

## INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM COLLECTIONS OVERVIEW



The International Spy Museum is the only public museum in the world solely dedicated to the tradecraft, history, and contemporary role of espionage. Open since July 2002 and in development since 1996, the Museum recognizes the ingenuity and imagination of real-life spies with the largest collection of international espionage artifacts ever placed on public display. Spanning the history of espionage around the globe, many of these artifacts have never before been seen by the public.

The International Spy Museum's permanent exhibition presents the tradecraft of espionage through the stories of individuals and their missions, tools and techniques. The Museum combines artifacts created by or for intelligence services around the world with state-of-the-art exhibit design, audio-visual programs, computer interactives, and other hands-on components. Together, these elements bring to life the strategies and techniques of the men and women behind some of the most secret espionage missions in world history.

From the lipstick pistol to the Enigma cipher machine, the quality of the collection is unlike any other public institution in the world, and is particularly strong in the following areas:

- Objects created by or for international intelligence services, such as cipher machines, counterfeit currency, disguised weapons, miniature cameras, and concealment devices for weapons, radio transmitters and receivers, and dead drops. Several of these objects are related to specific espionage cases and/or historic figures such as John Walker, Mata Hari and George Washington.
- Photographs of historic documentation obtained by intelligence officers including KGB photographs of the equipment and belongings found in the wreckage of Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spyplane when it was shot down over Soviet territory in 1960.
- Archival films such as OSS and C-130 training films from WWII.
- Historic photographs of captured spies, spy tools in use, and dead drop sites utilized in various countries.
- Popular culture items inspired by movies, radio and television programs, and other fictitious portrayals of espionage including the toys and games modeled after Mission Impossible, Get Smart and The Avengers as well as a recreation of the Aston Martin DB5 as seen in the movie, Goldfinger.



Additional Museum components include:

- Video interviews with former intelligence officers as well as exhibit and orientation films.
- Interactive displays including disguise, cipher, and surveillance activities.
- Object theater presentations in which audio/visual effects highlight the artifacts and stories within specific exhibit spaces such as Sisterhood of Spies (the role of women spies) and Red Terror (the institutionalization of espionage in revolutionary Russia).

Through its extensive collection, the International Spy Museum illustrates the real-life stories of intelligence professionals and offers insight into the overall impact of spycraft on world history as well as public perception of espionage practices. Additional acquisitions will be showcased in future special exhibits that address espionage topics behind current headlines. The goal of the collection is to enhance the Museum's dynamic and comprehensive interpretation of international espionage and provide the most extraordinary learning experience for visitors. Ongoing research into the history of the tradecraft and contemporary role of espionage continues to reinforce the integrity of the Museum's collection.

Among the collection's highlights are:



***Aerial Surveillance Camera*** (c. 1917 - 1918, Germany)

Pigeons with tiny cameras were commonly released over military sites in World War I. As the birds flew, the cameras continuously clicked away, snapping pictures which were developed and interpreted when the pigeons reached their destinations.



**Jeffersonian Cipher Device** (c. 1790's, US)

Thomas Jefferson invented a cylindrical cipher device similar to this in the 1790's. The device proved so successful, the US Army used similar versions to encrypt messages up until the end of World War II.



**Tree Stump Listening Device** (c. early 1970's, US, CIA issue)

Created by the CIA, a listening device disguised as a tree stump was placed in the woods near a Soviet military base to capture secret military radio transmissions. The device was solar powered and the exterior resembled tree bark. A satellite was used to extract the information contained in the stump.



**M-209 Cipher Machine** (c. 1943, US Army)

Widely used by the US Army during World War II, the compact M-209 cipher machine could be easily transported for use in the field. Field-level tactical communications encrypted by the rotors of the M-209 were printed on paper tape in five letter groups. The enciphered messages were then transmitted by radio and quickly deciphered with another M-209 machine.



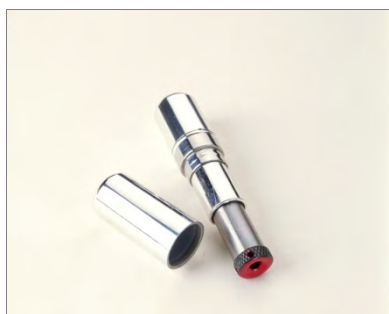
**Enigma Cipher Machine** (c. 1944, Germany)

The ability to break the legendary WWII German Enigma cipher is seen by historians as a major contributing factor to the Allied victory in WWII. Invented in 1923, the Enigma cipher machine was an electro-mechanical device for coding and deciphering messages. German refinements to the Enigma increased the complexity of the cipher continually throughout the war. In 1943 the first computing machine in the world, the Colossus I, was needed to break it.



**Operation Bernhard Forged Currency** (c. 1943-44, Germany, SD issue)

Operation Bernhard was a plot devised during World War II by the Nazi SD (Sicherheitsdienst) intelligence service to upset the British economy by distributing large amounts of forged currency. The pound sterling notes, printed by master Jewish engravers imprisoned in concentration camps, were so successful that they remained undetected until the early 1950s. Their discovery caused the British government to change the design of their notes.



**Lipstick Pistol** (c. 1965, USSR, KGB issue)

Referred to as “The Kiss of Death,” the lipstick pistol was employed by KGB operatives during the Cold War. This 4.5 mm single shot weapon was disguised as a tube of lipstick, easily hidden in a purse. The existence of such a weapon was first detected at a border crossing into West Berlin.



***Coal Camouflage Kit and Explosive Coal*** (c. 1942-45, US, OSS issue)

Explosive coal was used in sabotage operations by the OSS during WWII. The device, shaped like a large piece of coal, was actually a hollow shell into which explosives were packed. Using the camouflage kit, the operative painted the device to match the local coal and then secretly deposited it into coal bins at ship or railroad yards. The camouflaged coal would detonate when burned in a locomotive's furnace or a factory boiler.



***Poison Gas Gun*** (c. 1950s, USSR, KGB issue)

Gas-firing weapons were created by the KGB to kill silently and, at the time, be undetectable at autopsy. This double barrel gun fired cartridges containing glass vials of prussic acid. When fired, the vial was crushed and the acid converted into cyanide gas in the victim's face. A mesh screen stopped glass splinters from reaching the victim's face and thus revealing the cause of death.



***Coat with Buttonhole Camera*** (c. 1970s, USSR, KGB issue)

The KGB used small, lightweight F21 cameras for various methods of clandestine photography. Concealing the camera behind coat buttons proved very effective. The camera lens was hidden behind a false button on the front of the user's coat. When the remote shutter release was triggered, connected to the lens by a thin cable from a coat pocket, the center of the false button opened briefly to take the photograph. Spare buttons were provided to the user so that all the buttons on a coat could be replaced to match the false one. This concealment proved so successful, it remains in use today.



***“Through the Wall” Camera*** (c. 1980s, East Germany, Stasi issue)

This Czech surveillance camera in the Museum’s collection will be the first of its kind displayed publicly outside of Germany. The Stasi, the East German security service, used this Czech camera with a German lens to photograph individuals through walls in special hotel suites throughout East Germany. The tube of the camera fit perfectly into a round camera “port” built into a hotel room wall. The film canister replaced the camera’s view-finder once the unsuspecting hotel patron was in focus and pictures were taken with a remote trigger.



***Steineck ABC Wristwatch Camera*** (c. 1949, Germany)

This cleverly disguised subminiature camera allowed an operative to take photographs while pretending to check his watch for the time of day. It used a circular piece of film with six exposures.



***Shoe with Heel Transmitter*** (c. 1960s, USSR, KGB issue)

The shoe transmitter was produced by the KGB during the Cold War to monitor secret conversations. A transmitter, microphone, and batteries were imbedded in the heel of a target’s shoe. Someone close to the target (usually a maid or valet with access to the individual’s clothing) would lay out the rigged shoes for the target and pull out a white pin from the heel to activate the transmitter. The target would then become a walking radio station, transmitting all conversations to a nearby monitoring post.



**John Walker's Electronic Countermeasures Kit** (c. 1980s, commercially available)

John Walker was the KGB's most important spy in the United States in the 1970s. As a chief warrant officer in the US Navy, Walker had access to naval secrets and spied for the Soviet Union in exchange for money. After retiring, John Walker continued to spy with the help of family members still serving in the Navy until the FBI caught him in 1985. He used the equipment in this briefcase to maintain his cover identity. As a countermeasures specialist, Walker used this equipment to find listening devices for his clients.



**Secret Writing Detection Kit** (c. 1980s, East Germany, MfS issue)

To read secret messages, members of the East German MfS (Ministry for State Security) used the ultraviolet lights of different wavelengths in this kit to search for secret writing. Operatives were given pens containing special ink that would only fluoresce when viewed under UV lights of a specific wavelength – otherwise, the writing remained invisible.



**Escape Boots** (c. 1943-45, England, MI9 issue)

These boots were designed for British pilots during WWII by MI9, an organization that provided escape and evasion equipment to the Royal Air Force. The bootstrap concealed a small pen knife used to cut off the tops of the boots, making them appear to be civilian walking shoes. A pilot would have been easily spotted because of his distinctive "flying boots." The converted shoes helped him blend in with the civilian population aiding his escape from enemy territory.



**Francis Gary Powers Album** (c. 1960, USSR, KGB)

These photographs, taken by the KGB, document the personal belongings and secret equipment found in the wreckage of Francis Gary Powers' U-2 spyplane when he was shot down over Soviet territory on May 1, 1960. Powers, dispatched by the CIA to take aerial photographs of key Soviet missile installations, was intercepted and shot down when an anti-aircraft missile exploded near his aircraft. After parachuting to safety, Powers was immediately taken captive by the Soviets and later convicted as a spy. Powers was eventually traded to the U.S. for a captured KGB officer.



**Whitworth G-Men and FBI Toy Collection** (c. 1930s – 50s, various countries)

This collection of 500 toys is one of the largest collections of G-Men and FBI toys assembled in the U.S. These antique toys and collectibles, manufactured from the mid-1930s through the 1970s, are a reflection of the public's enduring fascination with the excitement and intrigue of espionage. The collection, purchased from Harry A. and Joyce Whitworth, includes many examples of games, toy vehicles and weapons, advertising premiums, and books.

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