

COIMISIÚN BÉALOIDEASA ÉIREANN

CEISTIÚCÁN : AN BÉALTAINÉ

TÁBÁC LAE BÉALTAINÉ SA BLIAIN. AR LÁ MÓR-TÁBÁC SA BLIAIN LÁ BÉALTAINÉ SA TSEANA-SÁOL? AR CEANN FÉILE É? AN N-ÁIRMIÚCÍ MAR LÁ TOSAÍG AN tSAMHRAÍÓ É (“LUAN LAE BÉALTAINÉ AN CÉAD LÁ DON tSAMHRAÍÓ”)? SEANFOCAIL NÓ RÁIÓTE INA TAOBH SO? AR LÁ MÓR É CÚN CÍOSA DO DÍOL NÓ CÚN HIRÁLA NÓ CÚN TALAMH (TIGÉTE, JRL.) A CÚR AR CÍOS? AN N-AISTRIGÉITÍ EALLAC NÓ CAOIRIGÉ AMAC ÓN tTALAMH CÚN MBÍR SHAIRB AN LÁ SAN? AN BHFUIL DON ADAIRTÍ I tTAOBH NA BÉALTAINÉ AGUS OBAIR NA FEIRME, NA BARRAÍ, STOC NA FEIRME, JRL.? AN N-ÁIRMIÚCÍ AN CÉAD tDOMNAC DEN BÉALTAINÉ MAR LÁ BÉALTAINÉ? CAO É “SEANA-BÉALTAINÉ”, AGUS CATAM A tASAÓ SÍ? DON tSEANCÁS INA TAOBH? AN STAONTAÍ Ó OBAIR OIROCE BÉALTAINÉ NÓ LÁ BÉALTAINÉ?

LÁ BÉALTAINÉ AGUS AN AIMSIR. DON tSEANCÁS I tTAOBH NA hAIMSIRE SA BÉALTAINÉ? NÓ I tTAOBH tCAOIRÍ (“RABARTA NA nÉAN”) NA FAIRRGE AN UAIR SIN? NÓ I tTAOBH NA SHREINE LÁ BÉALTAINÉ? NÓ I tTAOBH SHALAIGE NA BÉALTAINÉ? CAO A tDEIRTÍ I tTAOBH NA SHAOITE SA BÉALTAINÉ?

BREOITEACÉ SA BÉALTAINÉ; BUADHAINNA FÉ LEIT. CAO É AN tBAINTE A tBÍOD tOIR AN BÉALTAINÉ AGUS AICÍOÍ, tDAR LE tDÁOINE? AN MBÍOD BUADH FÉ LEIT tD’DON tSAGAS AG tDÁOINE NÓ AG ANMIÓDTE DO SAOSHUIGÉITÍ LÁ BÉALTAINÉ, tDAR LEÓ? DON tPÍSEOGA I tTAOBH tCOOLAÓ LÁ BÉALTAINÉ?

RAC UM BÉALTAINÉ. DON tSCÉALTA NÓ RÁIÓTE NÓ PÍSEOGA AICÍÚLA I tTAOBH tDÁOINE DO tPÓSPAÍ SA BÉALTAINÉ? NÓ I tTAOBH tARRAÍ MAR tÉADAIGE NÓ tBRÓGA DO tCEANNÓPAÍ LÁ BÉALTAINÉ? CAO A tCEAPTAÍ tDE tSTRÓINSÉIRÍ DO tRAGAD AR tTALAMH tDUINE AN LÁ SAN?

FÁISTINE AGUS tTUARÇA. AN tFÉIDIR tDUIT tCÚNTAS tFAGÁIL AR neithe DO tDEINTÍ OIROCE BÉALTAINÉ NÓ LÁ BÉALTAINÉ CÚN tEOLAS tFAGÁIL AR neithe tBÍ LE tDUITIM AMAC, MAR tSOMPLA, AR AN tSAGAS tCÉILE tPÓSTA A tBEAD I tNOÁN DO tDUINE? tCÚNTAS AR tTUARÇA (tCOMARCAÍ) I tDITOSAC NA BÉALTAINÉ I tTAOBH AN tRAC (NÓ A tMÁLAIRT) A tBÍ I tNOÁN DON tEAGHLAC, tDOS NA tBARRAÍ, tDON tSTOC, JRL., I tRIT NA tBLIANA A tBÍ LE tTEACÉ. AN tDUIOMÁINTÍ tMUC NÓ tAINMIÓDTE eile tISTEAC SA tIGÉ I tDITOSAC NA BÉALTAINÉ CÚN tSO tMBEAD AN tRAC AR AN tDITIG?

TIGÉTE, tTALAMH, tSTOC Á tCÓISREACAN. AR tSHNÁCAC tPAIDIR FÉ LEIT A tRÁO OIROCE BÉALTAINÉ AG tSHURDE tBEANNACÉTAÍ Ó tOIA AR AN tLINTIGE AGUS AR A tRAIB tACA SAN AM A tBÍ LE tTEACÉ? tCÉ tDEIREAD AN tPAIDIR? CAO A tDEIRTÍ? tCÚNTAS AR AN tNÓS.

CIMILT tNEANNTÓG. AR tSHNÁCAC tNEANNTÓGA DO tCIMILT tDE tDÁOINE OIROCE BÉALTAINÉ? CAO tCUIGE É?

DRÚCÉ NA BÉALTAINÉ. AN tFÉIDIR tDUIT DON tSCÉALTA NÓ PÍSEOGA tFAGÁIL SAN tAIT INA tTAOBH SO : tDRÚCÉ CÚN tDADÚLACÉTA, CÚN tRACA, CÚN tBUADHAINNA FÉ LEIT?

BLÁTAINNA NA BÉALTAINÉ. AN tDUGSTAÍ tBLÁTAINNA NÓ tGLASRA tISTEAC SA tIGÉ tMAIDIM LAE BÉALTAINÉ? CAO tIAD tFÉIN? tCÉ tUGAD tISTEAC tIAD, tCATAM, AGUS CAO tCUIGE? CAO tDEIRTÍ LE tN-A tLINN? tCÁ tSHUIRTÍ NA tBLÁTAINNA, JRL.? AN tFADA tFÁGTAÍ ANN tIAD? AN tRAIB DON tAINM FÉ LEIT AR NA tBLÁTAINNA SO, NÓ AR AN tNÓS? AN tRAIB tBLÁTAINNA NÓ tGLASRA ANN tNÁR tCÓIR A tTABAIRT tISTEAC SA tIGÉ AN LÁ SAN?

TOR NA BÉALTAINÉ; tMÓR-SHUBAL. AN tMBÍOD tNÓS SAN tAIT SIN tTOR tSPEISIALTA A tCÚR tSUAS NÓ A tBREIT tTIMDÉALL LÁ BÉALTAINÉ? tMÁ tBÍ, tTABAIR tCÚNTAS AR AN tTOR, AR AN tAIT A tSHUIRTÍ tSUAS É, AR NA tHÓRNÁIDÍ tBÍOD tAIR, AR AN tSLIGE tCUIRTÍ tSUAS É, AR NA tDÁOINE tBÍOD tPÁIRTEAC ANN, AGUS AR AN tRINNCE NÓ AR tÉLUICÍ NÓ A tLEITÉID A tBÍOD ANN LE tN-A tLINN? AN tDUGSTAÍ AN tTOR NÓ DON tRUO eile tTIMDÉALL Ó tIGÉ tSO tIGÉ AN LÁ SAN? CAO tCUIGE É? AN tMBÍOD tMHRÁN AR tSHUBAL tACA? AN tBHAIGÓIS tFÉIRINÍ INA NA tIGÉID? CAO A tDEINTÍ tLEÓ-SAN? AN tFADA tFÁGTAÍ AN tTOR SAN tAIT SIN tAIRIÉ? CAO A tDEINTÍ tLEIS tANNAN? AN tMAIREANN AN tNÓS SAN tPÓS SAN tAIT?

CRANN NA BÉALTAINÉ. AN tSHUIRTÍ tSUAS tCRANN NÓ tCUAILLE tSPEISIALTA SAN tAIT SIN I tSHÓIR NA BÉALTAINÉ? tCÚNTAS tAIR. tMARA tHFUIL AN tNÓS tPÓS ANN, AN tFADA Ó tÉIRGEAD AS?

Aonaic na Bealtaine. An mbíod aonaic mór-le-rád sa céanntar i dtosac na Bealtaine sa bliain? Catam: Lá Bealtaine, an céad luan den Bealtaine, an Ilao Lá Bealtaine? Cá mbíod sé? Cad é an tabaict speisialta a bain leis? An nósanna nó ráidte ina taob? An mbíonn sé fós ann?

An Tobar sa Bealtaine. An piseoga nó scéalta i dtuath toibreacha Oidce Bealtaine nó Maíom Lae Bealtaine (raic nó sochar na bliana a foir leis an uisce, srl.)? Conus a cuirte ina comháb sin? Scéalta agus piseoga i dtuath sochar a foir le huisce teorann nó le huisce na habann? An dtugtaí turas speisialta ar an tobar beannuite sa céanntar Oidce Bealtaine nó Lá Bealtaine?

An Teime Lá Bealtaine. Cad iad na nósanna nó na piseoga do lean an teime Lá Bealtaine? Nó an céad teime do deargófaí sa céanntar an maíom sin? An mbíod daoine as faire amac do deatac ó sinnéite na scoirsan? Cad iad na nósanna nó na piseoga do bain le teime do tabairt ar iasact an maíom sin? Nó le píopa do deargad as teime i dtuath eile? Cúntas ar na neite do deintí cun na teime do cosaint. Scéalta ina dtuath san go léir.

Teinte cnám Oidce Bealtaine nó Lá Bealtaine? An scéalta nó nósanna ina dtuath san?

Foir ime agus bainne, agus a cose san. An scéalta ina dtuath so? Sligte cun sochar feirme do foir: tobar do taoscad, urúct a baint de talam na scoirsan, téadán nó brat do carrac ar urúct na scoirsan, luibeanna do beirbhú i dtuath, sníom as cros-bótar, téadán a caiteam tar boin le comarsan, cuiseann breise do deanam, cré do foir ó cosaid ba na scoirsan, srl. Cúntas nó scéalta orda san nó ar neitib dá leiteir. Catam a deintí iad? Focail do húsairtí le n-a linn? Breit ar daoine bíod á deanam. Scéalta ar sarrfaid bead as crúo ba Maíom Lae Bealtaine. Cad a deintí cun na foir i m nó sochar an bainne Lá Bealtaine? Na ba d'faire, ruo éigin do cimit dá n-útaca, uisce coisreacan nó uat do scaipead (cén áit), srl. Cosaint na cuisimne cun ná foir i a sochar: cad a deintí?

Luibeanna Lá Bealtaine. An scéalta nó nósanna nó piseoga i dtuath luibeanna do píocad Oidce Bealtaine nó Lá Bealtaine? Cé píocad iad, agus cad cuise?

Iasact sa Bealtaine. An piseoga i dtuath ruo fagáil nó a tabairt ar iasact Oidce Bealtaine nó Lá Bealtaine? Cad iad na ruoai ba mó bíod i sceist (im, bainne, srl., nó eimí eile)? An maí le daoine ruoai bead amuis ar iasact uata fagáil tar nais roim Lá Bealtaine? An fada amisire do leanad réim na bpiseog so maíom le hiasact um Bealtaine (roim an úfáite agus ina dtuath)? Scéalta i dtuath iasact um Bealtaine.

Na Sídeoga agus an Bealtaine. Ar cóir, dar le daoine, do duine beic amuis go deannac Oidce Bealtaine? Cad é an baogal a bead ann do? An mbíod na sídeoga, dar leo, go hana-ghótaic an oidce sin? An dtugtaí bia nó éimí eile amuis fén doib? Cúntas air sin. Cad cuise é? An n-aistrigead na sídeoga ó áit go háit eile comhábte an oidce sin, dar le daoine? An scéalta i dtuath daoine nó amhábte do fuaduisgead an oidce sin, báire síde, cogad síde ar sibal, srl.? An scéalta i dtuath dáile neamhsaolta nó ruoai neamhsaolta do bead le feiscint Maíom Lae Bealtaine (ó Donncaoda an Gleanna, murduaca, ruoai do tiocfad istead ar an dtuath, srl.)? An scéalta i dtuath ruoai mar cloca nó carraigreacha go dtiocfad anam ionnta Oidce Bealtaine nó Maíom Lae Bealtaine?

IRISH FOLKLORE COMMISSION

QUESTIONNAIRE : MAY EVE AND MAY DAY

May Day as Point in Year. Was May Day an important day in the year? One of the Quarter-days? The beginning of summer? Any popular sayings about it? Was it a set day for paying rent, hiring, letting? Is there any tradition of moving cattle or sheep to rough pastures on May Day? Any sayings about May and farm-work, crops, stock, etc.? Was the first Sunday of May kept as May Day? Are there any traditions of "Old May Day"? When was it? Did people refrain from work on May Eve or May Day?

May Day and Weather. Any weather sayings about May? About sea-tides in May? About the sun on May Day? The May moon? Any beliefs about the wind in Maytime?

Sickness and Special Powers. Did May Day affect sickness? Were persons or animals born on May Day supposed to have special powers? Any beliefs about sleeping on May Day?

Luck. Any local beliefs, sayings or stories about marriage in May? About buying clothes or boots on May Day? About strangers walking land on May Day?

Divination and Omens. Any traditions of practices on May Eve or Morn to divine the future, e.g., to find out about future husband? Describe. Omens at beginning of May re coming year, crop, stock, household? Pig or other animal driven into house for luck?

Blessing of Home, Fields and Stock. Did some member of the family invoke blessing on house, fields, stock, on May Eve? Why? What prayer was said? Describe the ceremony.

Nettle-stinging on May Eve. Was it the custom to sting people with nettles on May Eve? If so, describe custom.

Dew. Any local beliefs or stories about dew on May Morn as conferring beauty, luck, or special powers to hands?

May Flowers. Were flowers or branches brought into house on May Morn? What flowers, plants or branches? By whom? Why? When? Was any saying or song used? Did people in house reply? Where were plants put? For how long were they left? Was any special name applied to these plants, or to the custom of bringing them in? Were certain plants unlucky to bring in?

May Bush and Procession. Was the custom of setting up a May Bush observed in your district? If so, give an account of the bush, site on which it was erected, decorations, ceremony of erection, people taking part, dancing, games or festivities around it. Was it taken round in procession? Was any other emblem or effigy carried round in procession on May Day? Were houses visited, gifts expected? Was a song sung? What was done with the gifts? How long was the bush left standing? Where and how was it disposed of? Is any such custom still kept up?

May Pole. Is there any tradition in your district of erecting a May Pole? If so, give as complete an account as you can. Is it long since it was observed?

May Fair. Was a fair of special importance held in the beginning of May? On May 1st, first Monday of May, May 11th? Where? Why was it regarded as important? Any special customs or sayings connected with it?

The Well at Maytime. Any beliefs or stories about wells on May Eve or May Morn, e.g., "profit"-stealing? How was it done? Were precautions taken against it? Any "profit"-stealing at boundary or river waters?

Was any local Holy Well visited specially on May Eve or May Day?

The Fire on May Day. What was the local belief about the household fire on May Day? About the first fire lit on May Morn? Watching for neighbours' smoke? About lending or borrowing embers? About lighting a pipe at a neighbour's fire? Precautions taken to guard the fire? Any stories told locally about any of these points will be welcome.

Any tradition of bonfires on May Eve or May Day? If so, please find out all you can about the custom and write it down.

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Milk- and Butter-Stealing and Prevention. Any stories about these activities? Methods used, e.g., skimming wells, drinking dew on other's land, dragging cloth or rope in dew, boiling herbs in lime-kiln, spinning at cross-roads, rope thrown across neighbour's cow, mock churning, mud from cow's foot, etc. If any of these were told of locally, or other methods not here mentioned, please tell about them, and give the local anecdotes. Time of performance? Words used? Discovery of persons suspected? Any tale of a milking hare on May Morn? What preventive measures were taken against milk and butter-stealing? All-night watch of cattle, udders rubbed (with what)? Holy Water or ashes sprinkled (where)? Any objects put in or on churn as protection?

Herb-Picking on May Day. Any local beliefs or story about herb-picking on May Eve or May Day? By whom picked? For what purpose?

Lending or Borrowing. Any beliefs about lending or borrowing on May Eve or May Day? To what things (farm-produce or things in general) did the belief apply? Recovery of lent objects before May Day? Within what time limits did the belief apply? Any local stories regarding these beliefs will be welcome.

Fairies and May. Was it considered wrong to be out late on May Eve? What dangers were feared? Were fairies supposed to be particularly active on May Eve and May Day? Was any food or other offering left out for fairies on May Eve? If so, describe. Why? Did fairies change their abode on that day? Any stories of fairy kidnappings, hurling matches, battles, etc., on May Eve? Any stories of appearances of supernatural beings or objects on May Morn (e.g., O'Donoghue of the Glen, mermaids, objects washed up on sea-shore, etc.). Any tradition of stones, rocks, etc., coming to life on May Eve or Morn?