

# The Limerick City Militia and the Battle of Collooney, 1798

By OLIVER SNODDY

The silver medal here illustrated, from the collections in the National Museum of Ireland (reg. no. RIA 316), is one of those which was awarded to privates of the regiment which took part in the military engagement at Collooney, Co. Sligo, in 1798, between a force for the most part composed of members of the Limerick City Militia, under Colonel Vereker, and a force composed of Irishmen and French soldiers, under General Humbert.



Silver medal struck in commemoration of the Limerick City Militia who fought in the Battle of Collooney, Co. Sligo, 1798.

(Photo: National Museum of Ireland)

## THE MEDAL.

*Obverse*: The arms of Limerick city, a gate with a pair of castellated towers and a turret behind with flag flying, enclosed in spray of olive and spray of palm, ends tied. Above, CORPORATION AND CITIZENS, and below, OF LIMERICK.

*Reverse*: The Imperial Crown enclosed in two sprays of olive almost forming wreath, ends tied. Above, TO THE HEROES OF COLLOONEY, and below, 5<sup>TH</sup>. SEPR. 1798, with, in smaller letters between date and tied ends of sprays, BRUSH.

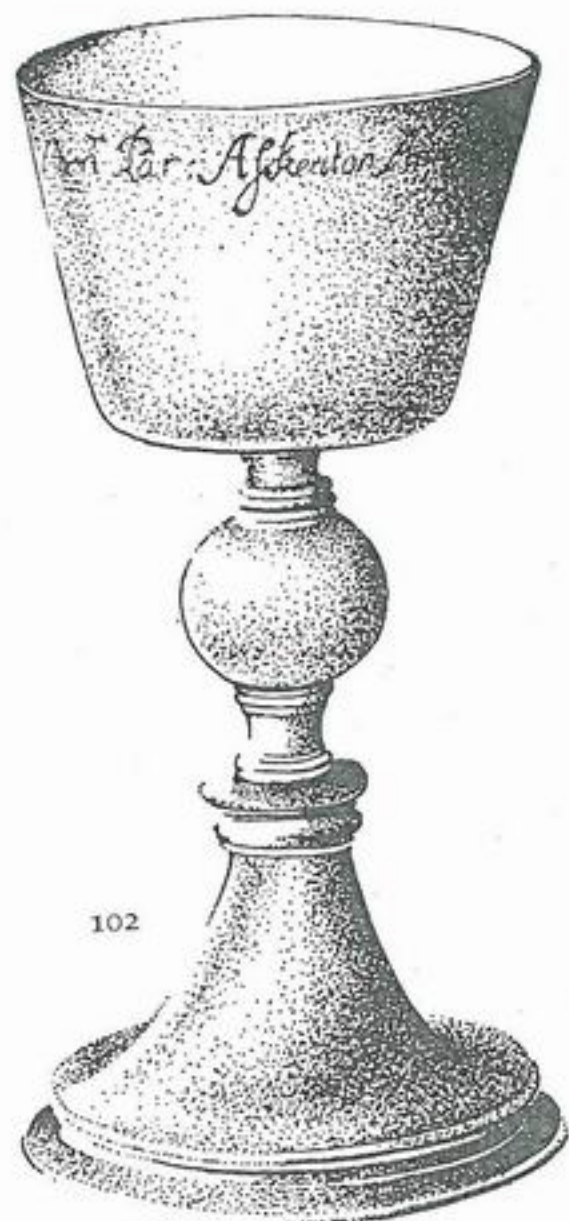
Diameter, 1.6 ins. Weight, 9½ cwts., 9 grs. Pierced for suspension ring.

101 Limerick-made Silver - *Limerick, Hunt Museum* - A number of renowned silversmiths practised their craft in Limerick during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The families of Buck and Robinson were the most notable from 1660 to 1740, when the father-and-son partnership of Samuel and Joseph Johns came to prominence. The production of Limerick silver continued up to the famine of the 1840s. Some of this work may be seen in the Hunt collection at the National Institute of Higher Education, Plassey, Limerick.

A horn cup with silver mounts, shown here, made by John Purcell, is one of the finest pieces in the silver collection.



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102 The Askeaton Chalice, Limerick Silver - *Co. Limerick* - The Askeaton chalice has a knob stem and reaches a height of 19cm. Inscribed on the upper part of the chalice are the following words: 'Ex do Somo Eaton Armt Par Askeaton Anno 1663'.

Marked with the Limerick castle and wavy star, it is probably the earliest dated piece of Limerick silver. The star mark has been found in many places within a radius of twenty miles around Limerick.

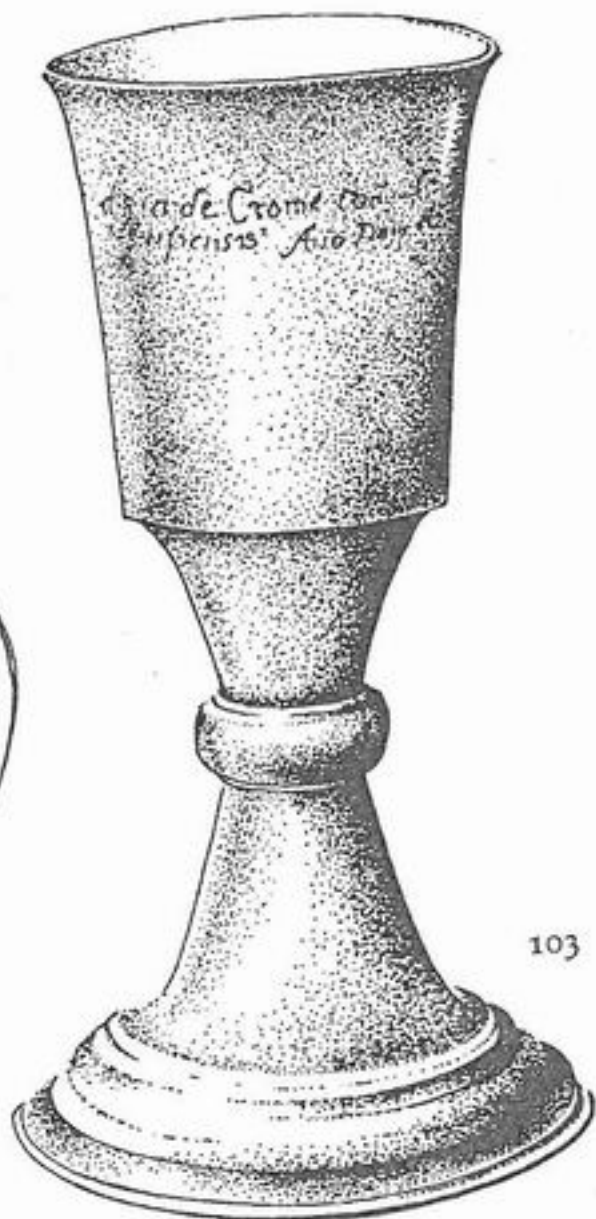
103 The Croom Chalice, Limerick Silver - *Parish Church, Croom* - This chalice with knob also bears an inscription: 'Ju usum Ecclesia de Crome Comonibus Parochiae Jinpenuis aro Domini 1699'. It is 27cm high with markings of the castle and star with monogram Jr. identical with Limerick Cathedral flagon.

104 Flagon, Dublin-made Silver - *St John's Church, Limerick* - This flagon has a lid and thumbpiece of entwined dolphins. It is inscribed as follows: 'The gift of Edward Sexton Pery, Esqr. to the Church of St. John, Limerick 1750'.

Marks: Dublin 1680-81 by John Phillips; J.P. in a boat-shaped shield over a five-petalled flower.

105 Mounted Polished Coconut, Limerick Silver - *Limerick* - This is an interesting polished coconut with silver mounts and feet which was made in Limerick around 1790.

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