

## 1: Historical and Archaeological Evidence that Fairies Existed | Exemplore

*The Fairy Flag and Other Stories [Jim Savio] on [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) \*FREE\* shipping on qualifying offers. Against the backdrop of geography from South Florida to South America, Scotland, New Jersey, Italy and the Far East these stories resonate with the reality of their character's lives and the underlying truth we look for in a myth.*

The hereditary seat of Clan MacLeod, this is the oldest continuously inhabited castle in Britain. Beneath the rock on which it stands, otters can sometimes be glimpsed playing in the shallows, and on the pebble-strewn beach oystercatchers keep a watchful eye on their newly hatched chicks. Go inside, walk up the stairs from the dark panelled hallway, and step into the drawing room. The answer is hanging on the wall. The Fairy Flag of Dunvegan at a Glance At first glance, the Fairy Flag looks like a badly decomposed map, from which all the place names have been erased. But why is it called the Fairy Flag? And where did it come from? But one day while out hunting, he came across a beautiful fairy princess and they instantly fell in love. The princess appealed to her father for permission to marry the handsome laird, but he refused. Fairy folk, he explained to her, were immortal, while humans must age and die. The princess was heartbroken, and her father relented "on condition that she stayed with the MacLeod chief for only a year and a day. When her time was over, she must return to the spirit realm. The couple were married and the fairy princess gave birth to a son. They were deeply in love, and the dreaded day of parting came too soon. With the fairy king waiting at the end of the causeway to Dunvegan Castle, the princess bade a tearful farewell to her husband. So, what does history say about the Fairy Flag of Dunvegan? The flag is believed to have come into the hands of the MacLeods through Harald Hardrada, an 11th century Norse king who had brought it back with him from the Middle East. It is said that in the s Dame Flora MacLeod, the 28th Chief, offered to wave the flag from the white cliffs of Dover and bring an end to the Second World War, but in the event this gesture was not put into practice. No photographs are permitted of the Fairy Flag, although you can see an image on the Dunvegan Castle website. No one is going to tell you that travelling there is quick or easy! but if you love history, folklore and beautiful landscapes, it will certainly be worth it! Alternatively, you could take a domestic flight from Glasgow to Inverness, and drive from there Inverness is miles from Portree. Skye is linked to the mainland by a road bridge, so no ferries are required. Dunvegan lies in the far north-west of Skye, and there is plenty of accommodation nearby in the form of guest houses, bed and breakfast and self-catering cottages. For more information, visit the official tourist website for Skye.

### 2: The Fairy Flag | Bookshare

*The other main story suggests that the Fairy Flag was not obtained from the East, but given to the clan by a fairy. The fourth chief of the clan, Iain Ciar, is said to have been a highly attractive young man.*

The Fairy Flag of Dunvegan Castle Scotland Among the treasures of Dunvegan is a green fairy flag, which some materialists believe to be only a relic of the Crusades -- a consecrated banner of the Knights Templars, but which all true Highlanders affirm to have been a gift to some ancestral MacLeod, from a fairy maiden. She promised that on three distinct occasions when he or his clan were in danger, he might wave the flag with certainty of relief. MacLeod proved false to his fairy, and married a mere commonplace human maiden, whereupon his spirit wife waxed wroth, and ordained that every woman in the clan should give birth to a dead child, and that all the cattle should have dead calves. Then a loud and bitter wail rang through the green valleys, and along the shores, and MacLeod, in sore tribulation, bethought him of the flag. The fairy proved more true to her words than her lover had been to his, so she withdrew her spell, and the clan once more flourished. Then came a terrible battle, when MacLeod and his men were well-nigh routed, and again, though he must have been sorely ashamed of himself, he waved the flag, and the victory was his. Why the flag was not waved for the third time, when the isles were ruined by the failure of the kelp trade, or during the potato famine, MacLeod best knows. Perhaps he thought it well to save one "last tune in the old fiddle. Gordon Cumming, *In the Hebrides*, a new edition London: Chatto and Windus, , p. Dunvegan Castle is on the Scottish Isle of Skye. The stone bridge where, according to tradition, the fairy and her faithless human lover last parted still stands and is named Fairy Bridge. Sir Walter Scott, who visited Dunvegan Castle in August , described the fairy flag as "a pennon of silk, with something like round red rowan-berries wrought upon it," adding that it had three properties: Adam and Charles Black, ], p. So the queen of the fairies gave to the chief a wonderful flag which possessed the quality of granting them three wishes, but only in time of great need. The flag was carefully laid away and not brought out for a long while. At last there was great woe at Dunvegan, the castle of the MacLeods, for the heir was lost. Then someone thought of the flag and it was used, and soon after the boy was found. A second time it was used to save the chief from death, and carefully laid away again, but, alas, so carefully that it could not be found till, in , an iron chest that seemed keyless was broken open and found to contain an inner case in which was a scented casket, in that the fairy flag. Now, before the finding of the flag a seer had predicted that when the third Norman son of an English lady should perish accidentally, the "Maidens" three large rocks in the ocean belonging to MacLeod should be sold to the Campbells; a fox should litter in the castle; and the fairy flag be found. The glory of the MacLeods would then depart, but to be more than recovered in the future when another chief called Ian Breac should arise. The fairy flag is still shown at Dunvegan Castle, on the Isle of Skye. It is of fine yellow silk and has many so called "elf marks" on it in red silk thread. I have before me, as I write, a letter from the twenty-third chief of the clan, in which he tells me that though the belief in fairies is probably gone, the flag is still there to convince people of this tradition.

### 3: Fairy Flag - Wikipedia

*In Jim Savio's collection of stories, *The Fairy Flag*, we find characters like Willy Jonas, in *Traveling North*, or the mother photographer in, *The Snake*, who seem if not content, at least resigned to living on the edge.*

The Fairy Flag with other heirlooms of the MacLeod The fairy flag is a fragile scrap of yellow silk material measuring about 18 square inches (467 square cms) that is preserved in a glass case which hangs on the wall of Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye. It may not look much to those viewing it but its value is far greater than the tattered woven threads would suggest. This is because it is a relic from the Early Middle Ages, an era from which we have few documented facts. However, as our story shows, for many centuries it was also believed that it was a gift from a fairy mother to her child (a future heir to the clan MacLeod). It was given with a promise that on three occasions when he or his clan were in grave danger, if they waved the flag the fae fairy people would help them. It is generally agreed that so far it has been waved twice, although the circumstances of the waving may vary in different accounts. Although today few people believe in fairies, the flag is still an important tourist attraction and the reason that many people travel to Dunvegan, the ancestral home of the MacLeod. Why did people believe in the story? There was nothing our ancestors liked more than the telling and re-telling of a good story and it mattered little if the boundaries between fact and fiction got blurred. In the Early Middle Ages, tales of fairies were not stories for children, indeed there was a widespread belief in three realms, - the world of the living, the world of the dead and the third kingdom (that of the fairies). There are many stories of marriages between humans and fairy folk and such a marriage would have been thought befitting of a strong clan chief. In the violent times of the warring clans, it would have been an advantage to believe you had the power of the fae on your side. The fae, although immortal, were not seen as they are today. They were believed to be closer in height and needs to humans. Indeed, some people have suggested that fairies were a long distance memory of an ancient race of people that were displaced to the margins of the land by invading forces, dating to times before the Vikings or Celts although currently these ideas have fallen out of favour with scholars. On hearing this Sir Reginald replied, "Mr Wace, you may believe that, but I know that it was given to my ancestor by the fairies. The most well-known version of the story, the one on this site, is where the heir of the MacLeod falls in love with a fairy but they are only allowed to marry for a year and a day before she has to return to her own people. One day, hearing, from the fairy realm, her son crying, she goes to him and cradles him back to sleep, wrapping him in a fairy shawl. Many years later, the young man, tells his father that, should they ever find themselves in mortal danger, they can wave the shawl and the fae will come to their aid. However, they can only use it three times. So far it has been used when the MacLeod were overrun in a battle and to prevent starvation of the population. However, there are alternative versions of the story. In one version the fairy gives the shawl to her husband as she bids him farewell at the Fairy Bridge located about 3 miles from Dunvegan rather than her son. She promises that if it is waved in times of great danger, help would be given but on the third use both the flag and its bearer would disappear never to be seen again. MacLeod defeats the She Devil who rewards him for conveying some secrets to her friends by revealing to him the future destinies of the Clan. She also gives him her girdle, telling him to convert it into a banner that can then be used in times of great need. In another version, the spirit is a witch and, after defeating her, he meets a fairy who gives him a box of scented wood; she tells him it contains several other smaller boxes, fitted inside one another. Inside the innermost box is a magic banner which, when waved, would bring forth a host of armed men to aid its owner. Once again it can only be used three times. Tradition also says that it is only the Clan head or oldest male child that is allowed to unfurl the flag. A depiction of a McLeod by R. Legends, however fantastic or far-fetched usually have some trace of historical fact. For centuries Skye was indeed dominated by two great warring clans. They were bitter enemies and fought many battles for dominance. There are three battles during which, old documents suggest, the flag may have been used. Although other sources deny that they used the flag on this occasion, as the MacLeod lost this battle and the MacDonalds now led by Angus Og raided northern Skye to take revenge on them. This act saw the beginning of years of unrest. Another candidate for when the flag was waved was during the Battle of Glendale, fought

around At one point during this conflict, the MacLeods were on the verge of giving way to the invading MacDonalds. The MacLeod clans redoubled their efforts and despite immense losses eventually won the battle. This, however, did not see the end of the clan wars. Even greater atrocities were to follow culminating when the MacLeods raided the MacDonald-held Isle of Eigg and massacred hundreds in a cave used for worship. A reprisal attack was launched by the MacDonald men a few years later at Trumpan church on Skye; the church was barricaded and set alight whilst full of worshippers, killing all inside except one mortally wounded girl who managed to raise the alarm. This is the final battle suggested as a possibility for when the flag was used. It was known as the Spoiling of the Dyke because of all the bodies buried there. If the partnership did not work at the end of the year, it could be terminated and the wife returned to her family. During that year Margaret lost an eye and failed to produce an heir. At the end of the year, Donald supposedly returned her sitting backwards on a one-eyed horse, led by a one-eyed man and accompanied by a one-eyed dog. This culminated in a ferocious battle in Coire na Creiche. The result was a victory for the MacDonalds, although both clans suffered heavy losses. Later that year the MacDonalds headed for Skye. They raided the north of the island, driving cattle down towards Glen Brittle. This could have been the incident in the story of the cattle dying. The Macleods retaliated but were once more defeated. Where did the flag originate? The Fairy Flag With advancements in science, relics today can tell their own story. Whilst fairy stories are impossible to prove, other information can be ascertained: In the s, Alan J. This has become a popular theory. Harald Sigurdsson was a renowned general and served as joint commander of forces in Constantinople, capital of the Byzantine Empire. Among the many treasures he brought from the Middle East was a banner of yellow silk, a flag said to be imbued with supernatural powers. Once back in Norway, Harald made a claim for the Crown, funding his campaign with the money he had made in Constantinople. He ruled jointly with his nephew, Magnus the Good, who died in , leaving Harald the sole ruler of Norway from until However, he died during in at the Battle of Stamford Bridge near York, whilst making an attempt to invade and conquer the English Throne. Godred Crovan, a soldier who survived the defeat, rescued the precious banner and kept it in his possession while he sought refuge with his kinsman, Godred Sigtryggsson, King of Mann and the Isles. Godred Coven established himself as King of Mann in , and his line ruled until It is from this Clan the MacLeod claim descent. Was there a Prophecy attached to the flag? Dunvegen, the ancestral home of the MacLeod As noted, there is a prophecy attached to the flag in some stories and later predictions were also made. The writer Norman Macleod " wrote that a seer predicted that, when the third Norman son of an English lady should perish accidentally, when the "Maidens" three large rocks in the ocean belonging to MacLeod should be sold to the Campbells, when a fox had young ones in one of the turrets of the Castle and, particularly, when the Fairy enchanted banner should be for the last time exhibited, the glory of the MacLeods would then depart and much of the estate sold. And what of the flag in recent times? In the midth century, the Fairy Flag was said to have extinguished a fire at Dunvegan Castle. During the Second World War, men from the MacLeod clan carried pictures of the flag in their pockets to act as a talisman. Dame Flora MacLeod, 28th Chief of Clan MacLeod, received a letter from a clan member who attributed his luck during bombing missions over Germany to a photo of the flag which he carried in his pocket. Whether the photographs protected the Clan during the war is not known, but John MacLeod, also admitted to carrying a picture in his wallet when he fought the Mau Mau in Kenya in the s. It is unknown whether the War Cabinet slept more peaceably in their beds with the knowledge that this magic artefact was at their disposal.

### 4: Fairy Flag | Dunvegan

*The Fairy Flag: Unattainable women travel to exotic places convicts in prison the subjects in this collection of short stories evoke a medley of sensations, yet a theme runs through the book: elusive or ruined happiness.*

Although the flag does not look like much, it is believed to possess mystical powers, and several stories have been told about how this magical object has protected Clan MacLeod over the centuries. There are two main stories that have been traditionally told about the origin of the fairy flag. The first of these links the flag to the Crusades, thus indicating that the flag came from somewhere in the East. It has been determined that the fabric of the Fairy Flag is silk from the Middle East more specifically, Syria or Rhodes. This lends some credence to the story that the flag has its origin in the East. Nevertheless, this object has been dated to between the 4th and 7th centuries AD, at least years before the First Crusade. Still, it may be possible that the Fairy Flag was already treated as a relic by the time of the First Crusade, and only found its way to the British Isles following this military campaign. The king believed that the flag made him undefeatable in battle, and when Harald embarked on his campaign to conquer England, he took the flag along with him. The Norse army was ambushed by the English, and it seems that Harald did not have the opportunity to unfurl his magical flag. Godfred established himself as the King of Mann in , and the MacLeods are said to claim descent from him. Harald at the battle of Stamford Bridge. Public Domain Fairy Clan The other main story suggests that the Fairy Flag was not obtained from the East, but given to the clan by a fairy. The fourth chief of the clan, Iain Ciar, is said to have been a highly attractive young man. Although many women were attracted to him, he had fancied none of them. One night, the chief is said to have stumbled upon a fairy dwelling, where he saw a fairy princess. The two fell in love instantly, and the princess requested that she be allowed to marry the chief. The fairy king, however, rejected her request, explaining that unlike fairies, humans will grow old and die, and that grief was inevitable for her. A compromise was reached, and the princess was allowed to be with the chief for a year and a day, after which she would need to return to her people. During this period, the princess gave birth to a son. Eventually, the time came when the princes had to return. Before leaving, she made her husband promise that he would never leave the child alone, and never allow him to cry, and that would be too much for her to bear. His friends decided to throw him a party in an attempt to cheer him up. The baby woke up, and began to cry, though the nurse did not hear him. She took him up, wrapped him in a fairy shawl, and sang to him, thus putting him back to sleep. The lullaby was heard, but the person singing it could not be seen. Years later, the child grew up, and told his father what had happened. The shawl became the Fairy Flag, and is believed to be a talisman that protected the clan. Princess singing lullabies, Illustration by H. Doing so would bring the fairy legions to their aid. This, however, could only be used three times, after which it would return to where it came from, taking the flag waver with it. The flag is said to have been used twice already, the first when they were vastly outnumbered by their enemies, the MacDonalds, when the latter invaded their lands. When the Fairy Flag was used, the tide of battle turned, and the MacLeods were saved from destruction. The effigy on the floor in the center may mark the location of the burials of several MacLeod chiefs and one flag bearer. When the flag was used, the cattle was said to have come back to life. This photo was taken sometime before

### 5: The Little Mermaid and Other Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Andersen

*Jim Savio is the author of The Fairy Flag and Other Stories ( avg rating, 3 ratings, 0 reviews, published ).*

One day, he met a fairy princess, a bean sidhe, one of the Shining Folk. Like all the other females he met, she fell madly in love with him, and he with her as well. When the princess appealed to the King of the Fairies, for permission to marry the handsome Chief, he refused, saying that it would only break her heart, as humans soon age and die, and the Shining Folk live forever. She cried and wept so bitterly that even the great King relented, and agreed that she and the Chief could be hand-fastened for a year and a day. But, at the end of that time, she must return to the land of Fairie and leave behind everything from the human world. She agreed, and soon she and the young MacLeod were married with great ceremony. No happier time ever existed before or since for the Clan MacLeod, for the Chief and Lady MacLeod were enraptured of each other totally. As you might expect, soon a strapping and handsome son was born to the happy couple, and the rejoicing and celebration by the Clan went on for days. However, the days soon passed and a year and a day were gone in a heartbeat. The King led the Fairie Raide down from the clouds to the end of the great causeway of Dunvegan Castle, and there they waited in all their glamour and finery for the Lady MacLeod to keep her promise. Lady MacLeod knew that she had no choice, so she held her son to her, hugged him tightly, and at last, ran from the castle tower to join the Fairie Raide, and returned with them to the land of Fairie. The Chief was broken-hearted with the loss of his wife, but he knew, as did she, that the day would come when she would return. He kept his promise, and never was the young MacLeod allowed to cry and never was he left unattended. However, the Laird of MacLeod remained depressed, and grieved for the loss of his lady. The folk of the clan decided that something must be done, and on his birthday, a great feast was proclaimed with revelry and dancing until dawn. So great was the celebration that the young maid assigned to watch the infant Laird left his nursery and crept to the top of the stairs to watch the folk dancing in all their finery and to listen to the wonderful music. So enraptured was she that she did not hear the young Laird awaken and begin to cry. So pitiful was his crying that it was heard all the way in the Land of Fairie, and when his mother heard it, she immediately appeared at his crib, took him in her arms, and comforted him, drying his tears and wrapping him in her fairy shawl. She whispered magic words in his ears, laid her now-sleeping son in his crib, kissed him once more on the forehead, and was gone. It was to be kept in a safe place, and if anyone not of the Clan MacLeod touched it, they would vanish in a puff of smoke. There were to be three such blessings, and only in the most dire consequences should the Fairie magic be used. The Chief placed the Fairy Flag in a special locked box, and it was carried with the Chief wherever he went. Hundreds of years later, the fierce Clan Donald of the Lord of the Isles had besieged the MacLeods in battle, and the MacLeods were outnumbered three to one. As the third wave was completed, the Fairy magic caused the MacLeods to appear to be ten times their number! Thinking that the MacLeods had been reinforced, the Donalds turned and ran, never to threaten the MacLeods to this very day. Having no alternative, he went to the tallest tower of Dunvegan Castle, attached the Fairy Flag to a pole, and waved it once, twice, three times. The Hosts of Fairie rode down from the clouds, swords drawn, and rode like the wind over the dead and dying cattle. They touched each cow with their swords, and where there once had been dead and dying cows, now stood huge, healthy, and well-fattened cattle, more than enough to feed the Clan for the winter to come. It is said during World War II that young men from the Clan MacLeod carried pictures of the Flag in their wallets while flying in the Battle of Britain, and not one of them was lost to the German flyers.

### 6: The Mysterious Fairy Flag of Clan MacLeod and its Legendary Protective Powers | Ancient Origins

*The Fairy Flag of Dunvegan One of the most fascinating items you will find on display at Dunvegan Castle is The Fairy Flag of Dunvegan. The castle, located on the Isle of Skye, has been the stronghold of the Chiefs of MacLeod for nearly years.*

Although the flag does not look like much, it is believed to possess mystical powers, and several stories have been told about how this magical object has protected Clan MacLeod over the centuries. There are two main stories that have been traditionally told about the origin of the fairy flag. The first of these links the flag to the Crusades, thus indicating that the flag came from somewhere in the East. It has been determined that the fabric of the Fairy Flag is silk from the Middle East more specifically, Syria or Rhodes. This lends some credence to the story that the flag has its origin in the East. Nevertheless, this object has been dated to between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, at least years before the First Crusade. Still, it may be possible that the Fairy Flag was already treated as a relic by the time of the First Crusade, and only found its way to the British Isles following this military campaign. The king believed that the flag made him undefeatable in battle, and when Harald embarked on his campaign to conquer England, he took the flag along with him. Godfred established himself as the King of Mann in , and the MacLeods are said to claim descent from him. Harald at the battle of Stamford Bridge. Public Domain Fairy Clan The other main story suggests that the Fairy Flag was not obtained from the East, but given to the clan by a fairy. The fourth chief of the clan, Iain Ciar, is said to have been a highly attractive young man. Although many women were attracted to him, he had fancied none of them. One night, the chief is said to have stumbled upon a fairy dwelling, where he saw a fairy princess. The two fell in love instantly, and the princess requested that she be allowed to marry the chief. The fairy king, however, rejected her request, explaining that unlike fairies, humans will grow old and die, and that grief was inevitable for her. A compromise was reached, and the princess was allowed to be with the chief for a year and a day, after which she would need to return to her people. During this period, the princess gave birth to a son. Eventually, the time came when the princes had to return. Before leaving, she made her husband promise that he would never leave the child alone, and never allow him to cry, and that would be too much for her to bear. His friends decided to throw him a party in an attempt to cheer him up. The baby woke up, and began to cry, though the nurse did not hear him. She took him up, wrapped him in a fairy shawl, and sang to him, thus putting him back to sleep. The lullaby was heard, but the person singing it could not be seen. Years later, the child grew up, and told his father what had happened. The shawl became the Fairy Flag, and is believed to be a talisman that protected the clan. Princess singing lullabies, Illustration by H. Doing so would bring the fairy legions to their aid. This, however, could only be used three times, after which it would return to where it came from, taking the flag waver with it. The flag is said to have been used twice already, the first when they were vastly outnumbered by their enemies, the MacDonalds, when the latter invaded their lands. When the Fairy Flag was used, the tide of battle turned, and the MacLeods were saved from destruction. Meetings with the Queen of Elphame: The effigy on the floor in the center may mark the location of the burials of several MacLeod chiefs and one flag bearer. When the flag was used, the cattle was said to have come back to life. This photo was taken sometime before

### 7: The legendary Fairy Flag passed on by Scottish clan leaders for over 1, years

*LibriVox recording of Fairy Prince and Other Stories by Eleanor Hallowell Abbott. Read in English by NanDodge A charming family story told from the viewpoint of a nine-year-old girl.*

Kitty has been independently researching and studying the fae for over 15 years. The Widespread Belief in the "Wee Folk" How could so many cultures all over the world have their own version of the fairy? Is it possible that these fairy tales and legends come from some hidden truth? Or perhaps the original human beings held a belief in the wee folk and this belief spread across the world with each migrating tribe. If we go back to ancient times and travel around the world visiting each continent and each large culture, we would see that every one of them held some sort of a belief in fairy-like creatures. This belief continued into the Dark Ages in Europe and even a large amount of the North American Native tribes held their own beliefs in the "little people". Many believe that fairies exist, even today in our modern, science-driven world. But is there any evidence that these beings ever existed? We will examine some of the potential archaeological and historical evidence to support the widespread belief in fairies. And then you can decide for yourself whether to believe

At first glance of the picture above, one might expect that this boat is life-size but in reality this boat is quite small. It measures to about seven inches in length and about four inches wide. But why would anyone make a small boat out of gold? This boat dates to the first century, B. All of these archaeological finds are in the national museum in Dublin and are said to be the greatest archaeological find for the country of Ireland. Quite a bit of fighting over the items occurred in the early s with Great Britain trying to claim the items for themselves, but inevitably the items have stayed in Ireland where they were originally found. The question is, why did the people of Ireland make a tiny boat of gold? Historians claim that this boat was made specifically as a means to carry offerings to the Manx sea god - Manannan Mac Lir. In fact, this is what the museum will tell you if you ask about the Broighter Gold Boat. There is too much detail put into the Broighter Gold Boat for it to merely be a votive offering piece. It even comes complete with tiny oars to paddle the boat! But I am positive that no one would ever convince science or history of this idea. What about the gold torc and other gold items found along with the boat that were of human size? Well, perhaps this might disprove my theory, but we can only imagine the possibilities. What do you think? Perhaps the little people lived in homes like this? Source The "Hobbit" of Flores Island There have been many legends of small people in dozens of cultures throughout the world. Some of the Native American tribes have their stories of "little people", just as the Irish have their legends of the "wee folk". On an island in Indonesia, there are legends of the Ebu Gogo who were said to be small-statured people that lived on Flores island until being killed off in recent centuries. These are just a few legends of many. The Ebu Gogo are attributed to having left behind the body of the "Hobbit" found in Flores in The body was found by a team of archaeologists who were searching specifically for the remains of human beings, but they came across the remains of homo floresiensis or what they called "the hobbit". This human-type being is said to have been about three and a half feet tall and lived approximately 50, years ago. If we have archaeological evidence that small people existed, perhaps these are the beings that have spawned legends of the "wee folk" throughout time and culture. But the hobbit of Flores is not the only small human-like being to have been discovered. Is it possible that these small people were a world-wide phenomenon and were mistaken for "little people" or "fairies" by modern-day homo sapiens?

### 8: The Fairy Flag - Clan MacLeod Societies

*I haven't written any other specific fairy lore in my other books, but I have alluded to the common-for-the-time beliefs held by the populace, and mentioned that many of the ordinary folk believed in fairies.*

Photo by Roderick Charles MacLeod, But the flag likely originated somewhere far away from Scotland, potentially even in the Middle East. The most likely theory is that it comes from the time of the Crusades. Both Harald Hardrada and the early MacLeods spent time in Constantinople, and some even believe that the clan descended from Hardrada. But the MacLeod estate claims that the flag was dated to at least a couple of centuries before the Crusades, so it may be even older than that. But I like the legends a bit more than that. Dunvegan Castle, where the flag is currently kept. Klaus with a K. In , Thomas Pennant made a tour of the Hebrides and later published an account of his travels. Among them, he wrote a few stories about the Fairy Flag. Titania blessed the flag to manifest its power three times. The first two times without consequence, but if the user would unfurl it the third time, she would come and take both the flag and the flag bearer, never to be seen again. In other words, nothing happened. The flag today Iona Abbey, on the Island of Iona, Scotland, where clan leaders and flag carriers were buried. Some Scots carried pictures of the flag during World War II, and some attribute the survival of the castle through Nazi bombings to the flag. In , a fire broke out in a wing of Dunvegan Castle, and according to Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk , the flames were checked and extinguished when the flag was carried past to safety. Of course, all these are myths, little more than ancient superstition. But what better place for fairy legends and epic kings than the misty highlands of Skye? Dunvegan Castle, along with the flag itself, remain objects of fascination for locals and massive attraction for tourists. In the early part of the 19th century, the flag was also marked with small crosses, but these have since disappeared.

### 9: Scottish myths: The fairy flag of Dunvegan Castle - The Scotsman

*The Fairy Flag with the Dunvegan Cup and Sir Rory Mor's Horn, other heirlooms of the MacLeods of Dunvegan. Related articles. The Great Clans of Scotland.*

Description[ edit ] The ripped and tattered Fairy Flag, photographed sometime before In the 19th century, the writer Rev. Norman Macleod [note 1] recalled seeing the Fairy Flag during his childhood around see relevant section below. He described the flag as then having crosses wrought in gold thread, and several "elf spots" stitched upon it. Macleod recollected that when the flag was examined, bits were taken off it from time to time; so much so, that later in his life he did not believe the flag still existed. One of several items he mentioned seeing was the Fairy Flag. Scott described it as "a pennon of silk, with something like round red rowan -berries wrought upon it". He considered the flag to have originally been much larger; and remarked on its extreme fragility and the requirement for careful handling, if it should be handled at all. MacLeod also observed that several tears in the flag had been carefully mended. Wace of the Victoria and Albert Museum , [3] who concluded that the silk was woven in either Syria or Rhodes , and the darns were made in the Near East. It was his opinion that the flag, in its original state, would have been quite precious, possibly a relic like the shirt of a saint. The belief at the time of this examination was the MacLeods were descended from Harald Hardrada , who spent some time in Constantinople in the 11th century. In line with this belief, it was suggested that the flag may have passed from Harald Hardrada down to the eponymous ancestor of the clan Leod. In , Thomas Pennant made a tour of the Hebrides and later published an account of his travels. According to Pennant, the flag was named "Braolauch shi", and was given to the MacLeods by Titania the " Ben-shi ", wife of Oberon , king of the fairies. Titania blessed the flag with powers which would manifest when the flag was unfurled three times. On the third time, the flag and flag-bearer would be carried off by an invisible being, never to be seen again. The family of "Clan y Faitter" had the task of bearing the flag, and in return for their services, they possessed free lands in Bracadale. Pennant related how the flag had already been produced three times. The first occasion was in an unequal battle between the MacLeods and the Macdonalds of Clanranald. On the unfurling of the flag, the MacLeod forces were multiplied by ten. Pennant then declared that the flag was unfurled a third time to save his own life. He stated that the flag was by then so tattered that Titania did not seem to think it worth taking back. In the early part of the 20th century, Fred T. MacLeod noted one manuscript written around , which he considered to be the most detailed description of the flag. It dates to the s, however, it is thought to have been based upon earlier traditions. Only the "highest and purest blood of the race" and the most renowned heroes, were selected to guard the flag when it was displayed. These twelve men, with a sword in hand, would stand just behind the chief who was always put in front. One family produced the hereditary keepers of the flag; and of this family, only the eldest living male could unfurl the flag. This meant that when a newly deceased was placed within, the bones and dust of the previous occupant were sifted through the grate into the coffin below. The writer of the manuscript stated that in the time of his own father, the last male of this family was interred this way. However, once the MacLeods of Lewis noticed that the flag had been unfurled, they switched sides to join forces with their kinsmen. Unfortunately for both MacLeod clans, the outcome of the battle had already been determined and they were on the losing side. Among the vast numbers of MacLeods slain were Murcha Breac and the twelve guardians of the flag. William Dubh is buried on the island of Iona with his predecessors, and the body of Murcha Breac is placed within the same tomb. The manuscript states that this was the greatest honour which could be bestowed upon his remains. MacLeod suggested that the MacLeod effigy within Iona Abbey may mark the burial of the first chiefs of the clan, as well as William Dubh, and the mentioned standard bearer. According to the Bannatyne manuscript, the Fairy Flag was also unfurled during the Battle of Glendale , which the manuscript states to have been fought in about The result was that both MacLeod clans renewed the battle with redoubled fury and, despite immense losses, eventually won the battle. Among the MacLeod dead was the flag bearer, Paul Dubh, who carried the Fairy Flag throughout the conflict until his death. The Bannatyne manuscript relates that Paul Dubh was honourably buried in a deep stone coffin, with a metal grate [note 2] much like the account

given in the c. The Bannatyne manuscript states that the tomb is located in the north-east corner of the chancel at St Clements Church, in Rodel. MacLeod noted that there was no trace of such a coffin or tomb; although, he suggested that it could have been buried or possibly built within a wall. On his journey homewards, the MacLeod attempted to cross a dangerous mountainous pass on the borders of Palestine. Here, he met a hermit who gave him food and shelter. The hermit warned the MacLeod of a dangerous spirit that guards the pass, which had never failed to destroy a true believer. However, with the aid of a piece of the True Cross and certain directions from the hermit, the MacLeod is able to defeat the "She Devil" who is called "Nein a Phaipen, or Daughter of Thunder". In reward for conveying some secrets that the spirit wanted some friends to know, she revealed to the MacLeod "the future destinies of the Clan". The writer of the c. The spirit then gave the MacLeod her girdle, telling him to convert it into a banner. The MacLeod then used his spear as a flag pole. The writer also gave his own opinion on the origin of the Fairy Flag. The writer stated that the flag most probably originated as a banner used in the Holy Land, and that it was conveyed back home by the character portrayed in the legend. The final unfurling of the banner would either gain the clan a complete victory over their enemies or meant that the clan was to suffer total extinction. The writer stated that of the few shreds that remained, he himself possessed a fragment. The key to the chest was then always in the possession of the hereditary flag bearers. The young widow of the last chief refused to give up Dunvegan Castle to the next heir, knowing herself to be pregnant although she had only been married six weeks previous to her widowhood. In time, she gave birth to Tormod, the next chief. Even though the Fairy Flag was later found, both the staff and iron chest were never seen again. A summarised version of this prophecy was published in the late 19th century, within an account of the life of one of his sons. Soon after, in , Alexander Mackenzie proposed that the prophecy as dictated by N. Macleod, may have been a fragmented remembrance of one of the prophecies of Coinneach Odhar [18] who is popularly known as the Brahan Seer. Macleod then related how as a child, he had been close to an English smith employed at Dunvegan. One day the smith told him in secrecy that the chest in which the flag was held was to be forced open the next morning, and that it had been arranged by Hector Macdonald Buchanan that the smith would be at the castle with the necessary tools. Macleod then asked Buchanan for permission to be present, and was granted leave on the condition that he not tell anyone especially the chief what was about to be done. The next morning the chest was forced open and the flag was found to be held within a wooden case. Macleod described the flag then as being a square-shaped piece of cloth with crosses wrought on it with gold thread, and several "elf spots" stitched onto it. After the flag had been examined, it was placed back into its case. Macleod stated that at around this time it was learned that the heir to the chiefship, Norman, was killed at sea. He also stated that he personally saw a fox with cubs, which lived in the west turret of the castle. Macleod related how he was grateful that the worst part of the prophecy remained unfulfilled; and that the chiefly family still owned their ancestral lands. MacLeod, who wrote in the early 20th century, considered that this prophecy seemed to have been fulfilled. At that time, the Macleod chief had no gentlemen of his clan as tenants on his estate; also, an heir to the family named Ian Breac was killed in the First World War. MacLeod noted that the prophecy stated that a "John Breac" Gaelic: Iain Breac, "Iain the speckled" would restore the fortunes of the family. MacLeod stated his belief that this may still happen, when he lamented the loss of his son, [23] stating that Iain Breac "showed that his race had not lost the loyalty and courage which were their chief claims to glory in ancient days". He was told that the Fairy Flag had three magical properties. The first was that it multiplied the number of men upon a battlefield. The second was that when it was spread upon a nuptial bed, it ensured fertility. The third was that it brought herring into the loch. In the early 20th century, R. MacLeod noted several traditions concerning the flag. One told how the flag came into the possession of the MacLeods through a fairy. A similar tradition relates of a fairy-lullaby. Fairy lover[ edit ] The first of these traditions related by R. MacLeod tells how one of the chiefs of Clan MacLeod married a fairy; however, after twenty years she is forced to leave him and return to fairyland. She bade farewell to the chief at the Fairy Bridge which stands about 3 miles 4. She promised that if it was waved in times of danger and distress, help would be given on three occasions. Oh that I could see thy cattle fold, high up on the mountain side; a green, shaggy jacket about thy two white shoulders, with a linen shirt. Oh that I could behold thy team of horses; men following them; serving women returning

home and the Catanaich sowing the corn. Oh tender hero whom my womb did bring forth, who did swallow from my breast, who on my knee wast reared. My child it is, my armful of yew, merry and plump, my bulrush, my flesh and eggs, that will soon be speaking. Last year thou wast beneath my girdle, plant of fertility! Oh let me not hear of thy being wounded. Grey do thou become duly. May thy nose grow sharp ere the close of thy day. This lullaby-tradition related how on an autumn night, a beautiful fairy visited Dunvegan Castle. She passed through several closed doors and entered the nursery where the infant heir to the chief was lying in his cradle. The nursemaid, who was within the room as well, was rendered powerless by a spell and could only watch as the fairy took the infant on her knee and sang him a lullaby.

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