Saothrú Georges Dottin i réimse chanúineolaíocht na Nua-Ghaeilge/ Georges Dottin’s contribution to the field of Modern Irish dialectology

French Celticist Georges Dottin (1863-1928) was a pioneer in the field of Irish dialectology – his field-work, undertaken in Galway in the Summer of 1891, and his earliest associated subsequent articles relating to the dialect of Irish he recorded there at that time – Dottin (1893; 1895) – pre-date, for instance, Franz Nikolaus Finck’s and Hoger Pedersen’s earliest contributions to the field – Finck (1896), Pedersen (1896) – Finck and Pedersen generally being recognised as *the* pioneers of Irish dialectology following their field-work, independent of each other, in the Aran Islands in 1895-6, and following publication of Finck (1896a; 1899) and Pedersen (1897; 1899). Georges Dottin subsequently published two further articles relating to the phonetics of Modern Irish – Dottin (1899; 1900). In the former, Dottin, referring to phonetic examples cited, states (1899: 308): ‘Les exemples sans références sont tirés … d’un vocabulaire irlandais d’environ quatre milles mots que j’ai recueilli à Galway en 1891.’ Dottin did not publish any further significant contribution drawn from his own 1891 Galway field-work, but at least some of this material has survived to this day in Dottin’s personal notebooks preserved in the Library of the University of Rennes.

The present paper, to be delivered in Irish, will contextualise Dottin’s contribution to Modern Irish dialectology. It will examine Dottin’s early collaboration – both folkloristic and political – with Douglas Hyde – see, for example, Dottin (1893a), Hyde (1899) and de h-Íde (1933) – and it will also provide new information on Dottin’s field-work in Galway in 1891, part of which was carried out in the Aran Islands.

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