

Colmcille: the archaeological heritage in the northwest

Colmcille was a real historical person. Though there are many stories and traditions about him in folklore and hagiography, we have very little genuine contemporary historical documentation with which to reconstruct the details of his actual life. But archaeology can help, especially with regard to the extraordinary monastic tradition he founded and the influences he left after him. In this talk the emphasis will be on the sites and ancient monuments associated with his memory in Donegal and the northwest, for example in Gartan where he is said to have been born, in Derry – both the city and county, in Gleann Cholmcille, Tory and Cloghaneely. Mention will also be made of the archaeology of Iona and the spectacular excavations at Portmahomack in NE Scotland.

Brian Lacey (*Independent Scholar*)

The sixteenth century life of Colm Cille and its narrative context

The sixteenth century Betha Colaim Chille (1532, Rawl. B 514) displays legends and anecdotes about the saint and his miracles, not only in Ireland but also in western Scotland where the saint spent most of his life. However, it also celebrates the achievement of Magnus, the future Ó Domhnaill (1537), in having these legends collected and written down, thus laying the ground for his own legendarium. I will argue that the romantic tales Eachtra an Cheithearnaigh Chaoilriabhaigh (also called Ceithearnach Uí Dhomhnaill) and Eachtra Chonaill Ghulban may have formed part of Magnus' literary propaganda in preparation for becoming the Ó Domhnaill and look at how these tales contribute to drawing parallels between the old patron saint and the lord of Tír Chonaill.

Jan Erik Rekdal (*Ollscoil Oslo*)

Iona's nunnery: origins, carvings and modern interpretations

The ruins of Iona nunnery attract many visitors. They can be a welcome rest, a place of personal prayer, a reflective stop on the weekly walks, or the place where a worn Sheela-na-gig may be viewed. The nunnery was neglected in the past, and has been relatively neglected in recent scholarship, where it stated that it was raised shortly after the Benedictine abbey. This paper argues, through consideration of the architecture, antiquarian commentary and political background, that it is earlier and may be viewed as a late twelfth-century foundation attached to the Columban monastery, and mirroring some similarly-attached Augustinian nunneries in Ireland.

Rosemary Power (*Independent scholar, attached to CAMPS, NUI Galway*)

Colm Cille agus Oidhreacht na Logainmneacha

Níl aon amhras go raibh tionchar ollmhór ag Colmcille agus ag an oidhreacht a d'fhág sé ar stair na Críostaíochta in Éirinn agus in Albain araon agus go bhfuil an rian sin le feiceáil go fóill ar logainmneacha sa dá thír. Sa chaint seo déantar plé ar ghnéithe de thraidisiún na logainmníochta a bhaineann le Colmcille agus ar chuid de na naoimh is minice luaite leis.

Niall Comer (*Ollscoil Uladh*)

Éigse Cholm Cille 2021

Oidhreacht Cholm Cille

Gradamacha

Gradam na hÉigse: An tOllamh Seosamh Watson



A native of Belfast and formerly head boy at Royal Belfast Academical Institution (1961-62), Seosamh studied Classics at Cambridge and Celtic Languages at Edinburgh and is now emeritus Professor of Modern Irish at University College Dublin. In 1984 he co-founded Oideas Gael, an adult learning Institute which has attracted thousands of international students to study spoken Irish in Gleann Cholm Cille. Seosamh has been a loyal friend of Éigse Cholm Cille since our inception and has acted as external examiner at the University of Ulster (Magee campus) for both undergraduate and postgraduate courses. He is joint editor of *Atlas Liguarum Europae* which is published by the Romanian Academy of Science and has written many articles on aspects of Irish and Scottish Gaelic, specialising in Early Modern Irish prose and poetry. He edited the late 17th century tale, *Mac na Míchomhairle* (An Clóchomhar 1979). Along with

Cosslett Ó Cuinn and Aodh Ó Canainn, he published *Scian a Caitheadh le Toinn*, a collection of stories and songs from the Iorras Gaeltacht in Inis Eoghain (Coiscéim 1990) and in 2015, he published a translation of *Sgéalta Mhuintir Luinigh*, a collection of folktales from Co. Tyrone gathered by Éamonn Ó Tuathail (Four Courts Press). In 2018 Seosamh was awarded an Honorary Degree of Letters by the University of Glasgow.

Gradam Uí Chanainn: Courtney Ní Bhranduibh

Is gradam úr é seo atá ainmnithe as Aodh Ó Canainn, scríbhneoir, scoláire, duine de bhunaitheoirí Éigse Cholm Cille agus fear a chaith dúthracht mhór le saothrú litríocht na Gaeilge le linn a bheo. Bronntar an gradam ar an neach léinn is fearr ag dul don Ghaeilge i mbliain na céime. Courtney Ní Bhranduibh buaiteoir an ghradaim i mbliana. Is as Condae An Dúin í, agus rinne sí freastal ar Scoil Ghramadaí na Deastógála, Baile na hInnse.



Colm Cille: béalaithris an Naomh in Eirinn is in Albain

Mar 'Cholm Cille na Féile' a bhí eolas ar an naomh mór seo i measc an phobail i dTír Chonaill, ach cad iad na tréithe eile a bhí ag carachtar seo an bhéaloidis sa chontae sin agus cad a spreag iad? Nà nìor lù an t-òmós a bhí ag dul dó ó Ghaeil na hAlban gan fíu nach raibh iomaíocht idir iad agus Gaeil na hÉireann faoina áit adhlactha. Déantar scrúdu anseo ar chuntais thraidisiúnta sa dá thír faoin phearsa mhór féin agus ar an bhunús atá leo.

Seosamh Watson (Colaiste na hOllscoile Átha Cliath)

Lámhscríbhinní a bhaineann le Colm Cille

Leiríú é seo ar an ilghnéitheacht abhair a bhaineann le Colm Cille is atá le fáil i lámhscríbhinní na Gaeilge, luath agus déanach. Féachfar ar chineál na lámhscríbhinní, ar a gcur le chéile agus ar a leagan amach, agus beidh caint ar na scoláirí a thiomasaigh agus a scríobh.

Pádraig Ó Macháin (Colaiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh)

Vita Sancti Columbae: teacsa, cultus agus cleachdadh

Ged is urrainn dhuinn fianais o Vita Sancti Columbae a chleachdadh ann an rannasachadh air iomadh rud, bu chóir dhuinn chuimhneachadh gun deach a scríobhadh ann an coimhearsnachd shónraichte, agus gun robh e a' freagairt feumalachdan na coimhearsnachd sin - chan ann a-mháin ann am poileataigs (eaglaiseach agus/no shaoghailta), ach cuidéachd ann am beatha agus cleachdadh láitheal, ábhaisteach familia Chaluim Chille. Chithear ann an sgeualachdan a' Vita modailéan agus patrannan airson cleachadh cultus Chaluim Chille, ann an liotuige agus - agus is e seo fócas airidh a' pháipeir seo - ann an cleadh fáglaich naoimh. Chí sinn na dóighean anns an do scríobh Adomnán cleachdadh nam fáglaich ann an Vita Sancti Columbae, agus mar sin gheibh sinn sealladh air a' pháirt a bha aig an leabhar seo aig crídh na coimhearsnachd anns an deach a scríobhadh.

Donnchadh Sneddon (Eaglais na h-Alba)

The Annalistic legacy of Colum Cille and Iona

The practice of keeping monastic annals, brief records of principally monastic events recorded year by year, reached Ireland with Christianity in the early fifth century. However, it was Colum Cille, who in AD 562 brought a copy of this monastic chronicle with him when he founded his monastery on Iona, that was responsible for greatly expanding its geographical and social scope. From that time on we find in our surviving Annalistic collections increased numbers of records of both ecclesiastical and secular events, not only from Iona, but from Ireland, Scotland, and England. As a consequence we are the fortunate recipients of a unique and substantial legacy of contemporaneous records from these areas from AD 562 to circa AD 740, at which time the chronicle was removed from Iona to Ireland.

Dan McCarthy (Trinity College Dublin)

Ireland and its Saints in Medieval Icelandic Cultural Memory

Although there is evidence, in the form of personal and place-names, as well as certain ecclesiastical vocabulary, of early contact between Iceland and Celtic-speaking territory, hard evidence for Irish presence on the island is virtually non-existent. The Icelandic church, when it first appears upon the scene in the early 12th century, is a product of the Rhineland rather than Ireland. In my talk I will discuss the presence and absence of Irish saints and missionaries in the earliest stages of the Icelandic church, and how 13th-century Icelanders 'remembered' Ireland: as a source of slaves, royal ancestors, and hermits. Foundation legends that connect the two islands will be examined.

Caitríona Ó Dochartaigh (Colaiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh)

Ó aimsir bheatha an naoimh a chum Adhamhán go dtí an lá atá inniu ann, tá cáil ar Cholm Cille as a chuid tairngreachtaí agus tuartha. Sa bheatha ceanglaítear é le tairngreachtaí a bhaineann le muintir na mainistreach ar Oileán I den chuid is mó, mar shampla, an eachtra chailiúil faoin corr-éan bocht leath-bháite a thagann go dtí an t-oileán as Eirinn. Níos déanaí i dtraidisiún na lámhscríbhinní, áfach, leagtar faistíní casta filicata ar Cholm Cille a bhaineann leis an Roth Rámhach, gléas ollmhór a dhéanfaidh léirsíós ar Eirinn nó an Scuab as Fánat a dhéanfaidh an tír a bhánu díreach roimh Lá an Bhrátha. Cean de na danta is tábhachtaí a bhaineann leis an téama seo ná *Fisteá ríom, a Bhaioithín bhuain*, tairngreacht fhilicata fhada luaithe le Colm Cille ina labhrann sé lena dhálta agus a chomharba Baioithín. Bhí an oiread sin tóra ag scríobhaíthe ar an dan seo go raibh sé fós a chloipeáil i lámhscríbhinní san ochtú agus sa naoú céad déag.

Colm Cille: Tuartha, Tairngreachtaí agus Fáistine Fhilicata