



The Official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception

By H. Keith Melton, Robert Wallace

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Once a top-secret training manual for CIA field agents in the early Cold War Era of the 1950s, *The Official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception* is now available to the general public. An amazing historical artifact, this eye-opening handbook offered step-by-step instructions to covert intelligence operatives in all manner of sleight of hand and trickery designed to thwart the Communist enemy. Part of the Company's infamous MK-ULTRA—a secret mind-control and chemical interrogation research program—this legendary document, the brainchild of John Mulholland, then America's most famous magician, was believed lost forever. But thanks to former CIA gadgeteer Bob Wallace and renowned spycraft historian H. Keith Melton, *The Official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception* is now available to everyone, spy and civilian alike.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Intelligence historian Melton and retired CIA officer Wallace (coauthors of *Spycraft*) reunite for this unremarkable reproduction of a long-lost cold war–era relic. In 1953, the fledgling CIA hired professional magician John Mulholland to adapt his techniques of stealth and misdirection to the craft of espionage. Mulholland produced two illustrated manuals featuring a range of tricks from placing pills into drinks to stealing documents and avoiding detection. The classified manuals were believed to have been destroyed in 1973, but the authors discovered a copy in 2007 among recently declassified CIA archives. The manuals are reproduced along with enhanced illustrations and an extended introduction by Melton and Wallace. Despite the authors' best efforts to promote their discovery of Mulholland's work as a rare piece of historical evidence of the CIA's legacy of black arts, the manuals, with their earnest, how-to descriptions of surreptitiously spiking drinks, palming documents and signaling colleagues with a feather in a hat band seem more quaintly anachronistic than revealing or sinister. (Nov.)

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Review

“An enchanting account of espionage and wizardry at their blackest.” (Peter Earnest, Executive Director of the International Spy Museum)

“Melton and Wallace have achieved the ultimate mastery of the shadow world where CIA’s smoke and mirrors meet Hollywood’s art of magic, deception and illusion. Like any good stage show, the never-before-disclosed techniques are spellbinding. The history of espionage is expanded by this factual, fascinating account.” (Tony and Jonna Mendez, Masters of Disguise)

“A legendary ‘lost’ piece of magic history...It’s James Bond meets Harry Houdini!” (Lance Burton, Master Magician)

“Entrancing! I was amazed to see how the magician’s trade can be twisted to aid in the dark arts of espionage.” (Jeff McBride, Creator of The Magic and Mystery School)

“Espionage and magic! A special thrill to read the once-classified CIA magician’s manual.” (Danny Biederman, author of The Incredible World of SPY-Fi)

From the Back Cover

Magic or spycraft? In 1953, against the backdrop of the Cold War, the CIA initiated a top-secret program, code-named MKULTRA, to counter Soviet mind-control and interrogation techniques. Realizing that clandestine officers might need to covertly deploy newly developed pills, potions, and powders against the adversary, the CIA hired America's most famous magician, John Mulholland, to write two manuals on sleight of hand and covert communication techniques.

In 1973, virtually all documents related to MKULTRA were destroyed. Mulholland's manuals were thought to be among them—until a single surviving copy of each, complete with illustrations, was recently discovered in the agency's archives.

The manuals reprinted in this work represent the only known complete copy of Mulholland's instructions for CIA officers on the magician's art of deception and secret communications.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Carol Welch:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children till adult are different content. As we know that book is very important normally. The book The Official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception ended up being making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is very advantages for you. The book The Official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception is not only giving you a lot more new information but also being your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your own spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with the book The Official CIA Manual of Trickery and Deception. You never sense lose out for everything in case you read some books.

Maria Macdonald:

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William Kirby:

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Christopher Decker:

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