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10 letters by A.C. and a memorandum on a Himalyan Expedition

May - June 1914

Preserved as dictated partly in shorthand in a black notebook  
exercise nbook in the possession of G J Yerke in 1956

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A.C. to ~~Theodore-Reuss~~ Theodore Reuss ?

Undated (1914)

Most Illus(trous) and Most Puiss(ant) Sov(eraign) G(rand) M(aster) G(eneral)

It is proposed by the most Illus. S.G.M.G. ad vitam for the German Empire and seconded by the most Illus. S.G. Master General of G(reat) B(ritain) (A.C. ? T) and Ireland, and of Austria and Hungary that the Hon Degree of 97 of Grand Hierophant made vacant by the death of the late lamented Most Illus. Sov. G.M.G. of G.B. and Ireland, John Yarker, be conferred upon the most Illus. S.G.M.G. of France Dr G roul (? T) Encausse (Papus) 33<sup>o</sup>, 90<sup>o</sup>, 96<sup>o</sup>, on account of his world wide eminence and his successful labours on behalf of the Rite

Yours most fraternally in the Bonds of the Order.

Your vote on this proposition is asked.. Unless we receive from you within 4 weeks from the date of this letter a proposition to the contrary we assume your acquiescence and shall declare him formally GrandHierophant.

2

A.C. to <sup>Cowie</sup> M Gifford ?

Undated (1914 ?)

Care Prater.

I hadn't time to answer your<sup>first</sup> letter before your second came. Very glad to hear of you at Boleskine, <sup>a</sup> and hope you can send the proofs in the course of a week. I am surprised the sketch book takes so long to do. I thought it would be a thing to finish in a couple of days. There is no new Gremers (she had been A.C.'s secretary T) and every hope of tidying things over the next month with a little luck. You should push the business with ~~M~~ Buchanan. If he is worried enough he will probly give way. This idea of Nelson's being so <sup>at an unweal</sup> ~~unweal~~ and all the world so immoral is probly due to overheating of the brain caused by indiscreet and indiscriminate potations. No more flue and general joy at a little warm weather.

So much for your first letter, As for the<sup>second</sup> of course I was thinking that the term (of the lease of Boleskine ? T) was at the end of June. I can never keep these things in my head. Anyway there's nothing else to be paid, except a similar sum in six month's time, and the rates and so on amounting to about £25 or rather less payable in January, and of course that Shylock Cowie, but I don't know when his pounds of flesh come home from the butcher's. However the man is a perfect bogey to me. I am going to draw a funny picture of him in Lodge as Principal Ogre, to try and inspire some financial Jack the Giant Killer to come and bombard him his house from the top of Blackford Hill.

When I said there was nothing else to pay I omitted to remind you that some of the

Temple Furniture is pawned to the extent of £79. I don't quite understand what you say about the overdraft, but I suppose it means that you are clear, but with a small balance. I don't think it is a good plan to use a *mon de plume*, especially on official documents. Can't you differentiate from your ordinary signature without that? In haste

Fraternally

3

A.C. to M/?

Undated (1914 ?)

Very Illustrious and Very Dear Brother,

I have now pleasure in sending you particulars of the members of M M M with notes as to their present standing. They should be written to accordingly when necessary. We will send you some standard paper and envelopes for the purpose as soon as we can get it ourselves. Saluting you B T M.

L Waddel; I V Van Notten. Florence Van Notten. Frederick Alfred Becker (? T) I think these are all ? ? I have written to S Reelfs to see that they pay.

Frederick Carter signed the form but has not come up for initiation. He married the lowest type of music hall tart, which probably explains it.

Stanly North. Signed paper, but did not come forward for initiation. A washed out kind of woman.

Esud (? T) Von Goerschen, not come forward for initiation. A friend of Bro Kennedy's.

John Selesy. Has paid in part. He owes £2-1-0 & 4-4-0 for this years subscription. He is a person who travels about on business and appears like a Cheshire Cat.

Miss Florence (? T) A Butt - a friend of Cremers, never paid anything. Owes £9-9-0. Must marry or go mad.

Herbert Close. Resigned. J H Power ( ? Powel) resigned.

A Olivez (? T) In good standing.

Anna Wright, in good standing. Pays by work.

Lily Henry, in good standing. Kate Mitchel, in good standing.

Emil Haverstein (? T) needs to pay a guinea to be in good standing.

Robt. Felkin. Owes £2.0.0. and his subscription for this year, £3.0.0.

Count Louis Hamon. Owes us £4.4.0

Benj. Charles Hammond. In good standing, but he takes out subscriptions in work done. *An engraver*

Florence Bousfield - owes £1.1.0 subscription.

William Davies. In good standing. May Davies, in good standing.

Walter Kerr Sanderson. Not yet come forward.



Temple Furniture is pawned to the extent of £79. I don't quite understand what you say about the overdraft, but I suppose it means that you are clear, but with a small balance. I don't think it is a good plan to use a *nom de plume*, especially on official documents. Can't you differentiate from your ordinary signature without that? In haste

Fraternally

3

A.C. to K/?

Undated (1914 ?)

Very Illustrious and Very Dear Brother.

I have now pleasure in sending you particulars of the members of M M M with notes as to their present standing. They should be written to accordingly when necessary. We will send you some standard paper and envelopes for the purpose as soon as we can get it ourselves. Saluting you B T M.

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Florence Bousfield - owes £1.1.0 subscription.

William Davies. In good standing. May Davies, in good standing.

Walter Kerr Sanderson. Not yet come forward.

Chas Danby. Oves £4.4.0 this year's subscription.  
 Jas T Windram. In good standing.  
 Elsie Le Vennier (? T) Expelled. Phoebe Miller. Expelled.  
 Olivia Haddon. Oves £2.2.0 & £4.4.0 this <sup>year's</sup> year's subscription.  
 W Clayton Minchin, owes £8.17.0 and £4.4.0 subscription.  
 I D Baelfs. In good standing.  
 E.G.Otter. Resigned. C S Burton Resigned.  
 Nina Hamnett. Oves £4.4.0, this year's subscription.  
 V B Neuberg. An imbecile with no moral feeling. Oves £17.17.0 and his apron. Should be written to to try and awake some vestige of a moral sense.  
 G M Cowie. We do not know whether this extremely ? ? himself his subscription and his affliction (he was stone deaf.T).  
 Fredsham. Rejected.  
 Victor (? Victoria ?) Cremers. Expelled.  
 Leon Engers Kennedy. Oves this year's subscription £11.11.0  
 Del R6 Oves £12.2.0 and this year's subscription £4.4.0  
 Sid Myers (? T) He owes £1.3.0 balance of subscription.  
 L B Yardley Oves £11.11.0 subscription.  
 C.L. LeMesurier (? T) owes £4.4.0 but is at present under duress.  
 R J Adams in good standing.  
 R B Haselden owed £7.9.0 and this years subscription £4.4.0  
 E J Wieland. Good standing. Pays by work.  
 Enclose copy of Byelaws which are to be mimeographed and sent to everyone.

4

A.C. to ? Undated (1914)

I have got a man who appears to mean business. Please let me know whether the next consignment is likely to arrive or not, as soon as you hear. I am sure the Treasurer is in earnest by the volume and intensity of his conversation on the telephone.

Yrs truly.

5

A.C. to Anna Wright. Undated. (1914)

Thanks for your letter. I was very sorry not to see you. I am so glad you have heard from Mr (? Mrs.T) Walter (? T). We mustn't miss this opportunity. I am not sure whether we have a poem, but if not we must make it a lecture or something, and what we had

better do is to have a talk over it as soon as you can find time. Anyway, write and accept and say you will let her know exactly what you will do in a day or two. In the meanwhile make an appointment. I refuse to fall into the trap and tell you how beautiful your voice is, or to say that it is more like a bird singing than ordinary human speech.

Yours ever.

6

To A.C. to Lily Henry. Undated (1914)

Dear Sister Henry.

Thank you very much for the letter that you wrote the other day. I am bound to point out to you that it should be recorded as your first duty to attend all summons to the Lodge (of O.T.O. T) and that nothing whatever should be allowed to interfere with them except illness. I know that very many people fail to understand this. But if you are to obtain the full benefit from the <sup>Rite?</sup> (Lodge?) you should make it your ideal.

We have not heard from Mr Donavan. You should let him know that he must come forward for initiation promptly. The M.M.M. is a serious nbody and must be treated with the greatest respect. I have been rebuked most severely by the Frater Superior of the Order (Reuss.T) for laxness in dealing with these matters. The whole organisation has got to be run on lines of the most rigid punctuality. You will see the importance of this when you advance further in the Order. As soon as Mr Donavan has been initiated we shall be ready to give you the V°. I should like you to arrange that Mr Donavan takes his degree this week or next at the very latest, so that I may arrange for a chapter of the V° for you—

Yours fraternally.

7

A.C. to C J Windram. Undated (1914) . Probably in May.

Care Frater

Equinox V appendix p 164 line 3 word 3. I wrote you a long letter 3 or 4 days ago before getting yours of the 21<sup>st</sup> April with enclosure, for which many thanks. If there were only 99 other just persons it would be all right. As a matter of fact there is a sort of glimmer of hope of escaping the full catastrophe to which your draft has notably contributed. These people don't wish to proceed to extremities as long as one can keep them on sending them something on account. They know there is nothing to be got out of it.

I rather want you to make a rule to do an Astral <sup>or vision 9.7.97</sup> of some sort every day unless there is a strong reason against it. You must absolutely make up your mind about visions, you say with regard to your Burmese Temple "I could not tell you what the people were like or how they were dressed". Please imagine yourself being cross-examined under torture with this



proviso, that the inquisitor is satisfied with any answers you returned. That is really the situation. As soon as you can send me some visions which are all wrong, one can show you why they are wrong, and by that means enable you to correct. I must rub it into you every time I write that you should do day-dreams. These two visions that you described seem to me more of an astral. We do not want anything so material that it expeces- refuses to obey the will. One of the most important things in this astral work is to be able to see anything you want to see, so that in meditation later on you are able to prevent yourself seeing what you don't want to see. The whole thing is a dodge for getting v control of the mind in certain respects. You see from the point of view of the Master of the Temple all these planes are so many illusions, useful illusions no doubt which need understanding, but after all only illusions. You are quite right to say that there is plenty of work on the other side of the obstacle. Once you get hold of the laws that which govern the Astral plane so-called, you are very much better equipped for magical problems. I put in this sentence to soothe the magician after my cruel remarks about illusion.

You have already had a good deal of experience of things quite material enough to set houses on fire. But the difficulty is that they are apt to play these games instead of settling down to the work that you want them to do. Control of the Asrt Astral Plane will help you enormously with this. You want to be alert, your astral body always on the watch. I have been saved from endless catastrophes entirely through this. To show you how useful it might be, I think there would be no harm in the Kaffirs knowing that you are a great magician. You could give the leader a talisman against the Spook with the Horns. It would work all right, the natives would do anything for you. That fact at least would get known among the Whites, and you would be regarded as a jolly useful associate with any venture which depended on the goodwill of the niggers.

I sent you out Rituals (O.T.O. T). As soon as I get <sup>time</sup> ? to myself I am making a fair copy of the Me varietur kind which I will then have copied accurately and sent to you. Of course there is no money to have them printed.

In your position as a Rex Summus Sanctissimus (for South Africa T) you need have no hesitation in using the ceremonial effect ( ? T) in any practical way that seems advisable. In making talismans on G(elden) D(awn) lines - and that part of the G.D. was all right - the whole secret was to treat the talisman as the candidate for initiation. And in working up a movement you can treat the candidate for Initiation as a talisman.



The balance for the Charter should be submitted to Reuss, who by the way is S (? T) Reuss, but there wasn't very much to remit, was there? I thought the idea was to give him ten guineas more as a compliment than as a payment. Please send my fraternal greetings to Yardly. (Fowler Sparabro)

If you ~~can~~ affiliate or initiate anyone, remember that you must have another VII<sup>o</sup> man to make a pair for your executive, and that the whole of ~~this~~ fees must be sent here. After we have got that you keep all the fees yourself with the exception of a capitation tax for us. Would 25 per cent be too much? The three members of the Executive must always be in good standing with us at least for the present. We have this house of retirement (Boleskine I think T) and you will shortly get a pamphlet about it. You will notice that you have the right to be entertained there the rest of your life, as befits your royal rank, which is rather nice for you. We have a mortgage of 900- £900 on it and a friendly mortgage of £500 of a protective character. I regret to say that the trustees have pawned most of the valuables of the Temple. However all this is favorable in the event of things coming to a crisis. But it is really extraordinary how the money turns up at the last moment

I enclose <sup>blocks of</sup> one chapter of your holy book, which will come one day, though heaven knows when. The man who is doing it is always having bad health. (Hammond I think and Liber C. T)

Yrs Fraternally.

P.S. It is very nice of you to suggest this visit to S(outh) A(frica) but at present I see no opportunity possibility of any kind. November or December might do ... but goodness knows whether I should be able to pay my fare.

8

A.C. to Ralph Shirley. ~~May 11~~ (May or June-1914)

My dear Shirley, ~~Thanks~~ for your letter of May 13. This letter is to accept the terms mentioned therein with the addition that you send £25 on account....(Most of the rest of this short letter illegible.T)

9

A.C. to ~~Richard Clay~~ <sup>Richard Clay</sup> ( ? T ) 15 May 1914

When I saw you the other day I expected understood you to say that you expected to hear from me before the end of the month. As a matter of fact I was about to write to you this morning on another matter. I have disposed of the moulds of the Key of the Mysteries (A.C.'s translation of La Clef Des Grands Mystères by Eliphas Levi. T)

Rider did not issue a reprint. I got them to publish it in 196-  
97-4.

7

which you hold for me, to Wm Rider & Son. I asked their Director, Mr Ralph Shirley, to get you to do the reprint. I hope you will however in some way compensate us for the unavoidable delay on my part to send you a cheque. I am however hoping to let you have something on account during the course of next week.

Yours very truly,

(Note by T. The last sentence appears to <sup>have</sup> gone wrong in the shorthand.)

10

A.C. to Martin Hall of Portnum & Mason. Undated (? May or June 1914)

Dear Mr Martin-Hall:

With reference to the conversation we had yesterday, I now proceed to give you a detailed idea of the Himalayan Expedition of which we spoke. There are two possible objectives, 1) Chogo-Ri or K 2 (28,250) and 2) Kangchenjunga (28156 ft). These two expeditions are however so different in every respect that I must deal with them separately.

I want three to five companions, though I could do with less, but I would not take more. I have an ideal doctor belonging to the Indian Army and accustomed to the Himalayas, but who says that he cannot put up more than £400 at the outside. As however he is resident in India nearly £400 would be saved on fare. There is another possible candidate resident in Cashmere, but as he is recently married I do not know whether he would continue in his willingness to join. He should be able to pay at least his share if he did join.

#### Chogo Ri

The minimum sum required to furnish an expedition for 6 men all starting from and returning to England would be £3,500. With £600 however one could do everything in the best possible manner. From London to London the expedition would last not more than 7 months. His estimate is very definite as the passes from Cashmere into Baltistan open and close at definite periods of the year owing to snowfall. The party would have to leave England about March 1. It would be highly advisable to dispatch the equipment much earlier.

The exact date of return would depend on the summer. It is about 14 days from London to Bombay: 3 days from Bombay to Rawalpindi; either 2 or 7 days from Rawalpindi to Srinagar, depending on whether the equipment has been sent on before or not. About 30 ordinary marches <sup>to the</sup> on foot of the Glacier, <sup>on</sup> passes not always available: 10 or 11 marches to the foot of the mountain. Fresh meat and fresh food generally can be obtained up to



the fourth march on the Glacier. As far as the Glacier 100 coolies approximately are necessary to carry the loads. On the Glacier itself this number must be multiplied by three as it requires two men to carry sufficient for themselves and a third.

For these expeditions a man should not be less than 25 or more than 45 years old. Previous experience of mountain climbing in the Alps is not necessary, provided that there is intelligence and willingness to conform to the regulations laid down by the leader with regard to the danger of the mountain. General camping experience is, however, very valuable. A good deal of fatigue and hardship may be expected.

There is excellent shooting Ibex, Markhor, Ovis <sup>Armen</sup> Armon, Ovis Poli, etc, but members of the expedition would be pledged not to indulge in it until after the success of the Expedition. There is also excellent shooting in Cashmere in the <sup>autumn</sup> autumn if any member of the party chooses to prolong his tour.

Kangchenjunga <sup>The minimum</sup>  
<sup>No minimum</sup> sum required for an expedition to Kang Chenjunga would be £2000, to do it in the best possible style £4000. One must leave <sup>over</sup> England in May. The time of return would depend on the weather, but there is no reason why the Expedition should not be over in time for its members to return to England in October at the latest. There is no shooting on the Expedition, tho' any amount can be obtained in the immediate vicinity on the return - the best shooting in India. There is a slight difficulty about K.C.. It has one approach through Nepal and it requires special permission from the Dewan of Nepal which however we had no difficulty in getting on the last occasion.

I want to make <sup>up</sup> my party before the end of June, so as to take these members for practical climbing and camping in the Alps during July and August. From September to the end of the year would be devoted to getting the equipment. In neither expedition is any kind of disease to be feared. The conditions are ideal for health.

11

Expedition to Chogo Ri 1915. Memoranda.

Call India Office. Write George V. O(scar) E(ckenstein). G.K. (Knowles ? T) Radcliffe Clemesha (? T). Marchison. Marston. Feilding. Lawrie. Bullock.

Crowley tents 3. Mummy silk tents 3. Roberts valises 7/8. Crowley sleeping bgs 7. Crowley pneumatic mattresses 3.

O(scar) E(ckenstein) ice-axes 6. Swiss ditto, 6. Matterhorn ski prs 8. O(scar) E(ckenstein) steigeisen, every man his pair. Boots, everyman his 3 pairs.



Fur boots. Rubber shoes. Stockings every man 6 pairs. Thick socks ditto.  
 Alpine cord 60 ft: 80 ft: 120 ft. Alpina rope 300 feet. Pitons.  
 3 tweed knickers per man, 1 tweed coat ditto: Two flannel shirts ditto. 1 double chest  
 sweater ditto. 1 poslita (? t) ditto. 1 balaclava ditto. Gloves, woollen, fur, rubber  
 3 pairs per man, 6 spare pairs assorted. 3 prs putties per man, 3 spare pairs.

Cooking. Primus stoves 6. Spare parts for ditto packed inside.  
 Cooking kilts (? T) lined metal. 3 canteens aluminium. Pressure-cooker.

3 B P apparatus. 3 <sup>an</sup>Meroids. 1 Collie Barometer. 1 Max and min thermometer.

Fruits. Dried figs California peaches. Elva (? T) plums. Dates.

Chocolate <sup>an</sup>Marquis (powder). Menier sticks. ? Sushard.

Food-units

Beef or mutton 6. Pork (incl sausages) 6. Chicken etc 6. Biscuits, rusks 4  
 Potted meats  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Soup  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Chocolate  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Sugar 2. Tea  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Milk (dried) 2. Fruits 12.  
 Butter 1. Sweets (caramels sultanas etc)  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Extra foods . Challet (? T) for valley 40 lb  
     Chocolate           do   do   40  
     Sugar                40  
     Tea                   4  
     Milk (dried)         40  
     Stuff similar to Challet   30

120 self-cooking ( ? cooling T) tins for mountain. 36 emergency rations.  
 Dried apricots (buy at Skarder)