

Letters

On Nyberg report on Ireland's banking collapse – April 18, 2011

Madam, – The report on the causes of Ireland's banking crisis criticises the “herd mentality” and “the unhindered expansion of [Ireland's] property bubble financed by banks using wholesale market funding” (Front page, April 20th).

The seeds of such arrogant and avaricious self-destruction were eloquently foreseen centuries ago by Dáibhí Ó Bruadair, last of the bard poets (d. 1698), made redundant by destructive forces of investors and invaders who took over his land and culture in the 17th century: “I saw profoundly illustrated the obstinacy of the Irish mind and its connection with the past. The once proud men of this land have swapped giving for gaining, culture for crop.”

The payment to two senior Bank of Ireland executives of bonuses of nearly €1 million (Home News, April 18th) might provoke the unemployed and defaulted homeowners and taxpayers to cry out against those who “have swapped giving for gaining” with the lament of Ó Bruadair:

“... And no one cared even as much as half the half of a hang
For the song or the singer, so here is the end of the tale?”

... I had hoped to live decent, when Ireland was quit of her care,
As a bailiff or steward perhaps in a house of degree,
But the end of the tale is, old brogues and old britches to wear,
So I'll sing no more songs for the men that care nothing for me.”

(D'aithle na bhfileadh n-uasal, Dáibhí Ó Bruadair. Michael Hartnett, trans. 1986)

Yours, etc,

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