'The Whole Landscape a Manuscript': Reading the Environment in *Dindshenchas* Texts

Máire Ní Mhaonaigh DIAS School of Celtic Studies, Annual Statutory Lecture, 17.xi.2023

References

'The Whole Landscape a Manuscript'

from John Montague, The Rough Field (Dublin 1972)

Eric Falci, 'Poetry and Place', in *A History of Irish Literature and the Environment*, ed. Malcolm Sen (Cambridge 2022), pp. 264-79 (from which the reading of the poem is drawn)

<u>Dindshencha</u>s Érenn

A prosimetric corpus, but prose and poetry edited separately:

Whitley Stokes (ed. and trans.), 'The Bodleian Dinndhsenchas', *Folk-lore* 3 (1892), pp. 467-516

Whitley Stokes (ed. and trans.), 'The Edinburgh Dinnshenchas', *Folk-lore* 4 (1892), pp. 471-97

Whitley Stokes (ed. and trans.), 'The Prose Tales in the Rennes *Dindshenchas*', *Revue celtique* 15 (1894), pp. 272-336, 418-84; *Revue celtique* 16 (1895), pp. 31-83, 135-67, 269-312, 468

Edward J. Gwynn (ed. and trans.), *The Metrical Dindsenchas*, 5 vols, Todd Lecture Series 8-12 (Dublin, 1903-1905)

For an introduction to the corpus:

Marie-Luise Theuerkauf, *Dindshenchas Érenn*, Cork Studies in Celtic Literature 7 (Cork, 2023)

There is a useful index of places in *Dindshenchas Érenn* (with references to the textual editions and translations) in CODECS:

https://codecs.vanhamel.nl/Dinnshenchas %C3%89renn#:~:text=The%20Dinnshenchas %20%C3%89renn%20is%20a,its%20present%20or%20former%20name

The *Dindshenchas* of the following places are of particular relevance to this lecture: Bile Tortan; Boand; Dubthair; Fid nGaibli; Fornocht; Lia Nothain; Loch Garman; Mag Femen; Mag Mucrime; Mag Mugna; Mag Raigne; Maistiu; Nás; Tailtiu; Temair; Temair Luachra

The Construction of History and Isidore of Seville

The discussions on the work of Isidore in the following works frame the discussion: Natalia Lozovsky, *'The Earth is our Book': Geographical Knowledge in the Latin West, c. 400-1000* (Ann Arbor MI, 2000)

Andy Merrills, *History and Geography in Late Antiquity*, Cambridge Studies in Medieval Life and Thought 64 (Cambridge, 2005), and see his chapter, 'Geography and Memory in Isidore's *Etymologies*', in *Mapping Medieval Geographies*, ed. by Keith Lilley (Cambridge, 2014), pp. 45-64

Material Ecocriticism

Citations are drawn from:

Material Ecocriticism, ed. by Serenella Iovino and Serpil Oppermann (Bloomington IN, 2014), Introduction

Christopher Schliephake, *The Environmental Humanities and the Ancient World: Questions and Perspectives*, Elements in Environmental Humanities (Cambridge, 2020)

Fintan mac Bóchra

De Shuidigud Tellaig Themra, 'The Settling of the Manor of Tara', ed. and trans. R.I. Best, Ériu 4 (1910), pp. 121-71

John Carey, Osborn Bergin Lecture 2023:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iKG0DqiLec

Airne Fíngein, ed. Joseph Vendryes, Mediaeval and Modern Irish Series 15 (Dublin, 1953) Emma Nic Chárthaigh, 'Surviving the Flood: revenants and antediluvian lore in medieval Irish texts', in *Transmission and Transformation in the Middle Ages: Texts and Contexts*, ed. Jason Harris and Kathleen Cawsey (Dublin, 2007), pp. 40-64

Grigory Bondarenko, 'Fintan mac Bóchra: Irish Synthetic History Revisited', in *Transforming Traditions: Studies in Archaeology, Comparative Linguistics and Narrative*, ed. Maxim Fomin, Václav Blažej and Piotr Stalmaszczyk (Lódž, 2012), pp. 129-47

Trees

Clodagh Downey, '*Trí croind Éirenn oireaghda*: a medieval poem on three famous trees of Ireland', *Éigse* 36 (2008), 1-34

Fergus Kelly, 'The Old Irish Tree-list', Celtica 11 (1976), pp. 107-24

Emily Gowers, 'Are trees really like people', in *Ovid's* Metamorphoses *and the Environmental Imagination*, ed. Francesca Martelli and Giulia Sissa (2023), pp. 103-22

Archaeology and the Environment

Bretha Comaithcheso, ed. and trans. Thomas Charles-Edwards, Early Irish Law Series 9 (Dublin, 2022)

John Howe and Michael Wolfe (eds), *Inventing Medieval Landscapes: Sense of Place in Western Europe* (Gainesville FLA, 2002)

Donnchadh Ó Corráin, 'Some legal references to fences and fencing in early historic Ireland', in *Landscape Archaeology in Ireland*, ed. T. Reeves-Smith and F. Hamond, British Archaeological Reports, British Series 11 (London, 1983), 247-51

Aidan O'Sullivan and others, *Early Medieval Ireland, AD 400-1100: the Evidence from Archaeological Investigations* (Dublin, 2013)

Oliver Rackham, Ancient Woodland: Its History, Vegetation and Uses in England (revised edn 2003)

Oliver Rackham, *Trees and Woodland in the British Landscape* (revised edn 2020) Matthew Stout, *The Irish Ringfort* (Dublin, 2000)

Other References

Tomás Ó Cathasaigh, 'The sister's son in Early Irish literature', *Peritia* 5 (1986), pp. 128-60