

Werner Huber, Michael Böss,
Catherine Mignant, Hedwig Schwall (eds.)

IRELAND

REPRESENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

Irish Studies in Europe

Edited by

Michael Böss, Werner Huber, Catherine Mignant, Hedwig Schwall

Volume

1

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REPRESENTATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

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Ireland: Representation and Responsibility

Werner Huber, Michael Böss,
Catherine Maignant, Hedwig Schwall (eds.)
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PREFACE

Irish Studies in Europe is the title of a new series of publications in Irish Studies. As the first two words of the title suggest, the projected thematic and methodological range of this series goes well beyond literary studies to include also aspects of social and cultural studies – in the most neutral sense, i.e. cultural studies as an advance over traditional academic disciplines such as, for example, *civilisation* or *Landeskunde*. The focus is, of course, on the island of Ireland (the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland) as well as the Irish diaspora in all aspects of society, history, culture, literature, the arts, and the media.

The “European” dimension suggested by the title gives expression to a preferred, but by no means exclusive concentration on (mainland) European perspectives on Irish Studies. It is hoped that such, as it were, “etic” approaches in their detachment contribute a special dimension to the progress of Irish Studies at large and document the variety of European traditions of Irish Studies as inter- and multidisciplinary fields of research and teaching. Thus, the programme of this series is a reflection of the objectives of *The European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies (EFACIS)*, under whose aegis the series is published.

EFACIS was founded in 1998 with the express aim of supporting the expansion of Irish Studies (in the wider sense as emphasised above) throughout Europe. It is an affiliation of national and regional associations and centres but also of individual scholars of Irish Studies. Under the directorship of its founding father, Paul Brennan† (Paris), and successive presidents Catherine Mignant (Lille), Michael Böss (Aarhus), and Scott Brewster (Salford), the most visible result of *EFACIS* activities so far has been a series of conferences which explored the facets of the new and changing Ireland in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century, as can be gathered from the list of programmatic conference themes: “Aspects of Ireland: Yesterday and Today” (Lille, 1998), “Ireland and Europe: Interchanges” (Paris, 1999), “Ireland and Europe in Times of Re-Orientation and Re-Imagining” (Aarhus, 2001), “Ireland: Representation and Responsibility” (Braga, 2003), “Place and Memory in the New Ireland” (Gothenburg, 2005).

EFACIS has also brought together graduate students and lecturers from all over Europe to participate in so-called Intensive Programmes in Irish Studies and discuss “Politics and Patronage: National and Regional Identities and their Representation in Irish Culture” at the Catholic University of Leuven/Louvain in September 2000 and at the Université Charles de Gaulle Lille 3 in September 2001. Many participants in these programmes have since made good academic progress. It is hoped that this new series will also prove a useful platform for the advancement of Irish Studies.

The Editors

Michael Böss

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