



# Seanchai

**Object of the Game:** Pair and collect cards to have the most points after four hands.

There are three game variants in addition to the basic game.

**Scéalta:** Acquire the three cards of a scéal (story) for 40 points.

**Dark Powers:** Follow the Advanced game rules on the card.

**Shamrocks:** Use to gain extra turns.

## Initial Deal:

# Players	2	3	4
Starting Cards	13	11	9

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## Basic Game

Shuffle, deal, and flip five cards face up to form the Tableau. Players check their hands for any Shamrocks and place face up in their point field. Replace Shamrocks from the draw pile. Play starts left of the dealer and continues clockwise.

Each turn, a player chooses ONE action:

- 1) Pair **one** card from their hand with the same suit face up card in the Tableau (except Dark or Shamrocks) and place the pair in their point field.

OR

- 2) Flip a card over from the draw pile so all players can see.

3

Player chooses to pair a flipped card with one card same suit from their hand, pair a face up card (same suit) from the Tableau, or leave it as part of the Tableau.

If a Shamrock is flipped, move to the point field and flip another card.

If a Dark card is flipped use right away against another player for -10 points.

Turn ends by discarding a card. A regular suit card discards face up and adds to the tableau. A dark card is discarded by using against another player.

The first player to have no cards in their hand receives five points and the hand is over. Points left in players hands count against them.

**Winning:** After four hands, the player/team with the most points wins.

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## The Dark Suit in the Basic Game:

Ignore the red instructions on the card for the basic game.

## Wild Cards

There are two wild cards in the deck: the Faery and the Leprechaun. They can be paired with any regular suit card and moved to the point field.

## FAQ's:

*Can I pair cards within my hand?*

No, matches can only be made by pairing with a card on the tableau or a newly flipped card.

*Can I pair more than one card of the same suit with a card on the tableau?*

No, only two cards total can form a pair and only one card from a hand.

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## FAQ's

*Can I pair Dark cards or Shamrocks?*

Dark cards are discards against other players and are not part of pairs. Shamrocks are single cards only and do not create pairs.

*What if a Dark card or Shamrock is part of the opening Tableau?*

Instead of pairing from their hand or flipping a card, a player can choose to use a Dark card or take a Shamrock as their action. Discard to end turn.

*Do I have to match cards if I can?*

No, a player can flip a card instead.

For video instructions and more info:  
[CelticLifeandHeritage.org/Seanchai.html](http://CelticLifeandHeritage.org/Seanchai.html)

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### Scéal Variant

There are nine possible Scéalta consisting of three cards each. Cards a part of a scéal have their scéal symbol in the upper left of the card.

At the end of each round, players with all three cards of a scéal in their point field receive an additional 40 points.

#### FAQ:

*What if I have cards of a scéal within my hand?*

Only cards in the point field are counted.

*Scéal - pro. "shcale" = story*  
*Scéalta - pro. "shcale ta" = stories*

### Shamrock Variant

Dealt Shamrocks can be held in the hand and used at players discretion rather than having to place in the point field right away.

#### How to Use:

After the action in a turn, a player can choose to pull a Shamrock from their hand, place in their point field, and flip a card from the draw pile. Basic game rules apply to the newly flipped card.

Multiple Shamrocks can be played in a single turn.

Turn ends by discarding a card as in the basic game.

### Dark Powers Variant:

Each dark card has a special ability coupled with -10 points. If the special ability cannot be used it simply deals -10 to the player. Abilities and counters only effect the current hand.

*User:* Player that discards/uses the dark card and plays against their opponent.

*Receiver:* The player the dark card is played against.

**Púka** – User of the Púka chooses a human card from receiver's point field to be returned to the receiver's hand.

*Counter:* If the receiver has The Faery card in their hand and plays immediately, the Púka card is removed from play and The Faery card remains in the receiver's point field.



1

**Dearg Dur** – Removes a human male card from the receiver's point field. Choice made by the user of Dearg Dur.

*Counter:* Any stone suit card can counter the attack if immediately played from the receiver's hand. Dearg Dur is removed from play and the stone card becomes a part of the receiver's point field. A stone card cannot later be used to remove Dearg Dur.



**Caorthánach**– Receiving player loses their next turn.

*Counter:* If the receiver plays St. Patrick immediately, Caorthánach is removed from play and St. Patrick becomes a part of the receiver's point field. St Patrick cannot be used later to remove Caorthánach.



2

**Changeling** – Switches places with a human card in play. The Changeling stays in the receiver's point field. The switched human is played face up in the user's point field. No pair is needed.

*Counter:* : If the receiver has The Faery card in their hand and plays immediately, the Faery not only stops the action but allows the receiver to take control of the Changeling and use its special ability. The Changeling must be played right away if countered by the Faery.



**Banshee** – removes a human card from receiver's point field for that hand. User of the Banshee chooses which human. There is no counter card.

3

**Dullahan** – removes a human card from receiver's point field for that hand. User of the Dullahan chooses which human.

*Counter:* One of two gold metal Cards WITH THE Au symbol can counter the attack if played immediately from the receiver's hand. The Dullahan is removed from play the gold metal card becomes a part of the receiver's point field. A gold metal card cannot later be used to remove the Dullahan.



#### Symbols / Counter Cards

Humans have a symbol in the upper right of their cards either male or female.



4

### Turn Phases

- 1) Pair one card from hand with one matching card on Tableau OR  
2) Flip a card from the pile face up on top of pile. Match with either a card from your hand or a card on the Tableau. If nothing matches move to Tableau.
- 1) Discard regular suited card face up on Tableau OR  
2) Discard dark card against an opponent OR (if playing Shamrock version) 3) place Shamrock from hand to point field and flip a card from the pile. Follow Flip card option above, then go to Phase 2.  
Turn ends with discard.

### List of Scéalta


Collect all three of a scéal (story) and add 40 points

### List of Scéalta


### Deck Layout - backgrounds

7 regular suits (6 cards each)

Legends	Religion	Treasure	
Landscape	Roles	Warfare	Stone
Special Suits		Wild Cards	
Dark (6)	Shamrock (8)	Faery (1-2)	Leprechaun (1)

### Dark Counter Cards

Diagram showing card interactions:


- Dark Counter Card (with green counter) → Any Stone background Card
- Dark Counter Card (with blue counter) → Treasure card
- Dark Counter Card (with red counter) → Religion card
- Dark Counter Card (with purple counter) → No Counter Card

V




**Boglands**  
Wetlands, produces peat - high burning energy

XX




**Cliffs of Moher**  
702' Cliffs on West Coast near the Burren, County Clare

X




**Giants Causeway**  
40,000 interlocking hexagonal columns, County Antrim

V



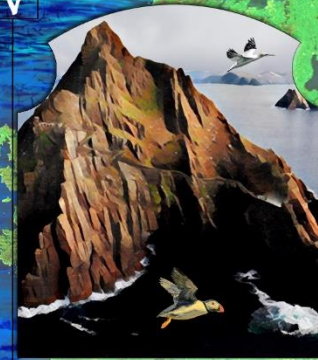
**MacGillycuddy's Reeks**  
Highest peaks in Ireland, County Kerry

V



**River Shannon**  
The longest river in Ireland at about 224 miles

V



**Skellig Rocks**  
Towering sea crags rising from the Atlantic Ocean, SW Ireland

V




**Balor**  
One eyed king of the Formorians - supernatural

X



**Cú Chulainn**  
*pron. Coo Cullen*  
Unstoppable warrior hero in Irish legend

XX



**Godess Danu**  
Earth Goddess - Mother of the Tuatha de Dannan and the Faerys

V



**Fionn mac Cumhaill**  
*pron. Finn MacCool*  
Protector of Ireland and Chief of the Fianna

V



**Children of Lir**  
Cursed children turned into swans by step-mother

V



**Queen Mebd**  
*pron. Mave*  
Warrior queen of Connacht

V



Gaelic Bard

Professional story teller, verse-maker and music composer

V



Book of Kells

Magnificent illuminated manuscript from 800AD  
340 folios, quite ornate

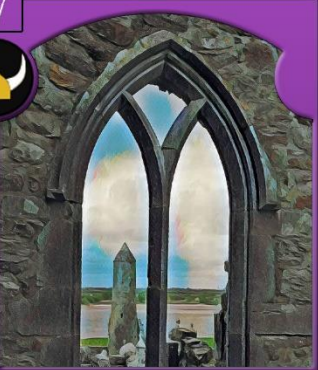
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Druid Calendar

Ancient circular calendar including seasons and festivals

V



Clonmacnoise

Ancient monastic site on the River Shannon, County Offaly


X



Druid

Great teacher, leader, and advisor in pagan Ireland, pre-Christian


XX



St. Patrick

Legendary 5th century Christian missionary to Ireland

XX



Rock of Cashel

The traditional seat of the kings of Munster County Tipperary


X



Cross of Muiredach

*pron: Meer-dock*  
High cross from the 9th or 10th century


V



Poul nabrone Dolmen

Portal tomb over 5700 years old  
Burren, County Clare

V



Ogham Writing

Earliest written text in Ireland circa 3rd-6th Century


V



Sprial Circles

Symbols found on Irish Mesolithic and Neolithic sites

V



Beltany Stone Circle

Mystical rocks typically set to a solstice or other Celtic festival



V



**Bodhrán**  
Irish frame drum held by one hand and struck with a cippin stick

V



**Tara Brooch**  
Celtic brooch made between 650 and 750 AD; found in 1850

X



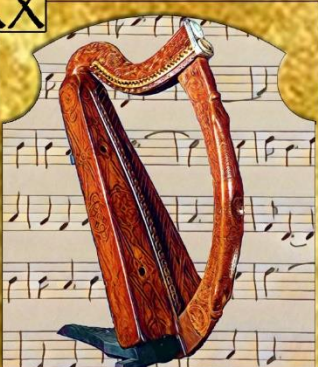
**Ardagh Chalice**  
One of the greatest treasures of the early Irish Church

V



**Lismore Crozier**  
Wooden staff with a bronze crook & glass decor; symbol of power

XX



**Brian Boru's Harp**  
One of the three oldest surviving Gaelic harps, possibly the King's

V



**Uilleann Pipes**  
National bagpipe of Ireland, played by pressing the bag for air

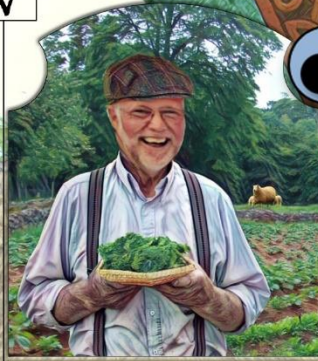
V



Dancer

Irish dance is known for its energy & lower body movement

V



Farmer

The first farms in Ireland were of wheat and barley around 4000 BC

V



Warrior

Even women played a part in the wars of Ireland


X



Mother

Central to society and community, a mother played many roles

V



Scribe / Monk

Writers and copiers of ancient books, saving literacy in Europe

XX



Warrior

Bands of landless young men in medieval Ireland were known as kerns

V



### English Plantation

The English confiscated land from the Irish 17th century

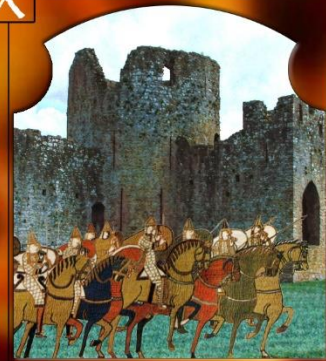
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### Helmet

Warriors often dyed their helmets in colors

X



### Norman Invasion

Invited to invade Ireland by a beaten Irish King in the 12th century

V



### Shield

Circular, small, and light, from 18 to 20 inches in diameter

XX



### Sword

One of many weapon types the Irish used in battle

V



### Viking Invasion

The first recorded raid was in 795 AD in Northern Ireland

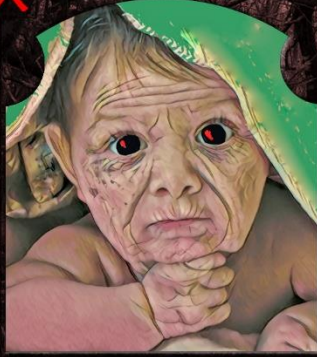
-X



Banshee

Advanced Game:  
Removes a human  
from play-no counter

-X



Changeling

Adv Game: Swaps with  
human card in play:  
Faery stops and uses

-X



Dearg-Dur

Advanced Game:  
Kills a man in play, any  
Stone card stops her

-X



Dullahan

Advanced Game:  
Kills human; gold metal  
card stops Dullahan <sup>A<sup>u</sup></sup>

-X



Púka

Adv Game:  
Places human card  
back in hand; faery stops


-X



Caorthánach



*Pron. queer-hawn-nock*  
Adv Game: Lose a Turn  
St. Patrick stops

V



**Blackthorn**  
Large shrub with black bark and dense, stiff, spiny branches

V




**Brown Bull of Cooley**  
Fought over for power position - principle article of wealth

V





**Faery Fort**  
Mystical remains of ancient ring forts taken over by nature

V



**Connemara Pony**  
Sturdy and strong breed of pony from County Galway

V




**Salmon of Knowledge**  
A salmon that gained all the world's knowledge from acorns

V



**Selkie**  
Live as seals in the sea but shed their skin to become human on land

V



Sheep

Prolific in Ireland both as food and for their wool to make clothing

V



Irish Wolfhound

Dogs bred to hunt wolves - called by the ancients Cú Faoil

II



Faery

Magical underground living descendents of the Tuatha De Danann

II



Faery

Magical underground living descendents of the Tuatha De Danann

II



Faery

Magical underground living descendents of the Tuatha De Danann

II



Leprechaun

Type of Faery who spend their time making and mending shoes