



Irish Non-Fiction

The History & Biographies of the Emerald Isle

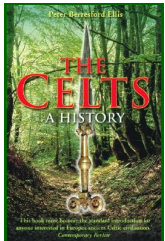


U2 by U2 by Bono, the Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen (782.421 U2)

A portrait of the popular rock band, written by its members, presents an oral history culled from more than two hundred hours of taped interviews, that traces U2's career over the course of 25 years. Also try [Bono: the Biography](#) by Laura Jackson (B BONO).

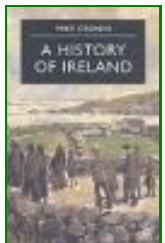
A Course Called Ireland by Tom Coyne (796.352 COYNE)

In his thirties, married, and staring down impending fatherhood, Tom Coyne was familiar with the last refuge of the adult male: the golfing trip. Intent on designing a golf trip to end all others, Coyne looked to Ireland, the place where his father has taught him to love the game years before. As he studied a map of the island and plotted his itinerary, it dawned on Coyne that Ireland was ringed with golf holes. The country began to look like one giant round of golf, so Coyne packed up his clubs and set off to play all of it-on foot.



McCarthy's Bar by Pete McCarthy (914.15MCCAR)

Pete McCarthy finds that nowhere else can match the particular magic of Ireland, his mother's homeland. His journey begins in Cork and continues along the west coast to Donegal in the north. Traveling through spectacular landscapes, but at all times obeying the rule, "never pass a bar that has your name on it," he encounters McCarthy's bars up and down the land, meeting fascinating people everywhere. A wonderfully funny and affectionate portrait of a rapidly changing country. Also try [Road to McCarthy](#) (914.15 MCCAR)

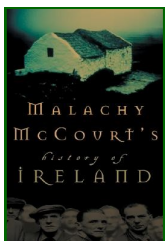


The Celts: a History by Peter Berresford Ellis (936.4 ELLIS)

Tracking the progress of the Celts through the ancient world, this compelling history celebrates more than their warfare, for the Celts also developed agricultural techniques that even the Romans adopted. They cut the first roads through impenetrable European forests, displayed exuberant genius in their metalwork, monumental stone carvings, glassware, and jewelry, exerted influence on Greek philosophers and Roman surgeons, and made Irish the third literary language of Europe, after Latin and Greek. Also try [Celtic Empire](#) by Ellis (936.4 ELLIS).

A History of Ireland by Mike Cronin (941.5 CRONI)

A tiny island in the North Atlantic, Ireland has had an astonishingly powerful impact on the wider world, both at the height of its independent power in the early middle ages, as the key exporter of Christianity to much of Europe, and at the depth of its colonial subjugation by Britain, as the primary source of millions of settlers to North America and Australia.



Malachy McCourt's History of Ireland by Malachy McCourt (941.5 MCCOU)

Best-selling author and storyteller Malachy McCourt delivers his own unique perspective on Irish history. As entertaining as he is informative, McCourt presents the sinners and saints of his homeland in an effort to understand Ireland through centuries of invasion, oppression, and suffering. Here is a sweeping account of the Irish, from the age of the Tuatha de Danann to the Viking Invasion, through An Gorta Mor (The Great Famine) to the British occupation, to the modern strife and struggle for independence.

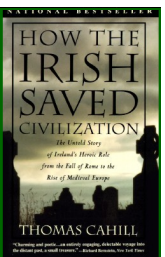


How the Irish Saved Civilization by Thomas Cahill (941.501 CAHIL)

Every year millions of Americans celebrate St. Patrick's Day, but they may not be aware of how great an influence St. Patrick was on the subsequent history of civilization. Not only did he bring Christianity to Ireland, he instilled a sense of literacy and learning that would create the conditions that allowed Ireland to become "the isle of saints and scholars" -- and thus preserve Western culture while Europe was being overrun by barbarians.

What Life Was Like Among Druids and High Kings by Time-Life (941.501 WHAT)

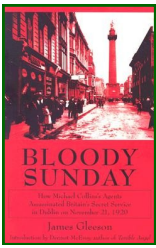
Drawing on art, artifacts and literature that was left behind, these richly illustrated volumes recount captivating tales of everyday life in long-ago vanished worlds.



The Transformation of Ireland by Diarmaid Ferriter (941.508 FERRI)

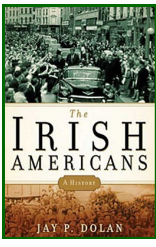
In 1900, Ireland was a restless, impoverished, neglected corner of the British Empire. By 2000, it had become the "Celtic Tiger" of Europe. How did this happen? This landmark book by one of today's most exciting





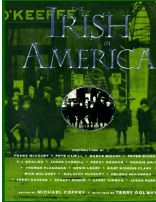
Bloody Sunday by James Gleeson (941.508 GLEES)

Although Bloody Sunday now more commonly refers to the 1972 shooting of Irish protestors by British troops, this work by Gleeson (a former BBC scriptwriter) recounts a 1920 secret operation in which Irish republicans assassinated fourteen British agents, eliciting howls of outrage in Britain, but effectively blinding the British intelligence networks and paving the way for the 1921 negotiations that led to British withdrawal from the Irish southern counties.



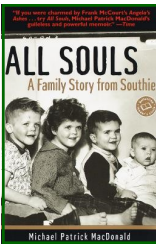
The Irish-Americans: a History by Jay Dolan (973 DOLAN)

A history of the Irish in America from the eighteenth century to the present, by one of the nation's most eminent scholars of the immigrant experience. He follows the Irish from their first arrival in the American colonies through the bleak days of the potato famine that brought millions of poor immigrants; the years of ethnic prejudice and "No Irish Need Apply;" the rise of Irish political power and the heyday of Tammany politics; to the historic moment when John F. Kennedy was elected to the highest office in the land.



The Irish in America by Michael Coffey (973 IRI)

Featuring guest essays by Frank McCourt, Pete Hamill, Peter Quinn, Peggy Noonan, and many notable Irish Americans, this vibrant history is told through chapters whose themes are taken from the most important institutions of Irish life: the Parish, the Precinct, the Work, the Players (vaudeville, sports, entertainment), and the Family. This volume serves as the companion to the PBS documentary.

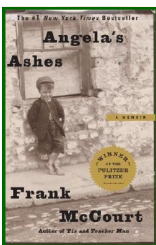


How It Was: a Memoir of Samuel Beckett by Anne Atik (B BECKETT)

2006 marked the 100th anniversary of Samuel Beckett's birth. To most, he was a brilliant artist who shied away from celebrity and photographers, but to the distinguished painter Avigdor Arikha and his wife, author Anne Atik, Beckett was the close friend with whom they shared countless drinks, meals, and rich conversations. As intimates and artists, they interacted with him several times a week for over four decades. Offers a unique insider's portrait and gives the reader a chance to sit down with one of the great literary masters of the twentieth century.

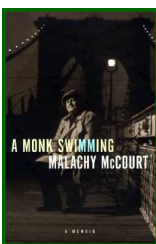
All Souls: a Family Story from Southie by Michael MacDonald (B MACDONALD)

Michael Patrick MacDonald grew up in "the best place in the world"--the Old Colony projects of South Boston--where 85% of the residents collect welfare in an area with the highest concentration of impoverished whites in the U.S. In *All Souls*, MacDonald takes us deep into the secret heart of Southie. With radiant insight, he opens up a contradictory world, where residents are besieged by gangs and crime but refuse to admit any problems, remaining fiercely loyal to their community. Also try [Easter Rising](#) (B MACDONALD).



Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt (B MCCOURT)

Having waited 40 years to tell his story, Frank McCourt doesn't pull any punches in his story of growing up dirt poor in Limerick, Ireland. Having emigrated to America, McCourt's family returns to Ireland after his sister dies in Brooklyn. It is there that things turn from bad to worse. It is McCourt's contention that there is nothing worse than Irish Catholic poverty, and his book would seem to bear it out; however, the book is written in a lyrical style from the point of view of Frank McCourt as a boy. Also try [Tis](#) (B MCCOURT).



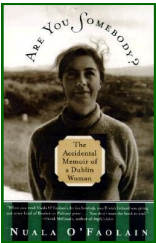
A Monk Swimming by Malachy McCourt (B MCCOURT)

The captivating memoir of popular character actor Malachy McCourt [brother to Frank], "A Monk Swimming"--the title derived from the young immigrant Malachy's mishearing the "Hail Mary's" "amongst women" -- recounts the adventures of a young man set loose in New York City in the freewheeling 1960s in search of fame, fortune, and fun. Also try [Singing My Him Song](#) (B MCCOURT).



All Will be Well by John McGahern (B MCGAHERN)

From award-winning author John McGahern, a memoir of his childhood in the Irish countryside and the beginnings of his life as a writer. McGahern describes his early years as one of seven children growing up in rural County Leitrim, a childhood marked by his father's violent nature and the early death of his beloved mother. Tracing the memories of home through both people and place, McGahern details family life and the beginnings of a writing career that would take him far from home, and then back again.



Are You Somebody? By Nuala O'Faolain (B OFAOL)

O'Faolain is a columnist for the *Irish Times*, and when she was asked to write an introduction for a collection of her columns, she just kept writing until she had produced a full-scale account of her life, thoughts, and feelings. She tells of growing up in Dublin and searching for a sense of self within the conservative Irish Catholic environment. Also try [Almost There](#) (B OFAOL).