

# THE IRISH MONTHLY

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## HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

### I.

[RIA. 23 D14 (126), ascribes to E. McRaith; 23 L17 (145); 23 N12 (126); 24 B9 (234)].

In Derry demesne (tl. of Cahircenner, par. Templeachally, bar. Ara, Co. Tipp.) close to Lough Derg, there were still to be seen in 1762 the remains of an ancient castle (Onom. *sub.* Cathair Conchobhair). To it is addressed the following poem by way of an elegy on its builder Conchobhar mac Toirdhealbhaigh I Bhriain (vv. 3, 7, 21). He was a younger brother of Muirheartach Prince of Thomond (d. 1333), and was therefore grandson of the famous Tadhg Caoluisce. In 1328 he was slain at Caolmhóin (near Thurles, but not identified) when accompanying his brother Muirheartach on a hosting against Brian Bán. (cf. F. Mast.).

The poet concludes his poem with some stanzas to other patrons of his and to his patron saint Michael.

Eoghan son of Domhnall (vv. 22, 23) may be Eoghan Mág Carthaigh (founder of the Clann Domhnaill Ruaidh), son of Domhnall Ruadh (O Clery, &c.) or of Domhnall Óg (McFirbis, Bk. of Munster) and therefore grand-uncle or uncle of Domhnall (d. 1391) one of Gofraidh's chief patrons.

The name Buadhach is not mentioned in the Genealogies as that of an Ó Súilleabháin Mór after the 13th century, but was probably the name of an individual, not in the primogeniture line of descent, who was head of the tribe in the later part of the 14th century. An Ó Súilleabháin Mór married Cáit dau. of Domhnall Mág Carthaigh (d. 1391) Gofraidh's patron, and may be the man referred to.

Tadhg Ó Donnchadha of Loch Léin is apparently Tadhg son of Amhlaoibh. There is no record as to who Sadhbh his mother was.

Gofraidh appears from vv. 5, 20, 21, to have been already a qualified bard and in professional relations with the Ó Briains as early as 1328. His birth-year was probably therefore about 1300. There is no means of fixing the date of this poem.

1. Teac carat do chú folam  
Teac ar ionnra u'folmoḡad  
A beit mar cá ir caoi cporde  
Do baol lá baó lionmaire
2. Maist fear léi cōḡad an teac  
Maist teac a-cá go huaigneac  
Maist bpuḡean uo bí ronna  
Bpu cipeat i n-attuma
3. Concobhar O Briain Deapda  
Don toḡ-re fa tḡeapmá  
Rian an toḡe mar a-cá  
Mo cporde im éiāb uo élaoclá
4. Sé cá 'na haḡbaró folam  
Bpuḡean éuplāc Concobhar  
Do bí aḡ lorge ar a lán rann  
A lán pōime uo pḡoḡmaró

A friend's palace I see empty,  
A palace hard to empty !  
Its plight draws my tears.  
Time was when 'twas crowded !

Goodly the hero who built it,  
Goodly the palace now desolate,  
Goodly the mansion that was here  
Till it was sore changed .

Conchobhar O Briain of the Bearbha  
Was lord of the palace,  
The plight of the palace now  
Has bruised the heart in my breast.

Though Conchobhar's shapely house  
Is now an empty dwelling,  
Once there reclined on its floor  
Many princes !

5. Meinic do bí meadóir mhór  
San tois-tin a-cá an an-fóis  
Cairde mé gion gur sean rínn  
San teagá amháil é i n-áirinn
6. In' an leat do tall don tig  
Do bhoir laochraí Luimneach  
Sáe píl ó dól 'san t-áirinn  
Fíon dá íde go h-áirinn
7. San uirinn-re an m'ágaró toir  
Do bhoir ní náta Cobhach  
Sé i gceard dom cur i n-áir  
San o'á Briaín do b'áir-ne
8. A lán san leat ro i bur  
D'ollamhaí 'má uéc pólar  
Fáirbhíog a b'áir-ne an t-áir  
O áirne áir-ne áirne áirne
9. A fíor a áir nána  
A b'áirne a b'áir nána  
So réit an t-áirne oile  
Im áirne m'áir-ne áirne áirne
10. An lá-rain gán lán an teag  
A-cá ré mar nap fáirne  
Teagá m'áirne fáirne fáirne  
Leabta an tois an t-áirne
11. San t-áir i b'áirne na b'áirne  
San t-áir an t-áirne áirne  
San ól an t-áirne áirne  
M'áirne an t-áirne áirne
12. Fáirne mar roir m'áirne  
Mac Giolla Chaoimh fáirne  
Dáirne an t-áirne áirne  
Dáirne m'áirne áirne
13. Fáirne do b'áirne áirne  
I long-b'áirne áirne áirne  
An fáirne an t-áirne áirne  
Na fáirne i' teagá áirne
14. I long-b'áirne áirne na m'áirne  
Seacht láirne áirne áirne  
I gceard fáirne áirne áirne  
Na fáirne áirne áirne
15. A-b'áirne an t-áirne i' teag  
An fáirne áirne áirne  
Fáirne áirne an t-áirne áirne  
'Na fáirne áirne áirne
16. Mac Giolla Chaoimh do áirne  
I' teagá  
I' fáirne áirne áirne  
I' fáirne áirne áirne

Often was there great revelry  
In this mansion now joyless.  
No palace was like it in Eire.  
I was there though I am not old.

In' yonder side of the palace  
Thronged the heroes of Luimneach,—  
Poets being rewarded by the host,  
Wine being drunk—up to the door.

In that east recess  
Sat the King of Cobhach's Fort.  
His lying in the grave oppresses me.  
Near to O Briain was I.

At this side were many  
Sages round the bright-corsleted hero.  
Extravagant the gifts they got  
From the heir of Eire's King.

His poets and bards  
And judges and ladies  
Away to yon recess surrounded  
The smooth-handed hero of Borointhe.

Tho' the castle was then full  
'Tis now as none dreamed 'twould be  
Magh Fearta's palace is empty  
Its couches overturned!

No ladies at the windows  
No gambling in that recess  
Or drinking or blaze of lamps—  
Sore my cause of sorrow!

A thing like this drove to Rome  
Mac Giolla Chaoimh high-honoured,  
Whereby he got the better faith,  
And he departed from Eire.

Once a feast was ordered  
In the castle of Brian Borointhe.  
When all was ready  
The guests came to it.

In the fort of Brian of the swift ships  
Seven days were Eire's heroes.  
After feasting for seven days  
They departed home.

Then entered the hall, and spoke  
The noble wise poet:  
"Deserted now is the palace,  
Thus shall men pass away!

I see a Mac Giolla Chaoimh coming  
And Eire's heroes passing away!  
I see a Mac Giolla Chaoimh coming  
And Eire's heroes passing away!

Sadair éigear innre fáil  
 Thér an gcúir-rin i gcéad-áir  
 Ceileabhad do Brian na mbeann  
 Ir o'fhad eirdean-élan éireann

Therefore then did the poet  
 Of Inis Fáil bid farewell  
 To Brian of the Peaks  
 And the fair-ivied land of Eire.

18. Aódar oileirís bunaró  
 Réim tige cúirir Conchobair  
 Do Róim do ba uolta té  
 Dá ucugta t'óir von innie

A thing to make one fare abroad  
 Is the plight of Conchobhar's stout  
 castle.  
 One would go to Rome  
 If one thought of its state.

19. Aitirir an fíleao peimhe  
 Róctain von Róim ainglerde  
 Ní fíleao fearoa baó olor daim  
 Teafra olom san a déanamh

To bright Rome  
 Like that poet of old  
 I cannot go.  
 Feasting henceforth befits me not !

20. Connrad do rónram a-raon  
 Ir inn i n-aorir dá macaom  
 A-cá cuirre ar gcúl dom cup  
 San cois-re tón gá déanamh

Conchobhar and I made a pact  
 When we both were young,  
 Making it in this castle.  
 Grief recalls it to me (!)

21. Ir ead do bí ód-ran de  
 Rann ar gac duain dar n-áin-ne  
 Eac gac bliadna do bí daim  
 Rí liamha noa locrad

His due by that compact was  
 A verse of every poem of my art.  
 A horse each year was my due.  
 Liamhain's king would not have  
 denied it.

22. Mac Toirdhealbhais tocrad leam  
 Níor léis dia do olon éireann  
 Érean méir-fearag brial bpaol-  
 teac  
 fían éireann go héagscaointeac

Toirdhealbhach's son, alas !  
 God spared not to defend Eire.  
 Eire's host is mourning  
 That slender-fingered joyous noble.

23. Ionmhain teag 'na bhuil a lán  
 Teag meic Domhnall dúin ionmhán  
 I n-oi-mheanna as dul dar rsoil  
 I mbhuig oirneadha coisain

The house of Domhnall's son, of Dún  
 Iomdhán  
 I love, and it so thronged,  
 When in sadness leaving my school  
 I go to Eoghan's splendid house.

24. Teag eile ina hannra mé  
 Teag i Súillleabáin Siúir  
 Rí tnom-aicme Brian a-bac  
 Dar gcomairce biadú buadac

Another house where I am loved  
 Is that of Ó Súillíobháin of the Siúir.  
 As the prince of Brian's great house is  
 dead  
 Buadhach shall guard me !

25. I cois earós ní éraodra ar muir  
 Ar brú locha léin lán-guim  
 Ar gcúl do éuair ar gcuma  
 uaim i n-óin i Donnchadha

In Tadhg's house my joy shall be full  
 By the bank of green Loch Léin.  
 My grief ever left me  
 In Ó Donnchadha's castle.

26. I nois go ucuirfinn a teag  
 Guirpó mé míféal aingeal  
 Maig nac pasad ran teag té  
 tneab i n-a bpaigar fáilte  
 teac.

I shall implore the angel Michael  
 That I reach his house.  
 Woe to all who go not to that house  
 Of comfort where welcome is ever ready !

## II.

[RIA 23 L17 (88); 23 C33 (181); 3 C10 (89); 24 P 27 (145)].

To Conchobhar Ó Domhnaill (vv. 11, 14), Lord of Tír Conaill (v. 11), son of Aodh (v. 10). His mother was Dearbhforghail (d. 1318) daughter of Magnus. Ó Conchobhair. He succeeded to the chieftaincy on his father Aodh's death in 1333, and slew his brother who contested his claim. In 1342 he was attacked in his house at Rindros (The Rosses, Co. Don.) which was burnt over his head, and was slain as he was escaping by his brother Niall Garbh who succeeded him. (F. Mast., A. Loch Cé). The daughter of Mac William de Burgo. (vv. 13, 14), probably Riocard an Fhorbhair who seems to have been Conchobhar's wife, is not mentioned in the Annals or in the de Burgo or O Domhnaill pedigrees. For Tadhg Ó Donnchadha (v. 15) cf. i. *Intro.* The poem was written between 1333 and 1342.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Δ φίρ τέρο : οτίρ Conaill<br>50 τίρ αν πίο5 πο-μολαιμ<br>Clúm mín trép 5ac maolinn of<br>doibinn an tír : o'téige                      | O thou who goest to Tír Conaill,<br>The land of the prince I admire,<br>Fair the land thou goest to,<br>Soft verdure on all its hills.                           |
| 2. Δοιθε δuit-re ná δαμ-ρα<br>Δ5 φéαδαν na bpeapann-ρα<br>Δn clár ublac 5noídeac 5lan<br>mupbac ip Oileac o'féacab                        | Thou art more blessed than I<br>As thou viewest that land<br>Fair land of apple-trees and horses<br>Murbhach and Oileach.  |
| 3. 'Do éife ma5 n-úr n-Eine<br>na leap5 n-álumh n-ainglerde<br>'ran éirne oá n-éir ealta<br>Duó céim o'éirge aigeanta                     | Thou shalt see green Magh n-Eine<br>Of the fair bright slopes,<br>In the Éirne if birds' flocks rise<br>'Twill be a journey to rouse thy spirit!                 |
| 4. 'Do éife Eap Ruaid náimac<br>na pnué mupacac mupacáanac<br>ip Síob Aodha ór an tréig té<br>Caonia na cláir do éife                     | Eas Ruaidh thou shalt see with its<br>boats<br>And waters rich in trout and salmon,<br>And Síodh Aodha over the warm shore.<br>Lovely the plains thou shalt see. |
| 5. 'Do feapap bac haobinn lac<br>na puinn-re o'féacain umac<br>'Do éim opt oá áille paim<br>Toct 5o paigte mín mupbac5                    | I know 'twill delight thee<br>To see those fields around thee.<br>I picture thee bound thereafter<br>For Murbhach's smooth lawn.                                 |
| 6. 'Do éi uait éirne : le<br>'r na cnuic corpa ór éionn éirne<br>buinne píot-ban nac feap5 5ail<br>'r 5ac leap5 do mion-clár mup-<br>bac5 | Thou seest the Éirne afar<br>And the round hills above it.<br>The fairy-women's stream ever mourn-<br>ing<br>And all the hills on Murbhach's plain.              |
| 7. 'San baile pin do bunab<br>úior mo éapa Concobhar<br>luéct veig-eoil 'na éaitir éuirp<br>do maicib ceimeoil Conaill                    | In that land established<br>Is my friend Conchobhar,<br>In his round castle his wise-guided<br>Folk, the native warriors of Conall                               |
| 8. Socpaíre ó5 nap ob cat<br>Rí an tuair5ip 5o n-a éeaglac<br>veip p5éala uaim oá oipeacé<br>Déana tuaró mo éeacpaieacc                   | Band of heroes who shirked not battle<br>The King of the North and his folk—<br>Bring news from me to his realm<br>Deliver my message in the North.              |

9. Cleathnair ar veir daine féin  
 Ir alcpannair i n-imscéin  
 Innir o'faglaib na n-oipear  
 Supb amlaib do hionuigeas
10. An dara ní do ním oib  
 Do thac doba don aipio-ní  
 Do céib na mbacannair mbog  
 Alcpannair i gcéin cleactar
11. Mar tá mé dá mialaib dúb  
 Fa éinig na mbeannair uarail  
 Dú mo éiríde leir an gcuing  
 O'pí's Doire o' ú Domhnaill
12. A cup daim ear gac nruino  
 Innir o'aipio-ní's toruige  
 Ó doibill éneir-ing éiac thail  
 Do éleirinn a fiac o'fagail
13. Ingean mioduip theic uilliam  
 Folt bann-buibe bacail-fiar  
 r glór coimreac bádaic banua  
 Soilreac nápac neach-gallua
14. Fiappais daim-ra dá veiric moill  
 Cionnur díolpar Ó Domhnaill  
 [a beir] i gceaoib cé na éairc  
 Mé i ngac laoir dá labairc
15. A fip téio don mhumain móir  
 i veis éaróis ar fearn onóir  
 ionnraib maí na múp rona  
 Gab go uán i donnacada.

á fip.

That one should marry near  
 And be taught afar—  
 Tell that harrier of lands  
 That so 'twas ordained.

The latter of these things I do now  
 For Aodh's son, the prince  
 Whose hair is soft and curling,  
 I shall do my teaching from afar.

To that swarthy-cheeked hero  
 I am bound to give noble teaching.  
 My heart is in that duty  
 To Doire's lord, Ó Domhnaill.

Tell Torach's prince  
 I have exalted him beyond all.  
 Reward for this can I claim  
 From shapely Aoibheall of Clú Máil.

Mac William's gentle daughter  
 Of golden waving hair  
 And mild loving maidenly speech,  
 True-Irish though foreign noble lady!

Ask that stately-eyed lady  
 How Ó Domhnaill can repay  
 My telling in every lay how he  
 Reigns by right o'er the branch of Cé.

Thou who farest to Mumha  
 To the house of ever-honoured Tadhg,  
 Speed to the plain of the happy castles  
 To the fort of Ó Donnachadha.

1. b, +, or. 2. d, Ó Domhnaill's chief castle was at Murbhach S.W. of Donegal, Oileach nr. Derry. 3. a, betw. Bundoran and the r. Drowse.  
 b, a, a. c, r. Erne 4. a, c, Assaroo and Mullaghshee nr. Ballyshannon.  
 11. d, Derry. 12. b, Torry Island. c, Fairy guardian of O'Briains.  
 Clú is E half of Co. Lim. 14, 15, only in P. 14. c, beir. Cé  
 Lough Key, Co. Roso.

# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. MCKENNA, S.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

## III.

[RIA. 23 D14 (44); 23 L17 (70); 23 F16 (116); 23 H8 (38); 3 C10 (90)].

To Murchadh (son of Eoghan, a of Murchadh) Ó Madadháin, 'Lord of Siol nAnmchadha (bar Longford, Co. Galw., and par Luanagh, King's Co.). He succeeded his father in 1347 and in 1371 "this general patron of the poor, the destitute and the literati of Ireland was slain by an arrow in a predatory party in Orinond" (F. Mast.). A daughter of his, Mór, wife of Riocard Óg (Mac William Uachtair, d. 1387) fell a victim to the plague in 1383. (A. Clonm.) From his connection with Dor and Cliú (vv. 11, 30, 34) one might infer for him a female descent from the Mág Carthaighs, but his female ancestors are nowhere mentioned. The force of the allusion to Glaoi (district in Corea Moruadh) in v. 29 is not clear. For an account of Siol nAnmchadha cf. *Tribes of Hy Many*. O Donovan, pp. 129, 599.

The poem may have been written at any date between 1347 and 1371.

1. Do : ósbaó meirge mupcáró  
Ír rpat aiste ar Allmupcáró  
D'feara : meirgear na meirge  
D'fearaó oíola d'fearaó
2. Do : ósbaó leo ar leirge fón-báin  
Buó réan chead uá céad-cógháil  
Ór laot bpaom-leirge an bpaó  
Saoir-meirge maot mupcáró
3. Buó réan fpeama do fábáil  
Do mupcáró ú mhaodáin  
Meirge láit ar neam-éiláit neap  
On páit ead-éiláit as iméarét
4. Suairg an ríog-éinneall poime  
D'ionnpoiré na hionpoile  
Spóll fann pe caoil-fíotóaró  
Gpuinn  
Cpuann móp u' aom-fíotóaró áluinn.
5. Ír áluinn an eapp meirge  
Do éú : gceann na mín-leirge  
Canamail a eiréall pín  
D'péic-eapp réanamail puaténó
6. Cía an mungar móp-ra pan maó  
Cía an pluag-ra as millead  
Mumhan  
Nó an voipe cuip flatac pleag  
Nó an bpaac uonn ar uiréad

Raised aloft is Murchadh's banner  
'Tis time to face the foreigners,  
Behind it a band of heroes  
To check lawlessness.

On a fair slope 'tis raised by them,  
'Twill herald havoc from the first,  
The soft noble banner of Murchadh  
Above that hero of the well-watered  
field of the castle.

It precludes an attack  
By Murchadh Ó Madadháin,  
Waving banner of unwavering strength  
Coming from the castle of splendid  
horses.

Blithely before him the royal torch  
Goes to meet the battle-shock,  
Its soft satin on slender rod,  
Its lofty staff from choicest wood.

Coinely is the banner-tail  
I see advancing to the smooth field.  
As a bird it flutters, its spotted  
Tail, seen afar, heralding victory.

What means this din o'er the plain,  
This host reaving Mumha,  
This wood of round shafted spears  
This bright banner too ?

7. Bpatac meic éactaig coḡain  
mimic bíor 'na baim-uoparó  
laóaro annmádaig impe  
'na n-ann-éuparó innille
8. Ar uoiompaḡaó a éionóil  
im feabac fíil éipeamhóin  
Eappi tana mion-fpóill fan maḡ  
Duó mana díot-flóig 'Danaḡ
9. Leanparó cáé é i n-ionab éo  
Leanparó mupéaró an moigḡo  
nuai-bile eilge má fóir  
Suaillróe moigḡe maot-fpóill
10. An gcéim maippear an moigḡo  
Iḡ laoc folc-éar fimm-leigḡo  
méaparó ḡairgearó na nḡaóirpal  
ní clairdear a gcóim-maóirdeam
11. Tug bḡan i gcat Cluana Earb  
Ceipó maḡ rin aḡ rinóir óiam  
Ar fear coim-anma cinn 'Dair  
Ro-báima gill dá ḡnóirparó
12. Dál ḡair fa mupéaró mac bḡam  
nánḡatar ip an poi-ḡliaró  
éipe ar lámh bḡam ó du bí  
San ḡliaró nioḡb áil an t-airp-ḡí
13. Tis lámh le laocparó Sionna  
ní éipeam ip aoin-ḡiolla  
Ar maóilinn ḡléa-nuairó ḡlam  
aóibinn fear-uame fearaig
14. Coḡmḡear peall ip poball  
annam uon fáil abaró-uonn  
Teasari muonn paltrac paioḡe  
So maḡeac bḡonn bḡomhaóile
15. An lá naḡ léigearó fan gcat  
le Dál Cair na geolḡ bḡaobrac  
An pí uo ma-báil a aḡm  
Uo bí aḡ ḡabáil a ḡnát-falm.
16. Ar noul i gceann a éóile  
Don dá fóirunn aḡmíéile  
léigro ḡaóiróil ḡair po-érom  
aḡ maóiróin áir fionn-loclann
17. Cḡeao an ḡair-pe 'naḡ nḡoipe  
a ḡiolla ar bḡan bḡoime  
ḡair ḡaóirdeal ar an ḡiolla  
aḡ maóirdeam a móir-ḡiolla

The banner of Eughan's doughty son  
Oft sets forth as a pilgrim  
The Annchadhaigh around her,  
Panoplied warriors !

Round the hawk of Eireamhón's race  
When his host is gathered  
The slender satin pennon on the plain  
Preludes ruin to the foreigner !

All shall follow him in hot fight  
Murchadh shall follow his standard  
He, fresh tree of Eilge, his host about  
him  
Keeping close to that satin banner.

While this banner stands  
And the curly-haired hero of the plain  
So long shall live the chivalry of  
Gaoidhil  
Nor shall rivals of them be heard of !

Brian at Cluain Tarbh planted  
A prophecy like this deep in my heart  
About a name-sake of the prince of  
Dor,  
A prince his equal in valour.

The Dál Cais under Murchadh son of  
Brian  
Came to that great conflict.  
They wished not their king to be in  
the fray  
For Fire's weal was in Brian's hand.

Near the host of the Sionna stands  
Fire's king with a single page  
On a bright fair hill  
Pleasant, green, fertile.

His steed and tent are made ready  
There for the dark-browed noble,  
A treasure, a noble psalttery, is brought  
To the fair knight of Fomhaóile.

The day sharp-bladed Dál Cais  
Kept their king from the fight  
The prince gave up his sword  
And prayed his usual psalms.

When the two dread hosts  
Faced each other  
The Gaoidhil raise a loud cry  
Threatening the Fair Lochlann.

"Why that cry near us,  
O boy?" said Brian.  
"Tis the Gaoidhil's shout" said the  
boy,  
"Proclaiming their great fury (!)"

Innir a fíor an fíoréime  
Ó easa i n-áic a mfeiréime  
Mar cuirtear an cat cróda  
Ar ríad cuirte-geal Crannmhóna

19. ní hupura a Urian Banbha  
le olúr na gcat gcatarda  
áine ar fear reat ar-aile  
fead gairne na gairne
20. fionnam uaid ar aro-ní an trídís  
Créad nán a meirge maot-íróill  
Lér éorain mupéad mói vceann  
as clód upéad na hCiceann
21. Uo éú i lár lueta an éiré  
Uo mac-ya a meir Cinnéirí  
Uo éú a éomarda cata  
Or ro-áimna an ríog-plata
22. Uo tanuigeat tios an trídís  
fa mac ríog Ciceann arim-puad  
San tpear-éat gó teirge a fuil  
ir fearmáde meirge mupéad
23. a úine véagar an cat  
ná eiré an geal bur fearmáde  
meirge na plata ó úinn vpeag  
So maca uo glóir gaoideal.
24. réad a-ríor maon an cata  
Innir uóinn a véacpáda  
Ar epaib eirge nar éar ríor  
féas ar élaon meirge mupéad
25. ir é ioméir an cata  
ar óglad an aro-plata  
ar ríom a arim-víreir mupéad  
marum pan teirge ar loclannab
26. Ar vutrim paor-élaon ríor vloro  
Timéall mupéad pan móir-éor  
ferum na teirge a sonar ar  
Uo élaonab meirge mupéad
27. Uo élaon oipead ar Ciceann  
Uo rin ar Urian baip-méir-éar  
Uéir élaonta meirge mupéad  
áonta teirge as állmupéad

"Tell me, watcher  
—For thou canst see it—  
How the fierce fight assails  
The shapely chivalry of Crannmhóna."

"Not easy, O Brian of Banbha,  
The battle throngs are so close,  
To know one man from another  
In the swift charges of the heroes."

"Let me know," says the king  
"Where goes Murchadh's soft satin  
Banner neath which he has crushed  
many hosts,  
Destroying the curses of Eire."

"In the midst of the mailed men  
I see thy son, o son of Cinnéidh.  
I see his battle banner  
Over the prince of the kingdom.

The thickness of that host has been  
Thinned round the prince of red-  
sworded Eire.  
Though he pours forth his blood in  
the fray,  
Steady stands Murchadh's banner."

"My friend who watchest the battle  
Believe not, while steady stands  
The banner of the prince from Bóinn  
Breagh  
That the glory of the Gaoidhil shall  
wane.

See again the battle-course  
Tell me of its struggles,  
See if his banner has drooped  
Over Eirge's hero generous to poets."

"This is the way the battle goes"  
Says the king's page  
"Murchadh in fury has plied his sword,  
The Lochlainn are in rout over the  
plain.

The nobles of Blod's race have fallen  
Round Murchadh in the contest—  
The brunt of the field is on him alone—  
Murchadh's banner has drooped!"

"Eire's power then has drooped"  
Says slender-fingered Brian  
"After the drooping of his banner  
Shall come the rallying of the foreigner's  
fury.



28. Saot leam ar Bhrian an bairn  
 glain  
 mar bair éire o'éir murchad  
 bair murchada ceann i gceann  
 leam ir murchada éireann

I mourn," says noble-browed Brian  
 "Eire's state on Murchadh's death  
 His death in the end, methinks,  
 Means Eire's ruin."

29. Táinig oo éuitim murchad  
 bair an gairisrón gnóimhach  
 flait-féinir glaoi mar oo gin  
 oo aic-éimh gnaoi an gairisrón

At Murchadh's fall died  
 All valourous chivalry,  
 When the warrior of Glaoi was born  
 The fame of that chivalry rose again!

30. mac Eoghan Cliad cleit oimhach  
 corinail ir an céad-murchad  
 gnát troim-éoir doir na óeasair  
 com-éoir moir na meirgeadair

The son of Eoghan from Cliú, the  
 defence  
 Against evil, is like the first Murchadh,  
 His fierce tramping host belind him,  
 Equal the spirit inspired by their  
 standards!

31. mac Eoghan ir eighne Bhrian  
 dá flait fineadna a léim-émar  
 géill Gall i ngairis na bpeir  
 dá bair gairisrón na ngeadair

Eoghan's son and Brian's heir,  
 Two princes of the same vine-stock,  
 Hostages of the Goill are in their  
 bonds,  
 Two peaks of the chivalry of the  
 Gaoidhil!

32. murchad mac Bhrian an bairn éir  
 murchad mac Eoghan aum-glair  
 dá émar com-lann gcalma  
 conglann cubair com-anma

Murchadh son of smooth-haired Brian  
 Murchadh son of blue-sworded Eoghan,  
 Two heroes of gallant combat  
 Matches for each other, namesakes!

33. Gan o'urraim as oighne Bhrian  
 ó mac Eoghan fuair móir-glair  
 aic Bhrian né éile dá éir  
 naéar glail éire o'Eoghan

Brian's heir has no superiority over  
 Eoghan's son who has fought great  
 fights,  
 Except—if one compare Brian with  
 his fellow,—  
 Eire was not subject to Eoghan.

34. An flaitéar fuair a áir  
 mar rá fa éir comachad  
 no hach é a éile cleat Dor  
 aic go nbeat éire as Eoghan

As the land his father won  
 Is now held by the hero of Comachadh  
 Dor's hero would now be his match  
 If only Eire had belonged to Eoghan.

35. fine luic na lann óana  
 timceall meir Bhrian Uorain  
 samail ril Annadha i n-áir  
 im gairis n-ajun-éana n-lomdhan

The race of sharp-speared Lore  
 Round Brian's son  
 Are as the tribe of martial Annachadh  
 Round the sharp-bladed hero of  
 Iomdhan.

36. Uonmar no luic a air  
 an áir ar uairis  
 com-nail mar oo beac 'n-a bpuic  
 a éac lom-lán oo laómar

Crowded with his house-folk  
 The night 'tis least crowded,  
 Is his castle full of heroes  
 As though a meeting were in it.

37. Lán ón oirraim go 'n oile  
 an éac n-uairis uairis  
 lán na coimh uonn-áir na óair  
 no éirir po-mair po-nail

Thronged from door to door  
 With pillars of valour is his house,  
 Full for them bright shapely vults  
 Of ale sweet and inviting.

38. Lán do lúineadaib goimna  
I r do éinn-beartaib catarda  
I r tóirde tpeara goile  
Sleara méirde an míos-foige
39. Lán do giallaib na geimh  
I r uis flata rinn-feimh  
I r ardeanna na n-arm nglan  
Arim-meanna baob do diaeo
40. Lán do innáib fiata pionna  
Na fuinneoga fairpionga  
As cur corraim diu eang-blait  
San long-fois móir inuipcar-ghait
41. Ar rlearaib blait an bpa  
Suróirdear fiol nanncaoa  
Bíó 'na mío-fuio meampa  
Stoúirde a sío raor-meanna
42. Lín do leir a aiste  
Do cataraib cumoagte  
Ra-caoim a geirde mé geirde  
Fíle i ngeac cataraib éirí-deirde
43. Gaé fear as freagha a feaoma  
San bhuirde ar oirde  
Oruim me fpaigir flac-raoríonn  
Inacaoim pa bpaib buaball.
44. San fear bearmair ná oimioa  
Díob i r fiaa fluaa no-omioa  
San luac cionao me heao n-óil  
San fear i n-ionao éasóir
45. Tar éir a fuirde ro  
Do ní aoríogaó oira  
Cliair céao do focuill oineac  
I nglorunn gaas ngall-faileac
46. Gaéar ainnéir ga n-aor éoíl  
Laor me cuirleannaib cineoíl  
Paorbe céao oá éirí élanais  
As béin féao do paor-élanais
47. Ní éirí má cá eapao  
Ar an oúnao nuaimeac-pain  
Aec an oúnao san oirpaoir  
Do oúnao a oirpaoir-beoíl
48. Mac meic inuicéar mórao ceall  
Oimioa ar oia noa óligeann  
Lóir do fuairí Caoimha a faaíl  
Ar fuairí meanna i mhaeáin
- Hung with steel mail-coats  
And warrior helmets  
—Stout things for fighting— (?)  
Are the smooth walls of his palace.
- Full of hostages the gyves  
In the fort of the prince of Feimhean ;  
Full the racks of bright weapons,  
Blades to feed the ravens !
- Full are the broad windows  
Of fair and stately ladies  
Working gold embroidery  
In the big crowded hall.
- Along the bright palace walls  
Shall stand the race of Anmchaidh  
Before them on royal throne sits  
The fairy king from Slodh Neanna.
- Before him is a row  
Of covered (?) chairs,  
On each purple chair a poet.  
Blithe their hearts in their work !
- Each man doing his part  
In that lofty proud castle,  
Their backs to the fair hurdled wall  
Stand youths by the edge of the ale-  
vats.
- And, for all their number, no man  
Of them is neglected or sullen  
Nor any in wrong place  
Nor committing any mistake in the  
banquet.
- When the heroes are seated  
The band of harpers who stir gener-  
osity  
Makes entertainment for them  
On the bosoms of foreign willow-harps.
- By their musicians is played  
A tune with dext pipes,  
The chanting of strings for their fair-  
tressed lord,  
Forcing gifts from nobles.
- In that thronged castle if there be  
Anything wanting, I see not,  
Except that the hall has no warder  
To close its door !
- Murchadh's grandson, enricher of  
shrines,  
Deserves not anger at God's hands !  
The thoughts of Ó Murchadh's heart  
Are worthy of a prince of Eamhain.

49. *asarta aicme milead  
le céile 'gá gcómh-finead  
ciao do bhuirín nórú murchad  
slóis fuirid vā n-asartair*

The races of Ml may be pitted  
In comparison against each other.  
If the hosts of the West be challenged  
They submit to Murchadh.

9. *ní éuala ar lámác laza  
leitéro lámag murchada  
murchad ir ar máit lé óiomg  
mā do éait upcar n-ionnpuill*

In all the feats of Lugh I know not  
Aught like Murchadh's.  
If Murchadh ever shot wide  
'Twas for his folk's good !

51. *vā éur fām vólta fá ólon  
ir tuar oiprad a eir-ríud  
ir ólon ar upcarid v'fáil  
síod murchad i mhuasáin*

For two reasons we flee to him ;  
His anger forbodes ruin,  
While peace with him  
Is protection against evil.

52. *o masadám ar nín crut  
mao cor nír in páit ceamrac  
tíro plós ceamrac bad rana  
o ceaglac nór murchada.  
Do rógbad.*

Were there a struggle for the Ráth  
Of Tonnhair with shapely O Mudad-  
hain,  
Tonnhair's host would be thinned  
By Murchadh's mighty folk.

1. *b*, + *or* éionn oigce. 2. *a*, + *rogaibtear* l. *b*, + *c*. an é. 4. *d*, + —fíod-  
baró. 5. *b*, + *caoir*-l. *c*, + *a* he. 6. *b*, + *milead*. 7. *d*, *hapocurud*,  
*napmcoraid*, *napmcoraid*. 8. *c*, + *eang*. *d*, + *rogbóro*. 9. *c*, na, fa, lé  
c = Eire. 10. *d*, + *ga* gc. 11. *b*, + *as* p. 12. *b*, + *sur* an. *c*, + *ó* bf.  
13. *a*, + *c*. le láim l. r. Shannon. 14. *d*, S.W. of Inagh in bar.  
Inchiquin, Co. Clare. 15. *b*, + *ne* v. *d*, + *glanfalm*. 18. *d*, +  
*mópa*. A place unidentified. 20. *a*, + *vai*. *b*, + *créao* an m. *c*, +  
*ceann*. 21. *a*, *lucc*. 22. *b*, + *le* m. *c*, + *go* or. *d*, + *buó* p.  
24. *a*, + *rian* an. 25. *c*, + *apm*. *d*, + *as* loé. 26. in F. after 27. *c*, p.l.  
na a, a. *d*, + *ar* scl. 30. in L. after 29. *a*, + *ceit*. 31. *d*, + *vo* b.  
33. *c*, + *vā* gcup. *d*, *ac* nap, ir nacar. 34. *b*, + *Conacar*. A place in  
O M's country (?). 35. *a*, p l. i.e., O Briains. 36. *a*, + *soimn* vo + *l*  
vo é. *c*, + *comóal*. *d*, + *c*. ir loinnám. 37 in F. 16 after 33. *c*, +  
*nonnslapoa*. *d*, + *roóal*. 39. only in F 16, H 8. *c*, + *lan* na ha.  
vā é. 41. *d*, *Síodh Neamta*, Co. Rose. cf. MSS. Mat. pp. 6, 591.  
Tapestry is apparently referred to. 42. *a*, + *lionuro* vo l. *d*, +  
*cláirdeirg*. 43. *d*, *briomg* ir b. 45. *c*, + *fuireann* c. 46. only in  
D 14. *b*, *Doan*. 48. *d*, + *a* bpuair m. 49. *a*, + *anacarta* ir mac.  
*c*, *risto*, *roigro*. *d*, + *le* *anacarta*. 50. Lugh mac Eithleunn, of  
M. Cust. Index. 52. *c*, *ripg* p. v. c.

# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. McKENNA, S.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

## IV.

[A. iv 3 (857.)]

To Féi(dh)lim(idh) (vv. 13, 14), "Son of Domhnall's son" (v. 13), son of Diarmuid (v. 5), "the Carthach" (v. 20), "the Forbharach" (v. 4), whose death on Clárach Hill (nr. Millstreet, Co. Cork) was ruinous to Clann Cormaic (v. 8). The fight on Clárach is not mentioned elsewhere; nor is any Féilim answering to the above indications recorded in the Genealogies. He may have been a son of Diarmuid Mág Carthaigh (slain at Tráigh Li in 1325), son (according to McFirbis and the Book of Munster) of Domhnall Og (d. 1303).

The word "Forbharach" would suggest that he was a descendant, perhaps even a grandson, of Riocard an Fhorbhair de Burgo (fl. 1333), ancestor of the Earls of Clanrickard one of whom the 5th Earl (d. 1629) is called in *The Contention of the Bards* (xxix. 38) "Flaith Forbhair." The connection of these de Burgos with Forbhar in Thomond (Onom.), is not known, but it is noteworthy that Riocard an Fhorbhair was son of Fionnghuala, dau. of Brian Ruadh Ó Briain (d. 1274) Lord of Thomond.

The story of Fothadh Canann's death on Clárach (cf. Todd Lect. xvi. p. 7) at the hand of Oíllil Flann Bec, King of Munster, with whose wife he had eloped, is told in vv. 10-19.

Art Ó Caoimh, whose death (when and how it occurred is unknown) is referred to in v. 30, was apparently Lord of Pobal Ó gCaoimh (bar. Duhallow, Co. Cork) when the battle of Clárach was fought. His son Domhnall, ruling at the time of the poem, is mentioned in v. 35. A daughter of a Domhnall (probably this latter) Ó Caoimh married Diarmuid Ó Conchobhair, Lord of Ciarraidhe Luschna who in 1405 was blinded by Maurice FitzGerald.

Domhnall Cairbreach of v. 31 died in 1414 (F. Mast.)

Eoghan "the lion of Bealach Bórainmhe" (v. 32), is probably to be equated with the Eoghan son of Domhnall of Dún Iomdhán Poem i. 23, and the Eoghan son of Domhnall Og of Poem v. 40, both of which dedicatory stanzas are immediately followed by stanzas to Ó Súilleabháin and Ó Donnchadha. He was probably (cf. Intro. Poem i.) son of Domhnall'og Mág Carthaigh (d. 1309), and founder of the Clann Domhnaill Ruaidh. If this be so Bealach Bórainmhe may be Béal Bórainmhe (Belboroo nr. Killaloe), as Eoghan's father, Domhnall Og (d. 1309), married a daughter of Toirdhealbhach (d. 1306) Ó Briain Lord of Thomond (see Intro. Poem vii.).

Another identification is possible, however, for this Eoghan, namely that he was Eoghan (son of Murchadh son of Eoghan) Ó Madadháin who in 1371 succeeded to his father Murchadh, the prince to whom Poem iii. is addressed. On this supposition Bealach Bórainmhe would be the castle of Magh Bealaigh which was built by his grandfather Eoghan (O'Donovan Tribes of Hy Many pp. 14-17). The appellation "of Dún Iomdhán" is applied to Ó Madadháin in Poem iii. v. 35, but it does not prove Eoghan to have been of the Ó Madadháin family for it seems to be applied to one of the Clann Carthaigh in Poem i. v. 23, and it is applied to Muiris 2nd Earl of Desmond in another poem of Gofraidh "Móir an tSéaghsaí mór. . ." (edited by Dr. Bergin in the Miscellany presented to W. Ridgeway). Where this Dún Iomdhán was is not clear. See Onom. sub. Imghán, Dún Iomdhán.

For Buadhach O Súilliobháin (v. 33), and Tadhg O Donnchadha (v. 34) cf. *Intro. Poem i.*

The lady Mór of Magh Muchroimhe (plain west of Athenry), living in Sliabh Luschna (nr. Castleisland) cannot be identified.

1. Δ ἔνυϊς τοῖρ πρὸς τὰοῖβ' ἑλλά  
 ῥά ὡδαῖο δῖμε οἰλεάλλα  
 εἰοὺδ' ἴμυο δρυαὲ τοὺ ἡοῖλεαδ' ἰνν  
 ῥυαὲ τοὺ οἰρεαρ' ἰν ἰνντῖνν.
2. Ἴρ εὐ ἐνὸς νὰ πρὸς αἰ ὀύινν  
 Δ εὐλαὲ ἀπὸ ῥάδῃ-νύρε  
 Ἴρ μὸ τέτο ἀρ' ὀέσῃαδ' ὀαῖν  
 εἴ-ῥέσῃαῖν ἰοῖα ἀρ' ἡέρο μεανμῃν
3. ἢ γὰρ ὀρῃν ὀυμπρὸς ὀυῖ  
 Δ ἑλῃαῖς ἑάλλα ὀρρὸρῃ  
 Δ-ταὶ ἀρ' ἡ-αῖν ἑρῃὸ Δ ἑνυῖς τοῖρ  
 τοὺ ὀαὶ. ἰ πρὸν ὀυῖ Δ ὀέσῃαῖν.
4. Δ ἑλῃαῖς Ἴρ εὐ ἀν εὐλαὲ  
 μαρ' εὐῖ ἀν ῥῖονν ῥορῃαῖ  
 μὸ ῥῃὸ ἢ γὰρ εὐῖ ῥορ' ὀαὶ  
 Δ ἑνυῖς Δ-εῖνν τοὺ εἰταῖοῖρ.
5. Μὰς ὀαρμῃαδ' ὀα ὀὸ ἐορ  
 τοὺ τῃρῃῃαδ' γὸ ὀοῖορῃ  
 ὀά ἰοτ' ἀρ' ῥῃὸ τοὺ ὀεῃῃα  
 Ἴρ εὐ ἐνὸς νὰ ἑννῃαῖν.
6. ἀν ἰά τῃαδ' ὀορ' Δ ὀοῖα  
 ἀν ἑρῃαὲ ἑρ' ἑρῃαδ' ἡ-ἑνῃα  
 ῥῃῃοτ' ὀαῖαδ' τοὺ ἑνῃν Δ ἑνυῖς  
 Ἴρ ῥῃῃῃαδ' τοὺ ἐοῖνν ὀορῃαῖς.
7. ὀον ῥῃῃαδ' εὐγ' ἀρ' ἀν ὀοῖοῖρ  
 ἰ ἡ-εῖτ' ἑλῃαῖς ἰ ῥέσῃ-ὀῖρ  
 μαρῃῃαῖρ' ῥῃν ῥέῖς ῥαὲ ἡρ' ῥαδ'  
 ῥαδ'ῃαῖρ' ἀν ἡέρο ἡρ' μαρῃαδ'.
8. ὀοῖορῃαῖρ' ὀυῖνν ὀον τοῖρ  
 μαρ' ῃῃοτ' ἡρ' μαρῃς ὀαρ' ὀυρῃὀῖρ  
 ῥῃρ' ὀαῖο ἰνν τῃρ' Δ ὀοῖρ ὀαῖρ  
 ὀ'ῃρ' ἀν ἑρ' ἑννν τοὺ εἰαῖρ.
9. ἑαν-ῥοῖν ὀαῖορῃαὲ νὰ ὀαῖρ  
 ἢ ῥῃρ' ῥῃρ' Δ ὀοῖορῃαῖς  
 ὀοῖαῖρ' ἑ ῥῃῃῃ-ὀῖο ῥῃῃ  
 ἑτ' ἢ ἡ-αῖρῃῃε ὀ'ῥῃῃῃῃῃ.
10. ἑῖτ' ἑνν ἀν ἐ ὀοῖαῖρ' ἀν  
 ἑτ' ἀν ῥῃῃῃ ῥῃῃαδ' ἑανῃν  
 ἡρ' εὐῖ ὀοῖοῖνν τοὺ ῥῃῃῃ  
 Δ ἑνυῖς ῥῃῃ-ἑῃῃν ὀῖοῖαῖ.
11. ἀν ῃῃῃῃῃ ῥῃῃῃ ἀν ὀοῖαῖ  
 ὀὸ γὸ ἡῃῃῃ ἡ-ἑῃῃῃῃῃῃ  
 ἴμυο ἑῃῃ-ἑῃῃ Δ ἑνυῖς ἑῃῃ  
 τοὺ εὐῖ ἑῃῃ-ῥῃῃῃ ἑανῃν.

O Eastern hill near the Ealla,  
 where dwell Oíill's race,  
 though by thy side was I reared,  
 my heart loathes the land about thee !

Thou drawest my tears,  
 O lofty fresh-grassy hill.  
 The sight of thee excites tears in me  
 rather than gay spirits !

No blame to me my reproach  
 of thee, famed Clárach of Ealla.  
 Thou torturest me O eastern hill.  
 Thou wast fated so to do !

O Clárach thou art the hill  
 where fell the Fair One of Forbhar.  
 Till he fell on thee I loved thee,  
 O hill which now I reproach !

Diarmuid's son—what ruin !—  
 'twas foretold would come,  
 and be struck on thy cliff's edge.  
 Thou art the hill of fate !

The day when came from the south  
 the raid that crushed my joy,  
 havoc was wrought on thy slope,  
 and ruin to Cormac's sons !

In the rout he put on the attackers  
 on Clárach's slope at first,  
 those whom he took not were slain,  
 those he slew not were taken !

One of the raiders struck the son  
 of the King of Mis—woe to the striker !  
 The spear pierced him its blade's length,  
 after he had wrought sore slaughter !

By that sad wound of the dart  
 —none knows who aimed it—  
 the prince of Fál fell  
 only getting time for penance.

Never fell about thy glen,  
 O hill of Oíill's fair stock,  
 hero like him who then fell,  
 but only the prince Fathad Canann.

Having brought the hostages of the  
 world  
 to many-sainted Éire,  
 fair Fathadh Canann fell  
 on thy gentle slope yonder.

# THE IRISH MONTHLY

12. 'Do tuicreas me saois d'íml  
fatao asur férlimíró  
cugair o'Éiminn a énuic con  
'nar tuic féilim ir fatao.
13. férlimíró mac meic 'Domhnall  
fuair goin na suin anfonlainn  
ar an b'páiríó uair i le  
a Clárait' r a fuais poithe.
14. fatao Canann ceann an t'luais  
ar an uillinn uair fan-uair  
do tuic ar gcaitín a éleat  
a énuic le maicib Múimneac.
15. bean Oilill airo-flois muman  
coirge na b'páiríó móir-púdar  
pus fatao ní fear san b'páiríó  
leir ar éleat r an éaló.
16. táinig ir an gcraic do-éil  
i n-a a'garó an t-airo-ní  
do b'aoi b'páiríó san foiminn aih  
sur laoi ir Oilill cat Clárait.
17. caosa mac' flois na n'ois mall  
leat-crom é o'fatao Canann  
gér éalma neart-fatao fáil  
r na reat gcata 'na com-báil.
18. gá uá áit fuair fatao Canann  
bár ann o'Éir a móir-éarann  
ní do gér éluis a éaoinn  
ar mó fuil ar n-éagcaoinn.
19. do bí i noán i n-a uairó roin  
an uairó gleo ar g'ur Clárait  
an céat-cát n'ois éo gér éo  
ioná an gleo éactac eile.
20. fear choró nárait neir-mhin  
mac na flata férlimíró  
pácaim anpáiríó o'fáir ar loc  
bár i Carrait' i gClárait.
21. 'Dunpan leam a lof féilim  
na c'péiré cá ar rein-Éiminn  
milleat páir a énao-b'cail gcuir  
bár a paor-éilann 'ma fliabáir.
22. Re bár an énao Con Raoi  
ar Sléib m'ir mana uéar-éaoi  
bár an féil t'péac-nárait uimn  
ar Sléib fear-Clárait fámluim.
23. Ar Sléib fuair fuair a na-suin  
Cúscraíó Meann mac Conchobair  
do tuic ionfáiríó an f'ir  
ar fionn-a'garó énuic Clárait.

There fell near thy side  
Fathadh and Féidhlímidh.  
Sore fall didst thou give Eire  
where Féilim and Fathadh fell !

Féilim, son of Domhnall's son,  
was wounded—wound of ruin !—  
on this slope near me,  
his foe in flight before him !

Fathadh Canann, their leader,  
on thy north-eastern shoulder,  
when all his captains had fallen,  
was slain by Mumha's heroes.

Fathadh took off—sad nuptials !—  
the wife of Oilill, Mumha's King,  
eloping and running off,  
—exploit whence came ruin !

The king came to the hill  
to contend with him.  
The host was awaiting him, and  
with Oilill fought Clárait fight.

Fifty proud-eyed princes  
were the ruin of Fathadh Canann,  
though brave the force of that prince  
of Fáil and his seven battalions too !

So then did Fathadh Canann  
die after his mighty renown.  
Yet—though I must mourn him—  
not for him is my keenest sorrow !

Fated too in after-time was  
the second fight on Clárait plain.  
Hot the first fight, yet not hotter  
than the second great battle !

Féidhlímidh, son of the prince,  
hero of great generous heart—  
Ua Carthach's death on Clárait  
would rouse a lake to storm !

I mourn, now that Féilim is gone,  
the plight of ancient Eire.  
Blight on the growth of her hazels  
is the death of her nobles on her hills.

To the death of Cú Raoi  
on Sliabh Mis—cause of tears !—  
I liken the death on Clárait  
of the handsome dark noble !

On Sliabh Fuaid was wounded  
Cúscraíó Meann, Conchobhar's son.  
A hero like to him fell  
on Clárait's fair slope !

24. DIARMUID AN BEANN GULBAIN GHUIRT  
DO TUICIM NE PÉIRCE BPHÍOM-TUIPC  
COIMH-ÉINN IR GÉIR-PINN DÁ GOIN  
FÉILIM AN ÉNOIC-BEINN CLÁRACH.  
Diarmuid on Beann Gulbain Ghuirt  
was slain by the boar.  
Not less sore when the dart struck him  
was Féilim's wound on Clárach's  
height ! (?)
25. MUIRCHÉARTACH MÓR MAC EAPCA  
IR FÉIRLIMIRÉ FINN-EACHTGA  
PHÍOT A N-ÁRACH LEAT AN LEAT  
IM CLÁRACH IR IM CLÉITEACH.  
Muircheartach Mór, Eapo's son,  
and Féilim of bright Eachtga  
their deaths were brought about  
on Clárach and on Cleiteach.
26. NÍ DÍRBAINN DÁN D'ÁIRINN NÁ ÉÍ  
MARB AN SLÉIB ALPA AN F-ÁIRO-NÍ  
PHÍOT OIL-BÉIM NÉ PAMHARÉ ROIN  
AN COIRN-SLÉIB ÉAIL-GLAIN CLÁRACH.  
Eire's king, Dá Thl,  
lay dead on the Alps !  
A disaster to which this is like  
befell on smooth hazel-fair Clárach !
27. THÍ MEIC TUIREANN TAPAC NAR ÉAOIN  
TUITEASO IM ÉNOC MAC MÍODÉAOIN  
MÓ ÉAOINIM DO TUICIM TOIR  
AN MAOILINN ÉNUIC-FINN CLÁRACH.  
Tuireann's three sons—few but have  
wept  
them !—fell on Enoc mac Míodheaoín.  
Yet more sadly I mourn thy fall  
on the fair height of Clárach !
28. CHÉATO PÁ MBÉINN AN BHUAC É'IMIL  
A ÉNUIC ÉAIL N'ÉIR FÉIRLIMIRÉ  
RAN ÉNUC ÉAD-GLAR NÓ SUP ÉUIT  
NÍOR ÉEAGLAR PUT A NO-ÉNUIC.  
Why should I bide near thy slope,  
O hill, now Féilim is gone ?  
Till he fell on the green-browed hill  
I never quitted thee, good hill !
29. DO PHÍOT DRIAM DO DHUING TEAMHACH  
LUCT MARBÉTA MEIC TOIRNÉALBACH  
TUG FÁR AN OIRNÉADAB PÍOIS  
BÁR CONCOBHAR I SCAL-MHÓIN.  
The slayers of Toirdhealbhaich's son  
robbed Brian's race of Teamhair ;  
Ruin was heaped on the host  
by Conchobhar's death at Caolmhóin.
30. GO TOIRNÉADAR TIGEAPNA AN ÉNUIC  
ART O CAOIMH CNEAR MAR HÁN-ÉUIP  
PHÍOT AN-ALLAN BHUIT IR BA  
IC FARRAD A ÉNUIC ÉEATONA.  
Till the lord of the hill fell,  
Art O Caoimh, of foam-white skin,  
cloaks and kine were ever got  
near thee, O hill !
31. A CLÁRACH CEILEADHAR DOIT  
AS RÚO MÉ UAIT A ANO-ÉNUIC  
FEAR NAC FEACNANN COMHANN CLEAT  
GO DOIMHALL SCLEAT-ÉORR SCAR-  
BHÉAC.  
O Clárach, fare thee well !  
I leave thee now, fair hill,  
for round-bucklered Domhnall,  
of Cairbre, who faces clash of arms !
32. GÉ CAOÍ A ÉEÁ-GEIRN A ÉNUIC ÉIAR  
EADHAINN IR AN FIONN FOILT-FIAR  
GO HEÓGHAN ULEAGAIR DOIA  
LEOMAN DEALACH BÓROIMHE.  
Though thou, warm green (?) western  
hill,  
art between me and fair-tressed  
Eoghan, to him must I go,  
the lion of Bealach-Bóroimhe !
33. A ÉNUIC ÉIAR GÁ UTA BUADHACH  
IR CÚ AN UIMHA DEAG-ÚANAC  
PAMHAIL ÉROT SCILAC AN ÉAOIMHE  
AN ÉNOC ÓR IAC FORMHAOLE.  
O western hill where Buadhach is,  
hill famed in poem,  
like in fair shape to Crota Cliach  
is the hill over Formhaol's plain !
34. A ÉNUIC ÓR ÉIONN LOCA LÉIN  
GÁ BHUIL TADH NA UREAP N-ÁIGHÉIL  
GAR DOIT IR UOIS MO TOCTA  
A ÉNUIC MÓIR A MANGARTA.  
Thou hill above Loch Léin,  
where lives dread-battling Tadhg.  
soon, I hope, shall I visit thee  
O, Mangarta, mighty hill !

35. Sealb óilear Domhnall i Cáoim  
 cú a énuic uaine an féoir bhar-  
 élaom  
 mo éan tuit tré po-bairb naé  
 a énuic dán com-ainm Clárad.

36. a Sléib Luachra don leit éuaró  
 i maé Mór mhí an ban-fluag  
 iu goire ar dóig mo túla  
 tré mhóir moige muéromha.

37. fheasairéar linn líon ar flóig  
 uo flóigeasú so Sliab Si-óin  
 micéal oirn búr fear garma  
 reasú na moirín ní mío-éarba.

a énuic.

O green hill of soft-bending grass,  
 Domhnall O Caoimh's own land  
 hail to the glory won thee by a  
 great warrior, O Clárad!

O Sliabh Luachra in the North  
 whither has come Mór, queen of women,  
 soon I hope to be near thee  
 to see Mór of Magh Muchroimhe!

May we all rally in full number,  
 hosting to Sliabh Sion!  
 It behoves us to cherish the glory  
 of Michael who shall be our herald!

- 1 a. r. Allow, Co. Cork. b Oilioll Olum ancestor of Kings of Mumha. c The family of O Dálaigh to which Gofraidh belonged lived in Duhallow. 2d ná. 8 b Sliabh Mis nr. Tralee. 23 a. Fewa Mt. Co. Antrim. 24 a. Co. Sligo. c. + goirtrinn. (an leg. comcinn? Bergin.) 25 a. Keat. iii. p. 48. b. Aughty Mts. Co. Galw. d. Cleiteach on r. Boyne. 26 a. Keat. ii. p. 412. 27 a. Gael. Jour. ii. p. 41; Atlantis iv. 190. 29. of. Poem i. Introd. Teamhair, i.e. high-kingship. 32a. reasú. 33 c. Galtee Mts. d. nr. Slieve Feilim Co. Linn. (Onom).



# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. MCKENNA, S.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

## V.

[Ria C. i. 3 (1); 3 C. 10 (99); 23 L. 17 (137)]

Eulogy on Sadhbh, dau. of Domhnall Óg Mág Carthaigh (v. 5), and descendant of Earl of Ulster (v. 10). She is not mentioned in any of the *Annals* or *Genealogies*. Her father Domhnall (called D. Óg by F. Mast. and O'Clery), son of Cormac, was Lord of Desmond 1350-1391. Onóra (v. 7) (called "Siobhan," probably wrongly, by Laine, O'Harte and Lodge) was daughter of Muiris, 4th Earl of Kildare, who was son of Thomas the 2nd Earl by Siobhan, dau. of Riocard Ruadh 3rd Earl of Ulster. Her Northern origin explains reference to the Moy (v. 21); while Coinnle (gen. of Connail, now Old Connell, Co., Kildare) perhaps refers to her father's territory. Ais (v. 33) is unidentified, but may be either in Co. Louth or in Ulster (*vid.* Onom.). To judge from vv. 26, 27, Sadhbh seems to have married a Thomond prince. The place-names Gáille and Ruidhe with which she is associated (vv. 26, 31) occur as names of castles of Ó Ceallaigh in another poem by Gofraidh (edited by Miss E. Knott in *Eriu* v. 69) addressed to William Ó Ceallaigh of Uí Máine, and perhaps imply some relationship with the Ó Ceallaigh house. Gáille however may be the r. Galey, Co. Lim., while Ruidhe may be the district in Corca Modhruadh (Man. Cust. i. xxviii.) and may indicate some relationship with Ó Conchobhair of Corca Modhruadh. As the 3rd Earl of Ulster's daughter was married (according to Lodge) in 1312, Sadhbh, her great grand-daughter, could hardly have been married before 1376. The poem was probably therefore written after this date. For Buadhach Ó Súilíobháin (v. 41) and Tadhg Ó Donnchadha (v. 43) see Poem I. Introd.; for Art Ó Caoimh (v. 42) see Poem IV. Introd. For Eoghan son of Domhnall Óg (v. 40) see Poems I., IV. Introd.

1. Saor aílbe i n-ínigín Domhnall  
aínne 'mun mbinn-síl mbarr-  
tuinn  
ingean faor bealbhó Domhnall  
craob fonn-fuinn leanna lab-  
páim

2. Seall saorfe is oinís aílbe  
san mmaoi-re oirpí uróne  
ní dá méin tré méin saróbe  
aílbe i ar céill 'r ar cúinne.

3. Sáb ingean Domhnall Daoile  
fínn-bean a hoptáinn áno  
ceanncáo neamh dá ní ar buaino  
bean nuaróe 'r do ní náipe.

Domhnall's daughter hath the wisdom  
of Ailbhe,  
maidens guard the sweet dark  
girl (?)  
Domhnall's noble comely daughter,  
glory of the green land of the Leannhain,  
is my theme.

More wise and lavish than Ailbhe  
is this lady of the land of Uidhne  
Somewhat of Ailbhe's spirit is in her,  
a second Ailbhe in feeling and mind.

Sadhbh, daughter of Domhnall of the  
Daol,  
fair woman from Aine's plain—  
may she, fair lady who doth noble  
things,  
win Heaven—what blessing more  
lasting ?

4. An bean 'na mhaoi ar fearr m'ine  
 'oo bean geall 'oo gnaoi aibhe.  
 Gan éirí n'oir ar éiríobh Coinnele  
 coimhe 'oo éiríe faoi ar éiríe.
5. Inéan Domhnall óg a'g an  
 earr gac móro a'g a m'olao  
 oíolao a puain o'oir éiríe  
 mé sinsear g'oir puain coiríe.
6. Éiríom r'huag inéan Uídhne  
 méir n'ohain o'ingim a n-oishe  
 éiríom r'huag inéan Uídhne  
 puain éiríe o'oir inéan o'ingim.
7. Céim an-fóga ní hionnáró  
 earr éiríe anóga o'fagbail  
 bacair nile oíolao a'g a'fhuag  
 an-buain r'huag a'g a'fhuag.
8. Inéan méir Carthaigh Clíodhna  
 carthaigh fa méir a meannma  
 'oo r'ia 'oon toig bean Uídhna  
 nó carthaigh a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag.
9. Dáil a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag  
 dáil a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag  
 a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag  
 a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag.
10. Gnaoi n'ohain fa-nua r'oi-geal  
 a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag  
 'oo éiríe in éiríe a'g a'fhuag  
 carthaigh a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag.
11. R'us ó gac inéan buair m'bhonnca  
 puain gnaoi ní gnaoi ar n'ohain  
 'oo ní r'oi 'oo méir n'ohain  
 bhonnca a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag.
12. Re carthaigh a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag  
 'r a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag  
 r'oi ó éiríe a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag  
 éiríe a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag a'g a'fhuag.
13. Céim 'oo éiríe inéan éiríe  
 [oo éiríe] éiríe méir éiríe a'g a'fhuag  
 'oo éiríe inéan éiríe a'g a'fhuag  
 [a'g a'fhuag] éiríe méir éiríe a'g a'fhuag.
14. 'oo éiríe méir éiríe inéan éiríe  
 'oo éiríe méir éiríe inéan éiríe  
 éiríe méir éiríe inéan éiríe  
 gan éiríe méir éiríe inéan éiríe.

She, woman of fairest estate,  
 is more beloved than Alibhe.  
 That the flower of Coinneall cleaves  
 not to wealth  
 is ever the glory of her noble face.

Domhnall óg's daughter is found  
 praised beyond anger's reach.  
 May Cuan Coradh's swan and her folk  
 requite her eulogy made in poet's  
 fashion.

May Inbhear Uidhne's folk hear  
 my poem to their lord's daughter.  
 May those of Western Aidhne hear  
 my poem to Sadhbh, as 'tis asked of me.

Visit of evil has ne'er been known  
 to befall the stock of Onóra.  
 A warrior band wards off harm  
 and all trouble from Gabhrán's queen.

Mág Carthaigh of Clíodhna's daughter  
 is loved for her high spirit.  
 The lady of Banbha shall go to the  
 House (Teamhair)  
 or Teamhair shall come to the West !

The bestowal of her store—long since  
 I deserved it (?)—  
 and of her steeds is the maid's  
 glory !  
 For their bestowal on the craft I ply  
 I must honour the fair ruddy maid !

Fair face bright and fresh hath the  
 grand-daughter of the Earl of Uídhne.  
 She can invite Mumha's maids (to  
 compete in beauty).  
 Let her challenge them !

More lavish than all women,  
 she hath won love to be relied on.  
 She maintains poets as of old.  
 May generosity be practised by Dor's  
 host !

With the bounty she gives them  
 and the pleasure got by her  
 Saingeal's bright queen is wearied  
 visiting all the (poets') lodgings !

A drovo ever in antler-chains (?)  
 has Sadhbh's hand fair as apple-bloom  
 wrought on the edge of her graceful  
 mantle (?) ;  
 the herd hath room on the border. (?)

Thy bright fair face is spoken of,  
 thy fame is known in Alba.  
 Cairbre's folk will not raid thee,  
 though dire were ever their raidings !

15. Mac Dé ní dóig doo éirígean  
is é ar glóir do glac nois-geal  
is dóig dá mbé oir éirgean  
éiread boct nDó doo éirgean.
16. Fial an bhoimead méirí mío-ban  
nac léirí carí c'óimead éan-ai  
ná nuaimear a5 uáin is o'aoiríad  
baogal lib uáin a déanam.
17. Re linn mná bpoisá bóinne  
ní éora lá aet lá gnéine  
mairean peoirí fa ma5 mágíse  
eoin áille a5 carí ló éile.
18. Sa maig mán aibnig eálaris  
'na tír glain ainglis ioráin  
pneab caol 'r a cuan 'na éoraíad  
ó bonnais éraob n-uair n-iobair.
19. Spuc go mán ear a5 cupnairí  
reap i rín put i bpoimairí  
epoú fan mbra5 iars i n-íobairí  
uáin a5 in5ear piars go-5lan.
20. Mionn rúl áille gac ubailí  
ó úin mágíse go manainn  
a-nuair vo p'is le roinninn  
enuair maí foiminn óirí o'ábailí.
21. Opuim me pioú po5naró úin-ne  
moú cuill i 5copnais uaine  
caítear an lá gac gnéine  
pé éile 'r flead mná muiaróe.
22. Tír ban fluaig-ro a peilb Saóba  
fuar-ro veilb 'na veilb óionga  
luet ar leirí fa buaró noealba  
ineannig an epluaig ar éleirí  
Cliaóna.
23. Eala Cuan lué-buig luimnig  
no éuarí foénuis dá hanmain  
puat úi ní bía aet gá buóúbaró  
ionnuin le Dia i amlaró.
24. Mo éan doo moill úir ioráin  
nar éuirí doiríadé doiríí Ueamain  
a epoú gé vo éí a5 buóim  
5uoiró rí a nool san uéabairó.
25. Ráirte úinmí o'fuirglib aobóa  
pír an fuilb n-úir n-ó5da  
ní fuile aet aóbar mío5na  
c'íopna fána-5lan fuile óirí.
26. Mataró bean i mbia c'úine  
ní lía fear mair fear náine  
ní bía éarí me clú a éile  
tú 'r do éile a géas Gáille.

No fear that Christ abandon thee,  
such is the fame of thy bright-palmed  
hands !

If stress be on thee the raiment  
gívon God's poor shall guard thee !  
Generous this gentle queen of queens !  
No coast can be seen on the further  
side of thy hospitality !

If thou wert satirised by poets  
thy fear would be for them !

While lives Brugh Boinne's queen  
none but sunny day shall dawn,  
frosty morn on Máigh's plain,  
fair birds singing in rivalry !

In the well watered, swan-haunted  
plain,  
fair angel-blessed holy land,  
each stream is narrow, its water smooth  
as weir,  
from the growth of cool yew branches.

Water gliding, cascade tumbling,  
heat in summer, fruit in autumn,  
Stock in castle (?) fish in river,  
ox browsing on fair moor !

A charm for eyes is the beauty of  
every apple  
from Dún Máighe to Manann ;  
In weather ever-fair falls the fruit  
as a golden host (ripe) from the tree !

Sheltered by wood we are refreshed  
with hazel-mead in green goblets.  
Thus is enjoyed each sunny day  
and the feast of the Queen of Muaidhe.

Your folk's land neath Sadhbh  
has won a glory, a wondrous glory,  
a race apart in supreme beauty ;  
hearts are set on the lady of Cliaóna(?)

The swan of Cuan Luimnigh  
has earned reward for her soul.  
So is she dear to God,  
none shall hate her but His foe !

Hail to the stately pure lady who  
sought no strife but with the Devil !  
Though she see her stock in raiders'  
hands,  
she prays they go unmolested.

I must tell—a pleasant tale—  
of this maidenly bright girl,  
that none but a princess tines  
thy golden waving tresses !

Few the women of thy beauty,  
few the man like him of Aine.  
Ye shall not be jealous of each other  
thou and thy spouse, O pride of Gáille !

27. Súil Banbha fa bean o'Éibhear  
 nect fear a fadna nílón-tuob  
 an teac i mbí 'r bann Saordeal  
 dá maordeal ann ní 'r fíogán.
28. Fuair an fíogán-rin mo-blaó  
 do fíor-ardríg uail veas-ban  
 ní céas nó dá céas fionn-ban  
 ní hiongnadó ói méas meanman.
29. Saot dait an nohuim na foime  
 plaic i gcuirn Sada cairbe  
 luic loingre ó Lior na Beirbhe  
 o'fior veilde foillre Sarobe.
30. Óá súil éuirn-re do cumadó  
 a coimre do cláir mall-oyb  
 im nois mall Saóba as pilleadó  
 pilleadó mong n-adra 'r an-oyb.
31. Gnúir néro geal i n-a goime  
 dá nap bean déim ná bime  
 adra mná moige Ruide  
 oibhe cá i ngoime gile.
32. Uaile cláir ar lór liobha  
 súil móir uaine fan adra  
 olúit-mong coair na dá colba  
 coibhe veair súl-coir Saóba.
33. San loic cuma an chaoib n-aire  
 truma a-taoib truma a cheir-re  
 cuir mar rom buó o'lor oire  
 'na cuir-re foil olol veire.
34. Treaba 'r lór daingne 'r olúite  
 fáir Saoró-ne as plós na cuice  
 sac treab dá treabaib bláite  
 máite geal foardnaig fíto.
35. Sappadó glan ós-ban uimpo  
 tréir an mas bróo-glán binn-co  
 as uil don mo-maig ieimpe  
 oilithe as cur oimán mnto.
36. Ingean méig Captaig doirn-gil  
 can nac bannéair an bioóbaró  
 mar do beac le géir n-Saóraig  
 cabrair neac o'ér a hionnlaig.
37. Olúit ní andir óige  
 o'fagail óir ip i ar éaróe  
 ip lía náio na laoi faoime  
 aoina pe Dia as mnaoi mlaig.
38. I oteac nDá do nia an fíogán  
 Dia lá i leac nír an faoial  
 don mnaoi ip san éleir nglam  
 ngádo  
 crádo nait do baim baogal

The hope of Banbha, Eibhear's wife,  
 is in thy spouse, dark-browed lady !  
 King and queen are held to reign where  
 thou and the Gaoidhil's prince abide.

This queen hath won great glory,  
 and exalted the glory of good women ;  
 With her two or three hundred ladies,  
 no wonder she is high of spirit !

Speedy wind behind the vessels,  
 a prince in each bark's prow,  
 comes the fleet from Lios na Beirbhe  
 to see Sadhbh's radiant form.

For her round eye there is shaped  
 a dark stately lash to suit it.  
 Round Sadhbh's proud glancing eye  
 is the arc of thick dark lashes.

Against her smooth white face,  
 untouched by blame or blemish,  
 the eye-lash of Magh Ruide's queen  
 is darkness beside whiteness !

Her large emerald eye neath her brow,  
 a enclosure of most delicate down,  
 thick hair even on either side ;  
 and the door of the socket is Sadhbh's  
 round eye.-(K.)

There is no blemish on the glory of Aise.  
 For the roundness of her waist and body  
 girdle like it she must have,  
 a girdle of beauty worthy of her (!) !

Houses strong and fast hath  
 our Sadhbh's folk neath her care ;  
 each of her fair houses,  
 a bright texture of woven wicker.

A fair band of girls surround her  
 as she walks the bright warm land,  
 going before her on the broad plain  
 when she does affright her.

Daughter of bright-horned Mág Car-  
 thaigh  
 than whom none better checks foe,  
 every man helps her if she be attacked  
 as if he were spouse of Gaphar's swan !  
 Virgin's honour she deserves  
 for she is most chaste,  
 More numerous than the feasts are  
 the fasts Málgh's queen keeps for God !

To Heaven this queen shall go  
 God guarding her against the world.  
 Even had she no noble defender,  
 pious alms hath averted fear from her.

39. inísean Domhnall Dúin Luimnigh  
as foíslum 'San úir inn-ghil  
cian ó Daoir airté amháid  
cábhaid Daoir ailté an iníon.  
Daoir.
40. Daoir Domhnall Óis a ádair  
i n'ógan an áirín éann-ghair  
blát ir mil pé 'r mair-éar  
níor b'é rin flaitéar fearrghair.
41. Daoir Dunlang as óion Buadhais  
cáid vo íol [Dunmairi Daoir]  
fearrghair cuaine úir éidh  
fóimh uaine an éil éiríghair.
42. Airt Ó Caoimh vo éar ban-vál  
[ó airt a óam 'r a óanais]  
[rí leat tuair] 'na éas níod-  
fuar  
viombuan [fear i n-uair donais]  
43. Cóiir Ó Donnghada a-véarimair  
vo éiméaga im vóinn mbráon-  
ghair  
Éas Sionna ór gac nuí maoróim  
gíolla a vruí airté donghair.
44. Ar fearr n'ó éinead meir  
míchéal aingeal vo-n éava  
rinn von aingeal 'gar n-aithe  
vainean linn v'aithe éaga.  
Daoir.

The daughter of Domhnall of Luim-  
neach  
is instructed by the fair maid, (Ailbhe).  
Thus is her heart free of foolishness,  
Ailbhe's wisdom directing her.

The wisdom of Domhnall Og, his father,  
hath Eoghan of the steel-tipped spear.  
Flowers and honey and warmth in his  
day—

Not such was e'en Fergus' reign !  
Dunlang's wisdom guards Buadhach.  
The prince of Eibhear's fresh host  
the ringleted hero of Uaine,  
surpasses all of Domhnall's (?) seed.

Art O Caoimh whom women loved  
—owing to the gaiety of his warriors  
and folk (?)

'tis worth feasting in his cool-ale hall (?)  
small then thy care for assembly time (?)

Rightly we judge Ó Donnghada  
competitor for blue-waved Bóinn !  
Let us proclaim him over all slaves (!B)  
as Tadhg Sionna,  
hero of Aonghus' fair fort !

May Archangel Michael keep me,  
and save me from God's wrath !  
That we be known to that angel  
is our defence after death !

- 1 a. dau. of Cormac mac Airt, the wisest woman of her day (MSS. Mat. 283).  
b. r. Laune, Co. Kerry. 2 b. ? prphs = Oíone in uí Conaill, Co. Lim. ?  
d. + curóne. 3 a. r. Deale, Co. Lim. b. round Knockainey, Co. Lim.  
c. + n. a ní. 5 a. + óis aóair. b. + molaró. d. + corair. Kincora  
nr. Killaloe. 6 ac. + éiríghair. c. Aidhne = dioc. Kilmaedugh. 7 c.  
+ bacaró. d. Ossory always claimed by Munster. 8 a. Glandore,  
Co. Cork. 9 c. ? MSS. muna é, + cumann. 10 c. + éiríghair. 11 d. Glan-  
dore, Co. Cork. 12 a. arair, uirínn. arair may be a variant of arair (?)  
d. Singland nr. Limerick. 13 only in C. i. 3 seems reference to needlework  
(K.). b. laró. d. ar air. For fearóla cf. "Sedlaing." Acall. vocab. (K).  
14 a. + páirib, ró v. b. + áirín. c. + o. man a. d. i.e., Mág Carth-  
aigh Riabhach, Lord of Cairbre. 15 b. g. a g. 16 b. cf. ar a b'v vo brác  
vó mbeno' ní háit ar a clú aóiréno. "If I stayed on its bank till down  
I should not perceive a ford across his reputation." (Eriu iv. 223) K.  
17 a. i.e. queen of Eire. c. r. Maigue, Co. Lim. d. mating (?) K.  
18 b. + an rí. c. + corair. 19 only in C. i. 3. a. cóirneam. b. "warmth  
in wild weather (spring), offspring (lambs, &c.) in A (?) K). 20 b. =  
Dún Eochair Máighe (Bruree). Manann nr. Fermoy (Onom) ? 21 d. r.  
Moy in Conn. 22 a. + ar ríib. c. + ar b'v, + buain. 25 b. ? K. MSS.  
p. n-óis. 26 c. níghairéno, ní b'v névo. d. r. Galey, Co. Lim. (?).  
29 c. + beiré. Bergen in Norway (?). 30 a. + na r, + gairíre. c. +  
gairí S. ríleav. 31 beside it (her eye) her smooth face &c. (?) B.) b. +  
r'v éine. 33 only in c. i. 3, cf. Ir. Gr. T. p. 45, l. 170. d. v'ol veiré  
"enough for two" (?) B.) a. Aise (or Aise) is unidentified. 34 d. An leg.  
fearóla (?) K). 36 b. + barrghairéar. c. gairaró. Uí Conaill Gabhra, Co.  
Lim. 37 c. + ní lia. 38 only in C. i. 3. b. le leir. c. vo m'v. d. vo bí  
amb'éat. uain, a doubtful form (B.) An legéat : bein. 40-44 only  
in C. i. 3. d. flaitéar. cf. Eriu VIII. pp. 134-5. 41 a. Dunlang as óin.  
b. íol, vónnuig vóairí. Dunlang and Domhnall were ancestors of Ó  
Súilleabháin. 42 b, (?) aóiróamíra vóno. c. ? f'vlecepe. d. ? gíollan-  
uairígh.

# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. MCKENNA, S.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

## VI.

[RIA 23 D 4 (241); A iv. 3 (660)].

To Domhnall, "Domhnall Óg" (vv. 13, 43), "son of Cormac" (v. 4); "grand-son of Domhnall" (v. 66); "son of Mór from Múr Cruachan" (v. 61); "son of the princess from Ráth Cuinn" (v. 66), connected with the North (vv. 2, 18, 63). He was Domhnall Óg Mág Carthaigh (d. 1391) Lord of Desmond, son of Cormac. For the appellation "Óg" cf. Poem V. *Introd.* His mother Mór, a lady from the North, cannot be identified. O'Harte, Lainé and Lodge mention only one wife of Cormac, namely Onoria Fitzmaurice, dau. of the 6th Lord of Kerry. Mór was probably therefore a second wife of Cormac. Lodge makes a double mistake when he says that this "Onoria married a Domhnall McCarthy and by her was mother of Domhnall and Diarmuid of Musgry." The father of these two princes was not Domhnall but Cormac.

Aibhlinn, dau. of Seán (vv. 67, 68) cannot be identified. An Eveleen dau. of John (d. 1348) 5th Lord of Kerry, may be the person referred to. The "other Domhnall Mág Carthaigh of Clár Gaillmhe" (v. 69) is most probably the Domhnall Cairbreach of Poem IV. v. 31, mentioned there (as here) together with Buadhach Ó Súilleabháin and Tadhg Ó Donnchadha. He was Domhnall Glas Mág Carthaigh Riabhach, Lord of Cairbre, who, according to Lodge, married Siobhán a half-sister of the Onóra who was (*vid. supra*) second wife of Cormac Mág Carthaigh Mór, Lord of Desmond. Why he is styled "of Clár Gaillmhe" is not known.

For Ó Súilleabháin Mór (v. 70), Tadhg Ó Donnchadha (v. 71) cf. Poem I. *Introd.* For Domhnall Ó Caoimh (v. 72) cf. Poem IV. *Introd.*

As Domhnall Glas succeeded to the Lordship of Cairbre in 1366 this poem was probably written after that date.

1. Beir eolair dúinn a d'áinnoill  
péiribgear fad go-úogroing  
ir ceirí oruinn eol d'ánda  
feol romuinn a ríog-dáinna.
2. Ná beir rian ná feol bu úear  
an ríog ríomra an t-áit gluar-  
feor  
a co-maighe eapa Ruair  
meapa an feolair-ne [roir-éuair]
3. Beol inn an an n-áfarí roir  
a d'áinnoill meic méig Captaig  
go faighe na binn goonn-bliat Cuirc  
fuir an n-áinnoill n-áin n-áin-  
áin.
4. A meic Cormaic an éinir gíl  
beir eol d'áinnoill Captaig  
ir an t-áin n-áin fútaib  
rín roir ir an fean-bútaig.

Be our guide, O Domhnall,  
thou who soothe all affliction.  
We long for guidance through Banba  
March before us, O prince!

Lead not to West or South  
this great host setting forth.  
Better lead us North-East,  
thou salmon of Eas Ruaidh!

Lead us forward to the East,  
O Domhnall son of Mág Carthaigh,  
to Corc's bright-horned castle-lawn,  
the bright famous blue fort.

O Son of Cormac, fresh of hue,  
lead the Eoghanacht of Caisel  
to that land not neath them now;  
stretch forth to thy old-country!

5. *Cige Sall ip ghloraó úoru*  
*ar látaip puola páuipais*  
*ionnraíis fluaíis hioóbaó mun*  
*mhuíis*  
*oo ciomnaó uam uon éaplain*
- A challenge to thee are the foreigners'  
 houses  
 on the place of Pádraig's tent.  
 Fight thy foes' hosts for the castle  
 bequeathed by us to that saint.
6. *Ip tú oísiu Cuirc Cailil*  
*lén cúsbaó an teagódaip-rin*  
*a oísiu oo tuót ip teag*  
*nlór úeimne Corc i gCailreal.*
- Thou art heir to Core of Caiseal  
 by whom that castle was built  
 The entering of its lord therein  
 —not by securer right stood Core  
 there!
7. *Cnéau nac leanfaíteá loys Cuirc*  
*leais ón uúéar oo'óiohaíre*  
*oo rogaó Corc an ceann-póire*  
*póire ói canaó Cailreal-Corc*
- Why would'st thou not follow Core?  
 Thy land mourns thy exile.  
 Core held that fortress  
 whence he was called Caiseal-Chore.
8. *Agaib fa úeoró a Domhnall*  
*biar Cailreal cleat anfuilaimn*  
*oo bpeasnaíó ní huairi o'fior*  
*uaib oo céao-gabaó Cailreal*
- Thine at length, O Domhnall,  
 shall Caiseal be, a fence against oppres-  
 sion!  
 No man can gainsay thee  
 —by thy folk 'twas first held.
9. *A-tá i utarngáire na naoim*  
*a Domhnall na nveair monsg-raor*  
*gomao éoiri bór bair mbunao*  
*a-nuir ar cór éangobair.*
- O Domhnall of the noble-browed eyes,  
 the saints' prophecies state  
 that in the East shall be thy home.  
 From the East came ye at first.
10. *Fuair rinn i Saltair Cailil*  
*go tóiofa'ran tuair-rin*  
*o' féacaim fionn-puirc fuairic oo*  
*fean*  
*ionn-Cuirc oo éuairic go Cailreal*
- I read in the Saltair of Caiseal  
 that thou would'st make that journey  
 to visit thy sires' joyous fort.  
 Like Corc's shall be thy march!
11. *Cailreal Cuirc móir mirc Luigébaó*  
*rángabair toisg meair-cuimneac*  
*ón píat gíl hil-ióuam buis*  
*uair ibiobair oisg noearmaro.*
- That smooth fair-treed fort,  
 Caiseal of Core son of Lughaidh,  
 thoughtlessly you left; and drank  
 a draught that made you forget it!
12. *Uo éiréis t'óiraeat oíra rin*  
*fuata tá i uiméall Cailil*  
*gnáu o'fíaró-gleannraib nlór ólor*  
*óáib*  
*fion ar iairleannraib o'féagbail.*
- For these lands thy folk left  
 the hills around Caiseal.  
 Twas wrong to preter wild glens,  
 to exchange wine for small ale!
13. *A Domhnall óis a uéé bog*  
*uá éuir aéríóste agau*  
*feairi put na calman tóiréir*  
*'i ip gué aóraó o'fuair-fléibéib.*
- O generous-hearted Domhnall Óg,  
 thou hast two causes for change:  
 Better the fruits of the land you aban-  
 doned,  
 and 'tis shame to cleave to chill rocks!
14. *Fuinn éaoíra Cailil na píuig*  
*ní éploéa tán cóir uimbríog*  
*na feacat tuata uéas oo uol*  
*ar féao uata oo b' iongnat.*
- Strange to ever depart from  
 those seventeen tuaths,  
 the fair fields of royal Caiseal,  
 lands not to be despised!
15. *Seul ip in pligró ééauna*  
*rinn a bairi-éair uair-géagú*  
*móir an éhuo a feachna rain*  
*lór fao ar noeabta ói noútaíis*
- Lead us back the same road,  
 O curly-haired strong-armed hero.  
 Too long our absence from our country,  
 Great our misery to miss it!

16. Aigillea dhíe a Domhnall  
o'fóiréin an n-anfórlainn  
an cúir-rin go gcúirne i mbóis  
do cúirís uile ir c'uir-rís.
17. Do dóiréigí na caoiréac o'nom  
ir é lion leannar Domhnall  
a reáct o'as do díon Mumhan  
go lion gcéad gac cóiréac
18. Caoréa ir réiréigé neampa  
ná ar glúiré a gnúir náoi-  
óeannéa  
meap-éiré do búar d'an mbuigé  
a gleann-éiré fúar iar-Mumhan.
19. Ní fúil ar ro go Sliabh gCrot  
Dia [oá] réiréigéac nómac  
a'c muir an n-éiré anéar  
a cúir éirne o'allmúiréac.
20. Imirce maoiré car muir  
gá cabairé na tír oúéig  
o'ar éiré an mhoiré Ruad pompa  
ré fúéac roin ba páiréac.
21. Oiréacé maoiré méic Aihéa  
i n-éiréir a n-éiré  
ba cian a fúac Banba i mbóiré  
mac Aihéa nó gúir fúar-rís.
22. Clann Irahél ne head g'cian  
i g'cúir éiréir an ain-rían.  
go coann a mbóiré 'r a mbóiré  
póir g'arir oúé a n'póiréiré
23. D'an cabairé le maoiré móir  
do éiréiréac o'é an o'as-fúé  
páé ar mó ní fúar oiréacé  
a mbuair o'ó ná n'póiréiréacé
24. Méic Irahél o'fúiréacé do  
maoiré éiré i o'is lora  
éiré buair a n'póiréiré o'is  
póiréiré fúar óir Aihé-rís.
25. Sluag na héiréiré mun ain  
ní oiré éiré ain f'arann  
ní nar leán oon éiréiréacé cóir  
ní léigéac réad i réannóiré.
26. F'arann móir méiré a rééala  
nóir léis go Dia a réiréiré  
u'iréiréacé náéir éiré o'ó  
do cúir o'p'iréiréacé oiré.
27. Maoiré do dhíé na léiréiré  
rúg o'fúéiréacé na héiréiré  
ar an na-muir réiréiré Ruad  
éiré a o'loréa réé-fúiréiré.

To relieve our affliction,  
O Domhnall thou must summon  
all thy captains and princes.  
Be this exploit dear to thee !

Of thy battalions of stout captains  
the number that will follow Domhnall  
is seventeen, fighting for Mumha,  
a hundred in each battalion.

Ere thou goest, O fair-faced hero,  
must be prepared  
thy hospitallers' horses and kine  
from Iar-Mumha's cool vale.

From here to Sliabh gCrot  
'tis all a sea storm-swollen  
of foreigners, O prince of the Eirne.  
May God quell it before thee !

Moses' passage through the waters,  
as he brought home his host,  
when the Red Sea ebbed before them,  
—with his host were comparison fit !

The folk of Moses, Amram's son  
O prince of Banbha, were long  
in duress far from their home  
till he delivered them !

For a weary length was Israel's race  
in duress in Egypt.  
Till the end of their woe and captivity  
long drawn out was their misery.

Through God's power that goodly host  
was saved by Moses,  
Than their deliverance from exile  
no folk ever got greater blessing !

For saving Israel's race  
Moses is now in Jesus' home.  
For freeing them from slavery  
he has won from God his own freedom.

At that time over Egypt  
ruled a king, Pharaoh,  
who followed not the true faith,  
or set store by its doctrine.

Great Pharaoh—the worse for him !—  
let not God's folk adore Him,  
but imposed as law on them  
an unlawful adoration of himself (?)

Owing to this burden  
Moses made his good host speed  
towards the Red Sea  
so as to leave Egypt.



28. *O'fóiríúin pobuil Dé ói  
rlac buadú do bí ag Maoire  
maic an buaidú do bí ar an trlac  
na fluaig is í do anaic.*  
Moses had a wondrous staff  
for the saving of God's folk.  
Great the virtue in that rod !  
It saved the people.
29. *An mhuir fhuob-uaine fíotac  
do t'ráig mar mág mion-fíotac  
mar fhuar ó glaic bairr-sil béim  
do flait ainglis an fíréin.*  
When struck by the bright rod  
in the holy man's white hand,  
the green-flowing sea  
became dry as fair-flowered meed.
30. *O'fóiríúin muinníre Maoire  
do chadair céim no-buair  
a-flóig is fíorann féme  
fa-cóirann móir mí-céille.*  
To constrain Moses' folk,  
Pharaoh's host; and he himself,  
marched—a foolish march !  
with great wild clamour.
31. *O 'dóinncaoir an móir fíot  
tré iondóir an aingis  
fíotann mar Maoire fan mhuir  
do buó tréall buairre-is buógaill.*  
When they saw the smooth path  
through the depths of the water  
they follow Moses  
—mad daring exploit !
32. *Do t'ráig an mhuir buadú noi-mear  
don eirídeata eirídeata  
don lúct nar tuill níor t'ráig fíot  
do báir an t'ruing na deágaró*  
The rushing Red Sea had ebbed  
for the band of the faithful.  
It ebbed not for the wicked  
but drowned that host !
33. *Mar do buail Maoire an mhuir  
buadú  
don t'rlac lé rug fíot no-buadú  
fíotann a 'dóinncaill na fluaig  
fíot  
buail do fíorann-lann ar fíallais*  
As Moses struck the Red Sea  
with the rod that gave him victory,  
lead, O Domhnall, thy host eastwards,  
strike the Goill with thy blue lance !
34. *Neart fíot a méir mág Carraig  
ní hínleigto ar eógancaill  
rug Maoire a méir na mhuir  
a-cóirre ag aicme eógan.*  
O son of Mág Carthaigh, the Goill  
must no longer oppress Eoghan's race.  
Moses led his folk through the sea ;  
Eoghan's stock hath thee !
35. *Clann eógan [ar nar lúct céim]  
cinead mar éloinn nírraíhíil  
do fíot-re a bhoir ag a-mhoing  
mar Maoire doir a 'dóinncaill*  
Eoghan's children unconquered,  
a race like that of Israel—  
thy wisdom delivering them,  
thou art as Moses, O Domhnall !
36. *Ná fíulngíó [féadair] neamhaib  
ní ar fáir na 'fíulngíeabair  
muma ag t'ruing na cear uíle  
'p bair fíot a n-eirí iargcúla.*  
Suffer not—look before thee (K)—  
any longer than thou hast suffered,  
Mumha to be under foreign folk  
and thyself in remote fastness !
37. *Maó fíot-re a-noir do ní an poinn  
eirídeata buadú a 'dóinncaill  
an muma fan a poinn fíot  
fíot na bair fíot a fíotann.*  
Remember, O Domhnall,  
if thou now makest a division  
that Mumha was not (fairly) shared  
with thee,  
as the Goill were oppressing you (K)
38. *Oo glé a 'dóinncaill is Danair  
ní bí a 'eagla allmairí  
neac a ní fíot-(eiríne) fíot  
ar ní imeirce a n-iargcúil.*  
After thy fight with the foreigner,  
O prince of the fair Eithne, no man  
of thy folk shall, in fear of foreigner,  
think of fleeing to remote recess.

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## VI.—(Continued).

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 39. Cuirfe ne calaó nDairbhre<br>ir ne cuan mbóirne mbeann-ghairbe<br>'r ne Corca Duibhne do úrúim<br>'r ne porca Uídhne áluinn.         | On the shore of Dairbhre,<br>the bay of rough peaked Béirre,<br>Corca Duibhne, and the ports of Uidhne<br>shalt thou turn thy back.                            |
| 40. Tréigfe ar Caiseal na gcorra-þort<br>loctar Cua do éalo-longþort<br>cuan ar an neam-fozlaó neac<br>'na mbual leabhar-loé Luighdeac.  | For round-forted Caiseal,<br>and northern Cua thy old stronghold,<br>thou shalt leave the shore, safe for all,<br>on which Loch Luighdheach beats.             |
| 41. Sió san loé-rain na leary nslan<br>ruaó éú asur do rósbaó<br>raua ó bruaó laó Luighdeac<br>raó ir ní ú'ruat lar-Mhumhaó              | Though by that fair-shored lake<br>thou wert born and reared,<br>far shalt thou fare from it, but not<br>in dislike of lar-Mhumha's folk !                     |
| 42. Do gabáil muínan móine<br>raóraos érom tioneóle<br>rís doó éairm a éuir Luimnís<br>na bu é-aimm uuib 'Deap-Mhumnís                   | A mighty host thou gatherest<br>to win great Mumha—<br>thy glory shall cause you to be<br>no longer called men of South Mumha !                                |
| 43. 'Deap-Mhumha 'gá uóéarís féin<br>léigte a 'Domhnall óis airm-éir<br>'r ir tréigte ar iádaib ar féarir<br>rléibte iádair na héireann. | O gallant Domhnall Óg, leave<br>South Mumha to its own folk.<br>For fairer lands thou must leave<br>the hills in the West of Eire.                             |
| 44. 'Dheam danab ual do bunab<br>uá éoganaó lar-Mhumhan<br>léis uóib rean-uóéarís a rean<br>neam-mácaró glóir na nGaoideal.              | The two Eoghanachts of West Mumha,<br>to whom it belongs originally<br>leave them their sires' land.<br>Quench not the glory of the Gaoidhil.                  |
| 45. Maó Comcinn Corca Duibhne<br>gá uóéarís féin rásbaim-ne<br>mó ar uómeóla a ráim-ríge rm<br>toléa cláir-mhe Cairil.                   | Let us leave to their own folk<br>Magh Coincinn and Corca Duibhne.<br>Greater the expanse of that peaceful<br>realm,<br>the hills round smooth-topped Caiseal. |
| 46. Léis u'iaréar innre Danba<br>uá gac fíor a ácaróa<br>rín go corra-maóilinn gCairil<br>ngorrm-aóibinn mán mall-gláirís                | Of the West of Banbha leave<br>to each lord his ancestral domain.<br>Extend thy sway to Caiseal,<br>fair gentle well-watered hill.                             |
| 47. Veir a 'Domhnall 'Dám Inbhir<br>c'oiréact go n-a n-íomrísib<br>ran uódam-leirís bréaóais brínn<br>n-ealaís n-íobair-uéirís n-aóibinn | Lead O Domhnall of Dún Inbhir<br>thy chiefs and their departing folk<br>into that fair festive plain<br>yew-clad, swan-haunted, lovely !                       |

48. Ɔar ʒcuiʀn bláíðe iʀ ɔar mʀian-  
naíð  
[cuimníʒíor] ʀo céad-arráíð  
ní ba roét ʀáíð i ʀoúin Cuíʀe  
ʀa níʀ mair éáíʀ a ʀaɔaíʀe

49. Ɔar Ɔaríðeáíʒ Ɔar cuan mʀeíðe  
cuíʀ aʒaíʀ na himeíʀe  
Ɔar cuan leamhna Ɔar loé Léin  
a ʀʒoé Ɔamhna ɔar n-eíð-ʀeíʀ

50. Sead Ɔiarraíðe ʀon ʀaíð Ɔear  
ʀíé ííáʒ ʒCoínínn na ʒʀaíð-leaʀ  
ʀar ʀuan-luaɔaíʀ ʀíl Ɔeaúaíʀ  
mín ngeal-ɔʀuaɔaíʒ ngoíʀm-ʀea-  
ɔaíʒ.

51. i ʒceann ó ʒConaíll ʒabʀa  
ʀoʀ cóíʀíʒíð Ɔaɔaíʀa  
Ɔar Ɔlaon-ʒlaíʀ ʀaíð na ʀeaʒaíʀ  
Ɔar ʀaíð mʀaon-ʒlaíʀ mʀám-  
ealaíʒ.

52. ʀo ʀúnn aʀo eoɔaíʀ Máíʒe  
ʀímlínn mʀuánn mʀon-áíll  
ʀuaʒ ʀíobáil naʀ éáíʀ ʀo éíle  
ʀo ííáíʒ an íobáíʀ oíʀoíʀe

53. ʀo loé ʒoíʀ ʒar ʀo éaɔaíʀ  
ʀo ʒíð áluínn eoʒaɔaíʀ  
ʀíne an níʀíʀ éíʀm-leaʀaíʒ éáíʀ  
ʀúínn ʒan ímpeaʀain eoíʀaíʀ.

54. Láíʀ ʀoaʀ ʀo hímleaɔ íobáíʀ  
láíʀ éíé ʀe Ɔlaíʒ ɔʀóʀo-íobáíʀ  
ʀo ʀean-ɔʀuic Ɔlaíé ʀoaɔa Ɔam  
aʒʀ ʀíáé ʒeal-ɔʀuic ʒʀaʀann.

55. Seoé maɔaíʀe ɔʀíonn ɔʀeíʀínn  
ʀon laóʀaíʀ naé líʀʒíʀíʀ  
i ʒceann beoíʀ ʀeoʒa Ɔaíʀíʀ  
ʀeoʒa an eoíʀ an ʀ-eoíʀaíʀ-ʀíʀ

56. ʀáíé Ɔaíʀíʀ a éʀaóð Ɔalla  
ɔʀó i ceann ɔáʀ ʒCoíníleangʒa  
ɔʀó luéʀ meannman aíʀeo íð  
i ngeal-ɔʀuʒ éaíʀeo Ɔaíʀíʀ.

57. aʒ Ɔaíʀaíʒ Ɔaíʀíʀ na ʀíeoʒ  
cuíʀeo Ɔar aíʀ a n-ímʀíʀíʀ  
na ʀoaéʀ ʀeuaáa ʀoaʒ-ʀoíʀ ʀí  
uaáa aʒ ʀoaʒʀain a ʀoúíʀe.

58. Cuíʀ ʒaé ʀaíʀeoáé na éuaíʀ ʀéíʀ  
ʀo éuaáaíʀ Ɔaíʀíʀ éíʀo-ʀeíʀ  
aíʀ áíʀíð ʀeað a ʀean ʀíʀ  
ʀaíʀoíʀ ʀeaʒ ʒaáa éaíʀíʒ.

Thy bright horns and draughtsmen  
be sure to take in thy first baggage.  
They shall not be idle in Cora's fort  
when they are carried therein !

Across the Carthach and Beithbhe's  
banks lead the departing host.  
Across the Leamhain and Loch Léin,  
O pride of Leamhain, lead thy horse-  
charge (K.).

Passing Ciarraidhe on the South,  
through leafy-forted Magh Coinchinn  
by Luachair of Slol Deadhaidh  
of fair banks and blue streams,

into I Chonaill Gabhra  
thy warrior bands shall go,  
then across Claonghlais and the Daol  
on whose stream are white swans ;

to high Dún Eochair Máighe  
to the centre of lovely Múna  
—swift onset to be ever famous !  
to the Máigh of the famous yew ;

to Loch Guir so happily placed  
to the fair Slodh of Eoghabhail,  
to Aine with its fair staunch castle  
we come under unchallenged leader-  
ship.

To our right, Imleach of the Yew,  
to our left, fair-grassed Clíú,  
we reach towering Cruit Clíach,  
and the land round fair Graíann Hill.

Past the fair plain of Foinhuain,  
so that *its* warriors may not hasten  
in front of Caiseal (to cut us off)  
—splendid direction that !

O glory of Ealla, the fort of Caimul  
shall be the bourn of thy effort.  
Ye shall be folk of blithe heart  
in the white castle of Caiseal rock.

At the rock of royal Caiseal  
thou shalt put away thy troubles  
when the seventeen *tuaths*  
view from it their true land.

Set each chief in his own land  
of the *tuaths* of amooth-built Caiseal.  
Let each chief's house be set  
on the dwelling-spot of his sires.

86. Suir féin dá doimhde ar Ceasaíl  
i n-óuin Cairil coirp-fleasgaí  
túin nír nar veala óun oíuim  
Suir meala an tóin a Domhnall

In the fort of stout-lanced Caiseal  
establish thyself, guarding it from  
harm  
—the fort we ne'er should have left.  
Mayst thou enjoy it, O Domhnall!

87. Tuic ir cuibde ché do sean  
uime naé anca ó Cairil  
cróda bar oíroir 'r gac cealaí  
uoir ir cóia chreodamain.

Thine by right is thy siros' steading;  
therefore must thou go to Caiseal.  
Bravest thy valour on every hill.  
Thee must we ever trust!

88. Ir i cuigre cuigdear dáin  
a meic mhóir ó mhúir Cruachan  
gan t-aitéir do dól uime  
oon úir éairreís talmuirde

This is my firm opinion,  
O Son of Mór from Cruachan's fort,  
that like thee is no human creature  
sprung from the fertile earth.

89. Mar ábhar uuinne do caob.  
nó mar bláí n-abair n-óir-éirí  
mar rnuat dá scuirtéar cirtie  
do shuad éirí-geal éirir-é.

White as wave's foam is thy skin  
or as golden branches' ripe bloom.  
As a live coal sparkling  
is thy fair gleaming face.

90. A-cá eateoirí caolaí uuin  
ór do shuad oíre a Domhnall  
mór an dáí gloine suirne  
a ríat moiré moduirne

Above thy ruddy cheek, O Domhnall,  
is a throne of dark wicker (?)  
an eye bright as blue glass,  
thou flower of Magh Modhuirne.

91. Ceair do doimhde a éinn breag  
ar ríadailéad ead nó airgead  
ir ceair coirgeada an dá éirí  
ceair do coim-beoda i gcoluinn

O prince of the Breagha, rare is thy peer  
in bestowing of steeds and cattle  
well shalt thou balance the two yokes  
(K),  
for rare is vigour as thine.

92. Ar n-a coimhead ar do coirp  
A-cá a Domhnall an daonnacht  
gan daonnacht ann noán fuil  
son-alc ná bail doo ballaib

Hospitality, O Domhnall.  
is billeted upon thee.  
No joint or limb of thee  
but displays thy kindness!

93. A meic na ríogha ó ráit Cuinn  
a Domhnall meic meic Domhnall  
ceannair ar an éirí i le  
ná bío i mbeannair Déirre.  
Deir

O Domhnall, son of Domhnall's son,  
son of the queen of Conn's Rath,  
press forward from this land,  
tarry not mid Béirre's crags.

94. Beirir éirínead iú do dáin  
a mgean fáil-éirínead  
a bláí cláir-éirínead cíní  
a úir-eala a dibilín.

O blue-eyed daughter of Seanán  
thy ways are a lesson for poets  
O flower of the race's leafy wood,  
O fair swan, O Aibhilín.

95. A dibilín nar éar ríol  
mar do éirínead clú an traosail  
a breag doo bót do bhe  
so naé beag oir-oiríne.

O Aibhilín who refused poets never,  
and hast thus won glory in the world,  
thou givest his request to the poor man  
so that thou shalt not incur reproach

96. Beir óuin a Domhnall oite  
eol fa inir Laochaire  
a meic Carraig Cláir Gailíne  
cáir capáin do conaibde.

Thou other Domhnall too, lead  
us forth through Laochaire's isle,  
O Mág Carthaigh of Olár Gailíne.  
Thy kindly heart wins our love (!).

70. *Isir eol dúinn go dúin Cairil*  
*ar Cairil na tóldairin*  
*lón a tóid a buadhaigh bir*  
*sur an páit fluađais faróbir.*

71. *fáadair a Cairis gan roact fori*  
*tiar a-tá no éir dútaigh*  
*ní roacta deir linn i le*  
*ar eactra a moic feing Saróbe*

72. *a-tá as éisrib Innre Cuinn*  
*eolur vo dúin a Domhnall*  
*c'óir a i Caoimh ní ceile*  
*'r ir móir dá éadib tóirbirne*

73. *beir eolur oíreac daim-ra*  
*a naoin-níléil neain-fallra*  
*uon éatmaigh óđais ainglir*  
*rlóđais raetmair ríóđ-faróbir.*  
*Deir.*

To the ancient buildings on the hill,  
 to Caiseul's fort lead us,  
 O Buadhach, bring men enough to hold  
 that rich host-holding castle.

Thou, O Tadhg, needst not go East-  
 wards.  
 In the West is thy native land.  
 Thou art not to set forth with us,  
 O graceful son of Sadhbh.

The poets of Conn's Isle  
 know well thy castle, O Domhnall.  
 Thou hoardedst not thy gold, O Caoimh,  
 great contempt hast thou therefor.

Lead me straight,  
 holy Michael, in whom I trust,  
 to the castle of virgins and angels  
 many-hosted, blessed, royal-rich!

- 2 a. + leis riar. c. Assaroe Co. Don. d. rairctuar, ríorctuar. 4 c. + sur  
 an. 5 a. + rođđair, ríorctuar. b. + a l. pobuil. d. + uairb. 6. only  
 in D. 7 a. + ciot nac. b. an o. d. + - porr. 8, in A order is 10,  
 9, 8. c. + vā. ní ruar riar. 10 a. MSS. Mat. p. 19. b. + tiocfaigtea  
 an r. 11 a. Kings of Munster. 12 a. + r. roctoirreacraib. b. + na  
 rocta r. C. 13 a. + folc lag. d. + oírileibrib. 14 b. + c. na a.  
 16 c. + mun gc. r. gc. b. 17 a. + coirigtea. b. + tiocra av tiomcail.  
 c. + a vó v. d. + éao. 19 a. Galtee Mts. b. oia vo r. 22 b. éinman  
 23 c. + mó vo ruar. 26 ad, Sic D; A has uirar (a overlined). 27 b. + rí.  
 28 a. ríorctin (? K); + pobal. 31 a. + rian r. 35 a. + ar anateđ.  
 b. nirnahel. c. + aróire. 36 a. rēcain. 36 ad, 37 ab. not in A.  
 37 d. + gcunigair. 38 c. + éire, r. Finny, Co. Kerry. 39 a. Valentia  
 Island. b. Beare, Co. Cork. c. bar. Corcaguiney, Co. Kerry; Corc n'o.  
 d. porc nu. ríó á. 40 b. Cua, Knockmealdown Mts. c. + ar a. d. Lough  
 Corrane, Co. Kerry. 41 a. + ngeal. b. + hoilead. 42 c. + vā vr. 43 a.  
 vo dútar, gā vūrcor. 44 a. + an v. vā v. b. The vā écānaet are  
 probably I Donnhadha and I Caoimh. 45 a. bars. Magunihy and  
 Corcaguiney, Co. Ker. c. v. r. 46 b. f. átaróa. 47 Dún Inbhir?  
 47 not in D. 48 a. + brannaim. d. + vūn + nar t. 49 a. +  
 cappton. r. Carthach flowing into Castlemaine Harbour. + inbeira.  
 r. Behy at Glenbeigh, Co. Ker. c. r. Laune, Co. Ker. 50 c. Sliabh Luachra  
 nr. Castleisland. (Man. Cust. I. xxviii.). 51 a. bars. Connello, Co. Lim.  
 c. in S.W. of Co. Linn. d. r. Deale, Co. Linn. 52 a. Bruree, d. r. Maigue,  
 Co. Lim. For this yew cf. Man. Cust. iii., 259. 53 a. Lough Gur, Co.  
 Lim. b. Knockaine, Co. Lim. c. + vāigtea an m. 54 a. Emly, Co.  
 Tip. b. Palace Green, Co. Lim. c. Galtee Mts. d. 2 miles N. of Cahir,  
 Co. Tip. 55 a. between Cashel and Clonmel (Onom). 56 b, + é; c, + vūn  
 riar. 57 b. + cuir rō, + vūn. 59 a. vo é, vo gc. c. + nac v. 60 a. +  
 ríot ir. 60, D has ir cú ar uairle o'fuit fāoréat cú ir c'róđ a t'p'or  
 ra o'cal—. 61 not in A. It is uncertain which of the many Cruachana  
 is meant. 63 d. Two places of this name, in Co. Tyr. and Co. Don.  
 64 a. vāa comóir, vo comóir. Breagha in Plain of Meath, i.e. Eire. 65 d.  
 + vā b. 66 c. + ir an. 67-73 only in D.

# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. MCKENNA, S.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

## VII.

[RIA 23 F 16 (157); 23 L 17 (7)].

To Diarmuid Mág Carthaigh (v. 12); son of Cormac (v. 52); son of Domhnall Óg (vv. 38, 49); son of Mór (v. 46). He was made Lord of Múscraidhe in 1353, and was slain by Mág Carthaigh of Cairbre in 1368 (*F. Mast.*). For Mór his mother, who was mother, too, of the second Domhnall Óg (d. 1391) cf. *Introd.* VI. The Artúr in v. 31 is not identified.

In vv. 32-34 those of Diarmuid's ancestors who ruled Desmond and Thomond are enumerated, viz., princes of Desmond: 3 Domhnalls (d. 1205, 1302, 1307), and 3 Cormacs (d. 1144, 1242, 1359); princes of Thomond: 3 Toirdhealbhaachs (d. 1083, 1167, 1306), and 2 Conchobhars (d. 1144, 1268). The genealogies of O'Harte, Laine, and Lodge while showing Diarmuid's descent from five of the above Thomond princes (through Domhnall Óg's mother, Mairgréad dau. of 3rd Lord of Kerry, who was son of Sláine, dau. of Conchobhar Ó Briain) do not account for his descent from the Toirdhealbhaach who died in 1306. Unless (as is most unlikely) Diarmuid's mother Mór descended from Toirdhealbhaach, we must conclude that the wife of Domhnall Óg Mág Carthaigh (d. 1303), whose name is not recorded in the genealogies, was a daughter of Toirdhealbhaach Ó Briain.

In vv. 18-29 Diarmuid is compared to his ancestor and namesake Diarmuid son of Cormac son of Muireadhach Mág Carthaigh. Cormac son of Muireadhach was made Lord of Desmond in 1123, and was slain in 1138 at Magh Tamhnagh (Mahoonagh, bar. Conello, Co. Lim.). Diarmuid succeeded to the Lordship of Desmond, but on submitting to the English invaders in 1172 was deposed in favour of his son, Cormac Liathánach, on whose death in 1177 he was reinstated. The Cormac in v. 20 was Cormac Liathánach, while the Cormac Mór of v. 21 was Cormac, son of Muireadhach. The battles in vv. 21-24 were probably fought during the 1168 hosting which Ruaidhri Ó Conchobhair, King of Connaught, made into Munster when he divided that province into two parts giving Desmond to Mág Carthaigh, and Thomond to Ó Briain. These fights claimed by the poet as victories for Mág Carthaigh are not recorded in the Annals.

The poem was written before 1368, the year of Diarmuid's death.

1. fá ngeallmairí mearoar meic níos  
na bpreaigh-réar mear caobh ne caobh  
fá deas-réar na n-deas-mac níos  
mearoar gnom na reang-fiac  
reor.

By their deeds be they judged,  
princes of swift-charging steeds!  
Let the graceful heroes' deeds  
be judged by their noble story.

2. ní breáit ar éalí nile o'fion  
ar úime fá óáil a fean  
ní fá féim buí óleároa vol  
meároa fá mób féim sáit fear.

None should judge  
a man solely by his ancestors.  
Not by genealogy should one go.  
By his own acts is each to be judged.

3. fearr u'fior a clú 'na clú maic  
ioná a éirí ór éirí gac neit  
ir fearr motha flata i bflait  
sro maic roga-uata ar óreic.

4. fearr fear dá bpaíad hi  
sro ead noa n-aóbar gnaoi  
gac plogaíad ór éirí a éirí  
muna bé gnaímaíad fíir faoi.

5. fear uo géanaí gnaímaíad ngloin  
uo géanaí mlon-muir uon muir  
u'fior san éirí ir. cnuaíir-leigear  
fíir  
clú fíir uairleigear a fuil.

6. fear faoi ir a blaí dá bpaí  
dá éar sion gur caoín a óreac  
ar gnaíir blaí uo beaíear gac  
ní ar éirí ead beaíear bpaí.

7. dille ir feróm calma pé éirí  
i noeib óamíra no buí uer  
a pát gomaí faoi éirí a éirí  
ní ead fíir ar uí aét láin leir.

8. as a inear uo géada gnaoi  
sion gur fear na fíreáma ó mbi  
gnaímaí gnaímaí maí ead no pé  
fear sro bé ar calmaí o uí.

9. óamíra plogaíad noa noic  
a ngnaímaíad calma uo éirí  
u'érí gac plogaí maímaí a maí  
a gnaímaí uo flait beaímaí bpaí

10. mac plogaí o naí naí i bpaí  
dá bpaí ar gnaímaí a gnaímaí  
car ceann a uíre ír a uíre  
plogaí gnaímaí inníe munar ub

11. mac faoi-plogaí dá feoláir uán  
u'aoín-fíol asur éoían móir  
ní éirí no pé an faí-maic plogaí  
gnaímaí an naí aíníe pé an plogaí

12. Diarmuid Mág Carthaigh Cuan Dor  
na fíuáir 'n-a uáir-taí as uí  
maí gac éirí an ir sro ead  
san fear car bapí gnaímaí uo éirí

13. Céirí a feróm uo beaí gac uíre  
car a uíre gac uíre ar fearr  
uairleac a bpaí u'fíir-fíir gnaímaí  
ní ead fíir uo gnaímaí gnaímaí.

Better for a man his fame to be good  
than his blood to be noblest.  
Better in prince is prince's conduct,  
tho' good is choice beauty of face.

Better for him who hath it,  
the royal line of his origin;  
yet, 'tis no source of honour  
unless a hero's deeds be his.

He who should do noble deeds  
would calm the sea.  
New bloom for fruitless wood is he !  
Tis a man's fame that ennoble his  
blood.

A man is noble whose fame proclaims  
him,  
tho' his face be not fair to glorify him.  
Handsome face (oft) is reproached.  
Every man is not judged by his looks.

Beauty joined with brave deed  
would be fitting in a prince.  
That a man should say his blood is noble  
—he should not depend on this but  
enhance (K) it !

A man shall be honoured in judgment,  
though none know his origin,  
if so be he do valiant deeds,  
from whomsoever he spring !

A scion of kings  
cannot belie *their* noble deeds.  
A prince's good lives after him ;  
his deeds shall judge him.

The prince whom I shall cleave to  
is approved (?) by the deeds of his  
generous hands.  
Spite of his gifts future and past  
he excels in wealth if he never re-  
fused.

A noble prince, theme of poetry,  
of the same race as Eoghan Mór,  
—no evil befell in his reign  
but he shielded his folk therefrom.

Diarmuid Mág Carthaigh of Cuan Dor  
—hosts were ever coming to his house ;  
goodly was every prince of them  
yet none surpassed Clú's chief !

His valour, which all have felt,  
excels his beauty—yet whose beauty  
excels his ?  
The nobility of all the Góill's red blood  
—it cannot match his valour !

14. Dáiré leam ban uceirí an tuig Cua  
an tuig dá éann ní ceirí dó  
tar méirí mílú gá éirí tú  
rílú 'sao éilú méirí ar inó.  
I rejoice at thy commendation of Cua's  
lord (the first Diarmuid)  
—what it has added to him displeases  
him not!  
Though thou (Diarmuid) transcendest  
the warrior's greatness,  
he attains in thy fame a greater glory  
(? Berg.):
15. Dó nís gion go nábéá ro mac  
do ríarfaí pé rín an ríoc  
dá meirí a n-ís gíomí do glac  
cneirí mac ríós do ráó ríoc.  
Tho' thou wert not prince's son  
thou couldst keep frost from the air!  
Were thy hands' work in battle re-  
garded,  
'twere right to style thee prince!
16. Ban uceirí ann ír ban n-aoib  
a élaní cuirí-ré 'r a élaní táil  
méirí maíe uairí-ré gá do fuair  
uairí féin ar uairí plaíe fáil,  
He has your cleverness and beauty,  
O children of Coro and Tál!  
Though from you he gets noble heart,  
'tis of himself Fál's prince is noblest!
17. Oilill ír éiríe asur Conn  
ír don foirinn a folc fann  
dá éí éairíe asur óé bíonn  
cís na uéirí bíonn éairíe ann  
Of the race of Oilill, Coro, Conn,  
Dá Thí of Teamhair, Bé Bhionn  
is the wavy-haired hero.  
In him is the clay of Eamhain's Three  
Fair Ones,
18. Átaíe a éom-anma éaom  
faéaíe nó-banba do péirí  
Cormac mac Muireadhaíe mhóir  
plac don foiríe fuineadhaíe féil.  
His fair name-sake's father,  
—the reason why he ruled Banbha—  
was Cormac, great Muireadhach's son,  
sapling of the noble western host.
19. Cormac móir átaíe an ír  
i gcaéab nlor clód a ríarí  
do uoirí uream ármac a fuil  
i muíe éarmac do féall air.  
Cormac Mór, the hero's father,  
whose glory was never crushed in fight,  
—an armed host shed his blood,  
they betrayed him: at Magh Tamh-  
nach.
20. Siail dá éag-mac nó ba dá  
Carmac ó nar éian a lá  
ríósáirí fuineadhaíe fear Cua  
ua Muireadhaíe do meirí mná  
Submission was due to his brave son,  
since, as Cormac's life was short,  
the western men crown Cua's hero,  
Muireadhach's grandson, women's br-  
guiler!
21. i gcomh-bíogáil Cormac mhóir  
dá n-íslac íor-íomíomíe faoirí  
do cuirí foiríonn úr ló féin  
ó féil go dúngclóirí-fíonn gcaom.  
In the avenging of Cormac Mór  
by his noble doughty hand,  
a fresh host fell by his soldiery  
from the Féil to fair-built Dún Cacin.
22. ua ríal-ólorí gérí éabairí cíd  
Díarmuid éaíe ar gac íaé  
nlor ríuín fá átaíe a fíoc  
sur cuirí oíot ar cátaíe élaé.  
Though all helped noble Blad's scion,  
Diarmuid facing every point  
checked not his fury at his sire's death,  
till he destroyed the hosts of Clú!
23. Eas go huatáíe íolairí ríuag  
a ríobal fá ruatáirí ríós  
do óíeíe náimíe i ngoríe glíad  
sur íad im poríe Láiríe a líon  
Many a host he made small,  
his march was a true King's onset;  
he destroyed his foes on battle-field,  
and marshalled his troops around Port  
Láirge.



24. Ar fíol mBriain do ba beart doirb  
ar o'eacáct i nglairó nlor nlor  
meirb  
do cuir im Gleann Maidhir marom  
i rbaipinn fa ceann blaróir beipn
25. Mac Cormaic Mór do ba gab gneim  
iur nar gab cóir 'na cóir éim  
a rian buó caráda dá éloinn  
riar foill ní lamta pé linn.
26. Mór gelaé do élaonad pé cóir  
mór gcaé buó baogal do brip  
o'aitle tuáa gac foill glair  
ba lair muha gan poinn rir.
27. As rin Diarmuid mór lór líb  
ir an Diarmuid Mór nac-mair  
ní breas trá fa cairm an fip  
fear óir éin a-cá a ainm air.
28. Ionann dáib arn ionann nlor  
ionann cairm díg ionann réan  
ionann ainm a n-aitheac rair  
ir gairm na gcaob ocairéac  
o'réan.
29. Fear ó ar in-Diarmuid Mór  
ar nár an binn-fial-buáa ar báig  
a nlor nlor an Diarmuid fa o'cair  
asur rcaoir nlor fial-buáa fál.
30. Méin na rcaona ar a bpoil rlioc  
léir poim i n-eapla na n-alc  
reom na mBriain laogáac na  
lorc  
rian na gcorc do'caac na nair
31. Sió uairle an glan falc-úr fial  
ó arúr oán gar a gaol  
méin éiréannac ní holc óun  
fa folc úr éiréannac élaon.
32. Trí Domhnall éar im na o'cáil  
i o'cair buó o'gairis a nórém  
trí coiréacaláig oon caob éuair  
mun rouair rair n-éiréannac  
nóil.
33. Dá Conchobair dá caús éall  
dá o'cair crom-éar na o'oon  
trí Cormaic éar ceann i gceann  
im an rcais n-orórac nór  
noonn.

In the fray fierce was his battling,  
heavy blow to Brian's race !  
He caused the rout of Gleann Maidhir  
and in the fray breaks a gap before  
him.

Cormac Mór's son then ruled,  
he whose troop was not timid (!)  
His career should be cherished by his  
race.  
None dared to serve a Gall in his day,  
(K)

Many a castle fell before him,  
many the dread host he broke ;  
After subduing every mail-clad Gall,  
Mumha was his alone.

Behold this Diarmuid, if it please you,  
and that Diarmuid Mór of the past.  
King of Breagha was he styled ;  
this one bears his ancestor's title,

Like were their swords, their deeds,  
their fame in fight, their fortune,  
the names of their noble sires,  
the fame of the strong fruitful stocks.

A hero like Diarmuid Mór is he  
in beauty, generosity, gallantry.  
Dee-is as his can Diarmuid boast,  
and the power of that noble King of  
Fál.

The traits of the race he springs from  
are clear in the wavy-tressed hero,  
the Brians' valour, the Lores' heroism,  
the Corcs' energy, the Arts' fairness !

Though the famous fair-haired hero  
be the nobler  
owing to Artúr to whom he is near  
akin (!),  
an Irish mind we rejoice hath this hero  
neath his fresh wavy flowing hair.

Three southern Domhnalls are in the  
pedigree of Fál's soion  
—fierce were their battle-charges.  
Three northern Toirdhealbhaachs are  
sires  
of this famous blithe-hearted hero.

Three Conchobhairs, two Tadhgs  
yonder  
who received the waves' great wealth,  
three southern Cormacs too were sires  
of this fair splendid warrior.

34. Dá éinn-bile naí éilion dor  
dá éirib-fine an ríog ó Rur  
róib na leomhan brial no fear  
eoghan móir éar Drian i bur.
35. Ainne a éirí ir comharó dáim  
an éirí na no-dáimna ón réim  
ní bí an mearúgao é uaim  
phair ré a mearúgao dá méim.
36. Méim an coir-anma óir éin ré  
pa no-dáimna a tís dá tí  
pa sein buada oile é  
ir é ar glóim [-o-] cuala i gclí.
37. A éiríob i nDiarmuid ar oluig  
fá réirde tiagmaro 'na tois  
réir an céir-Diarmuid óir éin  
pan scéir vris nésis-fiar-buis  
ngloim.
38. Mac meic Domhnall aclaith óis  
nir naé fadéir na-óruim róir  
r a éadom-éirí uo éin mun nésis  
fá éon-éirí aet méir an fíir óis.
39. Cornaró báirde sír bé óib  
áille ná gac éirí an dá éraorb  
geall fíir dá céile nfor éirí  
uo dá céile éirí síl éaol.
40. An té aca ar aicéir dáim  
noéa faca a aicéir o'fíor  
óir as luad fíor-élaun a fíor  
rouad éraes an t-aon-élaun óir  
fíor.
41. O uo éirí coir-anm an laoir  
nfor éom-anm nir naé éirí éirí  
gan fear gcom-élaun an fíir  
áit  
fá éirí éirí éom-míolla éirí.
42. Rí ó éaélaé an a mbia blao  
lia éamrac dá tí a éaé  
uatao a élaun a fíir o'fíor  
ir líf ríor ioná éom éraes.
43. Ní hionann ní ir Diarmuid oib  
ní ó Diarmuid dá gac éirí  
ní mead míneac éar mair  
fíir-érae ar éirí an fear érae

Two high trees whose leaves faded not,  
two true stocks of the king from Ros,  
—we know the glory of those noble  
champions,  
Eoghan Mór in the South, Brian here.

The nobility of his stock tells us  
of the glory the prince gets from his  
line:  
I am in no doubt about it—  
it has been equalled (! K) by his own  
spirit.

The spirit of his namesake ancestor  
in the great chief of Dá Thi's House  
—he too was born to bring blessing!—  
was the noblest I have heard of in  
mortal body.

'Tis fitting his traits should be in (our)  
Diarmuid.  
For his gentleness we submit to him  
with his thick soft glossy curls.  
Gentle was the first Diarmuid his  
ancestor.

The son's son of active Domhnall Óg,  
whom no steepness of road checks,  
whose fair stock, source of this branch,  
are of like fame though the youth is  
yet young.

A fragment of love is either (!)  
Fairer than aught these two branches!  
Of the two pieces of white kindred  
wood  
neither should be set beneath the other.

He whom I know,  
never saw I hero like him!  
As I recall nobles of his line  
the hero of Breagha appears as the  
great tree rising over the wood!

Since his namesake died,  
—namesake not unfit to rival!—  
no peer has this fierce noble  
of thick soft comely tresses!

King who will be famed owing to his  
household (! K)  
Dá Thi's Castle of Teamhair is his  
dwelling!  
The fewness of his words shows his  
hero's worth (!);  
rivulets are commoner than the Bóinn  
of Breagha (!)

No king of them all is as Diarmuid (K),  
a gift is given by him to every poet-  
band.

"Grass is not equal to a moor"  
is the proper judgment on Fál's hero!

44. *Is é tairb-dam tuairpear shaoi  
adnao a nuai-cleap oo ní  
ní fathalta ré érué a éré  
is é an rhué radarca an ní*  
He is the great ox who shall win (?)  
glory;  
he urges himself forward to new ex-  
ploits (?)  
Not comparable to his beauty is any  
of his stock!  
Stream in full flood is this prince.
45. *Is é an bile ór éronn éur  
ronn a érué naéar éeil  
is é an fion uéars ór zac óis  
céaro zac fír oo óiol a-uéir*  
He is the tree overtopping the sapling,  
who never checked his heart's desire.  
He is red wine beyond all draughts!  
He orders each craft to be rewarded!
46. *Is é géas Déan ar uoirb nglac  
ar céas réao ní roirb a loc  
is é ar mbunao bóir-ne 'r b'rac  
mac móirne asur-cuaoó Crot*  
He is the scion of Dean (K) whose  
grasp is heavy!  
Dire his inroad on treasure-house!  
He is our source of cloaks and kine,  
the son of Mór and of Crota's hero!
47. *Fhiot Solam dá éur i scil  
an dam ina ro-dam Ré  
siolla a hoipear b'raon-élan Daoi  
mar laos-dam naoi n-oiéaoó é.*  
The youth from fair-watered Baoi  
is a new Solomon in the flesh,  
the ox, the great ox of Ré,  
the mighty Bull of the nine does (?)
48. *San fít meabla 'sun fial aru  
oo óit feadna dá mbiaó borb  
an rhué ar mó 'r moille fearg  
ní uéars i lá coinne a éols.*  
No shameful peace makes this noble  
prince  
when he has lost troops from which he  
would be fierce (? Berg.)  
Broadest stream is slowest to anger,  
not on assembly-day is his sword red!
49. *Ar fíor meic meic Domhnall uón  
oo baó uóghaings éleic ré énorh  
foilm éacárhoa 'na dá élar  
ó fúrom lám pa-éalma an ríog*  
As long as I know Domhnall's grandson  
'twas hard to resist his valour.  
Battle-helm was ever split in twain  
by the strength of his valiant arms!
50. *A lám uéar ne uíot zac laoié  
lám nar fhiot i uéar go éléit  
lám éle ne congmáil a r'éit  
is é as éléit ne corp-éar éléit*  
His right hand slaying heroes  
—hand never gentle in fray;  
his left grasping his shield,  
as against round spears he fights.
51. *Cóir oo élé a élor dá éionn  
is éacé b'or uoir b'óir neann  
a élac poi-éacé éacé f'á éhann  
b'ar raor [a] éroíéaoó ne éeann*  
All must pay him tribute for it!  
Ever is he found in the thick of the  
lances,  
his fair white hand grasping his spear,  
the noble point of his foot advanced  
against the strong (?)
52. *Mac Cormaic béil-éacéaró beirh  
lé corp-élaic n'éir-leabair  
n'guirh  
céir car fearcair mara as maróm  
ne baíob noéar-élaic Uraéa  
Doró.*  
Cormac's son breaks straight through  
the gap  
with his smooth round steel lance;  
in triumph he crosses inlet,  
the grey-eyed vulture of Bodhbh's  
Land!
53. *Fear dá éis as éarhains uéac  
a gall-lains is a éhoró eac  
mar leasgar b'ériu lonéa ar loc  
tonna ar dá uot céir na éacé*  
Men are ever bringing wine to his  
palace  
from galleon and horse-troop.  
When the sail is lowered on the lake  
the tun enters his castle on wheels.

54. Deoé ló b'falcáin gile a shuab  
 o' á captaig 'r a hibe a hóir  
 deasg shuab-leasg shúire an  
 níos  
 ré crúir-pe ó fíon fúair-deasg ó'ól.

55. Níog-dáimna ar nac céaltan clú  
 féastan tré mion-adra níná  
 ní cian uad an t-ainm ar níos  
 a sháim ód 'r dá tuar a-tá

56. Diarmuid Clúic capa na n'óáin  
 ar ueniat ir ar naša níos  
 ní d'fagbáil ceapra san tuar  
 meapra rouad Sabráin fá shíom.

fá ngníomharó.

With this is banished the paleness  
 of Carthach's seion drinking from gold  
 cup.

The cheek of the prince's face glows  
 as he quaffs the blood of it (his face)  
 from the cool red wine (Berg.)

The prince whose fame shall not be  
 hidden

is admired for brow gentle as woman's.  
 The supreme title is almost his;  
 he merits its bestowal on him,

Diarmuid of Clú, friend of bards,  
 our captain and dear prince,  
 —not on the strength of unmerited  
 testimony  
 is Gabrán's prince to be judged by  
 his deeds!

3 a. na clú. b. + ná a. épú. c. moša. d. 56. 4 b. + noča a. 5 a. glain.  
 6 b. cf. common phrase clú vo éup. c. + bláit beartan. 8 a. + shé.  
 10 d. 5. a. i. 11 a. [var peolab (Berg.)]. 12 a. Glandore, Co. Cork.  
 d. E. half of Co. Lim. 14 a. district around Knockmealdown Mts.  
 17 a. Conn, Dá Thi and Bé Bhíonn (whichever of the many be meant)  
 being Eremonions were Diarmuid's ancestors in female line, probably  
 through his mother Mór. d. Three mythical kings Eathúr, Ceathúr, and  
 Teathúr, husbands of Eire, Fódla, and Banbha. [cf. Eriu iii. 150 where  
 they are given as Bres, Nér, and Lothar, sons of Eochu Find (K.)].  
 20 a. vo ó. 21 d. r. Feale, Co. Lim.; Dún Cloin in Fir Muighe Féino,  
 Co. Cork, 22 a. + ná p.; sup. 5 (overlined). Blod was ancestor of I  
 Bhriain. cf. infra 24. 23 d. 185. Waterford. Or "drew his net round" K.  
 24 a. fíol. c. Glanmire, Co. Cork. d. blaróis, blaró. 25-6. Rather  
 fulsome. The English got a good foothold in Ireland in his day, and  
 moreover it was in his reign that Mumha was divided into Desmond and  
 Thomond, 26 d. buó. 27 a. Breagha, plain of Meath, here for Eire.  
 d. 454 ainm. 28 ab. an leg, ainm, cainm? (K.). d. + áct 5. 30 a.  
 laqhróact, aomróact. An leg. laocóact? (K.). 31 a. + áctán f. b. vana  
 goine a. d. c. c. 32 d. + néit (néim 2a manu). 34 b. many places of  
 name. 35 a. + hé. c. + hé. 36 d. 5. c. 38 a. [áis (?Berg.)]. 39 a. cornuís.  
 40 b. h'paca. 41 c. f. c. d. ot. no. no. 42 a. pústeašlac, púteašlac.  
 b. + ceathra. d. cf. Ir. Gr. Tr. p. 20 § 78. 43 a. ofb. vóob. b. vo.  
 vó. d. f'ean. 44 a. crut [sic leg. "His clay (i.e. body) is like no  
 (other) form" ? K.]. 45 a. cuir after c'ann, áball, &c., is frequent.  
 It apparently means "planted" as distinguished from native forest trees,  
 and then "small." c. + sac no. 46 a. cf. Eriu iv. 136. 1 (K.). gleac,  
 b. + nac romh. 47. b. The "Damh ré" is often referred to by the bards:  
 I can find no account of it [Is ré place name? cf. vóm osleann K.]  
 a. round Dunboy, Co. Cork. d. na noisgo ó MSS. [line is quoted without na  
 in Ir. Gr. Tr. (Berg.)]. 50 d. ré a ccleit. 51. a. + ra é. d. + c'oróeas,  
 line is too short. An leg. a é? 52 b. + ngeit. c. céro 45 márom  
 re = "route" (K.). 53 b. gallaig 7 5. a. + leagtan. d. + céro.  
 54 c. + vealb 5. + shúire. d. ne crúire. 55 b. + féacta, ["is gazed  
 at through (every) woman's smooth lashes." ? K.]. c. t.e., "Mag Carthach  
 Mór." His father lived till 1391. 56 d. ní, &c., Sabráin, often applied both  
 to I Bhriain and Clann Captaig. Ossory was always claimed as part of  
 Munster.

# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. McKENNA, F.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

## VIII.

[O'Con. Don's Bk. (355); RIA 3 C 13 (808) a copy of O'Con Don's Book.]

To Tadhg, "heir of Clann Carthaigh" (v. 6), "son of Domhnall Mág Carthaigh" (vv. 31, 32), "son of Onóra" (v. 39), "son of the princess from royal London" (v. 35). He was probably Tadhg Mainistreach (d. 1413), Lord of Desmond. For his mother Onóra see Poem V. Introd. If, as O'Harte states, Tadhg was born in 1340 this poem, addressed to him when a young boy, would have been written about 1356, but the chronology of the Mág Carthaigh pedigrees is in favour of a date about 20 years later.

Aoibheall, the fairy guardian of Thomond, had foretold to Donnchadh son of Brian Bóruimhe that Brian together with his son Murchadh and his grandson Toirdhealbhach would fall at Cluain Tarbh, and that Brian's other son Tadhg would succeed to the high-kingship. Donnchadh after the battle slew Tadhg, and then told Aoibheall that her prophecy had been false. Aoibheall in answer told it had been true inasmuch as Toirdhealbhach son of the slain Tadhg would be high-king. This story (in which facts are rather freely dealt with, for Tadhg succeeded Brian and was not slain by Donnchadh till 1022) is used by the poet to argue that prophecies about Domhnall Mág Carthaigh (d. 1391), then Lord of Desmond would be fulfilled in his young son Tadhg. The latter is then exhorted to get ready the two spears of Cú Chulainn used at Fionnchora (Todd lect. iv. pp. 58, 94), and the shield tested at Gabhar (*Man Cust* ii. 387) so that men may recall the fight at Gáirech (Garistown nr. Athlone?; *Todd Lect.* iv. p. 60). The poet then seems to quote bits of a prophecy similar to the one attributed to Fionn mac Comhail (cf. MSS. Mat 396) in which victories at Mullach Maistean nr. Athy, Magh Midhe (plain of Meath), Dún na Sgiath (par. Rathlynin, or Tipp., or Doon on Lough Ennel), and Saingeal (Singland nr. Limerick) are foretold.

Very frequent in this poem are the usual bardic synonyms for Eire: Banbha, ódla, Ealga, Fál &c.; Teamhair or the places near it, the Bóinn, Siódh Aonghaia, reagha, etc.; other royal dwellings, Eamhain, Uisneach, etc.; "Castle," Plain, "Hill," "Wife," etc., of any of the old kings of Eire, the historical ones as Dá Thí, Conn, etc., or the mythical ones as Fionntan, The Three Fair ones (i.e., Eathúr, Deathúr, Teathúr, husbands of Eire, Fódla, Banbha), etc.

- Fuiris go fáil a Éire  
Seann go bfuise fín-céile  
do céile ní fear poibte  
a Éire a tsean teagair-é.
- A fionn-fáil Teamhra Dá Thí  
áitinn an fear dá bfuilcí  
tuat o'áis-leanaib do b'ál iú  
a élan fóro-leaban uirní.

Patience a while, O Eire!  
Soon shalt thou get a true spouse.  
He is not yet a grown man,  
O Eire, thou home of comfort.

O smooth plain of Uisneach,  
fair Teamhair of Dá Thí,  
I know him who shall wed thee,  
a hero child whom thou shalt love.

3. FADA NAC FUAIR A BEAN  
DOIN-FAIR O'AIOME NA NAORDEAN  
FAO DO CAIRBRE IR TUBAC SUIC  
A TULAC CAIRBRE IR CORNUIC.

4. A-CA FAIR I N-DOIR LEINIB  
GEAIR GO BRUITE POIRROM  
I PAIT NA NGAIR-BEANGAN NGAL  
A CERO-LEANNAN MAC MILEAD.

5. CLAIRS AN CE TAOI O'IAIRIAD  
A FINN-BEAN NEILL NAOI-GIALLAIS  
OAR DUAL DOINN BRON-CANA BINN  
AONTAHA GO FOILL FUILING.

6. EIGNE O SCARTAIS CEANN SAORDEAL  
GEAIR DIAR I MBEIR O'S-NAORDEAN  
FEIT A BAHBA A BEAN TUATHAIL  
GO BRAGDA E'FAIR IONNUACAIR.

7. O'EIR DEALUITE GO NERO NUIB  
O'FUI CUINN IR O'FIOR-FUI EOGAM  
A BEAN NAORDE AN CLAIR COIR-TE  
AN AIL NAORDE NEAR-FORITE.

8. MEINIC NIAM FOM-BEAN MAR FIM  
A LEANNAN AIRC EIR-FIR  
DO GNAT AS IARRIAD FAIR N-OS  
A CREAD DIAHAIR NA NOBANS-ROO

9. LICEAR OIR-PA NE HATARD  
A FINN-BEAN CUINN CEARO-CATAIS  
CAOR DO MIANAIS MOGA NERO  
FONA AN LIAMAIN DOO LEICERO.

10. OUIR DO CAIRNGIR AN FARD FIONN  
FEACT NUC A [NATE] DOIBIOLL  
DO DEARO GO MBIAL 'GUN BAN-FARD  
LEAND A-NIAR [UAI] NUA-GADAIL.

11. OIR: A DOINN NA BIOD CUIRE  
LEAND OS DON CLOINN CAIRNGIR-RO  
[TILRAD] CLAIR BARR-GLAIN  
BREAS  
DO CAIRNGIR AN FARD FITEAL.

12. OAI LABRAD EIR-FAIR OIR  
LEAT GO TEACT DON CAIRNGIR-RO  
A BEAN FIONN FOI-GAGLAN AIRC  
OIR-BAOMAR LIOM AN LABAIR.

13. DO NFO FARD FIONN EALGA  
DO NFO FIONA FOINNEANOA  
AN CEALAIS NA OIRI SCURAD  
FI LEANAD DO LAMNUGAD.

14. AN A LEICERO DO LEANAD  
FGEALA OUIR OAI FOILIRAGAD  
AORDE FGEOL UAGNIS ANOUIB  
O'UAGNIS AN EOL FUAIRMAIR

O stronghold of Cairbre and Cormac,  
O lady, 'tis long since thou hast had  
a spouse from among the young (!)  
Sad for thee thy long waiting!

O earliest love of Mil's sons,  
there is now a hero child  
in the Fort of fair-branching trees,  
Soon shalt thou be saved.

O spouse of Niall of the Nine Hostages,  
he has come whom thou lookest for,  
whose heritage is sweet rippling Boinn.  
Stay unwedded yet a while.

Clann Carthaigh's heir; lord of Gaoidhli  
shall not long wear child's garments.  
Wait, O Banbha, spouse of Tuathail,  
till thou hast one fit to wed thee.

When the scions of Conn and Eoghan  
have lightly (K) left thee  
fair queen of this warm land,  
wouldst thou wed a weak child?

Yet, O love of Art Acin-theat,  
wondrous land of red roads,  
oft before has aged woman  
craved young spouse!

O fair wife of Conn Uead-chathach,  
long hath thy name been coupled (K)  
with a hero of the true metal of Mogh  
Neid,  
pleasant this charge for one like thee.

Once the fair seer, Aoibheall, foretold  
a term of her Fort for thee (!)  
She swore that (she) the prophets  
would have  
a child from the west exalting her anew

Be not downcast, O Boyne!  
A young child of Clann Carthaigh  
to guard the fair Plain of the Breagha  
hath Fiteal the prophet foretold.

Had any other man spoken of this  
prophecy  
ere it was fulfilled in thee  
O fair spouse of Art,  
I had been jealous of his speech!

That a kingly child has been born  
in the Three Heroes' Home  
Ealga's prophets show to be true  
and the bright skies!

Concerning such a child  
I have brought forth (!)  
a story to tell thee,  
a story dread and gloomy (!)

15. Lá toir i gcat Cluana Tarb  
 'D'air-ro-riús Éireann na n-óir-arm  
 cis an uair-re 'o'fagáil gliaó  
 [a] bhrandán uairle ar dom-pian
16. Le clomn Bhriain na ríó-ghrád  
 reang  
 an ban-fáiró d'aró ainm Aoibheall  
 gur an mnaoi 'o'iarrairó feara  
 ciaḡair ar éadai cairdeara
17. A-suidairc Donnchad mac Bhriain  
 cia óinn tuirfeair fan troim-  
 gliaó  
 'o'uirleib ghrian-vata éiann gCair  
 [a fonn iarrata] an eolair.
18. Air-ro-ní fóula na rreab reang  
 tuirfiró Bhriain ann ar Aoibheall  
 tuirfiró murcáó gá mó rgeál  
 ní foḡtar 'na éio á coim-érian
19. Tuirfiró Toirdealbhad ós ann  
 mac murcáiró bur cruairó comlann  
 re coir roḡan fréimo Cair  
 rotam Éire na n-éaghair.
20. Cia gáadar Éire vó n-éir  
 ar Donnchad gúir mar gail-géir  
 ploinn vóin á ban-fáiró ó mBhriain  
 rúil ní fálair re rinn-cliaḡ.
21. Diaró an éir-rin na vóirí éfionn  
 vó réir m'fáiróine ar Aoibheall  
 i ndiaró na n-aro-flat oile  
 as Caos-mac Bhriain Dóiróine.
22. Gá vóm vó cuirto an cat  
 loclannairg ir laoié Teamhrac  
 má tá nar flán clann Cobthairg  
 ár ann ar na hallmhracáib.
23. Marbtear le Donnchad 'na diaró  
 uirra coónac ríol raoir-Bhriain  
 reatc na fóula mairg vó mill  
 le rógra Caróg vó tuirim.
24. Go hdoibill 'o'Éir an éata  
 ríḡ Donnchad gúir éal-vata  
 go fáiró na ríog ó náiré Luirc  
 vó náiré naró fíor á noubairc
25. An éi var éairngir rinne  
 náiré Teamhair ir vóin Duibh-linnó  
 á éionta éiom ní ólígé  
 vó ríol cuocra an éairngiré
26. I geannar Chéio Teamhrac  
 raáaro mac Caróg Toirdealbhad  
 ua na ríog [bur] ní eile  
 vó ní fíor var éfáiróine.

Once at Cluain Tarbh in the East  
 for Eire's gold-mailed king  
 there march to the fight  
 all his noble battle-eagles.

To Brian's race, of the graceful chargers  
 belonged Aoibheall the prophetess.  
 To her for knowledge of the future,  
 they come in familiar wise.

Said Donnchadh, Brian's son  
 "O pillar of knowledge-seeking (!),  
 of us, bright heroes of Dál gCais  
 who shall fall in the fight ?

"The King of gentle-streamed Fódla,  
 Brian, shall fall," says Aoibheall.  
 Murchadh too—and my words !  
 His like for strength lives not.

Young Toirdhealbhad too shall fall,  
 son of hard-battling Murchadh,  
 with the flower of Cas' race.  
 Desolate Eire without them !

"Whom then shall Eire have ?"  
 asks fair-faced Donnchadh  
 "tell us, O prophetess of I Bhriain,  
 Clíu must have some one to hope in."

"The land of the Three Fair Ones  
 shall be, as I foresee," says Aoibheall  
 "after these princes,  
 given to Tadhg, son of Brian."

Thereafter they fight,  
 the Danes and the heroes of Teamhair.  
 Though Cobhthach's race was not un-  
 scathed  
 ruin was wrought on the foreigners.

Donnchadh thereafter slew  
 the chief of Slol Briain's princes.  
 Woe to him who violated Eire's law  
 when he boasted Tadhg's fall !

After the battle, to Aoibheall,  
 seer of Ráth Luirc's princes,  
 came fair-faced Donnchadh  
 and says her words were false.

"He to whom I prophesied  
 Teamhair and Duibh-Linn—  
 in his seed my words shall come true.  
 Thou canst not charge me with  
 faultiness in it (!)

To rule Teamhair shall go  
 Toirdhealbhad, Tadhg's son.  
 A son of kings, who shall be king too,  
 shall prove true my words !

27. Beas uairdeá duit a Donncharó  
caill do éirí le do ghníomhaireacht  
uair féine i n-uair do do-bheirt  
biair éire gan aodairheacht.
28. Ní laideáir go laite an bhráit  
u' éirí ríol m'bhíam an an ban-fáit  
go uairéig inn gan léanmáin  
don bhráim fínn il-béalbaig.
29. Do b'fíor u'ádhíll a mhódaire  
rúigle an nár fuil condaire  
ráinig níge i' neacht ceathrae  
neart na éire as toirdeáilbae
30. Do éairínigín fáir fára ó foim  
go mbiair neart oíurí fionntóin  
as Donnall do éoinn Carrae  
foim goim-lann an ghníomhaireacht
31. Muna é an éairínigín i' ceas  
don Donnall-ro fa uairéad  
biair lá buir aró a éire  
do ceas a-cá an éairínigín.
32. Fáiréine ácar mair fíor  
ciorra i' ceas u'óigín an áir  
níge mair fíor ladháir gac fíor eoil  
as rin ábhar m'áir-rígeoil
33. Céig a ceas do éreallam leim  
na luair péara pérom poi-  
meirb fáil muirán náb dá níu  
rin do euláir gac-míu
34. Gab umao é'áir-bheir ímhainn  
a rois glar mar goim-níamainn  
caom-éruail do glar-lúigín gíl  
garb-glúinig áol-éruair uair-  
nig.
35. Gab do lann goim-glair gcuiréad  
a meic na mná ó níge-[Lunovain]  
rámaíl rímaíl do uirélinn uair-  
dá fíuigín éruair leu céro-féir.
36. Gab mar fo le féan uairé  
dá fleigí Con na Craobh-ruidh  
fa baoglae brat na b'roga  
i' gac fáobhae fionn-cora
37. Míuic mó fáir a féadain  
míonn lúreac lán u'óiréanáb  
rúiae fa éruair i' gac fáir  
i' do éruair ón eac éatara.

Little it avails thee  
spoiling thy just claim by violence.  
Owing to thy crimes Éire shall  
be left unsheltered by thee.

Now that Brian's race is gone,  
never more shall I speak,  
—though 'tis sad for me not to do so—  
to that fair comely race."

True were Aodhbheall's words,  
words not to be doubted.  
Kingship, and Teamhair's law  
and away came to Toirdhealbha.

Long since hath a seer foretold  
that Domhnall of Clann-Carthaigh  
supreme in deeds of blue lances,  
should rule Fionntan's Land.

If the prophecy come not true  
in the end for our Domhnall  
it refers to Tadhg.  
One day his burthen shall be great (! K)

If the prophecy as to his sire be true  
it will apply to the king's heir.  
If the words of all sages be true  
we have here him (Tadhg) to whom  
my story referred !

Put off, O Tadhg, thy child's garment,  
care not henceforth for petty exploit;  
—Mumha's hope is set on thee—  
go seek thy battle-mall !

Don thy bright steel harness,  
thou whose eye is blue as azure,  
the smooth covering of thy bright  
coralet  
sharp-edged, hard like beetle-shard (!),  
spiked.

Take thy round blue guarding lance,  
O son of the lady from royal London.  
Like to sparks from red fire  
. . . . (!) in thy youthful wrath !

Take, in propitious hour, the two spears  
of the Hound of the Craobh-ruidh.  
It was fearful to wait their cast  
in the fierce fight of Fionnchora !

Of old hath it been seen  
the engraved treasure full of . . . (!),  
the shield found tough at Gabhar,  
and which escaped the Civil War (! K)



38. ná beir leac i gceann cása  
aé airm ar bair ar-o-plata  
feilm uat-ónna ór do éionn  
cuir do mhionn sclac-óiróa sclac-  
fionn.

39. Táigs do tobad do córa  
go meala a meic Onóra  
é'airm cupad go gceo nime  
léir éurhan gleo gáirise

40. ní molaím deir a leimib  
cóir deir éire v'fóiridm  
deir éirgíona ro leand go léir  
dearó do éiró-ghíoma a cóileim.

41. Mór scat éurpoar do deoin vó  
mac Domhnall gúir mar glain-pé  
cóir fáil ne realsaíne an luin  
dúin gró leandáiré a luadail.

42. Cuirpró cat mullaig mairsean  
gleo pé bréacpar ríon-gairsead  
buirpró calg ra mág mío  
sar do caús an tairmngire

43. Cat v'beirisead dúm na Sgiat  
cuirpró oisne fóro rinn-éiá  
pé pé muidpró sac meap-cac  
ir cuirpró pé an Saingeal-cac.

44. Tá pé caús i ucéan Banba  
biaró a-rir 'na n-áirpá  
sac som-neac ran rioct neime  
do fliocé daoineac Deirgtheine.

45. Oligró ollam uirrim ríog  
neic a áirir 'r a féil-ghíomh  
sac ar cór m'for-fuigle a fír  
nem éomairle fóir fuirig.  
Fuirig.

Take with thee to the fight  
none but prince's weapons.  
Place thy casque gold-embossed, jewel-  
led,  
thy amber-hued helm on thy head.

For the levying of thy dues  
O son of Onóra, go to use,  
'mid death-mist, thy warrior blade  
which recalls the fight of Gáirrech.

'Tis thy duty to save Eire.  
I praise not therefore, my child,  
thy child's ways!  
Prove thy early valour, O whelp of  
war!

Domhnall's son, face fair as moon,  
shall wage many fights by God's will.  
Just is our hope in the blackbird-  
hunter,  
tho' childish seem now his pursuits!

He shall fight at Mullach Maistean  
where his heroism shall be seen  
and shall shiver sword on Magh Midhe.  
Near is the prophecy to Tadhg!

Fair Cliu's heir shall fight  
the dread fight of Dún na Sgiath  
Every battle in his day he shall fight  
and shall order the host at Saingeal.

When Tadhg comes to rule Banbha,  
of Deirgtheine's numerous race  
each one shall have his old standing  
again in his own land!

Poet must honour prince,  
tell his victories and noble deeds.  
Receive, then, O prince, my words,  
and bear with my counsel!

- 1 b. bpuirig. 2 b. va. c. áil. 4 c. a n. 5 a. acaoi d. aontas. 8 a. n. a f.  
b. syllable wanting. leannam. 9 c. father of Eoghan Mór 10 a. cf.  
"An pionn céillrón ón gchais léit" RIA 23 L 17, p. 27, v. 25. b. páit.  
11 c. tile an é. d. poet and judge of Cormac mac Airt. 13 b. +  
rimneanva. d. láimniúaró. 14 c. an leg aicé v' annam, annaith.  
d. for uaitne "travail" cf O'Don. Suppl. + feoil fuarman. 16 a. +  
ríoróbrus. 17 d. ó rambiaópará, 21 c. napóplata 22 a. cuisead. 25  
d. vo 26 c. Drian. 31 a. m. acti. 32 c. labra. 33 b. luair. d. vo é. é.  
34 d. ocaob cnuaró. 35 b. ? MSS.—luimng. d. Rime faulty.  
36 b. i.e. Cuohulainn. c. bpoza. d. pionncora. nr. Corofin, Co. Clare  
(Onom). c. Skreen Hill nr Tara. 38 b. adápar. c. páim ro. 39 d.  
éurham. d. gáirpóe. 41 d. gíoró. 42 b. breucp (r overlined and dotted),  
bréacpui. 43 c. ne a pé muidpí. sac cac. 44 d. father of Mogh Néid.

# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. MCKENNA, S.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

## IX.

[RIA 23 D 14 (121); 23 D 4 (325)].

To Gearóid Fitzgerald, 4th Earl of Desmond, son of Muiris the first Earl (d. 1356) by Aibhilín Fitzmaurice dau. of Nicholas 3rd Lord of Kerry (v. 40). Gearóid became Earl in 1369 on the death of his brother Seán the third Earl, or perhaps in 1359 (according to the *Dict. Nat. Biogr.* which denies that either Seán or Nicholas another brother, an idiot, were ever earls). King Edward iii. gave Gearóid the first Earl's lands on condition of his marrying Eleanor (d. 1392) dau. of Second Earl of Ormond. In 1369 he was defeated and captured by Brian Catha-an-Aonaigh O Briain whose army plundered Limerick (*Four Mast.*). He died at Newcastle West in 1399. He was called "Garret the Poet" and some poems of his are extant (cf. *Irish Bibliography*, Best). The policy of amalgamating the old Irish with the Norman settlers was carried further by him than it had been carried even by his father. Traditions of his memory still survive in the country, and his spirit is said to appear every seventh year at Lough Gur where he had a castle (*Four Mast.* 1369, 1398). Muiris his father married three times, first Margaret (*Dict. Nat. Biog.* calls her Catherine) de Burgo, dau. of the Second Earl of Ulster, then Aibhilín Fitzmaurice and thirdly (or perhaps before Aibhilín) Margaret dau. of Conchobhar O Briain, Lord of Thomond. As the first of these is said by Lodge to have died in 1331 Aibhilín was not made Countess until at least a year afterwards. Gearóid was probably her fourth son, and therefore was probably not born before 1336. As this poem was addressed to him when he was a young boy and while his father was still alive it was probably written between 1346 and 1356.

For Fionntan who is said to have survived the Deluge, and to have had several new leases of youth and life cf. *Four Mast.* p. 1; *Eriú* iv. p. 121. In vv. 7-28 the story is told of his youthful form being restored to him by the kiss of Iollann Iolchrothach son of the King of Sorcha.

1. A Šeapóro óana mo tait  
uá noraana óana i Šeáa-áir  
eug a óis-leanaib éirí púinn  
a úir óóro-leabair óeap-eupp

2. Óiom mé a méic an tepla  
ar feig bplata púnn-láina  
šú bó fáein feig púap  
é'atáir a méic an óóir-plaig.

O Gearóid plead my cause!  
If thou wilt do it, do it speedily.  
Give heed to me, my child,  
fine, smooth-handed, round-eyed.

O son of the Earl, guard me  
from the ire of far Deirdre's people,  
wherever thy ire is kindled with,  
O banner of the great host

3. *I ask thee though young to win peace  
with the stock whose fair fruit thou art.  
By thy mighty race I am injured.  
Thou canst protect me.*
4. *Woe to the poet with whom is wrath  
Gearalt's race, O Gearóid !  
It is a reason to set him against me  
if thy father - . . . (?)*
5. *I am not used to night-wandering  
or wielding fierce-edged arms ;  
not wondrous is my sword play.  
I should not be made an outlaw.*
6. *Avert my danger, O Gearóid,  
come forth to me from thy palace.  
In thy generosity incline to my petition  
Dear heart, be thou my guard !*
7. *I will tell thee a good story  
with a view to my relief,  
I will tell as I rightly may,  
a story of a child for a child !*
8. *One day on Leac na dToradh  
came Fionntan when aged,  
and found a child like thee,  
a strange child of unknown land.*
9. *He marvelled to see such a child  
beside the rock.  
He took it from the rock  
and kissed the fair stranger.*
10. *When the great hero kissed  
the fair young child  
his face's features grew young  
after one kiss of the babe.*
11. *He took the fairy child  
to his prudent soft-spoken wife,  
but tells naught of the child for a time,  
keeping it at first noath his mantle.*
12. *According to the story of his adventure  
Fionntan salutes his wife.  
She brightly answers him,  
but yet recognised him not.*
13. *Said his wife then  
" Who art thou whom I recognise not,  
O youth, active and lithe,  
fair, bright, noble-handed ? "*
14. *" Whosoever I am, O lady, I shall be  
thine,  
if thou wilt have youthful lover.  
'Tis not unfit that we embrace,  
I am glad to find thee alone."*

I ask thee though young to win peace  
with the stock whose fair fruit thou art.  
By thy mighty race I am injured.  
Thou canst protect me.

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O youth, active and lithe,  
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" Whosoever I am, O lady, I shall be  
thine,  
if thou wilt have youthful lover.  
'Tis not unfit that we embrace,  
I am glad to find thee alone."

15. Sguir a macaóim ós é'dbáct  
cian óm leitéro leannánáct  
noða saol ábácta inn  
a éraob árrácta foile-finn.
16. fearn óuit céile réirpeac plán  
a bean inait ar an macáth  
ó taoi as fearnóir feactain roim  
ré beactaró noearóil dealuig.
17. ní doncóib ó nac ós mé  
nlor doncuigear ar m'óige  
fearn gámaó céim deas-fóig óah  
áct mo fearnóir féim fionntan.
18. 'Doo bhréagab ní dia rinne  
ó fuapar fiór é'inninnne  
ó nac éroear é 'o'folac  
mé 'oo céir-fearn caréannac.
19. ná habair rin ar ríre  
fearnóir éríon mo céilei-re  
r ó go neim-feadómair a-noct  
ar gceileabmaó dá éalmaact.
20. Meire fearnóir fluais éalga  
ar nool i noeilb naoróeanra  
a bean ar ré nám feactain  
ir mé é'fear i n-óig-beactaró.
21. Dá deasgámaó gomaó tura  
an céir-fearn 'oo éarar-ra  
noða dia a fionntain im fáil  
go b'fionntair cia mo éruéuig.
22. A niozan a rof greada  
'oo aéroigear airocanna  
gac fóo go naoróe ón naoróim  
naoróe ós rom at-naoróig.
23. innirir fionntan mar fuair  
an leand ar an leic deaob-fuair  
cóir a n-innirir uadā  
inniró a iol-buadā.
24. An leanaó ós 'na huét féim  
gabair bean fionntain ainn-féim  
ré haóaró an uair 'oo gab  
fuair cabair mar fuair fionntan.
25. ní taoraga ar n-a éabairt óí  
páinig a anál impe  
ná 'oo rgar rí ré fearnáct  
r 'oo gab ní dá naoróeanraóact.
26. Gá óu áct 'oo bí ríao mar rin  
feal buan oile uá n-aunpíir  
ir 'oo bí 'na lúim pé linn  
gac ní 'oo b'áil lé n-inninn.

"Cease thy joking, young man.  
Amours are not for such as I.  
We are not relations to have such  
joking (!),  
O fair, strong youth."

"Better is a strong vigorous man  
for thee, O lady," says the youth  
"An old man has thee. Give him up.  
Escape his wretched existence."

"In my age I will not accept,  
—from my youth I accepted not,  
tho' 'twould have been pleasure for  
me—  
any man but my aged Fionntan."

"I will no longer deceive thee,  
now that I have tested thy heart.  
I cannot hide it from thee,  
I am thy dear spouse."

"Say not so" says she  
"He is a withered old man  
and insignificant now  
having parted with his brave days."

"I am the old man of Falga's host  
now come in youthful guise.  
Avoid me not, O wife" says he  
"I am thy spouse in youth again."

"Even if it be that thou  
art the husband I loved  
thou shalt not come near me  
till it be known who changed thy form."

"O queen of Ros Greadha,  
I have been changed in semblance  
completely anew by a child.  
A child has made me young again."

Fionntan told how he found  
the child on the cold slab,  
and tells of his wondrous powers.  
It was right of him to tell them.

Then Fionntan's wife took  
the child into her arms.  
When she took him to her (B)  
she got the same blessing as Fionntan.

No sooner, the child being given her,  
did its breath reach her  
than she put off her old-age  
and received some of his youth.

So then they lived thus  
all the rest of their lives,  
and possessed in their day  
all their hearts coveted.

27. Եան-մաճ ասր-նոց նա Տօրժա  
բնօժ ան ասրցի ճօծօրժա  
բօլժ և յ-ն ճիւր-իւն ասր  
ար օժօժ օ'բօյրմուն բնօնեամ.
28. Ծօ քնէյն յ'Օննա Եօլժա Եժ  
օժ ծար բնօնեամ և յ-ճից  
էար ան մար բնօն-ինալ բնօժ  
ճ-օրօյն յօլլան յօլ-ճրօժժ.
29. Եւ ճ Ծարնօ ճ Ծեմ բօժար  
լեւժիւ յօլլան յօլ-ճրօժից  
Ծօ Եբօնեամ ճ Էն ճրօժ  
ան Եւ յօլլան է'ամբար.
30. Անլ յօլլան և Եժ Զան  
Ես բօյրմուն ար բնօնեան  
Եար մար Էն անլ է'օժ  
բան Զնիւր օ'բաժիլ քօրօժա.
31. Եար ար Էսար բօն բնօ իմ Եժ  
բնօնամ բաժար օժ Էմաժ  
Եսար բօյն և յ-ն օնար օնար  
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32. Ար Եսար Եժ Եժ Եժ Եժ Եժ  
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When the King of Sorcha's only son came to favour him Fionntan got a gift of blessing, gold tresses coming on him.

To the shore of the Fort of Tolach Té  
to renew Fionntan's youth,  
over the majestic flowing sea  
came Iollann Many-formed.

Thou, O Gearóid, born to bless,  
art as Iollann the Many-formed.  
Let me know, dear child,  
if thou art the Iollann of thy day.

Iollann's breath, O noble heart,  
brought help to Fionntan;  
breathe thy breath like incense  
on my face to help me too!

Come to visit me ; sit on my lap.  
let me feel the strength of thy influence;  
then give me a kiss, and  
dispell the gloom on my five senses.

Renew my friendship  
with Muiris of Cliú whom I used to  
know,  
so that with the prince of Broine  
I be again as once I was!

Save me from thy sire's reproach  
so that I may ever bless thee !  
It is hard to protect me  
owing to his heavy wrath.

Essay with sweet words  
to change his heart.  
Avert the Earl's wrath,  
fair, ruddy, golden-curled child!

Accept my counsel, O Gearóid.  
 "Better is a boy for his lesson."  
 If I am still rejected  
 act as I shall tell thee.

Till I be at peace with him  
let Muiris have no joy in thy presence (†)  
Await not the King of Aine's kiss.  
Repress thy gaiety!

Consent not to go, dear boy,  
for any gift or bribe, to his arms  
while he is wroth with thy teacher  
till I get thy father's pardon.

Let no coaxing however winsome  
win thee, son of fair Aine's lord.  
Let anger be seen on thy young face,  
speak wisely to him, O Gearóid!

39. Dá nócara tú 'r tuar veis-író  
mar veir mé a meic Aibhilín  
é'ápa oot ácair ní háil  
pacáir féala ar ar ríotéain.
40. Diao asao im fear gíada  
buó hé féala ar ríotéana  
munn é'aoibe a gearóro oo gear  
a naoróe gear-fóro gearócal.
41. A uíall ábla cuíra  
ar uairle náio ói-uíla  
a bláe niamóa a énú éinil  
oo éirú an iarla 'r Aibhilín.
42. A leinb a lonóain na ríog  
róiríó é'uplaíra m'imríom  
innígne binn oo beoil éoríra  
i n-a munn éeail éoatla.
43. A mhuirí maoluis oo móro  
oéana mar a-veir gearóro  
oá ngaoa óiom ní ólize  
ríot ar aba é'oiríre.
44. Pláitear nac gearóro gearóil  
geallmaoro uóib i noan-laoirib  
a máeúar óúib nioir óluis  
gháeúar óúim a óéanaim.
45. Dá éinead oá geuméar ván  
i geiré éineann na n-uairín  
na gearóil-re as boing ne bláe  
ir goill éraim-inre éreacan.
46. I noán na ngeall gealltar linn  
gearóil o'ionnarbaó a héirinn  
goill oo fíaoinead tar rál rair  
i noán na ngearócal gealltar.
47. Na goill ir gearóil banba  
fa reac ne huic é'agallmía  
ir tú ceann an oá éinead  
geall neo élu ní cuirírear.
48. Oo ríar mé neo iníur épleadac  
a éinn an oá éineadac  
muirín é'aro-íuic-re asur é'fion  
glan  
nom lion o'antuisre, 'r o'uaíre.
49. Uol ar veabair óo éirec inoill  
ní eus acé uaíar oíuinn  
loí an éuair-re oo éuamar  
uol uair-re oo b' an-uabair.
50. An e-aingeal oo b'áille ar ním  
oo ionnarb Dia mun gcúir-rin  
noáir beas o'fion oá éiteain  
an éion oo leas lúicírear.

'Twill bring about peace if thou doest  
as I say, O son of Aibhilín.  
Thy father likes not to deny thee;  
our reconciliation shall be sealed.

I will ever be thy own bard,  
—be that the seal of our peace!  
I shall enjoy the height of thy favour,  
O child of the Gaoidhil's fair land.

Thou apple of a fragrant tree,  
nobler than apples of gold,  
fair bloom, true native fruit  
of the stock of the Earl and Aibhilín.

O youth from royal London,  
thy word shall relieve my anxiety;  
the sweet voice of thy red lip,  
note of soothing music.

O Muirís, abate thy anger!  
Do as Gearóid asks of thee!  
Thy peace, spite of thy offence,  
if thou deniest me thou art not just.

In our poems we promise the Gaoidhil  
a kingdom they never get.  
You should not pay attention to it,  
'tis our custom!

Two races to whom poems are sung  
are in cool-streamed Eire,  
the Gaoidhil known to fame,  
and the Goill of Britain, isle of varied  
beauty.

In poems to the Goill we promise  
the driving of the Gaoidhil from Eire;  
in those to the Gaoidhil we promise  
the driving of the Goill East overseas!

Goill and Gaoidhil of Banbha  
both in turn seek thy converse (K).  
Thou art head of both races;  
thy fame shall not be equalled.

I left thy hospitable castle,  
O head of both the races.  
The gaiety in thy castle and thy fine  
wine  
filled me with folly and pride!

Pride alone made me  
part in anger from thy noble face.  
Pardon that step I took.  
To leave thee was pride excessive!

For this cause God drove forth  
the fairest angel in Heaven.  
It was hard for man to avoid (!)  
the crime that laid Lucifer low.

51. 'Do tonn feirge gá 'do fáir  
 rann a mhuir meic Tomás  
 uíon a mhuir-re ar 'do móro  
 brios na suíoi-re Gearóio. Δ Σ.

Though the tide of thy wrath has risen  
 against me, O Muiris son of Tomás,  
 Gearóid is the strength of my prayer  
 to save me from thy ire, O Muiris!

52. Ar mearrusaó mairne an Luain  
 a thicil ir móir m'anbuaín  
 tú ar fsiat a meic ar mairnean  
 a fiac úeic go nveaplaigeap.  
 Δ Σ.

At the judgment, on Judgment morn  
 great, O Michael, is my anxiety!  
 Thou, dear one, art my shield that  
 morn.  
 May I pay thee the price of it (! B).

1 b. + c. 2 b. feirge. Liamhain unidentified. 2 c. gíabé 3 b. + brréime  
 d. + mar c. 4 c. ccap. 'do é in Ir. Gr. Tr. p. 59 l. 488. 5 b. + airm f.  
 c. for puinníoe cf. Eriu V. 198, 635. d. + ní. For coillíoe cf.  
 poem Corac forcéuin fuair 'Domnall, vv. 8, 20, 24. 6b. + caip, ran  
 ní-. d. + cómoirle. 7d. + l. na l. 8a + uoim. 8c. + nóis  
 noaitzil. 9 a + rom. b. + ufeacoin 10 d. + u'a. a. é. 12 a. +  
 frréime. c. + an b., + ngl. 13 a. + 'do ráio b. b. + cia éú atam av m.  
 14 a. + síó bé mé a 'dean 'do beir 'daio. c. + c. ar c. 15 a. +  
 óis uot a. c. + caol. 16 c. + ná bí as r. 17 a. + donróc. 18 a.  
 + suu. c. + noá neroir. 20 b. naioeant. 21 b. + ro éa. c. +  
 f. m'fai. 22 a. Ros Greadha unidentified. b. + aipiceap. 23 c.  
 a i., an i. 26 b. + eile. d. + ní buó áil. 27 b. + aipiceap. d. +  
 as c. 28 a. cf. Man. Cust. iii. 59. 29 only in D 4. 32 a. + as m. c.  
 Broine not identified. 33 c. + bur v. 34 b. + uaitiomráo ar ní. 35 Not  
 in D. 4. 36 c. + na., re. 37 a. leg ar cor ná (! K). 38 b. + meic  
 fíacá f. c. + cuigior, + óis. 39 d. + ar an r. 41 c. + bláit, + gcimil.  
 42 a. + lonnain. c. + rogar binn. 43 a. + maolao. 44 b. v. nar no.  
 c. a m. uuib níor ólís, ar m. m (o written above) m (é written above)  
 níor óluis. 45 b. + gc. fóola na b'uarán. c. lú "concerned with  
 fame" (K.). 46. In D 41 order is 47, 46. 48 a. + as molaó S. 47.  
 not in D. 14. 48 a. + fleaoac. b. for cineaoac. cf. Pass. Hom.  
 voc. c. ir uíon uam, ir t'fion slan. d. + annuipre. 49 a. + ó.  
 gcuirre. 50 a. + b'uarle. 51 a. + an c. MSS. fáir: Tomás. cf. Ir.  
 Gr. Tr. (B). d. + S. 'do S. 52 b. + ba móir éanbuaín. c. ran mairnean,  
 an mairne. For mairnean masc. cf. Ir. Gr. Tr. d. + nveaplaigeap.

# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. MCKENNA, S.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of the thirteenth century Ireland.]

## X.

[RIA A iv. 3 (661)].

An address to Gearóid after he had become Earl of Desmond (cf. *Introd.* ix.). The preceding poem had evidently failed to placate Muiris or even to win the favour of the young Gearóid. Gofraidh here declares his intention of severing connection with the Geraldine house. Eilíonór (vv. 57, 58) dau. of James, second Earl of Ormond and wife of Gearóid died in 1392, "a beautiful and amiable woman" (*A. Loch Ce, Four Mast*). In v. 3 Gearóid is styled Lord Liag (Athleague, Co. Rosc.) though, as far as can be ascertained, on neither father's or his mother's side was he descended from a northern family. The fact of his father's first wife being a daughter of Riocard Ruadh Earl of Ulster may explain the reference.

longaib tú orm a iarla  
mór in'fearg réc fólt ngéir-  
níamda  
ná tabair feirge an éilíró  
ceile : n-ágar é amroigir

Sul tuilear mo tonn feirge  
do ghlórad do ghuaib-leirge  
do b'ear robad romam féin  
sro rogal oram eirém.

Na roglar ar a b'ár puibín  
orm a iarla Deas-Mumha  
tú do ní iao é fuilge  
a ní liag ná leanpuim-ne

Ní pacá rinn reabao féin  
vot éagnac a ucc mín-péiré  
réo ghuir mhuig ir vó a véanam  
úuro a-tú ná éiribéanad.

Be on thy guard against me, Earl !  
I am wroth with thee, fair-haired  
shapely hero.

Wreak not thy anger on thy poet.  
Resist thy unlawful prompting.

Ere the flood of my anger swells  
to scorch thy cheek,  
I will give thee a warning  
tho' that (i.e. the warning) is a spoiling  
of me (i.e. puts me at a disadvantage) (B.).

Those attacks causing me pain,  
O Earl of Deas-Mumha,  
thou makest them, for thou permittest  
the deeds I will punish, O prince of  
Liag (?)

I will not exceed (the truth about)  
thee (K)  
in reviling thee, smooth-breasted hero.  
I now warn thee of it !  
Tis my duty to do so to thee, gentle-  
faced one.



5. ÍR OIR AR ÉÓIR A CÚMAL  
O' ASNA A IARLA DEAR-MHUMAN  
LUET FASLA NAC MO-PSAR NUIB  
OO LORSAO M'ARDA AR E'IONCUIB
6. SÉ TARMHAIR A ÉOIRÉACÉ OE  
SOPAO OO SHUIRE LILLE  
AR RUI SHIRTE SHÁIN LEARSAO  
NÍ CÉIR AISTE O'IMBÉARSAO.
7. ÓSLÁC ÓUIT OO RINNE RIOM  
AÓBAR MÓIRE NAC MAIRIOM  
SHIOM CÉ OÁ OCLORAO DON MÓIRO  
MÉ OOO SHIOPAO A SHAPÓRO.
8. OÁ NDEARNAINN A OREAC MAP BLÁE  
SHIOPAO E'AGTE EREO ÓSLÁC  
MÓ A CIONTA DON EÍ OÁ OUIS  
SAC NÍ OÁ OUIORPA CREIMHO.
9. AR ULC RIOT-PA ASUR HUM-PA  
CÁNSAR O'FÓSHA SHAM-PA  
A SHAS FULCÁR SHOTA TRUIM  
OO RÚN-CAR FLOCA EADRUINN.
10. FEALT OIR OO CÉIBOIN CARRAIS  
NÍ LEANAB É AR EAP-UPPARO  
'NÁ LOC NÁ OÉANABO-RE OUIR  
M'ÉAPAC-RE AR OIOR OO OLEAPUINN.
11. AR MBIOBDA O'EAPRÁIN OPUINN  
CAR ÉIR MEABLA 'R MIO-COMUILL  
A LEOMAN DEAR-CORR FIONN FÁIL  
LEAC-CPOM ÍR SAN IUNN O'EAPRÁIN.
12. UIRRE RIN SHO PAOR ÉURA  
EASCOIR O'ÉIR NA MEABLA-PA  
LUET A OÉANNA I OUIRE IO OUIS  
SÉ CÉARNA MEIRE ÓN MEABAIL.
13. SHON SHR EUIREAR LEO ÍR LEANTA  
OAOIB-RE OHOIS AN AINEACÉA  
MAP OO OÁILTE CRU MO CUIRP  
IM FLÁINCE ÍR OÚ MO OIOGUILT
14. FEALT OIR ÍR SAN É AR RÉANA  
CUIR OIOLPA NÓ OISÉALA  
OUIGRÓ CÚ A OÍOL NÓ A OIOGAIL  
RÍO MÁPA OÚ I NOOI-SHIOFÁIB
15. SURÓEOCÁO MÉ OO MUIN CÉIR  
CLÁ E'FEICÉAMNAIR SHO OIRÓEIR  
AN SHIOM OUIRO NAC DEARNAIR  
OPIUB OO BPIOS BHEICÉAMNAIR.

From thee I can claim damages,  
O Earl of Deas-Mumha,  
for my eorn burnt with thy approbation  
by folk still with thee.

Though the scorching of thy fair face  
is likely to result from it,  
yet 'tis wrong to scorch faoes  
for the (mere) burning of eorn in field !

A servant of thine gave me  
cause of anger I will not forgive ;  
it were a fierce deed if the anger's result  
were  
my scorching of thee, O Gearóid ! (B.)

If, O fair-faced hero, I scorched  
thy face for thy servant's fault  
greater the guilt of him who caused  
all the results it will have.

Not for my advantage or thine  
did folk come to denounce me,  
to secretly sow dissension between us.  
O beloved hero of Siodh Truim,

Injury done me by a mangy crew  
I will not avenge on a churl !  
Make no difficulty about its requital.  
Tis from thee I would claim satisfaction.

That my foe be protected from me (K)  
after his treachery and false promise  
is, O fair soft-eyed hero of Fál,  
partiality—for I am not protected.

Though thou art not guilty of it,  
it is unjust that after the foul deed  
its authors should have power in thy  
court  
—even though I was uninjured by the  
deed.

Though I fell not at their hands,  
thou shouldst punish the evil-doers ;  
'tis right to atone to me though I live  
just as though my blood had been spilt.

My injury, not denied,  
when wilt thou requite or punish it ?  
Requite or punish it thou shouldst  
if atonement is to be made for their  
crimes.

I will establish in justice,  
the fame of thy responsibility, tho'  
'tis well known ;  
the injury which thou didst not thyself  
commit,  
lies on thee by force of law.

16. CRÉAD FUIL AGAIB NA AGAR  
 SAN A LOC RÍET OLLAMHAIN  
 LUET COSAIB FÁSLA M'FINE  
 AGAIB EAPLA I OCUINRÓE.
17. CUMA GÁ CONAIB NAŠAR  
 AN PEAR NÉ BFUL M'FALCANAR  
 NÍ BIÚ AG CLEIT DOOLA AN A OPUIM  
 A FOLA T IO LEIT LEANAIM,
18. AN UAIR BAO CÓIN OUIE OPUIM MUR  
 NÓ A MILLEAD A MEIC MUIRIR  
 IP GULOH POR OUIE MARI DEARS  
 FUIL  
 DEIT AG DION DO ODBEARIS
19. MAR NAC FURGEAD PEAR DOM CLOIMN  
 DEIT EAP E'OIUBINE AGAINN  
 DEIT AGAIB CIOD 'MÁ BAO CÁIN  
 DOM FIOR ÉAGAR GÁ CONGBÁIL
20. A ŠEAPÓRO ŠIÓ DOIRB DÁM-PA  
 OPUIM DO CUP NÉO CUMANN-PA  
 CEAD 'MÁ BAO ION-PÁIRCE INN  
 IP PEAR M'IONCÁINCE AN E'UILLINN.
21. ŠÉ CÁIM ORE AG IARRAID CUIRE  
 ŠIÓ ULLAM EÚ DÁ CUIRDEIRE  
 LEARS ŠAN E'ASNA A FLEARS LEAMNA  
 LEARS EASNA NÉ E'ŠEAPNA.
22. EÚ O'ASNA ŠAN E'AITŠIN LINN  
 MO DÁIL IP MÓ DO MAITŠINN  
 ŠIÓ IONAM LINN ODO LEAMHAIN  
 NÍ HIONANN INN O'FEICŠAMNAIB.
23. ŠIÓ MÓ AP OIRŠE CUIRO DON CÁIN  
 DÁ N-ASNA EÚ A CUIRŠIOMÓAM  
 BUD BEAS DEAPARÓ AN CULCÓIN  
 IC AGARÓ DON AGARÓIN
24. IC AGARÓ A FADNA MALL  
 ŠÉ CÁ AN ŠIINNIO AGAM  
 NÍ LOCFA A ŠEAS LOISE CÁIL  
 ACC OILE DÉAS DO OIOGBÁIL.
25. DÓANTAN RÍOD NÓ BEAPAN BPOAT  
 EAPAINN A EAPLA PÁINNEAC  
 LÓIN OUIIN A NOOBAPAMAIN AIN  
 A ŠOIM-LANNAS OIN ÉACŠAIS.

Why dost thou refuse  
 to requite thy bard for it?  
 Conspirators who attack my family  
 are in position with thee,

I care not what road he goes,  
 he with whom is my feud.  
 I will not oppose him in addition (?)  
 'Tis thou I charge with his crime.

When thou shouldst disown  
 or crush him, O son of Muirir,  
 'tis a shame for thee, O red-cheeked  
 hero,  
 to protect thy highwayman.

As one of my own stock should not  
 stay with me spite of thy ill-will,  
 how was it right that my foe  
 should be supported by thee?

O Gearóid, though 'tis hard on me  
 to give up thy company,  
 how could I be a fit follower  
 when my slanderer is at thy side?

Though I claim justice of thee,  
 and though thou mayst be ready to  
 grant it,  
 I would fain impeach thee, O prince  
 of the Leamhain,  
 and one is loath to plead against one's  
 lord.

Though I think it imperative to im-  
 peach you,  
 I would more easily have relinquished  
 my case (?)  
 had you argued that (in the event of  
 losing it) I could not have paid  
 you compensation (?)  
 But we are very different as debtors  
 (you owe me much, I owe you  
 little) (?)

Though my right in the case is the  
 plainest,  
 yet, if I accuse thee, Lord of Iomdhán,  
 even full justice (?)  
 will little avail thy accuser.

O noble-browed scion of Tál's house  
 though truth be for me and against  
 thee,  
 nothing but a Brehon's fee  
 will atone for thy injury.

Let peace be made, or judgment given  
 between us, O curly-tressed hero.  
 Enough now have I said for my case,  
 O fair doughty blue-lanced warrior.

26. nó bíod cairde leat ar leat  
'm n nódál síó fáda an fúiread  
nó go tseasáma a dait-sil óuin  
voo fíreasa t'aitéin ásuinn.
27. Tuigim ír mar tuar fálad  
síó iongnad an t-oraasáad  
móio ásaó óreic fá-áloim ruinn  
ar mbeic a haóbaír ásuinn.
28. Rum oo rinnead an bine  
fá bfuil oram t'oirbhíre  
oo géan uime m'oirbhíre féin  
an buille oirbhíre eiréin.
29. Damaíail oo déaraí ói  
uróir i n-ásaó ruaisé  
vó tóasá fálaró eile  
i n-ásaó ar n-oirbhíre.
30. Má oo éiontuigear mut ruam  
i gcúir fá maó cóir m'áiríar  
a folc na bfuinn-earlad bann  
noct an t-invearlad oram
31. Admúrán nac easail vaim  
gé tú ar éoraó mo éangad  
síoraó neic fá a ní féine  
ná beic ar tí coibéime.
32. Aímleap ar Gaoidheal nó ar Gall  
oo ruim vionda ní éarínram  
ir.óileap inn vó gac fíor  
rinn fá vímleap níor vligéad.
33. Voo ní mé ní vó máoideam  
i n-ásaó bap n-íol-máoinead  
voo féin dáoinis vruim ar vruim  
féin gac áoin-fíor pam ásuinn.
34. Aitéad a fáo oo leanaí  
vób síó maic bap muineapap  
már é ar tuar vó-míada vaim  
a rúasá mín-fíada íluíhan.
35. Trém vionda ar oo óreic fá-  
éaom  
ní fúighe uaim éan-tatáoir  
noán fúighe uaim íghe  
ir cuibé uab imíre.
36. Imíre nac áil linne  
oo géan v'áiméoin m'innínne  
tré féiré néc áisó nuaróe  
a óeiré fá-sil nórs-uaine.
- Or let a remand be given us both,  
though long has been the delay in our  
case,  
until, O dark fair-faced hero,  
I acquire enough to compensate you (!)
- I notice as a portent of wrath  
—though 'tis a strange (perversion of  
right) order—  
that thy fair face frowns on me,  
while 'tis I who have cause for anger !
- On me was done the wrong  
for which thou reproachest me !  
I will defend myself therefore.  
Is that a wonderful stroke ? (B.).
- If thou conceivest fresh wrath  
against my reproach of thee  
it will resemble  
a shot against a fleeing foe (!)
- If I have ever offended thee  
in aught for which I should be con-  
demned,  
O fair curly-haired prince,  
bring forward proof of it against me !
- Though I live by my tongue,  
a reproach which I need not fear  
is that I attack folk in their rightful  
possession,  
or that I am given to reviling.
- Injury on Gaoidheal or Gall  
in surly spirit never have I wrought,  
I am fair to all men.  
I should not have been dishonoured.
- I give—I say it not in boasting—  
in return for thy great bounties  
all due regard in my power  
to all the men of thy numerous host.
- I regret the long years I clung to thee  
though great thy kindness,  
if that kindness is now to cause me  
dishonour,  
O hero of Mumha's fair wood.
- Thou shalt not be reviled by me  
in my anger with thy fair face,  
nor yet shalt thou be suppliated.  
'Tis better to depart from thee !
- Spite of my feelings, I will take  
my departure in sorrow  
owing to anger against thy fair face,  
bright ruddy blue-eyed prince.

37. Ceileadhaidh duit dia do mhóro  
meire as gluairt a Gearóid  
do feadhna ar neac nion dá dhá  
muna beac cú dom éiréasad.
38. fear aithe na n-uile ceapto  
dom éiréasad cnuas an uilbeas  
gá dá áit ní aithníge inn  
gíó dá ar aithníde (!) i nÉirinn.
39. fearad t'aithne a fíh Ceathra  
córardó dhá dhóir-mheanma  
t'andáir faoi ó nac fuiginn,  
faigil gnáoi do ghnáfuiginn.
40. Dáir leat nóda ruda riam  
io dhrua a dháir na dhinn-áid  
ir ná raca ríó rinne  
a fíh dátra Duibhlinne.
41. Dá uceasgháinn dhóir ar dhruim  
móro  
roodam do gáidta a Gearóid  
gan mé ná fú rinn do ríó  
asur rinn éirí ar mo cóiríad.
42. Deas má do dhruim aithe.  
dhíó gíó adáir maátnuigte  
mar do dháir t'aighnead táir aír  
uáinn ar gearóiréad dhíó gearóiréad.
43. ní dhongda t'ágaró móir moill  
fead a haithne dhruim  
dhacáir dhá aithe uirre  
gan dháir aigte dhruimne.
44. Dáir leat ní cúra adá ann  
gáir dhíóir dá dhíle ar gcomáinn  
nó no ní meire mé féin  
gíó dá dháir dhíle a dhíleim.
45. Dáir dháir aithe asam  
a-dá a dháir dhíle dháir dhíle  
ar do dhíle 'r ar dhíle t'aigte  
gíó dháir dhíle dhíle dhíle.
46. Gá aithne t'ágaró gearóir  
ir t'áir dhíle dhíle dhíle  
t'aighnead ní aithne a dhíle  
aithneim dhíle dhíle dhíle.
- Let me bid thee farewell—alas the  
thought!—  
as I depart, O Gearóid.  
For no man should I abandon thee  
wert thou not forsaking me!
- That he who knows all craftsmen  
should abandon me is a sore wrong.  
Yet thou dost not recognise me  
though thou knowest more than any  
man in Eire (!)
- Thy great knowledge, O lord of Team-  
hair—  
my cause for dejection is the greater  
for it,  
as, in spite of it (thy knowledge) I could  
not win honour from thee (!)  
Winning of honour was ever my  
wont (!)
- One would say I never stood  
in thy castle, fair-haired prince;  
and that thou hadst never seen me,  
bright prince of Duibh-linn!
- If I met thee on a road  
thou wouldst pass me by, O Gearóid  
without saying to me "thou" or "I,"  
though my conversation had attained  
the pinnacle of fame! (B.).
- I scarcely recognise thee  
—strange though this be—  
as thy love for me has ebbed  
after my enjoying of thy honour.
- Thou keepest not thy great stately face  
towards me  
long enough for me to recognise it;  
it is hard for me to recognise it  
if thou dost not face me (K).
- One would say thou art someone else,  
though close was once our converse;  
or else that I am not I!  
whichever of us is the more insulted.
- O noble dark-browed hero,  
I have a dim kind of recognition  
of thy voice and features,  
though I utterly fail to recognise  
thee (B.).
- Even though I recognise thy ruddy face  
and thy bright splendid form,  
not in the least do I recognise thy  
spirit.  
I must get a fresh hold on thy friend  
ship. (B)

47. ní hé a shé ar shéda oim  
mo bionda a bair na brian-éim  
oo miallaó a bionn-íat úreas  
o'iomlae ceangsaó ná tiseaó.

48. ír faoi leir an brear oo éum  
úit íséal amléara oim  
sion go núbine inn o'ionnlae  
íinn oá éile coim-biondae

49. ní hé ná baó éirir íat  
a cois a éab ná bionn-íat  
a mbi im éann sion go scoisge  
oo ní brear a' olo-coisge.

50. sion go scoisge an scaibóin mbis  
oo ní oim sion nae ceilo  
coisaó na scuiaó coisge  
pobal mumha mion-foirde.

51. oo coisgir coisaó éiann luiric  
oo éarcuigir éiann faor-éuiric  
ceao fá scoisge na íloia  
'r nae coisge m'fear eiríóda.

52. éarham asur m'fear cionao  
lir sion go íeic íeúioisaó  
íeúo uab ur-mumha ír éile  
íluais uplama aisméile.

53. laighnís í leir oo úpoma  
íraoé mar éirígear éaróirra  
cú oon éab-shé sá scoisge íoin  
oo bpoio ar í-éasnae oimib.

54. oo íeúiois oo neair a-niar  
íraioim coisaó éiannne uilliam  
éruas ar íeúiois oo íoís ílan  
'r san cois ar í-éin-íir íalaó

55. mar íin oámae loinn líb-íe  
oo coisíre an scaibóin-íe  
tís óil í Chairbre oo cois  
íí aise an íí íé a úeoaisíre.

56. ní éluim coisaó oáíeao  
a íarla íne íinn-íreás  
nae coisge ó nae ceile  
sion go scoisge ar scoillíre. íong.

My foe's charge should not be laid on  
me,  
O curly-tressed hero.  
Be not deceived, fair scion of Breagha  
by the wagging of a tongue !

The motive (!) of him  
who told you the slanderous tale about  
me  
is that we be foes to each other,  
even though thou mayest not destroy  
me (!)

It is not that thou couldst not  
have stopped him. O fair-haired lord.  
Though thou checkest not my foes  
thou checkest men harder to manage  
(K).

Thou rebukest not the petty rabble  
who injure me and openly too ;  
yet thou checkest the strife of heroes,  
and keepest in humble peace Mumha's  
people.

Thou didst stop the warring of Loro's  
tribes,  
and didst chastise Coro's race ;  
why dost thou check princes,  
and leave my foe unchecked ?

Though thou canst not make peace  
between me and my injurer,  
Ur-Mumha and Eile thou keepest quiet,  
hosts dread and impetuous !

When brawls arise  
among the Laignigh in thy rear,  
with one word thou checkest them,  
and this stirred me to reproach thee !

Thy strong arm from the west did  
separate  
Clann William locked in strife ;  
I grieve to think of all whom thy  
gleaming eye tamed,  
and yet that my foe goes unchecked !

That rabble, hadst thou wished it,  
thou couldst have restrained,  
thou canst subdue I Chairbre,  
and harriest their land to teach  
them wisdom !

I know of no battling, however fierce,  
O Earl of the fair Greeks' Isle,  
which thou checkest not—thou showest  
it—  
though thou chastisest not my robber.

57. SAON A EILIONÓR AN mh'fairs  
 é'asár leatam móir mhín-veirs  
 gá cá mhín-veirse ro shúir glain,  
 ní i gcáir vbeirse veirséair.

Save, O Eilionór, from my anger  
 thy smooth blushing noble face.  
 If thy fair face blush  
 no deed of violence calls forth that  
 flush!

58. A Conpaor Cógair mhumhan  
 nap luis an luét ealaóan  
 gró tuar mo dóirre a-uio  
 ní coille uam oirbhe.  
 iongaib.

O Countess of Cóigeadh Mumhan,  
 ever indulgent to poets,  
 even in the matter of my quarrel (!)  
 thou deservest no reproach from me.

3 d. "O prince of Liag, whom I will follow" (B., K). 8 a. "folk  
 not distantly connected with thee" (? K). 12 a. gá. 18 a.  
 sen suir. 14 d. leg mára for mār of MS. (B.). 17 a. Miss Knott  
 quotes *Todd Lect.* xvii., p. 52, l. 29 "for in cle[i]th dála," "at the  
 hurdle of assembly," but the MS. has poia and the short vowel is fixed  
 here by fála, and also in RIA 23 p. 33, p. 222, v. 34. muna'mbeat a  
 eac 'r aapa 'uo ba [a] leat cleat vaka' dóib. The meaning seems  
 to be "obstacle," 19 a. bpuis (s overlined and dotted). 21 d. ná  
 lears. Meaning seems to be "and therefore I had better leave thee."  
 22 "Rather than sue thee when I cannot compensate thee, I would  
 relinquish my case. Though I deem it a fitting time to accuse thee we  
 are ill-matched as litigants" (B). 23 a. vips. a. "hasty claim" (? K).  
 24 ad. i.e., "nothing but a trial" For ois vés cf. O'Don. *Suppl.*  
 aib véc and *Ir. Gr. Tr.* p. 47 ll. 216, 225. 26 d. A legal phrase of  
 obscure meaning. cf. *Laws. Gloss.* aithgin. 36 d. + ponuairé 38 d.  
 gá. 41 d. ir p. (r seems overlined). 43 a. éongma, móir. 44 d. sibé  
 46 a. é. 48 a. aiffaol. faol=aoi? a. sen so. 50 a. sen so. 51 b.  
 cl. f. 57 a. i.e. "Think not I am angry" (? B). a. ngl. 58 a. s  
 (overlined).

# HISTORICAL POEMS OF GOFRAIDH FIONN Ó DÁLAIGH.

EDITED BY L. McKENNA, S.J.

[Gofraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh, one of the most famous of Irish bardic poets, died in 1387. These poems, now published for the first time, are addressed to various Irish chieftains and throw valuable light on the social conditions of 14th century Ireland.]

## XI.

[RIA A. IV. 3 (878)].

An address to a cross over the poet's young son. For the story (vv. 34, 35) of the raising to life of Muireadhach (son of Eoghan son of Niall Naoi-ghiallach) by his wife, Eare (dau. of Lougharn King of Alba), cf. *Giolla Brighde Mac Connmidhe's poem* *Atá romh reanóir Muáin* (RIA 23 F. 16, p.110). I know of no other references to the death of Cathbhaidh through grief for his son Geanann, or to the recalling to life of Cearnaid by his father the Daghdha (vv. 17-32).

Stanzas 1-16 and 38-39 are translated in a lecture on *Bardic Poetry* in the *Journal of the Ivernian Society* (vol. V., nos. 19, 20.) by Professor Bergin with whose kind permission they are here printed.

1. A éapóir éall an an ucúlaig  
ar uaimna uam uéap-éumhaib  
cú uilam sio bá lén bárb  
ir é an ucúinam do éogbail.

O Cross yonder on the hill,  
that art the cause of my weeping,  
whosoever is glad at thy completion,  
thy setting up is my casting down.

2. Ir cú a éapóir an meic mhuinnig  
éus mé a-noct go neamh-fuilbín  
a élút-éapóir fá uatú as tuinnre  
cú muctar mo meadóir-pe.

'Tis thou, my dear son's cross,  
that hast made me cheetless to-night.  
O firm cross by which I mourn,  
'tis thou that shalt quench my joy.

3. Cú éumhigear uáinne a uol  
uá noeacáid m'áine u'éogán  
mo beit mar cú a éapóir-fa ir cáir  
do b'ura cú san éogbail.

Should my mind wander from Eoghan,  
thou recallest to me his going hence:  
it is just that I should be as I am  
it, had been easy not to have erected  
thee.

4. Éuas báir gcumhnoisad cumad  
sio cneac do éapóir  
cú ór an gcinn-ne a éapóir éogán  
m'innhe an a lop laigheobair

'Sad is thy recalling of grief,  
though thy shapeliness is lovely:  
with thee, Eoghan's cross, above men  
my wealth will pine away.

5. As uol reocad ran rligir  
uápa go lán léigiríon  
'gat áine a éapóir báir cneac  
áiste báir an bantpóca.

When men pass thee on the road  
tears shall fall to earth.  
At sight of thee, O cross, reddened  
shall be the face of women's hands.

6. Sio cáir atcuirre anba  
maic an maire faogalua  
do éapóir uáinne uonha  
leacna cuibde curomma.

Though they cause a mighty grief,  
they are a goodly ornament to the  
world—  
thy four dark ridges  
broad, even and balanced.

7. Δ θεός θαρ ευμαθ' αν έρως  
'να λόερανν φεαρινάς πόλιν  
φύαταιρ έρως μβαρην-έλονι μβλάτ-  
ταιρ.  
μαρβναιθ' μέ κοίρ κομάνταίρ.
8. 1ρ έρως ήρ το β' φεαριν θάξ-θουαρ  
αν έρως άο-έιυ έαοαρβουαρ  
λοίρ να έοίρσε το έεί.  
αν ηθείρσε έοίρσε άο-έίττ.
9. Νί φιάθναιθ' έ υροζυρ το  
αν έρως-τα νά ι γέείν υαίτε  
γίθ βλάίτ αν μιονι ι 1ρ υρέτα  
ή' αν έιονν αλίε 'να κοίμαρτα.
10. Δ έρως όρ έιονν να λείρσε  
εuar έοιθν θαρ λυέτ άοιθ-έίρσε  
βιαίθ φρոր έε υοιθν-φάδραιβ θε  
Δ έρως ό'ολλανναιθ' ό'αίτνε.
11. Εύίρ α τόξόλα όρ ταλαίθ  
έρως άόβαιρ αν ολλανν  
αν ημαν-τα θά ήρμαθ ήαιρ-τε  
βυθ έuar άλμρα 1ρ υμναιέτε.
12. Θεανναέτ αν ανμαθ αν ήίρ.  
1ρα έρως το έίυ αν η'αίγρό  
φεαριν ινά έυίε έυίρσε  
ευίρσε αν αν ρεανς ρεάξαιν-ρε.
13. Δαά αν έρως έέρ φράνθεαθ μέ  
αν υείθ το έοίρσε Δ έοιμθε  
αν Δ έορ εο υέτ υοο έίξ  
αν έί υάν έρως αν έοίρ-ήν.
14. Υείτ αν έεί έοίρσε έοξαιν  
υοιθ άέτιυίρσε υίρσεοιάρ  
υίον αν ήλόξ ό άζυρ γίθ έαθ  
αν ήρόν Δ όέ νί υίυεαν.
15. Έυίλλεαθ έάόαιρ υοιθ έίλλ ναοίθ  
έρως ήιν-ήρφααθ αν ηααοίθ  
ήλόξ ρα έάόαρ υοιθ έοίρ-ρε  
βυθ έέρ ό'άραρ εαξίαιρ.
16. Δόβαιρ ολλανν φεαρ μνυαν  
ειον εο υρμαίρ ανιθ ολλανν  
εαν φεαρινν μαρ έ ό'ολλαν  
Δ όέ ό'εαρβάρ φεαρινν.

O son, for whom this cross is made  
to be a steady bright beacon,  
thou hast a cross fair and graceful,  
let an elegy be yoked thereto.

The cross I see overhead  
is the cross of one who was best at  
winning goodly prizes :  
this cross that is viewed as a banner,  
conceals the very flame of art.

There is no need to bear witness to it,  
near or afar off ;  
tho' it is a smooth jewel,  
sad it should be as a token before all.

His cross above the hill-side,  
omen of grief to men of my own craft,  
there shall be a shower of tears on  
dark eyebrows  
when poets recognise his cross !

For this it was raised above the ground  
the student's cross,  
in that this wood will be to the fresh-  
cheeked lad,  
a presage of alms and prayer.

A blessing upon the soul of him  
whose cross I see before me ;  
better than a flood of grief  
is a prayer for the graceful comely one.

This cross whereby I have been tortured  
is fashioned after Thy Cross, O Lord;  
may he thereby come to Thy house  
he whose cross this is.

To stay behind Eoghan's cross  
will be an opening for my grief :  
it is a defence against a host  
and yet, O God, it is no shelter against  
sorrow.

The delicately carved cross of the youth brings more honour to the holy churchyard, to reverence this cross a company comes which would fill a church.

He would have been the ollav of the  
men of Munster  
though he never got the title of ollav,  
that we have no such ollav as he,  
O God, that is the want I feel.



17. ní óearma an nvol a oisne  
fulang mar an bfulaing-ne  
fean dar dom-aínm Catbhaidh ómhaol  
ón mhodairn laenáis lionn-raol.

No suffering such as mine  
was felt at his heir's death  
by the man called Cathbhaidh the  
Druid  
from the Modharn dusk-haunted, calm-  
flowing !

18. ní hiongnadó an fáit 'má bfuil  
an gcomhártaíne ne Catbhaidh  
cruaís bair an vhuad a-vírim  
cruaís an cáir 'má a gcuimnígm.

No wonder I compare myself  
with Cathbhaidh ! ( ? K )  
Sad the death of that druid,  
sad the reason I recall him !

19. Sió b'é d'áirna fa vbarra  
rinn o' éascaoine a oíseada  
ní an son an vhuad bu déine  
cruaís fá a vol an nbeiréile.

Whatever cause has urged me  
to lament his fate,  
it is not on the druid's account  
that grief for his death causes my  
misery.

20. A-cú 'má a bheic voh báir rug  
mí an bfuil aís fóimao  
cruaís m' éad ne noiró an fír  
éas fá a oisne voh fuil.

I envy that poet his being carried off  
by the death that seized him ;  
alas ! that I should have to envy him  
a death died for his heir !

21. Do éad voh éumaid a maic  
voh b'é an mac fá mór éaric  
Geanann ghuad-folair fuair eol  
nac cuataóar uair v'aitéad.

He died of grief for his son,  
son of heavy éric,  
Geanann Bright-cheek whose lore  
none ever heard challenged !

22. Cruaís leam-fa loise Catbhaidh  
an fearc Geanann gnomantais  
voh géir an loise an a leic  
a éaric v' éir a éim-thaic.

I pity Cathbhaidh's lying  
on doughty Geanann's grave,  
when his heart bereft of his son  
lamented as he lay on the tomb !

23. Céir Catbhaidh fá ceann fóhair  
tar éir Geanann ghuad-folair  
i vcalmair ché Geanann nglan  
ní leanam amlair eogan.

Cathbhaidh prince of wisdom,  
is buried through his sorrow  
for Geanann Bright-cheek.  
I follow not Eoghan thus !

24. Corháil a v'é d'áirna an gcaoi  
meire asur Catbhaidh caom-ómaol  
Sió ead ní comérom gcuaidh  
an comélan fear n-ealadán.

Alike, O God, our cause of tears,  
mine and those of the good druid ;  
yet, as regards sorrow, not alike  
is the comparison of us two poets !

25. Váimad comérom an gcuaidh  
'máir raom-thaicóí fáicara  
cearó Catbhaidh chéad voh bñ  
Sarraidh gan éas fá a oisne.

If our grief be equal  
for our bright noble sons—  
Cathbhaidh died. What then keeps  
Gofraidh from dying for his son ?

26. Catbhaidh mar voh éad neamhainn  
v' éas voh éumaid éom-Geanann  
mó a fáicán fá voh gan vol  
an e-éairín óí fáir eogan.

As Cathbhaidh before me  
died of grief for fair Geanann,  
why doth not Eoghan's father die ?  
Greater his reason !

27. Cruaís gan fóiméin asá.  
mar voh bí as báir ceannao  
an n-a guim voh láim loíga  
voh mhum áis a íomgona.

Alas, he has not the resource  
which availed when Cearmaid died,  
alain by Lugh  
after the fury of his combat !

28. Cómhag do éuala roim Lugh  
 i Cearmaio na gcleag lúthar  
 Cearmaio mil-béal ba marb óe  
 o'arim rinne-géar mar an rinnene.  
 I have read of the fight of Lugh  
 and active-footed Cearmaid;  
 then was honey-lipped Cearmaid slain  
 by a weapon sharp-pointed as spear (†).
29. Rún an Daghdha i n-oiaró a meic  
 ríarab le héirinn n-oirróreic  
 riail ear muir do labrab leir  
 go braghdab luib a leisir.  
 The Daghdha's decision on his son's  
 death  
 was to leave noble Eire;  
 he said he would go over-seas  
 to seek a herb to cure him.
30. Céir do éiríseal an domáin  
 ríghair éirinn n-oirróreic  
 gur cuir an Daghdha dá óion  
 ar a thuin damhá an veig-ríog.  
 He goes travelling the world  
 and leaves martial Eire;  
 the Daghdha puts the prince on his  
 back  
 in order to save him.
31. Cearmaio lé ádair n-éadac  
 cáinig ríeáin ríáin-éadac  
 mar bíac na ríac dá ghuaró gíl  
 oar lac ní fuair a oiró.  
 Cearmaid is made by his doughty sire  
 smooth and wound-healed,  
 his cheek fair as plant's blossom;  
 you would have said he had not died!
32. Cíod ná ba déanta dáin-ra  
 gémaró airíseac oiam-ra  
 réim an Daghdha a dé ar n-a óol  
 dámaró earba ó o'eoan.  
 Why should not I do  
 —tho' 'twould be thought strange of  
 me!—  
 what the Daghdha did on his son's  
 death,  
 if perchance it might rescue Eoghan?
33. Mo mac-ra ó nac mé an Daghdha  
 rúil le éiríse i' éasearba  
 ní ríghair oar mbuain a bhoio  
 an buaró do éadair Cearmaio.  
 As I am not the Daghdha, 'tis vain  
 to hope for my son's return;  
 the power which raised Cearmaid  
 is not to be got to save me from  
 distress.
34. Muireadhac mac-eoan air  
 Cearmaio gíó cia do éarair  
 do éuala ar n-ool don oir gíain  
 a-rí a gcor i gcorraib.  
 Muireadhach son of great Eoghan  
 and Cearmaid—whoever delivered  
 them—  
 these two fair youths after their death  
 were—I have read,—restored to life.
35. Tíuag nac eadair o'fuiríoc oim  
 an lúir-fuair ingean Lothair  
 nó aicead an Daghdha dáin  
 o'air-tead a anma i neóan.  
 Alas that I cannot be relieved  
 by the herb which Loharn's daughter  
 found  
 or by some device of the Daghdha  
 that so his life may return to Eoghan!
36. Mac i n-ionab an ádair  
 do b'oirísear ó o'oroacab  
 a ádair 'na oiríse do  
 a Coimíre ar fácaim iarghó.  
 A son in the father's place  
 that were a fitting ordinance;  
 that his father should be his heir  
 O Lord, it is a cause of misery.
37. Ní fuilnginn an uair do mar  
 do méad ar n-anra o'eoan  
 coiríse gó do near a-noir  
 an fear dá oiríse im éasmar.  
 While Eoghan lived, such was my love  
 for him  
 I could not endure, tho' I do it now  
 for ever,  
 to be two nights parted from him.

38. μαρ tú vā bār ní bío mé  
vāmaó neac eile Δ oíoe  
cúir ar ar fóire Δ úé Δ tól  
ir mé vo b'oiue ó'eošan.

39. an t-eošan-ra ar éigin vún  
véanamí reac an b'ionn b'olt-úr  
cáirnic Δ feal gá vām vó  
gú eav gá vāl ar veacra.

Δ tpor.

Had any other been his teacher;  
I should not feel his death as I do  
it makes his departure more distant,  
O God, that I was Eoghan's teacher.

This Eoghan with his fair young looks,  
I must do without him:  
his time is over,—what more can I say;  
and yet what fate is harder!

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- 1 a. vtolais.      a. gíbé.      2 a. Δ added in different ink.      5 c. gao.  
10 d. vāicne.      17 c. Cabéaió et sic semper in MS.      18 b ar co.  
19 a. gíbé, fó.      c. bu.      d. cf. Gadelica p. 14.      20 a. mu Δ b.      21 a  
Read moic; éiric (B).      24 c. gcuíao (g erased).      28 a. cuai.  
d. cf. Ir. Gr. Tr., p. 40, l. 30; p. 43, l. 135.      32 a. bú.      34 c. cuai,  
gloin.      36 c. oíore.      37 d. éasmar.      39 c. vo.      d. veacpo,
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