

Ms. Linda Hunt  
830 Circlewood Dr., #308  
State College, PA 16803

2/2/94

Dear Linda,

Your fine letter of the 28th, which I appreciate very much because it is from you, is one of only a few bright spots on a difficult day. Another was watching a pesky squirrel hanging from a bird feeder with its hind legs and swinging up to eat the sunflower seeds. Rather get them and hang down to chew them. Another was taking the time to watch a small herd of deer who for the third consecutive day rested about 50 feet from the livingroom window in some pines under which the snow has gone. What made for a rough day was suddenly hearing only vaguely for pictures for the book reprinted Case Opened when months of letters with xeroxes of the pictures drew no response. And now in the congestion in my small working area I cannot find a folder of them! In recent months I've been overusing the license I spent 80 years earning, to forget!

As soon as I got to the graf in your letter referring to a home for your Paperclip files I stopped reading and phone my professor friend. He was not in. I then phoned the librarian who is also a first-rate person and a more than first rate librarian. He also was not in. But I left messages. I just phoned the history prof. He'll return the call when he finishes with a student. He does take time for them and do they love him for it. Several wrote him in for the Senate two elections ago!

I'm sending a copy of your letter to Richard Gillen, an old friend who is counsel for both Carroll & Graf and Publishers Group West, which distributes for them and for other smaller publishers, quite a volume annually, on the chance that it may be of use to you if Paperclip has not been sold for paperback or if quality might be of interest for a cheaper print or if you have no deal on the Peron book. As by now you know, I wrote you about that as soon as Jim sent me your address. (Too bad he is not two people. But he'd still be too busy if he were!) I hope they'll want your file.

I never ran into anything dependable on Cabell and the only source I know of has to be evaluate carefully but a reporter who knew him and who may himself have been CIA. He told me he was. I also made no effort to learn anything about either Cabell.

New Orleans is a fascinating place. I look back with regret in spending all my time working there when my favorite popular music is New Orleans jazz, traditional.

Jim has probably had more experience coping with national security claims than most lawyers. But there can be a legitimate reason not related to whether Peron is alive or not: live sources. But they lie so I'd like to see someone lay a case of perjury on them. Not that they'll hurry or the judge would do something. I've proven it on the FBI many times without it ever meaning anything, other than a couple of times the judge threatened Jim and me.

I'm sorry I do not remember your call when you were moving to Penna. I have had

some experiences with the CIA that I hope are not commonplace and we can talk about that when you want to. They are much more cunning than the FBI and much more devious.

We've had a rather severe winter, much more so than usual. But they are not often this harsh here. I think it is colder at State College than here and more snow there, too.

Resumed 2/3. My history prof friend, Jerry McKnight, whose undergraduate work was at Penn State, phoned to say he is quite interested and will get together with Charles Kuhn, the librarian, as soon as he can. I think Charles is ~~was~~ away or was at a conference yesterday.

I hope you have no need for the knowledge but Hood has had a costly experience with archival deposits, one for which I was responsible, of Sylvia Meagher's records. First a lawyer, formerly with CBS News, filed an action to prevent the ~~depos~~ deposit there, and that cost them time, worry and money for lawyers, and then David Lifton threatened to sue them for violation of privacy over the letters he wrote Meagher and today are very embarrassing to him. That bastard <sup>S</sup>boasted to her in advance how he was going to steal an excellent profession<sup>al</sup>/print of the <sup>Z</sup>apruder film and then how he did it! I've not kept up with the outcome, meaning what this second costly experience with lawyers who know nothing about copyright law cost. They had to turn it over to the lawyers. But I know that the attitude at Hood toward openness and traditional standards and values is the best. For a while I do recall that the lawyers told Hood to deny access to the Meagher deposit until the legal question was resolved. Lifton had no intention of suing. He wanted to intimidate the college into denying access.

Fine article. Thanks for it. I'm sending copies to friends.

Hood has what I got from the CIA on its mind-bending, MK Ultra and the like. The first known victim was a scientist at Fort Detrick here in Frederick, Frank Olson. I knew his son, rather one of the two sons, when he was in high school. Later ~~he~~ when he taught school he asked me to address his class. The CIA ODed his father on LSD and then delayed doing anything until the father jumped from a New York hotel window. And then lied to the mother about his death. I do hope someone does something about this newest disclosure of our nazi-like acts with radiation.

I wish it had been possible for me to locate some of those for whom Posner ostensibly was going to file suit over Mengele's horrors.

I hope it is possible for you to come some weekend. I lead a strange life, convoluted hours, from a couple of medical problems. Because I cannot help getting up too early I retire quite early. But having the very early hours without any interruption has enabled me to get much on paper. I have grown weak. Yesterday's searches were too much for me. Imagine that! But today I'll be back in the harness. Glad to hear from you!

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg



## Linda Hunt

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830 Cricklewood Dr. #308 State College, PA 16803 814-238-2877

January 28, 1994

Dear Harold,

Jim Lasar sent me your letter. I'm sorry it took so long for me to receive it.

What a wonderful letter you wrote to me. I shall treasure it always. You must know how much it means that someone has been influenced by your work. Thank you so much for the comments.

I've enclosed my new article that came out just this week.

I have always been a great admirer of your tremendous accomplishments. You've not only uncovered such important information, but most importantly, have always conducted your work with integrity. Unfortunately, that's a rarity now in the JFK field. You stand head and shoulders about all the rest. They're just riff raff compared to you. You should feel proud.

You're right, we do have much in common. Our struggle to get the truth out, practically singlehandedly. Your work is on a very important subject. And you do it with such integrity!!

I've always been intrigued with Gen. Charles Cabell. Did you run into anything on him? When I was in New Orleans last year I found some info on a visit he made there shortly before the assassination. New Orleans is a fascinating place.

It's wonderful that your files will be available to researchers at Hood College. When will that become a reality? I would love to talk to your friend there about my files. I am looking for a "home" for my Paperclip files.

So you knew Sam Klaus? I met his sister when I was writing my book. She's a retired judge in New York. A wonderful woman. Too bad he didn't live long enough to feel vindicated.

Did Jim tell you he's helping me appeal an FOIA request against the CIA on 20 documents about Argentine dictator Juan Peron. They refused the docs for "national security" reasons. Of course Juan's been dead for decades. I don't give a rat's ass what's in the files. Just fighting on the principle. Give 'em a run for their money, I say. I beat the Army on the Paperclip story. Took years, but I won the war.

I talked to you once on the phone if you recall. I was going to try to visit you, but got tied up moving to Pennsylvania. Wanted to talk to you about how the CIA got copies of your book in advance. At least I think that's what we discussed. Your FOIA experiences with the CIA.

Well, thank you again for your beautiful letter. I appreciate your kindness and your generous comments.

Please write if you can. Maybe I could finally visit you come spring. The weather's so terrible now I can't get out of this god-forsaken place out here in no man's land. I'm looking for a job in WARMER weather. Ready to move out of this iceberg.

Talk to you soon. Bless you. We are all so lucky to have benefited from your work. You have many fans, and I am one of them. I feel so fortunate to be able to correspond with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Hunt".

Linda Hunt

# Section 2

January 26, 1994



## Judging the Scientists Who Conducted Radiation Experiments

By Linda Hunt

**T**HE radiation research conducted during the 1940's and 1950's on citizens unaware of the dangers is, unfortunately, only the most recent revelation about our government's willingness to extend extraordinary freedom to scientists—in the name of national security and scientific progress. It will be instructive to see how government officials—and scientists themselves—react to those found to have been harmed in the radiation tests.

Too often in the past, government, as well as scientists and the scholars who write about science and technology, has treated the enterprise as amoral, an attitude that conveniently separates scientists from any odious aspects of their work. Lessons can be drawn from the radiation controversy about the way we in the United States have glossed over some of the unpleasant aspects of technological progress and avoided asking hard questions about the uses and misuses of science.

But, in fact, scholars and the general public did not need the recent controversy

to alert them to significant blind spots in our national obsession with scientific progress. Just last fall, the Ohio State University was embarrassed when controversy erupted over a stained-glass mural that enshrined an alleged Nazi war criminal among the pioneers of medicine. Hubertus Strughold, a former Luftwaffe colonel, was deified in the mural, called "The World History of Medicine," along with such medical giants as Louis Pasteur and Hippocrates. Often referred to as the "father of space medicine," Strughold helped design space capsules and the pressurized suits worn by U.S. astronauts.

But Strughold also was a Nazi doctor implicated in gruesome experiments performed on concentration-camp inmates at Dachau during World War II, when he was

director of the Luftwaffe's Institute for Aviation Medicine. Dozens of Dachau prisoners died horrible deaths as a result of being frozen, locked in airtight chambers, or injected with salt water in experiments that he oversaw.

After the war, while some of his colleagues were being tried at Nuremberg for these crimes, Strughold conveniently escaped prosecution when he was brought to America to work for the U.S. Air Force, under the auspices of the federal government's Project Paperclip. Paperclip was a secret military operation, conducted from 1945 to 1968, that brought German scientists to the United States to work for the military, as a way to keep them out of the hands of the Soviet Union.

Although Ohio State has covered Strughold's portrait and said that it plans to replace it, the glorification of Strughold there wasn't an isolated incident. Another recruit in the Paperclip Project, the rocket scientist Werner von Braun, has been li-

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## Judging the Scientists Who Conducted Radiation Tests

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ize someone who persecuted prisoners as long as he can help us get to the moon? Does scientific expertise cancel out Nazi misdeeds? How will we judge the scientists who conducted the radiation experiments that have come to light? Even if the experiments were designed to find out the "safe" levels of exposure to radiation, doesn't that mean the scientists and doctors involved must have known that some unwitting subjects would receive what would be found to be "unsafe" doses? Although some scientists have said that "informed

consent" was obtained, reports abound of former subjects who say they had no warnings about the extent of the risks to which they were exposed.

At Ohio State, officials claimed ignorance, saying they hadn't known that Strughold was a Nazi until the World Jewish Congress complained. But the mural had been on display at the university's School of Medicine since 1969. Doesn't anyone there read *The New York Times*? Strughold's Nazi past was front-page news in 1974, when the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service was investigating him. (The investigation was later dropped amid charges that someone in the government was protecting him.) Since then, numerous newspaper stories and books, including one I wrote on the history of Paperclip, have mentioned him.

But Strughold is just a recent example of a deeper problem. In eight years of researching and writing about Paperclip, I lost count of the number of times that I

heard academics remark: "They're not Nazis, they're just scientists." Removing the profession from the moral arena means that no one even questions the relevance of Strughold's and Rudolph's involvement in war crimes.

Most historians of science have either ignored or whitewashed the subject of our recruitment of scientists with Nazi pasts. The subject has been tackled only by a handful of former prosecutors of Nazi war crimes or by journalists like me. Other journalists who have looked into the issue

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include Christopher Simpson, the author of *Blowback*, a 1988 history of the U.S. government's employment of Nazi war criminals, and investigative pioneers such as Drew Pearson and Charles R. Allen. Many historians are specialists in the Holocaust, but they typically focus their research on the mass murder of Jews in the death camps rather than on the U.S. government's complicity with Nazi perpetrators.

One academic historian did try to tackle Paperclip directly. Clarence Lasby, a professor at the University of Texas at Austin, wrote a history of the project for his Ph.D. dissertation. A book based on his dissertation, *Project Paperclip*, was published in 1971. The book was a landmark, considering that Mr. Lasby could not gain access to key classified files under the version of the Freedom of Information Act then in effect. But Mr. Lasby's book also ignored the scientists' Nazi pasts, while glorifying their technical achievements.

Scholars who have written books about rocketry, space science, and aeromedicine frequently have been colleagues or close friends of the German scientists. So it is not surprising that they consistently portrayed men like von Braun or Mr. Rudolph in a favorable light. Furthermore, virtually the only publications that run historical articles about the V-2 or other German technology appropriated for the U.S. space program are defense-related magazines like *Air Force*, whose purview does not include critical moral judgments.

An example of this historical amnesia appeared in an article written by Frederick Ordway in the February/March 1993 issue of the Smithsonian Institution's *Air & Space* magazine. Mr. Ordway is a former NASA official who was a close friend of von Braun and co-author of *The Rocket Team*, a history of the German V-2 rocket program. In the article, he actually tried to trivialize the plight of prisoners at the Mittelbau-Dora rocket facility. Without citing a shred of evidence, Mr. Ordway dismissed as a "huge exaggeration" the U.S. Army's conclusion that 20,000 prisoners died at Dora. He argued that the V-2 program had been good for the prisoners, allegedly because their conditions improved once production began.

"What does that mean, improved?" exclaimed Joseph Jazbinsek, a survivor of the slave-labor camp at the Peenemünde rocket facility, when I showed him Ordway's claims. Imprisoned for his work with the French Resistance, Jazbinsek recalled that he had been arrested along with 23 others who were transported to Peenemünde and Dora. "At the end of the war, I was the only one alive. I don't see any improvement in that!" he said.

VICTIMS such as Mr. Jazbinsek pose a problem in aerospace histories: Their presence makes it difficult to portray as heroes the scientists who enslaved them. So their accounts are simply censored out of history. Honoring Nazi scientists, suppressing victims' views, and whitewashing history have resulted in the glorification of the technology of the V-2 rockets, which killed thousands of people during World War II.

The problems inherent in our glorification of science—and our tendency not to hold individual scientists responsible for their actions involving other human beings—have been apparent in the reaction to the recent disclosures about the radiation studies. Much of the reaction from academics has argued that scientists today face stricter controls on the use of human subjects than scientists did in past decades. But physicians involved in experiments certainly pledged even in the 1940's and 1950's, as they had since the time of Hippocrates, to "do no harm."

Let's hope that as the discussion evolves, we hear some new questions raised, including those that linger from past revelations in the 1970's about universities' involvement in Army and Central Intelligence Agency experiments in the 1950's, in which psycho-chemical drugs were given to unwitting subjects. Did the universities involved betray a public trust? Did the scientists consider some subjects expendable?

Let's hope, though, that we don't hear the excuse: "After all, they're just scientists."

Linda Hunt is assistant professor of journalism at Pennsylvania State University and author of *Secret Agenda: The United States Government, Nazi Scientists, and Project Paperclip, 1945-1990* (St. Martin's Press, 1991).