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8th December, 1986.

Dear Dr. Greenfield,

Many thanks for your very interesting letter of last month. This is quite fascinating information. If the cigarette case you mention, which according to your friend at the museum was a present to Aleister Crowley from Gerald Gardner back in 1936, actually has an inscription to that effect, then this is an important piece of evidence indeed.

If your friend is right, then it would mean that old Gerald actually went through a charade of pretending to Arnold Crowther that Arnold was introducing him to Crowley for the first time - a charade which Crowley for some reason was willing to go along with. Why? I can't see the point of such a pretence; but then occultists sometimes do some devious things.

Have you been in touch with Kenneth Grant at all? He claims to be the Outer Head of the O.T.O. in England - a claim which as you probably know is hotly disputed by other branches of the Order. I know that old Gerald knew him quite well. He writes rather snottily - and inaccurately - about his acquaintanceship with Gerald Gardner in his book NIGHTSIDE OF EDEN. He might know something about this subject, although I would rather you did not mention me to him if you do write.

With regard to YE BOOKE OF YE ART MAGICAL, I of course only have the incomplete transcript of it which is contained in the MS. by Aidan Kelly. However, I do not see from this how it was possible for old Gerald to have kept this as a private book of power for his sole private use. It contains initiation rituals which had to involve at least one other person. But I wonder who this person was. It had, of course, to be a woman - and moreover, it had to be a woman with sufficiently long hair to be able to carry a knife in its coils! I have speculated that perhaps Gerald wrote it for the benefit of some particular lady. And then what happened? I don't know, and perhaps we never shall know.

It's very interesting that the O.T.O. newsletter, THE MAGICKAL LINK, has the entry about Gardnerian witchcraft which you quote. I don't know who Frater Zardoz is; but I hope you get a reply from him to your enquiry.

I know that Gerald Gardner went over to U.S.A. and met Karl Germer, because Gerald told me about this. He said that (if I remember rightly)

Germer had some trouble with the British authorities about being allowed into England, but that he had met him on a visit to U.S.A. Apparently they got on quite well together, though I don't know how much contact they actually had. Another person Gerald knew in U.S.A. is Tamara Bourkoun, who I believe was an associate of the late Dr. Israel Regardie. I think this lady may still be with us, indeed I hope so. If so, she may be able to tell you something about Gerald's occult activities before I met him.

Old Cecil Williamson is still around, too. You will no doubt remember that he originally partnered Gerald in his Witchcraft Museum on the Isle of Man. Indeed, Williamson claims that it was he who started the Museum and that Gerald merely bought it from him. Unfortunately, they 'parted on fighting terms' (literally, I'm told!) Consequently, Mr. Williamson has little good to say about Gerald. However, that should not preclude Mr. Williamson having some interesting evidence to give, if he chose to do so. After he parted company with Gerald, he opened a very interesting witchcraft exhibition in a Cotswold village, Bourton-on-the-Water, and then moved again down to Polperro in Cornwall, where he started another witchcraft museum at nearby Boscastle. Nowadays I believe he has moved again to Devon. I don't know his present address but he shouldn't be too difficult to find.

I would certainly like to know the outcome of your research. If I come across anything of interest on this side of the Atlantic, I will certainly let you know. Right now, I am reading with interest the current material which is being published about Dion Fortune's associate, Colonel Seymour, 'the Forgotten Mage.' I feel that this has considerable bearing on the neo-pagan revival of the present day.

With all good wishes, especially for a Happy Yuletide,

Yours sincerely,

Doreen Valiente.

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