SL 343 / EN 512 Old Irish (S,3)

MWF1 Lyons 315

The reading of Early Irish texts.
The grammar and linguistic features of Old Irish,
the place of Old Irish among the Celtic and Indo-European
languages,
and the analysis of Early Irish texts and poetry,
beginning with an inductive reading of the Scéla mucce meic Dathó.
Some previous study of an inflected language or of linguistics will be
helpful, although not necessary.

Prof. M.J. Connolly (Mícheál ó Coingheallaigh)
Lyons 210 x2-3912
Office hours: MWF 8.30-9.30, 11.00-11.50, and by appointment

Principal monograph literature for this course:


Cuív, Brian ó (ed): A view of the Irish language. (Stationery Office)
Dublin, 1969.
ch. 1: The Irish languages and the languages of the world
(Kenneth H. Jackson);
ch. 2: Irish as a vernacular before the Norman invasion (David Greene);
ch. 3: The changing form of the Irish language (Brian Ó Cuív).

(Royal Irish Academy) Dublin, 1983, 0-901714-29-1.

Dillon, Myles / Nora K. Chadwick: The Celtic realms.
ch 1: Discovering the Celts;
ch. 9: The Celtic languages and the beginnings of literature.


Green, Antony: Old Irish verbs and vocabulary.

Kelly, Fergus: A guide to early Irish law.
(Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies) Dublin, 1988,

Kelly, Fergus: Early Irish farming. A study based on the law texts of the
7th and 8th centuries AD.
(Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies) Dublin, 1997,

(MLA) New York, 1975©. 087352-289-3. [now also in paper]

Lewis, Henry / Holger Pedersen: A concise comparative Celtic grammar.

Mc Cone, Kim: The Early Irish verb.
(An sagart) Maynooth, 1997(2). 1-870684-76-1 [paper, revised].

Murchú, Máirtín ó: The Irish language.
(Department of Foreign Affairs & Bord na Gaeilge) Dublin, 1985.
0-906404-20-7.

O’Neill, Timothy: The Irish hand. Scribes and their manuscripts from the
to the seventeenth century with an exemplar of scripts.
(Dolmen Pr) Portlaoise EIR, 1984. 0-85105-411-0.

Pokorny, Julius: Altirische Grammatik.
(de Gruyter) Berlin, 1962(2). [Sammlung Göschen, Bd. 896].

Quin, E.G.: Old Irish workbook.
(Royal Irish Academy) Dublin, 1978.

Strachan, John: Old Irish paradigms and selections from the Old-Irish
glosses. With notes and vocabulary by John Strachan.
(Royal Irish Academy) Dublin, 1949 or later reprinting.

Thurneysen, Rudolf: A grammar of Old Irish. Revised and enlarged
edition, translated from the German by D.A. Binchy and Osborn Bergin.
(Institute for Advanced Studies) Dublin, 1946 or later reprinting.
Substantial revision of Handbuch des Altirischen (Winter)
Heidelberg, 1909 [Indogermanische Bibliothek].
Thurneysen, Rudolf: *Old Irish reader. With a supplement to A grammar of Old Irish. Translated from the German by D.A. Binchy and Osborn Bergin.* (Institute for Advanced Studies) Dublin, 1949 or later reprinting.
Revision of *Handbuch des Altirischen II*, and with corrections for Hb I

Thurneysen, Rudolf (ed): *Scéla mucce meic Dathó.*


Additional references and bibliography given in lectures.
Cf. also Lehmann pp.148-150 and Thurneysen *OIG* pp.12-17.

A good general overview of early Celtic can be read in:
Chadwick, Nora: *The Celts.*
[Pelican original, A1211]. 0-14-021211-8.

Course components:
recitations and oral exercises (daily) ................................. 40%
content quizzes and written exercises (=5) .......................... 30%
written reports (2) ............................................................. 15%
course examination (text recitation) ..................................... 15%
no mid-term, no term paper

After learning some rudiments of Old Irish phonology and morphology
we work through exercises in Quin
and chapters in Lehmann & Lehmann,
reading inductively the *Scéla mucce Meic Datho*,
developing a description of Old Irish grammar
and becoming acquainted with descriptive and historical
approaches to linguistic data from the Celtic languages.

When we have finished the *Scéla* we read additional texts,
especially lyric poetry and the glosses,
and we look at selected problems from Old Irish linguistics,
cultural history, and palæography.

In this latter portion of the course students also work on special
projects related to their own interests in Irish.

Grading:     
A = excellent    B = good    C = satisfactory
D = unsatisfactory but passing    F = failure

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