ILLUMINATUS, PART I

THE EYE IN THE PYRAMID

Robert Shea
and
Robert Anton Wilson

A DELL BOOK
ernment. Spent the last seventeen years of his life receiving treatment in St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington, D.C., occupying the same quarters that once housed the ingenious poet Ezra Pound. His rantings were taken seriously in certain places, especially among some leftward-leaning fellow scientists, but the Vice-President described them to the press as "the despondent demagogy of a paranoid pedant." A sample of the man's delusions, from a letter to the three top television networks (never quoted on newscasts because it was too controversial): "The boast of the 19th century was its conquest of these accursed plagues that attack men, women, and helpless infants indifferently. What shall be said of the 20th century, which has recreated them, at great expense and through the efforts of thousands of brilliant but perverted scientific minds, and then stored them live in installations throughout the country, where it is virtually certain, statistically, that an accident will unleash them upon an unsuspecting public, sooner or later?" (Loonies often harbor morbid fears of that sort.) The poor man never responded favorably to any of the efforts of his psychiatrists, even though they gave him ECT (electro-convulsive therapy) so often that his brain was practically fried to the crispness of a Howard Johnson omelette by the time he finally died.

ANTHRAX LEPROSY DELTA. A life form that could exist only by destroying other life-forms; in this respect, it was like many of us. The first of the products of Charlie Mocenigo's fertile genius, it could boast only of being ten times as deadly as ordinary anthrax. Insofar as it had consciousness, in a vague and flickering way, it was like that inhabiting a subway train at 5 P.M., concerned only with getting where it was going and then eating. The other strains were much the same, up to Anthrax Leprosy Pi.

LEE HARVEY OSWALD. Hero of a series of novels by Harold Weissbuurg — including Whitewash, Whitewash II Photographic Whitewash and Oswald in New Orleans. Of another novel, entitled Report of the Residual Commission on the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy, by Earl Warren, John McCone, et al. Also featured in other works of fiction by Mark am...


"Illuminatus III" by Robert Shea, featuring contributions from Penn Jones, Josiah Thompson, and other writers.

Jack Ruby: The Oliver Hardy to Oswald's Stanley Laurel.

Thomas Jefferson: A revolutionary hemp-grower who once wrote, "[The clergy] believe that any portion of power confided to me, will be exerted in opposition to their schemes. And they believe rightly: for I have sworn upon the altar of God eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man. But this is all they have to fear from me: and enough too in their opinion." Few of the pious tourists who read the italicized portion of this statement carved on the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C., are aware of its context.

The Schizophrenic in Cherry Knolls Hospital: His number was 124041. Nobody, anywhere, remembered what his name had been.

Mary Lou: "Mum." She finally married Jim Riley, the dope dealer from Dayton—but that's another, rather long-ish, story, and not truly relevant.

Mayor Richard Daley: Author of such immortal aphorisms as "After all, I am a liberal myself" (October 22, 1968); "The policeman isn't there to create disorder, the policeman is... the slums, did I?" (September 3, 1968); "Together we must rise to ever higher and higher platitudes" (March 13, 1967).

The Russian Premier: A comsymp.

Charles Mocenigo's Father: A professional. He worked...

Leviathan: Great Quake, When a State Dies, mentions on page 123 that "no American Eagle has since been reported, and we can only assume that this species was another victim of nature's mindless rampage on that tragic May 1." On page 369, Dr. Troll mentions, among prominent casualties, "The famous... J. Trepomena." Neither he nor anyone else ever connected the two occurrences.

Where are the missing eight appendices? Answer: Censored.

The Schizophrenic in Chicago's Insane Asylum: Considerations on the Insanity of Insane Asylums.

The Characters:

Additional Information About Some of the Characters:

George Dorn: His maternal grandfather, old Charlie Bishop, was once a patient of the famous Doctor William Williams. The Bishops came to New York in 1792, where a small fire destroyed the Bishop's home.

Charles Mocenigo: His father was a patient of the famous Doctor William Williams. The Bishops came to New York in 1792, where a small fire destroyed the Bishop's home.

Lord Omar Khayyam Ravenhurst: An imaginary Chaoist philosopher invented by Mr. Kerry Thornley of Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. Thornley was a friend of Lee Harvey Oswald's, was accused of complicity in the John Kennedy assassination by District Attorney Jim Garrison, and is the author of Illuminati Lady, an endless epic poem which you really ought to read.

ImitAcr. Errus: He was apt to say odd things. Once he even wrote that "Religious ceremonies are unholy." A strange duck.

The Squirrel: A set of receptor organs transmitting information through a central nervous system to a small...
brain programmed for only a few rudimentary decisions—but, in this, he was not far inferior to most of our characters.

REBECCA GOODMAN.

Her maiden name was Murphy, and she was named after Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm. You thought she was Jewish, didn’t you?

THE DEAD EGYPTIAN MOUTH-BREEDERS.

There were five of them, of course.

DANNY PRICEFIXER.

Shot in the line of duty two years after the events of this story. Loved the music of Johann Sebastian Bach.

ADAM WEISHAUPT.

“He’s a deep one,” they used to say on the faculty of the University of Ingolstadt, “you never know what he’s really thinking.”

CARMEL.

One of his girls once cajoled a Hollywood character actor into calling him on the phone and pretending to be a researcher for the Kinsey Institute, seeking an interview. And when? “At five-thirty in the morning,” said the girl. ... For once Carmel was speechless. The girl spread the story, and everybody in the lab knew. For some other reason, no one could come up with a reasonable explanation. “We heard there was a little problem with the lab’s telephone system,” said one of the students, “but we’re sure it’s nothing to worry about.”

PETER JACKSON.

His great-grandfather was a slave. His son became the first President of the Luna Federation after the rebellion of the moon colonists in 2025. Much further back, the Jacksons were slave owners. “We were part of the solution, part of the problem,” Cleaver replied. “That’s the way it goes.” (Cleaver was once quoted as saying, “The solution to the problem is the problem. The problem is the solution.”)

THE LAB CHIEF WHO WAS DISINTERESTED IN ANTHRAX.