

Ashlyn Szabo

Mr. Bammer

Honors World Geography CIBACS

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1907 Irish International Exhibition

I chose to do research on the 1907 Irish International Exhibition. My reason for choosing this exhibition was because it caught my eye. My family is Irish, so I thought that it would be interesting to learn more about it. Also, reading about what the theme was really compelled me to read further and acquire more knowledge about what it is. There is a difference between a world exposition and a world fair. A world exposition is held in different parts of the world at a particular place and period of time. The world “world fairs” are typically used in the U.S.

This Irish International Exhibition took place in Dublin, Ireland. Although it was called the Irish International Exhibition, it was still put into the category of a world exposition. It lasted from May 4, 1907 to November 9, 1907. There were just about 2.75 million people who attended the event. The exhibition was very costly. There were not enough people that came to make a profit. Some people said that it was a “costly failure.” The exhibition was short-lived and had to be shut down due to the lack of attendance.

The exhibition was planned to be for art, science, industry, and inventions. Crafts, goods, art, and machinery were included in each exhibit. Rather than focusing on Irish and artisan products, it revolved around modern industrialisation. The center of the exhibition was the Grand Central Palace. It was definitely the focal point of the exhibition. This palace was devoted to a

display of manufactured products. The Grand Central Palace also included fine arts lent by the Tsar of Russia and many others. Along with the Grand Central Palace, there were also the Palaces of Industry and Mechanical Arts, the Great Celtic Court, Concert Hall, Japanese Tea Room, and a Somali Village. The Somali Village was the most popular attraction. The display depicted life in British Somaliland. It was created by Eva Henrietta Hamilton. During the whole time of the exhibition, there was a band continuously playing.

During the time of this exhibition, there were many things going on in the world. One major occurrence was that the British suffragettes attacked the parliament in London. At this time, Finland had just introduced women's suffrage leading to 19 women in parliament. They attacked, because they wanted to change people's views on women's suffrage. Another event that took place during the time of the 1907 Irish International Exhibition was the Romanian Peasant Revolt. The revolt was caused by the peasants' anger from inequity of land ownership. In addition to those two events, Britain and Russia signed the Anglo-Russian Entente. The Anglo-Russian Entente was made to resolve the disputes regarding Persia, Afghanistan, and Tibet.

After the exhibition was finished, it was made into a park now known as Herbert Park. The only thing remaining today from the exhibition is a duck pond and a bandstand. The duck pond was previously used by the Canadians as a water slide attraction.

Works Cited

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