

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

*In Celtica* 20 (1988), pp. 110–122.

Concludes that 'the Virgins 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 cloinne ná clann*; (2) anon. *Íocadh Críost cumaoín a mháthar* (see L. MCKENNA, *Dioghlúim dána* (1938), nos. 27a, 30 [Best<sup>2</sup> 1323a]); (3) *Gin go gcarthair cara siur* by Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn (†1487) (see L. MCKENNA, *Philip Bocht Ó hUiginn* (1931), poem 13 [Best<sup>2</sup> 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 díreach go Dia* (see L. MCKENNA, *Dán Dé* (1922), nos. 2 and 6 [Best<sup>2</sup> 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 cloinne ná clann
- Gin go gcarthair cara siur
- Íocadh Críost cumaoín a mháthar
- Iomdha ród díreach go Dia

Author/Textual Sources:

- Mac an Leagha, Uilliam
- Ó hUiginn, Philip Bocht (†1487)
- Ó hUiginn, Tadhg Óg (†1448)
- The Long Charter of Christ