

## Ag Baint Sponcáin

le Tadhg Dubh Ó Cróinín

# Cois Máighe na gCaor

Slán is céad ón dtaobh so uaim  
Cois Mháighe na gcaor, na gcaobh 's  
na gcauach,  
na stát, na séad, na saor, na slua,  
na ndán, na ndrúacht, na dtréan gan  
ghruaím.

Uch! uchón! is breoite mise,  
gan chuid gan chóir gan chóip gan  
chiste,  
gan sult gan seoid gan sport gan spi-  
onnadh  
ó seoladh mé chun uaignis.

Ní raibh aon aithne phearsanta  
agam féin ar an nDr Mainichín  
Seoighe a fuair bás breis bheag is  
seachtain ó shin ach, dála a lán  
eile, bhraitheas go rabhas fé  
chomaoín mhór aige mar gheall ar  
an obair éachtach a dhein sé ar son  
na Gaeilge, an tseanchais agus na  
staire áitiúla anso i Luimneach ar  
feadh a shaoil.

Scríobhadh mórán ina thaobh an  
tseachtain seo caite ar an bpáipéar  
seo agus ba léir ón méid sin an  
gean agus an meas a bhí ag daoine  
ar an bhfear—fear uasal éirimiúil  
agus scoláiríúil. Scoláire ab ea é, is  
cosúil, gur luigh a chuid léinn go  
héadrom air—an rud is annamh is  
iontach más ea.

Chomh maith leis an gcolún a  
scríobh sé don Limerick Leader ar  
feadh breis is caoga bliain (breis is  
3000 alt is cosúil a scríobh sé sa  
tréimhse seo!) tháinig roinnt  
mhaith leabhar ón pheann.  
Maraíodh Seán Sabhat Aréir, A  
Local History of Bruree, A Por-  
trait of Limerick, The Story of  
Killmallock, The Irish Quotation  
Book agus an ceann is mó go bhfuil  
suim ag lucht na Gaeilge ann is  
dócha, Cois Máighe na gCaor.

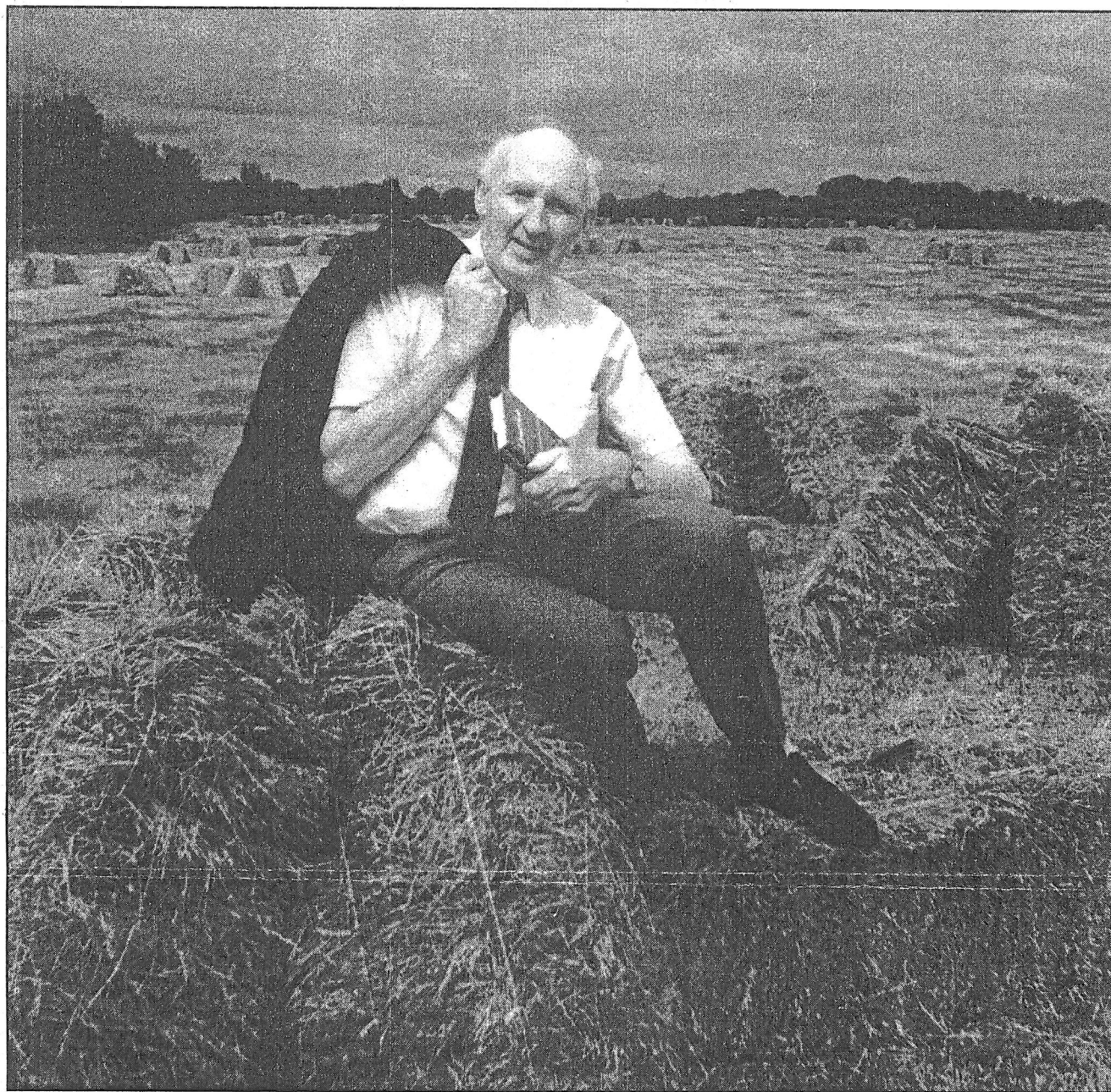
Is tríd an leabhar seo a chuireas  
féin agus mórán eile ar fuaid na  
tíre chomh maith, a déarfainn,  
aithne ar Mhainichín Seoighe agus  
is tríd an leabhar seo, leis, a  
chuireas aithne ar an ndúthaigh  
go bhfuil trácht uirthi sa leabhar—  
an dúthaigh sin ar dhá bhrúach  
abhainn na Máighe.

Leanann an leabhar an abhainn  
álainn seo óna foinse i mBaile  
Chaisleán Mhic Innéirí (nó ó  
Lárach i gCo Chorcaí más Cor-  
caíoch tú) go dtí go dtéann sí  
isteach sa tSionainn agus deintear  
trácht feadh na slí ar áiteanna  
agus ar na daoine a mhair iontu—  
Brú Rí, Brú na nDéise, Cnoc  
Fírinne, Cromadh an tSubhchais,  
Ath Dara, Díseart Aonghusa agus  
Pailís Chaonraí.

Tá trácht anseo ar phearsana  
stairiúla móra le rá ó aimsir  
Dhonn Fírinne go dtí Filí na  
Máighe go dtí De Valera féin! Is  
iontach mar a d'éirigh le  
Mainichín Seoighe an mhiotaseo-  
laíocht, an béaloideas, an  
dinnseanchas agus an litríocht a  
fhí isteach le chéile sa leabhar seo.

Nuair a thagann sé chomh fada  
le Gleann na Máighe tá an méid  
seo aige ar Chnoc Fírinne:

"An té a bheadh ag siúl ar bhrú-  
ach na habhann sa chuid seo dá  
cúrsa bheadh radharc breá aige ar



•An Dr Mainichín Seoighe: ní dócha gur scríobh sé aon rud níos fearr, níos taitneamhaí ná níos tábhachtaí ná Cois Máighe na gCaor

Chnoc Fírinne, ceithre mhíle siar  
uaidh. Tá Cnoc Fírinne 997 droigh  
ar airde, agus is é an cnoc is  
feiceálaí i gCo. Luimnigh é. Dheal-  
ródh sé gur ó Dhonn Fírinne, ceann  
de sheandéithe na bpágánach, a  
fuair sé a ainm. Sinsear-dhia ab ea  
Donn diacht an Neamshaoil, a  
bhailigh mairbh a shleachta chuige  
tar éis bháis dóibh. ... I 1943 d'inis  
Dónall Obriain fear 70 bliain  
d'aois, do Sheán Ó Seighin,  
bailitheoir béaloideas, gur ar  
Chnoc Fírinne a chónaigh Donn,  
agus gur i bPoll na Bruine, gar do  
mhullach an chnoic, a bhí doras  
pháláis. Dá gcaithfeá ceirtlin  
snátha isteach sa pholl, dúirt sé  
caithfí ar ais chugat é agus é  
smearta le fuil. ...

"Chreideadh na seandaoine go  
mbíodh dealramh Dhoinn ar na  
scamaill in aimsir stoirme. Bhí  
dealramh Dhonn Fírinne ar na sca-

maill aréir, a déarfadh duine,  
"agus bhí a fhios agam go mbeadh  
an lá go holc. ... Is go dtí Cnoc  
Fírinne a tháinig Míodhach mac  
Colgáin chun an Fhiann a mheal-  
ladh go dtí an Bhrúion  
Chaothainn ... agus ní gan  
diamhracht an tagairt a dhin  
Aogán Ó Rathaille don chnoc:  
Lasaid-sin trí coinnle go solas nach  
luaim / Ar mhullach Chnoic aoid  
Fhírinne Conallach Rua."

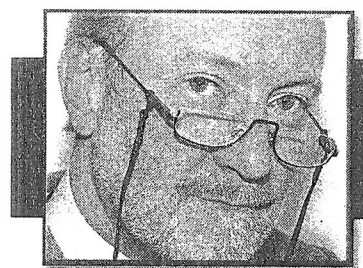
Ó Dhonn Fírinne go dtí Aogán Ó  
Rathaille laistigh de dhá  
leathanach agus féach a dhear-  
scríofa is atá sé chomh maith! Tá  
Cois Máighe na gCaor lán dona leithéid  
seo tríd síos—féach mar  
shampla, an chaibidil ghairid ar  
Phailitínigh Luimnigh agus an t-  
eolas ar fad aige laistigh de dhá  
leathanach déag nó mar sin –  
b'shin scoláireacht!

Ní dócha gur scríobh Mainichín

Seoighe aon rud níos fearr, níos  
taitneamhaí ná níos tábhachtaí ná  
Cois Máighe na gCaor i rith a  
shaoil agus ba mhór an náire é,  
gan dabht, dá ligfí an leabhar seo  
agus a bhfuil de shaibhreas  
litríochta, béaloideas agus staire  
ann i ndearú. Is cinnte, áfach, ná  
déanfar dearú ar an té a scríobh  
ná aon bhaol air—cá bhfios ach go  
mbunófar Scoil Samhraidh nó a  
leithéid ina onóir amach anseo ach  
idir an dá linn nár dheas athchló a  
chur ar Cois Máighe na gCaor  
chun go mbeidh teacht ag glúinte  
nua ar an saibhreas iontach a bhail-  
igh Mainichín Seoighe i dtaobh a  
dhúthai féin.

Is cuí comóradh den tsaghas seo  
a dhéanamh ar an bhfear uasal  
Gaelach agus ar a chuid oibre agus  
é anois ar shlí na fírinne.

Solas na bhFlaitheas dá anam  
usal.



## Bear

AFTER last week's launch of the  
shuttle Discovery from Cape  
Canaveral, we all started thinking  
about space again.

Discovery was sent up to deliver  
equipment and supplies to the inte-  
national space station and to drop  
European Space Agency's astronaut  
Thomas Reiter for a six-month stir.  
The station is the biggest manmad  
satellite ever. It can be seen at daw  
on clear mornings.

So we can see it, but what can be s  
from a satellite? How much detail  
available. We all see the weather  
images, but can we go one better?

So I looked up a NASA image,  
(http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/  
wsroom/NewImages/Ireland\_AM  
006153\_lrg.jpg) and there we were.

The entire Shannon Estuary was  
clear, Foynes Island, Tarbert Island  
Scattery, and the islands in the Fer  
Estuary clearly visible, and Augh  
ish was distinguishable, with its  
waste mud deposit a bright Mars-r  
dot. The tidal wildbird mudflats  
which stretch upriver of Ballystee  
on the south shore and upriver of  
Rineanna Point on the north were  
shown as grey strips.

Lough Derg appeared as a dark  
dragon, but also visible was the m  
made lake downriver of Killaloe,  
which is dammed by Parteen Weir.  
Lough Gur was shown as a "c" sha  
fleck. Bleach Lough and Dromore  
Lake were each just specks.

Most of our land was a lovely shad  
green, but the Galtees and the woo  
ridge of Slievenamuck, which  
together define the Glen of Aherlo  
were a gloomy shade of brown,  
reflecting their upland vegetation.

The characteristic water-eroded cc  
rugations of the Galtees were strik  
ing. The Ballyhouras, above Kilfi-  
nane, were a similar colour, althou  
speckled. Slieve Feilim and Woodc  
Hill were also hazily-defined. The  
rolling Mullaghareirks, stretching  
from Foynes into County Cork, bei  
the oldest of the region's mountai  
are shown as lushly vegetated.

But what built-up areas could be  
seen?

Limerick city was shown as a grey  
splash, surrounded by a corona of  
light green, indicating the city cor  
being densely packed, and the sub-  
urbs as having more gardens and  
open spaces.

Shannon town and industrial estat  
appears as a bright strip, and the  
main airport jetway, 06/24, can jus  
made out.

The only town in County Limerick  
which can be clearly identified is  
Newcastle West, now an urban are  
over 7,000 souls, and which has  
sprawled outward alarmingly in  
recent years. Kilmallock, Rathkeal  
and Abbeyfeale are long rather tha  
radial, and don't feature to the nak  
eye.

All that detail was available via m  
downloading a limited pixel image  
medium-speed off-air broadband to  
my coal-fired, steam-driven home  
desktop. It was what the people at  
Nasa were willing to let me see for  
nothing, fair play to them. But the  
are satellites up there which, I am  
told, have sufficient clarity and m  
nification to read the headlines of  
newspaper down here and report t

# Poor selection of vegetables disappoints at Bally

COUNTRY markets  
are all the rage  
nowadays and last  
Saturday we travelled  
deep into the Burren  
(climbed would be a  
more appropriate  
description) to buy  
organic new potatoes in  
Ballyvaughan.

The North Clare vil-  
lage was sweltering in  
sunshine even at 10 in  
the morning and about  
20 traders were staging a  
fine display of their veg-  
etables and crafts in  
their stalls outside the  
village hall.

Organic (a word with  
which I have a problem)

organic "using or grown  
with fertilisers and  
mulches consisting only  
of animal or vegetable  
matter with no use of  
chemical fertilisers or  
insecticides."

In other words, good,  
old fashioned farmyard  
dung.

In the old days this was  
barrowed from the cow  
sheds and stables where  
the animals had been  
bedded down in straw.

Left to decay in the  
dung heap over the win-  
ter, well rotted it was  
used in the gardens in  
the spring and an off  
product, the grass cocks,

before the contents of  
the white bag mountains  
of 10-10-20 and other  
combinations began the  
massive contamination.

Having been doused  
with the bag stuff for  
most of 50 years they say  
it takes seven years for  
the soil to recover. But  
with the residue from

limestone hills and cra-  
dled beneath the  
Corkscrew, a test for any  
motorist, with the great  
south east bulk of con-  
troversially plagued Mul-  
laghmore away in the  
distance, Ballyvaughan,  
like nearby Lisdoonva-  
rna, is famous for its  
mutton saturated with

woman recalled an occa-  
sion from the distant  
past when on a moonlit  
night in a battered old  
Morris Minor and with  
the Burren like an ice  
rink, we travelled the  
same road.

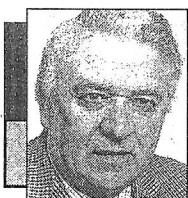
The nasal honking  
calls from a flock of  
noisy Brant Geese on a

At the market I was  
somewhat disappointed  
at the lack of variety in  
the vegetable stalls.  
There was only one vari-  
ety of new potatoes for  
sale: British Queens.

I was hoping that some  
of the local producers  
had retained some of the  
old land leaguer seed

when boiled there was a  
distinguishing blue ring  
in the floury texture  
under the skin.

Now scarce, they are  
still grown in places,  
mostly in small gardens  
and the seed can be  
acquired from the Seed  
Savers Association in  
Scariff



## FEAR TUAITHE

'THE COUNTRYMAN' by TOM BROWNE

Queer  
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