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Guide to  
the Microfilm Edition  
of the

**FBI File on  
Harry Dexter  
White**

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## **Introduction**

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Harry Dexter White was one of the highest-ranking New Deal officials accused of espionage by Communist-underground-couriers-turned-government-informants Elizabeth Bentley and Whittaker Chambers. Instrumental in shaping post-war international monetary policy, White coauthored the plans that created the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and served as the American executive director of the International Monetary Fund.

In 1948, Bentley accused White of passing confidential documents to members of a Communist spy ring. Chambers claimed that White had provided him with information and documents at several meetings between the two men in the 1930s. White denied the accusations when he appeared before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in August 1948. Two days after his testimony before the committee, White died of a heart attack, leaving many questions about his activities unanswered.

The FBI file on Harry Dexter White contains reports, correspondence, news clippings, and four pages of White's documents that were found in a hollow pumpkin on Chambers's Maryland farm in 1948.

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*New York Daily Mirror* (Feb 1950)  
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"U.S. Jury Indicted Only 2 of 36 Named With White  
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*The New York Times* (Nov 1953)  
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"Truman Letter to Velde"

*The Washington Times Herald* (Nov 1953)

"Agents of FBI Kept White Under Watch for Years"

*The Washington Star* (Nov 1953)

"Truman Indicates He Plans Discussion of Spy Controversy"

"Caudle and Vaughan Testify at Senate Probe of White Case"

"Soviet Secret Agent Operated in White House, FBI Reported"

*The Washington Post* (Nov 1953)

"White Intensely Pro-Russian"

*The New York Post* (Nov 1953)

"White Kept on Job So FBI Could Watch Him"

*New York Journal American* (Nov 1953)

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*New York Herald Tribune* (Nov 1953)

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*The New York Times* (Nov 1953)

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"Senators to Widen White Spy Inquiry"

*New York Daily News* (Nov 1953)

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*New York Journal American* (Jun 1955)  
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*U.S. News & World Report* (Jun 1955)  
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in an envelope and entrusted to the Princeton Uni-  
versity Library

Summary of interview with Dr. William J. Brickley,  
medical examiner who reviewed White's body prior  
to cremation

Memorandum concerning Harry Dexter White and  
Whittaker Chambers

News article:

*The Washington News* (Nov 1953)

"News Notebook" by Peter Edson

Memorandum summarizing the comparison of Harry  
Dexter White documents with samples from the  
Silvermaster case

News article:

*The London Times* (Nov 1953)

"People and Things" by Atticus

Correspondence concerning the Harry Dexter White case

Analysis of the ACLU letter attacking U.S. Attorney

General Brownell's actions in the White case

Summary of an interview with Scott W. Lucas

News articles:

*The Nation* (Nov 1953)

"The White Case: Crisis of Democracy"

*The Charleston Gazette* (Jan 1954)

"Fighting Mad"

Summary of articles appearing in "The Weekly"

SECTION 27

Roll 4, 1053-1150

*Feb-Mar 1954*

Espionage

News articles:

*New York Herald Tribune* (Feb 1954)

"Many, Many Names in New FBI Spy Hunt; 2,200  
Ousters Clarified"

*Richmond Times* (Jan 1954)

"A Grave Charge Against the FBI"

Summary of course of action re: Silvermaster case

Memorandum outlining how to respond to a *Washington  
Post* newspaper article about the White case

Request to search Atomic Energy Commission records  
for permission allowing Russians to inspect the Oak  
Ridge development

SECTION 28

Roll 4, 1152-END

*Mar-May 1954*

Roll 5, 0001-0058

Espionage

Investigation into request of Soviet nationals to visit  
Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Request to review "*Out of Bondage*" by Elizabeth  
Bentley for any further information

Memorandum discussing the Jenner Committee hear-  
ings and the Morgenthau diaries

Summary of an interview with David F. Shaw, former  
Security Officer at Oak Ridge

Summary Brief of information regarding Harry Dexter  
White

News article:

*New York Herald Tribune* (Nov 1953)

"Text of Truman's Speech on the White Case"

Summary of Jenner Committee report: "Interlocking  
Subsersion in Government Departments"

Correspondence regarding a motion picture about Harry  
Dexter White case

SECTION 29

Roll 5, 0060-0164

*May-Jul 1954*

Espionage

Memorandum outlines the steps taken to obtain Harry  
Dexter

White documents in a sealed envelope entrusted to the  
Princeton University Library

Summary Brief of seven documents prepared concern-  
ing Harry Dexter White

Summary of testimony given by Jonathan P. Mitchell  
before the Jenner Committee

SECTION 30

Roll 5, 0166-0237

*Jul-Dec 1954*

Espionage

Transcript of testimony before the Jenner Committee  
(Jun 1954)

Memorandum concerning passing of an Immunities Act  
and the call of witnesses for the White case and the  
Silvermaster case

Summary of the review of "*Out of Bondage*" written by  
Elizabeth Bentley

Allegation that Harry Dexter White may still be alive  
News article:

*Sunday Star Ledger* (Sep 1954)

"Is Harry Dexter White Still Alive?"

Request to interview employees of James Earl Wood

Investigation of Angel Kouyoumdjisky

Summary of information on Paul Appleby

Summary of testimony given by Allan E. Sloane before  
a Committee on Un-American Activities

Section 31

Roll 5, 0239-0293

*Jan-Apr 1955*

Espionage

Brief report on Ruth W. (daughter of Harry Dexter White) and Abraham Manuel Fox

Memorandum stating Col. Angel Kouyoumdjisky is leaving the U.S. to live in France

Review of an article in *Top Secret* magazine which claims Harry Dexter White was killed by a female Russian spy

Background information on Harry Dexter White and Whittaker Chambers

Summary of information concerning Morgenthau papers

Allegation that Sen. Eastland and Henry Morgenthau are out to "smear" J. Edgar Hoover

Transcript of Paul Harvey radio program:  
"Shockproof Americans"

SECTION 32

Roll 5, 0295-0516

*Jun-Nov 1955*

Espionage

Transcripts from Paul Harvey radio broadcasts

Transcript of newspaper article "Inside Labor" by Victor Riesel

News articles:

*Chicago Sunday Tribune* (Jun 1955)

"Reveals Roll of Red Agent in Guiding U.S."

*Washington Post and Times Herald* (Jun 1955)

"These Days: Morgenthau on White"

Summary of Subcommittee hearings with Henry Morgenthau, Jr.

Hearing before the Subcommittee to Investigate the Administration of the Internal Security Act and

Other Internal Security Laws of the Committee on  
the Judiciary

U.S. Senate, 84th Congress, 1st Session (Part 28)

Summary of review of galleys from Subcommittee  
hearings regarding the diary of Henry  
Morgenthau, Jr.

List of names taken from Henry Dexter White's diary  
Memorandum concerning the items taken from White's  
summer home under search warrant

Memorandum concerning the Morgenthau diaries

News article:

*New York Daily News* (Sep 1955)

"More on Dexter White"

Summary of Morgenthau testimony before the  
Subcommittee

News article:

*Washington Post and Times Herald* (Jun 1955)

"The White Case: Morgenthau Raises Conflicts"

Summary of information supplied by Mr. Louis  
Nichols

Copy of minutes taken at Secretary Morgenthau's home  
(Jan 1938)

Request to produce documents from Morgenthau  
diaries

SECTION 33

Roll 5, 0518-0578

Nov 1955-Jan 1956

Espionage

Summary of an interview with an associate who was  
"opposed to White" as a power in the Treasury  
Department

Summary of White material taken from Treasury  
Department records

Summary of information concerning Burdett G. Lewis

Summary of an interview conducted with H. Chapman  
Rose, Under Secretary of the Treasury  
Report that unidentified individuals from "Counterat-  
tack" magazine were attempting to develop addi-  
tional information about the death and cremation of  
Harry Dexter White

SECTION 34, PART 1

**Roll 5, 0580-0679**

*Jan 1956*

Espionage

Allegations of Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth

Bentley concerning Harry Dexter White

Additional information concerning Harry Dexter White

SECTION 34, PART 1, SERIAL 1406

**Roll 5, 0681-0950**

*Jan 1956*

Espionage

Allegations of Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth

Bentley concerning Harry Dexter White

Review of Treasury Department material maintained by  
White

SECTION 34, PART 2, SERIAL 1406

**Roll 5, 0952-1191**

*Jan 1956*

Espionage

Allegations of Whittaker Chambers and Elizabeth

Bentley concerning Harry Dexter White

Review of Treasury Department material maintained by  
White

SECTION 35

**Roll 5, 1193-1384**

*Apr 1956-Dec 1962*

Espionage

Information regarding Burdett G. Lewis



Report on material obtained by NH Attorney  
General Louis Wyman from the White summer  
home

Report that Harry Dexter White advised the U.S. to  
pull out of the Pacific three weeks before the Pearl  
Harbor attack

Report based on a review of the Morgenthau diaries  
News article:

*New York Daily Mirror* (Sep 1955)

"HST Ignores U.S. Spy Data in Clearing Three"

Review the book "*Harry D. White, Loyal American*"  
written by Nathan White (the subject's brother)

News article:

*I.F. Stone's Weekly* (Sep 17, 1956)

Report concerning two file cabinets of White  
material withheld from the FBI by the State  
Department

Review of testimony given by Dr. Arthur M. Young  
before the Senate Subcommittee

Excerpts taken from the Morgenthau diaries including  
phone calls between J. Edgar Hoover and  
Morgenthau

Excerpts from "The FBI Story" by Don Whitehead  
Inquiry by Sen. Everett M. Dirksen concerning the  
money plates allegedly delivered by Harry Dexter  
White to the Soviet Union

Request to review the archives of the International  
Monetary Fund (IMF)

SECTION 36

**Roll 5, 1386-END**

*Feb 1963-May 1974*

Espionage

Memorandum states there is no need for revision to  
existing Harry Dexter White file

Memorandum seeks verification of statements made by  
Gov. Nelson Rockefeller (NY) concerning the  
White case

Press release announces the publication by the Senate  
Internal Security Subcommittee of a new collection  
of excerpts from the Morgenthau diaries which  
conclude that Harry Dexter White was the actual  
architect of the Morgenthau Plan

Memorandum on proposed biography of Harry Dexter  
White entitled "The False Prophet" and the sugges-  
tion that its author be allowed access to FBI files

Request by author David Edward Morgan Rees for  
access to FBI files concerning Harry Dexter White

Request by the Washington Field Office to destroy FBI  
logs more than 20 years old

Request seeking any record that would verify Harry  
Dexter White represented the Treasury Department  
at a Dec 8, 1941 meeting called by the FBI

Request for access to FBI files on Harry Dexter White  
under Freedom of Information Act

Report on statement made by Alger Hiss that he hoped  
a portion of the Nixon transcripts would help spur  
full disclosure of FBI files concerning his case



