

= George Moore (novelist) =

George Augustus Moore (24 February 1852 ? 21 January 1933) was an Irish novelist , short @-@ story writer , poet , art critic , memoirist and dramatist . Moore came from a Roman Catholic landed family who lived at Moore Hall in Carra , County Mayo . He originally wanted to be a painter , and studied art in Paris during the 1870s . There , he befriended many of the leading French artists and writers of the day .

As a naturalistic writer , he was amongst the first English @-@ language authors to absorb the lessons of the French realists , and was particularly influenced by the works of Émile Zola . His writings influenced James Joyce , according to the literary critic and biographer Richard Ellmann , and , although Moore 's work is sometimes seen as outside the mainstream of both Irish and British literature , he is as often regarded as the first great modern Irish novelist .

= = Life = =

= = = Family origins = = =

George Moore 's family had lived in Moore Hall , near Lough Carra , County Mayo for almost a century . The house was built by his paternal great @-@ grandfather ? also called George Moore ? who had made his fortune as a wine merchant in Alicante . The novelist 's grandfather was a friend of Maria Edgeworth , and author of An Historical Memoir of the French Revolution . His great @-@ uncle , John Moore , was president of the short @-@ lived Republic of Connacht during the Irish Rebellion of 1798 . The novelist 's father , George Henry Moore , sold his stable and hunting interests during the Great Irish Famine , and from 1847 ? 1857 , served as an Independent Member of Parliament (MP) for Mayo in the British House of Commons . George Henry was renowned as a fair landlord , fought to uphold the rights of tenants , and was a founder of the Catholic Defence Association . His estate consisted of 5000 ha (50 km ²) in Mayo , with a further 40 ha in County Roscommon .

= = = Early life = = =

George Moore was born in Moore Hall in 1852 . As a child , Moore enjoyed the novels of Walter Scott , which his father read to him . He spent a good deal of time outdoors with his brother , Maurice George Moore , and also became friendly with the young Willie and Oscar Wilde , who spent their summer holidays at nearby Moytura . Oscar was to later quip of Moore : " He conducts his education in public " .

His father had again turned his attention to horse breeding and in 1861 brought his champion horse , Croagh Patrick , to England for a successful racing season , together with his wife and nine @-@ year @-@ old son . For a while George was left at Cliff 's stables until his father decided to send George to his alma mater facilitated by his winnings . Moore 's formal education started at St. Mary 's College , Oscott , a Catholic boarding school near Birmingham where he was the youngest of 150 boys . He spent all of 1864 at home , having contracted a lung infection brought about by a breakdown in his health . His academic performance was poor while he was hungry and unhappy . In January 1865 , he returned to St. Mary 's College with his brother Maurice , where he refused to study as instructed and spent time reading novels and poems . That December the principal , Spencer Northcote , wrote a report that : " he hardly knew what to say about George . " By the summer of 1867 he was expelled , for (in his own words) ' idleness and general worthlessness ' , and returned to Mayo . His father once remarked , about George and his brother Maurice : " I fear those two redheaded boys are stupid " , an observation which proved untrue for all four boys .

= = = London and Paris = = =

In 1868 , Moore 's father was again elected MP for Mayo and the family moved to London the following year . Here , Moore senior tried , unsuccessfully , to have his son follow a career in the military though , prior to this , he attended the School of Art in the South Kensington Museum where his achievements were no better . He was freed from any burden of education when his father died in 1870 . Moore , though still a minor , inherited the family estate that was valued at £ 3 @, @ 596 . He handed it over to his brother Maurice to manage and in 1873 , on attaining his majority , moved to Paris to study art . It took him several attempts to find an artist who would accept him as a pupil . Monsieur Jullian , who had previously been a shepherd and circus masked man , took him on for 40 francs a month . At Académie Jullian he met Lewis Weldon Hawkins who became Moore 's flat @-@ mate and whose trait , as a failed artist , show up in Moore 's own characters . He met many of the key artists and writers of the time , including Pissarro , Degas , Renoir , Monet , Daudet , Mallarmé , Turgenev and , above all , Zola , who was to prove an influential figure in Moore 's subsequent development as a writer .

While still in Paris his first book , a collection of lyric poems called *The Flowers of Passion* , was self @-@ published in 1877 . The poems were derivative , maliciously reviewed by the critics who were offended by some of the depravities in store for moralistic readers and was withdrawn by Moore . He was forced to return to Ireland in 1880 to raise £ 3 @, @ 000 to pay debts incurred on the family estate due to his tenants refusing to pay their rent and the drop in agricultural prices . During his time back in Mayo , he gained a reputation as a fair landlord , continuing the family tradition of not evicting tenants and refusing to carry firearms when travelling round the estate . While in Ireland , he decided to abandon art and move to London to become a professional writer . There he published his second poetry collection , *Pagan Poems* , in 1881 . These early poems reflect his interest in French symbolism and are now almost entirely neglected . In 1886 Moore published *Confessions of a Young Man* , a lively and energetic memoir about his 20s spent in Paris and London among bohemian artists . It contains a substantial amount of literary criticism for which it has received a fair amount of praise , for instance The Modern Library chose it in 1917 to be included in the series as " one of the most significant documents of the passionate revolt of English literature against the Victorian tradition . "

= = = Controversy in England = = =

During the 1880s , Moore began work on a series of novels in a realist style . His first novel , *A Modern Lover* (1883) was a three @-@ volume work , as preferred by the circulating libraries , and deals with the art scene of the 1870s and 1880s in which many characters are identifiably real . The circulating libraries in England banned the book because of its explicit portrayal of the amorous pursuits of its hero . At this time the British circulating libraries , such as Mudie 's Select Library , controlled the market for fiction and the public , who paid fees to borrow their books , expected them to guarantee the morality of the novels available . His next book , a novel in the realist style , *A Mummers Wife* (1885) was also regarded as unsuitable by Mudie 's and W H Smith refused to stock it on their news @-@ stalls . Despite this , during its first year of publication the book was in its fourteenth edition mainly due to the publicity garnered by its opponents . The French newspaper *Le Voltaire* published it in serial form as *La Femme du cabotin* in July ? October 1886 . His next novel *A Drama in Muslin* was banned by Mudie 's and Smith 's . In response Moore declared war on the circulating libraries by publishing two provocative pamphlets ; *Literature at Nurse* and *Circulating Morals* . In these , he complained that the libraries profit from salacious popular fiction while refusing to stock serious literary fiction .

Moore 's publisher Henry Vizetelly began to issue unabridged mass @-@ market translations of French realist novels that endangered the moral and commercial influence of the circulating libraries around this time . In 1888 , the circulating libraries fought back by encouraging the House of Commons to implement laws to stop ' the rapid spread of demoralising literature in this country ' . However , Vizetelly was brought to court by the National Vigilance Association (NVA) for ' obscene libel ' . The charge arose due to the publication of the English translation of Zola 's *La Terre* . A second case was brought the following year in order to force implementation of the original

judgement and to remove all of Zola 's works . This led to the 70 @-@ year @-@ old publisher becoming involved in the literary cause . Throughout Moore stayed loyal to Zola 's publisher , and on 22 September 1888 , about a month before the trial , wrote a letter that appeared in the St. James Gazette . In it Moore suggested it was improper that Vizetelly 's fate be determined by a jury of twelve tradesmen , explaining it would be preferable to be judged by three novelists . Moore pointed out that the NVA could make the same claims against such books as Madame Bovary and Gautier 's Mademoiselle de Maupin , as their morals are equivalent to Zola 's , though their literary merits might differ .

Because of his willingness to tackle such issues as prostitution , extramarital sex and lesbianism , Moore 's novels were initially met with disapprobation . However , as the public 's taste for realist fiction grew , this subsided . Moore began to find success as an art critic with the publication of books such as Impressions and Opinions (1891) and Modern Painting (1893) ? which was the first significant attempt to introduce the Impressionists to an English audience . By this time Moore was first able to live from the proceeds of his literary work .

Other realist novels by Moore from this period include A Drama in Muslin (1886) , a satiric story of the marriage trade in Anglo @-@ Irish society that hints at same @-@ sex relationships among the unmarried daughters of the gentry , and Esther Waters (1894) , the story of an unmarried housemaid who becomes pregnant and is abandoned by her footman lover . Both of these books have remained almost constantly in print since their first publication . His 1887 novel A Mere Accident is an attempt to merge his symbolist and realist influences . He also published a collection of short stories : Celibates (1895) .

= = = Dublin and the Celtic Revival = = =

In 1901 , Moore returned to Ireland to live in Dublin at the suggestion of his cousin and friend , Edward Martyn . Martyn had been involved in Ireland 's cultural and dramatic movements for some years , and was working with Lady Gregory and William Butler Yeats to establish the Irish Literary Theatre . Moore soon became deeply involved in this project and in the broader Irish Literary Revival . He had already written a play , The Strike at Arlingford (1893) , which was produced by the Independent Theatre . The play was the result of a challenge between Moore and George Robert Sims over Moore 's criticism of all contemporary playwrights in Impressions and Opinions . Moore won the one hundred pound bet made by Sims for a stall to witness an " unconventional " play by Moore , though Moore insisted the word " unconventional " be excised .

The Irish Literary Theatre staged his satirical comedy The Bending of the Bough (1900) , adapted from Martyn 's The Tale of a Town , originally rejected by the theatre but unselfishly given to Moore for revision , and Martyn 's Maeve . Staged by the company who would later become the Abbey Theatre , The Bending of the Bough was a historically important play and introduced realism into Irish literature . Lady Gregory wrote that it : " hits impartially all round " . The play was satire on Irish political life , and as it was unexpectedly nationalist , was considered the first to deal with a vital question that had appeared in Irish life . Diarmuid and Grania , a poetic play in prose co @-@ written with Yeats in 1901 , was also staged by the theatre , with incidental music by Elgar . After this production Moore took up pamphleteering on behalf of the Abbey , and parted company with the dramatic movement .

Moore published two books of prose fiction set in Ireland around this time ; a second book of short stories , The Untilled Field (1903) and a novel , The Lake (1905) . The Untilled Field deal with themes of clerical interference in the daily lives of the Irish peasantry , and of the issue of emigration . The stories were originally written for translation into Irish , in order to serve as models for other writers working in the language . Three of the translations were published in the New Ireland Review , but publication was then paused due to a perceived anti @-@ clerical sentiment . In 1902 the entire collection was translated by Tadhg Ó Donnchadha and Pádraig Ó Súilleabháin , and published in a parallel @-@ text edition by the Gaelic League as An @-@ tÚr @-@ Ghort . Moore later revised the texts for the English edition . These stories were influenced by Turgenev 's A Sportsman 's Sketches , a book recommended to Moore by W. K. Magee , a sub @-@ librarian of

the National Library of Ireland , and had earlier suggested that Moore " was best suited to become Ireland 's Turgenev " . The tales are recognised by some as representing the birth of the Irish short story as a literary genre .

In 1903 , following a disagreement with his brother Maurice over the religious upbringing of his nephews , Moore declared himself to be Protestant . His conversion was announced in a letter to the Irish Times newspaper . Moore remained in Dublin until 1911 . In 1914 , he published a gossipy , three @-@ volume memoir of his time there under the collective title Hail and Farewell , which entertained its readers but infuriated former friends . Moore himself said of these memoirs , " Dublin is now divided into two sets ; one half is afraid it will be in the book , and the other is afraid that it won 't " .

In his later years he was increasingly friendless , having quarreled bitterly with Yeats and Osborn Bergin , among others : Oliver St. John Gogarty said : " It was impossible to be a friend of his , because he was incapable of gratitude " .

= = = Later life = = =

Moore returned to London in 1911 , where , with the exception of frequent trips to France , he was to spend much of the rest of his life . In 1913 , he traveled to Jerusalem to research for his next novel , The Brook Kerith (1916) . The book saw Moore once again embroiled in controversy , as it was based on the supposition that a non @-@ divine Christ did not die on the cross but instead was nursed back to health . Other books from this period include a further collection of short @-@ stories called A Storyteller 's Holiday (1918) , a collection of essays called Conversations in Ebury Street (1924) and a play , The Making of an Immortal (1927) . Moore also spent considerable time revising and preparing his earlier writings for new editions .

Partly due to Maurice 's pro @-@ treaty activity , Moore Hall was burnt by anti @-@ treaty forces in 1923 , during the final months of the Irish Civil War . Moore eventually received compensation of £ 7 @,@ 000 from the government of the Irish Free State . By this time George and Maurice had become estranged , mainly because of an unflattering portrait of the latter which appeared in Hail and Farewell . Tension also arose as a result of religious differences : Maurice frequently made donations to the Roman Catholic Church from estate funds . Moore later sold a large part of the estate to the Irish Land Commission for £ 25 @,@ 000 .

Moore was friendly with many members of the expatriate artistic communities in London and Paris , and had a long @-@ lasting relationship with Maud , Lady Cunard . Moore took a special interest in the education of Maud 's daughter , the well @-@ known publisher and art patron , Nancy Cunard . It has been suggested that Moore , rather than Maud 's husband , Sir Bache Cunard , was Nancy 's father , but this is not generally credited by historians , and it is not certain that Moore 's relationship with Nancy 's mother was ever more than platonic . Moore was believed by some to be impotent and was described as " one who told but didn 't kiss " . Moore 's last novel , Aphroditis in Aulis , was published in 1930 .

He died at his home at Ebury Street in the London district of Pimlico in early 1933 , leaving a fortune of £ 70 @,@ 000 . He was cremated in London at a service attended by Ramsay MacDonald among others . An urn containing his ashes was interred on Castle Island in Lough Carra in view of the ruins of Moore Hall .

= = Works = =

Flowers of Passion London : Provost & Company , 1878

Martin Luther : A Tragedy in Five Acts London : Remington & Company , 1879

Pagan Poems London : Newman & Company , 1881

A Modern Lover London : Tinsley Brothers , 1883

A Mummer 's Wife London : Vizetelly & Company , 1885

Literature at Nurse London : Vizetelly & Company , 1885

A Drama in Muslin London : Vizetelly & Company , 1886

A Mere Accident London : Vizetelly & Company , 1887
 Parnell and His Island London ; Swan Sonnenschein Lowrey & Company , 1887
 Confessions of a Young Man Swan Sonnenschein Lowrey & Company , 1888
 Spring Days London : Vizetelly & Company , 1888
 Mike Fletcher London : Ward & Downey , 1889
 Impressions and Opinions London ; David Nutt , 1891
 Vain Fortune London : Henry & Company , 1891
 Modern Painting London : Walter Scott , 1893
 The Strike at Arlingford London : Walter Scott , 1893
 Esther Waters London : Walter Scott , 1894
 Celibates London : Walter Scott , 1895
 Evelyn Innes London : T. Fisher Unwin , 1898
 The Bending of the Bough London : T. Fisher Unwin , 1900
 Sister Theresa London : T. Fisher Unwin , 1901
 The Untilled Field London : T. Fisher Unwin , 1903
 The Lake London : William Heinemann , 1905
 Memoirs of My Dead Life London : William Heinemann , 1906
 The Apostle : A Drama in Three Acts Dublin : Maunsel & Company , 1911
 Hail and Farewell London : William Heinemann , 1911 , 1912 , 1914
 The Apostle : A Drama in Three Acts Dublin : Maunsel & Company , 1911
 Elizabeth Cooper Dublin : Maunsel & Company , 1913
 Muslin London : William Heinemann , 1915
 The Brook Kerith : A Syrian Story London : T. Warner Laurie , 1916
 Lewis Seymour and Some Women New York : Brentano 's , 1917
 A Story @-@ Teller 's Holiday London : Cumann Sean @-@ eolais na hÉireann (privately printed) , 1918 . This work contains the story later re @-@ published in the collection Celibate Lives , 1927 , as the short story " The Singular Life of Albert Nobbs " which was made into a 2011 movie , Albert Nobbs , starring Glenn Close .
 Avowals London : Cumann Sean @-@ eolais na hÉireann (privately printed) , 1919
 The Coming of Gabrielle London : Cumann Sean @-@ eolais na hÉireann (privately printed) , 1920
 Heloise and Abelard London : Cumann Sean @-@ eolais na hÉireann (privately printed) , 1921
 In Single Strictness London : William Heinemann , 1922
 Conversations in Ebury Street London : William Heinemann , 1924
 Pure Poetry : An Anthology London : Nonesuch Press , 1924
 The Pastoral Loves of Daphnis and Chloe London : William Heinemann , 1924
 Daphnis and Chloe , Peronnik the Fool New York : Boni & Liveright , 1924
 Ulick and Soracha London : Nonesuch Press , 1926
 Celibate Lives London : William Heinemann , 1927 (This collection and his previous work A Story @-@ Teller 's Holiday both include the short story " The Singular Life of Albert Nobbs " which was made into a movie , with Glenn Close .)
 The Making of an Immortal New York : Bowling Green Press , 1927
 The Passing of the Essenes : A Drama in Three Acts London : William Heinemann , 1930
 Aphrodite in Aulis New York : Fountain Press , 1930
 A Communication to My Friends London : Nonesuch Press , 1933
 Diarmuid and Grania : A Play in Three Acts Co @-@ written with W.B. Yeats , Edited by Anthony Farrow , Chicago : De Paul , 1974
 Letters
 Moore Versus Harris Detroit : privately printed , 1921
 Letters to Dujardin New York : Crosby Gaige , 1929
 Letters of George Moore Bournemouth : Sydenham , 1942
 Letters to Lady Cunard Ed . Rupert Hart @-@ Davis . London : Rupert Hart @-@ Davis , 1957
 George Moore in Transition Ed . Helmut E. Gerber , Detroit : Wayne State University Press , 1968

