

City Museum and Gallery proved their worth in '92

By DYMPHNA BRACKEN

IN excess of 600 enquiries were dealt with at the city museum, during the past year.

In contrast to recent years, there were relatively few additions to the museum collections during the year due to the elimination of the acquisitions-purchase element of last November's estimate.

A total of 172 objects were registered in, contrasting with 645 registrations the previous year.

Notable among the acquisitions were a side-drum of the second battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers, circa 1910; a lithograph of King John's castle by Samuel Brocas, 1926; a silver spade presented by Mayor James Casey on turning of first sod of Killalee housing scheme, 1935; a memorial print of Patrick Sarsfield, 1765; a booking from for the Limerick mail coach; neolithic stone axes from Newcastlewest and axes formerly in the teaching collection of Mungret College and a collection of working patterns for Limerick lace from the Presentation Convent, Sexton Street.

Alderman Jim Kemmy donated a gold medal, silver salvers and silver-plate trowels presented to him during his mayoralty.

The National Heritage Council have funded computer equipment and database software to each of the six local authority museums, to the value of £9,000



The City Art Gallery in Pery Square where 42 exhibitions were staged in the last year.

at each institution, in order to standardise museum catalogues and enable easy information exchange.

Considerable time was spent at the city museum in drawing up specifications for the software.

Last year the museum won the Gulbenkian Irish museum award.

The judges commenting at that time expressed concern that the museum was unable to use some real artifacts due to the conditions in the building, that added that, if the defects were remedied, the museum would go from strength to strength.

A sum of £5,000 has been transferred from the museum's revenue account, the first of a series of transfers until a sufficient capital sum has been saved to deal finally with the ongoing problem of water penetration into the basement area of John's Square.

The City Art Gallery staged 42 temporary or visiting groups or one-person exhibitions in a wide range of art and design styles and practices.

Visitors to the gallery were able, throughout the past year, to enjoy, consider and assess these exhibitions in the context of the gallery's own permanent collection, changing selections of which constantly kept pace with the nature of the visiting exhibitions thus enabling audiences to make sense of how art and design of past periods relates to current contemporary practices.

Attendances at the gallery varied depending on the nature and content of the exhibitions itself with EV+A bringing in over 1,000 persons per week.

When it comes to horses, the neighs have it,
writes Claire Doyle

Horseing about Burren