Anthony J.F. O’Reilly retired as chairman of the H.J. Heinz Company in 2000, after leading the company for nearly 30 years. He became the first non-family chairman of Heinz in 1987, following the death of Henry J. Heinz II, grandson of the founder. Tony, or Sir Anthony, as he is now known, was awarded a Knighthood in Britain’s 2001 New Year’s Honours List in recognition of his work for the Ireland Funds, a charitable organization he co-founded in the 1970s, which has raised more than $100 million for peace, culture, and charity in Ireland, north and south.

A native of Dublin, Tony graduated from Belvedere College in 1958, received an honors degree in civil law from University College Dublin, qualified as a solicitor, and earned a doctoral degree in agricultural marketing from the University of Bradford in England. At age 19, he was offered a place on the British Lions all-star rugby team, which enabled him to see the world. While on the team, he set a scoring record that still stands. Tony is a member of the Notre Dame Corporate Grants Committee and the Law Society of Ireland. He is also chairman of the American Ireland Fund, which has raised more than $50 million to promote peace, culture, and charity in Ireland.

The O’Reilly Collection was established on behalf of the H.J. Heinz Company Foundation and provides the Hesburgh Libraries with an opportunity to purchase works concerned with 18th-, 19th-, and 20th-century Irish history and sociology.