

Charlemont grant report

| Recipient name: | Dr Liam Ó hAisibéil |
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| Discipline and subject area: | Humanities and Social Sciences; Irish Language, Literary and Cultural Studies |
| Amount and year awarded: | €1000 in 2020 |
| Title of project: | Onomastic Perspectives on Literary Landscapes in Medieval Ireland |



Summary of findings:

This project examined how toponyms are presented and etymologized in the longest known narrative tale in medieval Irish, known as Acallam na Senórach. The project considered how the lexical structure of toponyms might indicate their function within the narrative, and questioned whether or not these toponyms can be readily associated with real-world locations. The key achievement of this project has been the successful extraction and lexical analysis of all identified toponyms in the text, and the development of a methodology for categorizing the ways in which toponyms are etymologized in the narrative. Arising from discussion at the Charlemont grant-funded workshop at the University of Glasgow, this methodology is now being refined, and the findings of this study will be published in a peer reviewed journal later this year. Workshop participants highlighted how this method of analysis is novel and potentially significant in how scholars can approach the memorisation of place in a narrative, and how toponyms are used to affect this process in medieval Irish literature.

Plans for continuing collaboration:

Arising from the workshop at the University of Glasgow, workshop participants have agreed to continue discussions on this text and to review the forthcoming article, prior to peer-review, and also to examine ways of building a research network and arranging another in-person event where participants can get hands-on experience of tagging information in an xml version of the narrative text.

Published work and publication plans:

One of the intended outcomes of this project was a single-authored article 'Places of the Acallam' (provisional title) to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal in the areas of Onomastics and Celtic Studies in late-2022 and it is intended to submit this article to the North American Journal of Celtic Studies for consideration. Another article arising from the Charlemont Grant funded workshop will examine the methods of etymologization used in the Acallam, and it is hoped to submit this to Studia Celtica Fennica for consideration for publication in 2023.



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Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

This research was presented at the 27th International Congress of Onomastic Sciences, held at Karków, Poland in August 2021, and again as part of the RIA funded workshop at the University of Glasgow in April 2022.

Collaborations and planned collaborations:

All scholars who participated in the workshop expressed a desire to continue discussing and refining the proposed methodologies on an ongoing basis.

Outreach and engagement activities:

None