

718. Sharpe (Richard): Hiberno-Latin *laicus*, Irish *láech* and the devil's men. In *Ériu* 30 (1979), pp. 75–92.

Lat. *laicus* 'layman' introduced to Irel. and developed the rare subsidiary meaning 'lay tenant' in ecclesiastical context; *laicus* develops pagan connotations, hence 'brigand'. In a separate line of development, Lat. *laicus* 'layman' borrowed into Ir. as *láech* at an early date primarily in legal texts; *láech* 'warrior' may have developed on the principle that 'men' are 'warriors' (see P. MAC CANA, 'On the word *láech* "warrior"', in *Celtica* 11 (1976), pp. 125–128); *láech* 'warrior' in turn influences Lat. *laicus*, which acquires the rare meaning 'warrior'; *láech* 'pagan' occurs as a calque on *laicus* 'pagan'.

Mac Cana (Proinsias) (*ref.*)

*Classifications:*

- D 1.3: Etymology (Individual)
- D 1.2: Lexicology

*Indexes:*

Words/Proper Names:

- díberg
- láech
- laicus (L)