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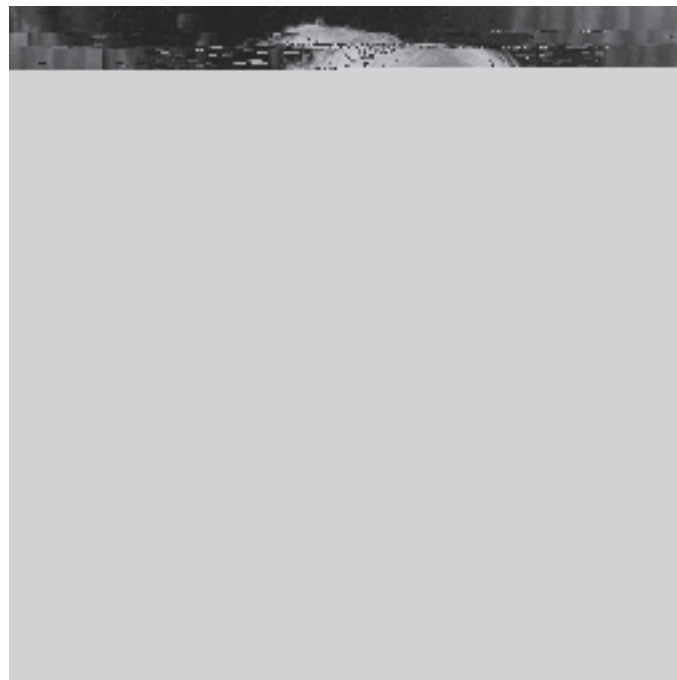
IRISH STUDIES

Ruth-Ann Harris Launches “Missing Friends” Website on the History of Irish Immigration

From 1831 to 1921, **The Boston Pilot** offered a weekly list of Irish immigrants to North America being sought by relatives, friends or acquaintances. The more than 31,000 entries that ran during the 90 years of the “Missing Friends” column have been catalogued by Boston College researchers, led by historian Ruth-Ann Harris, and are now being made available through a Boston College website, Information Wanted, at infowanted.bc.edu. Through a joint venture between the Boston College Office of Marketing Communications and Irish Studies, the advertisements have been turned into a searchable database, and serve as a resource for scholars and others interested in Irish immigration.

From the first advertisement in October 1831, entries for “Missing Friends” were usually concise and formulaic, often giving little more than the missing person’s name, birthplace, known destination, and some distinguishing characteristic. Yet some advertisements hint at the more personal and emotional aspects of this separation: parents trying to find the whereabouts of their 12-year-old daughter who had traveled alone to New York City; a wife’s precise descriptions of her missing husband, from his height (5-foot-7) to his “black-whiskered” facial appearance to his “drab sack coat” and “blue striped shirt.” “These notices serve as a kind of snapshot of people’s lives,” says Harris. “We have some idea about who they were, where they were from, but we can’t necessarily be sure what happened to them.”

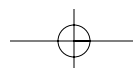
Many immigration records from this era were not



Ruth-Ann Harris

especially precise, so the information in “Missing Friends,” incomplete as it is, has proven to be immensely valuable to historians like Harris, who studies labor and economic trends. Such data helps historians form a more complete picture of Irish immigration patterns. The information in the ads is also valuable for family historians who wish to learn more about the nineteenth-century world of their ancestors.

Harris co-edited **The Search for Missing Friends: Irish Immigrant Advertisements Placed in The Boston Pilot**, an eight-volume set that includes a detailed analysis of data compiled from “Missing Friends.” Her work has received positive notices by the Associated Press, National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered,” and the **Irish Times**.



Maria Luddy Named Burns Scholar for 2005-2006

Maria Luddy, Professor of History at the University of Warwick, specializes in the social and political history of 19th and 20th century Ireland, concentrating particularly on the history of women. She has published books and articles on women and philanthropy, women's involvement in religious communities, the role of nuns in workhouse nursing, and biographies of Isabella M.S. Tod and Hanna Sheehy-Skeffington. From 1997 to 2001 she acted as the director of the Women's History Project, which yielded publications such as **The**

Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin Headlines Fall Music Series

This fall's music series features lectures, dancing, and concerts by top performers and academics in the field of Irish music, including the premier event which will see the return of former Burns Scholar for 1989-1990, Dr. Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin. Pianist, composer, producer and ethnomusicolo-

A sampling of recent donations to the Irish Music Center archives at the Burns Library includes: the Hanafin Family Irish Music Collection, documenting the life and music of Boston Irish music legends William and Michael Hanafin; 50 cylinder recordings from the New England Jesuit Archives; the Joe Lamont Irish Music Collection, including 60 reel-to-reel audio tapes from New York City in the 1950s and 1960s; correspondence, sheet music, photographs, and other items in the Ellis Schuman Collection of harpist Derek F. Bell; recordings, posters, and programs in the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann North American Archives at Boston College; and hundreds of rare recordings, sheet music, photographs, and other items contributed by Sullivan Artist-in-Residence Séamus Connolly.

In February, the joint efforts of the Hanafin-Cooley branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and Boston College's Center for Irish Programs resulted in a new compact disc, **A Clareman's Music**, fea-

turing the flute and whistle playing of former Kilfenora Céilí Band member Jimmy Hogan. A native of Moy, County Clare, Mr. Hogan has lived in Boston for more than half a century and is an active member of the Boston Irish music scene. The disc includes 19 tracks recorded in Jimmy Hogan's kitchen, three tracks courtesy of Dr. Willie Mahon, and several archival tracks from the Irish Music Center archives at the Burns Library. The Irish Music Center assisted with research and production for this important project. Boston writer Michael P. Quinlin describes **A Clareman's Music** as "a testimonial to the pure and powerful musical traditions cultivated in County Clare."

For more news, links to streaming audio and video, exhibits, event listings, collection summaries, and Earle Hitchner's article "The Reel Deal" from **BC Magazine**, please visit the Irish Music Center website www.bc.edu/imc.

The O'Neill Library has added to its collection of Irish material with several significant acquisitions. Two purchases from the United Kingdom National Archive include **Prime Minister Correspondence and Papers, 1945-1951**, covering Clement Attlee's Labour administration of 1945 to 1951, and **Foreign Office Records FO395/349-35**, which deal with news correspondence of the First World War era. Special endowments from the Patrick and Catherine McNiff Fund, the Michael and Helen Stack Fund and the Mary Morrissey Fund assisted with the purchase of such primary source material as well as runs of Irish and Irish-American newspapers, including **Northern Ireland Political Literature on Microfiche, 1988-1989**. This series of periodicals features news reported during the Northern Ireland "Troubles" and includes publications by political parties, parliamentary groups, community papers, and news sheets. This set of fiche updates the Library's holdings, which previously ended with 1987. **Ireland: Politics and Society through the Press, 1760-1922** contains microfilm reels of **The Irish Builder and Northern Whig 1824-1893**, and the **Belfast Newsletter 1850-1865**. The acquisition adds

to the collection's current run of the **Belfast News Letter and General Advertiser 1738-1769**, and the paper under the newer title, **Belfast News Letter**. The Library has also purchased back issues of **Comhar**, the Irish-language magazine that deals with culture, politics and literature from 1942 to the present, and Gerald Dawe, John J. Burns Visiting Scholar in Irish Studies for the spring semester 2005, donated a full run of **Krino**, dubbed "the best Irish literary magazine to emerge from the 1980s" by Frank Shovlin in **The Irish Literary Periodical**.

Other acquisitions include the Dublin Castle records, 1880 to 1921, containing detailed materials on the history of British administration in Ireland. They complement another O'Neill acquisition, **Tithe an Oireachtas: D'osp-ireachta' Parlaiminte, 1919-2002 (Houses of the Oireachtas: parliamentary debates, 1919-2002)**. Finally, the O'Neill purchased "The Struggle," an hour-long RTE documentary on a critical Civil War raid at the Donnybrook house of Sighle Humphrey, grandmother of creators Manchán and Ruán Magan.

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Burns Library Acquisitions

The Burns Library has recently added a number of significant collections and individual items to its distinguished Irish holdings. Most notable among these is the Molly Gill Cuala Press Archive. Máire (Molly) Gill started with the Cuala Press in 1908 as an assistant to Lolly Yeats and soon became principal compositor. In addition to her work with the Press, Molly Gill was actively involved in the Republican movement, and was a founding member of **Cumann na mBan**. She was also involved in sports and served as President of **Cumann Cam-gaiocht na nG**

September 19

*Lecture: **Abandoned Women and Bad Characters: Prostitution in Nineteenth-Century Ireland**

Burns Scholar Maria Luddy, Department of History, University of Warwick
Connolly House 4:00 pm

September 22

Lecture: **The Golden Age of Céilí Bands**

Brian Lawler

Jenks Library, Gasson Hall 6:30pm

Irish Dance and Céilí

Featuring Sullivan Artist-in-Residence

Séamus Connolly and Brian Lawler

Irish Room, Gasson Hall 8:00 pm

October 16

Musical Performance and Lecture

Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, director of the

World Music Centre, University of Limerick,

accompanied by local women artists; Ann

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Jill Bender

"The Imperial Politics of Famine: the 1873-4 Bengal Famine and Irish Nationalism." ACIS National Conference, University of Notre Dame, April 2005.

Lisabeth Buchelt

"All About Eve: Memory and Recollection in Junius 11's Epic Poems **Genesis** and **Christ and Satan**." **Women and Medieval Epic**, Sara Poor and Jana Schulman, eds. (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005).

Adam Chill

"Green, Red, and White: Perceptions of Empire in the Irish Press During the Governor E

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