

Revival of the Cumbric Language

Pes Dinngat

Pes Dinngat iw breth-vreth
O groon beleet bann wreth
Hwit hwit hwidogaeth
Goganoun, gogenent ooth- geath
Pann elhey de dat du helgho
Lath gor is koot, lorgh in i law,
Ev gelwey cun gogukuk,
Gaf, Gaf, dalgh, dalgh, duk, duk!
Ev ladhey pesk ing coruk
Mal bann ladh lew luwyuk
Pan elhey de dat du vinidh
Didhugey ev penn ywrch, penn goethich, penn hidh
Penn grougyar vreeth o vinidh,
Penn pisk o raedir Derwentidh
Er soal e curhadhey de dat ay gigwen
O woothuch a lewin a loonen
Ne heangey oll ne owr aden.

(Reconstructed Cumbric language, circa 500 A. D.)

Pais Dinogad

Pais Dinogad fraeth, fraeth,
O grwyn balaod fe'i wnaeth
Chwyd, chwyd chwibanaeth
Goganwn, gogenynt wyth gaeth.
Pan elai dy dad i hela
Llath ar ei ysgwydd, llory yn ei law,
Ef gelwai gw^n go gyflym,
Giff, Gaff, dal hi, dal hi, dwg, dwg!
Ef lleddai bysgod yng nghorwg
Fel y llew yn lladd y lluyg,
Pan elai dy dad i fynydd
Deuai ef iwrch, twrch coed a hydd,
Grugiar fraeth o fynydd,
Pysgod o raeadr Derwenydd
O'r sawl y gyraeddai dy dad a^i gigwain
O wythwch a llewyn a llwynog
Ni ddiangai'r un ond ar adain.

(My translation from mediaeval to modern Welsh)

Dinogad's Smock

Dinogad's smock is pied, pied,
 Made it out of marten hide,
 Whit, whit, whistle along,
 Eight slaves with you sing the song.
 When your dad went to hunt
 Spear on his shoulder, cudgel in hand
 He called his quick dogs, "Giff you wretch,
 Gaff, catch her, catch her, fetch, fetch."
 From a coracle he'd spear
 Fish as a lion strikes a deer.
 When your dad went to the crag
 He brought down roebuck, boar and stag,
 Speckled grouse from mountain tall,
 Fish from Derwent waterfall.
 Those your dad found with his spear,
 Boar or wild cat, fox or deer,
 Unless it flew it would never get clear.

(Translation by the poet Anthony Conran)

Notes

The wild cat is thought to be the lynx, which became extinct in about 500 A. D., so the poem is dated to that time. It was written down in Wales many centuries later after verbal transmission. The Cumbric has been reconstructed from scholars from mediaeval Welsh. I used to use exactly the same "Dal hi , dal hi" with my own sheepdog, one thousand three hundred and sixty years later on the farm. The same name exactly for father, "dat" was used within living memory in my own family. So Cumbric is an extant language of British Celtic. Derwent waterfall is in the Lake District in Cumbria. The following is the original mediaeval Welsh mixed with Cumbric elements.

Peis Dinogad

Peis Dinogad e vreith vreith
 O grwyn balaod ban wreith,
 Chwit, chwit chwidogaeth
 Gochanwn cochenwn wythgeith.
 Pan elei dy dat ty e helya
 Llath ar y ysgwyd llory eny law
 Ef gelwi gw^n gogyhwc
 Giff, Gaff, dhaly, dhaly, dhwg, dhwg.
 Ef lledi bysc yng corwc
 Mal ban llad llew llywywg,
 Pan elei dy dat ty e vynyd
 Dydy ef penn yrch, penn gwythwch penn hyd
 Penn grugar vreith o venyd,
 Penn pysg o rayader derwenyd,
 O'r sawl yt gyrhaedai dt dat ty ae gicwen
 O wythwch a llewyn a llwyuein,
 Nyt anghei oll ny vei oradein.