

Matter 6

Summary

Letter of Apology

Account by:	Mark Walterson, 48. Police inspector.
Source:	Letter.
Location:	London.
Event:	21 Aug 2014.
Report:	8 Feb 2021.

Report

**Directorate of Professional Standards
Civil Actions, Employment Tribunals
Inquests**

13th Floor
Empress State Building
Lillie Road
London
SW6 1UE
Date – 8th February 2021

Dear Mr Marvell,

I am an Inspector in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Directorate of Professional Standards.

I write in regards to your claim against the MPS arising from your arrest on the 21st August 2014 and the seizure of your gold ring.

Whilst the MPS constantly strives to maintain the highest professional standards, incidents occasionally arise when the level of service falls below that standard. I have considered the background to your claim and am satisfied that on this occasion the level of service did fall below the requisite standard.

I would like to take this opportunity to apologise sincerely and unreservedly for the loss of your ring while it was in storage and for any upset and distress this may have caused.

I hope that settlement of this claim and this recognition of the impact of what happened that day will enable you to put this incident behind you.

Yours sincerely

Inspector Mark Walterson

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Mark Walterson

Inspector – Directorate of Professional Standards

Notes

Denis Marvell is a professional magician of some repute. On 21 Aug 2014 he was stopped and searched near his home in Uxbridge by officers of the Metropolitan Police on suspicion of drugs offences. No evidence was found on his person but his cash and jewellery (two rings and a pocket watch) were seized for analysis. Mr Marvell was given a receipt for these goods.

No charges were brought against Mr Marvell. The money, along with one of the rings, was returned eight months after the arrest, but no mention was made of the other ring.

Mr Marvell claimed that the missing ring was essential to his work, possessing unique properties that he required for many of his tricks. He would not reveal the nature of these properties, contending that to do so would break the Magician's Oath. He did, however, assert that the ring had long been in the Marvell family, passed down father to son for generations.

After a number of letters to the police were allegedly ignored, Mr Marvell engaged a solicitor to recover his ring under the Police (Property) Act 1897. It was at this point that the police admitted to having lost the ring. Mr Marvell's solicitor then wrote to the MPS Directorate of Professional Standards and received this letter in reply.

Mr Marvel received a sum in excess of £20,000 in compensation for: the value of the ring itself; his partial loss of earnings; and the inconvenience and distress caused. He considered this to be wholly inadequate and sent a copy of the letter of apology to a number of media organisations, none of which acted upon it.

Marvell is not a stage name, but Mr Marvell's own.

There is no Inspector Mark Walterson in the Metropolitan Police.

[Update 19 Nov 2023]

On 12 Nov 2023 Martin Søndergaard and Lillian Bang were asked if their organisation either took or now possessed the ring. A week later they were able to confirm that no-one in their organisation had even been aware of the ring's existence until I mentioned it. They shared my concerns regarding its potential.

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Matter 7

Summary

Document of Terminology

Account by:	Martin Søndergaard & Lillian Bang, ~40 & ~40. External affairs officers.
Source:	Document.
Location:	Unknown.
Event:	18 Dec 2023.
Report:	18 Dec 2023.

Report

For the Attention of David and Melanie Scott.

So as to facilitate clear communication between us, we present an extract from our current Document of Terminology.

God. A god is a being of Bhéwonom who is a designer of Dheghōm.

Example: Paul.

Supernatural Being. A supernatural being is a being of Bhéwonom who is a developer of Dheghōm.

Example: Sarah.

Demigod. A demigod is a being of Bhéwonom who is an administrator of Dheghōm.

Example: Ansnā.

Hero. A hero is a being of Bhéwonom who is a player of Dheghōm.

Examples: Marius, Blue.

Demihero. A demihero is a human being of Dheghōm with a parent of Bhéwonom.

Examples: Love Ellis, James Blake.

Mortal. A mortal is a non-player character of Dheghōm. Apart from the demiheroes, all human beings are mortals.

Examples: David Scott, Melanie Scott.

Spirit. A spirit is a mortal conjured into existence by a god or supernatural being.

Examples: Jane Marple, Christopher Eagle.

Immortal. An immortal is a non-mortal.

Example: Demiheroes.

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Notes

This document was received in response to the delivery of my (partially-redacted) files to Martin Søndergaard and Lillian Bang in mid-November, 2023.

The terminology used appears to have undergone a recent rationalisation, now that the nature of the our situation has become clearer. For example, what for over four thousand years were collectively called 'gods' are now the four sub-categories of gods, supernatural beings, demigods and heroes.

The hierarchy appears to be based on that of the Ancient Greeks, although there are a number of discrepancies. In particular, what this terminology calls a 'demihero', the Ancient Greeks would have called a demigod.

I assume that defining the hierarchy in terms of roles used in the development and operation of video games while retaining traditional names was done for reasons of backward-compatibility.

There does not appear to be a term describing the form taken on by heroes when visiting Dheghōm. Blue is a player's name, but his character's name is Shiva (after the Hindu deity).

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DOT

Note that Sarah is not a developer as she is employed by Marius, not Paul.

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Matter 8

Summary

Saved

Account by:	Eugene 'Genie' Nethercott, 28. Video game designer.
Source:	Letter.
Location:	Austin, United States.
Event:	28 Dec 2023.
Report:	28 Dec 2023.

Report

NPChard HQ
Austin, TX

12/28/23

Hi there, Mr Scott.

Your letter was sufficiently quirky to breach the formidable walls maintained by my PA, who deemed it worthy of my attention. I in turn deemed it more worthy of my mom's attention, so passed your materials on to her. Having read them,

she insisted that I myself find time to do so, so I did.

Well, that's quite the story you've put together there. Had I not been raised from near death by magic gogo juice, I might have been disinclined to believe it.

I was, however, so shall be taking your advice and periodically refreshing my memories of why I chose to save the *Erwā* database.

That's not why I'm writing, though.

You may recall that the reason I kicked everyone out of *Erwā* before dumping its database was because if I didn't then their characters would have been part of what was dumped. As an analogy, it would be like photographing a painting that a fly has settled on: should you thereupon use the photograph to print a copy of the painting, it's going to feature that fly as a permanent fixture.

If my reading is correct, our world, *Dheghōm*, was closed down for a bug fix and then rebooted. The process would necessarily have been similar to what I did with *Erwā*. Paul seems to have had sufficient foresight to anticipate that Bad Things would happen were anyone from *Bhéwonom* active in *Dheghōm* when its database was saved; had he not been, player characters from *Bhéwonom* would now be static, permanent fixtures of our reality. I'm guessing that someone, somewhere, would have come across one by now if this were the case, and either alerted the media or be charging the curious a fee to examine it.

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Unfortunately, Paul did not have sufficient foresight to cut the connection between *Erwā* and *Dheghōm* before *Dheghōm* was saved. After the bug in its code was fixed, *Dheghōm* was rebooted just as it was the moment it was saved – open connection to *Erwā* and all. Paul would be able subsequently to cut the connection, and may well have done so, but *Dheghōm* would still record it as being open.

I can only speculate what the consequences of this oversight might be, in the absence of any knowledge of how *Bhéwonomese* computers work or how *Dheghōm* and *Erwā* were hooked up together in the first place. At best, leaving a one-way channel open is no big deal so long as no attempt is made to use it, and we'll notice nothing. At worst, *Dheghōm* could crash at any moment, which we also wouldn't notice but for less happy reasons.

If pressed, I would hazard that we've lasted this long without incident and so are probably OK. That said, rebooting the game world *Erwā* from its save may indeed try to use the channel, I can't be sure. Probably best not to try it out.

The most convenient outcome would be if both ends of the connection remained open. Not only would this make it safe to reboot *Erwā*, but it would permanently lock the times of *Dheghōm* and *Erwā* together. Say, thinking about it, only one might need to be open for that to be true. If you're not

receiving yearly reports from Miss Laleek every hundred minutes or so, that would support the idea that at the moment our two worlds are tied together time-wise.

Anyway, I thought I ought to tell you so you can pass this information on to one of your buddies from Bhéwonom next time you get the chance.

I'd be grateful if you'd let me know whether or not this letter escapes any attempt to delete it. If it doesn't, I guess I'll be looking for a charity in need of a 15-needle industrial embroidery machine.

Enjoy life!

Genie Nethercott

P.S.: It occurs to me that you could probably make better use of a couple million dollars than I could, so if you send my PA your bank details he'll arrange a transfer.

Notes

This letter was embroidered in multiple colours onto a silk handkerchief.

A scanned copy was immediately sent to Martin Søndergaard & Lillian Bang for their attention.

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Mr Nethercott's personal assistant was passed the details our joint account and it was duly incremented by an amount in excess of one and a half million pounds.

Matter 9

Summary

The Girl with the Spider Tattoos

Account by:	Tsuzuki Raicho, 34. Physicist.
Source:	COLLIDERNETWORK list server.
Location:	Tsukuba, Japan.
Event:	Jan 2024.
Report:	29 May 2024.

Report

COLLIDERNETWORK collidernetwork-bounces@lists.ucl.ac.uk on behalf of Tsuzuki Raicho raicho.tsuzuki@kek.jp

[COLLIDERNETWORK] Strange occurrences.

To: COLLIDERNETWORK@lists.ucl.ac.uk

Dear Melanie,

I can confirm the story of the wooden carp that my colleague Dr Kamoto reported yesterday. It was featured in local media and the mystery has yet to be resolved.

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In mid-January, something else happened that was not reported in the media. This event was more disturbing; I hesitate to repeat it here, but do so with the permission of the person involved, who gave it on condition that I do not reveal her name.

The woman concerned is a friend from New Zealand; we met when we were doing our postdocs together at Princeton. At the start of this year, she attended a conference in Tokyo. Naturally, I invited her to visit our facilities at KEK if she had the time, which she did.

We keep in touch, but it was a pleasure to meet her again in person. After lunch, I showed her my office and introduced her to some of my colleagues. SuperKEKB was in operation, so we went to see how the experiment was proceeding.

All was going well when suddenly an expression of alarm crossed my friend's face. She wriggled her shoulder in discomfort, then seemed to be in great pain. She ripped off her jacket and pulled her blouse up over her head, screaming "Get it off! Get it off!" as she did so.

On her back were two large spiders – much larger than is common in Japan. There was also torn skin and marks on my friend's back, as if the spiders had burst through from beneath.

This caught us very much by surprise. I have no fear of spiders, but these were black, shiny and very dangerous-looking. I was taken aback.

The spiders fell to the floor. I managed to stamp on one before it could get away but the other scuttled beneath a desk. I believe that one of my colleagues managed to destroy it later.

My friend was still screaming in both pain and panic. A glance at her shoulder told me why: writhing beneath her skin was a third spider, much larger than the other two, seeking to escape its prison by burrowing into her flesh.

My instinct was to strike where the spider squirmed in an effort to kill it, but I was afraid of what would happen to my friend if I did this. Instead, I took the knife from my Victorinox card and, telling my friend to hold still, sliced open her shoulder, freeing the creature. It fell to the floor, where it met its death beneath my shoe.

My friend was in great distress, made worse when she saw what had been cutting into her muscles with its mandibles. I apologised for wounding her, but she was very thankful that I had done so. Who can speculate what might have happened had the spider reached a blood vessel?

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On the way to the hospital, my friend and I conjectured as to where the spiders might have originated. She had been to Australia two months earlier and we considered the possibility that she had somehow been infected there. Perhaps a spider had laid its eggs in her while she was asleep, as a host for its young.

It was then that we both had the same unnerving thought. My friend had spider tattoos on her shoulder. I had seen them myself: she had showed me them when we were at Princeton. I had been curious, because tattoos are a sign of gang membership in Japan and are uncommon. This is not so in New Zealand, where as a student my friend had chosen to have them inked on her body because she thought they looked cool.

When I checked, there was no sign of the tattoos. My friend's shoulder was a mass of drying blood and torn flesh, but it was clear that no trace of ink was present. The live spiders had emerged from where the tattoos had been. I could not comprehend it.

My friend asked if I was sure I was looking in the right place, and searched her phone for a photograph of the tattoos to show me exactly where they were.

She found the photograph, but it showed no tattoos. Her shoulder in the image was unmarked. She was frightened by this; she thought she was going mad. I reassured her that if she was then so was I. I knew that the tattoos had been on her shoulder. I had seen them with my own eyes several years earlier. Yet, they were neither on her shoulder nor shown in the photograph. How could any of this be?

My friend's injuries were treated in the hospital's burns unit, because she had lost several layers of skin. Luckily, she did not need a graft and she is now making a good recovery.

Tattoos becoming real? Photographs that once showed the tattoos no longer showing them? I don't know what happened that day in January, but it disturbs me greatly.

I realise that this may be too far beyond the bounds of the possible to be believable, but you did ask for examples of inexplicable occurrences. I humbly suggest that this is very much one such occurrence.

Best regards,

Raicho

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Notes

None.

Matter 10

Summary

Letter of Provenance

Account by:	Simon T. Wright, ~50. Antique dealer.
Source:	Letter.
Location:	Leeds.
Event:	16 Mar 2024.
Report:	18 Mar 2024.

Report

Gideon Scarborough
Dealers in Antiques and Ancient Art
Park Square North
Leeds LS1 2NY

18th March, 2024

Dear Mr Scott,

It is with great pleasure that I am able to inform you of my acquisition on your behalf of the Greco-

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Roman bowl that you engaged me to procure in January.

I met its owner, Miss Megan Ramsden, and her fiancé, Mr Ryan Rogers, at their home in Lincoln on Saturday. There, I was able to negotiate an agreement to obtain the bowl for the sum of £180,000. Miss Ramsden was amenable to the sale, having previously had the bowl appraised at £130,000 with a scrap value of approx. £92,000.

There exist historical records of ownership related to the bowl in question; these will also be transferred to you upon completion of the sale. They are somewhat fragmentary and disorganised, however, so I thought you might like a summary should you need a notified Letter of Provenance for a future sale.

The bowl weighs 1,789.25g (57.53 oz t) and is of 24 carat gold. Its purity is extraordinary: as close to 100% as my X-RF machine can measure. Gold need only be 99.95% pure to qualify as 24 carat; 100% purity, especially in an item as ancient as this one, is practically unheard-of.

The manufacture of the bowl is not of high quality. It was beaten into shape by an inexperienced hand, as if its original owner needed a bowl more than an ornament of gold. There are markings stamped into the exterior of the bowl near the rim that ordinarily I would suspect were a maker's mark; however, because the bowl was clearly not

made by an artisan, it seems more likely that they are an owner's mark.

The marks themselves form a series of lines debossed in what appear to be Eastern Greek glyphs, reading: Chi, Lambda, Lambda, Chi, Lambda, Lambda, Lambda, Iota, Iota, Chi, Iota, Lambda. I am unable to ascertain what this series of letters might signify.

The bowl's first appearance in written records is in an auction catalogue dated 15th January, 1831, where it was among the objects offered for sale by a Dutch spice merchant, Laurens van Alst. Mr Van Alst claimed to have acquired it in his travels to the Ottoman Empire, which accords well with its probable place of manufacture.

The bowl was purchased 29th January, 1831, by a Dr Phillip Harris of Marylebone for the sum of £262/10/-. A handwritten inventory shows it to be among the items presented as part of an informal dowry at the marriage of Dr Harris's eldest daughter, Constance, to Dr William Givens (a younger colleague of Dr Harris).

The bowl remained in the possession of Dr and Mrs Givens until 1853 when, following the death of Dr Harris in Q3 1852 (exact date to be confirmed), it was sold privately to Mr Arthur Grace of Macclesfield, Cheshire, for an unrecorded sum.

Mr Grace is a figure well known to antiquarians for his prolific activity in the marketplace. After making a substantial fortune in the silk industry,

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he sought to display his wealth through the acquisition of ancient artefacts. He had little attachment to what he was buying, however, and his private museum became something of a sales room: he could not resist disposing of items from his collection at a profit should an appropriate offer be made. Few items remained in his possession for more than a few years, hence his frequent appearance in the provenance of many antiquities that remain in the north of England to this day.

In the case of the Greco-Roman bowl, it was purchased for £270 in 1856 by the Revd Edward Morley of Manchester. The Revd Morley does not appear to have had a parish, but to have been a *locum tenens* for the diocese. It is not known for what purpose he bought the bowl, but presumably he had some use for it in his work.

The bowl remained in the Morley family until 1933, when it was used by Revd Morley's great-grandson, Martin Morley, to buy a 50bhp Rover Speed Pilot saloon capable of 70mph. The book price of the car was £350, some £10 less than the scrap value of the bowl but perhaps a fair exchange given the inconvenience accompanying such a transaction.

The new owner was Mr Mark Ramsden of Bolton. Miss Ramsden is his great-granddaughter. According to her, the family business prospered until the 1970s when the decision to deal in British

Leyland vehicles proved costly. Her own father now profitably sells cars second-hand.

Miss Ramsden went to university in Lincoln to study Accountancy and Finance; her father gave her the bowl during the pandemic, fearing that it might be sold off by creditors if his business went under. Miss Ramsden intends to split the proceeds of the sale with her brother, so that both can pay off their respective student loans; she hopes to use the remainder of her share to put down the deposit on a house.

I hope that you have found this information useful. I confess that much of the detective work is not mine, but is contained in the documentation currently in Miss Ramsden's possession. Miss Ramsden herself was relatively easy to track down: using the description of the bowl from the auction catalogue you gave me, I merely had to ask my network of contacts whether anyone had been asked to value an object that matched its features; Miss Ramsden's name came up a few days later.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you are interested in acquiring further items from the distant past.

I take this opportunity to enclose an invoice for my services.

Yours sincerely,

S. T. Wright

Bhéwonom

Gideon Scarborough
Dealers in Antiques and Ancient Art

Notes

X/ \ X/\ /V \ / X \ is 60734150 using the digits observed by Edwa(e)rd Mallan, as described by T. L. Charters.

The marks on the corded ware jug in the Staatliches Museum für Vor- und Frühgeschichte in Berlin translate as 60721988. This suggests that only 12,162 people were born worldwide between the two individuals to whom the marks on the jug and the bowl refer, making them contemporaries.

The bowl is therefore not Greco-Roman, but is of the Yamnaya people; it is twice as old as its recent owners have believed. The purity of its gold, which appears not to have been reduced by either the centuries or whatever purposes the Revd Morley put it to, suggests that it may have been brought into existence by a visitor from Bhéwonom.

The object's original function is yet to be discovered, but it seems likely that it didn't start out in life as a bowl.