

RUPERT FURNEAUX

December 15 1966

LITTLEMEAD

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HAYLING, HANTS.

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Dear Mr Troutman,

Very many thanks for your letter; I have the same ideas about D, who writes to me that he still holds the lease and plans to return after the New Year, when he will re excavate the Money Pit, and, if he finds nothing, will look elsewhere, "somewhere near the beach". I don't take much notice of this; Chappell tells me that no one holds a current lease. He still seems to be hankering after a Government "take over", but that, I am informed by the Provincial Secretary, is not being considered. It has been suggested to me that C may be out to sell to a contractor who may exploit the island as a building site. My plans depend upon Chappell; I have asked him for the concession to search in the early summer, but I cannot get any definite answer from him. He may still be relying on Dunfield, but why, I don't know, for he is, I think, a lost cause and I can hardly imagine that he will again achieve the large finance he requires. My second difficulty is in replacing the markers, the two Drilled Rocks and the Triangle, and again I do not rely on D. I think I can reestablish them with some work. On one point you may be able to help me; I am told that D did not excavate the spot on which the triangle stood, and that that spot is to the southeast of the large excavation on the south shore. This is very important ~~xxxx~~ because I need to relocate it exactly, and I can hardly do that if its site is within the excavation. Can you advise? The westerly Drilled Rock seems to have been on the edge of D's excavation in the Money Pit area; I noticed a large stone that had fallen over the edge, just north of the old Hedden shaft. It was too large to turn over. The easterly Drilled Rock must have been on the edge of the excavation at the Cave In shaft. Anything you can tell me will be appreciated.

Do I assume that you are an "engineer"? I understand ~~fxo~~ from your letter that you were in charge of D's excavations. If so,



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Dear Mr. Treatment,

Very many thanks for your letter; I have the same ideas you may be able to help me. I plan to excavate several small holes, to 20 ft, which I think I can do with a bulldozer, at \$96 dollars a day from Earl Armstrong, unless you know someone better. I shall be working on definite "information" which I have gathered in my researches for my book, which I shall not complete until after I have dug. I am pleased to learn that the causeway is standing up to the winter. as regards "access" to the site, I have obtained Nolan's permission to pass along his part of the road.

I am certainly sorry that we did not meet. I hope to come again in about May, but there is a possibility that I may make a preparatory visit. Can you tell me what D did on Johnstone's theory? D tells me that he excavated at J's spot north of the M.P., and found nothing. Johnson, with whom I am in communication, would like to know. Personally, I believe J to be wrong.

You mention that you found the watercourse from the south shore under the triangle? Professor Hamilton, who got down very deep in the M.P. in 1939 to 1943, told me that he is convinced that the second watercourse comes from Smiths Cove, not from the south, but that there is a "stream" flowing under the bottom the the Pit, which carries water to the south shore. He says he found the entrance to this second watercourse on the Smiths Cove side of the M.P.

I hope we can keep up this correspondence and, as we progress, get to understand each other better.

Yours,

Rupert Furneaux