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 beagán cloine ná clann; (2) anon. locadh Críost cumaoin a mháthar (see L. McKenna, Dioghluim déna (1938), nos. 27a, 30 [Best 2 1323a]; (3) Gin go geartair cam siur by Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn (1487) (see L. McKenna, Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn (1933), 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 Tadgh Óg Ó hUiginn (1448) in poems beg. Aoidhe meise ag máthair Dé and Iomdha róid díreach go Dia (see L. McKenna, Dán Dé (1922), nos. 2 and 6 [Best 2 1323]).

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 beagán cloine ná clann
- Gin go geartair cam siur
- locadh Críost cumaoin a mháthar
- Iomdha róid díreach go Dia

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