444. **Breeze (Andrew):** The Virgin’s tears of blood.


Concludes that ‘the Virgin’s tears of blood’ of modern Irish folklore, rather than being ‘native’ or ‘Celtic’, is a relic of an international European tradition that was well developed in England. Refers to four Irish instances: (1) anon. *Fearr beagn cloinne ná clann*; (2) anon. *Locadh Criost cumaoin a mháthar* (see L. McKenna, *Dioghluim dána* [1938], nos. 27a, 30 [Best 2 1323a]; (3) *Gin go gearthair cam siur* by Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn ([1487]) (see L. McKenna, *Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn* [1931], poem 13 [Best 2 1728]; (4) a prose translation of *The long charter of Christ* by Uilliam Mac an Leagha, dated to ca. 1461-63 (see A. Breeze, *in Celtica* 19 [1987], pp. 111-120). Cf. also the motif of numbered tears in two poems by Tadhg Óg Ó hUiginn ([1448]) in poems beg. *Aoidhe meise ag máthair Dé* and *Iomdha ród direach go Dia* (see L. McKenna, *Dán Dé* [1922], nos. 2 and 6 [Best 2 1323a]).

**Classifications:**
- F 3.2: Literature and learning: Typology: Themes, motifs
- F 4.1: Literature and learning: Comparative literature: General and various

**Indexes:**
- First Lines of Verse:
  - *Aoidhe meise ag máthair Dé*
  - *Fearr beagn cloinne ná clann*
  - *Gin go gearthair cara siur*
  - *Locadh Criost cumaoin a mháthar*
  - *Iomdha ród direach go Dia*

**Author/Textual Sources:**
- Mac an Leagha, Uilliam
- Ó hUiginn, Philip Bocht ([1487])
- Ó hUiginn, Tadhg Óg ([1448])
- The Long Charter of Christ