# Contents

**Acknowledgments** ix

**Abbreviations** x

**Introduction** xi

1 Biography: Brian, Flann, Myles 1

2 Early Writing: Brother Barnabas and Other Celebrities 38

3 'The Story-Teller's Book-Web': *At Swim-Two-Birds* 76

4 Bicycles and Eternity: *The Third Policeman* 151

5 'Our Gaelic Satirist': *Cruiskeen Lawn* 182

6 Gaeilgeoirí, Politicians and the Devil: *An Béal Bocht* and other Writings 1940–60 228

7 'An Exegesis of Squalor': *The Hard Life* 269

8 The DMP and Miracles: *The Dalkey Archive* 291

9 Any Other Business: *Slattery’s Sago Saga* and Plays for Television 322

**Notes** 346

**Select Bibliography** 359

**Index** 366