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FROM MY DIARY

There is a heatwave affecting southern England at the moment, which made it impossible to sleep last night, and filled the roads with sleep-deprived traffic early this morning. I've started a new contract, which is very welcome after so long. The air-conditioning in the office is even more welcome! But all of this means that things only move in dribs and drabs.

A couple of chunks of the oldest *Life* of St George have appeared. I need to revise these. This in fact leaves only two chapters left - 15 and 16. So this is progressing well.

An old correspondent wrote to me enquiring if I was commissioning at the moment. It is a great evil that young scholars with amazing language skills are left on the market. Sadly I had to tell him "no". I'm not sure whether I will ever commission more translations, in truth.

I've started to OCR the Mombritius edition of the *Life* of St Nicholas, as translated by John the Deacon. Here again I find eccentric spellings, which is a nuisance. I was able to do four pages this evening before I had to stop.

A kind correspondent has sent me a copy of the Craig Evans paper, "How long were ancient books in use?" It makes some very valid points, and some obviously invalid ones too. But I think it's an important paper, and I hope to review it some time soon.
