

# **Tobar an Dúchais**

*Pádraig Ó Héalaí agus Lochlainn Ó Tuairisg*

Meascra ilchineálach béaloidis is ea **Tobar an Dúchais** bunaithe ar ábhar a bhailigh mic léinn a d'fhreastail ar chúrsaí a mhaoinigh FÁS i nóchaidí an chéid seo caite i gConamara na Gaillimhe agus i gCorca Dhuibhne Chiarraí. Pléann an leabhar réimse leathan ábhar, ina measc, tithíocht, báid agus an fharraige; breith, pósadh agus an bás; an leigheas traidisiúnta; traidisiúin staire agus dinnseanchas; scéalta, seanfhocail, paidreacha, beannachtaí agus mallachtaí; na daoine maithe, sióga agus taibhsí. Tá nótaí cuimsitheacha mínithe ag cúl an leabhair maille le liosta léitheoireachta don té ar mian leis dul níos doimhne sa scéal. Ainneoin gur as Conamara bunáite an ábhair atá sa leabhar, tá sciar maith de, b'fhéidir an ceathrú cuid, a bhaineann le Corca Dhuibhne. Bhí leithéidí Bhab Fheirtéir, Sheosaimh Uí Dhálaigh agus Sheáin Mhaidhc Léan Uí Ghuithín thar a bheith fial lena gcuid saineolais ar réimsí éagsúla den léann dúchasach. Baineann caibidil a seacht, neacha osnádúrtha, beagnach go hiomlán leis an gceantar.

Tobar an Dúchais is a fascinating compendium of traditional customs and beliefs collected at the end of the last century in the Connemara Gaeltacht in County Galway and in the Corca Dhuibhne Gaeltacht in County Kerry as part of various FÁS-funded courses. The book itself is divided into seven chapters and features information on housing, boats and the sea; birth, marriage and death; traditional cures; local historical traditions and placenames; stories, proverbs, prayers, blessings and curses; fairies, ghosts and witches. Explanatory notes are provided at the back of the book as well as a comprehensive reading list for those who wish to delve that little bit deeper. Although most of the material in the book was collected in Conamara, a substantial portion, as much as a quarter, comes from the Corca Dhuibhne district in Co. Kerry. Such well-known figures as Bab Feirtéar, Seosamh Ó Dálaigh and Seán Mhaidhc Léan Ó Guithín, all, sadly, no longer with us, were very generous of their time and expertise. The bulk of chapter seven, which deals with the supernatural, comes from Corca Dhuibhne.

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*Is féidir teagmháil a dhéanamh linn ag*

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