

Roderick Cannon's  
*A Bibliography of Bagpipe Music*

John Donald Publishers Ltd  
Edinburgh 1980

An update by Geoff Hore  
2008

The writing in **black font** is from *A Bibliography of Bagpipe Music*. The update comments are in **blue font**.

If anyone has any information that can assist in adding to this update please contact the writer at [geoff.hore@xtra.co.nz](mailto:geoff.hore@xtra.co.nz).

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**103 O Farrell's Collection of National Irish Music for the Union Pipes** by P O'Farrell.

Recently the present writer has located a modern reprint of this book. The details are appended below. A good deal of research by Cannon, Patrick Sky and others has been carried out to determine more about O Farrell but we know very little about him. In fact we don't even know his first name.

I 1804



The above scanned image taken from edition II. Thanks to Patrick Sky for permission to use it.

title; pp 1-16, tutor; pp 17-53, tunes (69).

British Library, London.\*

Library binding. 6.6 x 9.8". The title page is inscribed: P. O Farrell. On the back of the title page is a pencilled note, 'unknown provenance, AHK 5/49". (A. Hyatt King).

National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Euing Library, Glasgow University.

Bodleian Library, Oxford.

Paris (Bibliothèque du Conservatoire).

National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Unbound copy,

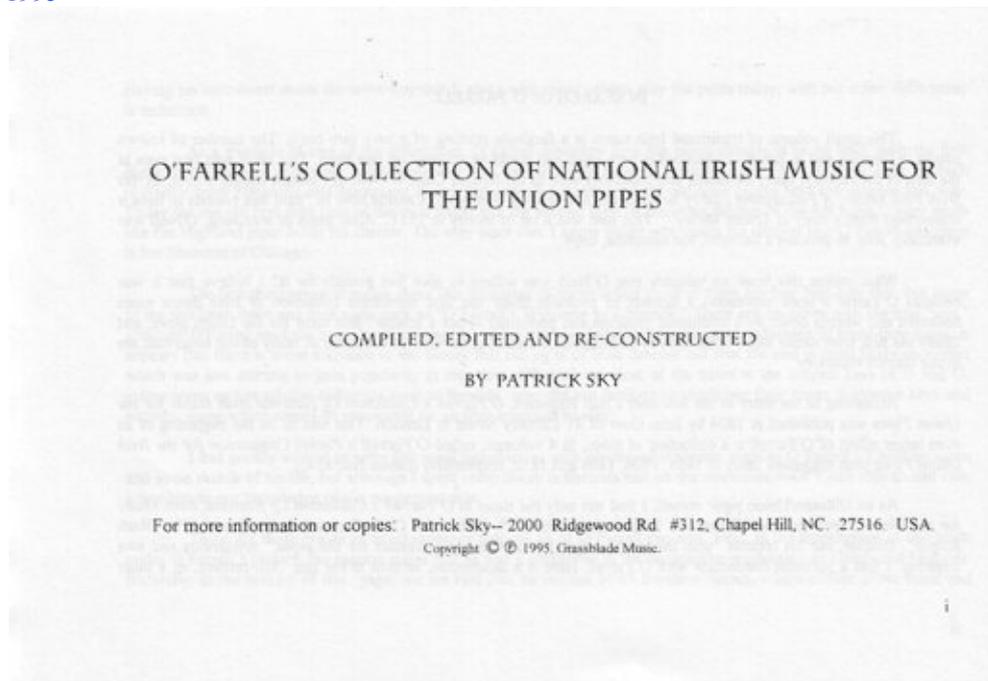
The entry in the Stationers' Hall Registers is dated July 5 1804. The publisher John Gow was at 31 Carnaby Street, London, only from c. 1803 to 1815. (Humphries & Smith).

The text of the tutor, without tunes, is reproduced in F. O'Neill, *Irish Folk Music, a Fascinating Hobby* (Chicago, 1910) and in W. H. Grattan Flood, *The Story of the Bagpipe* (London, 1911). In 1912 Francis O'Neill wrote to Seamus O'Caseide, 'I paid £5 to have it transcribed from the copy in Trinity College Library. The music engraver in Chicago made one slight error - Sample in place of Example. Now is it not a curious coincidence that the same identical error occurs in Grattan Flood's book ....'

Actually there must have been some confusion as to the location of the copy which O'Neill used, as there is certainly no copy of the book in Trinity College Library at present, nor was Mr. O'Caseide able to find one when he made enquiries in 1912. (National Library of Ireland MSS 8116-8 and 8118).

In *The Irish Book-Lover*, Vol. XVII (March-April, 1929, p 37 and May-June, 1929, p 61), O'Caseide stated that O'Farrell was a native of Clonmel, resident in London. He played the Irish pipes during the performance of *Oscar and Malvina* at Covent Garden Theatre. O'Caseide searched the 1821 Census records of Clonmel for any record of him, but without success. Although Grattan Flood gave O'Farrell's christian name as Patrick, the authority for this is not known. But the inscription in the British Museum copy, with initial letter P, appears to be old and was not apparently written in the by Library authorities.

## II 1995



p i, title; pp ii-v, In Search of O'Farrell'; p vi, Bibliography; p vii, untitled preface; p [viii], blank; p [ix], reproduction of original title page; p [x], blank; pp [xi-xii], index; pp 1-53, as in I.

The Author's Collection.

Patrick Sky states that he spent over 200 hours reconstructing this book. He was working from a photocopy of a battered original and ensured that all blemishes were removed. The final draft was then scanned into the computer and any illegible parts were enhanced.

The result is that we now have a facsimile of edition I that is in very good condition. Sky has researched the elusive O'Farrell and although there is scant information what is known is recorded in pages ii-v.