EDITORIAL

Now that we’re more than halfway through the groundbreaking and fiendishly complex project on The Celtic Languages and Cultural Identity: A Multidisciplinary Synthesis, it will be useful for all concerned to review where we are now and where we are headed.

The three main branches of the project are full steam ahead!

The Encyclopedia of Celtic Culture and History is nearly written. The editorial process hums along—after Marion Löffler has pulled a contribution in, Marian Hughes and I edit. The end of May saw well over 915,000 words in corrected proof. Typesetting, design, and indexing are also being carried out here, with Esther Elin Roberts and Antone Minard playing vital roles. Co-operation with the publishers has been unflagging, with Simon Mason of ABC-Clio regularly coming up from Oxford, and e-mail lines between Aberystwyth, Denver, and Santa Barbara buzzing. We expect publication in the second half of 2004, at which point, of course, you will all be informed.

The direction of the Atlas for Celtic Studies has been and remains essentially this: the intensive plotting of early Celtic mappable linguistic evidence (place-names, inscriptions) with archaeological evidence, using powerful mapping and graphics programs (Arcview and Illustrator). The results have been remarkable, and the innovative ways of retelling the story of the Celtic-speaking peoples in Europe, in a vivid and accessible way, are potentially infinite. Raimund Karl’s blanket coverage of Continental prehistory is now being complemented by Simon Ó Faoláin’s Insular interests, while Minard has moved through ancient Celtic place-names to names drawn from early Irish texts and I have spent some time mapping early Medieval Wales and Brittany.

The work on the Early Celtic Vocabulary and World View has turned the corner from a series of monumental databases to take shape as a consolidated reference work organized according to English meaning. The accumulated efforts of several scholars (most prominently Caroline aan de Wiel, Professor Jim Mallory, Professor Peter Schrijver, and Britta Schulze-Thulin) combine to create a volume of great scope that will alter our understanding of the Celts and their world, in both overview and myriad details.

The Project now has a formidable total of eight staff members on-site in Aberystwyth. But this is merely the proverbial tip of iceberg. [continued on overleaf]
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Professors Barry Cunliffe and Wendy Davies contributed excellent talks to the highly successful annual Forum ‘Armorica to Brittany’ last November.

Contributing Editor Ireland/Scotland Petra (Tina) Hellmuth, at Galway, has been applying her Q-Celtic expertise to the Encyclopedia, recruiting contributors and editing incoming Irish & Scottish material. She and Thomas Clancy of Glasgow are tackling many of the entries for the sea-divided Gael themselves.

We have received invaluable feedback from Advisory Panellists Professors Gwenaël Le Duc, Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha, Pádraig Ó Riain, Patrick Sims-Williams, Claude Sterckx, and Stefan Zimmer.

Funded by the British Academy, Iain Gulley and Antony Smith of the University of Wales Aberystwyth have prepared maps for the Encyclopedia.

Last, but hardly least, scores of top-flight authors have contributed to the Encyclopedia, representing every centre of Celtic scholarship on the planet.

New (and returning) staff marches onward!

Caroline aan de Wiel’s work on the Early Celtic Vocabulary has been continued by Britta Schulze-Thulin, making text from data and fine-tuning thousands of etymologies.

Bronze Age archaeologist and Gaeltgoir Ó Faoláin has burrowed into the Atlas and not looked back, plotting innumerable sites and artefacts after mastering the profoundly counter-intuitive mapping software in his first week.

To the great relief of that ever-hungry article-devouring beast the Encyclopedia, Marion Löfler has returned to chase contributors after her maternity leave ended last November.

Archeologist Esther Elin Roberts (partly funded by the British Academy) is making sure the Encyclopedia will be bursting with memorable images.

Anne Holley, who will design our 20,000 (or so) reference bibliography, including both manuscripts and modern published scholarship, has just taken up her post. Anne is using the program EndNote, which, as well as providing a major reference tool in volume 5 of the Encyclopedia, will have the flexibility to be expanded and modified for future projects.
From Aber with love:  
a note to contributors

MARION LÖFFLER

When I was invited to join Project 5 of the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies in April 2001, I was awestruck! There were a mind-boggling 1,500+ entries to be commissioned. I at least was lucky in that Peter Busse, my predecessor, had concentrated on historical linguistics, Continental archaeology, and French contributors. To somebody who is happiest within the confines of the British Isles and the past 200 years, this came as a relief.

But I needed to find the authors who would make or break our Encyclopedia. I began in Wales (mae pawb yna nod pawb yng Nghymru), and colleagues were happy to contribute. Scotland, the Isle of Man, Cornwall and Ireland were a bit harder. I contacted friends, acquaintances and colleagues; I scoured the internet pages of Celtic and History departments from Canada to New Zealand and from Dublin to Marburg; I tracked down authors and poets. I was once again lucky to know people who agreed to take on some of the commissioning work: Amy Hale and Alan M. Kent looked after most of Cornwall, and Breeisha Maddrell from the Institute of Manx Studies in Douglas has been doing sterling work on the Isle of Man. My fellow-German Tina Hellmuth, now at University College Galway, has been a great help with Irish and Scottish contributors and entries. My thanks to them all. I could not have done it without you. Closer to home, I always had the support of the other project members, especially John Koch. My last problem, Brittany, the Celtic country with which I was least familiar, was solved with the assistance of Mary-Ann Constantine, now at the Ganolfan, and Antone Minard.

Two years and one baby later, I can say that we are nearly there. Of the 1,655 entries, only about 150 are still outstanding, and I am confident they too will arrive before summer is over. Everything else has been received and is safe in the hands of our editor Marian Hughes. My days of finding, asking, reminding, cajoling, and thanking contributors seem nearly over. I am relieved, of course, but also a little proud of myself, our project, and all the contributors out there who have sent us their entries. Writing for our Encyclopedia is an important investment in the future of Celtic Studies. As well as providing a compendium of the current state of knowledge for our peers and all researchers in our field, the Encyclopedia will penetrate medium and smaller libraries in the New World to provide students with a resource when they are taking their first steps as researchers. A comprehensive bibliography in the fifth volume will count as a major resource in its own right. For all this, my thanks go to all whose contributions I have received in the past two years (and to those who, I am sure, will deliver by the summer).

Last but not least, if all those who have promised to buy me a pint at the Celtic Congress for being so patient make good their promise, I shall be drunk all week. Now there’s something to look forward to! I’ll see you all there.

I hope we shall all meet at the Celtic Congress in Aberystwyth in the summer.

— John T. Koch

Though registering a net gain in the last census, we have bid two fond farewells.

* Historical linguist and computer expert Caroline aan de Wiel returned to her native Netherlands.

Iron Age archaeologist Raimund Karl has been appointed Lecturer in Prehistoric Archaeology at University of Wales, Bangor. At least the Federal University and Y Fro Gymraeg still have him!

Individualist musings in my spare time

More or less aware of big ‘Celticity Project’ goings on at the Ganolfan, concerned friends sometimes ask me, ‘John, what have you published lately? Not much! Give me a break! Haven’t you been paying attention? Nonetheless, I have not found the temptation of inflicting my ideas on the unsuspecting public altogether resistible. Evidence for such will be found in a chapter in Jane Cartwright’s recent Celtic Hagiography and Saints’ Cults and expected contributions in the Proceedings of the Cork Celtic Congress, the Testosbritif for Patrick Ford, and a forthcoming number of Transactions of the Honourable Society of Cymrodorion. A fourth edition of The Celtic Heroic Age will appear this year.

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Illustrating the *Encyclopedia*

**ESTHER ROBERTS**

Coming to the end of my time in Aberystwyth seems a fitting time to reflect on my work since joining the project last year. With my training in archaeology, and a passion for photography and research, I jumped at the opportunity to carry out picture research for an *Encyclopedia* encompassing archaeology, linguistics, and history. The project promised to be a visual rollercoaster.

My brief was to ensure that the illustrations for our *Encyclopedia* would be relevant, clear, informative, and, of course, visually stunning. The images themselves would feature people, sites, artefacts and reconstructions. Not an easy task, given that the five volumes would contain over 200 of them: site plans, facsimiles of rare manuscripts, drawings of artefacts and sites, photographs and maps drawn by our Atlas staff.

So, I began contacting a number of institutions, research projects and academics worldwide, from Australia to Ireland, from Bulgaria to the Czech Republic, to name but a few. I soon developed my own style of written ‘Franglais’ in my communications with our French contributors, who have been more than patient with my poor (GCSE and half forgotten) grammar. Many hours were spent going through secondary sources, locating images on the web, getting lost in the fantastic photographic archives of the National Library of Wales, and communicating with academics specializing in topics relating to Celtic Studies. For light relief, I would draw and redraw images ready for publication, where original artworks were unobtainable.

The work has also given me the opportunity to communicate with a wide range of contributors, colleagues and our publisher, the ABC-Clio team, especially Scott Horst in Denver and Simon Mason in Oxford, and to learn how to negotiate appropriate usage and reproduction fees. Reproduction rights proved a minefield, with negotiating e-book reproduction rights the most troublesome, since many institutions had no experience with them. By now, most of the images have been ordered—many are arriving every day—most of my time is spent preparing them for publication. There is also the cover design to think of, which the project leader and I have to decide on fairly soon. Needless to say, ideas about suitable images and design of the volumes are flying at present.

Throughout my period working on the project, I have particularly enjoyed using the primary sources available in the National Library of Wales. The Geoff Charles collection, especially, stands out as a fantastic source of images ranging from shinty players, and early Welsh television sets to famous musicians and Pan Celtic meetings. During my stay here, I have developed a passion for black and white photographs and photography. A particular interest are old photographs of Breton musicians and the development of various styles of photography over the centuries. The work has inspired me to take my own photographs, and I am currently following a course in black and white photography at the local Arts Centre. I’ll be sad to leave, but an MA course in ‘Material and Visual Culture’ and London beckon!

Editing the *Encyclopedia*

**MARIAN HUGHES**

Editing around one million words which will comprise the *Encyclopedia of Celtic Culture and History* is a certainly a challenge—at times daunting, but always stimulating. It offers the opportunity to read and learn about many diverse and interesting aspects of the Celtic world, from *Hallstatt* to the Welsh hat, from fairies to the Book of Kells.

Articles are received from the authors—from all parts of the Celtic countries, from Europe, and as far away as Australia—in electronic form, which makes the task of inputting them into the template devised for the *Encyclopedia* by Caroline aan de Wiel relatively straightforward. Attention must then be given to ensure accuracy and consistency, but at the same time maintaining the individuality of the authors’ styles. Important elements in the *Encyclopedia* are the copious cross-referencing to relevant entries and the inclusion of primary sources and further reading sections at the end of each article. The primary sources consist mainly of manuscripts, editions, and translations of early texts and literary works, and, in the case of scholars and literary authors, a selection of their main works.

At the beginning of the Further Reading section, the cross-references in the article are gathered together for convenience; this is followed by a selection of article and book titles which will point the reader to additional sources. These will be in a short form and a comprehensive bibliography will be included in the fifth volume.

Editing the *Encyclopedia* is essentially a team effort and involves bringing together scholarship and expertise from several areas into an editorial team—Glenys Howells, the Centre’s editorial officer, Tina Hellmuth on the Irish and Scottish Gaelic aspects, Marion Löffler and myself, and of course the leader of the project, John Koch.
Dean of Lismore, Book of the, is the most important manuscript of the late medieval Gaelic poetry in Scotland (Alba). Compiled primarily by the brothers Seamus MacGriogair (James MacGregor, the eponymous Dean) and Donnchadh MacGriogair, between 1512 and 1526, the work represents an effort of collection begun the generation before, by Fionnlagh Mac an Aba, whose exhortatory poem to the brothers’ father, Dubhghall MacGriogair of Forthingall, is included in the collection (Watson, Scottish Verse from the Book of the Dean of Lismore 2–5). Seumas MacGriogair was a notary public at a time when Scots law was dominated by the lowland Scots language, and it is this cultural intersection which has given the manuscript its current rather intractable form. The Gaelic poems in it are transliterated into an orthography based essentially on that of Lowland Scots. This orthography has proved the greatest single obstacle to editing the poetry, especially as most of it is preserved here uniquely. On the other hand, the orthography lets through copious evidence for Gaelic dialects and historical morphology. Moreover, the manuscript contains not only Gaelic poetry but also poetry and prose in Scots, and some material in Latin.

The collection is testimony to two main strands of tradition. The most important for Scottish Gaelic is the light it sheds on the vibrant and often unorthodox poetic scene in Perthshire and Argyll in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, particularly evidenced by the work of Donnchadh Caimeul of Glenorchy and others in the circle of the Campbells and the MacGregors (see MacGregor Poetry). Despite these links, it also contains poetry connected with the Clann Domhnaill Lordship of the Isles, including significant items related to its declining years in the 1490s. The other strand includes a large number of Classical Irish poetry, some poems found uniquely here, including many by the Ó Dálaigh family, and this suggests that material from one or more earlier manuscripts is incorporated in the Dean’s Book.

The Book is also omnivorous in its approach to verse. Alongside Classical Irish poetry of the highest order, both from Scotland and Ireland (Éire), we have grimly scatological material, effecting love poetry in the courtly mode, heroic ballads, philosophical pieces and allegories. From the Dean’s Book we have poetry by at least four women as well, which must be balanced by the dedicated misogyny of other items.

A full edition of the contents is still awaited, though much has appeared in the form of either transcriptions (Quiggin, Poems from the Book of the Dean of Lismore), or full editions into conventional Gaelic orthography (Bergin, Gillies, Meek, Ross, Watson).

**Primary Sources**


**Further Reading**

Alba; Caimeul; Classical Irish Poetry; Éire; Lordship of the Isles; Macgregor Poetry; Ó Dálaigh Family; Scots; Scottish Gaelic; Scottish Gaelic Poetry; Gillies, Scottish Studies 21.35–51; Gillies, History of Scottish Literature 1.245–61; Gillies, Companion to Gaelic Scotland 203–4; Meek, Bryght Lanterns 287–404; Meek, Companion to Gaelic Scotland 204–5; O’Rahilly, Scottish Gaelic Studies 4.31–56; Thomson, Companion to Gaelic Scotland 59–60, 292–3; Thomson, Introduction to Gaelic Poetry; Thomson, Scottish Studies 12.57–78.

Thomas Owen Clancy
An Atlas for Celtic Studies

Antone Minard and Simon Ó Faoláin

The Atlas, a collection of 60 base-maps showing the key archaeological and linguistic features of the Celtic world, has come a long way since Graham Jones, a specialist in the distributions of saints’ cults, first worked on it in 1999. Raimund Karl took over from him, mapping the material finds of Central Europe, Spain, and Galatia and facilitating the introduction of GIS data into the project. Antone Minard, who has worked on the project since 2001, and Simon Ó Faoláin, who joined us this March, report on their progress.

How place-names ‘imagine communities’
Antone Minard

As a Celticist, my work has focused on Celtic place-names of Europe and the British Isles. In addition to attested place-names from the Classical period and those from historical sources, I have been searching literary sources for their literary landscapes. While some of these are intended to be fictional and cannot be precisely mapped, many others can be located quite precisely. One exciting result from the Old and Middle Irish saga literature has been that nearly all of the tales refer to all parts of Ireland, rather than concentrating on one specific area, such as Ulster. The implications for our understanding of the nature of the saga literature and its relation to oral tradition are that, clearly, there was an attempt to make the stories relevant to all of Ireland, or, to see it another way, to make all of Ireland relevant to the key areas of the tales. Similar patterns emerge in the Welsh literature. Watch this space!

I have also been mapping the inscribed stones of the Celtic countries, comparing the distribution against such factors as the characters and languages used: ogham, Latin or a vernacular. The resultant distributions are somewhat surprising; not only are they all within range of the coast, but several are in locations that today are considered extremely remote, highlighting the difference in perspective between the modern road-based transportation scheme, and the sea-based focus of the ancient and medieval periods.
Checking on the Classical authors  SIMON Ó FAOLÁIN

I was fortunate that the teething problems relating to the mapping software used by the project had already been worked through by my predecessors so that it was possible for me to fit in and continue the archaeological research and plotting of themes with a minimum of delay.

My work on the project commenced with an examination of the numismatic evidence for Celtic tribes in Gaul. The fact that many, if not most, northern Gaulish tribes produced their own coinages provides a useful archaeological tool which acts as a check to the Classical literature, allowing us to assess the geographic extent and intensity of tribal influence independent of Classical bias. This approach was also applied to the coinage of the southern British tribes up to the Roman invasion in AD 43.

With the completion of the themes for Gaul and thus the whole of the Continental archaeology, the focus has moved on to Ireland and Britain. Initially, I have been concentrating on the intriguing subject of ritual practices in late prehistoric Britain: its burial traditions, sacrifice, Iron Age sanctuaries, ritual shafts and votive depositions. Such practices are important in helping us understand the Weltanschauung of the Iron Age population and, again, they complement the information on Celtic religious practices found in Classical literature and allow a critical assessment of the latter. Two interesting points this work has highlighted are the degree of internal diversity apparent in Early British society (we all tend to assume a greater degree of homogeneity and simplicity existed ‘in the old days’) and a strong continuity of the native religious practices into the period of Roman occupation, despite a strong Classical influence.

Over the next three seasons, I will continue to work my way through the archaeology of Ireland and Britain from the Early Iron Age up to the Medieval period, encompassing the secular and the religious, the typical and the exceptional. I am hopeful that the finished result will be as interesting and enlightening to others as its research has been to me.
In recent months work on the Early Celtic Vocabulary, the largest collection of its kind, has made good progress. In line with my brief I have focused on an appropriate layout, modern reconstruction, the addition of Old and Middle Welsh attestations and the incorporation of new Celtic roots only recently discovered by various scholars.

In March 2003 the thousands of items already collected by Caroline aan de Wiel were converted into a single text file, thus providing a good foundation for further investigation. As a result, the reader will be able to see the attestations in different Celtic languages at a glance. Working with this file, I have been systematically arranging the entries, while standardizing forms and fine-tuning etymologies in line with state of the art historical linguistic research.

Originally constructed as an interdisciplinary research project to recover the early Celtic semantic world view for archaeologists and scholars of Celtic literature and culture, my work has concentrated on providing a text that would also meet the needs of historical linguists. With regard to the linguistic reconstructions, of both Proto-Celtic and Proto-Indo-European items, I have resifted and augmented the corpus compiled by aan de Wiel from new directions. Her method was to gather from and update older collections, such as Stokes’s 1894 Urkeltischer Sprachschatz and Pokorny’s 1959 Indogermanisches etymologisches Wörterbuch. I have drawn in recent publications, many of them from Germany, such as the Lexikon der indogermanischen Verben (Wiesbaden 2001), Elisabeth Rieken, Untersuchungen zur nominalen Stammbildung des Herbitischen (Wiesbaden 1999) and Irslinger’s Abstrakta mit Denssuffixen im Altirischen (Heidelberg 2002). In addition, my work was informed by intensive e-mail discussions with various scholars abroad. The section on Proto-Indo-European roots was completely reworked, allowing the user to see the Indo-European connection at a glance, using modern root reconstruction with laryngeals. A number of new Proto-Celtic roots were added, resulting in an enlarged collection. The differentiation between Old, Middle and Modern Welsh, following the form established by aan de Wiel for the related languages Cornish and Breton, will allow the reader to cite forms directly from the Lexicon without the need to consult other primary or secondary sources. The Middle Welsh orthography, sometimes confusing for the non-specialist, was standardized following the approach taken by Lloyd-Jones in his Geirfa Barddionieth Gymnar Gymraeg (Cardiff 1931–63).