

PRESS MANAGEMENT LTD.

Knightbridge,
LONDON W1.

The Director,
Titanic Salvage Company,
London W1

Dear Sir,

As your press and public relations agent I feel it is my duty to point out certain techniques which may profit you in your dealings with the various reporters covering your venture. I am sure I need not mention the absolute necessity of remaining on good terms with ALL of the newspapers. You must not, as the saying goes, 'rub them up the wrong way'.

I am able to impart information on personal peculiarities which you may be able to use to your advantage.

Old 'Bolly' Kelly and I are long standing chums, of course. I still recall our gourmet days together eating our way to the south of France and back. He seems to have lost his refinement since joining that magazine but there is hope for him yet....but I digress.

Adam Goodsoil has held his job with Gardeners' World for about forty years and to the best of my knowledge has never been seen without his pipe. He definitely knows his onions, however.

I cannot tell you much about the man from Finch; apparently, no one who spends less than half their waking hours on a golf course can. The only people who can really talk to him are those with a warped sense of humour and a handicap of less than nine.

You cannot go far wrong with the fanatics from the Titanic Society, as long as you discuss the ship in the same tones you would use to St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. By all accounts you should not have much difficulty on that score.

Finally, I should mention that the Russians are taking an interest! You may get a call from Provas. Rumour has it that the reporter is a KGB double agent who has backfired on them, but remember, this is just a rumour.

I wish you every success in your venture.

Yours sincerely,

Evelyn Portecuse

Evelyn Portecuse.

BEZZLE & TAX LTD.

Accountants of Note,
LONDON.

The Director,
Titanic Salvage Company,
London W1

Dear Sir,

Thanks for hiring us, you won't regret it. I'm glad to see you managed to find some sponsors to back the expedition. The first thing I always do on jobs like this is get the low down on the sponsors; undisclosed villas in France, sudden transfers of cash, that sort of thing. Here are my findings:

Sheik Bastop Amdid is your typical Arab oil potentate and as such can do everything honest consultants like me get locked up for. I can't get much on him except that he's a vicious opponent of Britain in all her forms. Any hint of an insult to another country and he'll come down on you like a ton of bricks.

Sir Eilian O'Connell from that ship-builders consortium is as straight as they come. Never had a shady thought in his life and even declares his kids' pocket money on his tax return. All in all he's just the sort of bloke my business could do without. He lives, eats and breathes ships, which makes him boring as well as frighteningly honest.

John Grave from New York is more my kind of man; a self-made millionaire from the Southern States, and you don't get that far without knowing a thing or two. One thing I should mention though is that he's completely IT. He hates drink so much he won't even back a white horse at the races.

The Minister without portfolio in charge of your government funding is Lee Albion. A failed plumber turned politician, he's recently been kicked out of the Cabinet for reasons that have nothing to do with those given to the press. He's as English as they come; high tea, old school tie, croquet on the lawn, etc. He is also a one hundred percent dyed in the wool prude, so watch on your P's & Q's old chap!

I was surprised to see Nick Lawless on your list of sponsors. Nick and I have had dealings before and he is not doing this from any high motives; he wants something out of it. Still, you've got his money and that's what counts. Nick's a dedicated STUN reader and anything that pleases them, please him.

Now for the bad news. Owing to certain unavoidable expenses incurred by me your weekly income does not quite equal expenditure. So I'm afraid you are going to have to find some more money along the way - sell some of the things you find down there or please the press so as to increase your sponsorship. This regrettable state of affairs is no fault of mine nor of my employees, and any hint that it may be will result in legal action.

I wish you luck and profit, as I'm sure my partner will when he gets out.

Yours faithfully,

M. Bezzle

Malcolm Bezzle.

TITANIC SALVAGE Laboratories

Park Rd, OXFORD.

The Director,
Titanic Salvage Company,
London W1

Dear Sir,

I am delighted to inform you that the T.S.1. has been completed two weeks ahead of schedule. T.S.1. incorporates some revolutionary new features developed in conjunction with the Royal Navy. Some of these you have not seen before, so I have listed them below.

- a) A new type of sonar that operates at the depths required and is not affected by the metal walls of the ship. We have given you six sonar buoys to help orient the submersible.
- b) A special auto-focus-deepwater-colour camera capable of taking six photographs per dive.
- c) A pneumatically-controlled 'sensitive' robot arm capable of handling the most delicate objects. CAUTION: the arm is rather fragile and extremely expensive.
- d) A video relay to give you a colour picture of the objects in the hold of T.S.1.
- e) State-of-the-art SUB-TO-SURFACE communication including an automatic SOS call if oxygen or power levels fall dangerously low.
- f) A sonic centering device which automatically places the submersible in the centre of any enclosed space. This was designed to prevent damage to the T.S.1. through too many minor collisions with walls, floors, etc.
- g) An on-board data storage system which identifies the current room and any adjacent room.

Although T.S.1. has incorporated the latest safety methods and strengthening design features, it must be treated with respect. Careless handling and ill-considered use of the robot arm will cost you dear in both time and money.

I most deeply regret the fact that the research division has exceeded its budget, but I am sure you will agree that an extra £50,000 is a small price to pay for such a magnificent prize.

Yours respectfully,

Dr. J. R. S.

Dr. J. R. S., F.R.S.

