

The present series of articles has been produced as a result of the academic exchange of specialists in literature between the University of Łódź, Poland and the University of Ulster at Coleraine, Northern Ireland.

Owing to the initiative and enthusiasm of Professor Irena Janicka-Świdorska, Dr Jan Jędrzejewski and Professor Robert Welch as well as the support of The British Council in Warsaw, the teaching-and-research link between the two universities was established in 1994 and has been developed very successfully ever since. It now embraces not only the participation of visiting scholars in the teaching process and in the presentation of academic research papers, but also other activities involving the broader literary and artistic communities of Łódź and Ulster.

The staff-exchange programme has stimulated the interest of the Łódź scholars in the study of Irish literature and increased the amount of research done in the field; it is also to be hoped that it has helped the Ulster scholars to view their own literary traditions from a new angle.

The contributions to the present volume represent a variety of ideas and views of modern Irish poetry and prose seen at a close distance by Irish scholars in Northern Ireland and from afar – by Polish scholars in Łódź. It will be all the more interesting to compare the variety of views especially since some of the papers in the volume have been written by Irish academics teaching and doing research in Łódź and one article by a Polish member of the staff of the School of Languages and Literature at Coleraine.

*Editor*