

# Anonymous 'friend' donates to museum

By JESSICA QUINN

A "great friend" of the Hunt Museum has made an anonymous donation to fund a catalogue for the museum.

The donation was announced by George Stacpoole at the launch of the museum's exhibition of Irish delftware.

"We have various patrons and I would like to thank all of the patrons for their support, but this week we had a patron who is going to give us total finance for a catalogue for the museum," he told the gathering.

He explained that the money from this anonymous patron will go towards totally financing the museum's catalogue.

"He is going to finance it, from every aspect from its publication, its research work, the people we employ for it. So it will mean at the end of the day that every catalogue we publish will be for the benefit of the museum."

It is hoped that the catalogue will be published by Autumn.

The exhibition of Irish Delftware will run until February 18. Delftware is a tin glazed earthenware, developed as a cheaper

alternative to Chinese porcelain. It was first produced in Ireland in the 18th century.

This is the first time that Irish delftware has been exhibited in Ireland in 30 years, and Limerick is the only place that this exhibition can be seen.

Speaking at the launch, renowned potter Nicholas Mosse said: "I think it's wonderful, it's the only venue in Ireland. The Hunt museum has a marvellous display of Irish delftware and I think it's only right that the showing should be here".

Peter Francis, who has written the first full length book on the subject, Irish Delftware, An Illustrated History, was there to sign copies of his book.

"For anybody in Ireland who wants to see this thing, this is the only opportunity. This is the first opportunity they have had in 30 years, and the only opportunity in the next 30 years probably."

"Most people, when you show them they just think it's beautiful, they are completely unaware that any of this is made in Ireland. It's part of our history and it's been sort of forgotten so it's nice to be resurrecting it again."



Gathered together at the Hunt Museum for the exhibition of Irish delftware were Nick Moss (left), who opened the display, deputy mayor Peter Power, and George Stacpoole.

(LL)