



The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

I do not like to tell tales out of school, but I was shocked to learn that The Commissioner of Inland Revenue of Hongkong had issued Legal Proceedings against Barrister Ronald E. Mayne. I, always, thought that people, who rise to the rank of professionals, were to be considered completely trustworthy and responsible. I shall have to change my mind, now, having learned from Grandpa that Barrister Mayne owes the Government of Hongkong \$HK223,791. Barrister Mayne is not the first of his gang to be sued of late, you know. If things continue like this, I feel that I must do something about the situation. I was thinking that it should be up to The Bar Association of Hongkong to clean up its own mess, but I suppose, since The Bar Association of Hongkong comprises only vested interests, it is difficult for the 'brothers' and 'sisters' of the legal profession to chastise their own members. I cannot think of this happening in China, proper, because there would be other penalties, imposed on people who try to evade the taxman. Surprisingly, the tax rate in Hongkong was only fifteen percent for Barrister Mayne, at the time that he determined to overlook his obligations to us, assuming that The Commissioner of Inland Revenue is correct in his Writ of Summons, or the good barrister decided not to pay, or just forgot to pay, that which is due to the Treasury. I cannot, for the life of me, understand the reason that he would not pay up. Greed, perhaps? Barristers of Hongkong are among the highest-paid people in the region, when they work, you know. You try to hire one and you will learn in a shot. Not that they are worth their salt, as the saying goes, but, being entrepreneurs, of sorts, they can charge whatever the market will bear. Greed is not limited to the legal profession of Hongkong, of course, because Church people – that is, the Western Church, not the Eastern variety – can be just as greedy as anybody else. It is said that the Catholic Church at Rome is the richest corporation in the world, second only to the Royal House of Windsor. It would, of course, be nice to be rich, but there are other things in the world, other than a fat bank account, a house in town and another in the country, Rolls Royce motor cars, diamonds and furs, etc. I have yet to decide what is better than being rich, but the late Paramount Leader of China, Mr Deng Xiao Peng, used to say that riches are fleeting while power is much more important than all the riches in the world. He only earned the equivalent of about six hundred Hongkong dollars per month when he was the Number One Hottentot in Beijing, but he had everything that he desired, during his lifetime. Now that he is in a Chinese Heaven, I wonder whether or not, like the Muslim suicide bombers, who are promised luscious lovelies in Heaven, he is surrounded by virgins, who are doing his bidding. An interesting aspect of age is that the sap does not rise very well as a male advances in years. Pity really, because, other than a man, being hard, what other use is there of this species? Which brings me back to the Catholic Church: What a waste of tens of thousands of men!

Ah, well, que será será!

Talk to you, later,

Chief Lady of Hongkong

***While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published,
TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.***

If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in TARGET, please feel free to e-mail your views to editor@targetnewspapers.com or targnews@hkstar.com. TARGET does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.