



Northern Arizona Celtic Heritage Society

June , 2019

Moran Taing

Many infinite thanks to all those who have been working so hard to make our move to Ft Tuthill a huge success!!! It's gonna be a good one!!!

Festival Tidbits

Check out Facebook for cool festival tidbits and prepare to be dazzled by our new location and NEW attractions!!!

Celtic Week

There are exciting Celtic Week plans in motion. Check the website for events.

They will be listed as they become solidified. <http://www.nachs.info>

Saturday Pubs and Grub

Watch for info on the website about Festival Saturday Pubs and Grub happenings. There's a lot to do!

Newsletter Delay

Thanks to all for understanding our delay in getting newsletters out.

Check the website to see plans as they become solid. <http://www.nachs.info>

4th of July

It's almost here again... the 4th of July parade! We still don't know our line-up area but will let you know if you PLEASE let us know if you can join in.

We will have a nice BBQ for those who join us. Call 928.606.6327 to confirm!

Kilt for Sale

I have a beautiful man's kilt (Grant Red Ancient tartan) that I would like to find a good home for.

It was bought in London in 1967 and is in excellent shape. 5-yard, 100% wool. Waist is about 28", so it fits a slim person. Asking \$60.

Contact: Susan Bassett

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The Book Of Kells

By Meredith Young

The Book of Kells (sometimes known as the Book of Columbia) is a Celtic illuminated manuscript containing the four New Testament Gospels, as well as various introductory texts and tables. The date and place of origin of the Book of Kells have attracted a great deal of scholarly controversy. Most academics now claim it came from the scriptorium of Iona (Argyllshire), but other scholars believe it was created in Northumbria or in Pictland (eastern Scotland). The Book's origins are unclear because the area underwent great turmoil during the 800s. A monastery founded around 561 by St. Colum Cille on Iona, an island off Mull in western Scotland, became the principal house of a large monastic confederation. In 806, following a Viking raid on the island which left 68 of the community dead, the Columban monks took refuge in a new monastery at Kells, County Meath. For many years, the two monasteries were governed as a single community. Scholars believe the Book of Kells was written around the year 800 AD, although there is no way of knowing if the book was produced wholly at Iona or at Kells during that time, or if it was partially created in each location. The Book still wasn't safe at Kells; the Abbey was plundered and pillaged by Vikings many times during the 10th century, and how the book survived is not known. It was stolen in 1007 and found several months later in a pile of sod. The manuscript was ripped from its gilded and jeweled cover, which may account for its missing sections. The Abbey of Kells was dissolved due to 12th-century ecclesiastical reforms, and the abbey church was converted to a parish church in which the Book of Kells remained until it was moved to Dublin. The Book was further damaged during attempted repairs and rebindings, and now exists in four separately-bound volumes, two of which are on permanent public display at Trinity College in Dublin.

The Book of Kells was used for sacramental practices, rather than for educational purposes. The large, lavish Gospel book would have been left on the high altar of the church and removed only for the reading of the Gospel during Mass, with the reader probably reciting from memory instead of reading the text. The idea of the Book's symbolic use is reinforced in the *Chronicles of Ulster*, which state the book was stolen from the sacristy - where the vessels and other accoutrements of the Mass were stored - rather than from the monastic library. Its design seems to take this purpose in mind; that is, the book was produced with appearance taking precedence over practicality. There are numerous uncorrected mistakes in the text, and sentences were often completed in a

blank space in the line above. In addition, the chapter headings that were needed to make the canon tables usable weren't inserted into the margins of the page. In general, nothing was done to disrupt the look of the manuscript - aesthetics were given priority over utility.

The Book contains the complete text of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and the Gospel of John through John 17:13. The remainder of John and an unknown amount of the preliminary matter is missing and was perhaps lost when the book was stolen. These Gospels were mostly taken from the Vulgate, a late 4th-century Latin translation of the Bible which became the Catholic Church's official text. However, the Book of Kells also includes several passages drawn from an earlier version of the Bible known as the Vetus Latina, or Old Latin Bible, the precursor to the Vulgate. The Book also contains two fragmentary lists of Hebrew names contained in the Gospels, the *Breves causae* (Gospel summaries), Argumenta (short biographies of the Evangelists), and Eusebian canon tables (a chart showing the differences between the Gospels). The Book of Kells is also a masterwork of Western calligraphy and represents the pinnacle of Insular illumination, a post-Roman art style used in Ireland and Britain. The monks used a range of pigments, including blue made from indigo or woad, which were native to northern Europe. Orpiment (yellow arsenic sulphide) was used to produce a vibrant yellow pigment. Red came from red lead or from organic sources which are difficult at present to identify. A copper green, reacting with damp, was responsible for perforating the vellum on a number of folios. The monks also added as many as three pigments on top of a base layer to add details and increase the complexity of their illustrations. The beautiful Book of Kells is a historically invaluable work of art that has lasted for 1,200 years, survived numerous disasters, and is widely regarded as Ireland's finest national treasure.

A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures.