

Hotel Bellevue Interlaken
(Wednesday crossed out....) Thursday 25th August 1921

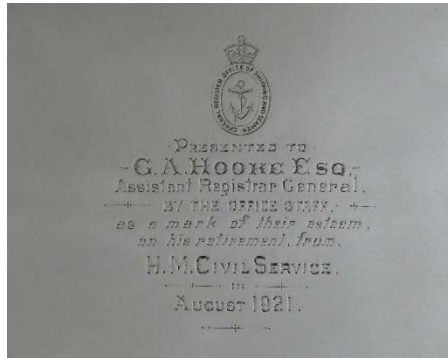
Dear CG

You will see from the above that I have been a bit uncertain about the day. My last day at the Office was on the 16th inst. and every day since has been very fully occupied. I have your ma and Francie and Trixie here with me and all are well. We expect to meet Mildred tomorrow at Grindelweld.

It seems a long time since we heard from you but we assume you have been with a wedding party and have had no opportunity.

P2

I hardly know where to begin as there is so much to write about.



Office – I had a silver tray with a few words engraved thereon presented to me on the 16th and your ma is preserving it with care and pride. I took part in a presentation to Mr Jones on the 19th which was his last day. A Mr C Wright studied with me for the Civil Service in 1872-3 and retired on the 18th inst. He is one of the party here and a very nice fellow. I did not meet him during the intervening 48 years!

Pages 3-9 are all missing!

10.

Yesterday the weather was not favourable but we had a lovely ride in a train for an hour in the afternoon and then a walk to a place called the Blue Sea, a small lake of remarkably transparent, very blue, water with charming surroundings of cliffs, trees rocks, mosses etc. The weather is not promising today so we have abandoned a contemplated excursion and I get an opportunity to write.



Ethel Sellar, Miss Clark, & Trixie are all taking snapshots but some of the postcards give good views and I must send you some.

11.

We have left Ella at home with Rose and I must leave her and Mildred to tell you about themselves. We return between the 3rd and 10th Sept and I have much work planned out.

I think I told you I went with your ma to the wedding of Mr Revell and Miss Goodman on the 2nd August.

Be good and write quickly. I can sympathise with sufferers from great heat but believe fasting keeps the temperature down and is the finest corrective.

Ever your affectionate Dad

GAH

(Cyril note: Aged 64 and born Feb '57)

3 Woodlands Road Barnes London SW13

28th Sept 1921 Wednesday

Dear CG

Your letter of the 22nd & 24th August arrived on the 23rd Sept and I was very glad to have it as well as to see the photos which arrived later in the day. I do not know whether retirement is a matter for congratulation. It means reduced income and switching one's self off from an occupation for which there has been considerable training and in which one is most effective. But there are many other things I am desirous of attending to and I am quite content to look at the advantages and be joyful.

I entered the Civil Service in June 1871 as a boy of 14 and passed an examination in March 1873 leading to my appointment in the Seaman's Registry.

Sorry to learn you have injured your leg. You do not mention date of injury so we cannot estimate what opportunity it has had of recovering. Injuries test your condition and if you have been going properly, healing is more rapid.

It is amusing to read about your hockey ground Note from Cyril: I made one). You used not to be keen on gardening, but perhaps directing operations is better than performing them. I have a bit of grass to mow tomorrow. It is blossoming out now although.....

Next page missing.... The following is possibly the same letter as the paper and ink is identical.

... when there were some books written and beautifully ornamented some 500 years ago. They are carefully kept and are likely to be of great value for the next 1000 years. No doubt it seemed an awfully slow and tedious process when it was being done and many might have thought the substance of the book as far more important than the artistic decoration. But it is wise to do things thoroughly. From what I could gather training in the R.F.A. makes a strong part of first class results.

After leaving the museum we had lunch and looked in at the Cinema at the Opera House. We seldom go but thought we should like to see a specimen entertainment that crowds enjoy. We don't want to go again. The hall was fine and the music was good. We had a quiet rest but the pictures were nonsense.

Today the sky was clear and the sun shining so we took bus to Richmond and steam boat to Hampton Court. We thought of you and your boating on that stretch which looked quite beautiful. We had an hour for tea and a stroll and then returned before it got dark. Tonight we are alone and have an opportunity for writing letters.

Yesterday your Aunt Alice and Maria were here for a chat and a game of bridge. They are fairly settled at 87 Castelnau but have still many things to do to get all in order.

(Laurent Residential: 87 Castelnau - Flat 2, London, SW13 9EL)



wood 87 Castelnau - Flat 2, London, SW13 9EL

£1,750 pcm

Another extract from a different letter (different paper and ink), undated.

4.

nickel is displacing silver, that milk is scarce and the use of tea and coffee increasing. It also said there is more care to keep flies off the food than there used to be. Contaminated food is bad at all times, but more particularly for those who don't take exercise. I get regular walking exercise and some home gymnastics and your ma is still a very fair walker. Trixie and Ella skip when they do not get enough of other exercise.

I should like to get a small motor car or at least a motor cycle with a side car and bring Ella to Italy in 1924 and let you bring her back. But why 1924? You used to say 6 years would be necessary before the Govt would provide free passage for 6 months holiday. Has any change been made?

As regards removing from Barnes we cannot see our way clear. If Mildred or Trixie or Ella came to London we may remain here but in any case we will try to have something suitable for you in 1924. All your sisters are independent young ladies but I should like some at least to be happily married and I must do my part. The tasks of life do not disappear when one retires. Before leaving the Office I could manage without a Diary for engagements but cannot do so now.

(Note: It is sad that George & Ellen never saw any of their daughters, Mildred, Trixie, Frances or Ella married and were unable to attend their son Cyril's wedding in India in 1926. Trixie and Mildred did eventually marry in later life though well beyond child-bearing age.)