

BRIEFLY NOTED

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WITHOUT CLOAK OR DAGGER: THE TRUTH ABOUT THE NEW ESPIONAGE, by Miles Copeland (Simon & Schuster). As Huey Long said of himself, this book is *sui generis*—nothing like anything else published about spying and secret services. The author, a graduate of the O.S.S. and C.I.A., admits that the book was conceived in exasperation, because the rest of us have everything all wrong and he wants to set us straight. (Luckily, his style is not cranky but clear, funny, and frank.) Intelligence-gathering, he tells us, is mostly that—using your brains. He offers a sad illustration from the Second World War: an O.S.S.-Resistance team around Clermont-Ferrand risked their lives to report on the success of Allied bombing of north-south railways, while a far-removed deskman could determine the situation by checking the price of oranges in Paris, which rose when rail service was interrupted and fell when it was restored. Copeland tells about several nations' Intelligence activities, and maintains that espionage is only a tiny fraction of their work. Further, he systematically debunks the glamour of that fraction: a spy ("agent") is usually a minor figure who has been seduced into betraying secrets for money, and derring-do is a proof of failure. Readers with highly colored imaginations may be disappointed by the book's matter-of-fact practicalities, but those who harbor an invincible opposition to the C.I.A. will doubtless consider it a whitewash. That it is not. The corruption of human beings and the covert manipulation of men, women, and institutions is not an attractive business; while Intelligence work (as Copeland portrays it) may not be bloody, it is no career for a sensitive conscience.