

Princess Grace Irish Library

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Storytelling in Irish Tradition



A Talk by
Professor

Ríonach úí Ógáin

Director of the National Folklore Collection,
University College Dublin

The Ireland Fund of Monaco Academic-in-Residence
at the Princess Grace Irish Library

Monday 8 April 2013 at 20:00

Professor Ríonach úí Ógáin, MA, PhD (National University of Ireland) is Director of the National Folklore Collection, University College Dublin.

She has published numerous articles on traditional song and music and has lectured widely on the subject.

Among her audio publications are the compact discs with texts *Beauty Deas an Oileáin: Music and Song of the Blasket Islands (Ceimíní Cladaigh)* and *Amhráin Shorcha Ní Ghuairim (Comhairle Bhéaloideas Éireann / Gael Linn)*.

Her book *Immortal Dan: Daniel O'Connell in Irish Folk Tradition* (1995) draws on her PhD study. Her more recent publications include *Faoi Rothaí na Gréine: Amhráin as Conamara a bhailigh Máirtín Ó Cadhain* (1999).

In 2003, she was awarded a Government of Ireland Research Fellowship by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences for her study *Mise an Fear Ceoil – The Diaries of Séamus Ennis*, the celebrated musician who worked as a folk music collector with the Irish Folklore Commission 1942-1947. This was published in March 2007. *Going to the Well for Water* was published in 2009. She is current editor of *Béaloideas The Journal of the Folklore of Ireland Society*. Her most recent publication *The Otherworld: Music & Song from Irish Tradition* (2012) is an imaginative, innovative and scholarly edition of primary sources with analytical notes.

Ireland is renowned for its storytelling – rich, colourful, vibrant and imaginative. This illustrated lecture will introduce some of the stories from the vernacular tradition. The

illustrations draw a great deal on the sources of the National Folklore Collection at University College Dublin. The Collection is custodian to the vast harvest of oral narrative recorded and documented by ethnographic fieldworkers since the mid nineteen twenties.

The tales mirror the Irish imagination and, among other stories, the lecture will introduce tales of some of the great heroes, accounts of the Otherworld and of fairy belief, in addition to presenting some of the great names in Irish storytelling and some of the lesser-known recounters. Excerpts of tales will be played and images reflecting the storytellers and their art will be shown.

BOOK-SIGNING

THE OTHERWORLD

Music & Song from Irish Tradition

Edited by Ríonach úí Ógáin & Tom Sherlock

Published by Comhairle Bhéaloideas Éireann

Paperback, 160 pages, illustrated, 2 CDs

Price 20 EUR – cash only

Belief in the existence of a parallel world and in otherworldly phenomena has long been established in Irish tradition and facets of such belief continue to be found in contemporary Irish society.

This book, with two accompanying compact discs, examines aspects of the enduring belief and fascination which the Irish imagination has with supernatural beings, encounters and occurrences as represented in song and music. The material contained in this publication which includes recorded sound, photographs and manuscript transcriptions is drawn from National Folklore Collection/

Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann in University College Dublin.

A number of illuminating aspects of popular tradition are addressed such as the connection between the supernatural and excellence in the performance of music and song, the dangers inherent in engaging with the fairies, the fear of abduction or loss, benign supernatural encounters, the existence of otherworldly creatures such as the banshee or the leprechaun and the physical landscape as perceived in inherited oral knowledge. There are encounters that reflect the blending of Christian and non-Christian ideas. This is a book for both the general reader and scholars of folklore.

The inclusion of contemporary performers alongside older archival material is testament to the fact that the National Folklore Collection continues to grow and remains the most important repository of Irish vernacular culture.

The songs, music and lore contained in this publication are the foundation stone upon which the book rests and this material reflects the circumstances, hopes, anxieties, fears, beliefs, modes of entertainment and sometimes the sense of mischief of Irish people, both urban and rural. The selected examples are illustrated with numerous black and white photographs, many of them taken by the original collectors. There can be little doubt that the full spectrum of human experience is better comprehended with an understanding of traditional lore and belief. *The Otherworld: Music & Song from Irish Tradition* addresses an important aspect of that human experience and seeks to encourage just such an engagement.

DISC 1

1. *Down by the Green Roadside-um* sung by Mickey Connors
2. *Jig Learned off the Fairies* played on the fiddle by Mickey Doherty
3. *Bá Phrochlaise* (The Bruckless Drowning) lilted by Cítí Seáin Ní Chuinneagáin
4. *The Heart's Delight* sung by Austin Flanagan
5. *The Coleman Brothers' Strange Experience* told by P.J. Duffy
6. *The Boys of the Lough and The Merry Blacksmith* played on the fiddle by Michael Coleman
7. *Cruel Willies* sung by Stephen Murphy
8. *Petticoat Loose* told by Seán Ó Catháin
9. *Petticoat Loose* played on the fiddle by Darren MagAoidh
10. *Amhráin na Síogaí* (The Song of the Fairies) sung by Róisín Elsafty
11. *The Moving Clouds* played on the fiddle by Néillidh Boyle
12. *Amhrán an Frag* (The Song of the Frog) sung by Peadar Ó Ceannabháin
13. *The Banshee* told by Mag Doyle
14. *The Banshee Reel* played on the tin whistle by Micho Russell
15. *Seachrán Sí* (Set Astray by the Fairies) sung by Saileog Ní Cheannabháin
16. *Willie Leonard* sung by John Stokes
17. *Port na bPucaí* (The Tune of the Fairies) lilted by Muiris Ó Dálaigh
18. *Réidhchnoc Mná Duibhe* (The Smooth Hill of the Dark Woman) sung by Pádraig Ó Cearnaigh
19. *Pilib Séimh Ó Fathaigh* sung by Ciarán Ó Gealbháin
20. *Tiúin an Phóbaire Sí* (The Tune of the Fairy Piper) lilted by Máire Ní Bheim
21. *Taibhse Chonaill* (Conall's Ghost) played on the fiddle by Rónán Galvin

DISC 2

1. *The Gold Ring* played on the uilleann pipes by Cormac Cannon
2. *The Fiddler and the Fairy* told by Mickey Doherty

3. *An Mhaighdean Mhara* (The Mermaid) sung by Nóra Dunlop
4. *Willie O!* sung by Bernie Lawrence
5. *The Lone Bush* played on the flute by Tara Diamond
6. *An Aill Eidhneach* (The Ivy-Covered Rock) sung by Ciarán Ó Con Cheadnainn
7. *Tam Lín* sung by Áine Furey
8. *Cailín Deas Crúite na mBó* (The Pretty Girl Milking the Cows) sung by Patrick de Búrca
9. *A Fairy Dance* played on the fiddle by Máire O'Keefe
10. *Port na Síóg* (The Time of the Fairies) lilted by Peait Sheáin Ó Conaola
11. *The Fairy Fort* told by Paddy Hedderman
12. *Iomáin Áth na gCasán* (The Annagassan Hurling Match) sung by Máire Ní Choilm
13. *The Lutharadán's Jig* played on the fiddle by Junior Crehan
14. *Ceann Boirne* (Black Head) lilted by Micho Russell
15. *Amhrán na Phúca* (The Song of the Pooka) sung by Sarah Ghriallais
16. *The Banshee* told by Edward Kendellan
17. *The Liltin' Banshee* and *An Rógairé Dubh* (The Black Rogue) whistled by Robert Harvey
18. *An Cailín Deas Rua* (The Nice Red-Haired Girl) sung by Nell Ní Chróinín
19. *Paddy Bán Quigley and The Boys of Malin* told and played on the fiddle by John Doherty



Reservations are necessary
due to the limited number of seats.

Entry 10 EUR per person payable at the door.

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