



kindle

Aleister Crowley in America: Art, Espionage, and Sex Magick in the New World

van Churton, Tobias

Gratis Kindle Instant Preview: <https://read.amazon.com/kp/kshare?asin=B06Y1VHCZX>

58 Highlights | Geel (58)

Pagina 23

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 23

There was of course one Englishman who was working hard to become a “leading Englishman” and who would shortly appear even more outspoken in his desire for an alliance, and that was twenty-four-year-old poet, mountaineer, and magical enthusiast Aleister Crowley: like Chamberlain, a supporter, albeit a critical one, of Lord Salisbury’s Tory government. What perhaps is most striking about the coincidence of interests of Colonial Secretary Chamberlain and the firebrand poet recently down from university is that Edward Alexander Crowley—“Aleister” was his pen name—had entered Cambridge with every intention of assuming a career in Britain’s diplomatic service. Had all passed as intended, Crowley would probably have been knocking on Chamberlain’s door in search of preferment around the time the Tribune article appeared.

Pagina 25

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 25

That year 1895 also saw Anne Crowley’s talented, potentially high-flying nephew enter Trinity College, Cambridge—alma mater to Lord Salisbury’s three half brothers and ideal portal to a life of political and philosophical intrigue. That Lord Salisbury was on the lookout for young men of ability can hardly be doubted, and it is the prompting of this thought, together with the evidential presence of a series of espionage connections in Crowley’s later life, that encouraged Richard B. Spence, professor of history at the University of Idaho, to flesh out his theory that Crowley’s links to corridors of power led to recruitment at Cambridge into the secret service.² RECRUITED

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 27

We know that young Crowley involved himself with “Carlist” and “Legitimist” politics, including armed subterfuges in 1899. In fact, a tangled web joins Crowley’s Carlist activities to the immediate consequences of Spain’s defeat by the United States, and it was to be that web of intrigue that stimulated Crowley’s first voyage to America in July 1900. On July 27, 1899, the New York Times published a surprising story that the former governor of Cuba, Don Valeriano Weyler y Nicolau (1838–1930), was suspected of plotting a coup d’état in Spain with the Carlists. The Carlists were a traditionalist faction that backed the claim of Don Carlos de Bourbon, the Duke of Madrid, to the Spanish throne. The story was especially surprising because before he assumed Cuba’s governorship in 1896, Weyler, with characteristic thoroughness, had actively suppressed several Carlist revolts in Spain. Indeed it was the transference of Weyler’s uncompromising zeal to Cuba that in part precipitated the Spanish-American War in the first place. Pushing for U.S. intervention in the Cuban revolt, William Randolph Hearst’s “yellow press” dubbed Weyler “the Butcher.” Before resigning as Cuba’s governor in 1897, Weyler had introduced “re-concentration,” a phrase soon to be modified into the now infamous “concentration camp” for separating insurgents from civilian support by incarcerating civilians in resettlements. Back in Spain, horrified by capitulation to America, Weyler sought national redemption. A headline in New York’s Sun newspaper (July 27, 1899) declared:

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 29

In May 1898, in a speech to the Primrose League that was widely reported in the States and that angered many in Madrid, Lord Salisbury described Spain as a “moribund nation” and recommended that its government adopt a realistic acceptance of the United States’ role in the conflict; Salisbury believed that the United States’ growth was in Britain’s long-term interest. His position as regards a Spanish revolution was typically cautious. Informed of Lord Ashburnham’s Legitimist activism, Salisbury did not, as far as we know, directly interfere with the Catholic peer’s elaborate plans to send weapons and mercenary support to Don Carlos in Spain. However, with Spain and the United States on the brink of war, Salisbury did receive a confidential note from Britain’s ambassador in Madrid, Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff, concerning “very hostile currents which may overwhelm the dynasty and perhaps the monarchical institutions, in the event of any grave reverse.”⁴ An Austrian queen regent represented the “dynasty” while the crown prince—of a cadet branch of the Bourbons—was too young to ascend the throne. Pretender Don Carlos was the senior Bourbon and hence “legitimate” claimant. A possibility existed that should a Carlist coup fail, a victorious republican faction might abolish monarchy altogether: a possible threat to monarchies across Europe. Judging from a letter of April 28, 1899, sent by Paul von Hatzfeldt (1831–1901), German ambassador to London, to Freidrich Holstein (1837–1909), éminence grise of the German Foreign Office, after von Hatzfeldt had met Lord Salisbury in person, Salisbury’s concerns about a Spanish revolution were influenced by the thought that if revolution did lead to the monarchy’s overthrow in favor of a Spanish republic then a weak Portugal was vulnerable to combined French-Spanish republicanism. There were other implications. In the unlikely event of pretender “Carlos VII” achieving his aims, Don Carlos’s claim to be “Charles XI,” legitimate Bourbon king of France, could, if pressed, substantially upset the continental status quo. Legitimists, after all, believed Queen Victoria and her Hanoverian predecessors were not Great Britain’s legitimate rulers, on account of the British Parliament having blocked a legitimate House of Stuart from succession to the throne for religio-political reasons back in 1701. In 1899, British Legitimists not only supported Don Carlos but had a Stuart pretender in line for the British throne as well. Supporters of the Stuarts were commonly called “Jacobites,” after the Latin Jacobus, or “James,” referring to James Francis Edward Stuart (1688–1766), “legitimate” pretender to the British throne. Aleister Crowley was a lifelong Jacobite sympathizer, though his views would mellow with maturity.

Pagina 31

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 31

To the end of his life, Aleister Crowley regarded himself as a High Tory with an anarchic spin, a believer in aristocracy and spiritual tradition. Whether he inherited the Jacobite strand of old Tory tradition from his activist Aunt Annie is unknown, but somewhere along the track Crowley, by the age of twenty-three, had acquired enthusiasm for Legitimist beliefs, if for no other reason than that they were romantic and squarely against the tendency of the times, whose mood promised democracy, socialism, evangelicalism, more materialism—and ultimately, he believed, social and economic disaster.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 34

Before Ashburnham's arms run hit the skids, Crowley had already met his second link to Legitimism, Samuel Liddell Mathers (1854–1918), a man up to his neck in Legitimist conspiracy. From a Paris base at 87 Rue Mozart, Auteuil, Mathers ran the secret Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, as well as a web of pro-Legitimist contacts throughout the Western world.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 35

Famously initiated into the Golden Dawn magical order in November 1898 as Perdurabo, Crowley received not only training in gnostic magic and Masonic-style neo-Rosicrucianism but also a framework of spiritual attainment that, for better or worse, gave the rest of his life its essential structure and much of its meaning. What perhaps is curious is that in Crowley's account, his introduction to Mathers followed an allegedly chance encounter with Londoner Julian Levett Baker (1873–1958). An analytical chemist working close to the brewing industry, Baker had been initiated into the Golden Dawn on June 16, 1894, taking as his motto, *Causa scientiae* ("for the cause of knowledge"). A few months later, George Cecil Jones was initiated. He and Baker had become friends at the City of London School. Baker and Jones also shared an interest in chemistry's origins in alchemy, though it was Jones who was most immersed in the medieval tradition.*⁸ It seems likely that it was fellow chemist Allan Bennett who first recommended Baker to the GD (Bennett had been initiated in February 1894.) Bennett and Jones would become close friends of Crowley after Crowley and Jones first met in October 1898. A surviving envelope of picturesque hotel stationery, once containing a letter to Gerald Kelly at his parents' house at Camberwell Rectory, London, pinpoints the occasion of Crowley's meeting with Baker. It was sent by Crowley—mountaineering at the time—from the Hôtel Mont Rose, Zermatt, Switzerland, and postmarked July 25, 1898.⁸ From the time scale, it looks as though

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 39

easily as Crowley ascended to the upper echelons of the Golden Dawn—without bothering, or feeling able, to cozy up to the dominant faction of the London Isis-Urania Temple—he familiarized himself with the Legitimist plot to secure Carlist victory in Spain. He claimed in his Confessions to have been knighted by an unnamed lieutenant of Don Carlos for his services, whatever that might mean. It probably happened at Ashburnham's Welsh estate where in 1899 Carlist volunteers expecting to serve in Spain's northern provinces conveniently received training. Surviving

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 40

Spence poses the question: What if Crowley was encouraged to involve himself with Mathers's affairs so that he could inform on the Order chief's clandestine political activities? Spence believes Crowley's subsequent conduct—his role in the April 1900 revolt that split the Order apart amid exposure of Mathers's antiestablishment politics, for example—attains greater intelligibility when seen as Crowley operating as agent provocateur executing a secret mission.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 42

Crowley had read Golden Dawn member A. E. Waite's *The Book of Black Magic and of Pacts* (1898) and ensuing correspondence with Waite had, Crowley stated, when joined to Baker and Jones's promptings, crystallized his desire to approach the secret body of adepts of spiritual wisdom. Following Spence's hypothesis, by using chemist-chemist Baker to get into the Golden Dawn, Crowley could enter the Legitimist conspiracy while simultaneously satisfying his interests in magical psychology and spiritual effects, interests common to other distinguished men of Trinity College. These included Crowley's older friend, barrister, naval officer, and—note—World War I intelligence officer, the Honorable Francis Henry Everard Joseph Feilding (1867–1937), and Britain's leading anthropologist, James George Frazer (1854–1941), author of the classic *The Golden Bough: A Study in Comparative Religion* (1890), which greatly influenced Crowley's thinking about religion when he lived in America.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 46

As far as Crowley was concerned, the purposes of the White (magic) Brotherhood included the integrity of Great Britain and—as we shall see—Britannia's future alliance with the United States of America.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 83

At the Democrats' National Convention in Kansas, meanwhile, William Jennings Bryan received presidential nomination with Adlai Ewing Stevenson as his running mate, the nomination delayed over conflict concerning Bryan's "16 to 1" ratio of silver to gold proposition—as against McKinley's insistence on "sound money" (gold). While the Tribune lampooned Bryan with a cartoon of him sporting a crown asserting "I am democracy!" standing high on the shoulders of figures representing "Anarchy" and "Spoils" (Trusts), Bryan's rhetoric remains noticeably in tune with Crowley's poetic strictures as to the United States' future. Advocating resistance to the temptation of imperialism, while embracing the social advantages of "free silver," Bryan declared, "The nation is of age and it can do what it pleases; it can spurn the traditions of the past; it can repudiate the principles upon which the nation rests; it can employ force instead of reason; it can substitute might for right; it can conquer weaker people; it can exploit their lands, appropriate their property, and kill their people; but it cannot repeal the moral law or escape the punishment decreed for the violation of human rights." Republicans, in their turn, propagandized that Bryan was a dangerous fanatic, a religious nut supported by anarchists.³

Pagina 107

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 107

In Mexico City, Crowley "assisted" (Don Jesús presumably) in the "morning invocations." Crowley considered the L.I.L. conception "sublime" and wondered how things turned out later; so might we, but no record has come to light, and the invisible light remains invisible. Though he does not tell us when he met the Don (a general Spanish honorific), and this is significant, he relates that Don Jesús was so impressed by his knowledge of Qabalah (as Crowley preferred to spell it), that he initiated Crowley into the Scottish, or Ancient & Accepted Rite, even to the ne plus ultra of Additional Degree Freemasonry: the 33rd degree. We then hear about the many Americans with whom Crowley became chummy, especially in gambling houses and various ranches (some private, some country hotels) and of various con tricks and crooked investments being regularly pulled on the unsuspecting. One place he frequented involved a "delicious" electric tram ride from the city to Tacubaya, where a luxurious casino with long tables stacked with silver dollars dominated the tourist resort. For those with the cash, Mexico had become a fun-seeker's paradise. Crowley didn't altogether like this sort of thing but was interested in what made the American gamblers tick.

Pagina 109

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 109

Where Spence may have got his idea from, I cannot tell, but it's rather intriguing nonetheless. According to Spence, Edward Doheny (whom we brushed past in chapter 2) sought oil concessions in Mexico for his Pan-American Petroleum Company even as admiral of the British Royal Navy John Fisher (1841–1920) was advocating to superiors his conviction that the world's greatest navy should change over from steam to oil. Fisher believed, against the huge investment already made in coal-fired ships, that oil was the future. There was, however, not much of it to be had.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 109

Enter Weetman Pearson, British director of one of the world's biggest and most successful construction companies, especially successful in Mexico. According to Spence, the same month Crowley leaves Mexico, Pearson arrives with an overriding interest in oil concessions from Porfirio Díaz. Spence wonders if Crowley had not somehow smoothed the way through Masonic links (Jesús de Medina and his Scottish Rite) with Díaz, or perhaps simply through gaining useful intelligence on what the Americans were about by earning trust, gaining confidences, listening to contacts, and keeping his ear to the ground. As Pearson was fabulously successful from 1901, where Mexican oil was concerned, Spence speculates that Crowley could have made himself useful at a critical time, his cover being essentially that of eccentric British gentleman indulging a personal obsession with mountaineering, poetry, and pulchritudinous pleasure.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 109

Odd perhaps, but not entirely implausible. For a start, we do have to face the curious fact that while Crowley's Mexican sojourn is generally remembered for climbing exploits with Eckenstein, Crowley had already been in the country for five months before Eckenstein even arrived. He describes at one point in his Confessions being so stimulated by the daily sight of the heights to be conquered that he was tempted to go mountaineering alone, but from a sense of comradeship with Eckenstein he waited until his friend's arrival in December before assaulting the peaks. It obviously will not do to say that Crowley's sole purpose in going to Mexico was mountaineering; Crowley was a man very easily bored and frustrated. However, there are immediate problems with Spence's hypothetical scenario, as listed below.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 110

No tangible evidence exists pointing directly to an operation of British intelligence involving Crowley. Indeed, Spence's particular scenario is only conceivable if the hypothesis of Crowley's "Cambridge recruitment" and supposed subsequent activity as a state-primed agent provocateur is true. That scenario remains, however, hypothetical at best. One might speculate that Crowley was executing clandestine services for Pearson alone, but you would never suppose such a possibility without prior acquaintance with Spence's general hypothesis. A detail, but not insignificant: Admiral John Fisher was not Second Sea Lord in 1900 to 1901, as Spence has him.*⁴⁴ Until promotion to that position in 1902, Fisher was entitled to lobby at informal gatherings but not instigate fundamental policy.⁴ The head of the Naval Intelligence Department from March 20, 1899, to November 14, 1902, was Rear Admiral Reginald N. Cunstance. From March 1901, Fisher and Cunstance were opponents within infranaval politics; Cunstance was doing Fisher no favors.⁵ Other than Crowley's friend Everard Feilding, who was in the Royal Naval Reserve, and possibly Captain Vincent English of the Royal Navy (retired), who captained Ashburnham's Firefly, we do not know if Crowley enjoyed significant Royal Navy connections in 1900. Lack of such would probably have made his services unacceptable to naval intelligence in 1900 to 1901. Spence supposes that a Masonic link between Don Jesús Medina and President Porfirio Díaz might have facilitated an intelligence objective. However, Methodist pastor and journalist Don Jesús had broken with Díaz's Scottish Rite Order around 1890 to participate in a new dissident Scottish Rite body. Medina's Rito Mexicano Reformado was opposed to Díaz's domination of the Supreme Council of Mexico, 33rd degree, recognized by the U.S. Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, the regular "Mother Council" assuming authority over the Rite. On the other hand, it might be argued that having formerly belonged to the U.S.-recognized Rite, the old Don Jesús would have proved an asset for gaining information on Díaz and his associates; it may, arguably, have suited Crowley to discover what Díaz's Masonic critic was up to. A journalist with many contacts, one could speculate that Don Jesús could have been Crowley's "fixer." If oil was a factor, Don Jesús's opposition to the U.S.-backed Supreme Council may also have been significant, on account of the political significance in Mexico of Masonic bodies and the president's interest in reducing American influence if possible. Intelligence on any such connections may have been useful both to Britain and the United States, though one would have supposed an availability of other sources for information, but of course it is possible Crowley might have volunteered his findings to the allegedly constipated British consul or inebriated vice consul in Mexico City. As we shall see, Crowley's connection with Don Jesús may have been linked to Carlist sympathies in Mexico, as much as neo-Rosicrucian magic. Spence rather suggests that Weetman Pearson could have benefited from Crowley helping "Brother Díaz" to look kindly on British oil exploration in the face of American competition. Díaz, however, needed no nudging to favor British interests to the detriment of Doheny and American influence; it was his preferred policy at the time. Furthermore, Pearson already enjoyed a privileged and longstanding business accommodation with Díaz's commercial interests. In

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 196

The other cases Crowley mentions are interesting. Leo Frank was a Jewish director of a factory in Atlanta, Georgia, where in April 1915 young girl worker Mary Phagan had been found strangled. There were serious shortcomings in the trial evidence, resulting in the commutation of the death penalty to life imprisonment by Governor John Slaton. Enflamed by an anti-Semitic backlash against Jewish-owned companies employing child labor, Frank was kidnapped by armed men from prison and lynched in August 1915. Crowley anticipated judicial opinion today by calling Frank a “harmless Jew”; Frank received an official pardon in 1986. Eugene Victor Debs (1855–1926), union leader and kind-natured socialist, was a founder of the radical, industry-disrupting I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World). Most remarkably, considering Crowley’s claimed role in promoting American participation in the Great War, Debs was arrested in 1918 for a speech against U.S. participation, charged under the Sedition Act of that year, and sentenced to ten year’s imprisonment, commuted in 1921 by President Harding. Crowley’s reference to Emma Goldman (1869–1940) is especially fascinating, as her name will loom amid Crowley’s spying activities during the 1914 to 1918 Great War. His description of her as an “enthusiastic reformer,” while doubtless expressing his anti-inflammatory view, deliberately avoids the usual description of Russian-born émigré Goldman as “anarchist” and “socialist,” meaning Crowley had sympathy with these people and saw how their being labeled undercut their genuine character, values, and usefulness. As readers may recall, the man who shot President McKinley claimed that he had been inspired to do something revolutionary after hearing a speech by Emma Goldman. Crowley understood from bitter experience what being labeled publicly by ill-considered or malicious reaction does to an individual. Presumably, Crowley had sympathy with the values, if not the “cure,” advocated by socialist and anarchist philosophies. We need to grasp this to get a fix on what Crowley meant when he said that he was an “aristocratic anarchist.” It was Goldman who famously said, “If voting changed anything, they’d make it illegal.”

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 197

Crowley's reference to Upton Sinclair's novel *The Jungle*, published in February 1906 by Doubleday, is also revealing. Passionate socialist, Sinclair (1878–1968) used his novel to describe shockingly exploitative conditions in the Chicago meatpacking industry, a plaint that led to amelioration of conditions by law, more on account of public fear of unsanitary meat than understanding of wage slavery. This is the background to Crowley's otherwise easily misunderstood joke about Sinclair's novel having made "canned food a drug on the market," while he bewails the lack of decent food available generally, on account of industrial standardization of product and aspiration. From 1918 to 1919, Crowley would become an habitu  of the creative liberal and socialist circles of Greenwich Village, to which Sinclair was a regular visitor. With Crowley's background in 1890s Symbolism and Decadence, he was bound to find Sinclair's realist fixation a trifle obsessive and annoying: "laying it on a bit thick" as the English say when a sledgehammer is employed to crack a nut. Crowley saw that socialism based on materialism and the primacy of external, opaque "conditions" and ineluctable "historical forces" would itself become an oppressive phenomenon. He saw clearly though how religion had become discredited by revolutionaries as the "charity" of the bosses who gave with one hand then took twice as much with the other. In the end, sociology has as much propagandist value as conventional history. There's precious little science in any of it. Can you weigh a tear, or assess greatness in grams?

Pagina 207

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 207

J. B. Yeats was father to poet W. B. Yeats, who had rebelled against his occult mentor Samuel Mathers in the Golden Dawn, launched a magical attack on Crowley in 1900, and subsequently gone his own occult way with London colleagues. One of those who declined to go with W. B. Yeats and company, and who became Mathers's new London representative, Dr. Edward Berridge, was about to turn witness against Crowley's character in the Looking Glass trial in London, intimating to the jury that Crowley was homosexual (this from a man who had scandalized Order member Annie Horniman in 1899 with his advocacy of sexual relations with "elementals" on the astral plane).

Pagina 216

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 216

Crowley, like Symbolist and Decadent artists in general, was a great admirer of Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849), of his prose anyhow; Crowley considered Poe's poetry fairly flat by comparison. However, he remarked that Poe's settings tended to be European, the style likewise. Crowley was amazed that a country founded by people who carried Shakespeare, Bunyan, and the King James Bible with them to lands of such varied and epic grandeur had not, in the past at least, been inspired to greatness in art. He had no difficulty in expressing the virtues of Walt Whitman (1819–1892), his faults likewise.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 279

Another headline on page 5 of the Sun gives a flavor of the moment: Expect More Foreign Loans: “The arrangement of the French loan of \$10m, it is believed in Wall Street, will be followed by similar loans to European countries to pay for supplies purchased here.” To the right, England Still Buying Gold. A “special cable dispatch” from London revealed the Bank of England had added \$860,000 worth of gold eagles and bar gold to its supply. This was possibly the kind of deal Crowley was assisting with. The gold theme continued in the Monday, November 2, edition of the New York Tribune, whose front page announced \$25,000,000 GOLD COMING “Secrecy Helps to Guard Largest Shipment Ever Made.” Not so secret, the Tribune hadn’t caught on that the gold “left Denver last Friday . . . to be locked safely in the vaults of the Sub-Treasury in the City by ten o’clock this morning.” The American Express Company handled the shipment in three special cars over several railroad lines. Money was itching to move: ROCKEFELLER MILLIONS WILL FEED BELGIANS. “Relief Ship to Sail Tomorrow Bearing 4,000 tons of Supplies.” The supplies had been purchased by the Rockefeller Foundation for relieving Belgian miseries. The British Council agreed to certify that the supplies were solely for noncombatants. The “neutrality” issue was in constant flux. The British had just announced that neutral shipping that had traded with German ports could be impounded. Another headline that day showed an intensification of the conflict into global dimensions: TURKEY DECLARES WAR ON RUSSIA, ANNEXES EGYPT, DEFIES ENGLAND (New York Tribune, November 1). Even though Turkey had Germany for an ally, claims to annex Egypt were wishful thinking; the British Fleet commanded the Mediterranean.

Pagina 280

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 280

Hugo Münsterberg’s latest propaganda tome. Münsterberg, who Crowley would soon take the trouble to get to know and, he would claim, influence, was Harvard’s professor of psychology. He also sat in on the first committee of Dr. Dernburg’s Propaganda Kabinett, and his pro-German booklets were strongly featured and advertised in pro-German magazine, the Fatherland, edited by sophisticated poet and essayist George Sylvester Viereck.⁷

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 285

Daughter of Richard Greener, first black American to enter Harvard but who, due to racial prejudice, remade herself and her name into an exotic Portuguese, Belle only dated men of standing, such as the late John Pierpont Morgan (1837–1913) and art scholar Bernard Berenson (1865–1959). But there must have been something between Crowley and her to begin with. Her late beau's son, financier Jack Morgan, was now deeply involved in securing Allied financial services, while her job was to run Jack's late father's library and art collection, buying, researching, and assessing value of books and artworks. What brought Crowley to Belle is not known. It might have been the books he would agree to selling to Quinn on November 12; that is, because Quinn did not buy all Crowley was offering, Quinn might have suggested Crowley sell rare works to the Pierpont Morgan Library. Quinn and Belle knew each other well. Spence suggested that Belle da Costa Greene was probably part of Morgan's private intelligence service, run by Martin Egan, Morgan's "publicity chief" who was a good source for forty-four-year-old British naval attaché Guy Gaunt, running Naval Intelligence Department (N.I.D.) schemes from the British Consulate at 44 Whitehall Street. High up in this Morgan-N.I.D. nexus was, according to intelligence scholar Thomas Troy, a "Mr. Green," identified with surprising confidence by Spence as Belle Greene's code name.¹² While Spence's numerous hypotheses linking Crowley to alleged intelligence-related figures carry weight in speculative terms, little is known for certain, though the critical mass of related circumstantial data cannot be ignored in fairness to the historical record. One thing is certain: when a person arrives pretty fresh in a big city, he or she will know soon enough whether they are "in" or "out." Judging by Crowley's string of contacts encountered in New York in November and December 1914, he was definitely "in," and, despite frustrations tantalizingly expressed in his unique sex-magick diary, he had just sufficient money and status to make an impact, even if Quinn was, as he asserted defensively to William Butler Yeats, immune to Crowley's glamour. We know for sure that Crowley met the following lights of New York media and culture within two months of stepping off the Lusitania: out-spoken Irish novelist and pro-German Frank Harris (whom Crowley had known in London), John Quinn, Belle da Costa Greene, magazine and newspaper editors Frank Crowninshield and John O'Hara Cosgrave, John Butler Yeats, multimillionaire Aimée Gouraud (née Crocker), astrologer Evangeline Adams, and New York World journalist Henry Noble Hall. That's not bad going for a man who claimed that he only expected to cook an egg and scarper home in a fortnight.

Pagina 323

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 323

Former London Times correspondent Henry Noble Hall (1872–1947) had wide journalistic experience in the United States, England, and France. Sympathetic to Zionism, he corresponded with Chaim Weizmann, and when America joined the Allies in 1917, Hall was accredited to the American Army, experience evinced in *The Fourth Division: Its Services and Achievements in the World War*, cowritten with Colonel Christian A. Bach. Its first chapter should engage anyone wondering why America entered World War I. The chapter focuses on the very field in which Crowley was, by stages, involving himself. Hall writes that German

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 364

The Fatherland's reasonable pieces were contrasted on page 4 with the headline Allied Press Hysterical. Crowley recognized the truth of this. How could he undermine the Germans' successful approach of appearing reasonable, unhysterical? The answer became obvious to him rather quickly. The upper left of page 14 advertised "A Hand-Colored Picture of EMPEROR WILHELM from CELEBRITY ART CO. BOSTON MASS." Such a sleazy attempt at a sacred relic may well have inspired Crowley's bizarre article about the Kaiser as the "New Parsifal," "Saviour of the World," a more than Christ-like, messianic figure literally "dwarfing" "obscene" King George V, and assumed to heavenly, mystical proportions and realms, which was published later in the year by Paul Carus of Chicago's pro-German Open Court magazine, a magazine dedicated to "The Science of Religion and the Religion of Science."⁶ In retrospect, Crowley reckoned that he must have been drunk both when he wrote "The New Parsifal" and when he sent it to Carus (1852–1919), author of *The Gospel of Buddha* (1894). "I suppose I had become acclimatized to the idea that all serious and eminent people are perfectly brainless. He swallowed it, hook, line, and sinker," recalled Crowley in his *Confessions*. Nonetheless, "The New Parsifal" appeared comfort-ably in the August issue of Open Court between a learned article about King Darius of Persia and the editor's "English Diplomacy and the Fate of the 'Huns,'" which opens with the statement that the initial cause of the war was the question of "whether the Slav or the Teuton" would be "the leader in Europe."

Pagina 436

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 436

During late 1923 and 1924, after the Beast was asked to leave Italy by order of Mussolini, ostensibly due to living immorally with two women in Cefalù, Sicily, and for having attracted tabloid publicity to Italy via the English tabloid *Sunday Express*, which falsely accused Crowley of many crimes, including treachery to his country, Crowley undertook a long campaign for a just hearing. His devotee, mathematics professor Norman Mudd (1889–1934) agreed to write to persons who knew Crowley, or might be sympathetic to his cause, to offer frank assessments of his character and, if they knew them, motives. Recipients of Mudd's request included the U.S. Justice Department, Otto Kahn, philosopher Bertrand Russell, and the Honorable Everard Feilding, who in July 1915 had been working in association with the N.I.D. in the Censor's Department. Here follows Mudd's previously unpublished letter to Feilding, then a barrister, dated November 22, 1924.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 447

In Manhattan later that day (July 24) Frank Burke, head of President Wilson's hush-hush intelligence unit deputed to keep an eye on German intrigues, together with a subordinate, followed George Sylvester Viereck and paymaster Dr. Heinrich Albert onto an uptown electric train. Viereck alighted near Crowley's address. Burke followed Albert, identifiable from saber scars and a small dark mustache. Having fallen asleep, Albert stumbled out of the train, leaving his briefcase. Burke shared the contents with British naval attaché Captain Guy Gaunt. Contents included Albert's schemes for establishing phony armaments companies to divert Allied funds and frustrate arms shipments. With what Spence calls Washington's silent approval, excerpts from the trove's incriminating evidence were leaked to the New York World and published on August 15.² The ensuing flap would signal the beginning of the end for Albert, and Germany's military and naval attachés Franz von Papen and Karl Boy-Ed. Not to be outdone in the spying game, the coup was also claimed by one of Gaunt's principal agents, Emanuel Voska, leader of a Czech spy ring. It was the kind of thing Crowley would like to have been able to claim for himself: he was that close. At

Pagina 464

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 464

battlefront: munitions supply. Charles M. Schwab (1862–1939), president of the Bethlehem Steel and Shipbuilding Company, had, as we saw earlier, visited Great Britain to facilitate supply of munitions. Frustrated by Secretary of State Bryan, Schwab managed to get around neutrality restrictions through exporting via Canada and became a major supplier of shells to British forces. During the Battle of the Somme in July 1916, German intelligence reported that well over 50 percent of 20 to 30 cm shells failed to explode, leading, with other German intelligence coups, to a military disaster that opened with a nightmare 57,000 British killed or injured on the battle's first day. It was Germany's plan to frustrate and degrade weapons production in America. Schwab, for example, refused to have trades unions in his Pennsylvania factories, causing industrial unrest that the Germans secretly fomented. Sabotage of manufacture and supply was a major objective of German intelligence.

Pagina 465

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 465

What is even more interesting is a dream Crowley would have at their next stop, Chicago, to be related shortly. It shows Crowley already in contact with persons concerned with German subversion of U.S. trades unions. The question remaining is whether Crowley was still a "lone hand" in his intelligence gathering, or whether he was in secret contact with either, or both, British and American secret agencies.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 472

Inspired the Kaiser's Agents in America. Founded in 1905, the I.W.W. (Industrial Workers of the World) advocated revolutionary industrial unionism supported by socialist-anarchist groups. In London in 1913, Crowley heard radical Irish trades unionist Jim Larkin, who would join forces with the I.W.W. in America (see here). Between 1915 and 1917, the I.W.W.'s "Agricultural Workers Organization" (AWO) organized more than a hundred thousand migratory farmworkers throughout the Midwest and western United States, recruiting members in rail yards and hobo haunts. This resulted in I.W.W. members being identified with hobos riding the rails and migratory farmworkers struggling to get to the next jobsite: the meat-and-potatoes experiences that inspired later "beat poets" and folksingers, such as Bob Dylan.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 472

I.W.W. intrigues with agricultural labor provide the context for Crowley's remarkable claim that "I was fortunately able to break up a most formidable spy system, disguised as the 'Agricultural Labor Bureau.'" *10812 The "Raynes" of Crowley's Chicago dream is undoubtedly Maitland Ambrose Trevelyan Raynes (1879–1944), model for "Keynes Aloysius Wimble" in Crowley's Simon Iff adventure *What's in a Name?* whom we encountered in chapter 11 (pp. 194–95) in fictional form, meeting Iff (Crowley?) off his ship at New York's Cunard Pier in October 1914. As noted then, Raynes may have been a British agent or intelligence asset.¹³

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 474

What business had Crowley at hand? He maintained to Viereck that his investigation of "hyphenated Americans" and nonhyphenated Americans revealed to him that the Midwest had no interest in the war and could not see it had anything to do with them (oblivious to their economic relationship to the coasts), while German-Americans, he lied, were ready for insurrection and civil war at the right signal. In fact he found non-German-Americans generally against the German cause but unwilling to consider doing anything about it, while German-Americans were generally not roused to assisting their old homeland's struggle with the world. It should all be left to Europeans to sought out on their own territories. As John Butler Yeats would observe in 1916, Americans would never vote for war, though they might be plunged into it. In himself, Crowley longed to get through the Rockies where "there was a semblance of resurrection," for being in touch with the Pacific archipelago and Asia, the West Coast had "caught a little of their culture."¹⁵

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 524

According to Spence, before Crowley arrived in San Francisco in late 1915, Commander Mansfield Cumming, chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service, operating at the time as MI1c, picked Sir William Wiseman to run the increasingly important British intelligence effort in the United States of America. When Wiseman arrived on the east coast, Captain Guy Gaunt, fearing loss of status, complained. Wiseman returned to London and reported, but was back in Manhattan in January 1916 with full Foreign Office support to establish MI1c, Section V, at the Consulate, 44 Whitehall Street. It is still not clear when, or even if, Crowley contacted Wiseman, directly or otherwise, but Wiseman probably knew something of Crowley's activities either from Gaunt, the foreign office,*114 or from Lieutenant Everard Feilding's communications with his N.I.D. superiors after the Statue of Liberty incident.²¹ Spence takes it that some time in 1916 Crowley operated in a "loop" including Wiseman, Gaunt, and new British Consul in New York, Charles Clive Bayley, whom Crowley knew from friendly meetings at Moscow's British Consulate in 1913.²²

Pagina 568

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 568

Born in Manchester, England, inventor and electrical engineer Elihu Thomson (1853–1937) was but five when his family migrated to Philadelphia. Thirty years of successfully registering electricity-related patents made Thomson a national leader in the field, and in 1892 his Thomas-Houston Electrical Company merged with the Edison General Electric Company to form the General Electric Company, which thrives. He received a doctorate of science from Harvard in 1899, having already received a Ph.D. from Tufts College and an honorary degree from Yale. In 1909, Thomson was the first to receive the Edison Medal for prolific invention from the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. His house at Swampscott, Massachusetts, is now a U.S. historic landmark. Fascinated by what Crowley had witnessed, Thomson wrote to him on July 28. Crowley replied three days later. I am obliged by your letter of the 28th inst., and hasten to reply. 1. The thunderstorm had been violent for some 10 to 15 minutes. 2. A tremendous bang, like the bursting of a bomb, not like thunder. 3. I dare not estimate. I was very startled. But not very long. 4. Apparently it fell, but this may be subjective or rationalized impression. (Pardon!) 6. Between 4:15 and 4:30 p.m. Very dark with low black clouds and rain almost a solid mass. A fierce wind blowing. 5. [sic] Like an arc light, very bright. 7. See 1, supra.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 582

For Crowley, magick was an ancient fact; a, or even the way of life offering a path of initiation into truth according to capacity, optimistically and generously, but not foolishly defined. Crowley believed in sacramentalism, in symbolic acts manifesting willed intention. He believed in the hidden power of sex. Why did Christian culture not? It was the effect of the dying God. Sex was linked to death, the price of sin. Crowley shared Blake's view that the figure familiarly known as Jesus was a spiritual liberator, a Magus extraordinaire with a transformative "word" and with a spiritual conception too far ahead of his time to be tolerated and that his followers split between those who could deal with it, and those who tried to make of "it" something in accord with the old formula (of the dying God), or with other existing or nascent rites of late antiquity. This split manifested in the Encratite movement that identified sex as evil and which "came over" the church, so that by the late third century "real" Christians were those who eschewed sex, and even women altogether, and those who were not committed to the doctrine should fear the flames of hell. The distinction made for bigotry and widespread misery. Furthermore, knowledge (science) came to be regarded with suspicion, and its subject, Nature, despised. Putting an elevated conception of sex back

Pagina 590

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 590

Crowley's idea of pantheism recurred to him on the eleventh day of his Parisian retirement, after practicing raja yoga and reflecting on paintings by Raphael and Fra Angelico. He noted the "grossness of the Theistic conception" revealed in even great painters' attempts to express divine being in anthropomorphic images, concluding, "How infinitely subtler and nobler is the contemplation of

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 590

Crowley recognized this "Utmost God" in the traditions of Jesus's spiritual teaching, but agreed with G. B. Shaw that whatever the founder taught originally, or what he meant by it, followers had twisted it, being in various degrees unenlightened or insufficiently initiated as to essentials, symbols, and subtleties. In his masterwork *Magick*, Crowley repeated the idea, adding the critical pearl of gnosis (liberating spiritual knowledge).

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 591

The “will” that should “be done” was understood by Crowley as the “True Will,” inmost core of every Star. “Do that, and no other shall say nay” (AL I:43). In his complex testament *The World’s Tragedy* (1910), Crowley charged the Protestant reformation with rendering the Christian tradition even more unpalatable than Roman Catholic medievalism, with paper doctrines of biblical inerrancy, justification by faith alone, forensic atonement, predestination, puritanical sex phobia, all-masculine God images, materialist notions of the Holy Spirit, heaven and hell, and, above all, its intolerant apocalyptic hysteria, tied to what Crowley called the “sin complex,” that “there is no health in us,” combined with negativity toward much science, sense, and indifference in the face of Nature. His argument was not with whoever began the movement.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 592

Every sect used the “sacred scripture” to justify its position like opponents in sport consulting the rulebook. And that is exactly what Crowley perceived in George Bernard Shaw’s attempt to distill from the Gospels a message of socialist brotherhood and sharing out of “common wealth.” That is why his book’s original title was “The Gospel according to St. Bernard Shaw.” Shaw used the texts to serve his own purpose, like everyone else, and Crowley made it his task to show that by that token he could not only demonstrate that Shaw was hopelessly wrong about Jesus, but that everything liberal interpreters felt unpleasant about the more puritanical or fear-inducing forms of “hellfire Christianity” could be justified in the Bible and had no business being diluted to suit taste. Hence, Crowley insisted that the Bible, like all scriptures, should be regarded as a product of its time in the light of scientific, objective historical scholarship and variant interpretations presented in as balanced and unemotional a way as possible. He expected the time would soon come when scriptures were studied as one might other historically inherited literature, inspiring in parts for some, no doubt, but without the heavy hand of unimpeachable (that is, unimpeached) authority. As for himself, he took from scripture what made sense to him or accorded with, or illuminated, his spiritual experience and gave the “other fella” the liberty to do the same. However, on one thing he was personally sure: the fundamental formula of Christianity as practiced for the past two thousand years was ripe for evolutionary transformation in a new landscape, and he believed he had the key, take it or not. Perhaps Crowley’s basic problem in America, especially after his attainment of the grade of Magus made of him a kind of occasional preacher of Thelema, was that he probably underestimated the depth of America’s fundamental conservatism. The place might appear to change with bewildering rapidity, fads and fancies, political, architectural, and economic, even philosophical and artistic enthusiasms might rise, shine, and sink again, but underneath it all has pulsed the historic faith that carried many of the earliest migrants to the continent in the first place: the “rock of ages.” The “pilgrims” wished to worship freely in the way they wanted, and in peace, if possible. The country might have become a welter of different, sometimes competing sects; there might be the odd charismatic prophet, pied piper, nutcase, or an inexplicable event suggesting magic or miracle or spirits or ghosts, but underneath was always a bedrock of Christianity and the God of Jewish faith in some form or other. Hypocrisy, lip service, face saving was as endemic to the social polity in America as most other places. Conformity to the norm was the norm. One nation under God, and for most—even most Freemasons—that meant the God of the Bible, old and/or new testaments. Without the “one God” there was unlikely to be—so ran, and runs, the patrician fear—the “one people.” Note, for example, how practically every time an element of the historical republican mythos appears in an American movie, such as the figure of Theodore Roosevelt, or the White House, Abraham Lincoln, or the stars and stripes, and so on, the music always sounds religious, with deep cadences, codas, and harmonic tones redolent of biblical patriarchs. The “city on a hill” is Zion, and Arizona doubles as the Holy Land. If Thelema was ever going to make any

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 603

Another, and for us, last prophecy. Crowley demolishes socialism (“Equal Distribution”) in three paragraphs. “Happiness comes with pride in what you are, unhappiness with wanting to be something that you are not. The discontent in England is principally the result of the intense social snobbery which prevails in every circle.” Crowley predicts the failure of communism (a year before the Russian revolution even began!). Inventions require risk-taking capitalists out for profit after a sacrificial investment of money; “This is another reason why humanity would stagnate under communism.”²³

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 645

Crowley quit Titusville at 8:03 a.m. on March 29, possibly for the British embassy in Washington. It seems likely that a key, surviving document from the period belongs to Crowley’s efforts to get a Washington contact, or contacts, to put the “Stupids” in London right about his “attitude,” and about his attempts to secure backing from Guy Gaunt for intelligence beneficial to the Allies. It may also be the case that Crowley was already actively cooperating with William Wiseman’s MI1c networks but that, to protect their intelligence loop (one must always assume the possibility that other loops have been subverted by the enemy), Crowley’s actual position had not been conveyed to London—this would make sense—and further, British Naval Intelligence was not lending its information (via Feilding) on Crowley to Mansfield Cumming (“C”) in “Military Intelligence,” soon to become the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). As Cumming had good working relations with Basil Thomson, Head of Special Branch at Scotland Yard, it should have been, in theory, a relatively straightforward matter to get Cumming to request of Thomson that the Home and Foreign Offices “leave off” Crowley, and this seems to have occurred at some point before Crowley returned openly and uninhibitedly to England in 1919.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 646

He then, point by point, accounted for his contact with, and attempt to manipulate his situation with Viereck. His “violent articles” were a) to discredit the German cause by committing the enemy to manifest absurdities and infamies, b) to induce the Germans to give me their full confidence, c) to rouse the indignation of the Americans, d) to warn England of certain of her own weaknesses by exposing them, i.e., show the enemy’s cards (note in particular articles on the submarine, forecasting both the improvements in the U-boat, and the ruthless campaign).⁸ Crowley trusted that it would now be perfectly clear that his motivation throughout had been “to serve my country.” Though Everard Feilding had approved of his idea to subvert the Fatherland, “My method may have been mistaken; if so, I am willing to accept rebuke or punishment. I am perfectly ready to do my utmost in the future as in the past to serve England.”⁹ A list of his

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 682

A face-saving editorial note indicated Viereck's demurral from some of Crowley's colorful views but praised its detailed examination of the psychology associated with the drug. Crowley's answer to the prohibitionist who argues that cocaine is the drug of choice for criminals, giving them Dutch courage, he notes the argument insists that the drug progressively destroys the criminal's ability to function successfully. On this basis, Crowley suggests free cocaine for criminals in particular! He takes the view that the drug addict unable to deal with the drug's pitfalls was a familiar social type who would fail at everything and a type hardly, in such condition, worth preserving. As things turned out, Crowley would himself have to face his own psychological addiction to the drug. In the early 1920s an obsession with the drug would cause considerable anguish, though he was able, in the end, to leave it behind, but the path to full realization of the uselessness of drugs, which came to him in 1924, was far from straightforward.

Pagina 742

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 742

It is not clear when Crowley first met Hearst yellow journalist and proto-Hemingway literary personality, William B. Seabrook (1864–1946), but acquaintance had blossomed into friendship by mid 1918. Whether Seabrook's employer's isolationist, anti-British, and soft-on-Germans stance influenced Crowley's interest in the Greenwich Village habitué is unknown, but it was pro-German Frank Harris who introduced them. And it was Seabrook who provided Crowley with canoe and tent, with which elementary accoutrements the Magus began paddling some 90 miles up the Hudson through New York State in the general direction of Staatsburg on July 19 for his "Great Magical Retirement." He had the princely sum of two dollars and twenty-five cents, and the mind-set of Prince Gautama voluntarily quitting "luxury" for penniless Nirvana. Except, as far as we know, the founder of Buddhism was not spying on the side.

Pagina 744

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 744

On July 9 assistant secretary of the Navy Franklin Roosevelt went to Europe on a U.S. destroyer. Arriving in England, he was guest of N.I.D. head Admiral "Blinker" Hall, who showed Roosevelt around British Naval Intelligence, Roosevelt having cooperated with Guy Gaunt and Norman Thwaites before the United States entered the war. While Roosevelt was in Europe, N.I.D. officer Guy Varley Rayment, with an admiralty brief for intelligence on Indian sedition, was a recent arrival to New York. According to Spence, Rayment, who assisted with details of Roosevelt's trip, chose the unlikely billet of Greenwich Village's Hotel, on arriving on July 4. A favorite dining place of Crowley's, the Brevoort,*177 frequented by the village's bohemian literati, was close to West 9th Street.⁶

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 746

Roosevelt's home "Springwood," in Hyde Park, was only 4 miles south of Esopus Island, on the Hudson's eastern banks, between Poughkeepsie and Staatsburg, which combination of coincidences leads Spence to wonder, not entirely implausibly, whether Becker, who was familiar with Roosevelt through state politics, or Rayment, put Crowley on the case of watching Roosevelt's home in his absence, lest a Münter-style attack assail Springwood as it had Jack Morgan's Long Island residence three years earlier. Far-fetched perhaps, but, as we shall see, Crowley's magical retirement was not all meditative R and R; he carried a revolver.

Pagina 757

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 757

One of Seabrook's friends in Atlanta, and Decatur—where the Seabrooks had a farm—was fellow Hearstman Ward Greene (1893–1956). Author of *The Lady and the Tramp*, Greene would be a pallbearer at Hearst's funeral in 1951. *Ride the Nightmare* (1930), one of Greene's novels, was based on Seabrook's colorful life, with "Jake Perry" standing in for Seabrook. In the novel, Jake inherits a masochistic playmate called "Justine" from "Bellerophon Cawdor," who stands for—that's right—Aleister Crowley. In Seabrook's *Witchcraft (Its Power in the World Today)* (1940) he calls his fellow sex/psychic experimenter in New York "Justine." Paul Pipkin's *The Fan-Shaped Destiny of William Seabrook: A Romance of Many Worlds* refers to Seabrook's second wife, Marjorie (née) Worthington's, reminiscences of life at Sanay, where Seabrook was drying out in the South of France in 1933. Marjorie remembered Ward Greene visiting them and mentioned a redheaded gypsy cook at Les Roseaux (their home) and a redhead called . . . Madeleine. Back to Crowley on Tuesday, August 20, 1918: Below the Tribune's headline U.S. WILL WIN THE WAR IN 1919, Says [General] MARCH ran the story, FIGHT ON HEARST PAPERS HAS BEGUN, with 1,200 newsdealers in Brooklyn refusing to handle Hearst papers due to Hearst's trying to fix the market in his favor by pressuring dealers not to sell other publishers' papers unless they sold his as well. In Petrograd, Bolsheviks initiated a reign of terror, with an estimated thirty thousand middle-class Russians arrested in a week. New York's 7:00 a.m. temperature was around 65°F with humidity at 73 percent: sticky conditions for Crowley and Roddie's IX° operation that morning for "Magic Power."

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 827

Why Crowley chose Montauk at Long Island's east end for his 1919 summer retirement is a question Spence felt might be answered by considering the area as one of the most militarized on the East Coast.¹ The U.S. Navy pursued experimental operations there, and the remarkable physicist Nikola Tesla (1856–1943) had already been experimenting with the idea of electronic warfare and harnessing the Earth's magnetism to supply free electricity—at which notion his funding sources, predictably, dried up. Tesla had built a tower as part of his experiments, but the military demolished it, fearing it could assist German spies in sending messages across the Atlantic. No doubt Britain's N.I.D. would be interested in anything on these lines, but whether Crowley was, on its, or anyone else's behalf, is impossible to say; there is no evidence for any such thing. He was probably not the first person to pitch up a tent near Montauk, despite the plagues of flies that often erupt in summertime. It was conveniently situated at the end of the railway line and was his kind of place. As far as we know, the sole current to which 666 was connected was what he called “the magical current,” and, according to the Confessions, it was during his summer retirement at Long Island's extremity that he concluded “the current was exhausted. I had finished my work in America and began to prepare my escape.”² And well he might do, if we account as significant motivation that summer's flurry of investigation into Crowley's activities undertaken by B.I. agent Frank X. O'Donnell. Trouble with the B.I. flared up after letters from several of Crowley's opponents arrived at Washington's Department of Justice. On June 4, 1919, an anonymous letter addressed to “Attorney General Palmer” was sent from New York.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 862

Five days after the raids, on January 7, 1920, F. E. Haynes at Washington's Department of Justice composed a "Memorandum" for "Mr. Hoover" on "Aleister St. Edward Crowley."¹² Its contents were exclusively drawn from the letter Freemason Joseph Norwood sent to the department in June 1919 (see here), which accused Crowley of radicalism and included a quote from Crowley claiming employment by the Secret Service, and, above all, the memorandum was composed from material collected by agent Frank X. O'Donnell in July and October that year, including Crowley's two examinations by the New York State attorney general in July and October, 1918, revealed in chapter 34. The new "Memorandum" for Hoover placed emphasis on Crowley's relationship with Theodor Reuss, who "left England with the German Ambassador on England's entrance into the European War."¹³ Its three pages conclude with a statement from "the British Military Intelligence on July 8, 1919," regarding Crowley's Statue of Liberty stunt, where Crowley is reported to have claimed that he would "fight to the last drop of his blood for Ireland." As O'Donnell described this source, it is likely it came out of the British War Mission, either in Washington or, most likely, New York, and that a skeptical Frederick Hall had a hand in it somewhere (see here). In the context of the other snippets, "Mr. Hoover" could hardly reach any conclusion but that Crowley was very likely a radical, certainly worthy of suspicion. The only caveat was that Crowley "explained his alleged connections with the British Secret Service by stating that he had attempted to join the service but never succeeded in obtaining an official position with them. He states throughout his communications for a position he dealt with Commodore Gaunt of the British Intelligence Office. (O'Donnell—July 19, 1919)."¹⁴ Three weeks later, on January 30, 1920, W. L. Hurley who worked in the office of the Secretary of State, Robert Lansing, wrote to Frank Burke at the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. (Burke had been instrumental in the busting of Dr. Albert and his subversion of the American press in summer, 1915; see here). Well up on his subject, Burke had just written the Bureau of Investigation's "Outline for the Interrogation of Radical Aliens and Instructions for Its Use," which included helpful guidance to interrogators, such as "Do not frame the questions in such a way as to suggest untruthful answers. For example, do not say at first 'Are you a member of the Communist Party?, etc.' but rather 'When did you join the Communist Party?' or 'What did you do with your membership card?'"¹⁵—wherein we see the genesis of language employed in the notorious McCarthy "Un-American Activities" investigations of the 1940s and early 1950s. Hurley's letter to Burke reads as follows:

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 893

Estranged from a family suffering the faded glory of former wealth (lost in the 1929 crash), Parsons took his scientific brilliance and love of rockets to a paid post at Caltech in 1939. A founder of both the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and the Aerojet Engineering Corporation, Jack pioneered liquid-and solid-fuel rocket engines and invented the first castable, composite rocket propellant. Born in Chicago in 1910, Jack's wife, Helen, née Cowley, was Olga Helena Cowley's daughter. In July 1922, Olga remarried and moved from Chicago to Pasadena in Southern California with husband, Burton Ashley Northrup. From that marriage Helen Parsons acquired two attractive half sisters, Sara and Nancy. As Martin Starr observes, the professor's house always provided a welcome home to bohemians and sexual outsiders, and Jack, who attended a Communist Party reading group once or twice (he never joined the C.P.), loved radical movements; he wanted society reformed. In this atmosphere, it is not altogether surprising that dashing handsome Jack would find himself involved with Helen's half sister Sara, a beauty.

Pagina 895

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 895

With America fully committed to war against the Axis powers, and rocket research a military necessity, Jack and Helen found a superb three-story Californian mansion at 1003 South Orange Grove Avenue, on Pasadena's "Millionaires' Row." It had sixteen rooms, five bedrooms, a wine cellar, and a huge basement. Jack and Helen took out a two-year lease on June 1, 1942. Jane and Smith had their doubts, but Smith backed Parsons's boundless enthusiasm with his retirement savings of \$1,200, and the Church of Thelema moved in on June 9, 1942, shortly after the United States defeated the Japanese by force and fire at the Battle of Midway in the Pacific. June 9 was also Wilfred Smith's fifty-seventh birthday, and he would live with Helen Parsons, as Jack would live conjugally with Sara Elizabeth Bruce Northrup (1924–1997), Soror Cassap of the O.T.O.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 897

Into the vacuum he had left at 1003, strange things were afoot. Jack shared his enthusiasm for the latest developments in science and psychology in the milieu of creative science fiction, a milieu frequented by Lafayette Ron Hubbard (1911–1986), born in Tilden, Nebraska, son of naval officer Harry Ross and teacher Ledora May Hubbard. Hubbard shared with Parsons an interest in the magazine *Astounding Science Fiction*, edited by John W. Campbell Jr., who would become a supporter of Hubbard's innovations in psychology as they appeared in the late 1940s, culminating in Hubbard's *Dianetics: The Modern Science of Mental Health* (1950). On May 20, 1946, the day Crowley completed his last anthology of verse, called *Olla*, he received a letter about Jack Parsons sent by Louis Culling, member of the Pasadena church, to Karl Germer. Crowley called it an "appalling letter" in his diary. Parsons, Crowley was told, had gone on his own magical retirement in March in pursuit of something he called the "Babalon Working" with new chum and "seer" L. Ron Hubbard. The aim was to incarnate an astral deity, and not just any deity, Babalon herself, apparently into a lady by the name of artist Marjorie Cameron, a striking redhead who had turned up at the house immediately after Jack and Ron's desert ceremony. Jack saw Marjorie as the fit receptacle in which Babalon might incarnate herself. The idea of course was central to Crowley's fictional Simon Iff story *Moonchild*. It seemed to Crowley the two men were confusing magical fact with magical fiction, or was it science fiction? For, of course, Crowley's rubric for the original *Equinox* series was "The Method of Science. The Aim of Religion": a scientific religion and religious science. Crowley was warned that Jack's sanity was in jeopardy. Crowley declared to Germer he became "fairly frantic" when considering "the idiocy of these goats." Did it strike him that his own gambit with Smith might have encouraged such notions of gods mysteriously incarnating in California? This was the year of the atom bomb after all. Anything was possible. And still Crowley couldn't get his carnal being to California, despite assistance from a friend in the S.I.S. in London. Was Hoover blocking procedures? If he was, he was doing a disservice to Parsons's sanity.

Pagina 904

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 904

Parsons went back to making explosives and pyrotechnics for the film industry in his own laboratory on South Orange Grove Avenue. On June 17, 1952, while packed and loaded up to move to Baja, Mexico, where Jack had a job at an explosive plant (an interim move preparatory to moving to Israel) and with Marjorie out shopping for groceries, an accident with fulminate of mercury caused an explosion that left Parsons mutilated and dying in the wreckage of the lab. He died soon after. Hearing the news, his mother, Ruth, committed suicide on the spot: a tragic end. At Parsons's funeral gathered most of the survivors of the Agape Lodge: Smith, Helen Parsons, Jane Wolfe, Ray and Mildred Burlingame, daughter Laylah, Phyllis Seckler and her children, Paul, Lisa, and Stella, Georgia Schneider, Ed Forman, Louis Culling, and Helen's sister Sara, who had now left Hubbard and become Mrs. Miles Hollister. Helen and Sara became reconciled at the service.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 905

In the early 1950s a fresh face appeared on America's Thelemite canvas. Young filmmaker Kenneth Anger, born in Santa Monica, California, in 1927, traveled in 1955 to what was left of Crowley's villa at Cefalù, Sicily, in the company of sexologist Alfred Kinsey (1894–1956), famous for his two reports on the sexual life of American males and females (1948, 1953). A film was shot of Anger uncovering some of Crowley's floor-to-ceiling artwork. A fine photograph appeared of the handsome Anger holding before him the dislodged door to the Abbey of Thelema with the words DO WHAT THOU WILT still visible against the grain. Jenny Nicholson wrote an illustrated article about the visit for *Picture Post* (November 16, 1955). Kinsey commented on his reaction to the paintings revealed by Anger in terms of his own central interest.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 906

Kinsey did not live to see the “swinging sixties,” but the sixties certainly saw the influence that Aleister Crowley had on artist of film Kenneth Anger. In a unique body of filmed work, Anger has defied commercial tropes and made movies the way Symbolist and early Surrealist artists painted pictures. The influence of Thelema is sometimes subtle, sometimes quite direct, but the solar-phallic energy that infuses Anger's often homoerotic work is undeniable, working on a dream level that awakens unconscious imagery and experience. Crowley wrote that poetry was the geyser of the soul, an idea given full visual flourish in a work like *Lucifer Rising*, a version of which I had the good fortune to see at a special showing in King's Cross, London, in 1982, where images of volcanic eruption crosscut with a narrative that combines the emergence of Lilith (played by Marianne Faithful), Egyptian pyramids, Isis, and Osiris, the latter played very forcefully by Crowley's friend Charles Cammell's son, Donald, also a filmmaker of great distinction. *Stèle 666 of the Priest Ankh-f-n-Khonsu* so dear to Crowley as inspiring the events around the reception of *The Book of the Law* has an honored part in the film, and a photo of Crowley is garlanded, while a genuine sense of magick pervades this very beautiful film experience.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 909

As indeed it was! How extraordinarily perceptive of the Beast! And World War II and Korean War veteran Major Grady McMurtry (ret.) might have seized the reins at the moment the psychedelic sixties began. For 1965 was the year the Beatles' proto-psychedelic *Rubber Soul* got under the skin of Brian Wilson; the year Mary Quant invented the miniskirt; the year John Lennon and George Harrison first took LSD; the year Jimmy Page was offered Eric Clapton's job in the Yardbirds; the year of Bob Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited*, and *Bringing It All Back Home*; the Stones's *19th Nervous Breakdown*; the year the Pink Floyd Sound began; the year Sir Winston Churchill died—need I go on? Surely not. You get the idea. Grady didn't take the reins because a regularly paranoid Karl Germer had tried to keep him down, preventing him from founding new lodges in California. Grady got fed up with what was left of the O.T. O.

Highlight (Geel) | Pagina 910

Meanwhile the Aeon of the Crowned and Conquering Child showed itself most forcefully in the musical and artistic ecstasies of the mid- to late-1960s. Paul McCartney visited Timothy d'Arch Smith's occult bookshop in St. John's Wood. John Lennon started devouring books on Magick and insisted on Crowley's being one of the faces of the "people we like" on the epoch-marking Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band album, an energized, enthusiastic epoch that spawned all kinds of remarkable musical offspring, from Pink Floyd, to Led Zeppelin (starring overt Crowley aficionado Jimmy Page), to early "Heavy Metal," whose interest in dark, foreboding feelings sprang up in Birmingham (where I was born) with Black Sabbath, featuring John Michael "Ozzy" Osbourne, writer of a famous song, "Mr. Crowley," which is not about his head teacher.
