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978-1-108-04870-5 - *Chronicum Scotorum: A Chronicle of Irish Affairs, from the Earliest Times to A.D. 1135*

Edited by William M. Hennessy

Excerpt

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INCIPIT CRONICUM SCOTORUM

.1.

TINNISCANTOOR CROINIC NA SCOT AN'DSO.

Τῆς, ἀ λέχχτόιρ, ρα ἀδβαρ ἀιρθε, οσυρ ζο πολλυρ
 το ρεσνα ειμεαλταιρ, ζυραβ εδ αρ ἄιλ λινν τράδταο
 ταζα οσυρ αἰεμαιρ το δένυμ αρ αιρηνιρ να σκοτ
 αμάιν ραν κοιρρε, αζ ραζδάλ λιρταοα να λεπαρ
 αιρηνιρ αμυζ. Κοιθ αιρε ρην ιαρηαμμαο οιρβγρ ζαν
 αρ νινρεαχαθ τριθ, υαιρ ορεοαμμαρ ζυραβ αοβαλ
 αν τεαρναῖν ηέ.

Prima Mundi aetate continet annos iuxta Ethraos
 m. dclvi. iuxta uero .lxx. Interpretetur .ii. millia,
 cca. lvi, quae tota perit in diluuiο pcut infantiam
 mergere solet obliuio. x. generationes.

Ὡς ρο μαρ αοερ αν ζαοιθεαλ νυμιρ να ηαορα ρο.

It re bliatna .l. re ceo cpur το ρίμιν,
 Mite mór αν αιρμίν ó Αοham ζο οιλμν.

¶ Ct. u. p. l. x. m. lxxix. anno mundi.

In hoc anno uenit filia alicuius de Grece ad Hiber-
 niam cui nomen erat heriu, no berba, no ceραρ, et .l.
 filiae, et in uiri cum ea. Λαδρα ζυβερνατορ εορυμ
 ρυιτ qui ρρμυρ in Hibernia tumulatur erit: hoc non
 ηαρηαντ αντιουαρι Scotorum.

¹ To swallow. ⁴ ² mge, for mergere
 (mergere), A.

² Ten generations: i.e. reckoning
 from Adam to Noah, inclusive.

³ Age. In the margin opposite to
 this couplet occurs the character "r̄,"

the abbreviation for "ram," i.e. a
 verse.

⁴ Kal. v., f. l. x.: i.e. the Kalends,
 or first, of January fell on the 5th
 feria, or day of the week (Thursday),
 which was the tenth day of the Moon's
 age.

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INCIPIT CHRONICUM SCOTORUM,

i.e.

THE CHRONICLE OF THE SCOTI IS BEGUN HERE.

UNDERSTAND, Reader, that for a certain reason, and plainly to avoid tediousness, what we desire is to make a short Abstract and Compendium of the History of the Scoti only in this copy, leaving out the lengthened details of the Books of History; wherefore it is that we entreat of you not to reproach us therefor, as we know that it is an exceedingly great deficiency.

The First Age of the world contains 1656 years according to the Hebrews, but 2242 according to the Seventy Interpreters; all which perished in the Deluge, in the same manner that oblivion is wont to swallow¹ up infancy. Ten generations.²

Thus do the Gaedhel express the number of this age³:—

Six years, fifty, *and* six hundred, as I reckon,
A great thousand I count from Adam to the Flood.

Kal. v. f. l. 10.⁴ Anno Mundi 1599.⁵

In this year the daughter of one of the Greeks came A.M. 1599. to Hibernia, whose name was hEriu, or Berba, or Cesar, and fifty maidens, and three men, with her. Ladhra was their conductor, who was the first that was buried in Hibernia. This the antiquaries of the Scoti do not⁶ relate.

⁵ *Anno Mundi* 1599. ἰ.λ.ϞϞϞ (m.lxxix.), A.; apparently a mistake for ἰ.ϞϞϞϞ. (m.dxcix.) The Irish chroniclers differ as to the date of the alleged arrival in Ireland of Cesar (pron. Kesar); some referring it to

forty years, and others forty days, before the Flood; but in either case the figures 1599 are incorrect.

⁶ *Not.* ἢ., A., for *non*; or possibly for *nunc*.

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Secundo aetate Munro incipit quae continet annos
ccxii. iuxta .ū. Etharoy, ut Poeta ait:—

O uilinn zo hCbram hi zenaip iar féuib
Da bliadan baic toact, noact ar oib céuib,

Iuxta uero Interpreteter, .cccc.xl.

¶ Ct. Anno munro m.cccclix. Deū mbliadna iarriin
co uirgaoileō an tuir. ix. mbliadna iarriin zo Feniuir.
Hoc anno Feniuir comporruit bepla na ngaoiel a
lxxii. linguir, et porit deoit Gaoidéal filio Agnomon,
.i. x°. anno porit destructionem turruir nempōē.

Terzia aetate incipit quae continet annos .cccc.xlii.
et incipit a nativitate Cbram, ut dicit poeta,

On zen rin zen zabad zo Daois in plait féoil
Cethraā do bliadnaib naoi .c. zo indemin,

Anno lx°. aetate Cbramī Parpatalon in Hiberniam
uenit. Ar e an Parpatalon po cō po zab Erinna iar
noilinn, a cetrōman, xiiii. por mairt, octtar a lín, .i.
cērrar fear ocuī cetrar ban. Ro porbriirrit iarum
zo rapattar .l. ar cēre mile fear ocuī mile ban.

Cēre maize an erinn po reioīōtea la Parpatalon
.i. maī tuireō, no neōara, la Connachtaiβ, et maī
Sepe la Connachtaiβ, ocuī maī nīta la Laignaiβ, ocuī
maī Latrainn la Dal Arāīōe, ocuī Lecmaī la h. mic
Uair, etir ōir ocuī Camuī.

Seēt mbliadna iar ngabail Erenn do Parpatalon

¹ *Tower*: i.e. The Tower of Babel.

² *Agroman*. The Gaeidhel, or Gaedhel, to whom Fenius is alleged to have committed the Gaedhlic language, is called Gaedhel, son of Etheor, in some authorities, and Gaedhel Glas, son of Agnon, or Angen (who was Fenius's nephew), in others. See a

tract on the Gaedhlic language in the *Book of Lecan*, fol. 152, a; and Todd's *Nennius*, p. 234.

³ *After the destruction*. Porit uir-
truccion-, A.

⁴ *The 14th of May*. a c. xiiii., A. The letter c. appears to stand for

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CHRONICUM SCOTORUM.

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The Second Age of the world begins, which contains 292 years, that is according to the Hebrews, as the poet says:—

From the Flood to Abraham, who was happily born,
Two full, prosperous years, ninety and two hundred;

but according to the [lxx.] Interpreters, 940 years.

Kal. Anno Mundi 1859. Ten years after that to the A.M. 1859. demolition of the Tower.¹ Nine years after that to Fenius. In this year Fenius composed the language of the Gaeidhel from seventy-two languages, and subsequently committed it to Gaeidhel, son of Agnomán,² viz., in the tenth year after the destruction³ of Nimrod's Tower.

The Third Age commences, which contains 942 years, and it begins with the birth of Abraham, as the poet said:—

From that birth, without peril, to David, the faithful prince,
Forty-two years and nine hundred, certainly.

In the sixtieth year of the age of Abraham, Parrthalon arrived in Hibernia. This Parrthalon was the first who occupied Erin after the Flood. On a Tuesday, the 14th of May,⁴ *he arrived*, his companions being eight in number, viz.:—four men and four women. They multiplied afterwards until they were *in number* 4,050 men and 1,000 women.

There were four⁵ plains cleared in Erin by Parrthalon, viz.:—Magh Tuiredh, or nEdara, in Connacht; and Magh Sere in Connacht; and Magh Ita in Laighen; and Magh Latrainn in Dál Araidhe; and Lecmagh in Ui Mac Uais, between Bir and Camus.

Seven years after the occupation of Erin by Parrthalon,

ceitán, or ceitpóman—May. See Cormac's *Glossary*, voce ceitpóman.

⁵ Four. Ceitne, A. The text enumerates five.

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condearbáilte an ceo fep̄ da muinntir .i. f̄ea a ainm. ar ann ro haðnac̄t a muin̄z̄ f̄ea, conid̄ uaid̄ ro hainmnic̄eð.

Sect loč maomanna ro ž̄ir a f̄flait̄hiur p̄arrthalón .i. loc mercu, ocuy loč decet, loč laighline, loč ruorrait̄he, loč ecp̄ra, ocuy mur̄tola ð̄rena. Tri bliad̄na iar ceōna cað ro b̄riur p̄arrthalon f̄or fom̄or-chaid̄ .i. dem̄na iar f̄f̄ir̄ a n̄dealb̄aid̄ ð̄aōinaib̄, a f̄leam̄naid̄ maid̄e ič̄a .i. f̄ir̄ co n̄áon lam̄aid̄ ocuy ž̄o n̄áon cor̄aid̄.

Ān bliad̄ain ð̄o tam̄art̄ar aob̄aid̄ sl̄anḡa an cepp̄am-haid̄ aip̄eð epeann, ž̄o ro að̄nach̄t la p̄arrthalón a f̄leb̄ sl̄anḡa, conid̄ uaid̄ ainm̄niž̄ter̄ an f̄liab̄. Ān bliad̄ain iar̄ n̄ež̄ sl̄anḡa tom̄aiōm loč̄a laighline et mōr̄f̄ eiūr, un̄de p̄riur̄ nomin̄atur̄. Ār̄ eiūr̄de an cež̄rān̄aid̄ aip̄e epeann. Ož̄ cl̄aid̄e a f̄er̄pa ro meab̄aid̄ an loč̄; et tom̄aiōm loč̄a ecp̄ra et̄ir̄ f̄liab̄ mōðar̄n ocuy f̄liab̄ f̄uaid̄. F̄ide bliad̄na iar̄um̄ tom̄aiōm loč̄a ruorrait̄he la h̄ull̄t̄aid̄, ir̄in bliad̄ain ceōna mur̄tola m̄ð̄r̄ēna tar̄tir̄, conid̄ é an f̄ec̄tām̄ loch. Ār̄ ní tam̄ar̄nic̄ p̄arrthalón an epp̄inn ar̄ a cen̄n ađ̄t̄ tr̄i loč̄a et̄ .x. naib̄ne .i. loc luim̄niž̄ ocuy loč̄ f̄or̄ð̄rem̄uin̄ ož̄ f̄liab̄̄ mūr̄ la mūm̄ain, ocuy f̄inn̄loc īr̄rair̄ .h. f̄f̄iaep̄ađ̄. Ite, im̄or̄po, na .x. naib̄ne .i. ð̄uar̄, eiūr̄ ð̄á̄l nāraib̄de et̄ ð̄á̄l r̄iá̄da, ocuy ruir̄teč̄ ađ̄ l̄ir̄fe, et̄ ð̄er̄ba laigen, et̄ laoi la mūm̄ain, ocuy ōam̄aiōr̄ et̄ir̄ .h. f̄f̄iaep̄ađ̄, mōðar̄n et̄ir̄ cinel

¹ *Seven.* Six only are mentioned in the following list. See next note.

² *Loch Con.* Omitted in A. The eruption of Loch Con is stated in the ancient Irish Records generally to have occurred during Parrthalon's reign. See *Keating's Ireland*, Hali-day's ed., p. 169.

³ *Slamains:* i.e. smooth places, or plains.

⁴ *The Fourth:* i.e. one of the four chieftains, sons of Parrthalon.

⁵ *Named:* i.e. from whom it received its first name, being afterwards called *Sl̄iab̄ ð̄ōm̄anḡaiōr̄o*, now *Sliabh Donard*.

⁶ *His:* i.e. Laighline's. The clause which follows, though clearly parenthetical, is not marked so in the MS.

⁷ *Prius.* *P̄ur̄*, A., the *r̄* being omitted over the first letter, the word being frequently written in the abbre-

viated form *p̄ur̄*.

⁸ *Brena.* *mur̄tola ð̄rena*, A.: i.e. the sea flood of Brena, now Strangford Lough, the "Fretum Brene" mentioned in St. Patrick's life in the Book of Armagh. See *St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland*, by Rev. J. H. Todd, D.D., p. 406, n. 4.

⁹ *Fordremuin.* In the margin of A.

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the first man of his people died, viz. :—Fea was his name. In Magh Fea he was buried ; from him, therefore, it has been named.

There were seven¹ lake eruptions through the land in the reign of Parrthalon, viz. :—Loch Mesca, and Loch Decet, Loch Laighline, Loch Rudhraidhe, Loch Echtra, and the sea inundation of Brena, [and Loch Con²]. Three years afterwards *occurred* the first battle which Parrthalon gained, in the Slemains³ of Magh Itha, over the Fomorians, viz. :—*they were* Demons, truly, in the guise of men, *i.e.* men with one hand and one leg *each*.

In the succeeding year died Slanga, the fourth⁴ chieftain of Erinn, who was interred by Parrthalon in Sliabh Slanga ; hence from him the mountain has been named.⁵ The year after Slanga's death, occurred the eruption of Loch Laighline, and his⁶ death ; unde prius⁷ nominatur ; (he was the fourth⁴ chieftain of Erinn ; in digging his grave the lake burst forth) ; and the eruption of Loch Echtra, between Sliabh Modharn and Sliabh Fuaid. Twenty years afterwards occurred the eruption of Loch Rudraidhe, in Uladh. In the same year the sea inundation of Brena⁸ broke over the land, so that it is the seventh lake ; for Parrthalon found in Erinn before him but three lakes and ten rivers, viz. :—Loch Luimnigh, Loch Fordremuin⁹ at Sliabh Mis, in Mumhan, and Finn Loch of Irrus Ui Fiachrach. The ten¹⁰ rivers, moreover, were, the Buas, between Dál Araidhe¹¹ and Dál Riada, and the Ruirtech *or* River Liffe ; and the Berbha of Laighen ; and the Laoi in Mumhan ; and the Samaoir, between Ui Fiachrach *and*

occurs a memorandum in the handwriting of Roderick O'Flaherty, partially destroyed, enumerating the names of the ancient lakes :—

“Fordremanus [Finnloch, Loch Lurgan stagna vetusta],

Quos, quam culta prius, fudit Ierna lacus.”

See *Ogygia*, p. 164.

¹⁰ The names of the ten rivers are written in the margin in O'Flaherty's handwriting, thus :—

“Banna, Sligo, Bosius, Finn, Liffeus, Erna, Mogornus,

Berva, Lius, Muadus, flumina prisca decem.”

See O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, p. 164.

¹¹ *Dál nAraidhe*. Δλ ναῖτε, A.

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Conaill ocyr Cinel nEogain, ocyr Finn et Danna an Ulltaib, Muiað ocyr Slicceð La Connachtoib.

Ceðra bliaðna iar ptomairom ðrena bar Þarrtalóin. A ren Maið Ealta no haðnoðt. Ar aipe, umorro, arperar sen mað ðeriom, ar nír zenar riuð ann riam. Ða bliaðan ar cccc. no cccc. ut Eochaidh c. no baoi muinþer Þarrtaloin an Eynn. Ceona ðuinibað táníz an Eynn iar noilinn .i. tam muinþere Þarrtálóin, ðor forðairt ðia luain i ꝥt. mai, ocyr forcennrat zur an ðomnað ðo tánartar. Ar ðon ðuinibað rin muinþere Þarrtálóin aðberar tamleðða per nEreann.

xxx. bliaðna iar bar Þarrtálóin ðerinn az ráz, zo táníz Nihed mac Adnomann .uu. an Inber Sgene. Zabair Eynn iarvin amail inoirþer a nðaraloib Eynn.

ꝥt. Anno mundi n.m. ccclv. Hoc tempore rogarrat Þirbolz Eynn. Sed non hoc probandum est.

ꝥt. Anno mundi n.m. cccxc .xliv. Ir an aimir ri rogarrat Tuatá ðe Ðanann for Þeraib Ðolz .i. Ðeal-baot ocyr Ðererr, an Ðagða, Nuatá, azarr Oðma, et reliqui.

ꝥt. Anno mundi n.m. cccc.xliii. Néll mac Þenior in Aegiptum uenit, peritur multarum linguarum.

Ðocór uáim ðuib, a leznicð, nað po lín raotar an tplecða po ðo zrairþneð orum, conað arri rin ailim

¹ *Eochaidh*: i.e. Eochaidh O'Flóinn, a celebrated Irish poet and historian, who died about the year 984.

² *Sang.* c. for "Cecinit," A. There is a copy of a poem attributed to Eochaidh O'Flóinn, in the *Leabhar Gabhala* of O'Clery (R. Ir. Acad.), p. 18, which gives 300 years as the duration of the Parrthalonian occupation of Ireland; but a copy of the same poem in the *Book of Lecan*, fol. 274, has 500.

³ *Happened.* Táris, A.; lit. "came."

⁴ *Succeeding.* ðo ðnarþ, for ðo tánartar, A.; lit. "that succeeded."

⁵ *Tamhleachda*: i.e. Plague graves.

⁶ *Death.* b., A.; abbrev. for báz.

⁷ *Adhnoman.* The meaning of the characters "uu," which follow the name of Adhnoman, is not clear, unless they represent the words "ða cois," for "ða cois," "who went."

⁸ *In the Invasions*: i.e. in the "Books of Invasions."

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Cinel Conaill; the Modharn, between Cinel Conaill and Cinel Eoghain; and the Finn and Banna in Uladh; the Muaidh and Sligech in Connacht.

Four years after the eruption of Brena, the death of Parrthalon took place. In Sen Magh Ealta he was buried. The reason, moreover, why that is called Sen Magh is because no tree ever grew there. Five hundred and two, or 402 years, as Eochaidh¹ sang,² Parrthalon's people were in Erin. The first plague that happened³ in Erin after the Flood was the pestilence of Parrthalon's people. It commenced on Monday, the 1st of May, and prevailed until the succeeding⁴ Sunday. From that plague of Parrthalon's people the Tamhleachda⁵ of the men of Erin are called.

Erinn was waste for thirty years after the death⁶ of Parrthalon, until Nimhedh, son of Adhnoman⁷ .uu. came to Inbher Sgene. He occupied Erin afterwards, as it is related in the Invasions⁸ of Erin.

Kal. Anno Mundi 2355. At this time the Fir Bolg A.M. 2355. occupied Erin. But this has not been proved.⁹

Kal. Anno Mundi 2390.¹⁰ In this time the Tuatha De A.M. 2390. Danann, viz., Dealbaeth, and Bress, the Daghdha, Nuadha, and¹¹ Ogmha, and the rest,¹² overcame the Fir Bolg.

Kal. Anno Mundi 2544.¹³ Nel, son of Fenius, learned A.M. 2544. in many languages, went to Egypt.

You have heard from me, O, Readers, that I like not to have the labour of writing this section imposed on me, wherefore it is that I beseech of you, for the sake of true

⁹ *But this has not been proved.* ῑ. ἡ. πρῶτον (for "sed non hoc primum") εἶπε, A. See O'Flaherty's *Ogygia*, p. 73, where the date of the arrival of the Fir Bolg in Ireland is fixed at A.M. 2657; and Todd's *Nennius*, p. 14, n. f.

¹⁰ 2390. The MS. A. reads 11. m. cccc. xlvi, the last six characters

(xlvi) being surrounded, as shown in the text, by a circle of dots, in token of deletion.

¹¹ *And.* οὐρανῶν, A.; for οὐρανῶν or οὐρανῶν.

¹² *And the rest.* ἄλλοι, for εἰς τοὺς λοιποὺς (et reliqui), A.

¹³ 2544. 11. m. cccc. xlvi. A., manifestly a mistake for 11. m. cccc. xlvi.

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oirbri tpe fir čožle žan řinžrim tříd (mađ tuižter
lip epeđ podesa inn amlaiđ) or ar demin nađ iáto eláinn
řirbirž ar cintađ.

Ĵct. Tocomla ono Miliđ mac Ħile a Ħearbáin don
Sciđia ocup ar an Sciđia an Egipt iar nģuin Reřloir
mic Nemaín (amał ġarpuř a nģabalaib Epeann); et
na tuiž ġurob žo ġar iar Nell an Aegipt, ađt il bliáđna
na tuiž čena, řainiž Miliđ ar in Sciđia iar nģuin
Reřloir oc corpań řlaičir na Sciđia. Céto mbarc a
mór cablađ amał aičruřerř an cairt ar ar tairřiņžēđ
an čoirři. Čoiž Lanamna .x. řacha barce ocup amur
žan mnaoi inre. Anřat řri mura a ninriř Taprobana;
řri mriř aile ono řor řairže mara ř. žo řancuřar
žo řorann, žo řiž aegipte. Ro řožłaimřit řaoirř
anřurin. Anřat ocht mbliatona la řorann an Aegipt
arřo řilat a nil đana ocup a nil ġnioma, Ļuro scota
inģen řorann žo Miliđ mac Ħile. Iarřin do čoiđ
Miliđ cona řluaiž řor muiř muiř, ocup scota inģen
řorann leiř, tar inriř Taprobanae, ocup anřat mriř
inre. Ħmřat iarřin řimcioll na Sciđia do inber mara
Cairř. Anřat tořt teora nomata řor muiř Cairř
řria đóřđ na muiřuđann conđateřairce Cairce řraoi.
Řairřit iarřum řeađ řinđ řleđe Řiře atuaio žur řabřat

¹ *Fault.* The meaning of this is, that the uncertainty of the events narrated is not to be attributed to negligence, or ignorance of their profession as hereditary antiquaries, on the part of the Clann Firisigh.

² *The death of Nel.* In all the tracts relating to this subject, Nel is said to have died in Egypt. The words in italics have, therefore, been supplied, to make the sense of the passage clear.

³ *Taprobane*: i.e. Ceylon.

⁴ *Red Sea.* řairže mara ř., A., i.e. řairže mara řoiřra, lit. "the Sea of the Red Sea"; muiř řoiřriř,

gen. mara řoiřra, being a corruption of "mare rubrum." See Todd's *Nennius*, p. 231, n. °.

⁵ *Pharaoh.* řorann, A.

⁶ *Married.* Ļuro žo, A., lit. "went unto."

⁷ *"Inber:"* i.e. estuary or mouth. During the Middle Ages the Caspian Sea appears to have been considered an arm of the Northern Ocean, although it had been pronounced to be a lake by Herodotus and Ptolemy. Strabo, following Eratosthenes, calls it a gulph (lib. xi., cap. vi., sect. 1; C. 507); and the cosmographer Aethicus, who is supposed to have lived in the