



1,000 Years of Irish Poetry

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A survey of Irish poetry includes works from the seventh century to poems by Joyce, Yeats, and Moore.

1,000 Years of Irish Poetry Details

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Amber Shehan says

I have a hard time getting past the first two pages...Amergin just sums it all to well up for me.

René says

My introduction to Irish poetry and literature when I was a teenager. Introduced me to so many great Irish writers and translators and Irish myths, legends, historical figures, songs... Opened a door for me.

Autumn says

The anthology covers much ground. It contains many different types of poems.

This book is divided up into four sections. They are: Ancient Irish Poetry, Modern Irish Poetry, Anonymous Street Ballads, and Anglo-Irish Poetry

There are two things that I do not like about the book. There are many authors whose birth years are listed, but not the years that they had died. Why bother to list one without the other? The book ends abruptly with poems written by authors in the early 1900's. That would have made sense when the book was first published in 1947. I own a later edition. I can't figure out why they didn't add any newer poems.

Glen says

This is a very long anthology that tries very hard to be comprehensive. As a resource for those interested in the history of Irish poetry it is quite useful (the subtitle is "The Gaelic and Anglo-Irish Poets from Pagan Times to the Present"). For scholars it has less utility as it is rather short on annotations and there is no facing page original for those poems translated from the Irish. Also missing is much in the way of autobiographical data on the poets selected, especially the more recent ones, so the reader has to do her own research to determine why certain poems and poets were selected for inclusion. The anthology is now somewhat dated, as it was originally compiled in 1947 and the copyright renewed in 1975, so those interested in more recent poetry (e.g., Seamus Heaney) will be disappointed. Still and all, an impressive collection which includes sainted figures from the distant past, anonymous songs and street poems, and some of the icons of Irish literature (e.g., Joyce, Yeats).

Julie says

i love poetry and I'm Irish... so this was a great read for me

