

The missed link between Suffolk and Italy

Umberto Guerini

This is even more confirmation that Francis Bacon draw.

Brought to the attention of Mr. Umberto Guerini, these three peoples knew that Francis Bacon draw and also they are in possession of his drawing.

On November 1, 2012 at 6 pm, in Bologna (Italy), Strada Maggiore 24, in the legal offices of Guerini & Partners, Brian Hayhow, Lyndsay Hayhow and Margaret Skawinski-Sheaser, attended an interview regarding their drawings by Francis Bacon at the invitation of the lawyer Mr. Umberto Guerini.

Before beginning the interview, Mr. Umberto Guerini informed them that he was proceeding in keeping with Italian laws (art. 391 bis c.p.p. and successive articles), acting as lawyer on behalf of his client Cristiano Lovatelli Ravarino, with reference to the drawings that Francis Bacon gave his client as gifts between 1977 and 1992. Brian Hayhow, Lyndsay Hayhow and Margaret Skawinski-Sheaser were informed that the interview would be video-recorded, and that they were required to declare if they were the subject of any investigation or criminal proceedings in Italy or abroad with reference to the aforementioned drawings by Francis Bacon. They were informed that could choose not to respond to the questions, and that in the event they chose to respond, they were obliged to tell the truth.

Not having any conflicts either in Italy or abroad, they answered all the questions they were asked truthfully.

They are aware that the transcription of what they voluntarily declared was copied verbatim from the video recording of the aforementioned interview by Mr. Aaron Maines, hired specifically for this job by Mr. Umberto Guerini.

Interview 1

Brian Hayhow is a doctor who lives in Sudbury, Suffolk, with his wife Lyndsay, a barrister at "Temple Gardens Chambers", London.

In 1988 John Edwards developed appendicitis and was treated by a doctor in Westgate House in Long Melford, where Brian was a senior partner in medical practice. Brian was worried because he believed John Edwards may be developing peritonitis. He admitted him by emergency ambulance to West Suffolk Hospital for an immediate operation. He had a burst appendix, which required a difficult operation and 48 hour recovery period. Naturally, John Tanner and David spoke to Francis Bacon, and the next morning Francis Bacon came to Long Melford and then saw him periodically. John Edwards had a drain, and it took time to recover from the operation. He was eventually discharged some time between eight and ten days after his admission.

Brian saw John Edwards at home with Francis and – quite unexpectedly – Francis gave him one drawing, and a catalogue which he signed in felt tip, and was, naturally, pleased.

Brian did not seek symbols of his gratitude, but Francis was extremely happy with his treatment, and angry with John Edward's London doctor, for negligently treating his great friend.

Brian and Lyn remember a big table, full of books, magazines and drawings: Francis took one of these drawings and gave to him.

Other drawings were in folders, and lying around in wastepaper baskets, in bundles. The drawings were similar to what Francis gave to him, different sizes but in same style. Lyn said: " In the shed, or the cottage, or the escape...You know, whatever you want to call it... Attached...not attached...It was just down... There was a big flagstone path that led down to it. In there, there were drawings. Alright? Also, I think, paintings. There were drawings... I didn't look if there were signatures, I'm sure that there were lots that weren't signed."

Brian and Lyn remember that was normal to see drawings - " it didn't make a great impression" ... "It's absolutely nonsense to say otherwise " - crayons and other, biro, felt-tip. Brian and Lyn remember a party in Margaret Skawinski-Sheaser's house, in Suffolk. Francis watched Brian's daughter as she came out from the swimming pool and made a drawing of her.

Brian and Lyn met Francis in 1988 and till 1992 they continue to meet up, above all in Dale's farmhouse, Long Melford, where Francis and John lived together.

They also met at Sandy Cooke's, the Hayhow's house, and in some great pubs in Suffolk. Brian remembered one Sunday morning, in the Black Lion Hotel: " there were a bunch of us ... the sun was shining, and Francis was in a particular good mood. He was a great raconteur, great fun. One thing that I did realise, was that he was a very private man, Francis. And...I got the impression that he disliked talking about his art, when he was in the country. He was amongst friends, and loved ones, he loved David Edwards, John Edwards, his family. This is where he... This is how he relaxed. So it was almost an unwritten law, that we didn't probe about his professional life."

Interview 2

Margaret Skawinski-Sheaser lives in London.

She met Francis Bacon in 1984/85 when she and her husband, Hamish, moved to Suffolk.

" I do remember that my daughter – my first daughter – was born in 1985, and I do remember that she was just a little over a year old when we all met, so then we're talking about...1986? And, of course, I knew Francis until when, sadly, he died. Which was very, very...awful.

So... I do remember when I first met him. It was...well, of course I saw him all throughout this period of time, so of course I don't remember every single time I met him.

It was just...a lot of times.

But I do remember when we very first met.

It was in the summer of 1986. And this was also when I first met John Edwards...I think. Anyway, David and John said to me 'there's a party, at my brother's: John Edwards', at Dale Farm, which was where he was then living. I don't think Dale Farm was long bought by that time, because then it got better and better, with landscape gardening and everything else. So yes, my husband Hamish and I were invited to go to a party, and we duly presented ourselves. And then, one of the sisters...which we were talking about not so long ago...one of the Edwards sisters said, 'Who are you?'. And I said, 'Well, we've been invited.' This was when we very first met. Francis was absolutely delightful. And of course...this was in the days when Francis was a very well known painter, indeed, and selling for a lot of money. But my husband was not particularly...into the world of art, and Francis was not as much of a household name as he is today. So consequently, I knew who Francis was. And my...concern was...I mean I did hope...that Francis was going to be a 'nice' person. Because I loved his art already, so obviously you think, 'Oh my God, I hope this person who is in front of me is going

to be a nice person, as opposed to...you know.'

At the same time, my husband didn't really know anything about Francis.

Consequently, during the party, when he was speaking in front of – I remember because Francis and I laughed about it afterwards – he said to Francis, 'And what do you do?' And Francis said, 'I'm a painter.' So Hamish said, 'Oh, you mean...fine art?' And he said, 'Yeah.' So then he said, 'Oh, do you manage to make a living out of this?'" And Francis...I just find him...you know... He says, 'Yes, yes, just about.'

So this was the first time I met Francis, and obviously for all those reasons it stuck in my memory, because he was not...full of airs and graces. He was very down-to-earth. And he became very good friends with my husband, even though my husband had no idea who he was at that particular period in time. He (*her husband*) is a scientist. Was. You know, so he...didn't have that much of an idea who Francis was.

Well I knew Francis, say, from that point onwards. And of course John Edwards as well, the entire family, etcetera. Yes, on very many occasions I was meeting up with Francis and John Edwards, and the entire family at Dale Farm, or Francis was inviting me for lunches and such in London.

We were living in Suffolk at the time, but yes...my friendship with Francis was very, very close.

I was...I was just saying to David... Should I be talking about this?"

"I said, well, we were perhaps a little bit younger. It was the 1980s.

And on one occasion John Edwards said to me, 'Well, I do know that you have a bit of coke – cocaine – with you, and Francis would like to try some.' So, and I can't say how, but Francis and I found ourselves upstairs, and I did give him a line, this being a party. I don't think this has ever been recorded in a public forum! And he said, 'Yes! This is very, very nice!' I don't know if he ever had any since, but on that particular occasion, yes. So, you can I suppose say that we were very, very close friends. Afterwards... Well, I don't remember every time I met with Francis. I've got...as I've said, you know... I met him a lot of times.

We did actually talk about his art.

Yes, he was not particularly keen, but yes we did talk about it. We were always... We used to joke, Francis and I, whenever there was a party we always ended up in a corner, you know, chatting. And yes, I did ask him about his art. So we did talk about that some of the time. And we talked...just general gossip, and we had a laugh, and you know passed the time. So, it was just like...like...you know...like with Brian or Lyn or anybody. You just met with him loads of times. I do remember...the only other occasion I do remember distinctly, because of the nature of the...

Okay, there are three occasions I remember distinctly.

The one was when we very first met; the second one was when **he asked for a line of coke**; the third one was... I was pregnant with my daughter, my number two daughter, so it must have been 1989. John Edwards phoned me and said, "We're...Francis and I...we're going to have lunch in Bibendum' ... which was Conrad's...establishment at the time, and it was Francis's favorite restaurant. And he said, 'Francis has asked if you could make it, and have lunch with us?' So I said, 'Yes, okay.' And I presented myself at the lunch. As I was pregnant at the time, that's why I remember when it was. And then we talked about all sorts of things. And then at some point John Edwards went off to the loo, and we sort of talked about Francis's inheritance and etcetera.

So yes, those are the three occasions that I remember distinctly. Otherwise, there was just the case of, well, you know, drinking, talking, sometimes about art; sometimes about

something else.

Yes, I do have a number of photographs and a number of things signed by Francis for me...lithographs, etcetera.

We were very close friends.

You ask me if have you seen before the drawings Francis gave to Brian?

Well, I can't say if I've seen this particular one, because Francis's drawings are very distinctive in style, but I've seen a lot of them. So, I can't swear that I've seen this particular one because... But, you know, he made drawings all the time, and at the farm in particular, you know.

So yes, I have seen these drawings. I have seen him draw.

Oh, totally. Absolutely. I mean, all of his style, you know?

A few, or a lot?

Quite a few. Quite a few. I don't know how many, because we're talking about a period of...I don't know...six years? Seven years? Whatever it was...1986 until when he died, so it was about six years, wasn't it? ...Yes, I do remember when he did die, actually. I happened to be in my car, driving through Trafalgar Square, when I knew that he's...you know, by telephone. So...Yeah, you know, I've seen a number of his drawings. But they're all...of this style." (Indicates the drawing on the table in front of her, the one Francis given to Brian.)

I've seen him draw on, you know, paper napkins and things.

I've seen him draw, you know?

I mean, to be honest with you, I've never seen him make a big thing about this.

But of course he used to draw".