

# REMEMBER LIMERICK



Was There A Pogrom In Limerick?  
The Origins Of The *Limerick*  
*Angela's Ashes* Analysed  
The Treaty Stone Of Limerick

*Críostóir Ó Floinn*

Limerick is historically the most besieged city in Ireland. In 1649 it endured a siege by Ireton, son-in-law of Cromwell, and during the Williamite wars it was attacked by King William in 1690, who failed to take the city, and in the following year, 1691, by his Dutch General Ginkel. When the city capitulated the infamous Treaty of Limerick was signed, of which it was said that "it was broken e'er the ink wherewith 'twas written was dry." It was this treachery that caused the soldiers who went to France with Sarsfield to adopt as their battle-cry "*Cuimhnigh ar Luimneach agus feall na Sasanach!*" ("*Remember Limerick and the treachery of the English!*"). Limerick is still known as the City of the Broken Treaty, and the historic stone block on which the treaty is said to have been signed stands on a monument by the River Shannon.

In more recent times, Limerick has also become the most maligned city in Ireland because of two disparate events. It is alleged that in 1904 a priest preached an anti-Semitic sermon which resulted in the Jews of Limerick being attacked and driven from the city. In 1996, a best-selling book entitled *Angela's Ashes* portrayed Limerick as a city where the perpetually dismal weather was matched by the boorish and bigoted clergy, officials and citizens. One of the essays in this book examines the evidence for the so-called pogrom in 1904, while another challenges the veracity of the content and the integrity of the author of *Angela's Ashes*.

Limerick has also given its name to a distinctive and popular form of rhyme in English. The reason for this is explored in the third essay, together with evidence pointing to the form having its origins in the Irish language. The fourth essay discusses the historicity of the legend concerning the Treaty Stone.

#### *About the Author*

Críostóir Ó Floinn (O'Flynn) was born in Limerick City. He has written plays for stage, radio and television, fiction, poetry and biography, in Irish and English. He has also worked in teaching, broadcasting and journalism. His most recent publications are *Old Church Street* (a sequel to his memoir *There is an Isle*) and *Meeting Mrs Zebedee: A Personal Guide to Faith*. A documentary on his career, *Leanann Trioblóid Leabhar*, was shown on TG4.



€10 / £7.95

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ORIGINAL WRITING

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Copy of  
'Remember Limerick'  
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\*I return a gift copy of  
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LIMERICK

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