

City honours John and Trudy

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

The cultural touch of John and Gertrude Hunt will mean enormous benefits for the city for years to come, according to Deputy Jim Kemmy.

He was speaking at the conferring of the

Abusive to garda

A CAHERDAVIN man was fined £100 by Limerick Court for abusive behaviour to a garda.

Edward Pearl, 58, Whitethorn Drive, Caherdavin, was walking up the middle of O'Connell Street on February 2 at 1.08am, he was very drunk and was shouting, the court heard. When he was stopped and told to step onto the footpath for his own safety, he became verbally abusive. He was later arrested on Mallow Street.

Mr Pearl apologised to the garda on the steps of the court, the court heard.

Judge Pat O'Neill took into account that Mr Pearl had apologised for his behaviour.

Freedom of the City on John and Trudy Hunt, whose parents John and Gertrude, donated their £50m unique art collection to the State, and through the efforts of John and Trudy, had their dream of a Limerick home for the collection realised in the Hunt Museum.

Mayor O'Hanlon, who conferred the honour on the brother and sister, described the museum as the "jewel in the crown" of mediaeval Limerick.

The honour, he said, was also an appropriate gesture to their late parents.

Deputy Kemmy described the Hunt Museum as a "milestone" in the cultural life of the city and one that will attract people from all parts of the world to the city.

He referred to the honour of the Freedom of the City in the past having been conferred on "aged clergymen and politicians passing through the city", and that it was important that young people be honoured.

John Hunt, 40, and Trudy, 39, are among the youngest recipients of the award.

Former recipients include John F Kennedy, Pope John Paul II, Dr David Kaunda,

president of the republic of Zambia and Maud Gonne.

John and Trudy Hunt in expressing their honour at being conferred with the Freedom of Limerick referred to "how utterly privileged we both feel to have been able to partake in the realisation of our parents John and Gertrude's dream that the collection should remain intact and that the people of Ireland should have it as their theirs, in particular, that the collection is housed in Limerick."

"On behalf of our family we thank the Corporation who have always fully

endorsed the project and the people for their ongoing generous support of the museum," they said.

John Hunt thanked the Corporation for their support for the museum and praised the City Council, which, he said, never allowed the matter become a "political issue".

Cllr Gus O'Driscoll, who proposed that Trudy Hunt be granted the Freedom, said she had devoted herself to cataloguing the entire collection and establishing the Hunt Museum Library which specialises in European Mediaeval Art Books.

Trudy said she found the

honour "truly humbling" given that her name was now listed among a distinguished group of dignitaries including Parnell, Carnegie and John F Kennedy.

Her former teachers in Laurel Hill, she said, would find it most edifying that her name was included in a list which included 18 eminent clergymen headed by Pope John Paul II.

John Hunt was born in Limerick in 1957. He lives in Dublin with his wife, Patricia and three children Jack, Paddy and Miriam.

A freelance librarian, Trudy, was born in Dublin in 1958 and currently lives



John Hunt, Mayor O'Hanlon Trudy Hunt and Maurice Moloney, city manager, at City Hall after the conferring of the Freedom of the City on John and Trudy Hunt. (LL)

in Sutton.

John and Trudy always had a desire to fulfil their parents' ambitions for the collection and so subsequently both became actively involved in the project to

secure a permanent home for the entire Hunt collection.

John became a member of the board of directors of the Hunt Museum which

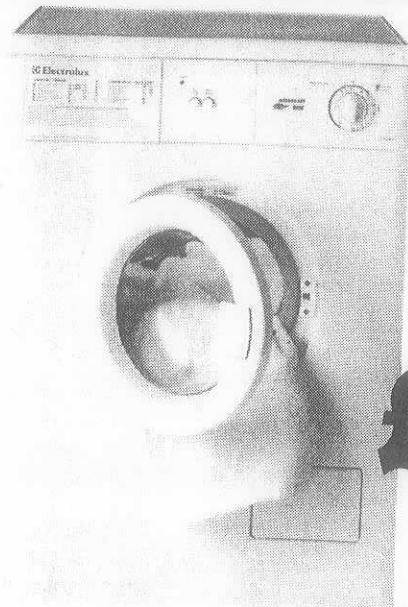
was established by the Hunt Museum Trust to convert the Custom House into a suitable home for the Hunt Collection and to operate the museum.

The last conferring of the

honour was in 1995 when Ted Russell, Dr Brendan O'Regan and Dr Edward Walsh, were each conferred with the honour by the then Mayor, Cllr Dick Sadlier.

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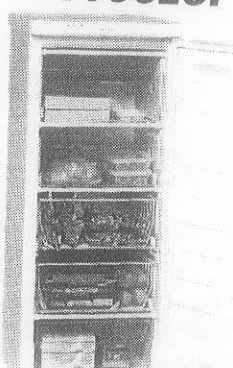
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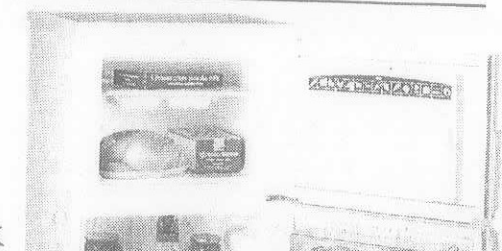
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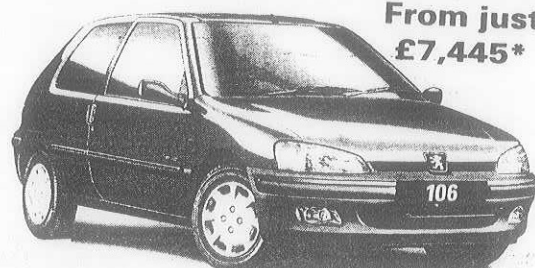
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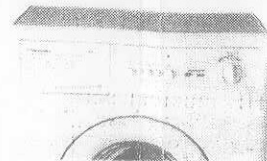
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