

Tipperary), Glarryford (Co. Antrim), Stoneyford (Co. Antrim), Bryansford (Co. Down), Waringsford (Co. Down).

In one of these instances (Ballylongford) the element *ford* does not refer to a river-crossing; rather it is a corruption of the Irish *longfoirt* 'ship harbour, encampment', but fortuitously, as the complete Irish name (Baile Átha Longfoirt) makes clear, the settlement in question is at a ford.

10. P. W. Joyce, *The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places* (First Series, Second Edition, 1875), 44.
11. Op. cit., 355.
12. Op. cit., 300.
13. Op. cit., 490.
14. Op. cit., 218.
15. Op. cit., 377.
16. Op. cit., 218.
17. Further evidence of this is provided by the fact that Hogan's *Onomasticon* contains no less than forty columns of *ath* references.

Mercator's Map of Ireland as a Source for Mountain-Names

Breandán S. Mac Aodha

High relief is indicated by pictograms in the shape of molehills on Mercator's map of Ireland. Unfortunately, only a small proportion of these symbols are named. Nevertheless, there is something of value to be learned about the sixteenth-century view of Ireland, and about the evolution of anglicised forms of Irish place-names, from a detailed study of such toponyms as were recorded on the map (Fig. 1).

The order of treatment is as follows: Louth, Down, Antrim, Derry and Central Ulster, Donegal; Sligo, Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo, Galway, Clare; Limerick, Kerry, Cork, Waterford; Kilkenny, Tipperary, Offaly, Laois, Wexford, Carlow, Wicklow, Dublin, Westmeath, Longford, Meath. Mercator's version of each name is followed by the modern Irish form and the standard O.S. English spelling (where these are available), and notes where relevant.

No mountains are named in Co. Louth. Cooley is not marked, but *Carlyngford* is recorded as a settlement name. Neither are the Mourne named, though *Mourne* does occur as a territorial name. Mountain symbols are numerous in Co. Antrim, but not even Slemish is titled.

Ulster

1. *Slew Gallen*. *Ir.* Sliabh gCallan, *Eng.* Slieve Gallion. Older Irish forms *Sliabh Calland* and *Sliabh Callaimn*.¹ While next to nothing was known of *Glan Conkien*, this outer bastion of the Sperrins was very conspicuous: it dominates the entire western shore of Lough Neagh. Curiously, the Sperrins themselves were left without a name.
2. *The Bowhil*. No Irish or English form. This possibly refers to Sawel, the highest peak in the Sperrin range.
3. *Slew Bagh*. *Ir.* Sliabh Beitheach? *Eng.* Slieve Beagh. Older Irish forms *S. Betha*, *S. Bethach*, *S. Bethach*.² As usual, Mercator rendered *sliabh* as *slew*.
4. *Slew Gare*. No Irish or English form. This can only relate to the low hills (c.600–800 feet) in the Ballybay—Shercock area. No

collective term seems to have survived in English. The original Irish version might have been *Sliabh gCar*.

5. *Mons Clone*. No Irish or English form. This can only be identified with the hill (590 feet) on which Granard mote is located.

6. *S. Patricii montes*. No Irish or English form. There does not appear to be any collective name for these hills on the borders of Donegal and Fermanagh. They include such summits as Crockkinnagoe (1194 feet), Bin Mountain and Bolaght Mountain (1073 feet) in the district between Pettigo and Drumquin. The obvious reason for their inclusion was their proximity to the well-known pilgrimage site of Lough Derg.

7. *Haukes rok*. No Irish or English form. Not identified. It must refer to some peak in the vicinity of Altinierin.

8. *Silver mountayn*. No Irish or English form. Presumably this equates to An Earagail, Errigal Mountain (2466 feet), the most conspicuous peak in the area. It may even be a mistranslation, as if the name contained *airgead*, 'silver'.

9. *Slew shere*. No Irish or English form. Donegal is the most distorted portion of the entire map. This toponym may relate to the Blue Stacks. The first element is obviously *sliabh* 'a mountain', but the second eludes identification. It may be *siar*, 'westwards'.

10. *Bernes more*. *Ir.* An Bearnas Mór, *Eng.* Barnesmore. It is unclear whether this relates to the pass or to the neighbouring peak. In any case the Irish form signifies 'the great gap'. Older form: *Bernas*.³

Connaught

11. *Benicolben m*. *Ir.* Binn Ghulbain, *Eng.* Ben Bulben. Like many of the mountains named by Mercator, this is a very conspicuous summit close to the coast.

12. *Thorne mo*. No Irish or English form. Impossible to identify, since the depiction of the Upper Shannon is so distorted. Somewhere in the Manorhamilton area.

13. *Slew Heren*. *Ir.* Sliabh an Iarainn, *Eng.* Slieve Anierin. This peak, rising to 1927 feet, ought to be located to the east of Lough Allen, not to the north of the lake.

14. *Courlews mo*. *Ir.* Corrsliabh, *Eng.* Curlews. On Mercator's map they have migrated north-westwards from their true position near Lough Key.

15. *Mo. Cugan*. No Irish or English form. It may equate to Slieve O Flynn (500 feet), a small but prominent hill near Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon. The distortion of Connaught on the map makes firm identification impossible.

16. *Moenshill*. No Irish or English form. Possibly Ardnacloon Hill (282 feet) a few miles west of Athlone, or (less likely) the 500-foot-high hill to the west of Knockcroghery.

17. *Mons Neven*. *Ir.* Néifinn, *Eng.* Nephin. A very prominent peak (2646 feet) in West Mayo. Older forms: *Nemthenn* and *Neimhfinn*.⁴

18. *Fermyn more m*. No Irish or English form. Presumably this toponym describes the Partry mountains. Strangely, the neighbouring Twelve Pins (*recte* Bens), the Maumturks, and the Mweelrea mountains go unmentioned. Only Cruach Phádraig (Croke Patrick) is recorded, under the form *Ye Sanctuary*, and the puzzling toponym *Bengonel*.

19. *Knockroy*. No Irish form; *Eng.* Knockmaa. A low isolated conspicuous hill east of Headford, Co. Galway: it plays a prominent role in Irish folklore, being associated with Queen Maeve. The older forms were *Cnoc Meadha* and *Cnoc Meadha Siúil*.⁵ The *r* in Mercator's version is evidently a misprint for *m*, since a neighbouring settlement is spelled correctly.

20. *Knok Baght*. No Irish or English form. Not identified. Obviously the first element is *Cnoc*, 'a hill'. Possibly the summit in question is Scealp (Skalp), 1074 feet high, just south of Woodford.

21. *Slew haghly*. *Ir.* Sliabh Eachtaí, *Eng.* Slieve Aughty. The range is wrongly located in Co. Clare parallel to Lough Derg, instead of stretching north-west from the lake into South Galway. Older forms include *S. Echtgi*, *S. Echtge*, *S. Echtga*, and *S. Aitche*.⁶

Munster

22. *Knok Podryk*. No Irish or English form. The Irish form was presumably *Cnoc Phádraig*, 'the hill of (St) Patrick'. This small hill is situated a few miles west of Askeaton, Co. Limerick.

23. *Slew Lougher*. *Ir.* Sliabh Luachra, *Eng.* Slieve Lougher. The name of this great knot of hills on the borders of Kerry, Cork and Limerick was also anglicised as *Slewlocra* and *Slieve Logher*.⁷

24. *Knok Brandon*. *Ir.* Cnoc Bréanainn, *Eng.* Brandon Mountain. This great peak associated with St Brendan rises to 3127 feet. It is a very conspicuous landmark in the Dingle Peninsula. The older Irish form is *Cnoc Bréaind*.⁸

25. *Knock kame*. No Irish or English form. This toponym must equate to *Na Cruacha Dubha* (Macgillicuddy's Reeks), even though on the map it is located out near the tip of the peninsula.

26. *Slew boy*. No Irish or English form. Possibly the original Irish form was *Sliabh Buí*. Not identified, but it may equate to

Boughil, 2065 feet high, north-west of Kenmare and south-west of the Lakes of Killarney.

27. *Magrome*. *Ir.* An Mhangarta, *Eng.* Mangerton Mountain. Older form: *Mangartach*.⁹ The most prominent mountain south of Killarney.

28. *Mons magnus Muskerye*. No Irish or English form. This may merely be a description of No. 27 (Magrome). Alternatively, it may describe the Paps or the Derrynasaggart Mountains. Muskerye itself is earlier found as *Muscrige*, *Múscraige* and *Muscruighe*,¹⁰ a territory in North Cork.

29. *Knok hast*. No Irish form; *Eng.* Mount Gabriel. This conspicuous hill rises to 1339 feet to the north of Scoil (Skull) village, Co. Cork. It is a very prominent landmark for seafarers.

30. *Slew Ghyltan*. No Irish or English form. This seems to refer to the Carraig Fhada (Carrigfadda) ridge north of Glandore. Presumably the original Irish form was something like *Sliabh Gioltáin*.

31. *Caryk Nowne*. No Irish or English form. Unidentified. The first element is obviously *carraig*, a rock. The *Onomasticon* (p. 165) does mention a *Carrac dubháin* (?) in the deanery of Fermoy: this might fit. Mercator places this feature close to the source of the River Tar, a west-bank tributary of the Suir.

32. *Caryk anan*. No Irish or English form. Again unidentified. Marked immediately south of *Caryk nowne*.

33. *Slew goe*. No Irish or English form. Its location to the south of the River Funshion would suggest that this corresponds to the Kilworth Mountains, a western extension of the Cnoc Mhaoldonn (Knockmealdowns). This fits O'Donovan's identification of *Sliabh Cua* quoted in the *Onomasticon* (p. 607). English forms *S. Gue*, *S. Goe*, *S. Gua*. Older Irish form *Sliabh gCua*. The name is now often applied to the lands at the base of the mountain range.¹¹ This is the historic district celebrated in the song, *Sliabh Geal gCua na Féile*, 'Bright Slieve Gua of the hospitality'.

34. *Caryk glas*. No Irish or English form. The obvious Irish form would be An Charraig Ghlas, 'the green (gray) rock'. The feature must lie in the ridge of high land north of a line from Middleton to Youghal and south of Tallow. Not identified. There is a prominent hill called *Carnglass* (645 feet) on the very bank of the Blackwater, but Mercator indicates a more westerly location. Perhaps what is intended is Cahergal (772 feet), seven miles north-north-east of Middleton: it is located alongside Ardglas and is a very conspicuous landmark.

35. *Caryk mona*. No Irish or English form. It lies somewhere between Dungarvan and Lismore. There are a number of

place-names starting with *carraig*- in the vicinity, but no obvious candidate. It may correspond to *Knocknamona*, 651 feet high, to the north-east of Aghlish village.

36. *Kn. heure*. No Irish or English form. It may equate to *Knocknahoola*, five miles south-west of Dungarvan.

37. *Caryk quyll*. No Irish or English form. This clearly relates to Coumfea (2340 feet), Seefin (2387 feet), or Knockaunapeebra (2384 feet), the most prominent summits in the Comeraghs/Monavullaghs, east of Kilmacthomas. Presumably the Irish version was *Carraig na Coille*, 'the rock of the wood'.

38. *Mons lin*. No Irish or English form. It seems likely that this refers to the isolated and very conspicuous Croughaun Hill, three miles north of Kilmacthomas.

39. *Car. Pottelrath*. No Irish or English form. Presumably the first element is *carraig*, 'a rock'. There is a tiny settlement called Pottlerath in the foothills of the Slieveardagh, about 6 miles north of Callan.

Leinster

40. *Clog Molgen*. No Irish or English form. The first element seems to be *cloch*, 'a stone'. Not identified.

41. *Cologh hyll*. No Irish or English form. This seems to equate to Cnoc Bréanail (Brandon Hill), the 1600-foot hill nestling in the interfluvium between the Barrow and the Nore.

42. *12 Magni montes Phelem*. *Ir.* Sliabh Fheilim? *Eng.* Slievefelim. These correspond not merely to the Slievefelim mountains, but also to the Silvermines, Keeper Hill, Mother Mountain and all the surrounding hills, including Devilsbit Mountain. Older forms include *S. Eiblinne*, *S. nEblinde*, *S. Eblinne* and *S. Eblinni*.¹²

43. *Bliew Blemy et Blamy montes*. *Ir.* Sliabh Bladhma, *Eng.* Slieve Bloom. The *B* is clearly a misprint for *S*.

44. *Donoghill*. No Irish or English form. Not identifiable.

45. *Saloghill*. No Irish or English form. Not identifiable.

46. *Slew Kannogh*. *Ir.* Sliabh Ardach? *Eng.* Slieve Ardagh. The first element is *sliabh*, 'a mountain'; the second *Cainneach*, the patron saint of the Kilkenny area.

47. *Cappogh Knok*. No Irish or English form. Not identifiable, but possibly the name is preserved in An Cheapach (Cappawhite), Co. Tipperary. Presumably the original Irish form was *Ceapach an Chnoic*, 'the tillage plot of the hill'.

48. *Blakhill*. No Irish or English form. Possibly a reference to Na Staighrí Dubha (the Blackstairs); or, alternatively, to Black Rock Mountain (1975 feet), an easterly outpost of that range.

49. *Red rok*. No Irish or English form. Probably Carrickroe Hill, five miles east of Ferns. If so, the Irish form was *Carraig Rua*.

50. *Caryk nene*. No Irish or English form. This seems to correspond to Sliabh Búi (Slieveboy), an isolated peak (1387 feet) five miles north of Ferns.

51. *Knokdonogh*. No Irish or English form. Presumably the Irish form was *Cnoc a' Domhnaigh*, 'the hill of the church'. Mercator shows a settlement called *Donogmore* (*Domhnach Mór*, 'great church') on the coast a few miles to the east.

52. *Caryk melsoke*. No Irish or English form. This must lie in the Shillelagh—Tinahely area. It possibly corresponds to the peak known now as *Saint Mullins* (1419 feet), just north of the latter village. If so, the Irish original was probably *Carraig Mhaol-sheachláin*.

53. *Knok Kne*. No Irish or English form. Probably Croaghan Mountain (1993 feet), a large isolated summit seven miles east of Arklow.

54. *Slew arbre*. No Irish or English form. The *Onomasticon* refers to *S. Airbrich* (alternatively *S. Airbrigh*), but does not identify it.¹³ It is quite clear from the location that the name is cognate with that of the present-day village of Ármhach (Arva), Co. Cavan, and that the physical feature described here is the ridge of low hills (rising to between 600 and 900 feet) which stretch south-west and north-east just south of the settlement. The original Irish form would probably have been *Sliabh Ármhach*.

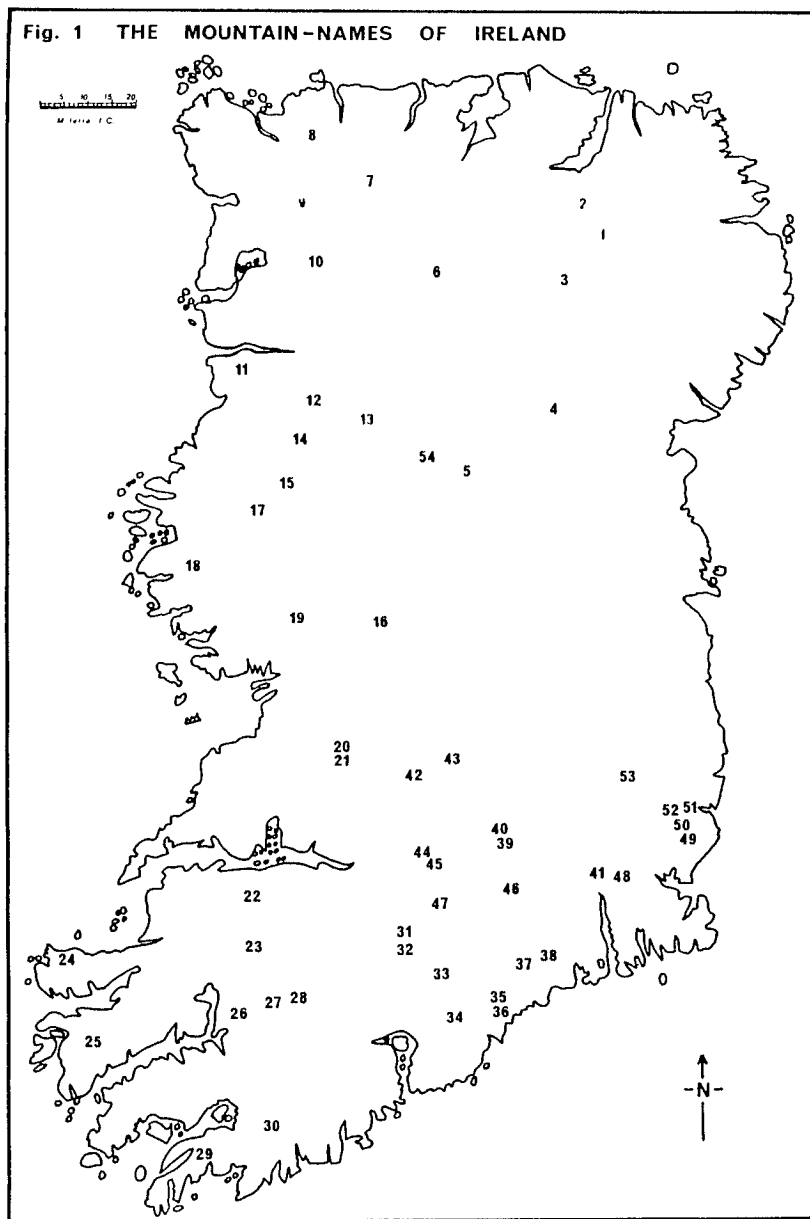
Of the 54 toponyms listed above, about 20 have a direct origin in the Irish language (e.g. *Slew Heren*, *Neven*, *Slew goe*, *Knok brandon*) or are translations from it (e.g. *Red rok*). The remainder includes a number of Irish names (e.g. *Slew shere*, *Knok Baght*, *Slew Kannogh*, *Slew Ghyltan*) which seem to have no modern equivalents, and a number of 'English' toponyms, presumably some translations among them, which have since gone out of usage — these include such names as *Haukes rok*, *Silver Mountayn*, and *Thorne mo*. Many mountain ranges were left unidentified: these include the Mournes, the Sperrins, the Maumturks, the Galtees and the Wicklow massif. In part this reflects ignorance of either the feature or of the name, in part a different assessment of its significance. Some ranges, like the Knockmealdowns, were identified by their older names: here the map provides valuable confirmation of ancient nomenclatures which are now in part obsolescent. Key anglicisations adopted by Mercator include *slew* for *sliabh*, 'a mountain', *knok* for *cnoc*, 'a hill', *caryk* for *carraig*, 'a rock', and *clog* for *cloch*, 'a stone'. Of especial interest is his

recording of numerous mountain-names in *caryk*, particularly in the south-east of the island: toponyms of this type are relatively rare today. Ten of the fifty-four mountain-names were marked in Ulster, eleven in Connaught, eighteen in Munster and fifteen in Leinster. Clearly Mercator's knowledge was biased towards the southern half of the country: it was weighted, too, in favour of the seaboard. Many small hills visible to mariners were recorded, whereas major peaks in the interior were omitted. Yet, with all its defects, Mercator's map throws a fascinating light on sixteenth-century Ireland, and contributes substantially to the toponymic storehouse available to place-name scholars.¹⁴

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NOTES

1. Edmund Hogan, *Onomasticon Goedelicum* (Dublin, 1910), 606.
2. *Ibid.*, 605.
3. *Ibid.*, 112.
4. *Ibid.*, 554–55.
5. *Ibid.*, 276.
6. *Ibid.*, 608 and 605.
7. *Ibid.*, 609.
8. *Ibid.*, 274.
9. *Ibid.*, 536.
10. *Ibid.*, 553.
11. *Ibid.*, 607.
12. *Ibid.*, 608.
13. *Ibid.*, 605.
14. The author is deeply indebted to Máire Ní Shé for the accurate typing of the text, and to Gearóidín Ó Dochartaigh, B.A., for the careful preparation of Fig. 1.



Atholl Shieling Names

John Kerr

In the Central Highlands, the Gaelic for shieling is *ruidhe* or *righe*, which appears in early maps and manuscripts in the abbreviated forms of *ri*, *re*, *rei*, or *r'*. *Ruidhe* often related to an open, exposed pasture for dairy herds, while *righe* referred to a mixed grazing area, often in a valley.

The parish of Blair Atholl is dominated by two features — Blair Castle, seat of the tenth Duke of Atholl, where the charter room contains a great many charters, manuscripts and maps relating to the shielings in the area — and secondly the Grampian Mountains, many of which are over 3,000 feet. The parish is situated in north Perthshire, equidistant from Edinburgh and Inverness, astride the military road built by General Wade in the early part of the eighteenth century. North Perthshire names are largely Gaelic, with only a few Pictish elements remaining. An early example of a genuine Gaelic name in this part of Pictland, representing deep Gaelic penetration eastwards, is Atholl itself (early Gaelic *Athfhodla*), 'New Ireland' — obviously given by Gaelic newcomers. Since this name is recorded in 740, we know they had reached northern Perthshire by that date.

In addition to the Atholl family, Robertson of Lude was another landlord of substance and his Barony, formed in 1448, lay east of Glen Tilt, on the east side of the parish. It is a huge parish measuring thirty miles across at its widest point and nearly twenty miles deep. It stretches from the Perth/Inverness county boundary in the north, the famous Drumochter Pass in the west, to Tummelside in the south. It is a very mountainous parish consisting of six principal glens, the most important of which is Glen Garry, which bisects the area laterally. This glen was described in 1792 as being 'an extensive strath, which in the summer season is green with corns, grass and woods'. Glen Tilt joins the Garry in the east of the parish and was described by a traveller in 1769 as being 'famous in old times for producing the most hardy warriors. It is a narrow glen, several miles in length, bounded on each side by mountains of an amazing height.' Glen Fender is a feeder glen of the Tilt and, being much shorter, was farmed for most of its length, with a few shielings on its upper reaches. Glen Bruar is the most remote and desolate of the Atholl