

**IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY:  
TORUIGHEACTH GRUAIDHE  
GRIANSHOLUS; THE PURSUIT OF  
GRUAIDH GHRIANSHOLUS, VOL.  
XXIV**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649094080

Irish Texts Society: Toruigheacht gruaidhe griansholus; The pursuit of gruaidh ghriansholus, Vol. XXIV by Cecile O'Rahilly

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CECILE O'RAHILLY**

**IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY:  
TORUIGHEACTH GRUAIDHE  
GRIANSHOLUS; THE PURSUIT OF  
GRUAIDH  
GHRIANSHOLUS, VOL. XXIV**



~~P  
Society  
I~~

IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY.

Publications

cumann na sgríbeann  
saeoilge.



554913  
11.12.52

VOL. XXIV.

[1922.]  
1924.

TÓRUIGHEACTH  
GRUAIDHE GRIANSHOLUS.

---

THE PURSUIT  
OF GRUAIDH GHRIANSHOLUS.

EDITED AND TRANSLATED BY

CECILE O'RAHILLY, M.A.

---

PUBLISHED FOR THE IRISH TEXTS SOCIETY BY  
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT & CO., 4, STATIONERS' HALL COURT, LONDON E.C. 4  
[1922.]  
1924

---

IRELAND:  
PRINTED BY N. HARVEY & CO., WATERFORD.  
BOUND BY GALWEY & CO., DUBLIN.

---

## CONTENTS.

	<i>Page.</i>
INTRODUCTION .....	vii.—xxix.
TEXT AND TRANSLATION .....	1—139
NOTES TO TEXT .....	142—146
GLOSSARY .....	147—153
INDEX OF PERSONS .....	154—155
INDEX OF PLACES .....	156—157
NAMES OF WEAPONS, &c. ....	158





## INTRODUCTION.

---

### I.—THE MANUSCRIPT.

THIS story of the "Pursuit of Gruaidh Ghriansholus, daughter of the King of Antioch," is taken from a paper MS., H.5.28 (fo. 61a—fo. 111b.) in Trinity College, Dublin. O'Donovan in his Grammar (Introduction, p. lxxxviii.) makes some reference to this MS., which he calls "the Irish MS. transcribed in Ulster in 1679, quoted as authority for the Ulster dialect of that period." It had previously been in his own possession, and had been presented by him to the Library of Trinity College, Dublin.

The other contents of the MS. consist of prose romances (the *Madra Maol*, *Bruidehan Eochaidh Bhig Dheirg*, *Eachtra Mclóra agus Orlando*, *The Vision of Merlino*, etc.), and some poems, mostly in the classical metres, by such writers as Fearflatha Ó Gnímh, Eochaidh Ó hEoghusa, etc. It is dated 1679 in various colophons, e.g. to the first story, *Ballán Chonghail*, "5, July, 1679"; to *An Madra Maol*, "2, August, 1679"; and to the present tale, "20, September, 1679."

O'Donovan seems to have made a curious mistake with regard to this MS. In MS. H.5.27 he has a note on this "MS. transcribed in Ulster in 1679." "On looking over some papers in the handwriting of Edward O'Reilly, I found the following memorandum, written in bad Irish, which appears to me to prove that he bought the MS. (H.5.28) from John Clery, which the latter denies." In the memorandum referred to, O'Reilly says: "This little book was written by Michael O'Clery or one of his co-labourers (for I know the handwriting) in the house of the friars of St. Francis at Donegal, for it was from a man of the race of this friar O'Clery's family that I bought the book for a pound and a half of money."

There seems, however, nothing to justify O'Donovan's assumption that the book referred to in this memorandum was the MS. H.5.28. It is impossible that O'Reilly should have thought it written by O'Clery, seeing that the date of the MS., 1679, occurs in several places. I think it very probable that O'Reilly was merely referring to the "Life of Hugh Roe" (now in R.I.A.).

Indeed in this same note in H.5.27, O'Donovan goes on to say that "John O'Clery brought three other books with him to this city and sold them. Edward O'Reilly bought one of them, viz., the life of O'Donnell, chief of Donegal; and William Monk Mason bought the two other books."

I think it at least a possible conjecture that H.5.28 was written by Eoghan Ó Donnghaile, an East Ulster poet of the late seventeenth century. Among the paper MSS. in Trinity College, Dublin, "being transcripts of ancient vellum books," O'Curry refers to "a volume written, about the year 1690, by Owen O'Donnelly (an excellent Gaedhlic scholar)" (O'Curry, *MSS. Materials*, p. 195). It is difficult to identify the MS. O'Curry had in mind, but it seems not unlikely that he was referring to the present MS. Two poems in the MS. (viz., fo. 127b, "*Aluinn dín Mic Muire*," fo. 162a, "*Tuirseach dhamh ag éirghe lae*") are definitely ascribed to this "Eoghan Ó Donnghaile." Though this fact, of course, proves nothing as to the scribe, yet it is of interest in connection with the theory that the scribe was Eoghan Ó Donnghaile himself. That the MS. (like the poet in question) is an East Ulster one, is nearly certain.

## II.—OUTLINE OF THE TALE.

The tale is of the knight-errant type of story which relates the adventures of the hero on land and sea. It is akin in spirit to the tale of Conall Gulban, so popular in Gaelic written and oral literature. It will be well to give here a brief outline of the story:

While Cúchulainn is alone and unarmed at Dundalk, he sees a fair damsel landing from a *curach*. She proves to be Gruaidh Ghriansholus, daughter of the King of Antioch, fleeing from a terrible giant, Garuidh Garbhghlúineach, son of Rí na bhFear Mór. She has wandered over the world pursued by this giant, seeking some hero to deliver her from him, and eventually, hearing of Cúchulainn's prowess, she comes to seek his aid. At this juncture, the giant himself arrives, disposes of the unarmed Cúchulainn with a mighty kick, and carries off the maiden. Then begins the tale of Cúchulainn's pursuit. Accompanied only by his faithful charioteer, Laoi mac Riaghabhra, he wanders through various lands, Almayne, Morocco, Sicily, Africa, to avenge the