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### THE GAELIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 1884–2009

#### CHAPTER 8

- 1. I want to acknowledge the support of NUI, Galway's Millennium Minor Project fund in carrying out the research required for this paper. Portions of this chapter first appeared in "Shillalah Swing Time ... You'll thrill each time a wild Irishman's skull shatters": Representing Hurling in American Cinema: 1930–1960', included in Ruth Barton (ed.), Screening Irish-America (Dublin, 2009) and 'Anticipating a postnationalist Ireland: Representing Gaelic games in Rocky Road to Dublin (1968) and Clash of the Ash (1987)' in Carmen Zamorano Llena and Irene Gilsenan Nordin (eds), Redefinitions of Irish Identity in the Twenty-First Century: A Postnationalist Approach (Oxford, 2009). I also want to thank Sunniva O'Flynn and the Irish Film Archive in the Irish Film Institute for their assistance in carrying out the research necessary for this work.
- 2. Waldemar Kaempffert, A Popular History of American Inventions, vol. 1 (New York, 1924), p.425.
- 3. Lloyd Morris, Not So Long Ago (New York, 1949), p.24.
- 4. This fight is available to view, along with other early fights filmed by Edison, at http://www.fitzsimmons.co.nz/html/rareboxingfilm.html
- 5. Robert Monks, Cinema Ireland: A Database of Irish Films and Filmmakers 1896–1986 (Dublin, 1996).
- 6. For more on this see Seán Crosson and Dónal McAnallen, 'Portraying the Irish at play: Cinema newsreels and Gaelic games (1920–1939)', Sport and the Arts: Construction and Reality: Proceedings of the XIIth International CESH Congress (2009) [forthcoming].
- 7. R. Boyle and R. Haynes, *Power Play: Sport, Media and Popular Culture* (London, 2000), p.xi.
- 8. See R. Cox, G. Jarvie and W. Vamplew, *The Encyclopaedia of British Sport* (Oxford, 1996), p.139 and Glen Jones, "Down on the floor and give me ten sit-ups": British sports feature films', *Film and History: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Film and Television Studies*, 35, 2 (2005), pp.30–1.
- 9. J.H. Wallenfeldt, Sports Movies (New York, 1989), p.?
- 10. Mike Cronin, Sport and Nationalism in Ireland: Gaelic Games, Soccer and Irish Identity since 1884 (Dublin, 1999), pp.18–19.
- 11. Kevin Rockett, Luke Gibbons and John Hill (eds), *Cinema and Ireland* (Syracuse, 1988), p.6.
- 12. T.J. Beere, 'Cinema statistics in Saorstat Eireann', Journal of the Statistical and Social Enquiry Society of Ireland, 89th session, 1935–1936, p.85.
- 13. Ibid., p.84.
- 14. Kevin Rockett has noted the banning of one film by the general officer commanding in chief of the British forces in Ireland, *Ireland a Nation* (1914), because of concerns that it might 'cause disaffection to His Majesty, and to prejudice the recruiting of His Majesty's forces'. Rockett et al., *Cinema and Ireland*, pp.14–16.
- 15. Rockett et al., Cinema and Ireland, p.24.
- 16. 'The South Bank Show', LWT Programme for ITV, 1996. Documentary with Neil Jordan interview and actual footage of Michael Collins. Produced and directed by Tony Knox; edited and presented by Melvyn Bragg.
- 15. Rockett et al., Cinema and Ireland, p.24.
- 18. Directed by Fred O'Donovan.
- 19. Rockett et al., Cinema and Ireland, p.19.
- 20. Ibid., p.21.
- 21. Cronin, Sport and Nationalism in Ireland, p.87.
- 22. As Sarah Benton has noted: 'The hurley stick was reborn as the symbol of man's throne, and of his gun in drills.' Sarah Benton, 'Women disarmed: The militarisation of politics in Ireland 1913–23', *Feminist Review* (Summer, 1995), pp.148–72, at p.153.
- 23. B. Mairéad Pratschke, 'Gael Linn's Amharc Éireann films, 1956-64', New Hibernia Review, 9, 3 (2005), p.36.
- 24. For further on this film see Seán Crosson, 'Anticipating a postnationalist Ireland' (see Note 1 above).
- 25. Seanad Éireann, Volume 116, 14 July 1987, Adjournment Matter Irish Film Board, http://historical-debates.oireachtas.ie/S/0116/S.0116.198707140008.html
- 26. Anonymous, 'Video releases', Irish Times, 29 July 2000, Weekend section, p.17.
- 27. Ibid.

# NOTES

- 28. Stephanie MacBride, 'Clash of the Ash wins at L'Orient', Film Base News, 3 (Sept-Oct 1987), p.9.
- 29. Éamon Sweeney, 'Breaking Ball' (Motive Television for RTÉ, 2000-2006), script provided to author by Cormac Hardagan, producer of the RTE series.
- 30. Paddy Woodworth, 'Sporting rebels', Sunday Press, 8 February 1987, p.1.
- 31. These details and those that follow are from a personal interview by the author with Tighe on 20 August 2007.
- 32. This information is available on the website of St Colman's College, Fermoy, http://www.stcolmanscollege.com/history.htm
- 33. Fergus Tighe, Clash of the Ash (script), Copyright August 1986, p.3. Held in the Tiernan McBride Library in the Irish Film Institute.
- 34. Ibid., p.31.
- 35. Neil Jordan, Michael Collins: Screenplay and Film Diary (London, 1996), p.126.
- 36. 'The South Bank Show', LWT Programme for ITV, 1996. Documentary with Neil Jordan interview and actual footage of Michael Collins. Produced and directed by Tony Knox; edited and presented by Melvyn Bragg.
- 37. Paul Bew, 'The role of the historical adviser and the Bloody Sunday tribunal', Historical Research, 78 (2005), p.125.
- 38. 'The South Bank Show', LWT Programme for ITV, 1996.
- 39. Solange Davin, 'Tourists and television viewers: Some similarities', in David Crouch, Rhona Jackson and Felix Thompson (eds), The Media and the Tourist Imagination: Converging Cultures (London and New York, 2005), p.170.
- 40. Colin Gordon (ed.), Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977 by Michel Foucault (New York, 1980), pp.146, 155, 162, 186.
- 41. John Arundel and Maurice Roche, 'Media, sport and local identity: British rugby league and Sky TV', in Maurice Roche (ed.), Sport, Popular Culture and Identity (Oxford, 2000),
- 42. Rockett et al., Cinema and Ireland, p.xii.
- 43. Fox Movietone and Pathé both covered the 1936 challenge game between All-Ireland hurling champions Limerick and New York as well as several other visits by Irish teams to the US. See http://www.itnsource.com for more information on matches covered and sources for surviving clips.
- 44. Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Council of Gaelic Athletic Association, held at Croke House on Saturday, 12 February 1938, at 8.30 p.m. at which Mr R. O'Keeffe presided. Held in the Gaelic Museum, Dublin. I want to acknowledge the assistance of Dónal McAnallen in finding information, including these minutes, relating to the reaction of the GAA to this film. A report of the Central Council meeting is also given in Anonymous, 'Unfairly treated: GAA discussion on Land Commission and playing fields', Irish Press, 14 February 1938, p.10. For further on these films, see Crosson, "Shillalah Swing Time ... You'll thrill each time a wild Irishman's skull shatters".
- 45. Martin McLoone, Irish Film: The Emergence of a Contemporary Cinema (London, 2000), pp.44-59.
- 46. Appadurai is describing here the process through which the old stabilities of place and people are more and more 'shot through with ... the woof of human motion, as more persons and groups deal with the realities of having to move, or fantasies of wanting to move'. Arjun Appadurai, Modernity at Large (Minneapolis, 1996), p.33.
- 47. Appadurai, Modernity at Large, p.49.48. While both The Quiet Man and The Rising of the Moon are discussed in this paper, another example of the juxtaposition of hurling and violence is also found in Ford and Jack Cardiff's Young Cassidy (1965).
- 49. See Joseph McBride, Searching for John Ford: A Life (New York, 2001), pp.577-8.
- 50. Luke Gibbons, The Quiet Man (Cork, 2002), p.91.
- 51. Gerry Smyth, Space and the Irish Cultural Imagination (London, 2001), pp.36-7. Smyth is quoting from Joep Leerson, Remembrance and Imagination: Patterns in the Historical and Literary Representation of Ireland in the Nineteenth Century (Cork, 1996), p.226.
- 52. McBride, pp.577–8.
- 53. Irish Independent, 1 May 1956, p.13. See also Irish Press, 1 May 1956, p.1.
- 54. Anonymous, Irish Independent, 2 May 1956, p.12. See also Irish Press 2 May 1956, p.1.
- 55. Irish Times, 4 May 1956, p.1.
- 56. Myles na Gopaleen, 'GAATHLETES', Irish Times, 18 May 1956, p.8.
- 57. Myles na Gopaleen, 'Ford-Proconsul', Irish Times, 14 May 1956, p.6.

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- 58. The name Flann O'Brien was itself a pseudonym for the author, born Brian Ó Nualláin in 1911 in Tyrone.
- 59. Gibbons, The Quiet Man.
- 60. This cartoon was published in the June edition of *Dublin Opinion* magazine, 1956, p.106. It is included in the Lord Killanin Collection in the Irish Film Institute. I want to thank Charles Barr for bringing this collection to my attention and providing me with copies of materials included in it, including this cartoon.
- 61. Anonymous, 'Mystery Abbey extra was John Ford!' Evening Press, 8 May 1956. Included in the Lord Killanin Collection in the Irish Film Institute.
- 62. Sandra Brennan, 'George Pollock', *All Movie Guide*, *The New York Times*, http://movies2.nytimes.com/gst/movies/filmography.html?p id=106786
- 63. Maureen O'Hara with John Nicoletti, 'Tis Herself A Memoir (London, 2004), pp.27-9, 33-4
- 64. Sweeney, Breaking Ball.
- 65. Seán Moran, 'Waterford associated with celebrities', *Irish Times*, 19 August 2008, http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/sport/2008/0819/1218868120378.html
- 66. An Fear Rua website, 'The darlin' of the lay-ay-dees is ... Rooney-oh!', 1 January 2000, http://www.anfearrua.com/story.asp?id=156
- 67. Anonymous, 'Kilkenny Arts Festival', Waterford Today, 8 August 2007, http://www.waterford-today.ie/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=962&Itemid=10172&ed=75
- 68. Cinema correspondent, 'Dustman's Holiday', Irish Times, 17 March 1958, p.6.
- 69. Our Film Critic, 'This Dublin scene is no travesty', Irish Independent, 17 March, p.5.
- 70. Benedict Kiely, 'Cameras on Croke Park', Irish Press, 17 March 1958, p.6.
- 71. *Irish Times* reporter, 'Tourist industry has prospects of record year', *Irish Times*, 14 July 1956, p.1.
- 72. The Paramount Topper series began in 1951 and would last for six years, by which time shorts were being phased out by all the majors. Altogether thirty-six were made in the series, with quite a few, such as *The Littlest Expert on Football* (1951), *Touchdown Highlights* (1954) and the final film, *Herman Hickman's Football Review* (1957), taking sport as their theme. All, including *Three Kisses* released in the US on 7 October 1955 and given an 'Excellent' rating by the *Motion Pictures Exhibitor* trade paper were directed by Justin Herman, who is also credited as writer of *Three Kisses*. Philadelphia-born Herman, who was also a cartoonist and contributor of short stories to the *New Yorker*, worked as a 'writer, producer and director of short films at Paramount ... from the late 1930s until the mid-1950s' and altogether made 118 shorts, two of which, *Roller Derby Girl* (1949) and *Three Kisses*, were nominated for academy awards. Anonymous, 'Justin B. Herman dead at 76; Writer and producer of films', *New York Times*, 10 December 1983, http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9C04E3DE1638F933A25751C1A96594 8260&sec=&pagewanted=print
- 73. Even though the film was described in the press on its release as a 'documentary', the subject matter itself is clearly fictionalised, as the above narrative summary indicates.
- 74. Barry trained fourteen Cork teams (thirteen in hurling and one in football (1946)) and one Limerick hurling team (1934) to All-Ireland victory between 1926 and 1966. See Jim Cronin, *Making Connections: A Cork GAA Miscellany* (Cork, 2005), pp.55–63.
- 75. This information was kindly supplied to the author in an interview with Jimmy Brohan, one of the Cork players depicted in the film.
- 76. Anonymous, 'First showing of two films about Ireland', Irish Times, 19 July 1956, p.1.
- 77. Anonymous, 'Film and the Irish tourist industry', Irish Independent, 19 July 1956, p.8.
- 78. Benedict Kiely, 'The tourists and the screen', Irish Press, 23 July 1956, p.6.
- 79. The Cinema Correspondent, 'The business jungle', Irish Times, 23 July 1956, p.6.
- 80. Dean MacCannell, "Staged authenticity: Arrangements of social space in tourist settings', *The American Journal of Sociology*, 79, 3 (1973), p.595.
- 81. Anonymous, 'Dublin letter: Too much ""Blarney", Cork Examiner, 19 July 1956, p.6.

#### CHAPTER 9

- 1. Seán Moran, 'President rules out rumours', Irish Times, 14 March 2000.
- 2. 'Poots addresses GAA conference', Irish Times, 20 October 2007.
- 3. See Liam P. Ó Caithnia, *Micheál Cíosóg* (BÁC, 1982), pp.115–75.