

Civic Trust launches two new publications

By ANNE SHERIDAN

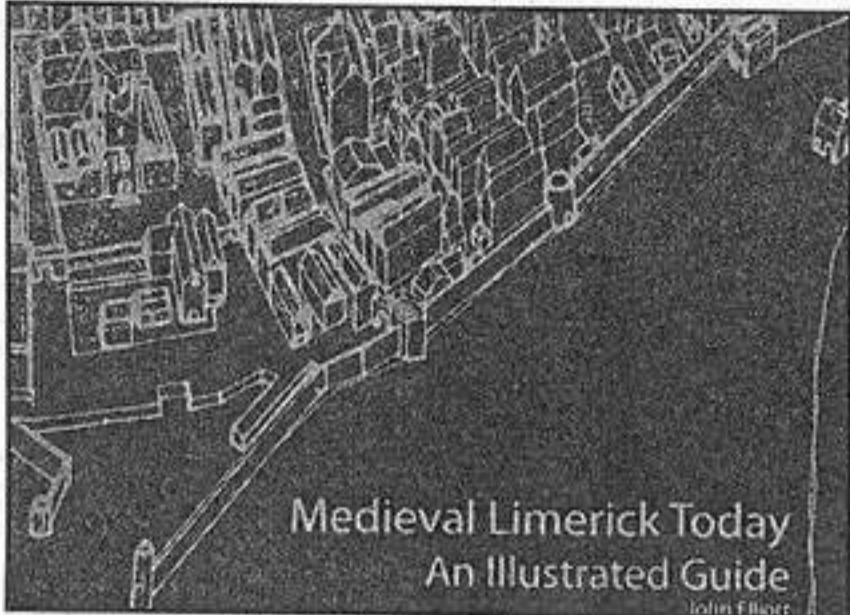
LIMERICK city owes a debt of gratitude to the work of Limerick Civic Trust, Deputy Mayor Cllr Michael Hourigan said at City Hall last Friday.

The Fine Gael councillor was launching two new works by Limerick Civic Trust - a map depicting Limerick as it appeared at the time of the Cromwellian siege of 1651, and a 207 page compilation of photographs of the city's architectural heritage.

"It's only when we know about the past, that we can move forward into the future. The Civic Trust have done magnificent work again, and I think the city owes them a debt of gratitude for what they have done," said Cllr Hourigan, who is on the executive of the Trust.

The photographic survey of street art and artefacts was undertaken by Eithne Deloughry O'Byrne, a participant on the Trust's history and folklore project, and was edited by David Lee.

The detailed account includes many unusual and often unseen artefacts, including gargoyles on Hartstonge Street, Grecian urns on O'Connell Street, and two Russian cannons captured during the Crimean War, which are on display the old Harbour Commissioners office in the Red Russell dock.



Medieval Limerick Today
An Illustrated Guide



Above, the cover of the new booklet describing the medieval architectural remnants of the city; left: the A1-sized map of Limerick as it appeared in the Cromwellian siege of 1651, and right: Gabrielle Wallace O'Donnell, Chairman Limerick Civic Trust, Debbie Jacobs, Assistant Supervisor History Project, with Deputy Mayor Michael Hourigan.

Virtually every aspect of the city is documented - chimney stacks, churches, clocks, crests, drinking fountains, and door knobs.

Gabrielle Wallace O'Donnell, chairperson of the Limerick Civic Trust, paid tribute to Denis Leonard, director of the Trust, who she said has "a great capacity for identifying projects and bringing them to fruition, and these two projects are really his."

"The publications are the culmination of dedicated and intensive research by the participants of the history and folklore project. FAS have received a lot of criticism in the months just past, but the history and folklore department, under FAS, really is a success story," said Ms Wallace O'Donnell.

However, she added that perhaps FAS could learn from the cost effectiveness of the Trust's department, located on the top floor of the Bishop's Palace.



The A1 sized map, depicting Limerick as it appeared at the time of the Cromwellian siege of 1651, was researched and designed by John Elliot.

Mr Elliot has brought to life Limerick as it would have appeared during that dramatic and fateful period in Irish history, complete with fortified strong points, medieval walls and earthen ramparts.

The map was designed principally as an educational aid for schools and libraries, and is accompanied by a booklet describing the medieval architectural remnants of the city.

Funding assistance for both map and booklet was provided by the Department of the Environment and the Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society. Just 100 copies of the

map have been printed on specially produced paper, one of which was given to the Mayor's office.

The projects were supported by Limerick City

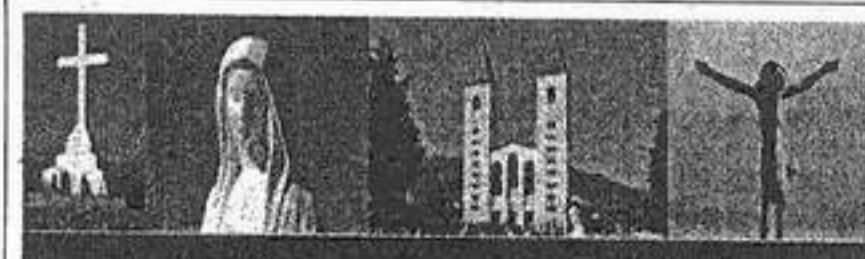
Council and FAS.

Owen Minihan, on behalf of FAS, said he delighted to be associated with a project of such prestige, and one which will "live forever more."



Mary Shee, executive Limerick Civic Trust, Gabrielle Wallace O'Donnell, Chairman Limerick Civic Trust, Debbie Jacobs, Assistant Supervisor History Project, Davis Lee, History Department Limerick Civic Trust. (Back row) Eoin Minihan, FAS, Eithne Deloughry O'Byrne, produced survey, book and dvd of arts and artifacts for the Trust's History Project, Cian O'Carroll President Thomond Archaeological and Historical Society and John Elliott, who produced the map and booklet of Medieval Limerick for the Trust's History Project

PICTURES: JOAN CROWLEY



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061- 455133

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