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978-0-521-47433-7 - Women and Philanthropy in Nineteenth-Century Ireland

Maria Luddy

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This book represents a new departure in Irish history providing the first comprehensive examination of the role of women in philanthropy in nineteenth-century Ireland. The author focuses on the impact of religion on the lives of women and argues that the development of convents in the nineteenth century inhibited the involvement of lay Catholic women in charity work. Sectarianism was a dominating feature of women's philanthropic activity and this is most clearly evident in women's work with children. The author also analyses the work of women in areas of moral concern such as prostitution, prison and temperance work. The book concludes by examining the links between philanthropy and politics arguing that non-conformist rather than Catholic women were to the fore in reformist organisations which sought social and political change in Irish Society. This study makes an important contribution both to Irish history and to our knowledge of women's lives and experiences in the nineteenth century.

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IRELAND

MARIA LUDDY

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*For my parents  
Simon and Rose*

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## *Abbreviations*

CAI	Cork Archives Institute
DDA	Dublin Diocesan Archives
<i>EWJ</i>	<i>Englishwoman's Journal</i>
<i>EWR</i>	<i>Englishwoman's Review</i>
GSC	Good Shepherd Convent
HC	House of Commons Papers
MC	Mercy Convent
NLI	National Library of Ireland
PRO	Public Records Office
PRONI	Public Record Office, Northern Ireland
RCB	Representative Church Body Library
RCPI	Royal College of Physicians of Ireland
RSC	Religious Sisters of Charity
RSC/G	Religious Sisters of Charity, Generalate