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RS AGO 1937

### ART GALLERY

A public meeting held in the Town Hall approved of the establishment of an Art Gallery in Limerick and formed a representative committee to initiate the project. The idea of an Art Gallery in Limerick was first mooted in February, 1936, when Dermot O'Brien, President of the R.H.A., received the Freedom of the City.

Two members of the committee were themselves artists: Dermot O'Brien and Sean Keating. Limerickmen both, had, by their exquisite and deft brushes, shed lustre on their native city. Another great artist, Haverty, lived in Limerick for some time and followed his profession here. The portrait of Daniel O'Connell in the Town Hall is his work, and his "Limerick Piper" is well known. Limerick had other artists, such as Father Hickey, the Franciscan, who executed a splendid painting of a former Bishop of the Diocese, Most Rev. Edward Thom. Another, Jeremiah Hodges Mulcahy, a native of Limerick, had a school of painting at 19 Catherine Street. Another, Hourigan, had great natural talent and has to his credit a fine painting of "St. Patrick" in the Irish Club.

In the past, a few other Limerickmen helped to keep the torch burning in their gift of portraiture. Henry O'Shea has some notable pictures, prominent amongst them being one of the great Augustinian, the Most Rev. Dr. Doyle (J.K.L.), Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin; while in his own way, J. Hourigan displayed more than mediocrity in an art in which he received no special training. Perhaps the most outstanding figure Limerick produced in the world of painting was Collopy, whose "Ascension" is a real work of art, the product of a man who received his training in Milan in the early part of the last century and won fame in London, where he died. Collopy's talents were discovered while he was serving as an acolyte in the old Augustinian Church in St. Augustine Place by the Prior, the Very Rev. Father Walsh, who made the arrangements for his education in Milan.