



## THE MAIGUE POETS

### Artist, John Shinnors

*This painting was originally located in the “Limericks Bar” Jurys Hotel Limerick (on the site of this hotel)*

#### PAINTING KEY

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| <p><b>1. David Brophy</b>, Solicitor<br/>in the role of Fr. Nioclás Ó Dónaill, Franciscan Priest &amp; poet.</p> <p><b>2. Brian Connolly</b>, Musician.</p> <p><b>3. Margaret Lindsay</b>, Barmaid.</p> <p><b>4. Seán Micks</b>, Head Barman.</p> <p><b>5. Eddie Mc Dermot</b>, Marketing Consultant<br/>in the role of Seán Ó Tuama, “The Merry Pedlar”.</p> <p><b>6. Brendan Caffrey</b>, Pharmaceutical Distributor.</p> <p><b>7. Billy Peacocke</b>, Chartered Surveyor.</p> <p><b>8. Karl Shanahan</b>, Banker.</p> <p><b>9. Bill O’Grady</b>, Plant hire contractor / Farmer.</p> | <p><b>10. Tom Sheahan</b>, Architect.</p> <p><b>11. Brendan Gallagher</b>, General Manager Jurys Hotel Limerick.</p> <p><b>12. John Hayes</b>, Solicitor.</p> <p><b>13. Michael McCarthy</b>, Managing Director Jurys Hotel Group,<br/>in the role of Andrias MacCraith.</p> <p><b>14. Percy O’Kennedy</b>, Banker.</p> <p><b>15. Ulick Burke</b>, Civil Engineer.</p> <p><b>16. Col. Tony Galloway</b>, retired British Army Officer.</p> <p><b>17. Patrick Moore</b>, Businessman.</p> <p><b>18. John Cuddy</b>, Quantity Surveyor.</p> |
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*Note: Every effort has been made to check the accuracy of this information. However, we apologise in advance for any unintentional errors or omissions which may have occurred.*

#### A. Poem being read by Eddie Mac Dermott (Seán Ó Tuama)

**Is Duine Mé Dhíolas Leann Lá**  
 “Is duine mé dhíolas leann lá,  
 Is chuireas mo bhuidhean chun rangáis,  
 Muna mbéidh duine ar mo chuideacha dhíolfás,  
 Mise bheas thíos leis an antráth.”

#### I’m The Man Who Is Selling The Liquor

“I’m the man who is selling the liquor  
 That makes all my friends jolly quicker  
 But if one doesn’t pay,  
 By the end of the day,  
 It is I, who stumps up, for the trickster.”

#### Translation by Brian Ó Baoill

This may well have been the first “Limerick” ever composed. It has been suggested with some conviction, that this form of rhyming verse was originated by the Maigue Poets. John McDermott, ballad singer and nephew of Eddie McDermott believes that the Maigue Poets were perhaps the original “rappers”!!

## STORY OF THE PAINTING

### 1. THE PAINTING

The concept for this work of art, painted by John Shinnors, one of Limerick’s most celebrated living artists, was first proposed by Eddie McDermott, Marketing Consultant to the then Jurys Hotel Group, in the early 1980’s. Jurys were the owners of a hotel which previously stood on this site.

### 2. THE ARTIST, JOHN SHINNORS



John Shinnors was born in Limerick in 1950 and studied in the Limerick School of Art and Design. He has regular solo exhibitions and has exhibited in many group shows since the 1980’s. His work is represented in many public and private collections and has received a number of awards.

He was the subject of the R.T.E. documentary “Split Image - John Shinnors”. He is a member of Aosdána, a fellow of Limerick Institute of Technology, and is actively involved in the promotion of the arts through the Shinnors Scholarship and the Shinnors Drawing Awards. He lives and works in Limerick.

### 3. THE MAIGUE POETS, FILÍ NA MÁIGHE

Eddie’s imaginative idea, which is realised in this painting, commemorates, “Filí na Máighe”, the Maigue School of Gaelic poets, which survived up to the 1770’s, in Croom, Co. Limerick, on the banks of the River Maigue - 21km from the Strand Hotel.

This same group also met regularly in a tavern located in Mungret Street, Limerick City, about 15 minutes walk from here.

As no portraits survive of the poets, their images are suggested by the artist who uses the faces of local Limerick people of the 1980’s, all of whom were regular patrons of the “Limericks Bar”, Jurys Hotel.

### 4. BIOGRAPHICAL - THE POETS, NA FILÍ

**4.1 Seán Ó Tuama (1706-1775)** ‘An Grinn’ ‘The Witty’. He was a learned poet, school master and tavern owner. The taverns at Croom and Mungret Street, Limerick patronised by The Maigue Poets were places of hospitality, humour, poetry and of course alcohol.

**4.2 Aindrias MacCraith (1710-1793):** An Mangaire Sugach - The Merry Pedlar. Author of the memorable “Slán Le Máigh”, ‘Fairwell to the Maigue’, composed on the occasion of his banishment from his native place by both the local Catholic Priest and the Church of Ireland Minister.

**4.3 Fr. Nioclás Ó Dónaill**, because of being a priest, was an unlikely, but prominent Maigue poet. He spent much of his earlier life in Louvain and in later times was Guardian of the Franciscan Friary in Adare. He was a renowned classical scholar and a Judge of the Bardic Courts, which entitled him to pass judgement on the works of fellow poets. One of his claims to fame was that each of the Maigue poets composed poems, mostly sardonic in tone, regarding the death of Ó Dónaill’s horse Preabaire ‘The Jumper’.

#### Credits:

Bridie Burke  
 Brendan Gallagher  
 Maud Gallagher  
 Una Heaton  
 Liam Irwin  
 Sean Lally  
 John McDermott  
 (Nephew of Eddie McDermott)  
 Brian O’Baoill

Jim O’Brien  
 Liam O’Brien  
 Billy Peacocke  
 John Shinnors  
 Dominic Taylor

**Restoration  
 commissioned by:**  
 John Lally, Lalco Hotels  
 & Hospitality

**Research &  
 Photography:**  
 Cian O’Carroll

**Design:**  
 Donal O’Keeffe