

Myles na gCopaleen's *Cruiskeen Lawn* and the Politics of Revival

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Abstract: The relationship of the Irish state with its Celtic past has been a matter of concern for the different governments since Ireland achieved independent status in 1922. After the 1937 Constitution, and particularly from the 1940s onwards, there was a marked encouragement from officialdom towards reassessing autochthonous culture and its dissemination among Irish citizens. In this context, Brian O’Nolan (1911-1966), also known as Flann O’Brien and Myles na gCopaleen, wrote his famous series of satirical columns *Cruiskeen Lawn* from 1940 until his death. *Cruiskeen Lawn* appeared almost daily in *The Irish Times* and dealt with general topics of the country, its articles being normally written in a mock-ironic tone. One of the issues that Myles na gCopaleen had to face was the governmental aspirations of reviving Gaelic culture. He observed that these plans were fraught with inconsistencies, but his status as a civil servant prevented him from offering a frontal attack. This paper aims to analyze Myles na gCopaleen’s strategies when tackling this particular problem in his daily columns.

Keywords: Flann O’Brien, Myles na gCopaleen, *Cruiskeen Lawn*, *The Irish Time*, Ireland in the 1940s, Gaelic culture