# Irish Folktales & Poetry

















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pronunciation: [t̪ˠaːnʲ boː ˈkuəlʲɲə]; "the driving-off of cows of Cooley", commonly known as The Cattle Raid of Cooley or The Táin) is a legendary tale from early



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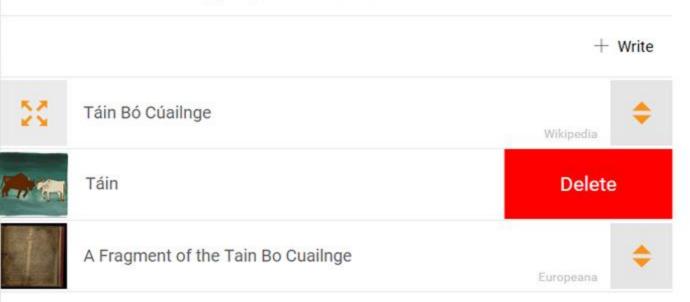






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### Táin Bó Cúailnge

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Táin Bó Cúailnge (Irish pronunciation: [t̪ˠaːnʲ boː ˈkuəlʲɲə]; "the driving-off of cows of Cooley", commonly known as **The**Cattle Raid of Cooley or The Táin) is a legendary tale from the right of the considered an epic, although it is written primarily in prose rather than verse. It tells of a wall ainst Ulster by the Connacht queen Medb and her husband Ailill, who intend to steal the stud bull Donn Cuailnge, opposed only by the teenage Ulster hero Cú Chulainn.

Traditionally set in the 1st century AD in an essentially pre-Christian heroic age, the *Táin* is the central text of a group of tales known as the Ulster Cycle. It survives in three written versions or "recensions" in manuscripts of the 12th and later centuries, the first a compilation largely written in Old Irish, the second a more consistent work in Middle Irish, and the third an Early Modern Irish version.

#### **Synopsis**

The *Táin* is preceded by a number of *remscéla*, or pre-tales, which provide background on the main characters and explain the presence of certain characters from Ulster in the Connacht camp, the curse that causes the temporary inability of the remaining Ulstermen to fight and the magic origins of the bulls Donn Cuailnge and Finnbhennach. The eight *remscéla* chosen by Thomas Kinsella for his 1969 translation are sometimes taken to be part of the *Táin* itself, but come from a variety of manuscripts of different dates. Several other tales exist which are described as *remscéla* to the *Táin*, some of which have only a tangential relation to it.

The first recension begins with Ailill and Medb assembling their army in Cruachan, the purpose of this military build-up taken for granted. The second recension adds a prologue in which Ailill and Medb compare their respective wealths and find that the only thing that distinguishes them is Ailill's possession of the phenomenally fertile bull Finnbhennach, who had been born into Medb's herd but scorned being owned by a woman so decided to transfer himself to Ailill's. Medb determines to get the equally potent Donn Cuailnge from Cooley to equal her wealth with her husband. She successfully negotiates with the bull's owner, Dáire mac Fiachna, to rent the animal for a year until her messengers, drunk, reveal that they would have taken the bull by force even if they had not been allowed to borrow it.



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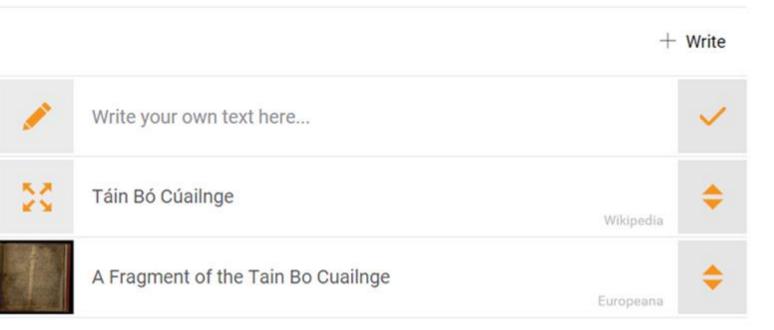
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#### Selection

### About the Cattle Raid of Cooley





### Story / Poem

January 20, 2016

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#### Chat

#### Maebh's Class

The Táin Bó Cúailnge, or 'Cattle Raid of Cooley', is the most famous tale in Irish mythology. It is at the centre of the Ulster Cycle of mythological sagas, known as the Rúraíocht in Irish.





#### Aodh's Class

According to mythology, most of the story took place in Louth

#### Maebh's Class

Our favourite character is Queen Medb. Did you know that she is on top of Ben Bulben in Sligo? She is buried in full battle regalia, facing north toward her enemies in Ulster.





## Any questions?

Ruth Montague

LGMA - Local Government Management Agency

rmontague@lgma.ie



