Contents

Acknowledgements

Introduction

The Literary Revival: historical perspectives

Joyce’s magic lantern

Music: the cultural issue

Modernism and revolution: rereading Yeats’s ‘Easter 1916’

Shakespeare and the Irish self

Irish literature and the Great War

Ireland, Modernism and the 1930s

Post-modernists: Samuel Beckett and Flann O’Brien

Patrick Kavanagh: religious poet

MacNeice’s Irelands: MacNeice’s islands

Louis MacNeice and the Second World War

MacNeice and the puritan tradition

John Hewitt and memory: a reflection

Michael Longley and the Irish poetic tradition

Seamus Heaney: the witnessing eye and the speaking tongue

Derek Mahon: the poet and painting

Telling tales: Kennelly’s Cromwell and Muldoon’s ‘The More a Man Has the More a Man Wants’
Contents

18 Redeeming the time: John McGahern and John Banville 225
19 ‘Have we a context?': transition, self and society in the theatre of Brian Friel 239
20 Hubert Butler and nationalism 252
21 The Irish Dylan Thomas: versions and influences 260

Index 273