

LEADER LETTERS



Enchained: Mayor Kennedy minus robe.

Limerick mayoral chain of thought

□ AT THE RISK of being included amongst Spartacus' "5,032 local historians lambasting the Mayor for reducing the status of the historic Mayoral chain, etc.," I would like to make the following comments:

(1) In my view the historic chain should only be worn with the Mayoral robes. Indeed, it cannot be properly worn otherwise as there is a small "undress" chain and a hook at the top back of the Mayor's robe which, together, ensure that the chain is properly set and kept in place.

(2) It is not necessary to wear the historic chain for non-civic occasions as there are two other suitable chains available for such occasions, viz.:

(a) a splendid chain presented to the City Council by the Limerick Savings Bank on the last occasion I was Mayor in 1976-1977, and

(b) the old Sheriff's chain which was used by some past Mayors on non-civic occasions.

In the final analysis, of course, it is a matter for the Mayor to decide what chain he will wear. Nevertheless, as one who has had some experience of Mayoral office, and who is conscious of the "status of the historic Mayoral chain," I must strongly support the "local historians" who feel that the chain should be worn only on civic (i.e. robe wearing) occasions.

If it is felt that the general body of citizens should have more opportunity of seeing the historic chain, it could be placed on display in the City Mureum where old and young could view its splendour.

Incidentally, some years ago the late City Manager, Mr. Tom McDermott, arranged for the production of a little booklet entitled "The Mayoral Chain." This contained a photograph of the chain with a description of each link. Perhaps the booklet could be updated and re-published with a list of all Limerick Mayors from 1197 to date.

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