

1 Liam Breatnach, ‘*Shuindfét dúib dagaisti in dána*: A Middle Irish Poem on Metres’, in Caoimhín Breatnach and Meidhbhín Ní Úrdail (eds), *Aon don Éigse. Essays Marking Osborn Bergin’s Centenary Lecture on on Bardic Poetry (1912)* (Dublin 2015) 51–90.

Liam Breatnach, ‘The *Trefocal Tract*: An Early Middle Irish Text on Poetics’, in G. Ó Riain (ed.) *Dá dtrian feasa fiafraighidh: Essays on the Irish Grammatical and Metrical Tradition* (forthcoming).

George Calder, *Auraicept na n-Éces. The Scholars’ Primer* (Edinburgh 1917).

Roisin McLaughlin, *Early Irish Satire* (Dublin 2008).

Howard Meroney, ‘Studies in early Irish satire: I. “Cis lir fodla aíre?”’, *Journal of Celtic Studies* 1 (1950) 199–226.

Kuno Meyer, *A Primer of Irish Metrics* (Dublin 1909).

Gerard Murphy, *Early Irish Metrics* (Dublin 1961).

Rudolf Thurneysen, ‘Mittelirische Verslehren’, *Irische Texte* 3, 1. Heft (Leipzig 1891) 1–182.

Rudolf Thurneysen, ‘Zu den mittelirischen Verslehren’, *Zu irischen Handschriften und Litteraturdenkmälern* 1 (Berlin 1912) 59–90.

Rudolf Thurneysen, ‘Zu Verslehre II’, *ZCP* 17 (1928) 263–76.

## 2 Metrical Tract (MV) I:

Book of Ballymote, 296b15–299a5 (B)

Book of Ballymote, 306b11–308a40 (B<sup>a</sup>)

H 2.12(8), 10b13–15b10 (H)

Book of Uí Maine 137(195)Va10–138(196)Rb54 (M)

NL Scotland 72.1.1, 18Rb16–19Ra57

NL Ireland G 53, 23–9

## Metrical Tract (MV) II:

Book of Ballymote, 301b24–305b3 (B)

Laud 610, 81Vb9–82Vb + 90–2 (L)

H 2. 15A (4) 78a–84a (A text on the seven grades of *filid*, deriving from *Uraicecht Becc* and *MV* II, ed. *CIH* 549.19–558.25)

## Metrical Tract (MV) III:

Book of Ballymote, 289a1–296b1 (B)

Book of Ballymote, 288a28–b51 (B<sup>b</sup>)

H 2.12(8), 15b12–19b33 (H)

Book of Uí Maine, 133(191)Rb20–137(195)Rb62 (M)

NL Ireland G3, 14Ra1–15Rb21

NL Scotland 72.1.1, 16Va1–18Rb3

## Poem on Metres (MV IV):

The Book of Leinster, p. 38a

National Library of Ireland G 3, 77Vb6

National Library of Scotland, 72.1.6, fol. 11R1

## Trefocal Tract:

The Book of Leinster, 37a1–38a18

The Book of Uí Maine, 143Ra60–143Va14

## Cis lir fodlai aíre:

Book of Ballymote, 299a6–299b30

The Book of Uí Maine, 138Rb55–Va57

NL Scotland 72.1.1, 19Ra58–Rb61

H 3. 18 (1337) 870.

## 3 The Book of Leinster:

*Trefocal* Tract

Poem on Metres (MV IV)

Text on the *dían* metre

*De Dúlib Feda*, on the Ogam alphabet

**Book of Ballymote:**

Prose *Bansenchas*

Blank page

Tract III (incomplete)

Tract III

Four verses on grades and colours

Tract I

*Cis lir fodlai aire*

*Lebar Ollaman*

Tract II

*De Dúlib Feda*

Passages on poet's circuit and metres

Tract I

Fragment on *Trefocal*

Authors of Ireland

On Ogam

*Auraicept na nÉces*, etc.

*Trefocal tacrait filid*

**H 2.12(8):**

Tract I

Tract III

**NL Scotland 72.1.1:**

Tract III

Four verses on grades and colours

Tract I

*Cis lir fodlai aire*

*Lebar Ollaman*

*Auraicept na nÉces*

*Trefocal tacrait filid*

**NL Ireland G3:**

/Metrical *Bansenchas*

Tract III

/Grammatical, incl. IGT V

MV IV

**NL Ireland G 53:**

On Ogam

Tract I

*Lebar Ollaman*

*Auraicept na nÉces*

**Laud 610:**

Poem on seven grades

Tract II

Genealogical Tract

**4**

The Book of Uí Maine:

Folios 134 (192)–143 (201) should be read in the order 134, 136–9, 141, 135, 142, 140, 143.

133Rb20–137Rb62: Tract III.

137Rb63–Va9: On the seven grades of the church, the officers of a church, the colours of the clothing of various classes of person, and the seven grades of poets beginning *Septem sunt gradus ecclesie*, and consisting of a series of Latin headings, each followed by a verse in Irish.

137Va10–138Rb54: Tract I

138Rb55–Va57: *Cis lir fodlai aire*.

138Va57–139Rb54: *Lebar Olloman*.

139Rb55–143Ra60: *Auraicept na nÉces*.

143Ra60–Va14: *Trefocal Tract*.

143Va15–Vb41: *Mad fíarfaigeach budh feassach*, ed. Lambert McKenna, ‘A Poem by Godfraidh Fionn Ó Dálaigh’, in Séamus Pender (ed.) *Féilscribhinn Torna* (Cork 1947) 66–76.

- 5 §2. Is hí trá cétus foglaim na cétblíadna .i. **cóeca ogum** im chertogum 7 **Airaicept na nÉicsine** cona broluch 7 cona réimennaib 7 fiche drécht 7 sé díana.
- §9. Is hí danó foglaim na blíadna tánaise .i. **cóeca ogum** im ogum n-uird 7 sé foaccepta filidechta 7 trícha drécht 7 deich sétroda 7 senamain ocus snáithe senamna.
- §12. Is hí danó foglaim na trese blíadna .i. **cóeca ogum** imm ebadaig n-ilmain 7 na sé foaccepta aile na filidechta 7 cetharcha drécht 7 sé láidi déc.
- §18. Is hí danó foglaim na cethramad blíadna .i. cóeca drécht 7 **Bretha Nemed** 7 fiche emain.
- §21. Is hí danó foglaim na cóicide .i. sesca drécht 7 trícha anair 7 **íarmbérla**.
- §25. Is hí danó foglaim na seised blíadna .i. ochtmoga nath mór 7 ochtmoga becc 7 **bérla na filed** 7 sechtmoga drécht.
- §32. Is hí danó fogluim na .uii.mad blíadna .i. brosnacha suad .i. **bairdne na mbard** 7 dlegair dond filid a fíis, ar is hé accept na sechtmad blíadna don filid.
- §91. Is hí danó foglaim na hochtmaide blíadna .i. fischomarca filed .i. **dúili bérla** 7 clethchor cóem 7 reicne roscadach 7 láidi, .i. teinm láida 7 immas for-osnai 7 díchetal do chennaib na túaithe 7 **dinnsenchus** 7 **prímscéla Hérend olchena fria n-aisnéis do rígaib 7 flaithib 7 dagdoínib, ar ní comlán in fili chena...**

‘... and the lore of notable places, and the other principal tales of Ireland, to expound them to kings and princes and nobles. For the poet is not complete without this.’

§92. **Dúili Bérla**, sicut est Dúil Dromma Cett.

§99. Is hí danó foglaim na nómaide 7 dechmaide blíadna .i. cetharcha sennath .i. cóic lúasca déc 7 secht nena 7 eochraid trí fichet focul cona n-aistib 7 ceithri strotha déc 7 **sé dúili feda**.

§113. Is hí danó foglaim na áenmaide blíadna déc .i. cóeca anamain mór 7 cóeca anamain becc.

§121. Is hí danó foglaim na ala blíadna déc .i. sé fichit rochtal 7 cethéora cerda .i. cerd Laidcinn maic Baircheda 7 cerd ui Chota 7 cerd ui Bicni 7 cerd Béce.

6

*Muiredach, mant capaill chróin,  
cú dar céisib,  
carbat bó bricce for benn,  
bél daim dona Déisib.*

Muiredach, the jaw of a reddish-brown horse, a hound mounting piglets, the gum of a speckled cow on a prong, ox-mouth from the Déisi. (MV III §57).

*A Gilla léochaill lecaig Mo Laise,  
a lecca cuirre garbglaise grían,  
a seiche chorera, a chacc ar másaib,  
a reithe folta fásaig dar fiad.*

O miserly, stony Gilla Mo Laise, you cheek of a rough grey heron of river bottoms, you purple pelt, you shit on buttocks, you moulting desert ram mounting deer. (MV III §106).

*Úa Scurre,  
sceith bruic ar beraib,  
ócdriúth odur d'Éoganacht,  
ima agaid séolanart co snedaib.*

The grandson of Scorr, a badger’s vomit on spears, a sallow young fool from the Éoganacht, a nitty bed-cloth around his face. (MV III §173).

7

*Tár molta ... amail do-rigni Cellach mac Cummascaig do fiur léigind Cblúana mac Nóis:*

*Alla, alla! Criada, criada!*

*Bendic for mo dúana!  
Carais Rechtabrae a dinge  
co lár Cille Clúana.*

*Mór a guth i ndurthaig clárach  
imbi senad riarach;  
ro lég Rechtabrae mac Artrach  
trí chét spaltrach riabach.*

Outrage of praise then, as Cellach son Cumascach composed for the ecclesiastical scholar of Clonmacnoise: Alleluia, alleluia! Credo, credo! A blessing on my poems! Rechtabrae loved being pressed into the centre of the church of Clonmacnoise. Great his voice in the wooden church in which the clergy are submissive; Rechtabrae son of Artri has read three hundred ornamented psalters. (*Cis lir fodlai aitre* §11).

*Laíd Arachair danó .i.*

*Ili Insi Mod  
mádia rís Aigli  
ili cuile cossa,  
dúili duis Elge  
ili renna nime  
nád for eilgi indel  
ili tonna mara;  
lia dáma Domnaill.*

The islands of Clew Bay are numerous, if you reach the (top of) Croaghpatrick, the legs of flies are numerous, the massed (?) creatures of Ireland, the stars of heaven are numerous, nor can you work out their arrangement (?), numerous are the waves of the sea; more numerous are the guests of Domnall.  
MV II §16 (cf. Bruchstücke No. 12; ZCP 17, 294 n).

8 *Totbocht danó .i. amal beit a mbésa corop amlaid moltair cách, .i. molad laích for láech, molad cléirig for cléirech, molad mná for mnaí.*

Appropriateness, then, i.e. as their ways of life are that everyone be so praised, i.e. a layman is to be praised as a layman, a cleric is to be praised as a cleric, a woman is to be praised as a woman.

*Molad laích do láech ut dixit Urard mac Coise:*

*Crithir crithes crothas cúan,  
riches rochas co robúan,  
úa ríg Lemna leotha cenn,  
bres Berba, buille dílenn.*

Praise of a layman for a layman, as Urard mac Coise said: 'A spurting flame causing a troop to tremble, a very lively blaze lastingly, the grandson of the king of Liamain who hacks off heads, the mighty one of the Barrow, a torrential blow.'

*Molad cléirig for cléirech:*

*Túathal dlúim do déirc Dé díl,  
búa Conaill, mac Amirgin,  
búasalescop Inse Fáil,  
comarba cathrach Ciaráin.*

A cleric praised as a cleric:  
'Túathal, an abundance of the charity of dear God, grandson of Conall, son of Amirgen, the noble bishop of the Isle of Fál, successor to the city of Ciarán.'

*Molad mná for mnaí:*

*Cíall, cruth, cenél cen chairi;  
gáes, gart, genus co ndruini;  
cland, compert cen gráin gaili;  
atát oc Derb Áil uili.*

A woman praised as a woman:  
'Good sense, beauty, [good] family without reproach; wisdom, generosity, purity together with manual dexterity; children, begetting without terror of the womb; Derb Áil has them all.'

*Tuathal comarba Ciaráin, AU s.a. 971; Quies Tuathail, abb Cluana Mc. Nóis, AI s.a. 972.  
Der Bail ingin Taidhg m. Cathail, AU s.a. 1010.7.*