

FOLKLORE, MYTHOLOGY, AND POPULAR ANTIQUITIES

- 125 Brand, John. *Observations on the popular antiquities of Great Britain; chiefly illustrating the origin of our vulgar and provincial customs, ceremonies, and superstitions*. Arranged, rev., and greatly enl. by Henry Ellis. With a new introd. by Leslie Shepard. London: 1849; Detroit: 1969. 3 v.

Deals basically with "literary and historical allusions to tradition" and forms part of the groundwork of materials for the study of British folklore. Brand discusses various saints' days, dances, songs, folk customs and includes many poetic illustrations.

- 126 Brown, Arthur Charles Lewis. *The origin of the Grail legend*. Cambridge, Mass: 1943. 476 p.

Bibliographical foot-notes.

Brown examines Irish and French tales in order to demonstrate his thesis, that the romances of Chretien de Troyes had their roots in Celtic mythology. Though the relation between Arthurian romance and Irish-Welsh mythology is still debated and parts of this work have been disproved, Brown's contributions are not without value.

- 127 Carleton, William. *Traits and stories of the Irish peasantry*. Complete edition. London: n.d. 821 p.
First edition, 1830.

Carleton was a novelist and collector of folk tales. This is his finest work, and gives a picture of Irish peasant life before the famine. Carleton collected his stories from his travels in the Irish countryside, and here, as in his other works, is expressed the normally inarticulate peasant's viewpoint, told with humor and genius.

- 128 Chambers, Robert, ed. *The book of days, a miscellany of popular antiquities in connection with the calendar, including anecdote, biography, and history, curiosities of literature and oddities of human life and character*. London F, Edinburgh: 1906. 2 v. First edition, 1862-64.

Consists of matters connected with the church calendar, including popular festivals, Saints' Days, and other holidays, with illustrations of Christian antiquities in general; phenomena connected with the seasonal changes; folk-lore of the United Kingdom (popular notions of the times and seasons); notable events, biographies and anecdotes connected with the days of the year; articles of popular archaeology tending to illustrate the progress of civilization, manners, literature and ideas; and "curious and fugitive" pieces. "...a repertory of old fireside ideas in general..."

- 129 Cross, Tom Peete, ed. *Ancient Irish tales*, edited by Tom Peete Cross and Clark Harris Slover. New York: 1936. 609 p.

A collection of ancient Irish tales, including the tales of the Tuatha de Danann, the Ulster cycle, the Fenian cycle, tales of the traditional kings, the "Voyage of Bran," and place name stories.

- 130 Hazlitt, William Carew. *Faiths and folklore of the British Isles; a descriptive and historical dictionary of the superstitions, beliefs and popular customs of England, Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, from Norman times to the end of the 19th century, with classical and foreign analogues*. New York: 1965. 2 v.

A "personal" book into which Hazlitt injected his own views, likes and dislikes. He considered many customs barbaric but *fascinating*. A Victorian moralist, a compiler without objectivity, honest in his methodology, Hazlitt presents a thoroughly entertaining view of popular antiquities. The nucleus of the work was Brand's *Popular Antiquities*, which Hazlitt revised.

- 131 Hyde, Douglas, Pres. Irish Free State. *Sgealta Thomais ui Chathasaigh.saigh. Mayo stories told by Thomas Casey*. Collected, edited and translated with notes, etc., by Douglas Hyde. Dublin, 1939. xxiii, 388, 15 p.

Irish Texts Society. Publications, v. 36.

The tales are printed in Irish, exactly as spoken, with English translations. Stories range from the quite natural ("Sean O Maille") to the fanciful ("Thomas Casey amongst the Fairies").

- 132 Lucas, A.T. *Furze; a survey and history of its uses in Ireland*.

Dublin: 1960. 203 p.

Furze, now considered a troublesome weed, was once important in the Irish rural economy, especially in the 18th and 19th centuries. This survey traces the many uses of furze and its association with popular beliefs and customs, and attempts to estimate when these various usages came into being.

- 133 Nutt, Alfred Trubner. *Ossian and the Ossianic Literature*. New York: 1972. Reprint of the 1899 ed. 61 p.

Bibliography: p. 51-54.

Emphasizes the enduring nature of Ossianic literature, which down to the middle of the 18th century still retained its sway over the native literary class. A fine introduction to Ossian, though Nutt deals very little with MacPherson.

- 134 - *Studies on the Legend of the Holy Grail; with especial reference to the hypothesis of its Celtic origin*. New York: 1965. 281 p.

A collection of studies dealing with particular aspects of the Grail legend. Nutt describes the character of his results as "conjectural"; and since the original publication of Nutt's theories, they have been the subject of much debate among Celtic scholars.

- 135 Squire, Charles. *Celtic myth & legend, poetry & romance ...with illustration in colour & monochrome after paintings by J.H.F. Bacon, A.R.A., & other artists*. London: 191-450 p.

First edition, 1905, under title: *The mythology of the British Isles*.

"A few books upon Celtic mythology and literature" p. 419-424.

Squire's vol. has been superseded by later scholarship, but his work is interesting and useful if one does not rely too heavily on his theories, especially those relating to Arthur. He covers Gaelic and British mythology and survivals of Celtic paganism.

- 136 Wilde, Jane Francesca (Elgee). *Ancient cures, charms, and usages of Ireland; contributions to Irish lore*. Detroit: 1970. Reprint of the 1890 ed. 256 p.

A delightful volume of cures and charms for various illnesses and misfortunes, and an early major contribution towards the collection of Irish folklore at a time when knowledge of such things was rapidly disappearing.

- 137 Wood-Martin, William Gregory. *Traces of the elder faiths of Ireland; a folklore sketch and handbook of Irish pre-Christian traditions*. London, New York (etc.) 1902. 2 v.

"Bibliography of papers and works on Irish pre-Christian archaeology and folklore": volume 2, p. 327-414.

Uses folklore, based on legend and tradition, and archaeology to demonstrate the view that pagan traditions still exist under a Christian exterior in Ireland. Contains a sizeable bibliography but no footnotes.

- 138 Yeats, William Butler. *Irish fairy and folk tales*. New York: 1918. xviii, 35, 1 p.

Yeats gives tales representing every kind of Irish folk faith - changelings, fairies, ghosts, saints, giants, and others; also included are specimens of fairy poetry. His notes, explanations of Irish words, and general descriptions of banshees, "trooping fairies," etc., add to the usefulness of this volume.