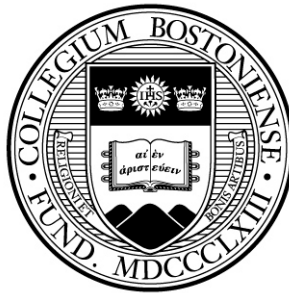


James O'Brien Collection of Emerald Isle Classic Material

1986-1991

BC.2007.012

<http://hdl.handle.net/2345/1373>



Archives and Manuscripts Department

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Summary Information

Creator:	O'Brien, James S.
Title:	James O'Brien collection of Emerald Isle Classic material
ID:	BC.2007.012
Date [inclusive]:	1986-1991
Physical Description	0.5 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The material collected by Boston College alumnus James O'Brien documents the Emerald Isle Classic college football game in 1988. Contains correspondence, photographs, ephemera, and clippings. Some material also concerns Dublin's millennium celebration.

Preferred Citation

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, James O'Brien collection of Emerald Isle Classic material, BC.2007.012, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Processed by Elizabeth Galoozis, spring 2007; Matthew Heitzman, summer 2007; Rachael Young in 2018. This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace.

Restrictions on access

Collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of James S. O'Brien in 2007.

Processing Information

Materials were originally received in one photo album and one briefcase, with some loose materials and some laid in photo album pages with plastic covers. These were disassembled. For the most part, with the exception of some color and special sections, clippings have been photocopied for preservation and the originals discarded.

Restrictions on use

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Biographical Note: James S. O'Brien

James S. O'Brien attended Boston College and graduated from the College of Business Administration in 1960. While a student at Boston College, he played football and was considered an exceptional offensive and defensive tackle, earning both All-New England and All-East honors. In a 1959 All-American Bowl game, he was selected "Outstanding Lineman." He was drafted by both the Detroit Lions (NFL) and the Oakland Raiders (AFL), but his professional career was shortened by injuries. O'Brien was primarily responsible for organizing the Emerald Isle Classic, an American college football game played in Ireland in 1988; he received the P.V. Doyle Tourism Award from the President of Ireland the following year. In 1993, O'Brien was inducted into the Boston College Varsity Club Athletic Hall of Fame.

At the time of the Emerald Isle Classic, he was the president of the Brian Boru Corporation in Scituate, Massachusetts. Since then, he has been involved with a variety of companies and institutions including Synergy Real Estate Investment, Development (Boston), Massachusetts Special Olympics, Ireland Chamber of Commerce in the U.S., and on the Board of the Newman School (Boston).

Sources:

College football reference: Jim O'Brien. http://cfreference.net/cfr/show_player/6984 (accessed April 10, 2007).

Player Bio: Jim O'Brien. Boston College Official Athletic Site. (accessed 2010 June 16).

Sub Turri. 1960. (Boston College yearbook).

Historical Note: The Emerald Isle Classic

The Emerald Isle Classic football game was played in Dublin, Ireland between Boston College and West Point Academy ("Army") in November, 1988. Boston College alumnus James O'Brien was primarily responsible for envisioning and organizing the Emerald Isle Classic. It took nearly three years to make the idea a reality. Boston College won the game, beating Army 38 to 24.

The game was the first major NCAA game in Europe and was attended by over 42,000 fans. Of these attendees, an estimated 10,000 travelled from the United States, 7,000 of whom were likely from the Boston area. Although originally conceived as an annual event, limited attendance in 1989 caused it to be discontinued.

Source:

Steve Lohr, Special to The New York Times. "Dubliners Cheer as B.C. Wins: Dubliners Delighted as B.C. Wins." New York Times (1923-Current File), November 20, 1988.(accessed on ProQuest June 16, 2010).

Scope and Contents

The collection, compiled by James O'Brien, documents the Emerald Isle Classic – planning, game, related and subsequent events – through correspondence, photographs, ephemera, and clippings. Some material concerns Dublin's millennium celebration. Correspondents include Ben Briscoe, Lord Mayor of Dublin; William J. Flynn, Boston College's Director of Athletics; Margaret Heckler, U.S. Ambassador to Ireland; J. Donald Monan, SJ, President of Boston College; and Carl Ullrich, West Point's Director of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Arrangement

Collection is arranged in four series: I. Planning; II. Game day; III. Follow-up; and IV. Related events.

Collection Inventory

Series I: Planning, 1986-1988, undated

Scope and Contents

Contains correspondence from five individuals and clippings from Irish and American newspapers.

Clippings, 1986-1988, undated	box 1	folder 2-3
Correspondence, 1986 August 8-1988 November 18	box 1	folder 1

Series II: Game day, 1988 November 16-21, undated

Scope and Contents

Contains ephemera, photographs, and clippings, as well as the official program of the Emerald Isle Classic.

Clippings, 1988 November 19-20	box 1	folder 4
Ephemera: tickets, programs, brochures, 1988 November 16-21, undated	box 1	folder 5
Photographs: black and white, 1988 November 19	box 1	folder 7
Photographs: color, 1988 November 19	box 1	folder 6

Series III: Follow-up, 1988-1991

Scope and Contents

Contains correspondence from nineteen individuals, a photograph, and clippings. It also contains a tourism assessment of the Emerald Isle Classic, as well as some ephemera relating to the P.V. Doyle Award and an appearance that James O'Brien made on an Irish television show.

Clippings, 1988 November 20-1989 October 8	box 1	folder 9
Correspondence, 1988 November 22-1989 December 12	box 1	folder 8
Ephemera, 1988-1991	box 1	folder 10
Photograph, 1989 March 14	box 1	folder 12
Report: <i>A Tourism Assessment of the Emerald Isle Classic</i> , 1989 February	box 1	folder 11

Series IV: Related events, 1987-1988, undated

Scope and Contents

Contains ephemera and clippings relating to the Dublin Millennium celebration, political activities concurrent with the game, including those of Senator Edward Kennedy, and other events. It also contains photographs of West Point cadets visiting a children's hospital and a single photograph of the Limerick Connection, a children's musical group

(note that a letter relating to this photograph is in Series III). There is also one unidentified photograph with James O'Brien in it.

Clippings, 1987 October 29-1988 November 21	box 1	folder 13
Ephemera: pamphlets and programs, 1988	box 1	folder 14
Photographs, 1988 November, undated	box 1	folder 15-17