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NEW IRELAND FUND INC
Form N-CSRS
July 09, 2004

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT
INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-5984

THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

Bank of Ireland Asset Management (U.S.) Limited
75 Holly Hill Lane
GREENWICH, CT 06830

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

PFPC Inc.
99 High Street, 27th Floor
BOSTON, MA 02110

(Name and address of agent for service)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (203) 869-0111

Date of fiscal year end: OCTOBER 31, 2004

Date of reporting period: APRIL 30, 2004

Form N-CSR is to be used by management investment companies to file reports with the Commission not later than 10 days after the transmission to stockholders of any report that is required to be transmitted to stockholders under Rule 30e-1 under the Investment Company Act of 1940 (17 CFR 270.30e-1). The Commission may use the information provided on Form N-CSR in its regulatory, disclosure review, inspection, and policymaking roles.

A registrant is required to disclose the information specified by Form N-CSR, and the Commission will make this information public. A registrant is not required to respond to the collection of information contained in Form N-CSR unless the Form displays a currently valid Office of Management and Budget ("OMB") control number. Please direct comments concerning the accuracy of the information collection burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 450 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20549-0609. The OMB has reviewed this collection of information under the clearance requirements of 44 U.S.C. ss. 3507.

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

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The Report to Shareholders is attached herewith.

THE
NEW IRELAND
FUND

[PHOTO OMITTED - JAMES JOYCE]

SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 30, 2004

COVER PHOTOGRAPH -- DUBLIN -- STATUE OF JAMES JOYCE, AUTHOR OF ULYSSES
Provided courtesy of Tourism Ireland.

LETTER TO SHAREHOLDERS

INTRODUCTION

Although problems still remain in the Middle East, things seem to be moving in the right direction with the recent approval by the UN Security Council of the US/UK proposal on Iraq and the return to a form of self-government in that country. These moves and the global economic recovery have been helpful in strengthening the Irish economy.

Earlier this month, at the annual stockholder meeting, a proposal was submitted by a stockholder, requesting that the Board of the Fund take the steps necessary to open end the Fund or otherwise enable shareholders to realise net asset value for their shares. Although the proposal received a majority of the votes specifically cast on it, these votes represented only 33.3% of total shares in issue. However, as a result of the vote, the Board has undertaken to review the options open to it, with a view to addressing the issues raised in the proposal.

In May, The Board were pleased to announce that the New Ireland Fund had been awarded Lipper's best performance award within its peer group for the 5 year period ended December 31, 2003. In making this award, Lipper stated that this reflected, not alone the best Total Return over this period but also Consistent Return, Preservation, Tax Efficiency and Expense. This obviously reflects well on John Forde, of Bank of Ireland Asset Management, the Fund Manager responsible for the day to day management of the Fund's assets and the Board congratulate him on this achievement.

PERFORMANCE

Following the strong gains of earlier in the year, equity markets suffered from profit taking during the most recent fiscal quarter. As a result, the Fund's Net Asset Value (NAV) decreased by 1.9% in the quarter, however, for the six month period under review, it increased by 8.90%, to \$17.74 per share.

For the quarter, the overall Irish Equity Index (ISEQ), increased by 0.2% in US dollar terms and by 15.5% over the six months with Elan Pharmaceutical, which is not part of the Fund's portfolio, being the key driver of index performance in both periods.

Economic recovery, both domestically and internationally, continues to support the good performance of the Irish equity markets.

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We continue to implement the Share Repurchase Program, with 55,850 shares being repurchased and retired, since the beginning of the fiscal year, at a cost of \$840,865. These repurchases represent a reduction of 1.17% of the shares outstanding at October 31, 2003 and they have resulted in a positive impact on the Fund's NAV of 3 cents per share.

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ECONOMIC REVIEW

Economic statistics continue to reflect a steady recovery in the Irish economy. While retail spending remains lack-luster there is good news in terms of unemployment and Government finances. The Irish Central Bank expects the economy in 2004 to expand by 3.25% in GNP terms (3.75% GDP). Both of these forecasts have increased by 0.25% over the past quarter.

The extraordinary growth of the Irish economy, in the 'Celtic Tiger' years, has been replaced by a more modest but impressive expansion. This has resulted in what could best be described as a soft landing from the previous high growth trajectory years. This is viewed as a very satisfactory outcome given the inherent risks of a high growth pattern. While uncertainties remain, most notably the housing market, the general outlook continues to mark Ireland as a solid performer in both a European and global context.

In the first two months of 2004, the volume of retail sales of all businesses was 1.1% above the same period a year ago. One may have expected a greater rate of increase but there have been some negatives. With a ban on smoking in public places being successfully introduced a few months ago, bar sales remain weak, declining 5% in volume over the same period and it is likely that sales in this area of the economy will remain weak for some time. Sales of new cars are up 10%, year on year, in the first three months of 2004 versus 2003, which reflects solid and improving consumer confidence.

Tax revenue data is a good barometer of the economy in Ireland and exchequer returns in May confirmed an excellent start to the year for tax receipts. Total tax revenue increased by 15.2%, year over year, helped by a strong recovery in income taxes, which have rebounded for the first time since 2000. To date, these are now more than 21.9% ahead of last year as compared to the government forecast of 13.9%.

In April, the Irish unemployment rate decreased to 4.4%, the lowest since July 2002. It is encouraging that Irish unemployment has resumed a downward trend confounding those who felt Ireland would lose jobs to low-cost competitors.

April also saw slightly higher inflation, on a year to year basis, with the headline rate rising to 1.4% from 1.3% on the back of higher energy prices. Oil prices continue to be a cause for concern and are likely to put further upward pressure on inflation later in the year.

EQUITY MARKET REVIEW

In local currency terms, the Irish market gained 4.3% in the quarter under review, which represented another outperformance of European and international markets. However, in both the quarter and over the first six months of the Fund's fiscal year, the strong recovery of Elan had a significant influence on the market's performance.

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QUARTER ENDED
APRIL 30, 2004

	LOCAL CURRENCY -----	U.S. \$ -----
Irish Equities (ISEQ)	+4.3%	+0.2%
S&P 500	-2.1%	-2.1%
NASDAQ	-7.1%	-7.1%
UK Equities (FTSE 100)	+2.2%	-0.4%
Japanese Equities	+9.1%	+4.5%
Euroland Equities		
Eurostoxx	-0.5%	-4.4%
German Equities (DAX)	-1.8%	-5.6%
French Equities (CAC)	+1.0%	-2.9%
Dutch Equities (AEX)	-3.4%	-7.1%

CRH announced impressive 2003 full year results with pre-tax profits ahead by 1% to *864.2 million, which, on a constant currency basis, equates to an improvement of 12.2%. Earnings per share increased by similar amounts with the second half of 2003 showing particular strength. The stock increased by 4.4% in the most recent quarter. During March, the group announced a *372 million acquisition of a 49% shareholding in Senapa, Portugal's second largest cement producer.

In the quarter, ALLIED IRISH BANKS' (AIB) stock declined by 11.2% after its bright start to 2004. AIB's results for fiscal 2003 showed its profit before tax to be *1.22 billion, which was in line with expectations. However, the results were impacted by a series of once off adjustments related to the Irish Government bank levy, a goodwill write-off on the sale of their Govett subsidiary and charges related to early staff retirements.

KERRY GROUP announced an excellent set of full year results despite US dollar weakness. Earnings per share growth of 10.1%, and 15%, ex-currency, represented a credible performance in the context of difficult global food and consumer markets. The results reflected Kerry's strong free cash generation and an increase of 0.3% in group operating margin to 8.4% from a depressed 8.1% in fiscal year 2002. In March, Kerry announced a major acquisition with a \$440 million purchase of Quest Food Ingredients from ICI. The stock price has responded strongly to both the results and the deal, gaining 12.3% in the quarter.

INDEPENDENT NEWS & MEDIA ran into some profit-taking despite a solid set of results for fiscal 2003, with pre-tax profits, before exceptional items, increasing by just under 20% to *154.6 million. This reflected a combination of 7.5% growth in operating profits from continuing operations and an 11% reduction in finance charges in the wake of the company's recapitalization program. Earnings per share, pre goodwill amortization and exceptionals, were marginally ahead of expectations, up by just under 11% to 12.6c per share,

despite the dilutive effects of last year's *103 million rights issue. As expected, the group's finances show a significant improvement as compared with 2002 results.

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CURRENT OUTLOOK

Equity markets are consolidating following the strong recoveries from 2003 lows. The prospect of higher US interest rates and concerns about higher inflation are real but acceptable risks for equities and we remain strong believers in the relative attractiveness of stocks. The Irish market, with a P/E for 2004 of 13.6x and a dividend yield of 2.5%, remains solid value relative to its own history and international comparables. The Fund retains a fully invested position.

Sincerely,

/S/ PETER HOOPER

Peter Hooper
Chairman
June 18, 2004

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INVESTMENT SUMMARY

TOTAL RETURN (%)

	MARKET VALUE		NET ASSET VALUE (A)	
	CUMULATIVE	AVERAGE ANNUAL	CUMULATIVE	AVERAGE ANNUAL
Six Months	9.15	9.15	9.50	9.50
One Year	48.95	48.95	39.57	39.57
Three Year	28.16	8.64	19.71	6.17
Five Year	17.97	3.37	7.01	1.36
Ten Year	179.22	10.84	162.90	10.14

PER SHARE INFORMATION AND RETURNS

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Net Asset Value (\$)	13.61	16.90	19.99	21.36	19.75	20.06	13.28	11.04
Income								
Dividends (\$)	(0.11)	(0.14)	(0.22)	(0.07)	--	(0.13)	(0.01)	(0.03)
Capital Gains								
Other								
Distributions (\$)	--	(0.13)	(0.36)	(0.70)	(1.14)	(1.60)	(2.65)	(0.69)
Total Return (%) (a)	25.72	26.25	22.46	11.68	(2.79)	13.27	(23.76)	(12.07)

NOTES

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(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.

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PORTFOLIO BY MARKET SECTOR AS OF APRIL 30, 2004 (PERCENTAGE OF NET ASSETS)

[GRAPHIC OMITTED]
EDGAR REPRESENTATION OF DATA POINTS USED IN PRINTED GRAPHIC

Other* Assets	7.73%
Telecommunications	3.29%
Business Services	4.55%
Transportation	4.47%
Construction and Building Materials	20.32%
Pharmaceuticals	3.40%
Leisure and Hotels	7.03%
Diversified Financial Services	4.19%
Health Care Services	8.07%
Financial	19.56%
Food and Beverages	14.29%
Food and Agriculture	3.10%

*Includes industries less than 3%.

TOP 10 HOLDINGS BY ISSUER AS OF APRIL 30, 2004

HOLDING -----	SECTOR -----	% OF NET ASSETS -----
Allied Irish Banks PLC	Financial	15.16%
CRH PLC	Construction and Building Materials	12.64%
Kerry Group PLC, Series A	Food and Beverages	11.73%
United Drug PLC	Health Care Services	4.65%
DCC PLC	Business Services	4.55%
Ryanair Holdings PLC	Transportation	4.47%
FBD Holdings PLC	Financial	4.40%
Kingspan Group PLC	Construction and Building Materials	4.32%
Jury's Doyle Hotel Group PLC	Leisure and Hotels	4.26%
Irish Life & Permanent PLC	Diversified Financial Services	4.20%

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS (UNAUDITED)

-----	Shares	Value (U.S.) (Note A)
April 30, 2004		

COMMON STOCKS (98.83%)		

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COMMON STOCKS OF IRISH COMPANIES (95.43%)		
BUSINESS SERVICES (4.55%)		
DCC PLC	250,000	\$ 3,806,041
COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND SERVICES (1.14%)		
IONA Technologies PLC-ADR*	169,300	956,545
CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDING MATERIALS (20.32%)		
CRH PLC	498,768	10,582,824
Grafton Group PLC-UTS	380,820	2,816,661
Kingspan Group PLC	675,707	3,612,626
		17,012,111
DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL SERVICES (4.19%)		
Irish Life & Permanent PLC	226,707	3,511,213
FINANCIAL (19.56%)		
Allied Irish Banks PLC	879,951	12,689,772
FBD Holdings PLC	202,314	3,686,373
		16,376,145
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (3.10%)		
IAWS Group PLC	227,619	2,592,160
FOOD AND BEVERAGES (14.29%)		
Fyffes PLC	467,400	868,461
Greencore Group PLC	352,568	1,272,152
Kerry Group PLC, Series A	511,857	9,817,442
		11,958,055
HEALTH CARE SERVICES (8.07%)		
ICON PLC-ADR*	71,646	2,858,675
United Drug PLC	1,249,687	3,894,972
		6,753,647
LEISURE AND HOTELS (7.03%)		
Jury's Doyle Hotel Group PLC	291,464	3,563,812
Paddy Power PLC	202,495	2,318,181
		5,881,993

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED)

April 30, 2004	Shares	Value (U.S.) (Note A)
COMMON STOCKS OF IRISH COMPANIES (CONTINUED)		
PUBLISHING AND NEWS (1.99%)		

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Independent News & Media PLC	732,313	\$ 1,667,938
<hr/>		
TECHNOLOGY (1.74%)		
Horizon Technology Group PLC*	1,321,900	1,457,861
<hr/>		
TELECOMMUNICATIONS (3.29%)		
Eircom Group PLC-144A a*	400,000	700,072
Spectel PLC++		
(8/4/00, 11/22/00, 11/30/01-Cost \$2,699,475)	1,800,248	2,050,150
<hr/>		
		2,750,222
<hr/>		
TRANSPORTATION (4.47%)		
Ryanair Holdings PLC*	650,000	3,740,109
<hr/>		
UTILITY/PUBLIC SERVICES (1.69%)		
NTR PLC+		
(6/14/02-Cost \$918,234)	98,132	1,411,632
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TOTAL COMMON STOCKS OF IRISH COMPANIES		
(Cost \$43,838,952)		79,875,672
<hr/>		
COMMON STOCKS OF UNITED KINGDOM COMPANIES (3.40%)		
(Cost U.S. \$2,166,754)		
<hr/>		
PHARMACEUTICALS (3.40%)		
Galen Holdings PLC	201,154	2,843,053
<hr/>		
TOTAL INVESTMENT COMPANIES BEFORE FOREIGN CURRENCY ON DEPOSIT		
(Cost \$46,005,706)		\$ 82,718,725
<hr/>		

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

PORTFOLIO HOLDINGS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED)

	Face Value	Value (U.S.) (Note A)
<hr/>		
April 30, 2004		
<hr/>		
FOREIGN CURRENCY ON DEPOSIT (0.32%)		
(Interest Bearing)		
British Pounds Sterling	(POUND) 423	\$ 751
Euro	(EURO) 223,732	268,199
<hr/>		
TOTAL FOREIGN CURRENCY ON DEPOSIT		
(Cost \$266,159)**		268,950
<hr/>		
TOTAL INVESTMENTS (99.15%)		
(Cost \$46,271,865)		\$ 82,987,675
OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (0.85%)		711,692
<hr/>		
NET ASSETS (100.00%)		\$ 83,699,367
<hr/>		

a Security exempt from registration pursuant to Rule 144A under the

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Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

* 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

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES (UNAUDITED)

 April 30, 2004

ASSETS:

Investments at value (Cost \$46,005,706)	
See accompanying schedule	U.S.\$82,718,725
Cash	155,986
Foreign currency (Cost \$266,159)	268,950
Dividends receivable	738,560

Total Assets	83,882,221

LIABILITIES:

Investment advisory fee payable (Note B)	52,772
Payable for Fund shares redeemed	51,092
Printing fees payable	35,024
Directors' fees and expenses (Note C)	25,834
Administration Fee payable (Note B)	16,232
Custodian fees payable (Bank of Ireland) (Note B)	3,884
Custodian fees payable (Chase Manhattan Bank) (Note B)	1,000
Accrued expenses and other payables	(2,984)

Total Liabilities	182,854

NET ASSETS	U.S.\$83,699,367
	=====

AT APRIL 30, 2004 NET ASSETS CONSISTED OF:

Common Stock, U.S. \$.01 Par Value -	
Authorized 20,000,000 Shares	
Issued and Outstanding 4,718,878 Shares	U.S.\$ 47,189
Additional Paid-in Capital	50,894,100
Undistributed Net Investment Income	280,103
Accumulated Net Realized Loss	(4,231,099)
Unrealized Appreciation of Securities,	
Foreign Currency and Net Other Assets	36,709,074

TOTAL NET ASSETS	U.S.\$83,699,367
	=====

NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE

(Applicable to 4,718,878 outstanding shares)
 (authorized 20,000,000 shares)

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(U.S. \$83,699,367 / 4,718,878)

U.S.\$ 17.74
=====

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the Six Months Ended
 April 30, 2004
 (unaudited)

INVESTMENT INCOME
 Dividends (net of withholding taxes of U.S. \$1,114) U.S. \$ 953,767
 Interest 4,957

TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME 958,724

EXPENSES
 Investment advisory fee (Note B) 314,689
 Administration fee (Note B) 86,508
 Legal fees 70,878
 Directors' fees and expenses (Note C) 66,570
 Custodian fees (Note B) 18,449
 Other 119,635

TOTAL EXPENSES 676,729

NET INVESTMENT INCOME U.S. \$ 281,995

REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN ON
 INVESTMENTS (NOTE D)
 Realized gain on:
 Securities transactions 2,454,913
 Foreign currency transactions 8,590

Net realized gain on investments
 during the period 2,463,503

Net change in unrealized appreciation/(depreciation) of:
 Securities 4,435,824
 Foreign currency and net other assets (7,023)

Net unrealized appreciation of investments
 during the period 4,428,801

NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN
 ON INVESTMENTS 6,892,304

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NET INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING
FROM OPERATIONS

U.S. \$ 7,174,299
=====

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Six Months Ended April 30, 2004 (unaudited)	Year Ended October 31, 2003
Net investment income	U.S. \$ 281,995	U.S. \$ 340,169
Net realized gain/(loss) on investments	2,463,503	(2,204,145)
Net unrealized appreciation of investments, foreign currency holdings and net other assets	4,428,801	26,854,166
Net increase in net assets resulting from operations	7,174,299	24,990,190
DISTRIBUTIONS TO SHAREHOLDERS FROM: Net investment income	(424,025)	--
Net increase in net assets	6,750,274	24,990,190
CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS: Value of 55,850 and 194,450 shares repurchased, respectively (Note F)	(840,865)	(2,056,220)
NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS	(840,865)	(2,056,220)
NET ASSETS Beginning of period	77,789,958	54,855,988
End of period (Including undistributed net investment income of \$280,103 and \$422,133 respectively)	U.S. \$83,699,367 =====	U.S. \$ 77,789,958 =====

See Notes to Financial Statements.

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS (FOR A FUND SHARE OUTSTANDING THROUGHOUT EACH PERIOD)

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	Six Months Ended	Year Ended October 31,		
	April 30, 2004 (unaudited)	2003	2002	2001
Operating Performance:				
Net Asset Value, Beginning of Period	U.S. \$16.29	U.S. \$11.04	U.S. \$13.28	U.S. \$20.06
Net Investment Income/(Loss)	0.06	0.07	(0.08)	(0.02)
Net Realized and Unrealized Gain/(Loss) on Investments	1.45	5.08	(1.50)	(3.65)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets Resulting from Investment Operations	1.51	5.15	(1.58)	(3.67)
Distributions to Shareholders from:				
Net Investment Income	(0.09)	--	(.03)	(0.01)
Net Realized Gains	--	--	(.69)	(2.65)
Total from Distributions	(0.09)	--	(.72)	(2.66)
Anti-Dilutive/(Dilutive) Impact of Capital Share Transactions	0.03	0.10	0.06++	(0.45)+
Net Asset Value, End of Period	U.S. \$17.74	U.S. \$16.29	U.S. \$11.04	U.S. \$13.28
Share Price, End of Period	U.S. \$15.00	U.S. \$13.81	U.S. \$ 8.67	U.S. \$11.02
Total Investment Return(a)	9.50%	47.55%	(12.07)%	(23.76)%
Total Investment Return(b)	9.15%	59.28%	(16.05)%	(12.73)%
RATIOS TO AVERAGE NET ASSETS/SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:				
Net Assets, End of Period (000's)	U.S. \$83,699	U.S. \$77,790	U.S. \$54,856	U.S. \$68,223
Ratio of Net Investment Income/(Loss) to Average Net Assets	0.67%	0.54%	(0.64)%	(0.16)%
Ratio of Operating Expenses to Average Net Assets	1.61%	1.78%	2.10%	1.80%
Portfolio Turnover Rate	3%	10%	13%	35%

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED)

The New Ireland Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") was incorporated under the laws of

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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 April 30, 2004 the Fund held 4.1% of its net assets in securities valued in good faith with an aggregate cost of \$3,617,709 and fair value of \$3,461,782. 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. These differences are due primarily to differing treatments of income and gains on various investment securities held by the Fund, timing differences and characterizations of distributions made by the Fund.

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 April 30, 2004.

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. In addition, Bank of Ireland Asset Management provides investor services to existing and potential shareholders.

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 six months ended April 30, 2004, the Fund paid U.S. \$86,508 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 six months ended April 30, 2004, the Fund paid JP Morgan Chase & Co. U.S. \$773. Bank of Ireland serves as the Fund's custodian of the Fund's assets held in Ireland. During the six months ended April 30, 2004, the Fund paid U.S. \$17,676 in custodian fees to Bank of Ireland.

For the six months ended April 30, 2004, the Fund incurred total brokerage commissions of U.S. \$11,769, of which U.S. \$4,623 was paid to Davy Stockbrokers, an affiliate of Bank of Ireland Asset Management.

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED)

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 of U.S. \$20,000. Also, 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 six months ended April 30, 2004, excluding U.S. government and short-term investments, aggregated U.S. \$2,864,638 and U.S. \$4,098,996, respectively.

At April 30, 2004, aggregate gross unrealized appreciation for all securities (excluding foreign currency on deposit) in which there was an excess value over tax cost was U.S. \$39,286,251 and aggregate gross unrealized depreciation for all securities (excluding foreign currency on deposit) in which there was an excess of tax cost over value was U.S. \$2,573,232. Also on this date, the tax cost of securities for Federal Income Tax purposes is U.S. \$46,005,706.

At April 30, 2004, there were no permanent tax and book differences in gross unrealized appreciation/depreciation of securities or the cost basis of securities.

E. COMMON STOCK:

On December 14, 1989, 9,000 shares of the Fund's common stock were issued to Bank of Ireland Asset Management. On April 30, 2004, Bank of Ireland Asset Management held 11,548 shares representing 0.24% of the Fund's total issued shares.

On April 30, 2004, the Bank of Ireland EUT Smaller Equities Fund held 338,539 shares, representing 7.17% of the Funds outstanding shares. The Wachovia Corporation held 570,137 shares, as stated in a 13F-HR filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 28, 2004, representing 12.08% of the Funds outstanding 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 six months ended April 30, 2004, the Fund repurchased 55,850 (1.17% of the shares outstanding at October 31, 2003 year end) of its shares for a total cost of \$840,865, at an average discount of 15.13% of net asset value.

For the fiscal year ended October 31, 2003, the Fund repurchased 194,450 (3.91% of the shares outstanding at October 31, 2002) of its shares for a total

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cost of \$2,056,220, at an average discount of 18.84% of net asset value.

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THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (UNAUDITED) (CONTINUED)

G. 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.

H. PROXY VOTING INFORMATION:

A description of the policies and procedures that the Fund uses to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities held by the Fund is available, without charge and upon request, by calling 1-800-468-6475. This information is also available from the EDGAR database or the Securities and Exchange Commission's Internet site at <http://www.sec.gov>.

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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
George G. Moore - 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

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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.
c/o 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

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ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Not applicable.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

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Not applicable.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 6. SCHEDULE OF INVESTMENTS

Not yet applicable.

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

Not applicable.

ITEM 8. PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES BY CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANY AND AFFILIATED PURCHASERS.

Not applicable.

ITEM 9. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS.

There have been no material changes to the procedures by which the shareholders may recommend nominees to the registrant's board of directors, where those changes were implemented after the registrant last provided disclosure in response to the requirements of Item 7(d)(2)(ii)(G) of Schedule 14A (17 CFR 240.14a-101), or this Item.

ITEM 10. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

- (a) The registrant's principal executive and principal financial officers, or persons performing similar functions, have concluded that the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures (as defined in Rule 30a-3(c) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act") (17 CFR 270.30a-3(c))) are effective, as of a date within 90 days of the filing date of the report that includes the disclosure required by this paragraph, based on their evaluation of these controls and procedures required by Rule 30a-3(b) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(b)) and Rules 13a-15(b) or 15d-15(b) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (17 CFR 240.13a-15(b) or 240.15d-15(b)).
- (b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting (as defined in Rule 30a-3(d) under the 1940 Act (17 CFR 270.30a-3(d)) that occurred during the registrant's last fiscal half-year (the registrant's second fiscal half-year in the case of an annual report) that has materially affected, or is reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

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ITEM 11. EXHIBITS.

- (a) (1) Not applicable.
- (a) (2) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act and Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.
- (a) (3) Not applicable.
- (b) Certifications pursuant to Rule 30a-2(a) under the 1940 Act and Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 are attached hereto.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

(Registrant) THE NEW IRELAND FUND, INC.

By (Signature and Title)* /S/ DENIS CURRAN

Denis Curran, President
(principal executive officer)

Date JULY 7, 2004

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By (Signature and Title)* /S/ DENIS CURRAN

Denis Curran, President
(principal executive officer)

Date JULY 7, 2004

By (Signature and Title)* /S/ LELIA LONG

Lelia Long, Treasurer
(principal financial officer)

Date JULY 7, 2004

* Print the name and title of each signing officer under his or her signature.