

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: Burke School of Irish Dance Records

MS. NO.: 4901

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Editor: Michael McCormick and John Grabowski

Date: April 16, 2003

The Burke School of Irish Dance (f. 1958) was founded by an Irish American, Theresa Burke, in Cleveland, Ohio. Her father, Thomas Scott, (b. 1906) immigrated from County Sligo in the 1920s to the United States, and initially settled in New York. Her mother was born in County Clare and came to the United States a few years after Thomas. Scott was a musician and dance teacher in Cleveland. According to Theresa, he was the first person in Cleveland to teach traditional Irish dancing to a competitive standard. Sharing her father's love for Irish dance, Burke followed in his footsteps as the founder and owner of two Irish dance schools in the state of Ohio, one in Cleveland, the other in Youngstown (f. 1965), and one out of state, in Pennsylvania, (f. 1971).

The Burke School of Traditional Irish Dance Records, 1960-2002, consist of an honorary achievement award, certificate of appreciation from President Ronald Reagan, certificate of appreciation from Mahoning Valley Gaelic Society, a directory of registered adjudicators and dance teachers worldwide, an essay, a flyer, a leaflet, newsletters, newspaper clippings, programs, a resolution and a scrapbook.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by document type, and then chronologically.

This collection is of value to those seeking information about the history of Irish Americans in northeast Ohio. It will also be of interest to those researching the Irish and Irish activities in northeast Ohio. This collection will be of special interest to those seeking information about traditional Irish dance. Those interested in national and international Irish dancing competitions will find useful information pertaining to these events spanning more than thirty years. Genealogists seeking information about family members who were involved in Irish dance and dance competitions will find the lists of participants in each program to be of value.

Photographs have been removed to the photograph and print collection.

Provenance: Theresa Burke, 2003.

Number of Containers: 4    Oversize Folders: 0    Oversize Volumes: 0

Size: 0.80 linear feet / 0.24 linear meters

Restrictions: None.

Container

- 1      Folder      1: Award, Honorary Achievement Award, Theresa Burke, Ohio State Senate, undated.
- Folder      2: Book, *Celtic Christianity, a sacred tradition, a vision of hope*, Timothy Joyce, photocopies of table of contents, 1998.
- Folder      3: Certificate of Appreciation from Ronald Reagan, president of the United States, to Burke School of Irish Dancing, 1988.
- Folder      4: Certificate of Appreciation to Theresa Burke from Mahoning Valley Gaelic Society, undated.
- Folder      5: Directory, Official list of registered adjudicators and teachers, Commission of Irish Dance, 1999.
- Folder      6: Essay, *Irish Step Dancing, a brief history*, Don Haurins and Ann Richens, 1996.
- Folder      7: Flyer, Cormac Mac Fhionnlaoich, past president of An Choimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha, (Commission on Irish Dance) photocopy, undated.
- Folder      8: Leaflet, untitled, discussing Irish dance history, dance schools, competitions and costumes, photocopy, undated.
- Folder      9: Newsletter, *Ceim*, An Choimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha, (Commission of Irish Dance) numbers 16, 30, 31-42, 44, 46-48, 52-60, 1974-1987.
- Folder      10: \_\_\_\_\_, *Ceim*, An Choimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha, number 61-72, 1988-1994.
- Folder      11: Newspaper clippings, photocopies, *The Lorain Journal*, 1960, 1971; *The Plain Dealer*, 1966, 1971, 1998; *Boardman News*, 1971; *The Irish Times*, 1994, unidentified, undated.
- Folder      12: Program, Burke Irish Centre Dancers and The Burke Dancers of Youngstown, 2000.

- Folder 13: \_\_\_\_\_, Feis, Twenty-First Columbus Feis, Dublin, Ohio, 2001
- Folder 14: \_\_\_\_\_, Irish Dance Teacher's Association of Mid-Western U.S.A. Oireachtas, Detroit 1979.
- Folder 15: \_\_\_\_\_, Irish Dancing Teacher's Association of Mid-America; sixth-eighth Mid America Oireachtas Rince 1981-1983.
- Folder 16: \_\_\_\_\_, Irish Dancing Teacher's Association of Mid-America; ninth to eleventh Mid America Oireachtas Rince, 1984-1986.
- Folder 17: \_\_\_\_\_, Irish Dancing Teacher's Association of Mid-America; twelfth to eighteenth Mid-America Oireachtas Rince, 1987-1993.
- Folder 18: \_\_\_\_\_, Irish Dancing Teacher's Association of Mid-America; Twenty-Third Annual Mid America Oireachtas Rince, Cleveland, Irish Dancing Teachers Association of Mid America, 1998.
- Folder 19: \_\_\_\_\_, Midwest Irish Dance Championship, Milwaukee, Irish Dancing Teachers Association of Mid-America, 1996.
- Folder 20: \_\_\_\_\_, National Oireachtas, Cleveland, 1982.
- Folder 21: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Fullerton, 1983.
- Folder 22: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, New York, 1986. Tribute to Kenny Verlin.
- Folder 23: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Chicago, 1987; California, 1988.
- Folder 24: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Calgary, 1991.

- Folder 25: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Orlando, 1992.
- Folder 26: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Chicago, 1993.
- Folder 27: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, San Diego, 1994.
- Folder 28: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Toronto, 1995
- Folder 29: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Boston, 1996.
- Folder 30: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Orlando, 1998
- Folder 31: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Chicago, 1999.
- Folder 32: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, San Francisco, 2000.
- Folder 33: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Toronto, 2001
- Folder 34: \_\_\_\_\_, North American Irish Dance Championships, Boston, 2002.
- Folder 35: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas, Fourteenth Annual Oireachtas Rince, Irish Dancing Teachers Association of Mid America, Milwaukee, 1988.
- Folder 36: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas, Nineteenth Annual Oireachtas Rince, Irish Dancing Teachers Association of Mid America, St. Louis, 1994.

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- Folder 37: Program, Oireachtas, Twentieth Annual Oireachtas Rince, Irish Dancing Teachers Association of Mid America, Cincinnati, 1995.

- Folder 38: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas, Twenty Third Annual Oireachtas Rince, Irish Dancing Teachers Association of Mid America, Chicago, 1998.
- Folder 39: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas, Twenty-Fifth Annual Oireachtas Rince, Irish Dancing Teachers Association of Mid America, St. Louis, 2000.
- Folder 40: \_\_\_\_\_, First Annual Oireachtas Rince Mid America, Cleveland 1976-1977; Third Annual Oireachtas Rince Mid America, Cleveland, 1978; Fifth Mid America Oireachtas Rince, Oak Lawn, 1980; Oireachtas, Detroit, 1991.
- Folder 41: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas, First Annual Oireachtas Rince, Mid America, Cleveland, 1976-1977; Third Annual Oireachtas Rince Mid America, Cleveland, 1978; Fifth Mid America Oireachtas Rince, Oak Lawn, 1980; Oireachtas, Detroit, 1991, Oireachtas, Illinois, 1992.
- Folder 42: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas, Midwest Regional Championships, Pittsburgh, 1999.
- Folder 43: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas, Midwest Regional Championships, Chicago, 2001.
- Folder 44: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne, An Choimisiuin le Rinci Gaelacha, Dublin, 1994.
- Folder 45: \_\_\_\_\_, Oireachtas Rince na Cruinne, An Choimisiuin le Rinci Gaelacha, Ennis, 1999.
- Folder 46: Program, World Championships, Galway, 1995.
- Folder 47: \_\_\_\_\_, World Championships, Dublin, 1996
- Folder 48: \_\_\_\_\_, World Championships, Galway, 1997.
- Folder 49: \_\_\_\_\_, World Championships, Ennis, 1998.
- Folder 50: \_\_\_\_\_, World Championships, Belfast, 2000.

Container

- 3      Folder      51: Resolution, Theresa Burke, from County of Mahoning, State of Ohio, Board of Commissioners. Undated.

Container

- 4      Folder      52: Scrapbook of thank you notes, photographs, and letters created by students of Burke School of Irish Dance celebrating 40 years of teaching by Theresa Burke, 2000.