

FOLK-TALES FROM SOUTH UIST

For the past three years Mr. Donald John MacDonald, of Peninerinc, Isle of South Uist, has been engaged—on a voluntary, part-time basis—in the collection of folklore material for the School of Scottish Studies. He has now collected over 6000 MS. pages of material, all from his own township of Peninerinc and the neighbouring townships of Stoneybridge, Howbeg and Howmore.

His collection comprises extensive lists of place-names; detailed accounts of customs, practices and beliefs; descriptions of techniques and methods of work with sketches of house-types, out-buildings and implements; the texts of some hundred folk-songs; and a surprisingly large number of international folk-tale types in addition to local legends and heroic tales and lays.

Students of the folk-tale will, of course, realise that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find the type of material listed in the Aarne-Thompson Register of folk-tale types in current tradition now; and in some countries it is no longer possible to do so.

Here is a list of the types recorded by Mr. MacDonald, numbered according to the Aarne-Thompson classification.

Aa.-Th. 200 (2 variants)	Aa.-Th. 901
Aa.-Th. 301 (2 variants)	Aa.-Th. 910B
Aa.-Th. 325	Aa.-Th. 930
Aa.-Th. 400	Aa.-Th. 935 ⁺⁺
and 401 (2 variants)	Aa.-Th. 953
Aa.-Th. 425	Aa.-Th. 956B
Aa.-Th. 449 ⁺	Aa.-Th. 966 ⁺⁺ (2 variants)
Aa.-Th. 451 (3 variants)	Aa.-Th. 1386
Aa.-Th. 506 (2 variants)	Aa.-Th. 1525
Aa.-Th. 513	Aa.-Th. 1535 (2 variants)
Aa.-Th. 516	Aa.-Th. 1539 (2 variants)
Aa.-Th. 517 (2 variants)	Aa.-Th. 1541
Aa.-Th. 550	Aa.-Th. 1651 (2 variants)
Aa.-Th. 706	Aa.-Th. 1653A
Aa.-Th. 726 ⁺	Aa.-Th. 2030
Aa.-Th. 753	

All folk-talescholars will agree that the above list, compiled by the Rev. Angus Duncan, is an unqualified tribute to the work done by the collector and to the richness of the cultural traditions of the area in which he has operated—four small townships, and, in reality, only a tiny corner of the Isle of South Uist. It is to be sincerely hoped that other collectors in other islands and on the mainland of Scotland will come forward to emulate the work done by Mr. Donald John MacDonald.