



Charlemont grant report

Recipient name:	Dr Eleanor O’Leary
Discipline and subject area:	Humanities and Social Sciences; Film, Media and Visual Studies
Amount and year awarded:	€2,500 in 2020
Title of project:	Irish American Diasporic Exchange 1930-2000



Summary of findings:

Research was carried out in 3 locations in the USA (New York Irish Centre, Irish American Museum Albany, Irish Cultural Centre Boston, MA). Twenty three interviews were completed over 5 days in New York, Albany and Boston. Interviews lasted between 20mins and 1 hour in length. Additional interviews will be completed online with other contacts established during the trip but who weren’t available to be interviewed at the time of the research trip. These oral history interviews could not have been collected without the support of the Charlemont Grant. They allowed, in particular for, the collection of experiences of an older generation, who might not have been able to participate otherwise.

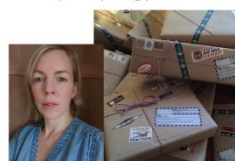
This cohort of research participants form the basis of representing Irish American migrant’s experiences of diasporic exchange. Migrants also shared stories of their experiences of receiving parcels Ireland before they emigrated to the United States indicating the longevity of this relational gifting across the 20th century. Interviews with Irish based participants will take place in August 2022. The research undertaken in the USA allowed for patterns of experience to emerge that can now be aligned with Irish experiences of receiving American packages in Ireland.

American Parcels

Dr Eleanor O’Leary is looking for participants to take part in a research project on American Parcels. Little has been written on the widespread practice of sending home parcels to family in Ireland and Dr O’Leary is looking to interview people about this phenomenon.

Group and individual interviews can be facilitated between **June 1-4th @ Irish American Museum in Albany and 4-6th @ New England Irish Cultural Centre.**

Dr O’Leary is interested in stories about how Irish American migrants selected items to send home, the costs involved and the family members they sent items to and why. If you are interested participating please contact American.parcels@tcarlow.ie





Charlemont grant report

Plans for continuing collaboration:

Further interviews are scheduled to take place in June, July and August with USA-based participants that were unavailable at the time of the research trip.

One of the intended outcomes of the is to produce a book and photographic exhibition, the Irish Museum in Albany has expressed an interesting in hosting this exhibition in the USA.

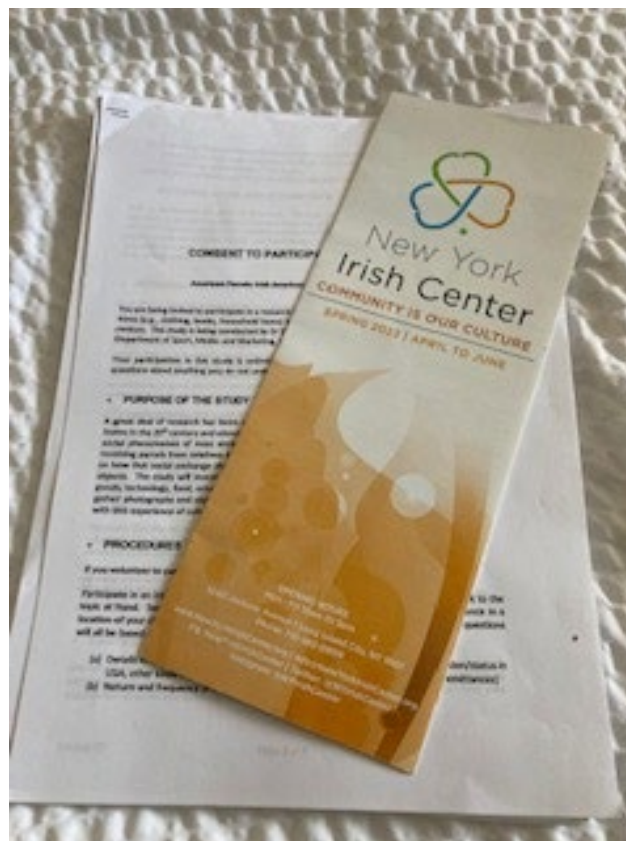
Published work and publication plans:

Book – a book proposal will be submitted to Irish Academic Press in late 2022 once the second phase of the research has been completed.

Exhibition – a photographic exhibition (and possibly also items of ephemera such as suitcases, dresses, blankets, toys and other items) is planned for Autumn 2023.

Conference Presentations – It is intended to start presenting on aspects of this research from Autumn 2022 at media history and popular culture conferences including EUPOP and IASIL.

Television - The researcher has already taken part in several documentaries on popular culture with RTÉ (When Ireland Rocked the 70s (2021), The Way We Were (2022)). Television producer, Kathriona Devereux, has expressed interest in producing a one-off TV documentary on this topic. This will be explored further once the Irish phase of the research is completed.





Charlemont grant report

Dissemination and plans for future dissemination:

Dissemination of the research has not started yet but will begin in Autumn 2022.

Collaborations and planned collaborations:

The project collaborated with 3 international institutions:

New York Irish Centre, 1040 Jackson Avenue, Queens, NY

Irish American Museum, Albany, NY

Irish American Cultural Center, Canton, Boston, MA

Outreach and engagement activities:

As the research is still ongoing there has not been to-date engagement activities but from Autumn 2022 and the 12-18 months after that there will be public engagement activities including an exhibition and TV documentary.