Welcoming speech

Thank you all very much for coming to this Celtic Linguistics Conference. My name is Fangzhe, and I believe I have been in contact with many of you. But it was my colleague Elliott Lash who has brought this conference to Maynooth. We are both postdoctoral researchers in the Chronologicon Hibernicum project, and we wish to express our gratitude to the project and the Department of Early Irish for sponsoring this conference.

The past month has been a really grievous one, for, as many of you may know, the discipline of Celtic linguistics has been bereaved of two excellent scholars, professor Anders Ahlqvist, the author of ‘Early Irish Linguist: an edition of the canonical part of the Auraicept na nÉces, and Dr. Albert Bock from Vienna, who was a leading scholar in Middle Cornish. I wish to say that the best tribute to them is to keep contributing to this discipline in the same quality as they would have expected, which is, I believe, exactly what is happening in this two days.

Before we formally start, I would like to announce a few housekeeping matters. You have all received a pack with the programme, the abstract booklet, a map of Maynooth, and a few flyers from publishers. Coffee and tea, and the lunch for both days are included in your registration and will be served right here, which is the benefit of having the venue right on top of the restaurant. There are some books on display at the desk and the publishers are offering special discounts, so feel free to check it out. Maynooth is a small place so I am not worried that you will get lost, but if you need any suggestions for pubs, supermarkets, etc. please do not hesitate to ask any of our organisers.

For those who have booked the dinner for tomorrow night, we will have it in Stonehaven in town centre at 8:00 pm. It is set so late because the plenary lecture by Professor Paul Russell from Cambridge will take place at 5:30 on Wednesday afternoon, and you are all welcome to attend. I will remind you again tomorrow.

The emergency exit is here, but I hope we are not using it. Now if we are all set, let’s welcome our first speaker, Holly Kenard from Oxford.