

Genders and Sexualities in History

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Aidan Beatty

Masculinity and
Power in Irish
Nationalism,
1884–1938

palgrave
macmillan

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Genders and Sexualities in History
ISBN 978-1-137-44099-0 ISBN 978-1-137-44101-0 (eBook)
DOI 10.1057/978-1-137-44101-0

Library of Congress Control Number: 2016953140

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For Leslie

SERIES EDITORS' PREFACE

Masculinity and Power in Irish Nationalism is a groundbreaking study of the development of a distinctly Irish nationalism that had at its core an imagined, vigorous and agrarian masculinity. In this fascinating and highly original book, Aidan Beatty explores how Irish nationalists conflated ideas of national sovereignty with masculine strength – and submissive, pious femininity – in ideas of Irish independence and national destiny. Beginning in the 1880s, the trajectories of these notions of masculinity and power in Irish political and cultural life are traced, culminating in Éamon de Valera's sclerotic vision of the ideal Irish agrarian homeland in the 1930s.

Ideologies and practices of distinctly Irish concepts of masculinity, power and nation are compared resonantly with concepts of masculinity in Jewish Zionism in this period. Through this comparative lens, Beatty opens new fields of analysis in European postcolonialism, and the development of normative, culturally specific and nationalistic masculinities at Europe's fringes. In common with all volumes in the *Genders and Sexualities in History* series, *Masculinity and Power in Irish Nationalism* presents a multifaceted and meticulously researched scholarly study, and is a sophisticated contribution to our understanding of the past.

John H. Arnold, Joanna Bourke and Sean Brady

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work began as a dissertation at the University of Chicago. During my time at Chicago, I benefited greatly from the support and advice of my doctoral committee: Leora Auslander and Maud Ellmann (who chaired my committee), Alison Winter and Fredrik Albritton Jonsson. Similarly, Declan Kiberd at the University of Notre Dame has been an invaluable source of advice and assistance since I first invited myself to his office in South Bend.

Prof. Susan Gal, David Nirenberg and Bernard Wasserstein discussed specific aspects of this project with me and gave me much useful advice. I am also grateful to the participants in the University of Chicago's Transnational Approaches to Modern Europe workshop and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group, where I presented early versions of two chapters.

I wish to thank all the staff members of the 13 different archives that I consulted for this work. I gratefully acknowledge the help of the National Archives of Ireland and their Director, who granted permission to reproduce material from their files. A year of research at archives in Ireland and a shorter visit to Israeli archives was funded with grants from the Nicholson Center for British Studies, the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies and various grants from the University of Chicago's History Department. I also received a writing fellowship from the Mellon Foundation and the University of Chicago/Division of the Social Sciences. I am grateful to all the staff at the University of Chicago History Department, particularly David Goodwine and Sonja Rusnak, for their assistance. The process of converting my dissertation into a

book was carried out at Concordia University and I am grateful to all my colleagues at the Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies and the School of Canadian Irish Studies.

I have presented various versions of this research at conferences in the USA, Canada, Ireland, the UK and Israel, and am very appreciative of the comments and advice I received. At various stages, I have discussed this project with Prof. Sikata Banerjee (University of Victoria), Prof. Guy Beiner (Ben-Gurion University), Prof. David Biale (UC-Davis), Dr. Michael Feige, z"l (Ben-Gurion Research Institute), Prof. David Fitzpatrick (TCD), Prof. Dermot Keogh (UCC), Prof. Maria Luddy (Warwick), Prof. Timothy McMahon (Marquette), Dr. Ríona Nic Congáil (St Patrick's College, Dublin), Prof. Brian Ó Conchubhair (Notre Dame), Prof. Derek Penslar (Oxford), Oriol Poveda (Uppsala University), Dr. Susannah Riordan (UCD), Dr. Elaine Sisson (DLIADT), and Prof. Ghil'ad Zuckermann (University of Adelaide) and am grateful for the thoughtful advice they offered about archives, arguments and my potential mistakes.

I am grateful to Matan Boord (Tel-Aviv University) for discussing his own research on masculinity and Zionism with me, as well as for helping me clean up my Hebrew translations.

My good friends Peter Hession, Susanna Klosko and Adam Larragy all read drafts of this book and thankfully helped me identify some early problems.

I am grateful to Cathal Brennan and John Dorney for their invitation to publish an early snippet of this research through their *Irish Story* website. My thanks to Mike O'Toole for his assistance with preparing images for publication.

On my many trips back home, my parents, Jane and TJ, and my sisters, Sheila and Claire, were a great source for free accommodation, advice on Irish-language translations, involuntary archival assistants, as well as so much else besides. I owe a similarly large debt to my adopted American family: Bill and Ruthe, Leah and Dean, and Lowell and Henrik.

Most of all I am endlessly grateful to my wife, Leslie Petrovich, for her support, patience and love. This book is dedicated to her.

GLOSSARY OF IRISH TERMS

- Árd Fheis* ‘High Festival’, the term used by most Irish political parties to describe their annual general meeting.
- Cumann na mBan* ‘The Women’s Organisation’, a female militia linked to the Volunteers and, later, the IRA.
- Cumann na nGaedheal* ‘Organisation of the Irish’, conservative party founded by the pro-treaty elements of Sinn Féin, and which dominated politics in 1920s Ireland.
- Dáil Éireann* ‘Assembly of Ireland’, name used for the parliament of the provisional government of the Irish Republic during the War of Independence, and by that of the Irish Free State. A member of the Dáil is a Teachta Dála (TD), Representative of the Dáil.
- Fianna Éireann ‘Soldiers of Ireland’, boys’ militia founded in 1909 and modelled on the Boy Scouts. It was later formally linked to the IRA.
- Fianna Fáil ‘Soldiers of Irish Destiny’, populist Republican party founded in 1926 by Eamon de Valera and his supporters within Sinn Féin.
- Fine Gael ‘Tribe of the Irish’, conservative party formed in 1932 from the merging of *Cumann na nGaedheal*, the smaller Centre Party, and the fascist-inclined Blueshirts.
- Gaeltacht* ‘Irishness’, the Irish-speaking parts of Ireland. The Gaeltacht is often contrasted with the Galltacht, ‘foreignness’, the Anglophone parts of Ireland.
- An Garda Síochána ‘The Guardians of the Peace’, the post-1922 Irish police force. A single member is a Garda (pl. Gardaí).
- Óglaigh na hÉireann ‘Irish Young Warriors’, term used as the Irish title of the Irish Volunteers, the Irish Republican Army, and the national army of the post-1922 state.

- Seoinín* ‘Little John’, pejorative term for a sycophantic Irish person who apes English customs and manners (pl. *Seoiníní*).
- Sinn Féin ‘Ourselves Alone’, name used for various nationalist parties since the early twentieth century. The name is intended to suggest an ethos of nationalist self-reliance.

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