



## The Amerasia Spy Case: Prelude to McCarthyism

By Harvey Klehr, Ronald Radosh

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**The Amerasia Spy Case: Prelude to McCarthyism** By Harvey Klehr, Ronald Radosh

The *Amerasia* affair was the first of the great spy cases of the postwar era. In June 1945, six people associated with the magazine *Amerasia* were arrested by the FBI and accused of espionage on behalf of the Chinese Communists. But only two, the editor of *Amerasia* and a minor government employee, were convicted of any offense, and their convictions were merely for unauthorized possession of government documents. Harvey Klehr and Ronald Radosh provide a full-scale history of the first public drama featuring charges that respectable American citizens had spied for the Communists. The *Amerasia* case remained a staple in American political life for the next half-decade. It provoked charges by conservatives of a cover-up of extensive Communist infiltration of the government and accusations by liberals of a witch-hunt designed to intimidate the press. And it played a significant role in the hearings held to examine Senator Joseph McCarthy's charge that the State Department had been infiltrated by a clique of 'card carrying Communists.' Klehr and Radosh, the first researchers to have obtained the FBI files on the case, show that a cover-up was indeed orchestrated by prominent government officials.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Amazon.com Review**

In February 1945, Kenneth Wells, chief of the South Asia division of the Office of Strategic Services, happened upon a leftist magazine called *Amerasia*. In its pages he found a story on British-American political relations in recently liberated Indochina. Wells recognized the story, for he had written it in a report to which only a few senior government analysts had access. When government agents raided the magazine's offices they found many such documents, some marked "Top Secret." The magazine's spies had infiltrated the State Department with ludicrous ease. No one was punished, thanks to government prosecutors' ineptitude, until some years later Joseph McCarthy, an obscure first-term Republican senator of little distinction, revived the case. McCarthy was zealous and had small regard for the Constitution, but in this case he had a point; as Harvey Klehr and Ronald Radosh slyly remark, not everyone accused of disloyalty or espionage was innocent. Students of Cold War history will find much of interest in these pages.

#### **From Publishers Weekly**

Less well-known than the Hiss and Rosenberg cases, the Amerasia affair was the first major postwar espionage case, and was cited by Senator Joseph McCarthy as proof of his contention that the State Department had been infiltrated by a clique of "card carrying" Communists. The case revolved largely around the arrests of Philip Jaffe, editor of the pro-Communist magazine *Amerasia*, for conspiracy to commit espionage for the Soviets and of John Stewart Service, one of the State Department's "China hands," who favored Mao's victory over the Nationalists. The authors of this well-researched study, working from FBI files and interviews, reveal new details of Service's efforts to undermine U.S. ambassador Patrick Hurley's diplomatic mission to China in 1945. ("As the Amerasia case ought to teach us," they comment, "not everyone accused of disloyalty or espionage was innocent.") The study also includes fresh revelations of how lobbyist Thomas Corcoran successfully pressured the Justice Department not to indict the Amerasia defendants; the department feared that a full-scale prosecution would unduly publicize the threat of Communist espionage and embarrass the Truman administration. Klehr is professor of politics at Emory University; Radosh is a history professor at Adelphi. Photos. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

#### **Review**

Path-breaking. "Choice"

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Mary Sims:**

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Now a day individuals who Living in the era exactly where everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources in it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each information they get. How many people to be smart in receiving any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information especially this The Amerasia Spy Case: Prelude to McCarthyism book as this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred per-cent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

**Elena Sparrow:**

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