

Significant silver exhibition for Hunt Museum

By ANNE SHERIDAN

A MAJOR exhibition of Limerick silver spanning six centuries will run at the Hunt Museum from this Thursday and will feature pieces by some of Limerick's lesser known silver-smiths.

Dr Ed Walsh, President Emeritus of the University of Limerick, and now also a silver-smith, has been commissioned to create a number of individual pieces, which will feature alongside some 200 diverse items, dating from the 16th to the 21st century.

Since his retirement from academic life, Dr Walsh has taught himself the craft of silver-smithing and this week he will exhibit two silver neck pieces, two rings and a decorative bowl.

Virginia Teehan, director of The Hunt Museum, said this exhibition "will make a significant contribution to the history of Irish craft and design."

"The exhibit pieces have been sourced primarily from private collections both in Ireland and overseas and many of these items have never previously been displayed to the public," said Ms Teehan.

The other contemporary designer to feature in this exhibition is Susan McCarthy, a native of Limerick who trained as a silversmith and jeweller in London. Susan, who now lives and works in Limerick, has created a silver snuff-box.

A highlight of the sporting memorabilia on display will be the Assolas Racing Trophy, which dates from 1729. This cup is one of the oldest known racing trophies in Ireland and was last exhibited in the Ulster Museum in 1954. Other sporting silver ware includes GAA all-Ireland medals dating back to the late 1800s, and rugby medals.

Household items, such as dish rings, soup tureens, marrow spoons will be juxtaposed with items of major civic importance such as the city mace, the University mace and ecclesiastical items.

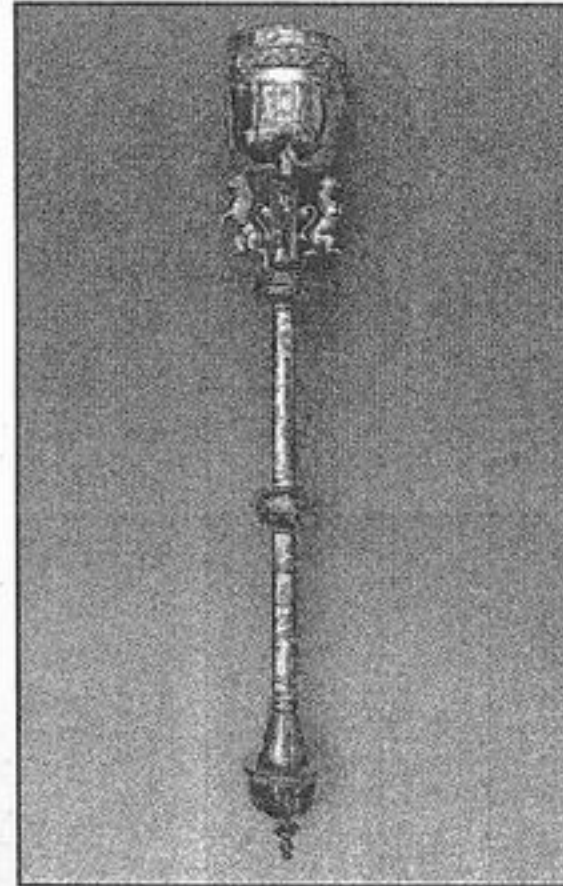
Ms Teehan said the Limerick Silver Exhibition committee, chaired by John Bowen, chairman and chief executive

of The Bowen Group, has produced an unparalleled exhibition of silver, crafted in Limerick.

The organising committee also includes Dr Conor O'Brien, co-author of 500 years of Irish Silver and one of Ireland's most knowledgeable experts in silver, as well as John McCormack, a retired doctor from Limerick who is one of the Hunt Museum's most active volunteers.

The exhibition will be launched this Thursday, September 13 at 6pm in the Hunt Museum by Ida Delamer. The exhibition, which is sponsored by The Bowen Group, will run until January 13, with guided tours at 2.30pm daily.

Silver Sauce Boat, Limerick City Mace and the famous Assolas Cup, top right, which are among the 200 silver items in the exhibition starting this Thursday



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