THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF

IRISH LITERATURE

VOLUME I: TO 1890

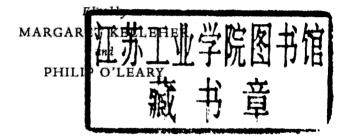
EDITED BY

MARGARET KELLEHER

AND PHILIP O'LEARY

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THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY OF IRISH LITERATURE

VOLUME I

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 first volume covers early to late medieval texts in Latin and Norman French as well as Irish, the literature of English settlement in the early modern period, and the developments of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

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).

PHILIP O'LEARY is Associate Professor of Irish Studies at Boston College. He is the author of Prose Literature of the Gaelic Revival 1881–1921: Ideology and Innovation (1994), which won the ACIS First Book Prize, Déirc an Dóchais: Léamh ar Shaothar Phádhraic Óig Uí Chonaire (1995) and Gaelic Prose in the Irish Free State, 1922–1939 (2004), which won the Michael J. Durkan Prize.

Contents

List of contributors vii
Acknowledgements viii
Chronology x
Map of Ireland xxi

Map of Irish speakers as a percentage of total population, c.1840 and 1911 xxii

Introduction 1 MARGARET KELLEHER AND PHILIP O'LEARY

- I · The literature of medieval Ireland to c.800: St Patrick to the Vikings 9
 тома́s о́ сатнаѕаісн
 - 2 · The literature of medieval Ireland, 800–1200: from the Vikings
 to the Normans 32
 MÁIRE NÍ MHAONAIGH
- 3 · The literature of later medieval Ireland, 1200–1600: from the Normans to the Tudors 74

 MARC CABALL AND KAARINA HOLLO
 - 4 · Literature in English, 1550–1690: from the Elizabethan settlement to the Battle of the Boyne 140

 ANNE FOGARTY
- 5 · Literature in Irish, c.1550–1690: from the Elizabethan settlement to the

 Battle of the Boyne 191

 MíCHEÁL MAC CRAITH

Contents

- 6 · Prose in English, 1690–1800: from the Williamite wars to the Act of Union 232 1AN CAMPBELL ROSS
- 7 · Poetry in English, 1690–1800: from the Williamite wars to the Act
 of Union 282
 ANDREW CARPENTER
- 8 · Literature in Irish, 1690–1800: from the Williamite wars to the Act of Union 320

 NEIL BUTTIMER
- 9 · Theatre in Ireland, 1690–1800: from the Williamite wars to the Act of
 Union 372
 CHRISTOPHER MORASH
 - 10 · Irish Romanticism, 1800–1830 407
 - 11 · Prose writing and drama in English, 1830–1890: from Catholic emancipation to the fall of Parnell 449
 MARGARET KELLEHER
- 12 · Poetry in English, 1830–1890: from Catholic emancipation to the fall of Parnell 500

 MATTHEW CAMPBELL
 - 13 · Literature in Irish, 1800–1890: from the Act of Union to the Gaelic League 544

 GEARÓID DENVIR
 - 14 · Historical writings, 1690–1890 599

 CLARE O'HALLORAN
 - 15 · Literature and the oral tradition 633
 - Guide to major subject areas 677

 Index 683

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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
Fourth and fifth centuries	Irish raids on Roman Britain
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)
546	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
<i>7</i> 95	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 Henry II in Dublin; receives submission of kings

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

1446 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

Henry VIII declared 'king of Ireland' by statute

of Irish parliament

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

1568–73 First Desmond rebellion

June 1541

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 Massacre at Wexford October 1649

November 1649 Death of Eoghan Ruadh Ó Néill (Owen Roe

O'Neill)

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

First of series of acts restricting Irish trade and July 1663

exports

James II arrives in Ireland March 1689

April 1689 Siege of Derry begins; ends in July

Forces of James II defeated by those of William July 1690

III at River Boyne

Battle of Aughrim: Williamite victory July 1691

October 1691 Treaty of Limerick, allowing evacuation of Irish

army to France and promising toleration to Irish

Catholics

Williamite land confiscations 1691-1703

Beginning of 'Penal Laws': Acts restricting rights September 1695

> of Catholics to education, to bear arms or to possess a horse worth more than five pounds.

Further 'Penal Law' introduced, including 'tests' March 1704

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

strengthened August 1708.

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

Scots to American colonies

Toleration Act for Protestant Dissenters November 1719 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 Catholic Committee established in Dublin to March 1760

advance Catholic interests

Beginning of Whiteboy movement in Munster *c.* October 1761

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

1825-41 Ordnance Survey of Ireland carried out

Daniel O'Connell elected MP for Clare July 1828 Catholic Emancipation Act enables Catholics to enter April 1829 parliament and to hold civil and military offices State system of National Education introduced September 1831 Accession of Victoria June 1837 English system of Poor Law is extended to Ireland July 1838 April 1840 Repeal Association founded Census of Ireland: population of island 8,175,124 June 1841 Queen's University founded, with colleges in Belfast, Cork 1844 and Galway. An Gorta Mór ('The Great Irish Famine'): mortality 1845–51 estimated at in excess of 1 million Arrival of potato blight in Ireland first noted September 1845 Repeal of the Corn Laws June 1846 Recurrence of potato blight, leading to large mortality in August 1846 winter of 1846-7 Death of O'Connell May 1847 Abortive rising by William Smith O'Brien at Ballingarry, July 1848 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 Fenian Brotherhood established in USA April 1859 Fenian rebellion: disturbances in England and Ireland in 1867 February; execution of Fenian 'Manchester Martyrs' in November Irish Church Act disestablishes Church of Ireland July 1869 Isaac Butt founds Home Government Association: May 1870 beginning of Home Rule movement Gladstone's first Land Act August 1870 1876 Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language founded August 1877 Charles Stuart Parnell elected president of Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain Foundation of National Land League of Mayo by Michael August 1879

Davitt

Parnell

October 1879

Foundation of Irish National Land League by Davitt and

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

July 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

May 1916 Execution of rebel leaders

December 1918 Sinn Féin victory in general election

January 1919 First meeting of Dáil Éireann at Mansion House, with

Eamon De Valera elected president

1919 Irish Volunteer organisation increasingly known as Irish

Republican Army (IRA)

1919–21 Irish War of Independence/Anglo-Irish War

January 1920 First recruits of British ex-soldiers and sailors ('Black and

Tans') join Royal Irish Constabulary

December 1920 Government of Ireland Act provides for creation of

separate parliaments in Dublin and Belfast

June 1921 George V opens Northern Irish Parliament

July 1921 Truce between IRA and British Army

December 1921 Anglo-Irish Treaty signed

January 1922 Treaty approved by Dáil Éireann (sixty-four to fifty-seven):

establishment of Irish Free State

June 1922 Beginning of Irish Civil War between pro-Treaty (Free

State) and anti-Treaty (Republican) forces

April 1923 Cumann na nGaedheal (political party) founded as first

new post-independence party

April 1923 Suspension of Republican campaign

July 1923 Censorship of Films Act

September 1923 Irish Free State enters League of Nations 1923 W. B. Yeats is awarded the Nobel Prize for

Literature

Literature