**XANDER CLAYTON (AUD AUTHOR) EMAILS 2013**

Very many thanks for your email Xander and I am sorry for not replying sooner. Your view of my book is much appreciated. I am particularly proud of the family and early days' chapters, that on Belfast 1900-1912 and Republicanism, and of course the photographs. I was mooting a Casement photograph book for the centenary in 2016, with Séamas O Síocháin, but the idea has not advanced. Maybe we could join up on that one?  
  
I did not realise you were living in Kerry let alone Ireland. I rather assumed Germany or America, thinking for some reason you are an American.  
  
I am on the conference agenda only because I offered to do a presentation. I certainly was not invited to be amongst the initial key speakers, nor would I have expected to be as Angus Mitchell seems to have been the initiator of the event (alongside Notre Dame). Having said that, the organiser, Brian O Conchubhair, seemed pleased to have me. Even at this late stage you could still offer your huge (and locally important) expertise by way of an exhibit, or an external ‘fringe’ talk.  
  
Some years ago I was asked to consider speaking at a Tralee event and proposed some ideas. The organiser, O'Donnell, did not have the courtesy to reply and it went ahead obviously without me. What you say rather confirms what I assumed to be the case that there was a traditionalist, Kerrycentric group in charge and anything I might say would upset them - not that I like to discomfort people; just provide facts and opinions they may not appreciate.

Oddly, Tim O'Sullivan from the Roger Casement Foundation is doing the black diaries presentation. He is a very pleasant, fair-minded person who believes - whatever the evidence - they are forged or at least the evidence of an alternative view is doubtful and holes can be picked in it.

It has to be said, I only ever got to see and read your book a few weeks ago at the NLI in Dublin. I had tried to buy it some years earlier but couldn't get hold of it. I felt lately I needed to do more research on the journey to Ireland in 1916 given my conference talk title. I was very impressed with what I saw, not least by the extensive research that went into it. (I didn't have time to read more than just a chapter or two mostly on the ‘Setter’ boarding and related intelligence and the preface).

Funnily enough Hugh Casement, who now lives in Belfast, had always told me de Courcy Ireland's booklet was error prone on matters nautical and provided examples of mistakes. I think you were in contact with him. I have related items on my website in this area which is back up after a disaster due to a webmaster in debt running off with all the passwords etc., and a collapse in relation to an ISP (I think). It is jeffdudgeon.com.

In one case, I have noted that “Hugh Casement says “Spindler wrote ‘romanhaft’ not ‘romanschaft’ which de Courcy Ireland translated as romantically. That would be romantisch, which I maintain was not the intention. A better translation would perhaps be "in the manner of a romance" – a tale of derring-do.””

Hugh transcribed de Courcy Ireland and then added his notes and queries, mostly of a technical nature, as he would, being a translator of German scientific material. You probably have this but I attach in case not.

A couple of background questions if you don’t mind.

Have you seen David Grant’s website on the Irish Brigade which is jam packed with background detail? He doesn’t do politics, he tells me, or matters related to Casement issues.

Also my recent articles on the Dublin Review of Books (drb), one related to Casement in Germany?

Do you read German?

My questions that remain to be researched and perhaps answered (the difficult, German-related ones that Doerries doesn’t explain) are:

What did McGoey do after leaving Berlin and turning up in England and why? [You seem to know more in relation to this and MI5 and that prat Thomson, while the link in America, in Chicago at least, between the two is intriguing. I look forward to reading your researches. Any publication date?]

What did the GGS do, if anything, on the matter of Casement wanting to postpone the Rising?

What were the precise orders the German Admiralty gave to the U-boat and Aud captains about Casement and the landings and were these orders known to the GGS and was their purpose related to his postponement interest?

Why did the Admiralty agree to a submarine going with Casement on board, as opposed to him sailing on the Aud?

I might well need some travel documents to enter Kerry since I am about to go off and watch the 12th parade as it passes my house. Roger would not approve although the weather is tropical.

Are you thinking of putting out your workout on an ebook? I am, but the problems with pictures and layout are daunting while Amazon's terms are derisory.

Perhaps you’ll call in to Tralee in October and we can meet up.

Very best wishes

Jeff

From: gaclayton@hotmail.com  
To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com  
Subject: RE2: Tralee in October  
Date: Wed, 3 Jul 2013 10:50:51 +0000

Dear Jeff  
   
I am very grateful to you for writing to me. I have long been an admirer of your own work, and so it is very good to hear from you again.  
   
Thank you for sending on the details for the Casement extravaganza in Tralee, I have been painfully aware of it for a couple of months now.  I won't be there as you know.  I'm afraid the approach made to me was highly suspect, so I opted out.  When I questioned it, I was basically informed that I was only being asked to be there as a courtesy to another party.  Not the best invite I have ever had to say the least.  
   
As a matter of fact, I was greatly surprised when told that your own name was attached to it a month ago.  Especially considering the attitudes expressed to me down here regarding your extremely well researched book.  To put it mildly; having lived in Kerry now for 3 years, I detect a blend of sexual insecurity mixed together with Old School Catholic dogma and Nationalist hagiography toward Casement.  As a result, shall I conclude, that there is a resistance to liberal thinking on personal freedoms.  Casement's sexuality is generally treated as a taboo here. Local politics too strafes havoc to actual history. (It has been seen fit to assassinate me here also for being too good at my job!) I am in disagreement with the local attitudes as it makes no odds to me as a historian what comprised Casement's sexual desires. It's none of my business.  If I had ever had the pleasure of having met the man; such ideas would never even enter my head.  I've heard all the arguments and I just don't care. The accusation of paedophilia is just another attempt to use it for needling the fears and pushing the case for fraud.  Historians should know the early 1900's were a different time compared to now.  Plus, different rules apply outside of Western culture. I am only interested in what Casement achieved in his career.  But of course I can see a basis for discussion if it must be debated that some sort of fraud was carried out by the British and American security services.  Taking a forensic look at Casement's diaries is worthwhile and interesting, no matter the content.  But let my statements here not take an iota away from your own work. That is not my intention.  Your book on the Black Diaries is a landmark book that was very badly needed to be published.  You have the hairs standing on people's backs with that fine tome, and jolly well done for it.  
   
As for John McGoey, yes, he did a lot of damage.  But not with the German General Staff at all.  Their archives just show him passing through to their disgust. My own work has been looking into his collaboration with Hall, Kell and Smith-Cumming via Thomson at Scotland Yard.  I find the intrigue surrounding McGoey's death in 1924 much more fascinating considering Bailey and himself were in the same town!  Makes the mind boggle.  
   
Thanks about your interest in my forthcoming work.  I'm hoping to blow the keel off with this one.  So, I will make sure you're in the loop when the time comes soon.  
   
Anyway, Jeff, thanks for writing to me again.  I hope you have a good time down here in Kerry. Don't forget your passport ;-)  
   
All the best  
   
Xander  
 

From: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com  
To: gaclayton@hotmail.com  
Subject: Tralee in October  
Date: Tue, 2 Jul 2013 15:11:47 +0000

Xander  
  
Casement Tralee conference in October details attached.  
Keep me posted about your ebook version of Aud.  
I remain mystified as to why the German admiralty sent Casement by submarine, and whether they were aware of what the GGS knew by way of McGoey etc.   
  
Thanks  
Jeff Dudgeon

Today's Irish Times [Lorna Siggins article on Casement and the Sea]

Jeffrey Dudgeon

Mon 27/07/2015 21:56

Xander  
Worth a letter to the editor?  
Jeff

From: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com  
To: gaclayton@hotmail.com  
Subject: RE: Black Diaries: 2nd edition details  
Date: Wed, 24 Feb 2016 12:49:39 +0000

Thanks very much Xander  
I hope you are getting invited to speak at Kerry/Dublin commemorations.  
Amazon-print-on demand and Kindle produce excellent results. I have a demon typesetter who does it all for me. He sets up endless hyperlinks within the Kindle too.  
Jeff

From: gaclayton@hotmail.com  
To: jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com  
Subject: RE: Black Diaries: 2nd edition details  
Date: Fri, 19 Feb 2016 15:45:19 +0000

Hearty congratulations Jeff!  
Excellent news all round. Very well done and all the success you now receive is thoroughly well deserved. I look forward to reading both.  
Best Wishes   
George Alexander Clayton