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052182009X - The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture
Edited by Joe Cleary and Claire Connolly
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*The Cambridge Companion to
Modern Irish Culture*

This Companion provides an authoritative introduction to the historical, social and stylistic complexities of modern Irish culture. Readers will be introduced to Irish culture in its widest sense and helped to find their way through the cultural and theoretical debates that inform our understanding of modern Ireland. The volume combines cultural breadth and historical depth, supported by a chronology of Irish history and arts. A wide selection of essays on a rich variety of Irish cultural forms and practices are complemented by a series of in-depth analyses of key themes in Irish cultural politics. The range of topics covered will enable a comprehensive understanding of Irish culture, while the authors gathered here – all acknowledged experts in their fields – provide stimulating new essays that together amount to an invaluable guide to the shaping of modern Ireland.

JOE CLEARY is senior lecturer in English Literature at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and has been Visiting Professor at Notre Dame University. He has published several essays and book chapters on modernisation, colonialism and twentieth-century Irish culture, and a book, *Literature, Partition and the Nation State: Culture and Conflict in Ireland, Israel and Palestine* (Cambridge, 2002).

CLAIRE CONNOLLY is a senior lecturer in English Literature and Cultural Criticism at Cardiff University, and has been Visiting Associate Professor of Irish Studies at Boston College. She edited the critical anthology, *Theorizing Ireland*, as well as a number of scholarly editions of nineteenth-century Irish novels, including two volumes of the *Tales and Novels of Maria Edgeworth* and (with Stephen Copley) Sydney Owenson's *The Wild Irish Girl*.

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Contributors

ALAN BAIRNER is Reader in the Sociology of Sport at Loughborough University. He is the author of *Sport, Nationalism, and Globalization: European and North American Perspectives*, the co-author of *Sport, Sectarianism and Society in a Divided Ireland* and co-editor of *Sport in Divided Societies*. He has advised the Sports Council for Northern Ireland and the Irish Football Association on community relations issues and was a member of the ministerial advisory panel set up in 2001 to examine the future of soccer in Northern Ireland.

HUGH CAMPBELL is College Lecturer at the School of Architecture, University College Dublin, where he teaches the history and theory of architecture as well as working in the design studio. He has published numerous essays on modern architecture and urban history. His doctoral research was on the politics of urban development in nineteenth-century Dublin, and he is currently researching the relationship between urban consciousness and architecture.

JOE CLEARY is Senior Lecturer in English Literature at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth, and has been Visiting Professor at Notre Dame University. He has published several essays and book chapters on modernisation, colonialism and twentieth-century Irish culture, and a book, *Literature, Partition and the Nation-State: Culture and Conflict in Ireland, Israel and Palestine* (Cambridge, 2002).

CLAIRE CONNOLLY is Senior Lecturer in English Literature and Cultural Criticism at Cardiff University, and has been Visiting Associate Professor of Irish Studies at Boston College. She edited the critical anthology, *Theorizing Ireland*, as well as a number of

scholarly editions of nineteenth-century Irish novels, including two volumes of the *Tales and Novels of Maria Edgeworth* and (with Stephen Copley) Sydney Owenson's *The Wild Irish Girl*.

FINTAN CULLEN teaches Art History at the University of Nottingham. His most recent publication is *The Irish Face: Redefining the Irish Portrait*, published by the National Portrait Gallery, London (2000). In 2005 he is co-curating an exhibition with Roy Foster at the National Portrait Gallery, entitled 'Conquering England: Ireland in the Victorian Metropolis'.

LUKE GIBBONS is the Keough Family Professor of Irish Studies at the University of Notre Dame. His publications include *Edmund Burke and Ireland: Aesthetics, Politics and the Colonial Sublime*; *Gaelic Gothic: Race, Colonization and Irish Culture*; *The Quiet Man*; *Transformations in Irish Culture* and (with Kevin Rockett and John Hill) *Cinema and Ireland*.

MARY J. HICKMAN is Professor of Irish Studies and Sociology at London Metropolitan University. Her publications include *Religion, Class and Identity* and (as editor with Avtar Brah and Mairtin Mac an Ghaill) *Thinking Identities: Ethnicity, Racism and Culture* and *Global Futures: Migration, Environment and Globalization* (1999). She and Bronwen Walter co-authored *Discrimination and the Irish Community in Britain* for the Commission for Racial Equality (1997). Professor Hickman has served on the Irish government's Task Force on Policy Regarding Emigrants (2001–2) and is currently writing a book about the Irish diaspora.

TOM INGLIS is Associate Professor of Sociology at University College Dublin. He has written extensively on religion in Ireland, particularly the influence of the Catholic Church on Irish culture and society. He is author of *Moral Monopoly: The Catholic Church in Modern Irish Society*; *Lessons in Irish Sexuality*; and *Truth, Power and Lies: Modern Irish Society and the Case of the Kerry Babies*.

ALVIN JACKSON is Professor of Modern British and Irish History at the University of Edinburgh. He has been Professor of Modern Irish History at Queen's University, Belfast, John Burns Visiting Professor at Boston College and a British Academy Research Reader. His recent books include *Home Rule: An Irish History* (2003) and *Ireland 1798–1998: Politics and War* (2004).

SIOBHÁN KILFEATHER teaches in the English Department at Queen's University, Belfast. She has edited *The Field Day Anthology*

of Irish Writing: Irish Women's Writing and Traditions and the Pickering and Chatto edition of Maria Edgeworth's *Belinda*. She has published a number of influential essays on Irish women's writing, particularly in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and is currently writing a book on *Rhetorics of Atrocity in Romantic Ireland*.

CHRISTOPHER MORASH is author of *A History of Irish Theatre: 1601–2000*, winner of the Theatre Book Prize, 2002. His earlier work includes *Writing the Irish Famine* and many articles on Irish cultural history. He is currently Director of Media Studies at National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

EMER NOLAN is a Lecturer in English at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. She is the author of *Joyce and Nationalism*, a study of Joyce's politics and Irish modernism.

BERNARD O'DONOGHUE teaches Medieval English at Wadham College, Oxford. He has written a study of Seamus Heaney's language, as well as an anthology of medieval European love poetry. His first book of poems was *Poaching Rights* and he has published four collections with Chatto & Windus, of which the most recent is *Outliving*.

LIAM O'DOWD is Professor of Sociology and Director of the Centre for International Borders Research at Queen's University, Belfast. He has published extensively on the political sociology and economy of Northern Ireland, on Irish intellectuals and on changing state borders.

DIARMUID Ó GIOLLÁIN is Senior Lecturer in Folklore at the National University of Ireland, Cork, and author of *Locating Irish Folklore: Tradition, Modernity, Identity*. He has published essays on ethnology; popular religion; historical tradition; and Irish, Nordic, Estonian and Latin American (particularly Brazilian) popular culture and research traditions.

LILLIS Ó LAOIRE is Lecturer in Irish Language and Literature, Department of Languages and Cultural Studies, University of Limerick, and Visiting Assistant Professor at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles. A noted traditional singer, he is also director of Ionad na nAmhrán, a centre for the study and performance of traditional song at the Irish World Music Centre, University of Limerick. His book, *On A Rock in the Middle of the Ocean: Songs and Singers in Tory Island*, will be published in 2005.

x Notes on contributors

GEARÓID Ó TUATHAIGH is Professor of History at the National University of Ireland, Galway. He is the author of *Ireland Before the Famine 1798–1848* and many influential essays on nineteenth-century history and the Irish language.

PÁDRAIGÍN RIGGS is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Modern Irish at the National University of Ireland, Cork. She is the author of *Donncha Ó Céileachair: Anailís Stíleach*; *Pádraic Ó Conaire: Deoraí* and the editor of *Dáibhí O Bruadair: His Historical and Literary Context* and (with B. Ó Conchúir and S. Ó Coileáin) *Saoi na hÉigse*. She is currently preparing an edition of the writings of Pádraic Ó Conaire for the Irish Texts Society.

NORMAN VANCE is Professor of English and Director of the Humanities Graduate Research Centre at the University of Sussex. He has published widely on Victorian and Irish literature: his books include *The Victorians and Ancient Rome*, *Irish Literature: a Social History* and *Irish Literature since 1800*.

KEVIN WHELAN is the inaugural Michael J. Smurfit Director of the University of Notre Dame's Keough Centre in Dublin. He has been a Visiting Professor at New York University, Boston College and Concordia University. Among his books are *Nations and Nationalisms in the Eighteenth Century*, *The Tree of Liberty*, *The Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape* and *1798: A Bicentenary Perspective*.

Preface

Ireland is a small island that has made large claims on world interest. To some, it will be best known for its eventful history of conquest and settlement, dispossession and diaspora, repression and rebellion, land agitation and famine. Its independence struggle triggered the beginning of the end of an empire, but issued domestically in partition, civil war and new state repressions – a turbulent history, then, the bitter intensity of which has been most recently evident in the quarter-century-long conflict in Northern Ireland usually termed the ‘Troubles’.

Despite this, Ireland has long nurtured a romantic rural self-image calculated to appeal to those in flight from the complexities of the modern world. History fades against its much-sung landscape of rocky coastlines, rolling grasslands, misted mountain ranges, boglands and moor. In one of the many paradoxes of modern Irish culture, the country has come to represent both the romantic pleasures of solitude and seclusion and traditional virtues of conversation, sociability and tight-knit communities. Ever since the mid nineteenth century, when Belfast became one of the world’s major industrial centres, that rural image became associated more with the southern than with the northern part of the island, and indeed it was not until the census of 1966 that the urban population of the Irish Republic was first recorded as having exceeded the rural. Today, the old rural national image is on the wane and the country currently likes to represent itself as a thriving, energetic, cosmopolitan place, a vibrant multicultural hub of postindustrial, information-age entrepreneurial activity. The revels of the comely maidens dancing at the crossroads of the local townland now are ended or linger only as national kitsch; the country prefers instead a corporate quick-step on a global crossroads between Boston, Bermuda and Berlin.

For many people, of course, Ireland's claim to attention will reside primarily in an extraordinarily sustained tradition of literature and letters distinguished by Bishop Berkeley and Jonathan Swift, Oliver Goldsmith and Edmund Burke, Thomas Moore and Maria Edgeworth, Oscar Wilde and George Bernard Shaw, James Joyce and W. B. Yeats, Sean O'Casey and Samuel Beckett, Louis MacNeice and Seamus Heaney, Elizabeth Bowen and John McGahern. Classical music traditions weigh lightly compared to those of other Western European nationalities such as the Germans or Italians, and yet the Irish are no less famous for their love of music and song. The country's traditional airs, *sean nós* singing, ballad treasures and folk-music revivals have exerted influence across the globe, either in their own right or as stimulus to other musical cultures. Ireland's own cultural traditions have drawn heavily on popular song and the lyric inheritance. In contemporary times, Ireland's accomplishments in popular music especially have won a global audience that will compare in reach with that which its writers have already achieved.

The small population of the island itself must be set, moreover, against an extensive Irish diaspora that stretches from the Americas to the Antipodes and all across the far-flung territories of what was, until relatively recent decades, the British Empire. Some of the great cities of modern times, Manchester, New York, Liverpool, Boston, Glasgow, Toronto or Melbourne, to name but a few, have modern Irish histories and heritages as varied and interesting as those of Dublin or Belfast. By virtue, then, of its tempestuous history, which generated this far-flung diaspora, and which inspired its sometimes extraordinary achievements in literature and the other arts, Ireland attests in a whole complex of ways to the manner in which supposedly minor or peripheral societies can have an impact on the world as significant as that of countries more commonly considered major and metropolitan.

This volume aims to offer its readers a useful overview of modern Irish culture as it has changed and developed from 1800 to 2000. Beginning with a century of frequently calamitous change that followed the United Irishmen's rebellion in 1798 and Ireland's integration into the United Kingdom consequent to the Act of Union in 1800, the volume concludes with another period of rather dramatic social transformation ushered in by the economic boom in the Republic of Ireland usually known as the 'Celtic Tiger' and by the concurrent 'peace process' in Northern Ireland that has proceeded since the Good Friday Agreement of 1998. A country with so disputed a history has inevitably generated much scholarly

controversy and today Ireland as subject is of interest to academics and students concerned with issues as diverse as nation-building and globalisation, colonialism and postcolonialism, sexuality and religion, modernism and regional cultures, migration studies and ethnic conflict.

The topics engaged here have been selected with an eye to the interests of both the general reader and the more specialised student of the culture, and while the volume cannot over a two-century stretch claim to comprehensiveness, the individual chapters, all written by distinguished authorities in the field, offer lucid, accessible surveys that are also scholarly, searching and provocative. Some of the chapters lean towards a chronological or narrative account of their matter, dealing with the more significant episodes or contours of development in the area in question; others are more conceptual in format, opting for an approach that evaluates the major controversies that have shaped scholarship in their subject areas. The volume as a whole offers its readers, we believe, an attractively varied account of the manifold social forces, domestic and international, that have gone into the making of Irish culture over the past two hundred years.

Contemporary commentators remind us that the word ‘culture’ is at once too slack to serve specialist analysis and too rigid to be greatly useful. In its broader anthropological definitions, culture can refer to the ‘whole way of life’ of a group of people, or to the state of intellectual development of a complete society; in its more restrictive usages, it is narrowly identified with processes of self-cultivation and mental refinement and associated with certain valued artistic and intellectual activities. Whereas ‘culture’ broadly defined risks becoming co-extensive with society such that any capacity to distinguish between what is and is not deemed cultural activity collapses, in its narrower versions the term can connote forms of practice so rarefied as to be almost totally unconnected to the everyday lives of the vast majority of people in any society.

The present volume can hardly escape the conceptual dilemmas that attend to our contemporary usage of the word, but it does try to steer its way between the more all-inclusive and the more specialised notions of ‘culture’ as adroitly as possible. The volume opens with an introductory essay designed to give readers a solid foundation in the historical and conceptual frameworks necessary to understand modern Irish culture. In critically surveying the different ways in which Ireland’s relationship to the modern and to modernity has been elaborated over the past two centuries, the introductory chapter serves to ground and position

what follows. The chapters in Part I, 'Cultural politics', then move on to deal with defining historical events (such as the Act of Union or the Great Famine) or with broader social movements and political and cultural practices (such as unionism, republicanism, religion, language change, migration and feminism) that have significantly conditioned the texture of Irish culture understood in the extended sense of the whole way of life of a people. Part II, 'Cultural practices and cultural forms', deals with culture in the more restricted aesthetic sense that refers to the arts and social recreation, but does so in a way that makes space alongside what are conventionally deemed the 'high' or 'fine' arts for more popular pursuits such as sports, cinema or folklore as well. Ireland's exceptional achievements in the literary arts are reflected in the weighting of the volume, but one of the attractions of the present collection will be, we hope, that developments in the various 'popular' and 'fine' arts can be surveyed here directly alongside each other such that the diversity and the inter-weave of modern Irish cultural production can more readily be appreciated. In so far as has been possible within the remit of these short essays, the volume attempts to deal with modern Irish culture as it extends not only across two centuries but also across two languages and indeed across the two states that emerged when the island was partitioned in the early nineteen twenties. Recognising that some of the most exciting and controversial developments in Irish cultural history begin at Holyhead, Larne or Shannon, the chapter on migration deals with the Irish abroad, primarily with their modern histories in Britain and the United States, but also in Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

We hope to have assembled here a volume useful to those wishing to understand the contradictory, contested elements that went into the making of the past two centuries of modern Irish culture. Should those wishing to renovate and innovate within that culture as we move into the new century ahead also find some stimulus in its pages, we would be especially pleased.

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Chronology

Year	Irish cultural and intellectual events	Irish history	International cultural and intellectual events	International history
1789	Charlotte Brooke, <i>Reliques of Irish Poetry</i>		Noah Webster, <i>Dissertations on the English Language</i>	Outbreak of the first French Revolution; first cotton factory established in Manchester
1795		Orange Order founded; Act for the establishment of a Catholic seminary at Maynooth		Dutch surrender of Ceylon to British; Warren Hastings acquitted of corruption; building of the Bank of England begins (finished 1827)
1796	Edward Bunting, <i>A General Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland</i>			British capture Elba; Chinese authorities forbid the import of opium
1798	Regina Maria Roche, <i>Clermont</i>	United Irishmen's Rebellion	William Wordsworth and Samuel Coleridge, <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> (1798–1800); Thomas Malthus, <i>Essay on the Principle of Population</i> ; Charles Brockden Brown, <i>Wieland</i>	Napoleon invades Egypt
1800	Maria Edgeworth, <i>Castle Rackrent</i>	Act of Union passed	Robert Burns, <i>The Poems of Robert Burns</i> (4 vols)	British occupy Malta

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| 1803 | Robert Emmet Rebellion | Haiti (Saint-Dominique) becomes first independent black country |
| 1804 | | Britain reoccupies the Cape of Good Hope |
| 1806 | Sydney Owenson (Lady Morgan), <i>The Wild Irish Girl</i> | British abolition of the slave trade; Sierra Leone and Gambia become British colonies |
| 1807 | Gaelic Society of Dublin founded | United States prohibits the import of slaves from Africa |
| 1808 | Thomas Moore, <i>Irish Melodies</i> (–1834); Charles Maturin, <i>The Wild Irish Boy</i> ; Elizabeth Hamilton, <i>The Cottagers of Glenburnie</i> | British troops occupy Java; Luddite riots in northern England |
| 1811 | Kildare Place Society founded; Sydney Owenson, <i>The Missionary</i> | United States declares war on Britain; last major outbreak of bubonic plague in Europe |
| 1812 | Charles Maturin, <i>The Milesian Chief</i> ; Maria Edgeworth, <i>The Absentee</i> | |
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Year	Irish cultural and intellectual events	Irish history	International cultural and intellectual events	International history
1813		Catholic relief bill introduced by Grattan in the House of Commons	Jane Austen, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	The monopoly on Indian trade of the East India company ended; Paraguay becomes first independent republic in South America; Simón Bolívar titled 'the Liberator' in Venezuela
1814	Maria Edgeworth, <i>Patronage</i>	Belfast Academical Institution opened	Walter Scott, <i>Waverley</i> ; Jane Austen, <i>Mansfield Park</i>	British invade Washington
1815	William Drennan, <i>Fugitive Pieces in Verse and Prose</i>		Jane Austen, <i>Emma</i> ; S. T. Coleridge, <i>Christabel</i> and <i>Kubla Khan</i>	Battle of Waterloo and defeat of Napoleon; Congress of Vienna
1817	Thomas Moore, <i>Lallah Rookh</i> ; Maria Edgeworth, <i>Ormond</i>	Famine and typhoid fever epidemic	S. T. Coleridge, <i>Biographia Literaria</i> ; James Mill, <i>The History of British India</i> ; John Keats, <i>Poems</i>	Venezuelan independence confirmed; First Seminole War begins in the United States (-1818)
1818	Sydney Owenson, <i>Florence MacCarthy</i>		William Blake, <i>Jerusalem</i> ; John Keats, <i>Endymion</i> ; Walter Scott, <i>Rob Roy</i> ; Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>	British defeat the Maratha Empire in India to secure the Gangetic plain; Chile declares independence
1820	Charles Maturin, <i>Melmoth the Wanderer</i>	Accession of George IV; death of Henry Grattan	Thomas Malthus, <i>Principles of Political Economy</i> ; P. B. Shelley, <i>Prometheus Unbound</i>	

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| 1823 | Royal Hibernian Academy (of Art) founded | Catholic Association founded | James Fenimore Cooper, <i>The Pioneers</i> | The Monroe Doctrine prevents new European colonial settlements in Western hemisphere |
| 1824 | Thomas Moore, <i>Memoirs of Captain Rock</i> ; T. C. Croker, <i>Researches in the South of Ireland</i> | | James Hogg, <i>Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner</i> | British invasion of Upper Burma (–1826) |
| 1825 | William Thompson and Anne Wheeler, <i>An Appeal of One Half of the Human Race, Women, against the Pretensions of the Other half; Men, to Retain them in Political, ... Slavery</i> ; J. and M. Banim, <i>Tales of the O'Hara Family</i> (–1826); T. C. Croker, <i>Fairy Legends and Traditions of the South of Ireland</i> | Ordnance Survey commences (–1841) | Alessandro Manzoni, <i>The Betrothed</i> (–1827); William Hazlitt, <i>The Spirit of the Age</i> | John Franklin begins Arctic explorations to find a north-west passage to Asia and the Pacific; Upper Peru establishes itself as Bolivia |
| 1826 | John Banim, <i>The Boyne Water</i> | | James Fenimore Cooper, <i>The Last of the Mohicans</i> ; William Hazlitt, <i>The Plain Speaker</i> | |
| 1829 | Gerald Griffin, <i>The Collegians</i> | Catholic Emancipation | Walter Scott, <i>Waverley Novels</i> , 48 vols. (–1833) | Sati abolished in Bengal |
| 1830 | William Carleton, <i>Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry</i> , 1st series | Accession of William IV | Stendhal, <i>The Red and the Black</i> ; Founding of Royal Geographic Society in London | |

(cont.)

Year	Irish cultural and intellectual events	Irish history	International cultural and intellectual events	International history
1831	James Hardiman (ed.), <i>Irish Minstrelsy</i> ; Thomas Moore, <i>The Life and Death of Lord Edward Fitzgerald</i>	State-directed system of National Education introduced	Edgar Allan Poe, <i>Poems</i>	Mazzini founds Young Italy movement; Jamaican slave revolt; Darwin voyages on HMS <i>Beagle</i> to South America, New Zealand and Australia
1832	John Banim, <i>The Denounced</i> ; or, <i>the Last Baron of Crana</i>	Cholera outbreak in Belfast and Dublin spreads across country	P. B. Shelley, <i>The Masque of Anarchy</i> ; Robert Southey, <i>Essays, Moral and Political</i>	Great Reform Act passed by British parliament
1833	<i>Dublin University Magazine</i> founded (–1877); Jonah Barrington, <i>Rise and Fall of the Irish Nation</i> ; George Petrie, <i>Essay on the Round Towers of Ireland</i>		Charles Lamb, <i>The Last Essays of Elia</i> ; Alexandr Pushkin, <i>Eugene Onegin</i>	Abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire; American Anti-Slavery Society founded
1837	S. Mahony, <i>Reliques of Father Prout</i>	Death of William IV; Victoria succeeds to British throne	Ralph Waldo Emerson, ‘The American Scholar’; Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>Twice-Told Tales</i>	Accession of Queen Victoria; revolts in Lower and Upper Canada
1839	T. C. Croker, <i>Popular Songs of Ireland</i>	The Custody of Infants Act		
1840	Thomas Moore, <i>The Poetical Works of Thomas Moore</i> (10 vols.) (–1841)	Daniel O’Connell’s Repeal Association established	Robert Browning, <i>Sordello</i>	Treaty of Waitangi establishes British control over New Zealand

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| 1841 | Frederic William Burton, <i>The Aran Fisherman's Drowned Child</i> | Daniel O'Connell elected lord mayor of Dublin | Thomas Carlyle, <i>On Heroes, Hero-Worship and the Heroic in History</i> ; Ralph Waldo Emerson, <i>Essays, First Series</i> | New Zealand recognised as a British colony; British proclaim sovereignty over Hong Kong |
| 1842 | R. Madden, <i>Lives and Times of the United Irishmen</i> , 7 vols. (–1846) | College of All Hallows established to educate Catholic missionaries | Death of Stendhal; Giuseppe Verdi, <i>Nabucco</i> | Treaty of Nanking ends Opium War, confirming the cession of Hong Kong to Britain |
| 1843 | W. M. Thackeray, <i>Irish Sketchbook</i> | Monster repeal meetings in Trim and Tara; Clontarf meeting proclaimed | Thomas Carlyle, <i>Past and Present</i> ; Søren Kierkegaard, <i>Either/Or</i> ; John Ruskin, <i>Modern Painters</i> | Maori revolts against British settlement in New Zealand |
| 1844 | Queen's University of Ireland (colleges in Cork, Galway and Belfast) opened; T. C. Croker, <i>The Keen in the South of Ireland</i> | | Søren Kierkegaard, <i>The Concept of Dread</i> ; Dumas père, <i>The Three Musketeers</i> ; Ralph Waldo Emerson, <i>Essays, Second Series</i> | |
| 1845 | Charles Gavan Duffy, <i>The Ballad Poetry of Ireland</i> | The Great Famine (–1848) | Friedrich Engels, <i>The Condition of the Working-Class in England</i> ; Benjamin Disraeli, <i>Sybil; or, The Two Nations</i> ; Edgar Allan Poe, <i>The Raven and Other Poems</i> ; Domingo F. Sarmiento, <i>Facundo</i> ; Richard Wagner, <i>Tannhäuser</i> | First British–Sikh War in India; USA annexes Texas |

(cont.)

Year	Irish cultural and intellectual events	Irish history	International cultural and intellectual events	International history
1846	James Clarence Mangan, 'Siberia' and 'The Dark Rosaleen'; Thomas Davis, <i>Literary and Historical Essays and The Poems of Thomas Davis</i>		Honoré de Balzac, <i>Cousin Bette</i> ; Herman Melville, <i>Typee</i>	Treaty of Lahore ends First Sikh War; Seventh Kaffir War begins in South Africa; Repeal of the Corn Laws ends protectionism; Mexican War (-1848)
1847	Anthony Trollope, <i>The Macdermots of Ballycloran</i>	Daniel O'Connell dies in Genoa	Emily Brontë, <i>Wuthering Heights</i> ; Charlotte Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i> ; Herman Melville, <i>Moo</i>	Liberia declared a settlement territory for freed slaves, though under US protection
1848	J. O'Donovan (ed.), <i>Annals of the Four Masters</i> (1848-51); William Carleton, <i>The Emigrants of Ahadarra</i>	Young Ireland Rising	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, <i>The Communist Manifesto</i> ; J. S. Mill, <i>Principles of Political Economy</i> ; Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>Mary Barton</i> ; W. M. Thackeray, <i>Vanity Fair</i> ; Charles Dickens, <i>Dombey and Son</i> ;	Revolutions across Europe; Californian gold rush
1849	James Clarence Mangan, <i>The Poets and Poetry of Munster</i>		Herman Melville, <i>Redburn</i> ; Robert Browning, <i>Poems</i>	British annex Punjab
1850		Irish Tenant League founded	Alfred Tennyson, <i>In Memoriam</i> ; Charles Dickens, <i>David Copperfield</i> ; Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Scarlet Letter</i> ; Richard Wagner, <i>Lohengrin</i> ; Death of Balzac	

1851	Society for the Preservation and Publication of the Melodies of Ireland founded	Ecclesiastical titles act	Herman Melville, <i>Moby Dick</i> ; Giuseppe Verdi, <i>Rigoletto</i>	Great Exhibition opens in Crystal Palace, London
1852	William Wilde, <i>Irish Popular Superstitions</i>		Harriet Beecher Stowe, <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>	The South Africa Republic (the Transvaal) established
1854	John Mitchel, <i>Jail Journal</i>	Catholic University founded	Ernest Renan, 'La poésie des races Celtiques'; Henry David Thoreau, <i>Walden</i>	Crimean War (–1856)
1855	George Petrie, <i>The Petrie Collection of the Ancient Music of Ireland</i> , vol. I	Emmet Monument Association formed by Michael Doheny and John O'Mahony in New York	Richard Burton, <i>Pilgrimage to Mecca</i>	Britain begins war against Persia
1856	Irish Academy of Music founded		Gustave Flaubert, <i>Madame Bovary</i> ; Anthony Trollope, <i>Barchester Towers</i>	Natal established as a Crown Colony
1857	John Elliot Cairnes, <i>The Character and Logical Method of Political Economy</i>	Sectarian rioting in Belfast		Great Indian Rebellion, known as the Mutiny, begins
1858		Irish Republican Brotherhood founded		Government of India Act places sovereignty over India in hands of British monarch
1859	<i>Poems of James Clarence Mangan</i> (Introduction by John Mitchell)	Religious revival in Ulster; Fenian Brotherhood founded in New York; First number of <i>Irish Times</i>	Charles Darwin, <i>On the Origin of Species</i> ; George Eliot, <i>Adam Bede</i> ; Alfred Tennyson, <i>Idylls of the King</i> ; Samuel Smiles, <i>Self-Help</i> ; John Stuart Mill, <i>On Liberty</i>	Work on the Suez canal begins

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Year	Irish cultural and intellectual events	Irish history	International cultural and intellectual events	International history
1860	Dion Boucicault, <i>The Colleen Bawn</i>		Nathaniel Hawthorne, <i>The Marble Faun</i>	Outbreak of the Second Maori War (–1863); Treaty of Peking signed; Garibaldi's expedition to Sicily
1861	John Mitchell, <i>The Last Conquest of Ireland (Perhaps)</i> ; Edmund Falconer, <i>Peep O'Day</i>	Adair evictions at Derryveagh, Co. Donegal	Ivan Turgenev, <i>Fathers and Sons</i> ; Charles Dickens, <i>Great Expectations</i>	American Civil War breaks out; Vittorio Emanuele II becomes king of united Italy
1864	National Gallery of Ireland opened; Samuel Ferguson, <i>Lays of the Western Gael</i> ; Sheridan Le Fanu, <i>Uncle Silas</i> ; John Elliot Cairnes, <i>The Slave Power</i>	Contagious Diseases Act; foundation stone laid for John Henry Foley's statue to O'Connell	Fyodor Dostoyevsky, <i>Notes from Underground</i>	
1867	Meeting in Belfast of National Association for the Promotion of Social Science	Fenian Rising	Karl Marx, <i>Das Kapital</i> ; Matthew Arnold, <i>On the Study of Celtic Literature</i> ; Henrik Ibsen, <i>Peer Gynt</i> ; Emile Zola, <i>Thérèse Raquin</i>	First Vatican Council (–1870); British North American Act establishes the Dominion of Canada; diamonds discovered in South Africa
1869		Disestablishment of the Church of Ireland; Ladies National Association for the Repeal of the Contagious Disease Act formed in London (branches opened in Ireland by 1871)	Gustave Flaubert, <i>A Sentimental Education</i> ; John Stuart Mill, <i>On the Subjection of Women</i>	Opening of the Suez Canal

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| 1870 | <p>Marcus Clarke, <i>His Natural Life</i></p> <p>Home Rule Movement launched in Dublin; Gladstone's First Land Act; first public suffrage meeting in Dublin; Married Women's Property Act</p> <p>Fenian invasion of Canada</p> | <p>J. S. Mill, <i>Chapters and Speeches on the Irish Land Question</i>; Charles Dickens, <i>The Mystery of Edwin Drood</i>; <i>Revue Celtique</i> founded</p> <p>Edward Taylor, <i>Primitive Culture</i>; Charles Darwin, <i>The Descent of Man</i>; Giuseppe Verdi's <i>Aida</i> performed in Cairo</p> <p>Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>The Birth of Tragedy</i>; Jules Verne, <i>Around The World in Eighty Days</i></p> <p>Leo Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> (-1877)</p> <p>First Impressionist exhibition held in Paris; Modest Mussorgsky, <i>Boris Gudunov</i>; Richard Wagner, <i>Der Ring des Nibelungen</i></p> | <p>Franco-Prussian War</p> <p>The Commune; official foundation of Second German Reich, Otto von Bismarck in office as chancellor</p> <p>Asante Expedition leads to the creation of the Gold Coast as Crown Colony (-1874); famine in Bengal</p> <p>Queen Victoria proclaimed empress of India; Battle of the Little Bighorn</p> |
| 1871 | <p>Gaiety Theatre opens</p> | | |
| 1872 | <p>Samuel Ferguson, <i>Congal: An Epic Poem</i>; Charles Lever, <i>Lord Kilgobbin</i>; Nathaniel Hone, <i>Old Woman Gathering Sticks</i> (c. 1872)</p> <p>Charles Kickham, <i>Knocknagow</i></p> | | |
| 1873 | <p>Home Rule League founded</p> | | |
| 1874 | <p>Dion Boucicault, <i>The Shaughraun</i></p> | <p>59 Home Rule MP's Returned in General Election</p> | |
| 1876 | <p>Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language founded</p> | <p>Dublin Women's Suffrage Association founded</p> | |

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Year	Irish cultural and intellectual events	Irish history	International cultural and intellectual events	International history
1877	Dublin Metropolitan School of Art established; Margaret Anna Cusack, <i>A History of the Irish Nation</i> ; Annie Besant, <i>The Gospel of Atheism</i>	Parnell elected president of Home Rule Confederation of Great Britain and Ireland; Michael Davitt released from Dartmoor; Society of African Missions founded	Henry James, <i>The Europeans</i>	Revolt of Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce; famine in Bengal; Britain annexes the Transvaal
1878	Standish O'Grady, <i>History of Ireland: The Heroic Period</i>		Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>Human, All Too Human</i>	Paris World Exposition; Gold Standard established in Europe
1879	Standish O'Grady, <i>Early Bardic Literature, Ireland</i>	National Land League founded; campaign to extend Royal University Act to women	Henrik Ibsen, <i>A Doll's House</i> ; Henry James, <i>Daisy Miller</i>	The British–Zulu War; <i>La Marseillaise</i> becomes French national anthem; Spanish prime minister frees all Cuban slaves
1883	Anthony Trollope, <i>The Land Leaguers</i> ; Rosa Mulholland, <i>The Wild Birds of Kileevy</i> ; Charlotte Riddell, <i>A Struggle for Fame</i>		Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>Thus Spake Zarathustra</i> (–1892); J. R. Sceley, <i>The Expansion of England</i> ; R. L. Stevenson, <i>Treasure Island</i> ; Olive Schreiner, <i>The Story of an African Farm</i> ; Guy de Maupussant, <i>A Life</i>	
1884	Gaelic Athletic Association founded	Fenian dynamite campaign in Great Britain	Joris-Karl Huysmans, <i>A rebours</i> ; Mark Twain, <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> ; G. A. Henry, <i>With Clive in India</i>	Convention in London confirms independence of Transvaal; Germany occupies South-West Africa

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| 1886 | George Moore, <i>A Drama in Muslin</i> ; Emily Lawless, <i>Hurricane</i> ; Standish O'Grady, <i>Toryism and the Tory Democracy</i> ; Rosa Mulholland, <i>Marcella Grace</i> | Contagious Diseases Act repealed; Gladstone presents Home Rule Bill to House of Commons | Friedrich Nietzsche, <i>Beyond Good and Evil</i> ; Henry James, <i>The Bostonians</i> and <i>The Princess Casamassima</i> ; R. L. Stevenson, <i>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> | Britain annexes Upper Burma; opening of Statue of Liberty in New York |
| 1888 | W. B. Yeats, <i>Fairy and Folk Tales of the Irish Peasantry</i> ; <i>Poems and Ballads of Young Ireland</i> ; John Kells Ingram, <i>A History of Political Economy</i> ; Oscar Wilde, <i>The Happy Prince and other Stories</i> | W. B. Yeats, <i>The Wanderings of Ossin</i> | First International Folklore Congress held in Paris; August Strindberg, <i>Miss Julie</i> ; Henry James, <i>The Aspern Papers</i> | Brazil abolishes slavery |
| 1889 | W. B. Yeats, <i>The Wanderings of Ossin</i> | Pigott forgeries, attempting to blacken the reputation of Charles Stewart Parnell, exposed | Cecil Rhodes launches the British South Africa Company; Eiffel Tower completed | Cecil Rhodes launches the British South Africa Company; Eiffel Tower completed |
| 1890 | Belfast City Art Gallery opened; Jeremiah Curtin, <i>Myrtis and Folklore of Ireland</i> ; Douglas Hyde, <i>Beside the Fires</i> ; T. W. Rolleston, ed., <i>Prose Writings of Thomas Davis</i> | Fall of Parnell, split in the Irish Parliamentary Party; Opening of National Library and of Science and Art Museum | J. G. Frazer, <i>The Golden Bough</i> ; Henrik Ibsen, <i>Hedda Gabler</i> ; Emily Dickinson, <i>Poems</i> ; Peter Tchaikovsky, <i>Queen of Spades</i> | The dismissal of Bismarck; Eritrea becomes Italian colony; US Bureau of Census declares the American frontier closed |

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1891	Oscar Wilde, <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> and <i>The Soul of Man under Socialism</i> ; George Bernard Shaw, <i>The Quintessence of Ibsenism</i>	Death of Parnell; John Redmond becomes leader of the Parnellites	Thomas Hardy, <i>Tess of the d'Urbervilles</i> ; José Martí, 'Our America'; Paul Gauguin goes to live in Tahiti; Sherlock Holmes stories begin in <i>Strand</i> magazine	Franco-Russian Entente
1892	National Literary Society founded; W. B. Yeats and Lady Gregory, <i>Countess Cathleen</i> ; W. E. H. Lecky, <i>A History of Ireland in the Eighteenth Century</i> , 4 vols.; Douglas Hyde, 'On the Necessity for De-Anglicising Ireland'	Ulster Convention in Belfast; Belfast Labour Party (first Irish labour party) formed	A. Conan Doyle, <i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i> ; Rudyard Kipling, <i>Barrack-Room Ballads</i>	Keir Hardie becomes first British Labour MP; First Pan-Slav conference held at Cracow
1893	Gaelic League founded; Oscar Wilde, <i>Salomé</i> ; W. B. Yeats, <i>The Celtic Twilight</i> ; Douglas Hyde, <i>Love Songs of Connacht</i> ; George Moore, <i>The Strike at Arlingford</i>	Gladstone introduces Second Home Rule Bill; disturbances in Belfast; Home Rule Bill passes in House of Commons; Trades Union Congress meets in Belfast	William Morris, <i>Socialism: Its Growth and Outcome</i>	World Exhibition in Chicago; Natal granted responsible self-government; Swaziland annexed by the Transvaal
1894	Sommerville and Ross, <i>The Real Charlotte</i> ; George Moore, <i>Esther Waters</i> ; Jeremiah Curtin, <i>Hero-Tales of Ireland</i>	Horace Plunkett founds Irish Agricultural Organisation Society; first Irish Trade Union Congress	Claude Debussy, <i>L'Après-midi d'un Faune</i> ; Gustav Mahler, <i>Resurrection Symphony</i>	The conviction of Dreyfus for treason; Alfred Webb, MP for Waterford West, elected president of Indian National Congress

- 1895 Douglas Hyde, *The Story of Early Gaelic Literature*; Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Ernest*; John Kells Ingram, *A History of Slavery and Serfdom*
- 1896 Kuno Meyer founds *Zeitschrift für Celtische Philologie*; Sommerville and Ross, *Some Experiences of an Irish R. M.*
- 1897 Irish Literary Theatre founded; Bram Stoker, *Dracula*; George Sigerson, *Bards of the Gael and Gall*; Oscar Wilde, *De Profundis* (published 1905)
- 1898 Oscar Wilde, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*
- First film projection by the Lumière Brothers; Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* and *The Wessex Novels* (16 vols. –1896); Joseph Conrad, *Almayer's Folly*; H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine*; Marie Corelli, *The Sorrows of Satan*
- Anton Chekhov, *The Seagull*
- Irish Socialist Republican Party founded, secretary James Connolly
- First Irish céilí held at Bloomsbury Hall in London
- Local government vote granted to women
- The Jameson Raid into the Transvaal Republic; Guglielmo Marconi invents telegraphy; Roentgen's discovery of X-rays; The trial of Oscar Wilde
- Italian forces defeated by Abyssinians at Adowa; Kitchener begins reconquest of Sudan; Klondike gold rush commences in Canada
- Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee; widespread famine in India; First Zionist Congress launches the Basle Programme to resettle Jewish people in Palestine; World Zionist Organisation established
- Kitchener fights Battle of Omdurman against the Mahdists to avenge Gordon; the Fashoda Incident; the Curries discover radium and plutonium
- Rudyard Kipling, 'Recessional'; James, *What Maisie Knew*; Mary Kingsley, *Travels in West Africa*
- Emile Zola, 'J'Accuse'; Thomas Hardy, *Wessex Poems*; Henry James, *The Turn of the Screw*

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1899	Douglas Hyde, <i>A Literary History of Ireland</i> ; W. B. Yeats, <i>The Wind Among the Reeds</i> ; F. N. Finck, <i>Die araner Mundart</i> ; <i>The Countess Cathleen</i> staged	Catholic Truth Society of Ireland founded	Joseph Conrad, <i>Heart of Darkness</i> ; Rudyard Kipling, 'The White Man's Burden'; Anton Chekhov, <i>Uncle Vanya</i> ; Leo Tolstoy, <i>Resurrection</i> ; Thorstein Veblen, <i>Theory of the Leisure Class</i>	Outbreak of the Boer War (-1902)
1900	First number of D. P. Moran's <i>The Leader</i> ; Alice Milligan, <i>The Last of the Fianna</i>	Cumann na nGaedheal founded (later becomes Sinn Féin); first meeting of Inghinidhe na hÉireann	Joseph Conrad, <i>Lord Jim</i> ; Sigmund Freud, <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> ; Giacomo Puccini, <i>Tosca</i>	Nigeria becomes a British Protectorate; 'Boxer Rebellion' in China
1901	Lady Gregory (ed.), <i>Ideals in Ireland</i> ; Canon Sheehan, <i>Luke Delmege</i>	Queen Victoria succeeded by Edward VII	August Strindberg, <i>Dance of Death</i> ; Anton Chekov, <i>Three Sisters</i> ; Rudyard Kipling, <i>Kim</i>	Australian Federation established; death of Queen Victoria
1902	W. B. Yeats, <i>Cathleen ni Houlihan</i> ; Lady Gregory, <i>Cuchulainn of Muirthemne</i> ; John B. Yeats, <i>George Moore</i>	Emergence of Ulster branch of Irish Literary Theatre	André Gide, <i>The Immoralist</i> ; J. A. Hobson, <i>Imperialism</i> ; Euclides da Cunha, <i>Rebellion in the Backlands</i>	The South African War ends; death of Cecil Rhodes