The late John F. O’Loughlin, born in Bangor, Maine, was an executive who specialized in legislative relations for the Illinois Bell Telephone Company until his retirement in 1987. He graduated from Notre Dame’s business college in 1941, then known as the School of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. John was active in the Democratic Party in Chicago, served on the board of directors of the Notre Dame Club of Chicago, and was president of the South Shore Commission.

The O’Loughlin Endowment is used primarily for the support of Anglo-Irish literature. Since the 1989–1990 academic year, the collection has been critical to the acquisition of both current and retrospective imprints pertaining to writers from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Since 1990, the endowment has supported an approval plan whose focus includes current fiction published in Ireland. As a consequence of this, the libraries’ resources in current Irish imprints have been put on a solid footing. The endowment has also allowed the libraries to make inroads on retrospective acquisition of works that will ultimately enrich the excellent Irish literature collection at Notre Dame.