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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Secrets of Literary History

From: **Peregrine Mendoza** <101653.2205@compuserve.com>
 Date: Wed, 16 Jul 1997 21:09:36 -0400
 Fwd Date: Wed, 16 Jul 1997 21:52:43 -0400
 Subject: Secrets of Literary History

The Duke of Mendoza presents his compliments to the List.

> From: DRudiak@aol.com [David Rudiak]
 > Date: Sat, 17 May 1997 13:55:47 -0400 (EDT)
 > Fwd Date: Sat, 17 May 1997 14:00:36 -0400
 > Subject: Brookesmith Smears Marcel

A recent cursory glance at the UpDates Website suggests that most of this gripe by David Rudiak about my treatment of poor victimized Jesse Marcel has been dealt with by others, notably John Stepkowski, while I was away and off-line. For which thanks; which all and sundry may take as notice that I'm not going to rehearse the whole business again.

Now Mr Rudiak may think what he likes of my report of Robert Todd's research (duly acknowledged on page 156 of my book, so altogether honestly "swiped directly from Robert Todd"), and call me a liar if he likes to do that too, since I suppose it must make him a happier man than if he did not, and I am all for happiness if you can find it. But when he suggests none too subtly that I am a plagiarist I do raise an eyebrow.

Mr Rudiak may consider the following to be disinformation. He is entitled to his opinion, although it does not follow, from that, that his opinion is worth very much.

I first became acquainted with Reuben Stone (which is not his real name either, by the way) in somewhat noisy and alarming circumstances in October 1973. We found we shared several interests, from the foolishness of fighting tank battles without infantry support to the genius of Francis Child and Cecil Sharpe, and remained in touch over the ensuing years. Neither of us then was much interested in the paranormal, but Reuben was intrigued by what he read in The Unexplained partwork (published 1980-1983) that I edited, and he became something of a believer. In 1991 I was asked to find a writer for a five-volume "promo" book series on the paranormal and thought he might be interested in the job. He was. But the writing/publishing schedule demanded more time than he anticipated, and I agreed to pen the UFO volume in the series for him, on the understanding that I might use the material in my own work in due course. I also gave him some material (notably a "ghost story" from my father's book about his days on square-rigged sailing ships in the 1920s, and another concerning my old mum, the formidable and indestructible Dowager Duchess, who appears in pseudonymous guise as "Mrs Martha Beckwhyte", plus a few other previously unpublished stories that I was hearing at the time) for other books in the series. It was not an altogether happy commission for me, in that the brief strictly maintained that a skeptical line should be taken in only one "story" in ten, but the money was reasonable for the effort involved, and I had the time, the interest and the references, and he did not.

Not many people know that.

Mr Rudiak may or may not find brightness in a drab, wretched existence by fulminating about people who, he considers, don't do their research properly and parrot opinions and so forth. Mr Rudiak is as black a pot as ever sat next to a suntanned kettle. All he had to do was ask me what my relationship with Reuben Stone was, and I would have told him. But he didn't ask. And so he has not been saved the embarrassment of being made to look, through his intemperate insinuations, not entirely unlike an incompetent - and what is worse, an ill-mannered - oaf.

I shall *not* be held responsible for a sudden increase in the incidence of black helicopters buzzing Mr Rudiak's residence in the next few weeks, although news of such a phenomenon would not surprise us at "higher headquarters". We should, however - for a reasonable pecuniary consideration - be glad to exchange his wreckage for someone else's.

Yours &c
Peregrine, Duke of Mendoza
* The pen name "Peter Brookesmith" is a registered trademark of Mendoza Tentacular Enterprises Corporation SA, Madrid, Spain
"A friend of the devil is a friend of mine"

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