



Michael and his wife Ann

Wise Passport Advice

I read the travel accounts in the Summer 2008 issue of *The Scrivener* with great interest, particularly the sad story by Esther Chiu about losing her passport in the Philippines. Esther provides good advice about safeguarding your documents.

I would like to pass on the single “best travel tip” I know. **Scan all your documents: passport, citizenship card, care card, driver’s licence, travel visas, and transport tickets, and then email them to yourself.** You can access most email accounts from anywhere in the world. Even if you lose all your possessions, you or any official that has access to an Internet connector computer can retrieve copies of all your important documents.

Happy travelling. I’m off to Malaysia and Australia!

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To Rob Gordon

Enjoyed your column in the Summer *Scrivener* [www.notaries.bc.ca/scrivener]. I think I may be a long-lost cousin—an Emmitt, another regional word for tourist. As an annual visitor to Cornwall with numerous relatives in that county, I am so aware of how difficult it is to avoid being tarnished with a similar brush.

Eating pasties is a good start, but a true Cornishman eats only the originals. Only girls and Emmitts, they tell me, eat vegetarian pasties or any of the other nouveau stuff.

Besides, as I only get there once a year, a pasty in each hand is an Emmitt giveaway! I’m OK down the country lanes—by the way, Cornish country lanes are, I swear, only 4 feet wide. When you hear the side of rental car scraping along the hedges, knowing there is a stone wall in there somewhere, the inhabitants can see the whites of your eyes and the sweat of your brow from 100 paces; they laugh hysterically as you drive past with 0.0001 inch to spare.

Walking with a straight back marks an Emmitt, too. Cornish people are required to walk into the wind and rain 364 days of each year, as both come off the Atlantic.

How do they film *Doc Martin* in the sunshine? Special effects, I suppose.

Failing to understand the spoken word is, of course, the most obvious sign—much repeating of “I’m sorry?” or, for Canadians, “EH?” My nephews and their wives speak to us in unintelligible drivel made worse by the intake of copious amounts of cider and beer made worse by frequent tales of the Spanish Armada and rugby, sometimes in the same sentence. Lovely people, though.

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Dr. Rob’s Reply

Thanks for your email. Happy to read you enjoyed the article. Emmitts and Grockles are, indeed, closely related creatures, although Emmitts are found only in Cornwall. Grockles, on the other hand, have been seen over the border in Dorset, Lyme Regis being one of the hot beds. Rumour has it they have spread as far east as Weymouth and even to Bournemouth—something I find truly alarming.

Rob Gordon
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