

Dear Jim, Your 8/15/75 to Stetler 8/16/75

Thanks. Will also enjoy it. She read it first.

Should they write me about this my response will be that with the indications I have of their concepts and impartiality I see no reason to waste time I can better spend on what will not mislead people and may produce that for which they and others will credit those whose careers are of deception. Something like it. I'll not explain the multiple errors in the line you quote, either.

There is a coincidence in this I'll take time for or I'll forget it. With the new routing our mail comes earlier, as I noticed on returning from a trip into town for some xeroxing (12¢ a page at the cheapest place here now) for a reporter who is weekending here. 10 a.m. Wow! Been up to after 1 p.m.

In the course of revising the addition to PM I thought it would be a good idea to give the uninformed reader a notion of what is known about these tests and how long it has been known. Well, what I have is merely what a couple of students got for me without any trouble, from standard library sources. One, as you know, is a girl I saw only that one time - a stranger and not an assassination buff. Merely a concerned young citizen. (She did, by the provide at least something along the line I've been wanting, the statistical need. Now I know I'm right and am more convinced than ever that we'll find this in a teaching text.) When college starts up again I have high expectations from another young woman, one reading my work and correspondence with me persuaded to become a lawyer.

The potential of these tests is fantastic. Spectrography goes back a century! Photography with it not less than 40 years.

Paul and Lifton both studied this and neither remembered enough to be willing on their own or after I asked both?

Paul is a physicist. PhD in it yet. And he says Lifton, the engineer, knows more. Lifton says his friends include authentic experts.

I think we need no more reading on either and the intentions of either.

The truth is that common sense alone tells the least informed, the least scientific minded, that statistics are utterly indispensable with both tests. One needs no knowledge. So, both had to know without my asking and prodding.

The same is true of Bob Smith, who regarded and wrote about my suit as the GTIA's from the first of the first suit. He never responded to me on anything and whatever he may have given Bud was worthless or Bud didn't understand it. I did ask him to get this most basic info not later than 1970. Cyril and McCollom, too.

Perhaps in the end it will be better this way. If only you and I are involved we can be certain that there will be no irresponsibility. There remains great potential I've never discussed with you because, if this effort fails, it remains an alternative. Our problem was the usual one, money. I was not unaware. We just can't get \$50 each for each of the spectrographic plates. None of these scientific geniuses has yet tumbled to this or if any has he has forgotten it. It could cost \$5,000. With luck we'll not need them. But we can go back for them any time we want to and we both saw them and can describe them. (I think the \$50 price was only a lie to discourage us.)

We both thank you. If Stetler is a different kind of cat you may have done other good.

Best,

filed Scott, P.D.

Dear Jim,

8/25/75

You probably will not like the manner of my addressing Paul, with copies to his antologu colleagues. I do have reasons and not only my disgust at the nature of his stoneheaded non-response to your letter.

I did want to cut him and his pose of omniscience down a bit, to himself and to the others.

I did want to register contempt, disgust and again the belief that the work, from concept or execution, is not the thing they pretend but ~~you~~ represents the attempt to justify preconceptions, political in nature, as well as commercialism.

Probably I had other objectives I'm not taking time to go into. I do want to get back to writing.

In the past I've tried to break with Paul giving him, to himself, the appearance of doing the breaking.

In recent years I've had a little experience with people who have unrecognized emotional problems, not only in this field.

So, I think it is in Paul's interest to give him still another excuse to regard me as a crusty old bastard nobody can please. This way he can tell himself that is not true, that he wants nothing more to do with me and not that I want nothing more to do with him.

He has become quite literally dishonest, and the example you noted is a little less significant than what I spotted in the chapter from Earl Allen.

You will remember the joke I told you Saturday, that some of the reading-room people told I think it is Floyd that I sent students and others to the Archives to work for me. It was Lind, who also said I've spent more time in the Archives than anyone else. And I'm rarely there! Now that is.

Well, what Paul lies about in that chapter is that I sent Gary and Hal Verb there for ~~eg.~~ I also paid for everything and put them up here. It was my work, for me, and Paul, to whom I sent copies, knows it. He has to lie this way to live with himself. I have no desire to further share that kind of living. (With a back like mine it was quite painful to stand at the machine and make all these copies, too. And they cost me considerably more than commercial xeroxing.)

= This is his way of justifying to himself an ethical breach that could not be more deliberate and recognized.

Now that his doctorate is utterly worthless (he selected a specialty that no longer exists) he has this ambition.

He has done much work, much of it, unlike the melody, excellent. But it lacks meaning because he has done nothing with it. The one way he could see was doing what he has known since not later than 11/67 I was doing. I then gave him copies of the appendix to O in NC. The only reason I didn't give him more than is because there was no copying time. I did take these papers with me for him to copy in S&F. Until after that he gave me nothing. And while his research has been done with precision, actual significance attaches only to noticing the existence of the 1/22 secretypists tape. Secretly and I think unrecognizedly this is what really galls him.

If that melody and other matters, like Alvarez, still nag, I can cut all of this on his emotional problems. Even after his refusal to do what he could and should have on the spectro suit. I think his personal work is the real reason he refused to do that, although I am aware that his feelings about me could have had some influence.

Meanwhile, you and he can have any association you want. I could have ignored this because he did not write me a letter. I elected not to.

-ect,

RUSSELL STETLER & TRACY THOMPSON  
424 NORTH STREET, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94609

November 25, 1975

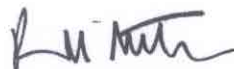
Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Route 12  
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg,

Susan Bolotin has asked me to reply to your letter of October 30. I was sorry to learn of your ill health, particularly insofar as it limits your work at this time. In any event, I fully understand your inability to look into the Milteer matters about which I wrote you. It is much too late in the production schedule to eliminate your materials from the anthology. I'm sorry that you are apprehensive about our overall selection, but I trust that you will experience some relief when you receive the finished book and have a chance to read everything in context.

I note that your letter also raises the question of compensation. We could not pay contributors until our final costs were known, but I expect that we will be sending out the checks next month.

Yours sincerely,



Russell Stetler

5/2/76

# The times that try the souls of us all

---

## THE ASSASSINATIONS:

### Dallas and Beyond

By Peter Dale Scott,  
Paul Hoch & Russell Stetler  
Random House. \$15  
Vintage (paper). \$5.95

---

Reviewed by  
Lenora E. Berson

"The Assassinations" is a collection of critiques of official versions of the murders of public figures. Its selections were chosen from works by the leading contributors to assassination literature, including Mark Lane, Sylvia Meagher, Josiah Thompson, and Harold Weisberg, with bits from Jack Anderson, Gore Vidal, Tad Szulc, E. Howard Hunt and Lyndon Johnson.

Reading through this potpourri is a strange experience, with more questions raised than answered. The questions raised are not always the ones the compilers of this guide to cover-ups and investigations want the reader to ask.

The first section of the book, about three-fifths of its pages, deals with the assassination of John F. Kennedy. This section's four chapters include discussions of the Warren Commission Report and its failings, examination of new evidence since the report was published, six different reconstructions of the events at Dealy Plaza and a chapter called "The Commission, The Critics and The Press."

While most now believe that the Warren Commission's version leaves a good deal to be desired, the critics' versions of the assassination are even more confused and contradictory. Most of them would have us believe that Oswald was innocent. They contend that he was framed, but they never answer by whom, for what purposes and how. One researcher purports to prove Oswald's innocence through a stress-machine analysis of a few Oswald sentences that were taped while he was in the Dallas jail.

Another critic claims that for the Warren Commission's contention that Oswald alone shot Kennedy to hold water, the commission had to prove that Oswald also shot Officer Tippit shortly after the president was murdered. This critic claims that eyewitness descriptions of Tippit's killer are at variance not only with each other but with Oswald's appearance that day.

Much is made of a home movie shot by Abraham Zapruder who, coming to see the President's triumphal tour, had inadvertently recorded his murder. In the film, Kennedy's head is seen to move sharply backward after he received a fatal head wound. One set of critics says that this head wound could only come from a bullet fired from in front of Kennedy. Another group insists that the shot was fired from behind Kennedy and that propulsion from brain fragments moved the president's head backward. All the critics claim that Kennedy was shot by more than one assassin, though none can name the other culprits or agree on their location.

The effect of reading this portion of "The Assassinations" is to make the original skeptic more respectful of the Warren Commission report. In contrast with the critics' versions, the report offers a simple and coherent explanation.

The second portion of the book deals with the assassinations of Robert Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. It also details the relationships between Watergate and assassination figures. A spotlight is turned on the shadowy activities of the nation's secret police and intelligence communities and their ties with the underworld. It delineates some of the criminal plots hatched by an unholy alliance against Castro and speculates on the connection between these activities and the death of the President.

The suspicions aroused by this portion of the book have less to do with the commission's reconstruction of the events at Dallas and more to do with the motivation that propelled the assassination. This segment of the book also creates profound doubt about the ability of a democratic society to long endure in a nation where policy is increasingly influenced by the CIA, FBI and military intelligence.

Lenora Berson is a Philadelphia author and freelance journalist.