

Raymond Hill

From: Maeve O'Rourke [maeveorourke@gmail.com]
Sent: 04 April 2012 09:53
To: Raymond Hill
Subject: Fwd: Email 5: Charitable D&B-2/Bequests
Attachments: High_Park_Bequests.xls

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

From: James Smith <james.smith.2@bc.edu>
Date: 2 April 2012 17:25
Subject: Email 5: Charitable D&B-2/Bequests
To: "Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh@dfa.ie" <Nuala.NiMhuircheartaigh@dfa.ie>
Cc: Claire McGettrick <clairemcgettrick@gmail.com>, Maeve O'Rourke <maeveorourke@gmail.com>, "katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie O'Donnell" <katherine.odonnell@ucd.ie>, James Smith <james.smith.2@bc.edu>

Dear Nuala,

Continuing with my research on the role of Charitable Commissioners ...

While at the National Archives, I also recalled a sample copy of the Charitable D&B "Rough Minutes Book" from 8 May-24 July 1951. The book basically contains typed (cut and paste) notations from the Commissioners' meetings at that time. The vast majority of items refer to considerations of bequests to religious congregations--some bequests involve money, some property, and still others stocks and shares. The Rough Minute Book in question did not contain any explicit reference to a Magdalene Laundry/Asylum/Convent, but I have recalled a few other examples that I will look at this week. But, the "Rough Minutes Book" makes evident that the State had in place a structure by which all such bequests to the Religious were noted and approved by the Charitable Commissioners.

In that context, I refer you to JFM's "Narrative of State Interaction" (submitted at our meeting with Minister Shatter on 4 July 2011 and with Senator McAleese on 9 September 2011). On page 49-50 I refer to the fact that I was gifted an archive of solicitors' papers documenting bequests to the High Park Magdalene Convent

Drumcondra dating from 1910 to 1970. I am now attaching an Excel Spreadsheet with details for over ninety such bequests, complete with summary notations from correspondence attached to the bequests. I would ask, however, that this data remains private and not be shared with anyone outside the I-D Committee.

Obviously, JFM has already submitted additional "Legal Notices of Bequests" from various national and local newspapers (Appendix 13_e_iii).

Collectively (i.e., the High Park and Appendix 13_e_iii), these bequests underscore the ongoing involvement by the Charitable Commissioners (a State agency) in monitoring and protecting the financial assets of the Magdalene institutions.

Best

Jim

2544