



Royal Irish Academy Grants Report

Title:	Dr.
First Name:	Peadar
Surname:	Ó Muircheartaigh
Discipline:	Humanities and Social Sciences
Year of Award:	2018
Project Title	The transmission and reception of the Duan Albanach in eighteenth-century Ireland and Scotland

1. Research background:

After degrees in Modern and Old and Middle Irish at the National University of Ireland, I studied Eighteenth-Century Literature at the University of Notre Dame before undertaking an MSc and PhD in Celtic and Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh. Much of my current research is concerned with the relationship between Gaelic Ireland and Scotland in the eighteenth century. This includes scholarly, literary and cultural connections between Gaelic speakers in both countries. In particular, I am interested in the transmission of Gaelic texts between Ireland and Scotland (and the Isle of Man) in both print and manuscript. This includes contemporary eighteenth-century literary material and earlier medieval material. This is the background to the project for which I was awarded a Charlemont Grant.

2. Please outline the findings of your research and/or milestones achieved (did you achieve the primary objectives - if not, what did you learn from the process)?

The findings of the research have allowed me to greatly clarify the way in which the Duan Albanach was transmitted throughout the late-eighteenth century, eventually obtaining canonical status in the historiography of Scotland and Ireland. In particular, a close examination of the relevant correspondence has highlighted the degree to which networks of eighteenth-century antiquarians vying for 'control' of the text. This has not only shed light on a specific aspect of textual history but has also provided a novel and valuable perspective on the politics of identity in eighteenth century Britain and Ireland.

With regard to milestones achieved, the only aspect of the research which could not be completed was the proposed seminar paper, to be delivered to one of the Scottish universities. As the research progressed it became increasingly clear that the archival material could not possibly be processed quickly enough for the delivery of seminar paper while the archival work was still ongoing.

One of the byproducts of this research trip (and the preceding discussions with colleagues in Scotland) has been the establishment of a Royal Society of Edinburgh-funded International Research Network, between myself and colleagues in Glasgow University, University of the Highlands and Islands, and the National Library of Scotland. One of the events to be organised by the RSE-funded Research Network is a one-day conference to be organised in collaboration with the Royal Irish Academy's Coiste Léann na Gaeilge.