

DENB 2453

SECOND PUBLIC EXAMINATION
HONOUR SCHOOL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

COURSE II

B23 OLD AND EARLY MIDDLE IRISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Monday 13 May 2002, 9.30 a.m.

Time allowed - Three hours

Answer Question 1 and *two* others. You should pay careful attention in your answers to the precise terms of the questions.

Do *not* turn over until told that you may do so.

Answer Question 1 and two others.

1. Translate **three** of the following passages, choosing at least **one** from each section, and comment on any points of special interest in their subject-matter and their linguistic forms:

SECTION A

- (a) Sínithi íarum co mmemdatair in dá liic ro bátar imbi. I fiadnaissiu Bricrenn ucut do-rónad,' ol Fergus. 'At-reig la sodain. Con-riccim-se friss i ndorus ind liss os mé athgoíte.
 '"Fuit! Día do bethu! a phopa Fhergus," ol sé. "Cate Conchobor?"
 '"Ní fhatar-sa," ol mé.
 'Téit ass íarum. Ba dorchae ind adaig. Fópair a n-ármach. Co n-accae ara chiunn in fer, 7 leth a chinn fair, 7 leth fir aili fora muin.
 '"Congnae lem, a Chú Chulainn," ol sé. "Rom bíth 7 tuccus leth mo bráthar formo muin. Beir síst lim."

(b) 'Ba immecal immurgu in t-arae colléic 7 in-láa-side a charpat 7 do-srenga a fhortgai 7 a fhorgaimniu ro bátar fo Choin Chulainn úare nád rolámaír a díuschud, dáig as-m-bert Cú Chulainn fris-som ar thus nách díusched fri úathad.
 'Teccat íarum maic Nechtan Scéne.
 '"Cia fil sund?" ol fer diib.
 '"Macc becc do-chóid indiu ar esclu hi carpat," ol in t-arae.
 '"Nípo do shóinmigi," ol in láech, "7 nírop do fhechtnaigi dó a chétgabáil gaiscid. Ná bíd innar thír 7 ná gélat ind eich and ní as móo," ol in láech.
 '"Ataat a n-éssi im láim-se," ol in t-arae. "Nírbo lat-su tullem ecráite," ol Ibar frisin láech, "7 atá dano in mac inna chotlud."
 '"Nída macc écin," ol Cú Chulainn, "acht is do chuindchid chomraic fri fer do-dechuid in macc fil and."

(c) Íar sin at-racht sūas ocus no-mbertaigedar. 'Bad maith dūn' olse 'ocus dona hōegedaib dod<o>n-āncatar.' Anait sidi leis trí laa ocus tēora aidchi. Ocus tēit leo for leth (.i. la techta Connacht prius). 'Ro-bá-sa trá' olse 'i n-imshnīm mōr ocus cuntabairt móir co-nderglē .i. do-ratus-<s>a in coin do Ailill ocus do Meidb. Ocus tecat ar chenn in chon co sochruid ocus co hūallach, ocus ros-bía lind ocus biad ocus ascada, ocus bērtait in coin, ocus is fochen dóib.' Buidig sidi *dano*. Luid Íar sin co techta Ulad. 'Do-ratus-<s>a trá' olse 'asmo chuntabairt in coin do Chonchobur. Ocus bad ūallach tīastar ara chenn .i. formna mathe Ulad. Bērtait ascada uili ocus ros-bia failte.'

- (d) 'Do·bér oīnchomram duit, a Cheit,' ol Conall. 'Tongu na·tongat mo thūath, ḍo·ro·gabus gaī im lāim nad·raba cen guin duini do C<h>onnachaib cach ḍenlaithi
ocus orcain fri daigid cech n-ōenaidchi, ocus niro·c<h>otlus riam can c<h>enn
Connachtaig fom glūin.' 'Is fir' ol Cet, `at ferr do lāech indó-sa. Mad Ánlúan
no·beth is'taig, do·bērad comram ar araile duit. Is anim dún nad·fil is'taig.' 'Atá
immurgu' ol Conall, oc tabairt chinn Ánlúain assa chris; ocus do·lēici do Chet
dara bruinni co·rrōemid a loim fola fora bēolu. Ro·gab side *immurgu* ón muicc,
ocus dessid Conall acci.

TURN OVER

SECTION B

- (a) "Marbhar ind ingen!" ol ind óic.
"Ni-thó!" ol Conchobor, "Bérthair lim-sa ind ingen i mbārach," ol Conchobor, "ocus ailebhair dom réir fén ocus bid sí ben bías im fharrad-sa."
Ocus nira·lāmatar Ulaid a chocert immi. Do·gníther ón dano: ro·alt la Conchobor co·mbo sí ingen as mó·rállel ro·boí i n-Hērinn. Is i llis fo leith ro·alt connach·acced fer di Ultaib cosin n·úair no·foad la Conchobor ocus ni·baī duine no·lēicthe issin les sin acht a haite-si ocus a mumme ocus dano Lebarcham, ar ní·éta gabáil di ssidi ar ba ban-cháinte.
- (b) Fecht n-and *didiu* luid in rechtaire matain moch co·rralai cor imma tech-som. Co·n-accae in lānamain inna cotluth. Do·chūaid iar sin coro·dúsig in ríg.
"Ni·fūaramar-ni," or-se, "mnaī do dingbāla-so cosin diu. Atá i fail Noísen maic Uislenn ben dingbāla ríg íarthair domuin. Marbhar fo chét-óir Noísi ocus foath in ben lat-so," ol in rechtaire.
"Acc," ol in rí, "acht eirg-siu dia guidi dam-sa cech lāa fo chlith."
Do·gníther ón. A n-at·bered *immurgu* in rechtaire frie-si chaidchi, ad·féded-si dia cēliu in n-aidchi sin fo chét-óir. Úair naro·étad ní dī, no·erálta for maccaib Uislenn dul i ngābthib ocus i cathaib ocus i ndrobēlaib ar dáig coro·mmarbtas. Ar-aī-de batar sonairti-sium im cech n-imguin connar·étad ní dóib asna amsib sin.
- (c) Fūachaidsem fri frega fál
a rosc, a nglése comlán;
fūachimm chēin fri fēgi fis
mu rosc rēil, cesu imdis.

Faelidsem cu ndēne dul
hi nglen luch inna gēchrub;
hi tucu cheist ndoraid ndil
os mé chene am faelid.
- (d) Dom-fharcai fidbaide fál
fom-chain loíd luin, lúad nād cél;
hūas mo lebrán, ind línech,
fom-chain trírech inna n-én.

Fomm-chain coí menn, medair mass,
hi mbrot glass de dingnaib doss.
Debrath! nom-Choimmdiú-coíma;
caín-scríbaimm fo roída ross.

2. Translate **three** of the following passages and comment on words or phrases printed in **italics** in the three passages chosen:

- (a) 'Guidid Cú Chulainn dia máthair didiu a léiciud *dochum* na macraide. "Ní regae," ol a máthair, "*condit roib* coímthecht di ánrothaib Ulad." "Rochán lim-sa anad fri sodain," ol Cú Chulainn. "Inchoisc-siu dam-sa ced leth atá Emain." "Fa-thúaid amne," ol a máthair, 7 is doraid a n-uide," ol sí, "atá Slíab Fúait etruib." "Do-bér indass fair," ol Cú Culainn, "ammin."
- (b) Boí rí amrae for Laignib, Mac Dathó a ainm. Boí cù occo. *Im dīched* in cú Laigniu huili. *Do eth* ó Ailill ocus ó Meidb do chungid in chon. Immalle dano tāncatar ocus techta Ulad ocus Conchobair do chungid in chon chētna. Ro-ferad fāilte friu huili, ocus *ructha cuci-sium* isin mbrudin.
- (c) 'Frithālid, a Ultō, in comram beus,' ol Cet. '*Nis·rainnfe* indossa,' ol Muinremor mac Gerginn. Inn é so Muinremor?' ol Cet. 'Is mé ro·glan mo goo fodéoid, a Muinremu*<i>r</i>*, ol Cet. '*Ni·fuilet* trí thráth and ó thucus-<s>a a trí laíhcenn ūait im chenn do chétmeic ast fherunn.' *Dessid* side dano.
- (d) A mboī-seom didiu a oínur int-í Noísi i-mmaig, *mos ētlan-si* cuci immach amal bid do thecht secha ocus nis·n-athgéoin.
'Is cáin,' ol-se-sseom, 'in t-samaisc *téte* sechunn!'
'Dlegtair,' ol-si-si, 'samaisci móra bale na·bít tairb.'
'Atá tarb in chóicid lat,' or-se-sseom, '.i. rí Ulad.'
'No-togfainn-se etruib far ndís,' or-si-si, 'occus *no·gēbainn* tarbín óag amalt-so.'
'Ni-thó!' ol-se-sseom. 'Cid fo bīthin fáitsine Cathbad.'
'In dom fémed-sa adeiri sin?'
'Bid dō immurgu,' or-se-ssem.
- (e) At·chūas do Fhergus īarum an-í-sin ocus do Dubthach ocus do Chormac. Tāncatar side co·ndernsat gníma móra fo chēt-óir .i. *Dubthach do marbad Mane maic Conchobuir* ocus Fhiachna mac Feidilme ingine Conchobuir do guin dond óen-fhorgab ocus Fergus do marbad Thraigheoin maic Traiglethain ocus a brāthar ocus sārugud Conchobuir impu ocus cath do thabairt eturru īar sin isind óen-lōu co·torchratar tri chét de Ultaib eturru ocus *ingenrad Ulad do marbad do Dubthach* rīa matain ocus Emain do loscud do Fhergus. Is ed lotar īarum co Ailill ocus co Meidb ar ro·fetatar is sī *lānamain foda rōelsat* ocus dano ni-bu chūl serce do Ultaib.

TURN OVER

(f) Cia beimmi a-min nach ré
nīderban cách a chéle;
maith la cehtar nár a dán;
subaigthius a óenurán.

Hēfesin as choimsid dáu
in muid du-ngní cach ōenláu;
du thabairt doraid du glé
for mu mud cēin am messe.

3. Why is the syntax of the copula different from that of the substantive verb in Old Irish?
4. How should stylistic variation in early Irish sagas be explained?
5. What significance has *Táin Bó Cúailnge* for early Irish perceptions of gender?
6. What is the role of the *macgnímrada* of Cú Chulainn within *Táin Bó Cúailnge*?
7. Is the point of *Scéla Mucce Meic Dathó* to exhibit the futility of heroic pride?
8. Does the plot of *Longes Mac nUislen* turn on a conflict between honour and sexual desire?
9. Could all the characters in *Longes Mac nUislen* have been aware of Cathbad's prophecies? And, if they were, what would that imply?
10. What difference is made to the understanding of individual verses within the bardic tracts by the context in which they are preserved?

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