**CASEMENT BIBLE IN GLASNEVIN EMAILS**

From: shanemact@icloud.com
Subject: Casement signature
Date: Wed, 12 Feb 2014 10:14:36 +0000
To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

Hi Jeff,

I got those images thank you. I am no expert on graphology but our friend Mr. Casement seems to have a couple of signatures and I can see how Mr. Dodd reached his conclusions (particularly in the 3rd image to my untrained eye).

I will pass on the images to Conor and await his response. The exhibition is coming down in a couple of weeks so its really not going to effect us here in the museum but I would like to be straight with the donor of the bible.

Thanks (with a tinge of irritation ) for your input and when we are doing a larger exhibition on Casement I will be in touch. If you are ever in the vicinity of Glasnevin, pop in for a coffee and a chat. I can show you where we pretend he is buried (but that’s a story you probably know!)

Shane

SHANE MacTHOMÁIS

HISTORIAN, RESIDENT AUTHOR

[Sadly Shane died in March 2014]

Shane,

Interesting to talk yesterday. I am sorry if I was the bearer of less than welcome news.

The inscription on the New Testament loaned to the Museum reads "Roger Casement with loving wishes from R.C." which indicates it is being given to a Roger Casement. Of one thing I am sure therefore is that the item does not bear Sir Roger Casement's signature. At best, it is his initials. It is possible, however, he is the Roger Casement to whom the New Testament is being given by another 'R.C.'

The words at the bottom left of the flysheet, if deciphered, could solve the mystery (S min to J max/map??). That the New Testament or bible was published by Oxford University Press, in English, suggests it could not have been gifted to somebody in Germany in 1915. It is also well thumbed.

I am attaching a copy of a letter to Casement from Richard Coudenhove whom he met in Africa and who was the only R.C. living in Germany or Austria in 1915 whom he knew, of which I am aware. His R's in the letter bear some similarity to those on the flyleaf, as indeed does Casement's usage in his own signature, sometimes. From copies of his signature that I have attached, one can see it varies, but overall his writing and signature do not look like the writing on the flyleaf although I can understand why Mr Dodds of Whytes may have thought so - writing of that time seems often to be of a similar style.

However if the item was bought at an Enniskerry (Co. Wicklow) auction in the 1980s in a box of religious tracts, as you told me, the view that the Roger Casement is not Sir Roger David Casement (RDC) seems stronger.

This is especially so as another branch of the Casement family lived in Co Wicklow and two of its members were called Roger (or Roddie): Julius Casement son of Roger Casement (Ballymena and Dublin solicitor) was born 1830 being his 21st and last child. He d. 6 June 1904, Cronroe House (later the Bel Air Hotel), Ashford, Wicklow.

Julius m. Minie (dau. of Rev J.L. Bernard) d. 1918, four sons inc. Major **Roger**, b. 1864 (same year as RDC), d. 1917 of trench fever consequent on war service at Gallipoli. Major Roger Casement’s son, **Roger**, 1907-1987, changed his forename to Roddie by deed poll when an adult, for obvious reasons.

One of the Major’s grandchildren was ‘The Ot’, TCD Irish History Professor Jocelyn Otway Ruthven, d. 1989. There are books of that Wicklow branch of the family in TCD Library attributed wrongly to RDC (see below) and presented by The Ot.

As you can read, there were a lot of Rogers in the family and yet more in Co. Antrim.

This genealogical information comes largely from Hugh Casement, the family historian, who lives now in Belfast - hugh.casement@gmail.com.

The gift may well have been exchanged between the two Roger Casements of Cronroe House, Co. Wicklow. The phrase "with loving wishes" sounds somewhat unenglish but would fit a father/son relationship, the father going to war.

My provenance note I mentioned to you relating to your father and the NLI donation reads:

'Acc. 2922 (NLI MS 17,421-17,930): Joseph McGarrity papers acquired on 2 December 1971 from Éamon MacThomas. Apparently “he brought them in by suitcase.”' Interestingly McGarrity died in 1940, so, presumably, somebody in the US or Dublin held the papers until 1971.

Best wishes

Jeff Dudgeon

PS I hope to call at Glasnevin sometime.

30 January 2014

[TCD library - These were not RDC’s school prize books but his eponymous cousin’s from Wicklow who was from Professor Otway Ruthven’s family.]

Casper. / By A. B. Warner...

Authors Warner, Anna Bartlett 1827-1915.

Material type Book

Language English

Publisher [London]: Gall & Inglis. London ... Edinburgh ..., 1873

Description 184p, plate (col.): illus.; 16.8cm.

Notes Authorship: a different edition published Boston by Shepard, Clark & Brown, 1855 by Amy Lothrop [pseud.]. Another ed. published London by F. Warne & Co. 18-- 'by the authors of "The wide, wide world" ... & c. [i.e. Susan and Anna Bartlett Warner]'. Provenance With MS inscription 'Roger Casement from Miss Haynes for best answering in French in Third Class Christmas 1873.' From the Otway-Ruthven Bequest.

Binding Cased in publisher's brown cloth blocked in black, gold and blind

Title 'Casper a tale for the young' in gold on front.

Genre Juvenile literature -- American -- 19th century.

Imprint Place England, London.

Other names Warner, Susan Bogert, 1819-1885.

Haynes, A. E.,

Casement, Roger, 1864-1916, inscriber.

Other corporate names Gall and Inglis,

Otway-Ruthven Bequest

Early Printed Books TCD The grey house on the hill or, "Trust in God and do the right." / By Mrs. Greene.

Authors Greene, Louisa Lilias 1833-1891.

Material type Book

Language English

Publisher London: T. Nelson and Sons, ... Edinburgh 1874

Description 205, [3]p, plate ; 18.2cm.

Provenance With MS inscription 'Roger Casement from A. E. Haynes for second answering in Latin in Second Class Christmas 1874.'.

Binding Cased in publisher's blue cloth, blocked in black and gold.

Genre Juvenile literature -- English -- 19th century.

Imprint Place England, London.

Other names Haynes, A. E.,

Casement, Roger, 1864-1916, inscriber.

Other corporate names Nelson, Thomas, and Sons,

Otway-Ruthven Bequest

00-353-1-882 6500

From: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com
To: hugh.casement@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Casement bible
Date: Tue, 14 Jan 2014 13:04:19 +0000

Hugh

The letter at the end of Juni/June could be an e as the writer in ‘Roger’ and ‘Casement’ writes e's with almost no space in the loop.

Might the words at the base be 'S min to I max', suggesting two people of the same name?

Richard Coudenhove was indeed the only other RC I could come across who was in Germany in 1915.

Another Roger Casement alive in 1915 was Roger Hugh son of Roger of Magherintemple.

If it was 'signed' by RDC then it was actually only initialled and he was giving it to another of the same name. As it must be the other way round, if RDC at all, it is not signed or initialled by him as he was the recipient.

I wonder if Denisa was able to see who published the Testament and when?

I think the story was updated on 2 January and some of this below added esp. the bit about where the item was found (in Ireland):

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/uk-northern-ireland-25426727>

'His signed bible, which few knew existed, and was only recently confirmed as his, is also on display.

The bible was bought in a book auction by a man, who discovered it at the bottom of a box of religious tracts.

Shane MacThomáis, the historian at Glasnevin Cemetery, said it was less than clear how it got back to Ireland.

"It was either on Casement when he landed from the German U-boat in 1916 or he left it in Germany and somebody sent it over afterwards", he said.

Glasnevin cemetery is the final resting place for many people who fought for Irish freedom

"But it would have been after World War One by the time they sent it back. So, it's a great mystery as to how it got back to Ireland.

"But it’s a unique piece of history; a bible signed by Roger Casement in one of the most pivotal years of his career."'

Date: Tue, 14 Jan 2014 10:17:58 +0000

Subject: Re: Casement bible
From: hughcasement@gmail.com
To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

 Jeff,
 Denisa has a higher-resolution original photo and says the letter at the end of Juni is a very fat i with no dot over it!
 The words at bottom left defeat us both, but the middle one looks as though it could be 'to'.
 If R.C. was really Richard Coudenhove then I feel he would have written the 1s in the continental way with a pronounced lead-in stroke.
 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Hugh

From: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com
To: hugh.casement@gmail.com
Subject: RE: Casement bible
Date: Mon, 13 Jan 2014 00:21:31 +0000

Hugh
Does 'with loving wishes' sounds a little unenglish, even German?
Could those hard to read words be in German?

What is the month in 1915? Juni?
Jeff

 Date: Sun, 12 Jan 2014 17:14:44 +0000
 Subject: Re: Casement bible
 From: hughcasement@gmail.com
 To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

 Jeff,
 My cousin Denisa was close to Glasnevin today, so popped in for a cup of coffee and to buy a couple of things in the museum shop as presents for her family when she's back in Arizona next week. While he was there she photographed the inscription in the bible (in fact it's a pocket edition of the New Testament, King James version).
 I can't quite make out what it says at bottom left. I find it unlikely that either my GGfather or the other Roger (serving in the army) would inscribe anything "with loving wishes" to the traitor who
 had gone to Germany in Dec 1914. Of course there were others with the initials R.C., but normally it's only close friends or relatives who sign themselves like that rather than by name.
 Conclusion: this was never in Roger David's possession.
 \_\_\_\_\_\_ Hugh

From: shane.harrison@bbc.co.uk
To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com
Subject: RE: Casement 'bible'
Date: Mon, 6 Jan 2014 11:47:11 +0000

Hi Jeff,

Many thanks for this.

I don’t have any images other than what I filmed on my video camera; the quality is not as good as a still photograph.

I don’t have an e-mail address for Shane MacThomais.

But his landline number is: 00-353-1-882 6500; that’s the main switch and they can put you through to him.

Regards,

Shane.

 **From:** Jeff Dudgeon [mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com]
**Sent:** 06 January 2014 11:25
**To:** Shane Harrison
**Subject:** Casement 'bible'

Shane

Perhaps you could put me in touch with Glasnevin Museum or pass this message on to Shane MacThomais?
It might also make something of a story.
I can't read the flyleaf inscription beyond '1915' and 'Roger Casement' and 'R.C.' or the printer's details. Can you provide them?
Firstly that item isn't a bible but a New Testament.
Secondly it never belonged to Roger David Casement (executed 1916) but to a relative of the same name.
I have that from Hugh Casement, the current family historian.
There were nearly twenty Roger Casements in the family (see my book's genealogy), some in Ballycastle others in Wicklow. I'll send the family tree if you wish.
Thirdly RDC was in Germany the whole of 1915 and out of contact with Ireland, let alone his family.
They abhorred what he did although helped pay toward his legal defence in 1916.

Best wishes
Jeff Dudgeon

 Date: Sun, 5 Jan 2014 18:24:37 +0000
 Subject: Re: Casement bible
 From: hughcasement@gmail.com
 To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

 Jeff,
 I missed that news item.
 I don't think I can read the inscription any better than you can, but
 feel the mystery is probably imagined. My GGfather was also Roger
 Casement, and he had a cousin Roger at Cronroe, near Ashford in Co.
 Wicklow, who by chance was born in the same year as Roger David. He
 died there of trench fever in late 1917. My guess is that it was his
 bible, perhaps a present from my GGfather. So it may have seen brief
 service in France or Flanders, but was never in Germany.

 \_\_\_\_\_ Hugh

 Date: Sun, 5 Jan 2014 18:50:43 +0000
 From: richard.sharpe@history.ox.ac.uk
 To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com
 Subject: Re: Casement bible

The year was what made me think this was not much of a story. And it's a new testament, not a bible, which would be very untraditional for a bible-basher. Glasnevin should know better . . .
 best, Richard

From: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com
To: richard.sharpe@history.ox.ac.uk
Subject: Casement bible
Date: Sun, 5 Jan 2014 17:48:55 +0000

Many thanks Richard.
I suspect that is not his (RDC's) bible. The date inscribed is 1915 which whole year he was in Germany.
I can't read most of the words in the inscription or the printer's name for the New Testament but see 'Roger Casement' and 'R.C.' As he had several eponymous cousins the bible was probably one of theirs. Somebody selling it made a few quid I hope.
Jeff

 To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com
 From: richard.sharpe@history.ox.ac.uk
 Subject: BBC E-mail: Exhibition showcases 1916 rebels
 Date: Sun, 5 Jan 2014 12:32:11 +0000

 Richard saw this story on the BBC News website and thought you should see it.

 \*\* Exhibition showcases 1916 rebels \*\*
 A Dublin cemetery museum opens an exhibition to mark the founding of the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizens Army.
 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/go/em/fr/-/news/uk-northern-ireland-25426727>

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