

# Contents of the Irish-American Suitcase Museum

## **Instructional Materials**

- 2 Information/Resource Binders with tables of contents
- 1 Teacher Resource Guide
- 1 “Ideas” Teachers’ folder containing activity sheets and crochet sample
- 1 “Irish Songs” Envelope

## **Show and Tell Items**

- 2 Irish Flags
- 1 “Old Irish Blessing” Blanket
- 9 small laminated posters
- 2 large laminated Heritage Trail posters
- 1 Bodhran (drum)
- 1 pair of black lace up dance shoes
- 1 costume dress in garment bag
- 1 box with peat
- 1 mannequin boy in box
- 1 mannequin girl in box
- 1 Tin Whistle with music
- 2 cuts of shamrock fabric

## **Box A contents:**

- 1 celtic design silk scarf
- 1 St. Brigid’s Cross
- 2 small flags
- 1 shamrock
- 1 metal harp on marble base
- 1 Luck Stone
- 2 cuts of shamrock fabric

## **Box B contents:**

- 1 hand-knit cream sweater

### **Box C contents: Audio Tapes (6)**

Old Irish Music (2)  
Irish Music Enjoyed in America  
Irish Folk Tales  
Irish Tales for Young and Old  
Irish Dance Music

### **Video Tapes (6)**

Lord of the Dance  
Riverdance  
The Secret of Roan Inish  
Irish American Heritage  
The Irish Culture of Youngstown  
Irish Cultural Resource

### **Books (15)**

Shamrocks, Harps and Shillelaghs  
Irish in Youngstown  
Folktales from the Irish Countryside  
The Singing Cave  
Saint Patrick  
The Book of Kells  
Dear Old Donegal  
Granuaile: Chieftain, Pirate, Trader  
Count Your Way Through Ireland

Under the Hawthorne Tree (2) - *Part 1 of a Trilogy*  
Wildflower Girl (2) - *Part 2 of a Trilogy*  
Fields of Home (2) - *Part 3 of a Trilogy*

# Irish American Suitcase Inventory

## (Detailed information about some items)

### Show and Tell Items

- One brass harp mounted on marble. The harp is one of the main symbols of Ireland.
- One Irish Bodhran (Bow Rawn) handcrafted in Ireland from the finest woods; the heads are made from real goatskin and decorated with ornate celtic designs. Each Bodhran has a beater.
- One Irish Dancer Doll mannequin with hand-painted costume designs. The doll by the Si-Og collection, is hand-crafted in Rathkeale, Co., Limerick, Ireland.
- One Irish Fisherman Boy mannequin by the Si-Og collection, hand-crafted in Rathkeale, Co., Limerick, Ireland. The boy is dressed in a wool, hand-knit Aran sweater and cap and wears Donegal tweed trousers.
- One box containing peat.  
The Turf Cutters: The bogs were the last type of landscape to take shape after the Ice Age receded and exposed Ireland 10,000 years ago. Nothing rots in waterlogged soil and bogs build up layers of dead vegetation and ancient bog-oak is common. Butter is dug up from time to time that was buried to conserve it and then forgotten. It is still common to hand-cut turf. Like all traditional activities, methods vary widely around the country, but are essentially the same. The sods are cut by hand using a sleán (a turf blade) and built into “footings” so the wind can dry them.
- One scarf with Book of Kells design  
The unique 9<sup>th</sup> century manuscript with the magnificent Celtic art illustrated by Irish monks is in the Trinity College Library in Dublin, Ireland.
- One Irish Tin Whistle  
Made in Ireland, the haunting slow airs and lively jigs or reels played on the Irish tin whistle have brought endless hours of pleasure to countless musicians and listeners alike.

## Books

- **Saint Patrick** by Father Lovasik, S.V.D.
  - Catholic Book Publishing Co. New York, 1984 (Parochial School) A 32 page illustrated biography of St. Patrick and his mission to bring the Word of God to the people of Ireland. Gr. 1-8
- **Under the Hawthorne Tree** by Conion McKenna  
Part 1 of a trilogy. Part 1 tells the story of two young girls during the potato famine in Ireland; ages 11-14
- **The Wild Flower Girl** by Conion McKenna  
Part 2 of the trilogy tells the story of the girls immigrating to the United States and becoming domestic maids to wealthy American families in Boston.
- **Fields of Home** by Conion McKenna  
Part 3 of the trilogy.
- **Shamrocks, Harps and Shillelaghs** by Edna Barth, Clarion Books, New York, 1977  
The story of St. Patrick's Day symbols...ninety-six page illustrated book filled with Irish symbols and their history. St. Patrick, the shamrock, and the harp are a few of the symbols that are explained.
- **Folktales from the Irish Countryside** by Kevin Danaker  
Mercier Press, Irish American Book Co. IABC. Boulder, Colorado.
- **Count Your Way Through Ireland** by Jim Haskins and Kathleen Benson  
Caroirhoda Books, Inc. Minneapolis, 1996.  
A beautifully illustrated book that presents the Irish spelling and pronunciation of numbers 1-10. Pictures of symbols, pottery, crystal, sporting events, and musical instruments adorn the pages. Excellent resource for history and daily living in Ireland. Gr. 1-8.

## Audio Tapes

- "Irish Folk Tales" by Sharon Kennedy  
Five beautifully told tales for children by Irish-American storyteller Sharon Kennedy. The 5 different stories tell the tales of wizards and leprechauns. Gr-4-8.

## Essays (in Binder #2)

- "Irish" – Local Irish History by Joan Reedy
- "The Mahoning Valley Irish" – by Robert E. Casey for the Irish-American Archival Society of the Greater Mahoning Valley, Inc.  
*A ten-page history of Irish settlers and immigrants in the Mahoning Valley*

## **Appendage to Teachers' Manual**

This new and current information has been prepared for school year 2006 to be an appendage to the Irish Cultural Suitcases teachers' manual. Note this resource includes the new European monetary system, recent events in Northern Ireland and family holiday traditions. The Irish American Archival Society appreciates the teachers' utilization of the Irish Suitcase in the classroom for cultural enrichment.