

NOTE

Two More Limerick Goldsmiths

In the 1991 volume of this journal the late Larry Walsh published a note¹ identifying two previously unrecorded Limerick silversmiths, John and Philip Lyles, and their names figure in the comprehensive list of silversmiths compiled by John McCormack & Conor O'Brien in the catalogue for a major exhibition of silver at the Hunt Museum in 2007,² where further information is provided. It is suggested that Lyles and other variants of the name are anglicised versions of the Gaelic name *Laighléis* and that they were members of a surviving hereditary Gaelic family of goldsmiths in the early seventeenth century. It is now possible to add a further two names to that list. A grant of English liberty dated 1559 from Queen Elizabeth³ lists, among others, Gilladuffe O'Cowltayn and Donald son of Edmund Mecgyllsaghta, as goldsmiths. If Donald followed his father's trade then we have a third name.

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¹ Larry Walsh, 'Two New Limerick Silversmiths', *NMAJ*, vol. xxxiii (1991) p. 101.

² John R. Bowen & Conor O'Brien (eds), *A Celebration of Limerick's Silver* (Limerick, 2007) p. 201.

³ K.W. Nicholls, *The Irish fiants of the Tudor sovereigns during the reigns of Henry VIII, Edward VI, Philip & Mary, and Elizabeth I* (Dublin, 1994) Fiants, No. 177.