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The Language of Irish Literature

LORETO TODD

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To the memory of my parents, David Todd
and Margaret Magee Todd

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Abbreviations and Phonetic Conventions

Symbols have been used sparingly in this book, but for those readers not familiar with phonetics the following guide may be useful:

PRONUNCIATION

- RP refers to Received Pronunciation, the pronunciation in use in BBC news broadcasts
GAE refers to General American English, the pronunciation favoured for United States news broadcasts

Where the pronunciation approximates to the network norms of both Britain and the United States of America, the abbreviations RP and GAE are not specified.

- AI Anglo-Irish
HE Hiberno-English
NHE Northern Hiberno-English
SHE Southern Hiberno-English
NIE Northern Ireland English
USc Ulster Scots

PHONETIC VALUES

When words or letters are given between oblique strokes, for example /pan/, the letters have the following approximate values:

Consonants

/p/	the sound of 'p' in 'pin'
/b/	the sound of 'b' in 'bin'
/t/	the sound of 't' in 'tin'
/d/	the sound of 'd' in 'din'
/k/	the sound of 'k' and 'c' in 'Kate' and 'card'
/g/	the sound of 'g' in 'gate' and 'guard'
/f/	the sound of 'f' in 'fat'
/v/	the sound of 'v' in 'vat'
/θ/	the sound of 'th' in 'thin'
/ð/	the sound of 'th' in 'then'
/T/	the sound of 'th' in the Irish pronunciation of 'thry'
/D/	the sound of 'dh' in the Irish pronunciation of 'dhry'
/s/	the sound of 's' in 'Sue'
/z/	the sound of 'z' in 'zoo'
/ç/	the sound of 'ch' in a German pronunciation of 'Ich'
/x/	the sound of 'ch' in a Scots pronunciation of 'loch'
/ʃ/	the sound of 'sh' and 'ss' in 'fish' and 'fission'
/ʒ/	the sound of 's' in 'vision'
/tʃ/	the sound of 'ch' in 'chunk'
/dʒ/	the sound of 'j' in 'junk'
/h/	the sound of 'h' in 'hat'
/l/	the sound of 'l' in 'lift'
/ɫ/	the sound of 'll' in 'full'
/r/	the sound of 'r' in 'rat'
/m/	the sound of 'm' in 'dim'
/n/	the sound of 'n' in 'din'
/ŋ/	the sound of 'ng' in 'ding'
/ɲ/	the sound of 'n' in the RP pronunciation of 'news'
/ʍ/	the sound of 'wh' which distinguishes 'which' from 'witch'
/w/	the sound of 'w' in 'wet'
/j/	the sound of 'y' in 'yet'

Vowels

/i/	the sound of 'ee' in 'greet'
/ɪ/	the sound of 'i' in 'sit'
/e/	the sound of 'é' in French 'thé'

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/ɛ/	the sound of 'e' in 'bet'
/æ/	the sound of 'a' in RP 'bad' and GAE 'bath'
/a/	the sound of 'as' in French 'pas'
/ɑ/	the sound of 'ar' in RP 'card'
/ɑr/	the sound of 'ar' in GAE 'card'
/ɒ/	the sound of 'o' in RP 'not'
/ʌ/	the sound of 'u' and 'oo' in 'but' and 'blood'
/ɔ/	the sound of 'aw' in 'saw'
/o/	the sound of 'eau' in French 'eau'
/ʊ/	the sound of 'oo' in 'foot'
/u/	the sound of 'oo' in 'bood'
/ʊ/	the sound of 'oo' in a Scots pronunciation of 'foot'
/ɜ/	the sound of 'ur' in RP 'church'
/ɜr/	the sound of 'ur' in GAE 'church'
/ə/	the sound of 'e' in unstressed 'the'
/ər/	the sound of 'er' in GAE 'better'
/ei/	the sound of 'ay' in 'swayed'
/ai/	the sound of 'uy' in 'buy'
/au/	the sound of 'ow' in 'how'
/oi/	the sound of 'oy' in 'boy'
/ou/	the sound of 'oa' in 'load'
/ɪə/	the sound of 'ear' in RP 'hear'
/ɪr/	the sound of 'ear' in GAE 'hear'
/ɛə/	the sound of 'are' in RP 'hare'
/ɛr/	the sound of 'are' in GAE 'hare'
/uə/	the sound of 'ure' in RP 'cure'
/ʊr/	the sound of 'ure' in GAE 'cure'

Map 1: The Provinces of Ireland

Map 2: The Thirty-two Counties of Ireland

Map 3: The Nine Counties of Ulster