

# Papers of Edward Hill

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ACC/2011/10



Papers of Edward Hill (1741-1830) including letters, invitation cards, notebooks and documents relating to the School of Physic Act (1800), also three sketches of Hill.

Catalogued by Harriet Wheelock  
April 2013

**EH**  
**Papers of Edward Hill**

**Collection**  
**1732-1854**

*Extent:*

17 files and items

*Creator:*

Hill, Edward, 1741-1830

*Description:*

A small collection of paper which belonged to Edward Hill, including family papers, letters and invitation cards, papers relating to his education and the School of Physic Act (1800), as well as some notebooks.

*Arrangement:*

Files are arranged chronologically

*Administrative History:*

Edward Hill was born in 1741 in county Tipperary. He entered Trinity College Dublin in 1761, graduating MB (1771) and MD (1773). An active member of the King and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland, he served as President, Censor, Treasurer, Registrar and Librarian. He was professor of Botany at Trinity College Dublin (1785-1800) and regis professor of physic (1781-1830).

Hill was involved in a major controversy which spilt the College of Physicians, he wanted money from the Dun's estate to fund a herb garden, whereas others, led by Robert Percerval, wanted the money to go to a clinical teaching hospital, when the 1800 School of Physic Act provided funds for the hospital, but not the garden, Hill deeply resented the decision and took a case against TCD to recover money he had expended on the proposed garden. In 1811 he surveyed the Dun's estate lands in county Waterford and presented a detailed report to the College of Physicians (RCPI/4/3/6/2).

Hill was an accomplished scholar with a knowledge of Greek, Latin, French and Italian, had a library of over 1,800 books, and was also involved in the printing house at Trinity College Dublin. Hill was married, with a number of children including a son William and daughter Eliza. He died at his home on York Street Dublin on 31 October 1830.

*Acquisition:*

Items were purchased in a number of auction sales.

*Access Conditions:*

Access subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Access Guidelines

*Reproductions:*

Copying of archive material is subject to the conditions laid out in the Heritage Centre Copying Guidelines

*References:*

Helen Andrews, 'Edward Hill' in *Dictionary of Irish Biography* (Cambridge; Cambridge University Press, 2010)

*Language:*

English

Latin

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|-------------|--|------------------|
| <b>EH/1</b> | <b>Publius Virgilius Maro</b>  | <b>1732</b>      |
|             | <i>Extent:</i><br>347 pages  |                  |
|             | <i>Description:</i><br>1732 Edinburgh printed edition of Virgil, in calf binding, signature of Edward Hill on fly leaf dated 1767 and Elisae Hill 1796.  |                  |
|             | <i>Language:</i><br>Latin  |                  |
| <b>EH/2</b> | <b>Thomas Wilson</b>   | <b>1746-1760</b> |
|             | <i>Extent:</i><br>6 items  |                  |
|             | <i>Creator:</i><br>Trinity College Dublin, 1592-   |                  |
|             | <i>Description:</i><br>Examination certificates of Thomas Wilson (1746) and one of William Dobbin (1747) together with a letter from William Babington to Thomas Wilson, senior fellow of Trinity College Dublin, asking for help in petitioning the Provost of Trinity College. |                  |
|             | <i>Language:</i><br>Latin<br>English   |                  |
| <b>EH/3</b> | <b>Medical education</b>   | <b>1762-1789</b> |
|             | <i>Extent:</i><br>9 items  |                  |
|             | <i>Creator:</i><br>Medical Society of London, 1773-<br>Trinity College Dublin, 1592-   |                  |
|             | <i>Description:</i><br>Examination certificates awarded to Edward Hill by Trinity College Dublin (1762-5), attendance ticket for anatomy lectures by George Cleghorn (1771) and a  |                  |

membership certificate for the Medical Society of London (1789).

The seals from this last certificate have previously been removed, they have been stored separately.

*Language:*

Latin

**EH/4      Invitation cards      1775-1816**

*Extent:* 22 items

*Creator:*

Hill, Edward, 1741-1830

*Description:*

Collection of invitation cards addressed to Edward Hill including several from the 'Gentlemen Candidates' and the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College.

**EH/5      Family papers      1791-1854**

*Extent:* 6 items

*Creator:*

Hill, William

*Description:*

Papers relating to Edward Hill's family, including;

- a rough family tree, a letter from Edward Hill's nephew Thomas to his father (1791)
- a letter from Edward Hill's daughter Abigail Knox to her uncle John about the ill health of her uncle Thomas (undated)
- a letter to [Edward's son] William about the sale of some land (1839)
- the marriage license of Richard Curtis and Mary Anne Hill [possibly Edward Hill's granddaughter] (1842)
- a softbound notebook containing a record of important family dates compiled by William Hill (1854).

**EH/6**  
**Correspondence**

**Series**  
**1800-1843**

*Extent:*  
7 files

*Creator:*  
Hill, Edward, 1741-1830

*Description:*  
Draft letters from Edward Hill, mainly relating to his teaching positions in Trinity and the remunerations he received, and the need for reforms to the School of Physic in Ireland and the College of Physicians. Also, three letters addressed to Hill or his son.

**EH/6/1 Letters to Revd. Doctor Barrett**

**2 August - 23  
October 1800**

*Extent:*  
3 items

*Creator:*  
Hill, Edward, 1741-1830  
Barrett, John, 1753-1821

*Description:*  
Hill's [copy] correspondence with Revd. Doctor Barrett, as registrar of Trinity College Dublin, regarding Hill's appointments within Trinity College Dublin.

In the first letter, dated 2 August 1800, Hill resigns his Professorship of Botany as it cannot be held at the same time as his King's Professorship of Physic.

In a letter of 23 October 1800 Hill asks Barrett to confirm if Hill is King's Professor of Physic as '*some doubt (he is informed) having arisen on that point*'.

A reply from Dr Barrett of the same date informs Hill that the Board of Trinity College agreed to elect Dr Hill Professor of Physic to '*remove any such doubt*'.

**EH/6/2 Letter to Revd. Doctor Prior 14 February  
1812, 21 July  
1812, 8 June  
1819**

*Extent:*  
3 items

*Creator:*  
Hill, Edward, 1741-1830  
Prior, Revd. Doctor, fl.1812

*Description:*  
Three [copy] letters from Edward Hill to Revd. Doctor Prior.

The first, dated 14 February, gives Hills views on the School of Physic and medical education in Ireland, Hill counters the view that he is '*adverse to the success of the School of Physic*' but that its current state needs reform. Hill characterised the School of Physic as '*a crowd of ill-taught school boys, and illiterate apprentices of Surgeons and Apothecaries, who, after having dozed for a stated period of time at the Lectures of Professors, find themselves privileges, on their producing a number of certificates of their attendance, to apply for a Degree*'.

The second letter, dated 21 July, contains more of Hill's views on the School of Physic, especially the payment of Professors which he feels has been inadequate.

The third dated 8 June 1819 returns to the same topic.

**EH/6/3 Letter to Robert Peel 18 May 1814**

*Extent:*  
3 items

*Creator:*  
Hill, Edward, 1741-1830  
Peel, Sir Robert 1788-1850

*Description:*  
Two draft copies of a letter to Robert Peel. The letter encloses a report by the King and Queen's College of Physicians on a proposed bill for regulating Lunatic Asylums. Also noted are Hill's view of the problems of the College's position, established by Royal Charter but

without parliamentary sanction, making it *'in reality an impotent body'*. Hill expresses the view that the only solution to this is for the College in Ireland to be given the same powers and privileges as the College of Physicians in London.

**EH/6/4      Memorials regarding the endowment of the Regius Professor of Physic      1814, 1821**

*Extent:*

4 items

*Creator:*

Hill, Edward, 1741-1830

Whitworth, Charles, 1st Earl Whitworth, 1752-1825

Elrington, Thomas, 1760-1835

Downes, William, 1st Baron Downes, 1751-1826

Kyle, Samuel, [1771]-1848

*Description:*

Three draft memorials from Edward Hill to William Downes (Lord Chief Justice), Lord Whitworth (Lord Lieutenant) and Thomas Elrington (Provost of Trinity College Dublin), outlining his service to Trinity College and the School of Physic as both King's and Regius Professors. Petitioning that *'such stipend or endowments made be assigned to the Regius Professor of Physic in Trinity College Dublin, as may be suitable to an office so essential'*.

File also contains a draft letter to Samuel Kyle as Provost of Trinity College dated 17 February 1821, on the same subject, showing Hill's earlier requests had not been met.

**EH/6/5      Letters regarding Trinity College's Library      6 December**

*Extent:*

2 items

**1817,  
undated**

*Creator:*

Hill, Edward, 1741-1830

*Description:*

Draft letter dated 6 December 1817 regarding the state of the library in Trinity College Dublin, and an *'abstract, in a style of sneering insult'* from the Freeman's Journal attacking the *'the late visitation, on a regulation in the economy of the Col. Library'*.

File also contains an undated draft letter to the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity on *'the intrinsic sate of the College Library, the building and its furniture, the abused to which they are liable'*.

**EH/6/6 Letters to Dr Phipps**

**26 January  
1818, 22  
January 1820**

*Extent:* 2 items

*Creator:*

Hill, Edward, 1741-1830

Phipps, Dr

*Description:*

Draft letter to Dr Phipps of Trinity College dated 26 January 1818, regarding a Mr Billings, medical graduate of Trinity, who has been refused an ad eundem degree by Cambridge University. Hill wishes Trinity to interpose of Mr Billings' behalf, he also see the case as a worrying sign of a low regard for Trinity's medical graduates in England.

Second draft letter, dated 22 January 1820, gives Hill's reasons for his decision to retain the professorship of physic rather than that of botany some years previously when he was required to relinquish one of them.

**EH/6/7 Letters to Edward Hill**

**1823, 1843,  
undated**

*Extent:* 3 items

*Creators:*

Hill, Edward, 1741-1830

Barrett, John, 1753-1821

*Description:*

Letters addressed to Edward Hill and one addressed to his son. Undated letter presents the details of a Dr Hunter who wishes to apply for a diploma in medicine.

Letter dated 17 April 1823 from London related to the publication of a work by Hill.

Letter dated 14 August 1843 relating to '*your father's manuscript*'.

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| <b>EH/7</b> | <b>School of Physic Act</b>  | <b>1800</b>   |
|             | <i>Extent:</i><br>2 items  |   |
|             | <i>Creator:</i><br>Hill, Edward, 1741-1830   |   |
|             | <i>Description:</i><br>Manuscript report of a meeting held on 1 March 1800 by members of the King and Queen's College of Physicians of Ireland for the purpose of framing a bill to amend the several School of Physic Acts.<br><br>Written in the hand of Hill's daughter Eliza, it details the committee's view of the various sections of the bill. The report is signed by the four members of the committee Edward Hill, Edmund Cullen, John Boyton and Dr Gilholy.<br><br>With the report is a manuscript copy of 'Dr Hill's Bill', a manuscript copy of the proposed act. |   |
| <b>EH/8</b> | <b>Pandect</b>   | <b>Late<br/>eighteenth -<br/>early<br/>nineteenth<br/>century</b> |
|             | <i>Extent:</i><br>c.250 pages  |   |
|             | <i>Creator:</i><br>Hill, Edward, 1741-1830   |   |
|             | <i>Description:</i><br>Calf bound notebook containing a mixture of epigrams and poetry copied in Hill's hand   |   |
| <b>EH/9</b> | <b>Occasional notebook</b>   | <b>Late<br/>eighteenth -<br/>early<br/>nineteenth<br/>century</b> |
|             | <i>Extent:</i><br>c 40 pages   |   |
|             | <i>Creator:</i><br>Hill, Edward, 1741-1830   |   |
|             | <i>Description:</i>  |   |

Softbound notebook containing miscellaneous notes in the hand of Edward Hill including

- a number of prayers, one in Greek with musical notation;
- notes on fees received by Hill as Professor of Botany at Trinity College Dublin (1773-1777);
- and notes on his educational and family background.

**EH/10 Leonora**

*Extent:*  
12 pages

*Creator:*  
Hill, Edward, 1741-1830

*Description:*  
Softbound notebook containing manuscript copy of a poem Leonora in Edward Hill's hand, inside the volume is a manuscript list of names, mainly prominent Dublin citizens, and part of a printed poem.

**Late  
eighteenth -  
early  
nineteenth  
century**

**EH/11 Sketches**

*Extent:*  
3 items

*Description:*  
Three pencil sketches of Edward Hill. Two undated sketches may have been done at the same time as the portrait of him in the College, or are based on it, the third [in a different hand] is dated 18 November 1829.

**1829**