



Virgin and Child in an Archway (detail), about 1450-55, Budapest, Szepmuveszeti Muzeum.

developed an entirely new type, fusing the Holy Face and the Ecce Homo. The subtle ways in which the *Head of Christ* differs from the Holy Face may suggest its specific meaning and liturgical use. Instead of the red robe and regal demeanor characteristic of the Holy Face paintings, this Christ wears a crown of thorns and a purple robe and, with deeply furrowed brow, shows us his state of suffering. The tripartite floriated nimbus reinforces the mocking tone of the label 'King of the Jews!'. The related text may be either Mark 15:17-18 or John 19:1-5, the only passages in which Christ's tormentors dress him in a purple robe."

The ideas, writings, and personal influence of Nicolaus of Cusa were at the center of the Council of Florence which had ended the year before this painting was made.

The exhibition also features numerous examples of Christ's devotional images including a tender small panel of the *Virgin and Child in an Archway*, oil on oak about 1450-55 and others extolling Christ's true presence in the Eucharist, a theme later brought to the highest artistic level in various masterful works of Raphael.

The exhibition catalogue notes that the demand for devotional images of the Virgin Mary increased significantly in the Netherlands in the second half of the 15th century because, at the Council of Florence, devotion to Mary was viewed as an area of fundamental common ground between the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox churches.

Christus's work, measuring only $21\frac{7}{8} \times 12\frac{1}{8}$ inches (55.5×31.5 cm), depicts the idea that Redemption is made possible through Christ's Incarnation. The Virgin supports the wobbly Christ child who holds a light-reflecting orb, symbol of the Salvator Mundi. This orb is exactly at the intersection of the orthogonal lines of the perspective construction, the so-called vanishing point of the composition.

After Christus died, his reputation endured in Italy, where there are continual references to him during the 16th century including a reference to one of his portraits listed in the 1492 inventory of the collection of Lorenzo de' Medici. He is referred to as "the famous painter in Flanders" in a 1524 letter citing his painting of *Christ in Majesty* then in Naples. Giorgio Vasari talks of him in his famous *Lives* of 1568.

Conrad Black's sins of omission

by Joseph Brewda

Conrad Black: A Life in Progress

by Conrad Black

Key Porter Books, Toronto, 1993

522 pages, hardbound, Can \$32.95

Conrad Black, the 50-year-old chairman of Hollinger Corp., has written a tedious and uninformative autobiography: Left unsaid in his account is that far from being the maverick world-class businessmen that he claims he is, Black is merely a third-generation British intelligence agent. Except for his posting, he would be of little interest.

Although largely unknown to the general public, Hollinger, nominally a Canadian-based newspaper holding company, is one of the most powerful British intelligence agencies operating today. The firm, for example, is directing the "Whitewatergate" scandal targeting the U.S. presidency—certainly one of British intelligence's most important strategic operations. Hollinger had been originally established following World War II to oversee British intelligence operations aimed against the United States, and, over the years, it has fulfilled that purpose all too well. More recently, it has also been deployed to extend its reach globally. For example, Hollinger is central to ongoing British efforts to plunge China, Turkey, Israel, and South Africa into civil war.

Who formed Hollinger

Hollinger, originally known as Argus, was formed in 1945 by a network of Canadians grouped around Edward Plunkett Taylor, Winston Churchill's personal representative in wartime Washington, and also a longtime side-kick of George Montagu Black, Conrad's father. Taylor had been detailed to the United States from Canada in 1940 to obtain war supplies for Britain at a time when such purchases were still illegal under the U.S. Neutrality Act. To facilitate this purchase, Taylor formed the nominally private War Supplies Ltd. and staffed it and its affiliates with several Canadian-bred British operatives, including George Montagu Black.

As crucial as the purchase of war supplies was, the group's primary function was to infiltrate U.S. intelligence

and to establish networks through which the British hoped to covertly govern the United States covertly in the postwar period. To this end, the British naturally concentrated on using Canadian colonials. Taylor and company worked closely with Churchill's right-hand man, Lord Beaverbrook, a fellow Canadian, who was then the British Minister of Munitions and Supply. They also worked in close coordination with Sir William Stephenson, another Canadian, then detailed to run British intelligence's Special Operations Executive (SOE) out of New York City.

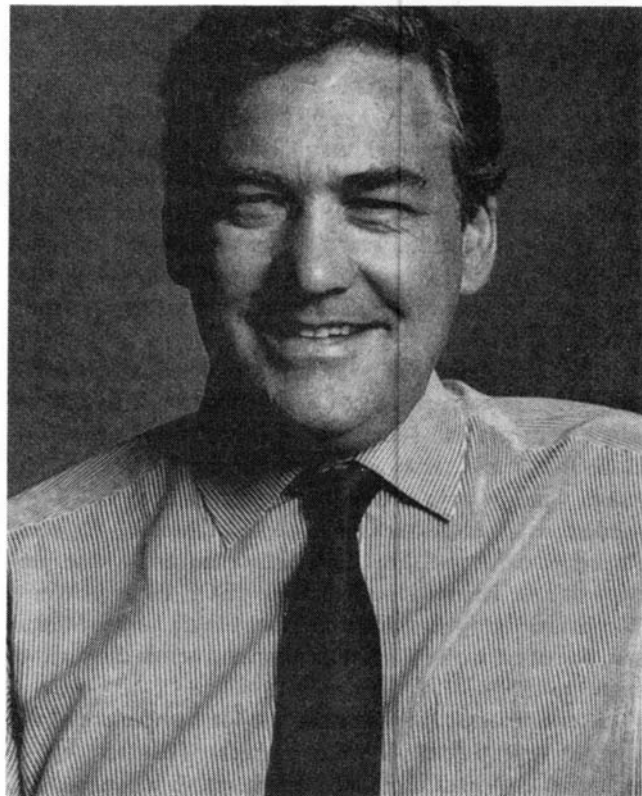
Following World War II, the British simply transformed War Supplies Ltd. into another private firm, Argus Corp., charged with carrying forward the task of War Supplies Ltd. into the postwar period. Taylor was in charge; George Montagu Black was one of his lieutenants.

Among the reasons Black was chosen was that his family had been the agents of Viscount Rothermere, a British press lord and associate of Beaverbrook, for at least a generation. During the U.S. Prohibition, both the Black and Taylor families had been big in the booze and booze-smuggling business, a fact of no little importance considering Hollinger's later role as a meeting-ground for some of the world's biggest money-laundering and narcotics-smuggling intelligence officials.

Other Canadian-bred British agents detailed to join the firm at the time included Col. Max Meighen, the son of the former Canadian prime minister; Col. W. Eric Phillips, a career British intelligence official who had worked directly with Taylor in World War II; and later, Gen. Bruce Mathews, a close associate of future Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson, a top British agent in his own right. Also detailed to the firm was Arthur Ross of New York, who, according to family members, was British intelligence's U.S. station chief in the 1950s and 1960s while handling insurance accounts for the CIA.

Perhaps through black funds acquired during the war, and certainly through British establishment patronage, Taylor, Black, Phillips, et al. rapidly made Argus into one of the most powerful Canadian industrial holding companies. Among their early partners were the Duke of Wellington, the Marquess of Abergavenny, and Lord Crathorne. The firm was and is especially close to the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, one of Canada's five major banks—a bank which provided cover for Stephenson's wartime operations in the United States. Its rapid growth in the postwar years could not be understood without considering its role in the narcotics trade.

A few years after establishing Argus, Taylor moved to the Bahamas, where he drafted the banking legislation for the Cayman Islands, and other hot-money havens, which helped make the Caribbean into a British base of operations for taking over U.S. banking through deregulation and money laundering. There, Taylor, still chairing Argus, became a business partner of Daniel K. Ludwig, the mobster whose



Hollinger Corp.'s Conrad Black, in a photo on the book jacket.

earlier "Great Lakes Navy" had smuggled Canadian booze into the United States. Not so far away, Sir William Stephenson lived in Jamaica, nominally in retirement. Meanwhile, Black and several other Argus partners began buying up mansions in Palm Springs, Florida, making the town—then also Meyer Lansky's residence—into a second corporate headquarters.

Of course, none of this is reported in Black's book, which, for all its length, provides a sanitized account of his life and his firm. The pre-history of the firm, and its history prior to 1978 when he was assigned to take it over, is dispensed with in a few pages. If we were to believe Black, Argus was no more than a groceries and minerals wholesaler until he, a self-made man, took it over.

Media mogul

In its early days, Argus concentrated on controlling heavy industry as a means of penetrating U.S. intelligence and policy circles. Soon after the ascendancy of Black, Argus (renamed Hollinger), began shedding these concerns, and instead concentrated on taking over newspapers in Canada, Britain, Israel, Australia, and the United States. In the process the firm emerged as one of the world's biggest media conglomerates. This process Black does describe, but not very honestly.

The most important development in Hollinger's recent

history was in 1985, when Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, the leader of the famous banking and intelligence family, arranged for Black to take over the London *Daily Telegraph* from its previous owners, Lord Hartwell and Lord Camrose. This was part of a general reorganization and concentration of the international media under a few British intelligence firms. Five years earlier, the Australian Rupert Murdoch was deployed to take over the London *Times* from Lord Thomson's family. Thomson, like Beaverbrook, was a Canadian, who had been brought in to run the British press before World War II.

The *Daily Telegraph* is the largest circulation newspaper in the western world; it is also a mouthpiece for British intelligence. Partners and controllers of Black's at the paper include Rothschild (who also publishes the *Economist*); Sir James Goldsmith, a British intelligence officer and Rothschild cousin who also is a major owner of the *Daily Express*; Rupert Hambro, one of Britain's richest bankers, whose family firm J.O. Hambro handled British SOE funds in World War II; and Henry Keswick from Hongkong's Jardine Matheson, one of the world's leading opium and heroin distributors since the 1850s.

In the process, Hollinger became the mouthpiece of the interests behind Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is today the chairman of its advisory board. Simultaneously, Black took over the London *Spectator*, the model for the *American Spectator*, which is now central to Hollinger's efforts to wreck the U.S. presidency.

At the same time, Black also took over *Encounter* magazine, formed in 1953 by British intelligence officials Lord Bertrand Russell and Julian and Aldous Huxley as part of the general project to penetrate U.S. intelligence. *Encounter* had been the mouthpiece of the Congress of Cultural Freedom, which served as the clearing-house for dozens of former Communist Party officials and leftist literati on the British intelligence payroll, who were being sent into U.S. intelligence. In 1990, *Encounter* was quietly laid to rest; its successor, the *National Interest*, the flagship publication of the American "neo-cons" published in Washington, D.C., includes Black on its advisory board.

In 1989, Black was detailed to take over the *Jerusalem Post* in preparation for an Armageddon in the Middle East, to which his patrons remain dedicated, notwithstanding the PLO-Israel peace accords. The *Jerusalem Post*, Israel's English-language international newspaper-of-record, used to speak for moderate circles in the Labor Party. Black purged the editorial board, installed a former Mossad station chief in Canada as its editor, and made it into a megaphone for the war party associated with Gen. Ariel Sharon.

Meanwhile, Black took over a half-dozen Australian newspapers in partnership with the mysteriously wealthy Kerry Packer, whose association with the underworld has been so lurid that a Royal Commission was even forced to investigate him. Australia serves as a transshipment point for

Chinese heroin shipped to the West and Packer is among those suspected of being complicit.

Hollinger began to take over U.S. newspapers in 1986. At first, he concentrated on picking up small-town newspapers and/or those in remote states—for example, rural Arkansas—to better prepare for taking over opinion-makers in major cities. Black calls this his "Mao Tse Tung strategy." In 1991, Black tried, and failed, to take over the *New York Daily News*. In 1993, he successfully took over the *Chicago Sun Times*. It is expected that he soon will gobble up other large U.S. dailies.

Hollinger has added onto its advisory board some of the top figures in British intelligence, many associated with the late Siegmund Warburg, the British banker and spook whom Black cites as his personal mentor. Among these figures are Thatcher; Lord Peter Carrington, Thatcher's former foreign minister; and Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state and Carrington's business partner. Directly serving on the board of Hollinger or its subsidiaries are: Peter Bronfman, representing the famous Canadian booze interests; Paul Reichmann, a real estate operative and sub-agent of the Bronfmans; Gen. Shlomo Gazit, the former chief of Israeli military intelligence; former Reagan defense department official Richard Perle, another Kissinger associate; and Lord Weidenfeld, a British publishing baron.

Hollinger and Li Kai Shing

One crucial fact entirely excluded from the book is Black's relation to Li Kai Shing in respect to Hollinger's 1980s expansion. A member of the 14K Triad, the executive body of China's secret societies, Li Kai Shing, is one of the most important British agents operating in China and Hongkong today. Also one of the world's leading drug bankers, Li had secretly purchased a whopping 10% of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in the 1990, in large part made possible by his vacuuming tens of billions of dollars out of China and Hongkong and into Canada in the 1980s. Li is secretly one of the major bankrollers of Hollinger. In February 1994, Li was a founding partner in the New China Hongkong Group, which is designed to rule Hongkong after the city reverts to Chinese control in 1997. Through Li, among others, Hollinger is poised to run the same kind of penetration operations against China that it had earlier run against the United States.

Another poorly reported issue is the nature of Black's relations with the Roman Catholic Church. Although raised an Anglican like most of the Toronto elite, Black converted to Catholicism in 1986, simultaneous with his takeover of the London *Daily Telegraph*, and shortly before his marriage to a Mossad-connected Jewish divorcée, Barbara Amiel, a reporter for the Bronfmans' Toronto *Sun*. One figure guiding Black's entry into the church was Cardinal Emmett Carter, the former Archbishop of London, and more recently, of Toronto. Now in retirement, the cardinal serves on the board

of one of Hollinger's subsidiaries, Unimedia, which is also one of the largest Catholic publishers in North America. Black claims to be an admirer of Cardinal Newman, an Anglican bishop and British intelligence official, who converted to Catholicism in the 19th century, bringing large numbers of Anglicans with him. Together with Cardinal Manning, another such convert, Newman hoped to orchestrate an Anglican-Roman Catholic reconciliation. The aim of that effort, from the standpoint of some in the British ruling class, was to weaken or annihilate Vatican opposition to the bestial, Venetian-originated philosophy that ruled the British Empire, a philosophy which also guides Black and his patrons' actions today. That a similar effort might now be afoot is indicated, for example, by the recent, and apparently sudden, embrace of Catholicism by the Duchess of Kent, the wife of the head of Freemasonry and cousin of the Queen.

French book exposes narco-terrorism

by Ivès Zilli

Les superpuissances du crime: Enquête sur le narco-terrorisme

by Xavier Raufer

Editions Plon, Paris, 1994

303 pages, hardbound, FF 139

This review has been translated and adapted from the newspaper Nouvelle Solidarité.

The Superpowers of Crime: Investigation into Narco-Terrorism is a guided tour into the heartland of world organized crime. The drugs-for-guns traffic carried out in the Golden Triangle, Colombia, Peru, the West, and elsewhere funnels hundreds of billions of dollars each year to true criminal superpowers. These supranational powers use their colossal profits to buy the military expertise and weaponry they need for their private armies. They infiltrate or get someone to "sing" inside the policymaking circles of numerous countries. Yet, these criminal phenomena are little known to the public at large.

The cartels' stomping-grounds are the poorer regions of the south of Europe: Naples, the fiefdom of the Camorra; or Galicia in the northwest of Spain, where destitute former

fishermen have been retooled as patsies for the drug traffic. A two-man crew, recently arrested, had brought 1.8 tons of cocaine and 2 tons of hashish into Spain in only 15 months. By 1996-98 tens, or even hundreds, of tons of drugs may be on the market in Europe.

Yet most Europeans are ignorant of this extent of the threat, and the first part of the book aims to remedy that ignorance. Where do the uncontrolled territories lie? How, and for how long, have certain guerrillas been engaged in major crime? Why are practices considered to be a thing of the past, such as piracy, becoming wedded to new specialties in the areas of finance and science?

Raufer states—echoing what *EIR* has documented for over a decade (cf. the bestselling book *Dope, Inc.*, 3rd ed., 1985)—that the distinction between terrorists and drug-runners is less and less clear. Whether it is Peru's Shining Path, the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces (FARC), the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), or the Afghan resistance, all of them use drug-running to finance their activities, and virtually operate as mercenaries for the big drug cartels. Some now produce and sell narcotics themselves. Of course, all this would not be possible without the overt complicity of the major banks which launder their dirty money.

Ecological disaster

The "gray zones" where these entities operate are often threatened by ecological or epidemiological disasters. Yet the "ecologists," who are so enamored of hypothetical threats, become strangely untalkative when it comes to these real threats to the environment.

In Central Asia, as in the Andes, the savage deforestation of the mountain masses and plateaus in order to plant coca or poppy is causing floods and mudslides. The waterways of the Andean *cordilleras* are being seriously polluted by cocaine refining. Every year, this "industry" uses some 200,000 tons of calcium sulfate, ether, quicklime, acetone, sulfuric acid, kerosene, and acetic chlorhydride, and discharges the residues without the least safeguards, into the nearest water sources.

Drugs and Balkans genocide

The last part of the book, devoted to the Balkans, shows how drug-running serves not only to finance irregular wars by guerrillas, but also wars between nations. The author explains that most of the illegal Yugoslav banks are still operating, but far more discreetly. This did not fool Bernd Schmidbauer, the German minister coordinating the intelligence services. In May 1993, he accused "elements of the Serbian state apparatus" of covering up for a direct and deliberate traffic in tens of millions of dollars in illegal drugs in order to finance the Serbian war against Bosnia. Such a blunt statement is practically unprecedented in the history of European diplomacy.