

Review of CMCS in the TLS

The regularity and, for Celtic Studies journals, frequency of its publication, along with the high standards set by its editor, Patrick Sims-Williams, have ensured its success. Articles range across every discipline and through all the medieval Celtic languages, but the editor insists quite rightly that each piece be written so that any medievalist might understand it. For instances, all quotations from medieval languages (or from Greek or Latin) are translated. While the historical linguistic pieces cannot be evaluated by everyone, their lines of reasoning can be followed by most intelligent readers. In general, the various articles display a high degree of readability not always found in specialist journals. Another feature contributes to the journal's success: arranging a subscription from anywhere is easy, and one can pay by a variety of credit cards.

Edgar Slotkin, *Times Literary Supplement*

Some Recent Testimonials

‘Thank you for an absolutely wonderful job, unmatched by any other editor whom I have known — you have increased the quality so much that I hardly feel able to take the benefit Thank you for your prodigious work in improving this’.

Prof. Ronald Hutton, FBA

University of Bristol

2011

I fully appreciate your efforts in providing such a high-standard periodical at such a reduced price.

Prof. Jiro Yoshioka

Amagasaki-Shi, Hyogo, Japan

14/3/2011

As someone who has been active in research and teaching in the field of medieval Celtic Studies for over forty years, I am happy to testify to the relevance and importance of the *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies* to my work. The articles therein are of very high quality in both medieval Welsh and Irish studies. As chair of the Department of Celtic Languages and Literatures at Harvard University from 1991 to 2006 I pointed my students in the direction of the journal as one of the most important sources for dependable scholarship in our field. It has certainly been that for me personally.

Patrick K. Ford

Margaret Brooks Robinson Professor Emeritus of Celtic Languages and Literatures.

Honorary Professor of Welsh, Bangor University, North Wales

Honorary Research Fellow, Center for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies,

University of Wales.

1/7/2012

Die Zeitschrift "Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies", die vom Department of Welsh der Universität Aberystwyth herausgegeben wird, ist mir seit Beginn meines Studiums der Keltologie im Herbst 1996 als eines der wichtigsten Fachorgane vertraut. In ihr

erscheinen regelmäßig Artikel, die sich durch innovative Ansätze auszeichnen und methodisch grundlegende Fragestellungen behandeln. Im Rahmen meiner Lehrtätigkeit (von 2007 bis 2009 als "Lektorin für Keltisch" an der Universität Bonn und seitdem als Lehrbeauftragte, wie auch zuvor als Lehrbeauftragte an der Universität Marburg) habe ich immer wieder in Lektürekursen mittelalterlicher Texte sowie in Seminaren zur mittelalterlichen insularen Literatur entsprechende Artikel aus den CMCS im Unterricht vorgestellt oder zur Referatsvorbereitung empfohlen. Bei meiner aktuellen Arbeit, einem Projekt zur Graphie altirischer Texte in Handschriften aus der Zeit vor 900, das an der Universität Marburg angesiedelt ist, war ich glücklich, die Faksimile-Ausgabe des Juvencus-Codex mit Kommentar von Helen McKee, die im Jahre 2000 in der Monographienreihe der CMCS erschienen ist, zur Verfügung zu haben.

Dagmar Bronner

*Sprachwissenschaftliches Seminar der Philipps-Universität
Marburg 5/7/2012*

Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies ist eines der wichtigsten wissenschaftlichen Zeitschriften im Bereich der KELTOLOGIE, wenn nicht sogar die wichtigste Zeitschrift neben der deutschen Zeitschrift mit dem Titel "Zeitschrift für celtische Philologie (ZCP)", denn sie behandelt nicht, wie die anderen Zeitschriften, nur eine keltologische Einzelphilologie, sondern alle Philologien der umfassenden Keltologie zusammen. Sie ist deswegen auch für den Unterricht im Fachbereich der Keltologie so wichtig, weil sie teildisziplinenübergreifend ist. Sie bringt die Studierenden auf den neuesten Stand der Erkenntnisse bzw. auf den neuesten Stand der laufenden Forschungsprojekte. Als Honorarprofessorin der Universität Freiburg i.Brsg. biete ich innerhalb der Lehrverpflichtungen des Englischen Seminars regelmäßig zwei Kurse zur Keltologie an, meist zu mittelalterlichen Themen der irischen Philologie. In diesem Bereich bin ich seit 1985 tätig. Meine Kollegin, Dr. Britta Irslinger, bietet zusätzlich in jedem Semester einen keltologischen Sprachkurs an, irisch oder bretonisch.

Prof. Dr. Dr.hc. (NUI) Hildegard L.C. Tristram

Englisches Seminar, Universität Freiburg

Freiburg i.Brsg.

Germany

20/7/2012

I have been a subscriber to CMCS for many years and I have bought some of its monographs. However, I am not an academic in Celtic studies, though in fairly recent years I have done some post-graduate academic work in an aspect of the art history of the ancient world (reception of the frescoes in the Villa of the Mysteries, Pompeii). My 'working' life was in the very different field of central banking. Accordingly, I have only a lay interest in the history, literatures, languages and art of the Celtic-speaking peoples and the survival of their cultures into the modern world. However, I have found many CMCS articles fascinating and admirable, and they have gone a long way to satisfying that interest and my general curiosity about things Celtic, as I hope they will continue to do.

Anthony Williams

London NW1

10/1/2013

As writers and teachers who maintain a lively interest in the Matter of Britain, we teach and write about the Celtic world in history, belief and literature. We feel supported and informed by CMCS, knowing we are reading the cutting edge of our subject areas. We ourselves have written over 120 books, with 40%-50% of our output related to the Celtic world or the Matter of Britain. We also teach worldwide at a variety of centres and institutes to members of the general public, as well as to students and adults in further education. They expect us to be knowledgeable and up to date with our subjects, as well as providing them with good bibliographic references to support their studies. The impact of CMCS goes far beyond universities and its research inspires many ordinary readers whose love of Celtic Britain and medieval matters cannot be sated. Whether someone is researching the Celtic world for a novel, a school project, or just fascinated by the heritage and impact of history, journals like CMCS carry the banner high.

Caitlín & John Matthews,

The Foundation for Inspirational & Oracular Studies, London

17/1/2013

Articles published in this journal have not only dealt with issues relevant to specialists in the field but also with subject-matters of a wider interest to students of language, literature and history in the British Isles and beyond.

In teaching Celtic Studies to students in Germany, P. Sims-Williams article *Celtomania and Celtoscepticism* (CMCS 36) has become a standard starting point that introduces beginners to complicated issues in a competent and unbiased way. S. Rodway's discussion of *The date and authorship of Culhwch ac Olwen* (CMCS 49) is a must for every class of students approaching this important Early Welsh text, as is M. Haycock's *Taliesin's Questions* (CMCS 33) for Celtic Studies graduates.

The proceedings of the XII International Congress of Celtic Studies hosted by the University of Aberystwyth in 2003 and published selectively as vol. 53-54 of CMCS reflects the high quality and broad range of Celtic Studies in Aberystwyth in an international framework.

The admirable readiness to take up challenges for teaching and research in the field of Celtic is perhaps most evident in the CMCS monograph series. This not only comprises the authoritative facsimile of the Juvenius manuscript by H. McKee (2000) - the kind of work that might perhaps be expected from a Welsh University - but also a book on Breton (M.-A. Constantine: *Breton Ballads* 1996) and several on Continental Celtic. Contributions on Breton written in English are certainly hard to come by. Continental Celtic has traditionally been the domain of scholarship in Germany, France, Italy and Spain, where enormous achievements were made over the last decade published in the respective national languages.

The Celtic Department of the University of Aberystwyth has by now joined this field of research (as the only University Department in the UK) and provided English language contributions in an impressive number. The research project known as the "Ptolemy project" resulted in printed and digital publications like G.R. Isaac's *Place-names in Ptolemy's Geography* (2000) and A. Falileyev's *Dictionary of Continental Celtic Place-Names* (2010). It, moreover, served to integrate Celtic Studies in the British

Isles into the European scholarly community, by establishing links to specialists e.g. in the Iberian Peninsula, an area virtually ignored in the British Isles previously. If the study of Continental Celtic had been a field left to Universities in Continental Europe for decades in the last century, the initiative of Aberystwyth University has by now almost reversed this situation. A. Falileyev's monograph *Celtic Dacia* (2009) is a ground-breaking reassessment of material hitherto little studied, the volumes by M. E. Raybould & P. Sims-Williams on Continental Celtic personal names (2007 and 2009), with English translations and helpful comments, make it possible for the first time to present the evidence of Latin inscriptions to undergraduate students.

As a Senior Lecturer in Historical Linguistics with a main focus on the Celtic languages I have greatly profited from the scholarly and didactic output provided by CMCS and related works. It is very much to be hoped that the inspiring work of the Celtic Department in Aberystwyth will be continued in the future.

PD Dr. D.S. Wodtko

Hist.-vgl. Sprachwissenschaft

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

24/1/2013

Máire Herbert's essay on "Crossing Historical and Literary Boundaries" (Vol. 53/54, from the 13th ICCS) was absolutely brilliant. I shared it with my students in the Celtic lit. survey that I taught at Longwood University, as well as, more recently, with my adult learners in the retired folks program at Duke University. In each case they were struck by the relevance and perspicuity of Herbert's argument.

Jenny Rowland's intriguing insights on "Maiming Horses in Branwen" (vol. 63), with its amazing anthropological approach, amused and captivated my students (my class at Longwood had usually 30 students, ranging in age from 18 to 50; my Duke University class in Early Irish and Welsh Hero Tales of Wonder enrolled and had an enrollment limited to 25). They really enjoyed Rowland's forthright deconstruction of the Welsh tale. It's precisely the type of study that will popularize Celtic studies and appeal to the next generation of Celtic students.

Just last week I received my new copy of *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies* (vol. 64). Patrick Sims-Williams extraordinary article on "Celtic Civilization" leaves one breathless. Forty-four densely packed pages with oodles of footnoted references--really a summary of Celtic studies scholarship published over the past 25 years or more. This is a model of scholarly research at its best. I will again be teaching the retired/adult-learner class on a Celtic topic, and of course I will share the article with them--truly it will be a kind of ice-breaker for the students, to bring into focus the breadth and depth of this important area of humanistic research. I will share the footnotes with the Acquisitions Librarian at the University of North Carolina Library, so that as many as possible of the citations are available in Davis (the research library).

Dr. Raymond J. Cormier

"First Gent Emeritus"

Longwood University-VA

28/1/2013

I was professor of Celtic languages and civilization at Utrecht University 1982 - 2001. I still publish regularly and have nearly completed a book on the *Táin Bó Cúailnge*, which

offers a new approach of the work. I own privately all the volumes of *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies* and use them regularly. Both the University Library of Utrecht, where I taught for more than nineteen years, and the Zentralbibliothek in Zürich, where I do my research now, own a complete set. It would be difficult to imagine Celtic Studies without it. It is one of the few Celtic journals with a regular publication date, and the one with the shortest interval in between. With its wide range of articles and its book recensions it helps Celtic scholars to keep abreast, especially in the field of British-Celtic. I find especially rewarding the research articles (and monographs) by, for instance, Marged Haycock, Mary-Ann Constantine, Alexander Falileyev and Patrick Sims-Williams. As CMCS is written in an accessible language and offers a platform to young scholars, it is also an important source of inspiration for the student generation.

Dr. Doris Edel

Emeritus Professor for Celtic languages and civilization at the University of Utrecht

Üricon

Switzerland

12/2/2013

This journal has a regular publication, every semester you receive a handy booklet of moderate weight which you can carry with you to read in buses or trains, and its reading is always gratifying: there are only well chosen authors, on well chosen subjects. CMCS is not restricted to Medieval Studies: Linguistic history and etymologies are sometimes dealt with, outside the chronological limits of Middle Ages. The reviews may also concern other periods than Middle Ages.

The principles followed in every article facilitate the reading: clear divisions in the article, bibliographical details always in the footnotes. By experience, I can say that for any text or question studied in CMCS, I am sure to find there the last and most complete "status questionis". As a teacher of Celtic languages, I found this journal very helpful and full of resources for my work.

I remember a fine study by the editor, about the provenance of the Llywarch Hen Poems (CMCS 26, Winter 1993): analysing the place-names and the personal names quoted in the englynion, the author argues that the main interest of the poet lies in Brycheiniog; a careful examination of the genealogies, and the fact that a (late) charter in the Book of Llandav quotes a *claud lywarch hen* in the vicinity of a monastery called Llangors, Brycheiniog, leads to the conclusion that Llywarch Hen might have belonged to the *clas* of this monastery. A perfect demonstration, founded on a solid basis, quoting sources which are well known to everybody: this is the type of research which is accessible to the students, and useful to them.

Marged Haycock's study on didactic poems ascribed to Taliesin (« Taliesin's Questions », CMCS 33, Summer 1997) is a very clear introduction to an important part of Medieval Literatures: learned lore, texts with questions and answers, riddles etc. As shown by the author, much of this material has parallels in other European literatures.

John Reuben Davies reconsiders the making of Liber Landavensis (CMCS 35, Summer 1998): by a careful observation of the interventions of "Scribe B", he is able to prove that this scribe has also been the final editor of the book; his conclusion is that this cartulary, compiled to defend the rights of the new bishop Urban in the years of his suit

(1125-1132), should not be dated after his death in 1134; scribe B in fact might have been Urban himself.

Graham Isaac's treatment of the Gododdin poems (CMCS 37) and the reexamination of a particular poem *Gweith Gwen Ystrat* (CMCS 36) was a welcome answer to new hypotheses which might have puzzled many of us. The same author also dealt with a very difficult archaic poem, *Gwarchan Maeldderw* (CMCS 44).

In another field of study, Mary-Ann Constantine brought a brand new research about the Breton traditional songs concerning *Groac'h Ahès*, The Old Hag Ahès (CMCS 30): here it was necessary to bring forward a lot of unedited materials (from the archives collected by Penguern and Kerambrun, now in BNF Paris); this study was later recognized as pioneering by younger researchers in the same field of study.

Some contributions from the editor are addressing central questions in Celtic Studies: for example, the incidence of Celtic identity into this field of studies ("Celtomania and Celtoscepticism", CMCS 36, Winter 1998); or the question of "Celtic continuity" (in the last issue, CMCS 64), that is, in other words, the question whether Medieval Celts can be compared with Ancient Celts, an issue particularly important when archaeologists are doubting the existence of these « Celts » in antiquity. These questionings are very important, they touch the very basis of Celtic studies. By treating them carefully, with the help of numerous quotations - and of common sense, P. Sims-Williams has contributed to clarify our comprehension of the Celts: this is, in a way, a re-foundation of Celtic Studies.

Pierre-Yves Lambert

Directeur d'études

Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes

Paris

20/2/2013

Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies (CMCS) is one of the foremost learned journals in the field of Celtic Studies. It has become required reading for scholars, and for all students of Celtic Civilisation in University College Cork with its numerous important articles on all aspects of medieval Celtic Studies, many of them written by academic staff in the Department of Welsh in the University of Aberystwyth.

Thar aon ní eile is ceart rialtacht an irisleabhair a mholadh go hard. Foilsítear *CMCS* dhá uair sa bhliain, gach bliain. Tá gaisce déanta ag an Ollamh Patrick Sims-Williams agus a fhoireann irisleabhar chomh spreagúil léannta a chur ós comhair an phobail chomh rialta sin. Gura fada buan é.

Caoimhín Ó Muirigh,

Roinn na Sean- agus na Meán-Ghaeilge,

Coláiste na hOllscoile,

Corcaigh

1/3/2013

Byddaf yn edrych ymlaen yn eiddgar at ddarllen dau rifyn blyneddol o CMCS. Yr wyf yn bendant o'r farn fod y gyfres hyd yn hyn yn un tra nodedig ac wedi chwarae rhan arwyddocaol cwbl allweddol, onid arloesol yn wir, yn y gwaith o ymestyn gorwelion y darllenwyr a dyfnhau eu hadnabyddiaeth o'r maes. Y mae CMCS am £10 am ddau rifyn

blynyddol yn afresymol o rad o ran pris ac felly o fewn cyrraedd rhwydd i bawb, nid yn unig ysgolheigion yn fydeang ond hefyd myfyrwyr a'r darllenwyr cyffredin deallus. Dylwn bwysleisio o'm rhan fy hun nad wyf mewn unrhyw fodd yn dysgu'r pwnc wrth fy mhroffes mewn unrhyw Brifysgol na sefydliad addysg uwch.

*Goronwy Wyn Owen
Braichmelyn, Bethesda*

I have just started teaching here at Belmont Abbey College in North Carolina and already CMCS has been making an impact on my students, especially the recent research from Michael Clarke, Simon Rodway and Jacopo Bisagni on the origins of Leprechauns. Leprechauns are far more prevalent in American culture today than they ever were in Ireland so the topic was a good way to introduce a range of ideas – including early Irish scholarship and the blending of local and Christian ideas sometimes found therein – in my course on Early Christian Ireland. I will in future continue to use this as a way of introducing these ideas to the class, and my access to CMCS has been an important influence in my deciding to do so.

*Dr Patrick Wadden
Belmont Abbey College,
Belmont, NC, USA
22/3/2013*

Beyond Wales, the most visible sign of the impact of the Department of Welsh at Aberystwyth is probably its journal, *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies*, which is arguably the preeminent scholarly journal in the field. Wide in scope and meticulously edited, the journal connects the international community of Celtic scholarship, and many of its articles have become required reading in university courses worldwide.

*Andrew Welsh
Professor (Emeritus), English and Comparative Literature
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ, USA
3/4/2013*

My subscription to *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies* is a very cost effective way for me to stay informed about recent research and thinking about Celtic Studies, in particular the challenging question of defining “Celtic”. “Celtic Civilization: Continuity or Coincidence?” [Sims-Williams 2013] and “Celtomania and Celtoscepticism” [Sims-Williams 1996] have been very useful to me in forming my own thinking about these questions. I own a complete set of CMCS, which is a great resource when I am guiding my students’ research papers.

*Prof Frederick Suppe
History Dept
Ball State University
Muncie, IN, USA
7/5/2013*

CMCS has had an incredible impact on my own research as a medieval Celticist, and

anytime I am working on a paper or an article several volumes will be open on my desk. I cannot imagine the field without this journal.

Joanne Findon

Associate Professor of English Literature

Trent University, Ontario, Canada.

12/5/2013