

Books Marking the 30th anniversary of the JFK Assassination h/w 6/9/93

The 5/3/93 issue of Publishers Weekly, of which I've been given a marked-up copy, goes into only some of the books scheduled for the anniversary. There is much more I could say about some but do not take that time now. There are a few comments that may be useful to you.

Of Gerald Posner's "Case Closed," what Random House's vice president says is not true: "We commissioned this book a couple of years ago. At the heart it is a biography of Lee Harvey Oswald that confronts various conspiracy theories..."

That is anything but the book Posner described to me when we were his first stop as he began interviews. He was as explicit as he could be in telling me his book would be on the critics. I do not recall his asking me anything about Oswald, I am certain he did not ask to see any of my relevant records, and as best I can understand what this says about the book, it is not possible.

What Viking says about Groden's "The Killing of a President" includes what is not abnormal for Groden, what is false and what is impossible. Plus what is foolish, also normal

In boasting that the book includes "hitherto expurgated transcripts - including that of Jacqueline Kennedy's testimony before the Warren Commission, which is shown to have been edited for public consumption," Viking lies.

Paul Hoch and I kept after that withheld page of her testimony and we got it at least two decades ago. I published it in facsimile. So much for the "new details." That the page was withheld was not secret. The printed transcript states it. (As it also does about testimony relating to Ferrie that I got about two decades ago, maybe more.)

This book is claimed to have "a restoration of the damaged frames of the Zapruder film."

That they were removed, which is not the same as damaged, allegedly because of that damage, is not new. I published that they are missing, but from the original only, and how LIFE claims that happened, in 1965 and 1967.

In terms of the "frames," which refers to that part of a motion picture seen on projection, nothing has ever been missing and nothing is to be "restored." Copies were made from the original and they exist. But ordinarily copies do not include what is between the sprocket holes by which the film is moved. And unless a copy was made, probably frame by frame, not mechanically, from the original, this about 20% of what the film recorded simply does not exist from the TIME/LIFE explanation. Unless it was saved when the two parts were cemented together when the original was damaged in Chicago, this material in that 20% is gone forever, and cannot be restored.

What seems to be the claim that Groden discovered the pictures showing people running toward the Garssy knoll is also not true, Many of them were published contemporaneously.

"Who Shot JFK" is a question Peter Dale Scott, an authentic scholar and one of the earlier inventors of theories of the crime, cannot answer. The book is on the theories.

"Killing the Truth: Deceit and Deception in the JFK Case" is by one of the more

successful
 (killers of that truth, Harry Livingstone. The publisher's amplification of the ~~title~~ title is that "It suggests that many ^{authors} (authors) have, for one reason or another, put out a lot of disinformation, furthering the conspiracy," which refers to the assassination.

This in fact is what Livingstone told me and others would be part of his highest trash, the third, with an account of the conspiracy. I suppose his publisher came to realize he did not dare print that sick concoction. In any event, it is not in this description of the book.

The next paragraph reflects why we should all feel sorry for those publishers who take the word of the nuts they publish, apparently conning themselves into believing that they are experts and know what they are talking about:

"Livingstone', continues (Kent) Carroll, "knows what he is talking about. He's the guy who discovered and made public the fact that Kennedy's adrenal glands had atrophied..."

If Harry knew anything about the fact, rather than the theories he regards as fact when he makes them up, he'd know that he neither discovered nor was first to publish.

The late Dr. John Nichols, University of Kansas pathologist, is the discoverer. He told me about it in late 1966 or early 1967 and gave me a copy of what he had published in a medical journal-BEFORE then.

For Harry this may well represent him at his most accurate.

Cyril Wecht's/ Dutton "Cause of Death" from this account will say nothing new. I hope he has information on "the missing brain," by which he actually means its left hemisphere only. When I forced the government to give me the memo of ^{on this} transfer Bud Fensterwald jumped the gun, pretended he had gotten that record, and he held a press conference in the University Club with Cyril holding forth on the missing brain, meaning half of it, as he later also did, often, for a while. From the reading of the X-rays, that did not disappear, it is not likely that any new and significant information about the crime itself reached Cyril.

With what the ghouls did the with autopsy film, if what I suspect happened, it as desired to avoid this embarrassment to the family, who can blame anyone for hiding the body tissue we have not seen?

Of these authors the one from whom I'd expected a decent book is Penver. I suppose he switched topics early on because he and his wife were to have come here for Thanksgiving the year they were here. They didn't. But we got I think an Xmas card.

These books can be made to appear to be worthwhile by their publishers but the prospect of that in terms other than of profit are slim indeed. Not one is an authentic expert, save that in forensic pathology Cyril surely is. These are special formula books and alone and in combination I believe they will bury truth even deeper and more thoroughly deceive and mislead the already confused people. In effect, they do help protect the government ^{with} for its failures and lies.

H W