

15th August, 1990

Many thanks for your letter. It was a pleasure to hear from you again.

I am coming to Cornwall, for some time on the 29th, to mark the publication of the book, & the possibility of staying in the house.

We shall be staying in the house for a few days after this.

I'm not actually signing book at the moment, but it seems likely I shall come to Cornwall while I shall come to Cornwall and not call in to see Bob Gilbert.

After the Act

WINSTON GRAHAM

Winston Graham

October, 1984

19th Sept. 2000

Dear Michael,

I am using a great amount of time to write to thank you for showing me the "Hundred Best Times" I thought of.

I am very well & your letter about me was all that could be desired. (I have forgotten what I had said, but it read quite satisfactorily without.)

A year ago I allowed myself to be persuaded to begin a book called "The Japanese" - something I said I would never do. However, it is possible.

69 Brook Street, London W1V 3SS
Telephone 020 7633 1462 Fax 020 7699 7062

the same author

by Poldark Novels
by Poldark
by Poldark
by Poldark
by Poldark
by Poldark
by Poldark
by Poldark
by Poldark
by Poldark

THE LITTLE WALLS

WINSTON GRAHAM

MOORE AND TIGHE

THE JAPANESE

Winston Graham

For Michael from Winston

Don't forget.

Don't forget.

Many thanks for kindly sending me the book. I have been looking at it and it is a very good book. I was especially interested in the story of the Japanese. I have not yet read it but I shall be sure to do so. I was also very interested in the story of the Japanese. I have not yet read it but I shall be sure to do so.

Distiller WOOD

Clarke Gordon, with his younger brother Alexander, owned the family business, the privately owned distillery, the Japanese. I was also very interested in the story of the Japanese. I have not yet read it but I shall be sure to do so.

August 2002

This batch of letters and inscribed novels passed from Cornish journalist Michael Williams into the book trade circa 2015

(1) A copy of WG's 1944 novel *The Merciless Ladies* was recently offered for sale online described thus:

A good reading copy of the first edition with a literary letter in the author's hand to his friend H. S. Read. The letter is pasted down on the free front end-paper and reads:

Dear Readie, this book is rather a change from my usual style but I think you must have a copy. Have you read The Small Back Room by Nigel Balchin? About the back room boys and other things right up your street. Rings the authentic note all through. Fran joins us, all the best.

Yours Winston

On the opposite free front endpaper Graham writes:

H. S. Read with the compliments of the author, 22/1/44

* * * * *



Alexandra "Chouchoune"
Passani (1907-1985)
(see page 8 below)

(2) Two short letters to Miss Cond, a Sidmouth gift shop owner, responding to requests for an autograph. Though undated, it is clear from WG's address (in Perranporth) that they must pre-date 1960:

Dear Miss Cond,
I have been carrying your letter about in my pocket but not answering it. Enclosed the book plate duly signed. I have put the date of the book's publication. There are no more Poldarks on the way just at present, so all is well. I envy you your collection of books.
With best wishes
Yours sincerely
Winston Graham



1957

TREBERRAN, PERRANPORTH, CORNWALL.

PERRANPORTH 2209

Dear Miss Lord.

It was nice to hear from you again, & I have pleasure in sending you the usual autograph. What a fine collection of first editions you must have.

No, I didn't know you ran a gift shop in Sidmouth. If I am ever in the town I will certainly call in.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours.

Winston Graham

(3) Lorin Maazel (1930-2014) was an American conductor, violinist and composer. WG wrote to him on 3 February 1963 (two sides) after an enjoyable evening out with Jean at the Festival Hall. The letter demonstrates that, as well as receiving many fan-letters, WG occasionally wrote them too.

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX.
TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

5.11.

3rd February, 1963.

Dear Mr. Maazel,

I feel, though a stranger, that I must write and thank you for the superb concert you gave on Thursday last at the Festival Hall. My wife and I first heard you in Monaco in August 1960 when your conducting electrified the orchestra then into giving a performance such as I have never heard from it before.

You have, I believe, something in common with the late Thomas Beecham, in that every work under your baton sounds new: it is freshly perceived, receives a new dynamic, yet is always musically true.

Last Thursday was unforgettable,
and we are so delighted that you are
conducting for a while in England.

Yours sincerely,

Winston Graham



Lorin Maazel in 1970

Next page: part of the Val Baker archive held by Kresen Kernow, Redruth

BUXTED,
SUSSEX

TELEPHONE BUXTED 2233

5.7.82

Dear Denny,

I have now sullied my reputation
as being your best correspondent!

Your letter came while we were
in fact staying near Bantock, and once
or twice we even had
to St Buryan, but
unsuccessfully.



ABBOT

TELEPH



BY OF THE
I don't know
it, but
fill
tribution
to me to
enclose
since
help

RAC
CEL

COUPON
WHICH TO
BE USED FOR
THESE AND

You it will
if you

Dear Denny,

If I had

to pay a ridiculous amount of tax on it, and
am returning it to you, as my intention

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX
TELEPHONE BUXTED 2233

8th. January, 1982.

Many thanks indeed for your very nice letter.
a lift to read it. Praise from a fellow
always doubly appreciated.

published THE ANGRY TIDE I swore I had
because I was tired
say and I w

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX
TELEPHONE BUXTED 2233

9th Feb 1983

Dear Denny,

I'm afraid I have lost my reputation
with you for "the gentle reply" but I've had
so many extra letters recently congratulating me
on the New Year O.B.C. that I've had to ration
the replies, otherwise I should have got no work
done at all.

I haven't, alas, any short stories at all
except those in the book "The Japanese End" and
there I think you have already examined extensively.
"At the Shalott Lanture" might just conceivably be
considered a full story, but even then it wasn't
really haunted!

Shall you enjoyed "The Yellow Tide".
By the time I got to the "end" I was just
about pumped out with the effort, and I could

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX
TELEPHONE BUXTED 2233

26.1.82

Dear Denny,

Please. Enclosed agreement
Obliged enough I began a short story
about a graveyard in Cornwall for
"Writer's Bonus", the Macmillan thing,
which would probably just have suited
you, but alas I never finished it.
I expect I shall go back to it sometime.

As ever,

Winstan

(4) Letter dated 1 November 1963 on a single side to Gregory and Veronique Peck, who through the summer of 1960 lived next door to WG as he worked, in Cap Ferrat, France, on *The Grove of Eagles*

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX.
TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

1st. November, 1963.

Dear Gregory and Veronique,

The English edition of THE GROVE OF EAGLES comes out on December 2, but it will not be published in the States until March, so I am sending you a copy of the English publication, with many thanks for your kind efforts on my behalf vis à vis ~~the American~~ John Kimberley, ill though they were rewarded.

How are you both? It seems a long time since we met, and I have not heard of your having been in England since the premiere when we came up and had dinner with Shoshone. Nor have we seen Shoshone since then, or Joe, though I believe Rosamund hears from him from time to time. Andrew is now in his third year at Oxford, and Rosamund, having been 'finished' at her finishing school in Switzerland, is at a secretarial college in London learning shorthand and typing. We don't know whether she will then get a job or go abroad again for a bit, to either Italy or Spain, but in any case we are told that shorthand and typing are useful things to have.

Do hope all your family are well and that we shall see something of you next year.

Love from us both,

Winston

Joe is Veronique's younger brother and "Shoshone" [actually Chouchone] their Russian-born mother. WG told Susan Hill that he "admired her more than any other woman I ever met". In *Memoirs* he wrote: "Her charm of character and personality made a great impression on me, and generations later she surfaced as Shona in *The Green Flash*."

The Whim of the Wheel: The Memoirs of the Earl of Kimberley

by Lord Kimberley with Charles Roberts

The candid autobiography of one of Britain's most remarkable peers of recent times, who inherited his title soon after leaving Eton, fought with the Grenadier Guards in North West Europe, was married six times and had countless affairs, was a champion bobsleigh rider at St Moritz and a leading London playboy in the 1950s and 1960s, gambled with John Aspinall and Lord Lucan, represented Gregory Peck, Henry Fonda, Robert Mitchum and David Niven as a public relations consultant, sold real estate and appeared in a movie in Jamaica, succumbed to alcoholism and fought back to become a respected member of the House of Lords, and latterly lived quietly with his sixth wife in rural Wiltshire.

Johnny Kimberley died in 2002. Lord Kimberley's book, written with help from Charles Roberts, a leading East Anglian journalist, broadcaster and writer, recalls a vanished age of elegance and fast-living in post-war London and on the Riviera, and is full of frank anecdotes about many of the famous and infamous figures of the period whom he knew well.

(i) re "John Kimberley" (see previous page)

GROVE OF EAGLES

by

WINSTON GRAHAM

for Gus & Veronique
from Winston,
affectionately.
2nd December, 1963.

(ii) WG presented the Pecks with a copy of *The Grove of Eagles* (UK edition) with this inscription:

(5) Letter dated 13 October 1965, on a single side, found in a second-hand copy of *The Grove of Eagles*:

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX.
TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

13th. October, 1965.

Dear Commander Tredinnick,

Thank you so much for your letter of the 29th. September. I was so pleased to know you had enjoyed *THE GROVE OF EAGLES*, and thank you for writing to tell me.

You're certainly right; it was a monumental undertaking, and occupied nearly three years in the writing and the research. It began as a labour of love, and to some extent continued so all through, but I certainly had no idea at the outset that, apart from English history, it would involve me in so much Spanish history as well. Spanish documents are troublesome to come by and even more troublesome to read. But it is good to have done, and appreciative letters such as yours make the doing all the more worth while.

I did once think of a sequel, and the Robert Killigrew from whom I partly developed the character of Maugan had a highly chequered career in the 17th. Century; but at present I am still suffering from the 'combat fatigue' of the writing of this book; and modern novels, though by no means easy, seem such relatively uncomplicated tasks by comparison!

Yours sincerely,

Winston Graham

(Thanks to BF)

(6) Letter of condolence dated 3 August 1967 on two sides to Lucile Moore

Tewkesbury-born John Moore (1907-1967) was Gloucestershire's best-known and loved author of the twentieth century. A gifted naturalist and communicator and one of the earliest to draw attention to conservation issues, Moore was described by Sir Compton Mackenzie as the most talented writer about the countryside of his generation. In a relatively short life (he died at the age of 59 following surgery in a Bristol hospital) John Moore packed in a great deal. As well as writing 34 books (about half of them novels), he was instrumental in launching the Tewkesbury Festival of Plays and the Cheltenham Literary Festival. He gave wartime service first in the Fleet Air Arm then, following injury, as a naval press attaché at Supreme Allied Headquarters, in which role he participated in the D-Day landings, going ashore at Arromanches-les-Bains. He wrote two plays, collected and wrote knowledgeably about moths and butterflies, broadcast regularly on the BBC and penned many articles for assorted publications as well as a weekly column that ran in the *Birmingham Evening Mail* for eighteen years. His last novel *The Waters Under the Earth* (1965) stands as an enduring testament to his gifts; his *You English Words* (1961) is one of the best books on the delights of the English language you'll ever read. That last title comes from the first line of a poem by Edward Thomas, whose *Life & Letters* Moore published in 1939.

John Moore and Winston Graham were near-contemporaries, born in November 1907 and June 1908 respectively. Both first drew attention as "regional writers"; both were members of the Savile Club; both served as chairman of the Management Committee of the Society of Authors. Indeed, Moore's untimely death on 27 July 1967 fell during WG's tenure of that office. Thus it fell to him to write a letter of condolence to Moore's widow Lucile. But he did so not formally, officially, dryly, as an office-holder, but from his home, as a friend:

Dear Lucile,

I think we have only met twice, but I feel I must write to say how distressed and shocked I was to learn of John's untimely death. It seems only like three weeks - but is probably nearer three months - since I saw him last at a Foyle's Literary Luncheon; and he then looked as well and as cheerful as I have ever seen him.

As a colleague, and as an old friend at the Savile, I shall much miss him, and he will be equally missed by many others. He had a warmth and generosity of personality which is all too rare. I was on the Committee of Management of the Society of Authors some ten or eleven years ago when he was Chairman, and these qualities - together with tact and balance & great understanding - were of immense value in helping to steer the Society through an unusually difficult year. It is an infinite pity that such a fine writer & fine man should have been lost to us all so soon.

Believe me, most sincerely

Winston

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX.
TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

3rd August, 1967

Dear Lester,

I think we have only met twice but I feel I must write to say how distressed & shocked I was to learn of John's untimely death. It seems only like three weeks - but is probably nearer three months - since I saw him last at a Fagel's Literary Luncheon; and he then looked as well and as cheerful as I have ever seen him.

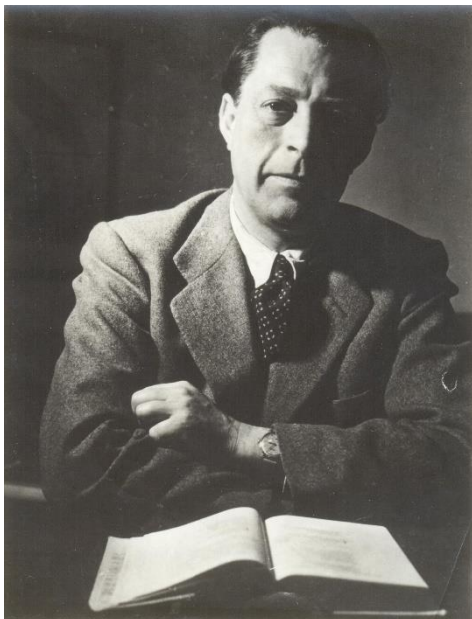
As a colleague, and as an old friend at the Smiths, I shall much miss him & and he will be equally missed by many others. He had a warmth & a generosity of personality which is all too rare. I was on the Committee of Management of the Society of Authors some ten or

eleven years ago when he was Chairman, and
these qualities - together with tact & balance
& great understanding - were of immense value
in helping to steer the Society through an
immensely difficult year. It is an
infinite pity that such a fine writer & fine
man should have been lost to us all so
soon.

Believe me, most sincerely,

Winston

Winston Graham

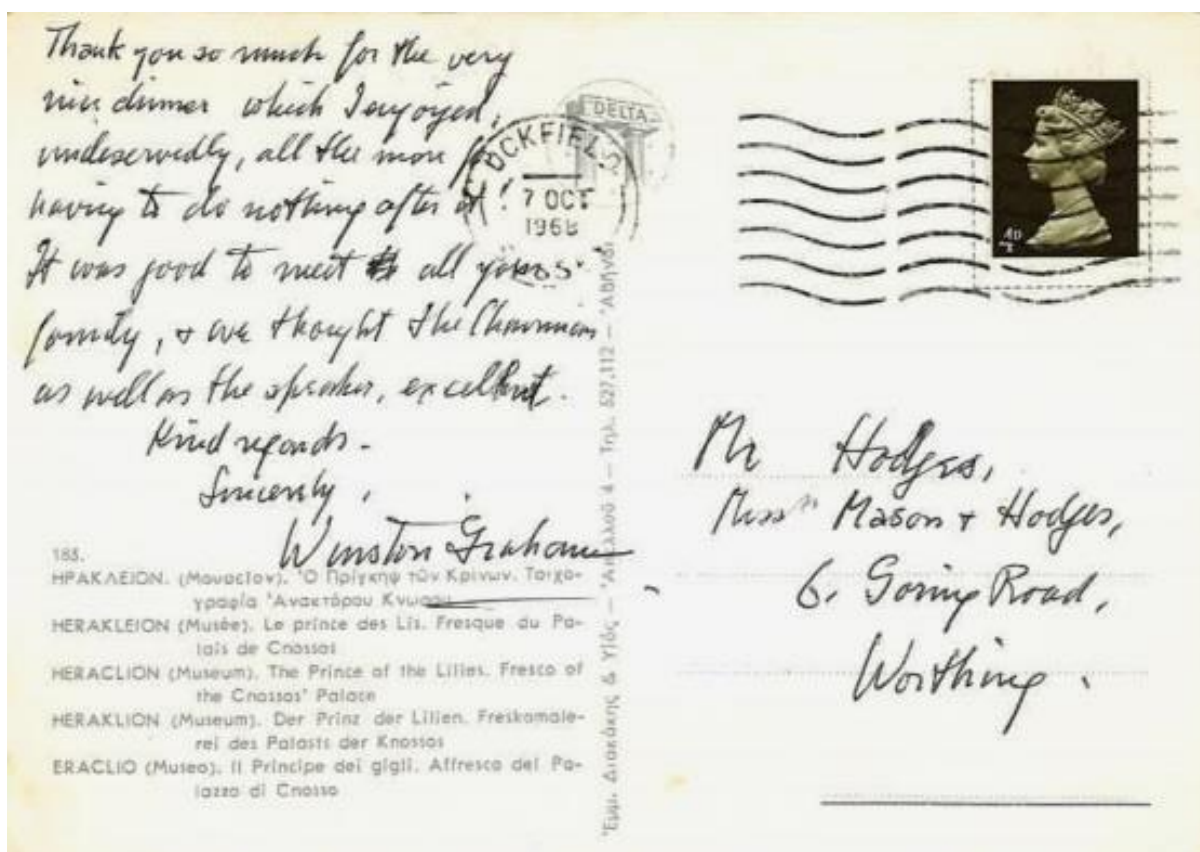


John Moore (1907-1967)

Note: the original copy of this letter is preserved
in Gloucestershire County Archives



(7) This postcard, on which WG sends thanks for a "very nice dinner", was recently sold with a signed first edition of *The Black Moon*. The addressee, Mr. Frederic Stanley "Stan" Hodges, was a "well-known Sussex book-seller in regular contact with WG through the late 1960s and early 1970s." (Information from John Hodges, with thanks)



(8) Letter dated 31 December 1973 on two sides to a Mrs Cross, in which, after hoping she feels *The Black Moon* "continues the [Poldark] story in the right tradition," ends disingenuously ...

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX.
TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

31st December, 1973.

Dear Mrs Cross,

Thank you so much for your letter. {14th Dec }

It was very kind of you to write to us, and I much appreciate it.

The four Poldark books were written a long time ago, and seem to have continued to engage a degree of public interest & affection ever since. I had long since given up the thought of writing anything further about this family, but last year the whole thing boiled up again and a new and fifth Poldark "The Black Moon" was published in October of this year. At present, of course, it is only available in hardback, in which it costs, alas, being a very long book, the large sum of £1.95. I expect it will be put out in a paper back towards the end of 1975.

I don't think I in any way exaggerate

the awful conditions of the day. It was a hard life
for the poor & the sickly. I'm glad you like
the jackets of the paper-bags. The people photographed
were hand-picked from a photographic agency & then
sent down to Cornwall to be taken on the spot.

It happened to be an exceptionally cold time: you will
notice snow on the path that "Dmitry" is holding.

I hope eventually you will read "The Black
Moon" and feel it ^{continues} ~~carries on~~ the story in the right
tradition. It only carries the history forward
another two years & I fear, leaves rivalries unsolved:
so some day, who knows, there may even be a
sixth.

Yours sincerely,

Winston Graham

WG writes:

... It only carries the history forward another two years and, I fear,
leaves rivalries unsolved, so, some day, who knows, there may
even be a sixth.

Who knows? By then he did, I'm sure.

(9) Letter dated 29 June 1974 to Arthur Lyne

SUSSEX.

TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

29.6.74

Dear Arthur,

It's twenty years + more since I wrote "Demelza" in which I think the reference to Powder Street occurs, so when you questioned me about it I'm afraid I couldn't remember. All I did remember was that I had taken no liberties, so far as I could recall, with the topography of Truro.

In fact Powder Street was the original name for Boscarven Street before Middle Row was cleared.

Hope you will reassure your partner!

Regards,

Winston

Truro solicitor Arthur Lyne (1913-2009) not only advised WG re legal aspects of *The Tumbled House* (1959) but, as a keen local historian, was surely also one of the Poldark author's numerous touchstones re Old Cornwall. Here WG belatedly answers a question from his friend about Truro's Powder Street.

(10) Letter dated 16 January 1976 on two sides to a Mrs Kilby:

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX.
TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

16:1:76

Dear Mrs Kilby.

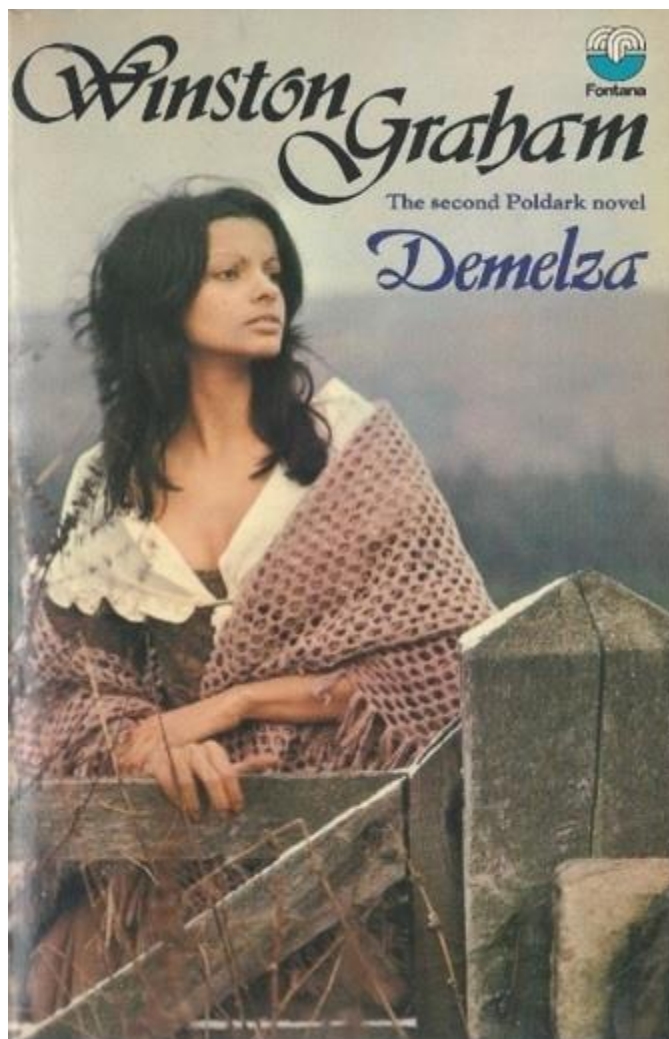
Many thanks for your letter.
Glad you are enjoying "Poldark" on television.
I too enjoy a lot of it.

A pity you went to a bookseller
who was so stupid as to run out of the
Poldark novels. There are six presses in
Glasgow working all day and every day
printing these books, so there's no shortage.

I haven't been able to find Treby
as a Cornish name in "A Dictionary of Cornish
Surnames", nor in Pyles's 18th Century
verbs. "Tre" means farmhouse, or
it can also, though less often, mean a village,
a town or a gentleman's seat. The nearest

WG re *Poldark* on television: "I, too, enjoy a lot of it ..." and, re the huge sale of paperbacks generated by the TV series: "There are six presses in Glasgow working all day and every day printing those books, so there's no shortage."

name is Trubram, which means 'little
farmhouse.'
Thank you for your good wishes.
Yours sincerely,
Winston Graham



* * * * *

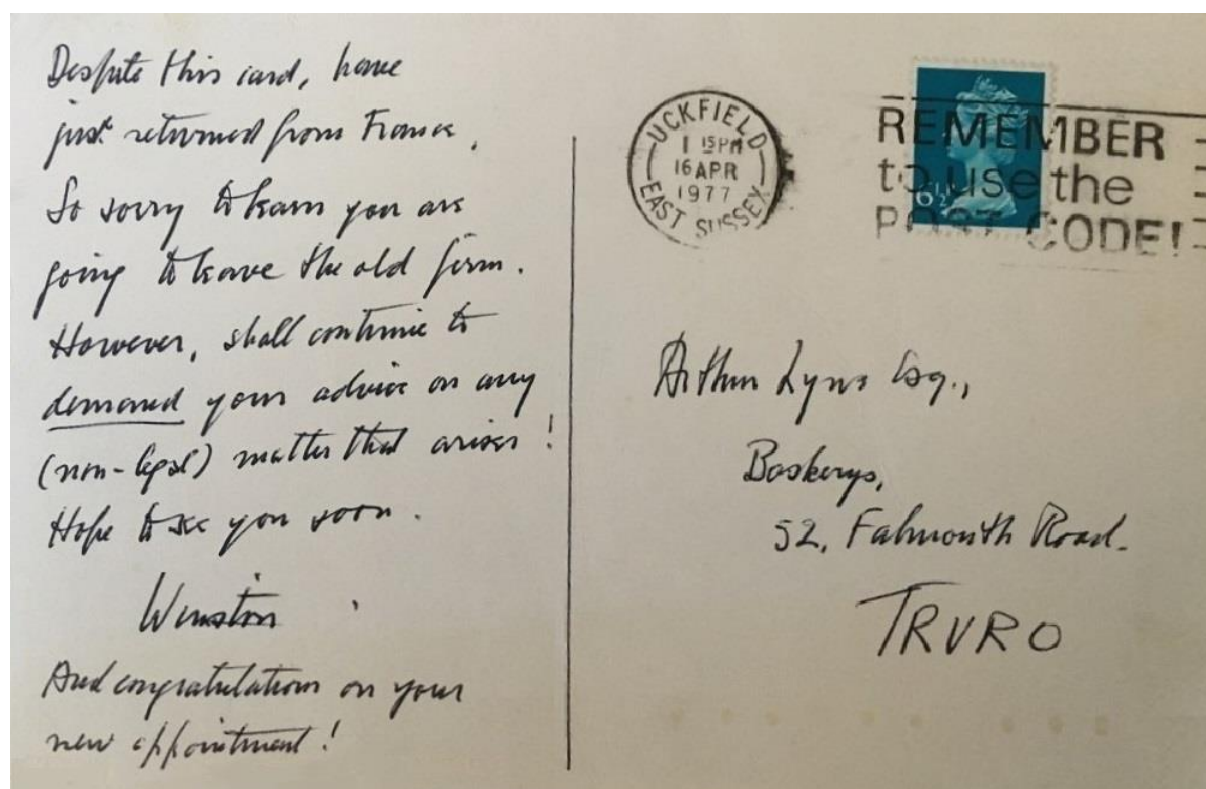
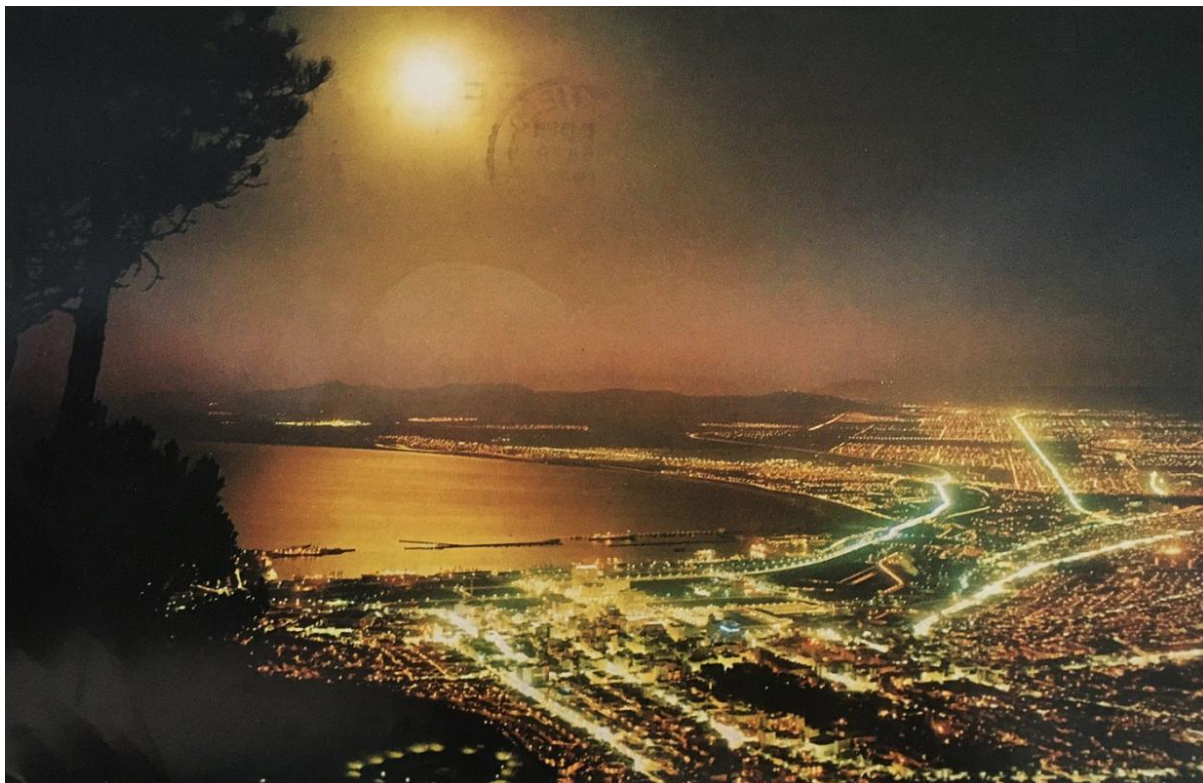
Fontana issued a matching set of the four early Poldark novels in 1973 – on page 16 above, WG writes about their covers. The models

... were hand-picked from a photographic agency and then sent down to Cornwall to be taken on the spot. It happened to be an exceptionally cold time: you will notice snow on the gate that 'Demelza' is holding ...

... and the young lady does indeed look very cold.

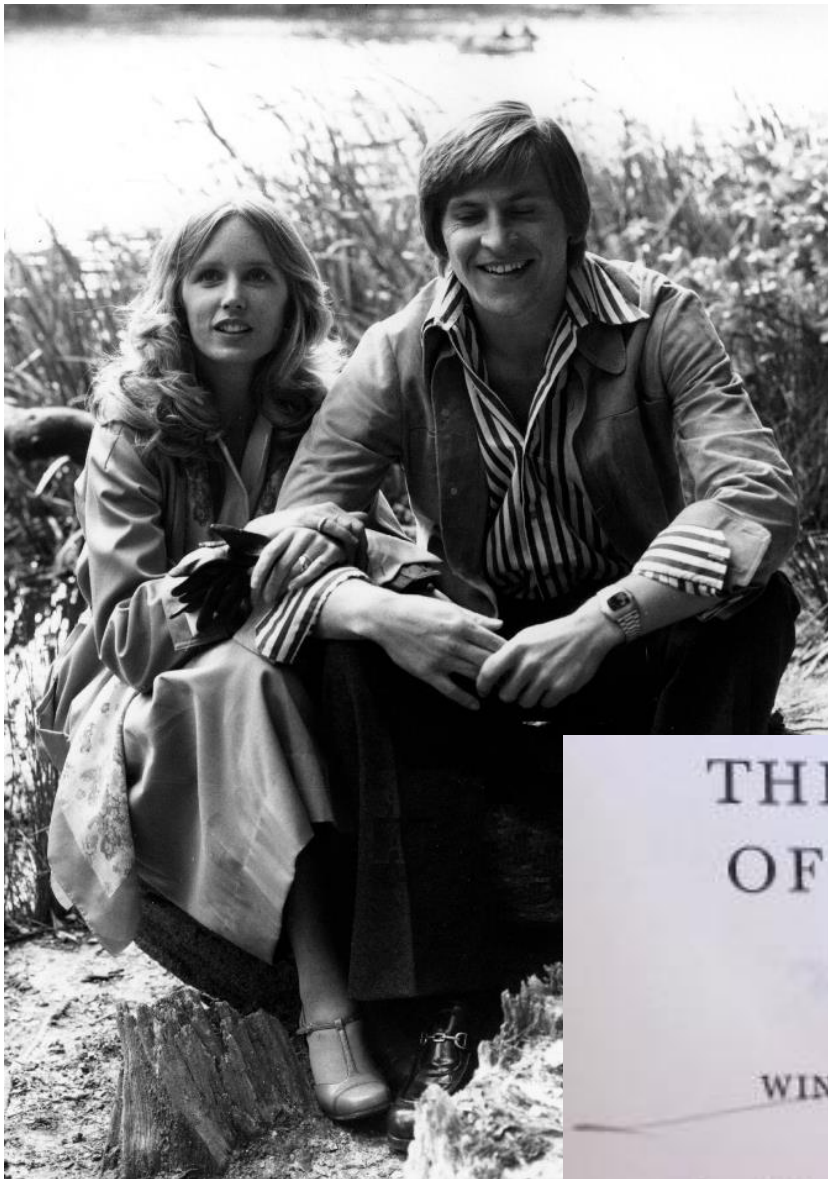
* * * * *

(11) Postcard postmarked 16 April 1977 from WG to Arthur Lyne



"Despite this card, have just returned from France," WG writes.
The picture seems to be of Cape Town! (Thanks PS)

(12) WG met Alan Price during filming of the second series of *Poldark* in 1977 through the musician's association with Jill Townsend, the American actress who played Elizabeth. The couple first met on the set of *Alfie Darling* in 1974.

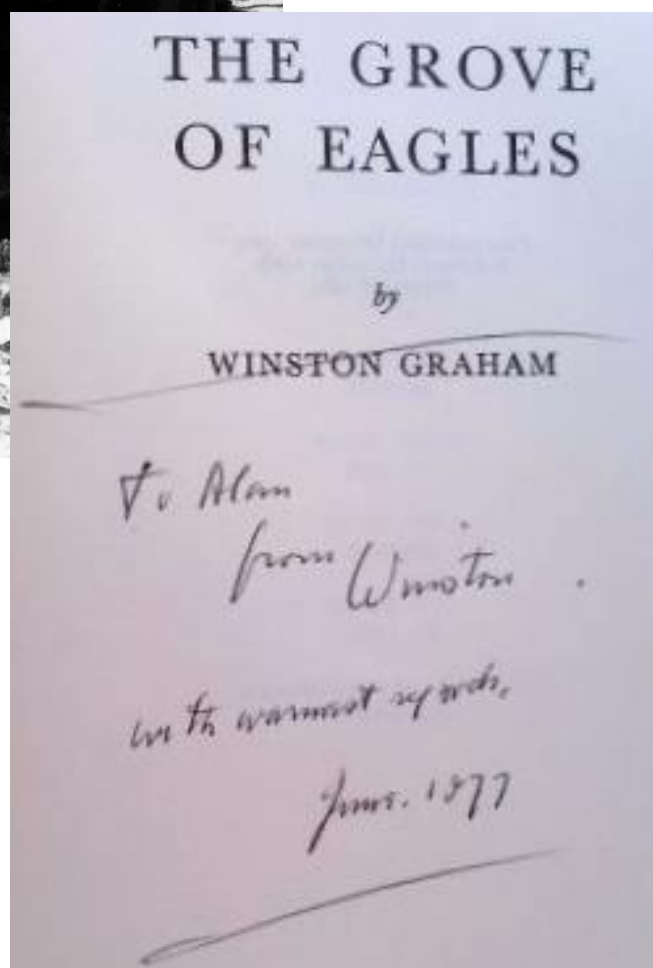


Alfie Darling: Townsend and Price
on location in 1974

He also offered to propose the younger man for membership of the Savile Club – an offer duly taken up. WG records in *Memoirs* 2.10 that Price "remained a member for many years".

* * * * *

On 11 June 1977 WG wrote to Price to thank him for the gift of an unnamed record "full of musicianship – and lovely and unexpected backing" which "we shall keep ... with pleasure (and) be playing ... a lot over the next months." He enclosed with his letter a signed and dated copy of *The Grove of Eagles* (see dedication below).



(13) Letter dated 21 January 1983 to a Mr Capper:

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX.
TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

21.1.83

Dear Mr Capper,

Thank you for your kind
letter of congratulation. So glad
you have enjoyed reading my
books, & I have pleasure in
sending you back the two cards
duely signed.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Winston Graham

(14) Letter dated 29 November 1987 on two sides to Mrs F:

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX.

TELEPHONE BUXTED 3233.

29.11.87

Dear Mrs F

Thanks so much for your letter and for all the nice things you say about my books. I expect you will have difficulty in finding my earliest books because I have suppressed them and really would like them to sink without trace - though they were invaluable to me at the time. Now & then, however, as you observe, I haul one out, brush it up, & it gets launched afresh, e.g., "Night Journey", "The Heretic's Ladder" and "Woman in a Throat" - formerly "The Giant's Chair".

I have just entirely rewritten "My Turn Next", & it will be republished

next July as "Carnes."

I don't think there's much hope of the BBC doing *Poldark* 8, 9 & 10. They very much wanted me to write a third series when the second finished, but I wasn't willing to dash something off in haste, & now they have lost interest.

Incidentally, I don't know about Robin Ellis - I think he feels that a third series would mainly be about the children, & he would not be willing to play a subsidiary part ~~in~~ ^{say they} But both Angharad Rees & Ralph Bates would be happy to appear if the opportunity were to arise.

Best wishes.

Winston Graham

On his early novels: "I have suppressed them and really would like them to sink without trace - though they were invaluable to me at the time. Now and then, however, as you observe, I haul one out, brush it up, and it gets launched afresh ..."

On Robin Ellis and a possible third series of *Poldark*: "I think he feels that a third series would mainly be about the children, and he would not be willing to play a subsidiary part - but both Angharad Rees and Ralph Bates say they would be happy to appear if the opportunity were to arise."

From Winston & Sally,

In May Jean developed
leukaemia, & it has been a
down-hill battle ever since.
We face a bleak Christmas, but I
send you a happy photograph
of her teaching her grandchildren to
gamble. That seems appropriate.

As ever,

Winston

(15) Letter, undated, probably late 1992, from WG to father and daughter Arthur and Sally Lyne. He writes:

"In May Jean developed leukaemia and it has been a down-hill battle ever since. We face a bleak Christmas, but I send you a happy photograph of her teaching her grandchildren to gamble. That seems appropriate."

Jean died on 21 December 1992.

* * * * *

(16) Letter dated 2 August 1999 (two sides cut into one) to this author:

2nd. August, 1999.

Dear Mr D

Thanks so very much for your warm and sincere letter. Although I get a fair amount of post what you have to say is most gratifying and gave me a lot of pleasure.

The problem of THOSE EARLIER BOOKS is a fairly simple one. Do you never pick up a 'new' author out of the library and like his book very much ; thereupon you buy the next book of his you see, don't like it at all and find it has been written thirty years ago? Like some authors, he has improved. I am sure I did, and I feel if I let these books go out I should be conning my public. I know this is frustrating for the true devotee, but rightly or wrongly I don't even have some of these books myself. A friend of mine has long been seeking INTO THE FOG , but all his searches have been fruitless. Last year I wanted to look at KEYS OF CHANCE and had to borrow it from my niece. The two books I rewrote and renamed were stories that seemed to me to have good themes and could be brought up to scratch if substantially amended.

It might be a good student's syllabus: MY TURN NEXT and CAMEO; THE GIANT'S CHAIR and WOMAN IN THE MIRROR; read and compare.

What else can I say? I have on the whole had a happy and a lucky life; two successful children, a happy marriage which lasted 53 years. If I had my time again I would wish for little different, except to be a better writer. (Not false modesty.)

I recently wrote my autobiography, but then done put it away in the safe. A very old friend who has read it says my life has been too exemplary. Strange how one is insulted by such a word. Strange the inversion of moral values.

I certainly feel I have had plenty of fun in my life, and have sinned as much as most. Trouble is they are all the conventional sins.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Winston Graham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

(17) This letter has been transcribed because the original, on Abbotswood House notepaper, dated 25 March 2002 and signed by WG, is rather difficult to read:

Dear Mr [Illegible]

Long long ago I had a letter from you. Normally I try to reply to my letters fairly quickly, except for letters such as yours, which abound with questions.

I have been in the middle of a long – very last – Poldark novel which I began in May 2000 and is only just complete. It will be published, at least in England, later this year and is called 'Bella Poldark'.

Even now at this late stage I hesitate to begin to answer your questions; it could as well take a half-hour speech or a lengthy disquisition to reply. It just isn't on, sorry, even if I would rather like to.

As a change from writing I am a great gardener. I bought this house with 12 acres nearly 40 years ago and for recreation – although I have a collection of pictures – my main interest lies in plants and shrubs. I don't know of any particular influences that have shaped [\[my books\]](#) – many small ones, of course. Before I begin an 18th Century novel, I always read an American book called "An 18th Century Miscellany" [\[edited by Louis Kronenberger, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1936\]](#) to dip into Swift, Sterne, Sheridan, Gibbon, just to get the feel of their prose and dialogue.

Yours sincerely

Winston Graham



(18) 2002, recipient unknown

The 12th — + last ever, ever, ever Petbook,
"Bella's Petbook" is due out on 24th May

Festive Greetings

+ best love to you all.

I no longer drive — at least, long
distances, so I am limited when
on my Cornish visits. Hope all
are well.

Winston

(19) Letter dated 16 November 2002 on three sides to this author:

ABBOTSWOOD HOUSE,
BUXTED,
SUSSEX,
TN22 4PB
TEL. 01825 733233

16th Nov. 2002

Dear Mr D

Your letter of 12 August has not
dwelt unregarded. As well as thanking you for
all the good things you say, I wanted to give
myself time for reflection. Then, in September,
the good health you wished me deserted me
— or rather my luck ^{did} for in a quite ludicrous
accident I fell & broke both ankles. Even
now it passes my comprehension.

The result is that I have had a
long stay in hospital, & plaster on both
legs for 8 weeks, & am only recently
home and learning to walk again.
Believe me, it is a struggle at my
considerable age!

Since finishing BELLA I have

been completing an autobiography which I
began some years ago. I posted this off
yesterday and with luck it should be published
next year.

So
send
you
a
stat.

In going through it recently I spotted
a page particularly relevant to your kind
suggestion. I found it only rather ~~elaborate~~
on what I wrote to you three years ago, but
there it is. Reflection while I was immobile
did not, I fear, dwell on this, but what
knows, in my conscience I may come
round to further thoughts on the subject?

Most of those early books are gone,
but, surprisingly, someone found a copy of
And The Fury in Australia and sent it to me.
So I have re-read it quite recently. It has its
faults, agreed. Not long ago I had to listen
to *The Little Wells* on tape (1955). Some of that
is horribly dated (drugs, for instance) but the moral
arguments in the book are spot on for today.
Similarly the theme of *And The Fury* is absolutely
current (ill-fated immigrants) but much of the writing is

The text above refers to "sending a stat" i.e. a page photocopied from his *Memoirs* manuscript – the passage in question concerns his persistent refusal to re-issue his "sub-standard" early Ward, Lock novels, and his reasons why.

overdone, overheated.

(How you have managed to find eight out of ten I can't imagine. The one I remember almost nothing about is 'Strangers Meeting').

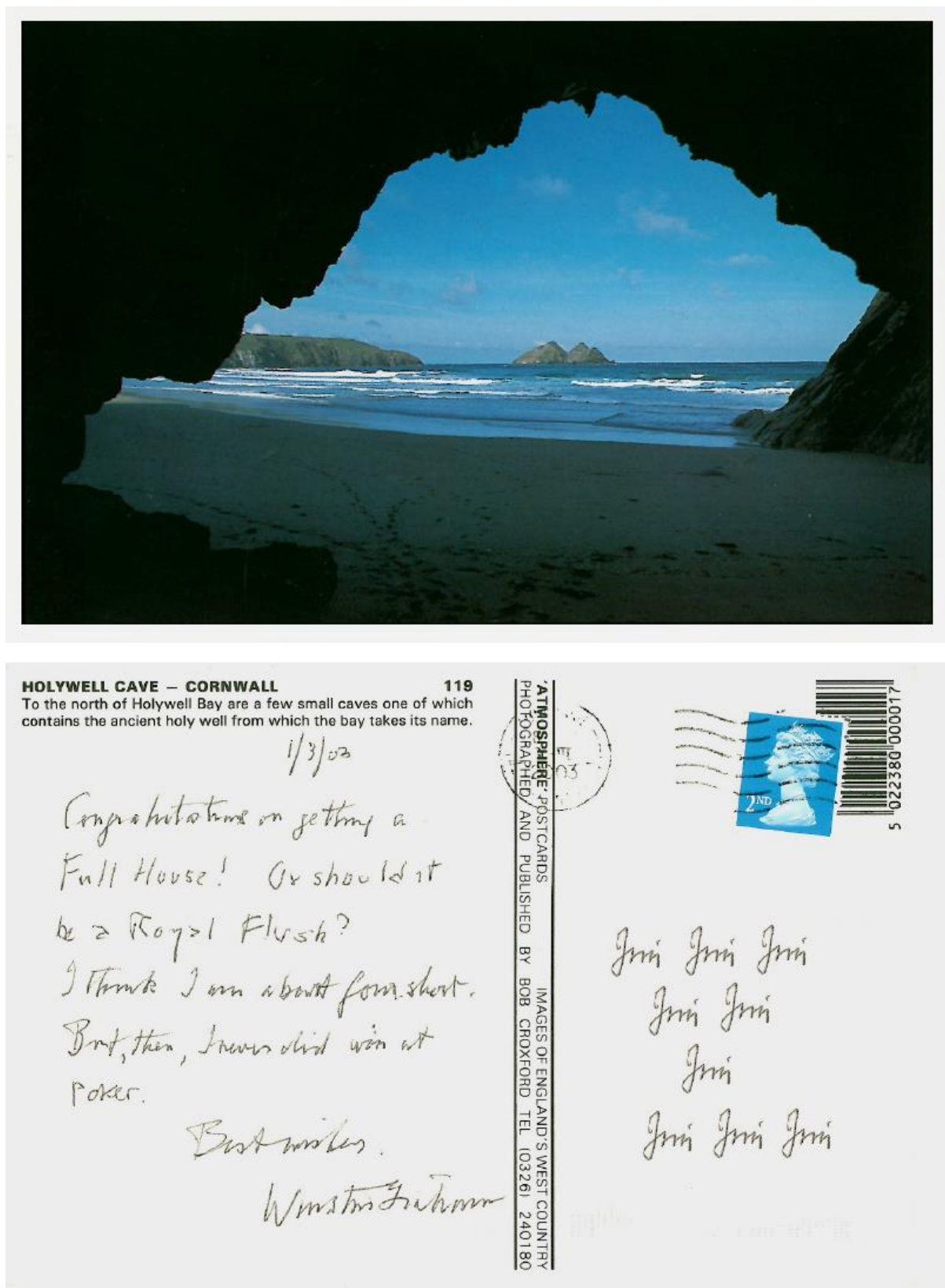
Afraid I had so little regard for myself that I threw all the early M/s away - & presumably the type proofs with them. Even the first four Reddicks suffered the same fate.

I do not know if any publisher would revive these books. A firm called Stratus (Yorkshire with US backing) have just taken a lease on 24 of my earlier books. But they have been near bankruptcy once so I am waiting wait.

With sincere good wishes
Yours ever,

Winston Graham

(20) Postcard, dated 1 March 2003, to this author:



The "full house" WG refers to is a complete set of his early WL novels; he says, surprisingly, that he is "about four short".