

6/9/69

Dear Phil,

Your letter reminds me of a hope that will never be fulfilled: that some literary person make a study of the designed dishonesty of the writing ~~in~~ the field in which I work. I've made one on Lane, book-length, not intended for publication but for immediate availability in the event needed (it is a year old now and I've never read it). I could do one on Epstein's "Counterplot" in a week (I've just gotten and read a set of proofs, feeling I cannot afford the book (bombing)). I've notes on Nizer (and some tapes), Roberts, Schiller and Lewis, Gayzer and Moody, CBS special (almost book-length) and a few that do not care to mind. All are also commercial. Aside from Ed Butler and ENCA (did I ever ask if you knew him/it? Very interested if you do, or if they had Courtney relations of any kind, or if Ochener did), who successfully commercialized the assassination into their own life, for they were dying, these are the conspicuous commercializations (and the ones that make the accusation against others, for the most part). Your interest in "Farewell America" recalls this. If you ever decide you want to waste the time, I'll lend you mine.

An entire new kind of writing is developing, federal and private. It is writing around truth, deliberate misrepresentation, a new semantics. I make a study of this artful misuse of words in POST MORTEM III; ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ SECRETS OF THE KENNEDY AUTOBIO. Sickening.

If you have come across anything indicating CIA connection with/use of American Friends of the Near East or any other Arab or pro-Arab groups, that would be a worthwhile addition to COUP D'ETAT, which has some mention where it would fit.

Did you really mean that the "personality clash" between Eden and Dulles was so dangerous? I think it was Dulles himself, a living disaster, a man who made a successful career or undeviating error. He is the architect and the implementer of the existing international evil, as I see him/it. I clearly recall his August 1939 return from Europe and his reporter interview in which he lamented the misunderstanding of Hitler, a true man of peace!

Do not apologize for your handwriting. You should see mine!

If it is ever possible, I'd like to see what the grad student did on and with what I call and think of as the Cuba Missile Crisis, not Cuban.

I look forward to SIII and a change of reading. Lately I have been reading again but all nonfiction. The change will be good, and I think I'll also enjoy it.

I've heard nothing from New Orleans in some time and I've sought nothing from there (to do it would be futile anyway). I like the place and it forever disappoints me. More, the people do, for they seem to have quit the world, many to have gone there with this in mind, that being one of the more congenial and easier places to do it. No less did its lack of visible significant artistic/literary output disappoint me. They do not get involved, do not want to run the risk, even fear hearing what might turn them on. All the time I was there, having written the only book about the N.O. involvement in the assassination, with the investigation page-one all the time, not a single invitation to speak to any of the many colleges there. When I tried to arrange an appearance for a special purpose, horrors...They need the foam of the black ferment. Its froth may be infectious, with some of the right bacteria.

Back to work. Thanks for writing. Good to hear from you. Hope everything fine, and thanks for the clip. Best,

Steppenwolf

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A JOURNAL OF POETRY AND OPINION

editor Philip Boatright

4 to June 69

associate

Miss Jean Shannon

Dear Hal —

A note — just to keep in touch, to remind you I still know ya and think of ya. = thanks, too, for the info on "Hepburn" — we've decided the book wouldn't be worth effort & expense getting it ... even if it could be gotten easily, i.e. at the corner book stall. I'm glad I had presence of mind to ask you about it before ordering it from a European dealer.

Seminar in Diplomacy did give me an excuse to research that Baghdad Pact, as I mentioned to you last time — and all in all the effort was well rewarded. My alma mater (Univ. of Omaha — now Univ. of Neb. at Omaha) has unusually good library, and

(2.)
fortunately (for modern Near East studies)
was the RIIA collections of British
documents. Excellent & useful stuff —
though still painful to move, inexorably,
in one's reading, on to the Suez disaster.
Safe to say, surely, that the "personality
clash" (or worse...) between Eden and JFD
one of the worst, gravest threats to the
Western alliance.....

— But enough of this. I'll bore you
(besides tire your eyes with this handwriting!)
— although I was sorry the fellow grad.
student who declared an interest in researching
the missile crisis did not do anywhere
near what he might have done with
the subject. I could (and would) have
done a lot better myself — but of course
I had my hands full (to put it mildly!)
with Arab politics, primarily Iraq, and
had no time. Perhaps another time in the
not too distant future, when I can find
some subsidized time (the College of Medicine
pays my way, usually, if I want to take
graduate work) and at the same time have
a chance to talk with some of the AF and

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Army people now working on advance degrees here (a special program - similar, I believe, to your Univ. of Maryland). Several (five, I think, out of ten) in the seminar could in fact have helped the guy working in the area (the Cuban missile crisis) but, damn it, I don't think he even asked them their impressions or opinions — though he knew at least one of them had been an intelligence officer at the time! Ah, well. So it goes.

— And anyway I must run.
Keep well, my friend, and let us hear from you when possible. too, our Steppen. #3 should be here from London any day — I'll see that a copy gets in the mail to you as soon as we have it. ... then you can relax ... with one of them Kulture magazines & get your mind off Nachivelli for a while!
> Cheers, Phil

1990

PS = just came across
this old ('66) clip
don't recall clearly the
particulars of the case — but
obviously the CIA, correctly or
not, is getting the blame, eh?