W. B. YEATS
Critical Assessments

Edited by
David Pierce

VOLUME I
Contemporary Reviews; Select List of Reviews of Plays in Performance; 1887-1988

HELM INFORMATION
Contents

VOLUME I:
Contemporary Reviews; Select List of Reviews of Plays in Performance; 1887–1988

General Editor’s Preface 1
Introduction 3
A Note on the Texts 25
A Chronology of Yeats’s Life 26
Bibliography: Yeats’s Major Works 35
Critical Bibliography 45
Chronological List of Criticism Included 67
List of Topics 89
Acknowledgements 111

Contemporary Reviews

Mosada (1886)
1. K[ATHARINE] T[YNAN], from ‘Three Young Poets’, The Irish Monthly, March 1887 121

Fairy and Folk Tales of the Irish Peasantry (1888)
2. ANONYMOUS, from ‘Notes on New Books’, The Irish Monthly, November 1888 123
3. OSCAR WILDE, ‘Some Literary Notes’, Woman’s World, February 1889 124

The Wanderings of Oisin and Other Poems (1889)
5. ANONYMOUS, from ‘Literature: Some Recent Poetry’, The Freeman’s Journal, 1 February 1889 132
CONTENTS

6. [MATTHEW RUSSELL], from ‘Notes on New Books’, *The Irish Monthly*, February 1889


8. OSCAR WILDE, from ‘Three New Poets’, *Pall Mall Gazette*, 12 July 1889

9. ANONYMOUS, from ‘Notes on New Books’, *The Irish Monthly*, July 1891

**Representative Irish Tales (1891)**

10. [MATTHEW RUSSELL], ‘Notes on New Books’, *The Irish Monthly*, December 1891

11. ANONYMOUS, from ‘New Books and Reprints’, *The Saturday Review*, 5 December 1891

12. ANONYMOUS, from ‘Novels of the Week’, *The Athenæum*, 26 December 1891

**John Sherman and Dhoya (1891)**


15. ANONYMOUS, Review, *The Athenæum*, 7 January 1893

16. F. HUGH O’DONNELL, ‘Celtic Drama In Dublin’, [letter to the editor], *The Freeman’s Journal*, 1 April 1899.

**The Countess Kathleen and Various Legends and Lyrics (1892)**


**The Countess Kathleen and Various Legends and Lyrics (1892)**


**Poems (1895)**


**The Secret Rose (1897)**


22. ANONYMOUS, ‘A Poet’s Prose’, *The Speaker*, 8 May 1897

23. ANONYMOUS, ‘Mysteries of the Neo-Celtic Movement’, *The Dial*, 16 April 1898
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year/Source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24.</td>
<td>ANONYMOUS</td>
<td>‘The Muse of Mr Yeats’</td>
<td>The Outlook, 29 April 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>ARTHUR SYMONS</td>
<td>‘Mr Yeats As A Lyric Poet’</td>
<td>The Saturday Review, 6 May 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26.</td>
<td>[FRANCIS THOMPSON]</td>
<td>‘Mr Yeats’s Poems’</td>
<td>The Academy, 6 May 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27.</td>
<td>[?CHARLES LEWIS HIND]</td>
<td>‘Mr W. B. Yeats and The Wind Among the Reeds’</td>
<td>The Academy, 20 January 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28.</td>
<td>ANONYMOUS</td>
<td>‘A Revised Yeats’</td>
<td>The Outlook, 22 July 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29.</td>
<td>[FRANCIS THOMPSON]</td>
<td>‘The Irish Literary Movement: Mr Yeats as Shepherd’</td>
<td>The Academy, 17 March 1900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30.</td>
<td>ANONYMOUS</td>
<td>from ‘Poets From Ireland’</td>
<td>The Outlook, 12 January 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31.</td>
<td>ANONYMOUS</td>
<td>‘Mr Yeats’s New Play’</td>
<td>The Academy, 26 January 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32.</td>
<td>[FRANCIS THOMPSON]</td>
<td>‘The Poet As Tinkerer’</td>
<td>The Academy, 11 May 1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33.</td>
<td>ANONYMOUS</td>
<td>‘The Hidden Beauty’</td>
<td>The Speaker, 30 May 1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34.</td>
<td>ANONYMOUS</td>
<td>Review</td>
<td>The Athenæum, 27 June 1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35.</td>
<td>HORATIO SHEAFE KRANS</td>
<td>from William Butler Yeats and the Irish Literary Revival</td>
<td>London, 1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.</td>
<td>ANONYMOUS</td>
<td>‘Drama’</td>
<td>The Athenæum, 21 May 1904</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTENTS

Collected Works (1908)
41. JAMES HUNEKER, 'A Poet of Visions', The Pathos of Distance: A Book of a Thousand and One Moments, London, 1913 246

The Green Helmet and Other Poems (1910)
42. ANONYMOUS, 'Reviews of New Books—The Later Yeats', The Irish Review, April 1911 251

Plays for an Irish Theatre (1911)
43. [HAROLD CHILD], 'Mr Yeats's Plays', The Times Literary Supplement, 28 December 1911 254
44. DARRELL Figgis, 'The Theatre', The Bookman, March 1912 257

Stories of Red Hanrahan, The Secret Rose, Rosa Alchemica (1914)
45. GEORGE TOWNSEND, Review, The Sewanee Review, April 1915 259

Responsibilities (1914)
46. EZRA POUND, 'The Later Yeats', Poetry (Chicago), May 1914 261

Responsibilities And Other Poems (1916)
47. E[ZRA] P[OUND], 'Mr Yeats' New Book', Poetry (Chicago), December 1916 264
48. C[ATHOIR] O' B[AONAIN], Review of Responsibilities and The Poetical Works of Thomas MacDonagh, Studies, March 1917 266

Responsibilities And Other Poems (1916); Reveries Over Childhood and Youth (1916)
49. [HAROLD CHILD], 'Mr Yeats in Middle Age', The Times Literary Supplement, 19 October 1916 270
50. [?]. S. CRONE], 'Reveries and Responsibilities', The Irish Book Lover, December–January, 1916-17 273

Reveries Over Childhood and Youth (1916)
51. R. H. C. [A. R. ORAGE], from 'Readers and Writers', The New Age, 2 November 1916 275
52. AE [GEORGE RUSSELL], 'The Boyhood Of A Poet', New Ireland, 16 December 1916 277
53. P. C[OLUM?], 'A Poet's Upbringing', Poetry (Chicago), April 1918 279
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Per Amica Silentia Lunae (1918)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. [ARTHUR CLUTTON BROCK], ‘Reality By Moonlight’, <em>The Times Literary Supplement</em>, 7 February 1918</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| The Wild Swans at Coole (1919) |
| 57. [ARTHUR CLUTTON BROCK], ‘Tunes Old and New’, *The Times Literary Supplement*, 20 March 1919 | 288 |

| The Cutting of an Agate (1919) |
| 59. ANONYMOUS, ‘A Lapidary’, *The Times Literary Supplement*, 1 May 1919 | 293 |
| 60. T. S. E[LIOT], ‘A Foreign Mind’, *The Athenæum*, 4 July 1919 | 297 |
| 61. FRANCIS BICKLEY, ‘Mr Yeats’s Odyssey’, *The Bookman*, August 1919 | 301 |

| Selected Poems (1921) |
| 62. PADRAIC COLUM, ‘Mr Yeats’ Selected Poems’, *The Dial*, October 1922 | 304 |

| Four Plays for Dancers (1921) |
| 63. ANONYMOUS, from ‘Poetic Drama’, *The Nation and Athenæum*, 11 February 1922 | 309 |
| 64. PADRAIC COLUM, ‘A New Dramatic Art’, *The Dial*, March 1922 | 311 |

| The Trembling of the Veil (1922) |
| 66. ANONYMOUS, ‘Mr Yeats Explains Himself’, *The Nation and Athenæum*, 30 December 1922 | 318 |

| Plays in Prose and Verse (1922); Later Poems (1922) |
| 67. [HAROLD CHILD], ‘Mr Yeats’s Dreams’, *The Times Literary Supplement*, 28 September, 1922 | 322 |

| Plays and Controversies (1923–4) |
| 68. W. P. RYAN, ‘Plays And Controversies’, *The Bookman*, March 1924 | 327 |
CONTENTS

Essays (1924)
69. GEORGE SAMPSON, from ‘Two Ways of Criticism’, The Bookman, July 1924 329

Early Poems and Stories (1925)
70. [HUGH I’ANSON FAUSSET], ‘Mr Yeats in Transition’, The Times Literary Supplement, 8 October 1925 331
71. W. P. RYAN, ‘The Youth of Mr Yeats’, The Bookman, March 1926 334

A Vision (1925)
72. AE [GEORGE RUSSELL], ‘Literature and Life: A Vision’, The Irish Statesman, 13 February 1926 337
73. ANONYMOUS, ‘The Visionary Yeats’, New Statesman, 27 March 1926 341
74. [BASIL DE SELINCOURT], ‘Mr Yeats’s Occultism’, The Times Literary Supplement, 22 April 1926 344

Autobiographies (1926)
75. RICHARD CHURCH, ‘W. B. Yeats And The Creative Mask’, Calendar of Modern Letters, January 1927 346
77. HAMISH MILES, Review, The Monthly Criterion, June 1927 354

The Tower (1928)
78. [AUSTIN CLARKE], ‘Mr Yeats’s New Poems’, The Times Literary Supplement, 1 March 1928 357
79. JOHN GOULD FLETCHER, from ‘Books of the Quarter’, The Criterion, September 1928 360

Selected Poems (1929)
80. SEAN O’FAOLÁIN, from ‘Books of the Quarter’, The Criterion, April 1930 362

The Winding Stair (1929 New York edition)
81. MARIANNE MOORE, ‘Words for Music Perhaps’, Poetry, April 1933 368

Words for Music Perhaps and Other Poems (1932)
82. MURIEL C. BRADBROOK, ‘Songs Of Experience, Scrutiny, June 1933 371
83. THEODORE SPENCER, ‘William Butler Yeats’, The Hound and Horn, October–December 1933 373
The Winding Stair and Other Poems (1933)
84. F. R. LEAVIS, 'The Latest Yeats', Scrutiny, December 1933 384
85. ANONYMOUS, Review, Life and Letters, December 1933 387
86. HUGH GORDON PORTEUS, Review, The Criterion, January 1934
87. PADRAIC FALLON, Review, The Dublin Magazine, April–June 1934 393

Collected Poems (1933)
88. ANONYMOUS, Review, The Listener, 31 January 1934 401
89. HERBERT READ, 'Books of the Quarter', The Criterion, April 1934 403

Letters to the New Island (1934)
90. KERKER QUINN, 'Memories Differ', The Yale Review, September 1936 407

Wheels and Butterflies (1934)
91. JOHN GOULD FLETCHER, Review, The Southern Review, Summer 1935 409

Collected Plays (1934)
92. JOHN GARRETT, Review of The Collected Plays of W. B. Yeats and Wheels and Butterflies, The Criterion, April 1935 413

The King of the Great Clock Tower (1934)
93. HOWARD BAKER, from 'Wallace Stevens and Other Poets', The Southern Review, Autumn 1935 417

A Full Moon in March (1935)
95. JANET ADAM SMITH, from 'Books of the Quarter', The Criterion, April 1936 421
96. RUTH M. D. WAINEWRIGHT, Review, English, Autumn 1936 423

Dramatis Personae (1936)
97. PADRAIC COLUM, 'Yeats Looks Back', The Saturday Review of Literature, 16 May 1936 425
98. SHERARD VINES, 'Mr Yeats and the Irish Revival', The Listener, 1 July 1936 428
99. LOUIS MACNEICE, from 'Books of the Quarter', The Criterion, October 1936 430
The Oxford Book of Modern Verse, 1892–1935,  
chosen by W. B. Yeats (1936)

100. F. O. MATTHIESSEN, ‘W. B. Yeats and Others’, The Southern Review, Spring 1937
101. FREDERICK T. WOOD, from ‘Current Literature 1936’, English Studies, August 1937
102. ROBERT HILLYER, ‘Brief Mention’, Modern Language Notes, December 1937

A Vision (1937)

106. STEPHEN SPENDER, from ‘Books of the Quarter’, The Criterion, April 1938

New Poems (1938)

107. WINFIELD TOWNLEY SCOTT, ‘Yeats at 73’, Poetry, November 1938

Last Poems and Plays (Macmillan 1940)

109. MARY M. COLUM, ‘Poets and Psychologists’, Forum, June 1940
110. JOHN CROWE RANSOM, ‘Old Age of a Poet’, The Kenyon Review, Summer 1940
111. J. J. H[OGAN], from ‘English Literature’, Studies, December 1940

Letters on Poetry from W. B. Yeats to Dorothy Wellesley (1940)

112. ANONYMOUS, Review, The Dublin Magazine, January-March 1941

Florence Farr, Bernard Shaw, W. B. Yeats: Letters, ed. Clifford Bax (1946)


Collected Poems, (1950)

114. [OLIVER EDWARDS], Review, Rann, Summer 1950

xiv
CONTENTS


117. ANONYMOUS, Review, *The Listener*, 5 March 1953

**Collected Plays (1952)**

118. HORACE GREGORY, ‘Yeats Revisited’, *Poetry*, June 1954

119. EDITH SHACKLETON, ‘Yeats as a Young Man’, *Britain Today*, October 1953


**Letters to Katharine Tynan (1953)**


**W. B. Yeats and T. Sturge Moore. Their Correspondence 1901–1937*, ed. Ursula Bridge (1953)

126. ALLAN WADE, ‘A Poet Young and Old’, *Time and Tide*, 26 March 1955


**Autobiographies (1955)**

129. THOMAS PARKINSON, ‘Contesting a Will’, *The Kenyon Review*
CONTENTS

Review, Winter 1958

130. PETER URE, ‘Review’, English Studies, August 1960 556

Mythologies (1959)


The Senate Speeches of W. B. Yeats, ed. Donald R. Pearce (1960)

132. [DAVID PAUL], ‘Poet as Senator’, The Times Literary Supplement, 22 December 1961 562

Essays and Introductions (1961)

134. JOHN UNTERECKER, Review, Modern Drama, September 1962 572

Essays and Introductions (1961) and Explorations (1961)

135. H. R. MacCALLUM, from ‘W.B. Yeats: The Shape Changer and His Critics’, University of Toronto Quarterly, April 1963 574

Memoirs, ed. Denis Donoghue (1972)

136. JOHN BOLAND, ‘Poet’s Self-Portrait’, Hibernia, 16 February 1973 578
138. JOHN BRYSON, from ‘Unexpurgated Yeats’, Books and Bookmen, March 1973 584


Selected Reviews of Plays in Performance

Cathleen ni Houlihan (1902 Dublin performance)

141. STEPHEN GWYNN, from ‘Beginnings of Irish Drama’, Irish Literature and Drama in the English Language: A Short History, London, 1936 605
CONTENTS

The Hour Glass and Cathleen ni Houlihan
(May 1903 London performances)
142. [ARTHUR BIGHAM WALKLEY], ‘The Irish National
Theatre’, The Times Literary Supplement, 8 May 1903

The King’s Threshold (October 1903 performance)
143. ANONYMOUS, ‘The Irish National Theatre’, The Freeman’s
Journal, 8 October 1903

The King’s Threshold and Cathleen ni Houlihan
(October 1903 performances)
144. JOSEPH HOLLOWAY, from Joseph Holloway’s Abbey Theatre:
A Selection from his Unpublished Journal Impressions of a Dublin
Playgoer, eds Robert Hogan and Michael J. O’Neill, Carbondale and Edwardsville, 1967

The King’s Threshold (April 1904 London performance)

On Baile’s Strand (December 1904 performance)
The Dublin Evening Mail, 28 December 1904
147. [ARTHUR GRIFFITH], from ‘All Ireland’, The United
Irishman, 31 December 1904
148. MAURICE JOY, ‘Mr Yeats’s New Play’, The Speaker,
7 January 1905

Deirdre (November 1906 Abbey Theatre performance)
149. JOSEPH HOLLOWAY, from Joseph Holloway’s Abbey Theatre:
A Selection from his Unpublished Journal Impressions of a Dublin
Playgoer, eds Robert Hogan and Michael J. O’Neill, Carbondale and Edwardsville, 1967

Deirdre (1909 London performance)
150. ANONYMOUS, ‘Deirdre’, Times of India (Bombay), 10 June
1909
151. MAX BEERBOHM, from ‘Irish Players’, The Saturday
Review, 12 June 1909

Cathleen ni Houlihan (1910 performance)
152. ANONYMOUS, Two Reviews, Leeds Mercury, 15 April 1910
and Yorkshire Evening News, 15 April 1910
CONTENTS

The Player Queen (1919 performance)
153. JAMES STRACHEY, ‘Swinburne And Mr Yeats’, The Athenæum, 6 June 1919

The Only Jealousy of Emer (1922 Amsterdam performance)

Purgatory (1938 Abbey Theatre performances)
155. UNA ELLIS-FERMOR, ‘Dramatic Notes’, English, 1938
156. ANONYMOUS, Four reviews in The Dublin Evening Mail:
   1. ‘Drama Begins with Poets’, 11 August 1938;
   2. ‘Mr W. B. Yeats’s New Play’, 11 August 1938;
   3. ‘Yeats Play Not Understood’, 11 August 1938;
   4. ‘Puzzle of the New Play’, 12 August 1938

The Unicorn from the Stars (1940 German performance)
157. SUSANNE SCHAUP in Liam Miller, The Noble Drama of W. B. Yeats, Dublin and Atlantic Highlands, 1977

Calvary and The Resurrection (1965 Dublin performances)

Yeats plays at the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, 1965
159. MARY O’MALLEY, ‘The Dream Itself’, Threshold, Autumn 1965

Cuchulain Cycle (October 1979 New York performances)

At the Hawk’s Well, The Cat and the Moon, The Dreaming of the Bones, and Cathleen ni Houlihan (1984 Peacock Theatre, Dublin, performances)

Yeats Theatre Festival, 1991

xviii