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Morris manuscripts

Descriptions taken from Morris's articles in
Irisleabhar na Gaedhilge, Eanair 1904

July 2013

Morris ms 1

Size: 6x4x1/2". Date: about 1834

Scribes: Matthew Moore Graham and Nicholas O'Kearney, both near Dundalk.

4 tracts bound together:

- The Catechism (end missing), in the hand of M M Graham.
- In the hand of Nicholas Kearney; vide Ogham inscription at the end. Contains:
 - The story of Merlino (26 pp)
 - Ossianic tale: Braghion Eochaidh Bheil Deirg (28 pp)
 - Poem, 24 lines, by Art Mor O Murchadha, begins 'A Shaoithe Eireann uile airdh'
 - Poem, 12 lines, by Art Mor O Murchadha, begins 'A liaigh mo speis'
- The Catechism (complete). Written by M M Graham, 1834. Followed by 'An abbreviation of the Faith proper, to be read to the congregation on Sunday'
- Failte & Moladh Mhuire a religious poem, 40 lines, by Seamas Mhac Cuarta;
- Bas & an Clairsuneach, poem, 40 lines, by Seamas Ua Teibhlin (near Kells, Co. Meath).
- Agallamh an Duine & an Bhais, 16 pages

Scribes: Matthew Moor Graham; Nicholas Kearney

Morris ms 2

Size: 6 X 4 1/2". Date not given.

This ms consists of three tracts bound together; the first in the hand of Nicholas O'Kearney, the second and third in the hand of Matthew Moore Graham.

St Fiach's metrical life of St Patrick in alternate Irish and Latin verses. 33 quatrains. 24 of the above verses repeated, each followed by an 'interpretation' or paraphrase in Irish; seventeen verses of these followed by a connected prose narrative of the Saint's life. All covering 32 pp; remainder of tract apparently missing.

Poem by Peadar O Doirnin. 24 lines, beg. 'Trial fad f a cois chuain na n-ean.'

Love song by O Doirnin; 16 lines, beg. 'Siad do rosga glasa fath n chaoi.'

An extempore song of 12 lines on 'Tara' written by O Doirnin, beg. 'On a stone on the ruins.'

Song, 24 lines, beg. 'Na fiafraigh an uair-se e, a chloinn na gCruadhlaoch' - very probably by O Doirnin also.

Song, 32 lines, beg. 'Maidin chiuin dhol cois bruaich na tragha.' No author given.

Song, 20 lines, beg. 'A shruith bhig is mian liom do chian-ghuth tra'

Song, 24 lines, beg. 'Mo duisigh a bhladh na sgeimhe.' No author.

Allegorical song, 16 lines, addressed to Erin, beg. 'Mo chian gan me sgartha o dhub neullaibh an t-saoghail.'

All, or most, of the above may be by O Doirnin, who is remarkable among the Ulster poets for writing short pieces. The remainder of this tract consists of songs in English.

Songs in English. Six of the English songs are translations from poems noted above; the remainder are translations of Irish songs now probably lost. These all appear to have been written or composed by M M Graham in his youth

Morris ms 3

6 X 3 1/2 x 1/4". Date not given

Scribe: Nicholas O'Kearney

80 pp; script clear and legible. Ogham inscription at end: Le na Chlann O Cearnaigh an dara la do'n mhi luli

30 pp of The Christian doctrine, in continuous prose
Bonaventura O'Hussey's metrical version of the same
The daily spiritual office of the Christian, and prayer
Prayer

Hymn and prayer before going to bed

The Miserere and prayers before and after Confession and Communion

Short treatise on each of the Commandments, and on the seven deadly sins

Morris ms 4

5 3/4 x 3 1/2 x 3/4"

Scribe: Aodh O'Neill, of Newry (see p. 187: 'Aodh O'Neill m'ainm gan gho)

A Cleirigh choir guidh go gear

An scriobhnoir a bheith gan bhron

Sa dhul faoi rod go flaithear De'

No date given; but as seen from other mss, Hugh O'Neill wrote about 1803

272 pages; entirely religious.

Lacks first 5 pages and some pages at end

Explanation in prose of the Creed, Pater and Ten Commandments, etc., divided into chapters

Morris ms 5

6 x 3 3/4 x 3/4"

Date 1828 or 1829 (both dates are given)

Scribe: Art Mor Ua Murchadha. This statement is in the hand of Nicholas O'Kearney who states that Murphy wrote the book for him. Murphy's is a light, rather careless, but legible hand

Poem, 156 lines, by Seumas Mhac Cuarta: Tuireamh Murchaidh Cruabhais

Poem, 258 lines, by Art Mhac Cumhaigh: Mardhnaoi Airt Ui Neill

Poem, 98 lines, by Rev Paul O'Brien,: Dan ar an mbas

Poem 28 lines: giving the Seacht Solais na maighdine bheannuighthe

Poem, 40 lines, by Patrick MacAlindon: Dan Bhriain Ui Ceallaigh

Man's final end by Bishop O'Connell. 296 lines (Edition of this poem, with metrical English translation by Michael Clarke of Whitewood, near Nobber, Co. Meath, was published in Drogheda in 1851. It contains, however only 224 lines

Poem, 56 lines: Tailltoin. In Nicholas O' Kearney's hand. He gives both Seamus Mhac Cuarta and Art Mor Ua Murchaidh as authors

Of 930 lines of poetry in the volume, over 300 have been published

Morris ms 6

Size 6 x 3 3/4 x 1/2 inch.

Date 1819, 1820, 1821, 1822, 1823

Scribe doubtful. Part of it is undoubtedly by O'Kearney and the remainder may be his also in a disguised hand. His name frequently occurs on the margin throughout the book.

Contents:

A list of 372 contractions used in Irish manuscripts.

Thirty-four lines English verse stating how Ogham is written. The same in 24 lines Irish verse.

Eight lines of Irish poetry and 8 lines of adjectival prose entitled 'Drilrosg ar uaigh Áigmhór.'

English prose translation of same.

Irish poem, 28 lines, said on the margin to be 'written by Dr. Paul O'Brien as a prolocutio to his Irish grammar to exhort all the study of their venerable vernacular language'.

Poem, 211 lines, by Seamus Mac Cuarta entitled 'Tuireadh Somhairle Mic Domhnaill'. There is hardly any poem oftener met with in Northern manuscripts than this. It begins 'San eaehdhruim an Air araid na gcomhnuidhe.

'Laoi conn mic an deirg' 82 lines.

Laoi an deirg mhoir féin, 128 lines.

Laoi an Eatha gabhra, 144 lines.

Agallamh Oisín agus Padraig, 124 lines.

Laoi a conluigh Mhic na Coin, 110 lines.

Tuireamh na hEireann, 340 lines. This was also published with metrical translation and notes by Michael Clarke of Whitewood. Clarke says - 'Dr. Connell was a Bishop of the 16th Century, supposed to have been born in Kerry.

Poem 102 lines by Seamus Mhac Curta entitled Dán Peigídh Dein. It begins Lá do rabhos a gCathair na Gailbhe.

Poem 24 lines by Art Mór Ua Murehaidh entitled Laoi an Ghiosdara Mhaoil. It is a lampoon on a rival poet 'a straggling fellow named O'Daly.

A proverb and a prayer.

Fragment of Inneirge Mhic na Miochomhairle. Some poetic couplets about old Irish historical and legendary names.

Further list of contractions.

Of the 1400 lines this manuscript contains, 600 lines and probably more have been published.

Morris ms 7

6 x 3 1/2 x 1"

Date: 1723

Scribe: Padraig O Pronntuigh Mhic Neill, &c

The first 26 pages of the ms are missing.

Fragment: 21 pages of Oidhe Chloinne Uisneach

Bruighín bheag na hAlmhuine: prose tale of 31 pages, complete

Inneirghe Mhic na Mhiochomhairle, in prose and verse: 60 pages, 8 missing pages
Eachtra an Mhadra Mhaoil: prose tale, complete; 97 pages
Eachtra Chloinne Riogh na hloruaidhe, 92 pages, incomplete. This is the tale edited by Dr Hyde for the Irish Texts Society. Fragment goes as far as where Cod meets Bright faced Sun .
'Dr Hyde says he has the remaining portion of this very MS. however it got separated from the first portion and was conveyed to Connacht.'

Morris ms 8

6 x 3 1.2 x 3/4"

Date: 1733

Scribe: Pdraig O Pronntuigh Mhic Neill

Bruighin bheag na hAlmhuin, complete
Ceann Aodh Ui Neill, a poem of 112 lines, complete; no author given
Poem, 32 lines, beginning: Ma's peacadh e bhean na malach ceart comhdhluithe
An ceithrearnach Caol Riabhach, a prose tale of 57 pages, complete

Morris ms 9

6 1/2 x 4 x 3/4"

1785

Scribe: Hugh O'Neill of Newry

Ms appears to be a translation of a prayer book: P.2: "This I believe is my first attempt at translating and it cannot of course be very correct."

Some of the pieces in Ms 3 appear to have been copied from this.

Morris ms 10

7 1/2 x 6 x 1/2"

1800, or 1810, and 1811

Scribe: unknown

Title page faded; beyond the title and the name 'Dundalk', all the rest is illegible.
Contents: A copy of Hugh Buidhe Mac Curtin's Irish grammar published London, 1728, Paris 1732.

Morris ms 11

8 x 6 x 1"

Scribe: Owen O'Marron, who wrote the ms. for the use of Michael Fleming.

Description of the Passion of our Lord: 'a beautiful poem of 38 quatrains by Seamas Mhac Cuarta, on the death of his two brothers, beginning:

'A dhearbhrathair mhuirigh, an gcluin tu an chuach?'

Unpublished poem of Keating's, beginning:

'Mo ghradh fhein thu, & fuath mo dhaoine''

Poem: 'Tarla domh & me snamh ar aindhir eisg'

Poem: 'Mholadh Briain Mic Culla'

'Laoi Cloinn Uisnigh'

'Laoi Mhaghnuis Mic Maghaidh'

'Comhradh an anma damanta leis an chorp'

'Trachtadh I leirfhoillriughadh ar ghabhaltar Eirionn o aimsir Chearnach gus an tanra'

Genealogies

Short religious piece: 'Ag so bocht truagh do mhuintir an chomhdhia', etc., said to have been composed in 1314 AD.

Religious poems: 'A lucht deunta an chrabhuidhfhuair'

Uirnidhe an Chairnigh Naomhtha'

'Truagh liom a chompain, do chor' by 'Bonaventura O'Hosa

Short religious piece: 'Ar oile di aimsir dar smuain an diabhl da mbeith ingheana aige,' etc.

Religious poem: 'Doilghe liom ina an t-eag'

Prophetic poem: 'Abair duinn a Mhoal Tamhlachta'

Panegyric on the three sons of Eadain of Emhain, described as Tri arcaigh Muighe Line, the three knights of Moylinny, Tri seabhaic Shleibhe Guaire, the three hawks of Slieve gorey, etc.

The names occur frequently as Muircheartach, the eldest, Aodh, the second son, and Gofraidh, the youngest.

Begins: 'Cuaine rioghtna rucc Eadain'

Dates of some events that happened in Ulster.

Dan Naioisi Mhic Amfra. Begins: Teagaid tri haibhnne nar dtir'

Religious poem: Laoi na gcarr'. Begins: 'Go slanaighthear an ceannta'

Genealogy of Mac Aodha (Magee)

Religious poem by 'Eoghan O Duithigh .i. Brathair Bocht, beginning: 'leig id coimhmheas duinn'

Religious prose: 'An chead rann don lleabhur athrachtas ar an aithri tuirse,' &c. Nine chapters of it are given, the scribe remarking at the end: 'Ni beag sin don chomhradh sin go ham eile.'

Under this is again entered the signature and date of the ms.

Sermon on [ie of?] St Paul to St Titus, chapter 2.: 'Do thoirbhir Criosd e fe[in] air as son, ionnur go bhruasgladh se o nolc,' etc.

Morris ms 12

12 x 8 x 1"

Date: 1806

Scribe: Hugh O'Neill, Newry

Description:

The book is a copy of Keating's History with one of two pages of the start of the preface missing. Two leaves inserted in the book, and now bound up with it, contain the 'Grave-lay' of Art Mac Cooley, by Seamus Mac Coilleadh, or Woods, of Dundalk. It contains 12 six-line stanzas

Morris ms 13

6 x 48 x 1/2"

Date: 1794 and 1795

Scribes: Michael Callan and Terence [illegible: Reur?]

Irish proverbs

Poem: Dan da thoisighadh le bhrosdughadh na dteuda. 100 lines

Poem, begins: '...rad[?] baluidh is fada liom no go bhfaiceadh me headan. 18 pages

Tuireamh Shomhairle Mhic Dhomhnaiill, by Seamas Mhac Cuarta

Poem: on the destruction of Glasdrummond Castle: begins: 'a shean chloch uasal goide an suansa ar dhaimh do thire. 12 pages. (Glasdrummond Castle stood on the margin of Glasdrummond Lake, in the south of Co Armagh, a few miles from Dundalk. It was one of the most southern strongholds of the O'Neills

Poem, begins: 'Dha mhillionn deag failte daoibh o arus Mheibhe inghean Eocuidh'. 36 lines

Religious poem: Baoghlach Riadh Mhac Aodhgan. 124 lines

Poem: Seachran Cearbhaill Ui Dalaigh ar cguirt Riogh sacran. 10 pages

Psalm na Marbh. 6 pages

English proverbs, probably 'headlines'

Poem: Eud chlochoir le hArdmach suin [?], begins: 'D-eirghgear fein go moch a lo'. 40 lines

Arithmetical problems in English.

9 pages of poetry, partly illegible.

Five pages of a poem, partly illegible

'Man's final end'. 12 pages

Religious poem: Na Cuig Feilte Muire (the same as the piece in ms 1 entitled Failte & Moladh Muire, ascribed to Mac Cuarta). It begins: 'A bhleith na bpatriac 'sa' inghean

Morris manuscripts

Morris ms 14

Size 6x4x1/2 inches. Date 1824.

Scribe Tomás Ua Conchobhair Mic Tomhais Mic Eoghain Ui Chonchobhair of Greach na ruag near Carrickmacross

Laoi an Duirn, 26 quatrains

Poem, 7 quatrains, by Padraig Mac Alindon, beginning: 'Ní bhfuil staid-bean do goidhlaidh beó monuar.'

Poem, 25 quatrains, by Seathrun Ceitinn do na dheirbhshiuir.

Poem, 31 quatrains, by Eoghan Ruadh Mac Bháird. This is the same as that entitled 'Ceann Aod Uí Néill' in manuscript 8. The Poem opens 'A Fhir fheachas uait an anamh/ Ná fiafraidh do chach cua hé/ Ná bí a nainbhfior acht druid liom/ Mire ceann aodh Ui Néill...'

Duain mór uí Shiadhail, a poem of 15 quatrains on cures for headache.

Ortha Mhuire, three pages

Laoi an Deirg, 76 quatrains

Moladh Mhuire, 17 quatrains, beginning 'A Mhuire 'sa bhanrioga, a mhathair sa bhanaltran Dé'.

Laoi an Chonlaigh, 10 pages

Laoi chuin Mhic an Deirg, 8 pages

Poem, 30 lines, by Richard Plunkett, beginning 'Is truagh mo sgeal a leabhraín grin

Eachtra an ghearrán bhán, 52 lines

Bruighin bheag na hAlmhuin, 17 pages

A page of prose - matter historical

A page of some Ossianic lay

Maebhnaoi cuinn Uí Neill ar na cumadh le Seamus Mac Curta a bhaird, 9 pages

Poem by Tomas Ua Bacathan on a blacksmith named Eamonn Mhac Ghioll' Riabhaigh, five pages

Poem 14 lines, beginning 'A phlanda truid (? -na ngaedheil fial).

Poem, 8 quatrains, by Patrick Mac Alindon beginning 'Aidiom feasda ón am so go naimsir a dtiocfaidh an bár.'

The Grave-lay of Peadar O Doirnín, 44 lines beginning 'Ar mhullach'n ath' buidhe mo luid teacht ghoirm na gcuach'. According to another ms I have seen, this poem is attributed to Art Mhac Cumhaidh.

The Ogham craobh explained in Irish verse.

A list of Irish contractions.

A poem, 8 pages, by Ragnall dall Mhac Dhomhnaill.

The Dies Irae translated into Irish by 'An tAthair Brian Ua Cathlan, pagare parasite Innisción, Co Monaghan. This and some of Father Callan's translations were published at the end of a little religious manual called 'The Spiritual Rose which was printed in Roman characters in Monaghan in the year 1835. This manual, which is now very scarce, contains 118 pages, and the title page tells us it was 'rendered into Irish by Matthew Kennedy' but from what original source it does not state.

Morris ms 15

Size 7.5 x 5.5 x.5 inches. Date unknown

Scribe - no name given, but from the beautiful style of the script I believe it to be O'Pronty's.

This manuscript is a fragment, 36 pages, of closely-written matter, the subjects being the lives of our lord and of the Blessed Virgin.

Morris ms 16

Size 7x 4.5x.5 inches, Date 1832

Scribe M.M. Graham

This manuscript is chiefly taken up with a miscellaneous collection of notes, mathematical, scientific, literary etc, but it contains the following Irish songs:

Ceol treadhugheach le Padraig Ó Cxathalain, a poem of 40 lines, beginning 'Tá mo chroidhe-se da sgríúd-adh le gradh.'

A fragment, 15 lines, of the Laoi an tearic Mhic Traon.

A satanza of song, beginning 'Níor lúthmhar na Caoilte, níor geanamhuil na Aille

A song, 6 quatrains beginning ' A Mháire chuisle, a bhláth na finne

A song, 16 lines beginning ' 'S aige mullaigh sliabh ghillín a rinne me mo sgíste.'

A song 9 quatrains beginning 'Aig data bliaghna na dtri seacht.

At the end of this is the note 'Transcribed from an old manuscript per M. Graham in 1832'.

Two other scrap books of M.M. Graham's contain long botanical lists, giving the Irish, Latin and English names of the various herbs, plants etc. These were all culled by Mr. Graham from dictionaries and therefore may not have much value.

Size 8 x 6 x 1 inches. Date 1834.

Morris ms 17

Scribe - Matthew Moore Graham

This manuscript is entitled 'The bardic remains of Louth, vol. the first'. From the Irish of O'Doornin. It is a compilation of O'Doornin's poems by M.M. Graham. It is evidently modelled on Hardiman's 'Irish Minstrelsy' and was probably suggested by it, as the latter was published in 1831.

The manuscript contains:

A - six pages of contents

B - 'memoir of Peadar O'Doornin the celebrated bard of Louth, written from the verbal account of persons intimately acquainted with him'. This memoir covers 32 pages.

C- Preface, 20 pages

D - The Poem's of O'Doornin. With each poem is given an English Metrical translation on the opposite page, exactly after the manner of Hardiman's Minstrelsy. The poems are

- 1 Gearán na baintreabhaighe chuige Iarla Oirmuamhan, 28 lines.

- 2 Trí rain agus abhrán ar an Gaedhilig. 16 lines

- 3 Na rosca glasa, 16 lines

- 4 Tadhg agus Máire, 42 lines

This is the same poem, practically word for word, that Dr. Hyde gives at page 88 of his Love songs of Connacht. Dr. Hyde states that he found it in an old copy of the Nation, but what let him to conjecture that it was a Connacht poem he does not state. M.M. Graham gives a long account detailing the circumstances of its composition by O' Doornin. Graham's English poetical version has every alternate verse ending in 'Mary' and 'Thady', so that it is probable that it was Graham or some of his friends who sent the poem to the Nation. At any rate the manuscript copy of this poem is eight or 10 years older than the Nation copy, and my own opinion is that it is O'Doornin's composition. As it resembles his style. Hence I fear, Connacht must relinquish its claim to, this fine lyric.

- 5 An Chuilfhionn, beginning 'A chuilfhionn croidhe bi caoidheamhuil liiom, 12 lines

- 6 Malaidh drama Crích, 48 lines

- 7 An Samhradh, 24 lines

- 8 Dealrach an lae, 16 lines
- 9 Fuagra Uí Doirnín, 40 lines
- 11 Móirín - Beginning 'Och! Mo chian gan mise sgartha ó shubh - néallaidh an tsaoghail, 16 lines
- 12 An Téinín, 72 lines
- 13 Nuala 20 lines
- 14 Gearan, Miss Flora (MacDonald) 24 lines
- 15 Ur -chnoc Chéin Mhic Cáinte, 40 lines
- 16 Céile an bhacaigh, 24 lines
- 17 An Spailpín, 24 lines
- 18 Gusl na ríog-mhná ins a'gCoill, 48 lines
- 19 Geasan na mbárd fan fhéile, 24 lines
- 20 Lonndubh and toim, 36 lines
- 21 Meiteacht Uí Dhoirnin, 24 lines
- 22 Peigidh inghin bhriain, 20 lines
- 23 Triachain na Mathair da'n leanbh, 48 lines
- 24 Sgiath Dhrighde, 20 lines
- 25 An Buachail donn, 16 lines

After this piece on a blank half page, the scribe who evidently prided in his diminutive writing, wrote in a space the size of half a crown, the whole of the Lord's prayer, the Hail Mary, the Apostles Creed, the Ten Commandments the 'Twelve Fruite os the Holy Ghost' the 'Three Theological Virtues', a quatrain of Poetry and finally 'written August 5th 1834, in Dundalk, Co. Louth.'

- 26 Chum na teamhra, 12 lines
- 27 Caisleán Teamhra, 40 lines
- 28 Neoinín a tSléibhe, 24 lines
- 29 Caitlín na gCraobh, 16 lines
- 30 Meadhbh Mín, 16 lines
- 31 Bruach na hAnaigh, 24 lines
- 32 Blath sgéimhe Éireann, 16 lines
- 33 Marcach seólta na bochna baoithe, 28 lines
- 34 Cuisle mo Chroidhe, 24 lines
- 35 Dún Uí Ghreama, 39 lines
- 36 Róis na bhFainnedhe, 48 lines
- 37 Sadbh, 32 lines
- 38 Seon Jonson, 48 lines
- 39 Ruaghraigh Ó Rúnaigh, 40 lines
- 40 Caipín Uisge Bheatha, 32 lines
- 41 Barrad ó Lonnduin, 32 lines
- 42 Eillis ó, 33 lines
- 43 Uaill-ghul ar uaigh a chaomh cheile, 24 lines
- 44 Toirdhealchach coir Ó hamuill, 72 lines
- 45 Suirghe mhuiris Uí ghormain, 48 lines
- 46 An Irish prophecy turned into verse, 24 lines
- 47 A satire on a covetous priest of the Fews, 24 lines

E - 'A true and impartial history of the circumstances which gave rise to the compositions of O'Doornin, the celebrated satirist and lyric poet of Louth'. This covers 94 pages and includes 5 Irish poems by other poets.

F- Notes, 34 pages. Graham, the compiler, had drunk deep of the vallancy theories and sought everywhere to connect Irish words, ideas and c with those Egyptian, Hebrew and Oriental literature.

G- Appendix, containing a number of poetic contests between Árt mór Ua Murchaidh and Seumas Mac'íoll Choilleach (or Jmes Wods) of Dundalk.

These include:

Fáilte Uí Chonail by Woods, 28 lines; and by Murphy, 16 lines

Fáilte beartomain Uí Chathlain, by Woods, 48 lines; and by Murphy, 48 lines

Fáilte Dochtuir Cuirtín, Priomh-easbóg Eireann by Woods, 48 lines

An appreciation of Murphy by Woods, 16 lines

Lines on a Miss Graham - a relative of the compiler, 12 lines

The titles given to most of the poems in the manuscript are probably by M.M. Graham