In his Poems of Blathmac [(Irish Texts Society XLVII, London 1964), p. xiii, n.17] James Carney expressed the hope of being able ‘in the future to print what can be recovered of the fragmentary quatrains not included in the present edition’, from the unique manuscript witness, G 50 in the National Library of Ireland. This paper attempts to fulfil his stated intention and to present what is recoverable of the text, whether strictly fragmentary or not, after quatrains 259 of his edition.

Carney’s tentative attribution [(p. x, n. 5)] of G 50 to ‘Michael O’Clery, with his normal hand somewhat disguised by an effort to imitate the character of his exemplar’ is not sustainable. The hand in fact is also found in Dublin, Royal Irish Academy, MSS 4 (24 P 27), and 790 (23 D 17), additional material on f. 68 et passim.1 Its occurrence in the latter manuscript, the ‘O Clery Book of Genealogies’, supposed to be in the hand of Cú Choigcríche Ó Cléirigh, one of the ‘Four Masters’, shows that the scribe was associated with the Ó Cléirigh family, but the general character of the writing suggests that it is more likely to be that of an Ó Luinín.2 We know that Giolla Pádraig Ó Luinín worked with Michéal Ó Cléirigh and others on the ‘Ó Cléirigh’ recension of the Leabhar Gabhála in 1631.3

A further association of the scribe of G 50 with Cú Choigcríche Ó Cléirigh is suggested by the later history of the manuscript itself. It came to the National Library as part of the Phillipps collection, and is listed in Sir Thomas Phillipps’ Catalogus as having come from the library of Edward O’Reilly (ob. 1830).4 It is item 14 in the O’Reilly sale-catalogue (30 November 1830) and is almost certainly the manuscript of Amhra Choluim Chille brought to Dublin in 1817 by John O’Clery of Drung, Co. Cavan, as part of what survived of his father’s collection of Irish manuscripts.5 This John O’Clery was a direct descendant of Cú Choigcríche (whose will, dated 1664, he preserved with the ‘Book of Genealogies’, already mentioned).6

The following is a transcript of the Blathmac material not edited by Carney, beginning with quatrains 260 on p. 141, line 23. Pp. 143–4 of the manuscript are verso and recto of a fragmentary leaf, a tiny portion of the top and a larger portion of the middle (which also has a hole in it and is very tattered at the edges) only surviving. The outer lower parts of pp. 141–2, like those of several leaves at the beginning and end of the manuscript, are discoloured from dampness, and also from exposure, being at the end of the manuscript and only partially protected

1 I am obliged to Pádraig de Brún for this information. The hand can be seen in the second of the plates prefixed to S. Pender (ed.), ‘The O Clery Book of Genealogies’, Anacletia Hibernica 18 (1951).
2 Ibid., xviii.
3 For Ó Luinín hands see that of Matha in London, British Library MS Cotton, Nero A VII, fos 132–57 (R. Flower, Catalogue III (London, 1926), pl. xiii), written in 1571; Conchubhar in Dublin, Royal Irish Academy, ms 735 (A iii 2), written in 1693; and another Conchubhar in Dublin, National Library of Ireland, ms G 459, written in 1676.
4 M. Dillon, C. Mooney, OFM, P. de Brún, Catalogue of Irish manuscripts in the Franciscan library, Killiney (Dublin, 1969), xii.
5 For a description of the manuscript see N. Ni Shéaghdha, Catalogue of Irish manuscripts in the National Library II (Dublin, 1966) 66–8.
6 Pender, p. xiii.
7 Ibid., xviii.
by the fragments of pp. 143–4. Expansions are in italics; square brackets indicate physical damage; angular brackets indicate where the manuscript is illegible; tentative readings are in round brackets.¹

p. 141.23

260 Ar attat laithi rioghdha. donaibh noebhaib andaghdila
birthi digdi der a mbroin. in morchath sleibhi sioin

261 Cerumha re righ na riogh. Maire forinacht na ainbfhor
as cach cona boing fior fair. do doinibh 7 demhnaibh

262 Cruth meabhais re Crist an cath. ni don feith nach deimmnetach
co mbreith fir for a gnimh cert. co miadhamhla mesamnacht

Olas

p. 142.

263 Olas losa miastar cach. i llaithi mesa fri a firbrath
ce fi[ . . . ]noir frionn an tan. 7 gach naon bas traucar

264 As bias lan d(o)na uadha. i llaithiu na morbuana
eatargarraidheir (on) mbert. coirci cuindfech fri cuirthnecht

265 Foidfidh fo tuaidh cruaidh costadh. an coirci dia oghlosadh
for a leith ndeis comndh cert. do breth leis a cuirthnecht

266 Scarraidh c(o)lg sin 7 caith. fria findudh [blank space]
do coiser cuirthnechtai claind. an coimde inna iosthoinn

267 (As) do mac d(u)na ni ba breg. miastar in da moirthred
scarraidh maig na tais a tnu. caircha gelta fri a mind[u]

268 Duso fert forna a leith ndes. a caircha iar na nglainmes
do chum nifiern trogbreg. foidfidhior an ghabhairtred.

269 (C)o lla(ghi) a bas bi ur(chna). as dor mhac it paruula
[ . . . ]losa Cristgeal. fa deisin rotsamlastar

270 D(aes) [a]n pecaidh dob[uird]uibh. an coirce 7 an ghabhair
< . . . > s asaibh d < . . . > aibh doinn. an cuirthnecht na glanchoir

271 M < . . . > a ba(s) maith (s)ar sin. fris na hingru nis fitir
(as) nach fetar (tarc)uomsiu. bochta 7 adhailechniu

¹ I wish to thank Liam Breatnach and Máirín Ní Dhonnchadha for reading my transcript. I am grateful to Seán Malone and Ciarán Magee of the Photographic Department, Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin, for applying their expertise to the stained parts of the manuscript, unfortunately without success, and to Patricia Donlon, Director of the National Library, who negotiated that facility for me.
272 < . . > t as pec < . . > an tan sin. fo c[ . . ]nainbhal nesamain  
< . . > ar tarbas (a) rind do meirg. cid in araillsiom do firfeir(g)

273 < . . > cruaidh do g < . . > tha. as fars(i)g do firbrotha  
Iosa Crist < . . > nsion hic < . . > . mesa ni adidroilli

274 < . . > doibh comairle / < . . > cht a miadhamhlae  
< . . > lo < . . > o < . . > at / < . . > as[ . . ]roillisiot

275 < . . > feibh do br < . . > / < . . > dot atror < . . > gortaid/hsur  
< . . > rel < . . > eo < . . > / < . . > a do daghtuarai

276 (Bear) < . . > den u < . . > ar l < . . > / < . . > on iotaigsu  
(m) < . . > ar < . . > cht < . . > arm o d < . . > i / ni do  
dortaibh daghdighe

Ro bha

p. 143

277 Ro bha cen [. .]/ [. .]/ ni bhu [. .]/ [. .]
278 Bas a [. .]/ [. .]/ nim r[. .]/ [. .]
279 Ni sh [. .]/ [. .]/ n[. .]/ [. .]
280 [. .]/ [. .]/ [. .]d / iar [. .]m / [. .]
281 [. .]aos o dam < . . > d it ga[. .]/ clar m[ . .]  
cel in lobhar in nach du / ni dechaidh do[ . .]
282 Ni meisi fen cia atbeir / do gres [. .]  
for mbochtain feisin batar / l[. .]
283 Na cuingidh ni arraidham / nil s[. .]  
ar ni baoi libh diamtha bi / [. .]
284 Do bhera forra cen acht / s[. .]  
γ foididhius iarsin / du [. .]
285 Timartar demhna in tan / mis[. .]  
air do rerachtat a lli / d [. .]
286 Ragha [. .]leo nach thioses [. .]/ [. .]  
ar r[o]s carsat dirth[. .]/ [. .]
287 Maig conimregha [. .]/ [. .]  
la an golghairi a (lo) [. .]/ [. .]
288 Borg de [. .]/ [. .]/ [. .]/ [. .]
289-90 [torn away]

p. 144

291 [ ... ]a(i)r(e)ch

292 [ ... ]da[ ... ]l

293 [torn away]

294 [ ... ](ain)

295 [ ... ] < ... > igh [ ... ]ur[ ... ]

296 [ ... ] < [ ... ] > air

297 [ ... ] < ... > an daghathair

298 [ ... ] < ... > cceile

299 [ ... ] < ... > a iomnacht

300 [ ... ] < ... > gnas bithiformn

301 [ ... ] < ... >

302 [ ... ] < ... > er

303 [ ... ] < ... > ucht

Words noted in footnotes by Carney as being illegible should be read: q. 250, tabach; q. 256, d[ ... ]r.

†Nessa Ní Sheaghdha