

**Mr Michael Chesnutt, Rome (formerly of the Nordisk Forskningsinstitut,  
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‘Caoilte in Iceland – Gaelic folklore in *Egils saga Skallagrímssonar*’

A brief chapter interpolated not later than 1250 into the received text of *Egils saga* describes an encounter between Egil’s son, Thorstein, and a fleet-footed Gael. This entirely fictional text is modelled on Fenian traditions and the main problem it poses is one of chronology: is it, as conventional wisdom would have it, a substratum relict from the Viking Age, or was there continued cultural intercourse between Iceland, Scotland and Ireland all the way down to the turn of the twelfth century? I have canvassed the latter view in a series of contributions written over a period of forty years, and I hope in Cambridge to convince at least one or two of you that it deserves serious consideration.