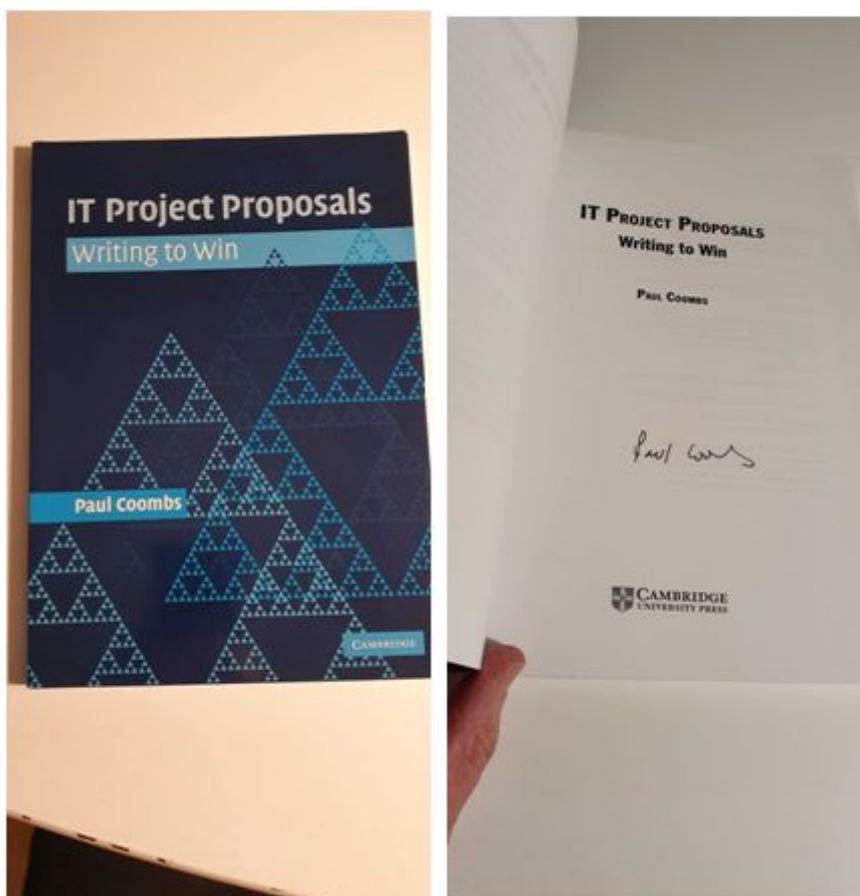


Roboogle AftermATH – A Brief Hunter’s Tale.



So the team was gathering (virtually) in autumn with that generally restless and anticipatory feeling one always gets as Hunt Poster time approaches. While mooching around the charity shops of Harpenden I stumbled across the following little gem in the Oxfam bookshop



Signed by Pablo no less! We chose to take this as a good omen for the Hunt to come. (I think I now have all of Pablo's textbook publications in hard copy.)

We'd worked out the delayed start due to Julian/Gregorian calendar shift, and hence I knew in advance I'd be away on Hunt release date in Dublin for work purposes, visiting ... Bank of Ireland. Hence very pleased to be able to download the pdf before flight – and in fact get “Robbery with Violins” while on the ride into Dublin airport!

For us, most years if we're struggling a little, we usually have a general location but no codes/detailed directions – which is how this particular team/alliance first came together when we were both wandering around ever so slightly aimlessly when messing about in Messing a few years ago.

This year, we had very precise directions to the treasure but nowhere to start from!

Again as a testament to the strange way we sometimes go about things, this year – despite having identified all authors/books etc except p10 - we managed to find the Treasure without ever having identified Ruth Rendell. So finding tickets with Make Death Love Me was a complete surprise for us – though it did immediately enable us to identify a host of things we'd not tied together till that point, and we were soon able to backfill. We had battered our heads collectively to death over p10 without ever making any real purchase on it – even though we had all other pages.

After being becalmed for some time, despite having cracked all the Hill/Vigenere “Letter-box” codes, we had a stroke of luck with a Pablovian hack. Trying to work out the meaning of the comment about an unhelpful reference to “gAd” led us to edit/search the pdf directly, and hence find the various http links to the named images, and hence to the Printers Devilry of EXIF. We were off again ...

After a glorious revisit to Hunts both remembered and hitherto unseen, for us, it was Debden that did it. Both the Incinerator robbery and the reference at the beginning of the Enigma message. Once we had that that enabled us to find the much-sought after pub with a bike on the roof at the Foresters Arms. Finding the white lion (virtually) gave us everything we needed to plot a complete route, and we booked a table for Sunday lunch straight away.



We didn't have a lot of time left, but knew we needed to be looking for a second element to the hunt based on the Muddy Boots references and the links to Pablo's Fool on the Hill hunt. Consequently we spent as much time wandering through every muddy patch we could find than we did marching to treasure. But to no avail. All we ended up with was muddier boots than before - and a set of muddy buggy wheels as we were accompanied by the latest generation of ATHers in Wilbur – all of 11 months old. (Can we please claim prize for youngest (human) ATHer 2019 to physically locate treasure).



Another fine Hunt, another find, and thanks to the Setters. All that remains are the resolutions we make each year to write down more in the Solution doc so we don't keep dropping points for things we knew but didn't put in!

Roboogle AftermATH, Jan 2020