FRIDAY SCHEDULE

22 September

5:30pm  Opening Reception with refreshments  Burns Library
Irish & Fine
Print Rooms

6:15-6:45pm  Program

Welcome remarks from Christian Dupont (BC), Méabh Ní
Fhuartháin (NUI Galway), Verena Commins (NUI Galway), and
Elizabeth Sweeney (BC)

"Key Changes: John Egan and the Revival of Ireland’s Harp,” with
an Egan harp demonstration by Nancy Hurrell
(see reverse for more information about this talk)

6:45-7:30pm  Opportunity to view staff selections from the Irish Music Archives of the
John J. Burns Library. (No food or drink in Reading Room please.)

6:45-8:00pm  Conversation / refreshments
“Key Changes: John Egan and the Revival of Ireland’s Harp”

The John J. Burns Library owns two rare Portable Irish Harps by Dublin’s leading nineteenth-century harp maker, John Egan (fl. 1797-1829). Egan’s iconic shamrock-adorned harp was a nationalistic product in post-Union Ireland, and at a time when harp playing was dying out, the newly-invented chromatic model enabled a new harping tradition to continue in Ireland. Hurrell will play a two-hundred year old Egan harp from her own collection.

Nancy Hurrell, harp consultant at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, arranged the donation of a John Egan harp to the Burns Library in 2002. An authority on Egan harps, she has advised museum curators worldwide, including cataloging the Egan harps in the National Museum of Ireland and providing a report to President Higgins upon examining the Irish harp displayed in the President’s House. Nancy’s forthcoming monograph is titled The Egan Irish Harps: Patriotism, Patronage and Players.