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**TOMÁS BAIRÉAD PAPERS**

**GP2/127**

**Galway County Council Archives**

G.P.S. 127 (1)

## Finnsealta Agus Scealta Fíora

*Irish Subject 12-4-38*

An Geall a Briseadh. Tomás Batriád.  
(Oifig an tSoláthair. 2/6.).

Na Lochlannaigh. Seosamh Mac Grianna  
do scríobh. 1/6.

**N**I fadó thugas moladh mór ar an bpáipéar so do' chéad-leabhar an Bhatréadaigh. Uíro mianaigh agus éifeacht innste do thaitheigh lóm in a chuid scealta. Seo trí cinn déag-de scealta nua ón a láimh gan puinn moille, rud a chuideochaidh le clú a shaothrú dho, measain.

Is deas lóm an chainnt réidh shocair atá ins an leabhar, agus is maith mar a shroicheann an t-ugndar a adhbhar i morán cineál áite is ócaíde. Ach is eangín mé go gcaitheadh an tuairim a hochtadh nach scealta ar fad gach dréacht dá bhfuil annso aige.

Cuid acu níl ionnta ach cinnálait ar dhaoine gur bhain eachtraí dhóibh, ach gur eachtraí scaipthe gan ceangal teannta ná crotcúnta iad. Chuireas sun, cinné, i goid mhóir dóibh, ach rómhnic do chuireadar díomáid ar deire orm. Badh mhór an truaigh mara gcosadh an Batriádach le na scealta a

fháisceadh le: chéile níos diúithe, agus le "rinn" (climax) mhaith a sholáthar i gcomhnuidhe.

### *Sceál na h-Eireann.*

Chuir Seosamh Mac Grianna rómhe sceál fíor na h-Eireann le linn na Lochlannach do ríomhadh. Gheibheann sé lochta móra ar lucht stalre, lochta a fhágann bacaighe in a-gcuid turusóir: eachta siar sa tseanchus. Dhá locht díobh, ar a luighead ní chuirfeadh éinne in a leith fein, mar tá, "dioghball Ghaedhúige agus aignidh Ghaedhúigh" agus "dioghball samhluigh-gachta."

Tá a chuid oibre déanta aige ar dhóigh a choinneochaidh an léigheoir a léigheamh leis go deire, fágaim fa lucht seanchuis a réinítear an luigheann a thairimí le fírinne i gcomhnuidhe. Nuair a ráinigheann a shamhail de scríbhinn le dún bheir sé buidheachas do Dhia faoi gur fhág Sé foth-dúine ar chine Gaedheal atá sásta cúrsá a scagadh dho féin agus a breith do chur in iúl le cáint fhúinneamhail: neartmhar thaitheamhach. Leabhar "an-amhail" ceart é seo.

R. O. F.

GP2/R2 (2)

## Short Stories in Irish

### Tragedy and Humour

An Ceall a Brisadh, Tomás Bairéad do scríobh. Bailé Atha Orlaith Oifig Diolta Follseacháin Rialtais. 2/6.  
Marco Polo, Donn Byrne do cheap. Seán Mac Maoláin a rinne an leagan Gaehilge. Oifig Diolta Follseacháin Rialtais. 2/-.

IN these two volumes we have good examples of racy and fluent writing in the Irish of Connacht and Donegal. The translation of Donn Byrne's "Marco Polo" has all the marks that give Seán Mac Maoláin a high place among his contemporaries. Almost its only fault is frequent use of ordinary Roman type where it might be avoided. The use of Roman is more excusable in the quotation beginning, "In Xanadu did Kubla Khan." Like most of Donn Byrne's work, "Marco Polo" ought to prove attractive to Irish readers.

Tomás Bairéad's volume is a collection of short stories, the second from the pen of this writer. In most of the thirteen the note of tragedy is dominant, but a sense of humour is not altogether lacking.

If this volume does not put its author in the front rank of Gaelic short story writers, it does show an advance upon his previous collection, and that is more than can be said of some others in the same field. Bairéad is consciously striving after mastery of the difficult art of the short story. He is still inclined to oversimplification, not of language, but of subject and treatment. There are worse faults than that, and to most readers it will mean no lessening of interest in the author's themes.

## NEW GAELIC

AUTHOR

Ge2/27(3)

### CRITIC'S HIGH PRAISE

In the course of a broadcast talk on recent books published by An Gum, Leon O Broin, B.L., a well-known Gaelic author, referred to a volume of short stories, "An Geall a Briseadh," by Tomas Balread, a member of the Reporting Staff of the *Irish Independent*.

"This is," he said, "Tomas Balread's second book, the first, "Cumhacht na Cinneamhna," which appeared not so very long ago, was very well received, and I understand that a second printing has become necessary. I have no hesitation in prophesying a similarly warm welcome for "An Geall a Briseadh."

I don't think it has any story so well conceived and told as "An Sionnach" or "An Gallic" two tales in Tomas Balread's first book, one dealing with the poteen traffic in Connemara, and the other with that department of newspaper offices which prepares obituary notices in generous anticipation of the deaths of celebrities; but, on the other hand, it contains two splendid examples of nature stories, "Se Dia a Farnuigheas" and "Sionnach" "Gileann na Sidhe," which are quite as good as "Sionnach an Bhrollaigh Bhain" in "Cumhacht na Cinneamhna," a story which deserves the high praise I have heard accorded to it in very critical circles.

I personally know nothing better in that particular field of contemporary Irish or Anglo-Irish literature than these three tales of animal life.

Tomas Balread is undoubtedly a discovery and a decided addition to the ranks of Gaelic writers.

He is a journalist by profession, and it is probably this which accounts for his relatively greater success in stories that require to be treated objectively. When he comes to deal with human beings he is not quite so happy; he will have to learn to make his stories evolve out of his characters and not to treat them as mere puppets. But he has imagination and a fertile inventiveness.

He has, besides, at his command all the resources of his native Connemara Irish and he writes with care and feeling. What more can be said to support the view I hold that Tomas Balread is a writer to be watched?

**T. P. O'CONNOR.**

To the Editor "Irish Independent."  
Sir—"Dubliner" praises my article on T. P. O'Connor, but I am afraid he is too careless a reader for his opinion to have any value. He says I make no mention of "T.P.'s Weekly." I give ten lines to it.

MICHAEL MacDONAGH.

#### Garda Inspectors Transferred.

Garda Inspector Munelly, Ballinasloe, has been appointed to Letterkenny in place of Inspector T. Tobin, transferred to Roscommon.