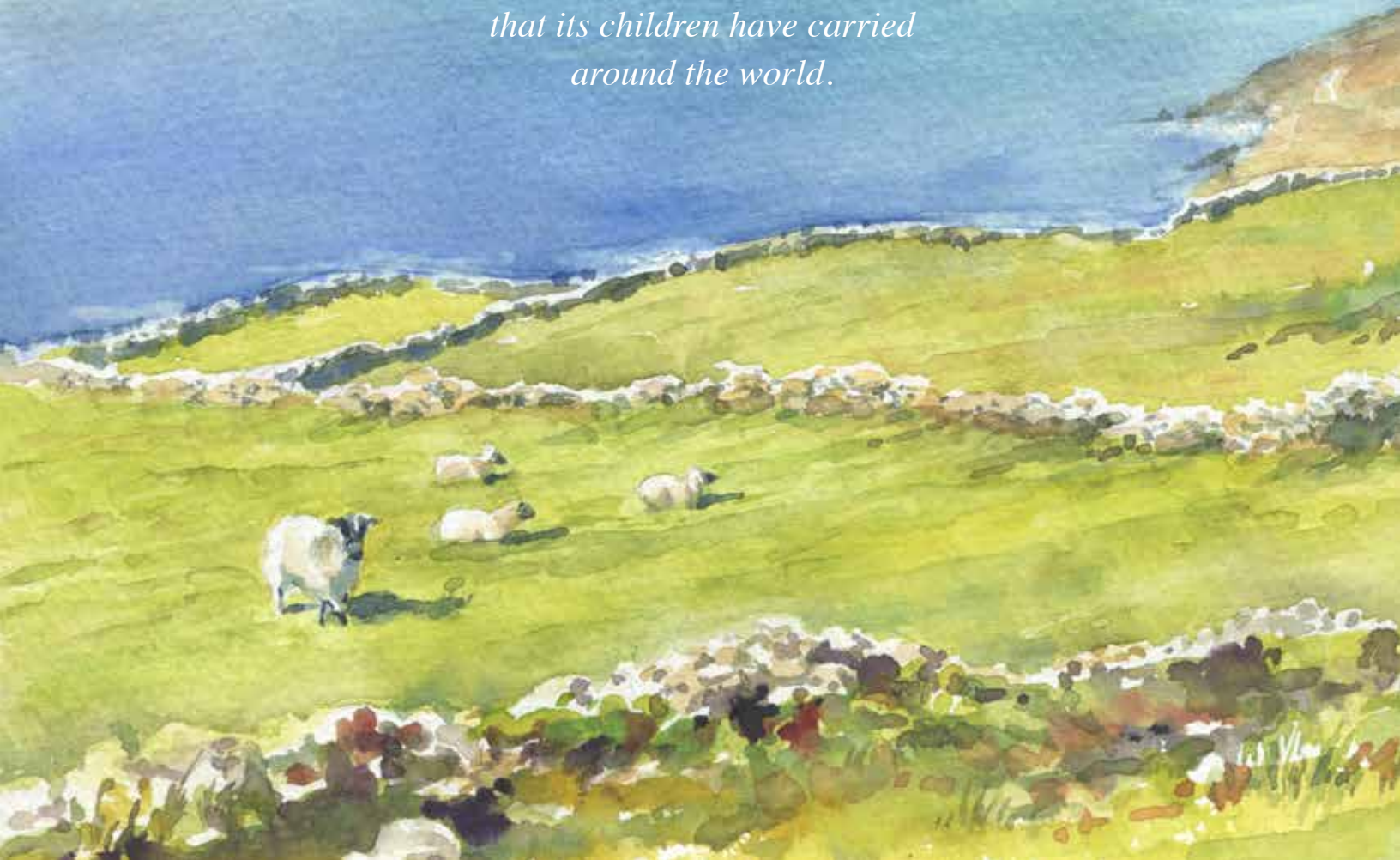


# IRELAND

*tir lán de carraigeacha agus ashling\**

*This green island is  
a land of rocks and visions,\*  
of sheep and mother's milk,  
and St. Patrick and Bobby Sands.*

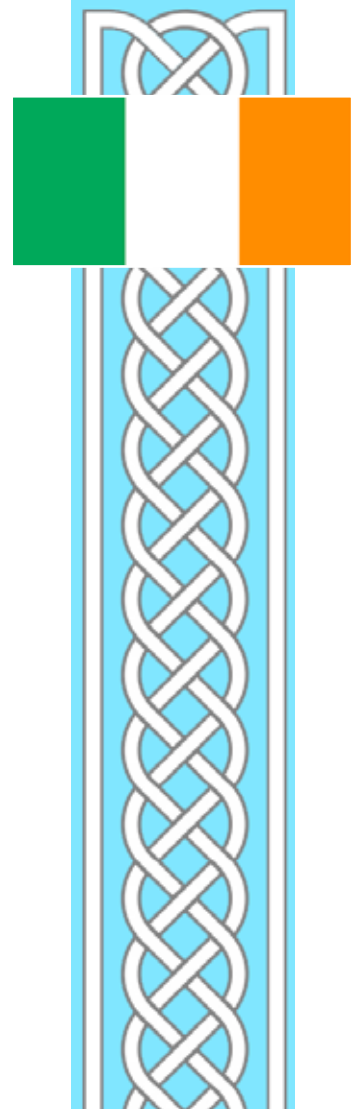
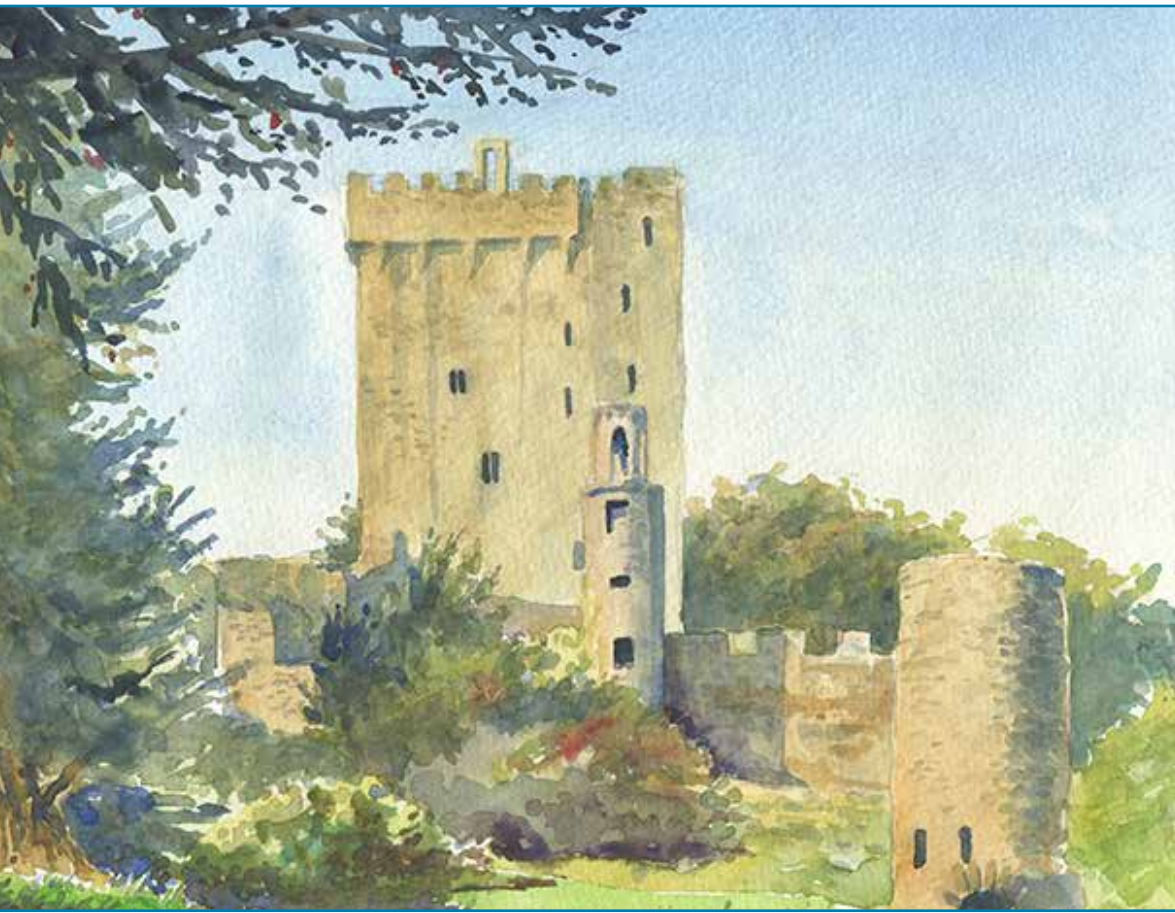
*But it is first  
a land of poets and the immense beauty  
that its children have carried  
around the world.*



Sheep grazing by the sea on the Dingle Peninsula

WATERCOLOR PAINTINGS DONE ON LOCATION BY MICHAEL KILLELEA

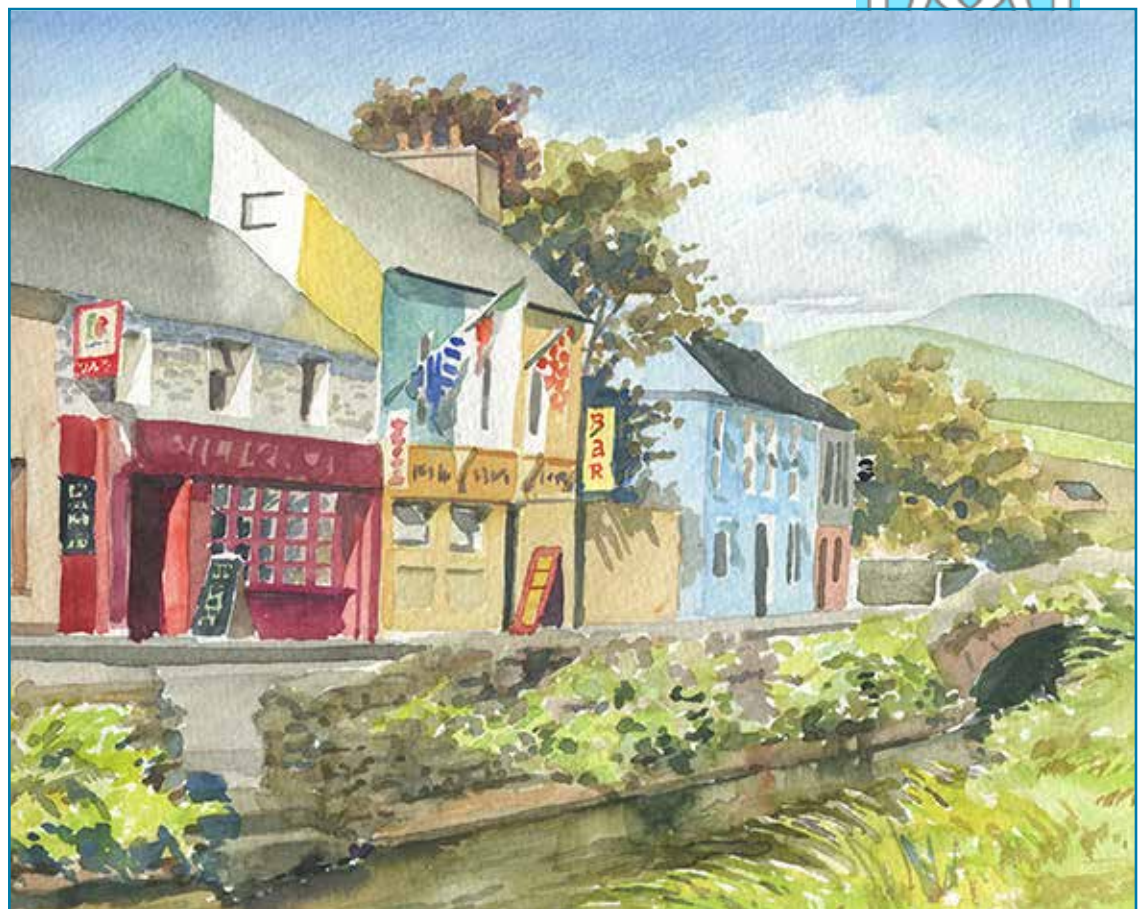
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### *Blarney Castle*

(above) was built near Cork in 1446 on an earlier foundation. Visitors today are drawn to the site by the opportunity to climb 100 steps, hang upside down, and kiss the Stone of Eloquence, also known as the Blarney Stone. It is said to give the gift of eloquence to anyone willing to kiss a damp piece of wall already smooched by thousands of others.

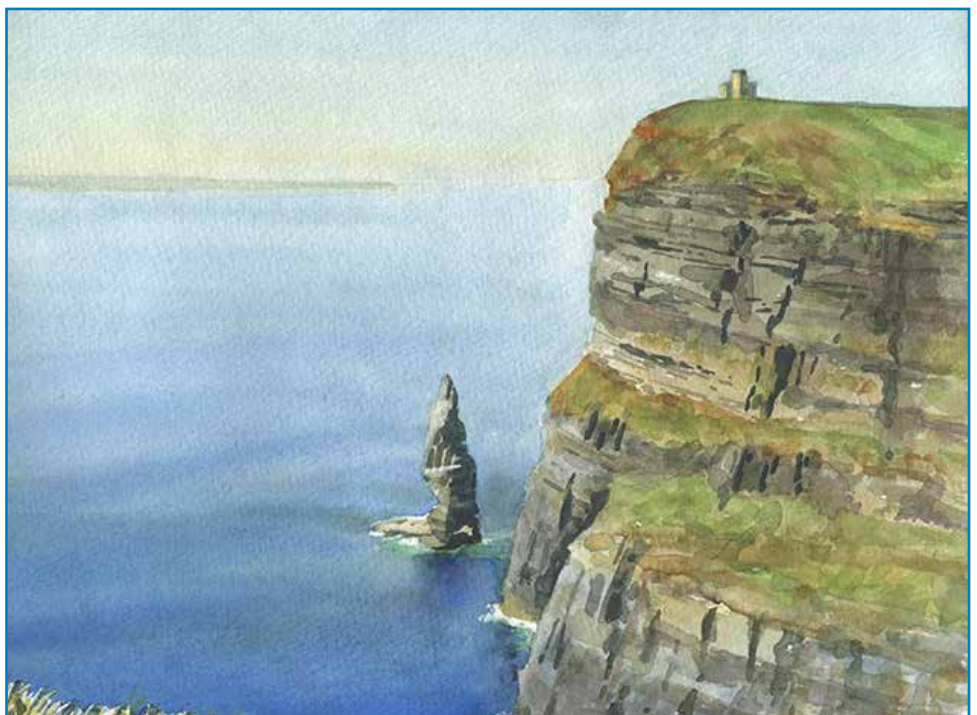
Spa Street in *Dingle* is one bright street among many in this colorful little town near the far western edge of Ireland. Its fishing fleet, narrow streets and multiple pubs offer an engaging slice of contemporary Irish life.

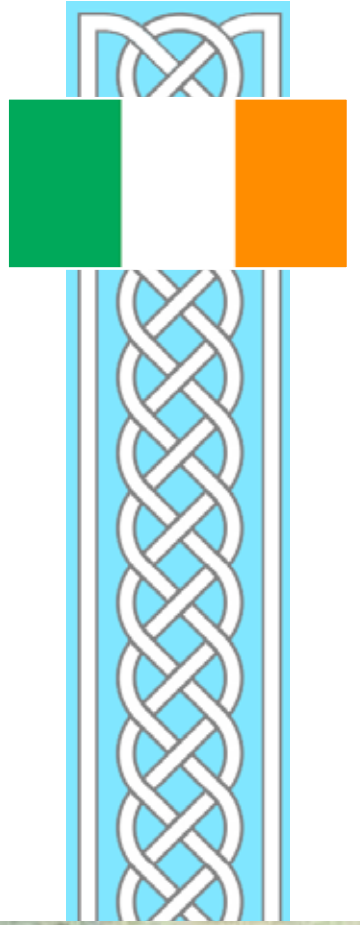




Art and history face off across *O'Connell Street* (above) in Dublin. On the left, the 398 ft. steel sculpture "Spire of Dublin" was erected in 2003 on the former site of Lord Nelson's Pillar, destroyed by the IRA in 1966. The General Post Office, center of Ireland's 1916 Easter Rising, now labors peacefully opposite it.

The *Cliffs of Moher* rise 700 craggy feet above the restless waters of the Atlantic, dwarfing O'Brien's Castle and the million people who annually make it one of the country's most visited tourist destinations.



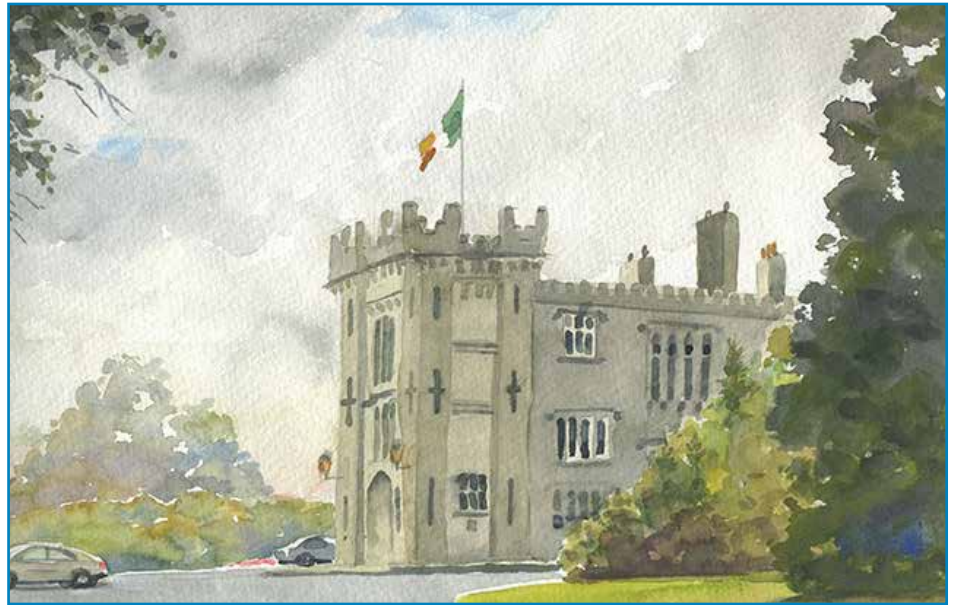


*Kylemore Abbey* (above) survives in splendid isolation among Connemara's barren glens, sheltered from the occasionally howling winds of the nearby North Atlantic.  
(below) Ebb tide leaves all boats high and dry at *Claddagh Quay* as the River Corrib saunters through Galway City, and out into Galway Bay.



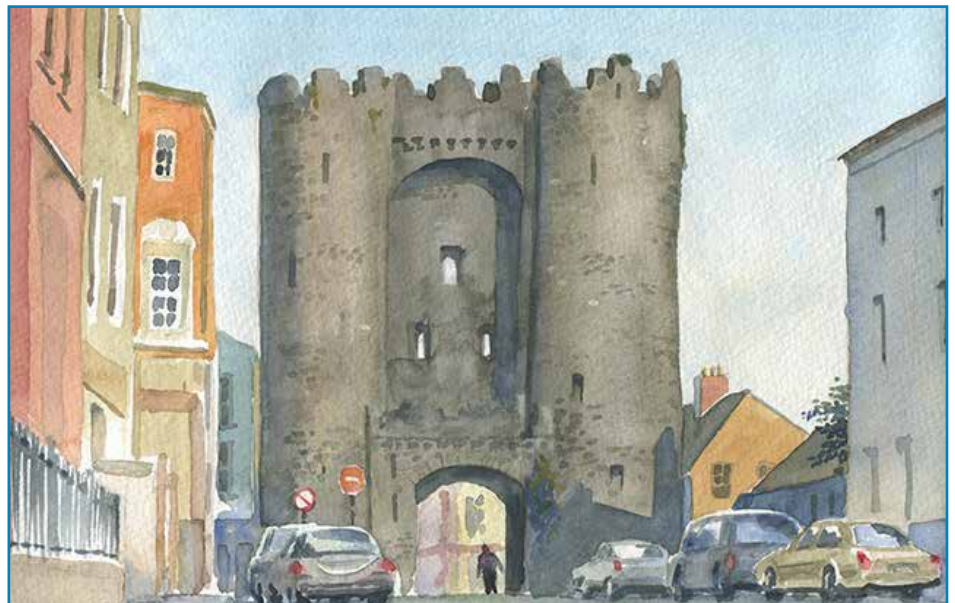
*Cabra Castle* (right) in County Cavan, was built in the early 1800s by a family whose aspirations outdistanced their pocketbook.

After passing through many hands, it is now owned by a local Irish family and run as a high end four star hotel. Two Irish wolfhounds calmly accept any guest willing to greet them.



The Belfast headquarters of *White Star Line* (left) in the Harland & Wolff shipyard is where plans were drawn up to build the RMS Titanic. Many of the ships built here by White Star catered to Irish emigrants leaving the land of their birth for America. Soaring above this historic building is a contemporary museum which brings the Titanic story to life.

*St. Laurence Gate* (right) in Drogheda was built in the 14th century as part of the town's stout medieval defenses. But a residue of Norman influence lingers over many parts of Drogheda built during the mid 1100s. The gate's unusual height allowed lookouts to see clearly down the Boyne River toward the East Coast and any approaching enemy.





If there's anything that conjures up the spirit of ancient warriors, it is *Reginald's Tower* in Waterford (above), an aged relic in Ireland's oldest town. The tower was constructed in 914 AD by Vikings who settled what became Ireland's fifth most populous city.

## *De reir a cheile a thogtar na caisleain*

(It takes time to build castles)



*A bit of national history comes to life wrapped in the Irish wolfhound watching over the entrance to Cabra Castle. Mike & Kathy Killelea traveled the length and breadth of this storied country enjoying its sights, tastes and warm hearted citizens. He painted everywhere he could.*

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