

Columba (521-597) - Lecture 7 – Influence and Legacy

1. King Rhydderch and the Britons of Strathclyde

- (a) The 'Linton-Roderick' legend
- (b) 'Christian kingdom' of Strathclyde based at Alt Clut in Clyde
- (c) Dal Riata threatened northern border of Strathclyde.

2. King Rhydderch and Columba

- (a) King's severe anxiety.
- (b) Communication with Columba.
- (c) Story shows: (1) Prophetic powers; (2) Columba as the 'go to' man.

3. Columba and Kentigern (Mungo)

- (a) Kentigern as leading churchman in Strathclyde.
- (b) Jocelyn of Furnace (12th century) *Life of Kentigern*: (earlier traditions incorporated?)
- (c) Meeting of Kentigern and Columba?

4. Columba and Men of Power

- (a) Conall, Bridei, Aedan, Rhydderch, etc.
- (b) Policy: secure Dal Riata and you secure Dal Riata's church.
- (c) Not an ideological pacifist
- (d) 'Dove of the Church'? – Dove=Peace, or Dove=Spirit?

5. The Death of Columba

- (a) May 597 - Extended narratives at start and end of Adomnan's *Life of Columba*.
- (b) These extended narratives may be taken from annual commemoration of the Founder.
- (c) Columba's last tasks are: (1) Transcribing Scripture; (2) Prayer and Worship.
- (d) Celtic Christians: day of a believer's death is *dis natalis*, the date of *birth* into heaven.
- (e) Grave not marked or made pilgrimage site.

6. Columba's Spiritual Legacy

- (a) Established a culture of Prayer and Scripture:
- (b) Founded the Iona 'Familia': Another aspect of Columba's 'spiritual legacy' is the
- (c) Became an Enabler for Others.
- (d) Assisted in the evangelisation of Pictland.

7. Columba's Political Legacy

- (a) Strengthened the Kingdom of Dal Riata:
- (b) Introduced a New View of Kingship:
- (c) Contributed towards the notion of 'Scotland' as a Nation:

8. Columba's Wider Legacy

- (a) The Lindisfarne Mission:
- (b) The Melrose Mission:
- (c) The Adomnan Influence: Cain Adomnan (Adomnan's Law)

9. The Demise of the Columban Tradition

- (a) Irish/Celtic church was loosely structured.
- (b) Whitby (664) took away Northumberland.
- (c) King Nechtan of the Picts (710) expelled Iona clergy.
- (d) Slow decline: Culdees.