

There was an exhibit titled, **'The Fifth Province - County Societies in Irish America'**

See ["The Fifth Province: County Societies in Irish America," at NYU Open House, Through August 2011](#)

While it began as a physical exhibit initially showcased at the Irish Consulate in New York, it then travelled to various cities in the US and abroad. The exhibit was then made into a virtual exhibit.

The exhibit idea came from a meeting I had (Maurice Landers - cofounder Failte 32) with Niall Burgess, the Irish Consul General in New York at the time. I used to have meetings with the Consuls General from time to time regarding Irish community support initiatives including how to develop the County Societies in New York. I remember one meeting in particular where Niall came up with the exhibit idea during one of our brainstorming conversations, his aha moment.

He then put together a team, including myself, to develop the idea and coordinate with the County Societies so that they could showcase their history and artifacts. The team included leaders in the Irish community in New York and members of the Irish Consulate. The Limerick Society for example, of which I was President at the time, compiled its history from our archives to be used in the exhibit including showcasing one of our more valuable assets/artifacts, the Chain of Office.

However, last year I noticed that the virtual exhibit had been taken down. I could not for the life of me understand the need to take down something virtual and as important as this exhibit to the Irish American community. I made an inquiry to the curators and NYU (Glucksman Ireland House) and was told by NYU (June 2023) that they were planning to relaunch the updated pages in the fall as that section of the NYU website was under construction (where have I heard that before? :)

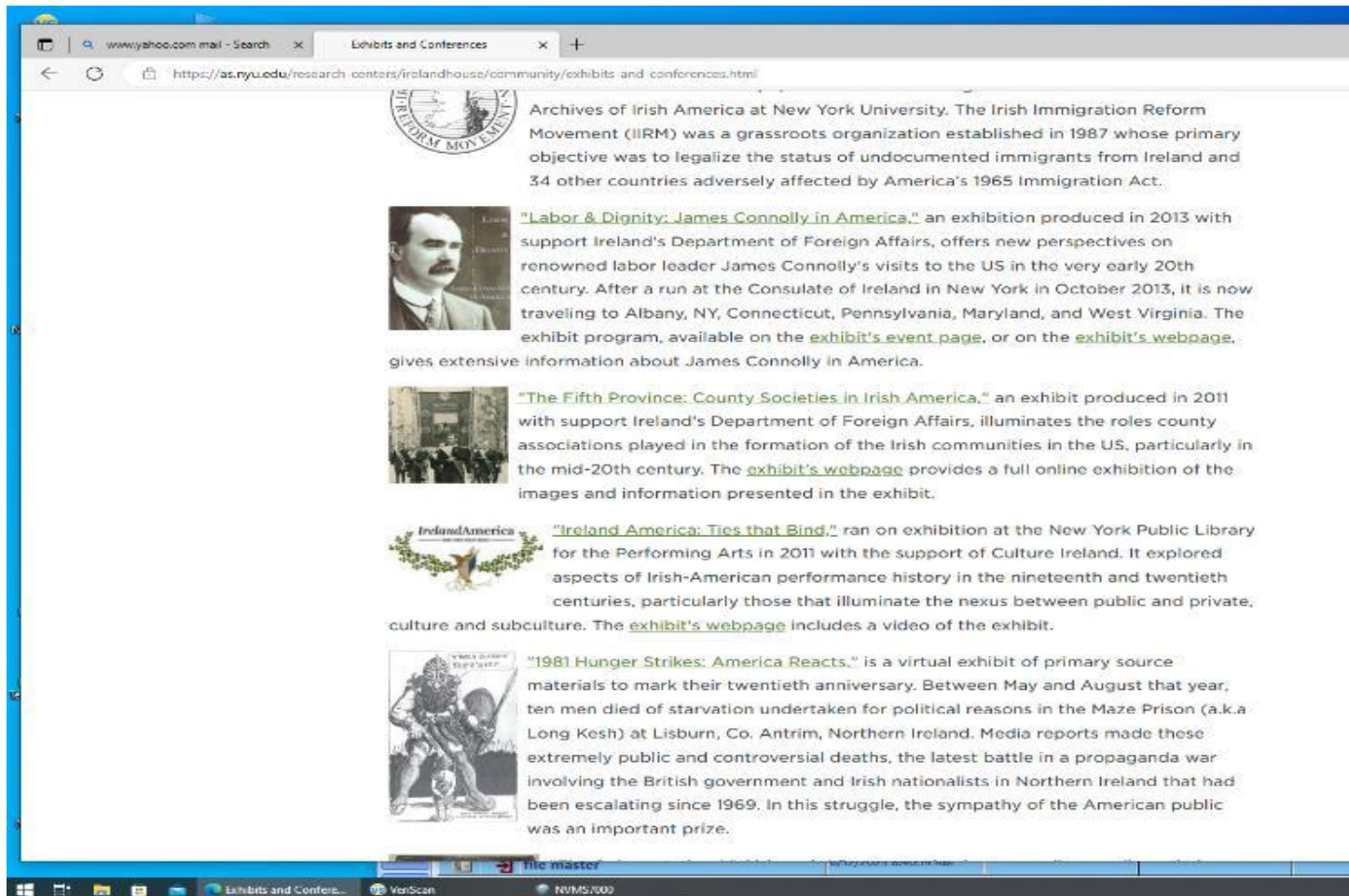
As of this writing, April 2024, it has not been put back up. I followed up on April 8, 2024, and again on April 16, and was told in part by NYU, "I anticipate that the timeline for having all pages updated and posted will stretch into this summer."

Therefore, in the meantime (until the exhibit is put back up), I wanted to upload my own piece on the exhibit, which while not the exhibit itself, will keep awareness of the important contribution the County Societies have made to Irish America.

It took a great deal of time and effort collectively to put the exhibit together and I don't believe it appropriate for NYU to remove it while keeping only references that seem to limit the active contribution the County Societies made to the exhibit and giving the impression that it was a NYU led endeavor as per the above link.

And, I can give some insight into how it came into being.

Additionally, exhibit team members were referenced on the first page of the exhibit below the curators (many of us represented the County Societies) and it's not appropriate that our names effectively would be removed.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following content:

- Archives of Irish America at New York University.** The Irish Immigration Reform Movement (IIRM) was a grassroots organization established in 1987 whose primary objective was to legalize the status of undocumented immigrants from Ireland and 34 other countries adversely affected by America's 1965 Immigration Act.
- "Labor & Dignity: James Connolly in America."** an exhibition produced in 2013 with support Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, offers new perspectives on renowned labor leader James Connolly's visits to the US in the very early 20th century. After a run at the Consulate of Ireland in New York in October 2013, it is now traveling to Albany, NY, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia. The exhibit program, available on the [exhibit's event page](#), or on the [exhibit's webpage](#), gives extensive information about James Connolly in America.
- "The Fifth Province: County Societies in Irish America,"** an exhibit produced in 2011 with support Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs, illuminates the roles county associations played in the formation of the Irish communities in the US, particularly in the mid-20th century. The [exhibit's webpage](#) provides a full online exhibition of the images and information presented in the exhibit.
- "Ireland America: Ties that Bind,"** ran on exhibition at the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts in 2011 with the support of Culture Ireland. It explored aspects of Irish-American performance history in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, particularly those that illuminate the nexus between public and private, culture and subculture. The [exhibit's webpage](#) includes a video of the exhibit.
- "1981 Hunger Strikes: America Reacts."** is a virtual exhibit of primary source materials to mark their twentieth anniversary. Between May and August that year, ten men died of starvation undertaken for political reasons in the Maze Prison (a.k.a Long Kesh) at Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. Media reports made these extremely public and controversial deaths, the latest battle in a propaganda war involving the British government and Irish nationalists in Northern Ireland that had been escalating since 1969. In this struggle, the sympathy of the American public was an important prize.

Just to give you a "signal" on Glucksman Ireland House and its background. NYU Glucksman Ireland House was set up by Lewis Glucksman, a very successful financier on Wall Street, and continued after his death by his wife Loretta Glucksman Brennan.

She's an Irish American woman who married him in the late 80s and was able to continue his work having inherited all of his wealth upon his death. This gave Loretta ample opportunity to support worthy Irish causes including the American Ireland Fund (now called The Ireland Funds America - they seem to have twisted the name around for some reason?).

While the fund has done good work in general, it's not without controversy in terms of seemingly very lax oversight.

It paid what could be described as an astronomical salary for a charity to one of its former officers, Kieran McLoughlin, its former President, who during his tenure was making close to \$600K annually. Incidentally, another former officer (CEO), Kingsley Aikins, I believe received \$500K as part of his severance deal with the charity (I guess they prefer to call it a 'Fund'), another source of controversy at the time (and his own firm received \$325K for consultancy work for the Fund in 2010).

[American Ireland Fund former boss given €385k deal \(irishtimes.com\)](#)

And, more recently (2020), another former CEO of the Fund, David Cronin, after taking over from Kieran McLoughlin, according to reports stepped down after only five months on the job citing his return to Ireland for family reasons but luckily took home a hefty pay packet for just a few month's work, over \$645K. He is hailed as having raised \$100M during his tenure with the University of Limerick Foundation prior to taking up his position with the Ireland Funds but "much of it via Irish American philanthropist [Chuck Feeney](#)" according to Irish Central.

Chuck Feeney very generously gave most of his billions away before he died. Let's give the honors to Chuck instead (and to Ed Walsh, the founder of the University of Limerick who had brought Chuck on board long before Mr. Cronin came on the scene).

I believe not long afterwards (2021), David co-founded WYLDE.GG, an esports endeavor. Luckily David had moved back to Ireland where he could set it up and I guess he could use his generous pay packet from working only five months for the American Ireland Funds as seed capital?

[American Ireland Funds charity paid former CEO \\$645,000 last year – The Irish Times](#)

[Staff - WYLDE GG](#)

Anyhow, getting back to McLoughlin, even after multiple negative publicity surrounding McLoughlin's salary, it remained unchanged I believe up until he had to resign due to fraud by a former employee of the charity.

When the Irish Times first reported on his resignation (see below), they omitted this important fact but did subsequently mention it in another article (see further below).

[Kieran McLoughlin, head of of the Ireland Funds steps down – The Irish Times](#)

[American Ireland Funds sues ex-employee for embezzlement – The Irish Times](#)

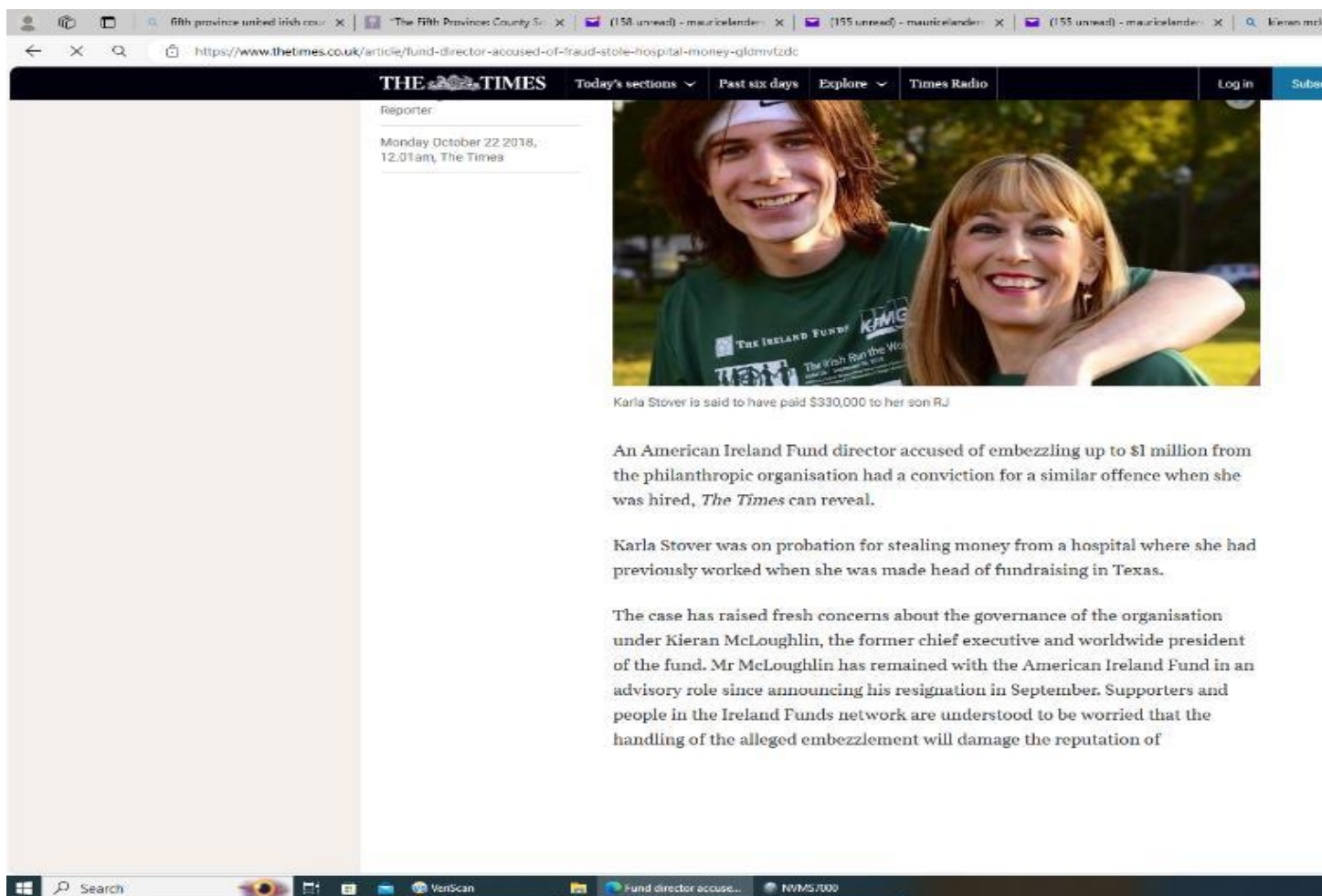
Also see:

[Fund director accused of fraud stole hospital money \(thetimes.co.uk\)](#)

Since the salary of the current President of the Ireland Funds is now much less than \$600K, it seems Kieran McLoughlin was receiving a salary far in excess of what would be appropriate.

Therefore, I wonder if any Federal or State agencies can claw this money back and give it to those for whom it was originally intended, that is, the neediest in our society? I believe that relevant federal and state agencies should have much greater control over the salaries of officers of charities.

Bonuses certainly should not be allowed. Charities are not 'for-profit' corporations in that the vast majority of donations should go towards the neediest in society who are not consumers in the sense that 'for profit' corporations serve consumers. Therefore, we should not penalize recipients of the charity's 'product' by reducing what they receive because our expenses (salaries, wages etc.) increase or because we choose to increase them.



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a news article from The Times. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/fund-director-accused-of-fraud-stole-hospital-money-qldmvtzdc>. The article's header includes the logo for 'THE TIMES' and navigation options like 'Today's sections', 'Past six days', 'Explore', and 'Times Radio'. The article text begins with a sub-headline: 'An American Ireland Fund director accused of embezzling up to \$1 million from the philanthropic organisation had a conviction for a similar offence when she was hired, *The Times* can reveal.' Below this is a photograph of a young man and a woman smiling. A caption below the photo reads: 'Karla Stover is said to have paid \$330,000 to her son RJ'. The main body of the article contains several paragraphs of text, including: 'Karla Stover was on probation for stealing money from a hospital where she had previously worked when she was made head of fundraising in Texas.' and 'The case has raised fresh concerns about the governance of the organisation under Kieran McLoughlin, the former chief executive and worldwide president of the fund. Mr McLoughlin has remained with the American Ireland Fund in an advisory role since announcing his resignation in September. Supporters and people in the Ireland Funds network are understood to be worried that the handling of the alleged embezzlement will damage the reputation of'.

Incidentally, Failte 32 had planned on setting up a more full-fledged charity, the Shamrock Fund, which started out financially supporting job seekers from Ireland by offering to pay their membership dues to Irish American organizations that might assist them in finding a job here in the US.

100% of donations would go to those for whom the charity was set up. Its purpose was to counter the greediness rampant in many charities today among those running them.

Its Principles can be viewed at:

[Shamrock Fund Principles | Failte32 connecting the Irish in NYC](#)

However, I alleged in a case I brought to the TTAB as a lay litigant that the Shamrock Fund trademark was stolen from me by another charity who had been "signaled" by Kieran McLoughlin of my use of it (that of course does not necessarily imply any wrongdoing on McLoughlin's part). I believe I was first to use the Shamrock Fund name.

You can view my case at [USPTO TTABVUE. Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Inquiry System](#)

While I (opposer) had been dismissed with prejudice (I was late responding), having filed a MOTION TO SET ASIDE OR VACATE DEFAULT JUDGEMENT, I was given a chance to show cause why summary judgement should not be entered against me on the fraud claim as well. See below:

[USPTO TTABVUE. Proceeding Number 91218260](#)

"Based on the foregoing, Opposer is allowed until thirty days from the mailing date set forth in this order to show cause why summary judgment should not be entered against Opposer on the fraud claim as well.13 See Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(f). Proceedings herein are otherwise suspended."

While it was my first case as a lay litigant, it may not be easy to follow but it does show the Kieran McLoughlin communication that formed the basis of my case at the TTAB. Being inexperienced in this legal area, indeed any legal area, I ultimately lost the case. In fact, the TTAB is very strict in terms of timelines to submit filings/motions. I believe I would have had a chance had I not been late in replying to the Applicant's motion for summary judgement on 3/3/2016.

In stark contrast, when bringing my case against the Irish Government some years later (see Case Study section), also as a lay litigant, I had learned my lesson by making sure I made all my submissions on time. But the funny thing is, the judicial system in Ireland, while strict timelines are required, nevertheless doesn't enforce them when Irish Government lawyers are late in submitting affidavits and other filings as happened in my case when Irish Government lawyers were allowed by the judge to present filings that had been submitted late to Central Office on two occasions.

I have in the past referred to Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org) as a tool to assist those considering donating to a charity. After your search, if you scroll down towards the end of the page listing a charity's information, you will see a 'Salary of Key Persons' sub-heading (under Additional Information heading). Personally, I will not donate to a charity that pays more than \$100K to its highest paid officer, excluding hospitals and other charities with significant assets/operations.

While the salaries of key people of many charities are listed on Charity Navigator, I did contact them about charities that have not provided this information. There is absolutely no reason for this considering these charities can provide all their other financial data in sections above the 'Salary of Key Persons' sub-heading, and I even suggested to Charity Navigator that they hold off giving out four-star ratings to any charity that does not provide this salary information.

To give credit to my parents, fortunately they taught all seven of their children to give to charity from a young age and not to expect anything in return. And they built their successful indigenous Irish business together from the ground up and gave to causes but never wanted anything back for it especially their names up on school wings, awards, honorary doctorates and the like. Quid pro quos in charity!

But if recognition is to be given to anyone, give it to the donors and not to those getting paid hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to do a job or who benefit in some way from the charity. I don't get awards for just doing what I'm paid to do. Do any of you? Those who raise money from others should not be given awards, honors etc. They just hand out money that other people donate.

That said, there are far more people (non-monetary donors) out there in the Irish American community worthy of recognition who do all the heavy lifting and not just hand out money to people, and I'm proud to know some of them.

Aside, I read somewhere (I believe in a 2018 article) that Kieran McLoughlin compared charities to private equity. The Shamrock Fund Principles (2013) I referred to above state (2nd principle):

"The immediate deployment of donations for the benefit of the needy (donations not allowed accumulate on the charity's balance sheet/financial statements beyond a reasonable short period of time i.e. there should be a high turnover of donations). Charities not allowed to be structured like investment or private equity funds, and pay their officers on a fee basis."

I just hope he didn't copy our 2nd principle and reverse it! Structuring charities this way I believe is just a ruse to maximize the fee (salary) officers receive and make annual salary levels look less in amount relative to current fundraising levels. For example, if a charity raises \$1M in one year and pays its CEO \$200K, his salary represents 20% of funds raised that year (which is an appropriate measure) whereas if the balance on the charity's' books is showing \$10M (cumulative funds raised over several years) and the CEO's salary is \$200K, his salary represents only 2% of funds showing on the books, that is, a perceived much lesser amount.

Finally, below are some of the names of those involved at the very beginning and will give you an idea of how the exhibit evolved. I feel it's important that people like **John Garvey and Mary McMullen**, both of whom have since passed way, be given recognition for their contribution to this exhibit considering the great contributions they have made to the Irish American community for many decades. Their names should never have been removed.

The curators and NYU should have at least kept the homepage up until whatever changes they plan on making have been completed. It's not like the homepage contained anything of critical importance to current affairs. I run the Failte 32 website/blog, and I can do this...

From: "maeodriscoll@aol.com" <maeodriscoll@aol.com>
To: "jgarvey386@aol.com" <jgarvey386@aol.com>; "Niall.Burgess@dfa.ie" <Niall.Burgess@dfa.ie>; "JOHNRID@aol.com" <JOHNRID@aol.com>; "miriam.nyhan@nyu.edu" <miriam.nyhan@nyu.edu>; "mauricelanders@yahoo.com" <mauricelanders@yahoo.com>; "Maureen.O.Murphy@hofstra.edu" <Maureen.O.Murphy@hofstra.edu>; "marion.casey@nyu.edu" <marion.casey@nyu.edu>; "McMullanMary@aol.com" <McMullanMary@aol.com>; "shohnn@aol.com" <shohnn@aol.com>; "Alan.Farrelly@dfa.ie" <Alan.Farrelly@dfa.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 09:54:07 AM EST
Subject: Re: Dinner last night

Thank you Niall for hosting the dinner - it was a productive evening and we certainly made great progress. I look forward to our next meeting on April 19..

Mae

In a message dated 3/2/2010 8:34:54 P.M. Eastern Standard Time, jgarvey386@aol.com writes:

Niall: I think we agreed - "Counties: 160 Years of Service to the Irish-American Community." On reflection, perhaps we should add, The Counties

|We discussed a working title "Counties: 60 Years of Service to
|the Irish Community"

Otherwise, it seems to be a good extrapolation of our extensive and varied discussion last night. I look forward to Monday, April 19.

John

-----Original Message-----
From: Niall.Burgess@dfa.ie

To: Niall.Burgess@dfa.ie; JOHNRID@aol.com; miriam.nyhan@nyu.edu;
MaeODriscoll@aol.com; mauricelanders@yahoo.com; Maureen.O.Murphy@hofstra.edu;
marion.casey@nyu.edu; jgarvey386@aol.com; McMullanMary@aol.com; shohnn@aol.com;
Alan.Farrelly@dfa.ie
Sent: Tue, Mar 2, 2010 7:07 pm
Subject: Dinner last night

Dear All,

I thought it might be useful to send you all some of the points that I noted down from last night:

- # We discussed a working title "Counties: 60 Years of Service to the Irish Community"
- # Objective of the exhibition is (i) to recruit new members and (ii) to collect more material for conservation;
- # We spoke of an exhibition which is portable and could travel to centers around NY and further afield (eg Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston);
- # It could have a collection component (scanner for documents brought in to us and audio recording facility that could be used at open days).
- # Elements (at least for NY) could include documents, photographs, banners, archival video/audio and costume (Mayo and Cork may be able to source the latter); Travelling version might be more modest.
- # Approximate timescale for the exhibition at Ireland House would be October to December;
- # Other elements (virtual exhibition/booklet) to be considered;
- # Project would be a partnership between the UIC, NYU and CGNY.
- # NYU (Marion and Miriam) to develop a concept paper with approximate costings.
- # We meet again on Monday 19th April at 7pm. We would aim to take decisions on title, scope, budget etc then.

Did I miss anything?

Best regards,

Niall

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