Confraternity Campaign

by John Liddy

Sermonizing to a hushed congregation
Of God-fearing men
On the dangers of close dancing,
Evil literature and cinema necking.

And would burn in hell for it,
That picture-houses were
Dens of iniquity
Because of inadequate supervision.

The Spiritual Director
Declared from his pulpit
That young people were being
Deliberately provocative,
Outrageously suggestive
On the dance-floors of the City,
That 20% of Limerick’s population
Had read Lady Chatterley’s Lover.

Vigilante patrols were formed
To separate passionate dancers,
Scrub the publication lists,
Root out courting couples

With flash-lamps,
That was in nineteen-sixty-three
And things have changed since then,
The Spiritual Director

Quit the priesthood,
Leaving behind
A diminishing congregation
Of disillusioned men.