

# The Granary 1787-1987

Brick upon brick, stone upon stone,  
This grain store was built in 1787  
By the workers of Limerick  
For Philip Roche, a merchant prince.

He exported flax and cereals  
In his father's cargo ships,  
And fed the huddled poor  
Here beside the Abbey River.

After his death in 1797  
The store was leased  
By his nephew, Thomas Kelly,  
As a bonding warehouse.

For more than 170 years  
The city took its fill  
And paid its duty  
On lock, stock and barrel.

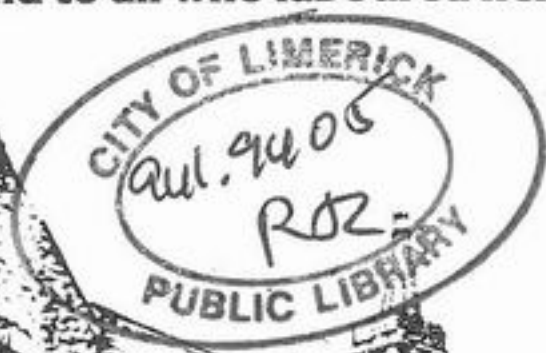
Today the renewed Granary  
Offers a public library  
And a college of design,  
Above a tourist office and tavern.

Now behind the deep windows  
Students grapple with grids and graphics,  
Book-lovers browse in the airy library,  
And tourists bask in the bar below.

As we stroll under the archway  
And into the courtyard,  
Let us pause on the way  
To stand and take stock.

Come, let us go into the tavern,  
And drink a toast to  
Brick and stone, grain and grog,  
And to all who laboured here.

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*Jim Kemmy*

