

Anthony James O'Shanty born 1863

From infancy A.J.O.S. heard stories, songs, prayers, ^{including} the sermons of Bishop Geccester ^{from his father and} mother in Court Island. As a young teacher he wrote them all down, & thus began his love of Gaelic folklore - he spent his leisure in collecting Gaelic songs and poems so long before "The Gaelic League revived interest" in them Gaelic.

Some of these songs he sent to "An Goodnal" Broekley's New York, giving an English translation & the meanings of word shows & difficult words - Fr Owen O Coamhe wrote a letter from Waymouth to "An Goodnal" in 1893 (27/2) 1893 praising An. words "Be chiallacha mar do mhingh An Bochartach o Oileán na Canute a samhán, dá ndearadh gach uile dhúine mar sin, níor dhéanadh Focloir do pharlú" When later on Fr. Lineen compiled his much readed Focloir, the words therein followed by Ros (short for Rosamach) were supplied by A.S.D.

Many of his mother's religious poems he published in The Kerry Post Journal and Omega Herald - unfortunately many of these are lost, but the list includes 1. Luan an tSléibhe 2. Bán na hAoine 3. Gú na Maigheline 4. Bán an Bháis 5. Och ochón na bhón go deo 6. Got na dtí mhúse 16. Múllín Seata d'auslú Breága

A. J. O'Donnell came to Tuam in 1910. He wrote three simple school books for Deán Uí Néill which were used widely in the national schools of the County.

The first was *Thús Léinn* was remarkable in that it contained no adjectival marks (skimhulne) to simplify it for beginners. The second *Coiscéim* or *aghaidín*, and the third *Goite* written in *Tosaigh*. The names were later changed by the publishers to *Gaet Óg* or *Scad* I, II & III.

Also for Deán Uí Néill he wrote a modern version of "The Pursuit of Diarmuid and Gráinne" which was very highly praised.

He had considerable talent as a poet, and composed "Lead an Éin" "Sé Éine in dTír" "An Spideog" for his Gaelic School Readers, & was asked to compose odes for *Fest*

Threochánall which he did for *Meavagh* *Fest* in 1927, and for *Ceoghaneely* *Fest* in 1924. Later he wrote another poem in praise of *Ceoghaneely* "krugh tuis
i gCloichcheann Ghadairín te in tumbharlee gus
an l-aobhneas. Thar air ar bile sa lír seo dá
b'pácair in mo thuirill.

He delighted in turning the folk-tales of *Ceoghaneely* into verse e.g. *Cros-úthór Cholmchille* on the legend of *Ray Cross* and

"*Colm cille, d'Éirigh*" concerning the difficulties the saint encountered in *Íorú*. Other poems include "Mo Bhaile Bhaag Fíne", "An t-Éiríse Fíneach".

& the humorous "Sarasants Sean-Whia"

A. O. O. taught Irish to his pupils when most teachers were afraid of adverse criticisms from officials before Comyns as George had changed the outlook of the Board of Education. Among his pupils who later distinguished themselves in the cause of Gaelic were ^{the late} Eoin O'Searcaigh & his brother, the late Professor Seamus O'Searcaigh.

He also taught many years in Coláiste Ulladhu, the Cloughareely Irish College and also in the Four Masters College in Lillistown. At the Garton celebration of June 9, 1897 his oration to the huge gathering which included Cardinal Logue and Bishop O'Donnell was considered the highlight of the occasion.