

2013-07-09

Remembrance of Ken Whyld and Visit to Cambridge



Ken Whyld and Isaak Linder International Conference of Chess Historians
Kórnik, Sept. 16-18, 2002 (Photo courtesy of Tomasz Lissowski)

On the 10th anniversary of the death of **Ken Whyld** who passed away on 11th of July, 2003 we feel obliged to give a note of remembrance. Moreover we can offer a pictorial report on Michael Negele's meeting with Tony Gillam in Cambridge last week.

[Slightly updated 2013-07-13]

[Second update 2013-07-21]

Michael Negele has "excavated" quite a lot of material for our note of remembrance:

Two articles by Ken Whyld from the *British Chess Magazine*, [The English Devil](#) (*BCM*, July 1977) and [Turkish Delight](#) (*BCM*, September 1978).

Just afterwards Ken Whyld published his first **Quotes and Queries** column ([No. 3933](#), October 1978).

We also add his last Q&Q column: [Q&Q No. 5650](#), July 2003. (All scans courtesy of [British Chess Magazine](#).)

Vogt's 'Letters' by Ken Whyld, published in *Bonus Socius*, the **Jubileumuitgave voor Meindert Niemeijer ter gelegenheid van zijn 75ste verjaardag** (1977), p. 295. The one-page article on the very last page of the book deals with the letters of an ominous German Carl Fr(i)ederich Vogt, published in a (nowadays very scarce) booklet *Letters on Chess*, London 1848, see this [PDF of the Whyld article](#).

Guy Van Habberney comments: "With regard to Vogt: since there is no German original extant, it has to

be either Lewis or Walker. I have the original book, and everything (style, layout, precision, price) points to Lewis. I do not agree with Ken Whyld on this one: his argument is rather shaky, methinks. Ken Whyld simply caused confusion where previously there was none!" and "The 'Notice' at the beginning of the book states that it is a translation of a series of letters 'the last of them dated 1834'. If it was the Vogt KW is referring too, he must have been quite precocious..." According to Whyld, C.F. Vogt was born in 1817. Guy has also provided some scans of the Vogt/Lewis book: the [title page](#) and ['Notice' first page / second page](#); as well as a [list of the Lewis books](#) the editor had on offer (at the end of the book). (As to the first name of C.F. Vogt, "Friederich" is obviously correct, the "Frederich" on the title page a typo; in the "Notice" Carl Fried. is given.)

Interestingly enough, in his *Chess Texts printed before 1850* Ken Whyld (and Chris Ravilious) discussed this booklet again (p. 146), here the [scan of this entry](#). Michael Negele however found that the "case" had already been clarified much earlier, for the original discussion (where D.W. Fiske was involved!) see *Chess Monthly* 1857, p.135, and [1858, p. 61f.](#)! Also in Michael's latest find, the article [Letters on Chess von U. Ewell](#) from *Schachzeitung*, Jan. 1852, p. 15-19, the author acts on the assumption that the letters of C.F. Vogt were a faked up story.

In this context we also point out to another interesting find of Michael, the article [Lucena, ein Brief von C.F. Vogt.](#), published in *Schachzeitung*, Jan. 1852, p. 20-23. Michael assumes that the articles in the *Schachzeitung* 1852 were written by von der Lasa.

In his two "Verzeichnisse" von der Lasa gives always "by U. Ewell (Lewis)" for the Vogt letters (No. 3186), so for him the author was absolutely certain. He met William Lewis on 27 August 1855 in London, subsequently their correspondence developed which lasted until 1857.

For Michael Negele the following picture results:

"Lewis, who actually had disappeared from the London chess scene (last publication in 1838), wants to start up again the production of his books and for this purpose mostly copies from the Bilguer. He must have been encouraged to do that by the exuberant appreciation of his person and his works in the 1843 edition. Lewis had close contact to Ludwig E. Bledow (1795-1846) (Amtmann Von B.?) who translated his book on the match De La Bourdonnais vs MacDonnell in the year 1835 into German. But even more logical for "Von B." seems Paul Rudolf von Bilguer (1815-1840).

However original is that Lucena appreciation which is not extant in the Bilguer. (Even referring to the legendary Vicent book.)

Very fine the conclusion of the Lewis chapter by Bilguer (von der Lasa), naturally by Lord George Byron:

Where frequent beauties strike the reader's view,

We must not quarrel for a blot or two;

But pardon equally to books or men,

The slips of human nature and the pen."

We assume that Ken Whyld was "in a squeeze" to contribute to the a.m. *Bonus Socius* edition.

Additions (mainly) by Thomas Niessen:

Our member Thomas Niessen (Aix-la-Chapelle) has pointed to further sources of interest, the first being Edward Winter's [CN 4337. A Chess Watergate \(April 2006\)](#) where George Walker's review from 1848 is (partly or completely) reproduced. Already there the authorship of Lewis was assumed. Most of Winter's CN 4337 is taken from Geoffrey H. Diggle's *Chess Characters: reminiscences of a badmaster*, Vol. 2 (Geneva, 1987), p. 39, Michael Negele has provided a scan (PDF) of this Diggle contribution: [126. A Chess Watergate](#). But also Diggle – like all others – don't give the original source of that name transformation "U. Ewell – You You Ell – Double You Ell – W.L. – W. Lewis". This "metamorphose" was also quoted by van der Linde in *Geschichte und Litteratur des Schachspiels*, Vol. 1, p. 334, as well as in a

Murray article in *BCM*, 1906, p. 49-53.

Both M. Negele and T. Niessen suppose that it is to find in George Walker's chess column in *Bell's Life in London, and Sporting Chronicle*, 1848, but they couldn't get at that rare paper by now. Maybe one of our readers can be helpful?

Moreover T. Niessen mentions another note by George Allen in his *Life of Philidor*, 1858, p. 56, which is remarkable due to the distinct assessment of the Vogt letters, here a [scan](#) as well.

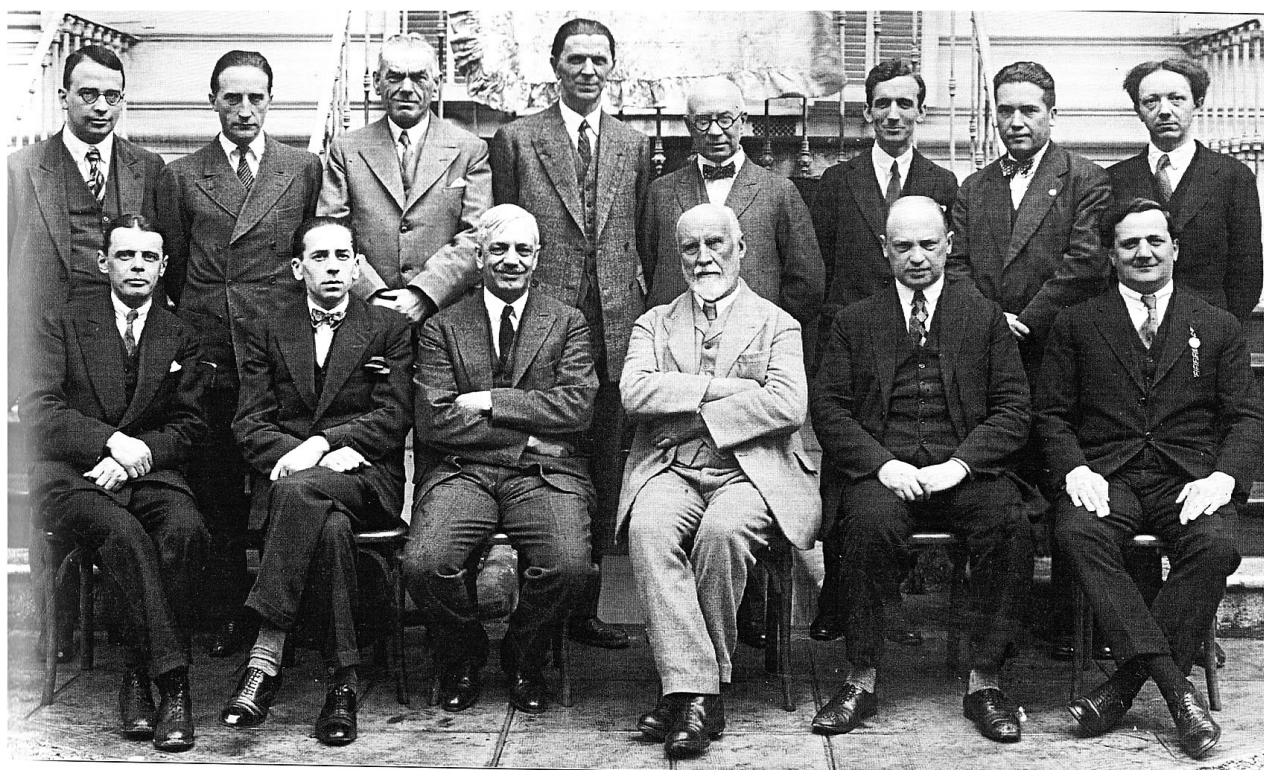
From George Walker's *A new treatise on the game of chess* (4th ed., London 1846) we still give a scan of the [Letter from Mr. G. Walker to the editor of Bell's Life](#) – probably Lewis was additionally motivated by Walker's biting text to publish the Vogt letters.

* * *

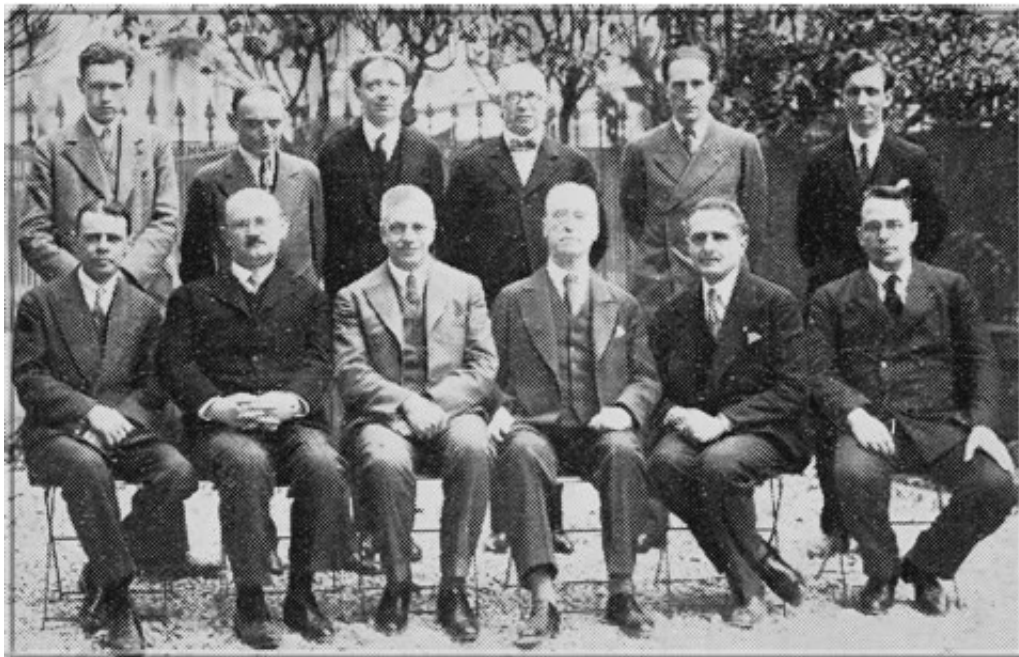
Here are the short notes by Ken Whyld on Michael Negele's contributions to *Kaissiber* 15 (Warren H. Goldman) and *Kaissiber* 18 (Albert Heyde): [note Kaissiber 16](#) and [Kaissiber 19 \(p.4\)](#), the latter also mentions the case of Oscar Telling (as a strange echo to the Heyde case). Moreover Ken's comments on the Heyde article in [Q&Q No. 5602](#) as well as [Q&Q No. 4832](#) which deals with the a.m. Telling. (Scans courtesy of *British Chess Magazine*.)

Oscar Leonardis Telling (much better known under his pseudonym **Eze**) was the man who robbed his employer (a banking house) in the USA in 1914 and fled at first to Germany. Later on he settled in the South of France and was a major sponsor of some chess events in Nice.

He can be spotted on two photos from the tournaments Nice 1930 and Nice 1931:



— Sitting from left: E. Znosko-Borovsky, E. Colle, Sir G. Thomas, G. Maas, S. Tartakower, B. Kostić. Standing from left: A. Seitz, M. Duchamps, J. O'Hanlon, G. Maróczy, Oscar L. Telling (tournament director), B. Reilly, J. Araiza, G. Renaud (tournament manager). Photo taken from David De Lucia's Chess Library, *A Few Old Friends*, Second Edition (2007), p. 363.



Nice 1931

(photo from BCM, May 1931, p. 201) Sitting from left: E. Znosko-Borovsky, A. Vajda, Sir G. Thomas, J. Mieses, S. Rosselli del Turco, A. Seitz. Standing from left: D. Noteboom, A. Baratz, G. Renaud (tournament manager), Oscar L. Telling (tournament director), M. Duchamp, B. Reilly.

* * *

Tony Gillam has written some lines about the last day of Ken Whyld's life:

"I received a phone call from Ken's wife telling me that he had died, very suddenly. I knew that Ken was awaiting a heart by-pass operation and he had decided to take some exercise in preparation for the operation by taking a walk every day.

My reaction was that this was probably the worst thing he could have done. After the operation he would probably have had to undertake strong exercise regularly, but before the operation, I would have thought that the less exercise he took, the better.

On the day he died he went for his daily walk and lost his way. As a result he ended up walking much further than normal. When he reached home he went into the kitchen to prepare his lunch and after only a few minutes he collapsed and died immediately."

Michael Negele's Visit to Cambridge (England)



The Great Gate of Christ's College

By chance I was able to arrange a meeting with Tony Gillam in Cambridge, just one week before the 10th anniversary of our friend's unexpected death. Tony awaited me in St Andrew's Street, opposite to the marvellous Great Gate of Christ's College (see photo above). Till today we both never failed in our appointments, even if the places we arranged to meet were rather obscurely described. [Be aware: Tony has no cellphone at hand !] We then strolled more or less "aimlessly" through the historic part to finally end up near the University Library, in [The Backs](#).

I was eager to visit the library though Tony was not at all a happy bunny about that: He feared enormous administrative barriers and fees. Particularly as he couldn't identify himself and he had no proof of his residence. In the end he proved his identity by his bus annual ticket (with a photo) and his publication no. 99 served as an evidence of his address. We both got this "temporary pass" free of any charge, Tony was impressed by so much "German stubbornness".

Below some photos, documents and posters, we didn't find any chess books there. But there is certainly more than enough place for many a chess collection, really "vast" premises. By the way, I had the idea that a KWA membership card could be definitely helpful (formerly also proposed by Andreas Saremba). Of course for a fee and only for interested members.

Late in the afternoon we met with my Cambridge coworker, and we had a nice dinner ...

From *The Chess Player's Chronicle*, 1853 (New Series), edited by Howard Staunton, we still offer the article **Sketches of our Provincial Chess Clubs**, in contrast to **Chess in the Metropole** (= London), here the [PDF](#).

Michael Negele



On the [river](#)

[Cam](#)

•



On the [river](#)

[Cam](#)

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Punts on the
Cam



Michael Negele



• The [King's College](#)



• The King's College main gate



The Clare College's Fellow's Garden



"Through the looking glass" - part of an ornamental gate.



[The University Library](#)



Library

[The University](#)

Some documents and posters
(please click to enlarge)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY is one of the largest and oldest libraries in the world. As one of the nation's legal deposit libraries, it cares for around eight million books, alongside internationally-important collections of manuscripts, maps and music. Its treasures include a Gutenberg Bible and the fifth-century Codex Bezae, as well as breathtaking medieval illuminated manuscripts, the Cairo Genizah fragments, and renowned collections of the papers of Sir Isaac Newton, Sir Robert Walpole and Charles Darwin.



[_ The Public Library in 1807](#)



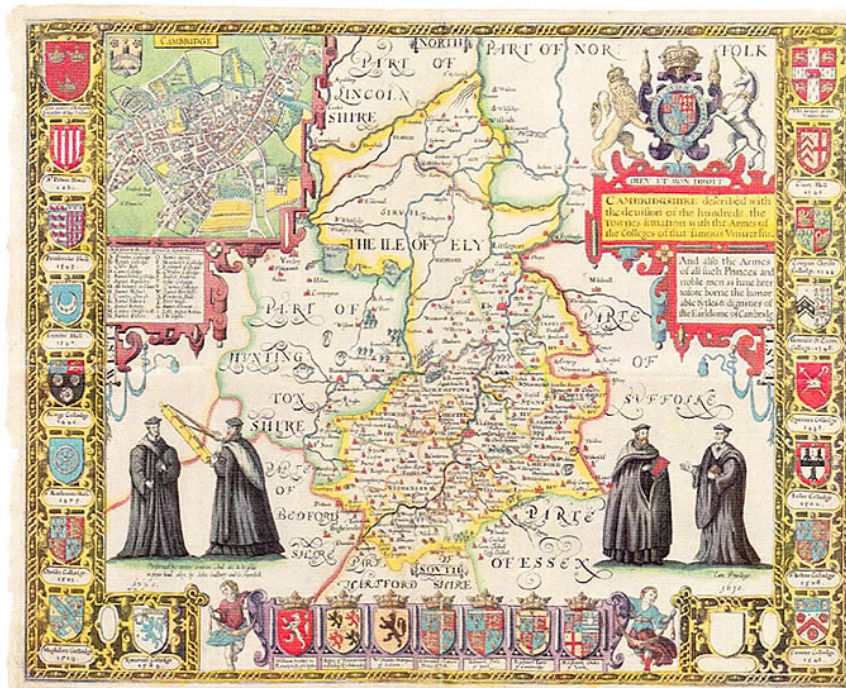
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Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine



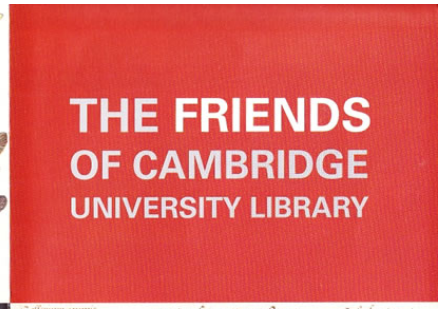
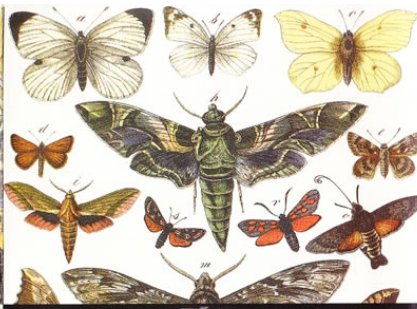
Cambridgeshire from John Speed's atlas

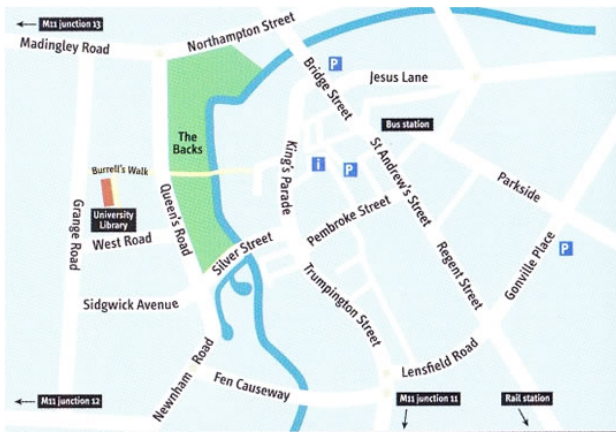
Cambridge University Library is home to one of five known sets of proof maps prepared for John Speed's *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine* (1611-1612).

To mark the 400th anniversary of its publication the Library has digitised the 66 maps showing each county of England and Wales, plus a map of Scotland and each of the four Irish provinces that make this fascinating collection.

High quality scans of each map are available to view freely online and full sized reproductions of each map can be purchased.

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/maps/speed.html>



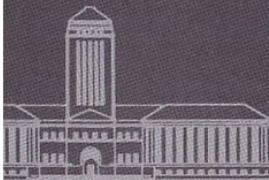


How to find us

The University Library is a few minutes' walk from 'The Backs' and about ten minutes' walk from the city centre. There is no car parking for exhibition visitors, but pay-and-display spaces are usually available on Queen's Road or West Road. Cambridge railway station is served by a frequent shuttle bus service to the city centre, and Citi 4 and Uni 4 buses, and City Sightseeing tour buses, stop close to the Library. Cambridge is on National Cycle Routes 11 and 51, and there is ample parking for bicycles at the Library.

Visitors with disabilities

There is a special entrance to the Milstein Exhibition Centre for those needing to avoid steps, and reserved parking spaces for blue badge holders. Please telephone in advance to ensure a successful visit: 01223 333030. For further information e-mail exhibitions@lib.cam.ac.uk.



The Friends of Cambridge University Library

The exhibitions programme is supported by the Friends of Cambridge University Library. If you would like to be more involved with the Library and be kept in touch with developments, why not join the Friends? They have an active programme of events, including talks, visits and invitations to the opening receptions of Milstein Exhibition Centre displays.

For details of the Friends' activities and how to join, pick up a leaflet in the Library, contact the Honorary Secretary, Friends of the Library, Cambridge University Library, or e-mail friends@lib.cam.ac.uk

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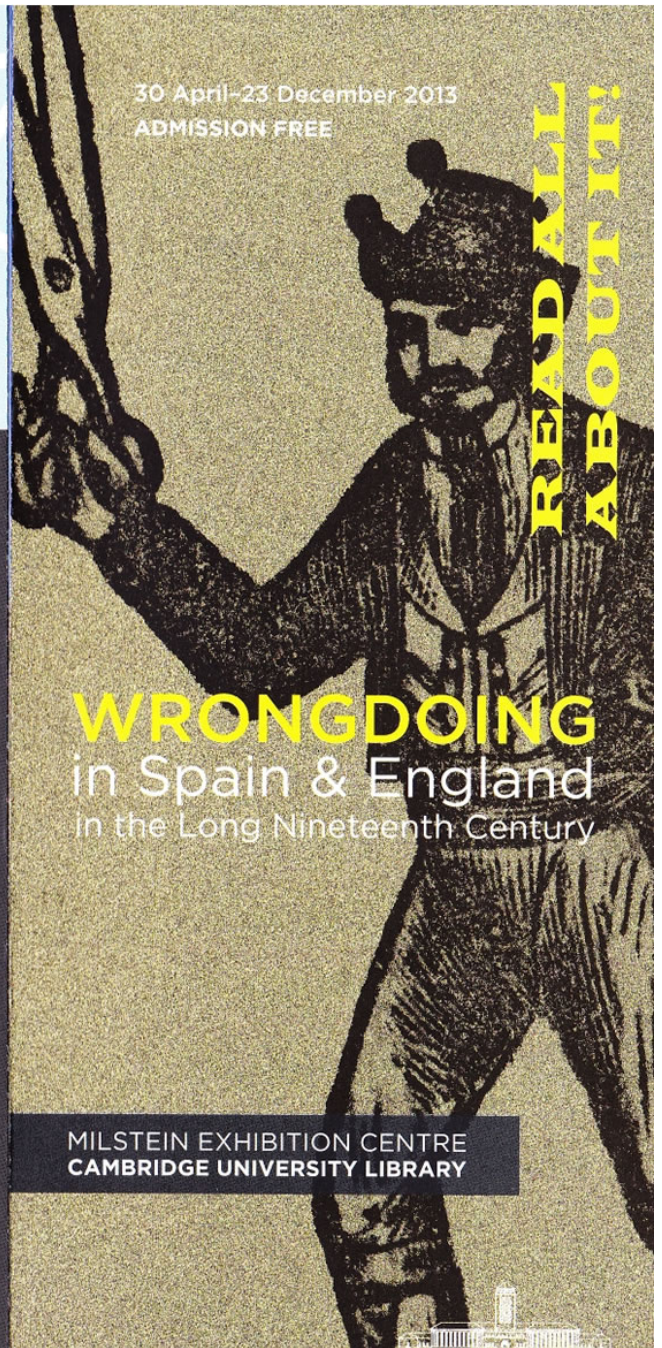
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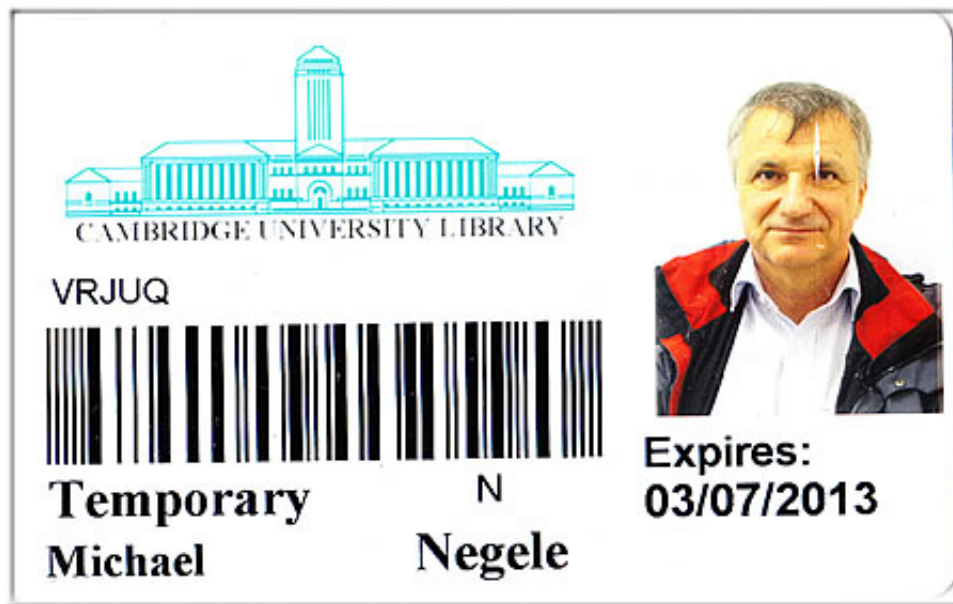
WRONGDOING in Spain & England in the Long Nineteenth Century

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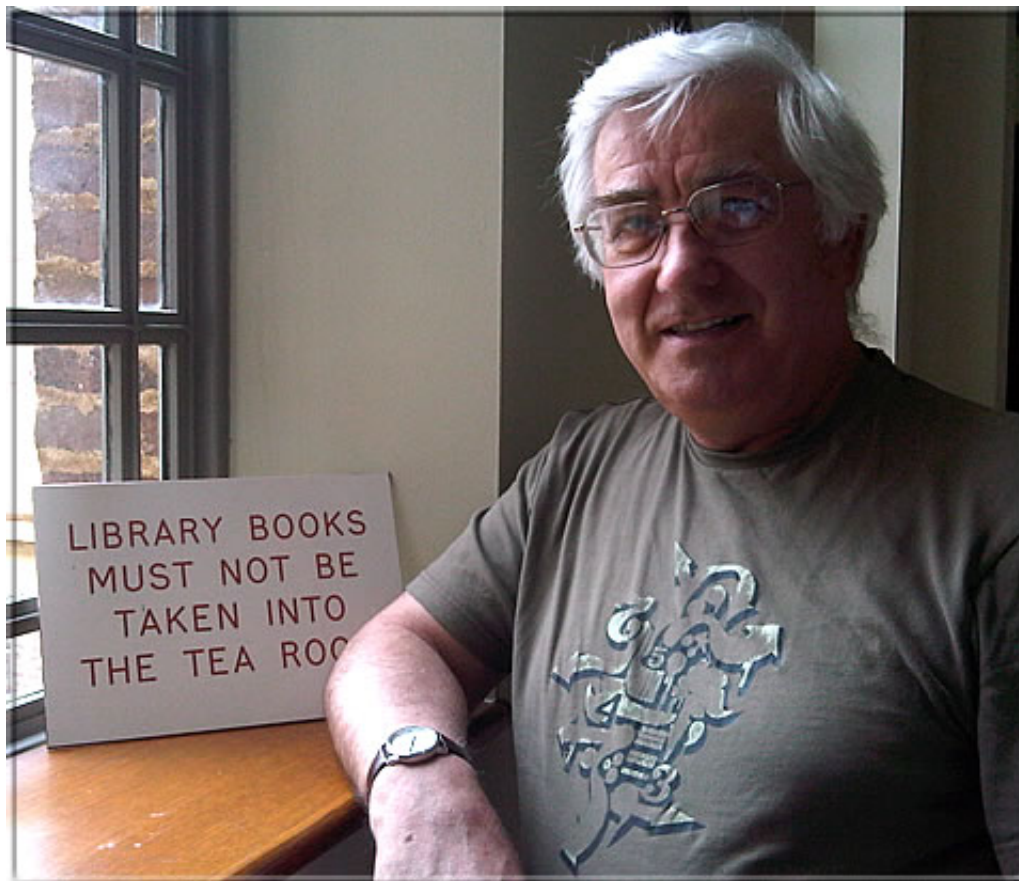




Tony Gillam at the entrance



My "temporary pass"



Tony, just before we entered the tea room, quite relaxed meanwhile.



In the wine shop - Ken Whyld would for sure appreciate ... (We bought a bottle of French White [cooled] to consume in the Asian restaurant just across the bridge over river Cam.) Photo taken by my coworker.

