

By Paul Hyde

Window closed on Dudgeon's Casement

Jeffrey Dudgeon's attempt in the last edition of Village to rebut Paul Hyde was easily disproved chicanery



Casement window: closed?

There are signs in Jeffrey Dudgeon's article (Village, Oct-Nov. 2024) that he has lost control of his defence and is unsure about strategy. Readers will note the most obvious sign - he does not engage with my article published in last July's Village. His insecurity appears in his first paragraph where he cites a phrase allegedly from my article but which is not there. He then refers to "a minor change" made between his "2nd and 3rd editions". This suggests that the fatal sentence first appeared in the second edition of 2016 which minimises the gravity of his blunder, by reducing the time it went uncorrected from seventeen years to two years. In fact the sentence was first published in 2002.

From his second paragraph onwards, Dudgeon steadily avoids a direct challenge to the logical proof in my article as he grasps at anything to help him survive. Thus he falls back on tried and tested chicanery with calculated confusion and false attribution. For example: "Hyde argues the motor bike gift is key ...". But I argue no such thing because there is no evidence of a gift: "...altering registration records ... to prove an actual sale ..." but such records register only legal ownership and not a motor sale: "assertions on...diary forging are all based on a small number of mistakes, errors or confusions..." but rather than being errors the many dozens are in fact significant, demonstrable deceits always and consistently used to support authenticity.

They include alteration of documents, false attributions, omissions, logical fallacies, lies and innuendo.

When Dudgeon attempts to grapple with the fact that there is no independent



From his second paragraph onwards Dudgeon steadily avoids a direct challenge to the logical proof in my article as he grasps at anything to help him survive

evidence for the material existence of the diaries in 1916, he stumbles into fatal confusion and contradiction. He agrees if the police typescripts were indeed ‘fakes’ that this “negates all statements by those who report seeing manuscript items before then”. This, Dudgeon says, “hinges largely on the fact that there was next to nobody outside government who specified exactly what they saw in 1916 ...”.

The locution “next to nobody” means very few persons. He then names two of these very few persons, US ambassador Page and Congo missionary John Harris as people who Dudgeon falsely claims saw manuscript (i.e. handwritten) diaries.

Home Office file 144/23481 states that “After the dismissal of the appeal a TYPESCRIPT copy was shown, on the Home Secretary’s instructions, to Mr. (later Sir John) Harris ...”. It does not state that Page saw manuscript diaries but rather confirms he only received *photographs of typescripts*.

On 17 March 1959, Home Secretary Rab Butler presented a draft Memorandum on the proposed release of the diaries which confirms the Ambassador “was given photographs of two passages from the typescripts”. The file also includes Blackwell’s description of the diary as ‘closely typed matter’ and Thomson’s 26 July letter confirming that Ambassador Page saw typescripts.

After 30 years of research, Dudgeon certainly knows those documents better than anyone. When decoded, it is clear the purpose of his double falsehood was to conceal that in all those decades he found no independent evidence for the diaries’ existence. Obviously, it is foolhardy to give *demonstrably false evidence* to prove something is genuine. But in desperation and knowing his readers are uninformed, Dudgeon took a calculated risk hoping to avoid detection. But now, unmasked, his last gamble fails and reveals a de facto confession - a coup de grâce for his opponents.

Dudgeon then compounds his confusion: “Evidence that Casement diary manuscripts - either the journals themselves or photographed pages - were displayed before the trial ended in late July does exist in official government papers; as do several precise descriptions ...”. Leaving aside that

the trial ended in June, not in late July, here we have uncertainty about what was allegedly displayed - either photos or bound diaries but not both. A photograph is not a manuscript diary. But there is no evidence of this showing in official papers and Dudgeon has not identified such papers. Nor has he cited details of the “several precise descriptions” of their contents - because such descriptions do not exist.

Finally Dudgeon reveals his secret, the technique which brought him recognition as a historical scholar and leading Casement investigator; “The technique I use is deduction from the evidence or... the absence of evidence - perfectly reasonable for historians”.

Dudgeon boasts that he can perform deductions without premises, ex nihilo, and if so, this might be a kind of divination or clairvoyance. He also appears to be capable of mind-reading since his previous Village defence stated that when Casement recorded the payments in the 1911 Irish National Library (NLI) note, he did not intend the written Millar payment to refer to a payment made to Millar although the other listed payments were to be understood literally. Miracle or magic, his gifts of clairvoyance and mind-reading are those of a magus or seer and these extraordinary powers explain his remarkable achievements.

These talents enable Dudgeon to insinuate that Gavan Duffy covered up the alleged homosexuality and as evidence he stresses that Duffy never said a word on this topic; I repeat - he said nothing so it follows he knew everything. This is Dudgeon’s last gasp speculation, a final gamble which he hopes will save his uncanny powers as magus.

Duffy checked the Casement papers Dick Morten sent him in 1915 and said nothing about the contents or what became of them afterwards. Dudgeon speculates that after Duffy’s inspection the papers were left with Casement’s friend, Frank Bigger, in Belfast. In 1916 after Casement’s execution, a nervous Bigger opened the case/s and read with horror “several diaries and also a number of compromising letters from homosexual correspondents”. In one version Bigger’s nephew was present and

they decided to burn the lot. In another version, the nephew heard the story later from his uncle. In fact, this story was invented in 1954 by René MacColl who claimed he heard it from an anonymous source in Cork who allegedly was told by the nephew just before his death in 1951. Pity - papers all destroyed and all witnesses dead.

Since Morten and Duffy lived in London, how did the documents get to Belfast? Answer - they didn’t. Dudgeon writes “If it [the inspection] took place in Belfast...”. Dudgeon prefers Belfast because it matches the invented MacColl story which is too good to lose. But contradiction yet again since, in his book, Dudgeon has Duffy destroying the compromising documents in London in 1915, thus exonerating the Belfast Biggers in 1916 and contradicting René MacColl.

Or perhaps he means the documents were destroyed twice?

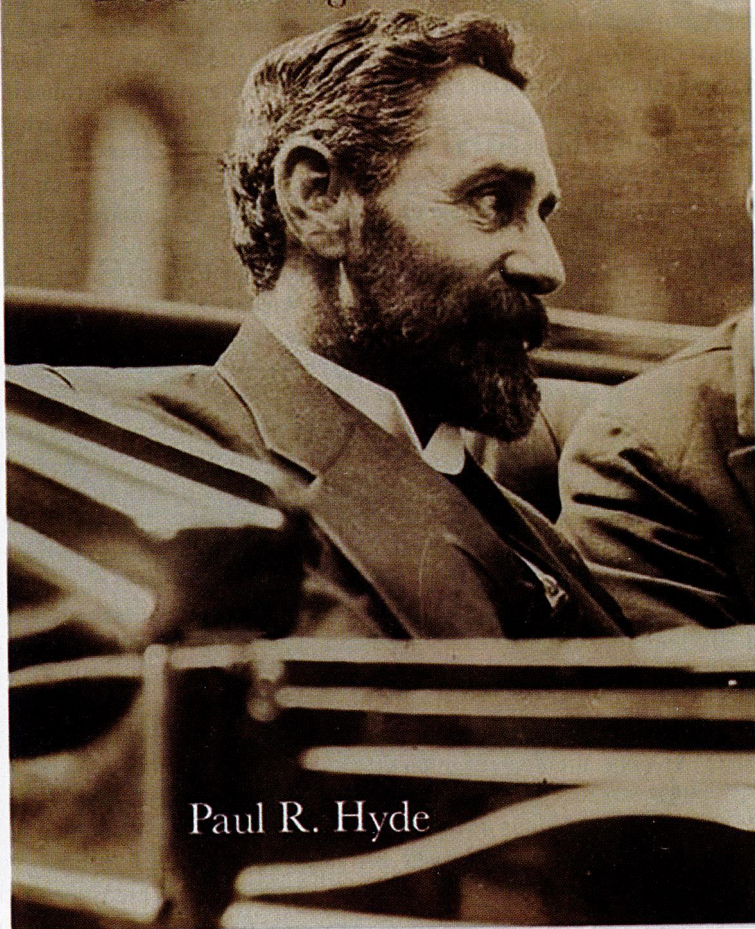
Dudgeon claims that Senator Michael McDowell proposed an irrefutable argument to demonstrate that the typescripts are copies of the diaries. McDowell’s reasoning relies on observations by Ó Síocháin. However, both are compromised because they assume what must not be assumed - that the bound diaries were in police custody in 1916. From this assumed premise they make a second assumption - that the typescripts were “transcribed” from the handwritten diaries and errors in some Irish words were made by the typists.

Dudgeon also claims there is no evidence of research by “government agents...for the colossal faking project...”. But this is wrong too since he certainly knows about the 1974 report by the Reverend Gerard Smith of exactly such research in Iquitos and Putumayo in early January 1916 by two British officers whose enquiries focused heavily on homosexuality. Enrique Gonzales Cristobal, son of Casement’s guide in 1910-11, recounted their investigation into Casement’s contacts and activities in the Pucallpa area.

Later Dudgeon seems to resort to calculated confusion by feigning to speculate about “large gaps in Casement documentation”, that is, correspondence he believes existed but which no longer exists. Without evidence, he alleges there were “incoming boyfriend letters” which he suspects were destroyed by Gavan Duffy. Carefully priming the reader with innuendo about “...Gavan Duffy’s state of knowledge about Casement’s sexuality...”, he gives an example of missing documents. Alice Green in 1929 donated her last Casement letters to the NLI commenting that Duffy’s wife had

ANATOMY OF A LIE

Decoding Casement



Paul R. Hyde

been shocked by them and had wanted them burned. The letters have since disappeared so Dudgeon has never seen them but he cannot miss an opportunity for innuendo: "Obviously Duffy knew things his wife did not". This invites naïve readers to assume sexually explicit contents. But Casement's last letters to Green from Berlin were all officially intercepted. What shocked Duffy's wife was familiar to Alice Green who was not shocked by Casement's anti-British, pro-German sentiments. Mrs Duffy was Sergeant Sullivan's sister and like her brother strongly anti-Sinn Féin and pro-British. An un-shocked Green wanted the letters preserved in NLI.

Dudgeon's evasive speculation about imaginary documents depends on his ability as magus to make deductions ex

nihilo so that absence of desired evidence becomes evidence of guilt. This enables him to avoid what is obvious to any impartial observer.

In over a quarter century, Dudgeon has signally refused to recognise that the motivation behind forging the diaries was extremely homophobic depicting the diarist negatively as an emotionally unstable, highly promiscuous pederast addicted to prostitutes and obsessed with the male organ, in accordance with the worst prejudices of the time.

This caricature of the homosexual as an immoral predator incapable of normal human affections, a pathologically disturbed outsider to the human family, is deeply offensive to homosexuals today.

The caricature is intrinsically homophobic

This caricature of the homosexual as an immoral predator incapable of normal human affections, a pathologically disturbed outsider to the human family, is deeply offensive to homosexuals today.

and this is confirmed by how it was used in 1916; the vile portrait was false then and it remains false today. While attitudes to homosexuality have altered since 1916, the grotesque caricature in the diaries lives on. Those who are duped by Dudgeon into believing the diaries are authentic are thus blinded to the homophobia. The result is that by endorsing Dudgeon's claim of authenticity they unwittingly sanction the homophobia in the diaries.

The uninformed have been easily duped by Dudgeon's strategy of innuendo and confusion which has allowed him to exploit their chief concern - to be seen as tolerant liberals. What else can explain the pitiful catalogue of fabrications, contradictions, evasions, manipulations and omissions set out above? One might ask, is this really the work of a magus or of an imposter.

Given his prominence as the leading forgery denier, his lethal miscalculation will have a devastating impact on the controversy and on those who trusted him. By knowingly citing false evidence he has unintentionally confirmed he has no evidence for the existence of the diaries in 1916. Nor has anyone else.

Authenticity claims logically presuppose existence which Dudgeon cannot demonstrate; therefore, his failure is deemed a de facto proof of forgery. That this follows the logical proof of forgery published in *Village* (July 2024) is a conclusive demonstration that the Casement window for Dudgeon is now closed. ■

Paul R Hyde is the author of 'Anatomy of a Lie', Wordwell Books, and of decoding-casement.com.