

The Ossianic poems are full of references to Lochlann and the Norse as the opponents of Fionn mac Cumhall, whom Macpherson curiously called "Fingal," which means "the Norseman," and as a personal name was introduced and used by the Vikings. Irish and Hebridean folklore relates that before the Christian era the islands were ruled by sea-kings called Fomorians (from *fomhor*, a giant, a pirate) and popularly identified with the Scandinavian pirates. The confusion existed in old Irish historians; Duaid Mac Firbis, writing in the seventeenth century and following authors of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, in his tract on the Fomorians and the Lochlannachs (edited by Prof. Alex. Bugge, Christiania, 1905) classed them together, though he knew that "the Fomorians were the first who waged war against the country" of Ireland. "The Wars of the Gaedhil and the Gaill" tells an impossible tale of the mythological King Nuada of the Silver Hand and the Fomorians who came from Lochlann or Norway: and when the Norse King Magnus Barefoot of the eleventh century became an important figure in Celtic folklore, as he was in the sixteenth century, the story-tellers found no difficulty in pitting him against Fionn mac Cumhall in a great battle fought on the island of Arran. Giraldus Cambrensis tells the tale of Gormundus, who, though a Norwegian, came from Africa in the sixth century to Ireland, and then invading Britain, took Cirencester from its Welsh king, and ruled the realm. Now late chronicles, like the *Book of Hyde* and *Gaimar*, called