

celtic institute of the midwest

READING AND DISCUSSION GROUP ON

welsh mythology

spring 2014

Who are the three golden shoemakers? What are the *dos* and *don'ts* of cooking with a magic cauldron? Where do pigs really come from? And how does King Arthur fit in to all of this? Learn the answers to these questions and many more in our monthly discussion group devoted to the tales of the medieval Welsh *Mabinogi* cycle.

Our **Spring 2014** series examines the stories known as the *Four Branches*: legends of kings, queens, heroes, monsters, and magicians that form the core of the *Mabinogi*. All works will be read in English translation!

the first branch · pwyll, prince of dyfed

wednesday, march 12, 2014 · 7-9 pm · **Topics:** Gods, heroes, and the origins of the *Mabinogi* · The Otherworld in Celtic mythology · The Celtic horse goddess and her manifestations

the second branch · branwen, daughter of llyr

wednesday, april 9, 2014 · 7-9 pm · **Topics:** The cauldron of rebirth · Celtic headhunters and the cult of the severed head · Contact and conflict between Wales and Ireland in history and legend

the third branch · manawydan, son of llyr

wednesday, may 14, 2014 · 7-9 pm · **Topics:** The Celtic sovereignty goddess · The life cycle of the hero in Celtic mythology · The Welsh Triads and the transmission of traditional knowledge

the fourth branch · math, son of mathonwy

wednesday, june 11, 2014 · 7-9 pm · **Topics:** Curses and taboos in Welsh and Irish mythology · The bardic tradition and the magical power of language · Representations of gender in the *Four Branches*

Course Fee: \$80 for the full course (four sessions) or \$25 per session.

Text: *The Mabinogion*, ed. and tr. Sioned Davies · Oxford World's Classics · ISBN 978-0199218783 · \$13.95.

Visit our website www.celtic-institute.org for full course details and to download a **registration form**.



ABOUT THE INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Benjamin Bruch has taught Celtic languages, literatures, folklore, mythology, and music to students of all ages at schools, colleges, and cultural events in the United States, Great Britain, Germany, and Austria. He was made a bard of the Cornish Gorsedd in 1998 and received his Ph.D. in Celtic Languages and Literatures from Harvard University in 2005.



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