



# BREED COLUMNS

## TERRIER GROUP

job impossible. Their original build was desired for the dog’s ability to perform a specific job and perform it well.

The large head and teeth of the Glen made him ideal for tackling badger and other larger vermin. The long ribcage and well-muscled loin provide great strength and helps to protect the organs. And the slight rise from shoulders to rear was said to help the Glen pull a badger out of its den. Each of these features is antique and must not be lost.—Dr. Mary McDaniel

Thank you, Mary.

—Jo Lynn,

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[Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America](#)

### Irish Terriers

#### THE FIRST

The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts, is the site of a legendary moment in sports history. In 1913, 21-year-old amateur golfer Frances Ouimet won the

U.S. Open there—a story that inspired the movie *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, starring Shia LaBeouf.

What does this have to do with Irish Terriers? The Country Club has a rich history beyond golf. It was also where the Irish Terrier Club of America (ITCA) held its first official specialty show two years earlier.

On February 16, 1911, *The Boston Globe* reported that at the ITCA’s meeting during Westminster week, it was decided to hold a Specialty Show due to the immense interest in the breed evidenced at the AKC’s most prestigious competition. It was scheduled for May 31st of that year.

Now dog shows received a great amount of press coverage during the early 1900s, and the upcoming ITCA specialty show was widely reported across the country. *The Boston Globe* was particularly effusive in its excitement, reporting on May 8:

“And the Irish terrier is as vivid as a fine night

star. He is ever ready and a chum dog; your own dog, absolutely so. He don’t [sic] know that there is any other person in existence than his master. There will be a fine lot of them shown at the exhibition of the Irish Terrier club of America. The best in the land from all parts of the country will be on the benches.”

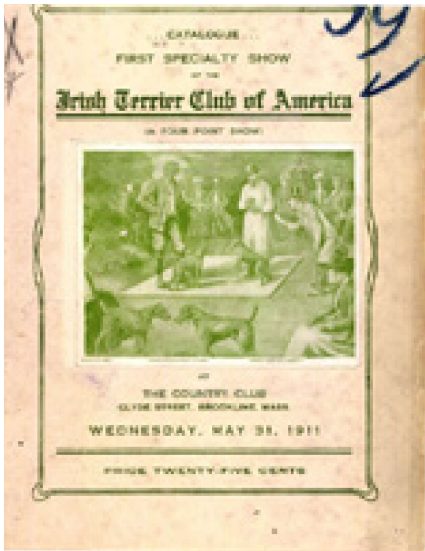
The number of competitors did not disappoint, with a total of 142 entries from 66 dogs and bitches. The prizes offered also did not disappoint. The Best in Specialty winner took home The Rowsley Kennels Trophy, which was a cash prize of \$200 (\$6,400 in today’s money) offered by the ITCA.

According to records, the weather on May 31 was a seasonable 64 degrees with a bit of rain—a perfect day for the Irish! *The Boston Globe* gave a detailed account on June 1:

“The best collection of terriers ever seen at a dog show...in a ring schemed on the green with no roof or sidewalls to shut out the

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Cover of the show catalog of the first ITCA specialty, from the AKC digital archives; Dr. David O’Gorman with his 10-year-old veteran, Ch. Celtic Badger

light and air, the candidates for prizes were extremely lively, decidedly scrappy. Straining at the ends of their leashes they sassed one another, bared their teeth, worked themselves into first rate, head-up, ears-right, bristles-horrent show condition.”

Thanks to the AKC’s [digital archive of dog show catalogs](#), we have a complete record of the show and the results. James J. Lynn of Port Huron, Michigan was the judge. Winners Dog went to John Thorndike’s Thorncroft Marksman. John Bates’

Blarney Authority went Reserve Winners Dog, while Winners Bitch was won by Thorndike’s Thorncroft Electra, with William Prescott Wolcott’s Kenmare Brown Betty going Reserve. Best in Specialty went to Thorncroft Marksman.

It should be noted that Marksman was bred by then 25-year-old Jeremiah O’Callaghan—a person who became arguably the most influential breeder of Irish Terriers in the United States.

The highlight of the show was the return to the ring

of Ch. Celtic Badger, in the Veteran class. The now 10-year-old dog was an unbeatable force in the early 1900s, when he was handled by Fr. John O’Gorman. After Fr. O’Gorman’s tragic death in 1906, the dog found a home with Fr. O’Gorman’s brother, Dr. David O’Gorman, who journeyed from St. Louis to exhibit Badger as a veteran at this first specialty show, where he placed second.

This specialty was a marquis event for the ITCA, and thanks to the AKC Digital Library & Archives, we are able to recreate the experience. Those archives can be viewed at <https://library.akc.org/product-category/gazettes/>.

—Michael A. Kowalczyk,  
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[Irish Terrier Club of America](#)

## Kerry Blue Terriers

### GEMS OF WISDOM

It has been my honor to write articles about this beautiful breed. I find what