

# Spy novelist Hunt writes, lives espionage escapades

Watergate has made E. Howard Hunt famous. To a few readers he was famous long before Watergate under pseudonyms such as Robert Dietrich and David St. John. Hunt has written 47 books. Many of which are being republished now.

As with most authors, fame has brought about an intense re-evaluation of Hunt's books. To learn more about this the Daily Nebraskan visited Prof. Holly Graille, an authority on Hunt's "yellow period". (These are Hunt's earliest novels so called because of the yellow legal pads he scribbled them on.)

## bruce nelson ex libra

Daily Nebraskan: We all know that Hunt's work is highly symbolic. Would you expand on this as evidenced in Hunt's yellow period?

Graille: Ah yes! This was an important formative phase of Hunt's writing career. Some Freudian scholars even think that the yellow legal pads were subconscious desires striving for honesty and truth.

Daily Nebraskan: Do you agree with that assessment?

Graille: No, I don't. Honesty and truth have never been prominent themes in Hunt's work. Besides I feel the "red period" definitely destroys the Freudian argument. The red period is when Hunt actually played out his spy escapades, for instance, his involvement in the Bay of Pigs fiasco. Of course, in real life everything failed and we begin to see self-destructiveness and self-hate surface in his characters.

For example, James Bomb reveals this attitude of self-hate in a highly emotional scene in which Bomb puts out a fire in his hair with an icepick.

But the red period is most associated with paranoia. Hunt's book, "The Spy Who Was Left in the Cold" is said to be the Bible of paranoia.

Daily Nebraskan: Were there any specific things in Hunt's life which you feel have shaped his writings?

Graille: Yes. I think he was deeply influenced by early scripts of "The Man From U.N.C.L.E." television show. Hunt even submitted 143 scripts of his own, but they were all rejected for being unrealistic.

Daily Nebraskan: There are many scholars who are bothered by Hunt's lack of realism. Do you consider it a problem?

Graille: Well, some of his poorer works are not realistic such as *Mad Vice and Consent*. It's the story of a two-time loser who finally becomes president. The hero then fails to fulfill any campaign promises and is re-elected in one of the biggest landslides ever. He then is beset by corruption in his administration, and his vice-president resigns, along with several others. In the end the people feel sorry for him and nominate him for king. As you can see, the story is so unbelievable I doubt it could ever happen in a democracy.

Daily Nebraskan: What is going to happen to Hunt now?

Graille: Well he's going to have a lot of free time to write. I think his future as a writer is secure. All great writers have spent time in prison, Dostoyevsky and Clifford Irving to mention only two. In fact, I've heard that Hunt already is working on his masterpiece. It's an expose on the White House entitled *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.

## Sopwith reissue better left unreleased

Review by Bill Kohlhaase  
The Sopwith Camel, *Hello Hello*.

This album is one of those reissues that was better left to collect the dust it deserves. Sopwith Camel was one of those rock groups who could have fun with their music and they do just that in many places here. The title song is one of those good old songs complete with tinkling piano from a musical era you can't quite put your finger on. The games continue through side one with songs like "Little Orphan Annie."

It's when the band tries to leave the games behind and attempts a "straight" song that they can't be taken seriously. The lyrics to songs like "Cellophane Woman" are as laughable as anything on the album.

It seems odd that a band as musically sound as this one appears to be would employ so many trite gimmicks. The enjoyable "Maybe In A Dream" shows what this band was capable of. But the two-minute piece is hardly worth the price of the album and the time one spends listening to the rest of it.

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