The
NEW IRELAND
Fund

Annual Report
October 31, 2003

Cover Photograph — Reginald's Tower, Waterford City
Provided courtesy of Tourism Ireland.

Letter to Shareholders

Dear Shareholder

Introduction

Despite its small size and its resultant vulnerability to outside forces, Ireland's economy has shown tremendous resilience with its continued low level of unemployment and an actual rise in numbers employed, which has been a key driver in the continued growth of the economy. This has fed through to the Irish Stock Markets which, over the past 12 months, have outperformed the major European markets. In turn, this has resulted in excellent results for the Fund as detailed below.

For the year, the Fund outperformed most of the Funds in its peer group and, in fact, was the top performer within this group in the 3, 5 and 10 year term categories. The Fund's carry forward capital losses continue to offset realized capital gains but, helped by our efforts to reduce expenses, there will be a net income distribution to shareholders of $0.089 per share. This will be paid by way of cash dividend on December 30, 2003.

In October, the Board announced that a decision had been made to end the very satisfactory relationship it had with PricewaterhouseCoopers ("PwC"), the Fund's auditors, dating back to 1991. This was because the requirements of the recently introduced Sarbanes-Oxley legislation could have created unnecessary complications and risks for the Fund. It must be emphasized that the decision, to change to Grant Thornton LLP, as the Fund's auditors, was not the result of any disagreement between the Fund and PwC on any matter of accounting principles, financial statement disclosure, or auditing scope or procedure.

Performance

Prior to reviewing the Fund's fiscal year ended October 31, 2003, I would like to comment briefly on the final quarter. During this period, the Fund's Net Asset Value ("NAV") increased by 16.36% as improved investor confidence and solid corporate results pushed the market higher. The Irish equities market ("ISEQ") increased by 12.2%, in US dollar terms, in the same period. The Fund's return benefited from the strength of the Euro which, over the quarter, increased by 3.1% against the dollar.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2003, the NAV of the Fund increased by 47.55% from $11.04 to $16.29 as compared to the ISEQ which increased by 36.05%, in US dollar terms, for the year. The Fund's return benefited from the strength of the Euro which, over the year, increased by 14.6% against the dollar.

The Funds exposure to quality medium sized Irish companies, with strong growth rates, was a key feature of both periods under review.

During fiscal 2003, we continued to implement the Share Repurchase Program and, over the 12 months, the Fund repurchased and retired 194,450 shares at a cost of $2,056,220. These repurchases represent a reduction of

3.91% of the shares outstanding at October 31, 2002 year end and they positively impacted the Fund's NAV by 10 cents per share. Since commencement of the Program, repurchases have totalled 1,002,750 shares.

Economic Review

Improving economic conditions in the US economy may be slowly feeding through to Ireland. A recovery in Irish industrial production in August 2003 took the growth rate for that three month period up to 2.3%, quarter on quarter, and pushed the year on year rate to 15.5%. Irish consumer confidence also improved in October following eight months in the doldrums. Similar to developments in the US, we are seeing some evidence that these trends are feeding into better overall growth figures. Irish GNP growth, helped by a 6.3% recovery in investment spending, increased by 2.4% in the second quarter compared to the first quarter of 2003.

The Irish unemployment rate in October 2003 was unchanged for a second month at just 4.4% – the fourth lowest in the Eurozone after the Netherlands, Austria and Luxembourg. Indeed Ireland has continued to grow the absolute number of people employed through this economic downturn. For example, in the second quarter of 2003, the number of persons employed grew by 1.6%, year over year. This has been the key success story of the past two years and it confounded those who feared Ireland would lose large numbers of jobs to lower cost countries during the global downturn.

There was also better news on Government finances, as tax revenues recovered increasing by 10.5% in October and by 4.8% in the first ten months of 2003 over previous year levels. Government spending increased by 5.9% over the same period which represented a sharp, but welcome, slowdown in comparison with spending rates of recent years.

Finally, the inflation picture continued to show improvement and, in October, the year over year rate was 3.2%, the lowest annual rate since December 1999. The strength of the Euro currency against both the US Dollar and Sterling should help to further reduce prices over coming months.

Increased optimism about global economic growth should also begin to feed into the Irish economy over the coming quarters. The Irish Central bank is forecasting that GDP will increase by 1.75% in calendar year 2003 and by 3.5% in 2004, with GNP expected to increase by 1.5% and 2.75%, respectively. These are solid growth forecasts in an international context and there is the potential for further upward revision as the international backdrop improves.

Equity Market Review

In local currency terms, the Irish equities market increased by 8.7% over the quarter, and by 16.2% for the year ended October 31, 2003. As highlighted below, the weakness of the US dollar versus the Euro improved the return for investors. It is encouraging to note that, over both the quarter and the year, Ireland's equities market outperformed many international markets.

	Quarter Ended October 31, 2003		Year ended October 31, 2003	
	Local Currency	**U.S. $**	**Local Currency**	**U.S. $**
Irish Equities (ISEQ)	+8.7%	+12.2%	+16.2%	+36.0%
S&P 500	+6.6%	+6.6%	+20.8%	+20.8%
NASDAQ	+11.5%	+11.5%	+46.0%	+46.0%
UK Equities (FTSE 100)	+4.2%	+10.0%	+10.1%	+19.4%
Japanese Equities	+11.5%	+22.2%	+22.4%	+36.4%
Euroland Equities Eurostoxx	+4.5%	+7.8%	+10.2%	+29.1%
German Equities (DAX)	+4.8%	+8.2%	+16.0%	+35.9%
French Equities (CAC)	+5.1%	+8.5%	+10.6%	+29.8%
Dutch Equities (AEX)	+4.9%	+8.3%	-0.2%	+16.9%

Improved investor confidence and signs of economic recovery continued to help move markets higher in the quarter under review. Interim results were the key feature of the Irish market over the quarter and most companies met or exceeded market expectations.

CRH interim results were broadly in line with forecasts with EPS declining by 13% to 28.8c. Due to poor weather and the weak dollar, the first half of this year will contribute no more than 20% of full year forecasts. The US and mainland Europe were weak with buoyant growth in Ireland and the UK. An increase of 10% in the dividend was a notable feature of the results and there is plenty of room for further increases given dividend cover of 4.6x. The stock underperformed somewhat in the quarter but it has had a strong year increasing by 21.3% in Euro terms in the Funds fiscal year.

Kerry Group announced first half 2003 results with EPS increasing by 10.3% to 46.1c on a sales increase of 6%. Operating margin expanded by 0.3% to 7.4% and dividends were increased by 11%. These were excellent results given conditions in the industry and the weakness of the US dollar. **Irish Life & Permanent** got a lift from its interim results, helped by continued growth in mortgages and recovering equity markets. The stock price increased by 23.0% in Euro terms in the Fund's most recent quarter. Pre-tax profits of EUR 189.5 million were 13.6% ahead of last year's level. The interim dividend was increased by 5.0%.

Medium sized stocks have been notable performers in both the quarter and the year under review and the financial results announced over the quarter by **Grafton Group, FBD Holdings, Galen Holdings, Jurys Doyle Hotel Group, Kingspan Group, IAWS Group** and **Horizon Technology Group** underpin recent strong stock prices. All of these stocks have been re-rated by the market over the past year.

Grafton Group had another excellent quarter and its stock price increased by 62.1% in the past 12 months. During the year, the Company announced two further acquisitions – Plumbline and Telford – at a cost of EUR 40 million as it continues to build its presence in the UK market.

In the technology sector, there were signs of improving trends and **Horizon Technology Group's** first half 2003 results were ahead of market expectations. The net cash position of EUR 2.5 million was significantly ahead of forecast. The stock has continued to recover and increased by 79.1% in the quarter and 156.7% in the year.

In the insurance sector, **FBD Holdings** results were very strong. Operating profit was EUR 61.7 million in the first half of the year as compared with EUR 17.3 million last year. The Group reported EPS of 126.2c versus 35c last year. The interim dividend is being raised by 16% to 10.6 cents. As mentioned above, these results helped to see a significant re-rating of the stock with its market price increasing by 56.5% in the quarter and 98.5% in the year.

Current Outlook

After a number of difficult years, stock markets have once again begun to reward long-term investors and have recovered strongly from the lows of the early months of 2003. The outlook for global growth has also improved and we would expect Ireland to benefit from any upturn in international activity. Irish stock valuations remain solid value relative to their own history and international comparables. With the Irish market, on aggregate, having a P/E for 2004 of 12.2x and a dividend yield of 2.5%, the Fund retains a fully invested position.

Sincerely,
Peter Hooper

Chairman
December 18, 2003

Investment Summary

Total Return (%)

	Market Value		Net Asset Value (a)	
	Cumulative	Average Annual	Cumulative	Average Annual
Current Quarter	18.95	18.95	16.36	16.36
One Year	59.28	59.28	47.55	47.55
Three Year	16.69	5.28	(1.08)	(0.36)
Five Year	16.48	3.10	6.59	1.28
Ten Year	168.80	10.39	166.38	10.29

Per Share Information and Returns

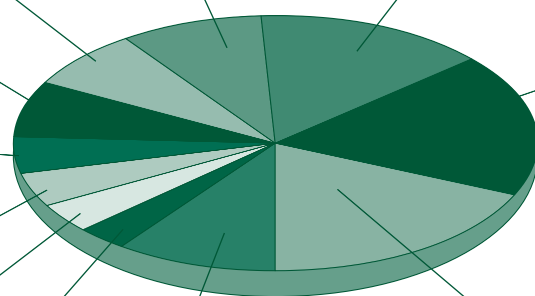
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Net Asset Value ($)	10.94	13.61	16.90	19.99	21.36	19.75	20.06	13.28	11.04	16.29
Income Dividends ($)	(0.07)	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.22)	(0.07)	—	(0.13)	(0.01)	(0.03)	—
Capital Gains Other Distributions ($)	—	—	(0.13)	(0.36)	(0.7)	(1.14)	(1.6)	(2.65)	(0.69)	—
Total Return (%) (a)	15.37	25.72	26.65	22.46	11.68	(2.79)	13.27	(23.76)	(12.07)	47.55

Notes

(a) Total investment returns reflect changes in net asset value per share during each period and assume that dividends and capital gains distributions, if any, were reinvested. These percentages are not an indication of the performance of a shareholder's investment in the Fund based on market price.

Past results are not necessarily indicative of future performance of the Fund.

Portfolio by Market Sector as of October 31, 2003
(Percentage of Net Assets)



*Includes industries less than 3%.

Top 10 Holdings by Issuer as of October 31, 2003

Holding	**Sector**	**% of Net Assets**
Allied Irish Banks PLC	Financial	13.92%
Kerry Group PLC, Series A	Food and Beverages	11.66%
CRH PLC	Construction and Building Materials	11.53%
Ryanair Holdings PLC	Transportation	7.09%
Irish Life & Permanent PLC	Diversified Financial Services	4.62%
United Drug PLC	Health Care Services	4.48%
Jury's Doyle Hotel Group PLC	Leisure and Hotels	4.40%
ICON PLC-ADR	Health Care Services	4.33%
DCC PLC	Business Services	4.32%
FBD Holdings PLC	Financial	4.20%

The New Ireland Fund, Inc.
Portfolio Holdings

October 31, 2003	Shares	Value (U.S.) (Note A)
COMMON STOCKS (99.06%)		
COMMON STOCKS OF IRISH COMPANIES (95.31%)		
Business Services (4.32%)		
DCC PLC	250,000	$ 3,356,814
Computer Software and Services (0.91%)		
IONA Technologies PLC-ADR*	169,300	709,536
Construction and Building Materials (18.36%)		
CRH PLC	498,768	8,970,036
Grafton Group PLC-UTS	380,820	2,368,529
Kingspan Group PLC	675,707	2,945,744
		14,284,309
Diversified Financial Services (4.62%)		
Irish Life & Permanent PLC	256,295	3,590,314
Financial (18.12%)		
Allied Irish Banks PLC	740,344	10,827,283
FBD Holdings PLC	260,000	3,264,393
		14,091,676
Food & Agriculture (3.13%)		
IAWS Group PLC	227,619	2,434,454
Food and Beverages (14.38%)		
Fyffes PLC	467,400	847,654
Greencore Group PLC	352,568	1,270,603
Kerry Group PLC, Series A	520,175	9,070,809
		11,189,066
Health Care Services (8.81%)		
ICON PLC-ADR*	78,804	3,368,871
United Drug PLC	1,345,494	3,488,124
		6,856,995
Leisure and Hotels (7.43%)		
Jury's Doyle Hotel Group PLC	291,464	3,422,249
Paddy Power PLC	320,660	2,359,684
		5,781,933

The New Ireland Fund, Inc.
Portfolio Holdings (continued)

October 31, 2003	Shares	Value (U.S.) (Note A)
COMMON STOCKS (Continued)		
Publishing & News (2.06%)		
Independent News & Media PLC	732,313	$ 1,600,516
Technology (1.56%)		
Horizon Technology Group PLC*	1,359,817	1,217,241
Telecommunications (2.56%)		
Spectel PLC‡ (8/4/00, 11/22/00,11/30/01-Cost $2,699,475)	1,800,248	1,988,205
Transportation (7.09%)		
Ryanair Holdings PLC*	650,000	5,516,219
Utility/Public Services (1.96%)		
NTR PLC† (6/14/02-Cost $1,169,642)	125,000	1,525,825
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS OF IRISH COMPANIES (Cost $42,523,055)		74,143,103
COMMON STOCKS OF UNITED KINGDOM COMPANIES (3.75%)		
(Cost U.S. $2,262,096)		
Pharmaceuticals (3.75%)		
Galen Holdings PLC	228,154	2,919,243
TOTAL INVESTMENT COMPANIES BEFORE FOREIGN CURRENCY ON DEPOSIT (Cost $44,785,151)		$ 77,062,346

The New Ireland Fund, Inc.

Portfolio Holdings (continued)

October 31, 2003	Face Value	Value (U.S.) (Note A)
FOREIGN CURRENCY ON DEPOSIT (1.64%)		
(Interest Bearing)		
British Pounds Sterling	£ 3,626	$ 6,153
Euro	€ 1,090,127	1,267,309
TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY ON DEPOSIT (Cost $1,279,291)**		1,273,462
TOTAL INVESTMENTS (100.70%) (Cost $46,064,442)		$ 78,335,808
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (-0.70%)		(545,850)
NET ASSETS (100.00%)		U.S. $ 77,789,958

* Non-income producing security.

** Foreign currency held on deposit at the Bank of Ireland.

† Not readily marketable. Dates represent acquisition date.

‡ Not readily marketable and non-income producing security. Dates represent acquisition date.

ADR –American Depository Receipt traded in U.S. dollars

UTS –Units

The New Ireland Fund, Inc.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

October 31, 2003

ASSETS:	
Investments at value (Cost $44,785,151)	
See accompanying schedule	U.S. $77,062,346
Cash	529,300
Foreign currency (Cost $1,279,291)	1,273,462
Receivable for investment securities sold	643,860
Dividends receivable	140,142
Prepaid expenses	23,163
Total Assets	79,672,273
LIABILITIES:	
Payable for investments purchased	1,664,101
Investment advisory fee payable (Note B)	48,327
Accrued audit fees payable	34,328
Payable for Fund shares repurchased	33,987
Directors' fees and expenses payable (Note C)	29,102
Accrued legal fees payable	13,489
Administration fee payable (Note B)	12,549
Transfer agent fees payable	4,977
Custodian fees payable (Bank of Ireland) (Note B)	3,562
Custodian fees payable (JP Morgan Chase & Co.) (Note B)	1,000
Accrued expenses and other payables	36,893
Total Liabilities	1,882,315
NET ASSETS	U.S. $77,789,958
AT OCTOBER 31 2003 NET ASSETS CONSISTED OF:	
Common Stock, U.S. $.01 Par Value - Authorized 20,000,000 Shares; Issued and Outstanding 4,774,728 Shares	U.S. $ 47,747
Additional Paid-in Capital	51,734,407
Undistributed Net Investment Income	422,133
Accumulated Net Realized Loss	(6,694,602)
Unrealized Appreciation of Securities, Foreign Currency and Net Other Assets	32,280,273
TOTAL NET ASSETS	U.S. $77,789,958
NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE	
(Applicable to 4,774,728 outstanding shares) (authorized 20,000,0000 shares)	
(U.S. $77,789,958 ÷ 4,774,728)	U.S. $ 16.29

See Notes to Financial Statements.

The New Ireland Fund, Inc.

Statement of Operations

		For the Year Ended October 31, 2003
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Dividends (net of withholding taxes of U.S. $1,709)		U.S. $ 1,456,928
Interest		8,781
TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME		1,465,709
EXPENSES		
Investment advisory fee (Note B)	$ 475,042	
Administration fee (Note B)	168,082	
Directors' fees and expenses (Note C)	118,196	
Printing fees	56,903	
Consulting Fee (Note B)	56,810	
Legal fees	49,928	
Custodian fees (Note B)	27,729	
Other	172,850	
TOTAL EXPENSES		1,125,540
NET INVESTMENT INCOME		U.S. $ 340,169
REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN/(LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS (NOTE D)		
Realized gain/(loss) on:		
Securities transactions	(2,286,109)	
Foreign currency transactions	81,964	
Net realized loss on investments during the year		(2,204,145)
Net change in unrealized appreciation of:		
Securities	26,853,037	
Foreign currency and net other assets	1,129	
Net unrealized appreciation of investments during the year		26,854,166
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN ON INVESTMENTS		24,650,021
NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS		U.S. $ 24,990,190

See Notes to Financial Statements.

The New Ireland Fund, Inc.

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

	Year Ended October 31, 2003	Year Ended October 31, 2002
Net investment income	U.S. $ 340,169	U.S. $ (405,581)
Net realized loss on investments	(2,204,145)	(4,412,615)
Net unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) of investments, foreign currency holdings and net other assets	26,854,166	(3,306,808)
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	24,990,190	(8,125,004)
DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS FROM:		
Net investment income	—	(174,493)
Net realized gains	—	(3,546,301)
Net increase in net assets	24,990,190	(11,845,798)
CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS:		
Value of 194,450 and 363,400 shares repurchased, respectively (Note F)	(2,056,220)	(3,647,021)
Value of shares issued to shareholders in connection with a stock distribution (Note E)	—	2,125,513
NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS	(2,056,220)	(1,521,508)
NET ASSETS		
Beginning of year	54,855,988	68,223,294
End of year (Including undistributed net investment income of $422,133 and $0, respectively)	U.S. $77,789,958	U.S. $54,855,988

See Notes to Financial Statements.

The New Ireland Fund, Inc.

Financial Highlights *(For a Fund share outstanding throughout each year)*

	Year Ended October 31,				
	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
Operating Performance:					
Net Asset Value, Beginning of Year	U.S. $11.04	U.S. $ 13.28	U.S. $ 20.06	U.S. $ 19.75	U.S. $ 21.36
Net Investment Income/(Loss)	0.07	(0.08)	(0.02)	0.15	0.13
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	5.08	(1.50)	(3.65)	1.59	(0.60)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Investment Operations	5.15	(1.58)	(3.67)	1.74	(0.47)
Distributions to Shareholders from:					
Net Investment Income	—	(.03)	(0.01)	(0.13)	—
Net Realized Gains	—	(.69)	(2.65)	(1.60)	(1.14)
Total from Distributions	—	(.72)	(2.66)	(1.73)	(1.14)
Anti-Dilutive/(Dilutive) Impact of Capital Share Transactions	0.10	0.06††	(0.45)†	0.30	—
Net Asset Value, End of Year	U.S. $ 16.29	U.S. $ 11.04	U.S. $ 13.28	U.S. $ 20.06	U.S. $ 19.75
Share Price, End of Year	U.S. $ 13.81	U.S. $ 8.67	U.S. $ 11.02	U.S. $ 15.19	U.S. $ 16.38
Total Investment Return(a)	47.55%	(12.07)%	(23.76)%	13.27%	(2.79)%
Total Investment Return(b)	59.28%	(16.05)%	(12.73)%	3.43%	(3.30)%

RATIOS TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

Net Assets, End of Year (000's)	U.S. $77,790	U.S. $54,856	U.S. $68,223	U.S. $95,075	U.S. $98,916
Ratio of Net Investment Income/(Loss) to Average Net Assets	0.54%	(0.64)%	(0.16)%	0.70%	0.53%
Ratio of Operating Expenses to Average Net Assets	1.78%	2.10%	1.80%	1.42%	1.33%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	10%	13%	35%	34%	13%

(a) Based on share net asset value and reinvestment of distributions at the price obtained under the Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan.

(b) Based on share market price and reinvestment of distributions at the price obtained under the Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan.

† Amount represents $0.08 per share impact for shares repurchased by the Fund under the Share Repurchase Program and $(0.53) per share impact for the new shares issued as Capital Gain Stock Distribution.

†† Amount represents $0.16 per share impact for shares repurchased by the Fund under the Share Repurchase Program and $(0.10) per share impact for the new shares issued as Capital Gain Stock Distribution.

The New Ireland Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") was incorporated under the laws of the State of Maryland on December 14, 1989 and is registered as a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended. The investment strategy of the Fund, as revised in March 2001, involved a bias toward high growth Irish companies including listed and unlisted firms, drawn from the technology, telecommunications and health care sectors. Since then, due to the broadly based decline in the technology and telecommunications sectors, this strategy has been amended but the bias continues toward Ireland's growth companies.

A. Significant Accounting Policies:

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from those estimates. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Fund in the preparation of its financial statements.

Security Valuation: Securities listed on a stock exchange for which market quotations are readily available are valued at the closing prices on the date of valuation, or if no such closing prices are available, at the last bid price quoted on such day. If there are no such quotations available for the date of valuation, the last available closing price will be used. The value of securities and other assets for which no market quotations are readily available is determined in good faith at fair value using estimation methods approved by the Board of Directors. At October 31, 2003 the Fund held 4.5% of its net assets in securities valued in good faith with an aggregate cost of $3,869,117 and fair value of $3,514,030. Short-term securities that mature in 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost.

Dividends and Distributions to Stockholders: The Fund intends to distribute to stockholders, at least annually, substantially all of its net income from dividends and interest payments and substantially all of its net realized capital gains, if any.

Income distributions and capital gain distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. The character of distributions paid on a tax basis during fiscal year 2003 and fiscal year 2002 is as follows:

	2003	2002
Distributions paid from:		
Ordinary Income	—	$ 174,493
Short-Term Capital Gain	—	—
Long-Term Capital Gain	—	3,546,301
	$ —	$ 3,720,794

As of October 31, 2003, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis were as follows:

Ordinary Income	$ 422,133
Accumulated Gains	
Unrealized Appreciation	32,277,195
	32,699,328

Permanent differences incurred during the year ended October 31, 2003, resulting from differences in book and tax accounting, have been reclassified at year end to reflect an increase in undistributed net investment income by $81,964 and a decrease in accumulated net realized loss on securities by $81,964.

U.S. Federal Income Taxes: It is the Fund's intention to continue to qualify as a regulated investment company under Subchapter M of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and distribute all of its taxable income within the prescribed time. It is also the intention of the Fund to make distributions in sufficient amounts to avoid Fund excise tax. Accordingly, no provision for U.S. Federal income taxes is required.

Currency Translation: The books and records of the Fund are maintained in U.S. dollars. Foreign currency amounts are translated into U.S. dollars at the bid price of such currencies against U.S. dollars last quoted by a major bank as follows: assets and liabilities at the closing rates of exchange on the valuation date; security transactions and investment income and expenses at the closing rates of exchange on the dates of such transactions. Net realized foreign currency gains and losses resulting from changes in exchange rates include foreign currency gains and losses between trade date and settlement date on investment securities transactions, foreign currency transactions and the difference between the amounts of interest and dividends recorded on the books of the Fund and the amount actually received. The portion of foreign currency gains and losses related to fluctuation in exchange rates between the initial purchase trade date and subsequent sale trade date is included in realized gains and losses on security transactions.

Forward Foreign Currency Contracts: The Fund may enter into forward foreign currency contracts for non-trading purposes in order to protect investment securities and related receivables and payables against future changes in foreign currency exchange rates. Fluctuations in the value of such contracts are recorded as unrealized gains or losses; realized gains or losses include net gains or losses on contracts which have terminated by settlements or by entering into offsetting commitments. Risks associated with such contracts include movement in the value of the foreign currency relative to the U.S. dollar and the ability of the counterparty to perform. There were no such contracts open in the Fund as of October 31, 2003.

Securities Transactions and Investment Income: Securities transactions are recorded as of the trade date. Realized gains and losses from securities sold are recorded on the identified cost basis. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date except that certain dividends from foreign securities are recorded as soon as the Fund is informed of the ex-dividend date. Non-cash dividends, if any, are recorded at the fair market value of the securities received. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis.

B. Management Services:

The Fund has entered into an investment advisory agreement (the "Investment Advisory Agreement") with Bank of Ireland Asset Management (U.S.) Limited ("Bank of Ireland Asset Management"), an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Ireland ("Bank of Ireland"). Under the Investment Advisory Agreement, the Fund pays a monthly fee at an annualized rate equal to 0.75% of the value of the average weekly net assets of the Fund up to the first $100 million and 0.50% of the value of the average weekly net assets of the Fund on amounts in excess of $100 million.

As of March 4, 2003, the Fund's Consulting Agreement with Salomon Brothers Asset Management Inc. (SBAM) was terminated. Up to this date, under the Agreement, SBAM received an annual fee of $165,000, payable monthly, for which they evaluated trends in the closed-end fund marketplace and provided Fund management with future Fund development options and comparative fund analysis. From March 4, 2003, Bank of Ireland Asset Management agreed to provide investor services to existing and potential shareholders which, up to then, had also been provided by SBAM.

The Fund has entered into an administration agreement (the "Administration Agreement") with PFPC Inc. The Fund pays PFPC Inc. an annual fee payable monthly. During the year ended October 31, 2003, the Fund paid U.S. $168,082 in administration fees to PFPC, Inc.

The Fund has entered into an agreement with JP Morgan Chase & Co. to serve as custodian of the Fund's assets held outside of Ireland. During the year ended October 31, 2003, the Fund paid JP Morgan Chase & Co. U.S. $1,062. Bank of Ireland serves as the Fund's custodian of the Fund's assets held in Ireland. During the year ended October 31, 2003, the Fund paid U.S. $26,667 in custodian fees to Bank of Ireland.

For the year ended October 31, 2003, the Fund incurred total brokerage commissions of U.S. $23,017, of which U.S. $3,940 was paid to Davy Stockbrokers, an affiliate of Bank of Ireland Asset Management.

C. Directors Fees:

The Fund currently pays each Director who is not a managing director, officer or employee of Bank of Ireland Asset Management or any affiliate thereof, an annual retainer of U.S. $11,500, plus U.S. $1,000 for each meeting of the Board of Directors or Committee of the Board attended in person or via telephone and any stockholder meeting attended in person not held on the same day as a meeting of the Board. The Fund pays the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Fund an additional fee which, effective June 10, 2003, was increased from U.S. $13,500 to U.S. $20,000. Also, effective June 10, 2003, the Fund pays the Chairman of the Audit Committee an additional U.S. $1,000 for each meeting of the Audit Committee attended. Each Director is reimbursed for travel and certain out-of-pocket expenses.

D. Purchases and Sales of Securities:

The cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of securities for the year ended October 31, 2003, excluding U.S. government and short-term investments, aggregated U.S. $6,476,888 and U.S. $7,778,993, respectively.

At October 31, 2003, there were no permanent tax and book differences in gross unrealized appreciation/depreciation of securities or the cost basis of securities.

E. Common Stock:

For the year ended October 31, 2002, the Fund issued 196,443 shares in connection with stock distribution in the amount of $2,125,513.

On December 14, 1989, 9,000 shares of the Fund's common stock were issued to Bank of Ireland Asset Management. On October 31, 2003 Bank of Ireland held 11,548 shares representing 0.24% of the Fund's total issued shares.

F. Share Repurchase Program:

In accordance with Section 23(c) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, the Fund hereby gives notice that it may from time to time repurchase shares of the Fund in the open market at the option of the Board of Directors and upon such terms as the Directors shall determine.

For the year ended October 31, 2003, the Fund repurchased 194,450 (3.91% of the shares outstanding at October 31, 2002 year end) of its shares for a total cost of $2,056,220, at an average discount of 18.84% of net asset value.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2002, the Fund repurchased 363,400 (7.08% of the shares outstanding at October 31, 2001) of its shares for a total cost of $3,647,021, at an average discount of 17.83% of net asset value.

G. Capital Loss Carryforward:

At October 31, 2003, the Fund had available for Federal income tax purposes unused capital losses of $6,694,602, of which $2,286,109 will expire in 2011 and $4,408,493 will expire in 2010.

H. Market Concentration:

Because the Fund concentrates its investments in securities issued by corporations in Ireland, its portfolio may be subject to special risks and considerations typically not associated with investing in a broader range of domestic securities. In addition, the Fund is more susceptible to factors adversely affecting the Irish economy than a comparable fund not concentrated in these issuers to the same extent.

The New Ireland Fund, Inc.

Report of Independent Accountants

To the Board of Directors and Shareholders
of The New Ireland Fund, Inc.:

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities of The New Ireland Fund, Inc. (the "Fund"), including the portfolio holdings, as of October 31, 2003, and the related statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets, and the financial highlights for the year then ended. The statement of changes in net assets for the year ended October 31, 2002 and the financial highlights for the years ended October 31, 2002, October 31, 2001, October 31, 2000 and October 31, 1999, were audited by other auditors. Those auditors expressed an unqualified opinion on those financial statements in their report dated December 6, 2002. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of October 31, 2003, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of October 31, 2003, the results of its operations, changes in net assets and the financial highlights for the year then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Grant Thornton LLP

New York, New York
December 5, 2003

Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan

The Fund will distribute to stockholders, at least annually, substantially all of its net income from dividends and interest payments and expects to distribute substantially all its net realized capital gains annually. Pursuant to the Dividend Reinvestment and Cash Purchase Plan approved by the Fund's Board of Directors (the "Plan"), each stockholder will be deemed to have elected, unless American Stock Transfer & Trust Company (the "Plan Agent") is instructed otherwise by the stockholder in writing, to have all distributions automatically reinvested by the Plan Agent in Fund shares pursuant to the Plan. Distributions with respect to Fund shares registered in the name of a broker-dealer or other nominee (i.e., in "street name") will be reinvested by the broker or nominee in additional Fund shares under the Plan, unless the service is not provided by the broker or nominee or the stockholder elects to receive distributions in cash. Investors who own Fund shares registered in street name may not be able to transfer those shares to another broker-dealer and continue to participate in the Plan. These stockholders should consult their broker-dealer for details. Stockholders who do not participate in the Plan will receive all distributions in cash paid by check in U.S. dollars mailed directly to the stockholder by American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, as paying agent. Stockholders who do not wish to have distributions automatically reinvested should notify the Fund, in care of the Plan Agent for The New Ireland Fund, Inc.

The Plan Agent will serve as agent for the stockholders in administering the Plan. If the Directors of the Fund declare an income dividend or a capital gains distribution payable either in the Fund's common stock or in cash, as stockholders may have elected, non-participants in the Plan will receive cash and participants in the Plan will receive common stock to be issued by the Fund. If the market price per share on the valuation date equals or exceeds net asset value per share on that date, the Fund will issue new shares to participants at net asset value or, if the net asset value is less than 95% of the market price on the valuation date, then at 95% of the market price. The valuation date will be the dividend or distribution payment date or, if that date is not a trading day on the New York Stock Exchange, Inc. ("New York Stock Exchange"), the next preceding trading day. If the net asset value exceeds the market price of Fund shares at such time, participants in the Plan will be deemed to have elected to receive shares of stock from the Fund, valued at market price on the valuation date. If the Fund should declare a dividend or capital gains distribution payable only in cash, the Plan Agent as agent for the participants, will buy Fund shares in the open market, on the New York Stock Exchange or elsewhere, with the cash in respect of such dividend or distribution, for the participants' account on, or shortly after, the payment date.

Participants in the Plan have the option of making additional cash payments to the Plan Agent, annually, in any amount from U.S. $100 to U.S. $3,000, for investment in the Fund's common stock. The Plan Agent will use all funds received from participants (as well as any dividends and capital gain distributions received in cash) to purchase Fund shares in the open market on or about January 15 of each year. Any voluntary cash payments received more than thirty days prior to such date will be returned by the Plan Agent, and interest will not be paid on any uninvested cash payments. To avoid unnecessary cash accumulations and to allow ample time for receipt and processing by the Plan Agent, it is suggested that the participants send in voluntary cash payments to be received by the Plan Agent approximately ten days before January 15. A participant may withdraw a voluntary cash payment by written notice, if the notice is received by the Plan Agent not less than forty-eight hours before such payment is to be invested.

The Plan Agent maintains all stockholder accounts in the Plan and furnishes written confirmations of all transactions in the account, including information needed by stockholders for personal and U.S. Federal tax records. Shares in the account of each Plan participant will be held by the Plan Agent in non-certificated form in the name of the participant, and each stockholder's proxy will include those shares purchased pursuant to the Plan.

In the case of stockholders such as banks, brokers or nominees who hold shares for beneficial owners, the Plan Agent will administer the Plan on the basis of the number of shares certified from time to time by the stockholder as representing the total amount registered in the stockholder's name and held for the account of beneficial owners who are participating in the Plan.

There is no charge to participants for reinvesting dividends or capital gains distributions. The Plan Agent's fee for the handling of the reinvestment of dividends and distributions will be paid by the Fund. However, each participant's account will be charged a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to the Plan Agent's open market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of dividends or capital gains distributions. A participant will also pay brokerage commissions incurred in purchases from voluntary cash payments made by the participant. Brokerage charges for purchasing small amounts of stock of individual accounts through the Plan are expected to be less than the usual brokerage charges for such transactions, because the Plan Agent will be purchasing stock for all participants in blocks and prorating the lower commission thus attainable.

The automatic reinvestment of dividends and distributions will not relieve participants of any U.S. Federal income tax which may be payable on such dividends or distributions.

Experience under the Plan may indicate that changes are desirable. Accordingly, the Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan as applied to any voluntary cash payment made and any dividend or distribution paid subsequent to notice of the change sent to all stockholders at least ninety days before the record date for such dividend or distribution. The Plan also may be amended or terminated by the Plan Agent with at least ninety days written notice to all stockholders. All correspondence concerning the Plan should be directed to the Plan Agent for The New Ireland Fund, Inc. in care of American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, 40 Wall Street, New York, New York, 10005, telephone number (718) 921-8283.

Meeting of Stockholders
(Unaudited)

On June 10, 2003 the Fund held its Annual Meeting of Stockholders. The following Director was elected by the following votes: Peter Hooper 3,991,362 For; 120,888 Abstaining. James J. Boyle, Denis Curran, Denis P. Kelleher and James M. Walton continue to serve in their capacities as Directors of the Fund.

Director's Fees

See note "C" in Notes to Financial Statements

Fund's Privacy Policy

The New Ireland Fund, Inc. appreciates the privacy concerns and expectations of its registered stockholders and safeguarding their nonpublic personal information ("Information") is of great importance to the Fund.

The Fund collects Information pertaining to its registered stockholders, including matters such as name, address, tax I.D. number, Social Security number and instructions regarding the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan. The Information is collected from the following sources:

- Directly from the registered stockholder through data provided on applications or other forms and through account inquiries by mail, telephone or e-mail.
- From the registered stockholder's broker as the shares are initially transferred into registered form.

Except as permitted by law, the Fund does not disclose any Information about its current or former registered stockholders to anyone. The disclosures made by the Fund are primarily to the Fund's service providers as needed to maintain account records and perform other services for the Fund's stockholders. The Fund maintains physical, electronic, and procedural safeguards to protect the stockholders' Information in the Fund's possession.

The Fund's privacy policy applies only to its individual registered stockholders. If you own shares of the Fund through a third party broker, bank or other financial institution, that institution's privacy policies will apply to you and the Fund's privacy policy will not.

Tax Information
(Unaudited)

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2003, 100% of the undistributed net income qualifies for the 15% dividend tax rate as of January 1, 2003. The above tax information represents fiscal year end percentages and may differ from those provided to shareholders at calendar year end as dividend income earned by the Fund prior to January 1, 2003 does not qualify for the reduced tax rate.

Board of Directors

Name, Address, and Age	Position(s) Held with The Fund	Length of Time Served and Term of Office*	Principal Occupation(s) and Other Directorships During Past Five years	Number of Portfolios in Fund Complex Overseen by Director
NON-INTERESTED DIRECTORS:				
Peter J. Hooper, 63 Westchester Financial Center, Suite 1000 50 Main Street White Plains, NY 10606	Director and Chairman of the Board	Since 1990. Current term expires in 2006.	President of Hooper Associates-Consultants; Director, The Ireland United States Council for Commerce and Industry; Director, Flax Trust – America; Director, Children's Medical Research Foundation.	1
James J. Boyle, 64 50 Main Street White Plains, NY 10606	Director	Since 2000. Current term expires in 2005.	Chairman and President of Cardinal Resources, Inc. (oil and gas production); Director, Standard Microsystems Corporation; Trustee, Alvernia College.	1
Denis P. Kelleher, 64 17 Battery Place New York, NY 10004	Director	Since 1991. Current term expires in 2004.	Chief Executive Officer, Wall Street Access-Financial Services; Director, SI Bank & Trust; Director, The Muralo Company Inc- Paint Company; Chairman and Member of the Board of Trustees St. John's University; General Partner CKS Capital; Director, The American Ireland Fund.	1
James M. Walton, 72 Room 3902 525 William Penn Place Pittsburgh, PA 15219	Director	Since 1990. Current term expires in 2004.	Chairman, ITRA Heinz Endowment; Formerly, Director and Vice Chairman, MMC Group, Inc. (management company).	1
INTERESTED DIRECTORS:				
Denis Curran, 56** 75 Holly Hill Lane Greenwich, CT 06830	Director and President***	Since 2000. Current term expires in 2005.	Director, Bank of Ireland Asset Management Limited; Director, Bank of Ireland Asset Management (U.S.) Limited; Director, Iridian Asset Management.	1
OFFICERS:* **				
Denis Curran	President	Appointed Annually	see description above	
Lelia Long, 41 75 Holly Hill Lane Greenwich, CT 06830	Treasurer	Since 2002. Appointed Annually	Director, Bank of Ireland Asset Management (U.S.) Limited; Director, Iridian Asset Management.	
Linda J. Hoard, 55 101 Federal Street Boston, MA 02110	Secretary	Since 1998. Appointed Annually	Vice President and Senior Counsel, PFPC Inc.; Previously, Attorney Consultant for Fidelity Investments, Investors Bank & Trust Company and PFPC Inc.	

* Each Director shall serve until the expiration of his current term and until his successor is elected and qualified.

** Mr. Curran is deemed to be an "interested" Director because of his affiliation with the Investment Adviser.

*** Each officer of the Fund will hold office until a successor has been elected by the Board of Directors.

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The New Ireland Fund, Inc.

Directors and Officers

Peter J. Hooper	–	*Chairman of the Board*
James J. Boyle	–	*Director*
Denis Curran	–	*President and Director*
Denis P. Kelleher	–	*Director*
James M. Walton	–	*Director*
Lelia Long	–	*Treasurer*
Hugh Carter	–	*Assistant Treasurer*
Linda J. Hoard	–	*Secretary*

Principal Investment Advisor
Bank of Ireland Asset Management (U.S.) Limited
75 Holly Hill Lane
Greenwich, Connecticut 06830

Administrator
PFPC Inc.
4400 Computer Drive
Westborough, Massachusetts 01581

Custodians
Bank of Ireland
Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2, Ireland

JP Morgan Chase & Co.
North America Investment Services
3 Metro Tech - 7th Floor
Brooklyn, New York 11245

Shareholder Servicing Agent
American Stock Transfer & Trust Company
40 Wall Street
New York, New York 10005

Legal Counsel
Sullivan & Cromwell
125 Broad Street
New York, New York 10004

Independent Accountants
Grant Thornton LLP
60 Broad Street
New York, NY 10004

Correspondence

All correspondence should be addressed to:
The New Ireland Fund, Inc.
℅ PFPC Inc.
99 High Street
27th Floor
Boston, Massachusetts 02110

Telephone inquiries should be directed to:
1-800-GO-TO-IRL (1-800-468-6475)
Website address:
www.newirelandfund.com