

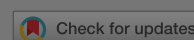
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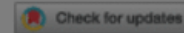
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RICHARD B. SPENCE

Tsarina's Necklace: Russian Jewels, Secret Agents, and the *Hellig Olav* Affair, 1918

Testifying before the Congressional Un-American Activities Committee in 1939, ex-Soviet functionary Dr. David Dubrowsky stated that, starting in early 1918, the Russian Bolshevik regime had relied on “confiscated diamonds and precious stones” to finance legal and illegal operations in the United States and other countries. The actual smuggling was done by “special couriers,” often equipped with “different names and different passports.”¹ When asked if any Russian “Crown jewels” had so entered the United States, Dubrowsky replied that “there are a great many Crown jewels” and “you [can] find on Fifth Avenue, New York, all sorts of trinkets which belonged to the Czar and his family.”²

This article will examine what may be the very first Soviet attempt to smuggle such valuables into America. It will detail who was involved, what happened, and what *did not* happen, as best the surviving records allow. It is,

Dr. Richard Spence is a Professor of History at the University of Idaho. He received his doctorate in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1981. He specializes in Russian intelligence and military history, and his course offerings include Modern Espionage, Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust, History of Secret Societies, and the Occult in History. He has served as a commentator/consultant for the History Channel and the International Spy Museum and was a key consultant-interviewee for the Russian Cultural Foundation's 2007 documentary film, Leon Trotsky: The Secret of World Revolution, and its subsequent Trap for the Tsar. The

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Additional information

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