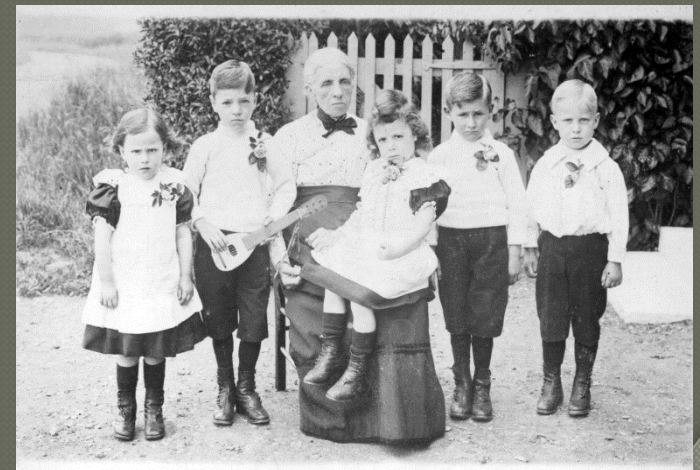


London's Forgotten Children: Thomas Coram and the Foundling Hospital

Gillian Pugh

Gresham College
March 2012



Thomas Coram

1668 – 1751

As painted by
William Hogarth
in 1740

- Born in Lyme Regis
- Went to sea at 11
- Built up a successful ship building business south of Boston
- Married Eunice, had no children
- Spent 17 years gathering support to set up the Foundling Hospital



Heading to the
subscription roll
for the Foundling
Hospital, designed
by William Hogarth



To all to whom these Presents shall come.

Whereas our sovereign Lord the King hath been graciously pleased to take into His Princely and tender Consideration the deplorable Case of great Numbers of Newborn Children daily exposed to Destruction, by the cruelty or poverty of their Parents, and having by His **Royal Charter** bearing date the 17th day of October 1739, constituted a Body Politick and Corporate, by the Name of The Governors and Guardians of the Hospital for the Maintenance and Education of exposed and deserted young Children; which Corporation is fully empowered to receive & apply the Charities of all compassionate Persons who shall contribute towards erecting & establishing the same; *And Whereas* His Majesty for the better & more successful carrying on the said good Purposes, hath by His said **Charter** granted to the said Corporation and their Successors full & ample Power to authorize such Persons as they shall think fit to take Subscriptions, and to ask and receive of all or any of His Majesty's good Subjects, such Monies as shall by any Person or Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate, Companies and other Societies be contributed and given for the Purposes aforesaid. *Now know Ye* that We the said Governors & Guardians being well assured of the great Charity & Integrity of

and that
greatly desire the Success & Accomplishment of so excellent a
Work: *Have* by Virtue of the said Power granted to Us, authorized & appointed, and by these Presents *Do* authorize & appoint the said _____ to take Subscriptions and to receive gather & collect such Monies as shall by any Person or Persons, Bodies Politick & Corporate, Companies & other Societies, be contributed & given for the Purposes aforesaid, and to transmit with all convenient speed, the Monies so Collected and Received, into the Bank of England for the use of this Corporation, And the Receipt for the same to our Treasurer for the time being, together with the Names of the Contributors, except such as shall desire to be concealed, and in that Case to insert the Sums only, in order that We the said Governors & Guardians may be enabled from time to time to Publish perfect Accounts of such Benefactions, Given under our Common Seal the
Day of _____ 17

By Order of the said Governors & Guardians.



Engraving of a view of the Foundling Hospital, 1751

Detail from a map of London by John Rocque, 1746. The site of the Foundling Hospital was north of the northern edge of London



A PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL, WITH EMBLEMATIC FIGURES.



*Myriads of Proselytes sustain thy Cause,
Throng to thy Altars and obey thy Laws;
From hence, fair Venus, spring those sweet Supplies
To fill the Mansions which to thee arise?
To his Grace John Duke of Bedford, This Plate is humbly Inscribed*



*These Mansions rais'd by Patrons kind & great,
Where Babels deserted find a safe Retreat,
Tho Frenchmen sneer, Their boasted first Design,
British Benevolence shall far outshine?
By his Graces most Dutiful and Obedient Servant Margaret Granville.*

Captain Thomas Coram
Painted by B. Nebot
1741



In addition to painting three major pictures for the Foundling Hospital, Hogarth was a founding governor and he and his wife fostered children from 1760 until his death in 1764





March of the Guards to Finchley by William Hogarth 1750



Hogarth – *Moses Brought Before Pharaoh's Daughter* 1746



Hayman – *The finding of the Infant Moses in the Bulrushes* 1746



The Court Room, photographed in 2004, showing Hogarth's and Hayman's paintings of the founding Moses



The Foundling Hospital by Richard Wilson, 1746, one of eight roundels painted for the Court Room

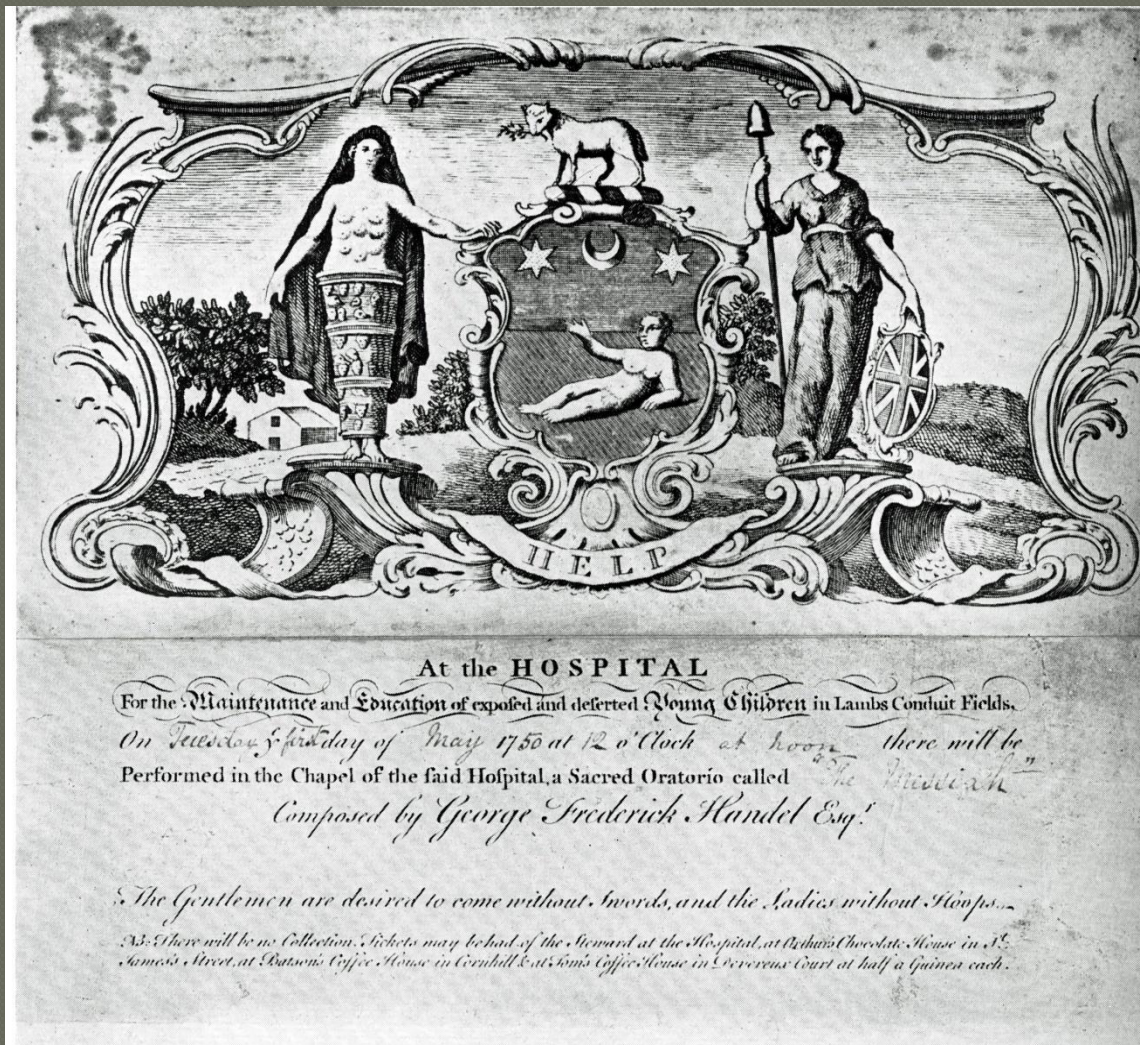
Marble mantelpiece in the
Court Room – *Charity and
children engaged in
navigation and husbandry* –
by Rysbrack 1745



Terracotta bust of George
Frederic Handel by Roubiliac
1739

Handel became a governor of the
Foundling Hospital and gave
annual fund raising concerts,
including the first performance in
England of *Messiah*



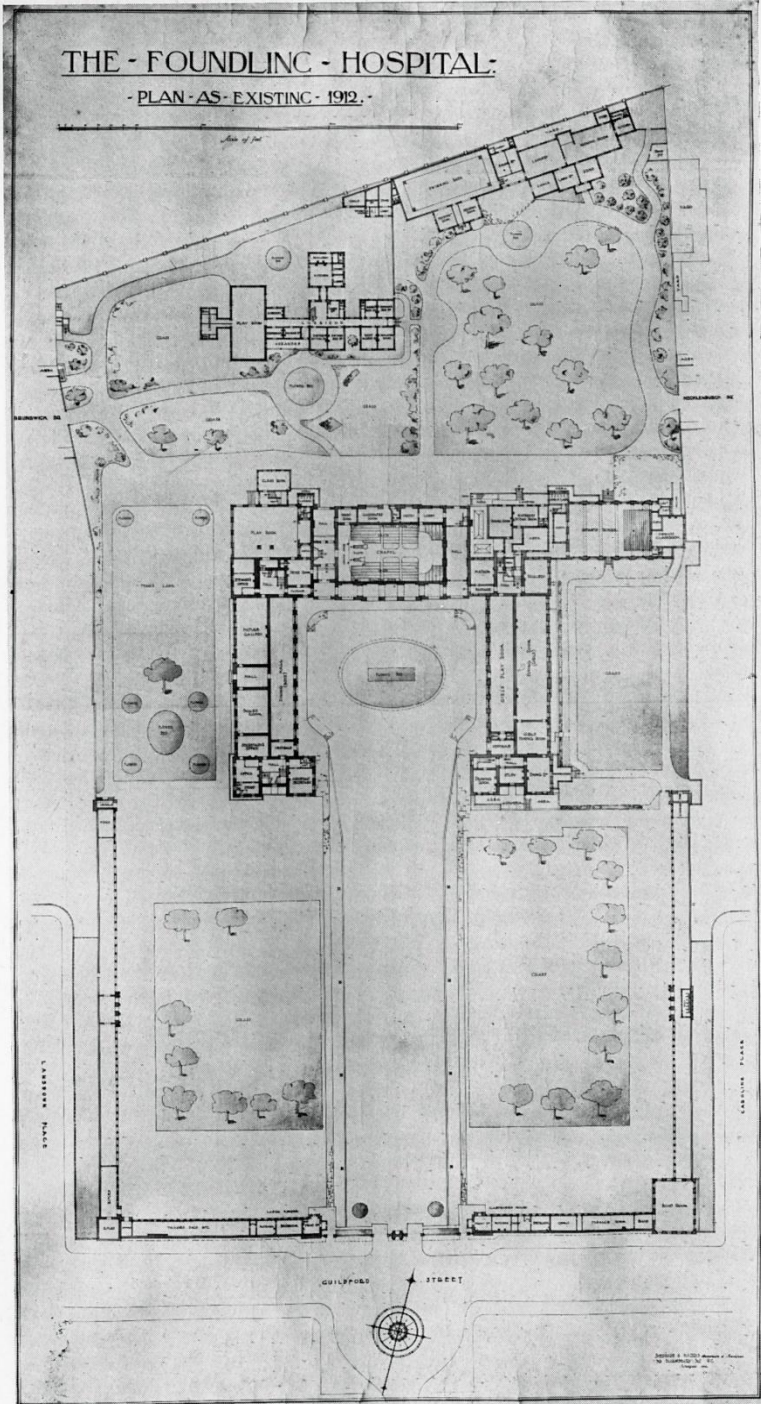


Invitation to the first performance of Handel's *Messiah*, 1st May 1750
Because of the high level of demand for tickets "The gentlemen are desired to come without swords and the ladies without hoops"



The Foundling Hospital Chapel looking west by John Sanders 1773

The Foundling Hospital,
Guildford Street. Site
Plan 1912





Chapel and west wing of the Foundling Hospital 1912



Admission of children to the Hospital by ballot by Samuel Wale 1749

Tokens left by mothers
with their babies

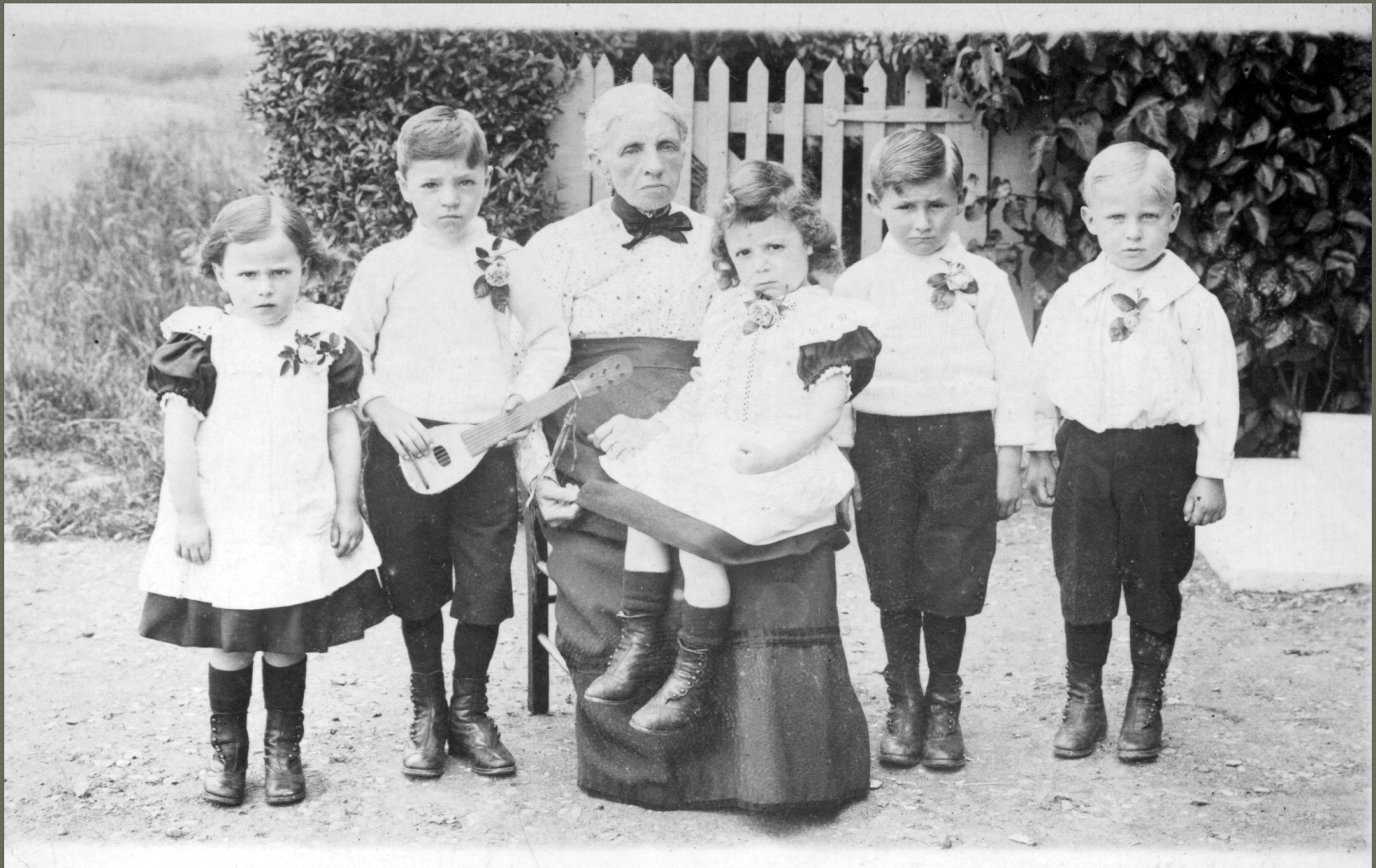




The Christening by
Emma Brownlow King
1863



*The Foundling
Restored to its
Mother* by Emma
Brownlow King 1858



A foster mother in East Peckham, around 1900

Uniforms designed by
William Hogarth and little
changed over the years

A Foundling Girl and *A
Foundling Boy* by Harold
Copping 1914



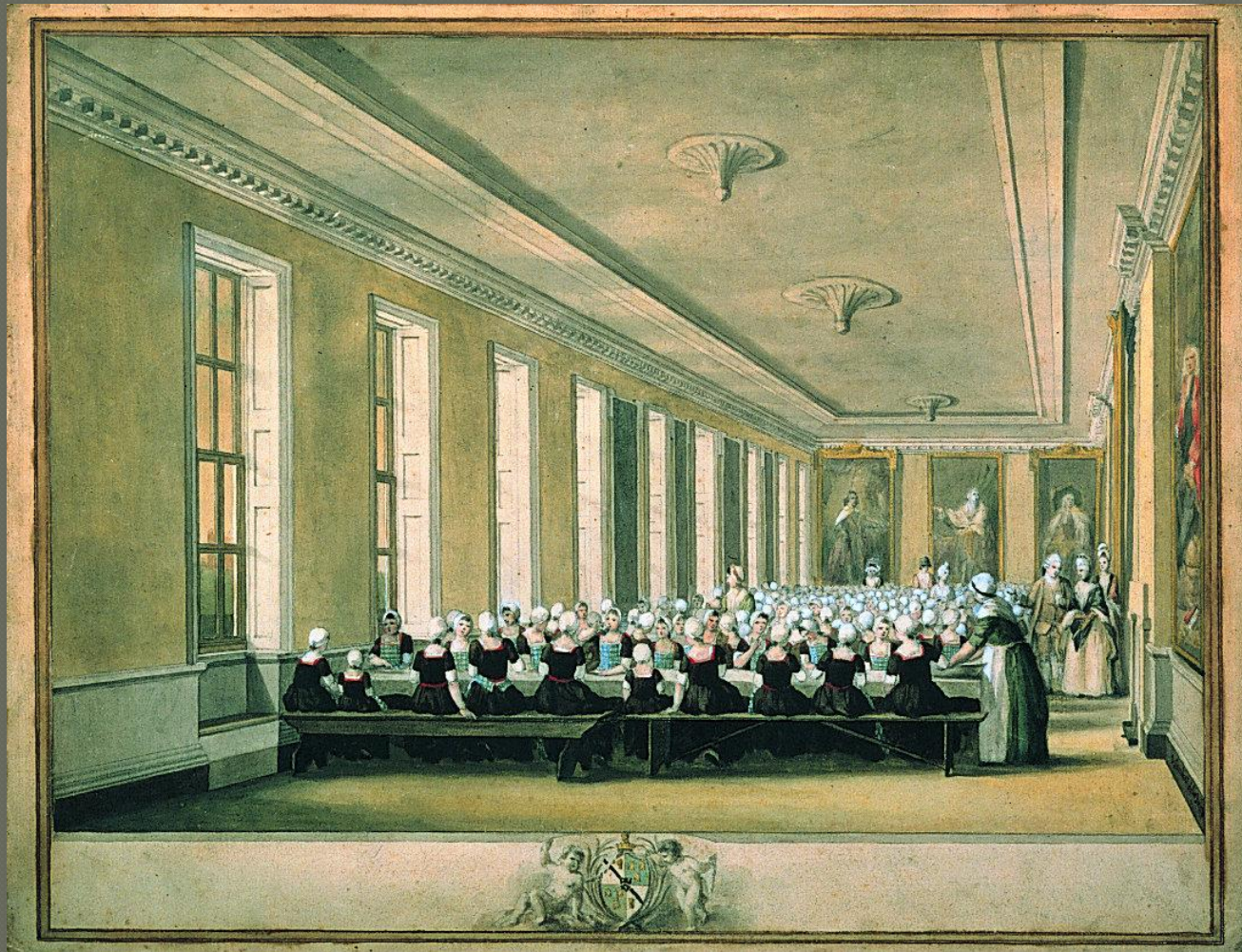
A cuff link engraved with
the school crest, designed
by Hogarth





Boys' dormitory and boys' dining room, photographed in the early 1900s





Girls' dining room by John Sanders, 1773, showing the Hogarth portrait of Thomas Coram hanging on the right of the picture



Girls in the Chapel by
Sophia Anderson 1877



Visitors watching children eat Sunday lunch by Swain, after T.H.Thomas, from *Illustrated London News* 7th December 1872



Music was an important part
of life in the Foundling Hospital

Choir practice, 1924



The choir at a musical event
in the chapel 1920s

FOUNDLING HOSPITAL



This is to Certify that Esther Mayhew served the term of her apprenticeship with honesty, sobriety, diligence and attention; and to the credit of this Hospital, where she hath been preserved and educated.

In testimony whereof Five Guineas and a Prayer Book have been presented to the said Esther Mayhew with this Testimonial of her good character, and the Seal of this Corporation hath hereunto been affixed; in the presence of the Governors and Guardians whose names are hereunto, subscribed, this 9th day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Fifty five.

Sealed with the Seal of the Corporation, in the presence of Three Members of the Committee, and attested by us.

Edw. Sadler
J. L. Dunning
Chas. Plumley
Wm. Cooke
Robt. By
Frederick Deering

J. B. M. aty
T. P.



J. B. M. aty Secy.

Leaving certificate for apprentice Esther Mayhew, 1855



BRANCH HOSPITAL, ACKWORTH

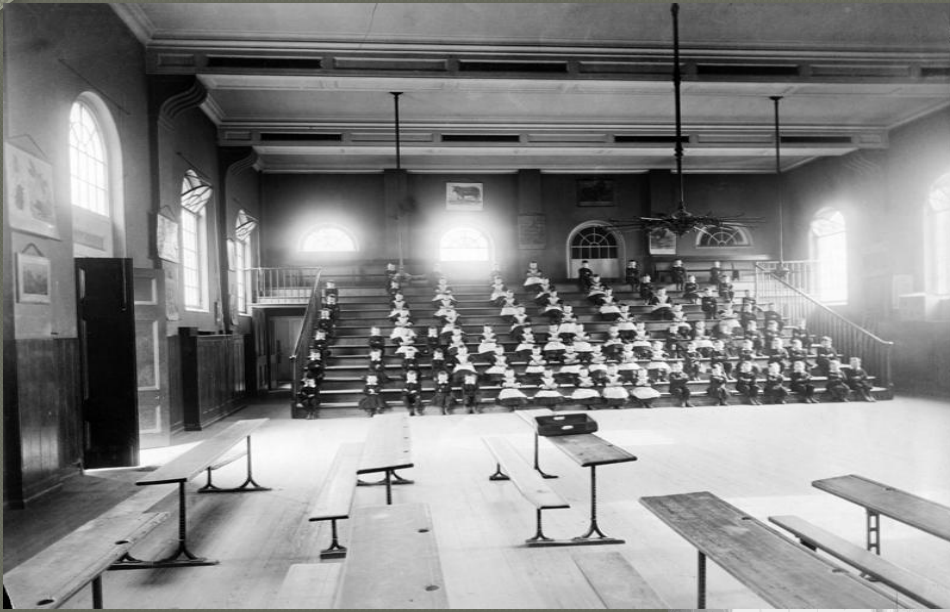
Photograph published by permission of Messrs. E. T. W. Dennis and Sons, Ltd., Scarborough

Ackworth branch hospital in Yorkshire, one of six branch hospitals built to take the additional children during the “general reception” between 1756 – 1760. Now a secondary school run by the Society of Friends

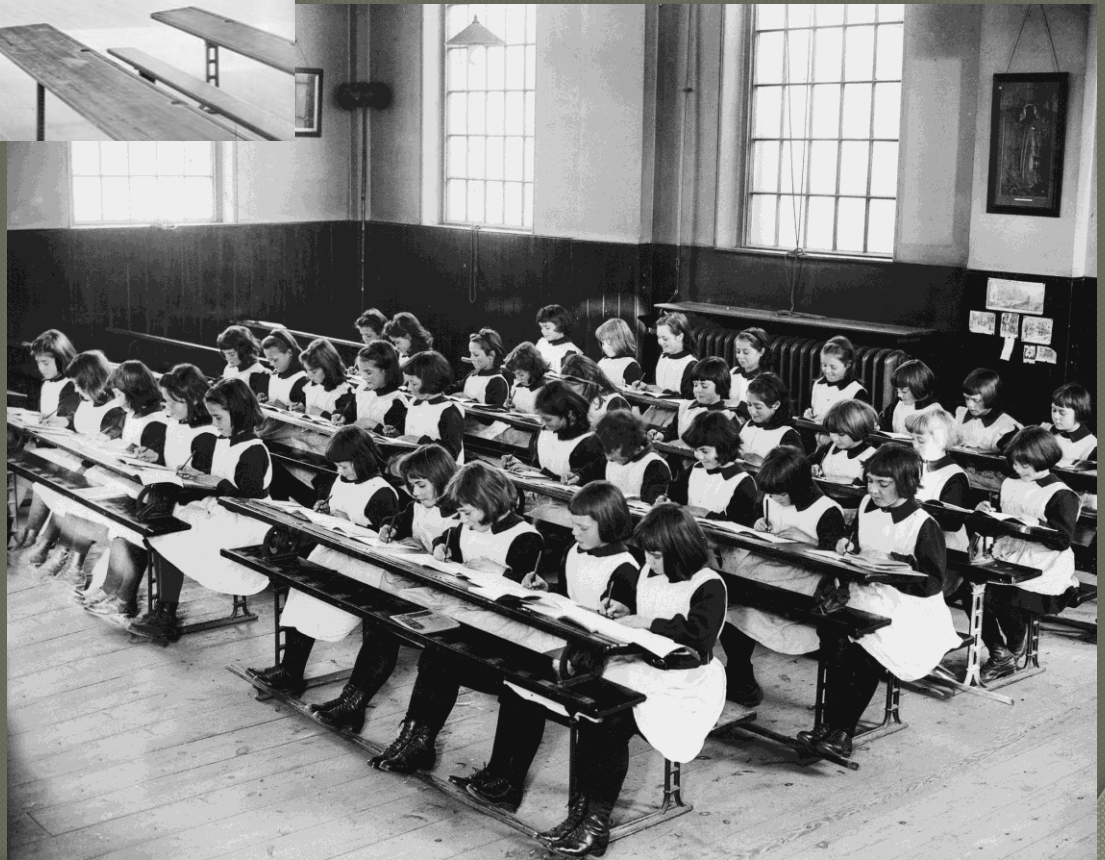
Charles Dickens
lived nearby in
Doughty Street
during the 1840s
and wrote about his
visit to the Foundling
Hospital in *Household
Words* in 1853.



Infants schoolroom, early 1900s



Girls school room, early 1900s





A parade outside the Foundling Hospital, early 1900s



The Duke of Connaught, president of the Foundling Hospital, inspecting the children, early 1900s



Girls exercising outside the Foundling Hospital



Decorating for Christmas
1920s

A visit to the circus



The highlight of the year –
the annual summer camp
1926



Eating cherries



Trampoline





Sewing class, 1926

Girls lining up for lunch at camp, with the older ones taking care of the younger ones. 1928





Children marching out of the Foundling Hospital for the last time in 1926

Girls at Redhill School,
cooking and singing
1932



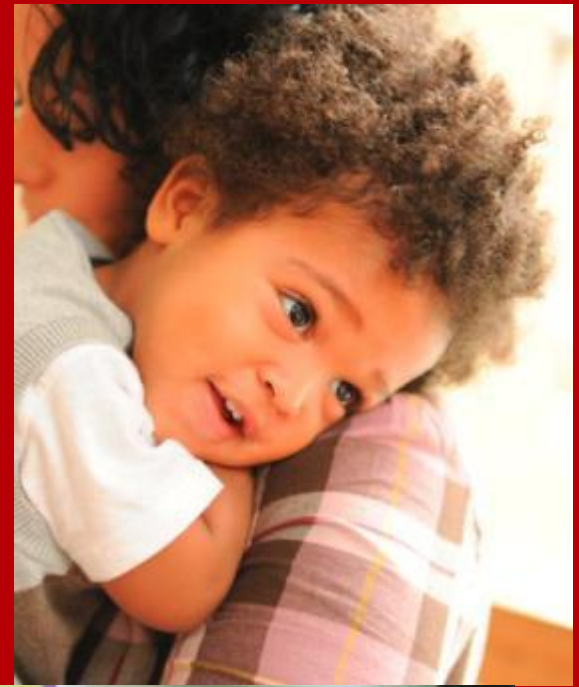


The Foundling Hospital School at Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire in the 1930s. It was later known as the Thomas Coram School and is now Ashlyns Comprehensive School

Coram Today



Coram Adoption



Creative Therapies



Coram Life Education



Work with young children and young people





The grounds of the old Foundling Hospital today – run by the charity Coram's Fields





Painting of the Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square by Ann Usborn, with statue of Thomas Coram to the right



Statue of Thomas Coram
outside the Foundling
Museum and the head
quarters of Coram in
Brunswick Square

This lecture based on
*London's Forgotten Children: Thomas Coram and
the Foundling Hospital* by Gillian Pugh, History
Press, 2007

Further information from

www.coram.org.uk

www.foundlingmuseum.org.uk