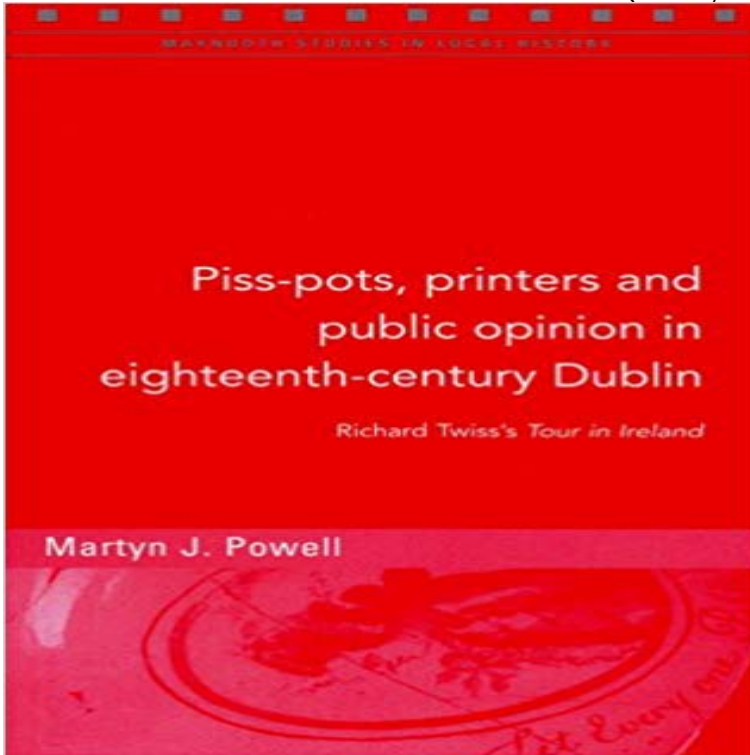


Piss-pots, Printers and Public Opinion in Eighteenth-century Dublin: Richard Twiss Tour in Ireland (Maynooth Studies in Local History)



Explores the visit of the English tourist Richard Twiss to Ireland and the resulting controversy - enthusiastically stoked by Dublins printers - that followed the publication of the account of his travels. A Tour in Ireland in 1775 derided Irelands cultural achievements and the morals and manners of the inhabitants. Most famously it described the people of Connaught as savages and the legs of Irelands women-folk as less than svelte. The resulting outcry saw dozens of newspaper articles, squibs, poems and caricatures aimed at the unfortunate tourist. This can be seen as evidence of a newly politicized Irish nation spoiling for a fight. But the episode also sheds important light on publishing and print culture in Dublin. Twiss could see the value of courting controversy, and Dublins printers and booksellers set him up as a pantomime villain to ensure steady sales. An item sold by printers that married the new consumer culture of eighteenth-century Ireland with popular patriotism: a chamber pot at the bottom of which was emblazoned Twiss image, thus allowing any right-thinking Irish man or woman to urinate on this most hated member of the Royal Society.

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