

## Raymond Hill

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**From:** Maeve O'Rourke [maeveorourke@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** 04 April 2012 09:52  
**To:** Raymond Hill  
**Subject:** Fwd: Email 4: Charitable Donations & Bequests  
**Attachments:** Galway\_Magdalen.pdf; High Park.pdf; St. Mary\_Pembroke.pdf

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** James Smith <james.smith.2@bc.edu>  
**Date:** 2 April 2012 17:24  
**Subject:** Email 4: Charitable Donations & Bequests  
**To:** "Nuala.NiMhuirheartaigh@dfa.ie" <Nuala.NiMhuirheartaigh@dfa.ie>  
**Cc:** Claire McGettrick <clairemcgettrick@gmail.com>, "katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie O'Donnell" <katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie>, Maeve O'Rourke <maeveorourke@gmail.com>, James Smith <james.smith.2@bc.edu>

Dear Nuala,

Moving on from the Factories Inspectorate to the role of the Charitable Commissioners --I am really only beginning my work in this area but wanted to forward you what I have thus far.

In terms of context, I took testimony a few weeks back from the man who purchased the Limerick Laundry from the Good Shepherd Sisters in 1983 --he had Managed the laundry for the nuns as a commercial entity for the pervious six years (we are transcribing his testimony and will forward it in the next few weeks--lots of important details about the conditions of the machinery, health & safety issues, etc). But, he also told me that in accordance with the governing legislation that the Charitable Commissioners managed the sale of the laundry for the nuns to ensure fair market value. That got me thinking on the wider role of the Charitable Commissioners ...

Last week while at the National Archives, I recalled a number of files from Char D&B, located at the Four Courts but brought to the National Archives on request. There was a file for Galway Magdalen Laundry, one for High Park Covent, Drumcondra (obviously numerous institutions on that one campus), and one entitled "St. Mary's, Pembroke Row" with an address in Donnybrook, Dublin 4 that I suspect is the Sisters of Charity Donnybrook Laundry (at least one Donnybrook survivor referred to this institution as the "Pembroke laundry"). I am still searching this one Accession of Char D&B files to determine whether there are similar files for any of the four Good Shepherd Laundries?

In both the Galway and the High Park cases, the files contain paperwork related to purchase or land (by the Mayor of Galway) or a swap of lands (from High Park to Dublin City Council for widening of Collins Avenue). The St. Mary's file is concerned with the valuation of the convent's stock portfolio. I attach .pdf copies of the three files in question (none are very large). I am working with one of the archivists at the NA because there is a second Accession of Files that is incomplete and we are attempting to find out whether I might be able to access the complete run. Ideally, I would like to ascertain what role the Charitable Commissioners played in the sale of some Magdalene Institutions and/or part of their assets at various points in time--e.g., the Waterford Institute of Technology purchased the Waterford Laundry from the Good Shepherds, likewise the Limerick IT, etc.

While I am still figuring out what precisely all of this means, I would suggest an initial observation might be that the State's Charitable Commissioners fulfilled their statutory obligation to protect the religious congregations' financial assets in each of these instances and I am not sure the same can be said for the

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State's obligation to protect the women living and working in these institutions in accordance with other statutory obligations (e.g., pensions, health and safety, etc.).

Best

Jim

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