## Contents

Acknowledgements Abbreviations	ix xi
Chapter 1 The Harp Without the Crown Outline	1 10
Part One: Defining Contexts	
Chapter 2 The Hybrid Character of Modern Irish Writing	25
History	25
Language	33
Representation	39
Culture	47
Chapter 3 The Great Famine and Modern Irish Culture	55
Spenser's Elizabethan View	57
Nineteenth-Century Observers	60
The Famine and the Revival	67
O'Flaherty's Famine (1937)	71
The Famine and the Poets	73
Staging the Famine	78
Concluding Remarks	81
Chapter 4 The Impact of Cultural Nationalism	91
What ish My Nation?	91
What is a Nation?	99
Do Nations Have Navels?	101
1890s: Winds of Change	106
English As We Speak It in Ireland	109
From Gael to Gall	115

1920s: Then It Was All Over	117
Concluding Remarks	122
Part Two: Fields of Play	
Chapter 5 Yeats's Reveries on the Easter Rising	127
Reveries Over Childhood and Youth	127
'Easter 1916'	133
Troubling the Living Stream	134
Cultural Versus Political Nationalism	137
Gender and Nationalism	147
Concluding Remarks	151
Chapter 6 Beyond a Boundary: James Joyce and Cricket	155
A Useful Bat	155
Cricket in A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man	162
Cricket and the Colonial Encounter	165
Postscript: The Crying Game	170
Part Three: Changing Perspectives	
Chapter 7 Ireland in the 1930s	177
De Valera's Ireland	177
The Wild West Show	193
Recovering the Self	201
The War Years and After	209
Concluding Remarks	215
Chapter 8 Ireland in the 1980s	219
The Same Renew	219
Bodily Secrets	224
Killallwho	239
Troubles Fiction	252
Chapter 9 Conclusion	261
Distant Music or Unfinished Business?	261
John McGahern: A Parting Glass	280
Notes	288
Select Bibliography	321
Index	338