

Irish/Irish-American Archival & Book Collections

An Introduction...

The significant impact of the Irish on World and American History is well documented, but as one begins to look at their contributions on a local level it is an equally impressive success story. From our perspective, this evolving tale is told in oral and written histories relating to the development of parochial schools, higher education, political endeavor and Catholicism within the Garden State, but also encompassing all aspects of life in, and beyond the physical and spiritual boundaries of Éire proper. When it comes to serving our valued research community, the contributions of the Irish community are manifest in many different ways as reflected in the depth and breadth of these specialized archival anthologies.

The collective material memory of Seton Hall University is found in our collection which dates from 1856 to the present day, and encompasses approximately 1300 cubic feet worth of documentation related to the school in some form or function. Chartered as the first Catholic college in New Jersey, Seton Hall holds an important place in the annals of religious higher education and the resulting historical data reflects this unique status. A broad range of print resources combined with photographs, audio/video tapes and artifacts provide a detailed record of the varied aspects of campus life including governance, curriculum, student activity and physical plant development from its origins in Madison to its current location in South Orange. The school archival collection includes a continuous series of general bulletins/catalog(ues) dating from 1861, handwritten ledger books which provide detailed accounts of college endeavors over the last two centuries and close to two hundred different campus publications including the *White & Blue/Galleon* (student annual-yearbook) and *Setonian* (student newspaper) which both date from 1924 onward. Over the past few years, the Irish Student Society on campus (PIPE) has made our repository their de facto headquarters and home for club records since 2007.

Seton Hall University also holds the unique distinction of serving as the dual primary repository for both a major educational institution and religious see. The Catholic

Diocese of Newark (Newark became an Archdiocese in 1937) was founded in 1853, and since that time materials have been produced in the form of correspondence, diaries, ledgers and a large photographic collection which represents the vibrancy of religious and socio-ethnic development in the context of New Jersey History. The cornerstone of this compilation are the manuscript and business papers produced by each Bishop and Archbishop of Newark over 150 years of diocesan activity. The personal/business papers of various members of the clergy compliment a growing number of detailed priest files. Another important aspect of this collection includes individual church histories from St. Patrick's Pro-Cathedral and the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart along with a number of parishes located in the counties of Essex, Hudson, Bergen, Union (which comprise the present boundaries of the Archdiocese of Newark) and many others throughout the Garden State.

When it comes to family ties, the presence of church census data, select religious community information, educational files and various institutional and parish records are also found within this collection. Original and microfilmed nineteenth and early twentieth century sacramental registers from both current or closed parishes and various local cemeteries provide a wealth of information for those conducting genealogical research for their Irish and Irish-American ancestors either on-site or via mail inquiry as well. Supplementing these distinctive resources are bound or microfilmed copies of Catholic Almanacs and Directories dating from 1851 onward.

Our library also features a group of printed volumes from the collection of Irish literary figure and noted book collector Michael Joseph (Meagher) MacManus (1888-1951) who wrote various nationalist-themed books and worked as editor of the *Irish Press* from 1931 until his death two decades later. This library includes over 3,000 titles dating from the seventeenth century to the present day and covers several different aspects of Irish and Irish-American life including culture, geography, literature, politics, biography, history and religion. Nearly all editions are printed in either English or Irish (Gaelach). The core of this collection consists of acquisitions secured by MacManus during his lifetime, but arrangements have been made to add latter day works to what has become a continuously expanding bibliography.

Most of these volumes are housed in our repository, but many titles featuring a connection to the Ireland and Irish-American experience in some manner are also included in our Main or Reference Collection. Another collection donated by Rita Murphy (1912-2003), achieved status as one of the first female graduates of Seton Hall in 1937, prior to becoming a long time director of the Irish Institute at Seton Hall during the 1950s and 1960s. She also hosted a weekly Irish Music Programme on W-S-O-U FM, South Orange and frequently appeared on local television. Her collection of nearly 1,000 titles compliment other volumes donated by other prominent donors of Irish titles including noted New Jersey based journalists Barbara O'Reilly; Jim Lowney and noted advocate Jim McFarland whose bequest centers on various materials related to political issues in Northern Ireland over the past few decades.

In terms of manuscript collections individual figures with Irish surnames have also been featured prominently in the organization of archival collections featured at Seton Hall through University and Archdiocesan connections alike. Such important historical figures including former Bishops/Archbishops of Newark as the late Michael Augustine Corrigan (1873-1880); John Joseph O'Connor (1901-1927); Thomas J. Walsh (1928-1952) and Thomas A. Boland (1953-1974) along with various Auxiliary Bishops and other key administrators helped to build the Catholic Church in New Jersey. Respectively, the Catholic University of New Jersey was led by such academics as Bernard J. McQuaid (1856-1857 and 1859-1867); James H. Corrigan (1876-1888); James F. Mooney (1907-1922); Thomas H. McLaughlin (1922-1933); Francis J. Monaghan (1933-1936); James F. Kelley (1936-1949); John L. McNulty (1949-1959) and John J. Dougherty (1959-1969). Other prominent collections include resource materials from the first Catholic Governor of New Jersey Richard J. Hughes (1909-1992); Bernard Shanley III (1903-1992), political advisor to President Dwight Eisenhower. Our latest major acquisition came from the estate of John Concannon (1924-2011) former author, editor, publicist and National Historian of the Ancient Order of Hibernians whose voluminous source material on Ireland and Irish-America is especially detailed with particular emphasis on parades, noted political and military figures among other related topics. Materials from various Irish Historical collaborative with local libraries,

museums and colleges also have also found an important place within our collection.

Seton Hall University Archives Acquisitions Policy - In Brief

The Msgr. William Noé Field Archives & Special Collections Center located on the first floor of Walsh Library at Seton Hall University serves as the central repository for informational records created by, for and about the institution proper. The Center exists to identify, collect and preserve records of enduring value that are not only relational to Seton Hall University, but also the Archdiocese of Newark, Catholic New Jersey/America and the aforementioned Irish & Irish-American experience in all its significant forms. Through professional and service-related activities, the Center aims to achieve the ultimate goal of advancing the educational and research mission of Seton Hall University and to promote inquiry and satisfy the quest for knowledge as a result. The following list includes (but is not limited to) some of the more common resources that the Center collects in regard to Irish & Irish-American life in order to better aid our mission of enlightenment.

- 1
- 2 • Artifacts & Objects
- 3 • Audio & Video Recordings
- 4 • Books & Booklets
- 5 • Brochures & Pamphlets
- 6 • Correspondence & Letters
- 7 • Diaries & Journals
- 8 • Manuscripts & Unpublished Writings
- 9 • Memoirs & Oral Histories
- 10 • Newspapers & Newsletters
- 11 • Organizational & Society Information
- 12 • Photographs & Posters
- 13 • Scrapbooks & Family Albums

Whatever the source whether organizational or individual in origin, there is much documentation available through a multitude of published articles and books, but there still remains much to be researched and written on the Irish & Irish-American experience both past and present...Táimid Seton Halla Ollscoil!

General Information & Contact Data

For more information about resources, to schedule an appointment or donate materials please feel free to contact Alan de Lozier, Director & Curator...

E-Mail: Alan.Delozier@shu.edu / Phone: (973) 275-2378

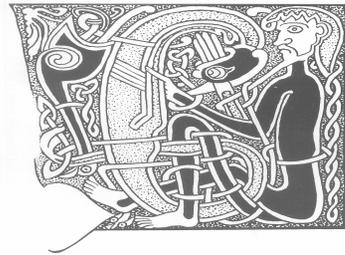
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Seton Hall University

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Seton Hall Archives & Library
of
Ireland/Irish-America



Book of Kells-Inspired Illustrations by George Bain in *Celtic Art*, 1990 ed.

Cartlann agus Leabharlann Seton
Halla
na
hÉireann/Gael-Mheiriceánach

Internet Homepage:
<<http://www.shu.edu/academics/libraries/archives/>>

