**YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com 25 January 2002

Dear Robert,

I enjoyed our conversation today and wish we had met at the Marcus Tanner launch. Hopefully that has not put you off Belfast.

I have gone part-time at work (Fridays off), two weeks ago, to bring about publication of Casement this year. That is the target I have set myself. Speed is of the essence given the TV programmes looming, and always competition.

I did not get round to mentioning that I am thinking of going it alone if I do not get a publisher’s acceptance for the manuscript, much as it stands. Indeed I am researching that route and was intending to ask you about American co-publishing which is obviously very important. Obviously Yale University Press would be preferable.

The manuscript, earlier today, consists of 261,114 words in 23,082 lines with 1,268,135 characters (without spaces) over 473 computer pages, in Times New Roman, 12 point, font. The index is half listed (largely names so far). I could send you a copy of my contract with Gill and Macmillan if it was of assistance, especially in simplifying matters should this proposal go forward. I have nearly fifty good photographs bought, and all necessary permissions.

There are other books on Casement reputedly being written. One I have been told recently is due to be published in 2003 by Lilliput in Dublin. It is biographical but I believe majors on Casement in Africa and is by an anthropologist at Maynooth, Séamas O Síocháin (a good guy). Casement is also due to figure in a book of Irish controversies by Lucy McDiarmid, an American academic.

I have the proposal currently out, unacknowledged as yet, a second time, with Blackstaff, a Belfast publisher, but am not hopeful of changing their mind.

These are the most recent developments. I attach my standard proposal which carries other detail, and a couple of speeches.

Best wishes

Jeff Dudgeon

From robert.baldock@yaleup.co.uk

Fri, 25 Jan 2002 09:13:03 -0800

Dear Jeff:

Thanks for the preliminary material, which I have enjoyed reading. (And a bonus to have the two photographs.) And the text has now reached me: can you tell me what format it is in so I can open it?

Once I've had a look I can let you know how likely it might look for Yale. I note you'd like to have it published this year. I don't think we could make that - reader's comments, board approval, editing and production etc – but spring next year would be feasible.

I've read the Lucy McDiarmid chapter, by the way. Very sprightly and perceptive, but about the industry and afterlife, rather than the biography.

regards - Robert

Reply To: Jeff Dudgeon

Sent: Friday, January 25, 2002 16:04 PM

To: Robert Baldock

Subject: Casement book and other material

Yale University Press proposal.doc<<File: Casement book-

publisher's proposal.doc<<File: NLI Casement best photo

roguish.jpg<<File: NLI Spivvy youths on seafront with RDC's

shadow.jpg<<File: Royal Irish Academy speech - as given

(annotated).doc<<File: Goldsmiths Colloquium at PRO Kew 1 December 2000

address.doc

From robert.baldock@yaleup.co.uk

Mon, 18 Feb 2002

Jeff:

Damn. I'll be in Funchal that weekend (retracing RC's steps?) Any chance you could record it? (Since I live in Denham, Bucks, near the house RC often visited, I feel his ghost about me…)

This is an opportunity to mention your script. It is, frankly, completely absorbing, and I think that the many people who are captured by the RC story will be hooked. Your conclusions seem to me absolutely right, and the forensic way you document everything is staggering. The trouble is that there's far too much documentation for anyone who is not an avid Casement follower. I can of course see why you want to issue it in this form, and why the previous history of controversy and partial publication in Casement studies requires it. I can also see why Gill & Macmillan had a problem with this. The biographical material - your own writing - is so good that the definitive account lurks tantalisingly within this monster. I sense you inhabit RC's skin so precisely that a seamless account of his life is what the market demands of you. As it is, your book is a bit like Peter Conradi's recent bio of Iris Murdoch: masses of wonderful stuff without, in a way, closure.

I haven't yet finished every word, and would love to think I could take it at Yale. But I suspect that would be me the reader, not me the publisher speaking. The diaries, especially the one that is new to me, is, on a careful reading, hugely graphic. And your editorial assistance, totting up every last penny and inch, makes it fascinatingly more so (and, forgive me, occasionally way over the top). I think my bosses would run screaming into the boy's room.

Maybe you should do as you suggested to me, and self-publish. I worry you might miss the review attention that way. The alternative is that you rejig somewhat. Now you'll run screaming into the boy's room. Anyway, let's speak some more when I can see the whole thing as a unit.

Do you think William Roger Louis would act as an academic reader, if I needed one?

Regards

Robert.

From: "Jeff Dudgeon" <jeffreydudgeon@hotmail.com

To: Robert Baldock <robert.baldock@yaleup.co.uk

Sent: Monday, March 04, 2002 10:03 PM

Subject: Casement book and programmes

Robert

Thanks. You can read Colm Toibin in the history section of nuzhound.com (a very good Irish articles website). When you are in Funchal check if Perestrello's photographic shop still exists.

I certainly did receive your email of 18 February. It made me glow. But as you say, you may have been assessing the manuscript as an enthusiast rather than as a publisher. You obviously are very well grounded in matters Casemental.

Nonetheless the diaries need to be in print again, and for the first time together, so there may a lot of sales to those who would want to keep such a book or feel a need to. I don't think those sort of people will mind if it is too long and a bit pointillist, like Walter Benjamin's work.

Roger Louis has I think retired as I noticed one of those festschrift efforts recently in a history journal. He is very prestigious but as I recall did not reply to my second letter.

Professor Bill Mc Cormack ('old yellow whiskers' as Ulick O'Connor calls him) knows it quite well but he is hard to pin down. His college, Goldsmiths still owes me for my two talks 15 months ago in London! If aiming high what about Roy Foster or David Starkey or the awful Tom Paulin - no better not him.

I am away at Easter to Malaysia for twelve days and will return and dedicate myself to getting it out one way or another by the end of the year. Just a bit afraid the TV programmes and the inevitable ensuing controversies might soak up all interest for a few years. But they usually have the opposite effect.

Not too keen on rejigging. Could Yale co-publish for American sales if they liked any product I might get together here?

Best regards

Jeff

Jeff:

Two things. I happened to meet, yesterday, the Keeper of the PRO. I asked about the Casement Diaries and she said there was to be a press conference about their authenticity this coming week. I guess you knew that?

Also, a publishing friend (Robert Towers) was speaking with Ronan Gallagher of Four Courts Press who said he might be interested in a new book on Casement. Have you tried him?

Regards

Robert