



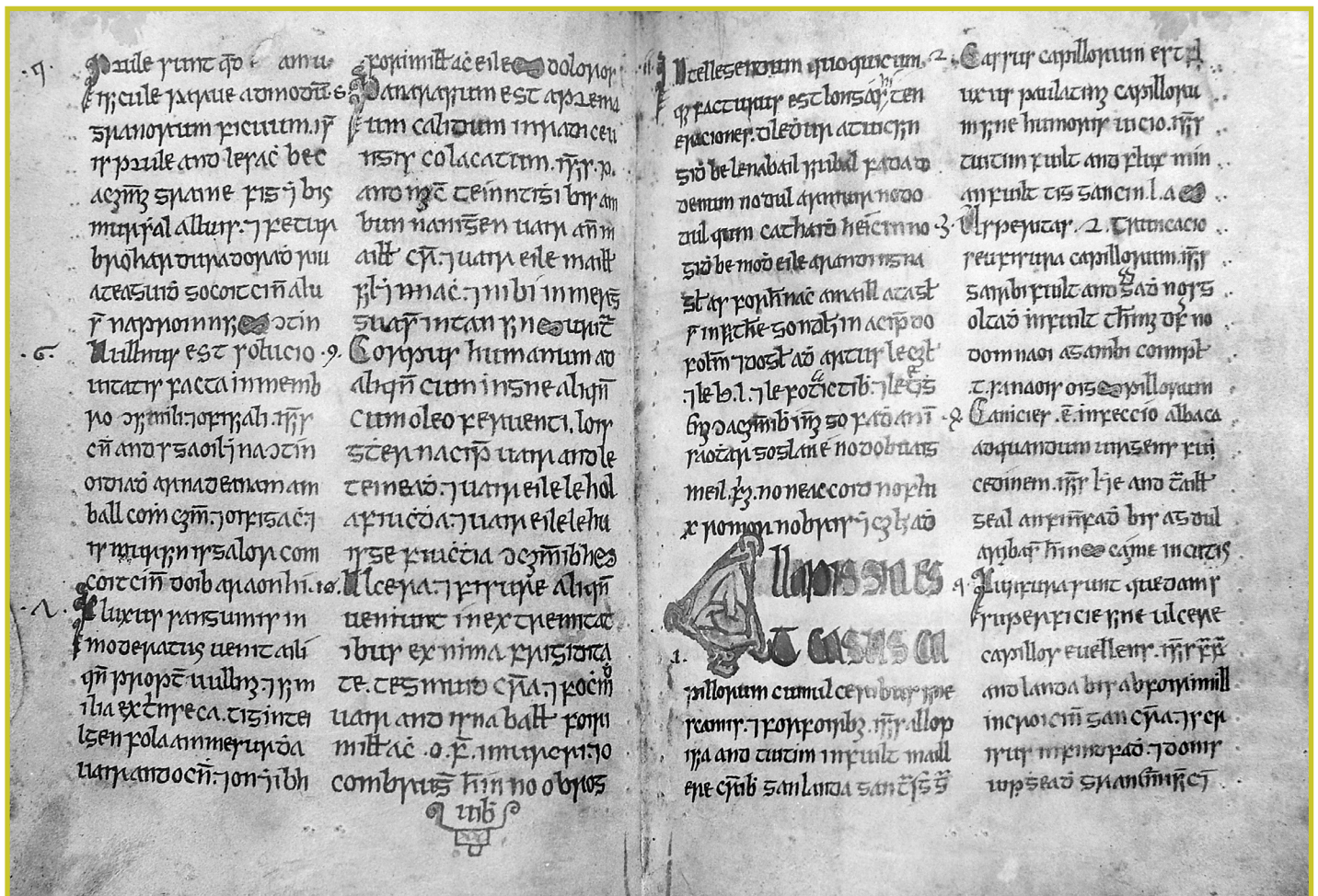
UNIT 2 — How old are these languages?

INFO SHEET 2: How old are these languages?

Ancient Irish inscriptions have been found on Ogham stones which date from the 5th and 6th centuries.

Irish was first written in the Roman alphabet before the beginning of the 7th century, which makes Irish the oldest written vernacular language north of the Alps.

It is one of the 10 oldest languages still spoken in the world today alongside, Hebrew, Tamil, Lithuanian, Farsi, Icelandic, Macedonian, Basque, Finnish and Georgian.



A 15th century Gaelic medical manuscript, from "History of Scottish medicine to 1860", John D. Comrie, 1927