

6. M

1. page 97. . . . **hunchback disguise** . . . The story of Melville's arrest of the French anarchist Meunier is taken from Andrew Cook's definitive book on Melville, *M: MI5's First Spymaster* (Gloucestershire: Tempus Publishing, 2004), 114–115.
2. pages 97–8. "**He had been head of Scotland Yard's Special Branch since 1893.**"
Ibid., 98.
3. page 98. . . . **wide variety of informants** . . . Personal communication from Andrew Cook.
4. page 98. . . . **charged with protecting the safety** . . . Andrew Cook, *M: MI5's First Spymaster* (Gloucestershire: Tempus Publishing, 2004), 117.
5. pages 98–99. **Okhrana** . . . **Sidney Reilly**. Ibid., 119–120.
6. page 99. **10 Keppel Street**. Cook, Silverman, and others report that Houdini lodged at 10 Keppel Street. Tommy Downs wrote to Houdini at this address. W. Hilliar, in a series of articles written after Houdini's death in *Billboard*, and collected in George Daily's Egyptian Hall Houdini scrapbook, claims that Houdini, Downs, and he all lodged at 11-12 Keppel Street. Martin Beck wrote to Houdini and addressed him at 9 Keppel Street.

7. page 99. **June 14th, a few days after their arrival . . .** Cook reproduces a copy of the Scotland Yard visitor's book, showing Houdini, Slater, and Slater's assistant, Pickering, as present. Andrew Cook, *M: MI5's First Spymaster* (Gloucestershire: Tempus Publishing, 2004), 252.

8. pages 99–100. **“I’ll be happy to cuff him, Mr. Slater . . .”** Kellock's version of the meeting is on page 141. Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928).

9. page 100. **Given what Cook knows about Melville's disposition . . .** Personal communication from Andrew Cook.

10. page 100. **As early as 1896, Melville . . . gathering information outside of Britain.** Andrew Cook, *M: MI5's First Spymaster* (Gloucestershire: Tempus Publishing, 2004), 152.

11. page 101. **Houdini would be the ideal agent to relay information . . .** Most of these attributes are garnered from contemporary accounts given by either Wilkie or other Secret Service officials. See for example, “Day of the Disguise Has Passed Away” in *The Los Angeles Times*, October 8, 1901, A6. Wilkie tipped that he used magicians as agents in a revelatory article in the August 23, 1908 edition of *The Washington Post* on page SM3.

12. page 101. **As early as 1900 . . . Melville was interested in gathering information in Germany.** Personal communication from Andrew Cook.

13. page 101. **“27th June 1900—Guest of HH at Alhambra . . .”** All of Melville’s diary entries regarding Houdini were sent to us by Andrew Cook who was fortunate to obtain a copy of the only known surviving Melville diary that remained in the Melville family.

14. pages 101–102. **It was an odd sight, the British newshounds . . .** The story of Houdini’s British press preview was culled from multiple sources. Among them were *The London Evening News* of July 28, 1900, that reported that a number of people from Scotland Yard were present. Houdini’s own advertising brochure quotes reporters from thirteen different English newspapers. The brochure is in George Daily’s Houdini Egyptian Hall scrapbook.

15. pages 102–103. **The mysterious Chinese conjurer . . .** The Chung Ling Soo passage is based on the wonderful research on Soo presented in Jim Steinmeyer’s groundbreaking work, *The Glorious Deception* (New York: Carrol and Graf, 2005).

16. page 103. **Houdini . . . strode confidently onto the stage./“The Great Cironoc . . .”** The colorful story of Cironoc’s challenge is related in Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 142–143.

17. page 103. **U.S. Senator Chauncey M. Depew . . .** “Depew Saved Houdini from Charge of Fraud,” an excerpt drawn from Kellock’s book appeared in the May 12, 1928 edition of *The Billboard*, 38. [We will provide more details in a later posting – W.K.]

18. page 103. . . . **nephew Ganson Depew . . .** Ganson Depew’s induction into the SAM was noted in the October 1927 edition of *The Sphinx*, 259. Depew’s son, Chauncey Jr., was a classmate at Columbia University of Houdini’s future lawyer Bernard Ernst.

19. page 104. **“Downs and I both thought at one time . . .”** Hilliar’s account of the evening can be found in *The Sphinx*, Vol. 5, 1906, 103.

20. page 104. **“. . . modern Jack Sheppard . . .”** *The Sporting Mirror*, July 16, 1900, quoted in Houdini’s publicity brochure.

21. page 104. **“Absolutely a miracle . . .”** Melville’s ringing endorsement caused Houdini to reprint his brochure. See the original sans quote in Milbourne Christopher *Houdini: A Pictorial Biography* (New York: Gramercy Books, 1976), 13, and the Melville version in George Daily’s Houdini Egyptian Hall scrapbook, 21.

22. page 105. **Alfred William Charles Harmsworth.** For background information on Harmsworth see <http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/BUharmsworth.htm>

23. page 107. “[**Harmsworth**] brought up a number of subjects . . .” “Houdini Tells of Talk with Northcliffe” in the Houdini Souvenir Program, 1925, 12.