

An Ugly Customer

The image displays a musical score for the Irish reel "An Ugly Customer" in A Major. The score is written on four staves of music. The first two staves are labeled 'A' and the last two are labeled 'B'. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chord symbols (A, E7, D) are placed above the notes to indicate the harmonic accompaniment. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

"An Ugly Customer", in Gaelic "*Rocdaire Granda*", also known as "After the Hare", "Eleventh of October" or "Patrick O'Dermot" is an Irish reel in A Major. The parts are played AB.

An 'ugly customer', meaning an ill-natured or vicious individual, has been in slang use at least since the mid-19th century. Given the number of policemen in the Chicago Irish music scene during Chief O'Neill's collecting period, one wonders if the title for the tune was the result of occupational banter.

The reel was published in Ryan's **Mammoth Collection** (1883) and Cole's **1000** as "After the Hare" and in R.M. Levey's *Dance Music of Ireland*, vol. 2 (1873) as "Eleventh of October". The tune also appears as an untitled reel in Brendan Breathnach's *Ceol Rince na hÉireann*, vol. 2 (1976).

Researcher Conor Ward finds the reel in local manuscripts from County Leitrim and County Longford from the 1880's onwards with Levey's "Eleventh of October" title but also as "The Ninth of August".

It was also printed in Krassen's *O'Neill's Dance Music of Ireland* (1976), O'Neill's *Dance Music of Ireland: 1001 Gems* (1907) and O'Neill's *Music of Ireland: 1850 Melodies* (1903).