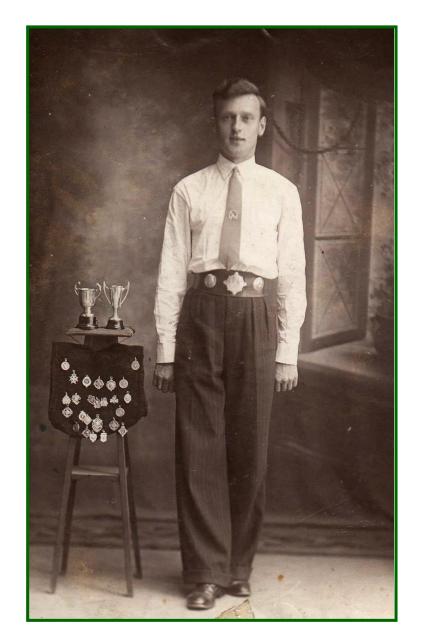


### Portrait of an artist as a young man. Maurice O'Connell

Maurice O'Connell started teaching Irish dancing in London in 1938 (when he was 17 years old); during 30 years of teaching he taught some star pupils from various dance classes across London. He and his sister Maureen were well known for giving Irish dancing exhibitions and records show that they featured as 'child dancers' in a St. Patrick's Day concert in 1935 in a concert in the Vale Hall in Kilburn. They came from a family of Irish Dancers and their uncles Tomás and Willie Cullen were well known in Cork City, where Maurice was born. Tomás was an All-Ireland Champion who taught the World renown Irish Dance historian John Cullinane who himself became, Munster, All Ireland and World champion. John has just published his ninth book on Irish Dancing Irish Dancing in London (1880-2014) to coincide with The World Irish Championship which was held in London for the first time in 2014. Maurice features in the book and is credited with making " a major contribution to Irish dancing in London ". Tomás (Maurice's uncle) has often been described by John Cullinane as "my one and only dance teacher". Maurice died in 2001 at the age of eighty and was proceeded by his wife Norah in 1994, they have four sons 'four green fields'.







#### Portrait of an artist as a young man. Maurice O'Connell

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