Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages
2nd Biennial Conference, Birmingham, April 2017

Convergent textual needs – divergent textual sources:
the 'Transitus Mariae' and the 'Sunday Letter'
**in their Insular vernacular contexts**

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Crossing Borders 1: The Insular distribution of the *Pseudo-Turpin*

- the Anglo-Norman translation of William de Briane (AN);
- the Middle Welsh translation (MW);
- the first part of the Old Norse-Icelandic *Saga af Agulando* (ONI) = fourth branch of the cyclic *Karlamagnús saga*;
- the Early Modern Irish *Gabháltais Sherluis Mhóir* (EMIr);
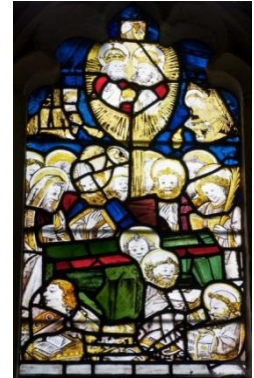- Middle English *Turpines Story* (ME).

Crossing Borders 1: The Insular distribution of the *Pseudo-Turpin*

			ME	EMIr
AN	MW	ONI	↑_____↑	
↑	↑	↑	↑	

Latin C of the *Pseudo-Turpin Chronicle*

↓
OFr
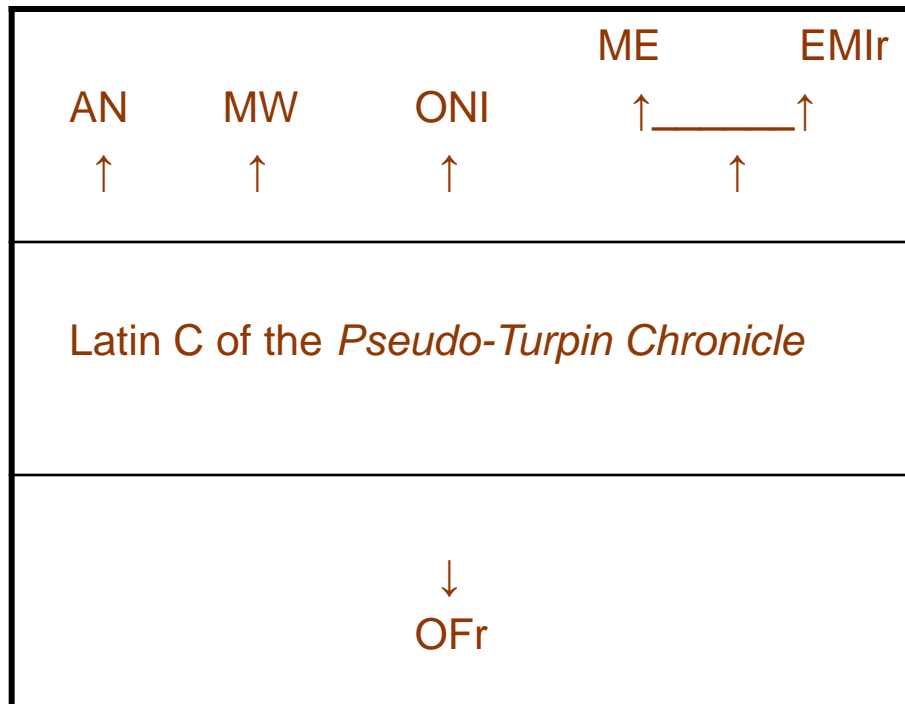
The Insular distribution of the *Transitus Mariae*

The Insular distribution of the *Transitus Mariae*

Irish (Ir, 'Timna Muire')
  Oxford, Bodleian Laud Misc. 610   L, *c.* 1453-54
  Dublin, RIA 23 O 48 (Liber Flavus Fergusiorum)   F, *c.* 1440
  Paris, BN, Fonds Celtique, MS I   P, *c.* 1500, fragment
Latin (IrL, 'Ughacht Muire')
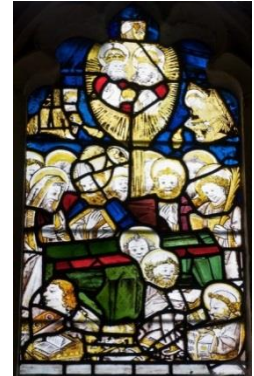 Dublin, TCD, MS 667 (olim F.5.3)   *c.* 1445


→ Ethiopic *Liber Requiei*
→ Syriac *Obsequies*
John of Thessalonica's *Homily on the Dormition*

The Insular distribution of the *Transitus Mariae*

W1   related to the Latin *Transitus* attributed to Melito (B / Shoemakers L1, close to Haibach-Reinisch's B2)

W2   related to the Latin *Transitus* attributed to Joseph of Arimathea (A / Shoemaker's L3)

W3   related to the *Legenda Aurea*

The Insular distribution of the *Transitus Mariae*
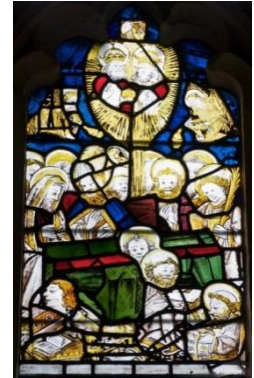
W1

Aberystwyth, NLW, Peniarth 14i, *c.* 1250, together with Miracles

Aberystwyth, NLW, Peniarth 5 (White Book of Rhydderch, Peniarth 4/5), *c.* 1350, together with Miracles

Oxford, Jesus College 119 (The Book of the Anchorite of Llanddewibrefi), *c.* 1346, (copies in Peniarth 120, Peniarth 319)
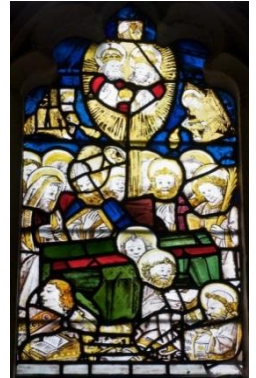
Aberystwyth, NLW, Peniarth 15, *c.* 1400 (perhaps derived from Jesus College 119)

Aberystwyth, NLW, Llanstephan 27 (Red Book of Talgarth), *c.* 1400, together with Miracles

Aberystwyth, NLW 5267, 1468 (copy in NLW 6209)

Aberystwyth, NLW, Peniarth, 27iii, *c.* 1460-90
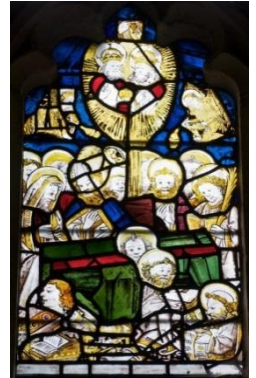
The Insular distribution of the *Transitus Mariae*

W2

Llanstephan 117, 16th cent., Latin A, attributed to Joseph of Arimathea

W3

Peniarth 182, around 1514, based on the *Legenda Aurea*

The Insular distribution of the *Transitus Mariae*

OE   Cambridge, Corpus Christi College, MS 41, end 10th cent. (Melito B2)

                 Bede's *Liber de locis sanctis*, 8th cent. (Melito B2)

                 Blickling XIII (*Transitus* W/Shoemaker's L2, Melito B2, etc)

ME   Oxford, All Souls College, MS 26, 1485 (Latin A / L3, Joseph of
                 Arimathea)

                 Southern Assumption, around 1250, 'eclectic'

GL   *Gilte Legende* (translated *c.* 1438)

CGL   Caxton's *Golden Legend* (1483)
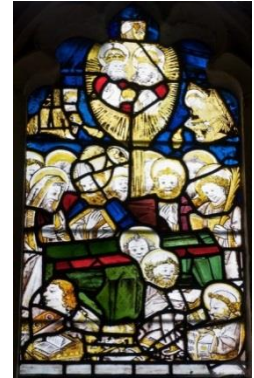
The Insular distribution of the *Transitus Mariae*
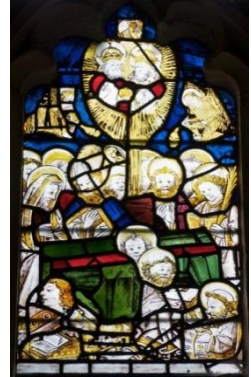
AN   poem on Mary's life (assumption based on B / Melito)

Ic   Icelandic translation (A / L3, Joseph of Arimathea)
            Maríu saga

The Insular distribution of the *Transitus Mariae*

Ir (15th cent.)   Latin related to IrL

OE (10th cent.)   OE (Blickling XIII)

          B2 < **B/L1 (Melito)**   ME texts

W1 (13th cent.)   AN (poem on the assumption)

Ic (15th cent.)

W2 (16th cent.)   **A/L3 (Joseph of Arimathea**) Ic (Maríu saga)

ME (1485)

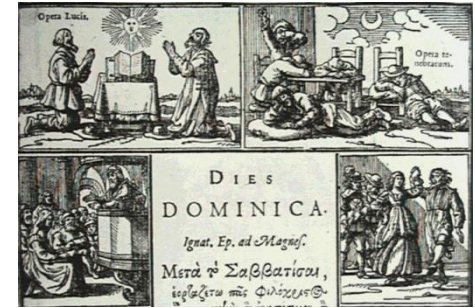**W3** (*c.* 1514)

GL (*c.* 1438) ← LD ←   **Legenda Aurea**   ME (South English Legendary etc.)

CGL (1483) ← GL, LD ←

The Insular distribution of the 'Sunday Letter'

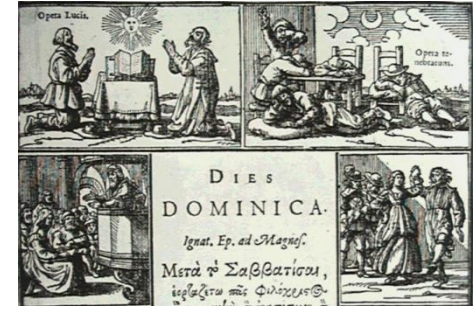|		
Old English	CCCC 140	
	Napier XLV	⌉
		Lat. Österr. Nationalbibl., 1355
Icelandic	*Leiðarvísan*	⌋

The Insular distribution of the 'Sunday Letter'

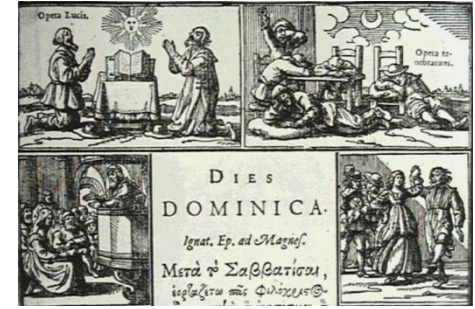Old English   Napier XLIII
                     Napier XLIV

Irish   Epistle of Jesus

Irish deacon Niall

Ecgred, bishop of Lindisfarne (831 and 846)

Anglo-Saxon Pehtred

The Insular distribution of the 'Sunday Letter'

A   Epistle of Jesus

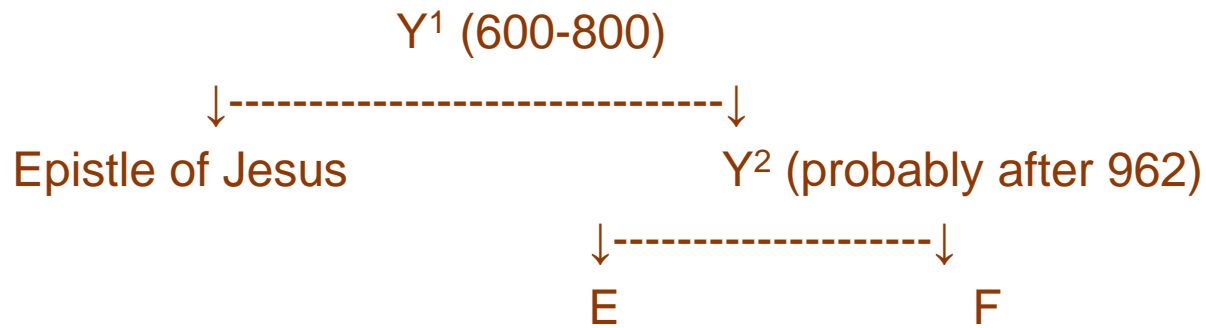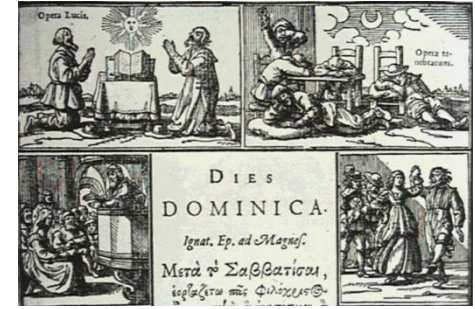   §§ 1-19 Epistle proper

        §§ 20-2 its arrival in Ireland, associated with Conall mac Coelmaine

        §§ 23-33 fines for transgressing the law of Sunday and a list of lawful excuses
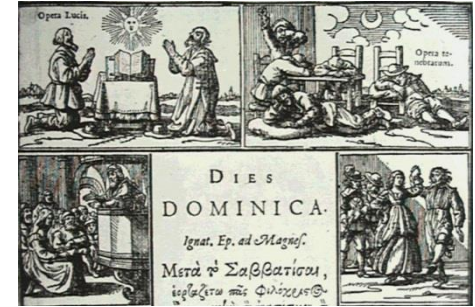
B   three examples of supernatural punishment for the transgression of Sunday

C   the legal tract *Cáin Domnaig*

The Insular distribution of the 'Sunday Letter'

Y¹ (600-800)

$$Y^1 \ (600\text{-}800)$$

↓------------------------------↓

Epistle of Jesus   Y² (probably after 962)

↓-------------------↓

E   F

The Insular distribution of the 'Sunday Letter'

Old English   Napier LVII
                 CCCC 162
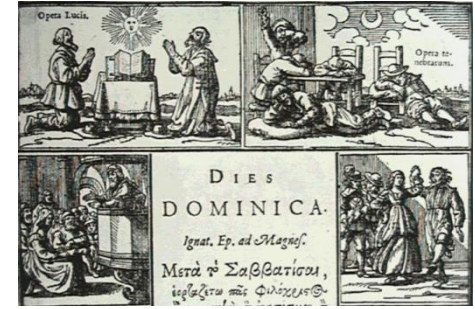Middle English   Durham, UL, Cosin MS V.IV.2
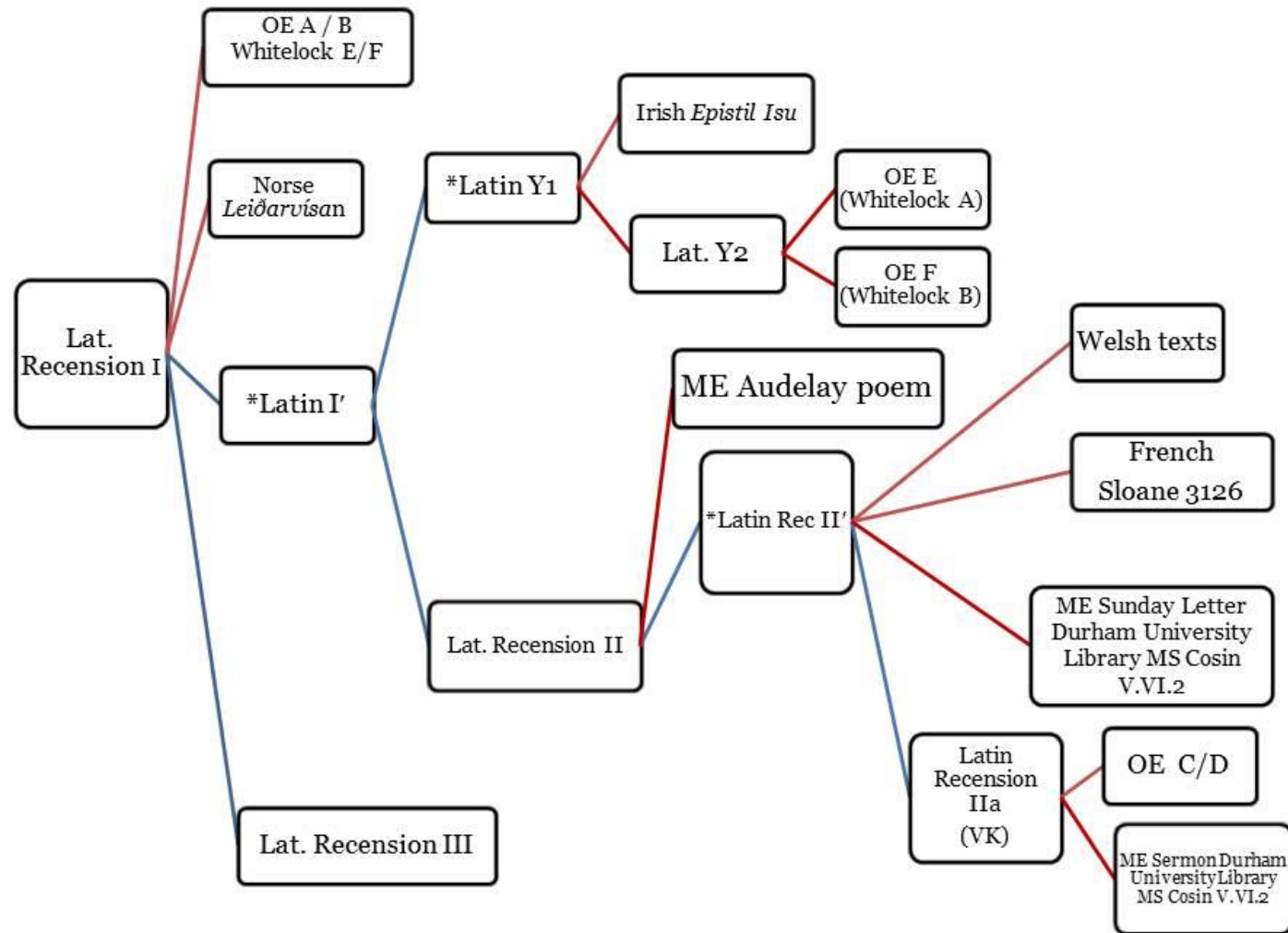   John Audelay's poem   Lat. BL, Royal 8 F.VI
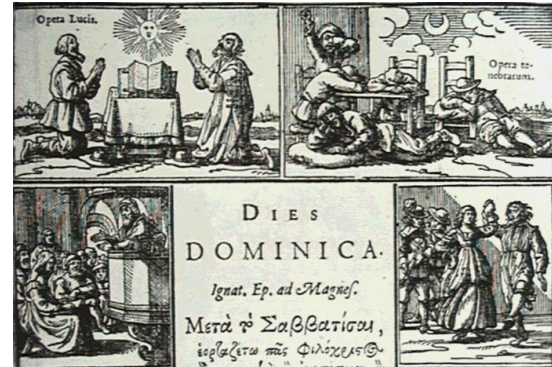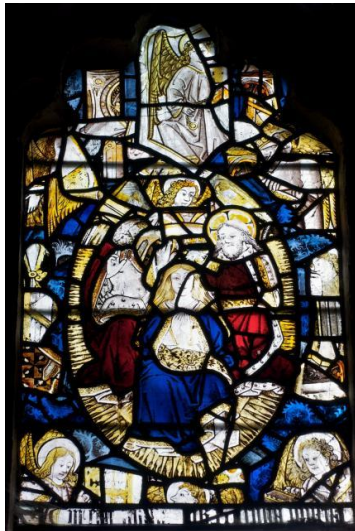   OF Epitre

Middle Welsh

The Insular distribution of the 'Sunday Letter'

| (1) | Old English | CCCC 140, Napier XLV |
| | Icelandic | *Leiðarvísan* |

| (2) | Medieval Irish | Epistle of Jesus |
| | Old English | Napier XLIII, Napier XLIV |

(3)	Old English	Napier LVII, CCCC 162
	Middle English	Durham, UL, Cosin MS V.IV.2
		John Audelay's poem
	Middle Welsh	Epistol y Sul

Tentative synthesis

thank you

Robert Priebsch

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