

IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER MUSEUM

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Fall 2015

October 2015 marks the third anniversary of the opening of Ireland's Great Hunger Museum at Quinnipiac University. Thanks in large part to our many donors, the museum continues to fulfill its mission of educating the world about the Great Hunger. Almost 25,000 visitors from the U.S. and abroad have traveled to the museum, and the feedback continues to be resoundingly positive. Looking ahead, we have many exciting plans underway, which I would like to share with you.

Upcoming Exhibition

First, many of you have expressed the desire for a new exhibition at the museum and we want you to know that we have heard you! From January 20, 2016, through April 17, 2016, the museum will present *In the Lion's Den: Daniel Macdonald, Ireland and Empire*. This exhibition, the first of its kind in the United States and the most comprehensive ever mounted, will reevaluate Daniel Macdonald as an artist. Macdonald holds the distinction of having produced the only known painting of the Famine, *An Irish Peasant Family Discovering the Blight of their Store*, exhibited in London in 1847, now in the National Folklore Collection, University College Dublin (bequeathed by the pioneering Famine historian Cecil Woodham-Smith, author of *The Great Hunger: Ireland 1845-49*).

Due to the generosity of our donors, we recently acquired Daniel Macdonald's *Returning from an Irish Funeral* (1842, pen and ink on paper) seen below.



This work will be part of the exhibition, and will be a wonderful addition to the remarkable works that will be on loan from museums and private collectors in Ireland.

Donor Highlight

Hamden resident George Waldron has been a constant presence and supporter of the museum since its opening. Waldron is a 1980 Quinnipiac School of Law graduate, and has also taught as an adjunct professor in the Legal Studies Department at Quinnipiac. He is president of The Connecticut Irish American Historical Society, and has been actively involved in educating the public about Ireland's history.

Waldron's mother, Mary Waldron (1910–2013) was born in the village of Killeenagher, County Mayo. She immigrated to the United States in 1928 at the age of 17, and raised eight children in Hamden. She died in 2013 at the age of 103.

When asked about the museum, Waldron commented, "The causes and consequences of Ireland's Great Hunger are stunning and heart-wrenching. This museum documents and presents this tragic period of Ireland's history in an extraordinary and moving manner. We are grateful to Quinnipiac University for building this excellent facility as a testament to the memory of all who suffered from the Great Hunger."

Update on Acquisitions Appeal

In May 2015 we launched our first acquisitions appeal with the intent of raising enough money to acquire an important work that would enhance the educational value of the collection. I am happy to report that we are only \$6,000 away from reaching our \$50,000 goal. Thank you to all who have donated thus far. For those who would like to donate, please consider helping us reach this goal. To do so, visit www.ighm.org and click the "Support" tab.

Famine Folios Launch – Second Series

Famine Folios are a series of paperback bound essays, covering many aspects of the Famine. A unique resource for students, scholars and researchers, as well as general readers, the folios are published by Ireland's Great Hunger Museum and Quinnipiac University Press. The essays are interdisciplinary in nature, and make

available new research in Famine studies by internationally established scholars in history, art history, cultural theory, philosophy, media history, political economy, literature and music.

Last year, we launched the first four folios in both Hamden and Dublin to great critical acclaim. We are very pleased to announce that these folios were awarded second place in the New England Museum Association’s Publications Competition in the books category. The next four folios will soon be published, and we will celebrate with a launch at the museum on Wednesday, October 14. Three authors will be on hand to discuss their work, and the following four folios will be released and available for purchase:

Notice to Quit: The Great Irish Famine Evictions by L. Perry Curtis Jr.

Death in Every Paragraph: Journalism and The Great Irish Famine
by Michael Foley

“I mbéal an Bháis” : The Great Famine and the Language Shift in Nineteenth-Century Ireland by Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh

Black Roads: The Famine in Irish Literature by Robert Smart

We invite you to join us for this exciting event. [Please register online.](#)



Educational Outreach

While students enjoyed their summer break, we were hard at work creating materials for teachers and students, and promoting field trips to the museum. We worked with an educator to produce classroom materials aligned with the Common Core and Connecticut State Frameworks. This material will be available on our website by mid-September. We sent notices to schools across Connecticut inviting

them to visit the museum. If you are a teacher or a scout leader, consider organizing a field trip to the museum. Tours are free for students and teachers! Contact Claire Puzarne at 203-582-6574 or claire.puzarne@quinnipiac.edu to schedule a tour.

Easter Rising 1916 Anniversary Events

As many of you are aware, 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising. The museum, along with Quinnipiac University's College of Arts and Sciences and Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, are planning a full program of events related to the 1916 Rising. More information will be available later this fall, but programming will include films, poetry readings, visiting lecturers and theater performances.

Thank you again for your interest and ongoing support of the museum. A special thank you to all who donated this past year (list attached). Your enthusiasm, feedback, ideas and generosity continue to amaze me, and you have my full gratitude. For those who are interested in supporting the museum, please visit the museum website to complete our [online giving form](#). Or mail a check made payable to "Ireland's Great Hunger Museum" to Ireland's Great Hunger Museum, 275 Mount Carmel Avenue, Hamden, CT 06518-1908.

I look forward to seeing you at the museum again soon.

Grace Brady
Executive Director

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