



The
MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.

Bible

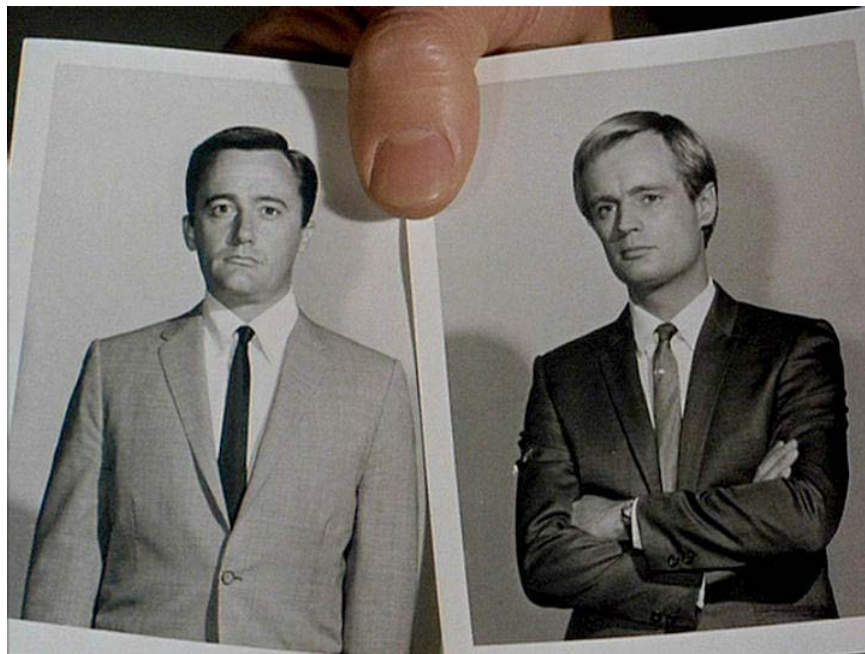
Unblessed and possibly mutable

This Bible belongs to

*The fans of the television series
The Man from U.N.C.L.E.,
those who kept its spirit alive for 50 years
and those who have newly discovered the divine madness
and want to know more*

This Bible is dedicated to

Two unforgettable gentlemen (as we knew them)



Thanks for this Bible go to

*The contributors who remembered, reviewed, revised and reported so accurately
and entertainingly,
and to Lisa Williams whose exhaustive collection of frame captures from the series
provide most of the pictures used here.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

OVERVIEW OF A SPY PARODY	1
THE U.N.C.L.E. ATLAS OF REAL AND IMAGINARY PLACES	3
SEASON ONE	3
<i>The Vulcan Affair</i>	3
<i>The Iowa Scuba Affair</i>	3
<i>The Quadripartite Affair</i>	3
<i>The Shark Affair</i>	3
<i>The Green Opal Affair</i>	3
<i>The Giuoco Piano Affair</i>	3
<i>The Double Affair</i>	3
<i>The Finny Foot Affair</i>	3
<i>The Neptune Affair</i>	4
<i>The Dove Affair</i>	4
<i>The King of Knaves Affair</i>	4
<i>The Terbuf Affair</i>	4
<i>The Deadly Decoy Affair</i>	4
<i>The Fiddlesticks Affair</i>	4
<i>The Yellow Scarf Affair</i>	4
<i>The Secret Scepter Affair</i>	4
<i>The Bow Wow Affair</i>	4
<i>The Four Steps Affair</i>	4
<i>The See Paris and Die Affair</i>	4
<i>The Hong Kong Shilling Affair</i>	4
<i>The Love Affair</i>	4
<i>The Gazebo in the Maze Affair</i>	4
<i>The Girls of Nazaron</i> Affair	4
<i>The Odd Man Affair</i>	4
SEASON TWO	4
<i>The Alexander the Greater Affair</i>	4
<i>The Ultimate Computer Affair</i>	5
<i>The Foxes and Hounds Affair</i>	5
<i>The Re-Collectors Affair</i>	5
<i>The Arabian Affair</i>	5
<i>The Tigers are Coming Affair</i>	5
<i>The Deadly Toys Affair</i>	5
<i>The Cherry Blossom Affair</i>	5
<i>The Virtue Affair</i>	5
<i>The Children's Day Affair</i>	5
<i>The Adriatic Express Affair</i>	5
<i>The Yukon Affair</i>	5
<i>The Very Important Zombie Affair</i>	5
<i>The Dippy Blonde Affair</i>	5
<i>The Deadly Goddess Affair</i>	5
<i>The Birds and the Bees Affair</i>	5
<i>The Bridge of Lions Affair</i>	6
<i>The Foreign Legion Affair</i>	6
<i>The Moonglow Affair</i>	6
<i>The Nowhere Affair</i>	6
<i>The King of Diamonds Affair</i>	6
<i>The Project Deephole Affair</i>	6
<i>The Round Table Affair</i>	6
<i>The Bat Cave Affair</i>	6
<i>The Minus-X Affair</i>	6
<i>The Indian Affairs Affair</i>	6
SEASON THREE	6
<i>The Her Master's Voice Affair</i>	6
<i>The Galatea Affair</i>	6
<i>The Super-Colossal Affair</i>	6
<i>The Monks of St. Thomas Affair</i>	6

Table of Contents (cont'd)

<i>The Pop Art Affair</i>	7
<i>The Thor Affair</i>	7
<i>The Come With Me to the Casbah Affair</i>	7
<i>The Concrete Overcoat Affair</i>	7
<i>The Abominable Snowman Affair</i>	7
<i>The My Friend the Gorilla Affair</i>	7
<i>The Take Me to Your Leader Affair</i>	7
<i>The Suburbia Affair</i>	7
<i>The Deadly Smorgasbord Affair</i>	7
<i>The Yo-Ho-Ho and a Bottle of Rum Affair</i>	7
<i>The Napoleon's Tomb Affair</i>	7
<i>The It's All Greek to Me Affair</i>	7
<i>The Hula Doll Affair</i>	7
<i>The Pieces of Fate Affair</i>	7
<i>The Matterhorn Affair</i>	7
<i>The When in Roma Affair</i>	7
<i>The Apple A Day Affair</i>	8
<i>The Five Daughters Affair</i>	8
<i>The Cap and Gown Affair</i>	8
SEASON FOUR	8
<i>The Summit-Five Affair</i>	8
<i>The Test-Tube Killer Affair</i>	8
<i>The J for Judas Affair</i>	8
<i>The Prince of Darkness Affair</i>	8
<i>The Master's Touch Affair</i>	8
<i>The THRUSH Roulette Affair</i>	8
<i>The Fiery Angel Affair</i>	8
<i>The Survival School Affair</i>	8
<i>The Gurnius Affair</i>	8
<i>The Man from THRUSH Affair</i>	9
<i>The Maze Affair</i>	9
<i>The Deep Six Affair</i>	9
<i>The Seven Wonders of the World Affair</i>	9
THE AGENTS' NEW YORK	10
<i>Where is U.N.C.L.E. HQ?</i>	10
<i>Where would Napoleon Solo live?</i>	10
<i>Where would Illya Kuryakin live?</i>	11
<i>Where would Solo and Kuryakin eat?</i>	11
<i>How would Solo and Kuryakin get around?</i>	12
<i>When an agent says he's going downtown or uptown, what does he mean?</i>	14
<i>Where would the agents shop for clothes?</i>	14
<i>And how about buying other things?</i>	15
<i>How about more intellectual and/or artistic pursuits?</i>	15
<i>Suppose they don't want to read?</i>	16
<i>And so where do you take a date?</i>	16
EVENTS	17
<i>Seasonal</i>	17
<i>Autumn:</i>	17
<i>Winter:</i>	18
<i>Spring:</i>	18
<i>Summer:</i>	18
<i>Historical</i>	19
GADGETS GALORE SAVVY CONTRAPTIONS FROM THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.	20
INTERNAL (WITHIN HEADQUARTERS)	20
<i>Headquarters Building</i>	20
<i>Security Badges</i>	21
<i>Computers</i>	22
<i>Bomb Detection/Disposal</i>	22
<i>Alarm/Lockdown System</i>	22
<i>Waverly's Desk</i>	23

Table of Contents (cont'd)

EXTERNAL (IN THE FIELD).....	23
<i>Communicators</i>	23
<i>U.N.C.L.E. "Special" (Gun)</i>	24
<i>Thrush Rifle</i>	24
<i>U.N.C.L.E. ID</i>	24
<i>Thermite Explosives</i>	25
<i>The U.N.C.L.E. Car</i>	25
<i>Tracking Devices</i>	25
<i>Waverly Rings</i>	26
<i>Truth Serums, Knockout Drugs and Other Pharmaceuticals</i>	26
<i>Ad Hoc Devices</i>	26
THE U.N.C.L.E. ORGANIZATION	27
THE STRUCTURE.....	27
<i>Section I: Policy and Operations</i>	28
<i>Section II: Operations and Enforcement</i>	28
<i>Section III: Enforcement and Intelligence</i>	28
<i>Section IV: Intelligence and Communications</i>	28
<i>Section V: Communication and Security</i>	28
<i>Section VII: Public Relations and Propaganda</i>	28
<i>Section VIII: Research and Development</i>	28
THE FILE ON NS AND IK	29
NAPOLEON SOLO	29
ILLYA KURYAKIN.....	34
ILLYA AND THE WOMEN	39
THRUSH THE GUYS WE LOVE TO HATE.....	42
U.N.C.L.E. PERSONNEL NS AND IK DIDN'T DO IT ALONE.....	45
ADMINISTRATION:.....	45
NEW YORK SUPPORT STAFF:	45
FIELD AGENTS:	46
LINKS U.N.C.L.E. SOURCES ON THE INTERNET	48
THE STORY OF MFU:	48
<i>Some video links:</i>	48
THE FACTS ABOUT UNCLE:.....	48
ABOUT THE FANS:	49
<i>Fanfic</i>	49
MFU Specific Archives:	49
Multi-Fandom Archives with MFU stories:	50
Individual Fiction Web Sites	50
Some General Info on Finding Fanfic.....	51
<i>MFU Art</i>	51
<i>MFU Fanvids</i>	51
THE BIRTH OF MFU ONLINE.....	52

OVERVIEW OF A SPY PARODY

By C.W. Walker

The Man from U.N.C.L.E., which aired on NBC from September 1964 to January 1968, has often been described as television's version of James Bond, but it was much more than that. It was, quite simply, a pop culture phenomenon. Although its ratings were initially poor early in the first season, a change in time period and cross-country promotional appearances by its stars, Robert Vaughn and David McCallum, helped the show build a large and enthusiastic audience.

At the peak of its popularity, **The Man from U.N.C.L.E.** was telecast in 60 countries and



consistently ranked in the top ten programs on U.S. television. Eight feature-length films were made from two-part episodes and profitably released in the United States and Europe. TV Guide called it "the cult of millions." The show received 10,000 fan

letters per week, and Vaughn and McCallum were mobbed by crowds of teenagers as if they were rock stars. U.N.C.L.E. was also a huge merchandising success with images of the series' stars and its distinctive logo (a man standing beside a skeletal globe) appearing on hundreds of items, from bubble gum cards to a line of adult clothing.

The show had a little something for everyone. Children took it seriously as an exciting action adventure. Teenagers enjoyed its hip, cool style, identifying with and idolizing its heroes. More mature viewers appreciated the tongue-in-cheek humor and the roman a clef references to real-life political figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Eva Peron, interpreting it as a metaphor for the

struggle common to all nations against the forces of greed, cruelty and aggression.

The Man from U.N.C.L.E. redefined the television spy program introducing into the genre a number of fresh innovations. Notably, the show broke with espionage tradition and looked beyond the Cold War politics of the time to envision a new world order. The fictional United Network Command for Law Enforcement was multinational in makeup and international in scope, protecting and defending nations regardless of size or political persuasion. For example, a third season episode, "The Jingle Bells Affair" showed a Soviet premier visiting New York during Christmas time, touring department stores and delivering a speech on peaceful coexistence at the United Nations, twenty-two years before Mikhail Gorbachev actually made a similar trip.

The show also broke new ground in re-conceptualizing the action adventure hero. Prompted by a woman at the BBC he once met who complained that the leads in American series were all big, tall, and muscular and, well, American, producer Norman Felton (Eleventh Hour; Dr. Kildare) decided to vary the formula. His series, developed with Sam Rolfe (co-creator of Have Gun, Will Travel) teamed an American agent, Napoleon Solo (Robert Vaughn) with a Soviet one, Illya Kuryakin (David McCallum). Each week, they were sent off on their missions (called "affairs") by their boss, Alexander Waverly, a garrulous, craggy, pipe-smoking spy master played by Leo G. Carroll.

Neither the suave Solo nor the enigmatic Kuryakin were physically impressive. They were instead intelligent, sophisticated, witty, charming, always polite and impeccably well-tailored. Sometimes they made mistakes, and often they lost the battle before they won the war. What made U.N.C.L.E. truly appealing was the way it walked a fine line between the real and the fanciful, juxtaposing elements that were both surprisingly fantastic and humorously mundane. For example, as they battled bizarre threats to world peace like trained killer bees, radar-defeating bats, hiccup gas, suspended animation devices, and earthquake machines, the agents also worried about expense accounts, insurance

policies, health plans and interdepartmental gossip.

While the series showed that heroic people had ordinary concerns, it also demonstrated that ordinary people could be heroic. During the course of each week's affair at least one civilian or "innocent" was inevitably caught up in the action. These innocents were average, everyday people--housewives, stewardesses, secretaries, librarians, school teachers, college students, tourists, even some children--people very much like those sitting in U.N.C.L.E.'s viewing audience. At the start of the story, they often complained of their boring, unexciting lives -- lives to which, after all the terror and mayhem was over, they were only too happy to return.

By contrast, U.N.C.L.E.'s villains were fabulously exotic and larger than life. In addition to the usual international crime syndicates, Nazi war criminals, and power hungry dictators, U.N.C.L.E. also battled THRUSH, a secret society of mad scientists, megalomaniac industrialists, and corrupt government officials who held the Nietzschean belief that because of their superior intelligence, wealth, ambition and position, they were entitled to rule the world. A number of prominent actors and actresses guest starred each week as either villains or innocents, including Joan Crawford, George Sanders, Kurt Russell, William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy (who appeared together pre-Star Trek in "The Project Strigas Affair") and Sonny and Cher.

The U.N.C.L.E. formula was so successful that it spawned a host of imitators, including a spin-off of its own, *The Girl from U.N.C.L.E.* in 1966. Starring Stephanie Powers as female agent April Dancer and Noel Harrison (son of Rex) as her British sidekick, Mark Slate, *The Girl from U.N.C.L.E.* took its cue from the wild campiness of the then-popular *Batman* rather than from its parent show. Although it featured many of the same elements of *Man*, including a specially designed gun and other advanced weaponry and the super-secret headquarters hidden behind an innocent tailor shop, *Girl's* plots were either absurdly implausible or downright silly and the series lasted only a year.

By its third season, ***The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*** had also become infected by the trend toward

camp and though the tone was readjusted to be more serious in the fourth season, viewers deserted the show in droves. Once in the top ten, the series dropped to sixty-fourth in the ratings and was canceled mid-season, to be replaced by Rowan and Martin's *Laugh-In*.

This was not the end of U.N.C.L.E., however. Because of concerns about violence voiced by parent-teacher groups, the series was not widely syndicated and reruns did not appear until cable networks began to air them in the 1980s. Nevertheless, ***The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*** was not forgotten. Nearly every spy program that appeared during the ensuing decades borrowed from its various motifs (naming spy organizations with an acronym has become a genre cliché). The Scarecrow and Mrs. King expanded the premise of U.N.C.L.E.'s original pilot episode into an entire series, and even non-espionage programs as diverse as *The A-Team* and *thirtysomething* continued to make references to it. In 1983, Vaughn and McCallum reunited to play Solo and Kuryakin in a TV-movie, ***Return of The Man from U.N.C.L.E.: The Fifteen Years Later Affair***.

CAST:

Napoleon Solo..... Robert Vaughn
Illya Kuryakin..... David McCallum
Mr. Alexander Waverly..... Leo G. Carroll
Lisa Rogers (1967-1968)Barbara Moore

PRODUCERS:

Norman Felton, Sam H. Rolfe, Anthony Spinner, Boris Ingster

FURTHER READING:

Anderson, Robert. ***The U.N.C.L.E. Tribute Book***
Las Vegas, Nevada: Pioneer, 1994

Heitland, John. ***The Man from U.N.C.L.E. Book: The Behind-the-Scenes Story of a Television Classic***
New York: St. Martin's, 1987

Javna, John. ***Cult TV***.
New York: St. Martin's, 1985

Paquette, Brian, and Paul Howley. ***The Toys From U.N.C.L.E.***
Worcester, Massachusetts: Entertainment, 1990

Worland, Rick. ***"The Cold War Mannerists: The Man from U.N.C.L.E. and TV Espionage in the 1960s"***
Journal of Popular Film and Television (Washington, D.C.), Winter 1994

THE U.N.C.L.E. ATLAS

OF REAL AND IMAGINARY PLACES

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Author's Note: I've excluded (in so far as one can tell) the greater New York City area, as that's home turf. Some names and locations (clearly) are guesswork.

Editor's Note: The exclusion of greater NYC locations means that some episodes are not included in the list as they take place entirely in such.

SEASON ONE

The Vulcan Affair

- Maryland, United Global Chemical Corporation: Factory owned by Andrew Vulcan, Eastern Seaboard head of operations of THRUSH
- Middleton, N.Y.: home town of Elaine May Donaldson (nee Bender)
- Washington, D.C.: home of Andrew Vulcan

The Iowa Scuba Affair

- Iowa (no specific town): secret U.S. Air Force Base location for the S-9 catapult plane. There is a nearby lake, also unnamed.

The Quadripartite Affair

- Yugoslavia (no specific town or region): Dr. Gregory Raven was working for the International Public Health Service here. We meet Marion there first, and our heroes return there.

The Shark Affair

- Captain Shark's boat, somewhere at sea.

The Green Opal Affair

- Just south of the Yucatan peninsula, Gulf of Honduras: Where financier Walter G. Brock sails every year on the ninth of September, and where Napoleon serves as his accountant.

The Giuoco Piano Affair

- Bariqua, a town in "the high Andes" South American continent:



(interesting note: agent killed at the start had a wedding ring on) – it is unclear precisely where in the area Gervaise Ravel and hubby lay their heads.

The Double Affair

- Washington, D.C., UNCLE's underground HQ.
- "Somewhere in the Austrian Alps:" presumably both the "Earthsafe" underground complex and the THRUSH HQ (aka Griffith Park Observatory, California).

The Finny Foot Affair

- Island off Scotland: where our heroes burn to the ground the village "killed" by the seal that had ingested chemical J-47.
- Bergen, Norway: where Napoleon flies in.
- Stromberg, Norway: village where Napoleon "marries the maiden."
- Coast of Norway: castle HQ of General Yokura and region where chemical was hidden in cave.
- London: UNCLE HQ.

The Neptune Affair

- Northern Coast of the Soviet Union: Where the rocket carrying the grain-killing fungus landed.
- Orbesk, Soviet Union: Where Illya watches for the next attack
- Southport (California by implication): where Napoleon goes seeking the bad guys.

The Dove Affair

- Czernia, the Balkans: where Napoleon steals the Dove from Premier Janz' body.
- King of Knaves
- Rome, Italy.

The King of Knaves Affair

- Rome, Italy: U.N.C.L.E. HQ and Casa Truffare.
- Somewhere in Italy: Fasik el Passad's secret encampment.

The Terbuf Affair

- Rome, Italy: where Illya and Napoleon are on holiday when they begin the affair.
- Terbuf, in the Balkans, near the Greek border: Clara Valdar's adopted nation.

The Deadly Decoy Affair

- Washington, D.C.: destination for the prisoner drop from NYC.

The Fiddlesticks Affair

- Emerald Island, Caribbean: location of the casino where Thrush keeps its entire treasury for western operations.

The Yellow Scarf Affair

- Bombay, India.

The Secret Scepter Affair

- "The Middle East:" Drop zone of Act 1.
- Marseilles, France: Drop site for the scepter.

The Bow Wow Affair

- Long Island, N.Y.: home of Delilah Dovro. Unclear where Mr. Waverly's brother et al. live

but by implication it's all in New York or vicinity.

The Four Steps Affair

- "East Hampton area," Long Island: where agent Dancer was killed.
- Shantai, in the Himalayas: home of Miki (not visited).

The See Paris and Die Affair

- Paris, France: Location of Max Van Schreeten's club Le Roue.
- Malreau (guessing from Max's pronunciation – I can find no border town name that is similar), France: border town destination of Max and Mary.

The Hong Kong Shilling Affair

- Hong Kong, China.

The Love Affair

- Long Island, New York: site of Brother Love's party.
- Los Angeles, California: site of Brother Love's bomb base.

The Gazebo in the Maze Affair

- Eastsnout, England: Emory Partridge's town.

The Girls of Nazarone Affair

- Cannes, the French Riviera.

The Odd Man Affair

- Flight from Paris to London: Illya is in flight in opening scene.
- London, England: Hyde Park Debating Club, the front for the "extremist" organization.

SEASON TWO

The Alexander the Greater Affair

- Fort Winning, N.J.: military test base where Alexander steals the BG30 will gas.
- Athens, Greece: where our heroes meet Mr. Kavon at the University of Athens. The rock quarry is outside Athens.

- Alexandris (based on Tracey's pronunciation, but she might've meant Alexandria), Greece: location of Alexander's villa.
- Minos, Greece: Island location of the Spiros tomb.
- Washington, D.C.: location of the Grecian Urn, Alexander's health spa. Also location of the party where Alexander intends to assassinate a nation's leader.
- Alexandria, Virginia: location of Alexander's farm.

The Ultimate Computer Affair

- Chaqua, South America: location of prison and THRUSH satrap.

The Foxes and Hounds Affair

- Paris, France: where agents Cantrell and Kuryakin first collect the mind-reading device of Merlin.

The Re-Collectors Affair

- Madrid, Spain: scene of Grigori Velletti's first kill.
- Rome, Italy: Location of re-collectors' "hideout."

The Arabian Affair

- Saudi Arabia (near Aqaba):



location of tribe and THRUSH test outpost.

The Tigers are Coming Affair

- The Panat Principality, India: home of Prince Panat.

The Deadly Toys Affair

- Mojave Desert, California: location of poisonous hypnotic gas plant which Napoleon and Illya blow up.
- La Chapelle, Switzerland: location of Bartlett Warschowski's school.

The Cherry Blossom Affair

- Kiru, Japan: location of THRUSH satrap.

The Virtue Affair

- France (no specifics supplied): location of chateau.

The Children's Day Affair

- "Near the Italian Border," Switzerland
- Geneva, Switzerland: UNCLE HQ
- Figliano, Switzerland: location of Ecole Figliano, Mother Fear's pad.

The Adriatic Express Affair

- Vienna to Venice: the route of the Adriatic Express

The Yukon Affair

- "The Yukon," Canada: home of Partridge's facility.

The Very Important Zombie Affair

- Miami Beach, Florida: where our heroes "pick up" Senor Delgado.
- La Puerta del Cielo, "in the Caribbean:" home of El Supremo.

The Dippy Blonde Affair

- Long Island, New York: THRUSH satrap.

The Deadly Goddess Affair

- North Africa: cabaret where Napoleon spies on Colonel Hubris.
- Circe, Mediterranean: island on which Napoleon and Illya shoot down THRUSH's robot plane.

The Birds and the Bees Affair

- Geneva, Switzerland: UNCLE'S HQ, in a watch shop.

The Bridge of Lions Affair

- Soho, London, England: Where Illya stalks cats, and Mr. Corvey.
- Surrey, England: county of Sir Norman Swickert's country estate
- Paris, France: salon of Madame de Sala
- Hong Kong: THRUSH central HQ

The Foreign Legion Affair

- Casbah, "somewhere in the Sudan:" where Illya busts a THRUSH safe for the TRIAD code.
- Casablanca: where Napoleon starts looking for Illya.
- Fort Sablon : the "abandoned" Foreign Legion fort.

The Moonglow Affair

- The Caresse Estate and yacht: unidentified location.

The Nowhere Affair

- Nowhere, Nevada: Ghost town where Napoleon is captured.

The King of Diamonds Affair

- Soho, London: site of Percival Peacock Diamond thefts, and of Pogues Puddings.
- Dartmoor Prison: where the King of Diamonds is imprisoned.
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: where the puddings are shipped to fund revolution.
- Amazon jungle: location of Delgado's mine.

The Project Deephole Affair

- San Francisco, California: site of Project Deephole.

The Round Table Affair

- Ingolstein: European nation location of the Round Table Affair.

The Bat Cave Affair

- Somewhere in the Ozarks: Clemency McGill's home.
- Madrid, Spain: Where Illya is bullfighting.

- Seville, Spain: Where Illya is captured by Count Zark at Casa del Lobo.
- Transylvania: where Count Zark is organizing Operation Night Flight.

The Minus-X Affair

- Acapulco, Mexico: where Leslie Stemmler is partying when Illya finds her.
- Rollo Chemical Works: location unclear but more than a hundred miles northeast from UNCLE area W4.

The Indian Affairs Affair

- Washington D.C.: on the assumption the Department of the Interior Office Napoleon visits at the start is in the capital.
- Karniak (sp?) Indian Reservation outside Oklahoma City, Oklahoma: location of tribe and THRUSH installation.

SEASON THREE

The Her Master's Voice Affair

- Long Island, NY: location of the Partridge Academy for Young Women

The Galatea Affair

- Venice, Italy: Where Illya and Napoleon pursue the Baroness and get all wet.
- Hamburg, Germany: where Mark and Illya pick up Rosy the Riveting.
- Paris, France: Where Mark Slate converts the tramp to a lady.
- France: (Presumably) the location of the Baroness' chateau.

The Super-Colossal Affair

- Sicily: Where our heroes observe the meeting of the international crime syndicate.
- Beverly Hills, California: Where Illya does his pool boy shtick with Ginger.
- Las Vegas, Nevada: where the movie's being shot

The Monks of St. Thomas Affair

- "High up in the Swiss Alps"/"near Zurich:" location of the monastery of St. Thomas.

The Pop Art Affair

- Great Neck, Long Island: home of Sylvia's parents.
- Harmonica Lake (presumably still New York):



where the kids hang out.

The Thor Affair

- Unidentified Asian nation: where our heroes are sent to thwart President Nahdi's assassination.
- Geneva, Switzerland: location of peace conference.
- Candidate's Wife
- San Francisco, California: Scene of political convention.

The Come With Me to the Casbah Affair

- Algiers/the Casbah.

The Concrete Overcoat Affair

- Taormina, Sicily: location of Mr. Strego's winery and where our heroes meet Pia.
- Miami, Florida: Fingers Stilletto's home.
- Santa Robles, California: Federico Stilletto's home.
- Chicago, Illinois: where the Stilletto brothers meet; also location of Strego's warehouse.
- Unspecified island in the Caribbean: site of Strego's missile installation.

The Abominable Snowman Affair

- Ghupat, "somewhere in the Himalayas."

The My Friend the Gorilla Affair

- Somewhere in Africa.

The Take Me to Your Leader Affair

- An island "Somewhere in the Caribbean" again: Dr. Cool's lab.
- Louisiana: Mr. Sparrow's plantation.
- Unspecified but presumably Southeastern U.S.: Sparrow Dynamics.

The Suburbia Affair

- Peaceful Haven Estates: implicitly somewhere in or near New York.

The Deadly Smorgasbord Affair

- Stockholm, Sweden: location of university.
- Oslo, Sweden: Location of UNCLE HQ.

The Yo-Ho-Ho and a Bottle of Rum Affair

- Hong Kong, and at sea.

The Napoleon's Tomb Affair

- Paris, France.

The It's All Greek to Me Affair

- Athens, Greece.
- The Fanaria Taverna on the road to Avros.

The Hula Doll Affair

- "UNCLE Test Range:" otherwise unidentified.

The Pieces of Fate Affair

- Mainsville, Ohio.

The Matterhorn Affair

- Singapore: where Napoleon and Illya meet Fred Score to get the film on the Quasimodo project
- "Somewhere in Southern California": where we meet Marvin and his sister.
- Switzerland: where THRUSH mistakenly takes Marvin to visit the real Matterhorn.

The When in Roma Affair

- Rome, Italy.

The Apple A Day Affair

- Purple Valley, in “Hillbilly country:” Location of apple farm.

The Five Daughters Affair

- Rome, Italy: location of the DeFanzini Palazzo
- Austrian Alps: ski resort where we meet Yvonne
- Vienna, Austria: where our heroes and Sandy get on the private UNCLE jet
- The Billeric Islands: where the jet makes its emergency landing
- London, England: Imogen's home
- Tokyo, Japan: where our heroes visit a geisha house
- North (presumably) Pole: where THRUSH has its gold-making facilities

The Cap and Gown Affair

- Blair University (unidentified location but evidently the U.S.).

SEASON FOUR

The Summit-Five Affair

- Berlin, Germany 0 UNCLE HQ and surrounds.

The Test-Tube Killer Affair

- Guadalajara, Mexico: location of The Conquesta Fencing School.
- Austria: location of fencing championships.
- Antinos, Greece: the village Greg Martin is to destroy.

The J for Judas Affair

- New York: presumably, the HQ for Mark Tesla
- Tangiers: where Mark Tesla flies and Napoleon has a little chat with him.
- Guatemala (unnamed village): Where “J” Tesla struts around being morally superior to everyone else.

The Prince of Darkness Affair

- A village “Somewhere in East Africa”: where our heroes first encounter the prism.
- An island off Greece: where Napoleon picks up Luther Sebastian.
- Iran: location of Dr. Kharmusi's estate.
- Los Angeles, California: location of Mrs. Sebastian's home. Presumably his HQ, housed in an old theater, is somewhere in the general vicinity of L.A.

The Master's Touch Affair

- Lisbon, Portugal:



general location of Mandor's villa.

The THRUSH Roulette Affair

- “Somewhere in the Caribbean”: the location of the Club Thanatopsis.

The Fiery Angel Affair

- Querido: the South American nation of Angela and General Abaca.
- “A remote village in Switzerland”: where Illya takes Angela for her protection.

The Survival School Affair

- “An uncharted island 700 miles off the shipping lanes” (presumably in the Atlantic): location of UNCLE Survival School.

The Gurnius Affair

- “Somewhere in Europe”: location of Kragensburg Prison.
- The South American Republic of San Rico: where our neo-Nazis have their new HQ.

The Man from THRUSH Affair

- Somewhere in Greece: opening scene.
- The island of Irbos in the Aegean.

The Maze Affair

- Brooklyn: location of Febray Electronics.
- Vinegar Wells: a desert community, presumably in the American southwest. Near the ghost town where THRUSH has set up their test site.

The Deep Six Affair

- London: UNCLE HQ, and the Thames, where the submarine tests begin.

The Seven Wonders of the World Affair

- 40 Miles East of Macao: Where our heroes fail to catch Mr. Webb.
- Hong Kong: location of UNCLE HQ.
- Berlin, Germany: whence Anna departs to join her father, Dr. Erickson.

THE AGENTS' NEW YORK

By C.W. Walker

As we all know, **"The Man from U.N.C.L.E."** was filmed on the MGM backlot. Scenery was, at best, generic. This worked all right for mythical countries like Querido and Western Natumba, and for nonspecific locations like "somewhere in France." But there was one location which was very real and very specific, and that was the home of U.N.C.L.E.'s Western Hemisphere Headquarters: New York City. Since this was in an era in which continuity was not a strong point in television series, no one seemed to mind that the streets of Los Angeles looked nothing like New York. As a result, what we saw was a not quite reasonable facsimile. Even in the later, "Return of **The Man from U.N.C.L.E.**" TV movie, Solo and Kuryakin are shown walking down a so-called "New York" street --- that has palm trees in the background! So what's a fanfic writer to do?

Well, a lot of us end up e-mailing another fan who lives in the vicinity of New York to ask research questions. Since I live within a 45 minute bus ride of "The City" (and by the way, that's what folks who live in the metropolitan area call it), I get a lot of questions about Gotham (a favorite nickname used by the tabloid newspapers, the N.Y. Post and the Daily News). Here, then, are answers to some of the more common questions. Note that the information (unless otherwise indicated) applies to U.N.C.L.E.'s "classic" period, the mid 60's. Some of the businesses discussed here, for example, no longer exist.

If you happen to have a street map of New York City handy, open it up and follow along. You should position it so that Manhattan is in the middle. The Hudson River (and beyond it, New Jersey) lies to the west. The East River is (naturally) to the east. The other city boroughs are as follows: the Bronx to the north; Brooklyn to the southeast; Queens, farther to the east, and finally, Staten Island off to the southwest. Note that the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, which connects Brooklyn and Staten Island, didn't open until 1964. As a result, Staten Island, which actually lies closer to New Jersey than New York, remained bucolic and even somewhat rural up to the late 1960's.

Where is U.N.C.L.E. HQ?

An exact address is still a mystery. Original promotional notes described it as "somewhere in the east Fifties." This was changed to the "east Forties" for the narrated introduction during the first season. As a result, the Ace books put it variously around 44th-46th Street, between Second and Third Avenues. However, I recently excavated the pilot script by Sam Rolfe. Rolfe says that HQ is located around First Avenue, three or four blocks north of the U.N. enclave. Since U.N. property extends to 47th Street, it is possible that HQ really is in the East 50's, making the view from Waverly's office in the fourth season entirely reasonable. In any case, the exact location is up for grabs. All we really know is that HQ is three or four blocks northwest of the U.N. --- however you want to figure it.



Where would Napoleon Solo live?

Anyone who knows New York and its neighborhoods probably couldn't picture Solo living anywhere else but the upper East Side. And, as it turns out, that's where Rolfe put him, too. In the pilot, there's a clear view of the East River from Solo's window. If we want to give Solo a very chic address, the apartment could be located on the exclusive Sutton Place, within walking distance of HQ. A more modest neighborhood (but still upper middle class) would put him anyplace above 50th and below 86th Street. If it's a high-rise apartment located around First Avenue, he could still have a decent view of the river over the East River Drive. [Note: in the series, there's an address on a suitcase: 221 Fifth

Ave ---but this would make Solo live in a park.]



By the way, New York is unlike most American cities and very much like European cities. That is, in Manhattan, nobody has a front yard of any sort. There may be a tiny courtyard tucked in the rear of buildings on the West Side and in Greenwich Village, or residents may make do with a shared, man-made garden space on the apartment house roof. Penthouses may have small terraces or roof space. But keep in mind, even in the most luxurious homes, space is at a premium. Those who require it, improvise. The wealthy will own an entire brownstone, or inhabit a sprawling apartment made so by the landlord combining two or more units. Artists head down to the Soho area (East Side, below Greenwich Village) and set up their studios in old factory warehouse spaces (called lofts). Nobody minds. Manhattanites are the fastest walking, fastest speaking, busiest people on the planet. They don't garden much. They don't hang over the fence to chat with the neighbors (they don't have fences and they don't know their neighbors.) And, if they're at all mobile, they don't stay home much, either.

Where would Illya Kuryakin live?

Although an early writers' guide says that Solo and Kuryakin live in separate apartments but in the same building, many fanfic writers have chosen to have them live entirely separate. As J. Hunter Holly points out in the Ace novel, *The Assassination Affair*, for security reasons, enforcement agents would probably have to change addresses frequently anyway. Two neighborhoods that Kuryakin might find appealing are the Upper West Side and Greenwich Village. It's important to remember that Lincoln Center,

located between 62nd and 65th Streets, at Ninth Ave. (called Columbus Ave. in this area of the city) had just been built in the early 1960's. Indeed, the new Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center didn't open until 1966. The area around Lincoln Center had been on the decline. Soon, however, it began filling with shops catering to musicians, dancers and opera buffs, small bistro type restaurants, revival movie theaters and lots of bookstores, evolving into the quiet, low-key slightly upscale cultural mecca it is today.

Greenwich Village is another possibility, of course. The Village (as it is called) was --- and still is --- a place unto itself in New York. Even before the 1950's "beatnik" area, it was always a place of small specialty stores, jazz clubs, record stores, vintage clothing stores and, starting around the mid-60's, so-called "head shops." Buildings are low in the Village; streets wind and angle and turn back on themselves. Officially, 14th Street forms the northern boundary of the Village, Houston (pronounced How-ston) Street, the southern boundary. Washington Square Park (Waverly Place is located nearby) is the heart. New York University and the New School for Social Research have buildings and dorms scattered throughout the area. The west side, around Christopher Street, is sort of a gay enclave (the Gay Liberation movement began here in the early 1970's) The East Village is even more radical: the Hell's Angels have a clubhouse here. The Village has always had a homey live-and-let-live feel to it. There are trees and dogs and kids running around. People stay out late and sleep in, so that shops usually don't open before noon and tend to have night hours. There are lots of artistic folk and academicians, but also iconoclastic families. In the late 60's, however, a few Weathermen (not the forecasting type) moved in and blew up a brownstone. You can still notice the building today: when the new owners rebuilt the house's facade, they angled it, making it literally stand out from all the other brownstones on the block.

Where would Solo and Kuryakin eat?

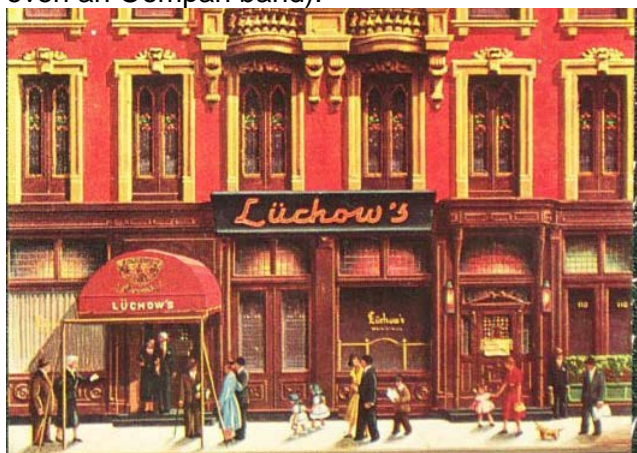
Probably not too often at home. With only the richest, rarest exceptions, New York apartments have the teeniest, tiniest kitchens that you can imagine. Refrigerators are often the size the rest of us use in the basement for entertaining. As a

result, New Yorkers don't shop in big supermarkets. There are a few chains but even these stores are small. Most New Yorkers shop for food like Europeans: just enough for a few days at a time, usually at small, specialty stores (wine from a wine shop; fruits and vegetables from a grocer; meat from the butcher). If

you want to see a real New York apartment, don't watch TV. In my opinion, the only authentic New York apartments I've ever seen on the tube were on the old *Honeymooners* show and more recently, on *Seinfeld* (forget *Mad About You* --- only the living room looks right).

New Yorkers eat out a lot and they have a wide range of restaurants, delis, coffee shops, and cafes (with outside seating in good weather) to choose from. Only recently have fast food places like McDonald's invaded the landscape, although there's always been a Howard Johnson's in Time Square. I'm not certain, but I believe the Horn and Hardart's automat also was still open during the 1960's.

If Solo really wanted to impress a date, he might take her to the "21" Club (21 W. 52nd), to the Four Seasons (99 E. 52nd St.), or the Oak Room at the Plaza Hotel (Fifth Ave and 59th at the southeast corner of Central Park --- note: this hotel is probably the "real" Alexandria Park Hotel of the *Return* movie). After a Broadway show, they might go to Sardi's (in the theater district, across from Shubert Alley) since the restaurant hadn't become quite the tourist trap it is these days. For German, there's Luchow's (110 14th St. --- good beers, authentic atmosphere, sometimes even an Oompah band).



For French, La Caravelle (33 W. 55th), La Grenouille (3 E. 52nd) or Quo Vadis (26 E. 63rd)

Italian would probably rate a trip to Little Italy (south of the Village) in search of the perfect little family-owned restaurant, while Chinese food would mean a night in Chinatown (around Canal Street, also southeast of the Village). Then finally, steaks at the Pen and Pencil (205 E. 45th) or Gallagher's (228 W. 52nd), hamburgers at P.J. Clarke's (915 Third Ave) pastrami at the Stage Deli (834 Seventh Ave), oyster stew at the Oyster Bar in Grand Central Station, or even a hot dog at the large, busy Nathan's in Times Square.

If Kuryakin craved some home cooking, he could splurge at the Russian Tea Room (150 W. 57th, just around the corner from Carnegie Hall). This was the prototype for the so-called "Russian Cafe" of the *Return* movie. The old Russian Tea Room was rather baroque and exotic (it is currently undergoing renovation). But the food was authentic if expensive and the drinks from the bar were known to be lethal. Knowing Illya's frugality, however, it's more likely he'd seek out a small unassuming Central European restaurant -- Czech, Hungarian, Polish as well as Russian. These could be found in the East 70's around First and Second Ave and also farther south, around 14-23rd Sts., First to Third Avenue. Note that today, there is a Russian community at Brighton Beach so large, that the area has shop signs in English and Russian. It's been dubbed "Little Odessa," and the Russian mafia is firmly entrenched there. However, in the 1960's and before, the area was mostly Jewish (see Neil Simon).

How would Solo and Kuryakin get around?

You probably remember how Solo could always find a parking spot directly in front of U.N.C.L.E. HQ. Unless they had an arrangement with the local NYPD, this is one of the biggest fantasies of the series. Manhattanites are not into the "car culture" and for good reason: it often takes longer to get anywhere by car and once you arrive, there's no place to put it. New Yorkers (like Solo) who own cars, generally keep them in a public garage, paying monthly fees, and use them only for weekends and vacations. Many longtime Manhattanites not only don't own cars; they never learn to drive. Like restaurants, public transportation is good and plentiful. There are lots of taxis. Those that operate primarily in Manhattan are yellow. In the 1960's, cabs came in two sizes: regular and Checker. Checker cabs

were big, boxy vehicles with an extra wide passenger section that came equipped with two extra pull down jump seats. This meant as many as five or even six passengers could squeeze in if necessary. The pool of cab drivers has always been drawn from the latest immigrant population. Old time cab drivers did fit the stereotype (and some still do): chatty, aggressive, and yes, they drive fast and furious. There are also subways and buses. Buses are slow. They're okay for sightseeing or for a short distance, and they're favored by the senior citizens and the handicapped. However, if you're trying to get across town fast, take the subways.

New York subways were never pretty, even then.



They have steep staircases leading down and some of the larger stations (such as Times Square) are a maze of corridors and tunnels (great for chases). Signs are confusing: out-of-towners often get lost. New Yorkers are not polite about subways: they squeeze themselves on during rush hour until every last bit of space is taken. They also try to beat the closing doors by jamming themselves through or having someone thrust a hand or umbrella into the opening (the doors will not close and the train cannot move if someone is holding the door). People tend to hang out on the edge of the subway platform, to look up the long, dark tunnels to see if the lights of a train are coming in the distance. If you do fall off into the tracks, beware the third rail. It's electrified and it's a killer. There have been cases, however, of people falling into the pit in which the tracks are located, with the train traveling overhead and they survived.

Because of the complicated history of the subways, there are several separate lines and sometimes, you must transfer from one to the other. The Seventh Ave/IRT (No. 1,2,3,) runs

from the Wall Street area into the Bronx, cutting across Manhattan from center to west (you take this line to Lincoln Center and further, to the Bronx Zoo). The other west side line, the IND (A, AA, E, CC) is famous from that song, "Take the A Train." In Manhattan, this line runs along the far west side (Eighth Ave), from the tip of the island, up to Harlem. Also take this line to Kennedy Airport and Aqueduct Racetrack. Another IND line, the F,D, B, runs around the center of Manhattan. Take this one if you're going to Rockefeller Center. The only East Side line is the second IRT line (4,5,6) nicknamed "The Lex" because it runs along Lexington Ave. One other line, the BMT (QB, RR) runs in the center of Manhattan and is used by shoppers. Note that all these lines run north and south, more or less. the only real cross-town line is the No. 7. It shuttles from Times Square to Grand Central mostly, but you can stay on and ride it all the way to Shea Stadium.

If you know the subway system and the trains are running well that day (no breakdowns, no tunnel floodings, etc.) you can get almost anywhere in Manhattan fairly quickly. Shoppers, for example, can take a line right from Macy's in Herald Square to the basement of Bloomingdale's, and never get their heads wet if it's raining outside. You can only use the special subway token to get through the turnstiles (on buses you can use either tokens or change). Tokens at that time were made of brass with a "Y" cut out in the center. They cost 30 cents. To understand the subways, it's best to get one of those colorful subway maps on which each of the lines is depicted in a different bright color (in the 1970's, these maps were popular on t-shirts). To help jog riders' memories, the lines were all associated with a particular color: the Eighth Ave. line was blue; the Lex was green, the 7th Ave. was red, the IND F/D was orange; the RR /QB was yellow; the No. 7 was purple. Recently, some of the lines and the colors have been shuffled. Note, too, that there are both local and express trains on each line. On the Eighth Ave. line, for example, the A will whiz by, while the CC will chug along, stopping at every station. Often, when two trains are stopped at a station with their doors open (the local and the express usually stop at opposite sides of the platform) commuters on one train will jump out and run across the platform to get on the other, thus improving their travel time.

If one is leaving the city by mass transit, there are several choices. There are two airports: JFK International Airport (called Idlewild until December, 1963) located at the southeastern corner of Queens, near Shea Stadium, and La Guardia at the northern end of Queens, right next to the East River. You could also cross to Jersey



and fly out of Newark, but that airport was very small at the time and looked like the airports shown on the series. It was expanded and refurbished in the 1970's. La Guardia is very crowded and harder to get to, and

because of its location right next to the water, the runways are short. At least once a year, a plane veers off and has an accident in bad weather.

If you're leaving by train, you can go from Grand Central Terminal (a lovely, classic, graceful building at 42nd and Park) or from Penn Station (tucked under Madison Square Garden). Trains going to Connecticut leave from Grand Central. Trains going to New Jersey and Long Island leave from Penn Station. If you're going to commute to or from Jersey, you can also take a bus from Port Authority (41st St. and Eighth Ave.) The Port Authority bus station has had an unsavory reputation from the early 1970's and perhaps, even before. The area surrounding it, from Eighth Ave to Times Square, 42nd Street to just below the 50's, was filled with X-rated theaters and porn shops and has only recently been cleaned up.

You could also take the ferry. When the Verrazano Narrows Bridge opened, it was thought that the Staten Island ferry was doomed. After all, it only served the small number of Staten Island commuters and they could now take the bridge. But the ferry survived and still operates today. The trip between the South Ferry slip in Manhattan and the St. George slip in Staten Island takes less than an hour round trip. In the

60's, it only cost 5 cents. A lot of office-bound New Yorkers will jump on the ferry for lunch, eat a hot dog or a knish (potato dumpling wrapped in fried dough) and ride it round trip for a pleasant breath of fresh air. You can also catch a ferry to the Statue of Liberty leaving from Battery Park. And finally, there's also the Circle Line, a boat that circles Manhattan island, and is very popular with tourists.

When an agent says he's going downtown or uptown, what does he mean?

Well, that depends upon where he is in the city, of course. Generally, however, "uptown" means the area between 59th and 125th Streets. In the Black community, "uptown" means Harlem (125th St. and above) "Downtown" means the area below 14th Street, but usually, what people mean when they say they're going "downtown" is the Wall Street area. Unlike other cities, New York's "downtown" is not the main shopping district. All the important stores, hotels, etc. are located in "Midtown", the area between 14th and 59th Street.

Where would the agents shop for clothes?

Clotheshorse that he is, Solo would no doubt be a frequent customer at Brooks Brothers (346 Madison Ave. at 44th St.) and the men's wear department at Saks Fifth Avenue (5th and 48th). Also, for particular items: he'd go to Battaglia (473 Park near 58th) for hand-made Italian sweaters, and Dominique France (61 E.54th) for silk ties, dressing gowns and shirts from France. Marc Anthony (1079 Lexington near 76th) and Alexander Shields (484 Park near 58th) were also favored stores to buy expensive men's furnishings (that is, accessories).

Since Kuryakin tends to be more frugal, he might go looking for bargains at Jerry Ward (179 Madison near 34th and 633 Lexington near 56th) These men's wear shops were located on second floors (cheaper rent). They seldom advertised and didn't offer credit. Because of these savings, they were able to sell good quality men's clothing at 30 per cent below regular prices. He would also frequent the annual warehouse sale at Barney's (7th Ave. and 17th St.) And since Barney's was the largest men's store in the world, Solo just might go with him. On a day off, Kuryakin might also cruise the men's shoe shops near Delancey Street, near Orchard, an area

known for bargains. And just south of Houston, on Allen Street, there was a little row of shops selling nothing but ties --- decent styles at good prices.

If either one was headed out for a safari or a trek to the great outdoors, most likely they'd stop at Abercrombie and Fitch (45th and Madison), a favorite of wealthy sportsmen.

And how about buying other things?

In the 60's, the old standbys were Macy's (and yes, as seen in the series, at that time they did sell appliances in the basement); Gimbels, and Stern's, which moved out in the very early 1960's) to be replaced by, discounter, Korvettes. All of these were located at Herald Square (34th where Broadway and 6th Ave cross). Other shopping districts were 5th Ave. (Lord and Taylor, B. Altman's, Arnold Constable, Saks, and higher up, Bonwit Teller, Bergdorf Goodman, and the famous toy emporium, F.A.O. Schwartz) and Union Square (B'way and 14th) where the big Klein's on the Square and May's discount stores were located. Bloomingdale's (called 'Bloomie's' by native New Yorkers) was also around (Lexington and 60th, north and east of F.A.O. Schwartz) but a little less prominent during this period. One block south of Bloomie's was Alexanders (mid-price range). There was also an uptown Gimbels (at Lexington and 86th) Note that today, many of these stores (like Gimbels) have gone out of business and no longer exist.

Fifth Avenue was (and still is) the place for high fashion, so naturally, that's where the really expensive jewelry stores were located. Within a minute walk of each other (around 55th street northward) you could gaze into the windows of Van Cleef, Arpels, Tiffany, Harry Winston and Cartier. The real bargains in jewelry however, can be found in the so-called Diamond District, West 47th between 5th and 6th Aves. This is where generations of grooms went to buy engagement rings and wedding bands and still do today. Note that most of the merchants here are Hasidic Jews.

How about more intellectual and/or artistic pursuits?

Even more common than jewelry stores in the City, were the many bookstores scattered around town. After all, New York was (and is) the center

of the U.S. publishing industry. Sadly, today, the huge mega-Barnes and Noble stores have practically run all the little bookshops out of business. But in the 60's, Kuryakin could spend many a pleasant hour, combing the city for one particular book. Among the places he might go were the original Barnes and Noble ---actually two stores on either side of 5th Ave. at 18th Street. The west side store featured discounted books. The east side store specialized in textbooks (this is where the NYU students bought their books for class) Mid-town, he might haunt Scribners (48th St. and 5th Ave), a gorgeous turn-of-the-century style store. A block south was Brentano's (47th and 5th) while a few blocks north was Doubleday (56th and 5th and open until midnight).

By far, the most interesting bookstore was (and still is) The Strand, located at the north end of Greenwich Village at 12th St. and B'way. It's really hard to describe this place: you have to experience it for yourself. The Strand stocks reviewers' copies and unsold remainder books these are not used books but often, they're old or downright odd. The store is dusty and cramped and packed with books. Shelves overflow. Aisles are narrow and often blocked by stacks of volumes. The staff people (one could hardly call them 'sales' people) while semi-friendly, haven't a clue what books are actually in the store There are just general sections (like "History" and "Theater") and a general stab at alphabetization. Picture an old valuable library in which all the librarians died about twenty years before. You don't browse here; you scavenge. But oh what treasures you can find!



And last but not least, there's the venerable New

York Public Library (42nd St. and 5th Ave.) with its guardian lions outside and 4 million books within.

Suppose they don't want to read?

In addition to the bookstores, another pleasure of New York during this period were the so-called 'revival' movie houses. These theaters, usually small and shabby, showed only old, wonderful movies the way they were supposed to be seen: not on TV sets but on full-sized 35 mm projection screens. Sometimes, the schedules had themes: i.e.: Humphrey Bogart week; Science Fiction month, etc. These theaters were mostly located on the upper west side (there were one or two in Greenwich Village). Most famous among them was the Thalia (95th St and B'way) and the New Yorker (88th St. and B'way)

During this period, the Radio City Music Hall also premiered first run movies (mostly Disney type stuff) often accompanied by an abbreviated stage show.



For theater, there is, of course "Broadway" --- an area that runs mostly on the west side of Times Square, roughly from 41st to 54th Street. During this time period, tickets cost between \$5 and \$15. Evening curtain time was 7:30 or 8 pm. Wednesday, Saturday (and occasional Sunday) matinees started at 2 pm.

"Off Broadway" is not a place but an aesthetic and commercial designation. Off Broadway theaters can be located almost anywhere (like Circle in the Square on Bleeker St. in Greenwich Village). They have fewer seats than a B'way theater, charge patrons less, pay their actors less and often run on shoestring budgets with funds from charitable sources. The fare tends to be more experimental and challenging than on

B'way. Off-off Broadway theaters are even smaller, cheaper and poorer, with even weirder, riskier productions (note the U.N.C.L.E. episode guest starring Shari Lewis, which was not so far from the truth)

A theatrical institution is Joseph Papp's Public Theater, located in the old Astor Library on Lafayette Street, off Astor Place. In 1957, Papp inaugurated the Shakespeare Festival, a series of star-studded productions performed at Central Park's Delacourte Theater every summer. The plays were (and still are) free but there's a catch: you have to wait in line for tickets that day. Since the productions are so popular, this means arriving in the Park in the afternoon (these days, people queue up even earlier) and standing, sitting or picnicking in line until the tickets are distributed in the early evening (first come, first served). Despite the hassle, nothing's better than spending a balmy summer evening with the bard. If there's a thunderstorm (a distinct possibility in August) the show will stop (like a baseball game) until it passes.

And speaking of baseball, Solo and Kuryakin might duck out of the office in summer to take in an afternoon game. If they were watching the arrogant Yankees, it would be at Yankee Stadium up in the Bronx. If it was the underdog Mets (who pulled off a miracle World Series win in 1969) it would be at the spanking new Shea Stadium (opened in April 1964). Solo, no doubt, would still be lamenting the fact that beautiful Ebbets field in Brooklyn had been destroyed by a wrecking ball in 1960, after the beloved Brooklyn Dodgers had moved to Los Angeles three years before.

Around this time, Kuryakin would have his own reason to mourn. In April 1966, the famous Metropolitan Opera House closed after 83 years. The following September, a brand new Opera House (the "Met") opened in the recently built Lincoln Center (upper West Side, Columbus Ave., 62-66th Sts.)

And so where do you take a date?

Visiting big cities in other parts of the country, New Yorkers are often stunned to discover that the sidewalks roll up before midnight. New York is truly the city that never sleeps and you can eat, drink and be merry until the sun rises.

The 1960's were a great period for nightlife. Solo might frequent the Copacabana (which closed in the early 70's) or the Latin Quarter, the Empire Room at the Waldorf -Astoria, or the Rainbow Room (66 stories up in the RCA building.) He'd be hearing the likes of Peggy Lee, Tony Bennett, and the Count Basie orchestra (this was the so-called 'swank' period when Sinatra et.al. were popular.) Or, later in the evening, Solo and a date might drop in for a nightcap and listen to Bobby Short play a cabaret piano at the St. Regis Hotel.

Kuryakin's more bohemian tastes would draw him to jazz clubs like Jimmy Ryan's (West 54th St.in midtown) or to the alternative clubs in the Village like Fillmore East, The Bitter End (a coffeehouse located at Bleeker St. and LaGuardia Place) or the Village Gate (185 Thompson St.).



Shows heavy with rhythm and blues were also featured at the Apollo Theater up in Harlem (West 125th St. near 8th Ave.)

In the winter, the guys could take their dates ice-skating at the rink in Rockefeller Center. The place is truly magical (and ridiculously crowded) at Christmas time. The famous tree is traditionally lit early in the first week of December.

In good weather (year round) they might take a date on a romantic carriage ride through the park. The horse-drawn carriages line up at the south end of the park, around 59th St. near the Plaza Hotel. They (and the horses) are often decorated with artificial flowers and the drivers sometimes wear costumes and top hats. And speaking of horses, there are bridle paths in Central Park. The nearest rental stable is the Claremont Stables (West 89th St.).

EVENTS

Describing the New York City Solo and Kuryakin would have known in the 1960's, I've speculated about where they might have lived, shopped, and spent their leisure time. In this column on the topic, I'll discuss the events that would have been happening around them. Note that some of these events no longer take place, while others that occur now were unknown in that time period. For example: there was no Gay Pride parade in the spring, (Stonewall hadn't happened yet) nor was there an annual Halloween parade in Greenwich Village.

Seasonal

Autumn:

September is really the beginning of the year in New York, at least in terms of fashion and the arts. This is the time when everyone is buzzing about the new Broadway plays, the new films being introduced at the New York Film Festival (held at Lincoln Center), and the new schedule of exhibits announced for the museums. The weather in the city is generally pleasant in the fall. The temperature averages in the 60's, with a few high 70-degree days occasionally popping up in-between. In late October, just before Halloween, there's usually a string of Indian summer-type, the last hurrah before the cold weather sets in.

The week around September 19 sees the San Gennaro Day Festival, a huge Italian street fair held in the Mulberry Street area on the lower East Side. It's very noisy and very crowded. Necklaces of white lights are strung everywhere --- from fire escapes, street lamps, trees, and poles. The festival is chiefly known for its great food. There are literally tons of sausage sandwiches, pizza, calzone --- you name it. There's also dancing, bands, singers, and of course, the procession with a statue of the saint. Also during this time period, there is a Steuben Day parade on the last weekend in September, and a Pulaski Day parade up 5th Avenue in early October. October 12, of course, is Columbus Day with another big 5th Avenue parade.

In November on Thanksgiving morning, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is held. If you've seen the Jingle Bells Affair, you've had a glimpse of what the parade looked like in the 1960's. The parade travels southward, from West

77th Street at Central Park to R.H. Macy's located at Herald Square (34th Street). The first marchers start moving around 9 a.m. and arrive at the store approximately an hour later. In addition to the huge balloons and elaborate floats, there's a big mechanical turkey at the beginning of the parade, and Santa Clause at the end. The next day, youngsters can visit him at Macy's in the 8th floor Santaland --- which is more elaborate than what was shown in the series. During the 60's, Gimbels (located across the street) also had a Santa.

Winter:

The Christmas season kicks off with the Macy parade. The day after is the second busiest shopping day of the year (the busiest is Christmas Eve). In New York, this means shoulder-to-shoulder shoppers cramming the streets, particularly around Herald Square and 5th Avenue.



The larger stores decorate their windows with elaborate displays of mechanical figures. Usually there's a theme --- i.e.: The Night Before Christmas, the Nutcracker, etc. The best windows are at Lord & Taylor at 32nd Street and 5th Ave. People also like to duck into Saks a little farther north on 5th Ave., if only to see the ceiling covered with branches trimmed in white lights.

The enormous tree goes up in Rockefeller Center at the end of November, but it isn't officially lit until the first week in December. You can skate in the rink below it, but it's often crowded and there's a long wait. Another must-see is the Christmas tree located in the medieval section of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The tree is decorated with Neapolitan angels, with a large, multi-figure nativity scene below. Temperatures at this time of year average in the 30's and 40's. As winter drags on, the mercury will start dropping

and temperatures in the 20's and teens will occur in January and February. In 1960's the New York area was also a lot snowier than it is these days. January is quiet in the city, but February brings the Chinese New Year. If you go down to Mott Street, you'll see street celebrations featuring multicolored dragons that snake among the crowds. Also, cymbals, drums, banners and lots of firecrackers. Festivities go on for about a week.

Spring:

March sees the Flower Show, the Antique Fair, the Bock Beer Festival at Luchow's (which no longer exists) and of course, the huge St. Patrick's Day parade. On that day, everyone in New York is Irish and green is everywhere! The parade proceeds up 5th Avenue, heading northward from 44th Street to 96th Street. There are units of police and firemen and the sound of bagpipes fills the air. The cardinal (whoever it is at the time) stands on the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral and blesses the marchers. The Irish of New York are Roman Catholic and it is considered very poor taste to wear anything orange that day. In April, the cherry blossoms bloom at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The Easter Parade is held on Easter Sunday. On May 4th (or the first Sunday near it) the Spanish-American Day parade is held. Like St. Patrick's Day, this is a big event on 5th Avenue (only now, instead of Irish, everyone is Hispanic for a day).

In the spring, the ice in the Rockefeller skating ring is cleaned away and replaced by an outdoor cafe. At this time of year, the cafes and restaurants put their tables and chairs out on the sidewalk. Vendors sell and artists paint in the park at Washington Square (the last stop on the 5th Avenue bus). June is the month for boats. On the first Sunday, the fleet at Coney Island --- including every yacht, sailboat, motorboat or rowboat --- is blessed by a clergy team composed of a rabbi, minister and priest. Mid-June, the model sailboat competition is held on Conservatory Lake in Central Park.

Summer:

Although you'll see banners around that say, "New York is a Summer Festival," that's only true for the tourists. Residents escape the city every weekend, heading off to "the Island" (the beach communities of Long Island), and creating unbelievable traffic jams every Friday night,

Saturday morn and Sunday evening. The city left behind tends to be quieter and slower paced. Temperatures range from the 70's to the 90's, but there's always a heat wave or two in August that will inch the mercury perilously close to the 100-degree mark.

Historical

If you're writing stories set in this era, you might want to keep in mind the following events:

August 17, 1959: Massive power failure in Manhattan, the first of three during this era (the last occurred in 1977).

February 26, 1960: A full-scale model of a fallout shelter is displayed in a bank for the interested public. The cost of building the shelter is \$105.

September 26, 1961: Roger Maris hits his 60th homer of the season to tie Babe Ruth's record. He will hit the 61st on October 1.

September 28, 1961: Bob Dylan stirs up excitement with his appearance at Gerde's Folk city in Greenwich Village.

October 11, 1961: The UN votes to censure South Africa.

May 28, 1962: Stock market takes sharpest dive since 1929.

March 31, 1963: Newspaper unions finally return to work, after a strike that lasted 114 days. It was the longest and costliest newspaper strike in the city's history.

March 13, 1964: Kitty Genovese is murdered on the street by a man with a knife. Thirty-seven people witnessed the event and did nothing to prevent it.

October 4, 1965: Pope Paul IV visits the city and speaks at the UN. He also offers mass at Yankee Stadium, attended by 90,000 people.

October 16, 1965: 10,000 march in anti-Vietnam protest.

November 1965: John Lindsay elected mayor.

November 9, 1965: The second great blackout. A switching station at Niagara Falls fails around 5 p.m. and nine northeastern states are plunged into darkness.

March 26, 1967: 10,000 hippies gather in Central Park for a "Be-in."

July, 1967: Mayor Lindsay walks the streets, trying to prevent confrontations between black citizens and police, during the so-called Long Hot Summer.

April 30, 1968: Student protestors take over Columbia University.

March 28, 1970:



A Greenwich Village townhouse is blown up by a group of Weatherman radicals. Bomb scares are common in New York. In March, three separate bombs damage office buildings in midtown. Fifteen people are injured when a bomb goes off on the dance floor of The Electric Circus, a popular nightclub.

April 22, 1970: Part of Fifth Avenue is closed to traffic for two hours as thousands rally for Earth Day.

June 28, 1970: Thousands of gays from all over the country march from Greenwich Village to Central Park to protest unfair treatment and demand rights.

June 25, 1970: McSorely's, a 116-year-old bar, is ordered by a judge to serve women. Until now, the pub was a males-only public establishment. On August 10, a half dozen women customers come in for the first time. They aren't well received by the bartenders, waiters and male patrons.

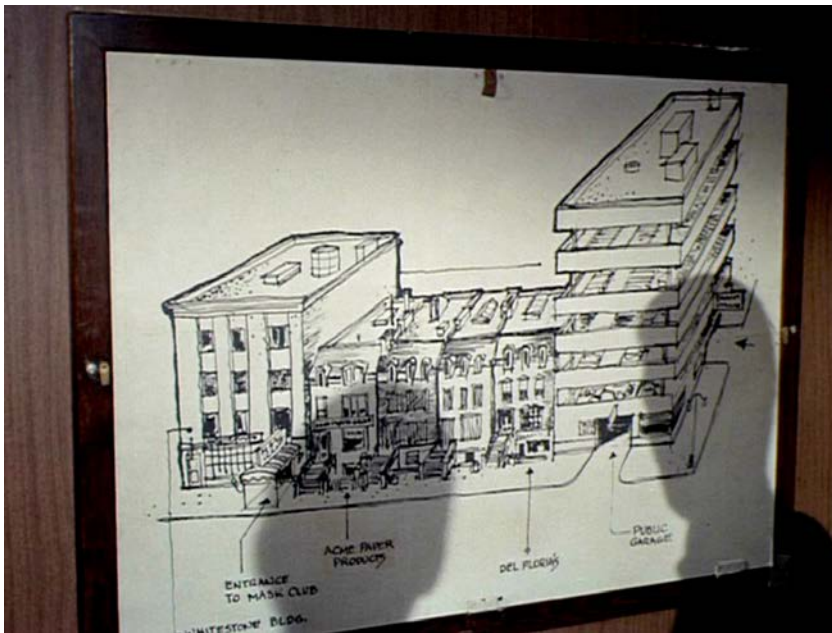
August 26, 1970: Ten thousand women parade up 5th Avenue to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 19th amendment.

GADGETS GALORE

SAVVY CONTRAPTIONS FROM THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E.

By LaH Carabele

The 1960s television show **The Man from U.N.C.L.E.** came into being during an era when interest in the possibilities of future technology was a matter of constant speculation and creative imagination. Thus the United Network Command for Law and Enforcement was depicted in the series as straddling the cutting-edge of gadgetry between existent and potential electronic/mechanical equipment. What follows is a reference guide to the major devices demonstrated as everyday tools for those daring men (and women) of U.N.C.L.E.



INTERNAL (WITHIN HEADQUARTERS)

Headquarters Building

New York Headquarters for U.N.C.L.E. was located in Manhattan "somewhere in the East 40s". The organization owned the entire block where headquarters was located, running the auxiliary sites as a landlord (under the cover identity of a charity).

On one end of the block was a whitestone where the first two floors were occupied by The Masque

Club (a private gentlemen's club) and the third floor were the offices of the U.N.C.L.E. cover front of a charitable organization. On the opposite end of the block was a public parking garage equipped with hidden machine guns on the roof. Headquarters also boasted a helipad, communication antennae, a laser and a radar setup on its own roof, all deftly hidden behind billboards.

NY HQ had four entrance/exit points for U.N.C.L.E. personnel and there was also a secret "fifth entrance" available only to the Section I, Number 1. The entrance/exit used by enforcement agents (Sections II and III) during "normal business hours" was located in a dressing room in the Del Floria's dry cleaners. Access to the dry cleaners was a short flight of steps down from street level. Inside the cleaners, the secret entrance was activated by pulling a coat hook in the dressing cubicle after the Command-affiliated employee who ran the shop triggered it through use of his steam press. The back wall of the booth would then swing open to give access to the main reception/admissions area of U.N.C.L.E.

Other Section personnel entered through the Men's/Women's locker-rooms in the public parking garage. And after hours, when the dry-cleaning shop would be closed, entry for enforcement personnel came through never shown setups in the Masque Club or the charitable organization (though the one through the charity is described in one series' episode).

The "fifth entrance" is never more than hinted at as a personal security access point for Alexander Waverly. All we know of it from the series is that it was a dark passageway and that it connected to Hemmingway's Book & Curio Shop a few doors away from Del Floria's.

HQ itself had four floors: one ground level (reception area was here), two upper levels (with

Waverly's office on the top floor), and one subterranean level (mechanicals and bomb-disposal area with possible access to the East River).

The walls and floors were "gunmetal gray", apparently constructed of a form of bullet-proof steel. There was only one external window (in Waverly's office) in the building. Internal access throughout the offices was through pneumatic doors that opened upon sensing the nearness of an activated U.N.C.L.E. security badge.

Other U.N.C.L.E. ancillary headquarters around the world were constructed very similarly to the main one in New York, with external differences to suit the local environment. Interior-wise, they all were basically clones of one another.

Security Badges



Within headquarters all U.N.C.L.E. personnel (and visitors as well) wore security badges. These badges triggered the doors and elevators within the building and were activated by a special chemical applied to the fingers of the admissions' receptionist. Without an activated badge, access to anywhere within HQ was denied and an alarm would sound warning of attempted intruder access.

The badges had different levels of security signified by color. These coded access levels

determined where any employee or visitor could move within U.N.C.L.E. The colors of the security badges were:

- White: The original highest level security badges, actually used in only the pilot and perhaps early episodes (the difference between white and yellow is not determinable in b&w). This type of badge provided the wearer access to all areas of HQ.
- Yellow: When the series went to color, the highest level security badge was changed to yellow (perhaps to provide more use of vivid hues). Again this type of badge provided the wearer access to all areas of HQ. Once the series went to color, these were the type of badges worn by Napoleon Solo, Ilya Kuryakin and Alexander Waverly.
- Green: This was a lower security level and was used in particular by visitors to HQ during the series. It allowed access to at least some areas of the upper floors as conversations with visitors most often took place in Mr. Waverly's office. Likely it did not allow access to all areas on the upper floors or to the sub-level.
- Red: This was possibly the lowest security level in that it likely only allowed access to the ground floor and sub-level. This one really wasn't used much (if at all) in the series, but an educated guess would place this badge as that used by maintenance and extremely low-level administrative personnel.
- Black: This was not an original badge color, but came into use in the series in the fourth season and subsequently in the **Fifteen Years Later Affair**. In the series fourth season it was shown worn strictly by administrative personnel, though some of those were assumedly high-level admins, like Waverly's personal assistant Lisa Rogers. In the return movie it became the standard color of all badges for organization personnel.

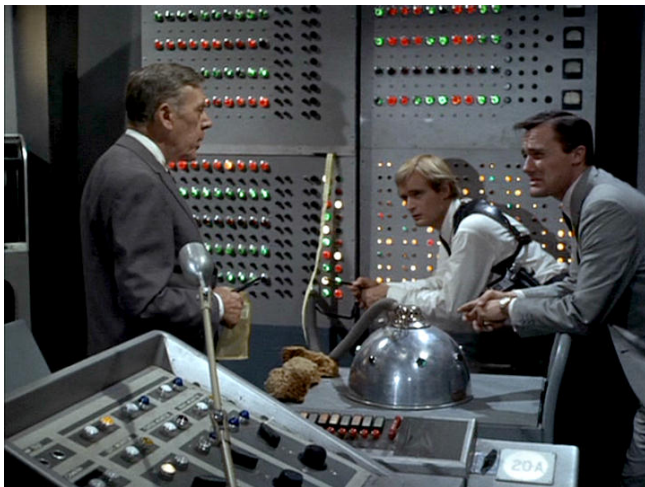
The security badges were each imprinted with a number: solid black numbers on the white and initially on the yellow badges, solid white numbers on the black badges, and black-outlined white numbers on the later yellow badges and all other colors. These numbers bore no direct relationship to the employee's standing within the organization and were possibly more like an

internal ID system, similar to say a social security number.

The relevant numbers for U.N.C.L.E. personnel in the series are:

- Alexander Waverly -- Badge #1, Org Designation --Section I, Number 1 Northwest
- Napoleon Solo – Badge #11, Org Designation --Section II, Number 1 Northwest
- Illya Kuryakin – Badge #2, Org Designation – Section II, Number 2 Northwest
- April Dancer – Badge #34 in **MFU**, Badge #22 in **GFU**, Org Designation – Section II, Number 3 Northwest (though this is debatable)
- Mark Slate – Badge #19 in **MFU**, Badge #14 in **GFU**, Org Designation -- ? (there is speculation that Slate was actually a Section III agent rather than Section II, though this seems unlikely given the type of field assignments he had)

Computers



U.N.C.L.E. utilized a vast array of computer equipment within its headquarters. Their machines were capable of much more than was truly possible at the time with regard to such apparatus. Still, this was the era of punch card input and ticker tape output, and on the whole U.N.C.L.E. machines held true to this format.

However, the U.N.C.L.E. computers sometimes did amazing things, like use an attached sensor to analyze the properties of a rare mineral and occasionally even respond to activation by voice command (via an attached microphone).

Bomb Detection/Disposal



Headquarters was equipped with a bomb detection wand scanner that undoubtedly attached into U.N.C.L.E.'s computers.

If a bomb was detected, it could be disposed of in a special tank that submerged the explosive in deep water and then used radio waves to safely detonate it.

Alarm/Lockdown System



HQ was equipped with a sophisticated alarm system triggered in the main by "intruders" (those trying to access controlled spaces without an activated security badge) and sometimes by other events, such as bomb detection. This system included audio (sirens) and visual (flashing red lights) components, as well as the capability of putting the building into immediate lockdown mode.

Lockdown mode disallowed all entrance/exit to certain high security areas, like Waverly's office. That office was itself equipped with manually enhanced lockdown apparatus to seal off the window with a bullet-proof steel shield and open a wall panel to reveal a full control center. From

that center Waverly could visually check via TV monitors the status of various areas of HQ, as well as determine the exact location of the intruder or event that had triggered the alarm system.

Additionally Waverly could also manually activate a lockdown on any specific area via the control panel on his desk.

Waverly's Desk



Though technically not a mechanical or electronic device, no inventory of **MFU** gadgets would be complete without a mention of Waverly's desk. It served as the centerpiece for consultations on mission setups and aftermaths.

Composed of dark wood, it was large, round and worked on a lazy-Susan concept such that it could be spun a full 360° around. Waverly would spin the desk to provide personnel in any such meetings with folders of mission data, photos and objects of interest. He rarely if ever handed anything directly to anyone while in conference.

The desktop was also equipped with a raised rectangular box control console, various buttons on which could be activated for something as simple as contacting another office in HQ or as complicated as locking down a specific section of the building.

EXTERNAL (IN THE FIELD)

Communicators



Undoubtedly in its "pen" incarnation, this is one of the most recognized gadgets used in the series. The communicator allowed agents in the field the ability to contact/converse with HQ and also with other agents on assignment. The trick was that the communicator bounced a signal off the Telstar satellite (new in the 1960s) that was then received at a communications center in the nearest HQ. From there it could be routed as the agent required via channels. Thus was the logic behind the catchphrase "Open Channel D". That tagline indicated an agent required direct communication with HQ, often with Mr. Waverly himself. Other channels were used to request access to another agent in the field or sometimes a special unit.

In its original incarnation, used only in some episodes of the first season, the communicator was disguised as a cigarette pack. Its microphone was an internal part of the box design. It initially required connection to an external electrical source (in the top left pic above Solo attached a suction cup like apparatus wired to the communicator to the base of a turned on lamp). Later, however, the communicator lost that wire and the necessity for an electrical contact point, presumably replaced by an internal battery.

In its second incarnation, developed later in the first season and used as well during some episodes in the second season, the communicator was disguised as a cigarette case. A lighter also inside the case was flipped up on end to access the microphone.

In its final and most iconic incarnation, originating

during the second season and utilized exclusively in every season thereafter, the cigarette case was replaced by a ballpoint pen. The nib was removed, flipped, and then reinserted into the barrel to expose the microphone. The click button of the pen pulled out into an antenna, and a twist of the pocket clip activated the unit.

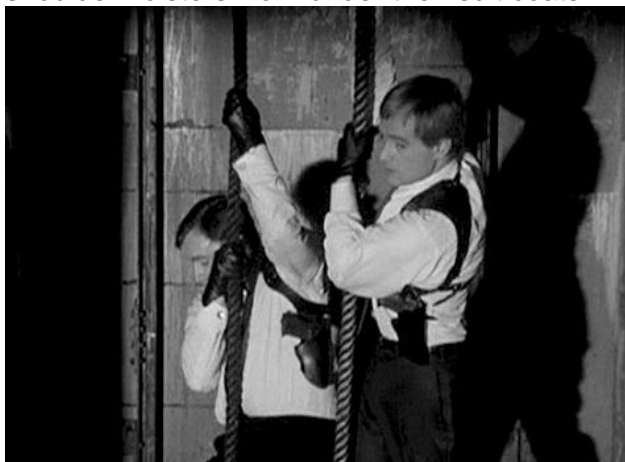
U.N.C.L.E. "Special" (Gun)



Though originally several different guns were used by the agents on the series, what became known as "the U.N.C.L.E. Special" was a modified Walther P-38 9mm semi-automatic pistol. It sported a special threaded barrel that allowed for an extension to convert it into a fully automatic carbine. The carbine also included an extra scope, shoulder stock and extended magazine clip. Both the pistol and the carbine could as well have a silencer added to the barrel. Because of its unique barrel design, the pistol version of the gun fired with a distinctive sound.

The gun could shoot more than standard bullets. With a change of cartridges, it could discharge instant knockout sleep darts, as well as explosive shells.

Male agents "conceal carried" their specials in shoulder holsters worn under their suit coats.



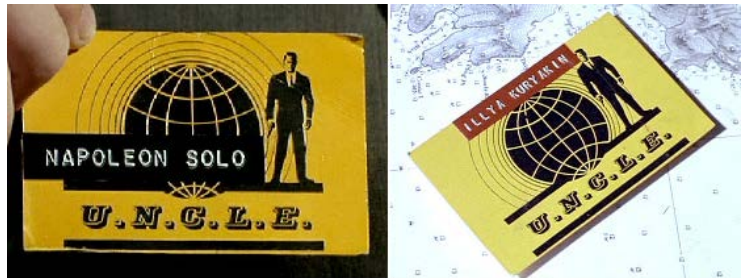
Thrush Rifle



U.N.C.L.E.'s persistent adversary had its own unique weapon: the Thrush rifle.

Based off an M-1 carbine, the rifle's special feature was an infrared night scope that made a distinctive chirping sound when in operation. And of course, like everything Thrush, it was branded with the supra-nation's black-on-white attacking bird emblem. That emblem appeared on the stock of the weapon.

U.N.C.L.E. ID



For such a classy organization U.N.C.L.E. really had very low-tech and rather shoddy ID cards.

The official ID was simply a yellow cardboard business-type card that displayed the U.N.C.L.E. logo and moniker in black (yellow and black were the official U.N.C.L.E. colors). The agent's name was added with, of all things, punched labelling tape.

Now of course this type of prop existed as it did on the series because of a limited budget. So fanfic writers have "embellished" the ID card in many ways in their writings. One of my favorite ideas is that the card was actually a pure gold plate that carried an electronic identification signature within the metal. Sort of an imbedded microchip before such even existed.

I should note that in a few very early episodes Solo's ID card appeared to be a disc of some kind that was hidden beneath the face of his wristwatch. This type of ID though was not carried through in later episodes of the series.

Thermite Explosives



One of the most popular set of devices on the series was the thermite explosives used by agents to unlock doors and otherwise get out of/into sealed spaces.

In most instances it was contained in plastique-like putty carried inside the heel of a shoe or in another article the agent wore/carried. However, it was as well used in the material composition of special buttons, cufflinks, tie tacks, etc. The putty sometimes required a fuse, but use of a fuse in such instances was not consistent throughout the series.

The agent would place the thermite where needed (inside a lock, around a door, etc.), activate it via pulling up the stem on his wristwatch, and then detonate it by pushing down on that stem.

The U.N.C.L.E. Car



It was sleek, it was fast and it was loaded with a literal arsenal of spy gadgetry. Just what every field agent needed. Or at least that was the projected illusion.

Introduced during the series third season, the U.N.C.L.E. car was a modified AMT Piranha Coupe utilizing a Chevrolet Corvair engine. The body was constructed of thermo plastic and one

of the vehicles most distinctive features was its gullwing doors. Its arsenal included flame throwers, machine guns, rocket launchers (tubes in the doors), laser beams, a radar screen, parachute, and various hidden interior devices. Though it was not amphibious, it did have operating marine propellers.

The special “spy car” was an intriguing idea, but honestly agents on assignment generally wouldn’t want to be singled out by driving a unique vehicle. Usually the idea was to stay more undercover than such a readily identifiable car would allow. However, on certain missions a vehicle with such exceptional “extras” could prove a boon.

Tracking Devices



The tracking devices used on the series were many and sundry. They were placed by the agents on various persons of interest, sometimes on vehicles, and sometimes were part of an agent’s own wardrobe for a mission. All were discreetly small and some were disguised as other items. The signals they sent out were monitored via a mobile tracking unit, sometimes via the communicator itself, or directly at the communications station within a particular HQ.

Additionally for the U.N.C.L.E. agents themselves, their communicators could be activated in a passive tracking mode when necessary. They did also sometimes sport micro-electronic tracking devices embedded under the skin, inside a tooth, etc., depending on what was perceived as a possible requisite during any particular mission.

Waverly Rings



Ah, the infamous Waverly Ring. What exactly was it? Its true name was a priority ring, though the colloquial around U.N.C.L.E. was Waverly Ring. Its design was that of a silver signet ring with a red stone. Placing on/removing off the finger of the wearer required a special tool. That tool activated/deactivated the ring. After activation, any attempted removal of the ring without the special tool resulted in immediate explosion.

The red stone in the ring would glow when the wearer rubbed a finger against the band. The glow identified it as a true Waverly Ring. Any U.N.C.L.E. operative was required to do whatever the wearer of the ring requested once that wearer made apparent its authenticity via display of the glowing stone.

Truth Serums, Knockout Drugs and Other Pharmaceuticals



Truth serums were exploited heavily throughout the series. Usually it was Thrush operatives

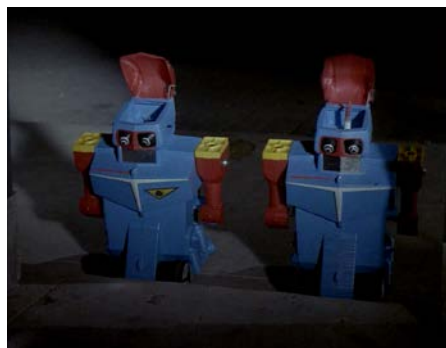
using such on U.N.C.L.E. agents, but U.N.C.L.E. itself also made occasional use of truth serums. The ones used by U.N.C.L.E. were most often in pill form, while the ones used by Thrush were generally of the more typical injection variety. It is suggested in the series that U.N.C.L.E. field enforcement agents were programmed before missions in such a way that they would reveal nothing of consequence even while under the effects of a Thrush truth serum.

Knockout drugs aplenty abounded on the show. U.N.C.L.E. used them; Thrush used them; seemingly everybody and his brother used them. Both U.N.C.L.E. and Thrush had gas forms (administered in many ways, but one of them was via exploding glass orbs), as well as liquid forms (administered in general via a fired dart).

Other pharmaceuticals were particularly the bailiwick of Thrush. They ran the gamut from gases that hyper-intensified a recipient's fears to injected liquids that temporarily regressed a recipient's mind to an early childhood level. U.N.C.L.E. itself though would from time-to-time make use of various pharmaceuticals. One of the most memorable ones from the series is Capsule B, which produced a 72-hour long (with a one pill dose) specific form of amnesia in the recipient.

Ad Hoc Devices

The above list is in no way comprehensive as specialized devices surfaced as required in this or that episode of the series. From mind-reading machines to earthquake



creation apparatus, everything was fair game. The only caveat a writer need remember when detailing some special device for a story is to make the contraption plausible to the reader. **MFU** wasn't sci-fi; it just anticipated technology beyond the limited science of the time.

THE U.N.C.L.E. ORGANIZATION

By C. W. Walker



Before there was Starfleet, there was the United Network Command for Law Enforcement. As conceived by Sam Rolfe, **The Man from U.N.C.L.E.** offered what was probably the most fully realized fictional universe for a regular television series of that era. Remember now, this was at a time when continuity was not considered important. Nevertheless, Rolfe fleshed out an organization that was so believable that tourists reportedly often requested a peek at it when visiting the U.N. No doubt, U.N.C.L.E.'s veracity – the constant interweaving of the fanciful with the recognizably mundane – contributed mightily to the show's appeal. While the agents battled bizarre threats to world peace like trained killer bees, suspended animation devices and earthquake machines, they also worried about expense accounts, insurance policies, health plans and interdepartmental gossip.

At the core of the series was the idea that heroic people had ordinary concerns and ordinary people could be heroic. When writing U.N.C.L.E. stories, it's important to keep this in mind. Unfortunately, unlike Star Trek, no official U.N.C.L.E. concordance was ever published. Nevertheless, while the series was on the air, there was a wealth of background material available (mostly in the novels and accompanying U.N.C.L.E. toys), drawn chiefly from Rolfe's

development notes. Be forewarned: occasionally this material is inaccurate (i.e., the intro to Michael Avallone's *Thousand Coffins Affair* is based on early developmental material and so lists the section headings incorrectly). Another problem is the series itself. Continuity was decent the first season, but as new writers came in, they did not always pay attention to details. In one episode, for example, Waverly thinks he belongs to Section 2!

This said, a consistent core of information can be constructed by triangulating Rolfe's notes, references in the televised series and published sources, and then extrapolating the rest. A decade ago, John Peel and Glenn Magee (media writers and

longtime U.N.C.L.E. fans) tried to create a kind of concordance in a series of magazines called *The U.N.C.L.E. Files*, published by New Media Books, Studio City, CA. The essays in these magazines have been criticized by some fans as being opinionated (true) and unreliable (only partly true), but they do contain a wealth of information gathered together in one place and not available elsewhere. I recommend finding them if you can (they are out of print but sometimes available on Ebay).

Herewith, then, is what we know and what we can guess about U.N.C.L.E.:

THE STRUCTURE

The United Network Command for Law Enforcement is multinational in makeup and international in scope, protecting and defending nations regardless of size or political persuasion. Rolfe's original proposal makes the point that U.N.C.L.E. operates in Communist and Third World countries the same way it does in the Western nations. Although, for legal reasons, Rolfe and Norman Felton could not identify their fictional organization officially with the actual U.N., the implied connection is clear. Most episodes, including the pilot, begin with a shot of the United Nations building. Now, I'm not going to

get into the is-Illya-a-defector-or-not issue here. Suffice it to say, however, when writing about the organization, think United Nations, not NATO.

U.N.C.L.E. is subdivided into the following sections:

Section I: Policy and Operations

This is the administrative branch. It contains the five chiefs of U.N.C.L.E. (of which Waverly is one; he also outranks the other four), as well as all sector and station chiefs. There is an annual conference for everyone in the section (see The Children's Day Affair) as well as an annual meeting of the five chiefs alone (The Summit Five Affair).

The five chiefs administer the business of U.N.C.L.E. from five regional offices that correspond loosely, but not exactly (there is overlap) to the five major continents. The five offices are New York, Caracas, Nairobi, New Delhi and Berlin (The Summit Five Affair).

During the run of the series, we meet three of the five:



Waverly, New York; Gabhail Samoy, New Delhi (The Brain Killers Affair); and Harry Beldon, Berlin (The Summit Five Affair).

An interesting side note: Carlo Farenti (The Children's Day Affair) appears to be on equal footing with Waverly, which hints that he, too, may be one of the five chiefs. If this is so, it is reasonable to extrapolate that U.N.C.L.E.'s European regional office was located first in Geneva until, perhaps, the killer bee attack (the Birds and Bees Affair).



Farenti may have died in that affair, to be replaced a year or so later by the Thrush mole, Harry Beldon.

Section II: Operations and Enforcement

This is the section that contains the field agents like Napoleon Solo, Illya Kuryakin, April Dancer and Mark Slate. It seems that each of the regional offices has a Chief of Enforcement who functions as second-in-command. Solo is Waverly's Chief of Enforcement, Brian Morton (The Deep Six Affair) is Solo's counterpart in Europe (note that Morton is temporarily running things after Beldon's demise). We don't learn the names of the other enforcement chiefs.

Section III: Enforcement and Intelligence

These are the lower-level field agents, probably junior enforcement agents, couriers and the like.

Section IV: Intelligence and Communications

This is the beginning of the support personnel sections. Any time you see people sitting at computer terminals or providing information for the field agents (Mandy Stephenson in The Never, Never Affair, for instance) they probably belong here.



George Dannel (The Waverly Ring Affair) heads this section in New York.

Section V: Communication and Security

More support people – all those secretaries and communications people (Heather, Wanda, Sarah, etc.)

Section VII: Public Relations and Propaganda

U.N.C.L.E. does have a public relations front.

Section VIII: Research and Development

This division was known more colloquially as "The Lab." David McDaniel, author of the most popular novels, appointed his own lab chief, Dr. Simpson

THE FILE ON NS AND IK

By Theresa Kyle

These two pieces were originally published, in slightly expanded form, in *Relative Secrecy I*, editor Marian Kelly. The author wishes to thank Ms. Kelly for editing both of these pieces and finding mistakes the author missed. One last thing: the reader should remember that, given the nature of Napoleon's and Illya's profession, any of all of the information they give about themselves, even to each other, could be a lie.

NAPOLEON SOLO



Mr. Waverly, in *Deep Six*, describes Napoleon as having "intelligence, verve, physical prowess, the kind of man most women would find very attractive ... but probably the worst possible candidate for marriage." This is an excellent summation.

There is a mystery connected with Napoleon's past, or several mysteries. Napoleon tells a woman in *To Trap a Spy* (and in a parallel scene in *Four Steps*) that he's from Kansas; in contradiction, his MGM bio says that he served in the Royal Canadian Army, meaning, we assume, that he was at one time Canadian. However,

since we find out in *Secret Scepter* that he served in Korea (in Colonel Morgan's "outfit," a man who taught Napoleon punctuality, among other things), we can assume that he is an American. He calls himself an American in "Never Never" and *King of Knives* (in the latter a woman says to him, "You're an American!" and he replies blandly, "Only by birth"), and in *Terbuf Illya* says to him, "It's a handicap, isn't it, being so obviously American?"

He never mentions his parents (unless

you count his whimsical "I want my mother," right before his shotgun wedding to Pia in *Concrete Overcoat*); however, in *The Spy With My Face*, his THRUSH lookalike mentions his aftershave was "a present from my mother," so we can assume his mother is still living. In *Love* he says he doesn't have a sister, and in *Dippy Blond* he says he does, but since both times he was undercover we don't know which time he was telling the truth and which time he was lying. In *Green Opal* we find out from Illya that one of Napoleon's grandfathers was an admiral, the other an ambassador. (He tells the innocent that one of his grandfathers was a "lawyer in a small country town who went quail hunting every

September;" this, however, was probably not true.) In *The Spy With My Face* Sandy pretends to believe that Serena, the beautiful THRUSH agent, is Napoleon's "maiden aunt...all the way from New York;" in *Fifteen Years Later* we find out the aunt's name is Amy and that she left Napoleon her apartment in New York so he'd always have a roof over his head. Since condos in New York are not cheap, she must have been quite wealthy. It comes out several times in the series, however, that Napoleon himself does not have money; he denies it to a gold-digger in *Five Daughters*, saying that he and Illya "work very hard for our living." In *The Master's Touch* Illya pointedly tells a girl that Napoleon is not in a book listing millionaires, and in *Love* Illya says to Napoleon that he's "not exactly in *Dun and Bradstreet*."



We see only one of Napoleon's old girlfriends in the four years of the series: Clara Valdar (née Richards) in *Terbuf*. Clara and Napoleon were "very good friends" seven years before the *Terbuf* incident, and were driven apart because of Napoleon's work, but it's obvious Napoleon still loves her; even Illya notices it. If Clara is an example, Napoleon has quite good taste in women: Clara is beautiful, intelligent, brave ("If we're going to live with any self-respect, sometimes we take risks"), and loyal to her weak husband. Except for Clara and Mara in "Nowhere" – a woman who is also beautiful and intelligent, if

a THRUSH agent – we never see him experiencing anything like an emotional involvement with a woman in the four years of the series.

We can assume that Napoleon is not married; in *Candidate's Wife* he tells the candidate that he's not, and he says the same thing to the boy Christopher in *Finny Foot*. There are hints, however, that Napoleon longs for a family life; he shows some wistfulness when the innocent returns to her husband and family in *To Trap a Spy*, and in *Mad, Mad Tea Party* he says to the innocent, "There's a lot to be said for the quiet life; don't knock it" (but he also says in *Deadly Decoy*: "A life without surprises must be rather dull.") There is also a hint of some tragedy in his past from a scene in *Brainkiller*, when the innocent tells him he probably can't understand what she and her disabled brother go through and he says quietly, "You know, as hard as it might be for you to believe, I do understand that."

The tragedy may have been a youthful marriage that ended too soon. One of the early MGM bios of Napoleon speculated that he was married at nineteen to a woman who died a year later in a car accident. This is also mentioned in David McDaniel's pro novel, *The Rainbow Affair* (pages 112-114). It was, however, never mentioned on the series itself.

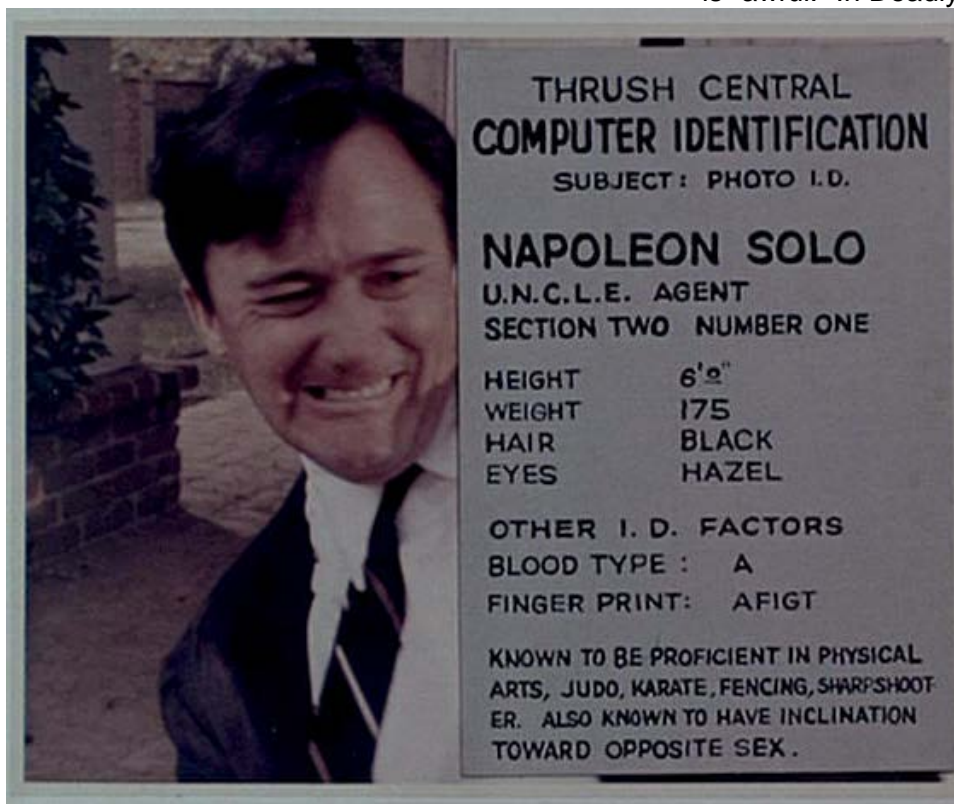
In *Cap and Gown* Napoleon mentions having been to college (he also says in *Cherry Blossom* that he threw the javelin in college and was "remarkable," although the javelin-throwing part was probably a lie; in *My Friend the Gorilla* he says he is not a javelin thrower). We don't know how he did scholastically; however, he admits "I was never good at history" in *Cap and Gown* and later, in that same episode, proves it by not knowing when Napoleon Bonaparte died. (In *Yellow Scarf*, however, he shows quite a remarkable knowledge of Indian history.) He does seem to have a strongly literate background: he

quotes Shakespeare, the Bible, and poets such as Browning (Do it Yourself Dreadful), Keats (Fiddlesticks), and a paraphrase of Omar (Foreign Legion). In *Deadly Goddess* he quotes William Congreve ("Marry in haste, we may repent at leisure"). He makes a reference to Dickens' *David Copperfield* (comparing Albert Sully to Uriah Heap) in *Odd Man* and to George Orwell's *1984* in *Shark*. In *Five Daughters*, however, he does not know what a haiku is.

arts, showing that his skills in this form of defense are above average.

Napoleon is not quite the Renaissance man Illya is, but he can fly a helicopter (*Summit Five*, *Finny Foot*, *Prince of Darkness*) and drive a motorbike (*The Spy With My Face*). He speaks Italian very well (*Thor*, *Concrete Overcoat*, *King of Knives*) and does know at least a little French (*Virtue*), although Illya tells him in the latter that his accent is "awful." In *Deadly Toys* he reads a Russian newspaper, showing he must have at least some knowledge of that tongue.

Napoleon is something of an idealist. In *Shark* Captain Shark calls him an optimist; in *Giuoco Piano* Gervaise Ravel says to him, "Your respect for what you think is right is your weakness." In *Secret Scepter* Colonel Morgan accuses Napoleon of "sentimentality," and, also in *Secret Scepter*, when Zia asks him, "Are you sure you want to do this?" Napoleon replies, "No, but I'm going to. I promised Colonel Morgan I'd deliver the scepter and I always keep my promises." In *Recollectors* he says, "There is nothing more sterile than



Physically, Napoleon is tall and slender. On his THRUSH ID card (THRUSH Roulette) it says that his hair is black, his eyes hazel, that his blood type is A, and that he is 6' and 175 pounds (this might be an exaggeration; our guess is 5'11"). In *Arabian* he says that his suit size is "a perfect 39." In *Yukon* it is mentioned that his measurements are chest 40" and waist 31" (when a woman asks him how he keeps so fit, he deadpans: "I play games," not specifying what kind). Probably his most devastating physical characteristics are his heart-melting smile and his dimpled chin.

Napoleon's THRUSH ID also states that his specialties are "Physical Arts, Judo, Karate, Fencing, Sharpshooter. Also known to have inclination toward opposite sex." In *Cherry Blossom* he beats a karate instructor at martial

vengeance." However, in *Candidate's Wife*, he says, "It [the spy business] has taught me to trust no one, not even myself," showing that despite his idealism, he is far from a dreamer.

Napoleon is also an incurable romantic; in *Round Table* he says to Artie King, when attempting to break up King's arranged marriage, "Marriages were made in heaven, not poolrooms," but shortly thereafter he discerns Artie's affection for the Grand Duchess. He plays matchmaker to Ramona and Jerry in *Hot Number* by lying to Ramona about Jerry's background; he also match-makes a couple at the end of *Prince of Darkness*, and in *Deep Six* he objects strenuously to Mr. Waverly's trying to derail the wedding of a British U.N.C.L.E. agent. In *Test Tube Killer* he assures Christine that he thinks Greg loved her, and in many other episodes he perceives others'

romantic feelings almost with a sixth sense ("Foreign Legion," "Napoleon's Tomb," etc.)



He recites poetry quite often (and reads it "beautifully" to Alyesha in Come With Me to the Casbah as a prelude to, we assume, a night of passion) ; he even romances Wanda, back at U.N.C.L.E., over his communicator with comments about how beautiful the moon is (Bridge of Lions).

He is also quite gallant. In Four Steps he calmly offers a cigarette to a woman who was hiding in his car (later discovered to be an enemy agent); in J for Judas he throws a blanket over a woman in the shower; in Adriatic Express he is very courtly to an older woman even though she's a THRUSH enemy, kissing her hand and lighting her cigarette; in Ultimate Computer he hands Salty a cloth to wipe her hands after she gets cake on them, although they're both in a room full of THRUSH agents; in "Terbuf" he insists that Clara be given a robe to put on over her nightgown even as they're both being held at gunpoint; in Hula Doll, when forced to spend the night in THRUSH HQ, he allows the female innocent to have the bed and he sleeps on the couch. Despite Waverly's admonition in Cap and Gown to curb his "predatory instincts," Napoleon's attitude towards women is usually not predatory but a kind of affectionate chivalry. He seems to love women, in fact; he goes out of his

way to do favors for them even when there's nothing in it for him (Never Never, Discotheque, etc.) At least twice he gives in to THRUSH demands when an innocent young woman is tortured or threatened with torture (Gazebo in the Maze, Deadly Smorgasbord). He also tends to trust women when he shouldn't, such as in Discotheque; in Re-Collectors a woman tells him, "I find your trust in women quite touching, but for you it's disastrous." However, when in Deadly Goddess he's asked if he believes in marriage, he says, "In moderation," showing that his love for women does have its limits.

Napoleon is not, in the modern terminology, "macho." He would far rather talk than fight, and in Jingle Bells he quotes what might be his philosophy: "He who fights and runs away lives to fight another day." He doesn't take unnecessary risks; in Terbuf when Clara tells him to take care of himself, Napoleon says, "Oh, my primary consideration." Although he can suffer deprivation without complaint, he obviously has a deep affection for the finer things in life.

His chief asset as a spy is his charm (in Candidate's Wife he says to Illya, "When you've got it, you've got

it; I've got it"; later in that same episode Illya tacitly admits this, saying, "I've always told you that one day your devastating charm would backfire"). His other chief asset is his ability to keep his head in tight situations. We almost never see him angry; when he does get angry, his lips tighten and he talks in a low, intense voice (unlike Illya, who raises his voice when angry).

A few pieces of trivia about Napoleon: he doesn't have an appendix (Do it Yourself Dreadful) but does have two fillings in his teeth (Prince of Darkness); he loves animals (My Friend the Gorilla); he has illegible handwriting, at least according to Illya (Waverly Ring); he is a

Capricorn (Abominable Snowman); he has a bad sense of direction (in Concrete Overcoat and in King of Diamonds he gets both himself and Illya lost). His address, according to his luggage (Finny Foot), is "221 5th, New York, New York." [see The Agents' New York for debunking] He likes his coffee with cream, no sugar (Bridge of Lions).



Napoleon knows how to play chess, as does Illya; in Alexander the Greater he foils the villain, Alexander, in a chess game, and in Giuoco Piano he refers to a chess move. In Bridge of Lions he takes a moment to look at some chess boards with games in progress on them.

He loves chicken noodle soup (The Spy With My Face), also steak (Monks of St. Thomas) and Danish food (Suburbia). He carries a flask for "emergencies" (Her Master's Voice) which we assume holds whiskey, but his usual drink is a martini, either with two onions (Nowhere) or "well chilled, very, very dry with a twist of lemon" (Deadly Decoy); although he does order a Gibson, very dry, in Fiddlesticks. We see him smoke in Strigas (a Turkish cigarette) and in Love; he was also carrying a package of cigarettes in Four Steps; however, since these were first-year episodes, and we never see him smoke again, we can assume that he quit at some point during or shortly after the first year.

Napoleon is, of course, very adept with the ladies; it says this even on his THRUSH ID (THRUSH Roulette); and in King of Diamonds he confesses to a lovely lady in what must be a masterpiece of understatement that he is "not the brotherly type." As perhaps an inside joke, his code name in Do It Yourself Dreadful was "Sheep's Clothing." There are hints that his lovemaking techniques are

extraordinary; a woman in To Trap a Spy, after a cozy interlude, tells him that he is a "beautiful" lover; Alysha hints the same thing in Come With Me to the Casbah after spending the night with him; and Serena, in The Spy With My Face, despairs at the fact that the THRUSH duplicate of Solo is not a duplicate in all respects: "[THRUSH] can make a silk purse out of sow's ear, but it will never feel like a silk purse."

In Deep Six a THRUSH agent calls Napoleon "the top U.N.C.L.E. agent in America," something which Napoleon delights in

repeating to Illya later, and in Man from THRUSH Napoleon is also called "U.N.C.L.E.'s top agent." Was Napoleon being groomed for Waverly's position? In Brainkiller (first year), when Waverly is incapacitated, another man is called from outside to take over headquarters; Napoleon doesn't automatically do it. However, in Green Opal, a THRUSH remarks that Napoleon, as Number One in Section Two, would probably take Waverly's place one day, and in Waverly Ring (second year) Mr. Waverly leaves Napoleon in charge of U.N.C.L.E. – and Napoleon does a very good job. However, as we find out in Fifteen Years Later, Napoleon never did take Waverly's chair. He, in fact, quit U.N.C.L.E. in 1968 and later began his own computer business, which was obviously successful, or at least successful enough to enable him to gamble for high stakes at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

ILLYA KURYAKIN



Illya Nickovetch Kuryakin (we learn his patronymic in *Terbuf* and *Fifteen Years Later*), at first glance, seem quite mysterious, but actually his history is less of a mystery than Napoleon's. We know that he was a little boy in Kiev, Russia (*Foxes and Hounds*) and attended the University of Georgia in the Ukraine, where he studied gymnastics among other things (*Hot Number*). He might have tried for the Olympics, but if he did he didn't make it (*Yukon*). He did postgraduate work at the Sorbonne and received a PhD in quantum mechanics at Cambridge (*Her Master's Voice*). He mentions to a pretty stewardess in *The Spy With My Face* that he was in the Russian Navy, which, since he is prone to seasickness (*Shark*) must have been an embarrassing experience. He graduated from the U.N.C.L.E. Survival School in 1956 (*Survival School*).

We know almost nothing about his family. In *Cherry Blossom* he says that he has "parents in Jersey City," but we can assume this was part of his undercover role and not meant to be taken seriously. In *Pieces of Fate* he quoted his grandmother (Humor is the gadfly on the corpse

of tragedy) and in *The Spy With My Face* he mentions a sister, perhaps facetiously ("I find

[Americans] most charming, but I wouldn't want my sister to marry one."). In *Deadly Toys*, *Mother Fear* tries to get him to talk about his mother, but unfortunately he refuses to discuss her.

In *Fiddlesticks*, he says, "Were you truly a gentleman, as I once was" which could lead us to conclude that he comes from an aristocratic background. A trace of "breeding" occasionally

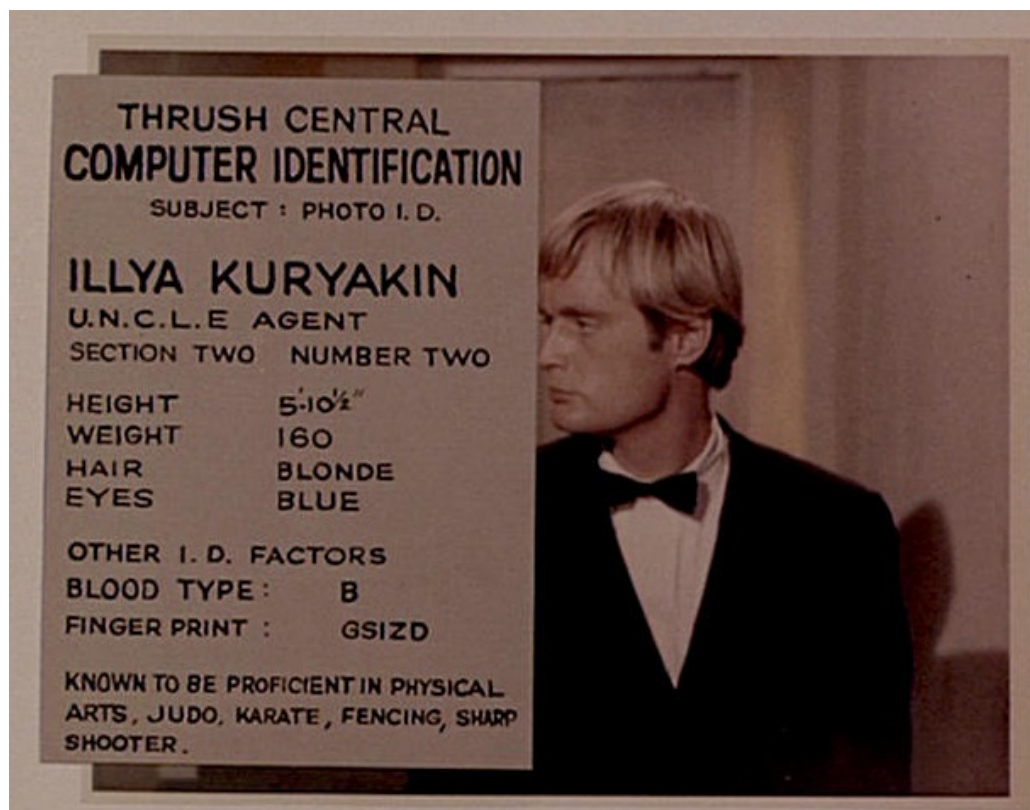
comes out, especially with regards to his treatment of the elderly; in *Bow Wow* he helps an old man across the street; in *Concrete Overcoat* he hesitates to hit one of the deadly Stiletto brothers because he's old; and in *J for Judas* he says "excuse me" to an elderly man after he disturbs the old gentleman by firing his gun in a hallway. In *Minus X*, he even apologizes before he hits someone. His sense of gentlemanly decorum, however, does not always extend to women; he is usually bluntly matter-of-fact with them, sometimes to the point of rudeness (as evidenced by his treatment of Sophie in *Arabian*, where he rubs it in about her being an old maid and makes comments about her "flapping mouth" and her "sparsely-furnished mind").

In *Neptune*, we see Illya in the U.S.S.R. wearing an officer's uniform, from which we can deduce that at this time he was a loyal Soviet citizen and perhaps still had ties with the U.S.S.R.'s armed forces. In any case, we can speculate from this short scene that Illya is not a defector and is, in fact, a loyal communist; if he were a defector, he would certainly not be in Russia. However, we never hear him make any political statements; in fact, after the first year, it is seldom mentioned

that he is Russian at all. His accent sounds more British than Russian, probably because he attended Cambridge; he uses British expressions like "perish the thought" (Napoleon's Tomb, Very Important Zombie); his pronunciations of words such as garage (Deadly Decoy) and vitamin (Bow Wow) are British; and when he orders a meal in Five Daughters he asks for a very traditional British menu ("tomato juice, prepared kippers, French rolls, tea with lemon"). Perhaps Illya no longer considers himself a Russian, or indeed as having any nationality; he thinks of his citizenship in international terms.

Is Illya married? He never mentions a wife, but since we never see his apartment or even what he does when not at work (except the time we saw him on vacation with Napoleon in Terbuf), it's possible; his lack of interest in most members of the opposite sex might be an indication that he is already committed to someone else, and he did wear a wedding ring in the first- and second-year episodes (and the first few episodes of the third). [see IK and the Women for more]

There is also an interesting scene in Four Steps (first year), where a little boy shows an amazing understanding of the female psyche; Illya asks him, half-seriously, "Are you sure you're not married?" -- which might indicate that he has had experience with that blessed state. Also, unlike Napoleon, who states several times that he isn't married, Illya never answers that question when asked, in the original series, at least. When Clotilda Willard asks him in Bow Wow about his marital state, he evades with an enigmatic quotation ("Had I but world enough and time...", a paraphrase of Andrew Marvell's "To His Coy Mistress"); he also evades Tracy Alexander's prying in Alexander the Greater when she tries to find out the same thing. By this we might conclude that Illya is married (or was in the first



and second years) but prefers not to talk about it. However, there is also a scene in Fifteen Years Later when Illya tells a prospective client of Vanya's that he's never been married. Was he telling the truth then, or lying? Or was he merely trying to forget the fact that he had been married because, perhaps, the marriage had ended unhappily, even tragically? Unfortunately, we'll never know.

The THRUSH computer tells Barnaby Partridge in THRUSH Roulette that Illya has blond hair, blue eyes, is 5'10" and weighs 160 pounds, but the latter two "facts" might be exaggerations; he appears to be 5'8" and perhaps 140 pounds. His blood type is B. In Foreign Legion a THRUSH agent describes him as "blond, very blond, not very tall, slim." He wears glasses for reading, sometimes tinted ones; he occasionally puts them on as part of an undercover guise, to look threatening (Mad Mad Tea Party) or nerdy (Birds and Bees), or, once, to pass as a doctor (Girls of Nazarone). His age is a mystery; since he graduated from the Survival School in 1956 we can assume he is at least 28 when the series begins, but looks younger; due to his youthful appearance, he is easily able to pass as a student in Cap and Gown.

His most striking feature, of course, is his hair, which is golden blond and which he wears in a modified Beatle cut (longer in the fourth year). There's a hint he's somewhat vain about it; occasionally he pats it after it's been mussed (Deep Six), and in Very Important Zombie he pays a barber \$10 not to cut it. In Hot Number, Napoleon mentions the shaggy hairstyles popular with the youth at that time, and Illya says icily, "I like it."

Illya certainly knows a great deal about a great many things. In Apple a Day he shows a well-honed knowledge of chemistry and physics; in Take Me To Your Leader he confesses to knowing "a great deal" about radio-astronomy. He speaks a large number of languages fluently; in Yukon he says "hello" to Murphy in many different languages; he speaks fluent French in Deadly Decoy and Japanese in Cherry Blossom. In My Friend the Gorilla he's asked if he knows Swahili drum talk and he says, "No, that's one language I missed." He is an expert on gypsy ways (Terbuf and Bow Wow), leading to the intriguing speculation that he might be part gypsy, or perhaps might have once lived with gypsies (interestingly enough, one of the minorities that Hitler tried to wipe out during World War II).



His skills are many and varied as well. He is a master of disguises (Hong Kong Shilling, Strigas, and others) and very athletic – among other things, he is an expert swimmer and gymnast. His THRUSH ID (in THRUSH Roulette) says that he is "known to be proficient in Physical Arts, Judo,

Karate, Fencing, Sharpshooter." In Her Master's Voice we find out he has a black belt in karate, and in Virtue we find he is an expert archer. In Cap and Gown he tells Napoleon he climbed Mt. Whitney (the highest mountain in the continental U.S.). In Hong Kong Shilling we see he's a touch typist – quite a rarity for a man in the 1960s.

He also has a number of adept mechanical skills. In Never Never he knows enough about cars to know how to loosen the distributor cap so that the car will run badly (earning the remark "smart Russian" from Napoleon). He can drive a motorcycle (Monks of St. Thomas), a bus (When in Roma), and fly a plane (Five Daughters) and a helicopter (Seven Wonders). He can dismantle a bomb with ease (Test Tube Killer); in Survival School we learn that he's so adept at demolitions that he stayed at the Survival School a month after he graduated to teach a class about explosives.

Some things Illya doesn't know, however: he doesn't know how to bake a soufflé (Suburbia); he's never

flown a dirigible (Pop Art); he doesn't know what a hot fudge sundae is (Matterhorn); and he is not too knowledgeable about television: in Cherry

Blossom he recognizes Dr. Kildare on a TV screen (then one of the most popular TV shows on the air) but doesn't know his name. (He does, however, show an intensive knowledge of the movie "King Kong" in Pop Art.) He is not adept at social situations, nor is he particularly gifted with "gab"; he usually leaves the talking to Napoleon. (He can use his charm when he has to, however, as in Adriatic Express.)

It was mentioned in the MGM biography that he lived in the same apartment building as Napoleon, but this was never confirmed in an episode.

He identifies himself as "Number Two, Section Two, Enforcement" in Foxes and Hounds (but "Number Two, Section One" in Foreign Legion), and he is next in line for promotion after Napoleon (Giuoco Piano); Napoleon has two years' seniority over him (Fiddlesticks). One of

the students at the Survival School calls him, sarcastically, "the great Mr. Kuryakin" (Survival School), an indication that he is considered one of U.N.C.L.E.'s finest.



He has a deep love for music. In the MGM biography it was mentioned that he had a pile of jazz records under his bed, and in *Shark* he speaks quite passionately about how well a Russian pianist plays Bach. He is also musically knowledgeable. He plays the bass viol in a jazz band in *Discotheque*, the guitar in *Take Me To Your Leader*, and an English horn in *Off Broadway*. In *Monks of St. Thomas* he immediately discerns the note the bell in the bell tower is ringing. He can also sing (at least a little). In *Take Me To Your Leader* Coco is so impressed by his musical talent that she has a vision of the two of them becoming another Sonny and Cher.

Although we see him with a cigarette dangling from his mouth when he's undercover in *Ultimate Computer*, and he uses a cigarette as part of the exchange of a code phrase in *King of Diamonds*, Illya doesn't smoke (*Fiddlesticks*). He does drink, however, as does Napoleon; in *Odd Man and Galatea* we see him drinking beer, and in *My Friend the Gorilla* he takes some wine, saying he's not a wine connoisseur but "I know what I

like." In *Adriatic Express* he takes some cognac straight from the bottle, and he and Napoleon share a bottle of slivovitz in *Terbuf*.

His chief vice, however, appears to be food. In *Shark* a housewife asks him "Do you eat?" and he says emphatically, "Yes, ma'am." We see him eating such diverse tidbits as seal blubber (*Yukon*; he pronounces it "delicious"), yak stew (*Abominable Snowman*), and Chinese takeout (the latter with chopsticks) in *Her Master's Voice*. When in prison undercover in *Ultimate Computer* his chief complaint is that he's "very, very hungry." He likes turkey, or says he does in *Jingle Bells*, and is also fond of chocolate pudding (*Fiery Angel*); the only thing we ever saw him eat that he didn't seem to like was yak liver oil (*Abominable Snowman*). His appetite is

indestructible. In *Virtue* he says, after being almost guillotined, that the experience has given him an appetite; and in *Finny Foot*, when he's shot, he tells Napoleon he doesn't want to miss lunch.

Some trivia: he is a Scorpio (*Abominable Snowman*). He can be cheap at times (*Her Master's Voice*), and there's an indication that he suffers from the capitalist's weakness of avarice in *Do It Yourself Dreadful*, in which he reads aloud the sum of THRUSH's total assets in what Waverly calls a "tone of naked greed." He likes cats and even seems to have an affinity for them (*Bridge of Lions*, *Thor*) but is afraid of dogs (*Bow Wow* and *Apple a Day*). He's not crazy about bats either (*Bat Cave*). It's possible that he's ambidextrous (in *Children's Day* he switches his gun to his left hand and then back to his right again; in *THRUSH Roulette* he switches the gun he's supposed to kill Napoleon with to different hands several times). He drinks his coffee black (*Matterhorn*).

Illya, despite his toughness, has a few vulnerabilities. He mentions in *Fiery Angel* that he has allergies; in *King of Diamonds* we see he is prone to colds. We can also assume, the way he yells when Barbara bites him in *Foreign Legion* or the way he moans in *Children's Day* after being whipped, or how he complains several times during *Brainkiller* of a headache, that he has a low pain threshold. (Even though in *THRUSH Roulette* he tells the THRUSH agent that he has "an abnormally high pain threshold" and in *Pop Art* he tells Sylvia that people in his family have "amazing recuperative powers," both are probably braggadocio.)

Illya is somewhat dour and sardonic, his humor usually imbued with a distinctly cynical bent. He occasionally makes comments that bear this out, for example: "No man is free who has to work for a living" (*Bow Wow*); "No man calls upon his honor so much as he who lacks it" (*Fiddlesticks*); "Innocence is not a bullet-proof commodity" (*Foxes and Hounds*); and, regarding dowries: "That's an old European custom I approve of: paying the men to marry the girls" (*Deadly Goddess*). In *Waverly Ring* he calls himself a pragmatist; sentiment is definitely not a part of his makeup. There's a hint of bloodthirstiness in his nature; for example, in *Gazebo in the Maze*, while he and Napoleon listen to a man being torn apart by a wolf, Illya says drily, "Bon appetit." In *Bridge of Lions* he says over the body of a dead man, "At least he won't have to worry about getting any older."

Women are definitely not one of Illya's vices. They chase after him constantly, but he usually either evades them with some dry or sarcastic remark or ignores them completely. He doesn't seem to enjoy their compliments; in *Thor*, a woman tells him he's cute and he gives her a sour look and says, very sarcastically, "You're very kind." (In *Concrete Overcoat* Miss Diketon says the same thing, and he says expressionlessly, "Thank you.") In *Pop Art* a woman purses her lips, expecting Illya to kiss her, and Illya is completely nonplussed; in *Cap and Gown* a girl, deciding that a liaison between herself and Illya would be a triumph of eugenics, goes after him, and Illya is so distressed by her pursuit that he tells her insanity runs in his family.

In *Super-Colossal* a Marilyn Monroe type literally chases him, and he backs up quickly and finally manages to distract her by holding up a mirror so she can admire her own reflection. When Illya confesses to being with a woman in *Hula Doll*,



Mr. Waverly is astonished, saying, "This is the sort of thing I'd expect from Mr. Solo."

For all his avoidance of the female sex, Illya is not an innocent; we know that he's been in a geisha house at least twice (*Five Daughters*), and in *Very Important Zombie* he makes the decidedly un-naïve remark: "It's amazing how quickly a girl can take her clothes off, and how long it takes to put them on again." When a nurse, giving him a massage in *Come With Me to the Casbah*, mentions anemia and asks how his blood is, he replies, "Racing"; in *Round Table* he actually responds to Linda, back at U.N.C.L.E., when she tells him over his communicator how much she wishes she were there with him. He also seems to very much enjoy watching a belly dancer perform in the London nightclub in *Odd Man*.

After a disastrous affair in Yugoslavia, in which Illya was betrayed by a fellow U.N.C.L.E. agent who turned traitor and an innocent young girl was subsequently killed, Illya quit U.N.C.L.E. and became a very successful fashion designer. And he refused to rejoin, even for one affair, until Napoleon told him, "I need you."

ILLYA AND THE WOMEN

By Charlie Kirby

100,000 Fan girls can't be wrong.

The Sixties was a time of great emotion. People were fighting for their rights, for their future and for Illya Kuryakin. Well, to be honest, it was mostly women fighting about Illya Kuryakin. He was a sex symbol and it seemed that every woman wanted him. There was just one problem – Illya Kuryakin didn't want them, or at least not in the way they wanted him. He was cool, aloof, and unobtainable. That just made women more determined to crack through his seemingly impenetrable exterior and find the man behind the mask.

Let's look at the sort of women that Illya seemed to respond the most to in the series. These are women that he actually seemed romantically interested in pursuing, as opposed to the women interested in him. Sadly, they are few in number.

During the first season, we were to meet Illya's only on screen girlfriend. She also caused such an outcry from all of Illya's female fans with the executive of the show that Illya was never allowed to have another on-screen romance. While he appeared keen enough, he never quite followed through. Studio heads decreed that he could look, but not touch. This led to the supposition that Illya was all business and didn't have time for women, when, in fact, we saw the start of many possible relationships only to have the plug pulled before they could alienate the fans.

Blonde, blonde, and blonde is a good start. Marion (The Quadripartite Affair and The Giuoco Piano Affair), Ursula (The Bow Wow Affair), Tavia (The Birds and the Bees Affair), the nameless model on the train (The Adriatic Express Affair), Taffy (Spy with My Face) and even Miss Lydecker (Deadly Toys Affair) were all blondes. Perhaps it's true that blondes have more fun, but they seemed to be the ones that the Russian

preferred to have fun with. There are exceptions such as Murphy (Yukon Affair) and Coco (Nancy Sinatra's character in Take me to your Leader Affair).

In only two of these examples did we see Illya actively pursuing the lucky girls – Ursula (Susan Oliver in Bow Wow Affair) and Taffy (Jennifer Billingsley in Double Affair). While he would go on to lip lock with many other women, they actually kissed him. It seemed the only way the studio heads could keep peace with all those female



fans. If a woman kissed Illya, well, who wouldn't want to? As long as Illya wasn't going about playing Jack the Lad with the guest stars, the fans were happy.

In Bow Wow Affair, we see Illya's first TV on-screen kiss. Ursula was a woman in peril. Her cousin was killed, ripped apart by his own dog, and she was next on the menu. Illya was assigned to keep her safe, which he tried very hard to do. Alas, the gypsies were too clever for him. Happily safe for a moment in the secluded woods they shared an intimate moment. Illya was actively engaged, not just in keeping her from become Dog Chow, but also in a romantic outcome. He was seen walking away with her hand-in-hand into the night – a much more telling

ending than many of Napoleon's romantic liaisons. We are left to imagine what might have happened afterwards, but apparently Cousin Waverly didn't much care for the relationship as we never see or hear from Ursula again.

Then there is Taffy, the stewardess, who he never actually kissed on screen, although we saw him actively chatting her up at the bar (the infamous "... first lieutenant in the Russian Navy to set fire to an igloo" story). They were just about to kiss when interrupted by THRUSH. Stupid birds, they ruined all his fun. She also rescued him from the sauna after being left there by the evil THRUSH Solo. At the end, Illya and Arsene are talking about how some men are lucky while others have to plan and act. "I have now spent ten seconds thinking and planning and now I must act," Illya says and goes off to whisk Taffy away to Happy Town. Or so we are led to believe. Sadly, she must have had her routes changed because, like Ursula, we never see her again.

That's our boy, love 'em and they disappear from sight forever.



Illya seems to respond the most to blondes who aren't dippy. Being an intellectual, he is also attracted to smart women. While he apparently is willing to sacrifice UNCLE for the sake of Tavia's safety - a ruse to trick THRUSH - he didn't seem all that romantically interested in her until she dragged him away with the allure of lifetime dance lessons. Oh, boy, he's tangoing now! Or so we were led to believe. Like with so many romances, this one seems to go off-screen fairly quickly.

He's not beyond taking advantage of his charm. He woos Joanna Lydecker (Diane McBain in *Deadly Toys Affair*) to get her to climb a tree (a kiss that he apparently initiates, but it was blocked by a stupid tree limb, so we viewers will never know). The romance was out the window when they both end up being hung like sides of beef. However, his gymnastic abilities really whet imagination's appetite. If he could do that with a rope and a hook ... But I digress.



During *Adriatic Express* he is actively pursued by Pamela Rodgers' character, whose name we never really catch. He cons her into helping Napoleon and him escape and she takes advantage of his hanging upside down from the train roof to plant a kiss on him, decades before Mary Jane replicates the move with Spiderman. We later saw Illya with the woman celebrating New Year's Eve. We could only guess what might happen from there. Well-liquored, just about anything might be game.

There is a brief moment between Illya and Tracey Alexander (Dorothy Provine), in *Alexander the Greater Affair*, but alas, she is a woman who knows what she wants from life, namely a rich man to support her in the style to which she wants to become accustomed. Illya was okay as a hero, but was lacking when it came to overall bankable assets.

The one name that is both missing from this line up and might make some people cry UNCLE is Marion Raven, the only innocent to show up twice. Illya displayed only a casual interest in Marion, not even realizing that she had gone from serious photographer to party girl. It's apparent that neither side really appealed to Illya, for while

he protected her, he certainly didn't walk off hand-in-hand with her at the end of the either episode.



This is intriguing since McCallum's real-life wife, Jill Ireland, portrayed Marion. Moments of romance between Marion and Illya would have given fan girls a chance to swoon about how much Mr. McCallum loved Mrs. McCallum. While they had many potentially tender moments, the characters never quite clicked – perhaps a more apt description of their off-screen relationship at that point than many fans realized. Still, even a super spy has an off day now and again.

Then there is the question of the wedding ring. The reality is that David McCallum forgot to take it off during shooting and this drove the fans wild, wondering if Illya was married and if so, where was his wife? Was she alive or tragically dead at hands of THRUSH? Perhaps that was why Illya joined U.N.C.L.E.? The ring would also often end up on the other ring finger, making people scratch their heads and wonder about its migration habits. There have been wild conjectures about the ring, but the show never mentioned it. It only added to the mystery that is Illya.

One point that is interesting is that Illya is thought to be a lone wolf, never connecting with women, possibly from unresolved fears or issues. Yet he was as lucky, if not more so, than his playboy partner, Napoleon, when you compare the numbers side-by-side. The difference was the fans expected Napoleon to chase after women and to end with them at the end of an affair – expected and permitted, two options Illya did not have. In order to keep the fan base happy, Illya was allowed to be pursued and lusted over, but in the end, he went back to his studio apartment and jazz records while Napoleon went out to paint the town.

There is no denying your audience...

THRUSH

THE GUYS WE LOVE TO HATE

by Rachel Weisserman
kleenexwoman42@yahoo.com

Spy fiction is usually pretty closely tied to a ripped-from-the-headlines political environment, which can change in a matter of months. A great deal of Cold War spy fiction which was so relevant back in my parents' day seems quaint and dated to me in its anti-Communist hysteria. The action-espionage fantasies of the 1980s often feature countries that don't exist anymore and ethnic tensions that are meaningless to me. Even as I write this article and eye the looming premiere date of the *Man from UNCLE* movie, I have to accept that there may be some young fans reading this who will not remember 9/11 or the divisive paranoia that followed, and I desperately hope that by the time I'm old enough to (theoretically) have grandkids, they'll have no idea that I was ever worried about North Korea deploying nukes or Canada unleashing its atomic moose (wait a year or two).

If your bad guys are going to be obsolete in 20 years, what are you going to do?



The first thing we ever see in a **Man from U.N.C.L.E.** episode isn't Napoleon or Illya—

it's two guys from THRUSH, infiltrating the UNCLE headquarters. It's worth noting that the THRUSH guys are two older white men in suits, and the UNCLE members they attack are an Asian woman and a black man. THRUSH is set up as UNCLE's most immediate and familiar enemy from the very beginning of the show, and their agents are set up as a homogenous mass in contrast to UNCLE's multinational diversity.

So what is THRUSH? Napoleon can tell you, and he has to several times in the first few episodes. THRUSH is a secret international organization, very powerful and very wealthy, with no allegiance to any country or any ideal besides the lust for power. It does whatever it thinks to be in its own interest. By the end of a few episodes he's got it down to "an international band of renegades," with a little eye twitch, and claims that THRUSH believes in a two-party system—"the masters and the slaves." THRUSH agents refer to THRUSH as a country, several times—although it's not so much a country as something that transcends national boundaries. Where UNCLE transcends national boundaries to

keep the peace between established nations, however, THRUSH wants to take them over. Maybe destroy them, but mostly take them over. It's the worst conspiracies ever all rolled into one.

According to David McDaniel in "The Dagger Affair," an official MFU novel that's become shared canon for many fans, THRUSH was started by some people who worked for Professor Moriarty or someone very much like him. After the evil genius who sought to unify all crime was killed in 1891, these goons met at the Northumberland Hotel in 1895 to discuss their shared future as a bunch of power-hungry criminals with no clear leader. They formed the Technological Hierarchy for the

Removal of Undesirables and the Subjugation of Humanity—which the cool kids just call “The Hierarchy” for short. They felt that true power lay in eliminating the non-productive members of society, and in the command of science and technological progress.

It's interesting to note how large in scope this history gives THRUSH, linking it both to the first supervillain in existence by connecting it to his subordinates and taking it directly to an ideology that mirrors that of the 20th century's most enduring villains, the Nazis.



THRUSH has been around so long that it has entire schools, like the Figliano School in Switzerland, where they train little kids to be obedient and helpful THRUSHies and THRUSHettes. There are people in the organization who have been trained to be THRUSH members from birth, although several episodes suggest that this conditioning can be overcome by True Love (Mara, a scientist for THRUSH and momentary love interest of Napoleon Solo, claims that THRUSH trains its agents in seduction, but that it's not hard to fake sick and skip that semester). However, THRUSH doesn't just train up kids to be goons—they also recruit people in strategic positions, often threatening or brainwashing them in order to contribute, and they especially like to go after disgruntled UNCLE agents. People who actively seek to join THRUSH seem to be viewed with suspicion, however, and tend

to be set deadly tests in order to distinguish the truly worthy evildoers from your average power-hungry pond scum.

While they start out being portrayed as a shadowy conspiracy of mysterious evil, by the second and third seasons the organization and function of THRUSH is almost clearer than that of UNCLE. In contrast to UNCLE's status as a government agency, THRUSH is a private corporation. They have a board of directors and a central office (THRUSH Central generally has the final say in everything), and yearly meetings to discuss promotions (of which there is a limited number—but there are always spots available, because it is THRUSH policy to retire members at 65 and then give them exploding gold watches, and also to kill anyone who makes a mistake for any reason). They have their New York headquarters on the 13th floor of an office building with central air and potted palms, but they also have swanky fronts that are classy haberdasheries (in contrast to UNCLE's front, which is a flea-bitten tailor shop).



They also have health benefits and stock options. And they're a legitimate corporation, not just a random conspiracy—while they have huge amounts of money and resources at their disposal already to the tune of billions, they're able to go to a bank for a loan for a particularly pricey operation. They also have their own PR division, so it's entirely possible that a good chunk of the population

is convinced that THRUSH is just another nebulous corporation with weird stock fluctuations.

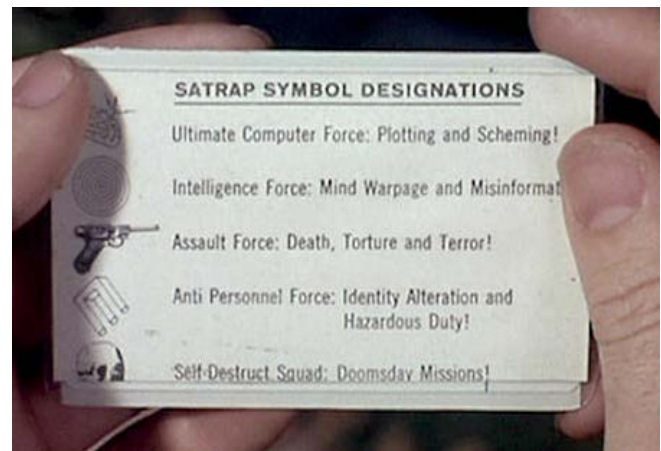
Even THRUSH being a corporation has changed its meaning over time—in the 1960s it may have been mild satire of a burgeoning corporate world, and in the business-obsessed world of the 1980s it was probably even funnier. To a member of the anti-corporate Occupy Generation, the idea of the world's most evil conspiracy being a legitimate corporation with stock options and a company handbook is incredibly relevant in a “it's funny 'cause it's really, really true” way.

The most iconic thing about THRUSH might just be their technology. Remember, they're the Technological Hierarchy...and boy, do they ever take it to heart. Every scheme by THRUSH involves a new gadget or way of doing something, ranging from super-healing serums that burn out peoples' metabolisms to bioengineered viruses that would stop human reproduction to turning people into robot drones to screwing up the weather patterns of the world so that Florida freezes over while Greenland becomes a tropical paradise to cloning Hitler. But what THRUSH likes best is messing with peoples' minds—they've used everything from mind-altering gases to hypno-guns to old-fashioned post-hypnotic suggestion to extremely complex brain surgery involving “the resectioning of nerve patterns” that makes people loyal to THRUSH without knowing it.

This kind of emphasis on psychological and neurological violence was particularly topical in the 1960s; from marijuana, acid, and other mind-altering drugs to psy-ops like brainwashing, propaganda, and even mainstream marketing tactics were suddenly the subject of fascination and paranoia. The mind was a battlefield, more than ever. But the mind-games that THRUSH prefers aren't just relevant to the 1960s. While THRUSH's mission statement about the “subjugation of humanity” may seem to refer explicitly to the

goal of ruling the entire world, the subjugation of conceptual humanity—the individuality and consciousness of human beings—may be the most chilling weapon it has.

In “The Dagger Affair,” Ward Baldwin, the head of THRUSH, used a quote from George Orwell's *1984* to illustrate what THRUSH was really about: “We know what no one ever seizes power with the intention of relinquishing it. Power is not a means; it is an end.”



THRUSH is clearly the kind of bad guy that could only exist in fiction. Its resources are infinite, its gadgets far-fetched, its internal organization a parody, and its aim so perfectly nebulous—power for power's sake—that it can take the shape of anything a skilled writer wants it to be. There's no need to sympathize, no need to justify its ends. It's probably an entire TV Trope of its own.

But that's what makes it timeless. National boundaries, party loyalties, and individual ideologies go in and out of fashion. Political parties slowly trade sides, yesterday's boogeymen are today's reactionary punks and tomorrow's idealistic teenagers, civil rights gain ground and endure backlash, and what's liberating today is tomorrow's fetters. But there's one thing that has never changed, and it's the fact that there are small groups of people who hold immense power and are willing to screw over most of us to gain even more power.

U.N.C.L.E. PERSONNEL

NS AND IK DIDN'T DO IT ALONE

ADMINISTRATION:

- Carlo Farenti, possibly UNCLE NORTHEAST, (Europe) Geneva office, died 1966. (Geneva office wiped out, Birds and Bees Aff)
- Harry Beldon, Farenti's successor (?), **traitor**, died 1967.
- Gabhail Samoy, UNCLE ASIA (New Delhi office) 1960's
- Jules Cutter,



commandant, survival school.

- Gerald Strothers, station chief, Berlin. (discharged 1967).
- Hamilton Grant, station chief, Hong Kong.
- Robert Kingsley, Grant's fourth in command. **traitor**, died, 1968.
- Guy Bradford, Kyoto, died 1966.
- Carlo Venerdi, station chief, Rome.
- ... Dietrich, station chief, Zurich.
- Helga Denikan, secretary to Beldon, UNCLE NORTHEAST, **traitor**, 1967.
- Arthur Newman, chief of security, Berlin. (Summit Five), died 1967.



- Gemma Lusso, Rome, Venerdi's assistant. (King of Knaves)
- Dr. ... Henderson, Edinburgh (Finny Foot)

NEW YORK SUPPORT STAFF:



- Del Floria, security, front
- Heather McNabb, security; reception
- Wanda Mae Kim, reception
- Wanda ..., communications
- Sarah Johnson, intelligence
- Margaret (Maggie) Oberon, communications
- Mandy Stevenson, translation
- Maude Waverly, communications/intelligence
- Randy Kovacs, intern (GFU)



- Lisa Rogers, Waverly's administrative assistant (member, Section Two)
- Mitzi ..., (probably) Solo's secretary.
- George Dannel, chief, Section Four
- Fred ..., technician, Section Four



- Carla Drost, chief, Section Six, **traitor**, died 1966.
- Dr. George Tower, physician
- Dr. Simpson, chief of R & D, Section Eight [from McDaniels]
- Dr. ... Lazarus, physician, de-training procedures.
- Donald Baker, technician microlab, ciphers
- ... Riley, lab **traitor**, died 1965.
- ... Farrel, budget affairs (Alex the Greater)

FIELD AGENTS:



- Brian Morton, London (Deep Six) Enforcement chief for UNCLE NORTHEAST [Europe]
- Paul Wescott (Deadly Decoy)
- Harry Williams, New York (Survival School)
- ... Williams, New York (Hula Doll) Harry's brother (?) died 1967.
- George Tenley, New York, died 1964. (Green Opal)
- Jason Roosevelt, New York (Brain Killers)
- ... Cantrell, New York, died (?) 1965.



- Louis ..., New York, driven insane, 1966 (Minus X)
- Andreas Petros, Athens (Man from Thrush)



- Arsene Coria, Corsica. (Double Affair)
- Salvatore, Corsica.
- Kitt Kitteridge, Australia died (?) 1964 (Spy W My Face, Four Steps)
- Duncan Bruce McAlister, died 1965. (Yellow Scarf)
- Sven Ebersberg, Oslo (Deadly Smorgasbord).
- Kay Prendergast (Greek to Me)
- William Muckleston, London (GFU: Mother Muffin)

- Miguel Flores, Mexico City (Test Tube Killer) died 1967.
- Feodore ..., South America (Ultimate Computer)
- ... Dancer, April's cousin, died 1964. (Four Steps)
- ... Lancer, died 1962. (Trap a Spy)



- ... Namana, Nairobi, died 1964. (Double Affair)

LINKS

U.N.C.L.E. SOURCES ON THE INTERNET

by Elmey

THE STORY OF MFU:

Who came up with the concept (Norman, Sam Rolfe, Fleming's involvement), stars, years of production and airing, list of eps, ratings, prizes, international presence, movies, etc.

I'm going to start with the obvious: the [Wikipedia entry](#) is very good --someone has spent a lot of time on it and includes almost everything you mention above.

And of course the [Fans from Uncle](#) website that has much extended versions of the wiki entry. It includes quite a bit of info that fits into your other categories as well.

It is however static; a trove of info, but there are no updates, no links to live journal communities, current fanfic archives and so on. The navigation is a bit wanky and some of the links are dead. They have some essays on fanfic and two character profiles which could really use a fresh take imo.

It also lists resources like Jon Heitland's book (which I don't have). *THE MAN FROM U.N.C.L.E. BOOK: The Behind-the-Scenes of a Television Classic by Jon Heitland*. [Portions of the book](#) are on Google Books (scroll down for chapters)

There's a website called [The Uncle Archives](#) that has an exhaustive timeline of the events leading up to the production and beyond, as well as some other interesting historical material. It's another old site that's not particularly easy to navigate.

I don't know who maintains those sites and how long they'll be around--but at least the Wiki entry will last awhile.

Of course the DVDs have extensive extras that include interviews with the actors, some of the directors and other staff that worked on the show. [This site](#) lists pretty much everything that's on

the extras if you make it all the way down to the bottom.

[Wordpress](#) has various articles. I don't know that they'd be of particular interest but there are quite a few of them and among the early ones there's some talk of Fleming's role.

Some video links:

[Archive of American Television](#) has various people involved with Uncle on tape giving archival interview. Includes Vaughn and Felton. You can see the list of people in the box on the left towards bottom of page:

[Sam Rolfe at Spycon in 1992](#). It's almost two hours long, but very badly shot. I imagine he said some interesting things, but I couldn't watch more than a couple of minutes. If anyone wants to give up two hours of their life to find the good parts...

And finally, one of my favorite links, just because of the entertainment value. [An interview with Leigh Chapman](#) (Sarah Johnson of Season 1) where she mentions UNCLE and dating Robert Vaughn in passing.

THE FACTS ABOUT UNCLE:

What we know about the history and structure and policies of the organization, where the HQs are located, notable personnel.

This one is tough. There are things online, but they're scattered. Most of the information that I've learned (and personally accepted as canon) has grown out of discussions at various communities -- and of course the ability to watch the DVDs now and see things for myself. Those discussions aren't catalogued or searchable. And god knows it's not like we all agree with each other!

And of course the episodes can be contradictory. The writers were definitely *not* working from any sort of a detailed bible I suppose that's why we like to work out our vision of UNCLE in fics.

I'll give you what I have that might fit into this category, it's not much and what you do with it is up to you.

Best thing ever is [Lisa's frame-cap site](#).

Every episode is extensively capped. Caps are identified by names of characters and bits of dialog. Caps come from the DVDs and are excellent quality.

Though rather outdated, [this wickedlady site](#) has some info that isn't always easy to find. Mostly see 1.13 ~ 3.2, the NS and IK character bios from MGM (which were obviously changed when they started to film):

[NS and IK character trivia](#). Disconnected facts and not really exhaustive, I don't know that they add up to anything useful. I certainly wouldn't call them character profiles.

There are character profiles on Wikipedia:

- [Napoleon Solo](#)
- [Illya Kuryakin](#)
- [Alexander Waverly](#)

And here's a [fun character sketch](#) of Napoleon and Illya that's particularly entertaining. It may not be for everyone though.

There is info on the [UNCLE gun](#) (I have no clue whatsoever regarding accuracy!), and on the [UNCLE car](#).

Slightly off in a different direction, but could possibly fit here: there are sites that have episode reviews that can double as plot summaries for the episodes.

[Straightforward reviews](#) with lots of trivia added particularly about the music and the cars. It's on a blog site so the reviews are in reverse order and not particularly easy to search, but it includes every episode.

[Slash guide](#) to the episodes (not all eps are covered). Very funny reviews, that are also very well observed, slash or not.

And just for fun, a few more links.

Someone has put up an apocryphal [Thrush site](#)

only partly based on MFU canon:

And for those of us who notice clothes:

- [Top Ten Recycled Outfits](#)
- [Recycled Outfits Addendum](#)

ABOUT THE FANS:

All I really know is LiveJournal (and to some extent tumblr). Never been to a con, don't do fandom on FB and so on. I think I'll start, though, by introducing you to [fanlore](#) if you're not familiar with them. It's basically a fandom wiki.

It has an [MFU Page](#) that lists some fan activities. Not the most extensive info and it looks like it hasn't been updated for a while, but it does mention some conventions. If you click on the MediaWest con link there, you'll get a lot more detail about that particular convention.

The site also lists the Yahoo Communities (though I think quite a few of them are inactive) and the LJ communities, but not mentioned is [Our Men From Uncle](#), the MFU tumblr community. That's worth listing because tumblr is where young fandom is migrating to in general.

You can access a more up-to-date list of [MFU Fan Communities](#) on LiveJournal.

Fanfic

There's a lot of overlap in all the archives, but it can't be helped. Each has a few things that won't be found anywhere else. I'm adding some notes below to try to clarify.

MFU Specific Archives:

- [File Forty](#) – gen, slash, het, 300-400 stories

It hasn't been updated since 2009, but is now being maintained by Lisa Williams who runs the MFU frame cap site so it's stable. Some dead links, but a lot of older stories that were never archived anywhere else. Not searchable, unfortunately.

- [Chrome and Gunmetal Madhouse](#) – slash, 633 stories

Although there's not as much activity as before, C&G still has new stories added. It also

has some older stories not archived anywhere else. Searchable.

- [**The Man from Uncle Fanfiction Archive**](#) – gen, slash, het, non-fic and links, 937 entries

There is lots of overlap with other archives, but because the archive also includes links, not just uploads, you'll find some interesting non-archived stories that would otherwise be unobtainable. Also some links to fan vids. Searchable. Started and maintained by Lisa Williams.

- [**Incognito**](#) – slash, 24 stories

I'm not sure where to put this so it's here. It's an online zine with stories from various authors and some illustrations.

- [**Raven's Lair**](#) – gen and slash, more than 200 stories

This site was put up in 2010 to replace an old site that had been hacked. It's only half finished, it's been abandoned as far as I can tell. You have to become a member to read the slash stories, a large percentage of the authors put their work on other sites such as File 40 a long time ago. I think the original site was one of the first archives.

- [**Pulp Fiction**](#)

This is interesting. An archive of official UNCLE magazine stories and Ace paperback novels from the 60s. Not all of them have been transcribed and put on line, but quite a few have. It's an individual website so who knows how long it will be there.

Multi-Fandom Archives with MFU stories:

- [**MFU on Archive of Our Own \(AO3\)**](#) – gen, het and slash, 2106 stories

The most widely used fandom archive at present. It's nonprofit and run by fans (OTW). Lots of MFU stories, but lots of overlap as people are moving old stories from other archives and individual websites to AO3. It does have plenty of new authors as well. Searchable, you can sort by various categories such as length, date posted, etc., and you can do targeted, filtered searches according to tags, not just author names, etc.

- [**MFU on Fanfiction.Net**](#) – gen, het and slash, 2,200 stories

It's fanfic net. It's huge and everyone knows it, so it's a first stop for a lot of people discovering fandom. Tons of overlap (I'd say close to 90%) with other archives, especially File 40 for old stories and AO3 for newer stories. It's searchable up to a point, but the search function is not very fine grained.

- [**MFU on Wonderful World of Make Believe**](#) – gen, het and slash, 127 stories

Individual Fiction Web Sites

A lot of authors who had individual sites have moved their stories into archives. Below are ones that haven't, and that have more than one or two stories on them.

- [**Nix at Crimson Quills**](#) – mostly slash

Some of this is at C&GM but a lot isn't, popular author

- [**keelywolfe**](#) – slash

Some stories are at C&GM, a few at AO3.

- [**elfin**](#) – slash

She's put a couple on AO3 now, but most are here.

- [**Vicky Loebel**](#) – gen

Good stuff. She's linked on MFU Archive.

- [**AJ Burfield's fanfiction Library**](#) – gen

This is also linked on MFU Archive.

- [**Veronica and Aithine**](#) – slash

This is a popular slash website.

- [**Taliesin's Reach**](#) – mostly slash

Taliesin is a well-known slash writer in multiple fandoms. Scroll down a bit for MFU.

- [**Linda White's 3rd Level stories**](#) – slash

Linda has created a psychological explanation for NS' and IK's closeness.

- [**Jazline**](#) – mostly gen

Some of these are on File 40 but not all.

- [Gina Martin](#) – gen

A bunch of them are on file 40 as well, but not all.

- [Ashley Anapilova](#) – mostly slash

Some General Info on Finding Fanfic

- If you're looking for a story on a certain topic, or you want to find something you vaguely remember, you can go to [mfu fic find](#)

Ask the hive mind, and 99 times out of a 100, they'll find it for you :)

- [MFU shortstorie](#) lists one gen and one slash story each day, all over a year old and featuring as wide a range of authors as possible.

MFU Art

- There's no central location to look for art. If you check the tags at LJ's [Muncle](#) or [Network Command](#) you'll find a selection of art, banners and icons.
- The [mfu Scrapbook](#) on LJ has mostly photos, but there are some nice manips, and lately some great gifs.

MFU Fanvids

Not many are being made at the moment but we had a flurry for a while with some very very nice work. I starting [linking to them on MFU Archive](#) at one point, and listed 42

There are more now and almost all can be found on Youtube.

THE BIRTH OF MFU ONLINE

By C. W. Walker

Channel D, the first MFU fandom list, was established on Ellen Druda's computer at the end of June, 1995 with 10 people. Ellen had to forward the posts by hand. The 10 original folks were Ellen, Nan Mack, Diane Roe, Terry O'Neill, Lois Balzer, Rick Pavek, Pat Foley, Maureen Constantino, Paula Smith and me. I joined the list on July 3, 1995. Linda Cornett joined us the next day.

Fortunately, in mid-July, Rick set up an actual mailing list. There were 24 people on the list by then, including Evelyn Walton, Fara Driver, Jan Kraft, Jennifer Adams Kelley, Mike Nichols and Alice Dryden, a university student in the UK whom we all affectionately called Wolf.

By March 1996, the list had grown to 115.

Before 1998, the list was housed on uncle.org, presumably where our main fan site still is.

In 1998, the list moved to Onelist. The Yahoogroups archive begins here.

In 2000, Onelist became Egroups. In January, 2001, Egroups became Yahoogroups. In the very first posts, which I still have on hard copy, we were talking about the MediaWest that had just passed and the upcoming Spycon that would be held in Santa Monica that fall. Norman Felton would be the guest. Paula told us she was working on the fanfic novel, "Blood Agent."

Here is what Linda Cornett said on Tuesday, July 4th, 1995. You all might appreciate the irony:

"Wow, this is service. Ellen mentioned in an AOL chat room Sunday evening that she might put together an uncle list and ta-dah! Hi guys. Close your eyes. We are now sitting on the patio of the Holiday Inn in Lansing listening to the fountain and talking about our joint obsession. I, personally, am drinking Bailey's. We are talking about what? How about: any new news on the movie?... It's so nice to be with you all again."

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

