

## TWO NOTES ON *AUDACHT MORAINN*

IN MY edition<sup>1</sup> of *Audacht Morainn*, line 28 is printed as follows:

Comlan congreit

It may be translated into English<sup>2</sup> this way: 'make the hero perfect!'.  
I have no improvement to suggest regarding the translation. The text itself is another matter. Since the best<sup>3</sup> manuscript clearly reads *chongreit*, with lenition of the initial consonant of the object of the sentence, I have started wondering whether this reading ought not to be adopted in the text.

To be sure, the pattern of post-verbal lenition in the earlier glosses<sup>4</sup> is such that it is only after the copula that we find regularly lenited initial consonants following imperative forms. However, since very many other imperative singulars originally ended in vowels,<sup>5</sup> lenition is not entirely unexpected in a case like this. Indeed, it seems by no means impossible that the lenition that is 'found, though not consistently, after any verb'<sup>6</sup> in sources like Ml. and Sg. may be derived from cases where the verbal forms originally ended in a vowel. Also, Welsh has grammaticalised<sup>7</sup> lenition as a kind of object marker after finite verbs.

In lines 73–4, I read:

tress blaí díb buaid cuirmthige co coímaib co mannaib móraib mid-  
chóartaib medardæ mbaíth 7 gaíth, gnáith 7 ingnáith

This I have translated into French<sup>8</sup> in a manner such as to suggest the following English rendering: 'the third immunity among them is the privilege of the ale-house, with friends, with great abundances and mead-circuits, where foolish and wise ones, familiar and strange ones get drunk'. This time, I have no improvements<sup>9</sup> to suggest for the text

<sup>1</sup> 'Le testament de Morann', *Études Celtiques* 21 (1984) 151–70; 'I. Le testament de Morann: addenda et corrigenda', *ibid.* 24 (1987) 325. See also editions by F. Kelly, *Audacht Morainn* (Dublin 1976); and R. Thurneysen, 'Morands Fürstenspiegel', *Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie* 11 (1917) 56–106.

<sup>2</sup> The French translation in my edition (p. 155; cited in note 1) probably sounds more felicitous: 'perfectionne le héros'.

<sup>3</sup> B<sup>1</sup> = Royal Ir. Acadamey 23 N 10: cf. judicious remarks by F. Kelly (1976), xx; J. Pokorny, 'Zu Morands Fürstenspiegel', *ZCP* 13 (1921) 43–6; and R. Thurneysen, 'Zu Morands Fürstenspiegel', *ZCP* 13 (1921) 298–9.

<sup>4</sup> Thurneysen, *Grammar*, 144 § 233.1 (b).

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*, 374 § 587.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*, 144–5 § 233.2.

<sup>7</sup> Cf. my remarks, 'Prepositions in Welsh and Finnish case-endings: a contrastive study', in *Descriptive, contrastive and applied linguistics* (ed. D. Kastovsky et al., Berlin 1986) 1101–7, pp. 1102–3 and 1105 n. 14.

<sup>8</sup> *Études Celtiques* 21 (1984) 157.

<sup>9</sup> Cf. my remarks regarding the interesting post-verbal nasalisation of *mbaíth*: 'The syntax of relative marking in Old Irish', *Foča Linguistica Historica* 6 (1985) 323–46, pp. 327–8.

itself. Regarding the translation, on the other hand, I now feel that I had been wrong in believing that there was asyndetic co-ordination between *co mannaib móraib* and *midchóartaib*. Instead, I should prefer to take *midchóartaib* as an independent dative, with a locative meaning ‘in’. Thus, a better translation might be: ‘the third immunity among them is the privilege of the ale-house, with friends and great abundances in the mead-circuits, where foolish and wise ones, familiar and unfamiliar<sup>10</sup> ones get drunk’. The fact that the preposition *co* before *coímaib* is repeated before *mannaib móraib* but that *midchóartaib* is left without, surely indicates that the last word is an independent dative,<sup>11</sup> where the case-ending carries a meaning other than that of *co*.

ANDERS AHLQVIST

*University College, Galway*

<sup>10</sup>It seems worth a footnote to observe that ‘unfamiliar’ feels closer to the original than ‘strang(er)’.

<sup>11</sup>Thurneysen, *Grammar*, 161–2 § 251.3.