

Professor Desmond Bell

Early Cinema and the Diasporic Imagination: the Irish in America 1890 - 1930

End of Year Report for 2007

In the period Jan – March 2007 the emphasis was on the commissioning and delivery of the web site. Contributors were contacted with a view to supplying research content for the site. To operationalise the moving image archive section the site we drew upon the existing digital resources of the Motion Picture Division of the Library of Congress, incorporating quick time movies of early silent clips made available by LOC. At the same time we have started the process of digitalising material unearthed by the researchers in a range of US archives. This copyright free material will be hosted on the site in the coming period.

The website was officially launched at the SCREENING IRISH-AMERICA conference held in the Clinton Institute for American Studies in University College Dublin 13TH – 15TH April 2007.

Highlights:

- Ability of the researchers to access an importance range of primary sources with support from archive professionals
- Opportunity to present initial findings of the network research via a major conference event in Dublin
- Opportunity to present our work to a wider public via high profile public lectures (2 inaugural professorial lectures) and via our website.

Interface with the public has been achieved via the public lectures given by key network members, via a public screening of film work (Boston College Irish Film Programme March 2006) and via our web site. We have also worked closely with the following institutions in the preparation of our website and exhibition activities:

- Irish Film Institute
- Queens Film Theatre
- Film Base, Dublin
- O’Kane Centre for Film UCD
- Motion Picture Division, Library of Congress
- Queens Film Theatre (QFT)