

**Journal of the Cork Historical and
Archaeological Society**

www.corkhist.ie



Title: Notes and queries: Curious traditions

Author: Collector of Folk Lore

Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society, 1892, Vol. 1, No 2,
page(s) 39

Published by the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society

Digital file created: June 7, 2013

Your use of the JCHAS digital archive indicates that you accept the Terms and Conditions of Use, available at <http://www.corkhist.ie/info/tandc.pdf>

The Cork Historical and Archaeological Society (IE-148166, incorporated 1989) was founded in 1891, for the collection, preservation and diffusion of all available information regarding the past of the City and County of Cork, and South of Ireland generally. This archive of all content of JCHAS (from 1892 up to ten years preceding current publication) continues the original aims of the founders in 1891. For more information visit www.corkhist.ie.

of Rossbrin, in the parish of Schull, barony of West Carbery, county Cork, who wrote it in 1472 or 1475. A distinguished French *littérateur*, the Abbé Hamard, of Rennes, examined this MS. at my request in February, 1891, and has informed me that it consists of 125 pages quarto; that it was made the subject of a communication to the Royal Irish Academy by the late Dr. Todd, in 1867, from information supplied by M. de Robiou, president of the Rennes library; that Mr. John Abercromby contributed a paper, on that portion of it relating to Maundeville's travels, to the *Revue Celtique* for 1886; and that it was minutely studied by Professor Whitley Stokes in 1890, who had the pages numbered 75 to 90 photographed, which contain the life of a St. Colman (not him of Cloyne), which he will probably publish some day. There is also in the Rennes library another MS., by an unknown Irish writer, in Latin, which bears the sufficiently descriptive title *Tabula Cronologica Omnium Coloniae Milesiae Regum*. J. COLEMAN (Southampton).

An Old Irish Song. Mr. Fitzgerald, of Ballykneally, mentions to me—"At page 348, 1st vol. of Hardiman's *Irish Minstrelsy*, the original 'words of the favourite rustic ballad 'Youghal Harbour' will be found, but they will not, perhaps, be thought to bear out the free translation 'and nice lines which your correspondent has quoted.'" I looked at the ballad in Hardiman. It is in the Irish language and characters, no translation being given. C. G. DORAN.

Province of Munster. The early division of Munster was into two provinces—*Desmond*, or South Munster, including the now counties of Cork, Kerry, and Waterford; *Thomond*, or North Munster, comprising Clare, Limerick, and part of Tipperary. Keating (*History of Ireland*, before the Norman Invasion) states that Oilioll Ollum, King of Munster in the second century, divided Munster into five parts. These were *Thumond*; *Urmhumha* (Ormond); *Meadhon Mummhoin* (Middle Munster); *Jarmhumhoin* (West Munster); *Ceasmhumhain* (South Munster). The two provinces were then called, in general, *Da Coigeadh Mumhan*, from the word *Mumho*, signifying "great," or of large extent. In describing a battle between the men of Munster and Leinster, he speaks of the former as "Momonians," and the latter as "Lagonians." Keating's *History of Ireland* is described by D'Arcy Magee, as "a semi-historic work, full of faith in legends and historic traditions." M. C.

The O'Gorman Mahon. Though not properly belonging to your immediate district, perhaps you would allow the following into your Notes and Queries, as it relates, more or less, to archaeology:—How is it that the late O'Gorman Mahon came to have the chieftain term "The" added to his name? Many years ago I read in some newspaper—I cannot now recollect name or date—that Mr. Mahon had married the eldest

daughter of the last O'Gorman, of Causeway, Ennis, County Clare, and was therefore called The O'Gorman Mahon. I have looked through some O'Gorman pedigrees, but could not find, to my satisfaction, this particular "O'Gorman," neither could I find the particular family of the "Mahons" to which the late M.P. belonged. Mr. O'Hart, in his valuable work, mentions the fact, but I cannot find that he gives any information on the subject, or as to either of the families mentioned. An early volume of *Notes and Queries*, soon after the passing of the celebrated Ecclesiastical Titles Bill of Lord J. Russell, has a squib on the necessity of Government promulgating a Bill for restraining people from assuming ancient Irish titles. This squib evidently pointed to The O'Gorman Mahon or some such title, as it mentions the marriage with a chieftain's daughter as the ground of the claim, but no names were given. I always understood that, by Irish law, females were incapacitated from succeeding to a chiefship. Any information on this genealogical or legal question will much oblige. MAC CAHIR MOR.

Kilcrea.

Like to the dead within thy holy round

Art thou, the skeleton of what thou wast,
Save that for thee, from ruins of the past
To rise again, no final trump shall sound.

Time, who must ope on one tremendous day

His mighty gulph, whence nothing now can
'scape,

Shall yield whate'er he holds of human shape,
But gives not what of thine he takes away.

Old abbey! in the shadow of thy tower,

Beneath the green fresh ivy mantling thee
(A robe of youth upon an aged frame),

Thou hast in thy calm loneliness the power

To make me lose all bitter memory,

And breathe a benediction on thy name.

J. P. D.

Arms of Munster. Can any reader give the origin of the adoption of the three crowns as the arms of Munster? Speede's map of Mounster (1610), reproduced in your Journal last month, has the Irish arms—a harp surmounted by a crown. A. C.

Curious Traditions. Recently an account appeared in the London *Graphic* of seven stones placed side by side, to which the tradition is attached that whoever tries to move them is sure to be killed. Some have tried, and been killed. They are stated to be situated at Castlehaven, near Bandon, County Cork. Can this be Castlehaven in the barony of West Carbery? A writer in *Chambers' Journal*, some years ago, quotes from an old work an account of "Ivor's ship," which periodically made its appearance on a lake near Glandore. Can any reader inform me in what works these two accounts are more fully published? COLLECTOR OF FOLK LORE.