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BOOKS IN REVIEW

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Through the World of Cloak and Dagger

GREAT TRUE SPY STORIES. Edited by Allen Dulles. 393 pages. Harper & Row. \$6.95.

Reviewed by

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If you came in late on the wonderful world of spies and counterspies, of codes and ciphers and deceptions on an international scale, here is a good way to get caught up on what has happened in the last 2,000 years.

Allen W. Dulles, a spymaster himself of considerable attainments and until recently the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, provides illuminating commentary and brief introductions to the stories that have been collected from books and magazines.

It is somewhat surprising to find an excerpt from The Memoirs of Jacques Casanova until one remembers that Casanova, in addition to his better-known activities, car-

ried on secret missions when those enterprises were proposed to him.

Casanova's account of his visit to the English fleet at Dunkirk during the Seven Years' War shows that he had some skill as an undercover operator. Dulles points out that he breaks a cardinal rule of espionage by making himself conspicuous with complaints about the customs inspection. Yet he may have been displaying expert psychology, Dulles acknowledges.

Spying didn't begin with Casanova but is as old as history, for always men have wanted to know, for one reason or another, what their neighbors were doing or thinking or planning.

Dulles has separated his accounts in divisions representative of various activities. First, there is "penetration," the business of putting, or subverting, a spy in a position where he will be able to operate effectively. There is,

for instance, the story of Cicero, the Albanian who was valet for the British ambassador in Ankara and who sold British dispatches to the Germans. (The Germans didn't believe him and paid him in counterfeit pound notes.) Dulles himself, then operating in Berne, had a hand in uncovering Cicero.

There is too an excerpt from The Penkovskiy Papers, supposedly the output of Col. Oleg Penkovskiy, a Russian who was recruited by the West. The papers have been somewhat tarnished since their publication by the disclosure of the almost certain involvement in their publication of the CIA. In fact, Dulles uses the "iy" spelling of the Russian's name, a spelling employed by the CIA.

The section on the organization of espionage contains accounts of General Wessing's efforts to gain knowledge of the British; of Richard Sorge, perhaps the most suc-

who from Tokyo provided Russia with information of great value, of the Rote Capelle that spied for Russia in Germany and of the atom spy ring that was active in the United States.

Double agents — Col. Stig Wennerstrom of the Swedish Air Force was one — and defectors are here. There are accounts of setting a spy to catch a spy, for counterespionage goes arm in arm with espionage.

Then there are Constance Babington-Smith's fascinating account of photo interpretation and Lewis L. Strauss' description of the first detection of the explosion of a Russian nuclear bomb.

The deception of an adversary is covered by Herodotus' tale of the horrible and costly but successful procedure that led to the fall of the Persian Empire. The segment — all too brief but perhaps enough to send the reader to the book itself —

by Ewen Montague, certainly one of the most fascinating espionage tales to come out of World War II.

Some of the excerpts are short, hardly enough to give the reader a taste of the total story — such as the Montague piece on the deception set up to throw the Germans off the truth before the invasion of Europe in 1944 — and some are considerably longer — there is, for instance, the account of the desperately inefficient underground operation in Holland which the Germans took over and ran for months without the headquarters in England any the wiser — but all in all the book provides for the newcomer something of a road map through the world of espionage and a tourist's account of the wonders that more time and interest can provide.

Charles H. Spilman is managing editor of the Providence