- Introduction

## - The Origins of the Work

Circumstances of the composition : revival of patriotic feeling, William Power's musical project, the Meeting of Harpers at Belfast. Edward Bunting's first collection of ancient Irish music. Moore's enthusiasm. His agreements with the brothers Power and personal relationship with James Power. Dates of appearance of the 10 Numbers and Supplement.

- The Music of the Irish Melodies

Moore's remarks on Irish traditional music. Characteristics of the old music of Erin. Musicological importance of a little-known collection of compositions by O'Carolan. Bunting's harmonization of the homophonic tunes. The airs chosen by Moore : the old pentatonic, Gregorian, semi-pentatonic and semi-Gregorian melodies. The XVIIIth century airs. Moore's manner of composing. John Stevenson's and Henry Bishop's accompaniments.

- Moore's Poems

His sources of inspiration. The themes of the *Melodies* : Ireland, patriotism and liberty, love, carousing and conviviality, contemporary events, Irish landscapes, etc.

The texture of the lyrics : vocabulary, imagery and local colour ; the music of sounds : rhyme and metre. Comparative study of Thomas Campbell's "Exile of Erin" and Moore's" 'Tis gone and for ever" written to the same air.

- Moore the Prosodist

"Musical prosody" as the fusion of poetry and music. The laws and exigencies of the two modes of expression. To illustrate Moore's supremacy in this field, analyses of : "Come o'er the sea" (VI, 1) and of a few fragments of melodies.

Confrontation of Burns's and Moore's mastery of musical prosody. Comparison of Burns's "Open the door to me, O" with Moore's "She is far from the land" set to the same melody. The respective art of the two poet-musicians.

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## - The Fortune of the Irish Melodies

Moore's vocal talent. His singing of the *Melodies* in the Regency drawing-rooms and success in the highest social circles. The celebrity of the work spreads all over England. Its political impact : reactions of the Tory journals. Reviews in the other periodicals. Penetration of the work in all classes of society. The conquest of Scotland. The slower conquest of Ireland. The triumph of Moore in his native land. Latin and Gaelic translations. Moore's difference with O'Connell.

Pirate editions of the *Melodies*. J.Power's letterpress edition. Daniel Maclise's illustrations. Burlesque cartoons and verse parodies. Fame of the *Melodies* in America. The *Irish Melodies* in Restoration France. Translations, adaptations and imitations. Penetration and popularity of the collection in Central Europe and Russia.

## Praise and Blame. Some Controversies

The Melodies and the leading Romantic writers : Mme de Staël, Byron, W. Scott, Coleridge, Shelley, E.A. Poe, Keats, Wordsworth. Some detractors of the work : W. Hazlitt. Attitude of members of the Gaelic League and Young Ireland Movement. Moore's patriotism and sincerity. His contribution to the reviving of national feeling and the achieving of the measures of liberation. Influence on later Irish writers.

Moore and Bunting : the poet's unacknowledged borrowings and the musician's bitterness. The *Melodies* and other collectors of Irish music.

## The Irish Melodies in the Victorian Era and the XXth Century.

Continuing favour and popularity of the work in Victorian times. Its apotheosis at the Centenary Commemoration in Dublin (28 May, 1879). W.B. Yeats and the *Luish Melodies*. The conquest of the media : radio, cinema, recordings. Some contemporary performers. The tribute of some musicians. Charles Dickens and the *Melodies*. Seán O'Casey's use of some pieces. James Joyce's highly original treatment of the *Melodies*.

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