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## Review of the book Irish Family Histories

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Grehan, Ida. **Irish family histories**. R. Rinehart, 1993. 262p bibl index  
ISBN 1-879373-70-X, \$24.95

Grehan's book is based largely on earlier work by Edward MacLysaght, whose *Irish Families: Their Names, Arms and Origins* (4th ed., 1985) remains the standard work in the field. Grehan has selectively chosen to elaborate on 80 families, for each providing the origin and meaning of the surname,

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a brief sketch of the family's history and movements, and short biographical profiles of prominent family members. Although Grehan provides information about more individual persons, both MacLysaght's book and Michael O'Laughlin's *The Book of Irish Families* (1992) contain information on more families; MacLysaght has the most extensive bibliography. All three reproduce coats of arms, although Grehan also supplies portraits and photographs. None of these books provides comprehensive lineage information, so users will *not* be able to trace their ancestry back generation by generation, but *will* obtain background information on the family which can then help point the researcher in the right direction. Recommended for libraries that do not own MacLysaght and O'Laughlin; libraries with large genealogical collections will want all three.—*J. A. Drobnicki, formerly St. John's University*