

INTRODUCTION

This volume presents the proceedings of the Seventh International Colloquium of the Learned Association *Societas Celto-Slavica* held on 4-6 September 2014 in Bangor. It was co-organised by the School of Welsh of Bangor University and the University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies. Previous conferences have been held in Coleraine (19-21 June 2005), Moscow (14-16 September 2006), Dubrovnik (18-19 September 2008), Łódź (13-15 September 2009), Příbram, Czech Republic (26-29 July 2010) and Saint-Petersburg (28-30 June 2012), and their proceedings have all been published.¹ The most recent conference was held at Heidelberg University in Germany on 1-3 September 2016, and its proceedings will likewise be published soon.

The conference was opened by Prof. Peredur Lynch, Head of the School of Welsh at Bangor, followed by the President of the *Societas*, Prof. Séamus Mac Mathúna. Two full days of academic activity featured papers from scholars representing institutions in eight countries, including three plenary addresses.

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. Studia Celto-Slavica 6*, Łódź: Łódź University Press, 2012; Johnston, D., Parina, E. & Fomin, M., eds., ‘Yn llawen iawn, yn llawen iaith’: *Proceedings of the Sixth International Colloquium of Societas Celto-Slavica. Studia Celto-Slavica 7*. Aberystwyth: University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, 2015.

This was the first Celto-Slavica conference to feature papers given in a Celtic language – in this case Welsh – and the proceedings are fittingly being published bilingually. Interestingly, of the three papers in Welsh, two of them are by scholars from beyond Wales: Angelika Rüdiger (Germany) and Dmitri Hrapov (Russia).

Celto-Slavica meetings are as a rule characterised by a wide range of themes, addressing both the Continental and the Insular, from the Classical period and the prehistoric to the present, and we see this in the papers collected here, which address a range of languages across a full chronological sweep. In keeping with chronology, the volume opens with a study of continental Celtic place names: Václav Blažek’s ‘The Northeastern Border of the Celtic World’ analyses the etymology of northeastern European toponyms known to Ptolemy in the mid-2nd century CE. The territory in question roughly corresponds to contemporary Poland and part of the Czech Republic – both now of course mainly Slavic-speaking areas.

There is here, as ever, much work concerning Irish philology and linguistics. Liam Mac Mathúna’s ‘Polite Discourse on the Earls’ Journey to Rome: Exploring the Lexical Field and Sensibility of “Conversation” in Irish’ highlights the importance attached to polite conversation in the noble social milieu in which the Ulster Earls found themselves as they journeyed through Continental Europe in 1607-8. Mac Mathúna argues that Irish literature from early times provides many comparable instances of a similar sensibility, centred on discourse and speech acts, in the land the Earls had left behind. Two articles are dedicated to Modern Irish. In ‘The Possessive Construction with *cuid* “part”’, Victor Bayda analyses combinations of possessive pronouns with non-count and plural nouns in Irish that involve the use of the element *cuid* (general meaning – ‘part’), e.g., *mo chuid eolais* ‘my knowledge’ (lit. ‘my part of knowledge’) or *mo chuid leabhar* ‘my books’ (lit. ‘my part of books’). The article analyses the use of this element in this construction and argues that *cuid* here is morphosyntactically a pseudo-partitive marker whose function is to explicate the idea of amount. Marina Snesareva explores the speech of Irish L2 speakers, and her ‘Drifting towards Ambiguity: A Closer Look at Palatalisation in L2 Irish’ attends to the features of this variety of Modern Irish.

The next two articles are closely related. Oksana Dereza, in ‘Physical Qualities in Goidelic: A Corpus Study of Polysemy and Collocability’, analyses Goidelic adjectives denoting the physical qualities of heaviness and lightness: the adjectives under question are *trom* and *éadrom* in Irish, *trom* and *aotrom* (*eutrom*) in Scottish Gaelic, and their Old Irish equivalents. Elena Parina, ‘The Semantics of *trwm* in Middle Welsh Prose’, uses the same taxonomy of meanings to analyse data for a single adjective

denoting heaviness; the small corpus permits thorough analysis of the examples. Studied together, these adjectives present valuable data for future work on lexical typology, and the articles usefully address relevant theoretical issues.

Four articles focus on Welsh material. Nely van Seventer's 'Translating *Sybilla Tiburtina* into Welsh' considers the translation into Middle Welsh of a widely disseminated medieval text, discussing some of the most salient grammatical and stylistical features of the Red Book version of the *Tiburtine Sybil*. Angelika Rüdiger, 'Trawsffurfiadau Gwyn ap Nudd' (The Transformations of Gwyn ap Nudd) is a diachronic study of the figure of Gwyn ap Nudd over the centuries, from medieval Welsh texts to modern Neo-Paganism. In 'Маѡ Маѡнѡвичѡ: Cyfieithiad Newydd o'r Mabinogi i (Hen) Rwsieg' (Маѡ Маѡнѡвичѡ: A New Translation of the Mabinogi to (Old) Russian), Dmitri Hrapof advocates the need for a new Russian translation of the Four Branches of the Mabinogi, and discusses the advantages of translation from Middle Welsh to Old Russian. This is an interesting example of domesticating translation with contemporary relevance, undertaken by the author himself. Aled Llion Jones' 'Cynghanedd, Amser a Pherson yng Nghywyddau Dafydd Gorlech' (Cynghanedd, Time/Tense and Person in the *Cywyddau* of Dafydd Gorlech) is a prolegomenon to a study of the tropology of temporality in medieval Welsh poetry. In this article, Jones analyses the seven surviving poems of the fifteenth-century prophetic poet, Dafydd Gorlech, and the way in which tropological strategies are supported by metrical patterning.

Finally, Maxim Fomin's paper that takes the place of the presentation given at the colloquium explores 'Multilingual Practices and Linguistic Contacts in Pre-Patrician Ireland and Late Roman Britain'. He deals with matters of linguistic contact and social, cultural and economic exchange between pre-Patrician Ireland and Roman Britain, proposing that trade nexus centres ('*emporia*') were necessarily focal points where interlinguistic exchange took place. He argues that the Irish scribes gained their fluency from the verbal exchanges of the *emporia* as much as from their training at the *scriptoria*. Having re-assessed the question of the Latin borrowings in such sources as the early Irish glossaries, the Leinster genealogies and the earliest sections of the annals, he provides evidence for their use of Latin as a responsive technical language.

Beyond the academic richness, it is quite possible that history was made at the Celto-Slavica conference, in that for the first time in over seven hundred years Llygad Gŵr's eulogy to Llywelyn ap Gruffydd (d. 1282) was declaimed on the site of the royal court of Llys Rhosyr, Ynys Môn. Peredur Lynch, the editor of Llygad Gŵr's work in the *Cyfres Beirdd y Tywysogion*

series, recited the *awdl* to the gathered audience in the remains of the very hall where it would have been performed in the presence of the *Llyw Olaf* (the Last Prince). The conference tour also visited the bronze-age burial site of Bryn Celli Ddu (also on Môn) before travelling through the densely-packed cultural landscape of Gwynedd, from Rhyd-ddu (the birth-place of T.H. Parry-Williams) and the Llanberis Slate Museum, down Dyffryn Nantlle to Dinas Dinlle (the fort of Llew/Lug, immortalised in the Fourth Branch of the Mabinogi). We were able to repair for food and wine, ale or mead to the medieval town of Caernarfon, in the shadow of Edward I's imposing imperial fortress.

Our thanks go to the members of the organising committee, and to the School of Welsh at Bangor for their hospitality, and also to the attendees for providing such a rich continuation of the Celto-Slavica tradition. Particular thanks are due to Peredur Lynch at Bangor, not only for taking on the major tasks of organisation, but also for so brilliantly slipping into the mode of tour-guide-cum-*datgeiniad* and to Dr Elena Parina who has done an excellent job as consultant, advising on various academic matters which there were plenty. Financial support for the colloquium, for which we are most grateful, was kindly provided by The Learned Society of Wales and the D. Tecwyn and Gwyneth Lloyd Memorial Fund (School of Welsh, Bangor University).

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