



Danny's Celtic Kids

"Ireland is where strange tales begin and happy endings are possible"

Newsletter Issue 10 March 2006



Danny's Corner

My Saint Patrick's Day Wish...

Each year around March 17th, the Saint Patrick's name appears in every major publication in the civilized world; sometimes with honor and sometimes with scorn. The scorn is often due to the silly conduct of those who celebrate at affairs which bear Patrick's name, but have little or nothing to do with the man or

his legacy.

For many years I've been thinking how we could celebrate St. Patrick's Day differently. When I grew up in Ireland, St. Patrick's Day was a day for religious devotions, but as we turned towards the 21st century, around the world, the day became very commercialized. Instead of the saint, the day became associated with parades, parties, green drinks and green food.

If I had *draíocht* (magic) I would cast my spell so that Saint Patrick would look down on St. Patrick's Day and smile. He was a man of learning and believed deeply in the importance of education. Maybe we could use the parades to educate both young and old and at the same time have lots of fun. We could have floats representing something from each century of Irish history and culture. There would be music, dance, art and wonderful costumes.

So kids, when you grow up, maybe a day will come when you organize and lead St. Patrick's Day parades that are truly associated with the saint who devoted his life to God, Ireland and to education.

May you have a Blessed St. Patrick's Day with your family and friends.

God Bless,

Danny



A Traditional Irish Blessing

May you be blessed with the strength of heaven__
the light of the sun and the radiance of the moon__
the splendor of fire__the speed of lightning__ the swiftness of wind__
the depth of the sea__the stability of earth and the firmness of rock.

From the Breastplate of Saint Patrick



Here is a word search puzzle for St. Patrick's Day. Find the words listed below and circle them. Remember the words can be across, down, backward, or diagonal.



- ~~PARADE~~
- FLOATS
- HOLIDAY
- PATRICK
- HISTORY
- GREEN
- IRELAND
- SNAKES
- SHAMROCK
- SAINT



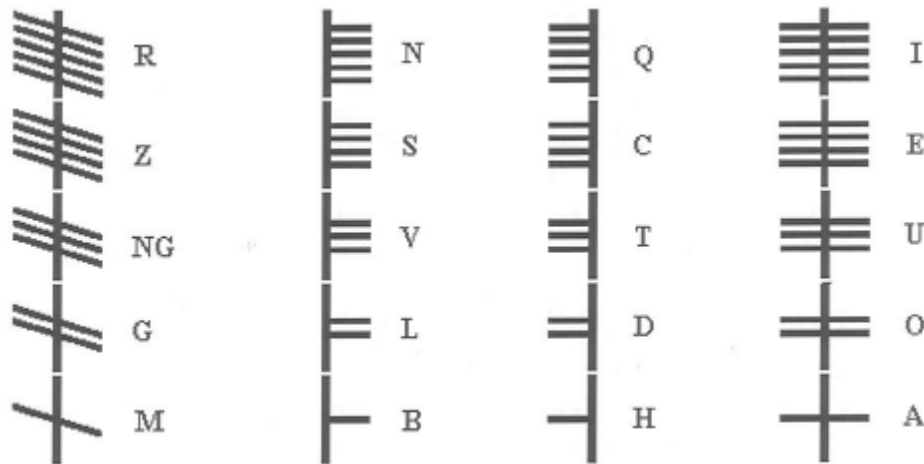
Ogham

(pronounced "oh-um")

The Ancient Celtic Alphabet



Ogham Stone



Ogham Stone

When St. Patrick was traveling around Ireland teaching about Christianity, he wrote using the Latin alphabet. But there was another alphabet in use in Ireland that was very different. Ogham was the earliest form of writing in Irish. The Ogham alphabet was a series of twenty letters made up of straight lines and notches carved on the edge of a piece of stone or wood.

Any carvings that were in wood have long since disappeared. The remaining engraved stones are found in the West of Ireland, but they have also been found in Wales, Cornwall, western Scotland, the Isle of Man, and the Shetland Islands. (Have your parents help you find all these places on a map.)

The Irish had no other written alphabet. In their society, any story, poem, or even their complex system of laws was passed on orally (by the spoken word). The earliest inscriptions date mainly from the 4th and 5th centuries. The information passed on by the use of Ogham was limited. The inscriptions contained little more than personal names on boundary markers or megalith (tomb) markers and stones.



According to accounts in ancient literature, Ogham as a type of writing and signaling was used only by the bards, druids, or warrior class of people. The common, uneducated people did not understand it or use it.

The letters in Ogham are made up of lines placed on or across a midline. An individual letter contained from one to five vertical or angles lines. The midline for Ogham was most often the edge of the wood or stone on which the inscription was being carved. Ogham is read from bottom to top. Any ogham that was carved or written across a page was read from left to right just like we read today.

The Christian missionaries, beginning with Saint Patrick, introduced Latin and the Latin alphabet. They considered the use of Ogham as a pagan practice, so after the first few centuries of the Christian era, the use of Ogham for inscriptions on graves or boundary markers became extinct.

Can you write your name in Ogham?

Using the Ogham alphabet on the preceding page, see if you can write your name using Ogham script.

If your name contains a letter that is not in Ogham script, use your imagination and create a letter of your very own. If you are having trouble get Mom or Dad to help you.



Here is a beautiful Celtic design for you to color. Can you find the birds?





Get your copy of Danny's book and music CD for kids.

You can purchase them at www.CelticNationsWorld.com in the Celtic Shop.



***The Monster Picnic* CD \$15.00 plus shipping and handling
Thirteen songs to delight children of all ages.**



Danny's "The Monster Picnic" CD has earned a Parents' Choice Award. To learn more about the award visit: <http://www.parents-choice.org>.



***The Loch Ness Monster's Story* \$15.00 plus shipping and handling
A story of the Loch Ness Monster family and their adventures.**

Danny's Celtic Kids Newsletter is a not-for-profit publication.

The newsletter is available at no cost on the websites www.CelticNationsWorld.com and dannyoflaherty.com.

We invite everyone to print a copy for themselves or for a friend. We also invite teachers to give copies to their students.

Be sure to check www.dannyoflaherty.com to see about having Danny bring his wonderful program of music and fun to your school.