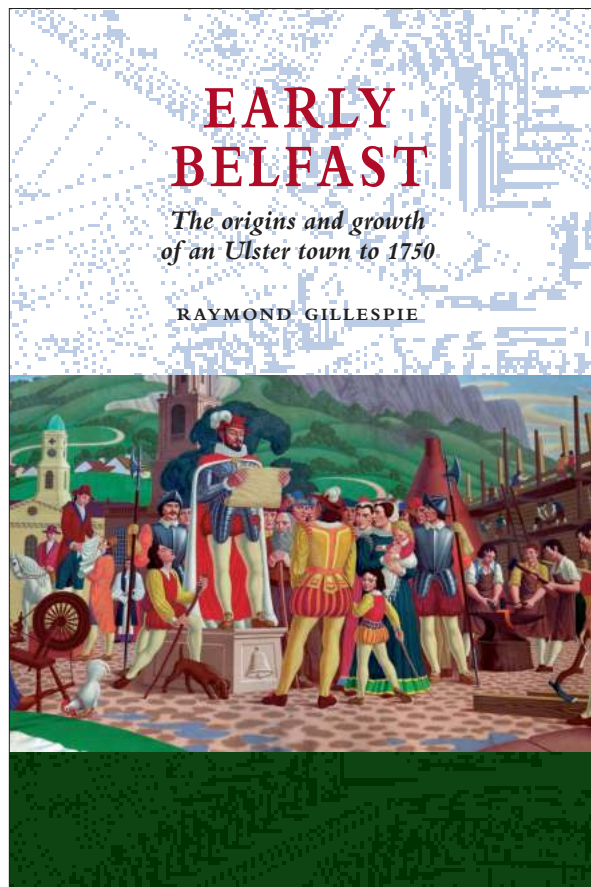


New book

Early Belfast: the origins and growth of an Ulster town to 1750

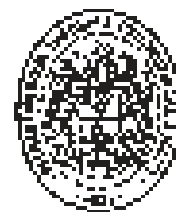


For most people, nineteenth-century Belfast is the very essence of an industrial city, boasting as it did by 1900 the world's largest spinning mill, the most productive shipyard, the biggest ropeworks and tobacco factory. This book looks beyond that world to reveal an earlier Belfast where the foundations for its later industrial prowess were laid.

It charts the town's remarkable growth from site to city, from the first mentions of it as long ago as the seventh century through to the 13th-century Anglo-Norman settlement and Gaelic revival, to the Plantation town of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It retraces not only the development of the early streets, and their names, but also the lives of those who walked and lived in them. In doing so it recreates something of the thriving commercial settlement and port that came increasingly to dominate the life of the region it served - Ulster - in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Using a unique series of maps, together with archaeological and documentary evidence that has been expertly pieced together, the book revolutionises our understanding of this, the most Ulster of towns, before the coming of industrialisation. Just as importantly, it reminds us that Belfast has always had, in the poet Derek Mahon's lyrical phrase, a 'hill at the top of every street'.

This book is the latest in the series of titles published by the **Belfast Natural History and Philosophical Society**.



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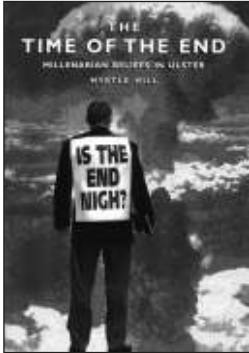


Equiano and Anti-Slavery in Eighteenth-Century Belfast

NINI RODGERS

The celebrated freed slave, Olaudah Equiano, visited Ireland in 1791–2 and was welcomed 'particularly in Belfast'. Long-standing radical rhetoric about the political slavery of Ireland was now, and in the context of the 'Rights of Man' applied specifically to oppressed peoples, whether black or Catholic. And yet Belfast's commercial and industrial advance, a major trigger of radical self-assertion, was intimately linked to trade and connections with the slave economies of the West Indies.

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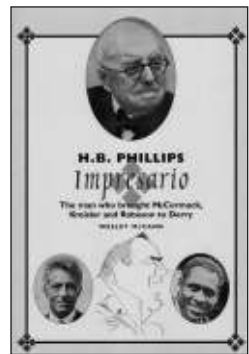


The Time of the End: Millenarian Beliefs in Ulster

MYRTLE HILL

This work looks at the particular way in which Ulster society has been affected by millennial ideas. Though not exclusive to Protestant, that faith tied the end of the century to apocalyptic warnings and prophecies of the Second Coming. Myrtle Hill takes us through what is sometimes dismissed as a 'lunatic fringe' to reveal instead vibrant 18th and 19th century world views.

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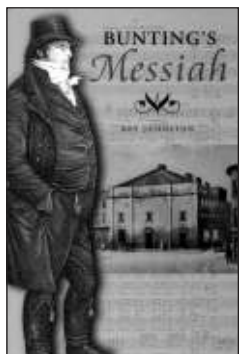


H. B. Phillips, Impresario: the man who brought McCormack, Kreisler & Robeson to Derry

WESLEY MCCANN

The violinist Fritz Kreisler and singers John McCormack and Paul Robeson were among the most celebrated musicians of the early twentieth century, and each performed in Derry within a few months of one another in 1935–36. This was due largely to the efforts of the remarkable H. B. Phillips, who in a 60-year career as an impresario and owner of the world-renowned Carl Rosa Opera Company brought pleasure to audiences throughout the length and breadth of the country.

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Paperback, 66pp
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Price: £7.00



Bunting's Messiah

ROY JOHNSTON

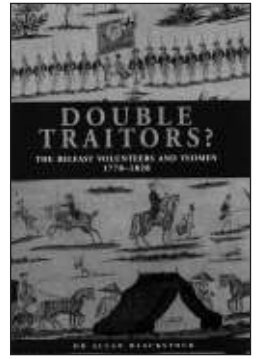
There was no greater representative of the intense interest in Irish culture in Belfast in the decade before the 1798 Rebellion than Edward Bunting. Born in 1773, he moved to Belfast at the age of 11 as apprentice to William Ware, the first organist of St Anne's. His interest was captured by the famous 1792 Belfast Harp festival, at which he transcribed the airs. His fame rests on his three volumes of the 'ancient music of Ireland', collected during tours of the Irish countryside. His musical energies culminated with the four-day music festival in Belfast in 1813, where the first near-complete performance of Handel's Messiah was given.

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Double Traitors: The Belfast Volunteers and Yeomen 1778–1828

ALLAN BLACKSTOCK

In the 1790's a crucial battle for the mantle of the original Volunteer movement of 1778–84 was waged between the government and the United Irishmen. This was to decide which would be the dominant political and military force in Ulster. In Belfast the struggle was at its sharpest as the radicals held the initiative at first. When the yeomanry were formed in 1796–7 the United Irishmen had to decide whether to seek to take over that body of men, or to turn out independently in rebellion.

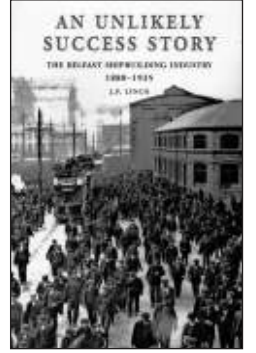


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An Unlikely Success Story: The Belfast Shipbuilding Industry 1880–1935

J. P. LYNCH

This book offers the first history of the whole spectrum of the Belfast shipbuilding industry. It is the story of the yards and the ships. Beyond that it explores the social conditions and workplace environment of the tens of thousands whom this great industry embraced.

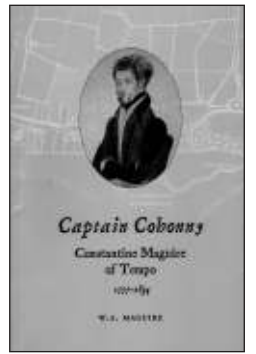


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Captain Cohenny: Constantine Maguire of Tempo 1777–1834

W. A. MAGUIRE

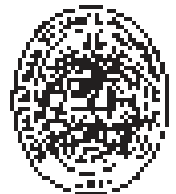
The Maguires of Tempo, whose estate dated from 1610, were the only gaelic family in Fermanagh to survive the upheavals of the next two centuries with their property intact. By the time Constantine Maguire inherited in 1800, however, only a fraction remained. The extraordinary story of this resourceful, not to say ruthless, man's struggle to retain his social standing reads like a novel of the period. His brutal murder in Tipperary in 1834 was a suitably gothic finishing touch to a racketsy career.



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