

94 Victoria Terrace  
Dunfermline  
Fife  
KY12 0LU  
Tel: 01383 729869 or 01383 723889  
[tomminogue@btinternet.com](mailto:tomminogue@btinternet.com)

Clerk to The Hon. Lord Brailsford  
Court of Session  
Parliament House  
Parliament Square  
Edinburgh  
EH1 1RQ

Dear Lord Brailsford

### **400 BC gold funereal wreath?**

An article appeared in The Scotsman newspaper last Friday which aroused my interest. The story was about a gold wreath which is the subject of disputed title, which you are familiar with. See: <http://www.scotsman.com/news/odd/police-scotland-chief-in-gold-wreath-legal-wrangle-1-3364881>

The article implies that there is a dispute as to title of the wreath between, Murat Aksakalli, a Turkish waiter, or sometime restaurant owner and head of Police Scotland, Sir Stephen House.

A picture of a wreath said to be similar to the fund "in medio" from the British Museum accompanies the article and it is said that this, very precious item, is dated about 400 BC.

I was immediately familiar with such an item from this period as I had complained to the Chief Constable of Fife on two occasions, in 2004 and 2009 that: **"a wreath of myrtle in gold, having beside leaves, both buds and flowers"** together with other funereal items were held in a house in Fife and should be confiscated as they were stolen, obtained by sacrilegious plunder.

This act of plunder is well-known to me and features in 19<sup>th</sup> Century documents including letters to private individuals and politicians of the day. The detailed description of a gold wreath circa 400BC, the location where it was found and the manner it was dug-up with the bones of the owner, all contained in an inner bronze urn contained in an outer urn of pottery, is very explicit.

I am, as a law-abiding citizen, prepared to make a challenge to the Court of Session for ownership of the item as I believe it to be either stolen or reset.

If I am successful in my court challenge in the multipointing it would be my intention to return it to the descendants of the original owners or failing that to be reinterred at the precise location where it was dug up.

In an attempt to see the gold wreath and ascertain if it does indeed match the description of the one I think it might be, I have contacted the Court of Session to view the item, but am advised that I would have to ask the pursuer's (Mr Murat Aksakalli) solicitors if they will allow me see the item, as it is within their claim. I did as advised and the solicitors acting for Mr. Aksakalli, refused to allow me to see this item.

I then read in the Evening Times that the police have custody of the wreath, and when I took this up with the Court of Session inquiries team, they advised me that it was the case that Police Scotland and not the Turkish man are the pursuers. In addition, they advised me that there are two other sets of solicitors acting for other, different, pursuers.

I have contacted Police Scotland three times, but I get the impression, due to their lack of substantive response, that they are unlikely to accede to my request for access to view/photograph the item. I have also asked to see the "detailed statement of the fund in the condescence annexed to the summons" as per Chapter 51 of Court of Session Rules, Actions of Multipindings.

I only seek access to see the exact nature of the article in question, and if the gold wreath matches the one described in great detail by the correspondence and documents that are known to me I am happy to go to court, represent myself and argue that the fund "in medio" should be given to me to enable me to return it to the place where it was unearthed as a result of grave robbery.

It is surely in the public interest that I am afforded an equal opportunity to establish if the gold wreath being held by Police Scotland is in fact the one I think it to be?

If the wreath in question is one of oak-leaves, juniper-leaves, holly-leaves or whatever, then it goes without saying that I would not wish to pursue my claim.

Can you afford me the same opportunity as the other claimants to see the gold wreath?

Thanking you in anticipation of your prompt consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Minogue.