

Tom Ryan says thanks for Freedom of the City

By **PETULA MARTYN**

A RECENT recipient of the city's highest honour has written a letter to the City Manager to thank the council for his "freedom."

Leading portrait artist, Tom Ryan RHA, was bestowed the Freedom of Limerick along with broadcaster, Terry Wogan, at a ceremony at City Hall in June.

He described the conferring ceremony as "a major event in my life" in his letter to Tom Mackey.

"There is great satisfaction for me in that the event recognised my work as an artist but more particularly, as a Limerick artist," he wrote.

Mr Ryan is renowned for his paintings of Presidents, Cardinals and Taoisigh. He recently donated a series of portraits of famous Limer-

ick people to the Limerick Civic Trust for their Hall of Fame. In 1989 he designed the silver mace for the University of Limerick which included the figure of St Munchin - the patron of education and his native city.

For his contribution to the arts, he was chosen by the city fathers as a worthy recipient of the Freedom of Limerick this year.

"The ceremony was also hugely enjoyable,"

he wrote, "I certainly enjoyed every minute of it and so did all the people I spoke to afterwards. For that satisfied feeling everyone present acknowledged the happy union of the mayor and council with yourself and your officials in making it the truly memorable day it was."

He thanked Mr Mackey for the "thorough planning" of his officials which made for a "happy and dignified ceremony."



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Mr Ryan acknowledged the work of the "illuminator and calligrapher" who designed his parchment and

asked the City Manager to convey his thanks.

He said: "The sheen of the silver container will daily remind me of my

'freedom'." He said he intends writing to "Messrs Kenneally" to applaud the skill of their silversmith.

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