ALAXANDAIR OG and his uncle ALASTER MOR – THEIR HISTORY.

It is very relevant to include this for important contextual reasons including:- secure, protect the true pedigree of the pivotal MacAllister Abbott of Iona (and Saddell’s); 1500 year connected history of Ireland & Western Isles (particularly Clan Donald’s period) including the burial customs; Alaxandair Og’s true historical status, honor of chieftainship, dignity of death and whether he was buried in St Oran’s Chapel or not, etc. etc. (A much shortened version of a 80 page study.)

“Two wrongs will never make a right.”

1. Chief Alaxandair Og was killed in Ireland in 1299. It was not Alaster Mor, his uncle.

2. Raghnall Mac Alaxandair went to Ireland in 1366 as the heir of Clan Alaxandair OG, not Clan Alaster Mor.

Clann Alaxandair MacDonnell” or “MacDomhnaill Gallóglach, Clann Alassair” (per Dr. K Simms), are descended from the Clan Donald Chief, Alaxandair Og Mhic Angus Mor (de Yle), who was killed in Ireland 1299. The person killed was not his namesake elderly uncle Alaster Mor. Alaxandair Og was killed in the incessant feuding with the Clan’s longstanding rival cousins, the MacDougalls of Lorn. The doomed marriage alliance failed so early that the Lorns could even renege on handing the arranged dowry of Lismore Island over to Alaxandair.

WDH Sellar (now Lord Lyon) : Hebridean Sea-Kings in “ALBA : Celtic Scotland in the Middle Ages”, Ed. EJ Cowan and R A McDonald. 2000. p 213. “The identity of Alexander Macdonald has been disputed, but there can be little doubt that this was the Lord of Islay, son of Angus Mor, and leader of his kindred.”

G. Barrow: “Robert The Bruce” 1 : “Although married (Alaxandair Og) to Alexander MacDougall’s daughter, he was bitterly opposed to the Lord of Argyll who was a loyal adherent of Balliol and Comyns”.

“The dispute between the two chiefs had already come before King Edward I in 1291.”

IAN ROSS MACDONNEL 2012

Dr. WD Lamont: “Alexander of Islay, Son of Angus Mor” – “The marriage between Juliana (of Lorn) was actually a ground of conflict rather than of alliance with the MacDougalls” (p.162); on Hugh McDonald’s (Sleat Historian) “garbled account: “This is the most extraordinary collation of historical untruths.” p.162. “It is true that the MacDonalds were positively active only against the MacDougalls and Bruce’s ally, the Steward, and that there was no confrontation with Bruce himself” p.161. ‘So far, (to 1302 – after Alaxandair Og was killed!) there is nothing to distinguish between the respective roles of the two brothers’ (Alaxandair Og and Angus Og)” p.161.

R Andrew McDonald: ‘Kingdom of The Isles’ 2 : “Two reports, written by Alexander (Og) of Islay to King Edward I (England) in the summer of 1297, claim that Alexander of Argyll had been active in the west, plundering and devastating MacDonald lands after his release from incarceration in May. Alexander MacDougall had laid waste the writer’s lands, and “the (Donald) men living in the same lands were killed, and fires set, and many other evils were done.” (the rampaging MacDougalls also killed Colin Mor, leader of the Campbells in 1296).

IT IS LUCIDLY EVIDENT AND NOW ACCEPTED FACT, THAT ALAXANDAIR OG OF ISLAY WAS AT WAR WITH THE MACDOUGALS FOR NEARLY ALL OF HIS LAST DECADE, 1291- k.1299. HE WAS NOT THEIR SUPPORTER AGAINST ROBERT THE BRUCE. TO NOW ACCEPT OTHERWISE, DEFIES LOGIC.

Its worth noting that there is only one genuine mention of Alaster Mor in his whole life - that is, after the 1299 death of Alaxandair Og is retrieved from his temporary misuse of it. It was most certainly not Alaster Mor. This is proven beyond all reasonable doubt by at least ten current, expert in the field, historians and scholars. 3


2 The Kingdom of the Isles – Scotland’s Western Seaboard c.1100-c.1336, (1997); p.165; R. Andrew McDonald.

3 Eg: “Somerled to John of Islay: Raghnall and Alexander Og”; and “MacDonald and MacRuari Pedigrees in MS 1467, West Highland Notes & Queries, (1986), WDH Sellar Esq (Lord Lyon King of Arms - current). * Clan Donald Magazine No. 14, pp. 25-30; Norman McDonald.
It is also justified by a similar number of strong reasons which are contained in those books which must be read by those who genuinely wish to be properly informed on the matter. There is no serious historian left who continue to will put their name to this debunked corrupt historicity.

**Alaxandair Og, Killed 1299 (not deposed 1308).**

Main reasons in brief:–

1. The usually regular mentions of Alaxandair Og stop, forever, from 1299;
2. Angus Og 1302 is the new agent of King Edward of England;
3. The doomed marriage alliance failed so quickly that the Lorn MacDougalls reneged on the arranged dowry of Lismore Island - incessant feuding with the Clan Donald’s longstanding rival cousins continued unabated.
4. No mention of Alaxandair Og being captured or imprisoned by the full account of the near contemporary, Barbour (“The Bruce”);
5. Clan Donald did not possess Castle Sween then for him to be either living in it or be besieged there. It was occupied by the Stewart Earls of Menteith since 1262 4 who were consistent Robert Bruce supporters from the 1286 Turnberry compact (excluding when “captive” to English);
6. Barbour’s mistaken account of John of Argyll being captured by Bruce, imprisonment and death in Loch Leven Castle may account for the unhistorical, garbled version regards Alaxandair (WDH. Sellar – Hebridean Sea-Kings, 217);
7. All Chiefs of Clan Donald “conspired” with the English when it suited for self interest and Clan preservation – it is no mark whatsoever of an “unpatriotic Scot”! (were independent Islesmen, etc, etc.)

Unfortunately, MacAlister Mors have been ‘misled’ for a long time by those we all had faith in and it will be hard for some to make the change. This is understandable. However, I say to the few possible diehard “Alister Mors”, you will be the only individuals left in the world, to still maintain that Alaxandair Og was killed in 1308, so called infamously fighting against our great patriot hero of Scotland, Robert The Bruce.....and it is simply not true.

Remember, what happened in the past was the appropriation of the factual 1299 death of Alaxandair Og as that for Alaster Mor because it was the only other bit of info that seemed available in a century and a half, and because some MacAlisters were proud to proclaim that he was "the most distinguished of his name either in Ireland or in Scotland for hospitality and feats of arms" (even if its stock standard encomiastic bardic praise)....and wrongly stating that this 1299 Annal includes he was "of Antrim".....its the Editor who says this, but he is wrong. All actual (source) Annals clearly say "of Erinn".

The 1299 misappropriation seemed to be helpful, even essential, to lay the groundwork for the further misuse of the later Irish Annal of 1366 when the Ulster “Clann Alaxandair MacDonnell” or “MacDomhnaill Gallόglach, Clann Alasdair” history was assumed for MacAlisters. It is a distorted tale of falsehoods; its as if some don’t have, or want to have, any understanding of what patronyms are. 5

**Note:** there are literally 100’s of Irish Annal entries for Mac Alaxandair=>MacDonnell Galloglass, ie, all the hereditary Constables, etc, descendants from Alaxandair Og 6. Are the “MacAlisters (Mor)” adherents seriously saying that the single, lone entry of 1366 is not also one for “MacDonnells”? That it is the only one different? That it is miraculously for a descendant of the otherwise unheralded Alister Mor who in reality is a nebulous, non-entity, he having only one minor historic mention in his lifetime! It is simply illogical.

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4 *The Kingdom of the Isles* – p.164; R. Andrew McDonald.

5 For example, some of Clan Ranald had the patronymic of “McAllister”. 1572 “John Murdoch McAllister”, Captain of Clanranald. “Allan McEan Murdodach McAllister” (Allan son of John of Moydart son of Alexander) of Clanranald. Some of the Clanranald were also in Ulster as “New Scots” redshanks and later planters and probably took the surname MacAllister.

It’s a well-proven fallacy to claim that Alaxandair fought and lost against The Bruce, the Clan Donald’s part Gaelic geopolitically friendly neighbor, and was then deposed in 1308 (Bruce’s mother, Countess of Carrick, brought him an ancient Gaelic lineage). A formal Clan remedy of this corrupt historicity is 700 yrs overdue.

This was the usual political propaganda to slur Alaxandair as an “unpatriotic” loser and discredit his eligible and worthy sons (rígdamna) in later contests for Chiefship. He was no different to Alaxandair or all Clan Donald Chiefs in the habitual and strategic exploitation (mutual) of the more distant English power against anyone threatening their regional independence or expansion (Revs A&A strongly express exactly this).

After Bruce killed John Comyn in 1306, confirming the MacDougalls as a common enemy and reinforcing Bruce was no threat, this was a golden opportunity, albeit risky, for Angus Og. In helping to rescue the hapless Bruce, Angus Og could become a major partner in a grand enterprise with his West Coast ally, promising huge rewards for Clan Donald.

The younger Angus Og always followed the policies of his mentor brother including at all times after his 1299 death. Angus Og refers to himself as King Edward of England’s “humble and faithful servant”. There was no political difference between the two men; they both ostensibly “served the English” in their quest to destroy the MacDougalls. “Angus Og was active in the cause of the English King”—“Angus Og was still active in 1301 in the service of the English King against the renegade MacDougalls”—”If Angus Og had been motivated by simple opportunism to join Bruce’s cause in 1306…”

Robert The Bruce would have successfully sought refuge with Alaxandair Og - IF he was not already dead in 1299.

Hark … “Loud King Robert’s voice was known, Lord of The Isles, My trust in thee” at Bannockburn would have been spoken to Alaxandair Og - IF he had not already been killed in 1299.

Alaxandair Og also has a right to be remembered and recorded, as “the Noble and renowned High Chief of the Innsigall” because he was no different to Angus Og (except Angus wisely married an Irish woman of the Northern Ui Neill.)

There will be “no joy for Clan Donald” while its ‘excellent’ Chief Alaxandair de Hyle filius et here domini Engusii filii Dovenaldi remains robbed of his 1299 annalist’s obituary (by his nebulous uncle, Alister Mor) and continues to be wrongly and ignobly recorded as “deposed” - nine years after his death!

Annals of the Four Masters: 1299.3

“Alaxandair Macc Domhnaill, aoin-fhear ba ferr enech, & engnamh da raibhe dia chinedh i n-Erinn & i n-Albain do marbhadh la h-Alexandair Mac Dubhgaill, & ár dírimhe dia muintir amaille ris.”

“Alaxandair Mac Donnell, the best man of his tribe in Ireland and Scotland for hospitality and prowess, was slain by Alexander Mac Dowell, together with a countless number of his people who were slaughtered”.

The disparaging statement “deposed 1308”, which has been conclusively proven incorrect and a revival of an ancient political concoction of no current import, should be removed from Alaxandair Og’s name on all current Clan Donald public material and replaced with:-

Alaxandair Og, k.1299.

The benefits of the corrupted history surrounding Alaxandair OG have long, long since past and are of no benefit to anyone any more. Donald Schlegel, “Macdonnells of Tyrone”, p.195, has suggested it was in the time of Raghnall MacRurai when the “fiction of Alexander’s continuing opposition to Bruce and death during imprisonment in Dundonald was fabricated, in order to discredit his sons and exclude them from the chieftainship.”

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7 “Irish Regnal Succession”; O’Corrain; p37.
8 CLAN DONALD VOL 1; Ch 5, Bruce and the Clan Cholla, p.85. “To accuse the island princes of that time of a lack of patriotism in the part they played is a pure anachronism and ignores the political conditions of the time”.
9 Documents Illustrative of the History of Scotland 1203-1306; i, no 615. Ed J Stevenson; 1870; .
10 The Kingdom of The Isles, Scotland’s Western Seaboard 1100-1336; R. A McDonald; 1997; Chapter 6, pps 159-173
It has well and truly outlived its purpose. But it was picked up again in Hugh MacDonald of Sleat’s history. There is much to be gained by correcting the misinformation. Clan Donald will be all the richer for it. This corrupted history can be proved wrong by cold hard facts, independently verified. Only those who (wrongly) think there may still be some benefit to them individually will not accept the facts and therefore reject, on narrow self-interested grounds, that the incorrect record should be changed.

For over a century, many MacAlisters have strongly believed they are descended from Alister Mor, son of the Donald, founder of Clan Donald. And why not? It has been written so in the Reverends Angus & Angus MacDonald’s “CLAN DONALD VOLS I-III; 1896-04” (Revs A&A CD), which is regarded as a bible of Clan Donald history – and it’s a well deserved reputation. It’s been repeated in 1978 and 2006 by Donald J Macdonald of Castleton in his “Clan Donald” – but which excludes the history of the sons of Alaxandair Og in Ireland. It is also printed on every Clan Donald “Origins of Clan Donald Main Branches” chart as such.

But is it right? Up to 1900, it was not the case. The Clan ‘Alastair of Loup’s” (Glenbarr) position, despite the Lord Lyon’s 1846 ruling, was that Alaxandair Og (nephew of Alister Mor) was their founder and which they put to Burke’s Peerage before the Revs A&A’s publications. Angus C. Macalister, 5th Laird of Glenbarr, The Glenbarr (Abbey) MacAlisters (of Loup), still held firm on this position on his website to 2001, until his death in 2007, quote:- “The ancestor to this earliest offshoot from the great Clan Donald was Alister (or Alexander), eldest son of Angus [Mor], Lord of the Isles and Kintyre”. (ie, NOT Alister Mor, brother of Angus Mor. The Laird’s position would have been most deliberate considering his status and the well known controversy.

Laird Glenbarr, Angus McAllister, (d’cd 2007) of the Loup MacAlisters, in an effort to preserve the 18th century ‘Glenbarr Abbey’ (mansion) and to ensure that his family heritage was not lost to history like so many other Scottish Nobel Houses, gave Glenbarr Abbey, the ancestral home, to Clan MacAllister as the MacAllister Clan Centre. His death is around when the website was changed to say Alister Mor was their progenitor (not Alaxandair Og) but the 5th Laird obviously had a known position opposed to the Alister Mor story and anyone who now disagrees is rebuffed and told “that’s what we used to think”! It appears that Lord Lyon in 1846 used the 1846 discovery of the incorrect MS1450 (correctly MS1467) to change their descent from Alaxandair Og to Alaster Mor – eventhough neither MS 1450 or MS1467 in fact supports this. It appears that this decision by Lord Lyon may have unduly influenced the Revs A&A. But Heralds can and do make mistakes. Fearghus Mac Giolla Easpaig, Chief Herald of Ireland said to me, 2006.. “now this is bad heraldry” - Richard Macdonnell, Provost of Trinity College (supposed Tinnakill descent) was granted Arms by none other than Sir John Bernard Burke (Burke’s Peerage family), Ulster King of Arms and Principle Herald of Ireland, showing Richard quite erroneously descended from the Earl of Antrim!

The Revs A&A “disobeyed’ their own maxims that MS 1450/1467 is the “sheet anchor of our genealogical faith”, “the most valuable genealogical evidence we have”, and of “no higher authority”. They ignored it and misused it. All other authors and academics called the MS “1467” from probably as early as 1850, ie, for 50 years before 1900 (except Frank Adam, 1908 who carelessly says it is dated 1450 12). But not the Revs A&A, even though they often referred to Skene’s VOL III. Not once did they use the accepted terminology of ‘MS1467” in any of their three VOLS from 1896 to 1904 – always calling it MS1450 and never giving it any explanation, argument or justification (Appendix 1). They over relied on, and used a possibly incorrect entry in Ayloffe’s Calendar. The need to discover a new” Alexander as the inherent father for their misappropriated 1366 Raghnaill (mac Alaxandair) from the Irish annals is I believe what prompted A&A to perform this particular search. All they could find was this unconvincing, uncorroborated (1772) Ayloffe Calendar entry as circumstantial evidence that was in fact another direct contradiction of the “sheet anchor” MS 1450/67.

Can A&A rely on this one mention of someone, in someone’s line, called Alexander son (filius ejus) of Donald de Insulis to accurately place the person in the correct lineage? It certainly sounds Clan Donald, but if so, where does it fit – how many possibilities are there? Could this be an Alexander, son of Donald, older brother of Angus Og? 13

12 Clans Septs and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands.; p98 and others.
13 Robert Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland, Edinburgh, 1965; 4th Ed, 2005; p291. GWS Barrow
G. Barrow: “we may accept – virtually certain - that Angus (Og) had an older brother…. ‘Donald of Islay’, who attended the St Andrew’s Parliament in 1309”. Or, is it correctly rendered in the Calendar anyway? May it contain a clerical error, because it neither agrees with the “higher authority” of MS 1467, nor can it be validated against any other entries or facts anywhere? (unlike for Alaxandair Og’s lineage). Using WD Lamont 14: “Can be discounted as a clerical error” (its back to front), p.165- “where it is quite conceivable that a clerk should have written “Donald son of Angus” for “Angus son of Donald”. In this case also, the reference could be a clerical error, back to front, and actually meant to be Donald son of Alaster Mor, ie, should have been : “Alaxandrum de Insulis & Donaldum filium ejus (his son). There is not a single other record, especially not in MS 1467, giving a son Alexander, son of Donald, son of Alaster Mor, so this has to be at least considered as the possibility of being an error. This lone, isolated record, and only for a son and father, should not be accepted as absolute fact for the purpose A&A have used it. The father and son most obviously meant, if this is an error, would be actually “Alexander Mor and (his known) son Donald”, and this perfectly fits the period and situation.

This entry in Ayloffe’s for the Revs A&A postulated “Alexander son of Donald (son of Alaster Mor)” stands in stark isolation, unlike the many collaborating entries for the lineage of Alaxandair Og and the entry below which is for an extra (3rd) generation making it even the more reliable…. “Alexander de Isles, filius Anegu filii Donevauldi”…on the same page in Ayloffe’s Calendars of Ancient charters (1291).

What Revs A&A did do, was use the error in the “original” but discredited ‘MS1450’ and created a false lineage for the descendants on Donald, son of Alexander Mor (Appendix 1).

A&A gravely misused the Irish Annals (Appendix 2). They also had to find a way to (mis)use the only piece of (wrong) evidence they had from their “deep palls of obscurity & utter ignorance”, ie, grave-rob the Annal AU1366 for “ragnall, son of alexander, that is, the heir of the clann-alaxandair from Innsigall”, and use his dry bones to prop up their rickety scaffold of the Clan Alister Mor pedigree.

Revs A&A first correctly write there is no such Alexander, that is, son of Donald, son of Alaster Mor in their VOL 2 “Clan Allisters”, but, four years later in VOL 3 they change this. They arrived at this by overstating the value or validity of a source, that is also possibly incorrect (entry in Ayloffe’s Calendar) to give an Alexander, son of Donald, son of Alaster Mor. They may have thought they had a match with Ayloffe’s probably incorrectly attributed Alexander, son of Ragnall in AU 1366 (ie, “the father in Raghnnall mac Alaxandair” – who is actually Alaxandair OG). Either way, it is definitely wrong. They should not have, and cannot, use this Ragnall in Alister Mor’s pedigree.

The “pairing” had to be placed under Donald (II); see this in Vol 3, p.185 (as the only “available” choice of three correct sons: ie, for obvious reasons could not use Hector or Duncan.) And in the process totally ignoring MS 1467 as well as contradicting their own earlier comments in Vol 2, p.35 about Donald (II)’s only descendants through a somewhat dubious Gilbert. That is, those in Stirling, but called “Alexanders”:- “their annals do not seem to be sufficiently striking to demand detailed treatment in the history of clan Donald”. That is, maybe from someone called “Gilbert filii Donaldi” seen in the Exchequer Rolls, and then they claim he is in ‘MS1450’ in the footnote (insert below) but as can be proved this is a complete falsehood - because not only do they use a known discredited entry in “MS 1450” but they then misuse it because it clearly states that Gilbert is a son of Godfrey ……NOT Donald (II). (see my Charts ‘A’ & ‘B’).

14 Alexander of Islay, Son of Angus Mór, Scottish Historical Review; 60 (1981), p165. Dr. W.D. Lamont,
The current Lord Lyon, in a past paper, has already stated: “it seems at least as likely that their eponym (MacAlisters of Kintyre) was Alexander Og” 15. This position has now been considerably strengthened by, eg: Dr Nicholls - “Scottish Mercenary Kindreds in Ireland”; p98 - “Galloglass World”, Ed Duffy. Dr J Lydon- “The Scottish Soldier in Medieval Ireland”. Dr K Simms- ‘Gaelic Warfare in Middle Ages’, in Military History of Ireland; Ed. Bartlett; 1996; p110. The Clan Ranald historian Hugh, Burke’s Peerage (prior to 1896), all support the Nicholl’s (& Sellar) view that: “the McAlisters of Loup in Kintyre also descended from Alexander the younger rather than, as has been previously assumed, from his uncle is certainly correct” (P.98, Galloglass World – Dr. Nicholls.)

That opinion of the Lord Lyon should now be able to be raised to at least more than likely, that is, Alaxandair Og “was their eponym”.

Burke’s Peerage for McAlisters of Loup and Kennox. Chief of McAlester has a ‘big black hole’ between II and VI, Ean Dubh 1493, of the pedigree. It is effectively shown blank (compare it to CLAN DONALD VOL 3; p.185 below). These “blanks” are in fact the Ulster “Clann Alaxandair MacDonnell” or “MacDomhnaill Gallόglach, Clann Alasdair” – ‘III’ is Chief Alaxandair OG!

THESE INVALID ENTRIES SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE MACALISTER PEDIGREE AND ALL GENEALOGY RECORDS :-

In stark contrast to what is said above in the CLAN DONALD extract for MacAllisters of Loup:

- We do have a full picture of the Ulster Clann MacAlaxandair Ogs, not a ‘glimpse’;
- The real succession is not ‘obscure’ at all, for any generation;
- There is absolutely no need to ‘infer’ anything with the aid of some unknown genealogy tree. 16

I think there is cause for optimism with Mr Sellar, now the current Lord Lyon King of Arms, also previously stating:-

“Unfortunately, neither the original ‘CLAN DONALD 1896-1904’, although a most useful quarry, nor DJ Macdonald of Castleton’s more recent ‘Clan Donald’, can be relied on” 17 (ie, regards this particular aspect).

Will Clan Donald (Burke’s Peerage? Lord Lyon?) now consider moving forward with the one Clan of MacAlisters and Macdonnells under CLANN ‘ALASDAIR’ (OG) OF ERIN & ALBAN? (note : the change from Alaxandair to the middle ground – Skene’s original Gaelic “CLANN ALASDAIR”).

From that bonding process would emerge a stronger, unified CLAN DONALD OF ALBIN & ERIN (vice-versa is fine) that the old Sennachies so recorded and also an invigorated larger CLAN DONALD generally, including an extra huge Clan MacSheehy contingent attached as Erin under Alister Mor, son of Donald (MacSheehy).

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15 McDonald & McRuari Pedigrees MS 1467”; West Highland Notes & Queries; 1st (28), p.6, 1986; David W Sellar Esq. (current Lord Lyon) says of the one error (for Clan Donald) in MS1450 that was corrected:- “..by inadvertently omitting a name in another pedigree, appears to style Alexander (as) “Mor” and to give him descendants through a son “Godfrey”. These are really descendants of Alexander Og, and the style “Mor” properly refers to Alexander’s brother Angus (Mor).” (ie, “son of Angus” was left out).

This one error was confirmed by Skene in 1880 and then again by D. Sellar in 1986 by comparing the three other near contemporary MS’s which all gave a consistent, different genealogy; Book of Lecan, Book of Ballymote, An Leabhar Donn :-ie, it is correctly “Somerled, son of Gilbert, son of Godfrey, son of Alaster [Og], son of Angus Mor”. 


17 Ibid. p.3, note 4, 1986; WDH Sellar Esq.
There will be proved a direct link for MacAllisters to the Clan Donald monastic foundation of Iona Abbey, the burial place of the Lords of The Isles, through their line of the influential 15th century Abbot, John Godfrey Angus MacAlister of the ALBIN Clann, descended from Alaxandair OG. In addition, lines from their Abbots of Saddell (see Chart ‘C’, Ecclesiastical MacAlsandair Noblemen).

The MacAlisters of CLANN ALASDAIR OG of ALBAN (Loup, etc) will still have the well-deserved attachment to the dramatic and flattering AU1299 warrior death notice of their eponymous ancestor, because it is also their Alexander Og’s (no “straw death” for him).

As well, they will know he was not deposed but was killed in 1299, honourably and successfully fighting off the Clan Donald’s main territorial enemy, the MacDougalls (despite the abortive marriage alliance) and this prepared the way for his younger brother Angus Og to be strong and successful at the Battle of Bannockburn, securing the Clan’s long term future and with it his son John I’s 2nd creation of the CLAN DONALD, LORDS OF THE ISLES.

Address to Lord Lyon King of Arms; Burke’s Peerage & Gentry; Clan Donald; The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs; The Council of Scottish Armigerous Clans and Families. The Chief Herald of Ireland; The Standing Council of Irish Chiefs and Chieftains.

THE CONCOCTED 1308 ‘DEPOSITION’ OF CHIEF ALAXANDAIR OG.

STATEMENT: The Clan Chief, Alaxandair Og de Hyle, son of Angus Mor, son of Donald was killed in 1299. The story of his deposition in 1308 was a later political fabrication and is untrue.

The disparaging statement “deposed 1308” has been proven beyond all reasonable doubt to be a complete falsehood and a revival of an ancient political concoction of no current import. It should be removed from Alaxandair Og’s name on all current public material and replaced with :-

Alaxandair Og, k.1299.

MACALISTERS ARE DESCENDED FROM ALAXANDAIR OG. NOT HIS UNCLE, ALASTAR MOR.

The Alaster Mor pedigree has a fatal “black hole” at number ‘IV’ who is conclusively proven as Raghnaill (Ranald) son of Alaxandair OG. The father Alaxandair (‘III’) is therefore in fact none other than Chief Alaxandair OG (de Yle) and also must obviously be removed. It’s a dishonour to so mistreat this Chief’s posterity and deny the Lord’s obituary. This incredulous ‘high jacking’ has been partly made possible by politically discrediting him as being ignobly “deposed” and then wrongly saying that all his sons were banished, disinherited, to Ireland. The son of Ranald, Alexander (‘V’), must also obviously be removed. This pedigree is therefore invalid above ‘VI’.

CHIEF OF THE NAME & ARMS - McALISTER. In my opinion, there can continue to be a Chief and Armiger of Clan McAlister of Loup but, at best, with due respect. there is only a pedigree to number ‘VI’, “Black John”, 1493 (who could, in any case, be Ian Dubh mac Alaxandair, i.e, son of Alaxandair OG.) As shown, Owen McOwen Duffe [M’Alastrain], number ‘X’ in their genealogy, is also doubtful. They cannot unfortunately claim their descent extends from Alexander Mor and thus to the eponymous DONALD. This has its implications, in that they are “floating”; a genuine Clan Donald sept, but one which is in effect remains unattached in a formal sense to the historical Clan Donald Chiefly hierarchy.

There appears to be no ‘MacAllisters’ descended from Alaster Mor at all. His only possible Scottish descendants are actually named the “Alexanders of Menstrie” and possibly ‘Alexanders of Fofarshire’ - and furthermore, these are more probably Alaxandair Og’s descendants (see Charts ‘A’, ‘B’ and ‘C’). MacAllisters, of Loup/Tarbet/Glenbar/Torrisdale/Strathaird, can be shown by this paper’s evidence and analysis that the path to Alaster Mor does not exist and their only genuine chance forward is to prove a pathway to Alaxandair OG, which I have well commenced, in their quest to link to the common eponymous DONALD and hence to SOMERLED (see Chart ‘C’).

Hopefully the Clan MacAllisters (Og) of “Kintyre”, etc, who read and discuss what is said will consider abandoning the mistakes, confusion and injustice of the past century and discontinue what amounts to the perpetuation of the corrupt historicity on, what’s been in effect, their own real founder, Alaxandair OG.

THE CLAN ALASDAIR (OG) OF ERIN & ALBANN (Ulster, Connaught, Leinster Macdonnells and Loup/Tarbert/Glenbar/Torrisdale/Strathaird MacAlisters) will be a substantial and significant Clan Donald sept.
Revs A&A have ignored this and breach the overt import of their own rule that MS 1450/1467 is the “higher authority”, “the most valuable genealogical authority we have” and claim that this Raghnaill (note 14) descends from Alaster Mor.

He does not. In either “MS 1450” as it was in its original 1847 form, neither uncorrected or altered, and whatsmore, it was also not in the correct and validated MS 1467. Revs A&A have deliberately chosen to ignore this 1880 book’s authenticated MS 1467. Their use of the old discredited term MS 1450 appears to be a camouflage of “ruse”, constantly overstating and stressing its pre-eminence in superlatives because the correct, validated, authenticated MS 1467, regarding Clan Donald, did not agree with their preconceived (wrong) notions that no son of Alaxandair Og had stayed in Scotland. Therefore “Raghnall”, Gilbert (Menstries) and Godfrey had to, in their incorrect view, be placed under Alaster Mor which is in total denial of the published, authenticated and universally accepted “MS 1467”. They tried to shore this up with other isolated findings from rolls, etc, eg, someone called “Gilbert son of Donald”. Whatsmore, Gilbert (Gillebride) is a son on Godfrey….not Donald, in MS1467 – see last set above (from “Somerled”). This is another serious error by A&A caused by their biased use of the one discredited part in “MS 1450”. There is in fact no such document called “MS 1450” - since at least 1880! A&A can’t have it both ways:- use “MS1450” when it suits and not use it when it doesn’t.

Skene published his improved, authenticated 2nd translation in his “Celtic Scotland VOL 3, 1st Ed.” of 1880. Note: David WH Sellar, now Lord Lyon, comment about MS1467 in “Cetic Scotland –Skene; 1880”. He said it is “the only reliable account of these pedigrees so far in print” 18 … “the prime manuscript consulted here being ‘MS 1467’, now more accurately transcribed.” 19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The following branches, descended from Alaxandair, son of Angus Mor, are taken from the books of Ballimote and Lecan and MS 1467, and, though bearing no title, are obviously the Clan Alasdair.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

12 The following branches, descended from Alaxandair, son of Angus Mor, are taken from the books of Ballimote and Lecan and MS 1467, and, though bearing no title, are obviously the Clan Alasdair.

14 Raghnaill mac Alaxandair, heir of the Clann Alaxandair, is mentioned in the Annals of Ulster in 1363.

18 McDonald & McRuari Pedigrees MS 1467”; West Highland Notes & Queries; 11(28), p.3, 1986.

19 William Forbes Skene (1809–92): historian of Celtic Scotland”; p.14; Proc Soc Antiq Scot, 131 (2001), 3–21; W D H Sellar. Sellar said that Skene’s original 1847 transcription of ‘MS 1450’ in particular, was far from perfect and “noted that Skene’s (quite separate) “Table of the Descent of the Highland Clans” which appears in Skene’s Highlanders, is exceedingly speculative and misleading”. These comments should not be confused with his view above on the “now more accurately transcribed” 1880 MS
Annals of Four Masters (AFM) 1366  (VOL 3. pps. 634-5)

A&A were not careful at all in their attribution of this history to the sept of Alaster Mor. Annals cannot be used by plucking a lone entry (and misunderstanding it) and also using it out of context. The Annals must be used by researching the entries either side of the event in question (for the same place – or same time other places) to develop a cohesive narrative, a context of events, a chain of cause and effect – to fully grasp what is really happening; to confirm and validate the accurate history (after K. Simms).

The Annal entry of only the one year before would have told the Revs A&A that their view was very suspect! It was not coherent for any son of Alaster Mor and it is especially evident as wrong when seen against the material in "The MacDonnells of Tyrone and Armagh". And they also misuse other Tyrone Macdonnells later on (16th century) who are patronymically named “MacOwen 20, as "MacAlister Mors".

Here is the continuity and the context: Somairle, the Constable of the Fifth (Province) of Ulster (to O’Neill Clan –of Cenel nEogain- of Northern Ui Neill) ...one who was to be king of Insi-Gall Hebrides, namely, the son of John the Black, son of Alaxandair MacDonnail (was murdered by) Brian, son of Aedh Mag Mathgemma, king of Airghialla. That is, the mac Alaxandair heir Somairle was killed 1365 and the next eldest then comes over. ‘And Ragnall, son of Alexander, that is, the heir of the Clann-Alaxandair, came from Insi-Gall about that time to Niall Ua Neill’ (AU). The contests with other brothers is usual – same with the O’Neills, and alliances were made within each of the respective junior and senior parties of Mac Alaxandair (Macdonnells) and O’Neills. The Annal shows how both Mac Alaxandair brothers were “king fit” – for King of Insi-Gall Hebrides (Does not strictly mean they were the tanists, or heirs. Simply eligible and suitable; but old.) The O’Neills (of Tyrone and Clandaboy, Antrim) figure prominently in the complicated, shifting factional interactions with “Clan Alaxandair” (the later

Macdonnells of Tyrone & Armagh) and Clan Ian Mor for over two centuries.

(A) The same Annal of Clonmacnoise starts :-

"Randolph mac Alexander, chief of the Mac Donnells" - the MacAllisters were never called MacDonnells, especially never Chief of MacDonnells. If this were the MacAllisters, O’Donovan would definitely have said so (was published 1856, forty years before Revs A&A wrote Clan Donald but they did not use this. But they say in their Preface that they used the AFM, p.’x’, CLAN DONALD, VOL 1).

(B) Annal is :- “Randolph Mc Alexander, chief of the McDonells, came out of the Isles to assist Neale O’Neale in that war, where the two sons (forces) of McDonnells met..." “Randolph sent Alexander his son & heir and Terlagh MacDonell, to his kinsmen, desiring them, in regard they were his kinsmen and he Chief of the house they were of, that they would be pleased to desist from contending against him." (ie, from O’Donovan’s note (i) - "his kinsmen, the other Macdonnells").

The meaning is unequivocal: - they were all of the same sept, all descendants of Alaxandair OG - the Macdonnell Galloglass of Tryone & Armagh (the Clann Alaxandair Macdonnell) and Ragnall Mac Alaxandair (with his sons) from the “Hebrides”.

This is also a consistent and coherent translation with the Annals of Ulster (AU) 1366, albeit the above Mageoghegan translation is more detailed ;-) (AU) "... and he asked in honour of the seniority and of the brotherhood not to come against him". "The kerns of the two parties met with one another, that is, the whole sept of the Clann-Domnail". In addition, B. MacCarthy also explains this Annal as : - his note 7, "The episode relative to the coming of the MacDonnells is introduced to explain their junction" 22 (ie, not the coming of the MacAllisters or Alexanders.)

1467 transcription, re : “Then came Skene’s crowning glory. Celtic Scotland: A History of Ancient Alban (Skene 1876-1880), the result of so many years of work and reflection”.

20 Annaghmackeown, (named after Chief “MacEoin”; the local MacOwens), etc, Donaghmore Parish, in O’Neill’s mensal (demesne) lands: - “The town of Macdonnell...with beautiful herb garden”- Annals Four Masters 1523.

Appendix 2 to Attachment G.

Macdonnells of Tyrone & Armagh) and Clan Ian Mor for over two centuries.

(B) Annal is :- “Randolph Mc Alexander, chief of the McDonells, came out of the Isles to assist Neale O’Neale in that war, where the two sons (forces) of McDonnells met..." “Randolph sent Alexander his son & heir and Terlagh MacDonell, to his kinsmen, desiring them, in regard they were his kinsmen and he Chief of the house they were of, that they would be pleased to desist from contending against him.” (ie, from O’Donovan’s note (i) - “his kinsmen, the other Macdonnells”).

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21 “it is not right to oppose a good senior man”…. ‘Gaelic Warfare in Middle Ages’, Dr K Simms, in Military History of Ireland, Ed. Bartlett; 1996. Chapter IV, Methods of Choosing and deposing a King - The Taniste, The Mac Riogh; pps 47-49. Seniority was decided on two grounds:- “personal age and descent (noble)”, and other qualifications “being equal”, seniority was a key factor. (eg, other = number of clients, wealth, military power, valour, unblemished body, generosity, mother’s nobility, etc).

22 The Annals of Ulster; VOL II; 1893”; B MacCarthy.
NOTE: she does not identify them just as Clann Alaxandair, which might be confusing.

Clann Alaster (Mor) were never called "Clan Alaxandair MacDonnell" and not once held the office of High Constable of the Province of Ulster. Only the Welch MacQuillens did to De Burgh and then to O'Neill before Macdonnells. There was never any Kintyre MacAllister Galloglaich, as a "noble" kindred, in Ulster."

This is all so very crystal clear. And I repeat: This Raghnall was not of the Clan Alaster Mor. He cannot be placed in the genealogy of Clan Allister (Mor).

How did Revs A&A not see this in the AFM or the Clonmacnoise Annals 1366 and mention it, or use it? It is a 'mystery'. Irish medieval expert Dr K Simms, calls them "Clann Alaxandair MacDonnell" 23, "... the office of High Constable of the Province of Ulster was held by Scottish Galloglass Captains, member of the Clann Alexander MacDonnell." NOTE: she does not identify them just as Clann Alaxandair, which might be confusing.

Only the 15th century “New Scots” redshanks and the later “Scots-Irish” saw some Kintyre MacAllisters go to Ulster.

For her index, Dr. Simms categorizes the Ulster Macdonnells unequivocally as:

“MacDomhnaill Galloglach, Clann Alasdair”.

The 1366 Annal also clearly gives a son Alexander to Raghnall. son of Alaxandair Og, which Revs A&A also misuse in their wrongful construction of their Clan Allister (Mor) pedigree, ie, their Alexander mac Ragnall, vic Donald vic Alaster Mor (p.185, VOL 3). He must also be removed.

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23 ‘Gaeltic Warfare in Middle Ages’, Dr. K Simms; p.110.

24 MACDONNELLS - OF LECALE & DUFFERIN, County Down, THE ‘ALLISTERS’; FROM IAN MOR’S 2ND SON, RANDAL BAN (Boy). Therefore they are a sept of the Clann Ian/John Mor. ALEXANDER MacRandalboy the “founder” - his sons, Allister, Gillaspick (Hill, George – “The best known leader among the Scots of Lecale was ALEXANDER Macrandal Boy Macdonnell. He left two sons, Allister and Gillaspick; and one daughter, Mary, who became the 2nd wife of Con O’Neill, Earl of Tyrone.”)

Alexander MacRandleboy Macdonnell had been knighted by Earl of Sussex and granted the Glenarm Abbey and all its lands 1557 ("probably never ventured to assert his claim")

After the 1563 murders by adventurer Brereton, these Macdonnells then ‘joined the MacDonnells of Islay and the Glens to whom they were related by marriage’. That is, in the Baronies (old Toughs) of Monery and Carey – Sorely Boy’s lands, including Ballycastle. It formed the caput or capital of the Barony of Carey, which extends from the river Bush in the west to Cushendun in the east and inland to include the villages of Armoy and Mosside; Dundunynie, Kinbane (Castle), Ramoan, Ballintoy, Rathlin I. CAREY - now Culfeightrin (includes Bonamaige, Drumaraon, Barnish - half their townlands are in Fairhead, grange of Drumtullagh. These “Clan Allisters” were manuring (farming) them in 1568 (State Papers Ireland; SPL) - Sorely Boy gave Kinbane Castle to these “MacAllisters”, NOT McCallister Mors! 1572 - the English (SPI) death notice of the “M’AIsleran”, ie, a MacDonnell, leader, supposed Clan MacAllister ‘Owen M’Owen (patronymic) Duff M’Aislanstr, otherwise called the Lord (not ‘Laird’) of Loope’, killed in Antrim, 1572 (The Lord of Loop? - 1. Port-na-Loub, of Fairhead? * He was “more esteemed” than Sorely, ie, only by the English – simply a put down by them of Sorley.)

His true identity is conclusively proven by the AFM annal 1572 (8):- “John (Owen), the son of Colla, son of Domnell, son of Owen (patronymic) Macdonnell, died”. An annal ignored by A&A; they never mention “Lecale Macdonnells.”

Mageoghegan translation. And used in AFM notes.

[* 2. ‘The Loop’ (from the Irish: An Lúb) is a small village and the surrounding area in Northern Ireland. The Loop lies on the western shores of Lough Neagh close to Dungannon”. The Loop is in the Parish of Artrea (Ardtrea), Upper Dungannon Barony, Nth Ireland, just two parishes removed from Macdonnell’s other parishes of Annaghmackeown, Donaghmore and Cappagh. The Tithe Applotment Book 1833 and Griffith’s Valuation 1860 give these names: - M’Donnell, M’Connell, ‘McOwen-M’Keown, McCown’. All of the same stock: The Macdonnells of Tyrone, descendants of Alaxandair Og.]
“CLANN DOMNAILL a nEIRINN agus a nALBANN.”

As described in AD1467 (the MS) and was so for centuries before. The perception has to be overcome that ..... “The MacDonald clan, which was spread over northwestern Scotland and (only) northeastern Ireland.”

Clan Donald covered the whole of Ireland. It covered every Province.

In terms of the total CLAN DONALD of ALBAN AND ERIN, there is broadly (in general time order): -

CLAN “ALASDAIR” (OG) OF ERIN AND ALBAN (c.1320)

Ulster, Connaught, Leinster Macdonnells 25 and Loup/Tarbert/Glenbarr/Torrisdale/Strathaird MacAlisters.

CLAN ALASTER (MOR) OF ERIN AND ALBAN (c.1360)

Munster MacSheehy and Menstrie/Forfarshire “Alexanders”.

CLAN IAN MOR OF ERIN AND ALBAN (c.1400)

Mcdonnells (Earls) of The Glens & Route, Antrim (“Mac Sorelys”); Glassmullan, Antrim (“Colkittos”);

Macdonnells → of Lecale, Down → M’Allesters of Carey, Antrim (see n.24: mhic Alexander “MacRandalboys”);

and McDonalds of Dunyvaig, Islay; Colonsay (“Colkittos”).

25 For simplicity I have excluded smaller septs (“cadets”) and name variations in the lists, eg, for Ulster Macdonnells :- MacAllister, McConnell, MacDaniell, MacOwen, MacKeever, etc, etc………. 
**CHART “A”**

**ALAXANDAIR OG de HYLE, k. 1299 (AFM 1299,3)**

3rd Chief of Clan Donald c1292-1299.

**RAGHNALL MAC ALAXANDAIR (to TYRONE)**

**ANNALS FOUR MASTERS, 1366.**

“Ragnall, son of Alexander, that is, the heir of the Clan-Alaxandair, came from Innis-Gall”

Annals on others: “they were his kinsmen and he Chief of the house they were of.”

**TURLOUGH**
AFM 1366
Tyrone

**ANGUS**

**GODFREY**

**BLACK JOHN**
Tyrone.
Annal k.1349

**SOMERLED**
Connaught

**DONALD** (Eponymous)

**ANGUS MOR**

**SOMHAIRLE**
Annal k.1365.
PS: just ‘year’ before Ragnall came over from Innis-gall to Tyrone.

**EOIN OG**

**SOMHAIRLE**
Annal k.1398

**JOHN/EOIN MAOL**
(The Bald)
Sochan MacDondail
Lige hommage to King Richard II, 1395.
Drogheda, Ulster.
(see O’Clery # & p.4)

**MARCUS**
Annal k.1397
Connaught

**ALAXANDAIR**
AFM. k.1366.

**ALAXANDAIR OG**
AFM. k.1366

**GILLESPIE #**

**GILBERT**

**ANGUS**

**ANGUSII** “Nobleman”

**JOHN**
Abbot Iona
1405-c.1421

**ANGUS**

**GOFREDDI’**
Godfrey.

**ANGUS OG**

**GILBERT**

**ABBOT IONA ABBEY, ETC.**
1405-c.1421.
See PART 1 (E), See Chart C.

**ABBOTS SADDELL ABBEY, ETC.**
1433-c1507 (close)
See Chart C.

**JOHN,**
Abbot Iona
1405-c.1421

**ANGUSII** “Nobleman”

**ANGUS**

**GOFREDDI’**
Godfrey.

**ANGUS OG**

**GILBERT**

**ALAXANDERS OF FOFOARSHIRE**
“nothing striking”-A&A

**ALAXANDERS OF MENSTRIE**
Earls of Stirling.

**GILBERT**

**SOMERLED**

**ABBOT IONA ABBEY, ETC.**
1405-c.1421.
See PART 1 (E), See Chart C.

**ABBOTS SADDELL ABBEY, ETC.**
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**ANGUS OG**

**GILBERT**

**ALAXANDERS OF FOFOARSHIRE**
“nothing striking”-A&A

**ALAXANDERS OF MENSTRIE**
Earls of Stirling.

All persons, names that are underlined are verified in MS 1467. (incl. by DHS Sellar). IN BLUE :- person in the Irish Annals. (for example)

Green boxed, all mentioned AFM 1366: “Raghnall - his kinsmen and he Chief of” “the Clan Alaxandair Macdonnell (K. Simms)”

# Also: O’Clery Genealogies; Analecta Hibernica; XVIII; pp.20 ff. The Genealogy Meic Domhnall Macgillagheach (section 301) “Colla mac Toirdelbach meic Giolla Epscui meic Eoin meic Raghnall meic Alaxandair meic Aonghusa moir” (see Schlegel, p 199).
ALASTER MOR TREE

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DONALD I (Eponymous)

ALASTER MOR
Died. c.1292

DONALD

EOCHA = HECTOR

DUNCAN

Tearlach and Lochlan

Gilbert?

More than likely though is the Gilbert which is in MS 1467 as the son of Godfrey, son of Alexandair OG.

ALEXANDERS OF MENSTRIE
Earls of Stirling.

ALEXANDERS OF FOFARSHIRE
"nothing striking", A&A

ALEXANDERS SCOTLAND

Uilliam Mac Sithigh. 1367.

(Tradition) Daughter of Mac Uilliam married James, Earl of Desmond 1420 — MacSheehy Constables to Munster

MACSHEEHY GALLOGLAIGH
MUNSTER IRELAND c.1420
Clann Tsithig
(See Appendix "H".)

PERSONS, NAMES UNDERLINED ARE VERIFIED IN MS 1467. (INCL. BY DHS SELLAR)

(Reverends A&A are the authors of CLAN DONALD VOLS I-III: 1896-1994)
“Ecclesiastical MacAlasandair Noblemen”

**CHART “C”**

**ALEXANDAIR OG de HYLE**

K. 1299

**ANGUSII**

**GOFFREDI (mac) ANGUSII**

Given alternate surname MacAlasandair

1st ever recognizable ‘MacAllister’ — Papal Indult 1395

**ANGUSII GOFFREDI * “MacAlasandair” “NOBLEMAN”**

John — Abbort IDNA. 1405-c.1421.

*Johnes, son of Goffredi Angusii MacAlasandair*

Married Anna, grand-daughter of John I, Lord of Isles & Ami McRuari.

(Anna was daughter of *Mary de Insulis & Lachlan McLean, 1st Duart*).

John was Abbot to Donald II, Lord of Isles, who gifted gold arm for relic of Columba.

**ALEXANDER ANGUSII GOFFREDI**

ABBOTT SADDELL

1433 - 1456

Head of Religious Houses in Scotland from 12th to 16th Centuries, p.186; Ed. DER Watt & NF Shand, 2001. (¶)

**ALEXANDER MACALEXANDER**

ABBOTT SADDELL. (above ref. ¶)

From 1499 to CLOSURE c.1508

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1476 : Loup annexed from John II de Ila. 1481- No Loup in the grant to “MacAllisters”. 1493- Lordship of Isles falls, all lands forfeited. Clan Campbell control.

1487-1532 : Eoin Cambeul (I and II), Bishops of Isles, Commendators of Iona Abbey. Saddell Abbey property to the See of Argyll: it closes down 1500-1508.

1516 : M’Allister Chief Angus m’ *John Dubh,* “Familiar and Struer of Coline (Campbell) Earl of Argyll” (Privy Seal). After 1516 to? = 1st MacALLISTERS + LOUP

**IONA ABBEY**

GLENBARR ("ABBEY") - lands possibly endowed to Saddell?

**SADDELL ABBEY**

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CHART ‘C’ : Descent Chart by Ian Macdonnell (this is an original, never done before. With acknowledgement to Dr Nicholls on identifying Goffredi mac Angusii as the “1st” ever recognisable ‘MacAllister’” — “Scottish Mercenary Kindreds in Ireland”; p98 - “World of the Galloglass”, Ed S Duffy 2007.) ©