

Send to: MCLEOD, RYAN
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-0001

Time of Request: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 13:19:59 EST

Client ID/Project Name:

Number of Lines: 41

Job Number: 2822:103336192

Research Information

Service: Natural Language Search

Print Request: Current Document: 12

Source: Major Newspapers

Search Terms: martin lewis stefanos kollakis

12 of 100 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 1995 Newspaper Publishing PLC
The Independent (London)

April 28, 1995, Friday

SECTION: HOME; Page 6

LENGTH: 346 words

HEADLINE: Conmen sold bogus lordship titles to wealthy Americas

BODY:

Wealthy Americans were duped by two conmen into buying forged manorial titles that promised such exclusive rights as a priority on the Queen's "social list", the Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday.

The court heard that more than pounds 85,000 was paid into overseas bank accounts by unsuspecting buyers, including an attorney and a pastor, who were fooled by the well-planned swindle. Travel company director Stephanos Kollakis, 26, of Hillcroft Crescent, Ealing, west London, and Martin Lewis, also 26, of Woodmanstone Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, pleaded guilty to a conspiracy to commit forgery with other persons unknown between October 1992 and April 1993.

Stephen Waine, for the prosecution, said Mr Kollakis and Mr Lewis went to great lengths to convince their victims of the genuineness of the transactions. The various layers of deception they used included false names and passports, bogus companies - one with a Latin motto meaning "virtue is the way" - a non-existent set-up called the Institution of Heraldic Affairs, and a firm of solicitors.

Mr Waine told the court that many of the false enterprises were set up in business centres in such a way as to distance the pair from buyers conned into parting with their hard-earned cash.

The court was told there were even letters from the firm of bogus solicitors Kollakis and Lewis set up, reassuring prospective buyers of the company's professional standing and "excellent reputation". Mr Waine said: "It was a simple scheme, in the sense that it worked on the basis that there are in England titles that can be bought and sold, and that there are people outside England who don't have such titles but who have the money to buy them."

He said 13,000 lordship of the manor titles existed altogether, most of them dating back to 1086 and listed in the Domesday Book.

The barrister said the two swindlers even "resurrected" an ancient process called sub-infudation, a system of splitting and increasing the number of titles available which was actually "outlawed" in 1290.

LOAD-DATE: April 28, 1995

***** Print Completed *****

Time of Request: Tuesday, July 15, 2008 13:19:59 EST

Print Number: 2822:103336192

Number of Lines: 41

Number of Pages: 1

Send To: MCLEOD, RYAN
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BATON ROUGE, LA 70803-0001