Register for the
DENNIS CLARK PAPERS
ADDITIONS

1863-1994
(Span dates 1910-1993)

MSS 177
(M79-23, M80-32, M90-36, M93-22, 2001-61)

PG 137
& Unprocessed Photographs, Negatives, and Slides

9.7 linear feet

Larisa Repin
Project Archival Processor for The Balch Institute
of The Historical Society of Pennsylvania

March 2002

The Balch Institute of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania
1300 Locust Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

This project was made possible with a generous grant from
John C. Haas
DENNIS CLARK PAPERES
ADDITIONS
MSS 177
(M79-23, M80-32, M90-36, M93-22, 2001-61)

19 Hollinger boxes of mss.
   1 oversize box
   1 folder oversize materials
   1 Hollinger box of unprocessed photographs, slides, and negatives

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Additions to the Dennis Clark papers were given to the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies by Dennis Clark himself from 1979 to 1993. The papers came in as many accessions, such as M79-23, M80-32, M83-22, M84-08, M87-20, M88-66, M89-18, M90-36, M91-53, M93-22, 2001-61, some of which were processed in March 2002 by Larisa Repin, archival processor for the Balch Institute of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. This project was made possible with a generous grant from John C. Haas.

Materials are in English, and a few in Irish.

Some of Dennis Clark’s papers had already been processed as MSS 37, and one photograph assigned PG 137. Many more photographs and some slides and negatives also came with these later documents, and they remained unprocessed as of March 2002. These materials have been placed in Series III, box 20, the last box in the manuscript collection.

A complete list of newspapers that have remained with the manuscript collection (Oversize Boxes 1) is offered on pages 31-32.
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

Dennis Clark was born in 1927 in Philadelphia. He graduated from St. Joseph’s College, Philadelphia, in 1951, where did his undergraduate work in political science. In 1953-1954, Clark studied at the Fels Institute of Local and State Government at the University of Pennsylvania, and an early interest in social problems led to graduate study in sociology in 1955-1959 at the same university. In 1963, Clark went on to do further graduate work in history at Temple University, receiving his masters in history in 1966, and doctorate in the philosophy of history in 1970.

Dennis Clark’s involvement with Irish organizations in Philadelphia began when he was still in high school. He devoured the fine collection of Irish books at a local library, and then worked for the Green Cross Society as a volunteer, collecting funds for relief of families of men jailed by the British on a prison ship. Later, while still an undergraduate at St. Joseph’s College, Clark began the St. Brendan Society there to study Irish subjects. This group took him to New York, where he met his future wife, Josepha O’Callaghan, head of a similar group at Hunter College. They eventually had six children.

After serving in the army during World War II, Clark joined the Roscommon Men’s Patriotic and Beneficial Society which sent him as their representative to the meetings of the Federation of Irish-American Societies. In 1947, he participated in the Irish Race Convention, organized by the American League for an Undivided Ireland in New York, a group ardently opposed to the partition of Ireland.

During the years 1951-1954, Clark was an information specialist at the Philadelphia Housing Authority, and then, in 1955-1957, a housing specialist at the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission (q.v. MSS 155). He also supervised the housing division at the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations (1957-1961). From 1956-1973, Clark taught sociology and other subjects at St. Joseph’s College and lectured at Pennsylvania State University on labor and urban problems (ca.1963). Clark directed the New York Catholic Interracial Council (1962-1963), and was on the staff of Temple University, from 1964 to 1971, where he lectured on housing, community organization and the history of U.S. minority groups. He was also the program director of Temple’s Center for Community Studies, 1964-1965, and taught in the Irish Studies Program, which he founded, at Villanova University.
In 1969, Clark helped promote the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association, and eventually joined the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, becoming its historian. And in 1971, he was simultaneously secretary, treasurer, and executive director of the Samuel S. Fels Fund, in Philadelphia.

Dennis Clark was a member of the American Conference for Irish Studies, of the Organization of American Historians and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and a charter board member of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice. Occasionally he took part in broadcasts on Patrick Stanton’s [q.v. MSS 31] Irish hour radio program, and wrote material for Owen B. Hunt for some of his radio broadcasts.


Dennis Clark died in 1993.
SCOPE AND CONTENT

Textual Records: Although these materials span the years 1863-1994, actually there are no documents from 1863-1910 in this collection, and the bulk of the materials is concentrated between 1959-1993. There are mostly professional materials here, together with some personal, historical, and genealogical information about the Clark family.

The records in the small Series IA consist of writings, speeches, remarks, proposals, and book reviews, all by Dennis Clark. Series IB contains research and reference materials, including biographies and genealogies, book reviews, dissertations and studies, magazines, newspapers and clippings, projects and proposals, publications and other reference materials. There are also reports and summit meetings, speeches, addresses, statements, interviews, and surveys. General materials for the various organizations Clark was associated with (Series IC) include agreements, by-laws, conferences and other events, correspondence, directories, flyers and programs, histories, minutes of meetings, project narratives, reports, surveys, and oral interviews.

Series II consists of Clark’s personal papers, including a biography, resume, interview, autobiography, and a family history written by him. Other records are correspondence, diaries (photocopies and microfilms), a few drawings, poetry, songs, and a play, and newspaper clippings with obituaries.

Unprocessed photographs, a few negatives, and slides are included in Series III, box 20.

The textual records, except for book reviews, bibliographies, financial materials, newspaper clippings, publications, reference materials, and surveys, have been indexed.
Boxes 1-18, Oversize (OS) Box 1, Oversize (OS) Folder 1

This big series has been divided into three subseries in order to separate Clark’s writings, his research materials, and general organizational materials.

Box 1

This small but interesting subseries contains numerous articles by Clark on subjects in many fields, and in particular, on Irish-American community history in Philadelphia. There are also a few speeches, remarks, proposals, projects, and book reviews, mostly for The Irish Edition. Family and personal histories written by Clark are in Series II. Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Boxes 1-10, Oversize (OS) Box 1, Oversize (OS) Folder 1

As a writer, Clark amassed a large collection of research materials, such as biographies and genealogies, book reviews and bibliographies, projects and proposals, reports and summit meetings, speeches, statements, interviews, surveys, newspapers and print materials. The bulk of the materials here is dissertations, studies, and memoirs, and there are also some legal documents on the Anglo-Irish conflict, Ireland’s independence, and human rights. The materials are in English with alphabetical arrangement.

SUBSERIES C: General Materials, 1910-1993 & n.d.,
Boxes 10-18, Oversize (OS) Folder 1

The materials here reflect Clark’s involvement with such organizations as Center for Irish Studies, The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, for which he was its historian, and Samuel S. Fels Fund, where he was an executive director. The records include agreements, by-laws, constitutions, correspondence, conference materials, minutes of meetings, directories, flyers and programs, some historical information, official


publications, projects and reports. There are surveys of views on Northern Ireland, and
oral history interviews for Irish community, provided by Center of Irish Studies under a
grant from the Samuel S. Fels Fund, in Philadelphia in 1988. The largest part of the
materials is correspondence (1918-1993) which reflects, in particular, his and others’
opinions and discussions of book reviews. Clark was invited to many events, such as the
receptions for the ambassador of Ireland in 1986, the consul general of Ireland in 1990,
and for Mary Robinson, the president of Ireland in 1993. There were many other similar
invitations and events where he was either a guest or speaker. The materials are arranged
alphabetically, in English. There are a few documents in Irish.


Unfortunately, there is not much real personal or family material in this
collection, though these records include Clark’s biography and resume, and an
autobiography and family history written by him. This series also contains photocopies
and microfilms of his fascinating diaries – probably the most interesting material in this
series – correspondence, poetry, songs, a play, and drawings. Newspaper clippings here
contain Clark’s and some of his family members’ photographs, and some obituaries
(although not Clark’s itself). The subseries is arranged alphabetically.

SERIES III: UNPROCESSED MATERIALS, n.d., Box 20

Unprocessed materials include photographs, slides, and a few negatives.
### SERIES I: PROFESSIONAL & ORGANIZATIONAL MATERIALS, 1910-1994 & n.d.

Boxes 1-18, Oversize (OS) Box 1, Oversize (OS) Folder 1

**SUBSERIES A: Writings, Speeches & Other Written Materials, 1959-1990 & n.d.**

**Box**  | **Folder**  | **Description** | **Dates**  
---|---|---|---
1 | 1-6 | Articles, speeches, remarks & proposals (by D. Clark) (For family and personal histories by D. Clark, see Box 18:11) | 1959-90 & n.d.  
7 | | Book reviews (by D. Clark) | 1974-89 & n.d.  

**SUBSERIES B: Research Materials, 1919-1994 & n.d.,**

Boxes 1-10, Oversize (OS) Box 1, Oversize (OS) Folder 1

**Box**  | **Folder**  | **Description** | **Dates**  
---|---|---|---
1 | 8 | Biographies & genealogies | 1991 & n.d.  
2 | 1-6 | Book reviews, bibliographies & other materials | 1955-91 & n.d.  
7-8 | | Dissertations, studies, memoirs & other materials | 1939, 1964  
3 | 1-9 | Dissertations, studies, memoirs & other materials | 1971-93  
| | | Cassette tape (in Box 20) | 1976


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Magazines

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<td>Archeology: Ireland</td>
<td>1991</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Bridge</td>
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<td>Ireland Today</td>
<td>1976-85</td>
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<td>Irish America</td>
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Box  Folder

Print materials

OS Box 1  Newspapers

Irish Literary Supplement  1984-92
The Irish People  1978-87
Irish Press  1981
Saol  1990-91
The Temple University News  1978

6  2-8  Newspaper & magazine clippings  1944-84
OS Folder 1

7  1-11  Newspaper & magazine clippings  1985-92 & n.d.
OS Folder 1

8  1  Projects & project proposals  1979-87 & n.d.
2-9  Publications & reference materials  1921-85


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(Correspondence is indicated by an asterisk)

Book reviews, bibliographies, financial materials, newspaper clippings, publications, except for those with D. Clark’s articles, reference materials, and surveys are not indexed. Dennis Clark appears as a correspondent in almost all categories and thus has also not been indexed as such.

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