

INTRODUCTION

This volume presents the proceedings of the Sixth International Colloquium of the Learned Association *Societas Celto-Slavica* held on 28-30 June 2012 at the Philological Faculty of the Saint Petersburg State University. The previous conferences were held in Coleraine (19-21 June 2005), Moscow (14-16 September 2006), Dubrovnik (18-19 September 2008), Łódź (13-15 September 2009) and Příbram, Czech Republic (26-29 July 2010) and their proceedings have now all been published.¹ The most recent conference was held at Bangor University in Wales on 4-6 September 2014.

The conference was opened by the Deputy Dean of the Philological Faculty, the late Professor Aleksandr S. Asinovskij, who emphasised the relations between the Faculty and the Society (co-founded by an alumnus of the Faculty, late Professor Victor Kalygin) and the particular relevance of a conference in Celtic Studies for the faculty at that time due to the ongoing Master program ‘General Linguistics. Minority languages and language policy’ lead by Professor Elena Perekhvaskaya. He was followed by the President of the Societas Professor Séamus Mac Mathúna and the representative of the Embassy of Ireland to the Russian Federation Jillian O’Keeffe. In her greeting she drew the attention of participants to the fact that the famous Russian song ‘Вечерний звон’ was based on a translation of the poem ‘Those Evening Bells’ by the Irish poet Thomas Moore, whose monument stands in the court of the ancient Saint Petersburg University building.

¹ Mac Mathúna, S., & Fomin, M., eds., *Parallels between Celtic and Slavic. Proceedings of the First International Colloquium on Links and Parallels between Celtic and Slavic Traditions. Studia Celto-Slavica 1*, Coleraine: TSO Publishers, 2006; Mac Mathúna, S., Mikhailova, T., Fomin, M. & G. Bondarenko, eds., *Proceedings of the Second International Colloquium of Societas Celto-Slavica, Studia Celto-Slavica 2*, Moscow: Moscow State University Publishers, 2009; Brozović-Rončević, D., Fomin, M., & R. Matasović, eds., *Celts and Slavs in Central and Southeastern Europe. Proceedings of the Third International Colloquium of Societas Celto-Slavica held at IUC, Dubrovnik, 18-19 September 2008. Studia Celto-Slavica 3*, Zagreb: Institute for Croatian Language and Linguistics, 2010; Stalmaszczyk, P., & M. Fomin, eds., *Dimensions and Categories of Celticity: Studies in Language. Proceedings of the Fourth International Colloquium of Societas Celto-Slavica. Part 1. Studia Celto-Slavica 4*, Łódź: Łódź University Press, 2010; Fomin, M., Jarniewicz, J., & P. Stalmaszczyk, eds., *Dimensions and Categories of Celticity: Studies in Literature and Culture. Proceedings of the Fourth International Colloquium of Societas Celto-Slavica. Part 2. Studia Celto-Slavica 5*, Łódź: Łódź University Press, 2010; Fomin, M., Blažek, V., & P. Stalmaszczyk, eds., *Transforming Traditions: Studies in Archaeology, Comparative Linguistics and Narrative. Proceedings of the Fifth International Colloquium of Societas Celto-Slavica held at Příbram, 26-29 July 2010*, Łódź: Łódź University Press, 2012.

During the following three days of the conference delegates presented their research on all the Celtic languages and cultures, and the increased focus on Welsh material was a particularly welcome development. Twenty nine papers were read, of which this volume includes eighteen.² Like the proceedings of the previous conferences, the contents of this volume are wide-ranging, covering such matters as relationships between Celtic and Slavic languages, toponymics, linguistics, literature, folklore and musicology.

The proceedings volume begins with the contribution of Jadranka Gvozdanović ‘Evaluating Similarities between Celtic and Slavic’. It discusses the proposed arguments for an alleged Afro-Asiatic origin of the Insular Celtic verb complex and related phenomena, and establishes that these arguments are falsifiable or at least inconclusive. There follows a discussion of comparable phenomena in other Indo-European, particularly Slavic languages, and a reconstruction of the Insular Celtic developments without any of the alleged Afro-Asiatic influences.

Václav Blažek’s paper ‘The Eastern Border of Celtic Settlement: A Toponymic Perspective on the Question of the Eastern Border of the European Celts’ discusses newly identified toponyms of possible Celtic origin documented by Pliny and Ptolemy, namely *Axiaces* / Ἀξιάκης, Βάρσακον, Ἡρακτον, Λήτινον πόλις, Μαιτώνιον, Νίοσσον, which shift the eastern border of the European Celts to the territory between the lower Dniester and Dnieper, most probably to the South Bug.

Tatyana A. Mikhailova deals in her article ‘British and Roman Names from the Sulis-Minerva Temple: Two Solutions to an Old Problem’ with curse tablets against thieves found in Bath on the site of the Roman ‘terma’ and temple dedicated to the goddess Sulis Minerva. Analysis of the use of verbal tenses reveals a pattern: persons with Roman names prefer to use the perfect of the verb *involare* ‘to steal’ (*involavit*) but persons with British names use the second future of the same verb – *involaverit*. This suggests that the Romans used to write their tablets post factum of the theft, but the Britons did it ante factum and transformed curse tablets into a kind of protective amulet.

² The following papers were also presented at the conference: Peredur Lynch ‘The Welsh: A Chosen People?’ (plenary paper), Hildegard L. C. Tristram ‘The Sense of Place in Early Irish Narrative, with Special Reference to *Táin Bó Cuailnge*’; Anna Muradova ‘Breton Mermaid Stories and Sea Memorates from the Russian North’; Abigail Burnyeat ‘The Morrígan’s Cooking-spit and the Dagda’s Anvil: B. L. Egerton 1782 as a Source-book for *senchas*’; Marie Theuerkauf ‘A Hero on the ‘Move’: A Proppian Analysis of *Tochmarc Emire*’; Iona Tuomi ‘*Crú ceiti, méim méinni* – Form, Meaning, and Context in the Language of the St. Gall Incantations’; Katarzyna Jedrzejewska-Pyszczyk ‘The Symbolism of Red in Selected Welsh and Polish Expressions Containing the Elements ‘Blood’ and ‘Fire’; Steve Hewitt ‘The Evolution and Reflexes of Old Breton Fricatives and Approximants’; Dmitri Nikolaev ‘Verbal Aspect in Old Irish Narratives’; Maria Shkapa ‘Reprise Device in Irish’; Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart ‘Dom Henry Cyril Dieckhoff, O. S. B. (1869-1950)’.

Svetlana D. Kleyner takes an Indo-Europeanist's view on one possible Celto-Slavic parallel in her contribution 'From Yellow to Blue – or not?' The paper deals with the etymology of the Russian word for sky blue, 'goluboy'. The relationship to the PIE root **ghel-* (cf. OIr. *gel* 'white' and OIr. *glas*), as proposed by Vasmer, and the connection to the Latin *columba* are considered to be unlikely.

The next group of articles is dedicated to the Welsh language and its literature. Dafydd Johnston's paper 'The Lexicon of Dafydd ap Gwilym's Poetry' offers a preliminary survey and classification of the lexicon of the fourteenth-century Welsh poet Dafydd ap Gwilym, distinguishing between archaic vocabulary occurring for the last time and neologisms attested for the first time in his work, as well as a number of sole attestations. Other elements shown to have contributed to the richness of his lexicon include colloquial oaths and exclamations, abstract formations, and various types of compounds.

Elena Parina uses the same corpus for a thorough analysis of semantics of one particular lexeme in her contribution 'Polysemy of Welsh *llawn* 'full' in the Poetry of Dafydd ap Gwilym'. She compares the range of meanings found in Dafydd ap Gwilym's poetry both with the usage in the language of the Middle Welsh prose and with cross-linguistic data. Methodological issues of using small-size poetic corpora for semantic studies are also considered.

Sabine Asmus and Eduard Werner, 'Singulatives in Modern Celtic and Slavic Languages: Evidence from Welsh and Sorbian' considers an under-researched category in both Celtic and Slavic languages, although one which is highly productive in the *p*-Celtic languages in particular. The potentials of the Welsh singulative and its difference from diminutives are discussed in detail, and a comparison is made between Welsh and Sorbian diminutives.

Research into Irish language and tradition, Early and Modern, is broadly represented by a range of articles. Sergey V. Ivanov deals in his contribution 'The Legend of the Twelve Fridays in the Russian and Irish Traditions: An Attempt at Contrastive Analysis' with a text attested in all European traditions since the 11th century. An attempt is made to collect and categorise the Irish material published so far. Fyodor Korandey reports in his article 'The *Vita Sancti Brendani* in the Russian National Library: A Latin Manuscript of the Twelfth Century' on the first part of the manuscript Lat.0.v.I No. 199 kept at the Russian National Library (RNL, Saint-Petersburg). It is one of those versions of *Navigatio Sancti Brendani*, which, as was said by Carl Selmer in 1949, were for a long time 'hidden away in unexplored archives of remote countries'. Examination of common readings, lacunae and paleographic features which the RNL manuscript shares with other manuscripts of the *Navigatio* shows that the Russian manuscript may be designated as a representative of the γ -group identified by Selmer. This group includes the oldest manuscripts of the *Navigatio*, compiled in the monasteries of Bavaria in

the 10th – 12th centuries. Like other codices containing the text of the *Navigatio* belonging to the γ -group, the RNL manuscript can be classified as homiliary or legendary, which is characteristic of the Bavarian Klosterland.

Ksenia Kudenko in her ‘Mon Semblable – Mon Frère: The ‘Evil Twin’ Motif in *Togail Bruidne Da Derga*’ discusses the images of twins and doubles in *Togail Bruidne Da Derga* as one of the key elements of the saga determining the development of the plot as well as the relations between the characters. Nina Zhivlova’s paper ‘Rare and Unique Names of “Non-Indo-European” Type and the Case of Dallán Forgaill’ analyses Old Irish personal names of the so-called ‘non-Indo-European’ type (a noun + adjective or a noun + noun in genitive case). Some types were more or less widespread (e.g. with *macc* ‘son’ or *cú* ‘dog’ as the first element), some are very rare or unique. The author studies the names including *cáech* ‘one-eyed’, *doél* ‘chafer, beetle’ and others, and also suggests that the name of the famous Early Irish poet Dallán Forgaill is not a nickname, but a personal name of this type, featuring a diminutive of *dall* ‘blind’ as the first element.

In ‘A Gaelic Scholar’s Approaches to Recording and Tabulation in Early Eighteenth-Century Dublin’ Liam Mac Mathúna explores the modernising tendencies to be met with in the works of the Irish language scholar Tadhg Ó Neachtain. He focuses in particular on the import of his urge to record, tabulate, interpret and interact with contemporary events, within the context of his continuing commitment to established aspects of the Gaelic literary tradition.

Four papers deal with several aspects of Irish linguistics. Elena Perekhvalskaya analyses in her ‘Irish in the West Indies: Irish Influence on the Formation of English-based Creoles’ structural and material similarities between the aspectual systems of the verb in Hiberno-English and in the West Indies English-based creoles. Suggestions are made about the possible impact of the Irish language on the formation of the English-based creoles in the early stages of creolisation. Cormac Anderson and Sylwester Jaworski study ‘The Phonetics and Phonology of Rhotics in Modern Irish’. Their paper presents acoustic evidence from native Irish speakers and uses corpus data from a variety of sources to examine the frequency and distribution of r-sounds in the language. In ‘Irish Constructions with *bain*’ Victor Bayda explores Irish light verb constructions with the verb *bain* ‘extract, remove’ from a construction grammar perspective: the idioms are representations of more abstract schemes that define the semantic roles of the participants. Such an approach helps to account for certain features of the constructions that would otherwise be considered idiosyncratic. In ‘The Nation or the ‘Local Organic Community’?: Ó Cadhain versus Ó Droighneáin’ Fionntán de Brún discusses the perceived polarities within the Irish nationalist project evidenced by opposing views on ‘Standard Irish’ expressed by the writer, Máirtín Ó Cadhain and teacher/grammarians, Muiris Ó Droighneáin in an exchange of articles in 1962.

Maxim Fomin and Séamus Mac Mathúna in the joint paper on ‘Stories of the Sea: Reflections on a Research Project on the Subject of Maritime Memorates’ look at various problems and pitfalls of the project. Mac Mathúna provides the definition of the concept of ‘memorate’, while Fomin covers various contexts set up for the memorates’ telling, and discusses the project’s methodology for providing the on-line access to its data.

The history of the Irish harp is re-evaluated from an interdisciplinary perspective by Andrew Lawrence-King, Katerina Antonenko, Natalia O’Shea, ‘The Historical Harp: Myths Demystified’. Being specialists in philology, musicology and organology they bring together evidence about Irish harp construction and historical harp-playing techniques in order to develop performing methods rooted within period practice.

A particularly rewarding event at the conference was a poster session for junior participants. Four abstracts of those poster presentations are published in our volume. Oksana Dereza describes in her contribution ‘Paired Adjectives in the Middle Welsh *Ystoria Bown o Hamtwn*’ how native Welsh stylistic devices were used in medieval translations by the example of paired adjectives in the Middle Welsh text *Ystoria Bown o Hamtwn*, which is a translation of the Anglo-Norman *Geste de Boeve de Haumtone*. Dmitri Khrapov presents in his ‘Daoulagad – a Celto-Slavic OCR Dictionary’ the first mobile Welsh↔Russian dictionary, which can be found on-line at <http://www.cymraeg.ru/geiriadur/>. The dictionary contains more than 11,000 Russian and 6,000 Welsh words, covering more than 75% of the 5,000 most frequently used words. Vera Potopaeva discusses in her contribution ‘Irish Historical Thinking in the Saga *Cath Maige Tuired Conga*’ the localisation of the legendary battle-place Mag Tuired (i.e. the Plain of Towers). Marina Snesareva’s paper ‘Filled Pauses in Modern Irish’ gives a number of examples to illustrate different ways of pause filling. Irish is shown to have a large repertoire of pause fillers including not only separate sounds, but also syllables and whole words such as definite articles, copula and short prepositions.

The editors wish to thank the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Research Institute for Irish and Celtic Studies of the Ulster University for providing financial support towards the publication of this volume, Dr Mícheál Hoyne for attentive reading and comments, Professor Erich Poppe (Philipps-Universität Marburg) for his support, and of course all the contributors for their enthusiasm and patience.

Dafydd Johnston (University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, Aberystwyth)

Elena Parina (Institute of Linguistics, RAS, Moscow / Philipps-Universität Marburg)