

The Naturalization Papers

Of

Wilfrid Michael Voynich

(From [Voynichiana](#): documents, images, and
research illuminating the lives of Wilfrid and Ethel Voynich and of
Anne M. Nill, Wilfrid Voynich's assistant and Ethel's life-long companion after
Voynich's death.)

The Naturalization Papers Of Wilfrid Michael Voynich¹

Voynich's certificate of naturalization was registered and returned to him on April 25, 1904 (p. 2). It is reasonable to consider that the date he officially became a British national.² In the terminology of the time the documents constituting his application for citizenship were known as "Memorial for Certificate of Naturalization." Voynich was the "Memorialist" and his references - he had five - were called "Referees."

From these documents we can learn certain facts about the Voyniches. We can tell Wilfrid's, and presumably Ethel's, addresses for the eight years before his naturalization, that is, from 1896 on (p. 7). They were:

from December 1896 to September 1899: 92 Edith Grove, Chelsea;
from September 1899 to September 1900: boarding houses in London and travel in Italy;
and from September 1900 on: 20 Great Russell Mansions, Bloomsbury.³

According to the personal information Wilfrid supplied (p. 6), he was born on October 21, 1864 in Telshi, Province of Kovno, Russian Lithuania. He was the son of Leonard Habdank Wojnicz and Emilia [illegible], both Poles, both subjects of the Russian Empire. His profession was antiquarian bookseller. He was married with no children. His business address was 1, Soho Square.

Referees for his naturalization were Horatio Bryan Donkin (1845-1927); Richard Garnett (1835-1906), George Knottesford Fortesque (1847-1912), Hubert Montague Murray, M.D. (1855-1907), and Frederick Reilly. All were suitably distinguished.

Donkin (p. 4), a psychiatrist and hospital administrator, was at the time of Voynich's naturalization a Prison Commissioner and Director of Convict Prisons. Garnett (p. 13) was Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum when Voynich first got acquainted with him in 1892. He retired in that post in 1899. Fortesque (p. 14) was also at the Museum. He became Superintendent of the Reading Room in 1884, then Keeper of Printed Books in 1899, succeeding Garnett. Voynich would have known both of them in his capacity as supplier of rare books to the Museum. Voynich probably got on good terms with Garnett through Garnett's daughter-in-law Constance, the noted translator of classic works of Russian literature. Murray (p. 11) was a well known physician. He had been Dean of Charing Cross Hospital until 1901, then Senior Physician to the Hospital, a post he occupied when he died in 1907. Reilly (p. 15) is described in the document as "late executive engineer of the public works, county of Middlesex, retired member of the Civil Service Department of

¹ Record HO 144/751/117022, National Archives, Kew. These documents were opened to the public in 2005.

² See [The U.S. Bureau of Investigation File on Wilfrid Voynich](#), p. 12, for a reference to his "British naturalization papers" and their date.

³ For the last address, see [The Voyniches in 1901 Census of England and Wales](#).

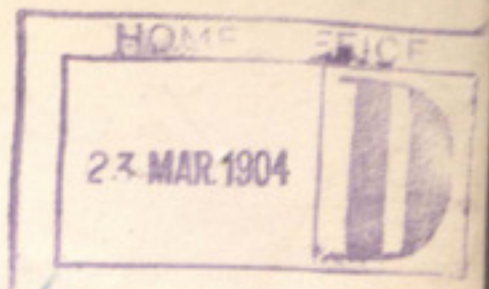
India.” Reilly’s address was Moss Lane, Pinner. Oddly, this is the same address Ethel gave as her own to the Registrar on her and Voynich’s entry in the Register of Marriages in 1902 (see [The Registration of Marriage of Wilfrid and Ethel Voynich](#)), though she was recorded in 1901 as living in Great Russell Mansions, Bloomsbury. Why she gave Reilly’s address is a mystery.

Ho 144 / 751



117022

FOR P.R.O.



N.B.—Memoranda must not be placed over the Number.

DATE.

(Name of Alien in full).

Wilfrid Michael Haddank Worynec
known as Wilfrid Michael Vorynich

NATURALIZATION.

Sub 2-5 destroyed

Memorial for Certificate of Naturalization.

CLOSED
UNTIL
2005

Agent. Mr E. P. Nicholson
109 Colmore Row
Birmingham.

Ackd 23 : 3 : 1904

MINUTES.

The References are well known
people and enquiry seems
superfluous.

E 52

? Ask Dr. Doukin if
the signature to the Declaration
is his.

REPORT

R.F.R.
23 Mar. 04

C.D.
24/3.

Dr. Doukin is away
until next

2 ex papers to Home Dept

RECEIVED
26 MAR 1904



The signature appears to be that of Dr. Doukin,
who is, to my knowledge, a personal friend
of Mr. Vorynich, who is also known to myself.

EM.

26.3.4

Further enquiry seems unnecessary in this case.

Joant.

A.F.R.

28. Mar. 04.

C.D.

29. 3. 04.

W.P.B.

Fee asked for
30/3/04

Paid
Ant
6/4/04

	Date.
Certificate made out - - -	13 apr. 04
Do. sent for Oath - - -	14 apr. 04
Do. received for Registration	19 apr. 04
Do. registered and returned	25 apr. 04

TELEGRAMS: SESSA, LONDON.
CODE: UNICODE.

April 1874

117022 1/2

W. M. VOYNICH,
1, SOHO SQUARE,
LONDON. W.

The Under Secretary of State
Home Office, S. C.



Dear Sir

117.022

I am returning you my affidavit duly sworn.

Yrs Truly

W. M. Voynich
Per P. H.

117022



Naturalization No. 4.

Declaration of
Reference.

The Solicitors'
Law Stationery Society,
Limited,
22, Chancery Lane, and
29, Walbrook,
London.

HSO-3-03 W128



Horatio Bryan *Doukin* —
of *The Stone Office, Whitehall*
in the *County of London* *H. D. a Prison Commissioner*
and *Director of Convict Prisons*
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows—

1. **That** I am a Householder and Natural-born British Subject.
2. **That** I am not the Agent or Solicitor of *Wilfred Michael*
Stabdanck Woynicz
the Alien hereinafter mentioned.
3. **That** for *about three* years past *and upwards* I have personally known
and been intimately acquainted with the said *Wilfred Michael*
Stabdanck Woynicz
of *No 20 Great Russell Mansions, Bloomsbury*
in the *County of London* *Antiquarian - Bookseller -*
an Alien and from such
personal knowledge and intimate acquaintance as aforesaid I am able to vouch for the
respectability and loyalty of the said *Wilfred Michael*
Stabdanck Woynicz.
4. **That** I have carefully perused the paper writing now produced and shewn to
me marked with the letter "A" purporting to be a Memorial addressed to the
Right Honorable *Arctur Abert Douglas*
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department by the said
Wilfred Michael Stabdanck Woynicz —
praying for the grant of a Certificate of Naturalization under the provisions of the
Act of Parliament made and passed in the 33rd year of the Reign of Her late
Majesty Queen Victoria Cap. 14 intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to
the legal condition of Aliens and British Subjects" and I verily believe that the
particulars and statements therein respectively stated are true as therein set forth.

And I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be
true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared at *15 Bedford Row*

in the *County of London*

this *14th* day of *March* 1904

Before me

Edw. H. Ridge
a Commissioner for Oaths.

H. B. Doukin

117022

TELEGRAPHIC } "CONSERVATIVE" LONDON.
ADDRESS }
TELEPHONE NO 3163, (GERRARD).

CAPT. LIONEL WELLS, R.N. PRINCIPAL AGENT
C.G. HENNINGS, SECRETARY.

Conservative Central Office,
St Stephen's Chambers,
Westminster, S.W.

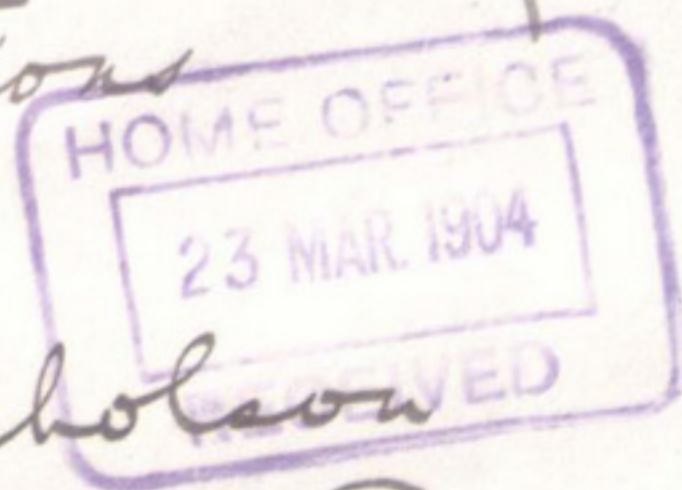
All Communications

To

E. P. Nicholson

109 Colmore Row

Birmingham



117022

"A."



Naturalization No. 1

Memorial
for Certificate of
Naturalization.The Solicitors'
Law Stationery Society
Limited,
22, Chancery Lane, and
29, Walbrook,
London.

A108-11-01 W125-6

To the Right Honorable Arthur Asquith
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home
Department.

The humble Memorial of Wilfrid Michael Habdank
Wojnicz commonly known as Wilfrid Michael
Habdank of No 20 Great Russell Mansions
Bloomsbury and No 1 Solio Square, both in
the County of London an Alien.

Sheweth

State Nationality
of Applicant, place
of birth, and the
Names and Nation-
ality of his Parents.

1. That your Memorialist is a Natural-born Subject of the Empire
of Russia

that he was born at Tselin in the Province of
Kovno in the said Empire and being the
Son of Leonard Habdank Wojnicz and Alexia
Wojniczewska both Poles, and Subjects of the
Russian Empire

State full Name,
Address, Age, Pro-
fession, Trade or
Occupation.

2. That your Memorialist's name is Wilfrid Michael Habdank Wojnicz
that he resides at No 20 Great Russell Mansions in the
County of London aforesaid
that he is of the age of thirty nine years having been born on
the twenty first day of October 1864
and that he is by business an Antiquarian
Bookseller

State whether mar-
ried, and whether any
children under age
residing with Memo-
rialist, and if so, their
names and ages.

3. That your Memorialist is a married man but
has no children

* Insert the exact address, and, if in town, the name of street and number of house.

4. **That** during the period of eight years immediately preceding this Application your Memorialist has for five years resided within the United Kingdom namely—

	Years.	Months.
From <i>December 1896</i> to <i>September 1899</i> at <i>*92 Edith Grove, Chelsea, London</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>
From <i>September 1899</i> to <i>September 1900</i> at <i>Boarding houses in London</i> and <i>travelling in Italy</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>
From <i>September 1900</i> to <i>the present time</i> at <i>*20 Great Russell Mansions</i> <i>asresaid</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>
	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>

5. **That** your Memorialist intends to continue to reside permanently within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and has no intention of permanently leaving the United Kingdom and your Memorialist is desirous of obtaining the rights and capacities of a Natural-born British Subject and a grant of a Certificate for that purpose under the provisions of the Act of Parliament made and passed in the 33rd year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria Cap. 14 intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to the Legal Condition of Aliens and British Subjects."

6. **That** the grounds on which your Memorialist seeks to obtain the rights and capacities of a Natural-born British Subject are as follows—

Because your Memorialist has so long resided in England that he has become attached to the United Kingdom and its Government and having become permanently settled and domiciled in England and intending henceforth permanently to reside within the United Kingdom he is desirous and it will be greatly for his benefit and advantage to obtain and exercise and enjoy all the rights and capacities of a Natural-born Subject of the United Kingdom so far as the same are authorized to be granted to the Memorialist by the said Act.

Your Memorialist therefore prays that you will be pleased if you shall think the application warranted by the circumstances of the case to grant to your Memorialist a Certificate of Naturalization under the provisions of the said Act of the 33rd Victoria Cap. 14 and to grant to your Memorialist (upon his taking the Oath prescribed by the said Act and in all respects complying with the provisions of the said Act) all the rights and capacities of a Natural-born British Subject (except such as are by the said Act excepted).

And your Memorialist will ever pray &c.

Wilfrid Michael Habsank Woynick
commonly called Wilfrid Michael

Voynick

To be signed by
Applicant.

Insert Name of
Memorialist.

This is the Memorial marked "A" referred to in the Declaration of Wilfrid
Michael Habsank Woynick
made before me this eleventh day of March 1904.

Ired A. Adney
a Commissioner for Oaths.

Insert Name of
Reference as to Resi-
dence, &c.

This is the Memorial marked "A" referred to in the Declaration of Hubert
Montague Murray
made before me this seventeenth day of March 1904.

Ired A. Adney
a Commissioner for Oaths.

Insert Names of
References.

This is the Memorial marked "A" referred to in the Declaration of Richard
Garnett

made before me this

16th day of March 1904

Ired A. Adney
a Commissioner for Oaths

This is the Memorial marked "A" referred
to in the Declaration of George Knottford Fortescue
made before me this 18th day of March 1904

Fred A. Adeney

A Commissioner for Oaths.

This is the Memorial marked "A" referred
to in the Declaration of Stofatio Bryan Gouhier
made before me this 14th day of March 1904.

Edw. H. Hage

A Commissioner for Oaths.

This is the Memorial marked "A" referred
to in the Declaration of Frederick Reilly
made before me this 17th day of March 1904

Fred A. Adeney

A Commissioner for Oaths.

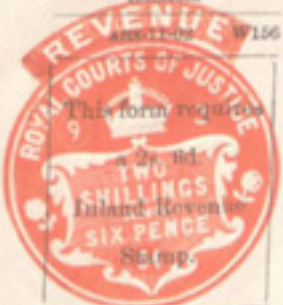
E. P. Nicholson

109 Colmore Row
Birmingham

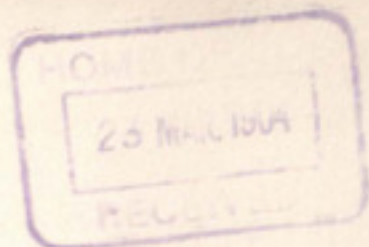
60216
Naturalization No. 2.

Declaration of
Memorialist.

The Solicitors'
Law Stationery Society,
Limited,
22, Chancery Lane, and
29, Walbrook, London.



117022



I Wilfrid Michael Hobdank Woyrich
commonly known as Wilfrid Michael Woyrich
of No 20 Great Russell Mansions, Bloomsbury,
in the County of London Antiquarian Bookseller an Alien,
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—

That the statements contained in the paper writing now produced and shewn to
me marked with the letter "A" purporting to be a Memorial addressed by myself to
The Right Honorable *Arctus Abernethy Douglas* —
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department praying for the
grant of a Certificate of Naturalization under the provisions of the Act of Parliament made
and passed in the 33rd year of the reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria Cap. 14
intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to the Legal Condition of Aliens and
British Subjects" are true as therein set forth.

And I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true
and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared at No 34 John
Street, Bedford Row, in
the County of London
this *11th* day of *March* 1904

Before me

Frederick A. Adeney
a Commissioner for Oaths.

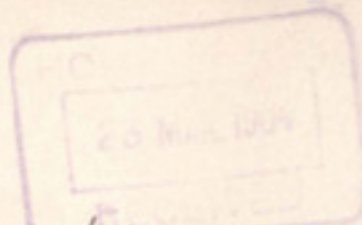
Wilfrid Michael Hobdank Woyrich
commonly called
Wilfrid Michael
Woyrich

Declaration
of Reference as to
Residence, &c., of
Memorialist.

The Solicitors'
Law Stationery Society,
Limited,
22, Chancery Lane, and
29, Walbrook,
London.

AHS-7-02 W127

117022



I *Hubert Montague Murray* —
of *25 Manchester Square*
in the County of *London*, *Doctor of Medicine*
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows:—



*NOTE.—If declarant cannot speak of his own knowledge as to the whole of the Memorial insert here "paragraphs Nos. — of —."

1. **That** the statements contained in*

the paper writing now produced and shewn to me marked with the letter "A" purporting to be a Memorial addressed by *Wielid Michael Habdank Wapnicz* to The Right Honorable *Arthur Albert Douglas* His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department praying for the Grant of a Certificate of Naturalization under the provisions of the Act of Parliament made and passed in the 33rd year of the Reign of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria Cap. 14 intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to the Legal Condition of Aliens and British Subjects" are to my personal knowledge true as therein set forth.

2. **That** to my personal knowledge the said *Wielid Michael Habdank Wapnicz*

has during the period of Eight years immediately preceding the date of the said Memorial for Five years resided within the United Kingdom namely—

	Years.	Months.
From <i>December 1896</i> to <i>September 1899</i> at <i>92 Edith Grove, Chelsea, London</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>9</i>
From <i>September 1899</i> to <i>September 1900</i> at <i>Boarding Houses in London</i> and <i>travelling in Italy</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>—</i>
From <i>September 1900</i> to <i>the present time</i> at <i>No 20 Great Russell Mansions</i> <i>as aforesaid</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>

3. **That** I am a Natural-born British Subject.

4. **That** I am not the Agent or Solicitor of the said *Wielid Michael Habdank Wapnicz*

5. **That** I make this Declaration not from information merely but from personal knowledge *and friendship with him for a period of ten years* —

† Insert the exact address, and if in town, the name of street and number of house.

Specify circumstances under which such knowledge was acquired.

[OVER]

And I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to
be true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared at *N^o 34 John Street*
Bedford Row in the
County of London
this *17th* day of *March* 190*4*.

Before me

Fred A. Adney

a Commissioner for Oaths.

H. Montagu Murray



Declaration of
Reference.

The Solicitors'
Law Stationery Society,
Limited,
22, Chancery Lane, and
29, Walbrook,
London.

H80-3-03 W128

117022



I Richard Garnett
of 27 Tanza Road, Hampstead
in the County of London. L. L. O. C. B.
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows—



1. That I am a Householder and Natural-born British Subject.
2. That I am not the Agent or Solicitor of *Wielid Michael*
Stabdank Woyriez
the Alien hereinafter mentioned.
3. That for *Twelve* years past and upwards I have personally known
and been intimately acquainted with the said *Wielid Michael*
Stabdank Woyriez
of *No 20 Great Russell Mayrions Bloomsbury*
in the County of London *antiquarian* an Alien and from such
personal knowledge and intimate acquaintance as aforesaid I am able to vouch for the
respectability and loyalty of the said *Wielid Michael*
Stabdank Woyriez
4. That I have carefully perused the paper writing now produced and shewn to
me marked with the letter "A" purporting to be a Memorial addressed to the
Right Honorable *Arthur Albert Douglas*
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department by the said
Wielid Michael Stabdank Woyriez —
praying for the grant of a Certificate of Naturalization under the provisions of the
Act of Parliament made and passed in the 33rd year of the Reign of Her late
Majesty Queen Victoria Cap. 14 intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to
the legal condition of Aliens and British Subjects" and I verily believe that the
particulars and statements therein respectively stated are true as therein set forth.

And I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be
true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared at *No 34 John Street*
Bedford Row in the
County of London —
this *16th* day of *March* 1904

Richard Garnett.

Before me

W. A. Adeney
a Commissioner for Oaths

Declaration of
Reference.

The Solicitors'
Law Stationery Society,
Limited,
22, Chancery Lane, and
29, Walbrook,
London.

1880-3-03 W128

117022



I *George Knottford Fortesque*
of *The British Museum, Bloomsbury*
in the County of London, *Keeper of Printed Books* —
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows—



1. **That** I am a Householder and Natural-born British Subject.
2. **That** I am not the Agent or Solicitor of *Wielid Michael*
Stabdank Wapiez
the Alien hereinafter mentioned.
3. **That** for *Seven* years past and upwards I have personally known
and been intimately acquainted with the said *Wielid Michael*
Stabdank Wapiez —
of *No 20 Great Russell Mansions, Bloomsbury*
in the County of London *Antiquarian - Bookseller -* an Alien and from such
personal knowledge and intimate acquaintance as aforesaid I am able to vouch for the
respectability and loyalty of the said *Wielid Michael*
Stabdank Wapiez.
4. **That** I have carefully perused the paper writing now produced and shewn to
me marked with the letter "A" purporting to be a Memorial addressed to the
Right Honorable *Arctas Abens - Douglas*
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department by the said
Wielid Michael Stabdank Wapiez
praying for the grant of a Certificate of Naturalization under the provisions of the
Act of Parliament made and passed in the 33rd year of the Reign of Her late
Majesty Queen Victoria Cap. 14 intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to
the legal condition of Aliens and British Subjects" and I verily believe that the
particulars and statements therein respectively stated are true as therein set forth.

And I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be
true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared at *No 34 John Street*
Bedford Row in the
County of London —
this *18th* day of *March* 1904

George K. Fabiane.

Before me

Wm A. Adeney
a Commissioner for Oaths.

117022

Naturalization No. 4.

Declaration of
Reference.The Solicitors'
Law Stationery Society,
Limited,
22, Chancery Lane, and
29, Walbrook,
London.

HSO-3-03 W128



I Frederick Reilly

of "Chilston" 11, 12, 13, Lane, Pinner
Executive Engineer, & Public Works
in the County of Middlesex, a Member
of the Indian Civil Service, & a Member of the
Department of India
do solemnly and sincerely declare as follows—

1. That I am a Householder and Natural-born British Subject.
2. That I am not the Agent or Solicitor of Wilfrid Michael
Habdank Wrayne
the Alien hereinafter mentioned.
3. That for Five — years past and upwards I have personally known
and been intimately acquainted with the said Wilfrid Michael
Habdank Wrayne
of No 20 Great Russell Mansions Bloomsbury
in the County of London, Antiquarian, — Bookseller —
an Alien and from such
personal knowledge and intimate acquaintance as aforesaid I am able to vouch for the
respectability and loyalty of the said Wilfrid Michael
Habdank Wrayne.
4. That I have carefully perused the paper writing now produced and shewn to
me marked with the letter "A" purporting to be a Memorial addressed to the
Right Honorable Austas Abernethy
His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Home Department by the said
Wilfrid Michael Habdank Wrayne —
praying for the grant of a Certificate of Naturalization under the provisions of the
Act of Parliament made and passed in the 33rd year of the Reign of Her late
Majesty Queen Victoria Cap. 14 intituled "An Act to amend the Law relating to
the legal condition of Aliens and British Subjects" and I verily believe that the
particulars and statements therein respectively stated are true as therein set forth.

And I make this solemn Declaration conscientiously believing the same to be
true and by virtue of the provisions of the Statutory Declarations Act 1835.

Declared at No 34 John Street
Bedford Park in the
County of London —
this 14th day of March 1904

Before me

Fred A. Adney

a Commissioner for Oaths.

Frederick Reilly