

Unraveling Feminist Narratives: The Intersection of Ancient Irish Mythology, Nationalism, and Women's Contributions to the Gaelic Revival

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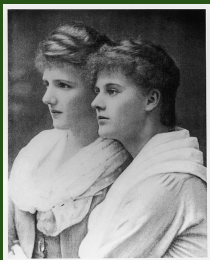
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Key Authors

- **Lady Augusta Gregory** was an author and playwright known for her retellings of Irish mythology. She supported Irish Nationalism and Republicanism.
- **Eva Gore-Booth** was a poet whose interests leaned towards women's suffrage and labor activism. Her subversion and retellings of the Irish myths emphasized the female experience.
- **Alice Milligan** was a writer and activist whose politics leaned towards Irish Republicanism. She also focused on the inclusion of women in republican spaces.

Findings

- Each author has a nationalist background, and they used their writings to emphasize those ideals.
- They utilize Irish mythology as a way to emphasize the roots of the country (the goal of the Gaelic Revival).
- They all used the characterization of female figures in mythology to emphasize aspects of Irish women in a positive way.
- Eva Gore-Booth uses the strength of the figure of Queen Maeve to symbolize that of Irish women and emphasize their role as queens and warriors for the republic.
- Her characterization of the queen is close to the source material but emphasizes female sensibility and pacifism in Maeve's reluctance towards war in the play.
- In "Lament of the Daughters of Ireland" she similarly uses Maeve to set a precedent for the strength of Irish women, both in their resilience and in their grief.
- Both Milligan and Gregory use the character of Grania to establish feminist undertones in their works, though in wildly different ways.
- Gregory humanizes a character who is typically characterized as an antagonist by emphasizing her role as a female figure in a patriarchal society.
- Milligan characterizes Grania as a jealous wife, and though not a favorable characterization, it presents her as a multidimensional character and exposes the patriarchal functions that foster discord between women.



Eva Gore-Booth and her sister Constance Gore-Booth



Portrait of Augusta Gregory (1852-1932), Dramatist by John Butler Yeats

Sources of Irish

Mythology

- *The Dialogue of the Ancients of Ireland* translated by Maurice Harmon
- Translations of *The Book of Leinster*
- *A Literary History of Ireland* by Douglas Hyde
- *Lady Gregory's Complete Irish Mythology* by Lady Gregory

Works Examined

- *The Last Feast of the Fianna* by Alice Milligan
- *The Triumph of Maeve* by Eva Gore-Booth
- "Lament of the Daughters of Ireland" by Eva Gore-Booth
- *Grania* by Lady Augusta Gregory



Photo of Alice Milligan from the National Library of Ireland