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Craftwork: Irish boatmaking heritage brought to book

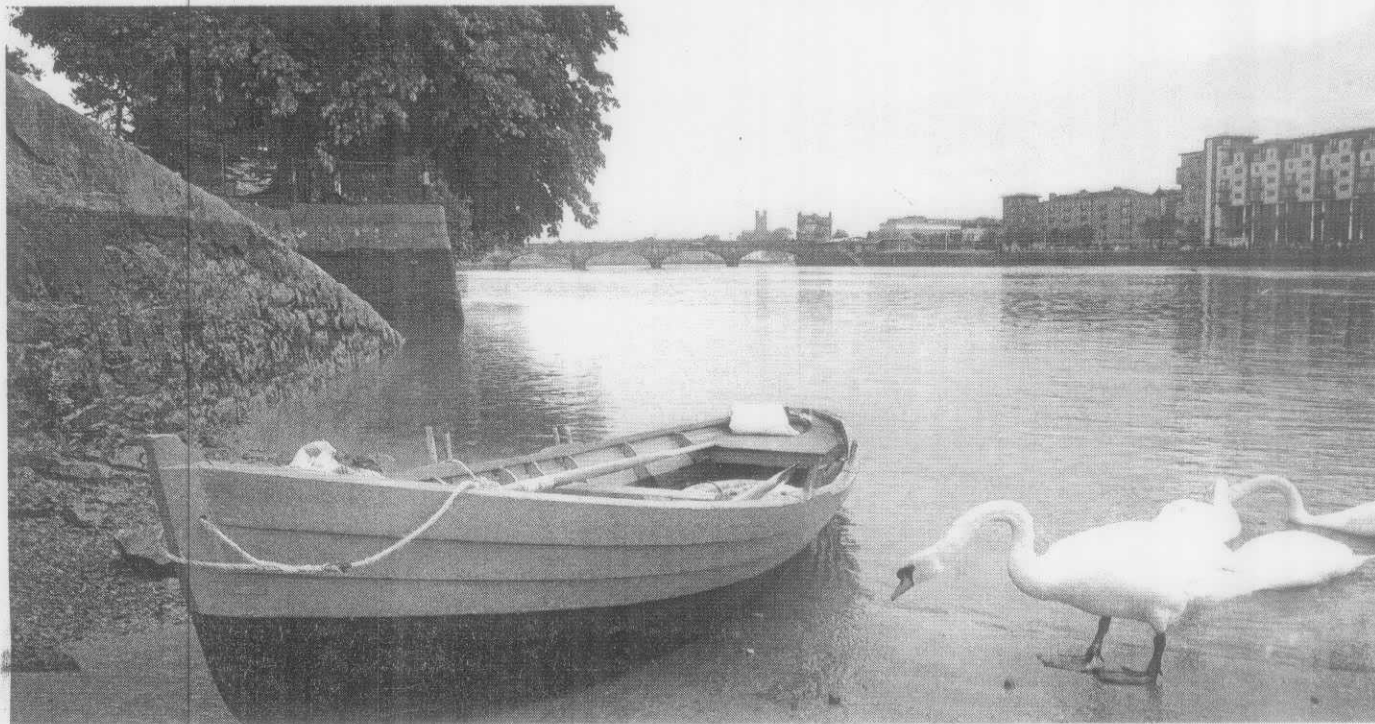
John Hogan

A BOOK being launched next week featuring the work of 37 contributors, three of whom are from Limerick, will guide its readers through the proud history of boat-making in Ireland.

Traditional Boats of Ireland: History, Folklore and Construction will be launched by the Founding President of UL, Dr Edward Walsh on Friday, October 31, at The Marriott Hotel.

The book's release will mark the culmination of over 14 years' work by a group of sailors, classic boat enthusiasts and local historians who wished to chronicle the development of many unique boat types in Ireland before their origins were forgotten. The research involved in producing the book proved to be one of the biggest studies of this topic ever undertaken in Europe.

Gary McMahon one of the Limerick contributors and managing director of Copper Reed Studios which designed the tome. He says that there is a proud tradition of boat-making in the Mid-West and no other vessel better exemplifies that tradition than the long, wooden Gandelow. "It's a boat that is unique to Limerick and the Shannon Estuary for a few reasons," explains Gary. "Limerick was a big timber port



The gandelow is synonymous with Limerick and the Shannon Estuary, due to the city importing the long planks required to build them

and it was brought in from Arctic, Russia and North America. The port in the city was one of the only ones in the country that imported planks long enough to build a Gandelow so they became synonymous with the area.

"Also, a boat with a pointy bottom on it wouldn't be able to navigate the shallow water on the Shannon Estuary but a boat with a flat bottom like a Gandelow wouldn't get stuck in the mud so it was used by fishermen in the region.

They're a lovely, elegant boat but they are also very practical." Unfortunately the two other book contributors from Limerick, Dick Scott and Jim McInerney, who both wrote chapters in the book, passed away in recent months.

Prior to the launch at 8pm on October 31, a talk will be given in the Marriott at 6.30pm by Criostoir MacCarthaigh, editor of the book, on The Genesis of the Traditional Boats of Ireland Book Project.

Annemarie content in her O'Connell Street haven

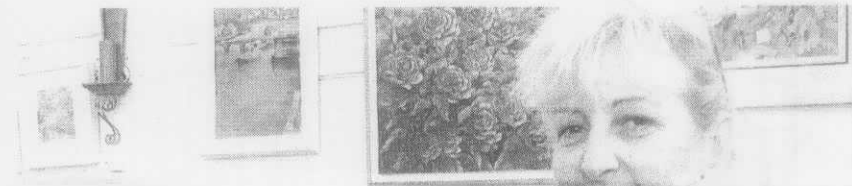
Patricia Feehily

AN artistic haven with a touch of Continental refinement right in the middle of O'Connell Street! That's what Limerick

also shares it with budding local artists, holding four intensive three day workshops during the year in the studio, where she encourages students to "develop new skills and to release the artist within"

works in watercolour, oil, acrylic and pastel and will cover every possible subject matter including landscapes, seascapes, flowers, still life and abstract works.

"I always get a big Lim-



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