

## 7. Police State

1. page 109. “**August 9, 1900**” . . . **Henry White**. Houdini’s passport application from August 9, 1900 was reproduced in Manny Weltman, *Houdini: Escape into Legend* (California: Finders/Seekers Enterprises, 1993), 45.

2. page 110. **May 26**. Passport Application from May 26, 1900, reproduced in Manny Weltman, *Houdini: Escape into Legend* (California: Finders/Seekers Enterprises, 1993), 44.

3. page 110. . . . **naturalized citizens, which he became** . . . Ibid.

4. page 110. . . . **in a letter to his brother Theo** . . . Houdini letter to Theo, November 22, 1913, reproduced in Walter B. Gibson, *Original Houdini Scrapbook* (New York: Corwin Sterling Pub. Co., 1976), 174.

5. page 110. **FOR HARRY**. . . Bess’s inscription reproduced in “Time For Houdini” by Raphael Ellenbogen in *Magicol—1980–1989*, 4–5.

6. page 110. “. . . **the most useful man in the entire** . . .” Allan Nevins, *Henry White: Thirty Years of American Diplomacy* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1930), 1–2.

7. page 110. **According to English espionage expert . . .** Personal communication from Andrew Cook.

8. page 111. **Captain Charles Sigsbee . . . was correct.** For an analysis of Sigsbee's concern with Germany see G. J. A. O'Toole, *The Encyclopedia of American Intelligence and Espionage* (New York: Facts on File, 1988), 321. See also O'Toole, *Honorable Treachery* (London: Grove/Atlantic, 1991), 201–203.

9. page 111. **“ . . . to interfere promptly if Germany ventures . . .”** From O'Toole, *Honorable Treachery* (London: Grove/Atlantic, 1991), 202.

10. page 111. **Both Inspector Melville and publisher . . .** Andrew Cook, *M: MI5's First Spymaster* (Gloucestershire: Tempus Publishing, 2004), 289. Also personal communication from Cook to authors.

11. page 112. **There was the Berlin royal police . . .** Hüllessem letter to Houdini in the Houdini Police letters scrapbook at the New York Public Library.

12. page 113. **“It is not without significance for the criminal . . .”** In the *Dresdner Anzeiger*, September 23, 1900, citation from the Silverman Files at the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

13. page 113. **September 24, 1900 . . . “report received from HH”** From Melville diary, copy in Andrew Cook archives.
14. page 113. **In Germany, the police could actually . . .** Harry Houdini, *Adventurous Life of a Versatile Artist* (New York: C. E. Wight Co., 1922), 8. Also see Houdini’s account of going to a flower medium’s trial in *Dramatic Mirror*, April 18, 1903.
15. page 113. **Back in Dresden, Houdini continued . . .** Harry Houdini, *Adventurous Life of a Versatile Artist* (New York: C. E. Wight Co., 1922), 6.
16. page 113. . . . **even if he butchered the grammar . . .** Houdini was proud of his ability to do his act using the native vernacular, even if he didn’t always speak it precisely. For example, when he did his act in Danish, “it must be funny, as they laugh, as if I were doing a monologue act,” he wrote Dr. Waitt on October 14, 1901.
17. page 113. . . . **seeing if they would postpone . . .** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 45.
18. page 113. **They too wired Houdini’s next stop . . .** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 146.

19. page 113–114. **“I shuddered when I saw it . . .”** From “Houdini—The Most Mysterious Man in the World” by Raymond J. Brown in *Popular Science Monthly*, October 1925.
20. page 114. **“I am really recognized as the biggest Trickster . . .”** Houdini letter to Dr. Waitt, February 21, 1901, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
21. page 114. **“Your letter expresses more gratitude . . .”** E. J. Dooley letter to Houdini, October 4, 1900, in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
22. pages 114–115. **It was one of the most . . . lock picker.”** Harry Houdini, *Handcuff Secrets* (London: Routledge, 1909), 74–77.
23. page 115. **In his 1906 book . . .** Harry Houdini, *The Right Way To Do Wrong—An Expose of Successful Criminals* (Boston: Harry Houdini, 1906).
24. page 115. **Our Rival The Rascal, a book . . .** Eldridge & Watts, *Our Rival the Rascal* (New Jersey: Patterson Smith, 1973).
25. page 116. **“This book is the greatest book . . .”** Harry Houdini, *The Right Way To Do Wrong—An Expose of Successful Criminals*, (Boston: Harry Houdini, 1906), 11.

26. page 116. **On June 1, 1901, Watts sent . . .** Watts letter to Houdini, June 1, 1901, letter in the collection of David Copperfield's International Museum and Library of the Conjuring Arts.
27. page 116. **"My nerves are all run down . . ."** Houdini letter to Dr. Waitt, March 31, 1901, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
28. page 116. **"I heard that you don't laugh . . ."** Roterberg letter to Houdini, June 20, 1901, in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.
29. page 116. **"Houdini was such a hit . . ."** From *Conjurers' Monthly Magazine*, November 15, 1906, 97.
30. page 116. **Essen Ruhr was important . . .** From "Stunts Demanded of Houdini" in *The New York Press*, April 10, 1908, clipping in a scrapbook in the collection of Pat Croce.
31. page 117. **"The cuff used was a kind of arrangement . . ."** Houdini to Dr. Waitt, May 26, 1901, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

32. page 117. **Goldschmidt's "terrible compound"** Harry Houdini, *The Right Way To Do Wrong—An Expose of Successful Criminals*, (Boston: Harry Houdini, 1906), 28.
33. pages 117 and 119. **The palm garden salon . . . her voyage home.** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 147–149.
34. page 119. **His mother had arrived . . .** Reported in Houdini's column in the *Dramatic Mirror*, June 25, 1904.
35. page 119. . . . **he decided to fire Martin Beck . . .** Houdini letter to Beck, July 6, 1901, in collection of Mario Carrandi.
36. page 119. . . . **acting as agent for his old friends . . .** The Harry Ransom Center in the University of Texas at Austin has voluminous correspondences from Houdini to both Bard and Weyer where Houdini advises them on the steps he's taken to get them bookings.
37. page 119. **"Don't you worry that anyone can knock you . . ."** Houdini letter to Bard, September 15, 1901, from the Steranko collection.
38. page 119. **It was there that he was challenged . . .** Harold Kellock, *Houdini His Life Story* (New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company, 1928), 152–153.

39. page 119. **“The pain, torture, agony, and misery . . .”** From “Not Even The Elephant Knew” by Harold Kellock in *The American Magazine*, May 1928.
40. page 119. **Count von Schwerin’s name . . .** Correspondence with Andrew Cook.
41. page 119. **Robert-Houdin account of the Italian . . .** Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin, *Memoirs of Robert-Houdin* (London: Chapman and Hall, 1859).
42. pages 119–120. **“I get through with my act better . . .”** Houdini to Dr. Waitt, October 14, 1901, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
43. page 120. **“It does seem strange that the people over . . .”** Houdini to Dr. Waitt, November 31, 1901, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
44. page 120. **He had just finished drawing up his . . .** A copy can be found in Walter B. Gibson, *Original Houdini Scrapbook* (New York: Corwin Sterling Pub. Co., 1976), 178.
45. page 120. **“Your honor, I have no objection . . .** Our account of the trial was compiled from Houdini’s article in *The Dramatic Mirror*, September 6, 1902, and from newspaper clippings from *Rheinische Zeitung*, February 21, 1902, *Kolner Tageblatt*,

February 22, 1902, and *Rheinische Zeitung*, February 24, 1902, all cited in the Silverman files at the Houdini Historical Center in the Outagamie Museum in Appleton, Wisconsin.

46. page 120. **“Back on July 25th, 1901 an article . . .”** From *des Koliner Local-Anzeiger*, February 27, 1902, citation from the Silverman files at the Houdini Historical Center in the Outagamie Museum in Appleton, Wisconsin.

47. page 121. . . . **since a circus clown at the Circus Sidoli . . .** Cesar Sidoli Circus (Pietro) to Rudolf Antonetty, July 11, 1901, in the Houdini Police letters scrapbook at the New York Public Library.

48. page 121. **“You don’t realize how easy you get . . .”** From “Some Magicians—Past and Present—I Have Known” by T. Nelson Downs, *Sphinx*, November 1930, 379.

49. page 122. **“. . . our Police are not in the best repute . . .”** Houdini letter to Quincy Kilby, October 28, 1917, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

50. page 122. **Mrs. Rothe, the flower medium . . .** Houdini’s account in the *Dramatic Mirror*, April 25, 1903.



51. page 123. **At that point, they claim that Josephi . . .** In the *Stadt-Anzeiger*, May 25, 1902, citation from the Silverman files at the Houdini Historical Center in the Outagamie Museum in Appleton, Wisconsin.

52. page 123. **“I knew in order to win my lawsuit . . .”** From “Handcuff Secrets Exposed” by Harry Houdini, *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, October 1907, 59.

53. page 123. **“ . . . had brought an entire suitcase . . .”** In the *Rheinische Zeitung* (Cologne), February 21, 1902, citation from the Silverman files at the Houdini Historical Center in the Outagamie Museum in Appleton, Wisconsin.

54. page 123. **“I proved that I was a regular . . .”** Houdini letter to Bard, February 22, 1902, from the Steranko collection.

55. page 123. **“I win my case hands down . . .”** Houdini letter to Bard, March 1, 1902, from the Steranko collection.

56. page 124. **“The officer is a common liar . . .”** In the *Rheinische Zeitung* (Cologne), February 24, 1902, citation from the Silverman files at the Houdini Historical Center in the Outagamie Museum in Appleton, Wisconsin.

57. page 124. **The apology would become a centerpiece . . .** Harry Houdini, *Adventurous Life of a Versatile Artist* (New York: C. E. Wight Co., 1922), 13.

58. pages 124–125. **Secret Service agents Griffin . . . a new mandate.** Don Wilkie, *American Secret Service Agent* (New York: Frederick Stokes, 1934), 10.

59. page 125. **“Anarchy is a crime against the whole . . .”** From “The United States, International Policing and the War against Anarchist Terrorism, 1900–1914” by Richard Bach Jensen in, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Spring 2001), 19.

60. page 125. **On April 3, 1902, Houdini, drained from . . .** From “Santos-Dumont Arrives” in *The New York Times*, April 11, 1902. We know that Houdini met Dumont on board and got his autograph.

61. page 125. **“I was so busy that I really did not . . .”** Houdini letter to W. D. LeRoy, citation from Milbourne Christopher, *Houdini: The Untold Story* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1969), 60.

62. page 125. **“Walter Bowen . . . track of dangerous anarchists.”** Revealed in Walter Bowen, *The U.S. Secret Service : A Chronicle*, unpublished manuscript, 357, courtesy of U.S. Secret Service. The book later was severely edited and published as Walter S. Bowen and Harry Edward Neal, *The United States Secret Service* (Philadelphia: Chilton Company, 1960). The unpublished original manuscript was written by Bowen, first Private Secretary to the Chief of the U.S. Secret Service and its official historian.

63. page 127. **“Since I left America . . .”** Houdini letter to H. S. Thompson, July 16, 1902, from a Houdini scrapbook at the Library of Congress.
64. page 127. . . . **rubber heels and cameras that work only once . . .** From “Hunting Ghosts for Thirty Years,” *New York Herald*, June 17, 1923.
65. page 127. **“. . . an envelope which cannot be unsealed . . .”** From “Houdini Off the Stage,” *Boston Transcript*, March 8, 1906, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.
66. page 127. **“The letters appear in a bluish-green . . .”** From Houdini’s article “Cypher-Writing or the Art of Cryptography,” *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, April 1908, 249.
67. page 127. **“. . . purchased a simple method . . .”** From Houdini’s article “Cypher-Writing or the Art of Cryptography,” *Conjurers’ Monthly Magazine*, March 1908, 218.
68. page 127. **“How he ever obtained the Royal Certificates . . .”** From Herr N. Osey (Houdini) column in *Mahatma*, July 1901, 505.
69. page 128. **“Despite the fact that Germany . . .”** From Houdini’s column in the *Dramatic Mirror*, July 14, 1902.

70. page 128. “. . . **two young people that are roaming . . .**” Houdini letter to Dr. Waitt, September 8, 1902, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

71. page 128. . . . **when he won a bet from a locksmith . . .** Houdini letter to Jim Bard, March 3, 1902, original in the Steranko collection.

72. page 128. . . . **riding third class on the trains . . .** Houdini letter to Jim Bard, October 31, 1901, from the Steranko collection.

73. page 128. . . . **living expenses in Prague . . .** Houdini to Bard, September 15, 1901, from the Steranko collection.

74. page 128. **“I know all about coal prices . . . that would occur.”** Houdini letter to Dr. Waitt, September 8, 1902, in the Harvard Theatre Collection in the Pusey Library, Harvard University.

75. page 129. “. . . **lucky charm.**” *MUM*, Vol. 77, 1987, 25.

76. page 129. **“Honey-Baby-Pretty . . .**” Houdini note to Bess in the collection of the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin.

77. page 129. **“Hoping you are well and you wife . . .”** Martin Beck letter to Houdini, April 17, 1900, from the collection of Mario Carrandi.

78. page 130. **He bought three hundred pairs of shoes . . .** From “Houdini’s Conquest of America” by Harold Kellock in *The American Magazine*, June 1928.

79. page 130. **We know that there was a medical issue . . .** Kenneth Silverman’s interview with Marie Blood revealed the family lore that Bess was born without ovaries, which would explain her inability to have children. Information in the Silverman notes deposited at the Houdini Historical Center at the Outagamie Museum, Appleton, Wisconsin.

80. page 130. **In January of 1903, Houdini played . . . Milla Barry.** See Houdini’s article in the *Dramatic Mirror*, January 17, 1903.

81. page 130. **“My Dear Jim, Never in your letters . . .”** Houdini letter to Bard, February 27, 1903, from the Steranko collection.

82. page 130. **“My Dear Jim, I had to laugh when I read . . .”** Houdini letter to Bard, March 5, 1903, from the Steranko collection.