0:00

In terms of where it comes from, actually I wrote my PhD thesis in 2012, which explore primarily Shelley's response to the people who must occur. So his poems and songs that he wrote on pizza, Lou, and as part of that research, I was interested, I'm interested in these these earliest poems, which have been quite neglected. And for me the the themes that he explored and ideas in these Irish poems are a forerunner to what he was to do in Pisa league. So then the the Irish poems became a chapter in the PhD thesis. And then once I finished that, I thought that they it was worthy of kind of publishing that as an article in its own right, in terms of the genre of the elegy. So that is absolutely central to Irish literature. I mean, any exploration of Irish literature needs to consider the colonial context. So Ireland has been a colony of England initially since the 12th century.

1:06

And so that's kind of a fraught relationship where we see ourselves as quite similar to the Irish but there's also huge differences. So underpinning any exploration of culture. It's that relationship that quite fraught relationship and allergies are central to Irish literature as a way of mourning, the not only individuals so obviously these allergies that the article explores are directly about the deaths of Robert Emmons another kind of rebel patriot hero talks about a bit more later. But but it's wider than that. It's mourning the loss of a nation the loss of cultural identity, the loss of language loss of freedom. So all of that underpins these averages. And Charlotte Brooke, who was the Clarion in the 18th century who published a lot of ancient allergists talks about how the Irish language itself is suited to the genre of allergy that the kind of the mournfulness. I mean, I don't speak any Irish but but we just think about the Irish accent and the kind of cadences within that kind of musicality, but also a sense of kind of mournfulness, and so elegies are fundamental to the Irish.

2:28

Robert Emmons is a rebel. He was a united Irishman, who was part of the sales 1803 uprising. So we know a lot more about the 1798 uprising that was led by Wolf toe. So these United Irishman who were actually predominantly Protestants rather than Catholics, inspired by the French Revolution, wanted to overthrow British rule wanted emancipation for Ireland and particularly in emancipation for Catholics as well. The 7988 Rebellion fails then in 1803, we get this this kind of second planned uprising. This is during the Napoleonic wars and it was hoped that the that Napoleon would actually liberate Ireland and use Ireland as a as a kind of stopping point to invade England. And this was a really real fear for the English that the polling would attack them from Ireland. Anyway, Robert Emmett, a Protestant, a lawyer, led this uprising which failed really before it got going. And, and as well, as well as his part in this. What's contributed to his memorialization is the speech that he gave in the doctor his exit At his trial. So he gave this really powerful speech that's become part of of not only Irish kind of folklore, but also radical folklore. This speech was recited quite often in England by the Chartists as well as By the Irish and he talks about the fact that he doesn't want an epitaph, that he says that it's only when the Irish have free dental his epitaph be written, and he talks about, until then there will be silence. So silence is is a key part in the exploration of the poems about islands but also about Emmet. So we see Shelley drowsy and more or wrote poems about Robert Emmet, but but coming from very different points of view.

4:38

So if we consider Thomas Moore, Thomas Moore was Irish. He was a very successful poet. He sold lots and lots of coffees and he wrote lots of volumes of Irish melodies. So these songs he wrote the lyrics to ancient Irish tunes that were played in the door. rains of England, but some of those actually are a lot more political than they first appear. And a couple of those are all implicitly if not explicitly about me. And probably the most famous of that is Brees, not his name. So even though he doesn't mention me, anybody reading the poem or understanding the context in which it was written, would understand that it is about Robert Emmons, and then more explores this idea of silence, that the way in which the Irish has been silenced by their Imperial masters, the way in which their language and culture has been silenced. But also it's a poem of hope, of rebirth, that following the death of Emmet, that perhaps through his martyrdom, that that new ways of rebellion will come to the floor.

5:55

And the third thing really about all of these allergies about Robert Robert F. is the desire to provide a memorial. So you know, an elegy is a memorialization of the person who's died. And certainly they all do that they will talk about how there is a lack of memorial for me, and in not lack of a memorial, the poems themselves become that Memorial. So until this day, we don't know where Robert M is buried, he was executed following his trial. So, you know, he, he doesn't have that kind of physical gravestone that people can visit. So the poet's in turn, so society to provide that kind of sense of honouring and memorialising him So Moses is very much written from, from that that kind of Irish sensibility that shared experience of being gone to colonial rule. And the fact that he used ancient tunes to his words also makes that link between a And Irish culture much stronger as well. So even though English people playing the songs listening to the songs would not necessarily have understood those, the links that the tunes conveyed, and the Irish person would understand that, that he's really trying to be as kind of a spokesperson for Irish culture. Then if we look at Robert Saudis poem about Robert Emmons, this is this is really, really different. So, so Saudis poem is very contradictory. It's full of tension. He wrote it after hearing the speech that he gave in the dark, he's inspired by that he's inspired by and it's radicalism, his heroism, yet at the same time, he completely disagrees with his politics. So you've got this this real amaze in the poem between Saudi kind of kind of connected During Emmet, heroism and talking about again that need for a memorial, and yet, he disagrees completely with what he said and talks about how actually it's better that Emma is dead than alive.

8:16

And perhaps lead to regret is his early radicalism. And of course, Saudi himself was was a kind of radical in his early years, who, like cola written words was became much more conservative, as he got older, and in fact, he, you know, was the poet laureate, so very much figure at the establishment. And he talks in his poem, which is called written immediately after reading the speech of Robert Emmett on his trial and conviction for high treason. He talks about here in free England shall an English hand build by imperishable monuments. So just as more as on about, you know, using a poem to provide a monument to me, so it's Foudy, but it's an English So, you know, any Irish person reading this poem? It just reinforces the colonial relationship where even in the kind of commemoration of one is it's rebel heroes. It's an English person taking control of that. So I think in the crowd the poem, we end up learning more about Saudi than we do about Emmet. And certainly, images. Traditionally, not only tell us about the dead, but they also tell us about the living as well the person who's writing the poem. So allergies can also be a form of of self expression, as well as memorialization of remembrance for the dead.

9:42

And then we come to Shelley's poems. So Shelley start young man, he went to Dublin in 1812. So he was very, very young. He was inspired by Irish politics. He felt that But things are going to happen at that period, there was some campaign in England towards Catholic emancipation. There was also a sense a sense that something would change that King George the Third was incapacitated, and so the Prince Regent was in charge and he kind of made noises that he would consider Catholic emancipation. So there was a sense among Catholics, Catholics in England and Irish supporters that something would happen. It didn't at the time. So inspired by this, Shelley actually went to Dublin and spent six weeks there, relatively unsuccessfully, he thought that he could take part in kind of political agitation and, and did so but but rather clumsily, and not really understanding the nuances of the kind of sectarian tensions within Irish politics. Anyway, one of the things or two things that came out of this word was two poems, written about Robert hermits and it's believed that During his stay in Dublin Shelley visited missions church, where it is believed amateurs Barrett Barrett, although we don't know that, so the first poem on Roberts, and it's to his Saturn submissions graveyard, and it's very, very similar to more towards poems in the sense that it's written in a kind of melodic structure. It's quite simple though those kind of full lines stanza so it's very accessible in the way that more songs were.

11:33

It's not indicated whether or not this would be sunk. I don't think it would be although it does have that kind of musical quality to it. And very similar to to Moore's eligius. I'm Robert Emmett. Shelley is talking about providing a monument and he also draws on traditional Irish traits. So we have reference says to the Shamrock to Aaron as the name that's used for islands, again, silence permeates the poem. So this sense that, that there was silence nobody is allowed really to have voice in islands because of the colonial oppression. But as with most poems, there's also a sense of hope. More users night and day so that so that sense that you know, day follows night so the sense that there is regeneration and rebirth, shall users the seasons, so he starts off by talking about winter, may the 10th of winter, but as opposed to progressive, there is that that sense that of course after winter, comes spring, and he talks in the final sons are about when the storm clouds at Lowe's or the day been is gone and changed them. extinguish, an extinguished its life spring will shine. When Aaron has ceased with our memory to grow, she will smile through the tears of revival on Vine. So it does end with hope that island will come out for this period that whether through the martyrdom of Emmett through, you know the rebels that were coming forth, that he that island would achieve its Liberty ultimately