

Flyer names and their translations

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Derek Bell — 10 Feb 1997, 19:42

I'm sure Ranjit will be pleased to see where the names of the flyers are from, as well as the meaning!

The names are words from Irish Gaelic. (Scots Gaelic is similar, but has diverged a bit.) They are not proper nouns, not as used today, but are interesting in translation.

Note that some of the names have an accute accent in Irish (also called a fada - which means "long"), which denotes a long vowel sound. I'll also give the Irish version of the word when it has a fada, with a "'" preceding the vowel it should be over - otherwise the vowel should always be short - as brief as you can make it.)

Now before anyone starts asking me for Irish lessons, I have to admit that I'm not very fluent in the language - my pronunciation is good, but I don't speak it well: for instance I've had to look up nearly half of the words because I didn't know them, but I had an inkling in a couple of cases and checked to make sure.

I've used the list of flyers named in _Lake_ and _Exodus_ as the source for the names; I don't think that there's any I missed.

Iolar: Eagle
A flyer
(Pronounced like "muller" without the "m")

Dreolin: Sparrow
Iolar's favorite daughter
("Dreo" is as "dro" in "drone" - lin as "lean".)
Irish: Dreol'in

Aer: Air, gaiety, (musical) air, tune
Sciathan's lover, a flyer
(As English "Air". It's also part of "Aer Lingus", the airline's name.)

Grian: Sun, solar
The flier who escaped the Trivigauntis
(Pronounced like "gree-an")

Mear: Quick, nimble; hasty, rash
One of the flyers killed by the Trivigauntis
(Pronounced as English "mar".)
(Note that there is another word, m'ear which means digit or finger. This is pronounced as English "mare".)

Sciathan: Wing; side; extension; part; arm

The flier captured by the Trivigauntis

("sci" pronounced like "ski", "a" as in "a" in "atlas" (a short "ah") and "than" with a soft "th" (as in "with") and rhymes with "dawn") Irish: Sciath'an

Sumaire: Blood-sucker, leech; vampire; scrounger;

swallow-hole; whirlpool

One of the flyers killed by the Trivigauntis

(Pronounced roughly like this: "Sum" - "soom"; "air" - a bit like a cross between "ar" and "or" with short vowels; "e" - "eh" with a short vowel.) Irish: S'umaire

I'd meant to post the list sooner, but I kept saying I'd do it tomorrow... Well, tomorrow's arrived! :-)

Tercel

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