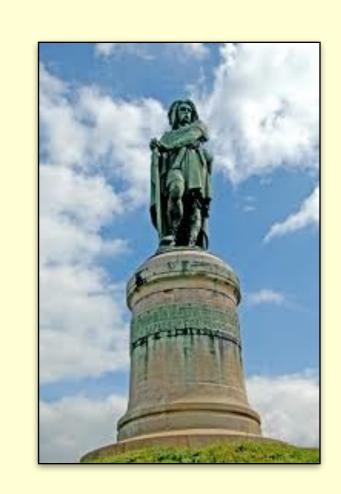
WILHELM OBERMÜLLER -A NEW OLD FACE IN GERMANY'S ERA OF CELTOMANIA

Neele Müller Philipps-Universität Marburg ICCSXV Glasgow July 14th 2015

- Celtomania: rise of interest in anything "Celtic" in the 18th/19th century, e.g. in literature, history or archaeology (Ossian, Alésia, *Pfahlbauten*).
- Linguistics: specifically the attempt to derive modern (European) languages/toponyms from a Celtic ancestor language.
- Ideological potential to support various political claims (European unity, nationalism, regionalism).

 (cf. Dietler, Michael. 1994. "Our ancestors the Gauls". American Anthropologist 96(3). 584-605).



OBERMÜLLER:

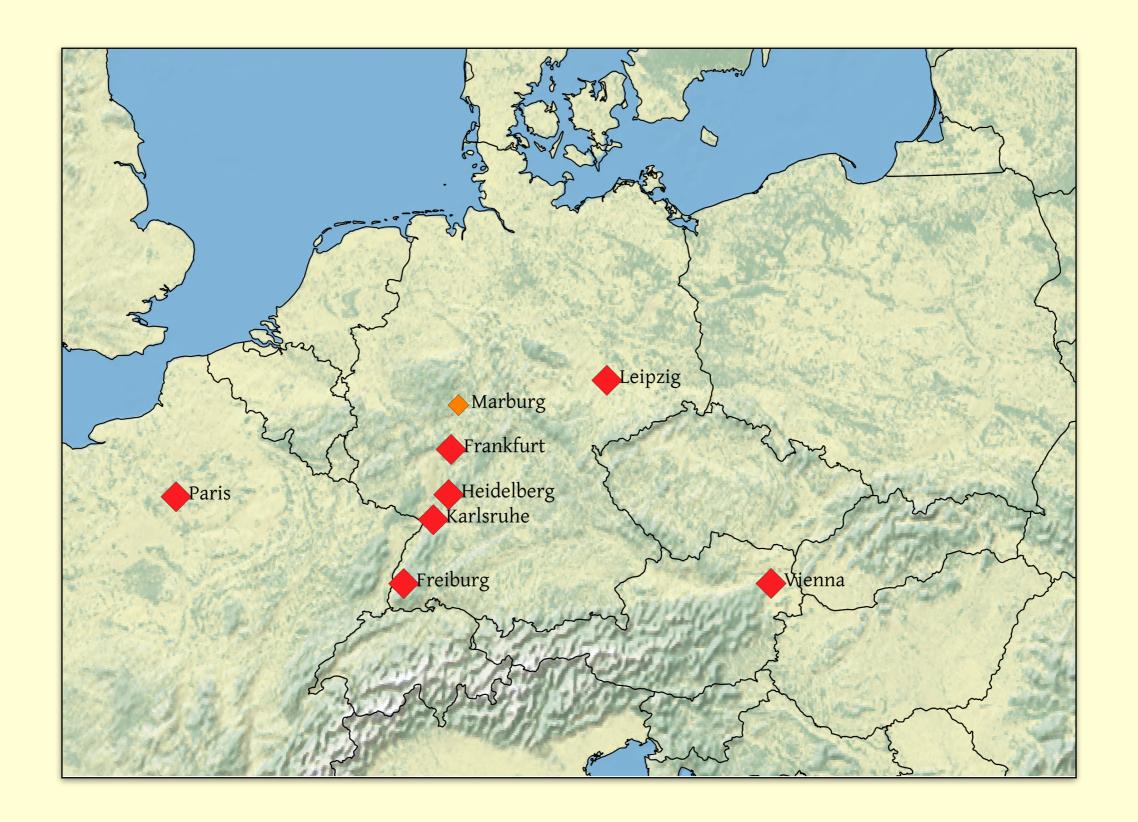
CELTIC ETYMOLOGY AS A MEANS FOR

- A) RESISTANCE AGAINST PETTY NATIONALISM
- B) SUPPORT FOR PAN-EUROPEAN UNITY

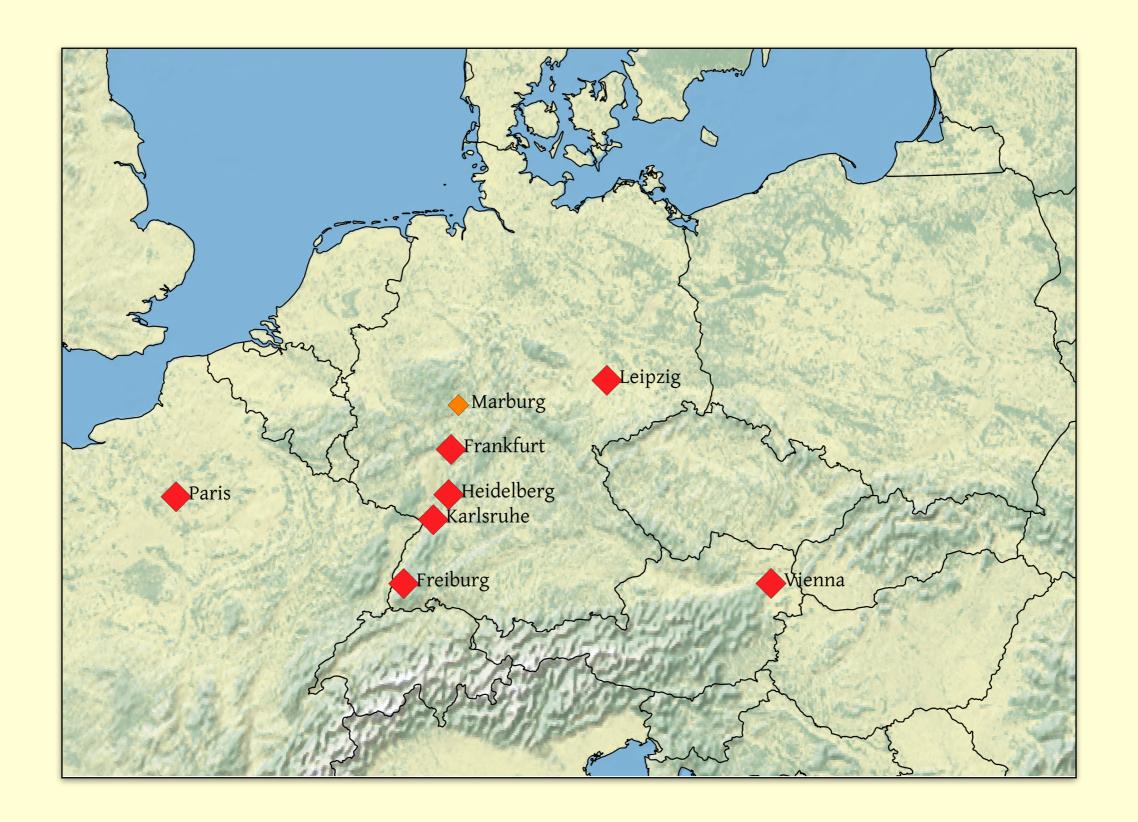
STRUCTURE OF TALK

- 1. Short Vita of Wilhelm Obermüller
- 2. His **contributions** to Celtic Studies
 - 1. German-Celtic Lexicon
 - 2. Translation of the 'Chronicles of Eri'
- 3. His reception
 - 1. Pastor Frenzel
 - 2. Gerhard Richter

- 1809 Born in Karlsruhe (Grand Duchy of Baden)
- 1828 Heidelberg University (Law)
- 1831 Freiburg University
- 1832 founding member of the Burschenschaft Germania
 - speaker at the Hambach Festival
 - relegated from Freiburg University



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- 1833 Frankfurter Wachensturm: sentenced for life
- 1837 Escape to Paris, member of the Bund der Geächteten
- 1845 Amnesty, return to Karlsruhe
- 1870 Searched for treason escape to Vienna from Leipzig(Kingdom of Saxony)
- 1888 Death in Vienna



WILHELM OBERMÜLLER'S

DEUTSCH-KELTISCHES, GESCHICHTLICH-GEOGRAPHISCHES

WÖRTERBUCH

FLUSS- BERG- ORTS- GAU- VÖLKER- UND PERSONEN-NAMEN

EUROPAS, WEST-ASIENS UND NORD-AFRIKAS

DEUTSCHLANDS

NEBST DEN DARAUS SICH ERGEBENDEN FOLGERUNGEN

FÜR DIE URGESCHICHTE DER MENSCHHEIT.

ERSTER BAND.



LEIPZIG: LUDWIG DENICKE.

LONDON: WILLIAMS & NORGATE.

1868.

303. €

322.

"German-Celtic,
Historic-Geographical
Lexicon

of River-, Mountain-, Place-,
District-, Peoples- and
Person-Names of Europe,
West Asia and North Africa in
general as well as
specifically for Germany
along with the implications for
the prehistory of mankind"

Vol I: 1866

Vol II:1872

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toponyms:

Euphrat, Hampton, Kairo, London, Edinburgh, Troja, Utrecht, Zürich

proper nouns:

Agnes, Etrusker, Hannibal, Hanuman, Nornen, Müller, Ulysses, Zoroaster

incl.:

Antichrist, Garküche, Morgue, Universal-Mittel, Vampir, Verbrennen des Erstgeborenen

Edinburg, alt urbs Guidi, d. h. Waldstadt, von gwydd Wald, sonst eidin - dun Hochstadt, Bergstadt, von aithean, Dem. von aith Höhe, Berg und dun Stadt; sie liegt bekanntlich so steil an einem Berge angebant, dass man aus den obersten Stockwerken nach hinten ebenen Fusses aufs Land kommt. Edinburg hies auch Pengual, von penn Berg and ailt Ort.

Edinburg, old urbs Guidi, that is foresttown, from gwydd forest, else eidin-dun highcity, mountaincity, from aithean, dem. from *aith* hight, mountain and dun city; it lies, as is well known, so steeply on a hillside that one can exit upper stories directly to the ground floor on the other side. Edinburg also was called Pengual, from penn mountain and *ailt* place.

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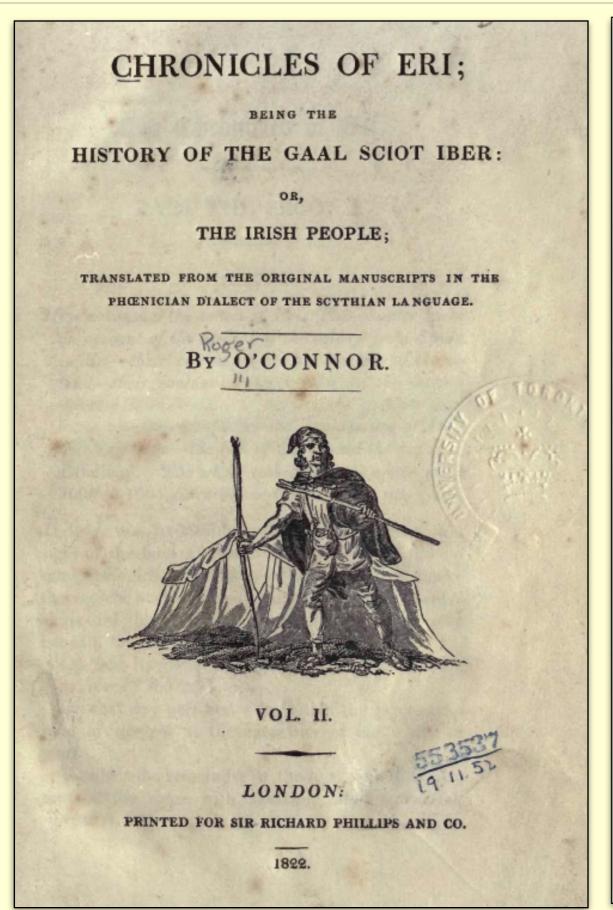
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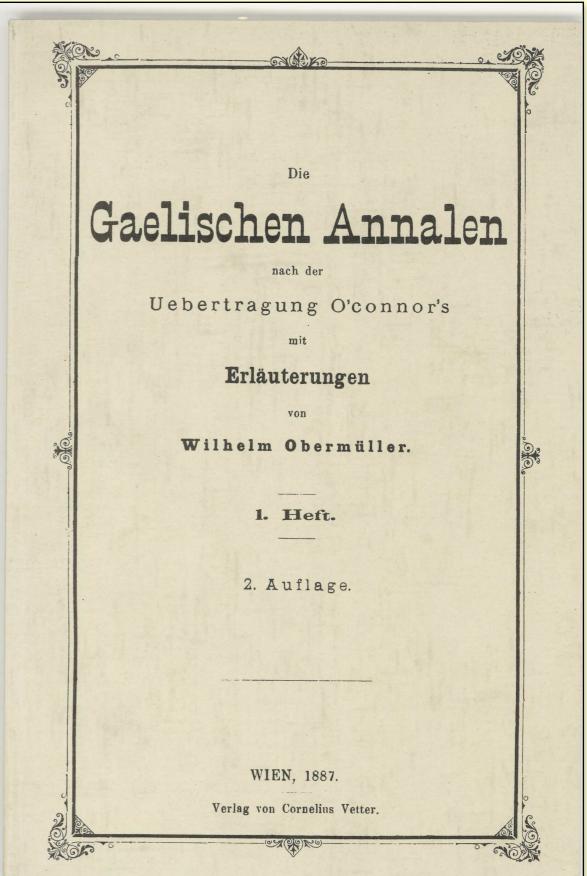
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Sources?

- Franz Josef Mone
- Christian Keferstein
- Brothers Grimm
 (Deutsches Wörterbuch)
- Johann Kaspar Zeuß
- Franz Bopp
- Ossian
- Salic Law (Lex Salica)
- Plato, Tacitus
- etc.





"Und das Volk (Gaal von Gaelag) half den Kindern von FEINE in den Eingeweiden der Erde in dem Lande von EIS-FEINE¹ […]

¹EIS-FEINE, Insel (richtiger Halbinsel) der Fenier, eine Bezeichnung, aus welcher bei den Römern der Name Hispania entstand".

"And the people (Gaal of Gaelag) helped the children of FEINE in the bowels of the earth of EIS-FEINE¹ [...]

¹EIS-FEINE, island (or rather: peninsula) of the Fenians, a depiction that was the origin of the Roman name Hispania".

(p. 39)

Der

Belus oder Sonnendienst

auf den Anden

oder

Kelten in America.

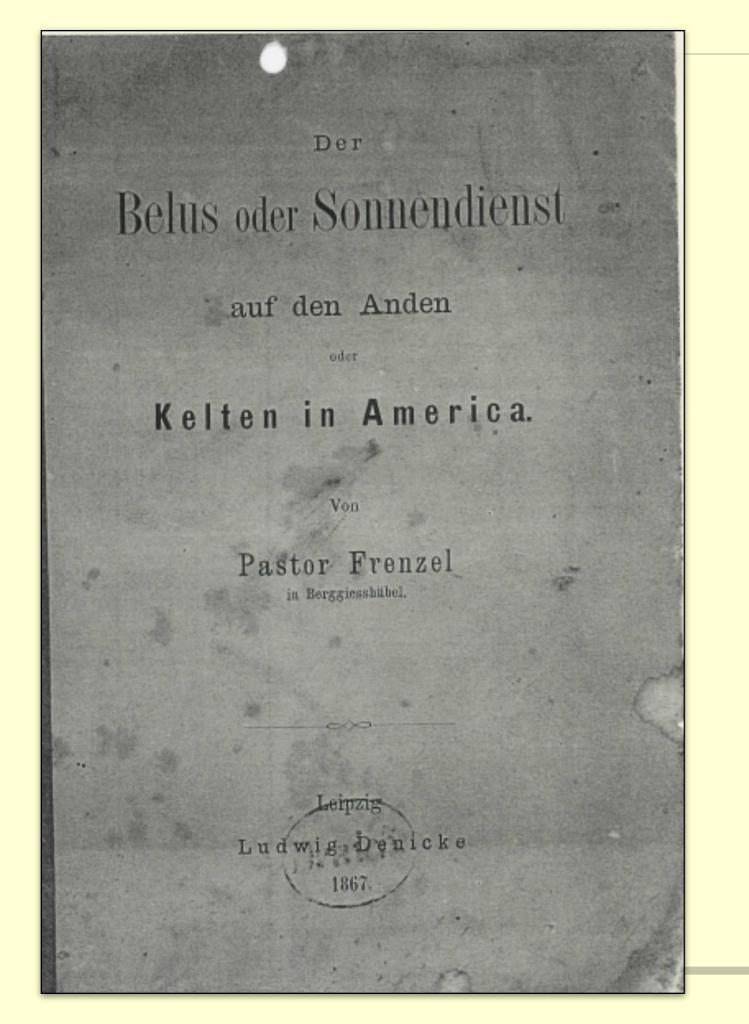
Von

Pastor Frenzel

in Berggiesshübel.

Ludwig Denicke

"Belus, or the cult of the sun, in the Andes
or
Celts in America"
by
Pastor Frenzel
Saxony
1867



"Tenochtitlan":
hot-nights-temple,
from te hot,
nochtli nights and
llan [temple] (p. 10)

Nahuatl:

tetl 'rock' and

nochtli 'cactusplant'



"Celtic roots of European languages" - 2002

SUMMARY

- political agenda: pro Pan-Europe
 - Celtic etymological lexicon (1868, 1872)
 - translation of the "Chronicles of Eri" (1887)
- mostly disregarded, but
 - Frenzel (1867), Richter (2002)