

Lughnasa (Lúnasa) [see also *festivals], the day marking the beginning of Autumn, identified with the first of August in the Julian calendar. A survival of the ancient harvest festival on which assemblies such as *Oenach Tailten were held, it is named after the god Lugh as noted in the ninth-century **Sanas Cormaic*. Regional festivals of modern times on the nearest Sunday to 1 August, such as Domhnach Crom Dubh, Domhnach na bhFraochóg, and Garland Sunday, are continuations of Lughnasa, celebrated with communal activities such as picking of berries and flowers as well as feasting and dancing. See Máire Mac Néill, *The Festival of Lughnasa* (1962).