welsh Society Membership Secretary, giving the registration and user details and, you will be presented with a “Donate” button which you must select, though you may choose “no donation.”

At that point, the PayPal screen will appear. Then, enter your credit card number. Upon completion you will then see another of the Welsh Society pages which says “Thank you” and on that screen is a Home button, which directs back to the CSANA2017 page.
Organizers would like to thank Alcwyn Rogers for designing the PayPal interface, and Jacqueline Chapman (Welsh Society Membership Secretary) and Gaynor Evans (Welsh Society Treasurer) for facilitating the financial aspects of this year’s CSANA meeting.

For full information, including a conference schedule, visit [https://csana2017.wordpress.com/](https://csana2017.wordpress.com/).

**California Celtic Conference**

The 39th California Celtic Conference is scheduled March 16-19 at UC-Berkeley, and is free and open to the public. Contact [issa@berkeley.edu](mailto:issa@berkeley.edu) for more information or see full conference program at [http://events.berkeley.edu/index.php/calendar.html?event_ID=106883&date=2017-03-17&tab=all_events](http://events.berkeley.edu/index.php/calendar.html?event_ID=106883&date=2017-03-17&tab=all_events). Plenary speakers include Louis De Paor (NUI Galway), Sioned Davies (Cardiff University), Antone Minard (Simon Fraser University), Joseph Falaky Nagy (Harvard University), and Brynley Roberts (Aberystwyth, University of Wales Center for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies). The conference will also feature a poetry reading by De Paor. All sessions will be held in Hearst Field Annex D-37.

The conference will also include a special panel: “The Irish Language as Taught in Northern California: A Roundtable Discussion and Panel in Memory of Eddie Stack,” UCB’s most recent teacher of Irish. Participants will discuss the teaching of Irish in the Bay Area and beyond; topics Eddie Stack’s contribution to teaching the Irish language at UC Berkeley and at the New School in San Francisco; the Irish language taught outside the academic context (e.g., Irish Immersion at the San Francisco Irish Center); Irish on the peninsula (Stanford) and in central California (Santa Cruz).

The conference is sponsored the Celtic Studies Program, the Irish Studies Program, the Department of Linguistics (and the Diebold Fund), the Department of Scandinavian, the English Department, the Folan Fund (Division of Humanities), and the Division of Social Sciences. Many added thanks to the ISSA staff and to the staff of the Institute of European Studies, as well as to the English Department for space.

**MLA Celtic and Old English panel 2018**

Proposals are sought by the Modern Language Association’s Celtic and Old English Forums for a Celtic/OE joint session at the 2018 MLA Convention, scheduled Jan. 4-7 in New York City.

The session is titled *Mewn Dau Gae*: Between Two Fields: No State of Security in Medieval North Atlantic Studies. In early medieval elegiac poetry, exile and pilgrimage were very close. The exile, excluded from safety and society, was driven to the margins and borders, isolated and fugitive. The pilgrim was unmoored from worldly life, alone and seeking knowledge, training, or divine truth. These states of unbelonging were precarious and perilous, as well as productive. The ethnic, linguistic, scholarly, and social insecurity of the *exsul* or *peregrinus* opened opportunities and new ways of thinking. As Waldo Williams makes clear in his great poem, “*Mewn Dau Gae,*” from these interstitial spaces the new, even the poetic, arises:
And on the silent sea-floor of these fields, his people stroll. Somewhere between them, through them, around them, there is a new voice rising ...

The statelessness, insecurity, and instability of the shifting zones of contact and crisis in the medieval North Atlantic produced provocative new generic forms, scholarly work, and poetic modes, which in turn can illuminate how and what the field means and might mean in the twenty-first century. We welcome 300-word proposals for presentations of scholarly research and critical analysis on pre-modern Celtic and Anglo Saxon literatures; these analyses should be rooted in the primary medieval texts and contexts and come to bear on current preconceived ideas and institutional formations of the field, specifically, and the place and role of the humanities in our current states of insecurity, more broadly.

Please submit a 250-word proposal for a presentation of no more than 20 minutes to Matt Hussey (mhussey@sfu.ca) and Amy Mulligan (Amy.Mulligan.22@nd.edu) by March 15.

"A Better Brit Lit Survey: Celtic, Norse and Teaching a Multicultural North Atlantic" (Roundtable)

The Celtic Forum of the Modern Language Association invites proposals for brief 6-8 minute presentations from teacher-scholars working in any time period for a roundtable discussion at the 2018 MLA Convention (Jan. 4-7 in New York City) about the incorporating Celtic and Norse voices in the British Literature survey, and the practical, political and disciplinary issues involved in teaching a Multicultural North Atlantic.

How can a multicultural Brit Lit Survey be used to address current issues regarding racism, xenophobia and right-wing nationalism? What has the role of the lucrative anthology industry been in shaping the voices that are included or canonized as part of “British Literature”? What can consideration of the Viking Diaspora and the Celtic presence in the British Isles bring to an understanding of what British literature is, and how it has always been multilingual, multicultural and multiethnic? What are some of the obstacles to be negotiated? What are some of the most successful strategies, and what do “best practices” look like? Participants might address the role of anthologies, how they have structured the ways “Brit Lit” has been defined, and how we might intervene to reconceptualize “British Literature” to include Celtic and Norse contributions and highlight an early, foundational multiculturalism. Speakers might discuss strategies for incorporating specific Celtic or Norse sources, perhaps in terms of specific textual or thematic pairings of laments, runic inscriptions, heroic narratives or material cultural elements; presenters might address employing popular films, graphic novels, television series, etc. Contributors might consider logistics including how to approach language and translation, or how to advertise courses (to students and colleagues) to best capitalize on the fact that Vikings and Celts sell extremely well. Discussants might furthermore address how to use a “Better Brit Lit Survey” as a gateway to further study of Celtic and Norse literature and culture, past and present, and how a more fully inclusive Brit Lit Survey can advance an appreciation of and further work on a more multicultural North Atlantic world.
Organizers hope that speakers and audience participants will include those with some background in Celtic and Norse literatures, languages, and/or culture, as well as teacher-scholars who have little or no formal training in Celtic or Norse Studies but who are invested in a multicultural North Atlantic and have (or want to) include Celtic and Norse materials in a Brit Lit course.

Please submit a proposal of ca. 150 words for a presentation of 6-8 minutes to Amy Mulligan (amullig2@nd.edu) or Lindy Brady (lindy.brady@gmail.com) by March 15.

Ulidia VI / Fíanaigeacht III on the Isle of Skye

A joint meeting of the Ulster and Finn Cycle conferences is scheduled June 13-17 at Sabhal Mór Ostaig, Isle of Skye. The conference is hosted by the Scottish Celtic departments at Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, and the University of the Highlands and Islands.

Conference contributions may explore any aspect of the Ulster or Finn traditions, from the medieval to the modern. Presentations in Gaelic, Irish or English are welcome. In addition, organizers hope that the conference will explore:

- the concept of the 'cycle' as a classificatory model
- the relationships between place, landscape and story in Ireland and Scotland
- the antecedents and legacy of Macpherson’s Ossian within Gaelic tradition
- the reception of both Ulster and Finn Cycle texts in visual art, music and theatre
- contemporary responses to the Ulster Cycle and Finn Cycle characters and traditions (in scholarship, literature including children’s literature, school curricula, art, marketing, tourism/hospitality)


2017 Irish Conference of Medievalists

The 31st Irish Conference of Medievalists, scheduled June 29-July 1 at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, County Kildare, invites proposals for papers on any aspect of medieval studies, including history, archaeology, literature, linguistics, art history, theology, philosophy, historiography, and palaeography. Papers should last 20 minutes (plus 10 minutes for discussion).

We also invite proposals for themed sessions, comprising three speakers (please provide a proposal for each paper, and you are welcome to nominate your own session chair).

Proposals should contain the following information: name, institutional affiliation (if any), email address, and abstract (max. 250 words).

Proposals should be sent to elizabeth.boyle@nuim.ie no later than March 3. Those submitting proposals can expect to be notified before the end of March.
Please note that there is full funding (travel, accommodation, etc.) available for three speakers working in the field of ecclesiastical history or theology in a “New Directions in Medieval Religion” session, sponsored by Irish Theological Quarterly. For more details about this, please see the information on the conference website. Proposals for this session should be sent to Salvador.ryan@spcm.ie.

Visit http://www.irishmedievalists.com for full information.

**Dinshenchas Érenn at DIAS**

Registration is now open for the Dinshenchas Érenn Conference at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies School of Celtic Studies, scheduled for March 31-April 1. Registration is €20, but a discounted rate of €10 is available for students or unwaged.

A full program is available at https://www.dias.ie/2017/01/18/dindsenchas-erenn-registration/

**The Paper Manuscript Colloquium at UCC**

The Department of Modern Irish at University College Cork will host “The Paper Manuscript,” a colloquium addressing paper manuscript traditions in Gaelic and other cultures May 26-27. The program will include topics such as vellum-paper interfaces, binding, conservation, and watermarks.

Admission is free, but advance registration is required; contact p.omachain@ucc.ie for further information.

**The Book of Uí Mhaine at RIA**

The Royal Irish Academy is now accepting registration for a conference on the Book of Uí Mhaine, scheduled March 2-3, at the Academy, 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2. Registration is €40, but a discount rate of €25 is available for students/unwaged. The conference is organized by the RIA Library and Roinn na Sean-Ghaeilge, Maynooth University.

The Book of Uí Mhaine is one of the most important manuscripts of late medieval Ireland. Its size, scope and extent, the range of texts it encompasses and its illumination all mark it out as one of the outstanding productions of Irish scholarship in this period. Written in the late fourteenth century for Muircheartach Ó Ceallaigh (†1407) Lord-Bishop of Clonfert, and subsequently associated closely with the O’Kelly family, it is a treasure trove of traditional Irish history and learning. In addition to lengthy genealogical tracts on the Uí Mhaine in South Galway and on many notable Irish families, it contains versions of the Bansheanchas, the Dindsheanchas, Cóir Anmann, wisdom texts, glossaries, poetry and many other compositions. The conference will address its background and structure, its artistic illumination, its place in Irish intellectual life of the time and its subsequent history.
Inquiries should be directed to uimhaine@ria.ie; see https://www.ria.ie/events/book-ui-mhaine for a full program and to register.

Speakers include: Elizabeth Boyle (Maynooth University), Liam Breathnach (DIAS), Michael Clarke (NUI Galway, Bernadette Cunningham (RIA), Raymond Gillespie (Maynooth University), Deborah Hayden (Maynooth University), Micheál Hoyne (DIAS), Ruairí Ó hUiginn (DIAS), Pádraig Ó Macháin (UC), Nollaig Ó Muraíle (NUI Galway), Karen Ralph (Paris), Paul Russell (Cambridge University), and Marie-Luise Theuerkauf (DIAS).

- Also, the Academy has scheduled the **2017 Irish Historic Towns Atlas seminar for May 19** at the Academy. Please visit https://www.ria.ie/events/ihta-seminar-2017 for updates.

**CFP Societas Celtologica Nordica 2017**

*Societas Celtologica Nordica* invites proposals for 20-minute papers on all aspects of Celtic Studies for the 2017 symposium, scheduled Aug. 31-Sept. 1 at UiT, The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø. Proposals should be sent to cathinka.d.hambro@uit.no by May 15. The symposium is hosted by UiT’s Department of Language and Culture, and proposals for themed sessions are also welcome.

This year’s keynote speakers are Professor John Carey (UCC), Dr. Clodagh Downey (NUI Galway), Professor Aidan Doyle (UCC), and Professor Joseph F. Nagy (Harvard University).

Conference fee is approximately $120, which will include the conference dinner on Aug. 31.

**Inaugural Global Irish Diaspora Congress**

The inaugural Global Irish Diaspora Congress seeks proposals for papers and registrants for the congress, scheduled Aug. 15-19 at University College Dublin.

The congress examines the histories, cultures, heritages and identities of Irish communities beyond Ireland’s shores. More than 70 million people worldwide can claim descent from Irish emigrants. For many decades there has been considerable scholarly interest in the history of emigration from Ireland, from its beginnings in the middle ages (to Britain and parts of Europe) through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries (to all corners of the globe), and in how ‘Irishness’ has been and continues to be maintained and expressed by descendant communities.

However, the sheer scale of the Irish diaspora has created obstacles to an international conversation and exchange of ideas. Comparative perspectives will greatly enhance our worldwide research on subjects such as the many causes of Irish migration, the types of people who migrated, the shared or divergent experiences of the migrants in different places and times, the material remains of diaspora, the impact of migrations on host populations and cultures, and relationships between diasporic communities and Ireland.

This congress provides a stage for this long-needed, international exchange and discussion. Researchers from many fields and from every corner of the world are invited to Dublin to attend four
days of plenaries and parallel sessions, where they can present their work, meet fellow-researchers, exchange ideas, and establish research networks within and across disciplinary boundaries.

For information and registration, visit [http://www.ucd.ie/globalirishdiaspora/about/](http://www.ucd.ie/globalirishdiaspora/about/).

**Workshop to launch Irish Network for the Study of Esotericism and Paganism**

Scholars are invited to take part in the launch and first day-long workshop of the Irish Network for the Study of Esotericism and Paganism (INSEP), the Irish regional branch of the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism, March 31 at University College Cork.

INSEP is a multidisciplinary research network for scholars working on any aspect of Esotericism (historical or contemporary) or Contemporary Paganism that relates to the Irish context. Its mission is to provide a forum for networking and collaboration among scholars who are based in Ireland and those based abroad who have research interests in the subject areas of esotericism and contemporary Paganism as they relate to Ireland. A general goal of the network is to establish a forum for academics – whether established researchers, postgraduate students, early career researchers or independent scholars – to communicate with each other, share information on relevant conferences and other events, and to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among those researching in the areas of Irish esotericism and Pagan Studies.

Visit [http://www.esswe.org/Regional](http://www.esswe.org/Regional) for more information and a link to INSEP’s Facebook page, where details about the workshop will be announced, including a program.

**Second European Symposium in Celtic Studies**

Societas Celtologica Europea’s second European Symposium in Celtic Studies is scheduled July 31-Aug. 3 at Prifysgol Bangor University, Wales. Organizers aim to bring together scholars from all sub-disciplines of Celtic Studies, including languages, literature, culture, history, archaeology, music, religion and any other aspect of the wider Celtic World.

Registration is now open; please visit [http://escs.bangor.ac.uk/index.php.en](http://escs.bangor.ac.uk/index.php.en) for full information.

**Second Lublin Celtic Colloquium**

Proposals are sought for papers at the Second Lublin Celtic Colloquium, titled “Centres and Peripheries in Celtic Studies,” scheduled Sept. 21-22 at the St. John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland.

Papers are invited in any area of Celtic studies. Please send an abstract (200-300 words, including references) to celticcolloquium@gmail.com by March 31.

The conference language is English. Your name and affiliation should be given in the e-mail message. Notification of acceptance will be given by April 30.
The conference fee is approximately $75, and includes materials, coffee breaks and conference dinner. A selection of papers will be published in a post-conference volume.

Details concerning payment and accommodation options will be announced soon.

**Bardic Poetry Workshop at TCD**

The Department of Irish and Celtic Studies at Trinity College Dublin will present a Bardic Poetry Workshop Mary 12 at Trinity’s Long Room Hub.

Please visit [https://bardicpoetryworkshop.wordpress.com](https://bardicpoetryworkshop.wordpress.com) for updates.

**ACIS National Conference**

Registration is open for the 2017 annual conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies, scheduled March 29-April 2 in Kansas City, Missouri. Conference fee is approximately $200.

Registration and full information, including a partial program, are at [http://info.umkc.edu/acis/](http://info.umkc.edu/acis/).

**Fifth Annual Celtic Students Conference**

Registration is now open for the fifth annual conference of the Association of Celtic Students of Ireland and Britain, scheduled March 24-25 at the University of Glasgow. Conference registration is £25 and includes the conference dinner March 24 and a **céilidh** March 23.

Visit [www.celticstudentsconferenc.org](http://www.celticstudentsconferenc.org) for more information and to register.

**Borderlines XXI at UCC**

Borderlines XXI, an interdisciplinary postgraduate medievalist conference, is scheduled April 14-16 at University College Cork. The conference will explore the concept of authority in the Medieval and Early Modern periods. Keynote speaker will be Professor Michael Brown of the University of St. Andrews.

Visit [https://borderlinesxxi.wordpress.com](https://borderlinesxxi.wordpress.com) for more information.

**Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages**

The 2017 Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages conference is scheduled April 3-5 at the University of Birmingham. The conference explores the role of cross-border literary translation and transmission in the construction of political, national, international, regional, and cultural identities in Britain, Ireland, and Iceland across the long period c. 900-1500. It is intended to foster discussion about contemporary methodologies in comparative literary studies by international scholars working in English, Scottish, Celtic, and Scandinavian Studies.
Confirmed speakers include Professor Carolyne Larrington (St. John’s College, Oxford), Professor Máire Ni Mhaonigh (St. John’s College, Cambridge), Professor Helen Fulton (University of Bristol), Professor Erich Poppe (Philipps-Universität, Marburg), and Dr. Emily Wingfield (University of Birmingham).

For more information, contact Dr. Victoria Flood, v.flood@bham.ac.uk, or Dr. Aisling Byrne, a.byrne@reading.ac.uk.

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**Book Reviews**


More so than any of the other peoples of early medieval Britain and Ireland, the study of the Picts is hampered by the extreme paucity of the sources. The absence of any surviving texts known to have been written by Pictish authors forces the student to find imaginative ways to access this fascinating subject. In her study of Pictish kingship, especially that of King Nechthon mac filius Derelei – the “philosopher king” of the title – Julianna Grigg has sought to do so by combining the study of archaeological and external textual sources. In the latter category she includes both references to Pictish affairs in sources written by their neighbors – primarily the Irish and the Anglo-Saxons – as well as a broader range of material offered as the basis for comparison. Using these, Grigg presents a case for seeing Pictish kingship as a strong and centralizing institution. She argues that a succession of Pictish kings in the late seventh and early eighth centuries worked to unite Pictish territory into a centralized kingdom, over which they exerted considerable control. Economic expansion, political assemblies and the influence of the Church all played a role in this process, which culminated in King Nechthon’s conversion of the Pictish Church to the date of Easter favored by Rome.

There is much to like about this book, not the least of which is the author’s interdisciplinary approach and her success in tying together the results of recent research in the fields of landscape and settlement archaeology with similarly recent developments in text-based approaches to the history of the Picts. There is a lesson here for historians of all the Celtic-speaking peoples of the early medieval period. The same could be said of the author’s willingness to compare across cultures, rather than focusing narrowly on the limited evidence related directly to the Picts. Nevertheless, while it has its strengths, there are also some problematic aspects of this work.

This is a book primarily about state formation, to which the development of national identity is considered secondary. The assumption that the development of national identity was contingent upon political unity flies in the face of the evidence from contemporary Ireland and Anglo-Saxon England, however, which clearly demonstrates that the concepts of Irish and English national identity existed long before any equivalent political units. The process of ethnic and national identity formation in the early medieval period – “ethnogenesis” as it is sometimes called – has been a hot topic in recent decades, but there are few signs that the author has engaged with the abundant
recent literature on the topic. Furthermore, the use “nation” as a synonym for “state” or “nation-state” is also problematic (p. 18), as is the equation of the nation-state with “progress” (p. 19).

Neither is the argument in favor of the existence of such a strong kingship convincing, however, as a result of the author’s relatively uncritical use of textual sources. Perhaps the single most important source for the entire argument is the letter sent by Abbot Ceolfrid of Wearmouth-Jarrow to King Nechthon regarding the dating of Easter and other religious affairs. Without this letter, Nechthon’s reputation would hardly be any more highly regarded than his immediate predecessors or successors, and he would have no claim to the title of “philosopher king.” It is in the description of the king and his activities in this letter that Grigg sees evidence Nechthon was an ideal Christian king, reforming the morals of his subjects (p. 196). The letter as it survives in Bede’s Ecclesiastical History of the English People is almost certainly not the original, however. As Charles Plummer noted a long time ago, similarities between the language of the letter and his other works suggest that the surviving text was largely written by Bede himself. Bede addressed his great work to King Ceolwulf of Northumbria, and in its preface he states that one of his purposes in writing was to provide examples of good behavior that his audience might emulate. In other words, the surviving version of the letter may have been shaped by Bede, to a greater or lesser degree, with the intended purpose of exhibiting to his audience an image of idealized kingship. It therefore cannot be taken for granted that the letter is an accurate depiction of how Nechthon really governed.

Further problems arise in relation to the use made of comparative evidence. Too often, conclusions concerning the Picts are asserted with a degree of certainty that is not warranted based on the Irish or English evidence used. The presence of skilled artisans in Pictland cannot be taken as evidence that they enjoyed similar social status to that assigned to their counterparts in Old Irish legal tracts (pp. 41–2), for example. The comparison made between the titles “king of Fortriu” and “king of Tara” is also unconvincing, considering that the first appears to have referred to a territorial kingship while the second was intended to associate kings with a specific prehistoric site that was symbolic of broader (if incompletely understood) authority (p. 66). Grigg notes in the Introduction that, because of the nature of the evidence, in any study of the Picts “some inferential leaps are inevitable” (p. 17). Unfortunately, it seems that the trajectory of those leaps was predetermined, and influenced less by the impetus provided by the sources than by the author’s desire to land at a specific destination.

There are other issues for which the publisher must assume some responsibility. Citations are lacking in a number of places, most frequently when sources are cited in translation, and grammatical and typographical errors can be found in significant numbers throughout. These errors are detrimental to the overall quality of the book, but they should have been corrected before publication.

The result of the issues outlines above is that, while the author’s approach to the topic, and the breadth of the material considered, make this book a worthwhile read, its arguments are ultimately unconvincing.

Patrick Wadden
Belmont Abbey College.

In *Woodstown*, editors Ian Russell and Maurice F. Hurley have compiled a detailed monograph on the archaeological research carried out at the Woodstown site near the ancient city of Waterford by the River Suir. This monograph will be particularly valuable for historians and archaeologists interested in early medieval sites. In his preface to the volume, David Griffiths notes the importance, in particular, of rivers, especially during the Viking Age, as “the key to entering, leaving, and controlling a landmass” (xiii). Griffiths observes that although the Viking raiders invaded coasts, eventually their attention turned to the interior of Ireland; in so doing, their ways of life changed (xiii). Inland incursions created a need for Vikings to create “ship-camps,” as set forth, according to Griffiths, in various annalistic sources:

From AD 836 we read in annalistic sources of the foundation of ship-camps, described singularly in various cases as a *longphort* or *dún*, at Inber Deá (an unidentified location regarded by historians as probably on the Avoca River at Arklow, Co. Wicklow) and 840-1 at Linn Duachail (Annagassan, Co Leath) and at Dublin, at later in strategic locations across the loughs, harbours and rivers of Ireland. (xiii)

The discovery of the Woodstown site was the result of a fortuitous accident. According to James Tobin of the Waterford City and County Council, in a Foreword to this monograph, archaeologists who were employed by the National Roads Authority (NRA) in preparation for a Waterford City Bypass, came across this site in 2003. Tobin notes for the reader the importance of the discovery in shedding light on the pivotal role played by the Vikings in European civilization in bringing the Irish land “into close contact with Europe and the wide world” (xvi). Tobin also notes the important contribution of the Vikings in the establishment of cities (xvi). For Hurley, however, in the book’s “Executive Summary,” what is most remarkable about Woodstown is not its discovery, but its very survival, given its obscurity (xx). According to Hurley, the Woodstown settlement began in the middle of the ninth century “although occupation appears to have continued into the early tenth century” (xx). As one of the editors, Hurley notes for scholars that since the discovery of the site, some reports have been made public and that this book, in particular, “attempts to draw together a vast array of specialist studies, many of which were originally carried out without the benefit of cross reference to a complete synthesis” (xxi). The editors have tried “to standardize the format of the specialist reports,” but have eschewed “substandard alterations to the specialists’ work” (Hurley xx). The Woodstown site, notes Hurley, was a locus of industrial activities that accords with Scandinavian ways, and it was a locus of commercial activity” (xxii). Woodstown, in Hurley’s view, can be said to be “the first archaeologically proven ninth-century Viking riverside settlement in Ireland” (xxii). Its importance, note Hurley and Russell in their introduction, became quite evident in 2004 when Trench 34 was excavated: “It was clear at this stage that the site was an early Viking-Age settlement of international importance” (5).
The book has twelve chapters including an introduction, which describes how and why the excavation took place. Chapter 2, by Stephen Harrison, is “Historical Background”; this chapter provides a historical context for the site. Chapter 3, “Physical environment and geophysics,” outlines critical elements of the geological landscape that shape the natural environment and land use of the site, note Hurley and Russell (7). Chapter 4, “The excavation,” by Russell, focuses on aspects of the excavation. Chapter 5, “Discussion of the Viking burial,” by Stephen Harrison, presents issues pertaining to Viking burials. Chapter 6, “Discussion of metalworking evidence,” by Tim Young, offers “evidence for metalworking based on the archaeological residues,” according to Hurley and Russell (7). Chapters 7-11, according to Hurley and Russell, set forth “the artefactual evidence divided primarily by raw material (metal, ceramics, stone, and other materials); however, within these chapters more in-depth studies are presented on certain significant objects or categories of objects, such as weapons, coins, and silver (7-8). Chapter 12, “Discussion and conclusions,” by Hurley, foregrounds “the main points of interest and their significance (7). Appendices take up various issues, as follows: “Radiocarbon dating,” “Summary of assessment of Killoteran Stream marsh,” “Summary of intertidal and underwater archaeological surveys,” “Petrography of two homes,” “Conservation of finds.”

In the chapter entitled “Historical Background,” Harrison delineates for scholars of the early medieval period the historical context of the Woodstown site. He notes on page 14 the connection between Woodstown and the Déisi:

Despite the paucity of the available evidence, it seems clear that in the early Middle Ages Woodstown lay within the territory of a minor sept of the Déisi, probably the Uí fhathaid Tíre, about which very little is known, and that it lay within an area for which it is particularly difficult to reconstruct the settlement patterns of the period using archaeological evidence.

Associated with the Woodstown site is a church, the church of Killoteran, which “is situated in the opposite bank of the Killoteran Stream,” not far from the townland (Harrison 14). Otteran or Odhran became the focus of veneration for the Waterford Hiberno-Norse population, which began to conflate the “local St. Odhran” with St. Odhran of Iona (15). About the survival and prosperity of this church even during the Anglo-Norman period, Harrson observes that “it is also interesting that this evidence raises the possibility of a strong relationship between Killoteran and the city of Waterford in the later eleventh and twelfth centuries” (16). In any case, Harrison notes for scholars the importance of appreciating “just how” exceptional the archaeological evidence from Woodstown is. “If all Viking bases were as wealthy and long-lived as this site, then it is time for a major reassessment of the scale and impact of ninth-century Viking raids on Ireland” (17). Harrison points out, however, that raid were not the only focus of the Woodstown site, since manufacturing and trade were carried out in the area (19).

According to Hurley, in Chapter 12, entitled “Discussion and conclusions,” the focus of activity” at Woodstown is the period circa 850-950 A.D. (347). At some point, the Woodstown site was abandoned. Hurley theorizes for scholars that the decline of the site was due perhaps “to the nature of industrial development” at the site. Metalwork was an important feature of this development. There was a difficulty, however, that may have brought about the decline of the site:

While the site may have been suitable to beach ships and boats, the loading and unloading of cargoes of iron ore would certainly require ships to be berthed in deep water. The success of
the Woodstown site may therefore have led to its ultimate failure and abandonment in favor of a more suitable port site at Waterford city. (357)

The studies contained within this monograph are replete with tables, charts, and color photographs of the excavations and artifacts. Anyone interested in the history of Viking settlements in Ireland and the contribution of the Vikings to Irish culture and civilization during the early medieval period will find this monograph to be a valuable source of information and learning.

Gregory J. Darling
Fordham University and New York City College of Technology


This book is an English-language version of the original German-language edition first published in 1970, with a second revised edition in 2009. The current version has been further revised and updated so as to virtually represent the third edition of the original book. The English-language version was prepared with the assistance of Albert Bock, Benjamin Bruch, and Aaron Griffith.

Meid states that the purpose of the original undertaking was twofold: to add to the small number of Old Irish narrative texts whose original may be recoverable on the basis of a critical examination of the extant later manuscripts, and secondly, to provide a useful vehicle to introduce interested readers and students to Irish language and literature. The commentary has been devised as a step-by-step introduction to this Old Irish text, identifying grammatical forms and syntactical rules and providing historical explanations (including comparative and etymological information).

The author provides introductory materials pertaining to the narrative content of the book, as well as a discussion of the various versions of the tale and their possible relationship to each other. This is followed by the Old Irish text itself, *variae lectiones*, and English translation. The bulk of the remainder of the book consists of almost 200 pages of detailed commentary on the text, which may be useful to students of philology and literature. The work then ends with a useful glossary. Meid hopes to have provided a useful text for introducing students to early Irish language and literature, and to add to the relatively small corpus of teaching materials that have been available up to this point. Orders for the book should be addressed to wolfgang.meid@uibk.ac.at.

Sharon Paice MacLeod

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CSANA seeks book reviews and announcements for its twice-a-year newsletter (published at Samain and Beltaine). If you would like to review a recent book for the newsletter, please let me know, and I will contact the publisher about obtaining a review copy. We welcome reviews of books on all aspects of Celtic studies. We also welcome any announcements that would be of interest to members: job ads, conferences, calls for papers, competitions and prizes, funding announcements, etc.

CSANA is especially interested in information about Celtic Studies in North America: where it is offered at the undergraduate and graduate levels; where students can study it as a major, a minor, or part of a concentration; where students can find an undergraduate thesis, master’s degree or doctoral dissertation advisor; etc. We hope to compile and print this information for members to share with colleagues, students, media outlets, etc.

Please send any information along these lines, and any announcements or queries about book reviews, to james.philip.miller@gmail.com (note one “L” in Philip).

Books received that need a reviewer (though reviews of any recent books are welcome!):


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