

CARANTES NEWSLETTER

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Dear Friends,

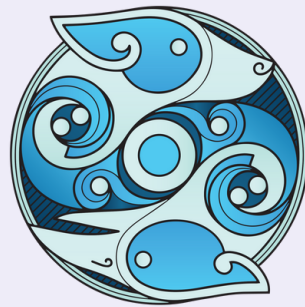
We hope that you are all well, and welcome you to the eleventh of our newsletters. We hope that those of you who are teaching and those of you who are students are holding up now that this semester is coming to a close, and for those of you who have escaped the clutches of the academy, that you are having a lovely month.

As we begin to return after our short break for the month of March, we thought it would be best to ease you all back into reading with some lighter (but by no means less important) material than the heavy theoretical readings we worked through together previously.

LOGISTICS

Our **next public meeting**, for Beltaine will be held on **Sunday the 12th of May** at 8pm - 10pm UTC. If you are interested in attending **please RSVP** by email at caranteswg@proton.me

Also, you can join our discord server! [Link active for the next 7 days.](#)



NEWS

We are delighted to inform you all about a vacant position as a Temporary Lectureship in Welsh / Irish at Université de Bretagne Occidentale! See more [here](#).

And, the eleventh annual Celtic Students Conference is being held online and in-person at Université de Bretagne Occidentale. For more, [read here!](#)

For those of you who spent time on the internet about a decade ago, you might be familiar with the 'Irish Slaves' meme, a repeatedly referenced idea that the first enslaved people brought to the Americas were Irish people enslaved by the British.

While it circulated in many different forms in many different environments, such as on Facebook groups dedicated to Irish history where it was often presented as an interesting factoid, to environments such as 4Chan's /his/ board intended for historical discussion where it was presented alongside other racist depictions of the past, the core of the 'Irish Slaves' meme was used to dismiss the experiences of enslaved Africans forcibly brought to the Americas.

While not every person who perpetuated this meme by sharing it in various forms intended to perpetuate a deeply racist myth, it nevertheless was one, and was used by many to 'prove' things such as that slavery in the period had nothing to do with ideas of race, or used to dismiss the long-lasting damage and consequences of slavery on Black communities, particularly those in America.

While the meme has certainly experienced a significant loss in popularity in recent years, we thought this month would be a good time for something of a retrospective on it, and as such, we would suggest that you read two blog posts by Dr Ted McCormic, **'Irish Slaves, from Myth to Debate'**, and **'How to Change History: William Petty, Irish Slavery, and a Fake Debate'**, as well as the first post written by Liam Hogan, an excellent writer and librarian who did a tremendous amount of legwork in first confronting this meme, its origin, and cataloguing information about it. That first article is **"Irish Slaves": the Convenient Myth**, and you can find his catalogue of discussion of this topic right [here](#).

While the 'Irish Slaves' meme has now mostly died out, no doubt in part thanks to the tireless work of Liam Hogan tracking it to its origins and confronting the initial source, we believe it is an important topic to discuss as an example of a successful campaign to stamp out a harmful, false, but ultimately insidious idea. It may be useful to reflect on this, and examine the origins of this meme, and Liam's work to challenge it, to develop our own ideas and tools for similarly working against the proliferation of similar concepts.

On that note, we would also be very appreciative if anyone knows Liam Hogan to pass our contact information on to him. We would be very interested in having him come speak at a Samain lecture this year, but due to the realities of being someone who very successfully challenges Far Right groups on the internet, he has been forced to lock down every method of getting in contact with him. So, if you know Liam Hogan, maybe mention us to him, and let him know that we are huge fans of his work, and that he can contact us at caranteswg@proton.me.

That is all for us now at the CARANTES steering committee. Please feel free to contact us if you have any reactions, thoughts or concerns, or if you would rather not get any more emails. We'd love to hear from you on the discord server or by email, especially if you have any recommendations of your own to share.

Until next time, keep well and safe,
And thank you for doing this work with us,
Your friends at



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