Watching Us, Watching You

By The Unreliable Narrator

NOTICE: THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN REDACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM (SCOTLAND) ACT

Watching Us, Watching You

This issue, *The Bottle Imp* gets political. We've got our ear to the ground, but you never know who's listening …

Politics, skulduggery and spies, enemies both foreign and domestic! Scotland's writers [redacted], on all fronts. [redacted]. [redacted] sparking away at the Mandelbaum Gate? And [redacted], John Cairncross at [redacted] and Alfred Horn at [redacted].

Now, of course, when we are awash with words — when missives and images can flash around the globe in an instant, [redacted] Balado Bridge — and [redacted]. But the events of December 25, 1950 — and the report Robert B. Houston, of the US Diplomatic Corps, of a meeting which took place in Arbroath in January or February 1951 — [redacted]. This is how such things were done, in a slower and colder age.

At what point does rational caution descend into paranoia? [redacted], 'Operation Black Star' — and its purported relationship with the 'Black Diamonds' beneath Aberfoyle. [redacted]

[redacted]? [redacted]. [redacted] Hannay spoke of ‘the coming of the Black Stone’, but the dates surely place this, at least, outwith the bounds of possibility. [redacted] the Island of Sheep, with the aide-de-camp to Admiral Lord Mountbatten. [redacted]. The State itself — ‘foremost of the beasts of the Earth for Pride’ — cannot be immune, and the sleep of reason produces monsters.

But let’s turn to our own affairs: here, James Robertson lifts **The Blanket of the Dark**; Penny Fielding gets on the tail of **Scotland and the Spy Story**; and Scott Hames files a report on **Kelman, Suspicion, and the Fantasy of Homeland Security**. [redacted]? Delving further, Ken MacLeod provides indications analysis **As if You Lived in the Near Future of an Undecided Nation**; Scott Lyall interrogates **Hugh MacDiarmid and the British State**; and Donald Smith presents the evidence for and against **The English Spy and Other Factions**. [redacted]! Meanwhile, Alison Grant riddles out the confluences of ***Inbhir/Inver***, and the Scottish Poetry Library sweeps its refurbished premises for bugs in **Space for Sound**.

We also run the risk of attracting scrutiny by examining **Scots Language in Diana Gabaldon’s *Outlander*** — a programme which alarmed Whitehall in the run-up to last September’s referendum. Let’s hope we don’t trigger a full-scale panic by placing it alongside a piece called **Read All About It! Book Week Scotland**, and in close proximity to the **Best Scottish Books of 2015**. [redacted]. Who else?

And, of course, now you’re here, your every click and flip is monitored and recorded; your links and likes are sieved by stochastic algorithms, weighed and weighted, watched and noted. All the better to know you with.

The Unreliable Narrator

NOTICE: THIS ARTICLE HAS BEEN REDACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DEFENCE OF THE REALM (SCOTLAND) ACT

Watching Us, Watching You

This issue, *The Bottle Imp* gets political. We've got our ear to the ground, but you never know who's listening …

Politics, skulduggery and spies, enemies both foreign and domestic! Scotland's writers [redacted], on all fronts. [redacted]. [redacted] sparking away at the Mandelbaum Gate? And [redacted]. [redacted], John Cairncross at [redacted] and Alfred Horn at [redacted].

Now, of course, when we are awash with words — when missives and images can flash around the globe in an instant, [redacted] Balado Bridge — and [redacted]. But the events of December 25, 1950 — and the report Robert B. Houston, of the US Diplomatic Corps, of a meeting which took place in Arbroath in January or February 1951 — [redacted]. This is how such things were done, in a slower and colder age.

At what point does rational caution descend into paranoia? [redacted], [redacted] 'Operation Black Star' — and its purported relationship with the 'Black Diamonds' beneath Aberfoyle. [redacted]? [redacted]. [redacted]! [redacted] Hannay spoke of 'the coming of the Black Stone', but the dates surely place this, at least, outwith the bounds of possibility. [redacted]

[redacted] the Island of Sheep, with the aide-de-camp to Admiral Lord Mountbatten. [redacted]. [redacted]. The State itself — ‘foremost of the beasts of the Earth for Pride’ — cannot be immune, and the sleep of reason produces monsters.

But let’s turn to our own affairs: here, James Robertson lifts **The Blanket of the Dark**; Penny Fielding gets on the tail of **Scotland and the Spy Story**; and Scott Hames files a report on **Kelman, Suspicion, and the Fantasy of Homeland Security**. [redacted]? Delving further, Ken MacLeod provides indications analysis **As if You Lived in the Near Future of an Undecided Nation**; Scott Lyall interrogates **Hugh MacDiarmid and the British State**; and Donald Smith presents the evidence for and against **The English Spy and Other Factions**. [redacted]! Meanwhile, Alison Grant riddles out the confluences of ***Inbhir/Inver***, and the Scottish Poetry Library sweeps its refurbished premises for bugs in **Space for Sound**.

We also run the risk of attracting scrutiny by examining **Scots Language in Diana Gabaldon’s *Outlander*** — a programme which alarmed Whitehall in the run-up to last September’s referendum. Let’s hope we don’t trigger a full-scale panic by placing it alongside a piece called **Read All About It! Book Week Scotland**, and in close proximity to the **Best Scottish Books of 2015**. [redacted]. Who else?

And, of course, now you’re here, your every click and flip is monitored and recorded; your links and likes are sieved by stochastic algorithms, weighed and weighted, watched and noted. All the better to know you with.

The Unreliable Narrator

(c) The Bottle Imp