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# Out of Ireland: The Story of Irish Emigration to America

*Kerby Miller, Paul Wagner*

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**Kerby Miller, Paul Wagner : Out of Ireland: The Story of Irish Emigration to America** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Out of Ireland: The Story of Irish Emigration to America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and I am very pleased. Book is in good condition By Lee My first experience with used books, and I am very pleased. Book is in good condition, well worth the price. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I like it very much By mary e. alina; 've nearly completed reading this book and just got it yesterday. I like it very much. This is a good book to have and I wish I had seen the documentary. The photos great. Makes it more personal. Sue/Baltimore 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Ireland--what my grandparents didn't tell me and why By Scholastica It answered a question I've been longing to know the answer to all of my life!

From noted scholar Kerby Miller and Academy Award-winning filmmaker Paul Wagner comes a moving portrayal of the Irish exodus to the United States that explores the Irish experience through actual letters and memoirs of those who emigrated--a powerful story that speaks to anyone who has ever dared to pursue a dream. Companion to the forthcoming PBS-TV documentary. 110 photos.

From Publishers Weekly A moving portrayal of three centuries of Irish emigration to the U.S., this stunning photoessay

is the companion to a PBS documentary film which Wagner coproduced and directed. Focusing on eight families, he and Miller ( *Emigrants and Exiles* ) cull their letters, memoirs and photographs to explore common patterns in the Irish-American experience. Overcoming prejudice and discrimination, and often beginning life anew at the very bottom of the economic ladder, Irish-Americans built farms, industries and transportation networks, and achieved prominence in business, the labor movement, politics and religion. Yet many, ambivalent about the American dream, felt homesick for an often idealized Ireland, even as they found it increasingly difficult to transmit an Irish identity to their children. 20,000 first printing; History Book of the Month Club selection. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Miller and Wagner's decision to place at the center of their well-wrought text the letters that Irish immigrants wrote to their families and friends back home is most ingenious. No contemporary words could speak as clearly of the mixture of opportunity and loss those immigrants felt as these of Maurice Woulfe: "Every stone, gap and field in Cratloe and its surroundings are as clear in my mind as when I was home." The chapters cover the expected material (the potato famine, Tammany Hall, American political support for Irish nationalism), but what distinguishes this book is its focus on representative individual immigrants of no particular fame. These "exiles" (for such is the meaning of the Gaelic word for immigrant) were given an "American wake" on departure, for many would never see or be seen in their home villages again. Their words are simple and eloquent and memorable. A fine selection of historical photos illustrates this companion book to a PBS television documentary with the same title, set to air this fall and winter. Pat Monaghan From Kirkus s This book, based on a documentary film that will air on PBS stations later this year, is an exceptionally vivid study of Irish immigration from the American Revolution to the present. According to Miller (*Emigrants and Exiles*, 1985) and documentary filmmaker Wagner, Irish emigration was first prompted in the 17th and 18th centuries by the anti-Catholic Penal Laws that, among other injustices, prevented Irish men and women from purchasing or inheriting land, voting, or holding political office. But the famine of 1845-50 was the beginning of mass immigration. During this time 500,000 Irish were evicted from their houses by landlords seeking to enlarge their holdings at the expense of their tenants. As the authors graphically describe it, "thousands of peasants starved to death in their cabins or by the roadsides, their mouths stained green by the grass they had eaten in a vain attempt to stay alive." During this period, more than 1,000,000 died as a result of the famine and more than 2,500,000 emigrated to America. Here they found relative prosperity (at least, in contrast to the famine conditions of Ireland) and urged their countrymen to emigrate. They assimilated by becoming laborers: building canals, railroads, and bridges. During the Civil War more than 150,000 joined the Union Army. After the war "No Irish Need Apply" signs were still common, but Irish immigrants found that hard work and voting a Democratic ticket could alter the status quo in their favor. Out of this era came colorful politicians like Al Smith in New York and Democratic bosses such as Chicago's "Bathhouse John" Coughlin and Boston's John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, whose grandson, John F. Kennedy, would become the first Irish Catholic president. Generously illustrated with remarkable photographs, this is an illuminating examination of a subject that is frequently misunderstood or misrepresented, and that remains current--in new waves of Irish emigrants--to this very day. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.