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The following materials are housed along with two copies of H.L. Douch's 1974 transcription (one handwritten, the other typed with some corrections).

[Redacted]

monetary value, the document provides a link to an energetic and observant man trying to improve the standards of law and order in the eighth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

The decision to deposit this document in Special Collections at the University of Victoria was made because the document was lying unnoticed in a lawyer's filing cabinet and it was felt that it would be of greater value in British Columbia than in Britain.

2. D (3 1974):

Dear Mrs. Sweet,

Your letter of the 28th of April to the Recorder of Norwich has been given to me.

The letter of which you kindly enclose transcripts is of great interest. Sir William Paston of Paston was sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk in 1565-6. He was the head of the family of which earlier members wrote the well-known Paston letters. The Paston muniments were dispersed after the failure of the family on the early 18th century so it is difficult to say how this letter can have come into your Mother's hands. Sir William figures in the Dictionary of National Biography; his dates were 1528-1610, he succeeded

I notice that this letter bears the initials of Francis Blomefield, the 18th century historian of Norfolk, who had the pick of the Paston papers before they were dispersed, so the letter must have passed through his hands.

I enclose your transcripts. Incidentally, according to Paston's note 'James laste letter' on the back of the document, the writer would seem to have been called Jermy rather than Jermyn. He was probably Thomas Jermy of Marlingford, son of Robert Jermy of Norwich who died about 1533.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Kennedy [signature]

County Archivist.

4. D C ,
C (21 1985,):

Dear Mr. Petter,

It is with great pleasure that I invite Special Collections to accept the enclosed document. It is a letter written by Thomas JERMY (agent of the law), to William Paston, High Sheriff of Norfolk and Suffolk, and it is dated 31st January 1565. Thus it is 420 years old and deserves to become the property of a University where, surely, someone, someday, will gain from it as much inspiration as I did.

With it, I enclose a copy of a transcription made for me which is, of course, open to the first

4. E D (21 1985 ,):

Educational and instructional uses of the letter written by Thomas Jermy to Sir William Paston in 1565.

The donor of letter, Mrs. Dorothy A. Sweet, taught History in secondary school in Cornwall, England, for over thirty years and used this letter as a primary source once it had come into her possession in 1973. By that time, the Jackdaw series of documents to illuminate periods of history frequently formed the basis for class & individual study. This letter “grew” in usefulness, shedding light on the period when it was written and also posing questions as to its current discovery. Relevance in education can be catalogued under several headings.

I. Educational importance: II. Investigations.

I. Educational importance: the letter is of interest to Historians of the Elizabethan period; the Shakespearian period [William was 8 months old when the letter was written]; Contemporary Elizabethan and present-day drama; social history; history of administration of law and order; history of role of Sheriff & of ‘police’; history of law & administration of justice; of crime and criminals (does anything ever change?).
Language and writing: Caligraphy; use of word endings; spelling: Linguistics; use of expression

papers in order, discarding much and packaging the rest into one small case. Why she did not show it to me will never be determined now. [A question for Behavioural Sciences delving into Mother-Daughter relationships]. Her mind would have been on more relevant topics.

c) The search for a family connection can be dealt with under Vicarious searches. I concluded that there was no family connection in the past with Pastons Jermy, Blomefield or any other person connected with the letter. The letter was probably left behind by the previous owner of the house bought by my parents in 1953 from the widow of the original builder. Two chests of drawers had been purchased with the house and the linings of these proved to be first editions of British 19th C. newspapers. Other odd items were in the drawers and it is likely that the small (modern) envelope into which the letter had been put in its original folds (see address side of letter) was tucked into a drawer. This is the most likely reason. Such documents are not classed as rare by antique document dealers and, in fact, may well have been purchased for a few pence on a market stall for the parchment or paper content.

ii) Vicarious searches:

a) Students of enquiring mind may well be interested in a follow-up of the document using books found in both a University Library and a Central Public Reference Library. I undertook this in search of possible family links at the local Branch Library (Britain).

Yarmouth, 1772, as being of great worth and containing some scarce information. Perhaps this was contributed by SWINDEN.

Isaac JERMY, 1789-1848, was the earliest of JERMYS in the collection, but was born a PRESTON & took the name Jermy on inheriting Stanfield Hall, nr. Wymandham, Norfolk, in 1837. Meanwhile he had trained as a lawyer at Lincoln's Inn (London) and was called to the bar in 1814, serving the Norfolk circuit. He served as Steward & later, Recorder for Norwich. He married twice & had three children.

Excitement must have been intense when Isaac JERMY's claim to the Hall was contested by LARNER, who took possession and was evicted by the military in 1838. LARNER was imprisoned. Ten years later in 1848, a tenant farmer on the estate, RUSH, broke into

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