

Appendix -ICeltic Myths and Legends

Amaethon

In Celtic mythology, Amaethon was a son of **Don** and god of agriculture.

An tigh geatha

In druidry an tigh geatha refers to the outer order.

Andraste

In British mythology, Andraste is a warrior goddess. She was invoked by Queen Boudicca when she revolted against the Roman invaders.

Angus Og

In Irish mythology, Angus Og is the god of love and beauty.

Annwn

In British mythology, annwn is the otherworld.

Arduina

In Celtic mythology Arduina is the goddess of woodlands, wild life, the hunt and the moon; Guardian and Eponym of the Ardennes Forest.

Argetlam

see "Nuada"

Arianrhod

In Welsh Celtic mythology, Arianrhod or Arianrod (Silver-Wheel or Silver-Circle) was the virgin white goddess of birth, initiation, death and rebirth. She Who turns the circle of heaven. She was a sister and wife of Gwydion.

Arianrod

see "Arianrhod"

Avalon

Avalon is the place where King Arthur is said to have gone after disappearing. It is a sort of fairy land.

Aywell

In Celtic mythology, Aywell was the protector of the independent peoples of Northern England. He was the husband of Mm.

Badb

In Irish mythology, Badb was one of the giantess forms of Morrigan. She was sufficiently tall to place a foot on either side of a river.

Banshee

In Gaelic folklore, a banshee is a female spirit whose wailing outside a house foretells the death of one of its inhabitants.

Bard

A bard was an order of druid. The bard's office was to supervise, regulate and to lead. His robe was sky blue, symbolising justice and truth.

Bebhionn

In Celtic mythology, Bebhionn was a giantess from the Maiden's Land far off the West coast of Ireland known for her beauty and seduction.

Bel

Bel (Belenos) was the Celtic god of light.

Beltane

Beltane is the Celtic festival of the god of light. It is held on May the 1st, and is the spring equivalent of Hallowe'en. Formerly in England dancing took place to may poles in village greens to celebrate the festival, but this practice subsided during the 1970s and is now almost extinct.

Bladud

In English mythology, Bladud was the father of **King Lear**, and was said to have founded Bath having been cured by its waters.

Blodeuwedd

In Celtic mythology, Blodeuwedd was the wife of Lleu. She was created by Gwydion and Math from the blossoms of the oak, broom and meadow-sweet and presented to Lleu as a bride.

Boann

In Irish mythology, Boann is the goddess of rivers.

Bran

In Celtic mythology Bran was a giant who delighted in battle and carnage. He was the son of Lir (or Llyr) and a mortal woman. He led the giants from Wales on their invasion of Ireland, being killed by a poisoned arrow in the battle with Evnissyen which followed the deposition of the Irish king.

Branwen

In Celtic mythology, Branwen is a goddess of love. She was a daughter of Llyr.

Brighid

In Gaelic mythology, Brighid (Brigit) was the goddess of metalwork, smiths, poetic inspiration and therapy. With christianity she evolved into Saint Brigit.

Brigit

see "Brighid"

Brownie

The brownie is a spirit popular in Scottish folk-lore. Brownies haunt houses, and if treated well will help with the drudgery of the housework while the occupants sleep.

Camulus

In English Celtic mythology, Camulus (heaven) was a god of war identified by the Romans with Mars. He gave his name to the town of Camulodunum, now called Colchester.

Cernunnos

In Celtic mythology, Cernunnos was the god of the underworld and of animals. He is depicted as a man with the antlers of a stag.

Cerridwen

In Welsh mythology, Cerridwen is the goddess of dark prophetic powers. She is the keeper of the cauldron of the underworld, in which inspiration and divine knowledge are brewed.

Conchobar

In Celtic mythology, Conchobar was the King of Ulster whose intended bride, **Deidre**, eloped with **Noisi**. Conchobar killed Deidre's husband and his brothers and she died of sorrow.

Cordelia

In Welsh celtic mythology, Cordelia was the daughter of Llyr. She has two lovers, Gwyn ap Nudd and Gwyrthur ap Greidawl, who fight for her on the 1st of May each year and will continue to do so until the day of doom when one shall be victorious and marry her.

Creidhne

In Celtic mythology, Creidhne was the god of metal working.

Creurdilad

In Celtic mythology, Creurdilad was the daughter of Lludd and lover of Gwyn ap Nudd and Gwyrthur ap Greidawl. Her mythology developed into that of Cordelia, with the names of her lovers also amending with time.

Cuchulain

Cuchulain was a Celtic hero, the chief figure in a cycle of Irish legends. He is associated with his uncle Conchobar, King of Ulster; his most famous exploits are described in The Cattle Raid of Cuchulain.

Cuchulinn

In Celtic mythology, Cuchulinn is a hero-king of Ulster and son of Lugh. He is a warlike figure and tales tell of his warlike deeds.

Dagda

Dagda was the Celtic equivalent of Cronus. Also called **Cian**.

Daghdha

In Irish mythology, Daghdha is the great god. He had a secret affair with Boann which resulted in the birth of Oenghus.

Deirdre

In Celtic mythology, Deidre was the beautiful intended bride of Conchobar. She eloped with **Noísi**, and died of sorrow when **Conchobar** killed him and his brothers.

Diancecht

In Irish mythology, Diancecht is the god of healing. He destroyed the giant serpent that threatened and destroyed cattle throughout the land.

Dis

In Gaulish mythology, Dis was the god of death from whom the Gauls were descended.

Druantia

In British mythology, Druantia was the druid goddess of birth, wisdom, death and metempsychosis. The mother of the Irish tree-calendar alphabet.

Druid

The ancient druids were divided into 3 functional orders: primitive druid, bard and ovate. Druidism originated amongst the megalithic ancient British. They taught it to the immigrant celts, and later trained celts from the continent.

Dylan

In Celtic mythology Dylan was a god of darkness, a twin son of Gwydion and Arianrhod. He was a sea god, and swam like a fish. Upon his death at the hands of a spear thrown by

his uncle Govannan, the sea for ever more wept for him in the form of waves crashing on the shore.

Elaine

In Celtic mythology, Elaine (Lily-Maid) was a virgin goddess of beauty and the moon. She was the matron of road-building and a loveable leader of hosts.

Epona

In Celtic mythology, Epona was the goddess of horses.

Eriu

In Irish Celtic mythology, Eriu was a shape shifting goddess of fate. The bestower of sovereignty.

Etain

In Celtic mythology, Etain (Shining-One) was the triple goddess of the sun, water, horses, fragrance, beauty, music and the transmigration of souls.

Fata-Morgana

In Irish Celtic mytholgy, Fata-Morgana is the goddess of the sea, visual illusions, enchantment, fate and death. She is the Queen of the Fortunate Isles.

Finn MacCool

In Celtic mythology, Finn MacCool was an Irish prophet, warrior and healer. He learned his skills either from touching the flesh of Fintan as he cooked him, or by sipping the gods' wine as he served them at table.

Fintan

In Celtic mythology, Fintan (the salmon of wisdom) was a shape-changer. He was the only Irish survivor of Noah's flood, changing into a hawk to soar above the waters and into a salmon to live in them. He ate the gods' magic hazlenuts and received all knowledge, but was netted in a salmon-trap and cooked for the gods' banquet by Finn MacCool who in doing touched Fintan's flesh and absorbed the knowledge from Fintan turning him into a seer and healer on the spot.

Gawain

In Celtic mythology, Gawain was the son of King Lot of Orkney or the sun-god Lug. Gawain was one of Arthur's most loyal and noble followers. One New Year's Eve a green giant rode into the hall at Camelot and challenged the bravest warrior there to cut off his head, and then one year later, to visit the giant's castle to have his own head chopped off. Gawain accepted the challenge and decapitated the giant, who picked up his head and galloped away. One year later Gawain went in search of the giant and came to the castle of Lord Bertilak and was entertained there for three days and three nights. Each night Bertilak's wife came to Gawain and tried to seduce him, and each time Gawain resisted her. On the fourth day, alone in the castle grounds Gawain came upon the giant and bent down to have his head cut off. Three times the giant swung the axe, and each time he stopped short, before disappearing and Bertilak stood in his place. Bertilak told Gawain that the entire thing had been a test set by Morgan le Fay to find the bravest of Arthur's followers, and that each swing of the axe was for a night when he had resisted the attentions of Bertilak's wife. Had he given in to temptation he would have died.

Geofon

In British mythology, Geofon was the ocean goddess.

Goibhniu

In Celtic mythology, Goibhniu was the smith god.

Govannan

In Celtic mythology, Govannan was a son of Don and god of smithcraft.

Gronw Pebyr

In Celtic mythology, Gronw Pebyr is a god of darkness.

Guinevere

In Celtic mythology, Guinevere or Guinever, is the French spelling of the Celtic name Gwynhwhfar ('white cloud'). Gwynhwhfar was a cloud-goddess who often, for mischief, took mortal form and entered the world of humans to cause havoc. Soon after Arthur became king of Camelot, she entered the womb of a Roman princess whose husband

ruled in Britain, and was born, as a beautiful mortal: Guinevere. In due course Arthur married her, against the advice of Merlin. Guinevere was the most beautiful woman in the world, and all Arthur's knights would have had sex with her if they hadn't been bound by their oaths of chivalry. Only Lancelot succumbed, and his and Guinevere's adultery broke Arthur's heart and led to the end of Camelot. When the company of the Round Table was broken up and its heroes disappeared into legend, Guinevere resumed her identity as Gwynhwhfar, returned to the sky and has ever since been planning her next earthly manifestation.

Gwydion

In Celtic mythology, Gwydion was a son of Don, a master of fantasy and illusion, and the teacher of humans of all that is good and useful. He is a friend of mankind and perpetually fights the underworld powers for the good gifts they refuse to give to mankind.

Gwyn

see "Gwyn ap Nudd"

Gwyn ap Nudd

In Celtic mythology, Gwyn ap Nudd (Gwyn) is the lord of the underworld and master of the wild hunt. He lives at Glastonbury Tor.

Gwynhwhfar

see "Guinevere".

Gwyrthur ap Greidawl

In Celtic mythology, Gwyrthur ap Greidawl (Gwyrthur) is a rival to Gwyn ap Nudd for the affections of Creurdilad. He is a solar god, representing day.

Herne The Hunter

In English folklore, Herne The Hunter is the spirit of a hunter which guards travellers through Windsor Great Park. He wears the antlers of a stag upon his head. Herne was prominent in the tales of Robin Hood, although Windsor Great Park is nowhere near Sherwood Forest.

Isolde

In Celtic and medieval legend, Isolde was the wife of King Mark of Cornwall who was brought from Ireland by his nephew Tristan. She and Tristan accidentally drank the aphrodisiac given to her by her mother for her marriage, were separated as lovers, and finally died together.

Lir

In Celtic mythology Lir (or Lleyr or Llyr) was the Old Man of the Sea. He had four beautiful children which he doted on. After his wife died he married her sister who hated him and turned his children into swans, mute and aloof from him. By the time Lir had discovered what had happened to his children and reversed the spell they had aged into withered old people.

Lleu

In Celtic mythology, Lleu was a god of light, a twin son of Gwydion and Arianrhod.

Lludd

see "Nudd"

Llyr

In Welsh Celtic mythology, Llyr is the god of the sea, he relates to the Irish Lir.

Luchtaine

In Celtic mythology, Luchtaine was the god of wheel making.

Lugh

In Irish mythology, Lugh (Lug) was the god of light. He killed his grandfather, **Balor**, during the great battle in which a new order of gods and goddesses took over from the primal beings of chaotic energy. He was the god of skill and ability.

Mabon

In Celtic mythology, Mabon was the Son of Light, equated with the Roman Apollo. He was the god of liberation, harmony, music and unity.

Macha

In Irish mythology, Macha is a goddess of athletic games, festivals and fertility.

Manannan mac Lir

In Celtic mythology, Manannan mac Lir (Barinthus) was the god of the ocean. He ferried the wounded King Arthur to the otherworld so that he could be cured.

Mark

In Celtic legend, Mark was king of Cornwall, uncle of Tristan, and suitor and husband of Isolde.

Mm

In Celtic mythology, Mm was the goddess of thought of the independent peoples of Northern England. She never appeared alone, but always followed after her impetuous husband Aywell providing caution to his flashes of uncontrolled energy.

Morrigan

Morrigan was the Celtic goddess of war and death who could take the shape of a crow.

Naoise

In Irish mythology, Naoise was the husband of Deirdre. He was killed by his uncle Conchobar.

Nemetona

In Celtic mythology, Nemetona was a goddess of war.

Nimue

In Celtic mythology, Nimue was a shape changer who loved Merlin. After a contest of magic she captured him forever by turning herself into a drop of amber and engulfing him.

Nuada

In Celtic mythology, Nuada (Argetlam meaning He of the Silver Hand) was a war god of the Gaels equivalent roughly to the Greek Zeus in that he was the supreme god.

Nudd

In Celtic mythology, Nudd or Lludd is a son of Beli. He was a sky-god and is attributed with stopping three supernatural plagues.

Oberon

In English folklore, Oberon is the king of the elves.

Oenghus

In Irish mythology, Oenghus is the son of Daghdha and Boann. He is the god of fatal love.

Ogmios

In Celtic mythology, Ogmios was the eloquent god of the strength of poetry, charm and incantation. He is depicted as an old man with wrinkles, but carrying a club and a bow.

Ovate

An ovate was a type of druid. His purpose was to observe and invent. His robe was green symbolising budding life.

Penardum

In Celtic mythology, Penardum was a sea-goddess married to Llyr.

Primitive druid

The primitive druid was an order of druid involved with teaching science and religion. His robe was white symbolising light, purity and knowledge.

Rosmerta

In Gaulish Celtic mythology, Rosmerta was the goddess of fire, warmth, wealth and abundance. A flower Queen and hater of marriage. She was the beldame of death.

Salmon of Wisdom

see "Fintan"

Sulis

In Celtic mythology, Sulis was a goddess of prophesy, inspiration, wisdom and death. She who is bountiful, as is a sow of piglets.

Taisch

Taisch was the Gaelic name given to 'second sight', the involuntary ability of seeing the future or distant events. It originated in the Scottish highlands.

Taranis

In Druid mythology, Taranis is the god of the wheel, associated with forces of change.

CELTIC Mother goddess

Aine - Land Goddess of the Eoghanachta tribes in Munster. She is invoked at Midsummer when torches are taken through the fields to bless the growing corn with sacred fire.

Airmed - Goddess of the Tuatha de Danaan, the most ancient deities of Ireland. She had great magical powers and herb craft was Her specialty.

Ardwinna - Continental Celtic Goddess of the Wildwood. She demanded a fine for every animal killed in Her wood, which She was said to oversee mounted on a wild boar.

Arianrhod - Mother Goddess of Celtic Aryans, Keeper of the endlessly circling Silver Wheel of the Stars, symbol of Time. Silver Wheel That Descends into the Sea. Welsh Sorceress Goddess of the Silver Wheel. Beautiful and pale of complexion, She was the most powerful of the mythic children of the Mother Goddess Don. Willow is Her tree.

Arnamentia - Ancient British Goddess of Spring Waters.

Artio - Great Goddess of wildlife in Celtic Gaul and Britain.

Badb - Crow Goddess. Form of Morrigan, great Irish War Goddess. Sometimes took the form of a hooded crow, a wolf, a bear or a heifer, or a giant woman Who straddled a river with one foot on each bank .

Banba - Irish Earth Goddess. Land Unplowed for a Year.

Ban Naomha - Irish Fish Goddess.

Becuma - Irish Goddess of the Magic Boat.

Belisama - Celtic Goddess of the Mersey River.

Blancheflor - White Flower, Celtic Lily Maid Who represented the Maiden aspect of the triple Goddess. The red flower stands for the Mother and the black bird for the Crone, according to the three sacred colors of the Gunas.

Blodewedd - Welsh Virgin Goddess of Spring, totem the owl, bird of wisdom and lunar mysteries. The Ninefold Goddess of the western isles of Paradise. (Arianrhod) Flowerface. Most beautiful and treacherous.

Boann - Primal Goddess of the River Boyne. She of the White Cow.

Bodua - Continental Celtic War Goddess.

Branwen - Goddess of Regeneration Who kept the Cauldron of Regeneration. Alder was Her tree. The White Bosomed One. Welsh Love goddess. Venus of the Northern Sea. The crow is Her animal. She is the White Crow.

Briget (Brigid) - Triple Goddess of the great Celtic empire of Brigantia, which included parts of Spain, France and the British Isles. Female sage, Protectress of poets. Unable to eradicate the cult of Briget (pronounced Breed), the Catholic church made Her a saint, saying She was a nun Who founded a convent at Kildare. But the convent was known for its heathenish miracles and evidences of fertility magic. Cows never went dry; flowers and shamrocks sprang up in Her footprints, eternal Spring reigned in Her bower. Her feast day is the first of February, the first day of Spring in the pagan calendar. Imbolc, the day of union between Goddess and God. Teacher of the martial arts and Patroness of battle. Wells were sacred to Her. Shamrock Her sacred plant. Rowan Her tree. Scallop shell sacred to Her. Goddess of smithcraft, poetry and inspiration, healing and medicine. Bright Arrow, Bright One, Inventor of whistling. No man was allowed to pass beyond the hedge surrounding Her sanctuary. Lady of Fire and Sunlight. She is sometimes depicted with a cauldron as a symbol for inspiration. Her shrine at Kildare was maintained by 19 virgins who tended Her undying fire until almost modern times. On Her feast day of Imbolc, the universal Celtic fertility day, the Goddess Brigit kindles the fire in the Earth, preparing the way for Spring. Her power is that of fire-in-water: a power that heals and nourishes. Imbolc is the first day of Spring, mid-way through the dark half of the year. Brigit, Goddess of all creative activity, rekindles the fire in the Earth, preparing it for the reemergence of green things. This stirring of new life is manifested by the first flowing of

milk in the udders of ewes, a few weeks before the lambing season. Agricultural tools are reconsecrated for use, household fires and the fire of the smith's forge are blessed by the Goddess (often by a woman who plays the role of Brigit) and talismans of rushes, Brigit's Crosses are made for the protection of homes. Brigit's snake comes out of the mound in which it hibernates, and its behavior is thought to determine the length of the remaining period of frost. The Triple Brigit - On Imbolc, She is revealed in Her 3 aspects. As Muse, She inspires bards with the spirit of truth. As Guardian of the forge and consort of smiths, She is the patroness of warriors. As the Lady of the Land Who knows all herbs, She is the greatest of healers. Oystercatcher is Her sacred bird.

Caillech - Old Celtic name for Kali, The Great Goddess in Her Destroyer aspect. The Veiled One. Elder Her tree. Great pre-Celtic Goddess of British Isles. She had an eye in the middle of a blue-black face. She had red teeth and white hair. Controlled the seasons and the weather. Cosmic goddess of Earth and Sky, Moon and Sun.

Canola - Ancient Irish Goddess. Inventor of the Irish harp.

Carman - Irish Goddess of Sterility.

Cerridwen - Triple Goddess. The Great Sow. The Old White One - Sow Goddess of ancient Wales who gave gifts of grain, bees and piglets. A fertility Goddess. Birch Her tree.

Cessair (Kesara) - Early Irish Earth goddess. When Ireland coalesced out of the Underworld, the first beings to reach it were the followers of Cessair, a chieftain Who brought with Her 50 women and 3 men.

Dana - Eponymous Great Mother of the Danes and the Irish Tuatha D? Danaan, people of the Goddess Dana.

Danu - aka Anu, Ana, Cat Ana, Aine. Ancient Ancestress Goddess of Ireland.

Dictynna - Lawgiving Goddess of Mount Dicte.

Epona - Celtic/Saxon Horse Goddess of Iron Age Britain. Her cult stretched throughout Europe, from Spain to Eastern Europe and northern Italy to Britain. Irish kings were symbolically united with a white mare up to the 11th century. The Divine Horse still stands on a hillside at Uffington, 370 feet long, carved in chalk. She has the power to appear as a lively woman or a horse. Sometimes, She was the essence of a turbulent stream, for She is also a fertility Goddess, looked to for the cultivation of maternal instincts, prosperity and ample crops. Her waters are a source of healing and She watches

over dogs and horses. She symbolizes wild freedom. Her dark counterpart, the Black Mare or Night Mare (Melanippe). Great Mare Goddess Who granted sovereignty over the land to the continental Celts. After Roman conquest, She became patroness of horses and all who work with horses. Traditionally shown with a stable key.

Eriu - The Lady Eire - ancient Irish Goddess, Controller of the western apple garden of immortality.

Flidhais - Woodland Goddess, sometimes took the form of a doe.

Morgan Le Fay - Death Goddess. Wells were sacred to Her. Aka Morrigan, Mara, Fata Morgana. Raven Her bird. Shamrock Her plant.

Morrighu - Goddess of Battle. She sometimes takes the shape of a woman washing a bloodied piece of clothing at the edge of a ford. The warrior who beholds Her knows that he will soon die.

Nimue - Moon Goddess of Fate.

Rhiannon - Other World Birch Goddess. Raven Her bird.

Sinclair - Sacred Light.

Sulis - Also known as Sul or Sol (Norse). Ancient Celtic Sun Goddess, worshipped especially on hilltops overlooking springs. The Springs at Bath were originally known as Aquae Sulis (Waters of the Sun).

Dates in Irish Myth and Legend

These are some of the high points of the legendary prehistory and history of Ireland, mainly from the **Lebor Gabála** (literally "The Book of Occupations"), **The Annals of the Four Masters** (17th century), **The Annals of Ulster**, **The Annals of Clonmacnoise**, **The Annals of Tigernach**, and **Chronicum Scotorum**.

3339 BC (AM 1859 - anno mundi; i.e., 1859 years after the Creation)

Destruction of the Tower of Babel

3330 BC

"In this year Fenius composed the language of the Gaeidhel from seventy-two languages, and subsequently committed it to Gaeidhel, son of Agnoman." (*Annals of Tigernach*)

"[The poets] asked the philosopher (Fenius) to choose for them from the many languages a language that no one else would have but which would be theirs alone; and so the Chosen Language was invented for them ... Question, why is Gaedilg [the Irish language] called the chosen language? Not difficult! Because it was culled out of every language; and every hyperdark sound in every language, a place was found for it in Irish since it has a capacity beyond every language." (*John Minahane's translation from the *Auraicept na n-Éces*, from his book *The Christian Druids*.*)

2956 BC

Cesair, granddaughter (or niece) of Noah, came to Ireland with 50 women and 3 men 40 days (or 40 years) before the Deluge, landing in Cork or Kerry. The men died long before the flood.

2679 BC

Partholon and his followers arrived. The Partholonians stayed 600 years; most died of the Plague.

2669 BC

The Partholonians fought the Fomorians, sea pirates probably from Scandinavia.

2666 BC

Slainghe mac Partholon buried in Carn Slebhe Slangha (the Carn of the Hill of Slane)

2379 BC

9000 Partholonians died of the plague. Taimhleacht Muintire Parthalain marks their burial. This may be a mound on the Hill of Slane which is rumoured to be one of their burial places. "Tamhlacht" = Plague Monument. There are about a dozen "Tallaght/Tamhlacht" place names in Ireland; e.g., Tallaght, a suburb of Dublin.

2349 BC

The Nemedians came from Spain or Scythia. Medu and Macha were the wives of two of the leaders. Most died of the Plague or were killed by the Fomorians; 30 escaped.

1933 BC

The Firbolgs came. Some say they were slaves of the Nemedians who stayed and possibly supplanted the Nemedians. They divided Ireland into five parts. Slainge was chief of roughly what is now Leinster.

1932 BC

Slainge died at Dinn Rig, his royal centre, and was buried there.

1896 BC

The Tuatha Dé Danaan (the Tribes of the Goddess Dana) came from the northwest, bringing with them, among other treasures, the Lia Fáil. They had developed and practised their magic arts in the North of Europe. They fought the Fir Bolgs near Cong, Co. Galway, and defeated them in the First Battle of Moytura. Their king, Nuada, lost an arm in the battle.

1889 BC

The physician Diancecht made a silver arm for Nuada.

1869 BC

The Tuatha Dé Danaan fought and defeated the Fomorians near Lough Arrow, Co. Sligo, in the Second Battle of Moytura. Nuada was killed, and Lugh Lámfhada became king. (The Fall of Troy also occurred about this time, according to the **Lebor Gabála**.)

1829 BC

Lugh established Aonach Tailten in memory of his foster mother, Tailte, daughter of the King of Spain, wife of Eochaid mac Erc, last king of the Fir Bolg. Her burial mound is The Hill of Tailte, also called Tailten, in the townland of Teltown between Navan and Kells in County Meath. Tailten was for a long time a chief royal gathering place (aonach).

1828 BC

Eochaid Ollathair the Dagda became king.

1749 BC

In the eightieth year of his high-kingship, Eochaid died of a wound given to him at the Battle of Moytura (120 years previously) by Cethlend, wife of Balor, the Fomorian chief. Eochaid is buried in the Brugh (Brú na Bóinne = Newgrange).

1748 BC

Dealbaoith mic Ogma became king.

1728 BC

Mac Cuill, Mac Cecht and Mac Greine began a shared kingship.

1699 BC (Thursday, 30 April)

The Milesians (followers of Mil) came from Spain and defeated the Tuatha Dé Danaan at Tailtin. Their first battle was at Slieve Mis in County Kerry, where Scota, daughter of Pharaoh ben Mileach, died. She was buried between Slieve Mis and the sea. One of Ireland's early names, Scotia, comes from her.

1698 BC

The first Milesian kings, the brothers Eremon and Emhear, began a shared kingship.

1335 BC

Ollamh Fodhla instituted the triennial Feis Tara.

658 BC

Macha becomes queen, according to one version (not the one I use) of the naming of Emain Macha.

631 BC

Ugainy Mor king of Ireland and Western Europe to the Mediterranean

592 BC

Ugainy Mor killed by Badbchadh

591 BC

Laoghaire (Laery) Lorc, son of Ugainy Mor, king

590 BC

Laoghaire killed by his brother Cobhthach (Covac) Caol ("Lean")

589 BC

Cobhthach king

540 BC

Cobhthach killed by Labhraidh Loingseach Mae mac Oiliolla Aine with 30 kings at Dinn Rig ("at Tuamna Tenbath precisely" -- **Annals of Tigernach**). John Minahane (**The Christian Druids**) translates "Túaim

Tenbath" as "The Hill of Flaming Death" in what James Carney called "possibly the oldest poem in the Irish language" (pre-AD 450).

Dind Rig rúad túaim tenbath
 tricha fariach fo brón bebsat
 brúisius bréosius bár nia lond Labraid
 láith Eilgi hua Luirc Lóegaire

Dind Rig is red, a hill of flaming death,
 thirty subkings died in torment;
 he crushed them he smashed them
 the fierce boar-warrior "Speaks",
 the hero of Ireland, Loegairi Lorc's grandson!
*(from **The Christian Druids**)*

539 BC

Labhraidh king

521 BC

Labhraidh killed by Melghe Molbhthach son of Cobhthach Caol

140 BC

Eochaidh Feidhleach ("Constant Sighing") king
 "He was father to that famous (but not altogether for Goodness) woman"
 Queen Maeve of Connacht "and to 4 other Daughters ... But the lady
 Meaw [Maeve] was of Greater Report then the rest because of her great
 boldness, Buty, and stout manlyness in Giving of battles, insatiable Lust,
 her father allowed her for her portion the province of Connaught, and shee
 being thereof possessed grew soe Insolent and shameless that shee made
 an oath never to marry with anyone whatsoever that would be stained with
 any of these 3 Defects and Imperfections as she accounted them vidzt
 with jealousy for any Letchery that she should committ, with unmanliness

or Imbecillitie, soe as the party could not be soe bould as to undertake any adventure whatsoever were it never soe Difficult, and Lastly she would never marry with anyone that feared any man living."
(Annals of Clonmacnoise)

128 - 114 BC

Eochaidh Airemh ("Gravedigger"), brother of Eochaidh Feidhleach, husband of Étaíne, king (story: Midir and Étaíne)

107 BC

Conaire Mor, son of Etersceoil, grandson of Étaíne, king

38 BC

Conaire Mor killed at Bruighin da Derg (story: The Destruction of Da Derga's Hostel)

BC / AD (AM 5199 = AD 1)

All historical and legendary accounts agree that the Táin Bó Cuailnge took place about this time. According to the **Annals of Tigernach**, Mary the mother of Jesus was born at the time of the Táin (no date given). Cúchulain was killed in 2 or 12 AD. King Conor mac Nessa of Ulster died when he went mad on hearing about the crucifixion of Christ.

AD 86 - 106 (130 - 160?) (76 - 96?)

Tuathal Techmar ("the Legitimate") king
 Tuathal defeated other kings to become High King. He fought 133 battles in 30 years. According to the "Romans in Ireland" camp, Tuathal may have done this with Roman military aid. This view is strengthened by the recent discovery of what appears to be a Roman fort near Dublin. Tuathal annexed territory around Tara to make Meath the Royal Province. He imposed the Bórama on Leinster.

AD 120

Cathaoir Mor king, father of Ethne in the story The Melodies of Buchet's House

AD 123 - 157

Conn Céadcathach ("of the Hundred Battles") king, after killing Cathaoir Mor.

The five roads to Tara -- Slighe Asail, Slighe Miodhluachra, Slighe Cualann, Slighe Mor, Slighe Dala -- appeared at Conn's birth. At the age of 17, Fionn mac Cumhail ended the Burning of Tara and became captain of the Fianna during Conn's rule.

AD 166 - 195

Art mac Conn king

AD 227 - 266

Cormac mac Art king

AD 268 - 284

Cairpre Liffechair, son of Cormac mac Art, king

AD 284**Death of Fionn mac Cumhail**

One of the 12 great poets of Ireland, One of the 7 kings of Ireland, ie, the High King, the kings of the five provinces, and Fionn as king of the Fianna Served as captain of the Fianna during the reigns of 7 High Kings:

Conn Céadcathach AD 123 – 157

Conaire, son of Modha Lamha AD 158 – 166

Art mac Conn AD 166 – 195

Lughoidh mac Con AD 196 – 226

Cormac mac Art AD 227 – 266

Eochaidh Gondat AD 267

Cairpre Liffechair, son of Cormac mac Art AD 268 - 284

"Three things we lived by: truth in our hearts, strength in our hands, and fulfilment in our tongues."

(motto of the Fianna)

"It is quite a mistake to suppose him to have been a merely mythical character. Much that has been narrated of his exploits is, no doubt, apocryphal enough; but Finn himself is an undoubtedly historical personage; and that he existed about the time at which his appearance is recorded in the annals, is as certain as that Julius Caesar lived and ruled at the time stated on the authority of the Roman historians."
(Eugene O'Curry)

AD 284

End of the Fianna at the Battle of Gabhra (Garristown, Co. Meath)
Oisín's son and Fionn's grandson, Oscar, and Cairbre Liffechair killed each other.

"Except for Oscur and Bran,
[Fionn] never shed tears for anyone on earth."

AD 353

Birth of Saint Patrick near Glasgow

AD 364

Saint Patrick captured by Irish pirates and brought to Ireland as a slave to tend pigs on Slieve Mis, Co. Antrim

AD 369

Saint Patrick released by an angel, studied under Saint Germanus on the Continent

AD 432

Saint Patrick arrived in Ireland as a bishop

AD 433

Saint Patrick built a fire on the Hill of Slane to challenge the druids of King Laeghaire at Tara

AD 439

Birth of Saint Brigit at Faughart

AD 444

Headquarters of the Christian Church in Ireland established by Saint Patrick at Armagh

AD 460

Laeghaire had tried to impose the Bórama on the Leinstermen, was defeated and captured, released on his solemn oath by the elements -- "by sea and land, moon and sun, water and air" -- that he would not try to impose the Bórama again, did so, and was killed by the elements.

"The elements of God, which he had pledged as guarantee, inflicted the doom of death on the king."

(Chronicum Scotorum)

AD 494

Death of Saint Patrick
His tomb is in Downpatrick, Co. Down.

AD 520

Birth of Saint Colmcille (Colum Cille/Columba)

AD 524

Death of Saint Brigit
She is buried in the same tomb with Saint Patrick.

AD 593

Death of Saint Colmcille

He is buried in the same tomb with Patrick and Brigit. Their bodies moved apart to make room for him.

AD 595

Cumascach, son of High King Aedh Ainmire, killed by Brandubh, king of Leinster. This was the cause of the Battle of the Road of Dún Bolg the following year.

AD 596

Death of High King Aedh Ainmire in the Battle of the Road of Dún Bolg. He called the Convention of Drum Cet in 575, at which Saint Colmcille defended the poets and saved them from being expelled from Ireland.

Bator ionmuine tri taoibh
 fris nach freisge aitherrach
 Taobhan Taillten, taobh Temhra
 's taobh Aodha, mic Ainmireach.

"There were three beloved sides
 Of whose return there is no hope;
 The side of Taillten, the side of Temhair [Tara],
 And the side of Aedh, son of Ainmire."
(from his wife's lament)

AD 615 (AFM gives variously 610, 619 and 624)

"Death of Ronan, son of Colman, King of Leinster." (**Chronicum Scotorum**) This may be the historical Rónán on whom the legendary "Rónán mac Aed" in Fingal Rónáin is based.

AD 618

Death of Saint Kevin, aged 120

AD 637

Battle of Magh Rath (Moira, Co. Down)

This was a historically important battle over the kingship of Ireland, in which the Scottish kingdom of Dalriada lost its Irish territories. Congal Cloen ("Squint-eyed" from a bee-sting), king of the Ulaid, and his Scottish allies fought against High King Domnall, son of Aedh Ainmire.

"The three virtues of that battle are the defeat of Congal Cloen in his falsehood by Domnall in his truth, and that Suibne the Madman became mad, and that the brain of forgetfulness was taken out of the head of Cennfaelad.

"And the virtue is not in Suibne's becoming mad, but in all the stories and poems he left after him in Ireland. And the virtue is not that the brain of forgetfulness was taken out of the head of Cennfaelad, but in all the book-learning that he left after him in Ireland."
(from the preface to an old law tract, quoted in The Cycles of the Kings)

Poets, painters and other artists still draw inspiration from The Frenzy of Sweeney. Suibne killed one of Saint Ronan Finn's psalmists with a spear and threw a spear at Saint Ronan, but the spear glanced off Ronan's handbell and flew into the air. Ronan cursed Suibne to fly as the spear did and to die by a spear. Suibne was driven mad by the din of the Battle of Magh Rath and took to the air. After many years flying around Ireland and composing verses while living in trees like a bird, Suibne recovered some of his sanity and stayed with Saint Moling (Mullins). Moling ordered his cook to give Suibne a bowl of milk each evening. She would dig her heel into a cowpat and fill it with milk for Suibne. Another woman accused the cook of preferring Suibne to her husband. (We are not told how she fed her husband.) The husband overheard this and killed Suibne with a spear.

Cennfaelad explained that the part of his brain that made him forget leaked out of his head through the wound he received during the Battle of Magh Rath, and so, after a

trepanning operation by Saint Bricin, he could remember word for word the lectures he attended at Toomregan University, near Ballyconnell, Co. Cavan. He was the first to put into writing the subjects that had traditionally been taught orally: poetry and law. One result is the *Auraicept na n-Éces*. (See also 3330 BC.)

Sources from <net/sn9/religion/myth/celticencyclopaedia.html>