KELLY (FERGUS)


Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1970. xi + 320 pp. [= BILL 5435.]

Rev. by
Bráithreán Ó Madagain, in Éigse 14/3 (Samhradh, 1972), pp. 246-256.

Kelly (Fergus): A poem in praise of Columb Cille.
In Ériu 24 (1973), pp. 1-34.

Edited from MS NLI G 50 (25 qq.) with reconstructed text, translation and notes. Ascribed in MS heading to Dallán [Forgaill] but ascribed to Bécan mac Luigdech in a gloss. Beg. Fo réir Cholub Céin ad-fias. Includes discussion of metre (MS laoidh imrinn), which is described as 'transitional', as it displays both alliteration and regular end-rime.

Kelly (Fergus): Tiughrain Bhécáin.
In Ériu 26 (1975), pp. 66-98.


Kelly (Fergus): The Old Irish tree-list.

Identifies the 28 trees and shrubs listed in the eighth-century legal tract Bmtha comaitheasa, which are divided into four groups of seven: 1. airig feda 'nobles of the wood': d̂aw 'oak', coll 'hazel', culenn 'holly', iber 'yew', uinnius 'ash', ochtach 'Scots pine?'; 2. aithig feda 'commoners of the wood': fern 'alder', sail 'willow', sce 'whitehorn, hawthorn', cáertann 'rowan, mountain ash', beithe 'birch', lem 'elk', idath 'wild cherry?'; 3. foda feda 'lower divisions of the wood': d̂uaig 'blackthorn', trom 'elder, hawtree', feor 'spindle-tree, fesdheall 'beechwood', caithne 'arbutus, strawberry tree', críthach 'aspen', críthach 'juniper?'; 4. losa feda 'bushes of the wood': raith 'bracken', rait 'bog-myrtle', athen 'goose, furse', dris 'bramble, blackberry', frithe 'heather', gileach 'broom?', spin 'wild rose?'. Also includes brief discussion of feda and ain, variant names for 'rushes', and native trees and shrubs not included in the four classes.

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3449. Kelly (Fergus) (*ed.*): Audacht Moráinn / edited by Fergus Kelly.

An Old Irish *speculum principum*. Critical edition, restored, of recension B from MSS RIA 23 N 10, Edinburgh Advocates' Library 72.1.42, Egerton 88, and RIA 23 N 27; with English translation, notes and vocabulary; linguistic analysis. Appendix 1: conflation, with variant readings, of seven later versions; Appendix 2: passages used in a *rosc* in *Senchas fagbála Caisil* (cf *BILL* 5108).


14657. Greene (David), Kelly (Fergus), Murdoch (Brian): The Irish Adam and Eve story from *Saltaire na m m. n.*


Discusses other PIE parallels of 'Act of Truth' and cognate verbal expressions of the following four expressions: 1. *Is tre fir flatheemon* 'it is through the ruler's truth'; 2. *mortlithi* (*mórslóg no* márló chet di doínib díngbátar 'plagues, (a great host, or) great lightnings are warded off men'; 3. *gú flatheemon* ruler's falsehood'; 4. *n[-laurdellat dêna* (support for emendation to *ni-naurdellat anai* 'let not riches blind him' (see F. Kelly, *AM* §31); 5. *to-aidble éisc i sruthaib -snáither* (emends to *to-aidbh éisc i sruthaib -snáither* 'with abundance of fish it is swum in streams', taking *to-snáither* to be an impersonal passive rather than 2nd sg. deponent (see F. Kelly, *AM* §20).


Kelly (Fergus) (*ref.*)


pp. 242-246: Notes on the Irish words (with particular reference to dating), by F. K.

Texts: A. Muirchá; B. Tíreach; C. Additamenta; D. Notulae; E. Liber Angeli. With introduction, commentary and English translation.

Rev. by
Kelly (Fergus)


Lindeman (F. O.) (ref.)


Rev. by

399. Kelly (Fergus): Two notes on final-verb constructions.


3231. Kelly (Fergus): An Old-Irish text on court procedure. 

Beg. *Ci tir cenekaaire dochuish la Féiniu*, from TCD MS H 3. 18 (= \text{CHI} ii 601.2045(2.4)); with English translation and notes.

904. Kelly (Fergus): Varia: III. Old Irish *crecanair*, Scottish Gaelic *kreachair*.
In Ériu 37 (1986), pp. 185–186.

On ScG crecanair.

935. Kelly (Fergus): A guide to early Irish law.

Appendix 1: List of law-texts; 2: List of wisdom-texts; 3: Bibliography; 4: Guide to pronunciation. Includes Samples from the law-texts (with English translation): (1) Heptads 1, 6, 15; (2) *Bretha cuilige* §§30-36; (3) *Crith gablach* §§40; (4) *Selbach*-text; (5) Irish canon VI [Latin]; (6) *Airacht*-text; (7) *An archaic legal poem*; (8) Bechbretha §§45-49; (9) *Din techtgad*.

Rev. by
Richard Firth Green, in Medium Ævum 62/1 (1993), pp. 118-130.

977. Kelly (Fergus): Daniel A. Binchy.

487. Kelly (Fergus): A note on Old Irish *cármaire*.
In Celtica 21 (1990), pp. 231–233.

Argues this form (*cár comb*) contains two agentive suffixes (*am* and *aire*).

3105. Kelly (Fergus): Early Irish law: the present state of research.
In ÊtC 29 (1992), pp. 15–23.


ad F. Kelly, in Peritia 5 (1986), 74-106. *Senchae* derives from a compound *sengo*+*ois(y?)as*, meaning ‘old witness’. *Senchas* represents *sencha* + abstract suffix *-as*.
Kelly (Fergus) (ref.)

934. Kelly (Fergus): Early Irish farming: a study based mainly on the law-texts of the 7th and 8th centuries AD.


Appendix B: Units of measurement.

Rev. by
Nerys Patterson, in Speculum 74/2 (Apr., 1999), pp. 440-442.
Karl Horst Schmidt, in ZCP 51 (1999), pp. 200-204.


Repr. in Irish journal of medical science 170/1 (Jan.-Mar., 2001), pp. 73-76.

12632. Kelly (Fergus): Trees in early Ireland.

In Irish forestry 56 (1999), pp. 39-57.
Attempts to identify all the twenty-eight trees and shrubs which are listed in Bretha comaitheasa. Includes an account of trees which are mentioned in early Irish poetry and proverbs, and an excursus on woodland management in pre-Norman Ireland.


Discusses Giolla na Naomh’s legal treatise, beg. Trachtad ann so arna tarmh a cruadhcorp goodhailge, found in TCD MS H 3. 18 (= CHII ii 691.1-699.4).


Biblography of Irish Linguistics and Literature

1001. Borsje (Jacqueline), Kelly (Fergus): ‘The evil eye’ in early Irish literature and law.
   Part I (pp. 1–33) by J.B.: Early Irish examples of the evil eye: 1. The destructive eye [súil miledach, Birridere, súil milltech, súil neimnec, possibly tráthcháel]; 2. The angry eye [décain andiaraid, súil (fhéig) andiaraid]; 3. Casting the evil eye [millid, aimmillid; corruinecht also discussed]; 4. Envy and the evil eye [far-moinethar, drochmoc, drochsháil]; 5. Protection against the evil eye. Part II (pp. 34–39) by F.K.: ‘The evil eye’ in early Irish law: a section of legal commentary (dating from around the twelfth century) attached to a four-word quotation from an Old Irish law text (No et loaf tri ormath ‘Or stealing away through envy’), ed. with transl. and notes from MSS Rawlinson B 506 and TCD H 3. 18; cf. CHI i 144.34-145.5; ii 673.3-10; iii 955.1-8, 1051.17-23.


11595. Kelly (Fergus): Thinking in threes: the triad in early Irish literature.

3002. Kelly (Fergus): Early Irish law.

3795. Kelly (Fergus): Onomatopoeic interjections in Early Irish.
   Discusses the use of 24 interjections, presented in alphabetical order.

8533. Kelly (Fergus): Cauldron imagery in a legal passage on judges (CHI IV 1307.38-1308.7).
   In Celtica 26 (2010), pp. 31–43.
   From Egerton 88; edition, with English translation and linguistic discussion (particularly of the terms tellich, grísach, æal, drolem, imber).

   In L’Irlanda e gli irlandesi nell’alto medioev o (2010), pp. 93-108.

9409. Kelly (Fergus): Drifting on the ocean: are Old Irish cnoc gnáe ‘beautiful masts’ to be identified as sea beans?

12621. Kelly (Fergus): The place of women in early Irish society, with special reference to the law of marriage.
   In Language and power in the Celtic world (2011), pp. 159–179.

10313. Kelly (Fergus): The recovery of stolen property: notes on legal procedure in Gaelic Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man.
12602. Borsje (Jacqueline): The Celtic evil eye and related mythological motifs in medieval Ireland.


With a contribution by Fergus Kelly.

Rev. by
Joanne Findon, in Magic, ritual, and witchcraft 10/2 (Winter, 2015), pp. 244-247.

Kelly (Fergus)


In Leabhar na cert (2013), pp. 1-12.


In Celtica 27 (2013), pp. 174-175.

13604. Kelly (Fergus): Marriage disputes: a fragmentary Old Irish law-text.


Beg. Cis leir tanamna dochuisin la feine? Edited from Rawlinson B 506 (= CHI iv 144.5-150.16), complemented by H 3. 18; with 8 facs. plates, English translation, notes, glossary, index.

Rev. by
Charlène M. Eska, in CMCS 71 (Summer, 2016), pp. 84-85.

15742. Kelly (Fergus): An early Irish category of swindler: the mindach méith.

Edition of a section of an Old Irish legal text on the seventeen signs of guilt, with Middle Irish commentary (= CHI iv 1363.4-10). With English translation and textual notes.

14802. Kelly (Fergus): Below ground: a study of early Irish pits and souterrains.

In Ollam [Fs. Ó Cathasaigh] (2016), pp. 163-172.

Review information mainly from legal sources, focusing on their use for punishment, storage and trapping deer.