



Bréfa- og málasafn 1955

Bjarni Benediktsson – Stjórnmal – Dómsmálaráðherra – Menntamálaráðherra – Bréf – Svarbréf –
Ásgeir Pétursson – Björn Björnsson og Hulda – Eggert Stefánsson – Jochum M. Eggertsson (Skuggi) –
O. Albertsson til Bj. Gíslasonar – Tómas Jónsson – N.N. – Skólanefnd barnaskóla Mýrarsýslu –
Sinfóníuhljómsveit Íslands – Þjóðleikhúsið – Rótarýklúbbarnir í Reykjavík og Hafnarfirði – Hagstofa
Íslands – Breska sendiráðið – J. Thyne Henderson – Report concerning the disappearance of two former
Foreign Office Officials – Donald Maclean – Guy Burgess

Tekið af vef Borgarskjalasafnsins

bjarnibenediktsson.is

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afrit af
m. bréfi.

Db. Y - 1.

Eftir viðtöku bréfs yóar, herra rithöfundur,
dags. 18. f.m., varðandi útgáfu smásagna yóar, skal yóur
tjáð, að menntamálaráðherra hefur engin áhrif á útgáfustarfs-
emi menntamálaráðs.

Ef þér viljió á hinn bóginn leita til Almennas
bókafélagsins, er eðlilegast að þér snúió yóur til skrifstofu-
stjóra félagsins, Eyjólfis K. Jónssonar.

F. h. r.

e. u.

U.P.

Til
hera Jochum M. Eggertssonar,
Laufásvegi 75,
Reykjavík.

Skripta brefritara
og tja honum meka
mrb. hafi engin áhrif
á ritgala meita. m. s. s.
og af laun viki leita til
laustast laun smá veit
skrif. þess. þess.

Reykjavík, Laufásvegur 75, 18/11. 1955

Hættvisti meðtámalaraðhera Íslands.

Þjarni Benediktsson

Reykjavík.

Ég undirritaður vildi hér með góðfúslega og virðingarfyllt leyfa mér að fara þess á leit við yður, hvort þér séu yður fært að mæla með því við Meðtámalarátt ellegar Sjá bókaútgáfufélagið, hvort það vildi taka af mér smásöguhandrit til athugasemja og kaups, ef um sendist. Handritið mætti borgast á 3-4 árum með jöfnum afbörgunum árlega. Steins þyrfti ég að fá fyrstu afbörgun, afurðitím slatta, fyrir miðjan næsta mánuð til að borga lífnautsyrðingar skyldur minar og skatta. Handritið inniheldur 33 sögur og hefur topur þriðjungur þeirra verið áður í tímasritum, en ekki gefnar út í bókaformi. Handritið er geymt hjá mér, heljartápakki, en lista yfir nöfnin á sögum og heitahætti (sem þó ekki er bindandi) fylgja hér með.

Vanti heitir og var yður hit allra fyrsta.

Allra virðingarfyllt Jóhann M. Eggertsson
Laufásvegur 75

Skuggi:

Smust braud og smittu

Söguröfnir:

1. Smust braud.
2. Þlejalogn á Bugtinum.
3. Trýnaveður.
4. Steinninn
5. Fróm fyriskipan
6. Konuorki.
7. Gjúur svaladrykkur.
8. Huggun ekkjunnar.
9. "Hjálpi mér nú mildur!"
10. "Þeim-meningin!"
11. Saga úr Saubánum.
12. Skautalánit.
13. Sveir menn tíndir.
14. Magnúsar-þáttur blavaspillis.
15. Bjarna-þáttur hefatta.
16. Masmítur.
17. ~~Dráttis~~-draumur Halbeins Tomasonar.
18. Forn ósafanna.
19. Hölluþeim
20. Djákrinn í Dgri.
21. Skepnur skaparans.
22. Hrolluþingur.
23. Sonur samleikans.
24. Þlinda.
25. Spánarvein.
26. Týndi fossinn.
27. Ekitt í hjálborum.
28. Litla-Sagan.
29. Bláa huldun.
30. Lofgerð lífsins.
31. Gaddarísátit og átjándi sjúkdómurinn
32. Sil konunnar
33. Síða Þótas-þáttur á Símunstæt.

Þokkar þess sögur eru til eftir sama höfund, full-
stær í handritum, sem hér eru skilið taldar.

Reykjavík 10 janúar 1955

Til sendiráðs Íslands í London.

Jafnframt því að senda sendiráðinu skjal varðandi einkaleifi er Einar Magnússon fékk fyrir uppfinningu á vissri gerð ofna, er sendiráðið vinsamlega beðið að athuga hvort skjalið hafi nokkuð raunhæft gildi .

Reykjavík, 14. marz 1955

Góði vinur!

Hér með sendi eg þér fundargerðir bókmenntafélags okkar. Enn er þetta í undirbúningi, m.a. höfum við undanfarnar vikur unnið að stofnun hlutafélags til að tryggja fjárhaginn. Vonast eg að það komist á laggirnar mjög skjótlega.

Eg þakka þér mjög vel fyrir, að þú vildir vera með og skal láta þig fylgjast jafnóðum með því sem einhverja þýðingu hefur.

Jón Þórnarus Björnsson

Reykjavík, 19. marz 1955

Kæri Hannes,

Bjarni Benediktsson biður þig að kaupa fyrir
sig:

Sincerely, Willis Wayde, by John P. Marquard.
(Boston: Little, Brown & Co \$ 3.95).

Besta kveðja.

Ásgeir.

Herra ræðismaður
Hannes Kjartansson,
New York.

Reykjavík, 21. marz 1955

Herra kennari
Eypór Þórðarson,
Neskaupstað.

Mér hefur borizt bréf yðar,
dags. 2. marz s.l., sem ég þakka yður
fyrir. Mér þykir leitt að skýra yður
frá því, að búið var að ráðstafa náms-
stjórnastöðu þeirri, sem þér höfðuð hug-
á, áður en bréf yðar barst, og er því
ekki hægt að verða við umsókn yðar,
sem eg ella hefði a.m.k. tekið til
gaumgæfilegrar athugunar.

Með beztu kveðjum.

Bj. Ben
(Liqu)

Skömmu áður en mér var boðið heim spurði ég íslendingafélagið í Höfn, hvort það ekki vildi hlaupa undir bagga með mér við prentun bókarinnar og safna 2 - 300 áskrifendum sem fyrirfram borguðu 10 kr. hver gegn því að fá senda bók seinna. Ég fékk aldrei neitt svar og er þó meðlimur af félaginu. Nú kom svarið - og ég sendi yður það að gamni, svo þér sjáið hve duglegur "útvörður" íslendingafélag vorra daga er í Höfn. Ef ég held áfram að fá styrkinn þarf ég sem betur fer ekki á hjálp þess að halda í framtíðinni.

Doni Þej. Kristjánsson, ritstjóri
Renes

Þakka fyrir miðl. bréf þitt frá 19. Júní og þú fundu þu að ég hef ekki svarað fyrir.

Ég las þið bókina þína fyrir nýju sjómanna, á aðalst. fél. í sekklæk - og þá formann að leita upp á skemmtifundum eta fundum, en app. þefur ekkert átt til þjá hann - þá fundu þu hef ég minn varaformann, þó þú Kristjánsson á þetta tuisvar eta þrisvar - með daufun undirlektum - hann leyst ekkert út af landa hei hafi interesse af handrita málum. Þú er ég vissum at heft. málit verit skirt á landamótismundi einhv. áskrifendum hafa ferziat - en eftir állu at danna þá leyst ég nit at nokkurn hlið sjómanna sí málum danna hlyndis - en áfust - a. m. 14. maí handrita málit snerkis. Þú veist þú at Hólveg

(Vælli)

Petersen er formannur sjómanna. Ég hef ekkert verit í sjómanni s. bró á, var leinum af fánög al sinni en heft. ég verit þá munda ég hafa gert málit til at kanna leinum þínu í framfarum, eta á annan hátt stult at þú at þú heft. ferit rentu. kemingun þú ísl. ísl. áttit hei hafa ekkert helur en þú - og sína gjörtit þína at þú er samur íslendingur.

O. ALBERTSSON

Ø. FARIMAGSGADE 35

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TELEFON: FORRETNING ØB 9248

POSTGIRO 29681

KØBENHAVN Ø., d.

28
1. 53

★
Dorri Þóbj. Eirsláson, ritstjóri
Renes

Þakka fyrir mótt. bréf þitt frá 19. Dólist st.
þú fengist þú að ég hef ekki svarað þér.

Þú lasti leitni þína fyrir minni skjólmána, á
aðalst. fél. í skólaker - og þá formann að leirapá
upp á skemmtifundur eða fundum, en af
hefur ekki átt hjá þessum - þú fengist þú
hef ég minn varaformann, þó þú hristur
á þetta trúnað eða þrúnað - með daufrum
undirleiknum - hann leist ekki út að land
heir hafi áhressu af handrita málinum. Þú er
ég vissum að heft. málit verit skirt á
landamótismundi eintr. á skrifendum hafa
fengist - en eftir állu að danna þá leist ég
nit að nokkurn blík skjólmána sé minna
danna hlýndis - en áfust - a. m. 19. maí
handrita málit snerkis. Þú veist þú að Hólmey

(Vælli) Pehrson er formannur skjólmána. Þú hef ekki
verit í skjólmána í tvö ár, var leinum af fámög al sinni
en heft. ég verit þá snerkis ég hafa gert mikið til
að kanna leitni þína í framfarum, eða á
annan hátt stultat að þú at þú heft. fengist verit
kenningu þú þótt. þessum; aðrit heir hafa ekki gert
heft. en þú - og sína gjörtir þína, að þú erit
sammur íslendingur

Skinnas ekkert niðt frá niðendumi hég.

Hágni varf 50 ára 18 p. m., hann var hég á
fest þann dag - en ég talast aðeins nið hann
í sínum nokkrum línum áður en hann
laði á staf heimleitis. Þét gatta þetta þatun.

Vana að allt sé í besta lagi hég þér
þú þuét þig - ~~mat~~ með
framhítu ásterni á síjja árinu.

þinn ernt
@Munty

Reykjavík, 6. maí 1955.

endi þessu máli þa

R/56

/BA

Á fundi bæjarstjórnar

... í gættóm Særð



1949



Borgarstjórnin í Reykjavík

Reykjavík, 6. maí 1955.

/BA

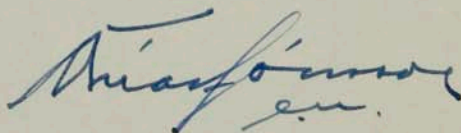
Gjörð svo vel að auð-
kenna öll bréf viðvik-
andi þessu máli þannig
R/56

Á fundi bæjarstjórnar

í gær voruð þér kosinn í stjórn Spari-
sjóðs Reykjavíkur og nágrennis, ásamt
Ólafi H. Guðmundssyni, húsgagnasmið.

Björn Steffensen og Helgi
Sæmundsson voru endurkosnir endurskoð-
endur sjóðsins.

Þetta tilkynnist yður hér með.



Hr. dómsmálaráðherra Bjarni Benediktsson,
Blönduhlíð 35,
Reykjavík.

D. 18. VIII. '55

Herra
Mentamílaráðgjafi
Bjarni Benediktsson frú
Reykjavík.

Góðu vinnu.

Það var hugulsamt af
ykkur, að senda Kristínu og Jan
heillastakasteyti á brúðkaupsdegi
þeirra, sem þeim þótti mjög vænt
um að fá og við lýðnin metum
hugsunarsemiðna.

Ungu lýðnin eru á brúðkaups-
ferð á suður frakklandi, en koma aftur
síðast í næstu viku. Þau munu
því líka ökkur, að Allerford, meðan
verid er að byggja nýtt hús fyrir
þau, en það mun verda tálknið
næsta vor, hjér í Purley. Við verðum
því ekki "ein í kotinu" fyrst um sínu

Sinn við.

sem okkur þykir vænt um, í alla
stadi.

Hafið kærar þakkir fyrir Xvedjumar.

með bestu Xvedjum

Ykkar einlæg Hulda og Pjónn.

Herra

Mentamalar. Bjarni Benediktsson
Reykjav.

EGGERT STEFÁNSSON

Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval

AFMÆLISGREIN

Í TÍLEFNI SJÖTUGSAFMÆLIS

15. OKTÓBER 1955

REYKJAVÍK

með bestu kveðju
þá Höfundur.

SÉRPRENTUN ÚR VÍSI

FELAGSPRENTSMÍÐJAN H. F.

Það er sumar enn í sjónum.
Sezt því fugl á þak.

„Bíddu — bíddu“, blíðum
tónum
hann biður andartak.

Ei að yrkja er mér gefið
né orðum snúa' í fals.
Þér það hryggur hérmeð tjái,
herra Jóhannes Kjarvals.

Eins og þú sérð, þá get eg
ekki einu sinni búið til vísu
eða verið skáld — og þess
vegna, þegar eg sendi þér
þennan samsetning skrifaði eg
undir „hið óheppna skáld“ —
lítillátur eins og eg stundum
get verið, er eg stend fyrir
framan eitthvað mektugt og
stórt eins og t. d. skáldskap
þinn — sem þú hefir lesið fyr-
ir mig — og eg orðið snortinn
af mikilúðugum hugsunaheimi
þínum — dráttum hans og lit-
blæ — sem einnig er stórfeng-
legur.

*

„Gilligogg“ er orð sem þú oft
notar. Eg skil það ekki, en það
er glatt og skemmtilegt — dá-
litið mismunandi eftir í hvaða
skapi þú ert — þegar þú segir
það. Stundum uppleysir það
þunga stemningu — og hugur-
inn verður eins og húðarjálkur,
sem nýbúið er að taka ofan af
baggana, og hann eins og réttir
úr sér og hvílist. . . . Og stund-
um verkar það eins og bremsa
— eins og þegar bílar — sem
þú elskar — stoppa snögglega
með miklu iskri, er þeir eru í
hættu.

Einhvern veginn verkar þetta
orð á mig eins og varnarmerki.

*

Jóhannes Sveinsson Kjarval,
70 ára í dag — — vinur okkar
— gleðjarinn mikli í fimmtíu
ár — sem er eins þekktur og
Hekla eða Geysir — sem hvert
mannsbarn þekkir og búið er
að skrifa um margar bækur og
nota öll lýsingarorð um!
Hverju er þar hægt við að

bæta? Engu? — Jú, kanns-ke „Gilligogg“.

Þetta eru 70 ár hlaðin djúpri tilfinningu fyrir landi og þjóð — íslenzkastur af Íslendingum Sólskin og blíða — úfinn og myrkur — hvass og bitur — bjartur og hreinn; — allt vafið saman í mögnuðum gosum snilldar þessa mikilvirka sköpunarkrafts, sem búið hefur í 70 ár í þessum töfrasnilling okkar.

Gilligogg — Gilligogg!

*

Stundum hefur mér fundist að á fyrri helming þessarar aldar hafi skeð hér einskonar flutningur endurfæðingarinnar, er var á Ítalíu á 15.—16. öld, hingað til Íslands. Margir íslenzkir listamenn hafa lundarfar sem minnr mig á listamenn þessa tímabils. Benevento Cellini gengur ljóslifandi hér um meðal listamanna. Bardagamaður, einþykkur slagsbróðir og rífrildisseggur með afbrigðum en hagleiksmaður á gull og stein, meiri en nokkur annar. Eins og Skarphéðinn hefur hann öfugar sveiflur í „sympatisku nervunum“ — það sem er heitt virkar kalt —

og það sem er kalt virkar heitt o. s. frv. — Þegar hann vill leita vana — sér til aðstoðar, þá kann hann ekki að fara bóunarveg að mönnum — heldur rifst við þá og skammar — og gleymir alveg erindinu. Hér er mikið af slíku stolti meðal Íslendinga í listum og öðru.

En það sem einkennir listamenn endurreisnartímans mest er geysileg frjósemi. Þeir eru ekki við eina fjölinu felldir. Þeir eru jafnfimur á mörgum sviðum — eru byggingameistarar — myndhöggvarar — málara — og skáld — og er erfitt að gera upp við sig í hverju þeir stíga hæst, eru fullkomnastir.

Michelangelo hefur ort kvæði sem álitin eru einhverjar mestur perlur í ítölskum skáldskap enn þann dag í dag. Er hann mikið lesinn — og oft í hann vitnað af bókmenntagagnrýnendum. Hann las fyrir vini sína í studio sínu í Firenze og Róm, og voru það gleðifundir fyrir vini hans.

Eins er með Kjarval. Hljóðir sitja vinnuhóparnir og hlusta á hann, þegar hann les kvæði sin — með hinni hreimsterku og karlmannlegu rödd sinni — uppi í vinnustofu sinni í Austur-

stræti, sem er öll skreytt hugmyndaverkum, teikningum og málverkum meistarans, og maður skotrar augunum til um leið og maður hlustar — og hin djúppgerðu myndaform skáldskapar hans blandast þá saman við litskrúð og listform málverka og teikninga og skapa seiðmagn og kyngi, sem ætlar að yfirbuga mann Hann hefur þá oft minnt mig á þennan andlega ættföður sinn í Róm.

*

Þetta, sem hér er ritað, á ekki að vera sögulegt yfirlit yfir hið stórmerka listastarf Kjarvals í fimmtíu ár — þess þarf ekki með. Á íslenzku, ensku, frönsku, finnsku, dönsku, sænsku, norsku og „kanadisku“ er búið að ausa lofi á hann — og yfirleitt um hans list talað — stundum tungum — í bundnu og óbundnu máli.

Sumt er ágætlega ritað, og þarf engu við að bæta. Hann hefur gullinn sess í heimi málara-listar er þjóðin getur verið stolt af Hann hefur alltaf verið Kjarval — okkar Kjarval — heimsveldi í einni persónu — eins og flest stórmenni í heimi listanna verða, þegar snildin er

sjálfur persónuleikinn allur og samband er við það guðdómlega er öllu stýrir

Langa og fagra vinabraut, oft rósum stráða, hef ég gengið með Kjarval. Hafa það verið ríkar og innihaldsþrungnar samverustundir á göngunni yfir fimmtíu ár — margt sem menn gætu öfundað mig af réttilega, þegar hin ríka sál hans hefur streymt út, eins og eldgos hugsjóna hans, djúpar og heitar — tengdar þúsund ára þróun þjóðernis hans — sem skapaði í persónuleika hans þessa list, sem varð Kjarvals. Þar hefur margt verið að skoða, mörgu að kynnast — og einnig að skilja — hve djúpar rætur listamaður hefur í lífi þjóðar sinnar fyrr og nú — og í tengslum hans við náttúru landsins — sem Kjarval sýnist skilja eins og menn þeir er skildu fuglamál og dýra — en öðrum var lokað. .

Ef ekki væri nú „Gilligogg“ á milli okkar, myndi ég fella tár þakklætis og gleði — yfir þessum löngu og dýru vinarárum þessa 70 ára snillings, sem hefur auðgað hinn íslenzka anda — er býr í mér — eins og þjóðinni. . .

*

Voltaire hefur skrifað sögu Karls 12. Sviakonungs, sem mikið var lofaður á sinum tímum. Segir hann frá því, að þegar Karl 12. var krýndur, hrifsaði hann járnkórónu, sem hann átti að krýnast með, úr höndum erkebiskupsins og lét hana sjálfur á höfuð sér

*

Napóleon lék það sama bragð er hann var krýndur til keisara í Notre Dame í París — hafði lesið Voltaire og hrifist af þessu Nú á okkar demókrættislika tímum er þetta bara Gilligogg — og varla það

En það væri mín heitasta afmælisóska til þín að biðja þig að fara og undirbúa listasafn þitt,

sem þjóð þín og Alþingi veittu fé til, að yrði byggt, vaka yfir því og hafa hönd í bagga með hvernig þú viljir kynna þig komandi kynslóðum, er eiga eftir að sjá og tileinka sér þína list og þitt líf Þú hefur þinn ákveðna smekk, einkennilegan og sérstakan — og eins og þú vildir hafa það — og láta það standa — myndi gefa hina beztu hugmynd komandi kynslóðum, þeim er þá ríkja og ráða — um þig og þitt innra ríki

Þannig gætir þú kórónað þitt lífsstarf — og látið það lifa satt, eins og þú nú lifir í samtíðinni, um ókomnar aldir.

Og svo gleðilega hátíð og áframhald Ísland er auðugra af því að það á þig.

Reykjavík, 23. marz 1955

Dómsmálaráðherra, Bjarni
Benediktsson og kona hans þakka
boð hátíðarnefndar alderafmælis
frjálsrar verzlunar um að koma
til kvöldverðar að Hótel Borg
1. apríl n.k., sem hann þiggur, en
tekur fram, að kona hans getur því
miður ekki komið.

Reykjavík, 29. marz 1955

Dóms- og menntamálaráðherra,

Bjarni Benediktsson, þakkar boð Ríkis-
útvarpsins ~~III~~^x hljómleika Sinfóníuhljóms-
veitarinnar þriðjudaginn 29. marz, en
tekur fram, að hann getur ^{þú miltu} eigi þegið
boðið.

✓
L um að vera við-
staddur

Reykjavík, 2. marz 1955

Ráðherra Bjarni Benediktsson
og kona hans þakka brezka sendi-
herranum og frú J.Thyne Henderson
fyrir vinsemligt boð þeirra um að
koma til kvöldverðar, þriðjudaginn
15. marz n.k., og taka fram, að
ráðherrann þiggur boðið en kona
hans getur því miður eigi komið
með honum.

Reykjavík, 2. marz 1955

Menntamálaráðherra, Bjarni
Benediktsson og kona hans þakka Þjóð-
leikhúsinu boð þess á sýningu leikrits-
ins "Ætlar konan að deyja", 3. febr.
n.k., sem þau geta því miður eigi
þegið.

Reykjavík, 24. febr. 1955

Dómsmálaráðherra,

Bjarni Benediktsson og kona hans
þakka boð Kristins Guðmundssonar
til kvöldverðar fimmtudaginn 10.3.
n.k., sem hann þiggur, en tekur
fram, að kona hans getur eigi komið.

Reykjavík, 16.feb.1955.

Dómsmálaráðherra,

Bjarni Benediktsson og kona hans
þakka boð Rotaryklúbbanna í Reykja-
vík og Hafnarfirði í tilefni af 50
ára afmæli Rotaryfélagsskaparins í
heiminum, sem hann þiggur með þökk-
um, en tekur fram, að kona hans get-
ur því miður eigi þegið boðið.

Reykjavík, 16. feb. 1955

Dómsmálaráðherra,

Bjarni Benediktsson og kona hans
þakka boð forseta Íslands og konu
hans um að koma til þeirra að
Bessastöðum þriðjudaginn 1. marz
n.k., sem hann þiggur með þökkum,
en tekur fram, að kona hans getur
því miður eigi komið.

Reykjavík, 12. jan. 1954.

Dóms- og menntamálaráðherra,
Bjarni Benediktsson og kona hans þakka
boð þýzka sendiherrans og frú Oppler
til kvöldverðar 19. jan. n.k., sem þeim
er ánægja að þiggja.

Reykjavík, 4. jan. 1954

Menntamálaráðherra, Bjarni
Benediktsson og kona hans þakka
boð Þjóðleikhússins að leikritinu
"Þeir koma í haust", laugardaginn
8. jan., en tekur fram, að hann
getur því miður eigi komið.

Landssíminn

SÍMSKEYTI

= BJARNI BENEDIKTSSON

DOMSMÁL ARADUNEYTTID

REYKJAVÍK

Móttækis

15⁰⁶₀₇ 22 APR 55

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Hr. mennsamálaráðh.

Bjarni Benediktsson

Blönduhlíð 35

Reykjavík

Skólanefnd Barnaskóla Mýrasýslu að Varma-
landi biður yður

hr. menntamálaráðherra
Bjarni Benediktsson og frú

að sýna sér þann heiður að koma til vigsluhátíðar
skólans, laugardaginn 21. maí n. k.

Samkoman hefst með borðhaldi kl. 12 á hádegi.

Vigsluathöfnin byrjar kl. 15 sama dag.

T. h. skólanefndar
Ragnr. Þjórnsson.



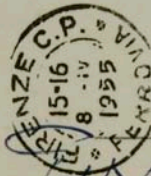
FIRENZE

Il Campanile (Glotto).

The Belltower (Glotto).

Le clogher (Glotto).

Der Glockenturm (Glotto).



Stenke. 7/4-55

Bestu bveður til
ykkar konuanna frá
balmandi - Eggstúfi
Lóhð Stefánsson

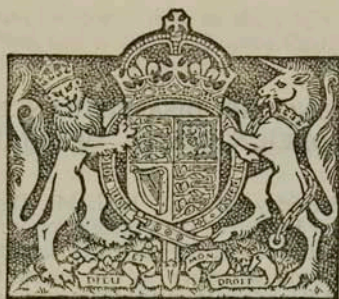
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35

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| Þriðjudag 2 - 2/5 | 4,00 |
| Mikvikudag 2 - 2/5 | 4,00 |
| Fimmtudag 1 - 2/5 | 2,00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 18,00 |



Miscellaneous No. 17 (1955)

Report
concerning the disappearance of two
former Foreign Office Officials

London, September 1955

*Presented by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to Parliament
by Command of Her Majesty
September 1955*

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REPORT CONCERNING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF TWO FORMER FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS

On the evening of Friday, May 25, 1951, Mr. Donald Duart Maclean, a Counsellor in the senior branch of the Foreign Service and at that time Head of the American Department in the Foreign Office, and Mr. Guy Francis de Moncy Burgess, a Second Secretary in the junior branch of the Foreign Service, left the United Kingdom from Southampton on the boat for St. Malo. The circumstances of their departure from England, for which they had not sought sanction, were such as to make it obvious that they had deliberately fled the country. Both officers were suspended from duty on June 1, 1951, and their appointments in the Foreign Office were terminated on June 1, 1952, with effect from June 1, 1951.

2. Maclean was the son of a former Cabinet Minister, Sir Donald Maclean. He was born in 1913 and was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he had a distinguished academic record. He successfully competed for the Diplomatic Service in 1935 and was posted in the first instance to the Foreign Office. He served subsequently in Paris, at Washington and in Cairo. He was an officer of exceptional ability and was promoted to the rank of Counsellor at the early age of 35. He was married to an American lady and had two young sons. A third child was born shortly after his disappearance.

3. In May 1950 while serving at His Majesty's Embassy, Cairo, Maclean was guilty of serious misconduct and suffered a form of breakdown which was attributed to overwork and excessive drinking. Until the breakdown took place his work had remained eminently satisfactory and there was no ground whatsoever for doubting his loyalty. After recuperation and leave at home he was passed medically fit, and in October 1950 was appointed to be Head of the American Department of the Foreign Office which, since it does not deal with the major problems of Anglo-American relations, appeared to be within his capacity.

4. Since Maclean's disappearance a close examination of his background has revealed that during his student days at Cambridge from 1931 to 1934 he had expressed Communist sympathies, but there was no evidence that he had ever been a member of the Communist Party and indeed on leaving the University he had outwardly renounced his earlier Communist views.

5. Burgess was born in 1911 and was educated at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he had a brilliant academic record. After leaving Cambridge in 1935 he worked for a short time in London as a journalist and joined the B.B.C. in 1936 where he remained until January 1939. From 1939 until 1941 he was employed in one of the war propaganda organisations. He rejoined the B.B.C. in January 1941 and remained there until 1944 when he applied for and obtained a post as a temporary press officer in the News Department of the Foreign Office. He was not recruited into the Foreign Service through the open competitive examination but in 1947 took the opportunity open to temporary employees to present himself for establishment. He appeared before a Civil Service Commission Board and was recommended for the junior branch of the Foreign Service. His establishment took effect from

January 1, 1947. He worked for a time in the office of the then Minister of State, Mr. Hector McNeil, and in the Far Eastern Department of the Foreign Office. In August 1950 he was transferred to Washington as a Second Secretary.

6. Early in 1950 the security authorities informed the Foreign Office that in late 1949 while on holiday abroad Burgess had been guilty of indiscreet talk about secret matters of which he had official knowledge. For this he was severely reprimanded. Apart from this lapse his service in the Foreign Office up to the time of his appointment to Washington was satisfactory and there seemed good reason to hope that he would make a useful career.

7. In Washington, however, his work and behaviour gave rise to complaint. The Ambassador reported that his work had been unsatisfactory in that he lacked thoroughness and balance in routine matters, that he had come to the unfavourable notice of the Department of State because of his reckless driving and that he had had to be reprimanded for carelessness in leaving confidential papers unattended. The Ambassador requested that Burgess be removed from Washington and this was approved. He was recalled to London in early May 1951 and was asked to resign from the Foreign Service. Consideration was being given to the steps that would be taken in the event of his refusing to do so. It was at this point that he disappeared.

8. Investigations into Burgess' past have since shown that he, like Maclean, went through a period of Communist leanings while at Cambridge and that he too on leaving the University outwardly renounced his views. No trace can be found in his subsequent career of direct participation in the activities of left-wing organisations; indeed he was known after leaving Cambridge to have had some contact with organisations such as the Anglo-German Club.

9. The question has been asked whether the association of these two officers with each other did not give rise to suspicion. The fact is that although we have since learned that Maclean and Burgess were acquainted during their undergraduate days at Cambridge, they gave no evidence during the course of their career in the Foreign Service of any association other than would be normal between two colleagues. When Burgess was appointed to the Foreign Office Maclean was in Washington and at the time Burgess himself was appointed to Washington Maclean was back in the United Kingdom awaiting assignment to the American Department of the Foreign Office. It is now clear that they were in communication with each other after the return of Burgess from Washington in 1951 and they may have been in such communication earlier. Their relations were, however, never such as to cause remark.

10. In January 1949 the security authorities received a report that certain Foreign Office information had leaked to the Soviet authorities some years earlier. The report amounted to little more than a hint and it was at the time impossible to attribute the leak to any particular individual. Highly secret but widespread and protracted enquiries were begun by the security authorities and the field of suspicion had been narrowed by mid-April 1951 to two or three persons. By the beginning of May Maclean had come to be regarded as the principal suspect. There was, however, even at that time, no legally admissible evidence to support a prosecution under the Official Secrets Acts. Arrangements were made to ensure that information of exceptional secrecy and importance should not come into his hands. In the meantime the security authorities arranged to investigate his activities and contacts in order

to increase their background knowledge and if possible to obtain information which could be used as evidence in a prosecution. On May 25 the then Secretary of State, Mr. Herbert Morrison, sanctioned a proposal that the security authorities should question Maclean. In reaching this decision it had to be borne in mind that such questioning might produce no confession or voluntary statement from Maclean sufficient to support a prosecution but might serve only to alert him and to reveal the nature and the extent of the suspicion against him. In that event he would have been free to make arrangements to leave the country and the authorities would have had no legal power to stop him. Everything therefore depended on the interview and the security authorities were anxious to be as fully prepared as was humanly possible. They were also anxious that Maclean's house at Tatsfield, Kent, should be searched and this was an additional reason for delaying the proposed interview until mid-June when Mrs. Maclean who was then pregnant was expected to be away from home.

11. It is now clear that in spite of the precautions taken by the authorities Maclean must have become aware, at some time before his disappearance, that he was under investigation. One explanation may be that he observed that he was no longer receiving certain types of secret papers. It is also possible that he detected that he was under observation. Or he may have been warned. Searching enquiries involving individual interrogations were made into this last possibility. Insufficient evidence was obtainable to form a definite conclusion or to warrant prosecution.

12. Maclean's absence did not become known to the authorities until the morning of Monday, May 28. The Foreign Office is regularly open for normal business on Saturday mornings but officers can from time to time obtain leave to take a week-end off. In accordance with this practice Maclean applied for and obtained leave to be absent on the morning of Saturday, May 26. His absence therefore caused no remark until the following Monday morning when he failed to appear at the Foreign Office. Burgess was on leave and under no obligation to report his movements.

13. Immediately the flight was known all possible action was taken in the United Kingdom and the French and other Continental security authorities were asked to trace the whereabouts of the fugitives and if possible to intercept them. All British Consulates in Western Europe were alerted and special efforts were made to discover whether the fugitives had crossed the French frontiers on May 26 or 27. As a result of these and other enquiries it was established that Maclean and Burgess together left Tatsfield by car for Southampton in the late evening of Friday, May 25, arrived at Southampton at midnight, caught the s.s. *Falaise* for St. Malo and disembarked at that port at 11.45 the following morning, leaving suitcases and some of their clothing on board. They were not seen on the train from St. Malo to Paris and it has been reported that two men, believed to be Maclean and Burgess, took a taxi to Rennes and there got the 1.18 p.m. train to Paris. Nothing more was seen of them.

14. Since the disappearance various communications have been received from them by members of their families. On June 7, 1951, telegrams ostensibly from Maclean were received by his mother Lady Maclean, and his wife Mrs. Melinda Maclean, who were both at that time in the United Kingdom. The telegram to Lady Maclean was a short personal message, signed by a nick-name known only within the immediate family circle. It merely stated that all was well. That addressed to Mrs. Maclean was similar, expressing regret for the unexpected departure and was signed "Donald." Both telegrams were despatched in Paris on the evening of

June 6. Their receipt was at once reported to the security authorities, but it was impossible to identify the person or persons who had handed them in. The original telegraph forms showed, however, that the messages had been written in a hand which was clearly not Maclean's. The character of the hand-writing, and some mis-spelling, suggested that both telegrams had been written by a foreigner.

15. On June 7, 1951, a telegram was received in London by Mrs. Bassett, Burgess' mother. It contained a short and affectionate personal message, together with a statement that the sender was embarking on a long Mediterranean holiday, and was ostensibly from Burgess himself. The telegram had been handed in at a Post Office in Rome earlier on the day of its receipt. As with the telegrams from Paris to Maclean's family, there was no possibility of identifying the person who had handed it in. The hand-writing had the appearance of being foreign, and was certainly not that of Burgess.

16. According to information given to the Foreign Office in confidence by Mrs. Dunbar, Maclean's mother-in-law, who was then living with her daughter at Tatsfield, she received on August 3, 1951, two registered letters posted in St. Gallen, Switzerland, on August 1. One contained a draft on the Swiss Bank Corporation, London, for the sum of £1,000 payable to Mrs. Dunbar; the other, a draft payable to Mrs. Dunbar for the same sum, drawn by the Union Bank of Switzerland on the Midland Bank, 122 Old Broad Street, London. Both drafts were stated to have been remitted by order of a Mr. Robert Becker, whose address was given as the Hotel Central, Zurich. Exhaustive enquiries in collaboration with the Swiss authorities have not led to the identification of Mr. Becker and it is probable that the name given was false.

17. Shortly after the receipt of these bank drafts Mrs. Maclean received a letter in her husband's hand-writing. It had been posted in Reigate, Surrey, on August 5, 1951, and was of an affectionate, personal nature as from husband to wife. It gave no clue as to Maclean's whereabouts or the reason for his disappearance but it explained that the bank drafts, which for convenience had been sent to Mrs. Dunbar, were intended for Mrs. Maclean.

18. Lady Maclean received a further letter from her son on August 15, 1951. There is no doubt that it was in his own hand-writing. It had been posted at Herne Hill on August 11.

19. Mrs. Bassett, the mother of Burgess, received a letter in Burgess' hand-writing on December 22, 1953. The letter was personal and gave no information as to Burgess' whereabouts. It was simply dated "November" and had been posted in South-East London on December 21. The last message received from either of the two men was a further letter from Burgess to his mother which was delivered in London on December 25, 1954. This letter was also personal and disclosed nothing of Burgess' whereabouts. It too was simply dated "November." It had been posted in Poplar, E. 14, on December 23.

20. On September 11, 1953, Mrs. Maclean, who was living in Geneva, left there by car with her three children. She had told her mother, who was staying with her, that she had unexpectedly come across an acquaintance whom she and her husband had previously known in Cairo and that he had invited her and the children to spend the week-end with him at Territet, near Montreux. She stated that she would return to Geneva on September 13 in time for the two elder children to attend school the following day. By September 14 her mother, alarmed at her failure to return, reported the

matter to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Geneva and also by telephone to London. Security officers were at once despatched to Geneva where they placed themselves at the disposal of the Swiss police who were already making intensive enquiries. On the afternoon of September 16 Mrs. Maclean's car was found in a garage in Lausanne. She had left it on the afternoon of the 11th saying she would return for it in a week. The garage hand who reported this added that Mrs. Maclean had then proceeded with her children to the Lausanne railway station. On the same day, September 16, Mrs. Dunbar reported to the Geneva police the receipt of a telegram purporting to come from her daughter. The telegram explained that Mrs. Maclean had been delayed "owing to unforeseen circumstances" and asked Mrs. Dunbar to inform the school authorities that the two elder children would be returning in a week. Mrs. Maclean's youngest child was referred to in this telegram by a name known only to Mrs. Maclean, her mother and other intimates. The telegram had been handed in at the Post Office in Territet at 10.58 that morning by a woman whose description did not agree with that of Mrs. Maclean. The hand-writing on the telegram form was not Mrs. Maclean's and it showed foreign characteristics similar to those in the telegrams received in 1951 by Lady Maclean, Mrs. Maclean and Mrs. Bassett.

21. From information subsequently received from witnesses in Switzerland and Austria, it seems clear that the arrangements for Mrs. Maclean's departure from Geneva had been carefully planned, and that she proceeded by train from Lausanne on the evening of September 11, passing the Swiss-Austrian frontier that night, and arriving at Schwarzach St. Veit in the American Zone of Austria at approximately 9.15 on the morning of September 12. The independent evidence of a porter at Schwarzach St. Veit and of witnesses travelling on the train has established that she left the train at this point. Further evidence, believed to be reliable, shows that she was met at the station by an unknown man driving a car bearing Austrian number plates. The further movements of this car have not been traced. It is probable that it took Mrs. Maclean and the children from Schwarzach St. Veit to neighbouring territory in Russian occupation whence she proceeded on her journey to join her husband.

22. There was no question of preventing Mrs. Maclean from leaving the United Kingdom to go to live in Switzerland. Although she was under no obligation to report her movements, she had been regularly in touch with the security authorities, and had informed them that she wished to make her home in Switzerland. She gave two good reasons, firstly that she wished to avoid the personal embarrassment to which she had been subjected by the press in the United Kingdom, and secondly, that she wished to educate her children in the International School in Geneva. It will be remembered that Mrs. Maclean was an American citizen and in view of the publicity caused by her husband's flight it was only natural that she should wish to bring up her children in new surroundings. Before she left for Geneva the security authorities made arrangements with her whereby she was to keep in touch with the British authorities in Berne and Geneva in case she should receive any further news from her husband or require advice or assistance. Mrs. Maclean was a free agent. The authorities had no legal means of detaining her in the United Kingdom. Any form of surveillance abroad would have been unwarranted.

23. In view of the suspicions held against Maclean and of the conspiratorial manner of his flight, it was assumed, though it could not be proved, that his destination and that of his companion must have been the

Soviet Union or some other territory behind the Iron Curtain. Now Vladimir Petrov, the former Third Secretary of the Soviet Embassy in Canberra who sought political asylum on April 3, 1954, has provided confirmation of this. Petrov himself was not directly concerned in the case and his information was obtained from conversation with one of his colleagues in Soviet service in Australia. Petrov states that both Maclean and Burgess were recruited as spies for the Soviet Government while students at the University, with the intention that they should carry out their espionage tasks in the Foreign Office, and that in 1951, by means unknown to him, one or other of the two men became aware that their activities were under investigation. This was reported by them to the Soviet Intelligence Service who then organised their escape and removal to the Soviet Union. Petrov has the impression that the escape route included Czechoslovakia and that it involved an aeroplane flight into that country. Upon their arrival in Russia, Maclean and Burgess lived near Moscow. They were used as advisers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other Soviet agencies. Petrov adds that one of the men (Maclean) has since been joined by his wife.

24. Two points call for comment: first, how Maclean and Burgess remained in the Foreign Service for so long and second, why they were able to get away.

25. When these two men were given their appointments nothing was on record about either to show that he was unsuitable for the public service. It is true that their subsequent personal behaviour was unsatisfactory, and this led to action in each case. As already stated Maclean was recalled from Cairo in 1950 and was not re-employed until he was declared medically fit. Burgess was recalled from Washington in 1951 and was asked to resign. It was only shortly before Maclean disappeared that serious suspicion of his reliability was aroused and active enquiries were set on foot.

26. The second question is how Maclean and Burgess made good their escape from this country when the security authorities were on their track. The watch on Maclean was made difficult by the need to ensure that he did not become aware that he was under observation. This watch was primarily aimed at collecting, if possible, further information and not at preventing an escape. In imposing it a calculated risk had to be taken that he might become aware of it and might take flight. It was inadvisable to increase this risk by extending the surveillance to his home in an isolated part of the country and he was therefore watched in London only. Both men were free to go abroad at any time. In some countries no doubt Maclean would have been arrested first and questioned afterwards. In this country no arrest can be made without adequate evidence. At the time there was insufficient evidence. It was for these reasons necessary for the security authorities to embark upon the difficult and delicate investigation of Maclean, taking into full account the risk that he would be alerted. In the event he was alerted and fled the country together with Burgess.

27. As a result of this case, in July 1951 the then Secretary of State, Mr. Herbert Morrison, set up a Committee of enquiry to consider the security checks applied to members of the Foreign Service; the existing regulations and practices of the Foreign Service in regard to any matters having a bearing on security; and to report whether any alterations were called for. The Committee reported in November 1951. It recommended, among other things, a more extensive security check on Foreign Service officers than had until then been the practice. This was immediately put into effect and since 1952 searching enquiries have been made into the antecedents and associates of all those occupying or applying for positions in the Foreign Office involving

highly secret information. The purpose of these enquiries is to ensure that no one is appointed to or continues to occupy any such post unless he or she is fit to be entrusted with the secrets to which the post gives access. The Foreign Secretary of the day approved the action required.

28. A great deal of criticism has been directed towards the reticence of Ministerial replies on these matters; an attitude which it was alleged would not have been changed had it not been for the Petrov revelations. Espionage is carried out in secret. Counter-espionage equally depends for its success upon the maximum secrecy of its methods. Nor is it desirable at any moment to let the other side know how much has been discovered or guess at what means have been used to discover it. Nor should they be allowed to know all the steps that have been taken to improve security. These considerations still apply and must be the basic criterion for judging what should or should not be published.

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| Alls | 37.70 | 11.80 | 49.50 | 0.28 |

Söluskatturinn skiptir mjög litlu máli í þessu sambandi, eins og áður segir. Olía til kyndingar og kol eru undanþegin söluskatti, en fyrir allar hinar vörurnar er vísitöluupphæð

söluskatts við innflutning vegna hækunar farmgjalda aðeins kr. 2.23 = 0.01 vísitölustig. Verðtollurinn er sömuleiðis mjög léttvægur í þessu sambandi, aðallega vegna þess að þegar hann er hár, eins og t.d. á vefnaðarvöru, þá er farmgjaldið yfirleitt mjög lítilt þáttur í útsöluverðinu. Tryggingaíðgjalda getir hér enn minna og er þeim því líka sleppt.

Með því að allur olíuinnflutningur til landsins, og mest allur kolinnflutningur til Reykjavíkur, er með erlendum skipum, sem halda farmgjöldum sínum óbreyttum, verður ekki verðhækkun á olíu og kolum, þótt farmgjöld með íslenskum skipum hækki, og koma því 0.07 stig til frádráttar ofangreindum 0.28 stigum, þannig að vísitöluhækkunin verður 0.2 stig. Þá er og sjálfsagt fulllangt gengið að reikna með fullri álagningu á farmgjaldaviðbótina, en á hinn bóginn kemur það, sem þar er umfram, á móti þeim liðum (söluskattur o.fl.), sem ekki er tekið tillit til við útreikninginn. Má gera ráð fyrir, að þetta vegi hvað annað upp.

Niðurstaðan er því sú, að 10 % hækkun farmgjalda valdi um það bil 0.2 stiga hækkun á framfærsluvísitölunni.

Að lokum skal þess getið, að hækkun farmgjalda hefur áhrif á vísitöluna einnig á þann hátt, að húsaleiguliður hennar er að hluta háður breytingum á vísitölu viðhaldskostnaðar, en í henni eru innfluttar byggingarvörur, sem hækka í verði, þegar farmgjöld hækka. Áhrif farmgjaldahækkunar á vísitöluna af þessum sökum eru ekki teljandi og er því ekki gerð nein áætlun um hana.- Þá eru loks áhrif farmgjaldahækkunar á verðgrundvöll landbúnaðarafurða og þar með á framfærsluvísitöluna. Þeirra getir líka mjög lítið, einkum eftir að tók fyrir flutning köfnunarefnisáburðar frá útlöndum. Er því ekki ástæða til að gera áætlun um þá vísitöluhækkun, sem leiðir af hækkun verðgrundvallar landbúnaðarafurða vegna 10 % hækkunar farmgjalda.

Sign. Klemens Tryggvason.

6/9 1955