

## News

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## CULTURE

# Hunt's Limerick love affair revealed in print

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A BOOK detailing the life of one of Limerick's most significant cultural figures of the 20th century has been launched.

'John Hunt - The Man, The Medievalist, The Connoisseur' was written by Brian O'Connell and tells the story of the man behind the city's Hunt Museum, the restoration of the world famous Bunratty Castle and the creation of both the prehistoric folk park at Craggaunowen and Lough Gur visitor centres.

John Hunt (1900-1976) was a British born historian, antiquarian, and collector.

Together with his German wife Putzel, he amassed the collection that today forms the basis of Limerick city's main museum.

The Hunt Collection, with an estimated value of €70million, is one of the world's largest private collections of art and artefacts and was donated to the State by John Hunt and family a year before his death.

He was Sotheby's principal advisor on medieval art for two decades and helped to shape the medieval art collections of world famous museums including the V&A in London and the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Controversy erupted in 2004 when France's Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which tracks down former Nazis, wrote to President Mary McAleese alleging the late

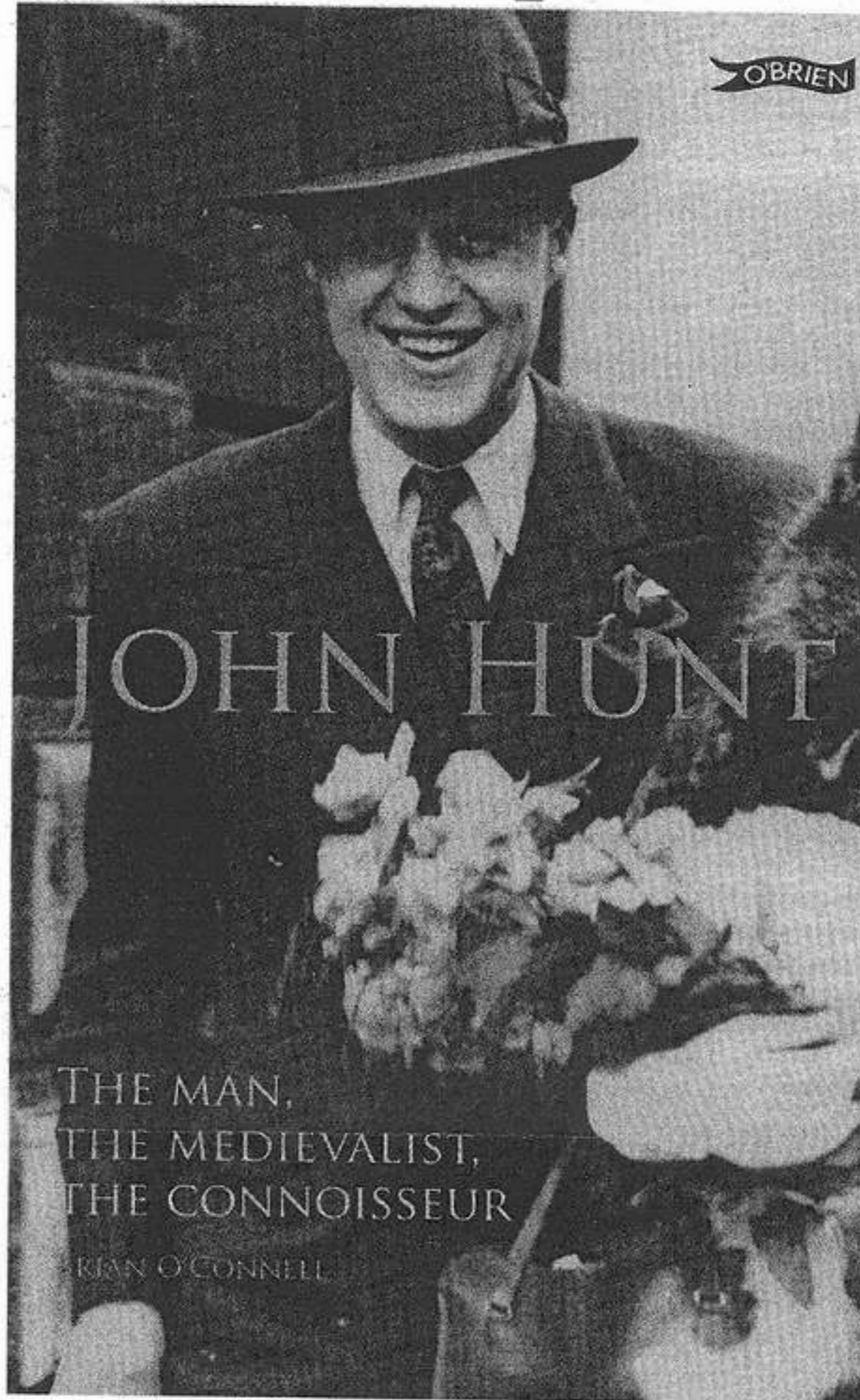
couple had links to Nazi art dealers, an allegation of which they were cleared unequivocally, following an exhaustive Royal Irish Academy investigation in 2007.

Mr O'Connell, who is a former chairman of the Shannon Heritage and a member of the Hunt Museums Trust, said: "The book is on many levels a series of improbable love stories - the love story of two very different, but inseparable, life partners, John and Putzel Hunt, their mutual passion for rare and unappreciated art treasures created by skilled craftsmen from the so-called Dark Ages but most of all, the love affair between the Hunts and their adopted homeland of Ireland."

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**The book is on many levels a series of improbable love stories**

MR O'CONNELL, WHO IS A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE SHANNON HERITAGE AND A MEMBER OF THE HUNT MUSEUMS TRUST



## BUSINESS

## Scheming to be your own boss

by Brian McLoughlin

BEING your own boss is a dream for many, which could come true with the help of Croom Community Enterprise Centre

"If you don't know where to start, don't worry you are not alone and there is help out there" said Belinda Murphy, Business Development manager of the Enterprise Centre.

She was announcing a 12-month enterprise business development programme "that can help translate your dream into a business plan".

Titled LEAP - Limerick Enterprise Acceleration Platform, the programme will commence at the end of August and it comprises of a range of supports to the entrepreneur during the vital business start-up stage.

Said Belinda Murphy: "The programme places emphasis on group training, individual business coaching, guidance from a panel of experts and consultancy and mentoring, all focused on facilitating and guiding individuals in their business plan development progress."

"The training and skills development element

of the programme specifically promotes development of management capability and also personal development of the individual within a group environment," she added.

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**If you don't know where to start, don't worry, you are not alone and there is help out there**

BELINDA MURPHY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER OF THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE

The course gives access to Limerick Institute of Technology's academic, research and commercialisation expertise and it also includes office space at Croom Community Enterprise Centre.

Said the president of LIT Maria Hinfelaar: "LIT is excited to be working with Croom on the roll out of this programme to the area to unlock entrepreneurial potential".

The chairman of Croom Community Enterprise Centre Darrin Naughton pointed out that Croom Centre does not take an equity stake in the participants' businesses.

On completion of the programme all entrepreneurs get the option to stay on in Croom Enterprise Centre to avail of rental of office spaces, hot desks, meeting rooms, training room and shared canteen and reception facilities.

The application form closing date is Monday August 12 at 5pm and for same, contact Belinda Murphy, Business Development manager, Croom Community Enterprise Centre. belinda@croomenterprise.com and 061-602000.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Blood bikes

MOTORCYCLISTS in Limerick City are being asked to lend their support to lifesaving initiative www.bloodbikewest.ie. The charity provides a free out-of-hours blood transportation service to hospitals in the Mid West region and is seeking experienced bikers to volunteer as drivers. The group aims to act as an emergency rider voluntary service transporting blood, blood products, patient records, drugs and other medical requirements between private and HSE hospitals and blood transfusion banks.

Charity founder Damien Hickey said the four local hospitals have agreed to come on board with the initiative" which he says "can provide serious savings in time and money".

### Free tolls

HAULIERS may benefit from a toll waiver on some of Ireland's busiest roads - including the M7 and Limerick Tunnel - as part of a pilot scheme to encourage them to use motorways. The National Roads Authority (NRA) has contacted toll companies asking them to waive the charges amid concerns about increasing numbers of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) using local and regional roads to avoid tolls. The NRA says the scheme could apply to all motorways, except Dublin's M50. The authority is concerned about safety issues and damage to local roads from the HGVs, which can weigh up to 40 tonnes.

### Heed lifeguards

THE public has been urged to use the bathing places manned by lifeguards to ensure there are no more tragedies this Summer. Irish Water Safety Lifeguards rescued 559 casualties from the country's beaches, rivers and lakes during the month of July, 160 more than for the entire bathing season last year. In County Clare alone safety advice was given to 9958 individuals. John Leech of Irish Water Safety said: "Take heed of advice given by the lifeguards and supervise your children, lifeguards are not babysitters. There were 575 lost children reunited with their parents. There were another 11,421 accidents prevented by the proactive actions of our lifeguards."

### KPMG move

A CORPORATE restructuring and insolvency team at KPMG has been appointed as receiver to Finnegan's Bar on the Dublin Road this week. The popular pub and restaurant will continue trading as a going concern in the interim. Novaridge Ltd, trading for 15 years and with a registered address in Tuckey Street, Cork, has Finbarr Murphy and David Smiddy listed as company directors. This week, a team from KPMG were on site providing assistance to the company where it is understood a package was being devised to assist the bar and restaurant emerge from its current financial difficulties.

### Property tax

THE Limerick Campaign Against Property Tax and Austerity (CAPTA) group has spoken out against the Revenue Commissioners' practice of deducting the property tax from the wages or social welfare payments of those who have not paid. Derrick Towell, CAPTA candidate for Limerick East commented: "The resoluteness demonstrated by the Revenue Commissioners in trying to take the property tax from workers, pensioners and the unemployed contrasts to the softly softly approach shown by the establishment towards the tax-dodging multinationals and the bankers who loaded us with debt." He added that the Government will "pay a heavy political price" for its actions.