

Huge interest in the Hunt Museum but no claims on alleged Nazi loot

THE Hunt museum's new online data base is receiving colossal interest from history experts.

And all because of the international publicity surrounding the

claims that their unique collection of artefacts had been looted by the Nazis during the Second World War.

The Hunt Museum was rocked to its foun-

dations two years ago when the Paris-based anti-Semitism organisation, the Simon Wisenthal Centre alleged that the priceless collection bequeathed to the

museum by art connoisseurs and collectors, John and Gertrude Hunt, who for years resided with their children at Lough Gur, County Limerick, had in fact been looted by the

Nazis.

At the time the allegation was made, the now late John Hunt Jr, who had actively participated in setting up the museum in the Rutland Street premises. He and his sister Gertrude had been made Freeman of the City of Limerick some years previously.

The Simon Wisenthal Centre's claims centred around allegations that John Snr and his wife Gertrude had dealt with Nazi art looters. A letter had been sent to President Mary McAleese calling for an investigation into the matter and subsequently an independent expert group was

established to do this. While the group's final report is not yet complete, the museum's website has attracted thousands of art history experts from around the world who have provided additional information about several items of the collection.

Significantly, howev-

er, no one has come forward to claim ownership of the alleged Nazi loot.

The expert group spokesperson, Dr Michael Ryan said that if anyone claiming ownership does come forward they will have to provide convincing evidence.



The historic artefacts of the Hunt Museum have taken the leap into the this century by joining the world of cyberspace in an online data base.

Man who waited in his car for a taxi escapes