

7 Lansdowne Gardens
Pointe Claire
Quebec
Canada

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Sept. 30, 1976

Dear Mrs. Hedden:

Thank you very much for your letter and the pictures of Gil; I am returning both pictures with this letter.

I had a copy made of the photograph in which Gil is wearing glasses and a cap, as it is the more interesting of the two. Could you please tell me when about it was taken and about how old he was at the time. I would assume it was taken after you had moved to Florida.

As you can see from the other letter enclosed with this one, it's a small world. I have been corresponding with Mrs. Louise Ruth of Ames, Iowa, for several months and she just recently discovered she knows someone out there who knew you well. So she sent along this note to me to pass on to you. Her late husband, Burrell, had been in touch with Gil about Oak Island back in the 1940's.

On that matter, something most curious has come up which I am hoping you might be able to verify or clear up for me. Burrell Ruth in a lecture given to graduate students about the Bacon - Oak Island connection in December 1948 quotes from a letter he received prior to that from Gil. In that letter Gil says that at some point while he was on the island he found a dump containing "the remains of thousands of broken pottery flasks" as well as "an old coin and an ivory boatswain's whistle". Now this is the first time I have ever heard of that discovery, especially that of the broken pottery flasks, and I'm trying to determine when and where on the island Gil found them. I have asked Dan Blankenship and M.R. Chappell about it and they were as surprised as I was to learn of it. Do you by any chance recall Gil ever mentioning it to you or were you perhaps on the island when he found this dump? It is a rather important clue, so I am hoping to get further information on it. And would you by any chance know what ever happened to the coin and the whistle or any pieces of the pottery he might have gathered?

By the way, I believe you said when I saw you in Florida last winter that in his later years Gil was of the opinion that Oak Island may well be the repository of the Bacon-Shakespeare manuscripts as was suggested by Dr. Ruth. Is this correct? I find that theory a most fascinating one.

Yes, I have heard of the Tea Room that was on Oak Island. Apparently it was operated during Gil's time on the island as well as Erwin Hamilton's time.

I have pretty well completed my Nova Scotia research on the book and am now beginning work on the manuscript. My permanent address where you can reach me is the one above. I look forward to hearing from you again on my further questions.

Sincerely,