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# *COLÁISTE CHONNACHT AN SPIDÉIL*

CÉAD BLIAIN AR AN SAOL

NOLLAIG MAC CONGÁIL

Tá Coláiste Chonnacht an Spidéil céad bliain ar an saol i mbliana agus ábhar mór ceiliúrtha an méid sin nuair a chuimhnítear nach bhfuil iomrá níos mó le fada an lá ar choláistí Gaeilge eile ar mhór a gelú tráth. Ní raibh an coláiste Gaeilge céanna ar an chéad ghlúin de na coláistí Gaeilge a bunaíodh ag tús an chéid seo caite. Ó thaobh na cróineolaíochta de, seo a leanas stair bhunú na gColáistí Gaeilge: Coláiste na Mumhan i mBéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, Ollscoil na Mumhan sa Rinn, Coláiste Chonnacht i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh, Coláiste Chomhghaill i mBéal Feirste, Coláiste na gCeithre Máistrí i Leitir Ceanainn, Coláiste Uladh i nGort an Choirce, Coláiste Laighean i mBaile Átha Cliath, Scoil an Daingin i nDaingean Uí Chúis agus Coláiste Thamhain i gContae na Gaillimhe.<sup>1</sup> Tá meascán ilghnéitheach de choláistí Gaeilge san áireamh ansin, atá scaipthe ar fud na tíre, i gceantair Ghaeltachta agus Ghalltachta, amuigh faoin tuath chomh maith le bheith lonnaithe i mbailte agus i gcathracha, agus ag feidhmiú i rith an gheimhridh agus an tsamhraidh. Tá a stair féin ag baint le chuile cheann acu agus ó tharla go raibh ról chomh lárnach sin ag lucht bunaithe agus foirne teagaisc na gcoláistí sin agus ag na sluaite a rinne freastal ar a gcuid cúrsaí ar ghluaiseacht na hAthbheochana ar an uile dhóigh agus ar stair na hÉireann ach go háirithe san aois seo caite, is cóir agus is tráthúil a stair a aithris agus a thaifeadadh.

Nuair a chuimhnítear ar choláiste Gaeilge sa lá atá inniu ann, cuimhnítear ar thréimhsí pléisiúrtha siamsaíochta a chaitheann déagóirí i dtimpeallacht Ghaeilge agus Ghaeltachta seal an tsamhraidh. Níorbh amhlaidh i gcás na gcoláistí Gaeilge céad bliain ó shin.

Chuidigh siad, mar rud amháin, le múinteoirí a oiliúint i dteagasc agus i modheolaíocht theagasc na Gaeilge, leis an Ghaeilge a theagasc do dhaoine idir mhúinteoirí den uile chineál agus den uile chúlra agus eile, le clár teagaisc Gaelach a chur os comhair daoine, le blaiseadh a thabhairt do dhaoine ar chultúr na Gaeilge i *milieu* Gaeltachta an uair ab fhéidir sin, agus le bolscaireacht a dhéanamh ar son na Gaeilge, an Ghaelachais agus idé-eolaíocht Chonradh na Gaeilge.<sup>2</sup> Cuirtear síos go

gonta i leabhrán de chuid an Chonartha ar stair agus ar aidhmeanna na gColáistí céanna.<sup>3</sup>

*One of the great obstacles to the spread of Irish in the schools is the lack of properly qualified teachers. Amongst the primary teachers not very many, until lately, had a literary knowledge of the language, and even those who had this were not always able to teach it. All their training had been conducted on the assumption that they were to teach only through the medium of English, and that this and this alone, was the mother tongue of their future pupils. When confronted with a class who knew little or no English, they naturally were puzzled and hampered. Nor were those of them who, being appointed to schools in an Anglicized district, desired to teach Irish as an Extra Subject, in much better case; they had received no instruction in modern methods of language teaching.*

*To meet this difficulty the League, within the last few years, established Gaelic Colleges.*

*Of these Colleges there are now eighteen – six in Munster, six in Connacht, four in Ulster, and two in Leinster. The Leinster College in Dublin and Coláiste Chomhghaill in Belfast are open during the winter and spring. The other colleges are in Irish-speaking districts and are in session only for the months of July, August and September each year. Though open to all students of Irish, and attended by men and women of many different callings, not a few of whom are foreigners, they are chiefly intended for teachers, and the Board of National Education gives facilities to its teachers who wish to attend the courses. Instruction is given, not only in the Irish language and literature, but also in phonetics and above all in the most up-to-date methods of language teaching. Other subjects, such as mathematics and Latin, are often taught through the medium of Irish, to show how, in bilingual schools, this can best be done.*

In alt a foilsíodh ar an *Freeman's Journal*,<sup>4</sup> tugadh cuntas ar stair agus ar thábhacht na gcoláistí Gaeilge i ndiaidh dóibh a bheith roinnt blianta ar an saol agus ag ócáid oscailte Choláiste Chonnacht:

#### THE GROWTH OF THE GAELIC COLLEGES

*The steady advance of the Irish language is nowhere more clearly shown than in the Gaelic Colleges which have sprung up of late years in the three provinces of the Irish speakers. At various times, as events brought each up in turn, there has been mention in these columns of the work done for the Irish language by training colleges and summer schools in Munster, Ulster and Connacht. It is pleasant to note that from the beginning of the next week a new college will be open, another defence for the language among the Irish-speaking and a new home and Alma Mater for the student and the beginner. The success of the Connacht College at Tourmakeady last year raised the question whether it was better to enlarge the existing college so as to meet the entire demand or to set up a new one further on, an overflow of the first. In the end, Tourmakeady has been enlarged and a separate college has been opened at Spiddal, under the*

*direction of Dr. S.P. Mac Enri as Head Professor; and friends of the Irish language will welcome the decision and hope great things from the new institution. The reason will be clear to everyone that knows how effectual every college is in keeping the life and heart in the language for great areas within its sphere of influence. One vast college, equipped with all that money and prestige and numbers could give, would not do one quarter so much good as even four or five quite small institutions acting, each, as a radiating centre of Irishism over the Gaelic life of its own neighbourhood. There are not a few cases in which scattered forces have a far greater collective effect than a unity; a country, for example, must have small towns as well as its great rich capital or the people would starve – physically and mentally. Each of the Irish colleges is like an Irish-speaking town for its own district: it purveys Irish and sets the fashion, the Irish fashion, for great tracts of country which else would be left without knowledge and without the healthy leading. Every honest well-wisher to the preservation of the Gaelic spirit and of the Gaelic language is glad of the opening of a new fort of the Gael in any place where the language still lives. Each of these colleges is an aid to every other, directly and indirectly, and to the whole movement and campaign; for the more colleges there are flourishing in every part of Irish-speaking Ireland, the more hope there is for the saving of the language, both in its native speakers and in its students. The colleges, working each in its own province and district, share alike in the fact that the Irish lives, that students multiply, that the Gaelic is in honour, is spoken, is read, and is rich. It has been discovered of late that the district colleges are the true friends of an All-Ireland Irish and the enemies of the danger that lurked in dialectic provincialism. They keep alive, and bring to notice, the essential richness of the language in all its customary spoken forms; they tend to the perpetuation of all that is vital and best in the language, and so create the storehouse of phrases and words and meanings out of which alone a racy literature can be continued. Connacht idiom, Munster idiom, and Ulster idiom do not make war with each other, but complete each other, and it is, in the Irish phrase, ‘pity of the world’ that no Leinster college was on foot a hundred years ago to catch and keep for us the Gaelic that then must have flourished, with its own beauties, round Tara and round Kildare.*

*The new college stands by the sea some nine miles from Galway city. From this year onwards the Irish is the safer in all the Spiddal district and far into Iar-Chonnachta. Not that it was yet in any great danger there; but it is an excellent thing in many ways, not merely linguistic or even literary, to build the defenses very strongly in the places where the Irish is still very strong. It is from the strong places that the Irish must spread to the weaker; if it be allowed to weaken where its life is richest, the example will be bad, the spirit lessened, and the available supplies for wider conquests will be grievously cut short. Spiddal and its sphere of influence make up together one of the most intensely Irish-speaking areas of the country. The whole native population use Irish as a matter of course about house and fields: the children do not as a rule know English till they are taught it in the bilingual schools. The prospectus of the new college tells us also that there linger in the district the dress, manners and customs of 200 years ago, and that the people are rich in folklore and poetry. Altogether Spiddal is a most fortunate choice, and both the people of the district and the students and scholars who will visit them, whether to learn or to carry on comparative studies and to collect stories and traditions, are to be*

*congratulated on the new departure. We may expect thus a multiple gain from the Spiddal College – a fresh batch of highly-trained teachers, masters of the language, good work done to make fresh batches of speakers; a wide new area confirmed in its adhesion to the Gaelic speech and thought and custom, and an increase of our common store of the collected literature of the Gael; for more songs and stories of Connacht in some form or other, like those which Dr. Hyde has abundantly added to the world's knowledge and treasury, will certainly follow from the more elaborate working-over of a most characteristically Irish territory. There is every reason now to believe that the old language will live and grow strong; but even if in the course of time it must fade away, even in the possibility of that sad loss to the world and to Ireland, it would still be a great thing, whose value posterity will surely appreciate even more than we can do, that the Gaelic Colleges will preserve and record for us and for the times to come a vast wealth of idiom, of literature, and of old lore that, without them and their timely work, would certainly have been lost beyond all hope of recall. And, of course, everyone now feels that, whatever the future has in store, Ireland is immediately the better in every way, intellectual, moral, material, and even physical, for the institution of such centres of education, learning, and culture as work to the preservation of the ancient signs of the racial quality and to the self-respect of the Gaelic-speaking populations and of the whole of Ireland still very close, whether it will or no, to the Gaelic life which lay at the root of its best in the past.*

An cheist atá le cur anseo, cén fáth a raibh Coláiste Gaeilge chomh mall sin á bhunú i gCúige Chonnacht agus i gContae na Gaillimhe agus cén fáth ar roghnaíodh an Spidéal seachas aon cheantar eile i nGaeltacht mhór fhairsing Chonamara? An féiniméan áirithe seo, mar atá, Gaeilgeoirí na Galltacha ag tarraingt ar cheantair thraidisiúnta ionadacha Ghaeltachta le barr feabhais a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge agus le sochaí agus dúchas na Gaeilge a bhlaiseadh *in situ*, cuireadh tús leis sin ag deireadh an naoú haois déag. Árainn na Gaillimhe ba rogha leis an chéad ghlúin de lucht na hAthbheochana agus, lena linn sin, bhí siad ag leanstan de shampla lucht ársaíochta, péintéireachta, teangeolaíochta srl. a bhí ag tarraingt ar na hoileáin ansin le tamall fada roimhe sin. An dream sin de lucht na hAthbheochana a tharraing ar Árainn, tharraing saibhreas na Gaeilge iad, sochaí Ghaelach agus saol dúchasach Gaelach á chaitheamh gan bhearnú agus gan athrú ón tseanaimsir i leith – i mbeagán focal gur bhlaís siad ansin sochaí Ghaelach den chineál a bhí i gceist maidir lena bhfís d'Éirinn ar fad agus í Gaelach, cultúrtha, cráifeach, féinchothaitheach. Chuir siad rompu féin agus iad i measc na nÁrannach, barr feabhais a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge, eolas a chur ar an traidisiún béil, saol dúchasach na ndaoine a bhlaiseadh agus an Ghaeilge a chothú agus a neartú i measc na ndaoine. Chuir siad craobhacha den Chonradh ar bun ar na hoileáin ach gnáthchraobhacha de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge a bhí iontu sin.<sup>5</sup>

Mar a d'athraigh feachtais Chonradh na Gaeilge, d'athraigh a gcuid scéimeanna chun a n-aidhmeanna éagsúla a bhaint amach. Ba ghearr gur aithníodh go raibh slánú na Gaeilge i dtuilleamaí scaipeadh na litearthachta ó thaobh na Gaeilge de, ní hamháin sa Ghalltacht ach sa Ghaeltacht chomh maith. Chaithfí múinteoirí oilte Gaeilge a fháil fá choinne chraobhacha an Chonartha agus na scoileanna ó tharla nach raibh a leithéidí á n-oiliúint faoi scáth an Rialtais. Cuimhníodh ar an chéad chineál coláistí samhraidh:

#### SUMMER SCHOOLS

*The idea of a 'summer school' though well-known on the Continent and in the United States, is novel in Ireland. In certain centres abroad, frequented during the holiday season, classes worked by the best teachers available are established for the study of such subjects as languages, botany etc. The Gaelic League have decided to adopt this system in Ireland, primarily with the object of giving to teachers of National and other schools, and to private persons who may desire it, an opportunity not alone of acquiring Irish, but of learning the best method of communicating their knowledge of the language to others. The increased facilities given by the Board of Education for teaching Irish will be of little avail unless a supply of teachers to meet the growing demand for instruction is forthcoming. The ordinary school period of the year is already so filled with work for teachers that there is little or no possibility during that period of the language, or the best methods of teaching it.*

*It is therefore intended, with as little delay as possible, to establish classes at from fifteen to twenty suitable resorts in Irish-speaking districts during the summer and early autumn. Arrangements will be made for the most competent Irish scholars to spend their holidays in these districts and take charge of classes daily for a certain number of weeks...*

*The following centres have been proposed:*

|                                |                                |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <i>Ardmore</i>                 | <i>Lisdoonvarna</i>            |
| <i>Ballyvourney</i>            | <i>Leenane</i>                 |
| <i>Glengariffe</i>             | <i>Gorumna</i>                 |
| <i>Derrynane or Waterville</i> | <i>Achill</i>                  |
| <i>Rossbeigh</i>               | <i>Ballinrobe</i>              |
| <i>Ballyferriter</i>           | <i>Louisburgh or Leehanvey</i> |
| <i>Ballybunion</i>             | <i>Killybegs or Bunrana</i>    |
| <i>Kilkee</i>                  | <i>Omeath</i>                  |

*...Whilst the courses at these schools are intended primarily to train teachers and prospective teachers of Irish, it is by no means intended to restrict them to this class alone. It is hoped that all interested in the study of Irish will resort to these centres. Many facilities will be available whereby they may improve their knowledge of the language. In addition to class work there will be ample opportunity for all kinds of social gatherings such as Sgoraidheachta, Céilidhe, Seilgidhe etc. Much might also be done in the way of collecting the songs and stories, proverbs and folklore current in the various localities. Discussions as to methods of teaching and of learning, and as to the best text-books and literature, would be interesting and productive.<sup>6</sup>*

#### GAELIC SUMMER TOURS – A SUGGESTION

*Every summer there goes waste in Ireland a great amount of holiday energy that could, with perfect ease, be rendered most advantageous to the language movement. Quite a host of enthusiastic young Gaels, not only from the bigger towns of Ireland, but also from England and Scotland, go each summer to one county or other of the West to spend their annual holiday. Many of them are bent upon studying the language at their Western home, or holiday resort – as the case may be – and all of them are capable of being, and heartily willing to be, propagandists. One man goes to this place, a second to that, and a third to another place. They often meet and cross and pass each other among the hills and the glens, each man pursuing his own object, at his own time, in his own way.*

*It strikes me that, by a little preliminary organization, all this holiday-making could easily be systematized, and the very best results made to accrue, not to the holiday makers, merely, but to the Gaelic Movement as well, throughout the counties of the West. All who have experience of the Irish-speaking districts can testify to the good effect upon these places which results from the coming into them of a stranger who prizes the language and who is striving to attain a knowledge of it.; and the good effect would be multiplied if, instead of occasional single strangers, a body of half a score came into the district with the same good object. Where these holiday makers would move in a body, not only would they thus develop amongst themselves very much more enthusiasm and energy than when traveling singly but they would also then be in a better position to carry on a regular and thorough crusade throughout the county, or portion of the county, which they traverse, or in which they sojourn.*

*For the purpose of this plan the three or four holiday-making months of the summer might be apportioned among the Gaelic-speaking Western counties, and all who, taking their holiday within any one of these given times, desired to enjoy their holiday in the company of kindred spirits, to enjoy it too in counties that combined the advantages of Irish speech and beautiful scenery, and desired, furthermore, to travel at the minimum expense (which is to be obtained by traveling with a party instead of singly) all such can reap these advantages by joining the Gaelic tour of that month, or of that fortnight, or of that week.*

*In conjunction with the Central Secretary, or some other person chosen for the purpose, Gaelic League workers, and Gaelic League branches, in the several counties would, beforehand, prepare all plans and arrangements necessary to the success of the tour, and profit of the tourists. Special terms would be arranged for at the hotels, or country houses, where the party would put up. Aeridheachta, Sgoruidheachta, and meetings generally, would be already projected; to which, it is certain, the people of the district would eagerly throng. All such affairs might take place in the evenings, in order that, first, the mornings be free to the party for individual study and research amongst the Irish speakers of the district and, second, that all of the people who are busily employed at work in the fields during the summer days might be enabled to attend these things when their work was over.*

*In each county, or even in each part of each county, an earnest man, with a thorough knowledge of places and people, would always be found to personally conduct the tour whilst the party moved in that county or in that district. Indeed, there is no doubt whatever but that not merely one such person, but, by*

*arrangement, quite a number of local people – both young teachers and others – would, willingly and gladly, accompany the party throughout the whole tour. I think that a plan for Gaelic summer tours, elaborated upon the lines here roughly sketched out, would be, in the future, not merely a boon to all Irish holiday-seekers, but would also be a fillip and a boon to the Language Movement. Even if begun in the very smallest and simplest way, I think it would, year by year, grow in favour and popularity, and it would not only systemize the present expenditure of holiday energy, but it would likewise swell the volume by attracting many people who, otherwise, either would not have gone holiday-making at all, or might have gone to some humdrum seaside resort to idle away their time with a minimum of profit to themselves and to their country.*

*- Seumas MacManus<sup>7</sup>*

### *THE IRISH-SPEAKING DISTRICTS – A SUGGESTION*

*Father Dinneen tells us that if the Gaelic League does not succeed in arousing the Irish-speaking districts, the battle will be lost. I agree with him. Father O'Donovan says he knows several Irish-speaking districts where the language movement is yet practically unknown.*

*Pádraig Mac Piarais tells us that a large part of Connemara is still 'virgin' soil. And the organizers' reports only confirm the same sad tale – that the Irish-speaking districts are still hardly singed, whereas they must be set on fire.*

*Dividing Ireland, by a line running North and South, into two halves, we find that, broadly speaking, all the Irish-speaking districts are in the Western half, and all the power, energy and enthusiasm of the Gaelic League in the Eastern half.*

*Now if this power, energy and enthusiasm could be transferred bodily to the West, the day was all but won. To transfer it bodily would mean that all Gaelic Leaguers should go over and settle down permanently in the Western half. This is an impossibility. Hence the necessary spirit and enthusiasm must be generated in the West. This is the problem – how it may be done.*

*It is a big work – a very big work – and the means adopted so far seems utterly inadequate: the motive power is not at all proportioned to the resistance. It is like trying to light a fire of damp coal with a few matches.*

*Now, we sometimes see housemaids facilitate the process of lighting a fire by putting in amongst the dull black coal a shovelful of red-hot burning embers from a fire already lighted.*

*This is the plan I would suggest for lighting-up the Irish-speaking districts.*

*In the cities, towns and villages of the Eastern half of Ireland, as well as in London and here and there throughout Great Britain there is a great number of Irish men and women more or less passionately devoted to the language movement. Most of these enjoy a holiday of a few weeks, or, in some cases, a couple of months, sometime or other during the summer. Now, if these were asked, in the name of Irish Ireland, to spend their holidays this coming summer in the Irish-speaking districts, I'm sure there would be a generous response. 'Tis true individuals have done this for years past, but I think it could be organized on a grand scale. It could be worked thus. The Gaelic League, say, takes the matter up at once and issues an appeal. All who wish to participate in it send in to the Árd Rúnaire their names, the probable time of their holidays, the duration of their holidays, and the county they'd wish to go to; an Ulsterman should not go to Kerry, or a Munsterman to Donegal.*

*These applications are then classified according to 'counties' and 'months' so that the Árd Rúnaire should know a month or more beforehand how many were going to Donegal, say, in July, how many in August and how many in September. With these statistics, and with the advice of the Organiser for Donegal, the Coisde Gnótha could decide where it would be most advisable to draft them. Personally, I think it would be better concentrate them in groups than isolate them over large areas. This settled, the applicants are advised where to go, and the Organiser is charged to make arrangements about suitable places for them to put up during their holidays. And the same for all the other counties.*

*Now, as to the advantages of the scheme. The Organisers are doing excellent, some of them Herculean, work; but the impression they make is much minimized by the fact that they are Organisers. The work of the Irish tourists would be more impressive, because spontaneous. Or, if some ignorantly imagine they are all paid by the League, so much the better; it will give them an astonishing idea of the wealth and power of Connradh na Gaedhilge. Then imagine a score of virile, ardent Gaelic Leaguers breaking in on that 'virgin soil' traversed by Pádraig Mac Piarais where the Gall is pushing the Gael so hard. Imagine them cycling through it for a moment, talking only Irish, mocking at the Gall and the shoneen, showing all possible contempt for the Beurla, organizing Sgoruidheachta and dances at the cross-roads in the evenings, and teaching intelligent Connacians to read Ceithre Sgeulta or Blátha Bealtaine. And that in a district where few things ever occur to disturb the sleep of the lonely hills. And then, when these twenty go, they are succeeded by twenty others, just as earnest and energetic. In these remote quiet places it would create a stir that would not be readily forgotten, and make an impression that would be invaluable.*

*It would be creating tourist development in the West of the proper kind. It would show the people there that their heritage of Irish has, after all, something of a commercial value. It might put to shame some of the little Anglicised towns – the 'festering sores' as Mr. MacGinley describes them. For the tourists themselves it would be less expensive than a holiday spent at some fashionable watering-place. From the standpoint of health it would be just as good or better; and from a scenic point of view some of these Irish districts are unrivalled.*

*It could be made very pleasurable by the tourists keeping in groups; and then the thought that they were doing a great and holy work for their native land. And they would get more Irish on their tongues in this month among the native Gael than they would by three or six months' study. The literary inclined could collect songs, stories, traditions, proverbs, place-names, personal names etc. and the musically inclined might seize on something of the old Irish style of singing.*

*As to the feasibility of the scheme there are two grand difficulties. The first is the difficulty of getting a sufficient number of Irish-speaking Gaelic Leaguers. Well, I don't think it necessary that they should all be advanced students or fluent speakers. A mere elementary student, provided he has the proper spirit, can do a great deal of good. And the spectacle of young men, brought up entirely without Irish, making such heroic efforts to acquire it, would, by the force of contrast, strongly appeal to those who know it, but will not speak it. Students of Maynooth and other Colleges, the National Teachers, and even young priests on the Mission, all could, and should, help the undertaking. The next great difficulty is that of providing suitable accommodation for the tourists. This would almost certainly fall to the County Organiser, assisted by local sympathizers. It might engross all the Organiser's time for a month or two, but it would be very good work indeed. Many young laymen would not object to putting up at a country house, and roughing it a bit. Clergymen, ladies and some others,*

would find it necessary to put up at the nearest town, where they will surely find an 'Imperial' or 'Royal' hotel. The difficulty of providing accommodation can be overcome if tackled early enough; many persons could be induced to incur a little expense, and fit up a room for one or two tourists.

To carry out this scheme would require at least about five hundred volunteers. 'Tis easy to be mistaken but, I believe, if taken up energetically and properly pushed, the five hundred will be forthcoming. I should like to see what others think about this suggestion. If it is to be done, it must be decided on early, and the rest of the time devoted to organizing it.

- Énrí Ua Muirgheasa
- [The above article was received a few days before Séamus Maghnusa's article on the same subject appeared – F. an Ch.]

An Claidheamh Soluis (14.2.1903, 819).

## NA COLÁISTÍ GAEDHILGE

Brian Mac Giolla Phádraig

‘Buanughadh na Gaedhilge mar Theanga Dhuthchais i nÉirinn agus a Leathadh i Measg Daoine mar Urlabhra Choithcheann’

B'shin é céad chuspóir an Chonnartha sa bhliadhain 1893 agus a gcéad chuspóir go fóill. Chun é a chur i bhfeidhm socruigheadh ar an teangaidh a mhúnadh do'n aos óg ins na sgoileanna agus do dhaoine fásta i ranganna oidhche. B'é Modh an Aistriúcháin is mó a bhí i n-úsáid ar dtús ach i gcionn tamaill cuireadh eolas ar mhodhanna níos fearr ná é – Modh Gouin agus an Modh Díreach. Bhí suas le sé chéad craobh de'n Chonnradh ag obair an uair sin (1900) ach bhí múinteoirí maithe gann. B'é Seán Ó Caoimh a chéad-smaoin ar Choláiste a bhunughadh a d'oilfeadh múinteoirí Gaedhilge. Mhol sé ag Feis na Mumhan (1903) go gcuirfidhe Coláiste ar bun i nGaedhealtacht Chorcaighe agus cuireadh Coláiste na Mumhan ar bun i mBéal Átha 'n Ghaorthaidh an bhliain i n-a dhiaidh sin. Tá sé ar siubhal fós.

Ba ghearr i n-a dhiaidh sin gur cuireadh roinnt Coláistí eile ar bun – Coláiste Chonnacht i dTúr Mhic Éadaigh (1905), Iol-Sgoil na Mumhan i Rinn ó gCuanach (1905), Coláiste Chomhghaill i mBéal Feirste (1905), Árd-Sgoil Cholmcille i gCloich Cheann Fhaolaidh (1906), Coláiste Laighean i mBaile Átha Cliath (1906) agus Coláiste an Daingin (1908).

Bhí na Coláistí sin neamh-spleadhach ó thosach; ach cé go rabhadar saor ó smacht gach buird fiú an Chonnartha féin a thug deontais dóibh ar feadh roinnt bliadhna, bhí Comhdháil aca féin le n-a gcúrsaí staidéir srl. a riaradh. Bhí sé de rún ag an gConnradh fir óga ó'n nGaedhealtacht d'oileamhaint ins na Coláistí agus timthirí Gaedhilge a dhéanamh díobh ach caithfear a admháil nár éirigh go ró-mhaith leis an sgéim sin. B'iad na Múinteoirí Náisiúnta is mó a líon na Coláistí ó thosach. Ní thabharfadh an Bord Náisiúnta aitheantas do theastasaí na gColáistí ar dtús toisg nach leigfidís do Chigirí an Bhuid bheith páirteach ins na sgrúduighthe. Thaobhuigh an Connradh leis na Coláistí agus ghéill an Bord. I n-a dhiaidh sin (ó 1907) bhíodh deontas beag (£5) le fagháil ag na Coláistí ar son gach múinteora a ghnóthuigh teastas agus a mhúin Gaedhilg go maith i Sgoil Náisiúnta ar feadh bliadhna ar a laighead.

Ní raibh aon teacht isteach ag na Coláistí taobh amuigh de'n deontas sin ach táillí na mac léighinn agus síntiúsaí, go dtí an bhliain 1911. Ó'n am sin amach, ámhthach, bhí

ráta capaitidheachta le fagháil aca ó Roinn na Talamhaidheachta agus na gCeárd. Is dócha gurbh' é an deontas nua sin ba chúis leis an méadughadh mór ar líon na gColáistí an bhliadhain i n-a dhiaidh sin nuair cuireadh deich gcinn nua ar bun. Ní thabharfadh an Bord Náisiúnta aitheantas do na Coláistí nua sin gan cigire ó'n mBord bheith i láthair ag na sgrúduithe.

Is beag nár chaill na Coláistí an t-airgead sin na Roinne sa bhliadhain 1915 nuair d'orduigh lucht an Airgid i gCaisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath do'n Roinn stad a chur le deontais na gColáistí. Chuir an tír ar fad i gcoinne na hiarrachta sin agus tharraing an Riaghaltas an foláireamh siar.

Tháinig athrughadh mór ar stáid na gColáiste (sic!) sa bhliadhain 1922 nuair shocruigh Riaghaltas an tSaor-Stáit ar chúrsaí Gaedhilge a thabhairt do na hOidí Náisiúnta. Bhí an t-ádh ar an Riaghaltas go raibh na Coláistí ann le cabhrughadh leo san obair sin. Ó'n mbliadhain 1922 go dtí an bhliadhain 1928 bhíodh na Coláistí lán d'oidí sgoile gach Samhradh a cuireadh chuca ar chostas an Stáit. Ach bhí deireadh le neamhspleadhachas na gColáistí. Thóg Brainse an Bhun-Oideachais gach cúram ortha féin – na cúrsaí staidéir, na sgrúduithe agus bronnadh na dteastasáí.

I ndiaidh 1928 cuireadh na Coláistí faoi Roinn an Cheárd-Oideachais arís ach níor tugadh a saoirse ar ais dóibh. Rud eile dhe bhí na mic léighinn gann mar bhí furmhór na nOidí Sgoile oilte i nGaedhilg faoin' am sin agus diaidh ar ndiaidh dúnadh furmhór na gColáistí. Is ar éigin a bhéadh níos mó ná trí cinn díobh ag obair faoi láthair dá mbeidís ag brath ar na hOidí Sgoile.

Tá rud amháin i dtaobh na gColáistí gur fiú cuimhneamh air .i. nár dhaoine a raibh baint aca le cúrsaí oideachais a bhnuigh an c[h]éad Choláistí agus a stiúraigh iad ar feadh roinnt bliadhán. Ba eagarthóir páipéir Seán Ó Caoimh a chuir tús leo. Stáit-Sheirbhisigh do b'eadh 'Feargus Finnbhéil' (Coláiste na Mumhan), Seán Ó Catháin (Coláiste Chomhghaill), agus Seoirse Ó Muanáin (Coláiste Laighean). Ba dhochtúir súl i Lonndain an Dr. Seán Mac Énrí (Coláiste Laighean agus Coláiste Chonnacht). Sagairt do b'eadh an Dr. Ó Dálaigh (Coláiste na Mumhan agus Coláiste Laighean), an Dr. de Hindeberg agus an Dr. Ó Síothcháin (Coláiste na Rinne), an tAthair D. Ó Tuathail agus an tAthair L. Ó Muireadhaigh (Coláiste Bhrighde) agus an tAthair T. Ó Ceallaigh (Coláiste Laighean).

Tá ré na gColáistí thart anois chomh fada is bhaineann siad le hOidí Sgoile. Sé an Connradh a ghein na Coláistí agus a chothaigh iad ar feadh tamaill ach cé nach raibh dlúth-bhaint aca leis an gConnradh i n-a dhiaidh sin níor staonadar riamh ó phríomh-chuspóir an Chonnartha .i. an Ghaedhilg a leathadh ar fud na tíre tré mhúinteoirí d'oileamhaint a mhúinfeadh an teanga ins na sgoileanna.<sup>8</sup>

*Connradh na Gaedhilge 1893-1943 Leabhar Cuimhne Féile an Leath-Chéad: 50 Bliadhán de Mhór-Shaothar* (Cló-Lucht Columbanm, Corcaigh, 1943) 31-2.

*Ionmhuin liom-sa Connachta  
Ar a áilneacht, ar a uaisleacht,  
Ionmhuin liom Cois Fhairrge  
Ar a aoibhneas, ar a uaigneas.*

## ***COLÁISTÍ GAEILGE I GCÚIGE CHONNACHT***

Cuireadh an chéad Choláiste Gaeilge ar bun i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh sa bhliain 1905. Roghnaíodh an áit ó tharla go raibh sé i gceartlár Chúige Chonnacht, idir Gaeltachtaí na Gaillimhe agus Mhaigh Eo agus freisin, gan trácht ar shaibhreas Gaeilge an cheantair, bhí na daoine ba mhó le rá ar an ócáid lonnaithe i dTuaim, agus i gCo. Mhaigh Eo seachas, mar shampla, i gcathair na Gaillimhe. Chomh maith leis sin uile bhí an tArdeaspag in ann foirgneamh breá feiliúnach a chur ar fáil láithreach fá choinne an Choláiste. D'éirigh thar barr leis an Choláiste chéanna. Cuireadh an dara Coláiste Gaeilge i gCúige Chonnacht ar bun i dTamhain i gCo. na Gaillimhe, taobh ó dheas de chathair na Gaillimhe, sa bhliain 1909. Roghnaíodh an áit sin mar go raibh an ceantar céanna iontach gníomhach i gcur chun cinn agus ag agóidíocht ar son na Gaeilge le blianta roimhe sin. Ní fhéadfaí a mhaíomh, áfach, gur cheantar mór Gaeilge ná Gaeltachta a bhí i dTamhain. Á dhearbhu sin, níl focal Gaeilge san áit inniu.<sup>9</sup>

Cuireadh an dara Coláiste Chonnacht ar bun ar an Spidéal sa bhliain 1910. Cuirtear cúpla smaoineamh chun tosaigh mar an chúis gur roghnaíodh an Spidéal don dara Coláiste. Nuair a fuair príomhoide Choláiste Chonnacht, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, Micheál Breathnach bás sa bhliain 1908, tháinig cor i stair an Choláiste a bhí ag dul ó neart go neart ó bunaíodh é sa bhliain 1905. Tharla aighneas mór idir pháirtithe éagsúla, mar atá, An tArdeaspag Ó hÉilithe, Coiste an Choláiste agus grúpaí i gConradh na Gaeilge maidir le comharba Mhichíl. Ní gá an scéal ar fad a fhiosrú anseo ó tharla go bhfuil sé cíortha go maith in *Coláiste Chonnacht: na Blianta Tosaigh i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh*. Is leor a rá go bhfuair an t-aighneas cuid mhór poiblíochta sna meáin chlóite idir náisiúnta agus logánta, as Gaeilge agus as Béarla, sular socraíodh an cheist.

Socraíodh ag cruinniú de choiste stiúrtha Choláiste Chonnacht ag tús 1910 go gcuirfí an dara Coláiste Chonnacht ar bun ar an Spidéal an bhliain sin. Má bhí aon bhaint ag an gcinneadh sin leis an aighneas a tharla roimhe sin, níor tráchtadh air go poiblí. Dúradh nach bhféadfadh an Coláiste i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh freastal ar an lucht foghlama a raibh méadú ag teacht ar a líon i gcónaí. Mar sin a fágadh an scéal.

*At a meeting of the Committee of the Connacht Irish College, held in Ryan's Hotel, Claremorris, Colonel Moore in the chair, it was unanimously decided to start a second Irish College in Spiddal, Co. Galway. The necessity of this step was occasioned by the ever-increasing crowds of students to flock to*

*Tourmakeady every summer. During the two sessions last year the College was inconveniently crowded and the Committee, after carefully considering the matter, decided on opening a second College, under their management, at Spiddal. Many teachers and others are often anxious to spend their vacation in an Irish College, but find it necessary for their health to spend a time by the sea. The new College in Spiddal will prove very convenient for such people.*<sup>10</sup>

*Dr. Mac Énrí —:*

*It was not quite correct to say that it was he who founded the Spiddal College. It was started by the committee of the Connacht College owing to the fact that the parent College of Tourmakeady was becoming unable to provide sufficient accommodation for the ever-increasing number of students who were flocking to it. He was glad to say that the foresight of the Committee was justified, and, so far from the parent College being injured, as some feared might be the case, the two Colleges have been filled to the utmost limits of their accommodation. They are working hand in hand, each supplementing the work of the other, and the only rivalry between them is as to which will do the most work for the Irish language.*<sup>11</sup>

B'éigean Coláiste Chonnacht eile a bhunú agus socraíodh ar an Spidéal. Chuirfí an cheist, ar ndóigh, cén fáth an Spidéal? Maíodh, gan amhras, nach raibh sárú an Spidéil le fáil mar Ghaeltacht.<sup>12</sup> Chuir múinteoir náisiúnta de chuid an Spidéil ag an am sin le teist Ghaelach an cheantair:

*Irish-Speaking Districts*

*Sir —*

*Father O'Kelly is to be commended for concentrating attention on such National assets as the Western Irish-speaking districts. He says real Gaedhealtacht commences some miles west of Spiddal. I hold, as the result of three years' intimate knowledge of every nook in the district, that the real Gaedhealtacht commences at Barna. I would term the village of Spiddal the capital of the real Irish-speaking West. No one need be surprised at finding English in Spiddal village. The village contains some twenty houses, including five public houses, police barrack, police residences and, when Fr. O'Kelly passed through, a large coastguard station and an Irish Church Mission Children's Home. Like Father O'Kelly I, too, longed for the real Gaedhealtacht. With this end I left my Dublin school, and fortunately secured a position in the renowned Spiddal bi-lingual school. During my three years in this school I lived on the Galway side of Spiddal, and as a welcome visitor to every gathering, joyful and sad, of the people, I, therefore, had a unique opportunity of observing in their own homes the extent of Irish as the people's vernacular. From daily experience in the school I was able to observe a point that may escape the attention of passing tourists — that even the youngest children from the Galway side of Spiddal were as intensely Irish-speaking as those who came to us from the west. This is the best test of an Irish-speaking district. I quite agree with Father O'Kelly that an effort should be made to preserve in its present purity the rich stream of Gaelic tradition which, coming down from generations, has embodied the memories of the illustrious Rory*

*O'Flaherty, of Park, and is still a living force west of Galway. We cannot forget that the district east and west of Spiddal has given us, in our own day, such splendid pioneers as Eoghan O Neachtain and the late Michael Breathnach. We may well hope that the College, with its manifold activities, established last year under such promising auspices in the very heart of this district, will remain a potent factor in preserving for Ireland one of the well-springs of the spirit and language of the Gael.*

*Thomas O Colmain, N.T.*

*Maree, Oranmore, May 18, 1911.*<sup>13</sup>

Mhaígh An Dr. Mac Énrí ar lá oscailte an Choláiste go raibh an Spidéal ar an...

‘... gceanntar is Gaedhealaighe i nÉirinn is i gConnamara. B’fhéidir go raibh corr-cheanntar i n-Éirinn atá chomh Gaedhealach leis sin. Ní raibh aon dúthaigh mhór i nÉirinn atá níos Gaedhealaigh ná an ceanntair san. Tá an teanga chomh beo beathadhach bíodhgamhail annsin,’ ar seiseann, ‘is bhí sé le linn Aodha Ruaidh Uí Néill ag cur ruaige ar Ghallaibh ag Beinn Buirb. Má ghníomh (sic!) na sgoltacha go léir a ndualgas níl meath ná éag i ndán don Ghaedhilg i gConnamara le congnamh Dé. Tá sí dá labhairt ag sean agus óg. Is í an t-aon teanga amháin í a labhras na páistí go dtéighidh siad ar sgoil agus is í an teanga dheireannach í a labhras an seanóir agus é ar leabaidh a bháis. Is í an teanga í a labharthar ar margadh agus ar aonach, ar bhóthar agus i ngort, sa teampall agus cois teallaigh. Bhí Gaedheal as Tiobraid Árann annsin le goirid agus is é rud a dubhairt sé .i. go mbíodh air Gaedhilge a thóraidheacht i n-áiteachaibh eile acht go mb’éigin dó Béarla a thóraidheacht san Spidéal.’<sup>14</sup>

Mar rud amháin, ó thaobh na praiticiúlachta de - níor cheart a bheag a dhéanamh de chúinsí praiticiúla ag an am – tá an Spidéal i gceartlár na Gaeltachta agus b’fhurasta é a bhaint amach ó thaobh an taistil de san am sin. Lena chois sin, bhí an ceantar buailte leis an fharraige, rud iontach tábhachtach san am maidir le daoine a mhealladh ar saoire seal an tsamhraidh. Cuimhnítear go raibh an eitinn mar phlá ar fud na hÉireann agus ceapadh gur chuidigh saoire cois farraige mar chosaint ina haghaidh. Ba mhinic trácht ar a leithéid sin de bhuntáiste i réamheolairí na gColáistí, mar shampla, an ceann seo a leanas i gColáiste Uladh:

*Besides the advantages to be gained with regard to the language, nowhere could a more enjoyable and healthful holiday be spent.*

*There is bathing at high tide within half an hour's walk, quite near Gortahork and at low tide a little further away. The water is far warmer than off the North-East coast. It is more like bathing in France and never can be rough in the sheltered dock-like arm of the sea that runs in near Gortahork.*

*You can get delightful sea fishing off the rocks at Magheraroarte. The air is perfect, blowing in straight off the glorious hills that surround Glenaar.*

*For twenty miles and more round the neighbourhood the roads are good for cycling and many places of interest and beauty within easy reach of the wheel.*<sup>15</sup>

Tá an Spidéal suite cóngarach do chathair na Gaillimhe agus don ollscoil agus cuimhnítear go ndearnadh ceapacháin sa Ghaeilge san ollscoil chéanna tamall roimhe sin, mar atá, an tOllamh Tomás Ó Máille agus an Dr. Seán Mac Énrí.<sup>16</sup> Chomh maith leis sin, bhain an tAthair Mac Giolla Sheanaigh a bhí ina chrann taca ag Coláiste Chonnacht ar feadh na mblianta, leis an Ollscoil fosta.<sup>17</sup> Is dó a thugtar an chreidiúint as a fheabhas a d'éirigh leis an Choláiste thar bhlianta fada.<sup>18</sup> Cuimhnítear fosta go raibh cúrsaí geimhridh á reáchtáil ag Coláiste Chonnacht san ollscoil ar thoradh moille.<sup>19</sup>

Bhí daoine ag obair cheana sa Spidéal ar son na Gaeilge agus próifil mhór acu go náisiúnta dá bharr. Chuirfinn Domhnall Ó Duibhne (nó Daniel Deeney mar ab fhearr aithne air go minic), múinteoir scoile, ar thús cadhnaíochta ansin. Bhí seisean gníomhach i gcúis na Gaeilge agus i dteagasc na Gaeilge i nGaillimh ó dheireadh an naoú haois déag ar aghaidh. Ar bhealach, d'fhéadfaí a rá gurbh iad na hAngla-Éireannaigh nó lucht an chinsil ba luaithe a d'aithin an Spidéal mar thobar an dúchais Ghaelaigh agus a reic a cháil. Is léir, mar shampla, go raibh seanaithe ag Lady Gregory ar bheirt mhúinteoirí ag casadh an chéid seo caite i gceantar an Spidéil agus í ag tóraíocht an bhéaloidis:

*Describing a visit to Spiddal, she told him... she had regretted her ignorance of Irish when she had to enlist the help of two Irish-speaking schoolmasters to obtain stories for him.*<sup>20</sup>

Seans maith go raibh sí ag tagairt ansin do Dhomhnall Ó Duibhne<sup>21</sup> mar dhuine den bheirt sin. Is léir tionchar Lady Gregory ar Dhomhnall Ó Duibhne ar bhealach eile fosta óir chuir sé (mar atá, Daniel Deeney) leabhar amach darbh ainm *Peasant Lore from Gaelic Ireland* (London: David Nutt, 1900) a ndearna W.B. Yeats léirmheas air in *The Speaker* (14/7/1900, 216) agus luaitear in Stephen J. Brown, *Irish in Fiction: a Guide to Irish Novels, Tales, Romances and Folk-Lore* go raibh leabhar eile leis i gcló, mar atá, *Tales and Superstitions of the Connaught Peasants* (London: David Nutt, 1901). Deirtear faoin dara leabhar sin [*that it*] *is a collection similar to the preceding*. Ní luaitear líon na leathanach sa leabhar, áfach, gí go luaitear a luach atá mar an gcéanna leis an leabhar eile. Ní féidir an leabhar seo a aimsiú in aon leabharlann ná aon tagairt eile dó.<sup>22</sup>

Peasant Lore  
from  
Gaelic Ireland

Collected by  
Daniel Deeney



London: David Nutt  
At the Sign of the Phoenix  
Long Acre  
mdcccci

Is fiú a lua anseo, b'fhéidir, gurbh é Jack B. Yeats a tharraing na léaráidí le haghaidh an leabhair *Páistidheacht* (1906) a chum Séamus Ó Beirn agus a chuir Domhnall Ó Duibhne in eagar. Bhí comhoibriú agus caidreamh láidir idir na daoine seo ar fad breis is céad bliain ó shin.

Is é Domhnall Ó Duibhne is fearr a chuir ainm an Spidéil os comhair an tsaoil fosta ag tús an chéid mar eagraí náisiúnta don chlár dhátheangach, mar fhear béaloidis, mar dhíograiseoir teanga, mar mhúinteoir Gaeilge srl. agus gí go raibh sé imithe ón

cheantar nuair a bunaíodh an Coláiste, is é a leag an dúshraith le go mbunófaí Coláiste Gaeilge ansin blianta sular imigh sé. Mar an gcéanna an scéal le Séamus Ó Beirn agus bunú Choláiste Thamhain sa bhliain 1909.

Beirt mhúinteoirí eile a bhí ar fhoireann Choláiste Chonnacht Tomás Mac Domhnaill<sup>23</sup> agus Tomás Ó Colmáin<sup>24</sup>, agus an tríú duine, an t-uas. P. Greany, agus bhí baint mhór acusan le scéal an Choláiste.

*Mr. P. Greany, Principal of the above National School, and his assistant, Mr. Colman, have just succeeded in winning a very distinguished mark of high efficiency, the highest recognition of merit in the power of the Commissioners of National Education – that known among teachers as the “Carlisle and Blake Premium.” The number of such prizes is very limited – some twenty yearly for all Ireland – and a National School must, indeed, be in a thoroughly efficient state to be entitled to this very honourable distinction.*

*When a country school in a poor, bleak, west-coast district takes the “Carlisle and Blake,” it must be admitted that the teaching there is of a very high order. The Spiddal Boys’ school is worked on the bilingual system – Irish and English all through the curriculum; and we believe it is the first such school in Ireland which has won the “Carlisle and Blake Prize.”*

*Mr. Greany held the position of assistant in Spiddal two years ago, attaining the principalship on the appointment of Mr. Deeny as Inspector of Irish under the National Board. The Spiddal Male School has been very successful in Irish. A few years ago Mr. Greany won the All-Ireland Gold Medal for the best taught Irish class. Last year the school took second place for the O’Growney Cup, offered by the Gaelic League for the best taught school in Ireland. The monitor – third year – Mr. Thornton, now in St. Patrick’s Training College for Teachers, won the Gaelic League Scholarship and £10, and subsequently in the College took first place in the same subject. Mr. Greany is a first-class English and Irish scholar and we anticipate for him a brilliant career. His clever assistant, Mr. Colman, too, is coming well to the front. His name is now honourably known all over Ireland for his enthusiasm in the preservation and use of the Irish tongue. He is the All-Ireland Secretary of the Bi-lingual Society, which he did so much to found and develop.*

*We offer our sincere congratulations to the Rev. Manager, Father Ml. Faherty, and the people of Spiddal on the high success of their school.*

*Mr. Greany and his pupils last year entered the Great Britain and Ireland competition connected with the Franco-British Exhibition, London, and won most favourable mention for written notes on science and received high acknowledgement in the report of the Exhibition authorities – a proof that our poorest Irish lads can more than hold their own with the magnificent and pampered scholastic establishments of British town or city.<sup>25</sup>*

Bhí iarrachtaí déanta sa Spidéal cheana leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ansin blianta roimh bhunú an Choláiste, rud a chuidigh le teist na Gaeilge a tharraingt ar an bhaile.

*A Grand Féis, under the patronage of the Most Rev. Dr. MacCormack (Lord Bishop of Galway), Lord and Lady Morris and Kilanin, Lady Gregory, Dr. Hyde, Edward Martyn Esq., Hon. Martin Morris, M.P. and William O'Malley, Esq., M.P., will be held in Spiddal on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July next...*

*Signed*

*M.D. Conroy, P.P., Chairman of Committee*

*D. Deeny, N.T.*

*hon. Sec.*

*J.P. Maguire, M.B.*

*hon. Sec.<sup>26</sup>*

Gan amhras, rud tábhachtach a bhí san Fheis i *modus operandi* na hAthbheochana ar fud na tíre.<sup>27</sup>

## FAMOUS CONNACHT COLLEGE.



Staff of the Spiddal, Co. Galway, College (which has just closed its Summer Session)  
Standing (let to right)—Dr. MacEnri, Seamus O Murchadha, M. O Droighneai  
Caitlin Nic Ghabhann, Pilib O Bhalldara, An tathair Mac Giolla Sheannaigh  
Seated (left to right)—Tomas Mac Domhnaill, Tomas O Colmain.

Ní stair ghlórmhar saor ó cháineadh ná ó locht a bhí i scéal an Spidéil ó thaobh chothú agus chur chun cinn na Gaeilge de thar na blianta, áfach. Ní i gcónaí a léiríodh spéis i

nGluaiseacht na Gaeilge agus tacaíocht chuí di mar is léir ón chuntas seo a leanas faoi Chonradh na Gaeilge a raibh craobh bunaithe ar an Spidéal roimhe sin.

### SPIDDAL NOTES

*The usual monthly meeting of Spiddal branch was held on Sunday. The attendance was small - very small. This is decidedly discouraging more particularly so in view of the enthusiasm recently displayed. But then there is the convenient excuse: 'I forgot all about it.' That was the cry heard very generally – when the meeting was over! Well it will not do in future. That's all. And I am determined to refresh, both before and after the event, the memory of those in whom this faculty is inclined to be sluggish. If the proper spirit prevails the memory will improve wonderfully. All's fair in love and war and this is both – love for Ireland and Ireland's language, war against their enemies! We want the whole-hearted support, too, in the cause, not a mere cold, nominal, financial attachment. There was a collection for central funds on the 25<sup>th</sup> March. It excited but little interest, and received but little support. There is plain speaking, but it is true.*

*Then ye who pass by with a sneer or an amused smile take heed! Take heed, I say, of the contemptible place which your name will occupy in the history of the movement.*

*The collectors were – Messers Joseph Francis, D. Deeny, P. Greany, Michael Conneely, Jas. Folan.....*

*Names of subscr. Given e.g. Miss Morris 2s and on downwards.....*

*'Fear gan Feasoig'<sup>28</sup>*

Ní raibh cúrsaí sláinteachais thar mholadh beirte ar an Spidéal ach an oiread.

### A DEATH-TRAP FOR DOCTORS

#### *The Spiddal Dispensary*

*This week's Medical Press and Circular says: ...Dr. Hickey is the sixth doctor in ten years who has died in the discharge of his duty at Spiddal... In all its conditions, poor law medical service in Spiddal is worse than medical service on the West Coast of Africa. The medical mortality is greater, the pay is far less, and there is only four weeks' possible leave in the year. Every time this wretched district has become vacant we have implored medical men not to throw away their lives and wreck their careers by competing for it...<sup>29</sup>*

## **Bunú an Choláiste ar an Spidéal**

Más sa bhliain 1910 a cuireadh tús le Coláiste Chonnacht ar an Spidéal, cuireadh tús leis an obair an samhradh roimhe sin, rud, gan amhras, a chuidigh le bunús an Choláiste ar an Spidéal an bhliain dár gcionn.

#### *A Summer School for Cois Fharraige*

*Cois Fharraige (the sea coast from Galway to Golan Head, Lettermullen Island) is, writes a correspondent, the most Irish-speaking tract in all Ireland. Few other Irish-speaking districts are within easier reach of Dublin. None can*

*be reached more cheaply. Leaving Dublin on Sunday by one of the many excursions for Galway, which run during the summer months, the ticket to Galway only costs about 4s. Similar excursions run back to Dublin on Saturdays, and the double journey can be done for about 10s. Tickets from Galway to Dublin can be had on all Saturdays during the summer for 6s. Gaelic students are, as a rule, not very wealthy and such cheap fares come with welcome. Several Dublin Gaels have spent summer holidays in Cois Fharraige during recent years. Hundreds will come in future years anxious to spend a little time in the country of Micheál Breathnach, visit his last resting place and imbibe some of his great Gaelic enthusiasm from the Gaels of Cois Fharraige. To help those visitors in their Irish studies it is intended to have evening classes in Spiddal School during the coming month of July. The aim of these classes will be to teach by the best methods the reading, writing and speaking of Irish. Methods of teaching or other academic matters will not be dealt with. Folklore and folksongs by the best seanchaithe will be a feature of the classes. Very good accommodation can be had at a reasonable figure with Irish-speaking families in Spiddal and vicinity. Classes commence on July 4th. Any further information will be supplied by T. O'Colman, N.S., Spiddal.<sup>30</sup>*

*Irish College for Co. Galway*

*To the Editor Connacht Tribune*

*Dear Sir,*

*In the early stages of the University discussion we got glowing pictures of the crowds of students who would flock to the Galway University College to study Irish in a city where it is still a spoken tongue. The number of Irish students in the new college is as yet a matter of conjecture, and depends on future events. In any case, we may be sure that there will be a tremendous increase in the number of students of Irish anxious to visit Irish-speaking districts in the coming years.*

*An Irish College near the city of Galway would be certain of success. No Irish-speaking district is more easily reached and the numerous summer excursions make the cost of travel very light. We want a college where the 'professional' man, the university student and the 'man in the street' can learn Irish quickly and without being troubled over much with exhibition lessons on Modh Díreach and other methods of teaching. There are some splendid vacant houses on the North shore of Galway Bay, about seven or eight miles from Galway, in the centre of the most Irish-speaking district in Ireland. I shall be glad to hear the opinion of Gaels on this matter.*

*Mise le meas mór,  
Tomas O'Colmain<sup>31</sup>  
An Spidéal.<sup>32</sup>*

Gan amhras, mar a tharla i gcónaí nuair a bhí Coláiste úr Gaeilge le tógáil, ní raibh chuile dhuine ar aon intinn faoin áit ab fheiliúnaí lena thógáil.

*An Irish College for Galway*

*To the Editor Connacht Tribune*

*A chara,*

*The Idea of an Irish College for Galway is an excellent one. However, I have some hesitation in urging or advocating the establishment of an Irish College on the Northern side of Galway Bay. A College so situated would undoubtedly interfere with the success of our dear old Connacht College, would it not? Connacht College is not very far removed from Galway on the Northern side. Some time ago a Western Gael suggested that a College be established somewhere on or near the boundary of Clare or Galway, on the southern or south-western side of Galway Bay. His reasons were that the county of Clare was the only county in the Gaeltacht in which the Connacht and Munster Idioms were practically (?) inseparably bound together in all their old sweetness and purity and, secondly, that in Clare was the Royal residence of the kings of North Munster and of Éire's greatest Ard-Rí, and that the very best Irish in North Munster must have been spoken in and around the Royal Palace and must still remain with the Gaeilgeoirí. I am aware that there are hundreds of terms and idioms in everyday use in Co. Clare which are not to be found in any other portions of Munster.*

*Now I would wish to add another reason for establishing an Irish College on or near the boundary of Clare and Galway, and it is that I am firmly convinced that such a College would bind Western and Southern workers more closely together for God and Éire, and would bridge over small, narrow provincialisms. What I have suggested for Clare I would also suggest for Sligo or the Gaeltacht of Liatrom. What Clare would be to Connacht and Munster, Sligo or Liatrom would be to Connacht and Ulster.*

*We have three Irish-speaking provinces. Must we have three Irelands? Must we build up three distinct dialects or one uniform literary standard based on all that is best of each dialect?*

*Thank God that the days of provincialism are fast drawing to a close. Let us then, in God's name, strive to forget them and assist every project that leads to unite us for God and Éire, remembering that our united efforts are required to hold our own against the common enemy. I therefore approve of my friend's suggestion re the opening of another college, but do not feel over sanguine as to its success if established north of Galway Bay. If then a college situated in Clare would bind together all that is best of the South and West, would not an Irish College in the Gaeltacht do the same for the North and West? On these two points I would wish to hear the opinion of Irish Irelanders.*

*Mise,*

*P. Ó Bhalldrain. 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1909<sup>33</sup>*

*Osclaíodh Coláiste Chonnacht ar an Spidéal ar 8 Lúnasa, 1910.*

*..Dr. MacEnri has consented to act Principal of the College to be opened at Spiddal in August, foregoing his holidays for that purpose, and accepting the position without remuneration, only accepting out of pocket expenses. Mr. T. McDonnell, St. Enda's School, and Mr. O'Colman, Spiddal, have been appointed Assistant Professors.*<sup>34</sup>

Maíodh, i measc rudaí eile, go raibh sé *'intended to accommodate married teachers and others whos wish to combine a trip to the seaside with a term at one of the Irish Colleges.'*<sup>35</sup> Lean cuid mhór bolscaireachta den ócáid chéanna, rud a bhí nósúil le bunú na gColáistí Gaeilge i gcónaí. Bhí idir uasal (Lord Killanin, Captain Moore ina measc) agus íseal, cléir agus tuata, i láthair, ceannairí an Chonartha, daoine ó cheithre chúige na hÉireann agus ón choigríoch, De Valera agus Sinéad srl.<sup>36</sup>

#### *IRISH COLLEGE AT SPIDDAL*

*The Irish College at Spiddal was formally opened on Sunday by Dr. Mac Enrí. A large excursion train brought a good number from Dublin, who drove from Galway to Spiddal in the morning. Sixty students have already arrived at the College which is situated in perhaps the most Irish-speaking part of Connacht. Dr. Mac Enrí has undertaken the duties of Head Professor.*

*After the formal opening Lord Killanin bade all a hearty welcome to the district. Colonel Morris, the Rev. T.E. Macalunny, Dean of Residence, Galway College; Dr. Walsh, Galway College, and J. Nicholls, solicitor, were amongst those present.*

*The following letter was read at the opening of the new Gaelic College, Co. Galway, from his Lordship the Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, Bishop of Galway, in answer to an invitation to attend:*

*Mount St. Mary's, Galway*

*12.7.1910.*

*Dear Dr. Henry,*

*My Cathedral and College undertaking takes me to one of my parishes every Sunday till Christmas. I am therefore unable to accept the invitation you honour me with to open the Spiddal College. I cordially wish success to your work.*

*Yours very sincerely,*

*T. O'Dea.*<sup>37</sup>

Gan amhras, bhí an curaclam céanna i bhfeidhm a bheagán nó a mhórán sna Coláistí Gaeilge ar fad ó tharla go raibh siad ag feidhmiú faoi aon eagraíocht amháin agus go raibh daoine á n-oiliúint i gcoláiste amháin agus ag teagasc ina dhiaidh sin i gcoláistí eile agus go raibh na múinteoirí ag aistriú ó choláiste go coláiste go minic.<sup>38</sup> Tá neart tráchta déanta cheana ar chlár teagaisc na gcoláistí seo agus ní gá an cheist a phlé anseo.<sup>39</sup>

D'fhéadfaí dhá rud thábhachtacha a lua i gcás Choláiste an Spidéil a chuidigh go mór le rath an Choláiste ón tús, mar atá, feis an Spidéil agus léiriú drámaí sa choláiste.

## FEIS AT SPIDDAL

*The first fruit of the new Connacht College in Spiddal will be gathered on August 28<sup>th</sup>, on which date a Feis will be held in the College grounds. The scope of the Feis is necessarily somewhat limited this year. There is no time for original composition. The competitions, with one exception, are only open to persons under twenty years of age. There is, however, work enough to occupy the time and attention of all the young folks in Cois Fhairrge, that is, in the parishes of Knock, Spiddal and Ragoon, until the Feis day, and more time will be given them and more expected of them next year.*

*Prizes are being offered for the best story, song, poem etc. taken down from oral recitation. There will be competitions in singing, dancing and recitation. A special prize is being offered for the best collection of the names of herbs, flowers etc. The competition is open to persons of any age. The conditions are that each herb etc. must be sent in attached to a paper on which is written its name in Irish. If the herb has any medicinal properties that also should be stated.*

*There is an abundance of folklore in Cois Fhairrge. Each old man or woman is a perfect repository of fairy stories and wonder tales, and the important thing to remember is, each is taking to the grave much that posterity would give a good deal to possess – much that would be of inestimable value to the language movement.*

*Feis Chois Fhairrge will have justified its existence if [it] succeeds in unearthing some of the treasures hitherto buried in the memory of the old speakers. Not that the promoters of the Feis intend to stop there; no, for all they know some hitherto 'mute inglorious' Raftery may yet be discovered amongst the fisherfolk of Cois Fhairrge – some embryo Micheál Breathnach may be attending the Spiddal National School daily. And it is the business of the Feis to bring out the talent possessed by the grave-faced seniors and the bright-eyed, petticoated little gasuns and press it into the service of the motherland.*

*It is the duty of all who have at heart the interests of the language and the fair fame of the ancient province of Connacht to come to the assistance of the band of workers who have commenced to till the promising soil of Cois Fhairrge.<sup>40</sup>*

## COIS FHAIRRGE FEIS

### Successful Irish Day at Spiddal

*The first Cois Fhairrge Feis was held on Sunday, in the grounds of the Spiddal Irish College. The weather was beautiful and there was a large gathering of strangers and students of the Irish-speaking people of the district. It was probably the most truly Irish Feis held yet, as not a word of English was spoken from the beginning to the end of the proceedings. The competitions were confined to young people under twenty, and it was inspiring to hear the rich*

*flood of pure idiomatic Irish which was poured out in song and story by the youth of the district. It was plain to all the visitors to the Feis that the Irish language is still as vigorous in the Spiddal district as it was when Rory O'Flaherty lived there and wrote his Oxygia.*

*[Liosta daoine a bhí i láthair agus buaiteoirí luaite.]*

*The success of the juvenile Feis having been so great, it was decided to hold a supplementary Feis next Sunday for those over twenty years of age who were excluded from the competitions on Sunday. It is also contemplated to send some of the best talent of the Spiddal district to next year's Oireachtas.<sup>41</sup>*

### **FEIS AND PLAYS AT SPIDDAL**

*An Dochtúir Mac Énrí began to ambition a parish feis as soon as he arrived in An Spidéal. Several friends hinted that he was aiming at too much the first year, but An Dochtúir has the art of gentle diplomacy which enables him to enlist the aid of many willing workers in the cause and so he went ahead, saying in his own mind, 'wait and see.' ...*

*In the first feis the competitions were confined to those under 20 years... There is scarcely a house without a singer, and one, at least, is an Oireachtas prize-winner. The effects of a few feiseanna will be to make Cois Fhairrge one of the most famous districts in the country for old strain singing... The first part of the aeraíocht programme was got through before the feis. A large, rough platform was erected in front of the College, and around this the spectators gathered. Amongst them were a commissioner of National Board, Lord Killanin, Senor Milmo, Mr. Blake-Whyte ....*

*[Baint lárnach ag cuid den fhoireann leis na himeachtaí: ag aisteoireacht, seinm ar an fhideal srl.]<sup>42</sup>*

Bhí dlúthcheangal idir an Fheis agus an Coláiste ina dhiaidh sin, rud a chuidigh le rath na beirte.

*On Sunday last the second Spiddal Feis was held in the grounds of the Connacht College, Spiddal, in beautiful weather. The Feis was attended by about one hundred and fifty of the College Students, numerous visitors from Galway and other places, and by a large concourse of the country people who took the keenest interest in the competitions. Some of the students and visitors acted as adjudicators, and the College staff, with some of the students, acted as stewards.... [Ina measc siúd a bhí i láthair bhí Mr. De Valera, B.A., Dublin agus Miss Flanagan, Dublin].<sup>43</sup>*

Bhí an-cháil ar dhrámaí Gaeilge na Gaillimhe ag tús an chéid seo caite agus bhí cuid de na drámaí céanna ar na drámaí ba mhinice a léiríodh riamh. Is dócha go gcaithfear an chreidiúint a thabhairt do Lady Gregory agus do Dhúghlas de Híde as an drámaíocht Ghaeilge a spreagadh agus a chothú i nGaillimh an chéad lá riamh. Scríobh Séamus Ó Beirn as Tamhain agus Lorcán Ó Tuathail as Maigh Cuilinn drámaí a raibh an-tóir orthu ní hamháin i nGaillimh ach go náisiúnta agus uaireanta

thar lear. Léiríodh iad sin ag an gColáiste chomh maith le drámaí eile a scríobh cuid den fhoireann teagaisc. Bealach éifeachtach a bhí sna drámaí céanna leis an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn, a theagasc agus a fhoghlaim.<sup>44</sup>

#### IRISH PLAYS AT SPIDDAL IRISH COLLEGE

*On Friday evening two Irish plays were produced at the Spiddal College by the students and staff. The plays that night were **Áine agus Caoimhghin** written by one of the professors, Tomás Mac Domhnaill, and **An Cleamhnas** by Dr. Hyde. On Saturday night Áine was produced again, and also **An Deoraí** by the late Lorcán Ó Tuathail of Moycullen. On Sunday, after the Feis, the plays were acted again in the open air on a stage erected outside the college, and was witnessed by an enormous gathering of students, visitors and country people who thoroughly enjoyed every word and act of the plays...*<sup>45</sup>

Bhí sé i gceist fosta go dtabharfaí aird ar chúrsaí spóirt agus aclaíochta le linn an chúrsa agus, chuige sin, ‘a Student’s Sports Committee has been formed, and various athletic exercises have been started.’<sup>46</sup>

Cuireadh deireadh le seisiún 1910, d’éirigh thar na bearta leis an chúrsa agus tuar dóchais a bhí ann don am a bhí le teacht, rud a faithníodh agus a fógraíodh.

#### CLOSING MEETING AT SPIDDAL IRISH COLLEGE

*A ceilidhe was held at the Spiddal Irish College to bid farewell to the departing students. There was a large attendance of the students and residents of Spiddal. All the proceedings from beginning to end were conducted in Irish only..... Before the end of the céilí Dr. Mac Énrí said ..the Spiddal College had been an unqualified success, far surpassing the wildest expectations of himself or of the staff. Students had come from America, England, Scotland, and almost every county in Ireland. For a first term of a Summer College they had made a record in the number of students attending, and during portion of the term they had to refuse numbers of applications owing to all the available lodgings being full. Next year they expected to have accommodation for 200, as many houses which took no lodgers this year are being enlarged and improved to meet the demand. He was rejoiced to say that every one of the departing students had expressed the greatest satisfaction with the College, with the lodgings and food, and with the people. They said that all were most kind to them, and that the young people, most of whom are fluent readers and good writers of Irish, had given them great help in their studies at night. They had heard, on the authority of Dr. Henebry and of Father Kelleher, in his Oireachtas oration, that Irish is a dying language in the neighbourhood of some of the Gaelic Colleges. He had no such dispiriting tale to tell of Spiddal... Irish... is there the language of everyday life and spoken by young and old, and the sounds of the language are preserved there as in few other districts in Ireland....*<sup>47</sup>

## THE CONNACHT COLLEGE

*A meeting of the committee of the Connacht College was held on the 30<sup>th</sup> November in the Town Hall Tuam..*

*... just short of a hundred had attended the first session of the new college at Spiddal... The staffs of the new colleges were re-elected unanimously. Dr. Mac Énrí said that he would, as during last session, give his services as Ard-Ollamh gratuitously to the Spiddal College.*

*It was decided to hold a winter session of the Spiddal College on Saturdays in Galway, in rooms kindly given for the purpose by the Governing Body of the University College...<sup>48</sup>*

*Professor MacEnri reported that the new College, established at Spiddal, had been a great success; 100 pupils attended the College. Of those who presented themselves for examination, 21 gained certificates.*

*Spiddal had resulted in a substantial profit, probably owing to the fact that Professor MacEnri had refused to accept any fee. He also said that owing to large numbers attending the College the necessity for extensively advertising the Colleges he was unable to give the work the necessary supervision. Professor MacEnri proposed that they appoint two assistant secretaries viz. Father MacAlinney for the Spiddal College...<sup>49</sup>*

Tá rud amháin ar shlí a ráite faoi na Coláistí Gaeilge luatha uilig, is é sin an chaoi a ndeachaigh siad i gcion orthu sin a rinne freastal orthu nó a bhí ag teagasc iontu. Shílfeá ó na cuntais a scríobhadh faoi na Coláistí céanna gurbh ionann é agus baisteadh i gcreideamh agus go raibh fuadar mór fúthu an dea-scéala a reic agus a roinnt leis an tsaol mhór. Ba mhinic iad ag scríobh i bhfad is i ngearr, as Béarla den chuid is mó, faoinar bhlaís siad ar na Coláistí Gaeilge.

## STUDYING IRISH IN CONNEMARA WORK AND PLAY AT SPIDDAL

*Rev. Father Fitzgerald, O.F.M., writing in the Catholic Press, Sydney, says:*

*A Gaelic College is a centre of bodily, as well as mental, activity. Gymnastics, you say? Not at all but locomotion. Whether you go to the school or not, you will meet the scholars. But, first of all, let me clarify the subject by remarking that Gaelic colleges are summer schools, which work with the rumbling buzz of mills for two months in the summer, and are attended by school teachers who wish to obtain certificates, and by people of all classes and conditions who want to learn Irish.*

*There is such an Irish College in Ulster, two or three in Munster and three in Connacht. These colleges are situated in Gaelic-speaking districts for the purpose of affording scholars an opportunity of improving their Irish at the fountain-head, and also for the purpose of stimulating the people of the locality*

*to perpetuate the language by speaking it. The best professors available are procured and the scholars are billeted around on the farmers, and all possess bicycles, and there is a great helter-skelter of a morning from all sides to be in time. You see lady cyclists and their hair flying in the wind, and a parcel of books under their arms, or tied on the bike; and if there's a head wind and a strong boheen and a pig asleep in the middle of it, it's then you'll see the fruits of the elements of navigation. It's a hard choice for a cyclist between a big pig asleep and a flock of geese or ducks, especially if this plague is halfway down a hill. If you were sure that the pig wouldn't stir you can fly by but, as you don't know which direction he will choose, well, there's the rub. Geese or ducks are man's worst enemy when he's on a bike, and many's the narrow escape you see round Spiddal College where Dr. Mac Énrí, the president, stands, Napoleonic-like on the steps and surveys the surrounding country, as his devoted scholars pelt along in spite of wind or mud or weather or ducks or geese, or old women who won't shift out of the way, even when the bike is just on them.*

*As soon as the hundred or two hundred visitors to an Irish college arrive they are sorted out into the beginners, the proficient and the perfect, just as in the spiritual life, and each batch is placed in a special room, and there they work like nailers for five or six hours a day. In one class they are taught 'How to Teach.' This is a great matter; a soldier may have his ammunition-bag full; he may be weighed down with cartridge belts, but if he can't shoot what good is his ammunition? So also a man's head may be oozing with irregular verbs, his brain-pan may be seething with declensions, but if he can't impart his knowledge, then send him picking oakum, or let him shell peas for his mother-in-law, real or prospective. Too good for his likes.*

*The great coup for a teacher to achieve is to project himself into the mind of the learner. Try to diagnose his Egyptian darkness of intellect. Snuff out your intellectual lights like the candles when a wake is over, and try to view the subject from the point of view of a certified ignoramus. The misfortune with teachers is they assume that the scholar knows too much, that preliminary preparations have been attended to, and proceed to lay on the superstructure before the walls are fit to bear it. This is a deviation. Like all who have never taught, one cannot help dropping a pearl of wisdom here and there on the subject of teaching.*

*Now the latest methods of teaching, according to recent experiments, are expounded in the Irish colleges; and all the shortcuts to knowledge duly surveyed, and dangerous rocks chartered and measured. The system most in favour for teaching Irish is called the Direct Method and may be defined as a very creditable imitation of nature. Object lessons are given, and the pupils act their sentences, so to speak. Now, I was very dubious about this method till I came to live in Dublin, and am become quite converted to the Direct Method. There are great numbers of youths who have never been out of Dublin who can speak Irish remarkably well, and use it as their vehicle of thought in all the affairs of daily life. The only system of conning over a book and infiltrating grammar into your head with excruciating trouble has been fully discarded, and now language study is made attractive. In other words all languages were taught hitherto as dead languages, but the Direct Method imparts life and spirit to the study.*

*Irish drama too has had its share in turning out Irish speakers, for a play acted throughout in Gaelic is an education for the audience and familiarizes their*

ears with Irish sounds. The progress made all over Ireland in the use of Irish and the readiness with which young people converse and debate dispels the forebodings and fears about Irish ever returning as the spoken language of the nation. I was very skeptical on this point, but the ounce of fact is better than a ton of theory, and I have witnessed many facts which leaves no doubt as to the possibility and feasibility of Gaelic being our common mode of expression once again.

The teaching of phonetics is a very important branch in the Irish colleges, and the room where that is taught resembles a school of anatomy. You see a large chart, and the head and neck of a man sketched upon it. The whole machinery of the throat is set forth in vivid colours, and it dawns rather unpleasantly upon you that inside your neck you have a considerable tract of geography, consisting of samples of the Red Sea, the Black Sea, the Ural Mountains and the Gulf of Mexico. And a fine mouth the picture has, ranged round with molars like rows of tombstones in a babies' cemetery. If you judiciously sponge the whole with half a pound of raw steak, you impart a sanguinary vermilion hue to the ensemble that makes it strangely life-like.

The teacher goes over the whole ground with a pointer, and thus the trouble begins. Talk of the source of the Nile; we are now at the well-spring of what is called the brogue. Some time ago I saw a par. In the Catholic Press about the brogue. Now, whoever wrote that knew his business well.

But, to return. The paragraph said that the brogue is the result of Irish phonetics on the English language. And the reason is this. The Irish vowels are pronounced precisely the same as in Italian – broad – waiving for the moment the difference between broad and slender vowels. Again, the Irish sounds are coined mostly in the middle cavity of the mouth, and some are guttural, while the English language is mostly labial and dents, and to all foreigners resembles the singing of birds. Now, it is plain that of all the languages spoken in Europe or Asia, the most unadapted to the Irish mouth is the English. It is mincing and prim, and sibilant and pretty, but the Irish is robust and manly and broad, just as Italian is.

So perfect is Irish in construction and so adapted to the machinery of the throat and mouth, that it is easier physically to talk it correctly than incorrectly. Incorrect grammar causes a hitch in the mouth like a stone on a track in front of a train.

Now, there is nothing to be ashamed at in the brogue, as it is called, and should Germany ever impose its language on John Bull's country, we'd hear an English brogue resulting from English phonetics applied to German.

I have heard of loose building material such as half-bricks and chunks of scantling, being left casually left about newspaper offices, with malice aforethought, so that spring poets and patent-mongers who come into the office to read a little sketch of their own make take the hint and forbear to enthuse. Although out of range, yet, I turn abruptly here into pastures new despite the temptation to indulge in rhapsodical references to Gaelic phonetics. Suffice it to say that the whole subject is gone into at Irish colleges. Your whole throat is gone into, and I hope the laws of chivalry will allow of my likening a class of young ladies learning phonetics to a nest of young thrushes awaiting a worm at 5 o'clock in the morning. You never expected they could open their mouths so wide. The expert in phonetics watches the thought as it falls like a dew-drops from the brain into the larynx or vocal churn. And while the vocal cords are

*weaving a brand new suit of clothes – sound for the idea this man with the pointer elucidates, and, indeed, lubricates the process. That idea is rolled in fine, warm vowels and swarthed in close-fitting consonants and made slim and blithe by eclipsis, and then, and only then, makes its debut to an admiring the speech of some eloquent or deludherin' Gael.*

*France, Germany, Italy have been visited by scholarly enthusiasts in search of the best methods of language-teaching and the Irish colleges enjoy the fruit of their researches. Some of these pioneers of the cause are under the sod. The fire of enthusiasm burnt too brilliantly for the frail vase that bore it, and today they beam on their native land from a higher and a holier sphere. Esto perpetua has been spoken prophetically over the cradle of this language movement. It is bound to grow and spread like a noble tree, whose branches will droop with golden fruit for the children of Eire. A place in the councils of the nation will once again be accorded to Roisin Duv and her language heard in the highest places of the land. But, in the day of triumph, when the records of the resurrection of the Irish language come to be written, special reference will be made to a grave in a churchyard beside the ocean in Connemara where rests the remains of Micheál Breathnach. Don't run away with the idea that it is all work in an Irish summer college. They work hard, it is true, but enthusiasm and patriotism lighten the toil, and the consciousness that it is our own native language. Do you think our budding Gaels would study German with the same zest? This element as a factor in the acquisition of Irish has been ignored or forgotten by our opponents. They forget that young Irish boys and girls bring to the study of Irish a spirit steeped in the history of their country, and a zeal begotten of their country's love which they bring to no other branch of knowledge in their college curriculum.<sup>50</sup>*

*THE CÉILÍ: an Evening at an Irish Turf Fire  
By Fr. Fitzgerald, O.F.M.*

*In his article on the study of the Irish language at Spiddal College, Connemara, published in last week's Tribune, Fr. Fitzgerald writes of the industry of the students, but adds that it is not all work at an Irish summer school. Apart from evenings for dances and concerts, apart from the social gatherings in the house where they stay, there is the céilí, a true old Gaelic gathering. Fr. Fitzgerald tells us all about it:*

*Its natural features are a thatched house, in a bit from the road, a horse's and an ass's cart heeled up, for it is Sunday evening. You step into a spacious kitchen across the threshold, and, as it is late in the evening, you cannot see everyone in the house by the fitful gleams of the turf fire. You see fine, big boots, and nails in them, sticking out from dark corners, as their owners are tired and shy. The colleens are over by themselves near the fire, and the girl of the house nurses her best girl friend on her knees. A reaping hook is hung on a nail on the wall, and a smoothing iron, with flannel on the handle of it, stands on a little projection near a ladder that goes up to a loft, which a cat runs up like a flash when a mouse presumes to stir, or the cat wants to show off. The dresser is well-stocked with willow-pattern plates, the usual blueish colour, and three Chinamen going over a bridge, which some of us believed in the long-ago were meant for our particular selves, and so the willow pattern recalls happy memories. Jugs galore have a shelf to themselves, and resemble grenadiers on*

guard and drummers too fat to perform. Thin jugs, bulgy jugs, tall jugs, and in real old homes you will see dear little wooden noggins, and shiny bands of steel around them. A large dog lies flat on the middle of the floor, and at the most pathetic part of a song sits up with a jerk, and scratches himself; and when he has done, and only then, looks with a sleepy stare at the company, and wags his tail feebly as he recognizes an acquaintance, and lies down again with a flop.

If the room door be ajar you will see on the walls of the bedroom St. Joseph and Michael Davitt, and Tim Kean's (the grocer's) picture-advertisement, with Erin hanging out of a cross in Lipton's tea garden's Ceylon; St. Patrick putting the comehither on the snakes, and over the bed the Mother of Sorrows. By sympathy and sorrow this picture is dear to the suffering Irish heart, especially in the West. As the visitors come in, the woman of the house comes forward to each, and says: 'Maise, céad míle fáilte' and her daughter shows you a place, except you are an old friend and then you can find a place for yourself. The woman of the house is in her bare feet and the floor is earthen but as hard as granite. Bare feet, you say. Why, it's this touch of nature that completes the scene, for she is at home, and there are no airs and graces at a céilí, as everybody is natural and friendly, and everybody is Kathleen or Séamas or Cathal or Máire. The Gaelic League is a great leveller up and down. Nobody thinks of putting on dog [= to put on dog, is to make a flashy display, to cut a swell] at a céilí, no matter how much of it he may have concealed on his person. You feel at home immediately, and people from the four corners of Ireland meet and converse and enjoy themselves, in Irish, for Fr. MacAllinney careers round on a motorcycle, like a destroying angel, and woe if the poor posts haven't the mark of the Gael...

Transfer your thoughts for a moment from the hearty camaraderie of a céilí to a correct evening out in a city where people meet for the first time and you will think that you have run amok into a wax works. The awful sentimentality of the songs, the studied completedness of the frocking, the rigidity of posture, the mental calculations as to how much the dresses cost, the murderous stillness which it would be almost sacrilegious to break by asking an old lady if she had any pins and needles in her feet. Yet the temptation to ask that is irresistible in such periods of animation of mind. Don't fear that this arctic gelidity will thaw into bubbling conversation, for the last disease any of the company would suffer from would be a rush of brains to the head.

Everybody has to sing at a céilí and it is an old strain to hear the old strain by a traditional singer. Many of the girls and the boys have the old strain to perfection. The theme is simple and sometimes sad, and the remarks of the audience punctuate the verses. When a long-cuffed Johnny bellows his protestations of love in a drawing-room everybody looks at the ground or at the ceiling, and all look precisely as a crowd around a grave or an undertaker, when he says in dulcet tones, would anyone like to take a last look at the dear departed before – aw – I call the carpenter?

But at a céilí at the end of each verse remarks are permitted from the listeners. Words of encouragement, interjections of approval etc. Someone cries out: buachaill or 'May the Lord leave you your health' or 'Long Life to you', Maise go deo thú, fad saoil agat, gairm thú. At one céilí I was at, an old man sat in the corner on a three-legged stool; it broke under him, and he sat where destiny placed him, and used a leg of the stool as a baton to beat time. The sentiment of the song took possession of him by degrees and he relinquished his baton and

*took the hand of the singer in his, and the interchange of electrical storage intensified the performance.*

*But I mustn't forget an English visitor. Everybody called him Cathal. He is an Oxford man and speaks Irish well, and wears a tweed coat and a tweed belt around it, and tan boots and has a pince nez which gives him a professional air; he is serious and not to say stolid, like the typical Saxon, and enters into all the fun and is the most popular visitor in Spiddal.*

*But to turn to the interjections. A verse of one of the songs wound up with reference to a prison. 'Oh, may the Lord keep us all out of it!' [Go gcoinní Dia sinn as ar fad!] The incongruity of the situation was too funny. Here was Cathal the Englishman, embodiment of law and order and respectability, and he is included in the old woman's prayer to be kept out of prison. She knew well her surroundings. There is a bit of cattle driving in the district, a drop of poteen being made and so on. The sight of Cathal sitting among báinín buachaills and merry colleens, and by utter incomprehension of the humour of the situation would tickle the risibility of Quaker.*

*And as we all said goodnight all around the woman of the house cried out after us: 'And when are ye all coming again?'*

*Nothing but Irish is spoken at a céilí – no songs, not even Tommy Moore's in English, but as all your readers cannot read Irish yet, we must give them a few bars in English about Connemara and a colleen whose buachaill went to America and she wrote to him and he came back. In real life it is vice versa. The other song is about a fishing boat which is called 'The Queen of Connemara' by Francis Fahy, composer of 'The Auld Plaid Shawl.' The colleen's wail comes first and the sad plight is depicted....<sup>51</sup>*

An méid a dúirt Caitlín Nic Ghabhann, bean a raibh cur amach aici ar Choláiste Chonnacht agus ar Choláistí Gaeilge eile, in alt léi ar cheist na gColáistí Gaeilge i gcoitinne, is fíor é i gcás an Spidéil fosta, rud a aithnítear go dtí an lá atá inniu ann:

Nearthuighthear agus leathnuighthear spiorad na Gaedhilge ar fud ceantair an Choláisde ó bhliadhain go bliadhain. Cuirtear suim ag na daoinibh i ngach a mbaineann le hÉireann. Cuirtear greann agus siamsa agus spóirt ar bun dóibh. Sgairtear abhráin Gaedhilge agus eolas ar dhamhsaibh na hÉireann i n-a measg. Cuirtear sompla rómpa ar céard is caitheamh-aimsire Gaedhealacha ann, agus fásann toradh d'á réir as an obair san ngeimhreadh, nuair nach mbíonn an Coláisde ann. Na Gaedhil duthracha a bhíos ar na gColáisde, bíd mar a bhéadh timthirí ag dul thart imeasg na ndaoine ghá spreagadh chun Gaedhilg a labhairt le n-a gelann srl. Chor leis sin, cuirtear athrughadh intinne ortha siúd a cheapas nach bhfuil aon mheas ar an nGaedhilg, nach gabhadh Gaedhilg bheith ag duine le slighe-bheatha do bhaint amach, nuair feictear na céadta duine ag teacht gach bliadhain ar lorg Gaedhilge, cuid aca as grádh do'n Ghaedhilg, cuid eile mar gheall ar í bheith riachtanach chun slighe-bheatha do bhaint amach.<sup>52</sup>

**CRÍOCH<sup>53</sup>**

[Foilsíodh an aiste seo in Seán Ó Neachtain (eag.) *Coláiste Chonnacht 1910-2010: Céad Bliain Faoi Bhláth* (Coláiste Chonnacht, 2010) 72-115.]

<sup>1</sup> Breathnaigh, mar shampla, ar a bhfuil scríofa agam faoi chuid de na Coláistí seo sna haistí seo a leanas: ‘Coláiste Chonnacht: na Blianta Tosaigh i dTuar Mhic Éadaigh’, *Feasta* (Meán Fómhair, 2005) 19-22, (Deireadh Fómhair) 19-23; ‘Stair na gColáistí Gaeilge agus Bunú Choláiste Uladh’ in Seosamh Ó Ceallaigh (eag.), *Coláiste Uladh 1906-2006* (Coiste Cuimhneacháin Choláiste Uladh, 2006) 110-40; ‘Bunú Choláiste na gCeithre Máistrí’, *An tUltach* (Deireadh Fómhair, 2006) 10-4; ‘Bunú Choláiste Laighean 1906: Deireadh le Tús na gColáistí Gaeilge’, *Feasta* (Eanáir, 2007) 23-7; ‘Stair Bhunú Scoil an Daingin’, 1908. *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad* (2008) 9-37; ‘Bunú Choláiste Chomhghaill, Béal Feirste 1905’ in Micheál Mac Craith & Pádraig Ó Héalaí, *Diasa Díograise. Aistí in Ómós do Mháirtín Ó Briain* (Cló Iar-Chonnachta, 2009) 109-27; ‘Fioradh na Físe Gaelaí? Bunú Choláiste Thamhain 100 Bliain Ó Shin: Stair Chorrach’ in *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 62:2010, 157-85.

<sup>2</sup> Féach, mar shampla, Timothy G. McMahon, ‘To mould an important body of shepherds’: the Gaelic summer colleges and the teaching of Irish History’ in Lawrence W. McBride (ed.) *Reading Irish Histories: Texts, contexts, and memory in modern Ireland* (Four Courts Press, 2003) 118-39.

<sup>3</sup> ‘The Gaelic Colleges’ in *The Irish Language Movement and the Gaelic League* (Conradh na Gaedhilge, g.d.) 21-2.

Seo a leanas cuntas ar na Coláistí Gaeilge a eisíodh ag an *Conference of Irish Colleges* sa bhliain 1916: *The Colleges for training teachers of Irish were established to meet the great demand for qualified teachers of the National Language, and to remedy the defect in our educational system which made no adequate provision for the training of such teachers.*

*During the past 12 years 14 of these Colleges have been founded. The majority of them are Summer Colleges, whose sessions are carried on during the Summer and are situated in Irish-speaking districts in the Counties of Louth, Antrim, Donegal, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Kerry, Cork and Waterford. The Winter Colleges are situated in the Cities of Dublin, Belfast and Cork, and in Mullingar and Navan. Since their establishment the Colleges have been attended by an aggregate of over 13,000 students, and during the past two years the annual total attendance was over 1,500 yearly. The great majority of the students were teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools. The others included prominent men and women in intellectual and public life, not only from Ireland, but from Great Britain, America, France, and many other countries. Nearly every Nationality in the world has been represented amongst the students.*

*The Colleges were the spontaneous development of a notable constructive educational movement.*

*They were founded and administered by voluntary effort.*

Ní miste a lua anseo gur aithris a bhí sna Coláistí Gaeilge seo ar a macasamhail sa Bhreatain Bheag ón bhliain 1903. Féach, Proinsias Mac Aonghusa, *Ar Son na Gaeilge: Conradh na Gaeilge, 1893-1993 Stair Sheanchais* (Conradh na Gaeilge, 1993) 122-3.

<sup>4</sup> 5/8/1910, 6.

<sup>5</sup> Féach, Ríona Nic Congáil (eag.), Úna Ní Fhaircheallaigh, *Smaointe ar Árainn/Thoughts on Aran* (Arlen House, 2010) 15-29.

<sup>6</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis & Fáinne an Lae* (15/6/1901, 217).

<sup>7</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis* (31/1/1903, 787).

<sup>8</sup> Tá cuntas níos iomláine aige ar na Coláistí Gaeilge in *Éire* 1943.

<sup>9</sup> Tá cuntas iomlán agam ar stair an Choláiste sin in ‘Fioradh na Físe Gaelaí? Bunú Choláiste Thamhain 100 Bliain Ó Shin: Stair Chorrach’ in *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 62:2010, 157-85.

<sup>10</sup> *The Tuam Herald* (23/4/1910, 4).

<sup>11</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (2/9/1911, 5).

<sup>12</sup> I *Réamheolaire* an Choláiste, deirtear an méid seo a leanas faoin Spidéal:

Tá an Spidéal ar na ceanntaraibh is Gaedhealaighe i nÉirinn. Dún-phort Gaedhealach is eadh é. Is í an Ghaedhilg gnáth-theanga na ndaoine, idir sean agus óg, agus tá a gcaint, a nós, agus a mbéasa chomh Gaedhealach is bhíodar le linn Éinde Naomhtha. Is ann atá an Ghaedhilg is glaine binne atá le fágáil i nÉirinn agus is iongantach an méid sean-sgéalta, dánta agus eachtra na laochradh i n-allód, a bhíos dá n-aithris cois na tineadh ar chaoi a chuireas i gcuimhne dhuit aimsear na Seanchaidhthe agus na mBárd. Sin ceann de na hádhbhair a mbíonn triall ag an oiread sin de lucht na Gaedhilge ar an Spidéal .i. nár briseadh ariamh ann an ceangal atá idir Gaedhil Sean-Éireann agus Gaedhil an lae atá inniu ann.

<sup>13</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (27/5/1911, 7).

Maidir le Tomás Ó Colmáin, tá cuntas faoi in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Cúig* (An Clóchomhar Teo., 1997) 136-7.

<sup>14</sup> *Freeman's Journal* (8/8/1910, 9).

<sup>15</sup> Cuntas ag Íde Nic Néill, rúnaí an Choláiste, ar *The Derry Journal*, (6/8/1906, 3) agus *The Irish Peasant*, (11/8/06, 3).

<sup>16</sup> Tá cuntas tugtha ag Breandán Ó Madagáin ar stair na Gaeilge mar ábhar léinn ina alt 'Irish – a Difficult Birth' in Tadhg Foley (ed.) *From Queen's College to National University: Essays on the Academic History of QCG/UCG/NUI, Galway* (Four Courts Press, 1999) 344-59.

<sup>17</sup> Bhí cuid mhór caibidle faoin Ghaeilge mar ábhar riachtanach don mhaitheánach san am sin. 'The Boycott of Irish'

*To the Editor of the Tuam Herald:*

*...Is it not a shame and an insult, that while the tongues of Pagan Roman Greece and Rome, and Modern Pagan France will be honoured in the new University intended for the Catholics of Ireland, that the National Language of Ireland which, under God, saved Ireland for the Catholic Church, is to be treated as if it were the language of some wretched tribe inhabiting a West African swamp! Yet, if rumour be but true, this is how a majority of Senators intend treating our National tongue in the new University.*

*Men and women of North Galway, have you no pride and no spirit left, to resent this injury! Have you become like unto a much-belaboured ass, to which an additional blow is a matter of small concern.*

*Evidently so, in the opinion of those wise and learned Senators, who in their wisdom intend providing you with foreign thistles to eat, instead of succulent Irish grass...*

*Latin, Greek and Yiddish,*

*Saxon, French and Finnish –*

*All are taught here but Irish....*

- 'Gael': *The Tuam Herald* (30/1/1909, 4).

<sup>18</sup> Maidir leis an Athair Mac Giolla Sheanaigh, tá cuntas faoi in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Trí* (An Clóchomhar Teo., 1992) 56-8. Deirtear ansin: 'I 1915 bhíothas ag fiafraí in *An Claidheamh Soluis* cérbh é an paróiste ba Ghaelaí in Éirinn. Ar 24 Iúil 1915 scríobh an timire Pilib de Bhaldraithe gurbh é an Spidéal a thuill an teideal agus thug sé an chreidiúint go hiomlán don Athair Mac Giolla Sheanaigh.'

<sup>19</sup> *It was decided to hold a winter session of the Spiddal College on Saturdays in Galway, in rooms kindly given for the purpose by the Governing Body of the University College... - Connacht Tribune* (19/11/1910, 4).

*The staff will be the same as that which achieved such remarkable success in Spiddal. Dr. Mac Enri will act as Ard-Ollamh. Tomas O Colmain will continue his interesting and instructive lectures on the bilingual programme. Tomas Mac Domhnaill, whose features on the Science of Phonetics at Spiddal were declared by Rev. M.J. O'Flanagan, a well-known authority, to be the best he had heard anywhere, will deliver a special course of lectures on the subject... An interesting addition to the programme will be a course of lectures on 'Philosophy applied to education' by Rev. T.E. Mac Alinney... Methods of teaching will, as usual, be a prominent feature of the college. The session will begin on Saturday, January 14, and the Saturday lectures will continue till June. Candidates for certificates will be required, in addition, to spend a fortnight at Spiddal College during the Summer session... [Tugtar mionchuntas ar chlár an chúrsa ansin.] – *Connacht Tribune* (17/12/1910, 8).*

<sup>20</sup> Gareth W. & Janet Egleston Dunleavy, *Douglas Hyde: a Maker of Modern Ireland* (University of California Press, 1991) 206.

<sup>21</sup> Tá cuntas cuimsitheach air ag Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Cúig* (An Clóchomhar, 1997) 111-3. Ní miste an t-eolas seo a leanas a chur lena bhfuil ansin.

#### GALWAY BRANCH

*Another feature of the movement – the credit of which is principally due to Mr. D. Deeny, N.T., of Spiddal who has often brought the Movement into prominence at the meetings of the National Teachers held in Galway – is the alertness with which the branch watches the appointment of Dispensary Doctors to districts where Irish is the vernacular, such a position being at present vacant in Spiddal, where Irish is the language generally spoken. Thus, taking occasion by the forelock, the Galway Guardians were written to, calling on them to act up to the resolution which had been previously passed by them. The matter was not, however, allowed to rest there, for Mr. Deeny and the Hon. Sec. proceeded at once to the Clerk of the Union and obtained a copy of the resolution from him, together with an appeal to the Spiddal Dispensary Committee to appoint an Irish-speaking doctor, if possible, to*

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*their district. Being thus forearmed, a deputation from the branch will attend at the meeting on Monday next to watch the interests of the language, and to use their influence in making the committee act up to the resolution of the Guardians. Should the exertions of the deputation prove futile, the action of the Dispensary Committee will receive further publicity Fáinne an Lae (30/7/1898, 31).*

*Rothaíocht Faoi Chonamara*

Micheál Ó Conaola (as Árainn)

Tráthnóna Domhnach Cásca, tar éis mo dhinnéir do bhuaileas síos go dtí mo chara Seán Ó Neachtain, a chónaíos i Sráid na Croise san gcathair seo (.i. i nGaillimh) le go dtiocfaimis ag rothaíocht. Ní raibh ach an focal ar mo bhéal ina thaobh nuair a dúirt Seán go dtiocfadh go fonnmhar, óir mar mé féin bíonn sé istigh ar feadh na seachtaine. Do ghluaiseamar orainn & amach linn.

Chuamar síar Bóthar na Trá & níor stopamar den seársa sin go ndeachamar go Bearna, baile beag trí mhíle as Gaillimh. Ar feadh an achair sin níor labhramar focal lena chéile ná le duine ar bith eile ach Gaeilge..... (Buaileann siad ar thoradh moille le Donnchadh Ua Doinneadh = (Daniel Deeny) agus téann siad ag rothaíocht le chéile)...<sup>21</sup>

*SPIDDAL FEIS*

*A Grand Féis, under the patronage of the Most Rev. Dr. MacCormack (Lord Bishop of Galway), Lord and Lady Morris and Kilanin, Lady Gregory, Dr. Hyde, Edward Martyn Esq., Hon. Martin Morris, M.P. and William O'Malley, Esq., M.P., will be held in Spiddal on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> July next...*

*Signed*

*M.D. Conroy, P.P., Chairman of Committee*

*D. Deeny, N.T. hon. Sec.*

*J.P. Maguire, M.B. hon. Sec.*

*An Claidheamh Soluis (16/3/1901, 11)*

*PRINCE MUROUGH'S ADVENTURES*

*Review*

*Prince Murough's Adventures by Daniel Deeny, Spiddal*

*The general public will be glad to learn that Mr. Daniel Deeny, headmaster of the Spiddal National School, has contributed one more volume to the available literature capable of being used for the third and fourth standards of the National School. The principal story is that which is entitled 'Prince Murough's Adventure' and is a very interesting one, being a simplified version (by permission) of Dr. Douglas Hyde's 'Lad of the Ferule' which was published by the Irish Texts Society of which Mr. Deeny is a member. Besides this there are several other interesting stories of peculiar interest since they were taken down by Mr. Deeny from the lips of the peasants living in and around Spiddal. Amongst others being 'The Old Wiseman's Son,' 'Wat Connor's Adventures,' 'The Queen of the Lonely Valley' and 'The Widow's Son.'*

*This book is one of what is known as Blackie's Readers and is well adapted for use in National Schools of today, and is preferable in every way to the Crusoe and Cinderella type of reader which we so often find in the hands of the school children. Besides, this book is thoroughly Irish – Irish paper, Irish workmanship and an Irish author. The price is extremely moderate, being only fourpence. It should also be mentioned that a companion volume in the Irish language of stories composed by Dr. O'Beirne and edited by Mr. Deeny, will shortly appear. The Galway Observer (12/5/1906, 3).*

*Mr. Daniel Deeny, late Principal of the Spiddal M.N. School*

*The well-deserved promotion of Mr. Deeny, late Principal of the above-named school, after a stiff competitive examination, to be an Irish inspector and organizer under the National Board, has given intense satisfaction to his many friends in Spiddal, Galway, and elsewhere. We are proved of his success and heartily congratulate on his advancement. Yet we are sure much regret is left on his departure last Thursday from amongst us to take up his new duties which, we learn, will be in the counties of Longford, Leitrim, Sligo and Mayo, with headquarters in Castlebar. By his kindly disposition, gentlemanly bearing, and great good sense Mr. Deeny has endeared himself to the people of Galway and Spiddal and though from the 'Black North,' no purely-bred Connacht man could have won more respect, trust and consideration than he has done during the eleven or twelve years he has so earnestly devoted himself to a good and noble work in the important parish of Spiddal. Mr. Deeny has had a brilliant record as a National Teacher and as an earnest worker of the Gaelic League. His success in the former capacity has been an eminent one, and as an enthusiastic labourer in the field of Celtic language and literature he has made an honourable mark. A prominent member of the societies having for their object the saving of the Irish language from the obscurity it had been drifting to and the inculcation and promotion of truly patriotic Irish ideas and aspirations for the welfare of our country, Mr. Deeny has done very much indeed, towards the function of what all honest Irishmen desire of every creed, class or party so heartily desire in the best interest of the country. He is a*

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charming writer of Irish story, legend, drama and essay, and is greatly looked upon as a sterling supporter by the men and women who have so nobly united to make Ireland, in every sense of the word, a regenerated nation. We cannot forget his Spiddal Irish classes won in Tuam last July when they had the grand distinctions of taking first honours for all Connacht; neither do we forget what our Most Reverend Lord Bishop, Dr. MacCormack, said in Spiddal three years ago – that the Confirmation classes prepared by Messrs. Deeny and Greany were in the Irish Catechism – the best it had been his Lordship's good fortune to meet as priest or bishop.

Mr. Deeny's call to his new duties as Irish Inspector came quite suddenly a few days ago and the good people of Spiddal had no time to mark in a substantial way their appreciation of his worth, and of his splendid services while amongst them, not the least of which was the earnest co-operation given to their beloved Parish Priest in the great and holy work of the erection of the new church, and the zeal with which he assisted to make the Spiddal Agricultural Bank a real success. A large crowd led by Messrs. Greaney, McDonagh, Naughton, Conway, Toole, Connolly, had gathered round Mr. Deeny's residence on Thursday last to bid him a hearty 'God Speed' and Mr. Deeny and his amiable lady were deeply touched by the sincere sorrow evinced on their departure. We have had the pleasure of close intimacy with Mr. Deeny, and while we sincerely congratulate him on his advancement and wish him every success, we can well join with his Spiddal and Galway friends in deep regret on his removal from amongst us. The members of the Galway Teachers' Association must also feel a great loss in Mr. Deeny's severance of his connection with them. He was not only an honoured and trusted member of the local association but greatly esteemed by the entire organization in Ireland on whose central executive he for some years represented the province of Connacht. *The Galway Observer* (14/12/1907, 3).

Duais Oireachtais bainte ag D. Ó Duibhne, An Spidéal: Comórtas: Bailiúchán de sheanscéalta nár cuireadh i gcló riamh fós (SO 171).

Duais Oireachtais bainte ag D. Ó Duibhne, An Spidéal: Comórtas: Bailiúchán de dhánta nár cuireadh i gcló riamh fós (SO 170).

Sa bhliain 1906, tháinig grúpa beag de Ghaeilgeoirí díograiseacha le chéile ar 13 Eanáir le droch-chás na Gaeilge i dtéarmaí praiticiúla i gcontae na Gaillimhe i gcoitinne a phlé. Seo a leanas mar a tuairiscíodh ar *The Galway Observer* (10/2/1906, 4):

*The small number of branches of the Organisation in the county is one proof of the deplorable lack of practical interest manifested in the success of a movement which has already done so much to nationalize Irish life, and which has won the admiration and enlisted the support of our kith and kin in other lands.*

*We feel that it is not [a] sufficient extenuating argument to say that the language still flourishes in our midst, and is in no danger of extinction, because granted that such is a fact, why should we hold aloof from an Organisation which is engaged in a work of National importance to which all patriotic Irish men and Irish women should extend a helping hand?*

*In many parts of our county, no doubt, Irish is generally spoken; yet even in those parts there is danger that the Anglicising blight may find its way unless actively guarded against, while, on the other hand, there are unfortunately districts in which our native tongue is rarely, or never heard...*

*The old people are gradually dropping away, and with them becomes extinct the charming tales, the stirring legends, the sweet songs and the beautiful poems of the bardic past, because, alas! the majority of the younger generation have apparently neither the inclination nor the taste, not to mention the patriotic feeling, which should prompt them to study in the traditional school. It was to encourage that study, and to preserve those relics, that the Gaelic League established the Oireachtas, and recommended provincial and parish Feiseanna; and that those functions have accomplished useful work no one can deny. A great deal, however, yet remains to be done, and nowhere, perhaps more than in the Irish-speaking districts of Galway. We therefore think that an effort should be made to deal with this and the other questions to which we have alluded in some systematic manner.*

Le feabhas a chur ar scéal na Gaeilge i gContae na Gaillimhe, bheartaigh siad Coiste Contae a bhunú 'which would devote its attention to the all-important work of Organisation, and to the furtherance of the objects of the League.' Is iad na daoine a bhí taobh thiar den eagraíocht úr seo: A.J. Mac Consaidin, C.C., P.S. O Mothrain, C.C., Seamus O Beirn, M.B., Micheal O Maille agus Domhnall Ua Duibhne. Socraíodh ag cruinniú i mí Feabhra, 1906 'after careful deliberation it was unanimously resolved to established a Coiste Conndae to be composed of two representatives from each affiliated branch in the County.'<sup>21</sup> Cuireadh an eagraíocht ar bun agus bhíodh cruinnithe rialta in aghaidh na míosa acu as sin amach.

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**Páistidheacht**

An Dochtúir Séamus Ó Beirn do chum, Domhnall Ó Duibhne do chuir in eagar.  
Blacie agus a Mhac  
Baile-Átha-Cliath & Béal Feirste

*Review*

*Páistidheacht*

*The above is the title of a new Irish Story Reader which has been composed by Dr. O'Brien, edited by Domhnall Ó Duibhne, Spiddal, and illustrated by Jack B. Yeats. It consists of four most attractive stories suitable for Fourth Standard pupils in National Schools, and for Junior Intermediate students. Those best qualified to judge of the worth of the little volume before us are loud in its praise. We cannot do better than quote the opinion of the esteemed President of the Gaelic League, the popular Craoibhín. He says in a letter which he has written that the stories in Páistidheacht are exceedingly nice, and are just what were wanted and, he continues, 'I'll get my own children to read them.' That perhaps is the greatest praise which Dr. Hyde could bestow on any book, the highest compliment which he could pay, namely to place it in the hands of his own children to study.*

*Another most eminent judge of Irish Literature, Professor Micheál Breathnach, says: 'It is a charming book. It is neat and elegant, and the language is beautiful: I am delighted with it. The stories are the best in my opinion which have yet been composed in the Irish language.'*

*We congratulate all concerned, the author, the editor, the publishers, on having placed before the public a book which has won such encomium. As for the illustrations we have [never] seen prettier; they reflect great credit even upon so great an artist as Jack B. Yeats. Messrs. Blackie & Son, Dublin & Belfast, are the publishers and the price is 4 pence. The Galway Observer (1/9/1906, 3).*

<sup>22</sup> Tá mé buíoch de Marie Boran, Leabharlann James Hardiman, OÉ, Gaillimh, as a cuidiú ag tóraíocht eolais faoin leabhar seo.

<sup>23</sup> Tá cuntas faoi in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Cúig* (An Clóchomhar Teo., 1997) 80-2.

<sup>24</sup> Tá cuntas faoi in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Cúig* (An Clóchomhar Teo., 1997) 136-7.

<sup>25</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (27/11/1909, 5).

<sup>26</sup> *An Claidheamh Soluis* (16/3/01, 11)

<sup>27</sup> **AN tOIREACHTAS AGUS FEISEANNA**

Leon Ó Dubhghaill do scríobh

Ag cur síos ar fheiseanna in Éirinn roimh aimsir Chríost deirtear linn sa Seanchas i dtaobh na dtrí lá roimh Shamhain agus i dtaobh na dtrí lá i ndiaidh na Samhna go mbí

Gan ghoid is gan ghoin duine  
Aca an oiread soin uile;  
Gan imirt airm gan áladh  
Gan acradha d'iomrádhadh.

Dá bhrígh sin ba thréimhse shuaimhnis i n-am achrainn iad.

Mhair na Feiseanna agus institiúidí eile mar iad tar éis teacht na Críostaidheachta go dtí an tír seo ach tháinig a bheag nó a mhór d'athrú ortha. Má tháinig féin, b'iad na tionóil sin na cruinnighthe ba m[h]ó tábhacht i saoghal an náisiúin go dtáinig an Sacsan agus gur chuir sé an tír fá smacht. Thuit furmhór na n-institiúidí, agus go mór-mhór an Fheis, ar lár. Mhair a gcuimhne, ní amháin sa litridheacht ach i mbéal-oideas agus i gcroidhthibh na nGaedheal, agus ní h-iongnadh mar sin go dtáinig ath-fhás ortha nuair a cuireadh mór-ghluaiseacht na haithbheodhchana – Connradh na Gaedhilge – ar bun caogad bliadhain ó shoin.

‘Siad na Feiseanna agus an tOireachtas a bunuigheadh fá choimirce Chonradh na Gaedhilge a thug deis dúinn ár n-oidhreacht maidir le teangain, filidheacht, ceól, rinne, ealadhain agus lúith-chleas do chur ar fagháil agus a theasbáint arís. Thugadar deis dúinn, freisin ar gach gné dár gcultúr do chur i n-oireamhaint d'obair na haithbheodhchana; agus arís thugadar árdán d'fhilí, scríobhnóirí, ceoltóirí, cumadóirí, ealadhantóirí, aisteoirí agus rinneoirí a saothar a chur ar eolas do'n phobal. Ba bhealach iad chun obair thógála a dhéanamh ar son na litridheachta, ar son ceoil agus drámaidheachta. Ba ghléas rí-thábhachtach i gcórus oideachais na tíre iad. Ar nós Feis na Teamhrach anallód, b'é an tOireachtas

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agus an Fheis an ócáid ba mhó caidreamh bhí ag lucht na Gaedhilge gach bliadhain ó bunuigheadh Connradh na Gaedhilge. D'fhéadfaí a rá gurab iad na Feiseanna ar fud na tíre 'na blátha ar obair na bliadhna,' agus nuair a thuit feis ar lár i gceanntar ar bith do thuit gluaiseacht na Gaedhilge ar lár, foiríor, go rí-mhinic sa cheanntar chéadna.

#### *An chéad Oireachtas*

Níorbh' fhada bhí muinntir Chonradh na Gaedhilge ag obair nuair ba léir dóibh nár mhíse sraith comórtaisí do chur ar bun – comórtaisí i n-a mbeadh daoine ó gach áird d'Éirinn páirteach. Bhí díogras agus dúthracht ag borradh i gcroidhthibh óg agus aosda an tráth sin, agus leis an mborradh sin a chur ag obair ar mhaithe leis an [n]Gaedhilg do cinneadh ag Árd-Fheis Chonradh na Gaedhilge na bliadhna 1896 ar an Oireachtas do bhunú. Tionóladh an Árd-Fheis sin an 25adh lá de Lughnasa, agus do moladh agus do glacadh le rún go dtionólfá Oireachtas nó comóradh poiblí i n-aghaidh na bliadhna chun tairbhe na Gaedhilge, faoi choimirce Chonradh na Gaedhilge, ag a ndéanfaí duaiseanna do thairgint ar léigheamh dréachta Gaedhilge, ar reacaireacht, ar amhráin agus ar mhion-drámaí i nGaedhilg. Cuireadh an moladh sin i bhfeidhm sa bhliadhain 1897 agus shocruigh Coiste Gnótha Chonradh na Gaedhilge i dtosach na bliadhna sin go ndéanfaí an chéad Oireachtas a chomóradh i mBaile Átha Cliath an 17adh lá de Bhealtaine agus do ceapadh triúr mar choiste chun gach réiteach a dhéanamh fá na chomhair. Pádraig Mac Cathmhaoil, Séamus Ó Cathasaigh agus Domhnall Ó Conchubhair an triúr san. Chuadhadar an triúr i mbun oibre láithreach agus níorbh' fhada go raibh clár-chomórtas foillsighthe aca. Ceithre comórtaisí liteardha, idir phrós agus fhilidheacht, agus comórtas reacaireachta a bhí ann. Ba théoranta ar fad an clár é ach ba bhun-chloch é do'n ghluaiseacht d'fhás de bharr an Oireachtais. Ní raibh spéis fé leith ins na comórtaisí seo ach ag filí agus ag scríobhnóirí, ach leigheasadh an t-easnamh san, ámh, nuair a tionóladh an tOireachtas mar do cuireadh ar siubhal i nÁrus an Rotunda i mBaile Átha Cliath mór-chuirm cheoil i n-ar deineadh léiriú ar phríomh-ghnéithe an chultúra Ghaedhealaigh agus ag ar bronnadh na duaiseanna ar lucht buaidhte na gcraobh ins na comórtaisí éagsamhla.

#### *An Chéad Fheis*

Bhí an tOireachtas préamhuighthe agus ba ghean le Gaedhilgeoirí na haimsire sin agus ó shoin é. Féile do Ghaedhil na hÉireann a bhí ann agus theastuigh ó Chonradhthóirí ó gach áird bheith páirteach ann, agus mar sin bhí éileamh ar chomórtaisí amhránaidheachta, scéalaidheachta, rinnce, óráideachta agus mar sin de. Conus a déanfaí iomadthóirí do thoghadh an fhadhb a bhí le réidhteach ag lucht stiúrtha an Oireachtais. Dhein craobhacha de Chonradh na Gaedhilge an cheist do réiteach gan mórán moille mar tháinig Connradhthóirí Mhagh Cromtha le chéile agus bheartuigh siad ar Oireachtas Paróiste do bhunú. Tar éis gach ullmhúcháin do dhéanamh do tionóladh agus do comóradh an chéad fheis – Feis Mágh Chromtha an 20adh lá de Mhí Mhárta, 1898. Ba staireamhail an ócáid í. Ba lá ar leith i stair an Chonarthá é. Tháinig borradh nuadh sa ghluaiseacht. Ní fada go raibh Connradhthóirí in áiteanna eile ag déanamh aithris ar éacht Mhagh Chromtha. Sa bhliadhain chéadna do comóradh Feis Bhéal Átha an Ghaorthaidh 19adh Meitheamh, Feis Bhaile Mhúirne an 14adh Lughnasa, Feis na Gaillimhe an 1adh Meadhon Fhóghmhair, Feis Dhún na nGall ar Bearnas Mór an 2adh Meadhon Fhóghmhair. Cúig feiseanna taobh istigh de shé mhí! Ba mhór an t-éacht é agus ba léargus ar bheódhacht agus ar dhíogras na gluaiseachta é.

Bhí clár na bhfeiseanna seo bunuighthe ar chláir agus ar riachtanaisí an Oireachtais agus tháinig lucht buaidhte na bhfeiseanna chuig an Oireachtas. Sa gcaoi sin do snadmhadh an ceangal idir an Oireachtas agus na feiseanna. Thuig an Coiste Gnótha de Chonradh na Gaedhilge ó thús tábhacht na húirlíse nuadha a bhí tar éis fás sa ghluaiseacht agus fágadh mar chúram ar Choiste an Oireachtais ó bhliadhain go bliadhain an fás nuadh san do chothú. Tar éis achair bhig bhí feiseanna ar siubhal i ngach áird de'n tír agus i ngach conndae go raibh craobhacha beó de'n Chonradh ionnta. Nuair a tháinig an lá san bhunuigh an Connradh Córús Náisiúnta na bhFeiseanna .i.

- (a) Aeridheacht nó Feis bheag i ngach paróiste
- (b) Na buadhthóirí uatha ag iomaidheacht ag Feis Cheanntair
- (c) Na buadhthóirí uatha san ag iomaidheacht ag Feis Chonndae nó ag Feis Bharúntachta
- (d) Na buadhthóirí ó sna Feiseanna sin ag iomaidheacht ag Feis Chúige
- (e) Na buadhthóirí ó na Feiseanna Cúigí ag iomaidheacht ag an Oireachtas.

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B'shin é an aidhm a bhí ag lucht stiúrtha an Chonnartha, agus bíodh nár éirigh leo an gléas d'oibriú i gcómhnuidhe dhein siad tionchur na bhFeiseanna do leathnú agus an caighdeán d'fheabhsú. Rinne na feiseanna agus an iomaidheacht spéis an phobail do mhúscailt agus a n-aighe do dhíriú ar Ghaedhealachas.....

### *Feis Átha Cliath*

...Bhnuigheadh Feis Midhe agus Laighean sa bhliadhain 1900 agus mhair sí fá'n ainm sin go dtí 1905. Bhaisteadh Feis Átha Cliath uirthé an bhliadhain úd....

### *Drámaidheacht agus Ceol*

Nuair a thugamar fé dhrámaidheacht na Gaedhilge a chur chun cinn bhí na céadta deacrachtaí le sárú agus an ceann ba mhó aca ná easba drámaí oireamhnacha. Dheineamar eólas fá gach dráma Gaedhilge a bhí ar fagháil do bhailiú agus liosta díobh a chur ar fagháil do scoileanna agus do chraobhacha. Do ghríosuiigheamar foillsightheoirí a thuille drámaí d'fhoillsiú. Tháinig rath ar ár saothar agus taobh istigh de thrí bliadhna bhí fás 300 faoi'n gcéad ar líon na ndrámái ag an bhfeis....

Connradh na Gaedhilge 1893-1943 Leabhar Cuimhne Féile an Leath-Chéad: 50 Bliadhan de Mhór-Shaothar (Cló-Lucht Columban, Corcaigh, 1943) 33-7.

<sup>28</sup> *Galway Observer* (8/4/1905, 3). Bhí deacrachtaí den chineál chéanna ag cathair na Gaillimhe cúpla bliain ina dhiaidh sin, mar is léir ón chuntas seo a leanas:

#### **GALWAY FEIS ABANDONED**

##### *Insufficient Entries and Support*

*We have been informed that owing to insufficient financial aid, and to insufficient entries for the various competitions, the Galway Feis Committee have decided that the project cannot be proceeded with. It is somewhat difficult to locate the cause of the apathy, but the committee, we are assured, have met with no encouragement or practical support from quarters from which they had hitherto secured liberal subscriptions. The condition of apathy into which the Galway Branch of the Gaelic League has fallen, and the fact that very little interest is, as a consequence, manifested in Gaelic matters by the citizens has also contributed to the inevitable failure of the Feis. It is, indeed, a sad reproach upon the capital of Connacht, where less than a decade ago there was a flourishing Gaelic League branch, together with some eight Gaelic hurling clubs, that it is unable to organize an annual Feis...Connacht Tribune (31/7/1909, 5).*

<sup>29</sup> *The Galway Express* (6/1/1906, 3).

<sup>30</sup> *Sinn Féin* (3/7/1909, 4).

<sup>31</sup> Tá cuntas faoi in Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Cúig* (An Clóchomhar Teo., 1997) 136-137.

<sup>32</sup> *Connacht Tribune*, (11/12/09, 3).

<sup>33</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (24/12/1909, 9).

<sup>34</sup> *The Tuam Herald* (11/6/1910, 4).

<sup>35</sup> *Freeman's Journal* (7/6/1910, 5).

<sup>36</sup> *Freeman's Journal* (8/8/1910, 9).

<sup>37</sup> *The Galway Observer* (13/8/1910, 3).

<sup>38</sup> Bhí Caitlín Nic Gabhann ag teagasc i gColáiste Chonnacht, i gColáiste Laighean agus i gColáiste Uladh mar atá luaite ag Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Ceathair* (An Clóchomhar Teo., 1994) 53-4; bhí Seán Ó Catháin ag teagasc i gColáiste Chomhghaill, i gColáiste na Mumhan agus i gColáiste an Daingin mar atá luaite ag Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a hAon* (An Clóchomhar Teo., 1986) 55-6; rinne Séamus Ó Searcaigh freastal ar Choláiste na Mumhan agus ar Choláiste Chonnacht, Tuar Mhic Éadaigh, sular thosaigh sé ar fhoireann teagaisc Choláiste Uladh, Choláiste Chomhghaill agus Choláiste Laighean mar atá luaite ag Diarmuid Breathnach agus Máire Ní Mhurchú, *1882-1982 Beathaisnéis a Trí* (An Clóchomhar Teo., 1992) 135-6.

<sup>39</sup> Féach sna haistí atá luaite i bhfonóta 1.

<sup>40</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (10/6/1911, 4).

<sup>41</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (3/9/1910, 11).

<sup>42</sup> *Connacht Tribune*, (10/9/1910, 9).

<sup>43</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (26/8/1911, 5).

<sup>44</sup> **CONNRADH NA GAEDHILGE AGUS AN DRÁMA**

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Tadhg Ó Scanaill

*Do thug Connradh na Gaedhilge tógáil-chinn agus tógáil-chroidhe don Chine Gaedheal; do mhúscail sé fonn sa cheol agus sa rinnce, fonn sa leitríocht agus fonn sa dráma; do mhúscail sé spioraid agus éirim aigne i ngach slighe, agus tá rian na spioraíde sin fós i n-ár measc.*

*Is deacair a rádh conas a cuireadh tús le h-obair na drámuíochta sa Chonnradh. I mBanba (leabhar a h-aon, cuid a h-aon) a cuireadh amach i Mí na Nodlag, 1901, tá cur-síos greannmhar ar léiriú a deineadh timcheall na linne úd, i mBaile Átha Cliath ar Chasadh an t-Súgáin ag an gCraoibhinn Aoibhinn; níl ann ach eachtra ag 'duine de na h-aisteoiribh' ar na deacaireachtaí agus na constaicí a bhí ag baint leis an gcéad iarracht so, uatha, ach aiste suimiúil, stairiúil iseadh é, dar liomsa. Go teacht an Chonnartha, ní raibh cleachta dá laighead ag Gaedhil ar an ndráma, agus dá bhrí sin, borradh nua a bhí sa ghluaiseacht, thoir, thiar, theas agus thuaidh.*

*Bhí dúil sa dráma ag na sean-Chonnarathóirí go léir, agus do scríobh roinnt acu drámaí beaga deasa gur éirigh go maith leo; bíonn gach tosnú lag is dócha ach bhí spioraid sa ghluaiseacht nua, agus níorbh' aon cheatuíocht d'údair ná d'aisteoirí gan taithighe do bheith acu ar ealadhain an stáitse. Bhíodh drámaí ar siubhal ag an Oireachtas, agus ag na Feiseanna ar fuaid na tire, agus is mar sin do múscladh suim na coitcheanntachta san ealadhain.....*

*Connradh na Gaedhilge 1893-1943 Leabhar Cuimhne Féile an Leath-Chéad: 50 Bliadhan de Mhór-Shaortha (Cló-Lucht Columban, Corcaigh, 1943) 80.*

<sup>45</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (10/9/1910, 8). Tharla rud greannmhar maidir le cúrsaí drámaíochta ar an Spidéal: *Lady Cyclists in Peasant Costume: Visit to Galway*

*Three Irish plays were acted on Sunday on a stage on the lawn in front of the Connacht College, Spiddal. On Wednesday two young lady students, who had been in the plays dressed in the characteristic peasant costume of Connemara – viz. red petticoats, shawl etc., donned the costume again, and cycled into Galway to meet a friend at the station. The unwonted sight of bare-footed and bare-headed cyclists clad in red petticoats and shawls caused a sensation in the streets of Galway, and the cyclists, having gone into a shop, the street was soon blocked by a large crowd which gathered to see them. Many surmises were made as to who they were. Some thought they were Spanish travellers. Others thought they belonged to the circus, and at least some one suggested that they were students from College. Galway Express (17/9/1910, 3).*

<sup>46</sup> *Freeman's Journal* (18/8/1910, 8).

<sup>47</sup> *Freeman's Journal* (17/9/1910, 5).

<sup>48</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (19/11/1910, 4).

<sup>49</sup> *The Tuam Herald* (3/12/1910, 2).

<sup>50</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (3/6/1911, 4).

<sup>51</sup> *Connacht Tribune* (10/6/1911, 4).

<sup>52</sup> *The Freeman's Journal* (15/9/1917, 3).

<sup>53</sup> Tá mé buíoch de na daoine seo a leanas a chuidigh liom agus an aiste seo á réiteach agam: Ríona Nic Congáil, Diarmuid Ó Cearbhaill, Vera Orschel agus Nóilín Nic Bhloscaidh.