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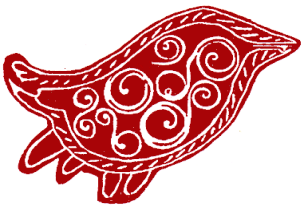

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From E. M. Fahy:

Mr Ó Buachalla's notes on Inishleena are, indeed, welcome. It is very probable that the lands at Inishleena had become the property of Gillabbey some time prior to the 16th century and remained so until granted to Grenville in 1591. The *Book of Lismore* was compiled in the latter half of the 15th century and it is possible that the lands at Inishleena were ecclesiastical property at that time, but without further reliable literary evidence we cannot at present establish that St Senan did, in fact, build a monastery at Inishleena.

The enclosure and ruined buildings at Inishleena were popularly believed to be the actual ruins of St Senan's monastery. The excavations undertaken at the site clearly showed that a three-roomed building had been constructed at Inishleena in the early 17th century and that the enclosing wall had been built *after* that building had fallen into ruin. It is evident therefore that the tradition regarding these ruins is of recent origin, i.e., subsequent to the 17th century. Unfortunately the excavation failed to produce any evidence in support of the tradition regarding an early Christian monastery at Inishleena.

E. M. FAHY

From C. Ó Cuileanáin:

Mr. C. Ó Cuileanáin, Ordnance Survey, Dublin, has kindly supplied the following note.

There is no doubt that Ennysshelong (Ir. Mon. Poss. 1540–41) and Innishloughe (Fiant Eliz. 5566, 1591) are, in fact, our Inishleena. Other variants of the name are: Inishlingh (Down Survey Bar. Map), Inishugy (Book of Survey and Distribution) Inishling (Cen. 1659), Inchilingy (Hib. Del.), Innislingue (Boundary Surveyor's Sketch), Innisleena (Co. Presentment Bk.) and Inshelyne (Depositions 1652).

According to the Ordnance Survey Memoranda [4] the ruins at Inishleena were first recorded as 'Site of Church' this, however, being later altered, on the authority of Mr FitzGibbon, the then landowner, to 'Site of Abbey.' Mr Fitzgibbon stated that the abbey had been built 'six centuries ago.'

There is no mention of a church at Inishleena in either the Taxations of Pope Nicholas III, 1291 or of Clement IV, 1307 nor is there any church of that or similar name recorded in the Bull of Pope Innocent III, 1199. The latter lists the churches in the jurisdiction of the Bishop of Cork—extending over Cork, Cloyne and Ross. Therefore, if St Senan did establish a church at Inishleena it had ceased to exist prior to the 12th century.

Colgan's record [5] of the relevant portion of St Senan's life, i.e., after his departure from Inis Cara, is as follows: '*Post haec Sanctus Senanus relictis ibi octo ex dissipulis, inter quos fuere sanctus Fechinus filius regis*

[4] Co. Cork IV (1844), p. 581.
[5] *Acta Sanctorum Hiberniae*, 533 (b), par. xxiii.

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