About the Irish Insular Keyboard

Insular characters, used in Irish language typography, were added to Unicode 5.1 and *Taisean* includes these characters. Unfortunately, the Irish Extended keyboard layout on MacOS hasn't kept up, so I have created an Irish Insular one which will enable you to type these characters. It is based on the Irish Extended keyboard, so accented letters are still accessed in the same way. These are the differences:

Several letters now map to the distinctive Insular forms. Just key these as normal and the right letter should appear.

Dd Ff Gg i r sṡ ⇒ ðð Ƒƒ ᵹᵹ ı ɼ ſẛ

& ⇒ ⁊

"Regular" versions of r and s are at option-r and option-s

option-w option-s ⇒ ṡ

After looking at a range of Irish typography and manuscripts, I decided that upper-case R and S should not map to their Insular versions, as this was rarely done. These characters are typed thus:

shift-option-R ⇒ ꝶ

shift-option-S ⇒ ꞅ

There is no Unicode support at the moment for dotted Insular characters. *Taisean* therefore uses the Insular glyphs as a basis for regular dotted consonants. Sorry Malta.

Installation

The **Irish Insular.bundle** file should be placed in Library/Keyboard Layouts. This folder can be the one in your home directory, where only you will be able to use it; the one at the top level of the hard drive or one on a network. These last two options require an administrator password. Wherever it goes, you will need to log out and log back in again, and then select it in the **Language & Text** control panel's **Input Sources** tab to make it appear in the input menu in the Finder.

Feòrag

e-mail: feorag@antipope.org • http://www.feorag.com/freestuff/

Snail Mail: c/o P.O. Box 666, Edinburgh EH7 5YW, Scotland.