Kieran

Best of luck with your publication and thanks for your kind remarks.

I can't quite remember where we left off our conversation but I am attaching a transcript of part of certain NLI documents (36207) by Alice Stopford Green where Arbuthnot and the Tower are mentioned:

In one place she records "to the Horse Guards to ask leave to go to the Tower. Major Arbuthnot advised me to wait till r.c. was moved to Brixton. “It is inconvenient at the Tower. If a visitor goes we have to turn the officers out of the billiard room. Sir Roger is so sorry to leave the Tower. We have tried to make it home-like & comfortable for him.”"

Attached also are details of the German Diary in case I have not passed these to you before.

Jeff

From: Kieran Groeger <kierangroeger@me.com>

Sent: 03 February 2017 13:18

To: Jeffrey Dudgeon

Subject: Re: Talk in Youghal

Hi Jeffrey,

I am going to publish my presentation on the portrait of Roger Casement , along with the other presentations on the night, in particular Patrick Cockburn’s piece on his grandfather, Major Arbuthnot, who was the artist.

I did refer to your knowledge of Casement in the talk and your skepticism about Claud Cockburn’s version of events.

I hope that people will be drawn to read your superb work on his diaries.

Kieran

6 April 2016

Angus Mitchell made copies of them, but does not know who bought them.

There was an incident a few years ago when another piece of art was put on auction. It was supposed to have been “found" in a dump near Myrtle Grove.

I suspect these sketches were also "found" somewhere.  I hope Patrick Cockburn finds out a little more.  It is proving to be a fascinating story.

Each of the four sketches carries a date, a location and a description.  
Kieran Groeger

On 05 Apr 2016, at 23:32, Jeffrey Dudgeon <[jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Kieran  
Intriguing. Arbuthnott may have been employed in the Tower as Governor or some such.  
I have a vague memory of someone finding paintings along a roadside down south. Would that be the same occasion?  
Are the copies any good and who had them?  
Sir William Rothenstein did sketches of Casement one at least of which is on display in the Hugh Lane gallery currently. (Some sketches attached.)  
Prisoners on remand wear their own clothes, as I recall, so it was a matter for his cousins to get replacements which I think they did.  
Best  
Jeff

From: [kierangroeger@me.com](mailto:kierangroeger@me.com)  
Subject: Re: Roger Casement sketch and Cockburns  
Date: Tue, 5 Apr 2016 09:29:52 +0100  
To: [jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)  
  
Hi Jeff,

the plot thickens!  Not only did Arbuthnot make a sketch of Casement in the Tower, dated and signed, he actually did four of them over different days!

All four “disappeared” from Myrtle Grove, Youghal and were auctioned. Current whereabouts unknown!  But - I have Xerox copies of the four images!

Copies of all four will be on display at our conference in September, but in the meantime, I will try to track down who might have auctioned them.

I want to review the MI5, the Home Office and the Downing Street files to see if the signature matches any of the documents. some of them have initials and not full names. I think Arbuthnot must have had a fairly cleat role - when he orders the Welsh soldiers to stand down and leave the cell they do! But he is a Scots Guard - where does he get the authority?  I am thinking Mi5 but his name does not appear anywhere on the MI5 file.

There was another story a few years ago of another work of art “found on a skip” near Myrtle Grove and put up for auction. Patrick and Alexander Cockburn managed to stop that sale but the Casement one slipped past. I think the asking price was about £ 10000! We have a story developing nicely and Patrick Cockburn has agreed to tell the story!

Kieran

<http://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/sketches-of-roger-casement-in-the-tower-of-london-days-before-his-execution>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/the-easter-rising-my-grandfather-and-the-untold-story-of-sir-roger-casement-a6963921.html>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/roger-casement-ireland-easter-rising-tower-of-london-prison-execution-a6976336.html>

On 1 Apr 2016, at 22:49, Jeffrey Dudgeon <[jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Kieran  
Quite a good article and you got a credit.  
I wouldn't however agree with 'what was presumably an effort to demoralise him' in relation to his clothes.  
I doubt prisoners were often given fresh clothes in those days.  
Enjoy the Youghal meeting. Must be an interesting town.  
Jeff

There was a Captain Arbuthnot in the story earlier (see NLI MS 13,073 /1 -

Capt. L.C. Arbuthnot 1 letter; 5 Oct. 1911 and reference to him in Casement's diary

Sunday 6th August 1911

In Dublin. To Zoo and Arbuthnot [Captain L.C. Arbuthnot of Dublin Zoo to which Casement presented an ocelot, making a welcome breeding pair.]

Details of my second (paperback) edition are attached.

On 10 May 2016, at 12:17, Jeffrey Dudgeon <jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com> wrote:

Good luck in September.

Jeff

From: kierangroeger@me.com

Date: Tue, 10 May 2016 06:25:32 +0200

Subject: Talk in Youghal

To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

Leaflet for Casement book 2nd edition and 1916 centenary talks details.docx>

From: kierangroeger@me.com  
Subject: Roger Casement  
Date: Fri, 1 Apr 2016 20:36:37 +0100  
To: [jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)

Hi ,  me again.

Patrick Cockburn will tell the story of his grandfather and the portrait of Roger Casement at an event in Youghal next September (16th at the Walter Raleigh Hotel).

Kieran Groeger

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/the-easter-rising-my-grandfather-and-the-untold-story-of-sir-roger-casement-a6963921.html>

From: kierangroeger@me.com  
Subject: Re: Casement in Tower - TG4  
Date: Mon, 1 Jun 2015 12:11:19 +0100  
To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com  
  
Hi Jeff,

I am carefully searching the timeline…  He is in the Tower until the 15th of May -  he is arrested first on the 21st of April, there follows three days of interrogation (during which he is in Brixton Prison), and then he is handed over to the control of the Scots Guards in Whitehall and lodged in the Tower. , the formal announcement of his arrest is on April 25th but there is a further time gap before the family finds out where he is being kept. And all that time he is in the Tower.

There is time for the Cockburn story to have some basis - that a portrait was undertaken - but I think you may be right - without conformation from Patrick about the location of the portrait he refers to and comparing it with the “beardless” Casement as opposed to the more usual portrait   - one could determine whether was an in situ sitting or not.

Some of the Claud Cockburn story is fanciful but there seems to be a definite idea that a portrait of Casement existed in Myrtle Grove, and that the Major was responsible for it.

Kieran

On 29 May 2015, at 22:10, Jeffrey Dudgeon <[jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Kieran  
Inaccuracy present in that Casement left the Tower before his trial.  
Jeff

From: [kierangroeger@me.com](mailto:kierangroeger@me.com)  
Subject: Re: Casement in Tower - TG4  
Date: Thu, 28 May 2015 16:04:18 +0100  
To: [jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)

Hi Jeffrey ,

Me again,

 I attach a few paragraphs from Claud Cockburn and also his son Patrick about the possible portrait - both have nothing to gain by concocting a story.

Claud’s account seems accurate and Patrick is a very respected journalist - why would he add to a lie… the one worry is that he uses the past tense “used to hang in the library in Myrtle Grove”.

There are elements of the story which can be discounted - if he was on duty when Casement was arrested it was almost four weeks before the family got to bring him a change of clothing and, it seems to me, that four weeks brings you close to the transfer from the Tower. Still I will persist until I get an answer!

<Screen Shot 2015-05-28 at 15.53.50.png><IMG\_0303.jpeg><IMG\_0304.jpeg> [see Hotmail for copy pages]

On 28 May 2015, at 10:30, Jeffrey Dudgeon <[jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com)> wrote:

Just got this email. Haven't looked at programme.  
Jeff -

Jeff

There has been a documentary series on Irish political prisoners held in the Tower of London down the centuries playing on TG4, the Irish language TV channel, recently. The films are about 30 mins long and are essentially bi-lingual with subtitles in English. The quality of the production is patchy. Some aspects are very good, others not so. Taking heads, academics mostly, are employed.

The last instalment dealt with Fr Cogley from Armagh in 1798 and with Casement in 1916. Some of the information presented on Casement was questionable.

The documentary is Gafa sa Túr (Held in the Tower).

It can be seen online at: [http://www.tg4.ie](http://www.tg4.ie/)

You can click on "English" on the top right. Then go to documentaries.

The way things are dramatized is quite effective but the content is not, to my mind great.

Regards

Tim [O’Sullivan]

Thank you so much for the very detailed reply. I was suspicious of Claud's account but Patrick Cockburn says very much the same thing in his book Broken Boy.

Both are clear that a portrait was made and put in the library in Myrtle Grove. If I can prove this it will make a lovely story.

If it gets to be written I would be delighted to formally thank you.  
Kieran Groeger

Kieran

I am afraid I cannot add anything to your quest and would rather doubt the existence of anything more than a posthumous sketch. Claud Cockburn often had difficulty with the truth.  
Séamas O Síocháin got into some trouble in his extensive biography when he used a drawing of Casement that few think was of him.  
There are however new photographs being uncovered still. The first attached is one of Adler Christensen I was told of recently as being in the NLI - actually hidden in plain sight. A sketch made of Casement possibly by his cousin Elizabeth Bannister or another woman, I think probably from the time of his trial, although he looks younger, is also attached.  
Casement mentioned a Captain L.C. Arbuthnot in his diary as being in charge of Dublin Zoo. Obviously a different man but possibly related. Casement did apparently get on with a Welsh soldier, Corporal King, in the Tower of London. The author Roger Sawyer was trying to sell this attached photograph and other items including an item described:

“The transcript of the interview with Corporal King records that he was wounded while serving in France, and after convalescence was assigned to guard duty in the Tower of London, where he was sent to guard Casement (then awaiting trial and execution on a charge of high treason). He got into conversation with Casement, who said he was dying. According to King,

Casement told him he had swallowed bent nails he had removed from wood in the fireplace, and also had tried to poison himself with a capsule given him by the Germans. 'I'm supposed to be a traitor', Casement is said to have told King. 'I'm not a traitor. I'm an Irish rebel.' With a photograph of Corporal King in uniform, a photocopy of a notice of his injury, sent to his mother, and a few other items.”

These two NLI files may be of interest or relevance but I am not sure of the dates Casement was kept in the Tower:

MS 13,088 /2 Correspondence of G. Gavan Duffy with the Governor of the Tower of London etc. relating to Casement; 10pp May 1916

MS 13,088 /3 Message from Casement in the Tower and plan brought by Gertrude Bannister; 2pp May 1916.

Your book seems intriguing.

Best wishes

Jeff Dudgeon

From: kierangroeger@me.com  
 Subject: Roger Casement  
 Date: Sat, 23 May 2015 18:04:00 +0100  
 To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com  
   
 HI Jeffrey,  
   
 I read your book on Casement and found it fascinating.   
   
 My name is Kieran Groeger ( I have one book on Amazon - “The Trial and Execution of James Cotter”), recently I came across a detail on Casement which I have been checking out   
   
 When he was in the Tower of London , a Major Jack Arbuthnot was in charge of him. He contacted the family, asked them to bring a change of clothing and even allowed them private time unsupervised.  
   
 This I got from Claud Cockburn’s book, his son Patrick’s book and also the family letters.  
   
 However the two Cockburns mention that Major Arbuthnot painted a portrait of Casement while in the Tower and that the portrait is in Youghal , co. Cork ( where I live)   
   
 I saw your picture of Casement on the boat minus the beard-  
   
 Did you hear anything about a portrait?   
   
 Kieran Groeger (currently researching this story with a view to publication).  
   
Youghal