

HELP PRESERVE



A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE CAUSE OF IRISH INDEPENDENCE, IRISH LITERATURE, AND THE INTERESTS OF THE IRISH RACE.

In the Summer of 2008, The Winged Fist Organization was formed to preserve the legacy of the Irish-American Athletic Club (I-AAC) of Celtic Park, Queens. The Winged Fist Organization has spent the last year locating descendants of the once internationally acclaimed I-AAC, and has compiled an impressive collection of primary source material related to this athletic club. (Much of our research has been posted on our website, www.WingedFist.org). One source that has yielded a tremendous amount of information about the I-AAC and Celtic Park is The Gaelic American newspaper, on microfilm in the New York Public Library. Unfortunately, this microfilm is over 50 years old, and the reproduction quality is extremely poor.

The Gaelic American was a weekly newspaper published in New York City by The Gaelic American Publishing Company from 1903 to 1951. According to its masthead it was a "journal devoted to the cause of Irish independence, Irish literature, and the interests of the Irish race." Irish nationalist leader John Devoy founded the paper in 1903 and was the editor until his death in 1928. The Gaelic American had a regular feature written in Irish, and frequently featured articles about literary figures in Ireland. The Gaelic American frequently featured photos of and articles about William Butler Yeats and his father Jack B. Yeats.

The Winged Fist Organization has located a near complete print-run of The Gaelic American Newspaper in the holdings of the American Irish Historical Society, on 5th Avenue in Manhattan. One of the goals of the Winged Fist Organization is to digitize this publication, which has not yet been digitized, and make it available to the public online, before these papers literally disintegrate. If you would like to make a donation towards this project, please email wingedfist@gmail.com.

The WB Yeats Society of New York has made a generous pledge towards this project, but we still need support!

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The Gaelic American.

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The image above comes from The Gaelic American, October 24, 1903. The image on the left shows the standard quality of a print from microfilm. The image on the right is a composite of four different prints, at a variety of contrasts, meticulously digitally enhanced in Photoshop. If this image came from a digital copy, it would be of the exact same quality as the original image, as it appeared in the newspaper more than a century ago. Another major advantage of working with scanned material is that the final product would be in a fully text-searchable format, thereby greatly reducing research time.

Please help the Winged Fist Organization preserve this publication for future generations of historians! All donations are tax-deductible. Email wingedfist@gmail.com for further information.