

RESTRICTED**SEN-21-070**

Recovered Artefact: Tape Series M

DATED	June 30, 2021	TYPE	Recovered artefact
ORIGIN	Directorate III	SITE	MERIDIAN
PAGES	9	CUSTODY	MERIDIAN

Nine reels of instrumentation tape recovered from a closed metrology laboratory. Reel M-6 carries a 1979 recording of a periodic emission, four years before any of our instruments were capable of recording it.

REDACTION: The originating laboratory, its personnel and the intermediary who transferred custody are withheld. The laboratory closed without a custodian and no party can consent on its behalf.

PROVENANCE

Nine reels of half-inch instrumentation tape were recovered by The Quiet Library in ██████ 2019, from the estate of a closed metrology laboratory. The laboratory had no successor institution and no surviving custodian. Custody passed to us through an intermediary who is withheld.

Recovery, baking and transfer took nineteen months. Six reels were readable in full, two in part, one not at all. Everything below concerns reel M-6.

REEL M-6

The reel carries approximately four hours of instrumentation data, annotated in pencil on the box in a hand that has not been identified. The annotation reads:

M-6 -- bench, overnight, the slow one

The recording contains a periodic emission with an envelope repeating every 1,270 seconds, within the resolution the medium supports.

THE PROBLEM WITH THE DATE

The tape stock is datable. Its manufacture is bracketed by the production record to 1977-1979. The recording cannot be later than the stock's usable life and the box annotation, the laboratory's own log conventions and the oxide condition all agree on a recording date of 1979, give or take a year.

This is two years before SEN-81-017 and thirty-five years before SEN-14-052.

It also predates any instrument this institution operated that was capable of resolving the emission. We could not have recorded this in 1979. We did not have the equipment. The laboratory that did record it was not working on anything related, was not known to us, and -- as far as the surviving record shows -- never mentioned it to anyone.

They wrote the slow one on the box and put it on a shelf.

VERIFICATION

Because the claim is unusual, verification was deliberately adversarial:

- Transfer was performed twice, on different machines, by different operators, in different years. Both transfers agree.
- The tape was independently dated by a laboratory with no knowledge of why it was being dated.
- The reel was examined for splices, overrecording and re-boxing. None found. The oxide wear pattern is consistent with a single pass and long storage.
- Two members of Directorate III were tasked with constructing a hoax consistent with all available evidence. Both concluded a hoax was possible but would have required the fabricator to know, in advance, about two observations that had not yet been made.

ASSESSMENT

The institution's position is that reel M-6 is authentic, that it records a real emission, and that the correspondence with SEN-81-017 and SEN-14-052 is noted and unexplained.

We specifically do not assert that the three observations have a common cause. Three occurrences of a number is not a mechanism. It is three occurrences of a number, and the honest form of that statement is the one we are making.

What the reel does establish is that the phenomenon -- whatever it is -- predates our observation of it, was recorded by people who had no reason to care, and was filed under a description that suggests they found it mildly interesting and not worth a second thought.

CUSTODY AND ACCESS

Reel M-6 is held at MERIDIAN under environmental control. Transfers are available to researchers on application to archive@sentinelco.ca, subject to the provenance restrictions above.

The remaining reels of Series M contain routine metrology and have been returned, in copy, to the community from which they came -- which is the order The Quiet Library works in, and the reason the programme is trusted enough to keep being handed things like this.

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