The Cambridge History of the English Short Story is the first comprehensive volume to capture the literary history of the English short story. Charting the origins and generic evolution of the English short story to the present day, this is the first history of its kind to present the development of the genre. There is no other single book that provides such an overview.

Written by international experts in the field, this book covers numerous transnational and historical connections between writers, modes and forms of transmission.

Suitable for English Literature students and scholars of the English short story generally, it will become a standard work of reference in its field.

Dominic Head is Professor of Modern English Literature at the University of Nottingham, where he served as Head of School from 2007 to 2010. He has written extensively on twentieth-century and contemporary literature and is the author of The Modernist Short Story (Cambridge University Press, 1992), The Cambridge Introduction to Modern British Fiction, 1950–2000 (Cambridge University Press, 2002) and editor of The Cambridge Guide to Literature in English, third edition (Cambridge University Press, 2006).
THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY
OF THE
ENGLISH SHORT STORY

Edited by

DOMINIC HEAD
Contents

List of Contributors page ix
Acknowledgements x
A Note on the Texts xi

Introduction 1
dominic head

1 · Early-Modern Diversity: The Origins of English Short Fiction 16
barbara korte

2 · Short Prose Narratives of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries 32
donald j. newman

3 · Gothic and Victorian Supernatural Tales 49
jessica cox

4 · The Victorian Potboiler: Novelists Writing Short Stories 67
sophie gilmartin

5 · Fable, Myth and Folk Tale: The Writing of Oral and Traditional Story Forms 84
andrew harrison

6 · The Colonial Short Story, Adventure and the Exotic 100
robert hampson

7 · The Yellow Book Circle and the Culture of the Literary Magazine 118
winnie chan
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The Modernist Short Story: Fractured Perspectives</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cläre Drewery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>War Stories: The Short Story in the First and Second World Wars</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ann-Marie Einhaus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>The Short Story in Ireland to 1945: A National Literature</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heather Ingman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>The Short Story in Ireland since 1945: A Modernizing Tradition</td>
<td>185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Heather Ingman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>The Short Story in Scotland: From Oral Tale to Dialectal Style</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timothy C. Baker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>The Short Story in Wales: Cultivated Regionalism</td>
<td>219</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jane Aaron</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>The Understated Art, English Style</td>
<td>235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dean Baldwin</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>The Rural Tradition in the English Short Story</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dominic Head</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Metropolitan Modernity: Stories of London</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Neal Alexander</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Gender and Genre: Short Fiction, Feminism and Female Experience</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sabine Coelsch-Foisner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Queer Short Stories: An Inverted History</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brett Josef Grubisic and Carellin Brooks</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Stories of Jewish Identity: Survivors, Exiles and Cosmopolitans</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Axel Stähler</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>New Voices: Multicultural Short Stories</td>
<td>341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abigail Ward</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

21 · Settler Stories: Postcolonial Short Fiction 358
   VICTORIA KUTTAIENN

22 · After Empire: Postcolonial Short Fiction and the Oral Tradition 377
   JOHN THIEME

23 · Ghost Stories and Supernatural Tales 395
   RUTH ROBBINS

24 · The Detective Story: Order from Chaos 411
   ANDREW MAUNDER

25 · Frontiers: Science Fiction and the British Marketplace 429
   PAUL MARCH-RUSSELL

26 · Weird Stories: The Potency of Horror and Fantasy 447
   ROGER LUCKHURST

27 · Experimentalism: Self-Reflexive and Postmodernist Stories 464
   DAVID JAMES

28 · Satirical Stories: Estrangement and Social Critique 481
   SANDIE BYRNE

29 · Comedic Short Fiction 498
   RICHARD BRADFORD

30 · Short Story Cycles: Between the Novel and the Story Collection 513
   GERALD LYNCH

31 · The Novella: Between the Novel and the Story 530
   GERRI KIMBER

32 · The Short Story Visualized: Adaptations and Screenplays 547
   LINDA COSTANZO CAHIR

33 · The Short Story Anthology: Shaping the Canon 564
   LYNDAL PRESCOTT

vii
Contents

34. The Institution of Creative Writing  581
   AILSA COX

35. Short Story Futures  598
   JULIAN MURPHET

Select Bibliography  615
Index  625
Contributors

Jane Aaron, University of South Wales
Neal Alexander, Aberystwyth University
Timothy C. Baker, University of Aberdeen
Dean Baldwin, Pennsylvania State University
Richard Bradford, University of Ulster
Carellin Brooks, University of British Columbia
Sandie Byrne, Kellogg College, Oxford
Linda Costanzo Cahir, Kean University
Winnie Chan, Virginia Commonwealth University
Sabine Coelsch-Foisner, University of Salzburg
Ailsa Cox, Edge Hill University
Jessica Cox, Brunel University London
Claire Drewery, Sheffield Hallam University
Ann-Marie Einhaus, Northumbria University
Sophie Gilmartin, Royal Holloway, University of London
Brett Josef Grubisic, University of British Columbia
Robert Hampson, Royal Holloway, University of London
Andrew Harrison, University of Nottingham
Dominic Head, University of Nottingham
Heather Ingham, Trinity College, the University of Dublin
David James, Queen Mary, University of London
Gerrit Kimber, University of Northampton
Barbara Korte, University of Freiburg
Victoria Kuttainen, James Cook University
Roger Luckhurst, Birkbeck College
Gerald Lynch, University of Ottawa
Paul March-Russell, University of Kent
Andrew Maunder, University of Hertfordshire
Julian Murphet, University of New South Wales
Donald J. Newman, retired professor of English
Lynda Prescott, The Open University
Ruth Robbins, Leeds Metropolitan University
Axel Stähler, University of Kent
John Thieme, University of East Anglia
Abigail Ward, University of Nottingham
Acknowledgements

The sure editorial hand of Ray Ryan has been invaluable throughout this project. I am also grateful to Victoria Parrin for her diligence in overseeing production as the Content Manager of the volume, and especially to Caroline Drake for her rigorous copy-editing.

Many thanks are due to the anonymous readers of the prospectus for this volume, and to the contributors, who have participated in a collaborative spirit over an extended period, with great patience, helping to realize the initial vision.

The greatest debt is to my family, Tricia, Felicity and Oliver.
A Note on the Texts

The date given for individual short stories is usually that of first book publication, unless it is clear from the discussion that the earlier publishing history is under consideration. There are some exceptions: for example, in the case of much later posthumous publication, the date of a story’s composition is given to retain the historical logic of a discussion. Italics are used for any individual story or novella first published in book form as a separate title.