

Catalogue of Galician Folktales

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Introduction

The tales in this Catalogue belong to the whole Galician language area. That area includes the Autonomous Community of Galicia, in the north west of the Iberian Peninsula, and locations bordering it to the east in the Principality of Asturias and in Castile and Leon. Tales in the Galician language are therefore catalogued from the provinces of A Coruña, Lugo, Ourense and Pontevedra and districts in the provinces of Asturias, Leon and Zamora where Galician is spoken. This is the area that made up Gallaecia Romana, which, from the Middle Ages to the 17th century, was called the Kingdom of Galicia. The Catalogue also includes tales from a Galician-speaking area in the south west of the Iberian Peninsula, Val de Xálima (Ellas), in the province of Caceres (Extremadura). This remote Galician enclave arose in the 12th century, when it was repopulated by people from Galicia under King Ferdinand II and King Alfonso VIII. The valley borders Portugal and until recently the language spoken there (*a fala*) was thought to be an archaic form of Portuguese. Recent studies consider it to be Galician with Spanish and Portuguese influences. Eight hundred years after the resettlement, *a fala* still conserves its own features and has similarities with the language spoken in the south west of Galicia and the north west of Zamora.

Background to This Work

The *Arquivo Galego de Narrativa Oral* (Galician Oral Narrative Archive, AGANO hereafter) archive was created at the turn of the 21st century with the folktales recorded since 1992 by students from the Philology and Translation Faculty of the University of Vigo in different places in Galicia. Many of those folktales were published in 2002 in the anthology *Contos galegos de tradición oral*, where the Galician folktales were classified for the first time using the Aarne-Thompson index (1981 edition). That same year, a group of folklore specialists in Lugo (Equipo Chaira) published an article with thirty-three oral tales classified with that system (Fonsagrada 2002).

There were two further editions of *Contos galegos de tradición oral*, in 2003 and 2004, and an abridged Spanish version. Given the interest in folktales in Galicia, I decided to make a catalogue using the Camarena-Chevalier (Ca-Che) system. That is, I tried to catalogue as many tales as possible, whether or not they had an ATU number, providing a complete variant of each one. This was so that it could be an anthology of Galician oral storytelling in addition to a catalogue.

As there is no university department of Folklore in Galicia, I gathered together a small team of post-graduate students and colleagues from the

Galician and Latin Philology Department of the University of Vigo, to which I belong. We devised a research project, applying to the Regional Authority (Xunta de Galicia) Education Department for funding. The money was forthcoming and we began this undertaking by reviewing my work from 2002, *Contos galegos de tradición oral*. As this collection's tales were already published, its contents were separated from those in AGANO. We collected new tales from the oral tradition, looked for written variants, and catalogued all folktales, recorded and published in anthologies and publications. The new oral tales and those found in magazines that are difficult to access were included in AGANO.

We were helped in our cataloguing activities by Isabel Cardigos and Paulo Correia, coauthors of the catalogues of Portuguese tales (Car-Co 2006, 2015). During many long hours of work after my lectures, I organized the collected material so that the catalogue could be created, always helped by Isabel and Paulo. Finally, after five years of intensive work, the University of Vigo published the *Catálogo tipolóxico do conto galego de tradición oral* in 2010.

Over the last ten years, I have increased the number of tales in AGANO and found new anthologies of the folktales through my associations in small villages and by discovering them on websites containing tales. All our efforts formed the basis for the *Galician Catalogue*, which is now presented in English.

Book Structure

To create the *Catalogue of Galician Folktales*, we followed the methodology and the organisation used by Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson in *The Types of The Folktale* (AT), a work revised by Hans-Jörg Uther in *The Types of International Folktales* in 2004 (ATU). Each type (and subtype) is accompanied by a synopsis of the Galician variants and bibliographic information about where the variants are from and their province of origin. This information is interesting in order to follow the type's itinerary within the language area and to locate the presence of Galician ecotypes. "AGANO" followed by a number indicates the identifier of an item in the Galician Oral Narrative Archive, where unpublished recorded or written variants in addition to variants taken from old publications (indicated in parenthesis) are collected. AGANO currently has four hundred and forty variants of folktales, not all of which are classified in the *Galician Catalogue*. In addition to the written references, we give the reference of websites (YouTube videos) where the indicated variants of a type are located.

The variants are placed in alphabetical order, with priority being given to the four provinces of Galicia, which means that those from Asturias, Leon, Zamora and Caceres appear at the end. Entries for some types and subtypes include a section “Literary variants”, with references to literary folktales by Galician and Portuguese authors from the Middle Ages to the beginning of the 20th century (if they exist) that elaborate motifs of the type.

We basically followed the typology classification of the ATU catalogue, but we have recovered some subtypes of the previous edition (AT), not present in ATU, when they match the characterization of our tales. For those tales not classified in any of the editions of the international index, we resorted to regional catalogues: *Index of Spanish Folktales* (1930) by Ralph S. Boggs; the four volumes of the *Catálogo Tipológico del Cuento Folclórico Español* (1995, 1996 and 2003) by Julio Camarena and Maxime Chevalier (Ca-Che); *Catalogue of Portuguese Folktales* (2006) and the *Catálogo dos contos tradicionais portugueses* (2015), both by Isabel Cardigos and Paulo Correia (Car-Co); the *Catálogo Tipológico de Cuentos Folklóricos Aragoneses* (1996) and the “Revisión del Catálogo Tipológico de cuentos folklóricos aragoneses: correcciones y ampliación” (1998) by Carlos Gonzalez Sanz (GS); *Types and Motifs of The Judeo-Spanish Folktales* (1992) by Reginetta Haboucha; *The Types of the Folktale in Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, and Spanish South America* (1957) by Terrence Leslie Hansen; “Types of Jewish-Oriental Oral Tales” (1965) by Heda Jason and the *Index of Mexican Folktales* (1973) by Stanley L. Robe. When a number from these regional catalogues is used to classify Galician tales, it appears followed by the complete or abbreviated name or names of the author or authors in parentheses.

If we did not find a classification number in those repertoires for the Galician tales with more than one registered variant, we made a new subtype within the corresponding ATU series, marked with the indication (Noia). For the Noia numbers in which Portuguese, Spanish or Catalanian versions from the Cardigos-Correia (Car-Co) and Hernández catalogues are classified, reference is made to those versions.

Objectives of the Catalogue

The aim of this *Catalogue* in English is to maintain and to reappraise our narrative tradition, with three main goals:

1. Arouse interest among owners of the oral literary heritage in transmitting and maintaining it.

2. Make material of interest available to Galician researchers, which might help them in their research work or simply be enjoyed: anthropologists, specialists in folklore, linguists, sociologists and anyone interested in folktales.
3. Make Galician oral narrative internationally known, using the sources we currently have, so that our folklore is valued and our tales can be included in universal catalogues and catalogues of the repertoires from other language areas.

In short, this work is especially aimed at the international folklore research community but also at Galician society. I would be pleased if the popular wisdom contained in the following pages were the seed that bears fruit in the revitalization of the Galician oral narrative. An imaginary world created by the people's fantasy and which is part of us, globally and locally. It is a heritage that takes us back to the rural world of our ancestors – which can still offer us the wisdom it contains and which should make us share feelings, affections and common ways of life.

Acknowledgements

This Catalogue would not be possible if we did not have at our disposal the collections of tales that, from the first third of the last century, were gathered in our language area, both in Galicia and in the bordering regions. Thanks to those collections, we can include in this work a wide variety of types of Galician narrative that were practically lost in the Galician territory.

Therefore, my acknowledgement goes to those people who, before me, cared about collecting and spreading oral tales. On the one hand, to the predecessors in the Seminario de Estudos Galegos, especially to Vicente Risco and Xaquín Lourenzo. Also to José Augusto Ventín and Laureano Prieto, important collectors of oral texts; to Antonio Fernández, promoter and manager of a collection of tales from the province of Lugo put into motion by Avelino Pousa Antelo and the teachers that offered to cooperate in the project; and also to Lois Carré Alvarellos, author of an extensive collection of oral tales, which unfortunately manipulated the texts. Likewise, I am indebted to contemporary researchers and collectors of folklore for their works about folktales, especially to the members of the *Groupe de Recherche Européen sur les narrations orales / European Research Group on Oral Narrative (GRENO / ERGON)*,¹ from

1 GRENO, whose members met, between 2003 and 2012, once a year in different places to help each other in cataloguing work and to exchange opinions on the topic. The following were members of GRENO: Michèle Simonsen, Patricia Heiniger-Casteret,

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I would particularly like to acknowledge the generous help of Paulo Correia, expert in the cataloguing of the Portuguese and Hispanic oral narratives and author with Isabel Cardigos of the two editions of the *Catalogue of Portuguese Folktales* (2006) and the *Catálogo dos contos tradicionais portugueses* (2015). His aid and their suggestions on the cataloguing were very important to me. And, finally, I thank Paula Suárez Ferradáns, a translator trained at the University of Vigo, for her difficult job of translating Galician tales into English and Giles Baker, for thoroughly correcting the work. All have been essential for the publication of this work.

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