Brian Friel, Ireland, and The North

After nearly five decades as one of Ireland's most celebrated playwrights, Brian Friel has been the subject of ten books and dozens of articles. This study expands Friel criticism into a sizeable body of new material and into a new interpretative direction. Along with considering Friel's most recent plays, the book analyzes his interviews and essays to chart the author's ideological evolution throughout a career of more than forty years. Moreover, a chapter is devoted to his previously ignored articles for the *Irish Press* (1962–1963), a series that reveals unsuspected insights into Friel's disposition towards the Irish Republic. Refining our understanding of Friel's relationship to Republicanism is central to the argument; rather than assuming that the author embraces nationalist ideology, the book relocates the conceptual concerns of his work away from Dublin and to "the North," this bridge between Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland.

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Brian Friel, Ireland, and The North

Scott Boltwood

Emory & Henry College, Virginia
For Mary Bell
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Abbreviations

The following abbreviations are used for frequently cited texts. A complete bibliographical listing for each work can be found in the Works Cited.

**Works by Brian Friel**

- **BFC**  *Brian Friel in Conversation*
- **CC**  *The Communication Cord*
- **CF**  *Crystal and Fox*
- **CM**  *The Loves of Cass McGuire*
- **DL**  *Dancing at Lughnasa*
- **EW**  *The Enemy Within*
- **EDI**  *Essays, Diaries, Interviews: 1964–1999*
- **GI**  *The Gentle Island*
- **Give**  *Give Me Your Answer, Do!*
- **HP**  *The Home Place*
- **LV**  *The London Vertigo*
- **MH**  *Making History*
- **MS**  *Molly Sweeney*
- **Mundy**  *The Mundy Scheme*
- **P**  *Performances*
- **SP**  *Selected Plays*
- **TPA**  *Three Plays After*
- **Vol**  *Volunteers*
- **WT**  *Wonderful Tennessee*
List of abbreviations

Major critical studies on Brian Friel

Andrews  Andrews, Elmer, *The Art of Brian Friel*
Corbett  Corbett, Tony, *Brian Friel*
Dantanus Dantanus, Ulf, *Brian Friel*
Maxwell  Maxwell, D. E. S., *Brian Friel*
McGrath  McGrath, F. C., *Brian Friel's (Post) Colonial Drama*
O’Brien  O’Brien, George, *Brian Friel*
Pine    Pine, Richard, *The Diviner*