



Irish History Month Celebration

In 1898, a group of Irish immigrants in New York formed an organization called the Irish American Athletic Club. They adopted as their emblem a winged fist adorned with American flags and shamrocks with the Gaelic motto "Láim Láidir Abú" or "Strong Hands Forever."

The group built a stadium in Queens, which they named Celtic Park. This became a primary meeting place for Irish immigrants in New York, a venue for Gaelic football, hurling and track & field events, and a training ground

for some of the best athletes the world has ever seen.

Members of the Irish American Athletic Club competed for the U.S. Olympic team in six Olympic Games, bringing home dozens of medals for their adopted country. They particularly excelled in the controversial 1908 Olympics held in London, winning ten of the U.S. team's twenty-three gold medals.

On March 23, at 7pm, Celtic Park resident and historian Ian McGowan will present a talk and slideshow on the his-

tory of the Irish American Athletic Club, the amateur athletic club that dominated U.S. and Olympic track & field events for the first two decades of the 20th Century, whose stadium and facilities stood on the site of the Celtic Park apartments in Queens.

The presentation includes more than 100 historical photos of the site and the athletes who competed for the IAAC. This event will feature an exhibit of color trading cards of the IAAC athletes and some of their original medals and trophies.