Michael J. Twomey Broadcast Log Books
1924-1942, 1952
IM.M205.2017
http://hdl.handle.net/2345.2/IM-M205-2017
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Summary Information

Creator: Twomey, Michael J.
Title: Michael J. Twomey broadcast log books
Collection Identifier: IM.M205.2017
Date [inclusive]: 1924-1942, 1952
Physical Description: 1 Linear Feet (1 box)
Language of the Material: English
Abstract: Two hardcover notebooks documenting broadcasts and live performances of Michael J. Twomey's Boston-based band, originally called Twomey's Irish Pipers' Orchestra, later renamed Twomey's Irish Minstrels. Also included are a photograph of the orchestra, a program for The Irish Pipers' Band of Boston Second Annual Grand Costume Ball, and two newspaper clippings of articles concerning the band.

Preferred Citation
Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Michael J. Twomey broadcast log books, IM.M205.2017, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.
Administrative Information

Publication Information

Processed by Lynn Moulton and Richard Ford Burley in 2017 September. This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace.

Restrictions on Access

Collection is open for research.

Restrictions on Use

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Provenance

Purchased from Carmen D. Valentino Rare Books and Manuscripts in 2017.
Biographical Note

Michael Joseph Twomey (1881-1952) was an Irish musician and entertainer who promoted Irish culture in Boston for most of his life. Born August 15, 1881 in Coachford, County Cork, Ireland, Twomey immigrated to Boston in 1900, arriving October 4 aboard the steamship RMS Ivernia. Though the ship's passenger list documents his profession as "carpenter," he subsequently found work as a chauffeur and later as an auto mechanic.

In 1908 Twomey married Ella Nyren, a Swedish woman working as a maid in Boston, and started a family. In the wake of the 1921 partitioning of Ireland and the beginning of the Irish Civil War in 1922, Twomey founded the Irish Pipers' Band of Boston on August 21, 1922, to promote Irish music and culture in his new home. The bagpipe band boasted dozens of members and crowds as large as a thousand spectators by 1925, as well as a six-week tour of Ireland in the same year. In 1927 the band travelled to New York City to record a number of tracks with the Victor recording company.

By 1929 the band was known by various names, and Twomey's own name was becoming synonymous with Irish music in the city. The band played on the radio as Twomey's Irish Pipers, the Irish Pipers' Orchestra, and Twomey's Irish Pipers' Orchestra, and continued to do so through at least 1932. From about 1934 to 1942, he headed Twomey's Irish Minstrels, which seems to have expanded the band's repertoire from bagpipes and drums to a more varied sound, featuring vocalists singing in both English and Gaelic.

Twomey himself played a number of instruments, most notably the bagpipes and accordion, but apparently also the harp: in 1938 an event at the Brockton Fairgrounds featured a replica of an Irish farmhouse with Twomey performing "Irish airs" on a pair of purportedly 200-year-old Brian-Boirumhe harps.

By the 1940s Twomey had started his own business, the M J Twomey Tourist Agency. Being too old to enlist, during WWII he served in the USO. After the war he was active in Boston charities, belonging to the Irish Charitable Society, the Gaelic Club, the Terence McSweeney Society, and the Fenway Garden Society. Twomey died on November 12, 1952 at the age of 72.

Sources:

"Deaths and Funerals: Michael J. Twomey Well Known Here as Irish Entertainer." *Boston Globe*. 14 November 1952. ProQuest Historical Newspapers. p. 21


"Irish Village at Brockton Fair Grounds Is Transplanted 'Bit of the Ould Sod.'" *Boston Globe*. 8 September 1938. ProQuest Historical Newspapers. p. 28


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**Scope and Contents**

Two hardcover notebooks documenting broadcasts and live performances of Michael J. Twomey's Boston-based band. Pasted into the books are broadcast confirmation cards, newspaper clippings of radio station broadcast schedules, and invitations, complemented with hand-written set lists for many events. Also included are a photograph of the orchestra, a program for The Irish Pipers' Band of Boston Second Annual Grand Costume Ball, and two newspaper clippings of articles concerning the band. One item not related to the band, a 1952 letter from the Fenway Garden Society indicating that Twomey was its founder, was found in the back cover of the second broadcast log book.
Arrangement

Chronological.
## Collection Inventory

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<tr>
<td>Group photograph: Irish Pipers' Band Orchestra, between 1922-1933</td>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>folder 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings: &quot;Two Gaelic Championships Will Be Decided Tomorrow&quot; and &quot;Beauty Contest to Be Feature of Irish Pipers' Band Dance&quot;, <em>Boston Globe</em>, 1924-1925</td>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program: The Irish Pipers' Band of Boston Second Annual Grand Costume Ball (interior pages are blank), 1926 April 8</td>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcast and performance log for Twomey's Irish Pipers' Orchestra, 1929-1933</td>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>volume 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broadcast and performance log for Twomey's Irish Minstrels, &quot;Second book of records, 18th Year on Air&quot;, 1933-1942, 1952</td>
<td>box 1</td>
<td>volume 2</td>
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### Processing Information

This notebook contained several loose papers, which have been moved to folder 4.