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. locaith Crist cumaoin a mháthar (see L. McKenna, Diogham dána (1938), nos. 27a, 30 [Best 2 1323a]; (3) Gin go gcearthair 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 dreach 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 gcearthair cam siur
• locaith Crist cumaoin a mháthar
• Iomdha ród dreach go Dia

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