THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF

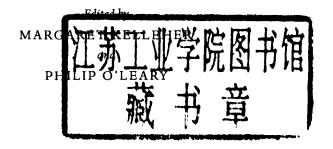
IRISH LITERATURE

VOLUME II: 1890-2000

EDITED BY
MARGARET KELLEHER
AND PHILIP O'LEARY

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF IRISH LITERATURE

VOLUME 2 1890–2000





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THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF IRISH LITERATURE

VOLUME 2 1890-2000

This is the first comprehensive history of Irish literature in both its major languages, Irish and English. The twenty-nine chapters in this two-volume history provide an authoritative chronological survey of the Irish literary tradition. Spanning fifteen centuries of literary achievement, the two volumes range from the earliest Hiberno-Latin texts to the literature of the late twentieth century. The contributors, drawn from a range of Irish, British and North American universities, are internationally renowned experts in their fields. The Cambridge History of Irish Literature comprises an unprecedented synthesis of research and information, a detailed narrative of one of the world's richest literary traditions, and innovative and challenging new readings. No critical work of this scale and authority has been attempted for Irish literature before. Featuring a detailed chronology and guides to further reading for each chapter, this magisterial project will remain the key reference book for literature in Ireland for generations to come.

This second volume covers the long twentieth century, a period marked by the achievements of Irish writers in all genres, and looks forward to developments in the new millennium.

MARGARET KELLEHER is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. She has previously held the John J. Burns Visiting Chair in Irish Studies at Boston College. She is the author of *The Feminization of Famine* (1997), editor of Making It New (2000) and co-editor of Nineteenth-Century Ireland: A Guide to Recent Research (2005).

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Margaret Kelleher and Philip O'Leary
Dublin and South Yarmouth

c. AD 130–80 Ptolemy's 'Geography' provides detailed

map of Ireland

431 Annals of Ulster (post-Patrician) begin

431 Pope Celestine sends Palladius as first bishop

to Christian Irish

432 Traditional date given to beginning of

St Patrick's mission

444 Traditional date given for foundation of

Armagh

c. 500–900 Old Irish linguistic period (including Archaic

Irish, Early Old Irish and Classical Old Irish)

Derry founded by St Colum Cille (Columba)

547/8 Clonmacnoise founded by St Ciarán c. 550 Beginning of monastic Hiberno-Latin

writing

563 Iona founded by St Colum Cille
Sixth and seventh centuries Latin literature flourishes in Ireland

597 Death of St Colum Cille 615 Death of St Columbanus

697 Cáin Adamnáin, "The Law of Adamnán" (of

Iona), promulgated in Ireland

Seventh and eighth centuries Writing of Early Irish law texts
795 First Viking raid on Ireland

806 Iona raided by Vikings; chief relics moved to

Kells

837–76 Intense Viking activity in Ireland;

semi-permanent bases established, including

encampment in Dublin (c. 841)

900–1200 Middle Irish linguistic period
916–37 Renewed Viking activity in Ireland
1002–14 Reign of Brian Bóruma mac Cennétig
1014 Battle of Clontarf (Good Friday, 23 April)
c. 1100? Compilation of Lebor na hUidre (The Book of

the Dun Cow)

1101 Council of Cashel

Building of Cormac's chapel at Cashel c. 1130 Compilation of Leinster codex, Rawlinson

B502

1142 First Irish Cistercian house founded at

Mellifont

c. 1160–1200 Compilation of the Book of Leinster
August 1170 Richard de Clare (Strongbow) arrives in

Ireland

c. May 1171 Death of Diarmait Mac Murchada;

Strongbow (his son-in-law) succeeds as king

of Leinster

November 1171 Henry II in Dublin; receives submission of

kings of north Leinster, Bréifne, Airgialla and

Ulster

February 1183 First visit to Ireland of Giraldus Cambrensis

(Gerald of Wales)

c. 1200-c. 1650 Early Modern Irish linguistic period

November 1216 Magna Carta issued for Ireland

First Irish Dominican foundations (at Dublin

and Drogheda)

c. 1224–30 First Irish Franciscan foundations (at Cork

and Youghal)

c. May 1316 Edward Bruce crowned king of Ireland

(defeated and killed October 1318)

c. 1330 Compilation of British Library Manuscript

Harley 913

February 1366 Statute of Kilkenny promulgated

First known use of 'Pale' to denote area

under Dublin control

1494 'Poyning's Law' enacted by parliament at

Drogheda

1534-5 Silken Thomas's rebellion

February 1537

Silken Thomas executed in London

October–December 1537

Acts for the suppression of Irish monasteries

June 1541

Henry VIII declared 'king of Ireland' by

statute of Irish parliament

Order for use of English Book of Common

June 1549 Order for use of English Book of Common

Prayer in Ireland

1550–7 Plantations in Laois (Leix) and Offaly

(established as Queen's County and King's

County in 1556)

1555 Papal Bull of Pope Paul IV declares Ireland a

kingdom

1561–7 Rebellion of Shane O'Neill; English

campaigns led by Sussex and Sir Henry

Sidney

risis Desmond rebellion

June 1571 First printing in the Irish language, in Dublin

1579–83 Second Desmond rebellion

December 1585 Scheme for plantation in Munster drawn up

(amended scheme passed by Elizabeth I,

June 1586)

September 1588 Ships of Spanish Armada wrecked off Irish

coast

March 1592 Charter incorporates Trinity College, Dublin 1595–1603 Rebellion of Hugh O'Neill, earl of Tyrone

September 1601 Spanish army lands at Kinsale

December 1601 Tyrone and 'Red Hugh' O'Donnell defeated

at Kinsale; O'Donnell leaves Ireland for Spain

March 1603 Surrender of Tyrone at Mellifont

September 1607 Flight of the Earls (including Tyrone and

Tyrconnell) from Lough Swilly

1608–10 Preparations for plantations in Ulster

counties

January 1621 Patents granted for plantations in Leitrim,

King's County (Offaly), Queen's County

(Laois) and Westmeath

August 1632 Compilation of the Annals of the Four

Masters completed

October 1641 Outbreak of rebellion in Ulster

1642–9 'Confederation of Kilkenny': government of

Catholic Confederates

August 1649 Oliver Cromwell arrives in Dublin as civil

and military governor of Ireland

September 1649 Massacre at Drogheda
October 1649 Massacre at Wexford

November 1649 Death of Eoghan Ruadh Ó Néill (Owen Roe

O'Neill)

May 1650 Cromwell returns to England
August 1652 Act for the settlement of Ireland
1652–3 Cromwellian land confiscations
1660–5 Restoration land settlement

July 1663 First of series of acts restricting Irish trade

and exports

March 1689 James II arrives in Ireland

April 1689 Siege of Derry begins; ends in July
July 1690 Forces of James II defeated by those of

William III at River Boyne

July 1691 Battle of Aughrim: Williamite victory
October 1691 Treaty of Limerick, allowing evacuation of

Irish army to France and promising

toleration to Irish Catholics

1691–1703 Williamite land confiscations

September 1695 Beginning of 'Penal Laws': Acts restricting

rights of Catholics to education, to bear arms or to possess a horse worth more than five

pounds.

March 1704 Further 'Penal Law' introduced, including

'tests' on Catholics and Protestant dissenters for holding of public office; amended and

strengthened August 1708.

June–July 1718 Beginning of large-scale migration of Ulster

Scots to American colonies

November 1719 Toleration Act for Protestant Dissenters
April 1720 Declaratory Act defines right of English

parliament to legislate for Ireland

Winter 1740-spring 1741 'Bliadhain an Áir' ('The Year of the

Slaughter'): large-scale famine, with

mortality estimated at over 200,000, from a population of approximately two million

June 1758 – April 1759 Acts removing restrictions on some Irish

exports

March 1760 Catholic Committee established in Dublin to

advance Catholic interests

c. October 1761 Beginning of Whiteboy movement in

Munster

March 1778 Beginning of Volunteer movement (local

independent military forces); first company

enrolled in Belfast

August 1778 Catholic Relief Act grants rights of leasing

and inheritance

June and July 1782 Repeal of 1720 Declaratory Act and Poyning's

Law amended

April 1783 British Renunciation Act acknowledges

exclusive right of Irish parliament to legislate

for Ireland (inaugurates 'Grattan's

parliament', to 1800)

May 1785 First meeting of Irish Academy ('Royal Irish'

after January 1786)

October 1791 Foundation of Society of United Irishmen in

Belfast

April 1792 and April 1793 Catholic Relief Acts allow Catholics to

practise law and give parliamentary franchise

June 1795 Act passed for establishment of Catholic

seminary at Maynooth

September 1795 Foundation of Orange Order

December 1796 French fleet, with Wolfe Tone, at Bantry Bay
1798 United Irishmen rising: rebellion begins in

Leinster (May); outbreaks in Ulster in June; French force lands in Killala (August); French

force surrenders (September)

August 1800 Act of Union dissolves Irish parliament and

declares legislative union

January 1801 Act of Union takes effect

July 1801 Copyright Act renders illegal the publication

of pirate Irish editions of British publications

July 1803 Robert Emmet's rebellion in Dublin; Emmet

executed in September

Autumn 1816 Failure of potato crop leads to first major

famine since 1742; widespread typhus epidemic continues until late 1819

Autumn 1821 Failure of potato crop; fever follows in west

of Ireland in summer 1822

May 1823 Foundation of Catholic Association by

Daniel O'Connell

I825-41 Ordnance Survey of Ireland carried out
July 1828 Daniel O'Connell elected MP for Clare
April 1829 Catholic Emancipation Act enables Catholic

Catholic Emancipation Act enables Catholics to enter parliament and to hold civil and

military offices

September 1831 State system of National Education

introduced

June 1837 Accession of Victoria

July 1838 English system of Poor Law is extended to

Ireland

April 1840 Repeal Association founded

June 1841 Census of Ireland: population of island

8,175,124

1844 Queen's University founded, with colleges in

Belfast, Cork and Galway.

1845–51: An Gorta Mór ('The Great Irish Famine'):

mortality estimated at in excess of 1 million

September 1845 Arrival of potato blight in Ireland first noted

June 1846 Repeal of the Corn Laws

August 1846 Recurrence of potato blight, leading to large

mortality in winter of 1846-7

May 1847 Death of O'Connell

July 1848 Abortive rising by William Smith O'Brien at

Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary: beginning of

short-lived Young Ireland rebellion

March 1851 Census of Ireland: population of island

6,552,385

March 1858 James Stephens founds Irish Republican

Brotherhood (IRB) in Dublin

April 1859 Fenian Brotherhood established in USA

1867 Fenian rebellion: disturbances in England

and Ireland in February; execution of Fenian

'Manchester Martyrs' in November

July 1869 Irish Church Act disestablishes Church of

Ireland

May 1870 Isaac Butt founds Home Government

Association: beginning of Home Rule

movement

August 1870 Gladstone's first Land Act

Society for the Preservation of the Irish

Language founded

August 1877 Charles Stuart Parnell elected president of

Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain

August 1879 Foundation of National Land League of

Mayo by Michael Davitt

October 1879 Foundation of Irish National Land League by

Davitt and Parnell

May 1880 Parnell elected chairman of Irish

Parliamentary Party (IPP)

October 1880 Foundation of Ladies' Land League in New

York

January 1881 Ladies' Land League established in Ireland

August 1881 Gladstone's second Land Act

May 1882 'Phoenix Park murders' of Lord Frederick

Cavendish and Thomas Burke

November 1884 Foundation of Gaelic Athletic Association

(GAA)

August 1885 Ashbourne Land Purchase Act

June 1886 Gladstone's Home Rule Bill defeated
October 1886 Announcement of 'Plan of Campaign' to

withhold rents on certain estates

National Library of Ireland established
 National Museum of Ireland opened

December 1890 Split in IPP, with majority opposing Parnell

October 1891 Death of Parnell

August 1892 National Literary Society established

Iuly 1893 Foundation of Gaelic League (Conradh na

Gaeilge)

September 1893 Second Home Rule Bill passed by House of

Commons but defeated in House of Lords

August 1898 Irish Local Government Act

May 1899 First production by Irish Literary Theatre
September 1900 Foundation of Cumann na nGaedheal led by

Arthur Griffith

March 1901 Census of Ireland: population 4,458,775

August 1903 Wyndham Land Act
December 1904 Opening of Abbey Theatre

April 1907 Cumann na nGaedheal and Dungannon

clubs become Sinn Féin League

December 1908 Foundation of Irish Transport Workers'

Union (later ITGWU)

April 1911 Census of Ireland: population 4,381,951
May 1908 Irish Women's Franchise League formed
April 1912 Third Home Rule Bill passed by House of

Commons; twice defeated in House of Lords

(January and July 1913)

September 1912 Solemn League and Covenant signed in

Ulster

January 1913 Foundation of Ulster Volunteer Force
August 1913 Beginning of ITGWU strike in Dublin,

becomes general lockout

November 1913 Formation of Irish Citizen Army and Irish

Volunteers

March 1914 'Curragh Mutiny': resignation by sixty

cavalry officers in the British army at Kildare

April 1914 Ulster Volunteer Force gunrunning

April 1914 Foundation of Cumann na mBan (women's

auxiliary league)

May 1914 Home Rule Bill passes again in Commons
July 1914 Howth gunrunning by Irish Volunteers
August 1914 United Kingdom and Germany go to war
September 1914 Home Rule Bill suspended; John Redmond
calls on Irish Volunteers to support British

war; movement splits into National

(pro-Redmond) and Irish (anti-Redmond)

Volunteers

April 1916 Easter Uprising

Execution of rebel leaders May 1916

December 1918 Sinn Féin victory in general election First meeting of Dáil Éireann at Mansion January 1919

House, with Eamon De Valera elected

president

Irish Volunteer organisation increasingly 1919

known as Irish Republican Army (IRA)

Irish War of Independence/Anglo-Irish War 1919-21 First recruits of British ex-soldiers and sailors January 1920

('Black and Tans') join Royal Irish

Constabulary

Government of Ireland Act provides for December 1920

creation of separate parliaments in Dublin

and Belfast

George V opens Northern Irish Parliament June 1921

Truce between IRA and British Army July 1921

Anglo-Irish Treaty signed December 1921

Treaty approved by Dáil Éireann (sixty-four January 1922

to fifty-seven): establishment of Irish Free

State

Beginning of Irish Civil War between June 1922

pro-Treaty (Free State) and anti-Treaty

(Republican) forces

Cumann na nGaedheal (political party) April 1923

founded as first new post-independence party

Suspension of Republican campaign April 1923

Censorship of Films Act July 1923

Irish Free State enters League of Nations September 1923 1923

W. B. Yeats is awarded the Nobel Prize for

Literature

George Bernard Shaw is awarded the Nobel 1925

Prize for Literature

Findings of Boundary Commission leaked November 1925 Census of Ireland: population of Irish Free April 1926

State 2,971,992; population of Northern

Ireland 1,256,561

Foundation of Fianna Fáil May 1926

Irish Manuscripts Commission founded 1928

Censorship of Publications Act July 1929

Ireland elected to the Council of the League 1930

of Nations

February 1932 Fianna Fáil win general election June 1932 Thirty-First International Eucharistic

Congress held in Dublin

September 1933 Foundation of Fine Gael (replaces Cumann

na nGaedheal)

June 1936 IRA declared illegal

June 1937 De Valera's new constitution (Bunreacht na

hÉireann) approved; Éire declared official

name of state

June 1938 Douglas Hyde becomes first president of

Ireland

September 1939 Éire's policy of neutrality announced

1939-1945 'Emergency' years April and May 1941 Air-raids on Belfast

February 1948 Fianna Fáil loses overall majority; replaced

by Coalition government under John A.

Costello

December 1948 Republic of Ireland Act under which Éire

becomes Republic of Ireland and leaves

Commonwealth

Catholic hierarchy condemns 'Mother and April 1951

Child' Scheme; resignation of Dr Noël

Browne as Minister of Health

December 1955 Republic of Ireland joins United Nations December 1956 IRA begins campaign on Northern border Programme for Economic Expansion 1958

introduced, encouraging exports along with

private and foreign investment in

manufacturing

De Valera elected president June 1959

RTÉ (Radio Telefís Éireann) begins December 1961

television service

March 1963 Terence O'Neill becomes prime minister of

Northern Ireland

Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), loyalist 1966

paramilitary group (taking its name from the

1913 movement), founded