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978-1-107-00951-6 - A Cultural History of the Irish Novel, 1790–1829

Claire Connolly

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A CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE IRISH NOVEL, 1790–1829

Claire Connolly offers a cultural history of the Irish novel in the period between the radical decade of the 1790s and the gaining of Catholic Emancipation in 1829. These decades saw the emergence of a group of talented Irish writers who developed and advanced such innovative forms as the national tale and the historical novel: fictions that took Ireland as their topic and setting, and which often imagined its history via domestic plots that addressed wider issues of dispossession and inheritance. Their openness to contemporary politics, as well as to recent historiography, antiquarian scholarship, poetry, song, plays and memoirs, produced a series of notable fictions, marked most of all by their ability to fashion from these resources a new vocabulary of cultural identity. This book extends and enriches the current understanding of Irish Romanticism, blending sympathetic textual analysis of the fiction with careful historical contextualisation.

CLAIRE CONNOLLY is Professor of English Literature at Cardiff University.

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For Maura Cullinan

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