



TOMÁS BAIRÉAD PAPERS

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Galway County Council Archives

XII The Connacht Tribune, Friday, November 2, 1973.

Tomas Bairéad RIP

Ceilleadh Tomás Bairéad, duine de na scríbhneoirí ba chluífta a tháinig chugainn sa Gaeltacht na Gaillimhe san aois 'seo, ag an deireadh seachtaine.

Is beag dúine le glúin nó dhó anuas nár tháinig trasa ar shaothar an Bhaireidigh mar bhí cuid de na leabhair ghearscálta a scríobh sé ar chéir na scoileanna. Ach bhí fáthacht níos mó ná sin ag baint le Tomás Bairéad. Dála alán eile — Seán Ó Ríordáin, an Seabhadh, Donncha O'Ceilleachair, Eamon Mac Giolla Íasachta, Seán O'Ruadháin — b'as Breac-Ghaeltacht a fáisceadh é — dó thuaghaí Mhaigh Cúilinn ar an mbóthar ó thuaidh go Conamara as cathair na Gaillimhe. Rachadh cuid de na léirmheastóirí chomh fada lena rá gur as na Gaeltachtaí "imeallacha" seo, áit a raibh an dá chultúr agus an dá theanga ag coimhlint, a tháinig cuid den litríocht Ghaeilge is fearr le glúin anuas. Ach cibé faoi sin ní aon amhras ná gur chuir Tomás Bairéad cuid de na scéalta is áille, is taitneamhaí agus is fearr i nGaeilge ár linne ar fáil dúinn. Iriseoir ba ea Tomás Bairéad.

Thosaigh sé ag obair leis an Galway Express, páipéar nach bhfuil ann a thuilleadh, agus ansin chaith sé blianta ar fhoireann an Connacht Tribune. Chaith sé seal níos déanaí ná sin, arís ar fhoireann Independent Newspapers Ltd. i mBaile Atha Cliath.

D'Fhíll sé ar a fhód dúchais, Maigh Cúilinn, mar ar chaith sé na blianta doireannacha. Bhí an ceithre scór stánaithe aige nuair a ghlaoigh Dia chug féin é.

Le blianta fada anuas níor chuala muid mórán trácht ar an mBairéadach. Ansin, d'fhoilsigh Sáirséal agus Dúil leabhar eile uaidh, Gan Baisteadh anuraidh agus is gearr go mbeidh leabhar eile dá chuid, an ceann doireannach is dócha, é chur amach ag an bhfoilsitheoir céanna. Litreacha ó nGníbheann teideal an leabhair seo agus is é atá ann ná sraith litreacha a chuir a chara dhúis Máirín Ó Cadhain, chuirge ó champa géibhinn an Churraigh sna dachaidí.

Choinnígh an Bairéadach go críonna tuiseannach sábhaithe ind ó shin i leith. Anois beidh an bailíochán luachmhar seo ar fáil don bpobal, ach fanafor, ní bheidh an t-fo fáil ndear an éachta seo beo le heghaidh na hócáide.

I nGaeilge a dúradh na paidreacha ag sochraid Thomáis i Maigh Cúilinn — rud anamh go leor sa pharóiste sin anois Mar cé go bhfuil Gaeilge ar go leor leor daoine san áit i gcónaí — agus bhí na seandaoine á labhairt go tréan, a ghliúin féin, ag an sochraid — ní minic a labhraíonn cuid acu fagus níl spreagadh dá laghad ag an nglúin óg ó dhream poiblí ar bith. I mbéarla a bhíonn an tAifreann i gcónaí nach mór sa tsráidbhaile stairiúil seo a bhfuil sé de mhí-ádh air a bheith roghnaithe mar "iond forbartha" ag Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe. Tá bailte eile Ghaeltacht na Gaillimhe ag teacht faoi ionsaí den chineál céanna agus an aicid chéanna á n-ithe de réir a chéile. An dream a deir nach bhféadfadh — an rud céanna tarlú ar bhóthar Chois Fharráige, níl le déanamh aige ach machnamh ar an astrar atá tagtha ar bhaile dúchais an Bhaireidigh lena linn féin.

MR. T. O BAIREAD

Mr. Tomas O Bairread the noted Irish scholar, who worked with Independent Newspapers Limited, for a number of years, has died in Calvary Hospital, Galway. He was in his 80s.

Mr. O Bairread of Kilrainey, Moycullen, Connemara, was an expert on Gaelic customs and folklore and wrote many books on the subject.

He began his career in journalism with the Galway Express and later with The Connacht Tribune newspapers in the early part of the century.

Mr. O Bairread, who was predeceased by his wife, has two daughters, Treasa, a nurse and Maura a librarian.

APPRECIATION

Tomas O Bairread was just a name on a school book "Cruitheacht agus Ceannabhain". But today in Moycullen churchyard I got a little closer to him on meeting the people who knew him - the man whose father was in prison with him. His sister who relished my yarn about my visit to Patrick Kavanagh's sister.

Since I was a schoolboy in Galway, Tomas Bairread lived in his cottage near the church and close to his last resting place - a corner, between the ivied walls of the old church, yard. There he picked his grave. It was sunny with the hum of Autumn. A day such as those he had written about since his retirement as contributor to "The Irish Independent" some thirty years ago.

A close friend of Mairtin Caidhan, he used to motor across to see him regularly.

He never drove a car and said his cousin: "his must be the oldest bike in Ireland".

T.M.