

Dear Jim, The Harker File, by Marc Olden

When you returned this you told me I should read it.

I picked it up while waiting for Lonnie and Mary Hudkins, who are due here soon. With the first word I recognized it and thought immediately of Hunt.

Then I checked my files and found that I wrote Roger Feinman 6/1/76 about it, asking him to please check Marc Olden in Contemp. Authors, etc., and with Signet. No response. And I'd forgotten it.

It is written, as I recall, with a vengeance for Howard Hughes, which could also be the Hunt of that period, considering what had and had not happened to him.

Since 6/1 the name Harker, not all that common, has assumed significance.

Making it all the more interesting.

If you've forgotten, he is the AP correspondent who interviewed Castro 9/7/63 supposedly at the Brazilian embassy. Now I remember checking the files on this in the Archives and remember the FBI said it hadn't happened. I think that was for Coup but it could have been earlier, for O in N.O. It was in connection with the training camps and the beating up of the fellow who was in Davis' or in connection with Penabaz. As I think I remember, a Cuban magazine, Bohemia, and a Cuban, probably a former ambassador, Ramon Portell-Vila or Portill - Vila figure in this.

Assuming my recollection is close, why do we have the FBI denying what the CIA years later made a big deal out of and appears not to have told the Warren Commission about or been asked about by it?

One possible answer is that it didn't happen at the Brazilian embassy. The AP man who wrote that story when the CIA let those records out told me he had read Harker's original story, spoken to him, seen his notes or a combination. But because those papers are among the records given to the Rockefeller Commission, it then gets interesting that the commission did nothing with it even though it was pressed on the commission by the CIA, which recalled Rocca to write the memo and search the files.

The same Rocca who should have informed the Warren Commission.

And so forth.

There could be a real Marc Olden, but this is the kind of stuff Hunt reamed out. The copyright page lists earlier Marc Olden book, all on Japan and the Samurai. Hunt spent some time there. He seems to use a different name for books of different areas. If Signet' listing does not give dates, the prices are indicative. By 1976 Signet was charging \$1/50 for books of this size. The Olden ones began at 95¢. There is one at \$1.25. I've forgotten when paperback prices went up from 95¢. It must have been over a period of years.

Unless you see a point in it, I'll not reread. Someone wanted people to believe Hughes' offed JFK is a simplification. Someone who knew of the real Harker is probable. I don't recommend that you do the Olden checking now.

Best,