

---

Review

Author(s): W. J. Watson

Review by: W. J. Watson

Source: *The Celtic Review*, Vol. 7, No. 28 (Jan., 1912), pp. 379-384

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30070420>

Accessed: 09-06-2016 04:43 UTC

---

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at  
<http://about.jstor.org/terms>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).



is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Celtic Review*

In introduction and notes, Dr. Meyer contributes much to the understanding of the poem. A specially valuable note deals with proper names which derive their first or second element from *fid*, wood (our modern *fiodh*). These he shows to be numerous, and among them he classes *Muiredach* for *Muir-fhedach* from *muir-fhid*, sea-wood = O. W. Morguid; also *Feredach* = *fer-fhedach* from *fer-fhid*, Man-wood. This latter we had always supposed to represent an Old-Celtic \**Ver-red-acos*, excellent chariot-man, equivalent in meaning to *Corb-mac*, and given as an *alias* for a certain *Cormac* in Keating, or \**Ve-red-acos*, with much the same meaning.

*Onomasticon Goedelicum Locorum et Tribuum Hiberniae et Scotiae: An Index, with Identifications, to the Gaelic Names of Places and Tribes.* By EDMUND HOGAN, S.J. Dublin: Hodges, Figgis and Co.; London: Williams and Norgate. 1910. 4to, pp. 696 + xvi. 12s. 6d. net.

This important work was undertaken in 1900, when the author was already in his seventieth year. It is a wonderful performance, especially seeing that the Rev. Father Hogan had other heavy duties to attend to while engaged thereon. 'The book contains, firstly, the Gaelic place-names found in the many unprinted and printed volumes mentioned at the end of the Preface, with hints as to their gender and declension; secondly, their identifications, taken directly from the cited text and the context, or from several texts and contexts combined. Help was also sought from Lists of Townlands and Parishes, from the Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland, and from maps of the last three centuries. In addition are given the identifications to be found in the topographical notes of Colgan, O'Donovan, and Reeves, as well as of Hennessy, O'Curry, and MacCarthy. A map is given which outlines the relations of Diocesan and County boundaries.' It is necessary to note the author's caveat: 'It did not fall within the scope of this work to attempt any emendations of the texts utilised, or to reconcile the conflicting opinions of scholars on questions of identification.'

In so far as the work deals with the Gaelic forms of the place-names and tribes of Ireland, criticism on the part of the present writer would be impertinent. Indeed, any criticism would have to deal mainly with matters of omission and identification, and the author is far from claiming completeness. The Scottish names, in respect of which the book bears as its subtitle, 'The Gaelic Place Names of Ireland and Scotland,' are fairly numerous, as might be expected from the close connection that long existed between the two countries. For these, we are given the forms found in the Irish Annals and other Irish literature, Adamnan's *Life of Columba*, the *Book of Deer*, Skene's *Chronicles of the Picts and Scots*, and the *Book of the Dean of Lismore*, all good sources. Less valuable is Theiner's *Vetera Monumenta*. We miss, however, the names contained in the Books of Clanranald, printed in the *Reliquiae Celticae*. On the other hand, there are included, mostly in the first half of the book, a number of names that have no right to be there, names of which the forms given are not genuine forms known and used by

the Gaelic-speaking people of Scotland, but conjectural restorations based on present Englished forms, or on present Englished forms eked out from charters. These conjectures possess various degrees of plausibility, but they are still conjectures. They may have a legitimate place in another work, but they do not add to the value of the *Onomasticon*. Had the author consulted any of the recognised Celtic scholars in Scotland, he would have been saved from including a good deal of unworthy matter of the kind referred to. Is it possible that Father Hogan was unaware of the existence of a Professor of Celtic in the University of Edinburgh?

The notes subjoined on the articles relating to Scotland are full in proportion to the importance which the *Onomasticon* must have in all future study of Celtic names of places. They might have been fuller, for I have omitted to note a good many conjectural resuscitations of names belonging to parts of Scotland where Gaelic has long died out, and where no native forms are therefore available. The contractions used by Father Hogan are: *Inv.* = *Inverness Gaelic Society Transactions*; *Jo.* = J. B. Johnston's *Place Names of Scotland*; *Max.* = Sir H. Maxwell's works on place-names; *DI.* = *Book of the Dean of Lismore*; *Sk.* = Dr. Skene's *Celtic Scotland*. The Gaelic forms given by me (marked usually G.) are not conjectures, but the living forms still in use among the Gaelic speakers.

*abh bhrec*, Affric, Jo.]<sup>1</sup> G. Afraig, female name of old standing, v. *Celt. Rev.*, vii. 71; cf. the proper name Fobhreach. In Gaelic, *-th-bh-* regularly becomes *f.*; cf. *difer*, *foirfe*.

*aba maileruba* in Ross-shire, now Amhan Marea.] Authority not specified; the name of the river was given to me as Abhainn Crosan.

*abha réidh*; r. Aray at Inverary, Jo.] Inverary is Inbhir Aora; the r. is Abhainn Aora, through Gleann Aora.

*abar brothóg?*] G. Obar Bhrothaig, Arbroath.

*abar dhain*, Aberdeen; MacBean, *Gaelic Conversation*.] G. Obar (Dh)eathain.

*aber crossain*, Applecross, Max.] It must not be inferred that this name is extant. Applecross is now a' Chomraich.

*aber gellaighe*, Abergeldie.] G. Obar Gheallaidh.

*achad an uirghill*, Creich. *Inv.*, xx. 118.] G. Ach-uirgil. *Celt. Rev.*, ii. 365.

*achad in blae*, Auchinblae, Jo.

*achad in dobhvir* (?) Auchindoir.

*achad in ghraighe*, Auhengray, Jo.

*achad in iarainn*, Auchenairn, Jo.

*achad laogh*, Achleach, Max.

*achad manach*, Auchmannoch, Max.] A guess, probably correct.

*achad na bó*, Achnaba.] G. Ach' nam bà. Here I omit a number of *ach*-names, of which the Gaelic has long been lost; the resuscitations are guesswork.

*achad na sealg*, Auchnashalloch, Ross-shire.] G. Ach' na seileach.

<sup>1</sup> The words within the square bracket are quoted from the *Onomasticon*.

- achad na sian*, Auchnasheen, Ross-shire.] G. Ach' na s'ne.  
*achad réidh*, Achray, Jo.] G. Ath-chrathaigh, possibly Ach-chrathaigh; cf. Cray in Glenshee, Perth, G. Crathaigh.  
*ailech na naomh*, Sk.] G. na h-eileacha naomha.  
*airchartdan* . . . now Glen-arochedan and Glen-Urquhart.] It is now Gleann Urchardain, Englished Glen Urquhart.  
*airidh ubhalghirt*, Airiequhillart, Wigtownsh., Max.] A guess.  
*alt na con guise*, r. in Rogart; *Inv.*, xix. 182.] An impossible form; I do not know the stream.  
*alt gurbh mór*; Kildonan.] Leg. a. garbh m.  
*alt tigh leana*, in p. Laing.] Leg. Lairg.  
*amhann sgeithe*; Lairg; *Inv.*, xx. 110.] G. Abhainn Sgeimhidh, *Celt. Rev.*, ii. 236.  
*amon*; *Aven*, *Awyne*, the Almond r. Perthsh.] G. Aman; *Aven*, *Awyne* cannot be forms of it.  
*árd*; an *árd*; the Ord of Caithness, Max.] G. an t-Ord Gallach.  
*árd achadh*; Ardoch in Perthsh., Jo.] G. Ardach, *i.e.* árd+suffix -ach; it has nothing to do with achadh.  
*árd gaoithe*; Ardgye al. Ardgay, al. Bonar Bridge.] Englished Ardgay; Bonar Bridge is on the other side of the Kyle of Sutherland, an Caol Catach.  
*árd madaidh*; Ardmaddy nr. Loch Etive.] Leg. on Loch E.  
*árd na teineadh*; or a. na teine, Ardentinny; it may be hill of the furze.] All guesses.  
*árd ros*; Ardross in Perth, Max., Jo.] Ardross in Ross-shire is the place given by Jo. G. Ard Rois.  
*áth maelrubha*, Amulree, Jo.] G. Ath Maoil Ruibhe.  
*baile an deoraidh*; Ballindore nr. Applecross, Sk., ii. 412.] Ballindore is near Kilvarie Loch in Muckairn, and this is what Skene says.  
*baile maedáin*; Balmaedan al. Ardchattan, Jo.] G. Baile Bhaodan.  
*b. na gobhan*, or *béal na gobhan*; the Ross family of Balnagown.] Baile nan gobhan is the seat of the Ross family. Not 'béal n. g.'  
*banabh*, Banff.] Authority not given, but G. of Banff is Bainbh.  
*bárr na seilge*; Barnshalloch, Galloway, Max.] A bad guess.  
*benn an chuirn*, Bendorn, Golspie.] Ben Horn is meant; Norse.  
*benn cruachan al. cruachan beinne*.] G. Cruachan Beann. *i.e.* Cruachan of Peaks; it has five peaks.  
*benn na muice duibhe*, Benmacdui.] Really MacDuff's Hill.  
*benn ratha* in Reay.] G. Beinn Ráth.  
*benn shuidhe*, Ben Hee, Lairg, *Inv.*, xx. 105.] G. Beinn Shidh.  
*blá beinn* in Skye.] G. Blábheinn, Blaven.  
*both chaisil* or *both chaistil*; Bochastle, Max.] G. Both Chastul.  
*bochuidir*, Balquhidder; seems nr. Breadalbane.] !  
*caille chronáin*, Killichronan, Mull.] Cill Chronan.  
*carn bhalair*, Dl., 108.] The Dean's spelling is *carn vallire*; *Carn Bhalair* is merely MacLauchlan's spelling on p. 109; *carn wallir*, p. 58.

- cell ernáin*, Killearnan, Ross and Sutherland, *Inv.*, xviii. 198, Jo.] G. of both Cill Iùrnain.
- cell m'aedóic*, Kilmadock Menteith.] Pronounced Kilma-dock; not from Aedóc.
- cell maelrubha*; Isle of Kilmolrue nr. Applecross, Sk., ii. 412.] The isle referred to is placed by Skene (*loc. cit.*) in Muckairn, Argyll.
- cell mo bheòndig*; Kilmaveonog in Atholl.] G. Cill Mo Bheònaig.
- cell riabhach* (?) Kilravock.] G. Cill Reathag.
- cell tolorcain*, Kiltarlity.] G. Cill Taraghlain.
- cell tighernaigh*, Kiltearn at Beauly.] G. Cill Tighearna nr. Dingwall.
- cenn giusaig*, Kingussie, Max.] G. Cinn a' ghiùthsaidh.
- circhend*, prob. Kirkintilloch.] Circhend is the Mearns.
- cnoc an éireannaich* (hill of the Irishman) Kildonan.] Éirionnach in place-names with us often means a castrated goat, and it probably does so here.
- conal g. conil*; Connal Ferry; Dl.] The Dean's spelling is connil; better, fa gonvell, p. 94; G. a' chonghail.
- cuilodair*, Culloden.] G. Cuil-lodair.
- cuil an rois*; Culross, Sk., *recte* Cuilendros Lec.] Pronounced now Cooros; it means 'holly point.'
- cùl na buaile*; Colaboll, Lairg, *Inv.*, xx. iii.] G. Colabol; Norse.
- dal*; a tribe common in Scotland, etc.] Leg. 'a name,' etc. and it is better written 'dail.'
- diúza*, Jura; Doirud Eilinn, Sk. i. 264.] Doirad Eilinn means 'enslavement of Elen.' The reference to Jura is a mistranslation of Skene's.
- doirad eilind.*] See above. Under *elend* the correct translation is given.
- dreollainne*; seems nr. France.] Reputed a poetic name for Mull.
- druim fhann*, S.E. boundary of Glenlyon.] This is Drummond, G. Druiminn, old locative of druum.
- duir-inis*, Macdougall of Dl., 90.] The Dean has duncha durrinssi, Duncan of Diurinish opposite Bunawe. G. Diùrinis, Norse 'Deer point,' same as Durinish Skye; Durness.
- dun duirn* . . . may be Dundurn at E. end of Loch Earn.] The doubt seems needless.
- dùn locho*, Dunlochy in Scotland.] ? Inverlochy, Lochaber.
- dun ollai*, Dunolly D. Ollaimh Down Olle, Dl.] The Dean's spelling is zownnolle (genitive).
- fedreth* now Fedderab, nr. Deer.] Leg. Fedderat.
- glen ailbe* in Angus.] Not identified; it is prob. Glen Isla, the old form of which appears to have been Hilef. At any rate Hilef seems to represent Ailbe. (Cf. Skene, *Chron. P. and S.*, p. 136.)
- glen archain*, Glen Urquhart or Loch Arkaig.] More likely Gleann Urchaidh, Glen Orchy.
- glen da ruad*, in W. of Scotland facing Ireland; nr. L. Etive (?) Glen-darul in Cowal (?).] Glendaruel, in G. Gleann dà ruail, seems the only possible. There is no such name anywhere nr. L. Etive.

- glen eitchi*, seems to be Glenn Másain facing Ireland; nr. L. Etive.] Glen eitchi is Glen Etive; G. Gleann Eite.
- glen láid*; al. G. Laigh; G. Lui in c. Aberdeen, or a glen nr. Ben Laoigh in Argyle are suggested.] Why not Glen Loy in Lochaber?
- glen garaidh*; Glengarry, Dl., 111] The Dean writes *glen gar*, which is the present pronunciation of Perthshire Glengarry, but the Dean's reference is to Glengarry in Inverness-shire.
- inber áir*, Inverary.] This is Ayr. For Inverary see at *abh réidh* above.
- inis cáit*; ch. in d. Dunkeld.] St. Chad was the patron of Logierait.
- inis mocholmóg*; Inchmahone.] Leg. Inchmahome.
- iona*; scribe's error for *Ioua*, the real name of the island.] But *iona* is fem. of *ionus*, and is an adj. agreeing with *insula*; i.e. it is not the name of the island, but a Latinised adjective formed from the name of the island. Similarly we say 'an t-eilean Sgitheanach,' where Sgitheanach is an adjective formed from Sgith, Skye.
- lagmannaiþ na n-innsed*, Norse of the w. Isles.] i.e. the lawmen, 'brievés' briteamh's. Hence Lamont.
- linn sailech la h Ulthi*.] Cf. an Linne Sheileach, in English Loch Linnhe.
- loch abae*, stagnum *Abae fluminis*.] Loch Awe; certainly not Loch Avich.
- loch crogreth*; stagnum Crogreth; in Scotl. or Irel.] But Adamnan says that Columba was staying in Coire Salchain when the peasant from Loch Crogreth came to him, and Coire Salchain is a distinctively Scottish name. Crogreth is most likely Loch Creran, formerly Loch Creveren, connected with Loch Etive by Glen Salach.
- loch diae* seems nr. Drum Bretan.] Otherwise *Nigra Dea* (lóch .i. dub); now the Lochy, G. Lòchaidh, in Lochaber, or, the Lochy at Tyndrum.
- loch eitchi*, Loch Etive (?)] This is Loch Etive; the *v* of Etive represents *gh*. Cf. éitigh, O. Ir., étig, adéche.
- loch rosso*; Colman Becc dwelt in Stagno Rosso, c. Don. (?) but prob. King's Co.] But Loch rois is in Islay, and Colman Becc made an expedition into Islay.
- loirgg ecclét*; Loch Arklet, nr. Lomond, Sk., i. 273.] The equation is impossible. Loirgg ecclét or eclaithe is one of the many láirig's or passes in Perth or Argyll. Loch Arklet is in G. Loch Aircleid.
- ráith erend*, Faellan of; nr. St Fillan's, Loch Earn.] This may be right, but the fort near St. Fillan's is Dundurn, and it is just possible that the rath in question was Ratearn near Dunblane.
- rdáith inbhir amon*, at mouth r. Almond in W. Lothian, Sk., i. 381.] Reference to Skene will show that he prefers to place it on the Perthshire Almond, near its junction with the Tay.
- saelthr*.] Cantyre. Satiri of the Norse sagas.
- sale* r. in Scotland.] Sheil (southern); G. Seile.
- scrubleith*, Sterling in Scotland] ? Strubleith, Stirling.
- sele*; betw. Seile and Subhairn, Dl., 110.] The Dean writes, *eddir selli* is *sowyrnni*. The other is Dr. Maclauchlan's.
- srath ethairi* in Perthsh.(?)] possibly Strathyre; *Celt. Rev.*, v. 341.

*tebra tréna ceneil loairnd*, i.e. Cenél Salaig etc.] Leg. Cenél Fergusa Salaig. *Inber Feran*, Invereran al. Dingwall.] Theiner's *Vet. Mon.*, the authority referred to, gives Inverferan, which is a rather poor attempt at Inbhirpheofharain (Inver-peffer), the name by which Dingwall is always known in Gaelic.

W. J. WATSON.

*Selections from Ancient Irish Poetry.* Translated by Kuno Meyer. London: Constable and Co. Ltd. Pp. xiv+114. 3s. 6d. net.

The charm of ancient Irish literature lies partly in its intrinsic merits, partly in its complete originality. Its development was independent of classical tradition. The coming of Christianity to Ireland meant no struggle between the vernacular and Latin; on the contrary, it marked the beginning of a flourishing primitive Christian literature in Irish. The golden age of Irish civilisation was in the sixth and following centuries, and it was during this period of literary activity that the old oral literature handed down by many generations of bards and storytellers was written down in the monasteries. The troublous times of the Norse invasion wrought havoc among these treasures, but 'from the eleventh century onward we have an almost unbroken series of hundreds of MSS. in which all that escaped destruction was collected and arranged. Many of the tales and poems thus preserved were undoubtedly originally composed in the eighth century; some few perhaps in the seventh; and as Irish scholarship advances, it is not unlikely that fragments of poetry will be found which may be claimed for the sixth century.' It is chiefly from these sources, but partly also from Continental MSS., that Dr. Kuno Meyer takes the originals here translated. They represent the work of professional court bards on the one hand, and of unattached poets, monk or itinerant bard, on the other. The subjects consist of myth and saga, religious poetry, songs of nature, some love songs—the love song is very rare in ancient Irish—specimens of bardic poetry, miscellaneous poems, and quatrains. The work of translating Old Irish is exceedingly difficult, and no one is better fitted for it than Dr. Meyer, either in respect of exact scholarship or in respect of feeling for style. His translations are remarkably close, accurate and felicitous, and short of reproducing the complex rhythms and assonances of the originals, which is of course impossible, they convey an excellent idea of their strength, freshness and directness. Lovers of Gaelic and lovers of true poetry will find a treasure in this admirable book, for which they will thank the translator.