

COMHFHREAGRAS IDIR AN ATHAIR PEADAIR AGUS AN
tAIMHIRGÍNEACH

I gCARTLANN Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh in Institiúid Ard-Léinn Bhaile Átha Cliath tá cnósach litreacha a bhain leis an Aimhirgíneach. Litreacha a seoladh chuige an chuid is mó ar fad acu so, gan amhras. Ina measc tá cúpla leathanach arna bhfuil ceisteanna a chuir an tAimhirgíneach ag triall ar an Athair Peadair Ua Laoghaire, agus freagraí an Athar Peadair ina ndiaidh ar pháipéar a fágadh bán chun go scríobhfadh sé isteach iad. Léiríonn na leathanaigh seo gurbh é an tAimhirgíneach a dhein eagarthóireacht ar leagan an Athar Peadair de *Don Cíochóte* sa litriú simplí a cuireadh i gcló san iris *Sinn Féin*, agus a cuireadh amach ina dhiaidh san i ndeilbh leabhráin,¹ mar a luas i mball eile.² Níl an t-eolas so le fáil mar a bhfuil a chuid taighde ar scríbhinní an Athar Peadair i gcló ag Shán Ó Cuív.³

Cuirim síos anso ceisteanna an Aimhirgínigh agus freagraí an Athar Peadair mar mhaithe leis an eolas teangeolaíochta atá iontu, mar léiriú ar mhodh oibre an Aimhirgínigh agus é i mbun téacs a chur sa ‘Le-tiriú Shimplí’, ar an saoirse a thugadh an tAthair Peadair do agus é i mbun eagarthóireachta, agus ar an gcuma dhifriúil go ndeineadh Shán Ó Cuív pointí amhraistiúla teangan a dheimhniú (ceist 12 thíos). B’ é an tAimhirgíneach, leis, a shocraigh *Aesop a tháinig go hÉirinn*, agus *Catílína* sa litriú san.⁴ Níl aon athrú déanta agam ar litriú na lámhscríbh-inne ach gur chuireas macran ar ghuta ba dhóigh liom a bheith fada ach gan san curtha in úil, agus gur dheineas *h* a sholáthar fo-huair idir lúibíní cearnacha. Baintear tarrac as an gcló iodálach mar a bhfuil an script Ghaelach sa LS; mar a bhfuil líne fé fhocal nó fé nath cainte sa LS chun aird a tharrac air leantar den nós céanna san eagrán so.⁵

¹An t-Ahir Peadair Ó Laeiri, Canónach, S.P., *Don Cíochóte* i (Baile Átha Cliath 1921).

²‘Osborn Bergin’ in *Léachtaí Cholm Cille* 27 (1997) 150–176, ag 159.

³‘Materials for a bibliography of the Very Reverend Peter Canon O’Leary, 1839–1920’, forlónadh le *Celtica* 2/2 (1954).

⁴*Ésop a háinig go Héring* i–iv (Baile Átha Cliath 1911); *Catílína. Cúntas er Choga Chatílína ó Chaius Sallustus Crispus* (Baile Átha Cliath 1913).

⁵Táim buíoch den Ollamh Fergus Kelly, Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh, as a cheadú dhom a bhfuil as so síos a fhoilsíú, agus de Ríonach Nic Giolla Phádraig a bhí ag obair mar chúntóir i Scoil an Léinn Cheiltigh, as gach cóir a chur orm agus mé ag taighde i gcartlann na Scoile.

AN TÉACS

Donn Cíochóté

1. [OJB:]⁶ Title Donn how pronounced? = *dún* (like *fonn*)? or *dobhn* like *down*?
[PUaL:] As far as I remember the Spaniard of Kilkee said “*Donn*” or “*Don*” with the *o* as in *bob*. I don’t know Spanish. If you do you had better use the knowledge.
2. [OJB:] This title, like the Eng. Sir (of knighthood) must be followed by the name. In one or two cases this is omitted. Shall I add Cíochóté[?]
[PUaL:] Yes.
3. [OJB:] *Ar fuaid na hEúróipe*. How is the first syll. to be pronounced? Of course the earlier form is Eóraip (gen[.] *Eórpa*) as in Tadhg Gaolach, Eoghan Ruadh &c.
[PUaL:] I have always heard “*an Eúróip*”. The first syllable having a full “*ú*” sound not introduced by a “*y*” sound.⁷
4. [OJB:] *ridire*: pronounced roduire?
[PUaL:] Yes.⁸
5. [OJB:] *oir dheirc*; I have heard this called *eiriric*.
[PUaL:] So have I.⁹
6. [OJB:] *oir dhearcas*: How pronounced? = *oiriarcas*?
[PUaL:] Yes.
7. [OJB:] *sleagh*: I suppose the *gh* is silent, like the *dh* of *fleadh*. But how are the gens. *sleighe*, *fleidhe* pron.? And the dat. *sleigh*, *fleidh*?

⁶ ‘Donn Quijote’ scríte ana-mhion lastuas.

⁷ i. /ən u:’ro:p’/; cf. ‘*Do bhí sé ag Bóní ar fuaid na hÚróipe*’ in amhrán ag ‘Tadhg Ó Rodaí’ .i. Seán Ó Cróinín, ‘*Coigeann an chapaill*’, *Scéala Éireann*, 2 Feabhra, 1957; ‘*ar fuaid na hEúróipe*’, Conchubhar Ó Ruairc, ‘*Cnuasacht ón gCumar*’, *An Músgraiheach* 7 (Nollaig 1944) 11–13. (Tamall siar ó Chéim an Fhia atá an Cumar so.) Táim buíoch den Dr Roibeárd Ó hÚrdail as na foirmeacha so ó Chléire a sholáthar dom: /ən ju:’ro:p’/ *an Iúróip*, /kɔ:sdə nɔ ju:’ro:p’i/ *cósta na Iúróipe*, /ju:’ro:p’əx/ *Iúróipeach*, /nə ju:’ro:p’ig’/ *na Iúróipigh*.

⁸ /’rodír’i/ [*roaire*] Donnchadh Ó Céileachair, ‘*Nótaí do Scéal mo Bheatha*’ (Tráchtas MA., Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath, 1950) s.v. *ridire*; /’rídír’i/ Pádraig Ó Loingsigh (1907–86), An Sliabh Riabhach, Baile Mhúirne, sa mbliain 1977, Seán Eoghain Ó Súilleabháin (1882–1968), Doire an Chuilinn, Cúil Aodha, téip T 93, Roinn Bhéaloideas Éireann (le caoinchead na Roinne sin). I gceann desna samplaí ar an dtéip sin tá an /i/ tarraighthe siar cuid mhaith i dtreo lár an bhéil ag Seán Eoghain. Tá *Clai ‘n Rudaire* /k’lín rudír’i/ ar an nGráig, Baile an Fhéirtéaraigh (eolas óm chomhleacaí Liam P. Ó Murchú), ach airítear /’rídír’i/ agus /’rodír’i/ leis i gCorca Dhuibhne. Cf. ‘*rudaire*’ *passim*, *Scéalaíocht Amhlaíbh Í Luíne*, < ‘*ridire*’, ‘*rudaire*’, ‘*rudaire*’ na lámhscríbhinní (‘*Foclóirín*’, lch 346). Cf., leis, ‘*cnicht* .i. *ridaire*’, A. I. Pearson, ‘*A Medieval Glossary*’, *Ériu* 13 (1940–42) 61–87, ag 79 § 258 (táim buíoch dem chomhleacaí Liam Ó Murchú as an sampla so a chur ar mo shúilibh dom). Dealraím gur dhá fhoirm atá go bunúsach ann: foirm ina bhfuil /o/ agus foirm eile ina bhfuil leaganacha éagsúla den ghuta ard (/i~u/).

⁹ Cf. ‘*Oirdheirc*, illustrious; pronounced *oireric*’, Peadar Ua Laoghaire, *Notes on Irish words and usages*, in eagar ag D[aniel] O’M[ahony] (Dublin etc. [1926]) 84; is dócha gur [i] a bheadh sa tsiolla láir sa dá chás.

[PUaL:] I think the gen. I have heard was “*slethe*”, but I am not sure. Try and get it from some very old speaker.¹⁰ I heard the adj. “*fleagach*” with “*g*” quite strong. “*Go fleagach féastach*” was quite familiar to me long ago, with the “*g*” as distinct as in “*leagadh*”. The dat. which I have heard for “*sleagh*” was the same as the nom. “*le sleagh*”; “*leis an sleagh*” with the *gh* silent.¹¹

8. [OJB:] *cathbharr = cafár?*

[PUaL:] What I have heard is *cahbh ar* i.e. *cahyár*.¹²

9. [OJB:] *ceann mar ceann thairbh* [.]. (An legendum *cheann tairbh?*)

[PUaL:] “*mar cheann thairbh*” [.]. Both aspirated.¹³

10. [OJB:] *roimhe* sometimes in MS. but generally *roimis*. Shall we take the latter as representing your pronunciation, & generalize it. [?]

[PUaL:] Yes, as a rule. But we have “*roim lá*”, “*roimh theacht dom*”. It is all a question of smoothness of diction.

11. [OJB:] *ante sa Laidin* 7 “*roimhe*” sa *G[h]aeluinn*. There is nothing about Latin in the original, which has the Spanish *antes* with the same meaning. But this does not matter.

[PUaL:] Very well. Say “*antes sa Sp āinnis*.” You seem to have the original Spanish. Of course you had better use it.¹⁴

12. [OJB:] In phrases like *rud éigin d’ól* you sometimes have *d’ól* sometimes *ól* but generally in your later books *a dh’ól*. This last seems to be the Waterford form. I think that in “Eisirt” O’Keefe normalized *ól*, as that was the only form known to his Ballyvourney authorities.

[PUaL:] I have been always listening to both. The speaker used the one which ran the smoother for him in the particular phrase he spoke [.]. Here is an old Duhallow verse [? in which] “*dh’ól*” is used and in which “*ól*” would not be nice at all.

*“A lucht taisgíthe an airgid is gann bia ar bórd
Nár thaithig ach an ceathrar i n-am díghe dh’ól,
Beidh bhúr mbailte puirt ag Sasanaig f’ē ramhar chíos fós.
Do mealladh sibh nú Ml’eachlainn mhac Amhlaóibh óig.[”]*

This *is* is a relative .i. “who are stingy regarding food on table.” The last line is:—

¹⁰ ‘shlehi’, m.sh. ‘puínti na shlehi’ a cuireadh sa litriú simplí (Ó Laeiri, *Don Cíchóté*, 134).

¹¹ .i. /sʲʲa/.

¹² Cf. [kafəɾə], B. Ó Cuív (ed.), *Cnósach focal ó Bhaile Bhúirne* (Baile Átha Cliath 1947) s.v. *cafarra*.

¹³ Cf. ‘mar cheaun hairiv’, in eagrán an litrithe shimplí, Ó Laeiri, *Don Cíchóté*, 7; ‘mar cheann tairbh’ in eagrán an litrithe thraidisiúnta, Conall Ceárnach (ed.), *Don Cíchóté* (Baile Átha Cliath etc. [1921]) 8.

¹⁴ ‘Is ionan *ante* sa Sbáingish agus *ruimish*, sa Gháluing’, sa litriú simplí, Ó Laeiri, *Don Cíchóté*, 7; ‘Is ionan ‘*anté*’ ‘sa Laidin agus ‘*roimhe*’ ‘sa Ghaeluinn’, Conall Ceárnach, *Don Cíchóté*, 9.

“Either you are mistaken or Malachi M^cAuliffe is mistaken.” The poet’s own name was *M’l’eachlainn Mhac Amhlaoibh óig*.

It is a pity that our writers persist in writing “is” for “agus”. It was alright a hundred years ago. It could not mislead. Now it is a great trouble to learners.

13. [OJB:] *mórtais*: So in MS. But in the fables we have muartas. Is the final *s* broad or slender? Masc. or Fem.?
 [PUaL:] I have always heard *mórtais* in the nom. as well as in the gen.¹⁵
14. [OJB:] *ridireacht* sometimes in MS has gen. like nom. generally *ridireachta*. Shall we normalize the latter?
 [PUaL:] Yes. But I thought I used “*ridireacht*” as a gen. plural.¹⁶ Of course the gen. sing. is *ridireachta*.¹⁷
15. [OJB:] *do réir*: Some people say *de réir* or *d’réir*, but I think you said you preferred do raéir (with the 1st *r* broad).
 [PUaL:] So I do, when the words are used separately. When they are stuck together “*d’réir*” is what I have heard.
16. [OJB:] *an dá r-íogain uasal*. One wd. expect uaisle here after the dual.
 [PUaL:] Yes. But my instinct will not have it here.

¹⁵Cf. an aidiacht *mórtaiseach: ana-mhórtaiseach* [anə vɔ:rtʲɔx] Diarmuid ‘ac Coitir (1880–1959), Doire na Sagart, Baile Mhúirne, rugadh ar na Corraithe, Béal Átha an Ghaorthaidh, ar théip T 59 i Roinn Bhéaloideas Éireann, Coláiste na hOllscoile, Baile Átha Cliath (táim buíoch de Roinn Bhéaloideas Éireann as an dtéip seo a chur ar fáil dom); *mhórtaiseach*, D. Ó Cróinín (ed.), *Seanachas Phádraig Í Chruaialoi* (Baile Átha Cliath 1982) 105 § 2. Féach, leis, ‘*Re poimp mhórtais* “through ostentation of pride”, in this case ‘wounded pride’. *poimpmhórtais* is possible, *mórtais* being the usual nom. form in Muskerry’, Donncha Ó Cróinín, ‘A devotional poem by Seán Máistir Ó Conaill’, *Celtica* 7 (1966) 48–64, ag 61, líne 99. Bhí foirm ina raibh *s* leathan ag cainteoirí eile i Músgraí, áfaigh, cf. *Bhí mórtas air* i LS le Donncha Ó Buachalla. Tá an tuiseal ginideach *mórtaise* in P. Ua Laoghaire, *Séadna* (Baile Átha Cliath 1904) 234; *mórtuishi*, P. Ó Laeri, *Shiàna* (Baile Átha Cliath 1914) 95 col. i. B’fhéidir go ritheadh san chun an Athar Peadair chomh maith i ganfhios do. D’fhágfadh san brí lena ndeir sé anso, toisc an *s* a bheith le clos leathan agus caol sa chantúint, agus mearbhall dá réir ag baint le díochlaonadh an fhocail. /muərtəs/ a deireadh Pádraig Ua Maoileoin a saolaíodh i gCom Dhineol, Dún Chaoin; /mo:rtəs/ atá ag Máire Bean Uí Chíobháin, an Ghráig, Baile an Fheirtéaraigh. D’airigh an Dr Roibeárd Ó hÚrdaíl na foirmeacha so a leanas i gCléire: /mo:r(h)əs/ *mór(th)as* < *mórtas*, /mo:r(h)əsəx/ *mór(th)asach* < *mórtasach*, agus (foirmeacha go bhfuil ó an fhocail seo dulta i bhfeidhm ar an bhfocal *mustar*) /mo:sdər/ *móstar*, /mo:sdərəx/ *móstarach*. ‘Mórtas’, ‘vórtas’ a chuir an tAimhirgíneach sa litriú simplí sa deireadh (m.sh. lgh 9, 17); ach fágadh ‘mórtais’ in Connall Ceárnach, *Don Ciochóté*, 11, 21.

¹⁶Ba dheocair é seo a shamhlú.

¹⁷Cf. ‘Níl díochlaonadh déanta aon uair ar ainmfhocal bainisncneach a chríochnaíonn ar -cht: *Áille na hÁilleacht*, *slat iascaireacht*, *saghas filíocht*, etc. . . .’, Donncha Ó Cróinín (ed.), *Scéalaíocht Amhlaoibh Í Luínse, Béaloideas* 35–6, 1967–68 (1971) 327. Tá dhá eisceacht le fáil sa leabhar san, áfaigh, ‘(slaitín) draíochta’, lgh 15, 18, 20 ʔrl., agus ‘(lucht) scuraíochta’ lgh 213, 242; tá an dá nós le tabhairt fé ndeara chomh maith in D. Ó Cróinín (ed.), *Seanachas Amhlaoibh Í Luínse* (Baile Átha Cliath 1980), m.sh. ‘ar feag sínsireachta’, lch 1; ‘breis cuireadóireacht’, lch 9.

17. [OJB:] The title of knighthood Don, like Eng. Sir always requires I think[,] to be followed by the Christian name. But once or twice you have *Donn* by itself – I am adding *Cíochóté*.

[PUaL:] Very good. Insert it where I have omitted it.

I have, I think[,] been writing *Dhuinn Chíc[h]óté* as a gen. It appears to me, from what you say that the gen. should be *Dhonn Ch.* and that the vocative should be not a *D[h]uinn Ch.* but a *Dhonn Ch.*, or perhaps a *Dhon Ch.* Use your own judgment in all such matters.¹⁸

18. [OJB:] A *rí*. I don't think this is a suitable mode of addressing a knight when the scene is laid in Spain. I think *a ridire ró uasail* and *a dhuin'uasail*, which you also have are more appropriate. Even in Ireland where "kings" were common, the lowest *rí* had a following of 3000 (a *triocha céad*). The Spanish has simply vuestra merced = your honour.

[PUaL:] Very good. I confess that I was giving the thing an Irish tone rather against my instinct. Stick to "*a dhuinuasail*."

19. [OJB:] I notice that you say *Bhíodh dochtúir léighinn ó Shiguensa i dtigh an tsagairt*. But was not this the priest himself? "el Cura – que era hombre docto, graduado en Sigüenza"]].

[PUaL:] I forget. You will, of course, correct that and any other things of this kind which you see in the story.

[OJB:] More questions to follow.

[PUaL:] Very Good.

[PUaL:] As you see I am not following the literal text. In fact I could not make the story a bit of good if I were to do so. I am doing my best to bring out the spirit of the story, and the fun.

At the same time you are right about such expressions as "*a rígh*" &c.

"*A dhuinuasail*" or "... (*iaraim ar*) *t'onóir*" are the living Irish expressions.

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SEÁN UA SÚILLEABHÁIN

Coláiste na hOllscoile, Corcaigh

¹⁸Do leath an freagra ar cheist a seacht go drom an leathanaigh agus is ina alt nua fé sin atá an t-alt so. Dealraím gurb é seo an áit is oiriúnaí dho.