

THE HIGH COURT OF THE WESTERN PACIFIC

(CRIMINAL JURISDICTION)

BEFORE: The Honourable Mr. Justice J. Bodilly  
exercising jurisdiction under the  
provisions of the Western Pacific  
(Courts) Order in Council, 1961.

HOLDEN: At Auki in the British Solomon  
Islands Protectorate on Tuesday  
the 13th day of Decemebr  
1966 at 0900 o'clock in  
the fore noon.

REGINA

versus

OLEA

For the Crown: ASP Morgan

For the Accused: In person

Interpreter: Lino Oland ( Sworn- Langa Langa language)

Charge explained to the accused: ~~Guilty~~ By Court

Accused when called upon to plead says: Guilty

Court enters a plea of: Guilty.

Prosecutor states facts:

Olea was employed by the District Commissioner as a messenger in Auki. On 19.9.66 a Chinese trader Quan Yin put \$35 into an envelope and addressed it to a person in Hong Kong. Quan Yin posted it at Auki P.O. registered and received the receipt. At 2.30 p.m. on 19.9.66 the Accused went to the P.O. and went ~~behind~~ behind the counter to give the Post Master information regarding shipping. While Accused was behind the counter the Assistant Post Master left the room and so also did the Post Master who was called away to answer the VHF telephone. The Accused was left alone for a few minutes. He picked up a registered letter which was on top of the safe. He took it away. That letter was the one which Quan Yin had posted. The Accused opened the letter and took out the \$35. The following day he bought with the money a belt for 50c and some biscuits 30c. The following day he was interviewed by the police and under caution admitted the offence and returned \$34.20.

(Accused admits the statement of facts as correct)

Pros Cont-

Accused was born in 1948 (18 years old). Two years education at Evangelical Mission. Standard IV. At time of offence he was earning \$21.60 per month as messenger. He was arrested on 21.9.66 and was in custody for ~~two~~ <sup>three</sup> hours. Then released on bail. He has no p.c.s. At present he is unemployed. Both parents are alive. They live at Ambu village. They are cultivators.

Mitigation.

Accused states: When I saw the money I just wanted to take it. I had no money at the time. I owed a Chinaman money and I had paid my salary to him. So I took the envelope. I have paid off my debt now.

Calls no Ws: to Character.

Pros: Acc: is not sufficiently literate to be employed as a clerk and I am very doubtful whether the District Office would reemploy him.

Order Sentence:

Accused to be bound over in his own recognisance for twelve months under section 36 Penal Code.

*John B. Sij*

C.V.

13.12.1966.