

ROCZNIKI HUMANISTYCZNE  
Tom LXIX, zeszyt 11 – 2021  
ZESZYT SPECJALNY/SPECIAL ISSUE  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18290/rh216911-1s>

## EDITORS' PREFACE

This thematic Celtic issue contains selected papers from the 3rd Lublin Celtic Colloquium, which took place on 19–20 September 2019 and was organised to mark the 30th anniversary of the Department of Celtic Studies at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin.

The aim of the conference was to bring together people who share an interest in all things Celtic, be it linguistics, literature or culture, and to present researchers with a broader picture in the face of the growing compartmentalisation and specialisation in academic research. The leitmotif of the conference—“Changing Perspectives in Celtic Studies”—can be read in two ways: on the one hand, it encourages us to look into a shift of emphasis in Celtic studies, and on the other it encourages us to actively shape and direct the academic debate by offering new insights. This collection thus covers a wide spectrum of issues relating specifically to the study of Celtic languages, which are addressed in the area of phonology, morphology, syntax, chronology and lexicology: the papers offer structural and functional analyses alongside socio-linguistic considerations.

This issue is also a modest token of gratitude to all of the people who founded the Department of Celtic Studies at KUL and who have made its activity for the past 30 years possible.

The Department started due to the inspiration and intellectual leadership of the late Professor Edmund Gussmann, who led it until his departure in 1999, when Professor Eugeniusz Cyran took over until 2014. Since then, Professor Maria Bloch-Trojnar has been in charge.

When it was founded back in 1989 with the aim of conducting research in the area of Celtic languages, literature and culture (especially, but not only, that of Irish and Welsh), the Department was the only one of its kind in central Europe. It was the only place where one could learn both Irish and Welsh. The first handbook for learning Irish in Poland was prepared in Lublin by Prof. Aidan Doyle and Prof. Gussmann, and has served as a reference book for generations of

students. Professor Gussmann himself was a remarkable person who had a unique gift for uniting people towards the joint achievement of ambitious goals. For the past 30 years, the Celtic Department has been conducting research into various aspects of Celtic studies, which has come to fruition in the form of 20 books, including nine volumes in the *Lublin Studies in Celtic Languages* series, three volumes of the proceedings of the Lublin Celtic Colloquium, which has been organised biennially since 2015, and 11 PhD dissertations.

The Department has always been a distinctive part of the Institute of English, and is now a part of the Department of Linguistics. It has offered courses in Celtic languages, culture and literature in order to show that there is more to the British Isles than just Great Britain, to make others aware of the truly remarkable fact that the Celtic-speaking nations, which are relatively small, have made a distinctive and lasting contribution to our world in so many respects. Over the years we have had 23 guest lecturers from Ireland, Wales and Great Britain, and our network of friends in Europe and beyond is now quite impressive. We would like to express our gratitude to, amongst others, Aidan Doyle, Andrew Breeze, Aled Llion Jones, Breandán Ó Cróinín, Siôn Pennar, Sabine Asmus, Paul Birt, Iestyn Daniels, Conchúr Ó Giollagáin, Mike Hornsby, Jane Cartwright, John Cartwright, Seosamh Mac Muirí, Caitríona Ní Ghriallais, Seán Ó Céilleachair, Siwan Davies, Brian Ó Conchubhair, Illtud ab Alwyn, Emma Nic Cárthaigh, Alan Desmond, Iwan Wmffre, Siôn Williams and Rhidian Jones. Special mention should also go to those who have produced PhDs under the auspices of the Celtic Department, some of whom have stayed on to pass on their knowledge from their area of expertise to the next generations of students, including Anna Bloch-Rozmej, Krzysztof Jaskuła, Anita Buczek-Zawiła, Magdalena Chudak, Katarzyna Bednarska-Adamowicz, Sławomir Zdziebko and Aleksander Bednarski.

From its inceptive stages, the Department has received much support from the Embassy of Ireland in Poland. In close co-operation with the Embassy, the Department has been able to organise numerous cultural events such as popular-academic talks, workshops, presentations, concerts and exhibitions promoting the rich cultural heritage of the Celtic-speaking peoples.

Our teaching and research activities and our initiatives to promote the Irish language and the richness and beauty of Ireland's cultural heritage would not have had the same impetus and, in many cases, would simply not have been possible if it were not for the encouragement and firm support from the Embassy of Ireland which we have received over the years. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge this, and to express our heartfelt gratitude.

Maria Bloch-Trojnar, Mark Ó Fionnáin