

Hunt collection on view, 1994



THE £30m Hunt collection will be open to the public in the Custom House in June 1994.

Addressing her first meeting of City Council, Mairead Dunlevy, curator, revealed that plans were progressing steadily on the layout of the museum which would also include a shop and restaurant.

The museum, she said, would serve the community by becoming an active centre of excellence with exhibitions, research facilities, library, lecture theatre and other public services.

"It will act as a national resource centre for designers, increasing the city's revenue, prestige, tourist

trade and income," she added.

In the coming weeks, she said, the museum committee would be publishing a souvenir booklet written by Paddy Doran of the University of Limerick and designed by Richard Ruth of GPA.

The book would include details of 50 treasurers of Hunt collection.

The Friends of the Museum have been formed to help promote an interest in and enjoyment of the work made available by the Hunt family.

The benefits of a £50 annual family membership include lecture programmes for those interested in antiques, discount in the

museum shop and special exclusive museum visits.

Replying to questions from members, Ms Dunlevy explained that work was concentrated on adapting the building rather than on the building itself which is structurally sufficient.

Restoration of the Custom House chimneys, she added, would depend on finance being available.

Alderman Kemmy welcomed Ms Dunlevy to her first meeting and said the museum committee could not have a better person.

Referring to her previous work with the national museum and her publications, he said, her reputation had preceded her.

He welcomed the fact that there were plans to ensure the new museum become an active centre of excellence with exhibitions, research facilities, library and lecture theatre.

"Adjacent to King John's Castle and St Mary's Cathedral it is an important location," he pointed out.

Cllr Gus O'Driscoll appealed to business persons in the region to support the museum.

Recording the thanks of the committee to the Hunt family, Cllr Jan O'Sullivan, chairperson, said it was hard to believe that Limerick would soon enjoy the works of Leonardo de Vinci and Picasso.

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