

inaccurately glossed as 'something to look forward to' (OED: 'in English taken for "dainty mouthful or morsel"'). Elsewhere minor typographical errors are evident, but none of this detracts from one's admiration and enjoyment of another superb volume in an outstanding series.

Oxford

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Irish Republicanism in Scotland 1858–1916: Fenians in Exile.

By Máirtín Sean O' Catháin. Pp. xiii, 282.

ISBN: 9780716528586.

Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2007. £19.95.

In *Irish Republicanism in Scotland, 1858–1916*, Máirtín Sean O' Catháin provides a detailed and informative account of the various activities, aims and strategies of the small numbers of Irish immigrants in Scotland who were dedicated to the cause of revolutionary Irish nationalism. This study fills a major gap in the history of Irish immigrant political activity, as until now the only scholarly studies of physical-force Irish republicanism have been those by James Handley and Elaine McFarland on Fenianism in the 1860's, and by Ian Patterson on the events of 1916–23. In the main, accounts of immigrant politics have concentrated either on constitutional Irish nationalist movements such as Repeal and Home Rule, or on Irish involvement in campaigns and organisations alongside Scottish workers, such as the Chartist agitation of the 1830s and 1840s, or the Labour movement of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The heyday of physical-force Irish republicanism was the 1860s, and O' Catháin devotes two chapters to the events of this decade. He argues that Fenianism was the dominant force in Irish immigrant politics at this time, and was established by recent arrivals who belonged to the poorest sections of the working class. These men had nothing to lose in a revolutionary conspiracy, unlike the long-established small group of Irish Catholic businessmen and professionals who had dominated immigrant political life since the 1840s, and who steadfastly advocated constitutional Irish nationalism. O' Catháin shows that the main role of Irish republicans in Scotland was to prepare for and participate in an insurrection in Ireland, hence the arming and drilling of 1865–7. By contrast, Fenians in parts of the north of England were to provide logistical support for an Irish rising, and to engage in diversionary activities in that region. Fenians from Scotland did not, however, participate in the events of March 1867: it would appear that they were not sufficiently organised or prepared – or perhaps willing – to do so.

In the 1870s support for those who advocated revolutionary Irish nationalism declined rapidly, and the Home Rule movement, established in Scotland in 1871, went from strength to strength. It gained support from disillusioned Fenian activists, as did the Land League between 1879 and 1882. According to O' Catháin, Fenianism became irrelevant to the lives of most members of the immigrant community: Irish republicans remained focused on preparing for another rising, and did not attempt to deal with the social and economic concerns of working-class Irish men and women, unlike the constitutional nationalists, who went on to dominate immigrant political life until after the outbreak of World War One. Despite this, Fenianism did not disappear and there remained a hard core of fully committed activists. O' Catháin examines in detail their activities up until 1916, as well as their relationship with the Home

Rulers, the Labour Movement and the Catholic Socialist Society. He shows the ways in which they were able to keep their cause alive, for example by infiltrating organisations such as the Young Ireland Society and using them as a front for their activities. The study concludes by looking very briefly at the Easter Rising, in which around seventy Fenians from Scotland participated.

The principal primary sources for this study are police reports and newspapers, and O' Catháin makes good use of the material he has found. However, some important sources appear not to have been consulted, while others have been under-utilised. For example the Irish nationalist *Glasgow Free Press* was the weekly newspaper for the Irish Catholic community in the west of Scotland, and ran from 1851 to 1868. Yet no use is made of the paper for the 1850s and not much for the 1860s, despite the fact that it contained articles and letters on immigrant political life. Likewise, little use has been made of the abundance of material relating to the nineteenth century in the Scottish Catholic Archives in Edinburgh, and in the Glasgow Archdiocesan Archives. An examination of the correspondence of the clergy could shed more light on the Irish republicans and their activities, and also reveal the responses of the Church to them. Moreover, a detailed examination of such material, and the Scottish press, would have undoubtedly provided more information on the strength of support for, and attitudes of, those in the Catholic Irish community who were hostile to the Fenians and their activities in the 1860s.

Furthermore, not all relevant secondary sources have been utilised. In the past decade a number of important works on the Irish in Scotland have appeared: these include the studies by Elaine McFarland and Terry McBride on Irish political life in Glasgow and the west in the second half of the nineteenth century; Jim Smyth's examination of the Irish and the Glasgow labour movement; Andrew Newby's work on the Land League; Alan Campbell's study of the Irish in mining areas from the 1870s onwards; and Richard McCready's history of the Irish in Dundee. Yet O' Catháin appears not to have consulted these works. While these studies do not focus on revolutionary Irish nationalism, they do offer fresh and challenging insights into the experiences of Irish immigrants in the period covered by this book. It would have been useful if the findings and arguments of these scholars had been incorporated into O' Catháin's analysis: they would help to establish with more accuracy the relative strength and significance of physical-force Irish republicanism in the lives of the Irish in Scotland in the 1860s and in the decades thereafter. Nevertheless, this book is an important source of information about physical-force Irish republicans in Scotland and their activities, and as such is a welcome addition to the growing literature on the experience of the Irish in Scotland.

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Murder and Morality in Victorian Britain. The Story of Madeleine Smith.

By Eleanor Gordon and Gwyneth Nair. Pp. vii, 204.

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Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2009. £16.99.

The intertwining of poison with illicit sex ensures that the story of Madeleine Smith can never be less than compelling. In the case of Gordon and Nair's new reassessment, the result is a spirited narrative which is underpinned by creative and demanding scholarship. Rather than pour over the arcane forensic details of one of Scotland's most notorious 'not proven' verdicts, the authors offer a