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978-0-521-84302-7 - Between Spenser and Swift: English

Writing in Seventeenth-Century Ireland

Deana Rankin

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BETWEEN SPENSER AND SWIFT

While recent studies of Edmund Spenser and Jonathan Swift have firmly relocated both writers in their Irish as well as their English context, English writing in Ireland between these monolithic figures has been largely neglected. This study is the first to explore in detail the literary territory between Spenser and Swift. Examining a range of texts, from fragments to sophisticated publications such as economic improvement manuals, histories, plays, romances and poems, Deana Rankin demonstrates how writers in Ireland articulated the transition from soldier to settler across this century of war and political turmoil. She illuminates both centre and periphery by revealing for the first time the richness of English writing in Ireland during the period and its sustained engagement with canonical English literature, including the work of Shakespeare, Sidney and Milton. Historians and literary scholars will find much to discover in this significant new contribution to early modern British studies.

DEANA RANKIN is Fellow and Director of Studies in English at Girton College, Cambridge. She has previously worked as a theatre manager and a Director of the Southern Arts Board, and has published articles on early modern English and Irish literature.

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*For Trevor, my father,
and in memory of Lottie, my mother*

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Acknowledgements

This book has taken shape in a world of outbreaks and cessations, ceasefires and talks about talks. The seed was planted some years ago at a seminar led by Edward Said and Victor Kiernan at a conference of the Twenty First Century Trust. It was encouraged by conversations with Bernard O'Donoghue, Patricia Coughlan, Declan Kiberd and Robert Welch; it eventually took root as an Oxford doctoral thesis on military writing in seventeenth-century Ireland, nurtured by the generous support of the British Academy and St John's College, Oxford.

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Abbreviations

Abbott	W. C. Abbott (ed.), <i>The Writings and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell</i> , 4 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, [1937–1947] 1988)
Baker and Maley (eds.), <i>BI</i>	D. J. Baker and W. Maley (eds.), <i>British Identities and English Renaissance Literature</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)
Barber and Ellis (eds.), <i>CU</i>	S. Barber and S. Ellis (eds.), <i>Conquest and Union: Fashioning a British State, 1485–1725</i> (London: Longman, 1995)
Barnard, <i>CI</i>	T. C. Barnard, <i>Cromwellian Ireland: English Government and Reform in Ireland, 1649–1660</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, [1975] 2000)
<i>Ben Jonson</i>	C. H. Herford, P. and E. Simpson (eds.), <i>Ben Jonson</i> , 11 vols. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1925–52)
<i>Bib. Soc. Ireland</i>	<i>Journal of the Bibliographical Society of Ireland</i>
Bod	Bodleian Library
BL	British Library
Bradshaw <i>et al.</i> (eds.), <i>RI</i>	B. Bradshaw, A. Hadfield and W. Maley (eds.), <i>Representing Ireland: Literature and the Origins of Conflict, 1534–1660</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993)
Brady and Gillespie (eds.), <i>NN</i>	C. Brady and R. Gillespie (eds.), <i>Natives and Newcomers: Essays on the Making of an Irish Colonial Society, 1534–1641</i> (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 1986)
Canny, <i>MIB</i>	N. Canny, <i>Making Ireland British, 1580–1650</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001)
<i>CSPD</i>	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series</i>

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CSPI	<i>Calendar of State Papers, Ireland</i>
Dix	E. R. McClintock Dix, <i>Catalogue of Early Dublin-printed Books, 1601–1700</i> , 4 vols. (Dublin, 1898–1912)
DNB	<i>Dictionary of National Biography</i>
EHR	<i>English Historical Review</i>
ELH	<i>English Literary History</i>
Gardiner, HC	S. R. Gardiner, <i>History of the Commonwealth and Protectorate, 1649–1656</i> , 4 vols. (Adlestrop: Windrush Press, [1903] 1988–89)
Gilbert (ed.), <i>Contemporary History</i>	J. T. Gilbert (ed.), <i>A Contemporary History of Affairs in Ireland from A.D. 1641 to 1652 containing [...] an ‘Aphorismical Discovery of Treasonable Faction’</i> , 3 vols. (Dublin: Irish Archaeological and Celtic Society, 1879–80)
Gilbert (ed.), <i>Irish Confederation</i>	J. T. Gilbert (ed.), <i>History of the Irish Confederation and the War in Ireland, 1641–49</i> , 7 vols. (Dublin: Irish Archaeological and Celtic Society, 1882–91)
HJ	<i>The Historical Journal</i>
HWJ	<i>History Workshop Journal</i>
IHS	<i>Irish Historical Studies</i>
Knowler	W. Knowler (ed.), <i>The Earle of Strafforde’s Letters and Dispatches with an essay towards his Life by Sir George Radcliffe</i> , 2 vols. (London, 1739)
MacCuarta (ed.), <i>Ulster 1641</i>	B. MacCuarta (ed.), <i>Ulster 1641: Aspects of the Rising</i> (Belfast: Institute of Irish Studies, [1993] 1997)
Milton, <i>Works</i>	F. Patterson (ed.), <i>The Works of John Milton</i> , 18 vols. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1931–38)
Norbrook, WER	D. Norbrook, <i>Writing the English Republic: Poetry, Rhetoric and Politics, 1627–1660</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999)
Ohlmeyer (ed.), <i>IIO</i>	J. H. Ohlmeyer (ed.), <i>Ireland from Independence to Occupation, 1641–1660</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995)

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Ohlmeyer (ed.), <i>PTSI</i>	J. H. Ohlmeyer (ed.), <i>Political Thought in Seventeenth-century Ireland: Kingdom or Colony</i> (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000)
Ó Siochrú, <i>CI</i> , <i>1642–1649</i>	M. Ó Siochrú, <i>Confederate Ireland 1642–1649: A Constitutional and Political Analysis</i> (Dublin: Four Courts, 1999)
Ó Siochrú (ed.), <i>KC</i>	M. Ó Siochrú (ed.), <i>Kingdoms in Crisis: Ireland in the 1640s. Essays in Honour of Donal Cregan</i> (Dublin: Four Courts, 2001)
Patterson, <i>C&I</i>	A. Patterson, <i>Censorship and Interpretation: The Conditions of Writing and Reading in Early Modern England</i> (London and Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1984)
<i>PMLA</i>	<i>Proceedings of the Modern Language Association</i>
<i>RES</i>	<i>Review of English Studies</i>
<i>RIA</i>	Royal Irish Academy
Shirley, <i>Works</i>	A. Dyce and W. Gifford (eds.), <i>The Dramatic Works and Poems of James Shirley</i> , 6 vols. (New York: Columbia University Press, 1966)
Smith, <i>LR</i>	N. Smith, <i>Literature and Revolution in England, 1640–1660</i> (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1994)
Spenser, <i>View</i>	E. Spenser, <i>A View of the State of Ireland</i> , ed. A. Hadfield and W. Maley (Oxford: Blackwell, 1997)
<i>STC</i>	A. W. Pollard and G. R. Redgrave, <i>A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475–1640</i> , second edition, 3 vols. (London, 1976–91)
<i>TCD</i>	Trinity College, Dublin
Wing	D. Wing, <i>Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America and of English Books printed in Other Countries 1641–1700</i> , second edition, 3 vols. (New York, 1972–94)