

IRISH STUDIES COLLECTION,  
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARIES

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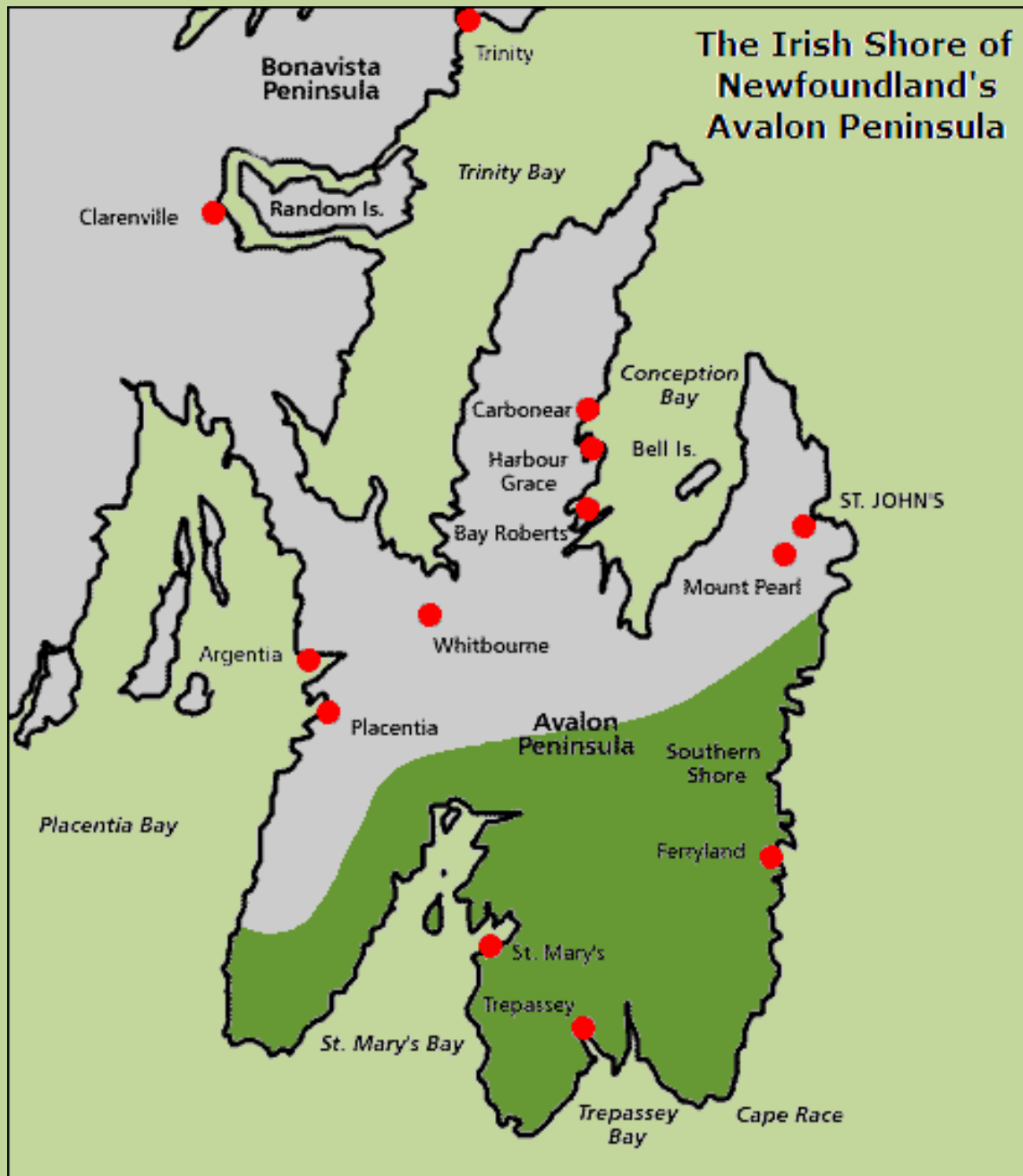
QEII Library

# OUTLINE

- Ireland and Newfoundland
- The Collection
- Promotional Tour

# TALAMH AN ÉISC (NEWFOUNDLAND, “THE LAND OF FISH”)

- Late 18<sup>th</sup>/ early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries: Immigration to Newfoundland from the counties of Waterford, Wexford, Kilkenny, Tipperary, and Cork to Newfoundland’s Avalon Peninsula.
- Why? Originated from Ireland’s participation in the seasonal fishery in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.
- 1836: First detailed Census.
  - Results? Almost 50% of Newfoundland’s population of Irish birth or descent.
- There is still, to this day, a strong presence of *Gáeilge Talamh en Éisc* (Newfoundland Irish, similar to Munster or Southeast Irish), and Irish traditions and culture along this shore.



[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish\\_Newfoundlanders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_Newfoundlanders)

# AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Since the late 1970s, MUN libraries have received numerous SSHRC grants for the development of its collection in Irish Studies.
- Recognized as a valuable site for Irish Studies and Research.
- Grants total more than \$200,000.


# RESOURCES...

- Books, e-books
- Over 200 Newspapers (print, digital, and microform), including early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Irish Political and Radical Newspapers
- Magazines
- Scholarly Journals
- Demography and Family History Resources
- Census Information
- Social and Economic History



# ARTICLE INDEXES AND DATABASES...

- Bibliography of British and Irish History
- Eighteenth Century Collections Online
- Eighteenth Century Journals
- ProQuest Dissertations & Theses: UK & Ireland
- Irish Newspaper Archives
- BIAB: The British & Irish Archaeology Bibliography
- Bibliography of British and Irish History
- Irish History Online
- Index to Theses

# “IRISH STUDIES” PAGE



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OPEN ACCESS

## The Irish Studies Collection

Newfoundland, or to use its time-honoured Irish name, *Talamh an Eisc* (The Land of the Fish), has an ancient and enduring relationship with Ireland. Originating in the late seventeenth century with Irish participation in the seasonal fishery, Irish interest in Newfoundland led to substantial emigration from Waterford and its adjacent counties in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. So strong was the Irish presence that in 1784 a Roman Catholic mission, the first such in British North America, was appointed for Newfoundland. An essential qualification for the head of the mission was fluency in Gaelic. By 1836, when the first detailed census was taken, fully half of Newfoundland's population was of Irish birth or descent. Irish cultural patterns and traditions remain strong on Newfoundland's Avalon Peninsula.

The library's collection reflects the richness of Newfoundland's Irish heritage. It includes over 15,000 books and more than 60 subscriptions to magazines and scholarly journals. The material covers a complete range of topics on Irish life, past and present. It contains items on Irish economic and cultural geography, as well as studies on Irish emigration, settlement patterns and Irish family history. There are also important concentrations of Anglo-Irish and Gaelic literature, material on Irish folklore and folk music, resources for studying the linguistics of Gaelic and Hiberno-English (the dialect of English spoken in Ireland), and books and tapes for learning the Irish language.

Professors and students from a wide variety of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences use the Irish collection. The Social Sciences and Humanities and Research Council of Canada has recognized this library's importance as a site for Irish Studies, and has generously supported the development of its research resources with more than \$200,000 in grants.

## Irish Newspapers

For scholars, perhaps the greatest strength of the collection is in its holdings of over 200 Irish newspapers. There are long runs of issues of the great national newspapers such as the **Irish Times** (a complete run from 1859), the **Irish Press** (from 1931), the **Irish Independent** (from 1905), **Freeman's Journal** (a complete run from 1763-1924), and the **Belfast Newsletter** (from 1737). There are regional papers, too, especially those from the southeast, the source of so much emigration to Newfoundland, including the **Waterford Chronicle** (from 1771), **Waterford Mirror** (from 1808) and **Finn's Leinster Journal** (from 1790). There is also a fine collection of early twentieth-century Irish political and radical newspapers.

### Irish Political and Radical Newspapers

- [Reel Guide to Complete Set \(116 reels\)](#)
- [Title Index](#)

### Irish National and Provincial Newspapers

- [Microform List](#)
- [Irish Newspaper Archives](#)



# NEWSPAPERS (SELECTED TITLES)

- Irish Times (complete from 1859)
- Irish Press (from 1931)
- Irish Independent (from 1905)
- Freeman's Journal (complete from 1763-1924)
- Belfast Newsletter (from 1737)
  
- Irish Newspaper Archives:
  - Coverage: 1700s-present
  - Online archive of Irish national, regional & specialty newspapers - over 6 million pages from over 500,000 issues of Irish Newspaper publications.

# DEMOGRAPHY AND FAMILY HISTORY

- Tithe Applotment Books (early 19<sup>th</sup> Century)
  - Survey of Irish households for tax purposes
- Griffith's Valuation (its Successor)
- Devon Commission *Reports and Evidence*
- Census of Ireland (1813-1911)
- Parish registers of the Southeast (from 1730)

# “IRISH STUDIES” PAGE (CONT’D)

- On this page, you will find:
  - Lists of Irish Political and Radical newspaper collections and holdings, titles and access information for the 116 included in our Reel Guides. Title indexes.
  - Irish National and Provincial Newspapers Microforms list, and a link to *the Irish Newspaper Archives* database.
  - A list of Irish Periodicals available through MUN Libraries
  - Irish Demography and Family History Resources

# MAP ROOM IRISH COLLECTIONS

- Of Particular Note:
  - Irish Historic Towns Series
  - Ordnance Survey Memoirs
  - Maps from 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ordnance Survey
  - Specialized Gazetteers

# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:

## THE CATHERINE GRAHAM COLLECTION

<http://www.library.mun.ca/qeii/cns/special/Graham.php>

“The Catherine Graham Collection contains 189 printed works by Irish writers and works about Irish writing, including titles by William Allingham, Elizabeth Bowen, Oliver Gogarty, Lady Gregory, F.R. Higgins, Douglas Hyde, Patrick Kavanagh, J.B. Yeats, W.B. Yeats, Louis MacNeice, George Meredith, George Moore, Richard Murphy, Frank O'Connor, Kathleen Raine, J.M. Synge and Rabindranath Tagore.”

# THE CATHERINE GRAHAM COLLECTION (CONT'D)

- “Approximately one third of the titles in the Catherine Graham Collection are Irish University Press reprints of Cuala Press titles, the press run by Elizabeth Yeats and W.B. Yeats between 1904 and 1946.”
- “The collection is not yet catalogued. A bibliography of the titles held in *The Catherine Graham Collection* may be viewed from the Digital Archives Initiative website.”
  - <http://collections.mun.ca/>

# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (CONT'D)

- General Rare Books Collection:
  - Strong presence of limited edition autographed works from a variety of Irish Writers:
    - Austin Clarke
    - Thomas Kinsella
    - Ciaran Carson
    - Seamus Heaney
    - John F. Deane

# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (CONT'D)

- Also housed in the General Rare Books Collection:
  - Signed early editions by W.B Yeats, by Lady Gregory, as well as a large number of first editions from the Cuala Press



# SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (CONT'D)

- Historical Collections (Rare):
  - Include travel writing, county history, military and naval history and collections of political speeches.
- Notable Titles:
  - Geoffrey Keating's 1723 *The general history of Ireland*
  - Michael Davitt's *The Rise of the Irish Movement: an Address Delivered at the Opening Meeting in the Antient Concert Rooms, Dublin....* [1910]

# PROMOTIONAL TOUR (OR, HOW I'VE BEEN PROMOTING THE COLLECTION)

- Keeping the Irish Studies “Unique Collections” page up to date;
- Creating an *Irish Studies* Explore a Topic Page/ LibGuide  
(<http://guides.library.mun.ca/content.php?pid=514491>)
- Creation of Professional webpage listing myself as the main contact for Irish Studies

# PROMOTION (CONT'D)

- Presentation at *Irish Research Symposium* (Memorial University, March, 2013)
- *Connections Session: Irish Studies Collection* (April, 2013)
- Attended CARL *Librarians' Research Institute* (LRI), June 2013.
  - Primary interest: building unique collections; performing overlap analyses with prominent Irish Studies Collections at other Institutions
- NLLA, 2014



# Prenez l'avant-scène Step into the spotlight

June 3rd to 6th 2014 - Moncton, NB - 3 au 6 juin 2014

Wednesday, June 4 • 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Spotlight on Special Collections: Four unique collections in Canada



**Amanda Tiller**

Humanities Collection Development Librarian, Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland

Librarian, Collection Development, Queen Elizabeth II Library, Memorial University of Newfoundland

## **Managing Unique Collections: Building, Promoting, and Maintaining Memorial University of Newfoundland's Irish Studies Collection**

The nationally-recognized Irish Studies Collection at Memorial University of Newfoundland is known widely as a premier site for Irish research. The presenter will highlight the activities necessary for keeping this collection strong, as well as tasks undertaken to promote it.

*Presenter:*

*Amanda Tiller*

<http://apla2014.wordpress.com/schedule>

American Conference for Irish Studies

& Canadian Association of Irish Studies

☞ 2014 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ☞ UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN ☞

Conference theme: **Latitudes: Irish Studies in an international context. Banbha i gcéin**

“The 2014 joint ACIS-CAIS/ACEI conference at UCD is an opportunity for scholars from both sides of the Atlantic with a common interest in Ireland’s history, heritage, culture and society to meet and establish new intellectual networks. **The conference...[will] set out to examine where Ireland fits into wider cultural, socio-economic and historical patterns.**”

(<http://www.irishstudies.ca/announcements/caisacis-2014-call-for-papers/>)

# WHAT'S NEXT?

- Identify gaps! What do other prominent Irish Studies Collections have that Memorial University Libraries does not?

QUESTIONS?