I 1.2: Society: Law, institutions: Early Irish law

    In Ériu 45 (1994), pp. 1–32.

3228. McCone (Kim): Dubthac h maccu Lugair and a matter of life and death in the pseudo-historical prologue to the Senchas máir.
    Studies the pseudo-historical prologue to the Senchas máir, discussing in particular its literary background, its dating, and the relationship between Dubthach’s poem and the narrative framework which surrounds it. Includes an edition of the poem, reconstructed from Harley 432 (= CIH ii 340.28-341.23); with textual notes and English translation.

    Studies the saga of Fergus mac Léti, focusing on the version in the opening two sections of Cathairidlicht athgabálae, and argues that §1 was composed in strict verse together with §2 with the purpose of illustrating the law of distrain. Includes the restored text and English translation of §1 of this version and of §2 of the Old Irish commentary version (which is also argued to be composed in verse), and supplies an additional section of the commentary version omitted in D. A. Binchy’s edition in Ériu 16 (1952), pp. 33–48 (discussion in Appendix).

13731. Breatnach (Liam): Forms of payment in the early Irish law tracts.

    Discusses Giolla na Naomh’s legal treatise, beg, Trachtad ann so arn tarming a cruaidhcorp goadhlaig, found in TCD MS H 3. 18 (= CIH ii 691.1–699.4).

    [1.] Introduction; [2.] The gelfine; [3.] The derbfine; [4.] Additional kinship changes when ego’s grandparents come of age: the iarfine; [5.] Additional kinship changes when ego’s grandparents come of age: the indfine; [6.] Reckoning
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Binchy (D.) (ref.), Charles-Edwards (T.) (ref.), MacNeill (E.) (ref.), Patterson (N.) (ref.)

14752. Bretnach (Liam): Lawyers in early Ireland.

Includes the edition and translation of three passages on the entitlements of judges (CIH iv 1268.35-1269.20, vi 1932.1-17) and advocates (CIH iii 896.19-41).

613. Bretnach (Liam): On the original extent of the Senchas Már.

Discusses texts belonging to SM, the tripartite division of the collection; proposes original order of texts and provides a brief discussion of the titles and contents of 47 individual tracts.

In CMCS 52 (Winter, 2006), pp. 1-11.

Suggests that the concept of the informer’s reward found in §2 of Cáin domnaig and in Wihtræd derives from a lost, presumably Latin, common source.

1063. Bretnach (Liam): The first third of Bretha Nemed Toiscech.

Edited from Cotton Nero A 7, normalized to 8th c. Old Irish standard; with English translation and notes. Includes a transcript of the MS together with citations from the text.

12363. Bretnach (Liam): The lord’s share in the profits of justice and a passage in Cath Maige Taired.

Offers a new interpretation of §38 (as ed. by E. A. Gray) based on an analysis of the legal context of this passage, and shows that the characterization of Bres as an oppressive ruler is supported by his unlawful accumulation of clientship dues.

361. Binchy (D. A.): The original meaning of co nómad náu (nú): linguists v. historians?
In Celtica 16 (1984), pp. 1–12.

Originally a legal phrase.

1942. Carey (John): The testimony of the dead.
In Éigse 26 (1992), pp. 1–12.
Legal interpretation of the episode of Cormac’s sword in Scél na Fir Flatha (= IT 3/1, 183–229).

App. (a) contains Cert Claidib Chormaic, from TCD MS H 2. 15 with variant readings from Scél na Fir Flatha (cf. supra) 201–202 and O’Donovan’s glossary (W. Stokes 1903–1904 [Best 1, p. 7]) and English translation. App. (b) contains Gáibhthea Curatnaíodh §46, from MS Rawlinson B 502, with English translation. App. (c) contains commentary to Findiruth Filibail from TCD MS H 5. 15 (= CHI vi 2:143.18–40, with corrections to D. A. Binaich’s text), with English translation.

2401. Carey (John): The two laws in Dubthach’s judgment.
In CMCS 19 (Summer, 1990), pp. 1–18.
Discusses the terms recht litre and recht aicnid as used in the ‘pseudo-historical prologue to the Senchas már’ and interprets the episode as an allegory of the transition from pagan to Christian in Irish culture. Criticises K. McCone in Peritia 5 (1986), pp. 1–35.

8189. Eska (Charlene M.): Varieties of early Irish legal literature and the Cáin lánamna fragments.
In Viator 40/1 (2009), pp. 1–16.
Appendix: List of manuscript sources of the fragments of Cáin lánamna.

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 milledach, Birugderea, súil millech, súil neimnnech, possibly tuathcháe]; 2. The angry eye [décain aindíar aid, súil (fhéig) aindír; 3. Casting the evil eye [mil lid, aindíaráid, corruguednch also discussed]; 4. Envy and the evil eye [for-moinethar, drochmse, drochshúil]; 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 étbal 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 953.1–8, 1051.17-23.

ad Cáin aicilline §8 [as ed. by R. Thurneysen, in ZCP 14 (1923), pp. 336–304 1. Das Unfrei-Lehen, etc.]; particularly on the process of mashing (OIr. inmol).
11827. Bemmer (Jaqueline): Validity and equality in early Irish contract law: 
diligend and cert in the light of Cóic conara fugill.
   In SCF 8 (2011), pp. 5–18.

11632. McAll (Christopher): The normal paradigms of a woman’s life in the 
Irish and Welsh law texts.


   Concerns Epistil Isu (as ed. by J. G. O’Keefe, in Ériu 2, (1906), pp. 189-214 
[Cán domnaig: 1. The epistle concerning Sunday]).

10608. Mac Eoin (Gearóid): The early Irish vocabulary of mills and milling.

   Edits a passage on the eight parts of a mill from the tract De ceithri slichtaib 
aithgabail, beg. Im ocht mbuila am-foghart milleim (CHH § 374.19-20, etc.);
with English translation, textual notes and a vocabulary list.

19362. Stout (Matthew): The early medieval farm.

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

3547. Binc h y (D. A.): The pseudo-historical prologue to the Senchas már.

   Specially on the interrelationship of the three extant recensions.

14899. Jaski (Bart): Marriage laws in Ireland and on the continent in the early 
Middle Ages.
   In The fragility of her sex (1996), pp. 16–42.

12364. McLaughlin (Roisin): A second source for the text on judges and poets 
in the pseudo-historical prologue to the Senchas már.

   Draws attention to a previously unpublished Middle Irish text on pre-Patrician 
judges and poets in UCD-OFM MS A 9 (transcription and translation 
provided), and compares it with a version in TCD MS H 3. 17.

457. Gerriets (Marilyn): Theft, penitentials, and the compilation of the early 
Irish laws.
   In Celtica 22 (1991), pp. 18–32.

1810. Binc h y (Daniel A.): Féchem, jethem, aigne.
   In Celtica 11 (1976), pp. 18–33.
14428. Hily (Gaël): Et la vache devint abeille: le jugement par analogie dans l'Irlande médiévale.


Studies the elaboration of judgements on bees by analogy with cows in the *Bechbretha* law tract.


*In Ériu 27 (1976), pp. 21–25.*

OIr. *socht* 'stupor' originally denoted a pathological state or variety of 'sickness'; derivation from *sóktos* from root *sek-* 'dryness'.

Repr. in Watkins selected writings II, pp. 560–564.


*In Celtica 10 (1973), pp. 22–71.*

On *athgabáil*, etc. in *Cetharí Malcolm* *athgabálae*, etc.

8532. Esha (Charlene M.): Problematic pigs: swine values in Bodleian manuscript Rawlinson B 506.

*In Celtica 26 (2010), pp. 23–30.*

On the share of the profit from pigs due to the wife in the event of divorce, as set out in the 'Appendix' to *Cás Inlamh* (*= CHI 174.7–177.33)*.

1275. Simms (Katharine): The contents of later commentaries on the Brehon law tracts.

*In Ériu 49 (1998), pp. 23–40.*

On the contemporary relevance of the later commentaries.


*In Ériu 59 (2009), pp. 25–36.*

Vs. D. A. Binchy’s interpretation (in Ériu 12 (1938), pp. 78–134; cf. Best (*2* 2175) of *Britha Crólige* 2 (as ed. by D. A. Binchy 1938; cf. Best (*2* 2174)); argues that this legal term maintained the same meaning throughout its textual history.


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 (particularity of the terms *teléach*, *gríssach*, *dolom*, *drom*, *imber*).

8716. Etchingham (Colmán), Swift (Catherine): English and Pictish terms for brooch in an 8th-century Irish law-text.

On the reference in Bretha nemed boisco (in CHI vi 2223.18-23) to brooches as pledges and the significance of the use of loaned terminology (briar from Old English and catit/cartait from Pictish) in this legal passage.

9256. Breatnach (Liam): A verse on succession to ecclesiastical office.

Restoration and translation of CHI v 1820.26 (Érlam, gráin, manach mín).

In KF 3 (2008), pp. 33–43.

Discusses the three types of betrothal mentioned in CHI i 144.10-17 (with English translation).


Discusses the various versions and the state of preservation of this text, analysing various passages with the aim of elucidating its date and style of composition and the ecclesiastical involvement in it.


Poem beg. Ísucán / alar limm im disertáin, ed. with English translation and notes from MSS RIA 23 P 16 (Leabhar Breac), Brussel 5100-04, RIA 23 P 2 (Book of Lecan), Franciscan A 7, Laud Misc. 610, RIA 23 P 3. Emphasises legal force of the text, with discussion of legal metaphors and terms such as ernaid, sochor, doírthailg.

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 comaithecesa. Includes an account of trees which are mentioned in early Irish poetry and proverbs, and an excursus on woodland management in pre-Norman Ireland.


13443. McLeod (Neil): Cid ara n-epperr Crith gablach?

Explains the title of this law tract as ‘bifurcated acquisition of status grades’.

In ZCP 42 (1987), pp. 41-115.
Reconstructs the honour-prizes corresponding to the previously discussed grades and examines the units of currency used in payments.


1617. Gerriets (Marilyn): Economy and society: clientship according to the Irish laws.

In CMCS 6 (Winter, 1983), pp. 43–61.

Analysis of obligations of aicillne ‘base clientship’ and choice of clientship partner based on Críth gablach, Cán aicillne and other legal texts.

2156. Davids (Wendy): The place of healing in early Irish society.


Discusses healing miracles in the Vitae; remedies in early Irish law (Britha cróliche, etc.); function of the liaisg and female healing; magical healing, charms.

1624. McCone (Kim) (revr.): Notes on the text and authorship of the early Irish bee-laws.

In CMCS 8 (Winter, 1984), pp. 45–50.


Argues that the sevenfold division of the grades of laity is an artificial imposition of the church grades on an older, native order, and seeks to establish this original model.


Edition of a short anecdote in Bretha nedemed dédenach. Text from H 2. 15a (1316); MS text and normalized text, English transl.


In StH 31 (2000-2001), pp. 53–69.

Discusses the Meallbretha; with Irish translation of the opening passage in Egerton 88 and of the fragment from TCD MS H 4. 22.


In ZCP 36 (1978), pp. 54–56.
Argues in favour of a rendering with fronted object for lines 490-491 of CG.

367. Lindeman (Fredrik Otto): An archaic linguistic feature in an Irish law text.
   On the survival of pre-anaptyxis forms in Din tachtgdul (= CH i 205,22-223.21).

3429. Scott (B. G.): An early Irish law tract on the blacksmith’s forge.
   Examines the Old Irish legal treatise Blái ord inbeoin (no edition, partial translation based on Ancient laws of Ireland).

15230. Essa (Charlene M.): On the swearing of oaths in cemeteries.
   In CMCS 71 (Summer, 2016), pp. 59-70.
   Argues that relics in the legal commentary found in CH III 820.42-821.5 refers not to cemeteries but to the the making of oaths on relics.

791. McLeod (Neil): The two fer midboth and their evidence in court.
   The distinction between the two kinds of fer midboth described in Crith Gablach: unnecessary to distinguish between ‘compurgation’ and ‘preserving statement’.

13757. Herbert (Máire): Dlíthe an Domhnaigh in Éirinn, 600-700.

   Takes con·sræng, cos·sræng in CG line 277 as the equivalents of Lat. contrahit, contractus ‘makes a contract, contract’.

   [(In Dutch:) Of madmen, fools, imbeciles and idiots. The feeble-minded in early Irish law.]

   In SCF 2 (2005), pp. 67-96.

14004. Raee (Hanne-Mette Alsos): The legal implications of the bancromarbæ.

   In Celtica 10 (1973), pp. 72–86.
Nach mill a selb duine ata athgab ál te chta airi . . .; edited from MSS TCD H 3. 18 and Egerton 88; with English translation and notes.

Fleuriot (Léon): Brittonica et Gallica: 15. Ancien irlandais bíthad "nourriture due" (food supply), breton ancien boit gloseic, boet march, boet bestoud, gallois moyen dawnbwyd.
In ÉtC 23 (1986), p. 72.

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

Peters (Cherie N.): 'He is not entitled to butter': the diet of peasants and commoners in early medieval Ireland.

In ZCP 32 (1972), p. 81.

Welsh parallel to early Irish legal obligation for a woman to call for help if she is the victim of a rape attempt.

O’Neill (Pamela): Control of the means of production in early Irish law.
In SCF 10 (2013), pp. 81–89.
Examines references to equipment such as the kiln, the plough, the mill or the grain store, in early Irish legal texts.


Russell (Paul): Laws, glossaries and legal glossaries in early Ireland.

Considers the legal material attested in early Irish glossaries, and studies in particular the citations from Senchas már and Bretha nemel extant in Cormac’s Glossary, arguing that groups of glossae collectae extracted from the manuscripts containing these texts intervened in its compilation.

Ford (Patrick K.): Lám deoraid.
ad V. Hull, in ZCP 18 (1930), pp. 76–71, 286 (Best2 267). Lám deoraid refers to status of person whose protection and rights under the law had been forfeited; such a person could be slain without fear of reprisal.

Corthals (Johan): Affiliation of children: Ímmathchor naNídella 7 Airt.
Edition of an Old Irish legal text (c. 700). Provides diplomatic texts from Rawlinson B 512, BL Harley 5280 and TCD H 3. 17, and a critical edition based on Rawlinson; with English translation and textual notes.

In Éigse 18/1 (1980), p. 94.  
ad D. A. Binchy 1941 (BILL 1479).

13315. Charles-Edwards (T. M.): The manuscript transmission of Bretha comaithchesa.  
In Authorities and adaptations (2014), pp. 95-120.  
Offers a case study for the transmission of Old Irish legal texts.

Interprets this phrase attested in a number of legal texts as ‘fine wool’, ‘fine woollens’, or some other form of expensive textile.


9598. Sayers (William): Games, sport and para-military exercise in early Ireland.  
In Aethlon 10/1 (Fall, 1992), pp. 105-123.  
Appendix: A synthetic version of the lists of martial feats (cles) as found in the Ulster cycle of tales.

Analyses practicalities, ideals and obligations of kingship. Incl. discussion of terms oirdeird ‘ordains’ and folud ‘contractual obligation’.

1818. Kelly (Fergus): The Old Irish tree-list.  
Identifies the 28 trees and shrubs listed in the eighth-century legal tract Bretha comaithchesa, which are divided into four groups of seven: 1. airig fede ‘nobles of the wood’: daoar ‘oak’, coll ‘hazel’, corann ‘holly’, iabar ‘yew’, uinnius ‘ash’, ochtach ‘Scots pine’; 2. aithig fede ‘commoners...
of the wood': fern 'alder', sail 'willow', scé 'whitehorn, hawthorn', cáséthann 'rowan, mountain ash', beithe 'birch', lem 'elm', idath 'wild cherry?'; 3. foda feda 'lower divisions of the wood': deisgen 'blackthorn', from 'elder, bore-tree', fearans 'spindle-tree', fincheall 'whitebeam?', caithne 'arbutus, strawberry tree', crithach 'aspen', crow 'juniper?'; 4. foda feda 'bushes of the wood': rath 'bracken', rait 'bog-myrtle', aiten 'gorse, furze', dris 'bramble, blackberry', fróe 'heather', gilcach 'broom?'. Also includes brief discussion of feda and ain, variant names for 'rushes', and native trees and shrubs not included in the four classes.


Discusses the qualities and entitlements of the saer; draws particularly on a legal text dealing with the reflection and fees due to craftsmen (= CHI vi 21.07.362-2108.23; with English translation).

9856. Jaski (Bart): Opsporing verzoekt! Conn van de Honderd Verdragen en het raadsel van de opgeloste wettekst.


[[In Dutch:] Information wanted! Conn of the Hundred Treaties and the riddle of the lost wisdom text.]

Discusses the relationship between the pseudo-historical introduction of Cethairí richt ãthgab álai and its Old-Irish glosses, Aided Chon Róí, Edhtra Fergna meic Letti, and Aided Chuind Chéitchathaig.


[1.] Introduction; [2.] The dubious evidence for a bánbéim of three sét; [3.] The three-sét single-symptom blow (c. AD 650?); [4.] The demise of the three-sét single-symptom blow (from c. AD 675?); [5.] The rise of the two-and-a-half-sét single-symptom blow (c. AD 697?); [6.] The early commentaries (from c. AD 1000?); [7.] Subsequent commentaries (from c. AD 1100); [8.] Later developments; [9.] Crólege cumaile and the seven-sét bandage-wound; [10.] An edition of DEF [normalised with transl. based on the various texts in CHI]; [11.] The commentaries; [12.] Legal procedure in injury cases; [13.] The MSS traditions; [14.] The compilation of MS A; [15.] The relationship between the MSS; [16.] The common material; [17.] Other sources; [18.] An edition of the commentaries to DEF [normalised with transl.].

Incl. brief index to lexical notes.

17946. Hily (Gaël): L'aubépine sans épines: une curiosité dans la procédure d'exécution du glám déccenn.


Addresses the problem of the 'whitethorn without any thorns on it' mentioned in Uraicecht na ríar §24, gl. 2 (as ed. by L. Breathnach, 1987).
17244. Latvio (Riita): Immunity and liability in *neimed*-commoner relationships.
   In 10th Symposium of Societas Celtologica Nordica (2010), pp. 129–149.

4000. Patterson (Nerys): The O’Doran legal family and the sixteenth-century recensions of the pseudo-historical prologue to the *Senchas Már*.
   In PHCC 6 (1986), pp. 131–149.
   Emphasises the role of the O’Doran legal family in the transmission of the Prologue on the grounds of their association with the main text in MS Harley 432.

3797. Murray (Kevin): *Catlechta* and other medieval legal material relating to cats.
   Edits and translates the surviving fragments of cat law from the *Senchas már* and elsewhere.

1160. Sco wcroft (R. Mark): *Recht fáide* and its gloss in the pseudo-historical prologue to the *Senchus már*.
   ad §7.48 (as ed. by J. Carey, in Ériu 45 (1994), pp. 1–32); discusses the term *recht fáide* ‘the law of prophets’, and concludes that the story of the origins of *Senchus már* implicitly compares native Irish learning with traditional divisions of the Old Testament as set forth by St. Jerome and Isidore of Seville among others.
   Carey (J.) (ref.)

   In Ériu 42 (1991), pp. 149–151.

   On the origin and significance of the numerical series 1, 3, 5, 10, 15, 30 (supplemented by 2, 20, 42) used to set periods of time and to calculate payments, and the anomalous reordering of grades found in certain texts.

4150. Breannach (Liam): Varia: I. An Old Irish gloss on *Cáin lánamma*.
   ad §14, as ed. by R. Thurneysen 1906 (Best² 2148).
Proposes that the ‘four divisions’ in title of this tract refer to the four different lengths of stay used in the procedure of distraint.


Lecc duice (duice, doice) (occurring in legal texts, such as Gáibreth Caratndad §15 and the legal commentary at CHI i 145.10-37, of which an English translation is given here) refers to ‘a physical defect which made a woman incapable of intercourse’; dúc may, as suggested by R. Thurneysen (in ZCP 16 (1927), pp. 217-218 [Best 2:2157]), represent do-íc ‘incurability’ or, possibly, an abstract based on dicc, diing ‘difficult’.

3803. Lindeman (Fredrik Otto): Varia: IV. 2. Old Irish nant, núd, etc.
ad line 130 of CG. Discusses a deviant use of núd n. as 3rd sg. neg. rel. of the copula.

Tentatively translates allabrig n-aí as ‘one of the two bríg’.

Suggests that the airliciud is different from the ón in that the former involves proprietary rights (rather than merely possessory) and included the right to alienate the property to a third party.

10631. Ó Corráin (Donnchadh): Tír cumaile: omán ‘thistle’.

14803. Eska (Charlene M.): Recholl bréth: why it is a ‘shroud of judgments’.
Discusses the tract found in CHI i 218.31-223.21.

15742. Kelly (Fergus): An early Irish category of swindler: the mimbach méith.
Edition of a section of an Old Irish legal text on the seventeen signs of guilt, with Middle Irish commentary (= CHI iv 1363.1-10). With English translation and textual notes.

3424. Bracken (Damian): Latin passages in Irish vernacular law: notes on sources.

ad L. Breathnach, Laws of the Irish (pt. VII), in Peritia 3 (1984), pp. 382–388. Suggests that the compilers of vernacular Irish law had access to a range of Hiberno-Latin sources.


**ar dri** and gen. sg. **ar dréch**, **ar dréach** attested in Old Irish sources, incl. *Ciún Fáithibde*. Brief discussion of **triath** as being of higher status than a king.

15501. Qiu (Fangzhe): A note on **comaccomol**.

In Celtica 28 (2016), pp. 201–207.

Argues the term **comaccomol** in *Déin teochtug* is calquing Lat. **coniunctio** in the specialised sense of ‘(state of) co-inheritance’.

12483. Stacey (Robin) (*trans.*): *Berrad airechta*: an Old Irish tract on suretyship.


English translation based on R. Thurneysen, Bürgschaft, 1928 (Best 2 2161); with notes.


Argues that this Latin term (attested in the Hibernesis and elsewhere) corresponds to the *dúilchinne* of Old Irish law.

13047. Murray (Kevin): A Middle Irish tract on cró and díbad.


English translation of CLI iii 600.1–601.11 (cf. Ériu 1.209). With language notes, analysis of the discussion of the terms *rann ó bun*, *cró ó inm*, and *cró ar medón* , and technical vocabulary.

490. Lindeman (Fredrik Otto): A note on a difficult passage in *Bretha Déin Chéacht*.


ad *Bretha Déin Chéacht*, §36.

1834. Watkins (Calvert): The etymology of Irish **dúan**.


Derives it from *dápp-ná*, cf. L. *damnnum*. Also on other terminology from the reciprocal context of encomiastic poetry.

Repr. in Watkins selected writings II, pp. 536–543.

3247. Baumgarten (Rolf): The kinsale metaphors in *Beechbretha* and *Colóines nesci Bláiridne*.

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Original address:

On the use of the analogy of the four categories of kinship (gelhine, derbhine, téarnine, indhine) applied to three cases of neighbourhood law: I. Bechbretha §§9-11, 18-22; II. Bechbretha §§12-13; III. Coibnes uisci na thrídhne §§1-3, 8.

With linguistic discussion and English translation.


Criticises E. Mac Neill’s translation of the opening section of Umricc Becc (in Best 2 2172), showing that it is based on the glossator’s comment rather than the principal text, and accordingly suggests that Mac Neill’s airear ‘is found’ should be substituted by the reading of the original text, either H 3. 18 arragar ‘is bound’ or BB agar ‘is pleaded’. Includes a translation of the original text of the eight following sections. Also criticises R. Thurneysen’s translation (in Best 2 2164) of the legal terms aithne (MS aichnide) and aithnid.

3373. Ó Corráin (Donnchadh): Some cruxes in Críth gablach.


[1.] eipit, dias fidchraunn (ad CG §14.178); [2.] The render of an ócaire [tarr, tinne] (ad CG §10.100-111).


In Éigse 15/4 (Geimhreadh, 1974), pp. 319–322.

fionna-chruth ‘likeness, etc.’ < earlier legal term finechruit ‘hereditary features’, cf. also fineguth, finebés.


In Prehistoric and early Ireland (2005), pp. 331–370.

3355. Ó Corráin (Donnchadh): Synodus II Patricii and vernacular law.


Discusses the adoption by secular lawyers of a principle from canon law referring to marriage (Synodus II Patricii §26) and its general application to contracts in vernacular law.


Discusses in particular the problem posed by the fact that compensation payments made for the loss of a little finger appear to be lower than those for other forms of injury not involving amputation.

2809. Kelly (Patricia): Two relative clauses in Críth gablach.

Argues that D. A. Binchy’s emendation of the two sentences introduced by cín in Críth gablach §§9, 77-79 is unnecessary, and offers an interpretation of the text that allows the restoration of the original readings in MS TCD H 3. 18 (cín mbís maice and cín bes míceninhid).

1382. Breatnach (Liam), Breen (Aidan), Ó Corráin (Donnchadh): The laws of the Irish.
Review article of: Corpus iuris Hibernici, ed. by D. A. Binchy (Dublin: DIAS, 1978). Discusses in particular the close relationship between vernacular and canon law. Section V includes text and English translation of Udhacht Athairne (CH III 1153-22) with commentary in section VI. Section VII includes a list of 134 Latin citations from canon law, scripture and other sources with identifications of 30 of these.

3002. Kelly (Fergus): Early Irish law.

In ELR 14/3 (2010), pp. 418–450.
Also on the nóe, or formal duel used in early Irish law for the resolution of disputes.

1447. Breatnach (Liam): Canon law and secular law in early Ireland: the significance of Bretha nemed.
Discusses Bretha nemed, dated to between 721 and 742, composed in Munster by three kinsmen: Forannán (a bishop), Máel Tuile (a poet) and Báethgalach hua Báirecháin (a judge). Incl. ed. with transl. of six verses of a poem beg, Aimingin Glangealair fein head by Gilla in Chlaidheada Ua Cormaic from RIA MS D ii 1 (Bk of Uí Mhaine). Old Irish version of Collectio Canonum Hibernensis Book XI, chap. 4, ed. with translation and notes from Cotton Nero A 7. Some discussion of rosc and ‘Archaic Irish’.

2815. Mac Eoin (Gearóid): The briugu in early Irish society.
Discusses the term briugu and the process of promotion from the freemen grades to the noble grades according to early Irish law, and also argues, based on an analysis of their property qualifications and their moral character, that the briugu of Únaiccht bosc and the mréig of Críth gablach (complemented by the fer filltair) are variant designations of the same rank.

Perth, Western Australia: Centre for Irish Studies, Murdoch University, 1999. 26 pp.
A public lecture by Prof. N. McL., Murdoch University, 20 October 1999.
1446. Binchy (D. A.) (ed.): Corpus iuris Hibernici: ad fidem codicum manuscriptorum / recognovit D. A. BINCHY.


Introductory matter (i-xxviii) also separ. publ.

Rev. by


A study of the tract Cóic conam fugill. Includes a French translation of versions Rawlinson B 502 (= CIH vi 2200-2203), Egerton 88 (= CIH iv 1280.1-1282.23) and H 3.18 (= CIH iii 1027.21-1041.38), with notes.

Rev. by


18

H 3. 18. App. 7 contains some of the Welsh material relating to bees.

Rev. by

Includes an edition of Di astrud chor. Normalized text accompanied by manuscript readings; with English translation.

Part 1: Texts on the grades of the filid and bards other than Uraioecht na riar: Mídicheata, Bretha nemed (with English translation and notes), Mittelirische Verslehren, etc. Part 2: Uraioecht na riar: dated to second half of the 8th c. Edited from MSS TCD E 3. 3, Egerton 153, TCD H 1. 15, and TCD H 2. 15a; restored and normalized; with MS texts, English translation and notes; linguistic analysis.

Rev. by

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

Rev. by
Richard Firth Green, in Medium Ævum 62/1 (1993), pp. 118-120.

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Original address:
934. Kelly (Fergus): Early Irish farming: a study based mainly on the
law-texts of the 7th and 8th centuries AD.
EIL, 4. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1997. xvii +
751 pp.
Appendix A [edition of seven legal passages on topics connected with farming;
with English translation and discussion]: 1. Defects of cows and sheep [CIH
ii 674.37-675.17]; 2. Livestock not to be distrained [CIH iii 897.10-29]; 3.
Value of cattle, sheep and pigs [CIH iii 845.22-846.14]; 4. Roads and tracks
[CIH iii 893.22-35]; 5. Calves with two mothers [CIH iii 967.35-968.15 and
iv 1267.17-31]; 6. Land-values [CIH iii 972.24-9]; 7. Horse-qualities [CIH iv
1235.19-27].
Appendix B: Units of measurement.

Rev. by
Nerys Patterson, in Speculum 74/2 (Apr., 1999), pp. 440-442.

2288. Breatnach (Liám): A companion to the Corpus iuris Hibernici.
EIL, 5. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 2005. xv +
499 pp.
App. 1: Concordance of the O’Carry and O’Donovan law transcripts with
CHI; App. 2: Bretha Éitgid from Royal Irish Academy MS D vi 2 [Text of
version AI omitted from CHI]; App. 3: From TCD MS II 3. 17 (6) [Text of
passages omitted (a) before CHI vi 2128.18 and (b) between CHI vi
2128.25-26]; App. 4: From TCD MS H 3. 18 (1) [Text of legal fragments
omitted from CHI]; App. 5: From TCD MS H 3. 18 (21) [Text of legal
fragments omitted from CHI]; App. 6: From National Library of Ireland MS
G138 [Text of a legal miscellany omitted from CHI]; App. 7: From Royal
Irish Academy MS 23 Q 12 [Text of legal fragments omitted from CHI].

Rev. by
Neil McLeod, A true companion to the Corpus iuris Hibernici, in Peritia 19
(2005), pp. 136-163.
10410. Eska (Charlene M.): Cúin lánamna: an Old Irish tract on marriage and divorce law.


Edited from H 2. 15a (= CHI ii 502.7-519.35) [normalized text, variants, glosses, commentaries], with linguistic and legal notes, English translation, and glossary.

Appendices contain additional legal commentary, edited with English translation. 1: Text from Rawlinson B 506, folios 19b-19d (= CHI i 89.26-90.32); 2: Text from Rawlinson B 506 fol. 42d (= CHI i 144.5-17); 3: Text from Rawlinson B 506 folio 55b-56d (= CHI i 174.7-177.33); 4 Text from H 3. 18 pp. 434a (= CHI iii 974.29-975.27); 5: Text from Rawlinson B 506 fol. 22a-b (= CHI i 95.37-96.30); 6: Additional commentary [duplicates].

Rev. by
Fergus Kelly, in Medium Ævum 81/2 (2012), pp. 323-324.

13004. Kelly (Fergus): Marriage disputes: a fragmentary Old Irish law-text.


Beg. Cis tir lánamna dochúisín le feine? Edited from Rawlinson B 506 (= CHI i 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.

15910. Breathnach (Liam) (ed.): Córus bésgni: an Old Irish law tract on the church and society / edited by Liam Breathnach.


Edition based on the four primary witnesses: H 2. 15a (= A), H 3. 17 (= B), H 3. 18 (= C), Rawil. B 506 (= D).

1. Introduction; 2. Normalized OIr. text without glosses; with English translation and notes; 3. Diplomatic edition of A (complete text, glosses, commentary) with English translation and notes; 4. Text of B (text and commentary, incomplete) with English translation and notes; 5. Text of C (Old Irish glossing); 6. Text of D (late Mr. or EModIr. revision of commentary). Bibliography, Indexes.
10566. Breatnach (Liam): The early Irish law text Senchas már and the question of its date.


In appendix: text of SM 1. Introduction, from CIH ii 344.24-352.12, together with variant readings.