

FAQ 44

(June 21, 2007)

44.1

On a recent visit to authors Mark Nelson and Sarah Hudson Bayliss blogsite, (<http://exquisitecorpsebook.blogspot.com/>) I discovered they had posted a conversational reference to Surrealism which they discovered in their review of the original DA/LAPD surveillance transcripts. (See below)

DA HODEL FILE- Transcript (copy of original/unaltered)

Wire Surveillance recording- Spool 34 – page 95

March 5, 1950 (15th day of DA/LAPD 40 day stakeout)

HODEL FILE - 95

	12:06p	Woman greeted someone at front door, could not pick up conversation.
	12:15P	Conversation in background, cannot pick it up conversation between Hodel and other man.
	12:20P	Turned on radio, playing symphony music.
	12:22P	Typewriting can be heard over the symphony - man coughs
	1 PM	Radio still on (symphony) typewriting still going on.
	1:25 P	Phone rang, cannot hear conversation because of radio.
1½	1:35P	Phone rang - recorded - conversation with some one whom he told to "come over after work tomorrow".
	1:40P	Typewriting resumed by Hodel.
	1:50P	Knock on door, Hodel let woman in-Conversation ensued
3½		(tried to record but it was background)
	2:00P	Hodel seems to be opening and closing drawers. Typewriting resumed.
6½-7	2:10P	Hodel in conversation with man and woman, but cannot pick it up very well. Too far in background - seem to be talking about photography of a surrealist nature. Hodel shows some xxx pictures of his to the two people - also talking about renting some suites of rooms in his place. Man has a definite spanish accent, asked Hodel about Spanish doctors in this area. Hodel mentioned leaving in a "couple of months" Attempt to record this conversation proved futile because it was too much in background. Hodel again started talking about photographs with the people - part of conversation is recorded.
11½	3:00PM	Pictures seemed to be of Japanese girls.
	3:03P	The two people left.

This March 5, 1950, 2:10 p.m. excerpted entry by officers reads:

“Hodel in conversation with man and woman, but cannot pick it up very well. Too far in background—seem to be talking about photography of a surrelistic [sic] nature. Hodel shows some pictures of his to the people—“

...

“Hodel again started talking about photographs with the people—part of conversation is recorded. “

About all we can glean from the above detectives log entries are that George Hodel was showing some photographs to a man and woman which relate to surrealism. The officers advise that “part of the conversation is recorded.” (Unfortunately these recordings along with the other 39 days and “forty spools” have all “disappeared” from the police evidence vault.

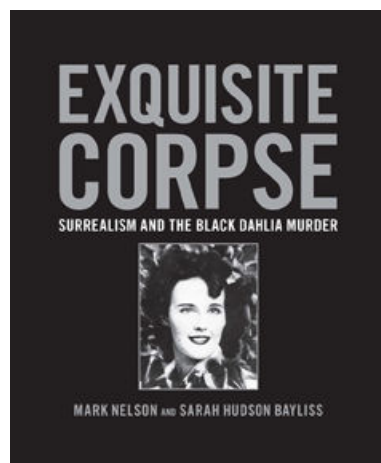
What is of import here is the officer’s independent confirmation and documentation of my father’s interest in “surrelistic” photography and his sharing and showing it to his visiting house guests.

For further details, I would refer my readers to *BDA, Chapter 19*, which summarizes the surrealist connections, as well as the Nelson/Bayliss book: ***Exquisite Corpse: Surrealism and the Black Dahlia Murder.***

An excerpt from their introduction reads:

...

***Exquisite Corpse* presents the theory that Elizabeth Short’s Murder may have been informed by surrealist art, and that the killer was familiar with surrealist art and ideas. It also proposes that art created after the murder may have made veiled references to it.**



http://www.amazon.com/Exquisite-Corpse-Surrealism-Dahlia-Murder/dp/0821258192/ref=sr_1_1/103-3200754-1075859?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1182485118&sr=8-1

VILLAGE VOICE SELECTED *EXQUISITE CORPSE* AS ONE OF THEIR "TOP TEN BOOKS FOR 2006" AND HAD THIS TO SAY ABOUT IT:

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2006

Village Voice's Top Ten Books of 2006

Books

Top Shelf

Our 25 Favorite Books of 2006

Tuesday, December 19th 2006

- Les Films De L'équinoxe-Fonds Photographique Denise Bellon



Denise Bellon's *Mannequin by André Masson*, from *Exquisite Corpse*

Exquisite Corpse: Surrealism and the Black Dahlia Murder

By Mark Nelson and Sarah Hudson Bayliss

Bulfinch Press, 192pp., \$35

Far more disturbing than the Brian De Palma movie or James Ellroy novel, this scholarly, lavishly illustrated analysis of L.A.'s most notorious unsolved crime attributes the murder-mutilation of "Black Dahlia" Elizabeth Short to a psychopathic artist manqué, Dr. George Hodel. Exceedingly tasteful production (coauthor Mark Nelson is a designer of museum catalogs) heightens the shock of encountering gruesome forensic photographs among related surrealist paintings, drawings, and photographs—many by the Hodel's pal Man Ray. The unique combination of sober art history and tabloid delirium is highly disorienting—which is to say, surreal.