

# The Capuchin Annual Office

EDITOR :  
Father Senan, O.F.M. Cap.

CHURCH STREET  
DUBLIN (P.O. Box 105)  
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The Very Reverend Father Colman, O.F.M.Cap., D.D.,  
Minister Provincial,  
Saint Mary of the Angels,  
Dublin.

Very Reverend dear Father Provincial,

1) Sisters of Mercy: the Sisters of Mercy are celebrating shortly the centenary of the foundation of their convent at Ennis and they propose to issue a volume to mark the occasion. For months they have been pressing me to contribute an article to the book. At long, long last I sent them, a few days' ago, five essays that have already appeared, including two beautiful ones by Father Christopher that were published in the Record some years ago. Tomorrow I shall send them a superficial one written by myself (under a pen name) on Archbishop Rinuccini — that is, provided you have no objection. I venture to enclose herewith a copy for your perusal; when you have read it please put it into the waste-paper basket. I don't imagine the Sisters will include it in the centenary book as it is now very late and, anyway, I have already sent them five by other writers.

2) Richard King: as you already know Dick King



resigned in September, and though I wouldn't have dismissed him, yet because of res angustiae domi, I was glad he cleared. This is what happened: a lady from Philadelphia wrote him in August, care of this Office, ordering a set of the Irish Saints cards and, instead of sending in her letter to me and asking that the order be filled, he wrote to the good lady and stated that he had given me permission to publish the cards for Catholic Action purposes. I took a serious view of this statement as it implied that the copyright was not the property of the Office (I have the letter he sent to America but he does not know I have it.) Now, as I understand copyright law (and I have a fairly long experience in this matter) an employer who commissions an artist to do a painting or drawing, and if the artist works in the employer's time and is paid by the employer, then the copyright in the said painting or drawing is vested for ever in the employer or his firm. So, late August or early September I wrote a polite note to King asking if it was **true** that he had made the above statement about giving me permission. He answered my letter but evaded the issue and asked to see me. I, in a quite friendly note or telephone message, refused to see him as it was a serious matter from my point of view and I wanted to have his reply in writing as the spoken word can be so easily forgotten or twisted. He wrote, again evaded the question and tendered his resignation. Which I accepted immediately (much to his surprise, I'm sure.) Shortly afterwards (he had evidently begun to feel the draft) he threatened legal



proceedings against my nephew, Michael Moynihan. Christmas cards were the cause of the trouble. These cards were and are the copyright of the Capuchin Annual Office. Towards the end of this past year, King, though he knew that I was seriously ill, sent me a communication enclosing copies of letters that had passed between his solicitor and my nephew's solicitor. I acknowledged receipt of his letter straightaway and expressed surprise that he had sent these solicitors' letters to me as I was not a party to the dispute, and at the same time I said I hoped the whole trouble would be amicably settled and that I would gladly do anything I properly could to bring about a settlement but that I couldn't see my way to intervene in Michael Moynihan's business affairs. After two weeks he wrote me what I consider a mean, blackmailing letter saying that the whole quarrel was between himself and me and that he would bring it to the notice of my superiors. There the case rests. I am preparing a complete set of the correspondence for two trustworthy and able solicitors: Messrs. Con Lehane and Darrach Connolly and shall ask them to seek advice of a Senior Counsel. As soon as the file of letters is ready I shall give you a copy and shall of course abide by your decision no matter on what lines the lawyers' advice may run.

3) The Capuchin Annual: owing to my illness I have been unable to do anything about the new issue of the Annual for the last six or seven weeks. I have resumed work on it now. It will have 100 pages less than last year's and that should effect a



saving of over £1000. A long section devoted to Our Lady will be the principal feature and I am asking the Nuncio, ten Capuchins, four Friars Minor, four laymen and two women to contribute to this section.

4) Raffle Tickets for Pilgrimage to Lourdes: the books (ten shillings each) are going well, I am glad to say, and one loyal and trusted friend has promised that he will sell two thousand books, without any discount or remuneration.

5) The Capuchin Annual Collection: I have decided to get rid of the whole collection of paintings, drawings, statues etc. — many of them given to me as gifts over the years. I have entrusted the selling of the pictures etc. (they should bring in about £10,000) to Mr. Leo Smith, a gentleman of integrity and discretion, and a good friend of mine for the past sixteen or seventeen years. He offered to the Government, a few weeks ago, three of the paintings for £2,700. At a cabinet meeting it was decided to acquire these pictures for the nation, provided the acquisition had the blessing of <sup>and the</sup> ~~another~~ financial backing (to the extent of £700) of the Board of the National Gallery. Now, as I have been a member of the Board for many years I felt that it would not be proper on my part to canvass my fellow-members or attend the meeting. An emergency meeting of the Board was held ten or twelve days ago. The result: three voted for the acquisition and four against. In passing, I should like to



remark that when, with the help of Lady Yarrow I acquired these paintings for reproduction in the 1942 issue of The Capuchin Annual the price demanded and paid for the three was £350 (total sum). Which incidentally shows as nothing else could show that I have done something big for the artist concerned, Mr. Jack B. Yeats. And I am kind of proud of being able to help to such an extent a great Irish artist (even though he is a Protestant) whose work was unappreciated.

The Government hasn't made any move since. Which, to my mind, is a good sign. They are, I imagine, waiting for the return, on February 2, of Mr. MacGreevy from America. Mr. MacGreevy is a very close and cherished friend of mine; in addition he is the official art-adviser to the Government; and he knows as well as I do, that only for me he wouldn't be director of the National Gallery today. As director, he may pay £1000 for a painting or paintings, but if he asks me for my opinion on his return, as he most surely will, I won't advise him to use this discretionary power with regard to these three paintings as the Board has officially turned them down. But of course they can be offered for re-consideration seeing that the Government is so interested in acquiring them, and after all the Government gives to the Gallery a grant-in-aid of £3,000 or £5,000 every year!

6) Canon Lane: I enclose a copy of a letter received from Canon Lane, P.P., V.F., Cahirciveen. I have known Jack Lane for twenty-five years and have great respect and affection



for him. A year-and-a-half or <sup>ago</sup> so I had the honour of being unanimously elected president of the newly-founded Kerry-men's Association. The members (about 150) are earnest-minded and eager to work for the Church and, if you have no objection, I shall, though I am myself greatly in need of money at the moment, at the next meeting ask them to go to Canon Lane's financial rescue. Mr. Denis Guiney, for instance, who is one of the honorary vice-presidents, could easily afford to give Canon Lane £1000; on the other hand, Father Troy, parish priest of Ballyfermot, will not, I am convinced, be very enthusiastic. Which is putting it mildly.

For the last issue of the Annual Dick King painted a set of Stations which is similar to the set he painted for Monsignor Hugh Finnegan, parish priest of Carrickmacross and vicar-general of the diocese of Clogher. He received from Monsignor Finnegan 750 guineas for the set. Dick says this set is much better but I would gladly offer our set to Canon Lane and accept any reasonable sum for it. But perhaps the Canon may not like King's work.

7) Finally to come to the close of a very long letter, but which I feel contains some interesting items, my nephew paid me forty pounds for a wire-recorder which was in the Office for many years. He has also bought for 100 guineas a set of Malton prints. Mr. Smith has sent paintings and prints of ours (the Office is of course not mentioned) to the Allen and Townsend auction which will be held in the Mansion House beginning on Wednesday of next week.



I shall be grateful if you will not go to the trouble of acknowledging this letter unless you object to the Canon Lane appeal or to the Rinuccini article. (Put in Cap. Annual File)  
B 30

All respectful good wishes.

Devotedly in Saint Francis,

Arthur S. ...

As another economy measure I have decided to sell the car attached to the Office. I shall miss it but I reckon it costs the Office (counting in Paddy Devine's salary) twelve pounds a week — an expense which cannot be justified at the present juncture. As soon as I secure a position for Paddy with some firm down town (I shall try to do so this coming week) the car will be sold immediately.

AS