

## When did *nd* become *nn* in which Early Irish environments?

*Comhdháil lae in onóir do Damian McManus,  
Ollamh na LuathGhaeilge, Coláiste na Tríonóide, agus é ag éirí as.  
A day of talks to mark the retirement of Damian McManus,  
Professor of Early Irish, Trinity College Dublin.*

Jürgen Uhlich, Department of Irish, Trinity College Dublin

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1. GOI §151 (c): ‘The assimilation of *nd* to *nn* in proclitic words begins in the archaic period’.  
*inda*, Philargyrius, Wb. I; *dundaib*, Cambrai; > *inna* (Cambrai), *donaib*;  
cf. POKORNY 1923 on ‘*Da-* in Irish place names’ < *inda*.  
GOI §151 (c): ‘Otherwise *nd* before vowels and in final position is retained in Wb.’.  
Add FORTSON 2009/10 on *-gleinn* verbs (cf. GOI §548) and pre-Wb. \**e/iNd'e/i* > \**e/iN'e/i*.
2. BREATNACH 1994: 259, §7.7: ‘**-nd/nn vs. -n**. Diaidh ar ndiaidh déantar *-n* singil a ghinear-  
álú sa MG, ach nuair nach singil é is suntasach a annaimhe is a mheasctar *-nd* agus *-nn*  
stairiúil i litriú an ailt, ar nós ‘*sinn inud* “san áit”, LL 31162 (TT)’ – adding ‘samplaí den  
fhoirm stairiúil’ and ‘samplaí den simpliú go *-n*’.
3. Compare nasalised *nd-* (and *mb-*):  
FEUTH 1982: 88: ‘nasalized plosives are [in Old Irish sources] uniformly written as *mb*,  
*nd*, *ng*’.  
If > /N/ etc., occasional phonetic spellings might have been expected, cf. (len.)  
*inna{ff}laith* ‘into His kingdom’, Wb. 31a3; (nas.) *amal dēte* ‘as ... goes’, Ml. 93b12–  
13.  
FEUTH 1982: 91: ‘... problem ... why coalescence [i.e. *ND* > *N*] is expressed in the spelling  
in one case (viz. within words ...), but not in the other (viz. in the case of nasaliza-  
tion)’.  
*ibid.*: ‘difference in phonological environment, viz. the fact that nasal-plosive coalescence  
works within words, whereas nasalization is essentially a rule operating between  
words’.  
Furthermore in favour of /ND/ rather than /N/ = *-CNC-* > *-CC-*?  
(a) word-internal: *dofoirde ... dofoirnde* ‘that ... denotes’, Sg. 203b4, etc.; FEUTH 1982: 91–  
3, see GOI §180 (3); THURNEYSEN 1905: 1–2  
(b) ?between words: *fritoil dée* ‘against God’s will’, < *fri toil ndé?* Cf. FEUTH 1982: 89–90  
and THURNEYSEN 1905: 6, 8, 10–12, for or implying (optional) deletion, vs. ROMA  
2018, 2020 for limitations on analogical spread (at least after stressed nominals).
4. ROMA 2013: 255: ‘Mentre in generale *-nn* e *-nd* finali in MI sono grafie alternative per la  
nasale non lenita/ tesa, nel caso dell’articolo la grafia con *-nd* in posizione finale  
rappresentava una sequenza di due consonanti, che compara di norma in IA ... davanti  
a vocale e *f*, *r*, *l*, *n*, lenite. La conservazione di questa grafia è tanto più notevole data  
la direzione della semplificazione verso *-n* semplice. Si noti che l’articolo è una forma  
proclitica, che forma con la parola seguente una parola fonologica’.  
UHLICH 2014: 160: ‘... most likely implying that the original *d* was protected in this special  
pattern when introducing the stressed syllable’.

For the syllabic segmentation, cf.

(*n*)*d'adaig* = *ind adaig* ‘on the (following) night’, *GOI* §251.3, see THURNEYSSEN 1936: 356–7 (see also *DIL* s.v. 1 *adaig* 28.29–40, s.v. *dadaig*):

*nd adaig* [*sic leg.*, Thurneysen], *CompCC* §5

*dadaig*, *BDD*<sup>2</sup> 91 (§7; v.l. *issin aidhqui*, Eg., s. *BDD*), 133 (§12).

*in* | *dfír* ‘of the man’, Wb. 33c9 (MS 33va23, left margin)

cf. linking alliteration:

*a ndúine*. → *It é* ‘their strongholds. | These are they’, *Fél. Prol.* 68–9

5. Two general environments distinguished by *GOI*, i.e. without distinguishing by syllables:

[Ⓟ = proclitic/pretonic, ⊕ = tonic/stressed, ⊗ = enclitic/posttonic]:

(a) ⊕ndⓅ: EOIr. *inda* > ClassOIr. *inna*

(b) ⊕nd(Ⓟ): ClassOIr. *cland* (12x Wb., 40x ML.) > *clan(n)* (1x Wb., 2x ML.)

*légend*: *Érenn*, *Fél. Sep.* 26

(or ⊗ndⓅ: *Cenandán* > *Cenannán*)

**add** (c) ⊕ndⓅ: ClassOIr. *ind* V- (etc.) > MidIr. *ind* V- > *in(n)* V-

6. ROMA 2020: 190–1 on 5x *-n-* in Sg.:

*etar ñ dirainn* ‘between the two parts’, Sg. 2b2; + *Thes. (Supplement)* II, 493: ‘Apparently for *etar in dí rainn*, with reduction of the article between the preposition and the noun [*sic*]’, see STRACHAN 1903: 488.

*eter ndán · ulla* ‘between the two *ullas*’, Sg. 45b19.

STRACHAN 1903: 488:

cf. also *tresñgné* ‘by the species’, Sg. 73b1, ‘undoubtedly for *tresin ñgné*’, but ROMA 2020: 191, n. 15: with ‘nasalising accusative neuter singular article ... for *tresañgné* (cf. *DIL* s.v. *tre*, 277.12–13).

cf. also *frismbiat* ‘with which they are’, Sg. 202b3.

*is fornóin ñ deilb biit semper*, ‘tis according to one paradigm they are always (declined)’, Sg. 201b6 (on the apparently “Scottish” nasalising ñ see ROMA 2020: 190).

*far cétnu diull ... far nóendeilb*, ‘according to the first declension ... according to the same paradigm’, Sg. 90b2, i.e. dat. also in 201b6 (ROMA 2020: 191).

*arbertar as noéntarmoirciunn*, ‘they are expressed by the same termination’, Sg. 33a19a (*leg. nóen-*, ROMA 2020: 191, n. 13).

7. *óen* in “compounds”?

(1) Cf. ModIr. *aon*: Ó CURNÁIN 2007: §3.88: only recorded as type II (= primary stress on *aon-*, secondary [or none] on base, ‘-’ or ‘-’) or type III (= ‘-’), never type I (= -).

(2) *ind óen ré* ‘at the same time’: *umaide*, Blathmac §87 (ll. 345–6; MS *ind oen re*)  
*i n-oen-uair* ‘thereupon’: *sluaig*, Gospel of Thomas §41 (ll. b, d; MS *anaon uair*)

CARNEY 1964: 129, n. 345: ‘Note that *oen* does not form a compound with the following word; similarly *i n-oen uair* (*anaon uair* MS.), II, § 41’.

CARNEY 1964: 163 [*i n-oen-uair*]: ‘it would appear that in the early Old Irish period it was not uncommon for the second element in a compound to rhyme independently. Compare in Broccán’s poem on St. Brigit *maith* (: *derglaid*), *noebdúil*

(: *súil*), *amra* (: *comlabra*), *Thes.* II, pp. 337–8. This practice may have been imitated sporadically in the later period’ – but also referring to:  
O’BRIEN 1955: 51, on internal rhyme *Liamna* : *bliadna* in *rē ōenbliadna deäc*, p. 46, §43: ‘Perhaps in the construction with *deäc ōen* need not form a compound with the following noun’.

(3) *Félire Óenguso* (Rinnard, 4x 6<sup>2</sup>)

(a) compound:

*conrecat for óenchái* ‘they meet on the same road’, *Fél.* 10 June.  
Cf. *scís* : *óendís*, *Thes.* II, 293.18 (*rind* 7 *airdrind*)

(b) preposed adjective:

*for óenlíni* ‘on one line’, *Fél.* Oct. 2 (consonance with *féli* : *Eusébi*)  
Oct. 14 (: *Paulíni*, consonance *ógi*)  
*cechóin laithi* ‘of every single day’, *Fél.* Ep. 5 (end of line a)

(4) *GOI* §385.1: ‘**óin-**, **óen-**, always in composition’;

cf. §365.5 (where also on *fecht n-óen*, etc.).

Cf. (semantically no longer transparent)

*óenach* ‘assembly’ < \**oino-ago-* (*aigid*; O’Brien, see GREENE 1954: 334);

*óenar* ‘one alone’ < \**oino-uirrom* (*fer*; HAMP 1982: 179–80);

or with enclitic voicing *óenrad* ‘one grace’, *Wb.* 13b9 (*rath*) (unless hypercorrect spelling, cf *GOI* §130).

However, *DIL* s.v. *oen* I (f):

*inna óina oinasa*, gl. *hos eosdem*<sup>gl.</sup> (*deos*), *ML.* 70a4 (also quoted *GOI* §351. (2)),  
‘these very same ones’, GRIFFITH & STIFTER 2013.

*inna oinaméite* ‘of the same size’, *Sg.* 203a26, with proclitic depalatalisation  
(contrast stressed substantivised in *cuit inna aine* 7 *inna aile* ‘the part of the  
one and of the other’, *BCr.* 31c4).

On secondary proclisis see UHLICH 2019: 20–7, e.g.

*aile* + *aile* > *al(a) aile*; *cách* > *cachfer*, *ní* (for \**né*) > *nalled* (*leth*).

8. Result: with *óen* in secondary proclisis, the pattern applicable to the development of the dat. sg. article *ind* underlying *fornóin ñ deilb*, *far nóendeilb*, *as noéntarmoirciunn* in no. 6 above is (cf. no. 5)

not (c)    ②nd②: ClassOIr. *ind* V- (etc.) > MidIr. *ind* V- > *in(n)* V-

but (a)    ②nd②: EOIr. *inda* > ClassOIr. *inna*

Thus *as-ind-óen* *Ẋ* > *asinnóen* *Ẋ* > *asnóen* *Ẋ*.

9. FEUTH 1982: 91: ‘*debe mec*, “a little difference” (*ML.* 40<sup>a</sup>20, in place of *debe mbec*). Contrary to the quite respectable number of valuable phonetic spellings in the case of nasalized voiceless plosives, *debe mec* is an isolated instance as far as nasalized voiced plosives are concerned. Therefore it looks like, and definitely must be a writing error’.

*atá debe mec nand* ‘there is a little difference there’, *ML.* 40a20.

Cf. MidIr. *Loch nEchach n-án* ‘shining Loch nEchach’, *LL* l. 28572

OIr. *fis forcell 7 dligeð rechtó ndæ* ‘knowledge of the testimonies and rules of the law of God’, *Wb.* 46c8

*déde didiu nand* ‘two things, then, are therein’, *Wb.* 1a5 (*didiu* as such neither ‘not fully stressed’ nor ‘weakly stressed’ [*GOI* §§41 (b), 901], see *GOI* p. 673)

See UHLICH 2019 for nasalisation being transferred across a secondarily proclitic word (*Echach*, *rechtó*, *didiu*) to the following stressed word, and cf. MidIr. (BERGIN 1932)

*a nda n-athair*, *Anecd.* III, 57.24, ‘both of their fathers’

*a da nduma*, *LL* l. 1541, ‘their two mounds’

Pattern *déde didiu n-ànd* = *debe mec n-ànd*, i.e. with fully proclitic /Mb/ > /M/?

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