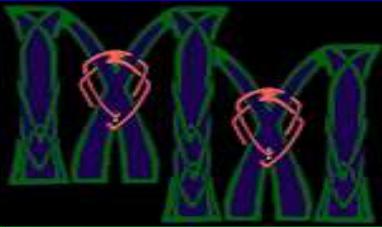


Teach Tábhairne FÓGRA

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feabhra 2012 february



Moriarty - Moffitt School of Irish Dance



(L-R) Susannah Moffitt, Jennifer Moriarty

MORIARTY - MOFFITT SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCE OPENS 2ND SCHOOL IN WESTMINSTER, COLORADO

With their first school having opened in Loveland, Colorado (2007) and now doing well, it was time for Jennifer Moriarty-Rajewski and Susannah Moffitt-Ruehlen to expand their business to Westminster, Colorado.

The Denver metropolitan area is home to several schools of Irish dance, so one would think competition for “new” dancers would be intense. Parents (and even grandparents) of young boys and girls want to send their child to a school that will teach them Irish culture, and the goals and discipline of competition.

Moriarty-Moffitt meets all those expectations and a few more. Both Jennifer and Susannah started dancing themselves at the ages of ‘6’ and ‘7’ respectively, with their careers taking them worldwide.

Susannah lived in Colorado as a young child and took classes at the McTeggart School of Irish Dance where Maureen McTeggart helped her to reach a championship level. When her family moved to Columbus, Ohio she joined the

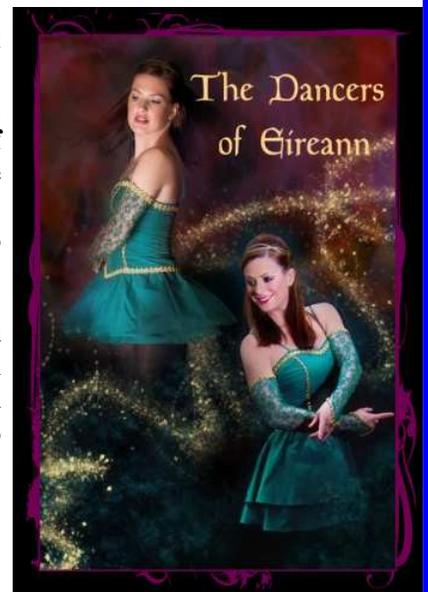
Richens/Timm Academy where she met Jennifer Moriarty. She has competed in Regional, National and World competition in Ireland and holds her “*Teachers Certificate*” from **An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha** (Irish Dancing Commission in Dublin, Ireland). In 1998, she auditioned for “*Riverdance*” & joined the “*Flying Squad*” for 3 yrs.

Jennifer moved to Colorado in 2007. She had competed in Regional, National and World Championships in Ireland. In 1998, she joined the “*Flying Squad*” of *Riverdance*. In 2000, she joined “**Riverdance-The Show**” touring the U.S. and Europe. For the next six years she was part of “**Riverdance**” and “**Lord of the Dance**” sharing the stage with Michael Flatley in “**Feet of Flames**”. She too holds a “*Teachers Certificate*” from **An Coimisiún le Rincí Gaelacha**. This certificate officially recognizes their school allowing their students to compete at Feiseanna (festivals).

Additionally, Jennifer & Susannah have formed “*The Dancers of Éireann*”, a professional dance troupe that can be hired for events. Dancing with them both are Medbh Fox (of Dublin, Ireland) who is an assistant teacher at MMSID and has danced with the Trinity Academy in Chicago, and Megan Huckaby who currently attends college. For more visit their website at:

www.coloradoirishdance.com/

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**NORTH AMERICAN
GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION**
PROMOTING HURLING, GAELIC FOOTBALL & CAMOGIE IN THE USA

2013 NORTH AMERICAN GAELIC GAMES FINALS TO BE HELD IN CLEVELAND, OHIO

The **Greater Cleveland Sports Commission** and the **Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association** have recently announced that the 2013 North American Gaelic Games Finals will be held at Victory Park in Cleveland, Ohio over the Labor Day weekend in September 2013.

Mark Owens, Chairman of the Midwest Gaelic Athletic Association is originally from Derry, Ireland. He has for the past six years as Chairman of the St. Pat's GAA Club in Cleveland petitioned to hold the National Finals in his adopted town.

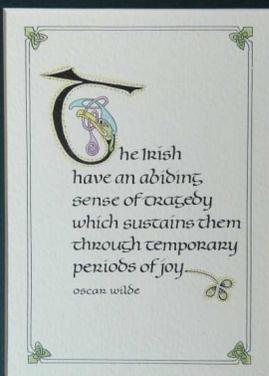
"Cleveland has a tremendous history with the Gaelic Games and the Irish community in general. Gaelic football, hurling and camogie are typically very high tempo with constant action. Having the National Games here will give us a great opportunity to bring awareness, and our hope is that we can further develop the games here in the Cleveland area." - - Mark Owens, chairman of the Midwest GAA

Over 80 male and female teams involving 1,500 participants are expected to arrive.

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TEACH TÁBHAIARNE FÓGRA RECOGNIZED WITH 2011 AWARDS



Horan & McConaty Award

The **Michael Collins Pipes and Drums "Chieftain's Award"** (right) was given in recognition of outstanding commitment, support and valuable contributions to the band.

The **Horan & McConaty Award** (left) was given in recognition of a selfless contribution that has bound the Denver Irish, the national Irish community, and the Irish Diaspora together.



Michael Collins Pipes & Drums Award

To read past feature articles, visit our website: www.teach-tabhairne-fogra.com/archive.htm

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St. Laurence O'Toole Development Pipe Band Dublin - Grade 3



Members of the SLO Development Pipe Band with 2011 trophies

One of Ireland's greatest exports is of course the pipe band "*music*" of the **St. Laurence O'Toole Pipe Band**.

In 2010, upon their centenary year the **Grade 1 SLO** band captured the "**World Championship**" in Glasgow. Given the fact they wear an Irish "green" kilt made this an even greater achievement. In Europe and America, judges *favor* the bands that wear tartan kilts over the solid color kilts of the Irish. Meaning that Irish bands must not only outperform the tartan kilt bands, but face "kilt favoritism".

In 2009, the **Grade 3b SLO** band was formed under the guidance of Pipe Major Philip Duffy and Pipe Sergeant Keith O'Malley. The main purpose of the band was to teach members and train them to one day fill in open positions in the Grade 1 band. By 2011, the Development band was assigned to the **Grade 3b classification** and ready for their *first year* of competition.

Competing in Grade 3b they captured **1st place** in the Co. Fermanagh & Mid-Ulster championships. **1st place** in the All-Ireland and British championships. **3rd place** in the European championship, and **2nd place** in the World championship. As a direct result of their hard work and success, the Development Pipe Band has now been reassigned to **Grade 3a for 2012**. *Uí Tuatail Abu!*



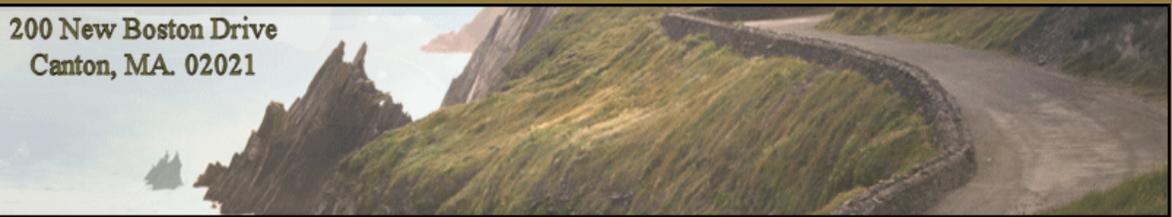
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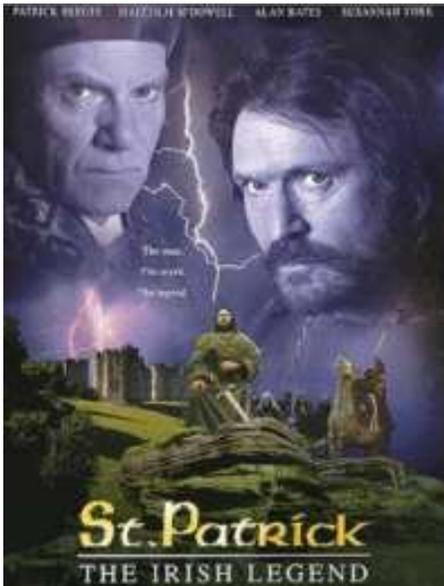


IRISH
CULTURAL
CENTRE

200 New Boston Drive
Canton, MA. 02021



IRISH HISTORICAL PRESENTATION - *ST. PATRICK 'THE IRISH LEGEND'* SATURDAY FEB. 11TH - HOSTED BY *SÉAMUS MULLIGAN*



For the past three years, *Teach Tábhairne Fógra* has recommended to our readers the DVD “**St. Patrick The Irish Legend**”. Therefore we are happy to recommend this presentation on **Feb. 11th** to our readers in the Boston-Canton area. This will bring St. Patrick’s story to you.

The movie itself was filmed in Ireland, and partially financed by the Irish government. The story of St. Patrick is true to his life with just a small amount of fantasy added for movie effects. In his use of the Irish Shamrock as an analogy of the Divine Trinity, it would forevermore be tied to St. Patrick. Grandparents and parents who want their children to learn about the life and gifts St. Patrick gave to Ireland and western civilization, should make sure this movie is seen by the children. Starring **Patrick Bergin, Malcolm McDowell, Alan Bates & Susannah York** in this 90 minute, year 2000 Saban Entertainment film. The Ireland that St. Patrick helped create would withstand the Fall Of Rome, avoid the barbarian



invasions on the continent, and remain a safe Christian refuge - for **335 years**.

Tickets for this event (beginning at 5:30 PM through 10:00 PM), are available and include Séamus Mulligan’s **Lecture**, a simple **Meal**, and viewing of the **Movie** .

\$25 - ICC Members
\$30 - General Admission



One month to go

Before the 4 Hour parade that is ‘2nd’ only to the New York City “St. Patrick’s Day Parade”.

The Denver parade steps off at 10 AM in front of Coors Field. Come celebrate the

50TH GOLDEN JUBILEE,
Denver, March 17th!

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Colorado Emerald Society
Law Enforcement Officers - Firefighters
Public Safety Personnel
"Bráithreachas - Onóir - Muintir"



IRISH AMERICAN COLORADO VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE CAMPAIGN

Latest update ...

The campaign is in the “drafting stage” at the moment, with the state of Colorado reviewing the design and approving of such, or suggesting changes.

On **St. Patrick’s Day weekend**, all Irish pubs in the Denver metropolitan area will have been visited by a member of this campaign, and left a clipboard and petition for interested registered voters to sign. At the parade staging area of the country’s second largest parade, members of this campaign will be taking signatures on the petition. Those participating in the parade will want to look for the CES staging area.

It is believed that the 3,000 registered voter signatures and commitment to purchase will be obtained that weekend. Then it will be on to the state legislature to submit a bill, pass that bill, and then have the Governor sign it allowing the Colorado vehicle **Irish American** license plates to be created.

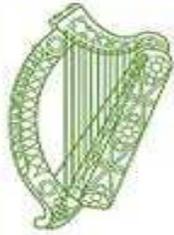
This campaign from beginning to end is made possible thanks to the men and women of the Colorado Emerald Society. As retired police officers, firemen and safety personnel - they have taken on this challenge for the benefit of the whole Irish community. *Go raibh maith agaibh!*

SEANDÁLAÍOCHT NA hÉIREANN Archaeology of Ireland

SENTENCING OF CO. KERRY MAN POSTPONED AGAIN - FEB. 21ST

Last month we informed our readers of a trial for destroying a **2,000 yr. old celtic “ring fort” and tunnel system (souterrain) dating back to 100 AD**. John O’Mahony had hired a construction crew to demolish them both and dump the contents into his nearby pond. Both places were on the National Register as **“protected sites”**, and are now lost to future generations. The demolition had taken place in 2008; and O’Mahony’s trial in November 2011 where he was found ‘guilty’. Judge Carroll Moran postponed sentencing till January 16th. (**Maximum sentence is 5 years in prison, or €50,000 euros**).

On Jan. 16th, Judge Carroll Moran advised John O’Mahony that he would not send him to jail. Judge Moran stated O’Mahony’s actions were *“unacceptable”* and he would impose a *“reasonable”* fine based on O’Mahony’s financial situation. John O’Mahony now has to provide the court with details of his financial disclosure so that Judge Carroll Moran can issue a *“reasonable”* fine on **February 21st**.



An Roinn

Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of

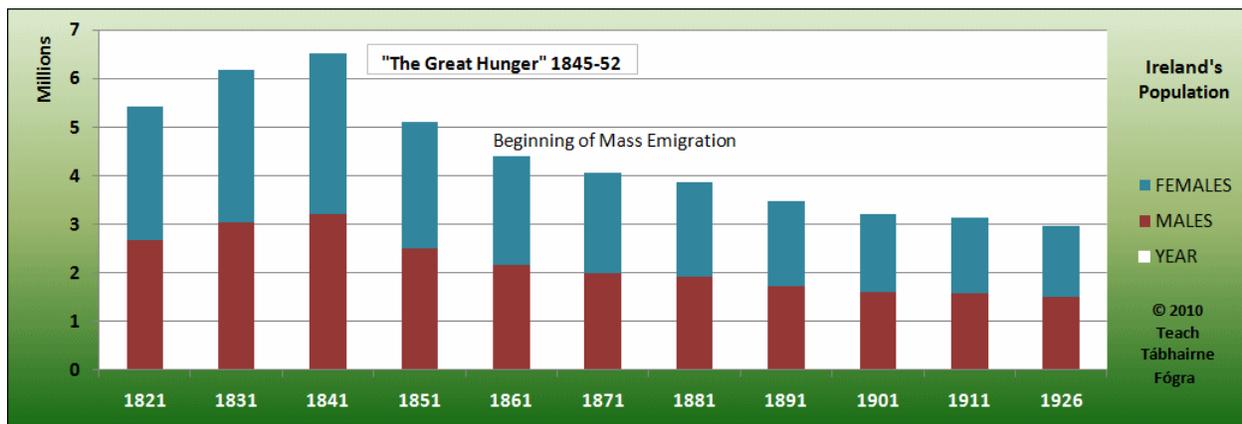
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

BOSTON - 2012 INTERNATIONAL COMMEMORATION
DROGHEDA, CO. LOUTH - 2012 NATIONAL COMMEMORATION
"THE GREAT FAMINE" (AN GORTA MÓR)

On a cultural trip to New York City taken the 7th of January, *Minister Jimmie Deenihan T.D.*, of the Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and current chair of the National Famine Commemoration Committee - announced that the **City of Boston, Massachusetts** had been chosen as the location of the **"2012 International Commemoration of the Great Irish Famine"**. This will be in conjunction with the Irish city of **Drogheda** (Co. Louth), where the **Irish National Commemoration** is planned to take place in late May. Minister Deenihan upon the announcement made these comments:

"The National Famine Commemoration is taking place in Drogheda this year. Drogheda was the second largest port of departure for over one million people who were forced to emigrate. Some travelled only as far as Britain while others travelled onwards from the UK to North America. Many of these people arrived in Boston, full of hope for a better life. We know from the evidence of Irish heritage in Boston that many settled and prospered in that city. I look forward to working with the community in Boston and in particular the Charitable Irish Society whose 275th anniversary falls this year, to ensure that the victims of the famine are remembered and respected in a dignified manner". - Minister Jimmie Deenihan, T.D., Battery Park NYC, 7 January 2012

It is important to remember that between the years **1845 - 1852**, both emigration and starvation began to rip apart family unity. What is often overlooked by historian authors is the fact that during this same period the British parliament raised landlord taxes based on the number of tenant farmers who lived on the land. In response, British landlords simply evicted (see pg. 7, *Images of Ireland*) those too old or sick who could no longer work the land, thereby reducing their **"tenant tax"** burden. Unfortunately, this increased the number of men, women and children left to die on the roads. Between the British censuses of **1841 and 1861 - 2,126,688** persons in Ireland were lost due to starvation and emigration. This actual British census number represented a decline of **33%** of the former Irish population; leading more Irish families into considering emigration rather than living under British policies.



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Images Of Ireland

During the **Great Hunger 1845-1852 (An Gorta Mór)**, there were many tragedies that took place. These photos tell us two of those stories ...



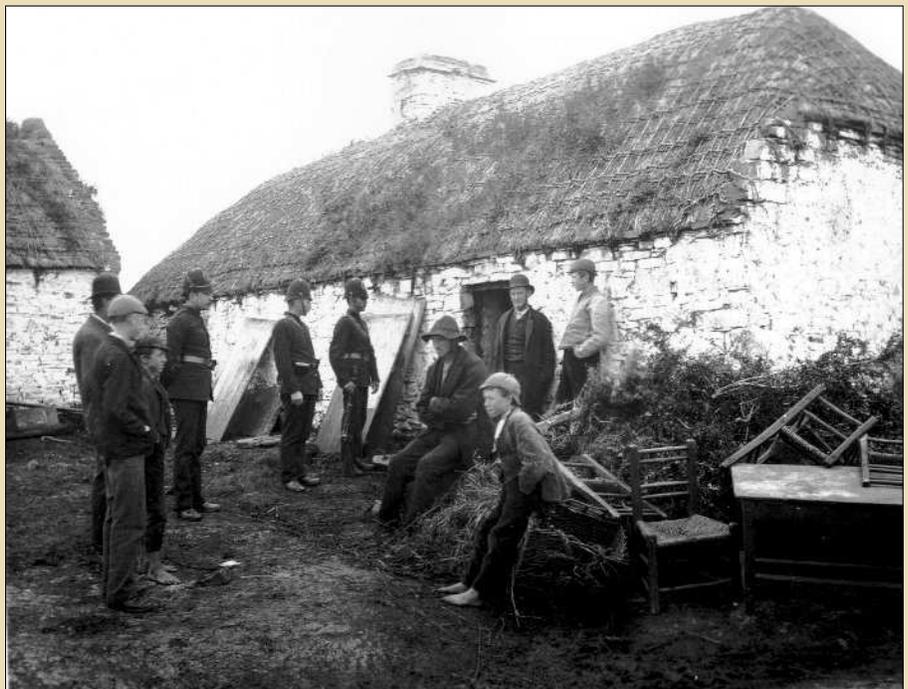
Doolough, Co. Mayo was where in March 1849, two officials of the Poor Law Union arrived to inspect those receiving “outdoor relief” to make sure they should continue to “qualify” for relief. Those officials decided all should come to the Delphi Lodge some 12 miles south of town the following morning by 7 AM. Hundreds of destitute and starving individuals took to the roads in hopes of arriving the next day. Not all made it, in fact many died along the way. A writer for the *Mayo Constitution* newspaper reported

they had seen dead women and children on the roadside. Locals say many more died than was officially reported. Today, an annual *Famine Walk* and this monument commemorate those who perished.

When the British parliament increased the “Tenant Farmer Tax” on landlords, they did so in the middle of the Great Famine which left tenant farmers who were sick, old or weak—vulnerable to eviction.

In response, absentee landlords evicted from the cottages those who were no longer actively working their land.

In this photo on the right taken in **1850**, we see a man and his worldly possessions after having been evicted from the cottage by the authorities. He apparently came out without a fight. Battering rams were used to break down the walls of tenants that refused to leave.



Did You Know?

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY CALLS FOR INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM ON JANUARY 25, 2012

FREEDOM. What Scots all over the world have wanted for their native country has been freedom and independence from England. On **January 25, 2012** - **First Minister Alex Salmond (Scottish National Party)** announced in the Edinburgh Assembly that he and his party are requesting that 16 & 17 year olds be allowed to vote in the Independence referendum scheduled for Fall 2014.



©2012 Scottish National Party

“If a 16-year old in Scotland can register to join the army, get married and pay taxes, surely he or she should be able to have a say in this country’s constitutional future.” - Alex Salmond

Salmond went on to state that the question on the ballot simply would be ...

**“DO YOU AGREE THAT SCOTLAND SHOULD BE
AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY?”**

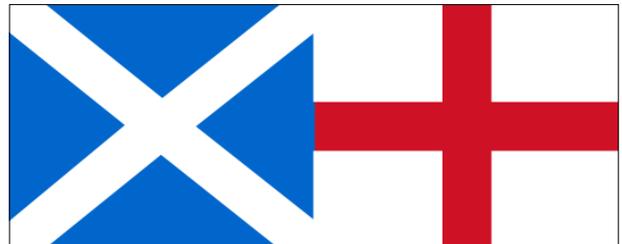
British Prime Minister David Cameron feels voters throughout the UK should be able to vote on whether or not Scotland should break away from the UK. He stated the following:

“the point that everyone needs to understand is that options for further devolution, options for changes across the United Kingdom, are matters all of the United Kingdom should rightly discuss.”

Cameron also believes that the Scottish Parliament created in 1997, does not have the legal authority to call for an independence vote. Proponents of staying united with Britain refer back to the 1707 “unification” vote which was one full of monies paid for fraudulent votes to unite with England. Land and castles were offered to members of the then Scottish Parliament for purposes of securing their ‘yes’ votes for unification with England. The Scottish hero and poet **Robert Burns (1759-1796)** put it this way, **“We are bought and sold for English gold”**.

Scottish nationalists want their country to be free, independent and their 5 million citizens to be part of the European Union. Whether they will succeed remains to be seen.

One thing is for sure, the British government will do all it can to see this vote on independence fail. After losing Ireland in the 20th century, the loss of Scotland would be devastating to England. In fact, the most obvious change would be the loss of the **Union Jack** flag (that combines the St. Andrew blue and St. George red flags of Scotland and England).



As Irish descendents this is one story we need to follow. We need to watch the roadblocks England puts before the Scots. Should Scotland finally obtain its Freedom vote in 2014, one would have to wonder then about Northern Ireland and its future.

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EMERALD ISLE CLASSIC - DUBLIN, IRELAND NOTRE DAME VS. NAVY 1 SEPTEMBER 2012

Witness two historic football rivals compete in Ireland. Join fans, alumni and friends for this once in a lifetime opportunity to watch the University of Notre Dame take on the Midshipman of Navy at the Emerald Isle Classic at Aviva Stadium in Dublin.

From \$1475 pp* 4-8 day travel packages: game tickets w/ priority seating, exclusive party access See website for availability. **Anthony Travel, Official Travel Provider**

From \$1559 pp* 6 - 9 day, fully-escorted tours. Includes premium game tickets & sightseeing. Prices are pp, land-only & based on double occupancy. **Isle Inn Tours**

From \$1799 pp* Golf & tour packages. Spectacular golf. Chauffeured sightseeing. Game tickets. Group experts. Tours start August 27, 2012. **Celtic Golf**

From \$1197 pp* 5 to 14 day semi-escorted & self-drive packages w/breakfast, game ticket, tailgate & welcome party. See website. **Tenon Tours**

From \$1999 pp* Small Group Tour, 20 pax limit. Game tickets, sightseeing: Dublin, Kilkenny, Killarney, Shannon. Based on two persons sharing. Book by January 15. **Lynott Tours**

From \$1250 pp* 7 night self drive tour w/ premium game tickets golf option. Book-by Feb 2012. For tours dep. Sept 2012 , based on 2 pax traveling. **IrishTourism.com**

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann

ÓR - IRISH GOLD

On your next visit to Ireland, take the time to visit the **Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann (National Museum of Ireland)** on Kildare Street in Dublin. There you will find gold artifacts that cross the Bronze and Iron Ages. The Celts were the people responsible for these changes, and as new celtic tribes arrived in Ireland, so did new technology and art.



Torc; Late Bronze Age, Co. Clare

Torcs were worn by men of status and power. They simply were attached around the neck and worn on the chest. These men could have been clan Chiefs or Druids.

Lunulae were most probably worn by Druids and they too were attached to the neck and worn on the chest.

Bogs have been the source for many of the larger findings including one made over a 70 year period in the Bog of Cullen in Co. Tipperary.

In 1854 AD, near marshy ground close to a lake at Mooghaun North in Co. Clare, a hoard of 150 gold objects was discovered that weighed in at **111 lbs.!** This hoard consisted mostly of bracelets, but also included 6 Gold Collars and 2 Neck-Rings.

Of course the **Tara Brooch** found in 1850 (dating to 700 AD) still remains one of the most beautiful at the Museum.



Torc; Early Bronze Age, Co. Clare



Lunulae; 2200 BC, Co. Monaghan



Gold ornaments; 1500 BC, Co. Offaly

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