This volume presents a collection of papers read at the first Easter Conference on Anglo-Irish Literature at the University of Antwerp on April 9, 1986. All papers have been expanded and updated for publication, with the exception of Brendan Kennelly's keynote speech which has been printed with very few editorial revisions so as to keep its original flavour as a performance. The last contribution was not delivered at the conference, but its inclusion is justified by the fact that W.J.McCormack was associated with the University of Antwerp in the Fall term of 1987.

The name "Easter Conference" was chosen only for the pedestrian reason that it was scheduled during the Easter vacation, but also with a view to commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the Easter Rising, while refraining from giving the conference the character of a political celebration. The task set was rather to clarify working assumptions and complex issues in dealing with the relationship of history, violence and literature.

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