

A Select Guide to the Assassination of John F. Kennedy

An asterisk denotes a book which is available in paperback.

I. Guides

*Miller, Tom. The Assassination Please Almanac. Chicago: Henry Regnery Co. 1977. Pp. 284. Despite its title, this is a serious work on the assassination which contains a lengthy annotated bibliography of the major books on the subject, a list of individuals and groups engaged in research, a witty and well-written introduction dealing with the history of the investigation to date, a handy chronology of events, and a section on assassinations throughout American history. Found in many U.S. bookstores.

II. Bibliographies

Hawkins, David. The Assassination Bibliography. Beaconsfield, Quebec: The Collector's Archives. The most complete bibliography to date listing all books and major articles through 1977. Available through The Collector's Archives, Box 114, Beaconsfield, P.Q.

Thompson, W.C. A Bibliography of Literature Relating to the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy. San Antonio: Carleton Printing, 1968. Pp. 40. Scholarly and complete to 1968.

Wrone, David R. "The Assassination of John Fitzgerald Kennedy: An Annotated Bibliography." Wisconsin Magazine of History. Autumn, 1972, pp. 21-36. An essential piece of scholarship with a useful introduction. Should be consulted along with the bibliography in Miller before using Hawkins and W.C. Thompson which are more complete but lack annotation.

III. The Official Version

*Report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy ("The Warren Report"). Washington, D.C.: Govt. Printing Office, 1964. Pp. 726. Also published by Doubleday, McGraw-Hill, Bantam, Popular Library, and the Associated Press, 1964. The starting point of any study. Found in most libraries and used bookstores.

Hearings and Exhibits Before the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. Washington: Govt. Printing Office, 1964. 26 Vols. Released two months after the Warren report, the 26 volumes contain a massive amount (20,000 pp.) of documentary and photographic evidence on the assassination which the Warren Commission staff used in its deliberations. Though far more documentary evidence has since been released to the National Archives (90,000 pp. of FBI files on the case were released in 1977-8), the 26 volumes are the best place to begin detailed research on the case. Unfortunately, they have been out of print for some time and not too many sets exist in Canada. Huron College at UWO now owns a set.

Meagher, Sylvia. Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings and Exhibits. New York & London: The Scarecrow Press, 1966. Pp. 150. Since the Warren Commission provided only a partial index of names to its report and the 26 volumes, it took a private researcher to put together this indispensable guide. A must for anyone with access to the 26 volumes. Hard to find.

*The New York Times. The Witnesses: The Highlights of Hearings Before the Warren Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy. New York: Bantam Paperback & McGraw-Hill, 1964 & 1965. Should be used only if one does not have access to the 26 vols. Snippets of testimony selected in such a way as to support the findings of the Warren Commission. Many libraries.

IV. Secondary Sources

*Anson, Robert Sam. "They've Killed the President!": The Search for the Murderers of John F. Kennedy. New York: Bantam Books, 1975. Pp. 408. An extremely well-written and comprehensive introduction to the assassination and the possibility of a conspiracy by a respected member of the national press. Contains a few errors of fact and readily accepts some debatable theories, but on the whole a good popular summary. Most bookstores.

*Blumenthal, Sid and Harvey Yazijian eds. Government By Gunplay: Assassination Conspiracy Theories from Dallas to Today. New York & Scarborough, Ont.: Signet Books, 1976. Pp. 266. Original articles and reprints of articles, all of some merit. Most bookstores.

*Epstein, Edward Jay. Inquest: The Warren Commission and the Establishment of Truth. New York: Viking Press, Bantam paperback, 1966. Pp. 220. This was one of the earliest and most telling indictments of the Warren Commission and the way it conducted its investigation. Done originally as an M.A. thesis, much of the book is based on interviews with Warren Commission staff. Still worthwhile. Most libraries.

Epstein, Edward Jay. Legend: The Secret World of Lee Harvey Oswald. New York & Toronto: McGraw-Hill, 1978. Pp. 382. The most recent work to date. Uncovers new leads on Oswald's background which indicate that he had ties to Soviet intelligence. Epstein's interpretation of the assassination itself is stupid.

*Fensterwald, Bernard Jr. Coincidence or Conspiracy? New York: Zebra Books, 1977. Pp. 592. Presents available facts on more than 200 people connected in one way or another to the assassination. Useful reference. Some bookstores and newstands.

*Lane, Mark. Rush To Judgment: A Critique of the Warren Commission's Inquiry into the Murders of President John F. Kennedy, Officer J.D. Tippit, and Lee Harvey Oswald. New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1966. Dell paperback, 1975. The best-selling and most well-known attack on the Warren Commission's version. Most bookstores.

McKinley, James. Assassination in America. New York: Harper & Row, 1977. Pp. 243. A survey of U.S. political assassinations from Lincoln to RFK, with the most space given to JFK. A balanced account. Some stores.

- *Meagher, Sylvia. Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities, & the Report. New York: Bobbs-Merrill, 1967; Vintage, 1976. Pp. 477. This remains the best and most definitive study done on the assassination and the weaknesses of the Warren Commission's investigation. Its importance and findings cannot be overestimated. Most bookstores.
- *Model, F. Peter and Robert J. Groden. JFK: The Case for Conspiracy. New York: Manor Books, 1976. Pp. 300. Useful introduction to the case, but treat some of Groden's photographic analysis with care. Some bookstores.
- *Oglesby, Carl. The Yankee and Cowboy War: Conspiracies from Dallas to Watergate. Kansas City: Sheed Andrews & McMeel, 1976. Pp. 355. A provocative study which seeks to put the JFK assassination in a wider context of intelligence and political operations. Some bookstores.
- Roffman, Howard. Presumed Guilty: Lee Harvey Oswald in the Assassination of President Kennedy. Cranbury, N.J.: Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. Press, 1975. Pp. 297. Clear introduction to the events of November 22 with important sections on Oswald's activities before, during, and after the shooting.
- *Scott, Peter Dale, Paul L. Hoch, and Russell Stetler eds. The Assassinations: Dallas and Beyond. New York: Vintage Books, 1976. Pp. 552. Contains original articles, reprints of articles and portions of the major books, along with documents. Scott, a Canadian, is one of the most respected researchers in the field and this book is one of the three or four best contributions to the study of the assassination. Most bookstores.
- *Thompson, Josiah. Six Seconds in Dallas: A Microstudy of the Kennedy Assassination. New York: Bernard Geis Associates, 1967. Revised, Berkley House paperback, 1976. Another one of the best books on the subject which focuses mainly on the events in Dealey Plaza and picks apart the Warren Commission's interpretation. Contains a wealth of photos, charts, and drawings. Most bookstores.

V. Miscellaneous

The Collector's Archives, Box 114, Beaconsfield, Quebec. Provides films (Zapruder, Nix, etc.), slides, photos, recordings (e.g., Dallas police radio broadcasts of Nov. 22), and copies of documents to researchers. Write for details.

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