Annette Kehnel

List of Medieval Religious Houses on Islands: Ireland

The first survey of Island Monasteries in Ireland dates back to 1891 when George T. Stokes, Irish ecclesiastical historian published results of field trips to "Island Monasteries in Wales and Ireland" in the Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland.[1] Inspired by Gabriela Signori, host of this International conference on the monastic island of Reichenau at Lake Constance in January 2017, the plan to provide an up-to-date survey took shape. Of course we expected a significant number of island monasteries in Ireland, itself famous as "Isle of the Saints" (Lisa Bitel).[2] Thus the research project was started with great expectations. However, the results amply exceeded all expectations by far: Over 100 monastic islands in Ireland could be identified so far. The first results of this research project are presented here in the conference proceedings as an annotated "List of Medieval Religious Houses on Islands in Ireland".

At the end of the 19th century George T. Stokes could draw his initial data from the monumental Monasticon Hibernicum, a work compiled in the 18th century by Mervyn Archdall (1723–1791).[3] Archdall was an antiquarian who spent forty years of his life documenting over 550 pre-Reformation monasteries in Ireland. Since then, in the mid 20th century the Jesuit historian Aubrey Gwynn, President of the Royal Irish Academy and Historian at University College Dublin, promoted research towards a new Monasticon Hibernicum and a Map of Monastic Ireland. The plan was realized with some delay in 1970, mainly executed by his co-author R. Neville Hadcock, who together with David Knowles had already mastered the Medieval Religious Houses in England and Wales and another volume on Scotland. The Medieval Religious Houses in Ireland comprises over 1000 monastic sites.[4]

More recently the Monasticon Hibernicum found thorough revision and enlargement. From 2003 to 2007 Ailbhe MacShamhráin together with Nora White and Aidan Breen under the direction of Kim R. McCone prepared an

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1 Stokes, Island Monasteries, p. 661.
2 Bitel, Isle of the Saints, p. 37.
3 Archdall, Monasticon Hibernicum.
4 Gwynn/Hadcock, Medieval Religious Houses.

online database of pre-twelfth century ecclesiastical settlements in Ireland. The database counts a total of 5529 sites, names of remains of monasteries, churches, church yards, cathedrals, hermitages, and proprietary churches, also including at least 412 which are presently unindentifiable. As the authors make clear in their foreword their database supplies an 'ecclesiasticon' rather than a 'monasticon' and it remains a matter for debate how many of the sites recorded were indeed community foundations. However, this database is an excellent up-to-date working tool to identify even remote and otherwise obscure sites. Published as an open access resource by the Dublin Institute of Advanced Studies it can be consulted free of charge by scholars from all over the world.[5] The following list (Annexe 1) relies mainly on the data supplied by Gwynn and Hadcock (abbreviated GH) collated with the date from Monasticon Hibernicum (abbreviated MH). The later is to be searched by place names or keywords. Therefore, no page numbers are indicated here. Additional on-site information was also drawn from the online database on Early Christian Sites in Ireland by Father John Musther.[6]

The islands are numbered from 1–103, starting in Ulster in the North, over Leinster in the East to Munster in the South and from their back North via Connacht in the West (map 1).[7]

Ulster
Down (1–3)
Antrim (4,6)
Derry (5)
Donegal (7–9)
Fermanagh (10–20)
Monaghan (21)
Cavan (22–24)

Leinster
Meath (25)
Longford (26–8)
Westmeath (29–32)
Dublin (33–35)
Wexford (36–7)

Munster
Waterford (38)
Cork (39–43)
Kerry (44–57)
Limerick (60)
Clare (58, 59, 61–70)

Connacht
Galway (71–89)
Mayo (90–98)
Roscommon (99, 100)
Sligo (101–103).

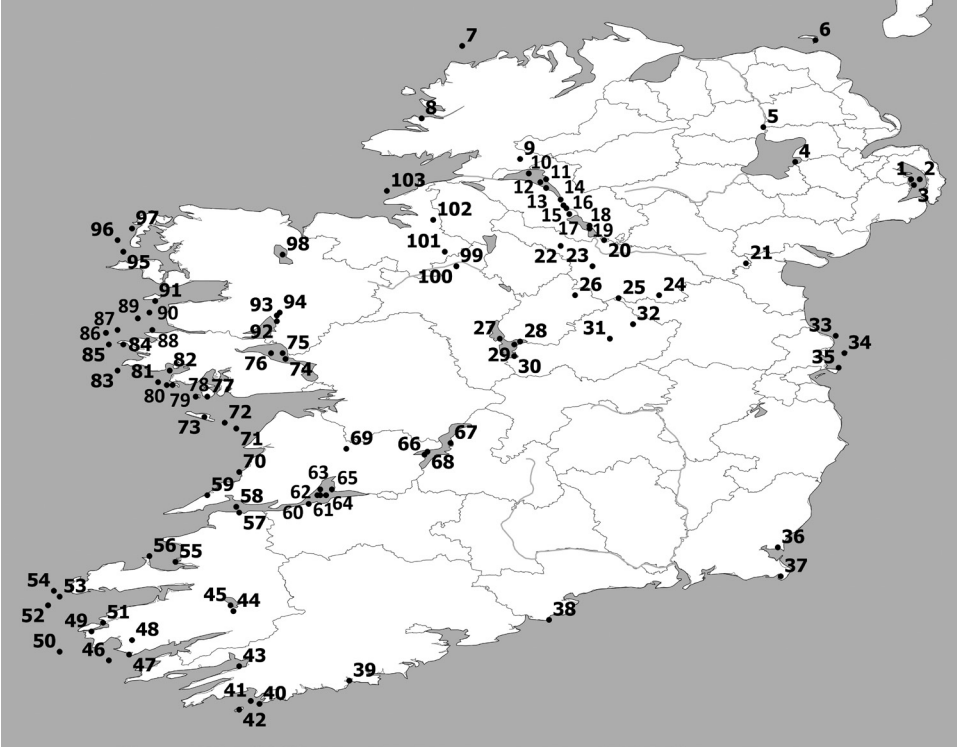5 Monasticon Hibernicum.
6 Musther, Early Christian Sites.
7 I would like to express my thanks to Sophia Rishyna, Jonathan Trautmann and Hannah Mechler for their invaluable help with the maps and graphs. The maps are based on QGIS Geographic Information, Version 2.18.3.

A total of 103 monastic islands have been identified. 52 houses are located on sea islands, most of them in the West, a total of 27 off the Galway/Mayo coast and 14 off the Iveragh Peninsula, Kerry. Only three sea island monasteries were found on the East Coast, in the Irish Sea: St Patrick's Island, Lambay Island, and Ireland's Eye. Of the 51 island monasteries in inland waters, more than half are situated in the North. The Fermanagh region with Upper and Lower Lough Erne appears to have been an El Dorado for monks. 12 island communities round Upper and Lower Lough Erne could be traced (9–20). Another cluster of can be found in the River Shannon and its lakes: In the Shannon Estuary these are Scattery Island, Canon Island, Inishmore (Deer Island), Carrig Island, Inishloinge, Feenish, and Inishloe (57–64). Further up in Lough Derg, one of the lakes of the River Shannon there are three island monasteries: Inishcaltra (Holy Island), Mucinis, and Illaunmore (66–69), and again further upstream we have Hare Island, Saints Island, Inchbofin, and Inchcleraun (29–31). Five inland water monasteries are located in Mayo, in Lough Corrib and Lough Mask: Inchiquin (74), Inishmicatreer (75), Illan Columbkille (92), Church Island (94), and Partry (93). As regions with the highest density of island monasteries one can identify: 1. The West Coast, Counties Galway and Mayo, 2. The Counties Kerry and Clare, and 3. The region around Upper and Lower Lough Erne in County Fermanagh.

Catharine Thom recently pointed out that many of the Irish monasteries are near-water-sites. She named Bangor at the Southern shore of Belfast Lough, Clonmacnoise at the shores of the Shannon or Glendalough in the Wicklow Hills with its upper and lower lake.[8] Even though coastal and near-water-sites might have had a similar function as insular sites the list above does not include them. Thus, famous coast side and near water foundations in the Northeast, Belfast Bay such as Bangor, Holywood or Grey Abbey in Strongford Lough are missing in the list. Also the list does not include the three monastic sites on the Mullet in County Mayo (the early sites Termon-carragh and St Derivla's and the Augustinian Canons in Cross), the houses on Achill Island in Mayo, Valentia island in Kerry, the four houses or churches on the Peninsula of Islandmagee (Ballykeel, Cell Chiannáin, Cell Chluana, Killcoan), and Ballysaggart in Donegal Bay.

It is very important to remember that landscapes do change over the centuries! The list of Medieval Religious Houses on Islands in Ireland can

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8 Thom, Early Irish Monasticism, p. 17.

Map 1. Medieval Religious Houses on Islands in Ireland

1 Nendrum	36 Beggerin	71 Aran Inisheer
2 Chapel Island	37 Ladys Island	72 Aran Inishmaan
3 Dunsy	38 Ardmore?	73 Aran Inishmore
4 Rams Island	39 Inchydoney	74 Inchiquin
5 Church Island	40 Sherkin	75 Inishmicatreer
6 Rathlin	41 Skeam	76 Inchagoil
7 Tory	42 Cape Clear	77 Gorumna
8 Inishkeel	43 Whiddy Island	78 Kilcummin
9 Saints Island	44 Dinish	79 Mason
10 Boa Island	45 Innisfallen	80 Macdaras Island
11 White Island	46 Scariff	81 Croaghnakeela
12 Davy's Island	47 Derrynane	82 Inishnee
13 Inishmacsaint	48 Church Island	83 Chapel Island
14 Devenish	49 Illaunloughan	84 Omey
15 Rossory	50 Skellig Michael	85 High Island
16 Inishkeen	51 Church Island	86 Inishark
17 Cleenish	52 Inishvickillane	87 Inishbofin
18 Iniseo?	53 Great Blasket	88 Crump
19 Magheracross	54 Inishtooskert	89 Inishturk
20 Galloon	55 Fenit	90 Caher
21 Inishkeen	56 Illauntannig	91 Clare
22 Mogue's Island	57 Carrig	92 Illan Columbkille
23 Trinity Island	58 Scattery	93 Partry
24 Woodworths Island	59 Bishop's Island	94 Church Island
25 Lough Sheelin	60 Inishloinge	95 Duvillaun More
26 Inchmore	61 Canon	96 Inishkea North
27 Inchcleraun	62 Inis-tuaischert	97 Inishglora
28 Saints Island	63 Inishmore	98 Errew
29 Inchbofin	64 Inishloe	99 Trinity
30 Hare	65 Feenish	100 Inchmacnerin
31 Church Island	66 Inishcaltra	101 Inishmore
32 Nuns Island	67 Illaunmore	102 Church Island
33 Saggart	68 Mucinis	103 Inishmurray
34 Lambay	69 Inchicronan	
35 Ireland's Eye	70 Enniskerry	

only give a description of the present-day situation. One has to bear in mind that status quo in the early 21ˢᵗ century does not represent the situation in the Middle Ages. Nature and settlement patterns do change. The cultivation of land was certainly less intensive in the middle ages than today. Most of Ireland was wooded. Heavy deforestation, especially since the 16ᵗʰ century onwards, changed the landscape significantly. Water levels also rise and fall. The following examples speak for themselves: The islands of Lough Erne must have been much smaller in medieval times, before the Lough was lowered by eight feet (2,5 meters) in 1884 to assist with drainage, particularly in Upper Lough Erne where winter flooding was a real problem for agriculture.[9] Boa Island, now a peninsula was certainly an island at the time. Also Rossory, now on the banks of Lough Erne might have been an island, at the time when St Fanchae founded her monastery there (15). The same applies for Inishkeen (16), now also on the shores of the lake.

Amongst other monastic islands that lost their insular position over the course of time is Ardmore, alias Sheep Island in Waterford, probably the oldest monastic island in Ireland. In pre-patrician times it was used as pasture for the sheep belonging to the wife of the chieftain of the local kings of the Decies. Later it must have been joined to the mainland by reclamation or draining of the channel at the time when the vita of Declan was compiled in the late 10ᵗʰ century. According to Declans hagiographer, the saint performed the miracle of the expulsion of the sea, thus joining Sheep Island to the mainland.[10] Possibly Inishkeen (Inish Cam) in Monaghan, four miles north-west of the church of Louth, founded by St Daig in the 6ᵗʰ century used to be an island. Today, it is a near water site, but it seems quite plausible, that the river had more water and that Inishkeen was a river island once.[11]

Other islands might have been larger in medieval times. The water level of Lough Derg in Clare seems to have been much lower before a power station at Ardnacrusha was built in the 1920s. Thus, the extension of the monastic sites on Inishcaltra, alias Holy Island, Illaunmore and Mucinis in Lough Ree might have been larger than today. This is indicated by the present location of one of the bullaun stones on Inishcaltra about 5 meters out from the shore in the water. Clearly an indication, that this island lost land to the lake.[12]

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9 Chambers, White Island, p. 14.
10 Power, Life of Declan, p. 19–20.
11 Kehnel, Clonmacnois, p. 77–79.
12 Madden, Holy Island, p. 9.

Another example: The rock of Skellig Michael is a living system, puffins inhabited the rock much longer than humans, stones fall loose, and rocks have been breaking over the centuries and still break off today. Furthermore, intensive restoration works changed the sites. Especially much of the undocumented efforts of archaeologists and antiquarians in the 19th century have often caused intense alterations and distortions. A quay and a lighthouse were built on Skellig Michael to make better use of the place for navigation.[13] John Crowley has recently pointed to the fact that the whole of Valentia island on the slopes of Bray – with its corbelled huts, some of which feature crosses inscribed on their walls within an extensive area of old cultivation ridges – may have functioned as Skellig Michael's monastic farm.[14]

Similarly, the ring fort structures of many island monasteries pre-date Christian times. In their present shape they represent the result of intensive – often undocumented – reconstruction works by 19th and 20th century historians and antiquarians. This applies to the famous constructions on Inish Murray as well as to Fort Eoghan on Aranmore or to the stone figures of White Island. Many of the seemingly early medieval beehive cells and round towers are in fact the work of dedicated 19th century antiquarian and local initiatives. And of course, all the buildings have been changed continuously ever since the very time they were built.[15]

Despite the fact that many of the Irish monastic islands are well documented, and that excavation reports do offer precise descriptions, it is not always easy to give the exact sizes of the islands. Tides and weather, for example, can cause the islands to vary in size. The smallest island is probably Illaunloughan (49) in the harbour of Portmagee, Kerry, where the ships to Skellig Michael leave. It measures less than an acre, has the approximate size of the Library Square in Trinity College Dublin and is situated about 100 metres off the main land. Apparently, it can be reached by foot during some days in the summer month. Despite the minimal size, the monastic remains are impressive and have been excavated and documented by Jenny White Marshall and Claire Walsh in 2003.[16] Church Island in Lough Cur-

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13 HORN/WHITE MARSHALL/ROURKE, Forgotten Hermitage, p. 8.

14 CROWLEY, Valentia Island, in: CROWLEY/SHEEHAN/MURPHEY, The Iveragh Peninsula, p. 260.

15 WHITE MARSHALL/ROURKE, The secular origins, p. 34; COTTER, Western Stone Forts, Sec. 11; CHAMBERS, White Island, p. 29. The last of the figures on White Island was discovered in 1958 by a member of Enniskillen Field Club.

16 WHITE MARSHALL/WALSH, Unpublished Excavations Report 12.6.

rane (48) is the second smallest monastic Island. It measures about one acre (or 4046 m² = 0.004 km²), followed by Chapel Island in Galway (83) with a rounded size of 0.047 km². With the exception of the two Church Islands (in Kerry and Galway) and Dunsy Island in Down (3), all small islands are sea islands. Four of them are situated in the Shannon Estuary. Below, we listed the 16 monastic islands smaller than 0.5 km².[17]

Illaunloughan, near Portmagee, Kerry	.003 km²
Church Island in Lough Currane, Kerry	.004 km²
Chapel Island off Clifden Bay, Galway	.047 km²
Skeam Island West, Cork	.12 km²
Dunsy Island, Strangford Lough, Down	.13 km²
Illauntannig off Dingle, Kerry	.13 km²
Inishglora off the Mullet, Mayo	.15 km²
Ireland's Eye, near Dublin	.22 km²
Skellig Michael, Kerry	.22 km²
St Macdara's Island, near Carra, Galway	.25 km²
Crump Island, north of Tully, Galway	.26 km²
High Island, south of Inishbofin, Galway	.33 km²
Inishkeel, north of Portnoo, Donegal	.33 km²
Mason Island, near Carra, Galway	.37 km²
Dinish Island, off Kenmare, Kerry	.38 km²
Devenish Island in Lough Erne, Fermanagh	.49 km²

Table 1. The Irish Monastic Islands, today smaller than 0.5 km²

The largest monastic island with an area of 31 km² is Inishmore of the Aran Islands (73), where Enda founded his school in the 7th century. The second largest is Gorumna (77), also in Galway with nearly 24 km². The list below gives the 14 monastic islands larger than two square kilometers, six of them being larger than ten square kilometers.

Inishmore, Aran, Galway	31 km²
Gorumna, Galway	23.76 km²
Clare Island, Mayo	16.4 km²
Rathlin Island, Antrim	14.37 km²
Inishbofin, Galway	12.75 km²

17 Acres have been converted to square kilometers and rounded. Small Rounding errors or irregularities are therefore possible.

Inishturk, Mayo	12.5 km²
Inishmaan, Aran, Galway	9.11 km²
Cape Clear, Cork	6.7 km²
Inisheer, Aran, Galway	5.67 km²
Sherkin, Cork	5 km²
Great Blasket, Kerry	4.3 km²
Inishnee, Galway	3.46 km²
Tory Island, Donegal	3.18 km²
Lambay Island, Dublin	2.5 km²

Table 2. Monastic Islands in Ireland, today larger than two square kilometres

By far the largest part of the Irish island monasteries were founded prior to the 12th century. According to Gwynn's and Hadcock's categories they are either "Early Irish Monasteries (E)" or "Early Sites, possibly non-monastic, but before 1100 (e)".[18] Most of the later orders made use of older foundations and built their houses on ancient sites. For example, Devenish was founded by St Molaise in the 6th century, Augustinian Canons arrived on the island in 1130.

More than half, 57 island monasteries, seem to have 5th and 6th century origins, according to the presumed date of their respective founders' deaths. Three possible pre-Patrician island foundations can be made out: Ardmore in Waterford (38), which might have been an island in the Early Middle Ages, Beggerin Island (Becc Ériu, 36), near Slob Channel founded by Ibar, who is said to have been in Lérins prior to his career in Ireland. Inchbofin (29) in Lough Ree in Westmeath is said to have been founded by Rioch in the late 5th century. Another 20 monastic island founders are dated by tradition to the 7th and 8th centuries.

Island foundations from the 12th century onwards are rare: The Augustinian Canons settled in 16 island monasteries, all of them former early Irish Monasteries: Davy's Island (12) and Devenish (14), Errew (98), Inishkeen (21), Innisfallen (45) and Canon Island, alias Island of the Saints (61), in the Shannon Estuary and Inchicronan (69), Woodworths Island (24) in Lough Ramor, Inchmore (26) and Saints Island in Lough Ree (28), Saints Island near St Patrick's Purgatory in Lough Derg (9), Inchmacnerin (100) and Inchagoill (76). If one includes White Island (11), for which the sources are unclear,

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18 Gwynn/Hadcock, Medieval Religious Houses, p. 20–46, 370–409.

there are at least 17 houses of Augustinian Canons on islands. Certainly future research will add more. The Cistercians settled on Clare Island (91) in the 13th century. A Franciscan Observant Friary was founded on Sherkin Island (40) in the late 15th century. Interestingly there are no indications in the sources for the foundations of island monasteries in the time from the 9th to the end of the 11th century (table 3).
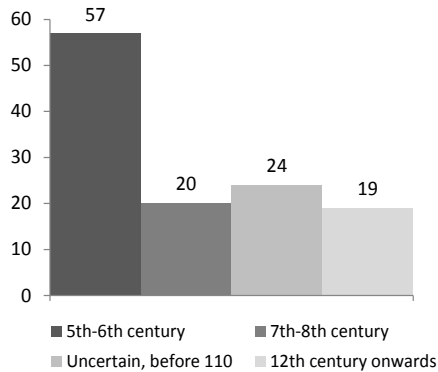

Table 3. Monastic Island sorted by founding date

The majority of the island monasteries were male houses. For 31 houses in our list, though, we found some connections with female communities or saints, be it a nuns' church on the premises or hagiographical links like in Rossory, where the sister of St Enda is said to have brought about his conversion (map 2). According to John Musther, Nun's Island in Lough Ree is said to have been settled "by some Poor Clares"[19]. However, the name of a place can be misleading, as the example of Lady's Island (37) shows. This was a church dedicated to the Virgin Mary and a pilgrims site, but never a monastery. Gwynn and Hadcock mention that St Daig, the 6th century founder of Inishkeen (21) in the river Fane, attracted women and that many virgins came to live under his rule, but that he removed them to monasteries of their own to the north.[20] Likewise the existence of buildings named after or dedicated to female saints does of course not necessarily prove the existence of nuns in an island monastery. For example, in the case of Inishmurray (64)

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19 Musther, Early Christian Sites, Nun's Island.
20 Gwynn/Hadcock, Medieval Religious Houses, p. 37, cf. Kehnel, Clonmacnois, p. 77 f.

we have a "Teampall na mBan" meaning "Church of the Women", but no further evidence for a female community.[21] Often female presence within the monastic sites becomes apparent only in a post mortem state: The churches served as holy ground where women, men and children were buried. Over the course of excavations lead by Francoise Henry in the early 1970s on Inishcaltra on Lough Derg (66) more than 20 bodies were found deposited in the interior of St Brigid's Church. Amongst them were two women who died in childbirth (map 2).[22]

This first screening of the 103 Irish monastic island foundations that could be identified so far will hopefully add to future advances in the field of Monastic Island Studies by supplying a body of material to work with. The list will, it is hoped, have served a useful purpose if it contributes, in some small way, to a broader understanding of developments in medieval monasticism and to allow for comparison with other regions.
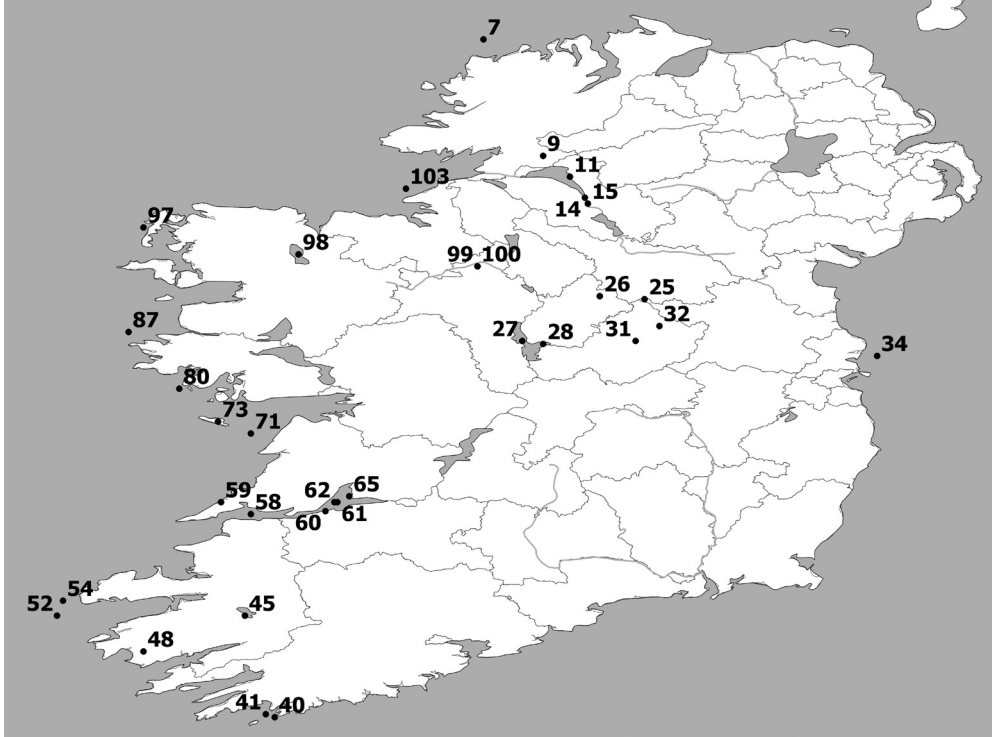
A first and tentative suggestion might be allowed here: In the overall perspective settlement patterns of the monastic islands in Ireland seem to follow the general settlement patterns in Ireland. A country with many islands and many island dwellers naturally produced a high number of island monks. Island monasticism in Ireland went hand in hand with mainland monasticism just as island settlement went hand in hand with mainland settlement. Lisa Bitel in her wonderful description of monastic settlement and Christian communities in Early Medieval Ireland made quite clear that monastic foundations were rarely settled far from clustered settlements. Even the stone cells of the western shores, once thought to be the solitary retreats of hermits, were actually quite close to friends and neighbourhoods. They seem isolated today only because they were built on the sea cliffs, and because the huts of their neighbours have now disappeared. She comes to the conclusion that, with very few exceptions, the monks thought accessible sites to be preferable and even strove to make their settlements easily accessible.[23]

We thus might conclude with Jenny White Marshall and Grellan Rourke, who in the course of their excavations on many of these monastic islands came to doubt what we might call the "splendid-isolation-theory" of medieval island monasticism. They suggest instead, that "the data does, however

21   HERAUGHTY, Inishmurray, p. 29. Nevertheless, it is included as a female settlement here.
22   MADDEN, Holy Island, p. 22. For Irish nunneries see now the comprehensive survey of COLLINS, Isolated in the wilderness.
23   BITEL, Isle of the Saints, p. 37.

Map 2. Irish Island Monasteries connected with women

9	White Island	59	Macdaras Island
14	Devenish	60	Inishbofin
17	Tory	61	Inis-tuaischert
19	Saints Island	63	Bishops Island
22	Inishmurray	65	Feenish
26	Saints Island	70	Island of Saints
27	Inchcleraun	71	Scattery
28	Inchmore	72	Inishloinge
29	Nuns Island	76	Church Island
32	Church Island	82	Inishtooskert
33	Inchmacnerin	83	Inishvickillane
34	Loughkey	86	Innisfallen
38	Inishglora	90	Skeam Island West
44	Errew	91	Sherkin
48	Aran Islands Inishmore	96	Lambay
49	Aran Islands Inisheer	98	Lough Sheelin

argue for a new perspective on island monasticism, one that views it as part of mainland monasticism rather than the earlier romantic image of a heroic quest for isolation and solitude. Instead it may be stated that island occupation, monastic or secular, was always an extension of the mainland culture, one that remained closely interwoven with it before and during the early medieval period."[24]

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24 White Marshall/Rourke, Secular Origins, p. 34.

Annexe 1: List of Medieval Religious Houses on Islands in Ireland[25]

Abbreviations:
GH = Gwynn, Aubrey/Hadcock, R. N., Medieval religious houses Ireland, London 1970.
MH = Monasticon Hibernicum. Early Christian Ecclesiastical Settlement in Ireland
   5th to 12th Centuries. Database of the Monasticon Hibernicum Project by Ailbhe
   MacShamhráin with Nora White and Aidan Breen, under the direction of Kim
   McCone, Dublin 2003–2008.
Musther = Musther, John, Early Christian Sites in Ireland. Database, 2008–2014.

e = early site, possibly non-monastic, before 1100
E = Early Irish Monastery
C = Cistercians / **A** = Augustinian Canons / **B** = Benedictines / **OFM** = Franciscan
Grey = islands in inland waters.

   The list follows the principles of Gwynn and Hadcock's Map of Monastic Ireland
in the appendix of their Medieval Religious Houses (1970). It is ordered alphabetically.
The figure in the last column of the table refers to the location of the site on the maps.

Monastic island, in alphabetical order (with ref. to GH and MH)	Founder	Date	County	Nr. (map)
Aran Islands Inisheer, GH 373; Ara Airthir MH; Cell Ghobnait on Inisheer, Tempall na 7 n-Ingen on Inisheer. MH	Coeman / Colmán mac Duagh † 632 / Brecan † 6th c. / Gobnait † 6th c.	e 6th c.	Galway	71
Aran Islands Inishmaan, GH 373	Enda of Aran † 530	e 6th c.	Galway	72
Aran Islands Inishmore, GH 28	Enda of Aran † 530 Brecan † 6th cent Soarney e. a.	e 6th c.	Galway	73
Ardmore ?, GH 29, 58, 62, 303	Declán of Ardmore † 5th c.	e 5th c.	Waterford	38
Beggerin Island (Becc Ériu), near Slob Channel, MH	Ibar of Beggerin † 500	E	Wexford	36
Bishop's Island, GH 374	Senán of Scattery † 544	E 6th c.	Clare	59

25 I would like to express my thanks to Sophia Rishyna and Jonas Bruder for their
   support in the compilation of this list. We took over the spelling of the place names
   used by Gwynn and Hadcock. As to the location of the island monasteries in coun-
   ties, we opted for the status quo: e. g. Inishbofin was part of County Mayo at the
   time of Gwynn and Hadcock. Today it belongs to County Galway.

Monastic island, in alphabetical order (with ref. to GH and MH)	Founder	Date	County	Nr. (map)
Boa Island, Lower Lough Erne, Musther	Constans? † 777 Caldragh?	? 8th c.	Fermanagh	10
Caher Island (Cathair-phadraig), near Inishturk, GH 375	Patrick † 461/91 Colmán of Lindisfarne † 675	e ?	Mayo	90
Cape Clear Island, GH 376	Ciarán the Elder † ca. 530	e ?	Cork	42
Carrig Island, Shannon Estuary, GH 364, MH	?	?	Kerry	57
Chapel Island off Clifden Bay (= Oilén an Tempaill), MH	Caillin of Fenagh † around 464	?	Galway	83
Chapel Island, Strangford Lough, MH	Cróine?	E ?	Down	2
Church Island, Lough Beg (Inis-taiti), GH 31	Toit? / Mochonna (of Killyman? † 688)	E ?	Derry	5
Church Island, Lough Carra (Rathen), GH 401	Finan of Lindisfarne? † 661? / Finnian of Clonard? † 549	e ?	Mayo	94
Church Island, Lough Currane (Oilén an Tempaill), GH 31, MH	Finan Cam	E ?	Kerry	48
Church Island, Lough Gill (= Inis-mor), GH 31	Lommán mac Dalláin † early 6th c.	E 6th c.	Sligo	102
Church Island, Lough Kay, near Valentia Island , GH 376	?	e ?	Kerry	51
Church Island, Lough Owel, GH 376, MH	Lommán mac Dalláin † early 6th c. / Carthage the Elder † 6th c.	e ?	Westmeath	31
Clare Island, GH 122, 129, 292, MH	St. Brigid?	C? before 1224	Mayo	91
Cleenish Island, Lough Erne, GH 31, 277, 303, 347	Sinell mac Mianaig 6th c.	E.	Fermanagh	17
Croaghnakeela Island (= Cruagh na Caíle), near Macdaras and Mason, MH	Coelan, monk from Iniscaltra, Lough Ree	E	Galway	81
Crump Island (= Oilén Dachruinne), MH	Rioch † after 490	?	Galway	88
Davy's Island (Inishmore), Lower Lough Erne, GH 198	?	A ?	Fermanagh	12
Derrynane on Abbey Island, given as Aghamore in GH 372; Achad Mór/Daire Fhínáin, MH	Finan Cam, Bairre	E 7th c., A?	Kerry	47

Monastic island, in alphabetical order (with ref. to GH and MH)	Founder	Date	County	Nr. (map)
Devenish, Lower Lough Erne, GH 33, 153, 169, 362	Lasrén alias Molaise † 564	E A 1130	Fermanagh	14
Dinish Island, MH	?	?	Kerry	44
Dunsy Island (given as Killinchy), Strangford Lough, GH 393	Duinseach	e ?	Down	3
Duvillaun More (Dub Oilén), GH 383, MH	?	e ?	Mayo	95
Enniskerry (Mutton Island), GH 383	Senán of Scattery † 544	E 6th c.	Clare	70
Errew, Lough Conn, GH 36, 154, 175, 278, 304, 310, 317	Tigernan of Errew † after 520	E ? A 12th c.	Mayo	98
Feenish, Shannon Estuary, GH 384	Brigid of Kildare † 525	E 6th c.	Clare	65
Fenit Island, MH	Brendan the Navigator? † ca. 577		Kerry	55
Galloon Island, Upper Lough Erne MH	Tighernach † 549	e ?	Fermanagh	20
Gorumna, GH 385	?	E ?	Galway	77
Great Blasket Island (Blascaod Mór), one of the six Blasket Islands, MH	?	?	Kerry	53
Hare Island, Lough Ree, GH 37, 154, 177 (also Inish Ainghin, sometimes known as "Saints Island" [not to be confused with Saints Island, Co. Longford])	Ciarán the Younger † 544	E	Westmeath	30
High Island (= Ard-oilén), GH 386; Ard Oilén/Cell Chóemáin, MH	Féchín of Fore † 665 / Coeman	E	Galway	85
Illan Columbkille (Oilén Cholum Cille), Lough Mask, MH	Columba † 597	?	Mayo	92
Illaunloughan, near Portmagee, GH 386	?	E 7th c.	Kerry	49
Illaunmore, Lough Derg, GH 386	?	E 7–8th c.	Clare	67
Inchagoill, Lough Corrib, MH	?	E	Galway	76
Inchbofin, Lough Ree, GH 37, 199	Rioch † after 490 / Áed mac Bricc † 589	E 5th c.?	Westmeath	29
Inchcleraun, Lough Ree, called Quaker Island, GH 37, 154, 178	Diarmaid the Just	E 6th c.	Longford	27
Inchicronan, GH 386, 154, 178	Cronan of Tuamgraney, 6th c.	E, A	Clare	69

Monastic island, in alphabetical order (with ref. to GH and MH)	Founder	Date	County	Nr. (map)
Inchiquin, Lough Corrib, GH 386	Brendan the Navigator † ca. 577	E before 626	Galway	74
Inchmacnerin, Lough Key, GH 386, 154, 179	?	E 6–7th c.	Roscommon	100
Inchmore, Lough Gowna, GH 37, 154, 179	Columba † 597	E, A	Longford	26
Inchydoney Island (Inis Dúine), MH	?	?	Cork	39
Iniseo, Lower Lough Erne, GH 386	Constans † 777	E	Fermanagh	18
Inishark, GH 386, MH	Leo of Inis Airc	E ?	Galway	86
Inishbofin, Knock parish, GH 386, 199, 109 MH / West Quarter, parish (female)	Colmán of Lindisfarne † 675 / Scaíthín	E 665	Galway	87
Inishcaltra (Holy Island), Lough Derg, GH 37, 199, 109	Colum mac Crenthainn (= Columba of Terryglass) † 549 / Caimin † 654	E before 658? B?	Clare	66
Inishglora, GH 387	Brendan the Navigator † ca. 577	e	Mayo	97
Inishkea North, GH 387	(church dedicated to) Columba † 597	E ?	Mayo	96
Inishkeel, GH 387	Conall Cael	E 6th c.	Donegal	8
Inishkeen (Inis-cain-dega), GH 37	Daig of Inniskeen † 588(?)	E 6th A 13th c.	Monaghan	21
Inishkeen, Lower Lough Erne, GH 37	Mochoemoc / Ninnidh † 532	E 6–7th c.	Fermanagh	16
Inishloe, Shannon Estuary, GH 387	Turlogh, King of Thomond / Senán of Scattery? † 544	E ?	Clare	64
Inishloinge, near Scattery, GH 387 (probably Foynes Island acc. to GH)	Senán of Scattery † 544	E 6th c.	Limerick	60
Inishmacsaint, Lough Erne, GH 38	Ninnidh † 532	E 6th c.	Fermanagh	13
Inishmicatreer, Lough Corrib, GH 387	?	e ?	Galway	75
Inishmore (Deer Island?), GH 387	Senán of Scattery † 544	e 6th c.	Clare	63
Inishmore, Lough Arrow, GH 365	?	?	Sligo	101
Inishmurray, GH 387	Molaise † 564	E	Sligo	103
Inishnee, GH 387, now joint to the Mainland	Martin or Matthias?	e before 768	Galway	82

Monastic island, in alphabetical order (with ref. to GH and MH)	Founder	Date	County	Nr. (map)
Inishtooskert, one of the six Blasket Islands, GH 387	?Brendan the Navigator † ca. 577	e ?	Kerry	54
Inishturk, near Caher Island, GH 387, 365	Colmán of Lindisfarne † 675?	E 7th c.	Mayo	89
Inishvickillane, one of the six Blasket Islands, GH 387	?Brendan the Navigator † ca. 577	e ?	Kerry	52
Inis-tuaischert (in the Fergus estuary, maybe Inishtubbrid?), GH 388	Senán of Scattery † 544	e 6th c.	Clare	62
Innisfallen, Lough Leane, GH 38, 154, 180, 304, 351	Faithleann / Finan Lobhair (= Finian the Leper) † 560	E 640 / A 13th c.	Kerry	45
Ireland's Eye, GH 388	?	e ?	Dublin	35
Canon Island (Island of Saints), GH 375, 153, 162	Senán of Scattery † 544	e 6th c. / A	Clare	61
Kilcummin, north of Aran Island, Lettermullen, west of Gorumna, GH 390	Coeman	e ?	Galway	78
Lady's Island, Vogue's on Lady's Island, GH 199, 304; MH; MH	Ibar of Beggerin? † 500 / Beóc	E ? / A	Wexford	37
Lambay, GH 396	Columba † 597	e ?	Dublin	34
Lough Sheelin = Inis Uachtair on Church Island in Lough Sheelin, GH 397, 367	Carthach the Elder? (Mo Chuta) † 6th c.	e Friary?	Meath	25
Trinity in Loughkey, GH 203, 205, 397	?	e, A 1140	Roscommon	99
Illauntannig, on Magharee Is., GH 386	Seanach † 620	E 6–7th c.	Kerry	56
Magheracross, GH 398, 354	Patrick? † 461/91	e ?	Fermanagh	19
Mason Island (= Oilén Maisean), MH neighbouring Macdaras Island		?	Galway	79
Mucinis, Lough Derg, GH 399	Columba? † 597	e ?	Clare	68
Nendrum, Strangford Lough, GH 42, 104, 107	Mochae / Patrick † 461/91	e ?	Down	1
Nun's Island, Lough Ree, MH	?	?	Westmeath	32
Omey Island, near Claddaghduff, GH 400	Féchín of Fore † 665	e 7th c.	Galway	84
Partry, between Lough Mask and Lough Carra, GH 400	?	e ?	Mayo	93
Rams Island, Lough Neagh, GH 401	?	e ?	Antrim	4

Monastic island, in alphabetical order (with ref. to GH and MH)	Founder	Date	County	Nr. (map)
Rathlin Island, GH 401	Ségéne of Iona † 652	e 635	Antrim	6
Rossory, GH 402, 355	Fanchea, 6th c.	e	Fermanagh	15
Saggart on St. Patrick's Island, GH 403	Mosacra / Patrick?	e ?	Dublin	33
Saints Island and Station Island (= St. Patrick's Purgatory), Lough Derg, GH 44, 155, 193	Patrick † 461/91	E ? /A	Donegal	9
Saints Island, Lough Ree, GH 155, 193, 304, 403 / Inis na Náem, MH	Ciarán † ca. 549 Donnán of Eigg † 617	e before 542 / A	Longford	28
Scariff, GH 403	early anchorite site	e ?	Kerry	46
Scattery Island, Shannon Estuary, GH 44, 59, 96, 359, 361	Senán of Scattery † 544	E 6th c.	Clare	58
Sherkin Island (Inis-arcain), GH 241, 258	Fineen O'Driscoll	OFM 1460/62	Cork	40
Skeam Island West, GH 404	?	e ?	Cork	41
Skellig Michael, GH 404	Finnian of Inis-Conla?	e 6th c.	Kerry	50
St. Macdara's Island, GH 403	(Sionnach) Mac Dara	e ?	Galway	80
St. Mogue's Island (Inis Brechmaige), Templeport Lough, MH	Mogue † 632	E	Cavan	22
Tory Island, GH 46	Columba † 597	E 6th c.	Donegal	7
Trinity Island, Lough Oughter, MH	?	?	Cavan	23
Whiddy Island off Bantry Bay: Cell Mór (Kilmore), MH	?	?	Cork	43
White Island, Lower Lough Erne	?	A? 12th c.	Fermanagh	11
Woodworths/Woodward's Island, Lough Ramor, MH	Patrick / Brandub mac Fiachrach	E ? / A 13th c.	Cavan	24

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