This item contains the Dublin core metadata attributes and Curatescape item type metadata fields for a story from the Ports, Past and Present archived collection on the digital repository of Ireland. It has been provided in .odt format for easy copy and pasting.

For mor information about the Ports, Past and Present Project, see https://portspastpresent.eu/.

For more information about Omeka Classic, see https://omeka.org/classic/.

For more information about Curatescape, its Omeka plugin suite and this item type metadata schema, see https://curatescape.org/.

For a .csv containing tabular data for all stories, see the larger collection at https://doi.org/10.7486/DRI.ht259b362.

For an archived snapshot of the story as it appeared between 2020 and 2023 on https://portspastpresent.eu/, see the Relation field below.

Dublin Core

Title

This is the Sea, Part I | Dyma'r Môr, Rhan I

Subject

Ferry

Fferi

Fishguard

Abergwaun

Rosslare

Môr Iwerddon

Irish Sea

Personal Reflections

Creator

Meilyr Powel

Publisher

Ports, Past and Present Project

Date

2023

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Relation

Format

Curatescape story

Language

English

Welsh

Coverage

52.21807807549511, -6.078409160806115

Curatescape Story Item Type Metadata

Lede

An innocuous journey or surfing the waves of history? How a ferry voyage can connect us with the seascape and nudge the historical consciousness.

Lede (Welsh)

Taith ddiniwed neu syrffio tonnau hanes? Sut y gall taith mewn fferi ein cysylltu gyda'r morlun, gan brocio'r ymwybod hanesyddol.

Story

There is a song by the folk rock band The Waterboys called 'This is the Sea'. It concerns the changes in life, using the sea as a metaphor: *Once you were tethered, Now you are free, That was the river, This is the sea*. For some reason I had those lyrics in my mind when, in March 2022, I made my first visit to Ireland. Granted, it was a stag 'do' in Dublin which lasted a brief three nights and much of the time was spent acquainting ourselves with a particular dark beverage. Yet we still managed a few sights which at least gave us a pretence of a structured itinerary and the appearance of an inquisitive ensemble of visitors. A very enjoyable few days for sure, but an added layer of satisfaction for me was the journey to Dublin itself that involved the crossing of the Irish Sea.

The Waterboys hinted at the new opportunities that present themselves in life, and our ability to create new stories. Undoubtedly we could apply this to the Irish Sea; the historical connections, indeed the historical forces that have surfed those waves over the centuries cannot be ignored. For better or worse, the Irish Sea has offered opportunities – some devious and cruel, others enlightening and enriching. It has played an important role in the histories of these islands, and to this day continues to shape our narratives and identities.

Living in Swansea, I admit I am quite fond of the sea. For my excursion, I took the ferry from Fishguard to Rosslare and then the train north along the east coast to the Irish capital. Unashamedly, the child in me gets rather excited at the prospect of a sea crossing, imagining myself as a ninth-century Viking setting off to discover new lands, yet at the same time checking the marine traffic app on my smartphone to see what other vessels are in the vicinity. To put it more flamboyantly, I'll quote the American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: 'My soul is full of longing for the secrets of the sea, and the heart of the great ocean sends a thrilling pulse through me.'

Harnessing the spirit of Longfellow's words, I couldn't have asked for better weather for the lunchtime crossing, the sun shining brightly in the blue skies and the sea as smooth as glass. As the ferry set out from Fishguard, I stood on deck to watch the disappearing Welsh

coastline in the haze of a spring sun, realising that this was a view that many would have experienced over the centuries. The Irish Sea has, after all, played a major role as a conduit of historical forces for a very long time, connecting the peoples of these islands in north-western Europe through language, culture, trade, migration, diplomacy, politics, and war. Neolithic sites in Ireland attest to the crossing of peoples whilst the Romans later traded with the tribes of Hibernia, exchanging metals, cattle, grain, and enslaved people across the Irish Sea in return for oils and craft ware. And soon, Irish tribes such as the Déisi sailed east and settled in parts of Wales and Cornwall, their archaeological footprint dotted across these lands being the many inscription stones with and without ogham.

Story (Welsh)

Mae cân gan fand roc gwerin The Waterboys o'r enw 'This is the Sea'. Mae'n sôn am y newidiadau yn ystod bywyd rhywun, gan ddefnyddio'r môr fel metaffor: *Once you were tethered, Now you are free, That was the river, This is the sea*. Am rhyw reswm, roedd y geiriau hynny yn fy meddwl pan ymwelais ag Iwerddon am y tro cyntaf ym mis Mawrth 2022. Taith dair noson i'r dynion oedd hon i Ddulyn, lle y treuliom gryn dipyn o'r amser yn ymgyfarwyddo ag yfed diod arbennig o dywyll. Er hyn, llwyddom i weld rhai o'r golygfeydd, a oedd o leiaf yn rhoi'r argraff bod gennym amserlen strwythuredig a'n bod yn edrych fel casgliad chwilfrydig o ymwelwyr. Tridiau pleserus iawn heb os, ond yr elfen ychwanegol o fodlonrwydd i mi oedd y daith i Ddulyn, gan groesi Môr Iwerddon.

Roedd y Waterboys yn lled-awgrymu'r cyfleoedd newydd sy'n codi mewn bywyd, a'n gallu i greu straeon newydd. Heb os, gallai hyn fod yn berthnasol i Fôr Iwerddon; y cysylltiadau hanesyddol, yn wir ni ellir anwybyddu'r grymoedd hanesyddol sydd wedi syrffio'r tonnau hynny dros y canrifoedd. Er gwell neu er gwaeth, mae Môr Iwerddon wedi cynnig cyfleoedd – rhai ohonynt yn gyfrwys ac yn greulon, eraill yn ddifyr ac yn gyfoethog. Mae wedi cyflawni rôl pwysig yn hanes yr ynysoedd hyn, ac mae'n parhau i siapio ein naratif a'n hunaniaeth hyd heddiw.

Rydw i'n byw yn Abertawe ac mae'n rhaid i mi gyfaddef fy mod yn eithaf hoff o'r môr. Teithiais ar y fferi o Abergwaun i Rosslare, yna ar y trên i gyfeiriad y gogledd ar hyd arfordir y dwyrain i brifddinas Iwerddon. Nid oes cywilydd arnaf gyfaddef bod y plentyn ynof yn teimlo'n eithaf cyffrous wrth edrych ymlaen i groesi'r môr, gan ddychmygu fy mod yn Llychlynnwr o'r nawfed ganrif a oedd yn codi pac er mwyn darganfod tiroedd newydd, ond ar yr un pryd, byddaf yn cadw golwg ar yr ap traffig morol ar fy ffôn clyfar i weld pa longau eraill sydd gerllaw. Hoffwn ddyfynnu'r bardd Americanaidd, Henry Wadworth Longfellow, er mwyn ei gyfleu mewn ffordd fwy blodeuog: 'Mae fy enaid yn hiraethu am gyfrinachau'r môr, ac mae calon y môr mawr fel curiad cynhyrfus ynof.'

Gan ymgorffori ysbryd geiriau Longfellow, ni allwn fod wedi gofyn am dywydd gwell wrth groesi amser cinio. Roedd yr haul yn gwenu yn yr awyr las a'r môr yn llyfn fel gwydr. Wrth i'r fferi adael Abergwaun, sefais ar fwrdd y llong i wylio arfordir Cymru yn araf ddiflannu yn nhawch heulwen y gwanwyn, gan sylweddoli bod hon yn olygfa y byddai nifer wedi ei phrofi dros y canrifoedd. Wedi'r cyfan, mae Môr Iwerddon wedi cyflawni rôl pwysig fel sianel grymoedd hanesyddol ers amser hir iawn, gan gysylltu pobl yr ynysoedd hyn yng ngogledd-orllewin Ewrop trwy iaith, diwylliant, masnach, mudo, diplomyddiaeth, gwleidyddiaeth, a rhyfel. Mae safleoedd neolithig yn Iwerddon yn tystio i'r ffaith bod pobl wedi croesi'r môr, ac yn ddiweddarach, bu'r Rhufeiniaid yn masnachu gyda llwythi Iwerddon, gan gyfnewid metelau, gwartheg, grawn, a chaethweision ar draws Môr Iwerddon, yn gyfnewid am olewau a nwyddau crefft. Ac yn fuan wedi hynny, gwelwyd llwythi Iwerddon fel y Déisi yn hwylio i'r dwyrain, gan setlo mewn rhannau o Gymru a Chernyw, a gwelir eu holion troed

archeolegol ar draws y tiroedd hyn ar ffurf y cerrig arysgrif niferus sy'n cynnwys arysgrif ogam a'r rhai heb arysgrif ogam.

Factoid

Related Resources

'Cwm Criban Inscribed Stone'. *Coflein*, CBHC / RCAHMW, accessed April 13, 2022, https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/704003/.

Official Website

https://rcahmw.gov.uk/