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**British police give Casement sword and hat to museum**

MARK HENNESSY, London Editor

THE LONDON Metropolitan Police last night handed over a sword and dress hat belonging to Sir Roger Casement to the National Museum of Ireland. They have been in police possession since Casement was captured in 1916 on Banna Strand, Co Kerry, bringing weapons for the Easter Rising.

The sword and hat were worn by Casement when he was knighted in 1911 by King George V for his services to Amazonian Indians in Peru after he exposed the treatment meted out to them by rubber plantation owners.

The presentation of the items was made by the force’s deputy commissioner John Yates to Dr Pat Wallace, the director of the National Museum of Ireland, last evening at a reception at the Irish Embassy in London.

“They minded them very well, it has to be said. They are in very good condition,” Dr Wallace told The Irish Times last night. Sir Roger visited the Putamayo region in Peru in 1910 and again the following year before writing a report for the British foreign office on the charges of cruelty made against the British-registered Peruvian Amazon Company. Casement wrote that “men, women and children” had been held in stocks “for days, weeks and months”, leaving many to die from starvation or wounds left by brutal floggings.

“These are important pieces of our heritage and it gives another aspect of Casement’s career apart from the 1916 Rising,” said Dr Wallace, who indicated that the sword and hat may be put on display first in the Kerry County Museum in Tralee.

The sword and hat were among a number of items taken by police from his home in the days after Casement’s arrest on Banna Strand before he was subsequently tried and executed for treason for working “with the king’s enemies”.

Irish Ambassador to Britain Bobby McDonagh said that Casement’s life and career were “a striking manifestation of the close and complex relationship between Britain and Ireland”.

“In this historic year for Anglo-Irish relations, with her majesty the queen having accepted an invitation to make a State visit to Ireland, it is fitting that these possessions of a distinguished Irish patriot, as well as an outstanding international campaigner for human rights, are coming home.”

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/frontpage/2011/0311/1224291886091.html>

Page 1 story in Irish Times this morning attached.

The article says the ceremonial hat and sword were found at Casement's "home". In a sense, Casement had no home, certainly no permanent address or house.

The hat and sword were actually held by a Mr Edward Peacock, a tailor and landlord of 55 Ebury Street where Casement had lodged before the war. The diaries were in a second cache of belongings left with a Mr Germain at No. 50 Ebury Street and handed in to Scotland Yard after his arrest.

I wrote in 2002:

    "Somewhat nervously, MI5 also set out to investigate his bank accounts. The results were uninspiring especially as no cheques had been recently processed in England or Ireland. A vignette of pre-war commercial life in Pimlico does however emerge as Casement’s cheques progressed through a number of hands before they returned to Williams Deacon’s, the issuing bank. In a report to Basil Thomson dated 16 January 1915 and based on information obtained from that bank, his last payments were outlined: one cheque had been endorsed “Edw. Peacock.” He was pinpointed as “Tailor of 55 Ebury Street.” Peacock had actually been a provider of Ebury Street rooms and storage to Casement on and off for at least a decade according to the diary entry of 18 February 1903. Another cheque was endorsed “W.P. Germain.” His identity had been ascertained: “man of this name at 50 Ebury St. ?Lodgings.” A third was passed through a Mr Doubleday who was denoted “fishmonger 63 Ebury St.”...

     ...In May 2000, at the Royal Irish Academy’s Casement Symposium in Dublin, a selection of the unseen Scotland Yard papers were to be unexpectedly revealed by the Foreign Office’s Mrs Gill Bennett, who spoke on *Casement and Whitehall*. What she distributed was a veritable treasure trove answering those key questions which had baffled researchers for fifty years, and proof positive of when and where the Black Diaries came from (unless itself forged!).

    In those Metropolitan Police papers there are two nearly identical references to the fact of the diaries arriving from 50 Ebury Street on the precise date mentioned in the House of Commons in 1959. In Quinn’s Special Branch minute of 22 June 1916 there appears the paragraph: “During the month of May 1914 Casement deposited with Mr Germain of 50 Ebury Street, Pimlico, S.W. some boxes containing books, etc. These books which included three diaries for the years 1903, 1910 and 1911, a ledger, an address book and a memorandum book were brought to New Scotland Yard by Mr Germain on the 25th. April 1916.” So it was entirely the result of Germain’s voluntary act that Casement’s diaries resurfaced on Easter Tuesday. This is confirmed in a second reference, this time from a Metropolitan Police property list relating to Casement and dated July 1916. There the contents of two trunks “brought to Scotland Yard by Mr Germain, 50, Ebury Street, on 25th. April 1916” were enumerated and detailed as including “3 diaries, 1 ledger, 1 address book, 1 memorandum book.” The last item was presumably the 1901 Army notebook while the sixth item was the apparently innocuous address book of Casement’s returned to Gertrude Parry in 1917 (and now in the NLI).

    Peacock, it turned out, had custody of similar property also left with him in May 1914, largely Casement’s diplomatic clothing as well as a hat in a tin box and a sword, along with other formal dress apparel and ordinary clothes. These items were only “brought to Scotland Yard by police” the day after Germain’s delivery. In other words the Yard did not search the other addresses at Ebury Street until after they knew for certain Casement had left items there."

BBC website

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**Sir Roger Casement sword and hat returned by Met Police**

Sir Roger Casement was hanged for treason by the British in 1916

The Metropolitan Police in London have returned a sword and a hat which once belonged to one of the leaders of Ireland's [1916 Easter Rising](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/british/easterrising/).

The [Irish Times](http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/frontpage/2011/0311/1224291886091.html) reported that the items have been in police possession since Sir Roger Casement was captured bringing weapons for the rebellion to a beach in County Kerry.

The force's deputy commissioner John Yates presented the items to Pat Wallace, the director of the National Museum of Ireland, at a reception at the Irish embassy in London on Thursday.

The sword and the hat were worn by Sir Roger when he was knighted by King George V for his services to Amazonian Indians in Peru after he exposed their treatment in rubber plantations.

Casement was from an Ulster Protestant family and was educated at Ballymena Academy.

He was hanged for treason in Pentonville Prison in London in the summer of 1916.

Queen Elizabeth II is set to become the first British monarch since George V to visit Ireland.

Bobby McDonagh, the Irish ambassador to the UK, said her planned visit made Thursday's ceremony even more appropriate.

"In this historic year for Anglo-Irish relations, with her majesty having accepted an invitation to make a State visit to Ireland, it is fitting that these possessions of a distinguished Irish patriot, as well as an outstanding international campaigner for human rights, are coming home."