

9/23/81

Dear Mr. Martin,

Thanks for your letter of the 19th.

Herewith the books.

Of the books I recommend, two that are both excellent and out of print. Howard Roffman's Presumed Guilty is the best simplification of all and Sylvia Meagher's Accessories After the Fact is truly a superb work. And the best writing.

Unless Roffman's serves the purpose, and it is dated, as is Meagher's, there is no one book that is a good summation. There are a number of reasons for this, ranging from the fact that when most were written the authors did not use what then was available at the Archives or could not, to their lack of familiarity, really in most cases interest in, the records that were later disgorged by the executive agencies, particularly the FBI.

~~The~~^o illustrate the latter, Beginning in late 1977 I began to get what totals about a quarter of a million pages of JFK assassination records. No single one of those who later wrote books has come here for access to those records and I give access to all writers. (Most of whom I know I'll disagree with, too.)

Their ~~gist~~^{gist} is theories and almost without exception they will their theories into presumed fact when in no case is this true. They do not want factual material to contradict their pet theories so they avoid it.

People should be interested but they should also bear in mind that the crime itself was never officially investigated^{ed} and officialdom never really intended to investigate the crime. Thus there were no real leads for private persons to follow up.

There is, by the way, an excellent documentary now available on a cassette, Gerard Selby's Reasonable Doubt. It focuses on the single-bullet theory and is more than quite comprehensible - it is really fine.

It was his master's thesis in the Univ. of Maryland School of Communications. It was entered in the national competition and won first honor in the history division. A&E has been repeating it over and over again.

Thanks,

Harold
Harold Weisberg