

# Saints, Sinners and Scribes in the Celtic World

Program



9–10 April 2010  
McKenna Hall  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame, Indiana USA

Celtic Studies  
Association of  
North America  
2010 National Meeting

# Saints, Sinners and Scribes in the Celtic World

**Celtic Studies Association of North America**  
2010 National Meeting



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*fàilte, Croeso, Dynnargh, failt, Benevido, Degemer mat, fáilte,*  
Welcome

## Saints, Sinners and Scribes in the Celtic World

The organizing committee of Saints, Scribes and Sinners in the Celtic World welcome the Celtic Studies Association of North America back to the campus of the University Notre Dame. This conference marks the second occasion that Notre Dame has had the pleasure of hosting the CSANA national conference, having previously hosted the 2002 national meeting under the guidance of Aideen O'Leary.

The intervening eight years have witnessed considerable growth and development at Notre Dame. The University has broken new ground in endowing a Chair of Irish Language and Literature due to the generosity of the O'Donnell family and further establishing the first Department of Irish Language and Literature in North America, now boasting seven faculty members and occasional visitors such as the Fulbright Senior Scholar and Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants.


Under the expertise of Aedín Ní Bhróithe-Clements and Marina Smyth, our library holdings in modern Irish and Celtic studies continue to expand and the Hesburgh Library recently acquired the Charles W. Dunne collection. Dunne, who served as the Margaret Brooks Robinson Professor of Celtic Languages and Literatures and departmental chair of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University from 1963–1984, amassed during his life an impressive book collection including key texts (both linguistic and literary) in Irish, Scots-Gaelic, Welsh, Breton, and Manx. This collection represents an important addition to our current holdings in medieval studies and Celtic studies.

We are delighted that this conference provides an opportunity for additional collaboration with the Medieval Institute, and we thank our colleagues in classics and medieval studies for assisting in chairing sessions. In addition to the various academic panels and plenary talks, we have organized a series of musical events and readings which we hope will allow delegates to relax and interact socially.

This year's conference brings some 50 scholars, senior and junior, together from eight countries and three continents—and further demonstrates the tremendous range, scope and diversity of our discipline. It also underlines the service CSANA offers in providing such a scholarly forum. In this context, we hail the recent formation of the European-based *Societas Celtologica Europaea* and the proposed *Zeitschrift fuer celtische Philologie* and exhort CSANA members to support this new venture as well as the recently re-launched *Australian Celtic Journal* at the University of Sydney.

Nevertheless we gently remind conference delegates of their CSANA membership for 2011 and draw their attention to the *Yearbooks* and the many benefits of CSANA membership. Ensuring the participation of a new generation of Celtic studies scholars is essential, and we are delighted to welcome doctoral candidates and recent graduates to the conference. Given the current climate, CSANA provides an essential networking resource for all Celtic scholars, especially those seeking employment, fellowships, and publishing opportunities for which CSANA's listserv and online bibliography are invaluable sources of information. CSANA has once again generously sponsored an award for the best graduate paper delivered at this conference.

In conclusion, we reiterate our thanks to Frederick Suppe, president of the Celtic Studies Association of North America, for his guidance and assistance and wish Michael Meckler in Ohio State University every success organizing the 2011 annual meeting.

  
The 2010 Organizing Committee  
James W. Hamrick, Amber Handy, Patrick Roy McCoy, and  
Brian Ó Conchubhair

## SPECIAL EVENT

Thursday, April 8, 2010

8 p.m.

**Irish Traditional Music from Clare and Kerry**

Leighton Auditorium, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center  
Complimentary tickets for CSANA members available at the door.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

All events are in McKenna Hall unless otherwise noted.

Friday, April 9, 2010

**8–8:30 a.m.**

**Coffee and Registration**

**8:30–9:45 a.m.**

**Sessions 1 and 2**

**Session 1**

**Saint Bridget and Social Practices**

**Room 200**

Chair: Catherine McKenna (Harvard University)

Dorothy Ann Bray (McGill University)

"Salvation and Saint Brigit in Cogitosus and Broccán's Hymn"

Lahney Preston-Matto (Adelphi University)

"Saints, Fosterage, and Hostageship in Medieval Ireland:  
Sanctified Social Practices"

Kathleen Sprows Cummings (University of Notre Dame)

"Rehabilitating Bridget: Gender, Anti-Catholicism, and Sainthood  
in American Culture"

**Session 2**

**Modern Celtic Literature**

**Room 202**

Chair: Alan Hayes (Arlen House Press)

Anne Goarzin (Université Rennes 2)

"Paul Durcan: Sinner, Scribe, and Performer"

Christopher Collins (The University of Dublin, Trinity College)

"Cries of Pagan Desperation: J.M. Synge's Riders to the Sea and the Celtic Geist"

Aedín Ní Bhróithe-Clements (University of Notre Dame)

"The Irish Language in the Poetry of Seamus Heaney"

**9:45–10 a.m.**

**Coffee Break**

**10–11 a.m.**

**Plenary I**

**Rooms 210–214**

Chair: Christopher Fox (University of Notre Dame)

Máirín Nic Eoin (St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra)

"Saints, Sinners, and Scholars: Engagement and Objectivity in  
20th-Century Irish-Language Studies"

**11–11:15 a.m.**

**Coffee Break**

**11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m.**

**Sessions 3 and 4**

**Session 3**

**Sourcing, Dating and Locating Texts:  
New Directions in Celtic Studies**

**Room 200**

Chair: Tomás Ó Cathasaigh (Harvard University)

Geraint Evans (Swansea University)

"Welsh Catholic Printing in 17th-Century France: A Unique Copy  
of Drych Cydwybod (A Mirror of Conscience) Rediscovered in Paris"

Feargal Ó Béarra (Concordia University, Montréal)  
"On the Date of Interpolator H in Lebor na hUidre"  
Kevin Kritsch (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)  
"Equivocal Land Claims in Guta saga and the Tochmarc Étaíne:  
A Neglected Norse-Celtic Analogue?"  
Tomás O'Sullivan (Saint Louis University)  
"Three Calls and Seven Signs: The Irish Enumerative Style in Vat. Pal. lat. 220"

#### Session 4

#### Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill's Poetics: Folkore & Orality

Room 202

Chair: James W. Hamrick (University of Notre Dame)

Ailbhe Darcy (University of Notre Dame)

"Thar mo Chionn': The 'Bean an Leasa' Poems of Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill"

John Dillon (University of Notre Dame)

"Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill and Bab Feiritéar: Reassessing the Poetic Influence of the Oral Tradition"

Sarah McKibben (University of Notre Dame)

"Speaking of / Speaking for: Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill's Folkloristic Ethics"

Bríona Nic Dhiarmadha (University of Notre Dame)

"Ar Fhilleadh ar Éirinn—Returning to Ithaca? / There Is No Ithaca to Return to..."

12:45–1:45 p.m.

Lunch (on your own)

1:45–2:30 p.m.

#### Reading by Micheál Ó Conghaile

Rare Books Room, Hesburgh Library

Chair: Bríona Nic Dhiarmada (University of Notre Dame)

2:30–2:45 p.m.

Coffee Break

2:45–3:45 p.m.

#### 2010 CSANA Seminar: The Dream of the Emperor Macsén/Breudwyt Maxen Wledic

Rare Books Room, Hesburgh Library

Seminar Leader: Joseph Nagy (University of California, Los Angeles)

3:45–4:45 p.m.

#### Plenary II

Rare Books, Hesburgh Library

Chair: Thomas F. X. Noble (University of Notre Dame)

Catherine McKenna (Harvard University)

"Saint Brigit in an Ascendency Lens: Illuminations and Transformations"

4:45–5:30 p.m.

#### CSANA Reception

Official Conference Opening: Rt. Hon. Breandán Ó Caollaí,

Deputy Consul General, of Ireland, New York

John T. McGreevy, Dean, College of Arts and Letters

Reception sponsored by the Keough-Naughton Institute for Irish Studies

9 p.m.–12 a.m.

#### Traditional Music Session

Fiddler's Hearth Public House

127 North Main Street, South Bend, IN 46601-1608

(10-minute cab ride from campus)

Saturday, April 10, 2010

8–8:30 a.m.

#### Coffee and Registration

8:30–9:45 a.m.

#### Sessions 5, 6, and 7

Session 5

#### Kings in Celtic Literature

Rooms 210–214

Chair: Joseph Nagy (University of California, Los Angeles)

Kristen Lee Over (Northeastern Illinois University)

"Kingship, Grooming, and Sin in Culhwch ac Olwen"

Brent Miles (University College Cork)

"The Sermo ad Reges From the Leabhar Breac as Sermon and Commentary"

Amber Handy (University of Notre Dame)

"Practical Persuasion: Early Medieval Advice to Those Who Aspire to Rule"

#### Session 6

#### Wives, Witches and Mothers in Celtic Studies

Room 200

Chair: Tara MacLeod (University of Notre Dame)

Dara Hellman (University of California, Los Angeles)

"The Outcast, the Other, His Wife, and Her Counsel"

Jill Hallgren Havlat (Creighton University)

"My Body is [Not] a Witch': Radically Traditionalist Feminism Within  
Eavan Boland's 'In Her Own Image'"

Jennifer F. Ash (Loyola University)

"A Hero and His Hags: Phallic Mothers Making Super-Heroic  
Masculinity in The Boyhood Deeds of Cu Chulainn"

#### Session 7

#### Animals and Annihilation

Room 202

Chair: Fred Suppe (Ball State University)

Marina Smyth (University of Notre Dame)

"Zoologists in 7th-Century Ireland?"

Michael J. Simonton (Northern Kentucky University)

"Legends as Folk Memory?"

Hugh Fogarty (De Finibus Project, University College Cork)

"Aniar aduaidh: An Early Irish Portent of Doom"

9:45–10 a.m.

Coffee Break

10–11 a.m.

#### Plenary III

Rooms 210–214

Chair Sarah McKibben (University of Notre Dame)

Dan M. Wiley (Southern Illinois University Carbondale)

"Saints and Kings in Early Medieval Connacht"

11:15–11:30 a.m.

Coffee Break

11:30 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

#### Sessions 8 and 9

Session 8

#### Classical Tales and Tropes in Celtic Studies

Room 200

Chair: Elizabeth Mazurek (University of Notre Dame)

Helen Fulton (Swansea University, Wales)

"Translation and Adaptation: Ystorya Dared and Welsh Historiography"

Barbara Hillers (Harvard University)

"In the Wake of Ulysses and Aeneas: Irish Voyage Tales and Their Classical Models"

Hannah Zdansky (University of Notre Dame)

"Love in Translation: The Irish Vernacularization of the Aeneid"

Session 9

#### New Approaches / New Potentials?

Room 202

Chair: Feargal Ó Béarra (Concordia University, Montréal)

Matthieu Boyd (Harvard University)

"A Niche Subject for a Niche Market? Brainstorming Strategy for CSANA and  
Celtic Studies in North America"

Jonathan O'Neill (Australian National University)

"Invoking Identity: The Deployment of Irish Language in New Media Sites"

Verona Ní Dhrisceoil (University College Cork)

"Language and Legal Rights in Ireland"

12:45–2 p.m.

Lunch (on your own)

2–3 p.m.

#### 2010 Annual General Meeting of CSANA

Rooms 210–214

**3–3:45 p.m.**

**Plenary IV**

Chair: Feargal Ó Béarra (Concordia University, Montréal)

Edgar Slotkin (University of Cincinnati)

“Saint Patrick and the Problems of Siaburcharpat Con Culaind”

**Rooms 210–214**

**3:45–4:15 p.m.**

**Coffee Break**

**4:15–5:30 p.m.**

**Sessions 9 and 10**

**Session 10**

**Celtic Folklore: Irish and Native American**

Chair: Amber Handy (University of Notre Dame)

Christina Brophy (Triton College)

“Her Own and Her Children’s Share’: Women and Luck in 20th-Century Irish Folklore”

Pádraig Ó Siadhail (Saint Mary’s University, Nova Scotia)

“James Mooney and Irish Folklore Studies”

Lawrence Morris (Albright College)

“Aristocracies of Thought’: Social Class in the Early Folklore of Yeats and Hyde”

**Room 200**

**Session 11**

**Penitents, Demons and Destruction**

Chair: Dan Wiley (Southern Illinois University)

Anna Matheson (University of Cambridge)

“The Worthiness of the Mad Penitent in Lailoken A”

Lawrence Eson (Front Range Community College/Regis University, Colorado)

“Incubus and Demon in the Merlin Legend”

Theresa O’Byrne (University of Notre Dame)

“The Knight and the Scribe: James Yonge, Lawrence Rathold of Pászthó, and Saint Patrick’s Purgatory”

**Room 202**

**5:15–6:30 pm**

**Session 12**

**Sessions 11 and 12**

**The Law and An Senchas Már**

Chair: Amber Handy (University of Notre Dame)

Patricia Herron (University of Limerick)

“Lawyers, Scribes, and Conflicting Evidence: Did Ancient Irish Lawyers Resist the Written Learning of Saint Patrick?”

Bryan Carella (Assumption College)

“An Unnoticed Source for Dubthach’s Judgment in the Pseudo-historical Prologue to the Senchas Már”

**Room 200**

**Session 13**

**18th-Century Ireland**

Chair: Hugh Fogarty (De Finibus project, University College Cork)

Pádraig Ó Liatháin (St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra)

“Donncha Rua Mac Conmara: The Poet and the Scribes”

James W. Hamrick (University of Notre Dame)

“Hard News, Messianic Visions: Scribes and the Public Sphere”

Tomás L. Ó Murchú (University College Cork)

“A Preliminary Examination of Aspects of the Language of Discontent Directed at the English Establishment in 18th-Century Irish-Language Elegies, Referring Specifically to Texts Composed for The Jacobite, James Cotter Jnr. (1689–1720)”

**Room 202**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Banquet**

Notre Dame Room, The Morris Inn

Reservations are required in advance.

**9–11 p.m.**

**Traditional Music Concert**

Oak Room, South Dining Hall

**CSANA Yearbook 1**

**The Individual in Celtic Literatures (2001)**

Helen Fulton, “Individual and Society in Owein/Yvain and Gereint/Erec”; Elva Johnston, “The Salvation of the Individual and the Salvation of Society in Siaburcharpat Con Culaind”; Catherine McKenna, “Apotheosis and Evanescence: The Fortunes of Saint Brigit in the 19th and 20th Centuries”; Aideen O’Leary, “Mog Ruith and Apocalypticism in 11th-Century Ireland”; Brynley F. Roberts, “Where Were the Four Branches of the Mabinogi Written?”

**CSANA Yearbook 2**

**Identifying the “Celtic” (2002)**

Jacqueline Borsje, “Approaching Danger: Togail Bruidne Da Derga and the Motif of Being One-Eyed”; Sioned Davies, “Performing From the Pulpit: An Introduction to Preaching in 19th-Century Wales”; Patrick K. Ford, “Amazon dot Choin”; Philip Freeman, “Who Were the Atecotti?”; Catherine McKenna, “Between Two Worlds: Saint Brigit and Pre-Christian Religion in the Vita Prima”: Peter McQuillan, “Gaoidhealg as the Pragmatic Mode in Irish”; Thomas O’Loughlin, “A Celtic Theology: Some Awkward Questions and Observations”; and Maria Tymoczko, “What Questions Should We Ask in Celtic Studies in the New Millennium?”

**CSANA Yearbook 3–4**

**Heroic Poets and Poetic Heroes in Celtic Traditions: Studies in Honor of Patrick K. Ford (2005)**

Anders Ahlqvist, “Is acher in gaith . . . úa Lothlind”; Kate Chadbourne, “The Voices of Hounds: Heroic Dogs and Men in the Finn Ballads and Tales”; Paula Powers Coe, “Manawydan’s Set and Other Iconographic Riffs”; Morgan Thomas Davies, “The Death of Dafydd ap Gwilym”; Elizabeth A. Gray, “The Warrior, The Poet and the King: The Three Sins of the Warrior’ and Cú Roí”; R. Geraint Gruffydd, “The Praise of Tenby: A Late-9th-Century Welsh Court Poem”; Joseph Harris, “North Sea Elegy and Para Literary History”; Marged Haycock, “Sy abl fodd, Sibli fain: Sibyl in Medieval Wales”; Máire Herbert, “Becoming an Exile: Colum Cille in Middle-Irish Poetry”; Barbara Hillers, “Poet or Magician: Mac Mhuirich Mór in Oral Tradition”; Jerry Hunter, “Poets, Angels and Devilish Spirits: Elis Gruffydd’s Meditations on Idolatry”; Colin Ireland, “The Poets Cædmon and Colmán mac Lénéni: The Anglo Saxon Layman and the Irish Professional”; H. A. Kelly, “Medieval Heroics Without Heroes or Epics”; Geraint H. Jenkins, “The Bard of Liberty During William Pitt’s Reign of Terror”; Leslie Ellen Jones, “Boys in Boxes: The Recipe for a Welsh Hero”; Kathryn A. Klar, “Poetry and Pillowtalk”; John T. Koch, “De sancto Iudicaelo rege historia and Its Implications for the Welsh Taliesin”; Heather Feldmeth Larson, “The Veiled Poet: Liadain and Cuirithir and the Role of the Woman-Poet”; Catherine McKenna, “Vision and Revision, Iteration and Reiteration, in Aislinge Meic Con Glinne”; Daniel

F. Melia, “On the Form and Function of the ‘Old-Irish Verse’ in the Thesaurus Palaeohibernicus”; Tomás Ó Cathasaigh, “Cú Chulainn, The Poets, and Giolla Brighde Mac Con Midhe”; Brynley F. Roberts, “Breuddwyd Maxen Wledig: Why? When?”; Patrick Sims-Williams, “Person Switching in Celtic Panegyric: Figure or Fault?”; Edgar M. Slotkin, “Maelgwn Gwynedd: Speculations on a Common Celtic Legend Pattern”; Robin Chapman Stacey, “Instructional Riddles in Welsh Law”; Eve E. Sweetser, “The Metaphorical Construction of a Poetic Hero and His Society”; Maria Tymoczko, “Sound and Sense: Joyce’s Aural Esthetics”; Calvert Watkins, “The Old Irish Word for ‘Flesh-Fork’”; Donna Wong, “Poetic Justice/Comic Relief: Aogán Ó Rathaille’s Shoes and the Mock-Warrant”; Bibliography of Patrick K. Ford

**CSANA Yearbook 5**

**Memory and the Modern in Celtic Literatures (2006)**

Mícheál Mac Craith, “Fun and Games Among the Jet Set: A Glimpse of 17th-Century Gaelic Ireland”; Catherine McKenna, “Aspects of Tradition Formation in 18th-Century Wales”; Damian McManus, “The smallest man in Ireland can reach the tops of her trees’: Images of the King’s Peace and Bounty in Bardic Poetry”; Máirtín Ó Briain, “Satire in 17th- and 18th-Century Gaelic Poetry”; Ruairí Ó hUiginn, “Growth and Development in the Late Ulster Cycle: The Case of Táin Bó Flidais”

**CSANA Yearbook 6**

**Myth in Celtic Literatures (2007)**

Phillip A. Bernhardt-House, “Horses, Hounds, and High Kings: A Shared Arthurian Tradition Across the Irish Sea?”; Rebecca Blustein, “Poets and Pillars in Cath Maige Tuired”; Ranke de Vries, “The Names of Lí Bán”; Denell Downum, “Suibhne, Citation, and the Myth of Originality”; Jessica Hemming, “Ancient Tradition or Authorial Invention? The ‘Mythological’ Names in the Four Branches”; Catherine McKenna, “The Colonization of Myth in Branwen Ferch Lír”; Antone Minard, “Colorful Monsters: The Afanc in Medieval Welsh Narrative”; Thomas O’Loughlin, “The Myth of Insularity and Nationality in Ireland”; Kathryn Stelmach, “Dead Deirdre? Myth and Mortality in the Irish Literary Revival”

**CSANA Yearbook 7**

**Law, Literature, and Society (2008)**

Timothy P. Bridgman, “Naming and Naming Conventions Concerning Celtic Peoples in Some Early Ancient Greek Authors”; Michael Meckler, “The Assassination of Diarmait mac Cerbaill”; Karen Eileen Overbey, “Female Trouble: Ambivalence and Anxiety at the Nuns’ Church”; Lahney Preston-Matto, “Derbforgaill’s Literary Heritage: Can You Blame Her?”; Sara Elin Roberts, “Emerging From the Bushes: The Welsh Law of Women in the Legal Triads”; Paul Russell, “Poets, Power, and Possessions in Medieval Ireland: Some Stories From Sanas Cormaic

**CSANA 2011**

The 2011 Celtic Studies Association of North America Annual Meeting will be at Ohio State University.

**Seventh Australian Conference of Celtic Studies**

**29 September–2 October 2010  
University of Sydney**

The Seventh Australian Conference of Celtic Studies will take place at the University of Sydney, from Wednesday 29 September to Saturday evening 2 October 2010. Submissions are hereby invited for scholarly papers (of 25 minutes' duration) on any aspect of Celtic studies. The final date for abstracts to be received will be Friday 7 May 2010. Acceptances will be announced on Monday 31 May 2010, together with a preliminary program for the conference. Email submissions are preferred. Abstracts of 200–300 words should be sent to Anders Ahlqvist at aahlqvist@usyd.edu.au. Information about the conference will also be made available on the Celtic studies website of the University of Sydney: [www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/celticstudies](http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/celticstudies).

**30th Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium  
8–10 October, 2010**

The Harvard Celtic Department cordially invites proposals for papers on topics which relate directly to Celtic studies (Celtic languages and literatures in any phase; cultural, historical or social science topics; theoretical perspectives, etc.) for its 30th Annual Celtic Colloquium, to take place at Harvard University, October 8–10, 2010. Papers concerning interdisciplinary research with a Celtic focus are also invited. Attendance is free. Potential presenters should send a 200–250 word abstract, plus a brief biographical sketch. Submissions should be sent by email to [hcc@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:hcc@fas.harvard.edu), or faxed or posted to the departmental address. We encourage submissions in the form of RTF email attachments. Further information available at the department website: [www.fas.harvard.edu/~hcc](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~hcc). Closing date for proposals is 3 May 2010.

**22nd UCLA Indo-European Conference**

**5–6 November 2010,  
University of California, Los Angeles**

We invite papers on any aspect of Indo-European studies: linguistics, archaeology, comparative mythology, culture, etc. Papers on both interdisciplinary and specific topics (e.g., typology, methodology, reconstruction, the interpretation of material culture, etc.) are welcome. A period of 20 minutes will be allotted for each paper, followed by a 10-minute discussion period. Abstracts must be received by 1 June 2010. Address all abstracts and inquiries to: Indo-European Conference Committee, UCLA Program in Indo-European Studies, 100 Dodd Hall, 405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1417, USA. The most up-to-date information on the conference and the UCLA Program in Indo-European Studies can be found on the program's website: [www.humnet.ucla.edu/pies](http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/pies)

**MLA 2011, Celtic Languages and Literatures**

**6–9 January, 2011  
Los Angeles**

Crossing Genres, Connecting Centuries: Life Stories in the Celtic World. Medieval *speculum principum*, Peig Sayers's autobiography, RTÉ's *Ros na Rún*: Celtic literature abounds with life narration. How do Celtic-language writers narrate lives? Send 250-word abstracts and three-sentence biographies by 15 March 2010 to Abigail Palko at [apalko@nd.edu](mailto:apalko@nd.edu).



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- 2002–04
- 2004–06
- 2006–08
- 2008–10

## Acknowledgements

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## Conference Sponsors

Celtic Studies Association of North America  
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