

Press Release

The Letters of John McGahern

Edited by Frank Shovlin

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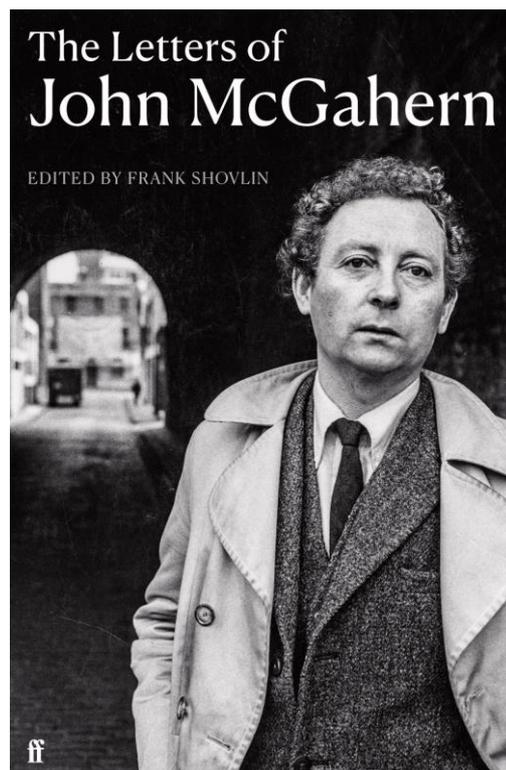
JOHN UPDIKE

Consistently hailed as one of Ireland's finest writers, the correspondence of John McGahern is an essential part of discovering and appreciating his literary lineage. This volume collects some of the witty, profound and unfailingly brilliant letters that he exchanged over the course of a well-travelled life with family, friends and literary luminaries such as Seamus Heaney, Colm Tóibín and Paul Muldoon.

Meticulously edited with dedicated attention to the links within McGahern's body of work, *The Letters of John McGahern* is one of the major contributions to the study of Irish and British literature of the past thirty years, acting not just as a crucial insight into the life and works of a much-revered writer, but also a history of post-war Irish, British and American literary life.

Frank Shovlin is available for interview and to write pieces. For all media enquiries, please contact Declan Heeney 086 8320390

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John McGahern was born in Dublin in 1934 and brought up in the west of Ireland. He worked as a primary-school teacher and held various academic posts at universities in Britain, Ireland and America. He was the author of six highly acclaimed novels and four collections of short stories and was the recipient of numerous awards and honours, including a Society of Authors Travelling Scholarship, the American–Irish Award, the Prix Etrangère Ecureuil and the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres. *Amongst Women*, which won both the GPA and the *Irish Times* Award, was shortlisted for the Booker Prize and made into a four-part BBC television series. McGahern died in 2006.

Frank Shovlin is Professor of Irish Literature in English at the Institute of Irish Studies, University of Liverpool. He is working on the authorised biography of John McGahern.