

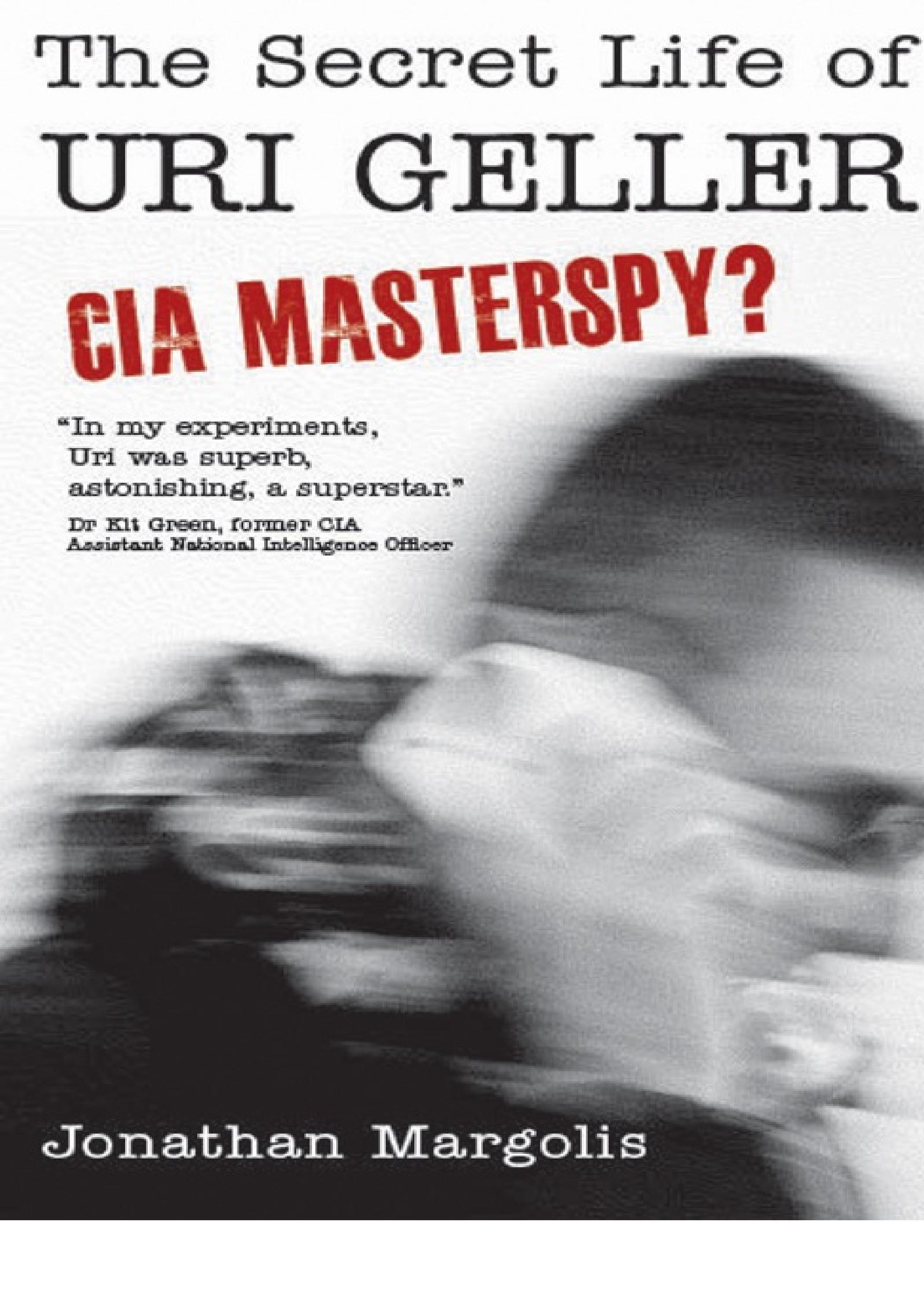
# The Secret Life of URI GELLER

## **CIA MASTERSPY?**

*"In my experiments,  
Uri was superb,  
astonishing, a superstar."*

*Dr Eli Green, former CIA  
Assistant National Intelligence Officer*

Jonathan Margolis



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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Jonathan Margolis is a technology journalist for the *Financial Times* and writes on more general subjects, especially China, for publications including the *Observer*, the *Guardian*, the *New Statesman* and the *Daily Mail*. He is a former London contributor to *TIME* magazine and is also the author of two popular science books – *The Intimate History of the Orgasm* and *A Brief History of Tomorrow*, a investigation into triumphs and disasters of futurologists through the ages.

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# INTRODUCTION

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I never planned to become an expert on Uri Geller. A smaller boy made me do it – my son, David, aged 15 in 1996, when we first had the Internet, became fascinated online by the controversy over Geller.

I sighed and tried to discourage him. ‘He’s just a washed-up fake,’ I explained. David was not convinced, and through a wonderful British inventor, John Knopp, whom I had interviewed, he made contact with Geller.

Uri was soon inviting my whole family to come to his house. There was a slight setback when we turned up, all five of us, and Uri was out. His excuse was more than reasonable. He had been asked to go to the old Wembley Stadium to give some psychic support to the England football team.

We returned another week. We saw a spoon bend on its own, and a series of quite extraordinary micro events, enough to fill a long article in themselves, unfolded. This weird little pattern starts up again every time I have contact with Uri, even if I’m thousands of kilometres from him.

Now, intrigued, I began researching Uri, and found that everything I had told David – such as my absolute insistence that he had never been validated by science – was wrong.

Even so, Uri’s life has been so packed with extraordinary, bizarre and fascinating incidents, and so crammed with stories, that 17 years after first meeting him, I’m still learning.

This book concerns a side of Uri that even many who know him well will not have been aware of until now. I think even the most sceptical reader will find it intriguing, and just possibly compelling.

Jonathan Margolin  
August 2013

## A PHONE CALL

It's a perfect spring day in 1981 in Stamford, Connecticut, just an hour or so north of New York City, yet more rural than suburban. A little way from the pretty town centre, you find yourself on Westover Road, passing the secluded, gated homes, mostly of wealthy New Yorkers who with their families have left the excitement of Manhattan (along with the less-missed muggers and garbage that typified the city in the '80s) for quiet, secluded, safe, green backyards and elite schools. Along on the right, there's a dirt track, rather grandly announced by the standard American white-on-green street sign as Long Close Road. Picking up a bit of dust as you go (the road today is paved and smooth, which almost detracts from its bucolic charm) this trail leads into a delightful forest complete with lake. Along the way, so hidden as to be almost invisible, are even more desirable homes than on Westover.

In one of these, a large, imposing house built on a slope that gently dips down to a creek, lives a family, who, but for a few unusual details, of which we will hear more as this story unfolds, typify the American dream of immigration gone extraordinarily right. The house, even back then, 35 years ago in the early days of Ronald Reagan's America, is worth close to a million dollars.

The Geller family, from Israel. There's 35-year-old Uri, who has made enough money to retire, working as ... well, we will get to that. There's his wife, Hanna, their two tiny children, Daniel and Natalie. There's Hanna's younger brother, Shipi, who has been Uri's best friend and, latterly, business partner since they were practically kids. And there's Uri's German-born widowed mother, Margaret, whom he has brought over from Tel Aviv to live in the States and be there for her grandchildren. It's an idealized, close, happy family set-up, which will remain unchanged for decades. Even today, with Margaret having died, Uri of retirement age, Daniel a successful attorney in Manhattan and Natalie an aspiring actress in Los Angeles, the Gellers are a stable, happy unit.

Back in 1981, the focus this particular sparkling morning switches over 640 kilometres to the south and to, of all places, the office of the newly appointed Director of the CIA, William Joseph Casey. Casey is 68, a New York Republican politician and devout Roman Catholic, with a wartime background in intelligence, for which he was awarded a Bronze Star. He has post-war experience as a lawyer, and a profound loathing and distrust of the Soviet Union. He was Ronald Reagan's campaign manager in his recent successful election and was one of the new president's key appointees.

We don't know what Casey has on his desk this morning a few weeks after he started as CIA director, when he phones Uri Geller in Connecticut. We don't know why he calls. We don't know why he doesn't get a subordinate at least to dial the number and announce that the Director of the CIA is on the line. But we do know the kind of material that had accumulated in Geller's bulging file over the ten years he has been a subject of interest to the Agency, so we can hazard an unusually informed guess.

Uri Geller had been brought to the CIA's attention in the early 1970s by the Israeli secret service Mossad, and by a particular eccentric Serbian-American scientist, Dr Andrija Puharich, who had spent months in Tel Aviv if not at the explicit request of the CIA, then with its blessing, testing the young Israeli's apparently paranormal abilities with a view to both seeking to quantify and understand them.

– and to seeing if the young man had it in him to work covertly against the Soviet bloc.

The scientist had also been encouraged to investigate Uri Geller by the former Apollo astronaut Edgar Mitchell, the lunar module pilot on the Apollo 14 Moon landing. Mitchell had become the sixth man to walk on the Moon just a few months earlier, and had always had a scientific fascination with the paranormal. We will look back over the strange story of how Uri came to be in America at all later in this book. It is every bit as odd and intriguing – and disturbing – as the truly astonishing events that happened to and around the American intelligence community during the decade in the USA leading up to William Casey's out-of-the-blue phone call. These events seriously unhinged a considerable number of the hard-headed scientific researchers who investigated Uri. Some of them were never the same again – and not in a good way.

Yet the early indications seen by Andrija Puharich, the man the US government – or at least its elements within it – nominated to investigate Uri, didn't suggest such an outcome. Far from it. Puharich, a polymath who had qualified as both a medical doctor and a physicist, had first seen Uri when the Israeli was working in a seedy nightclub. He struck the scientist as nothing more than an ordinary, not-very-good conjuror with an act consisting of a small number of effects – spoon bending, mind reading and stopping and starting clocks and watches – all of which could be replicated by any half-decent magician.

After months of work with Uri Geller in semi-laboratory conditions on his field trip to Israel, the scientist had changed his opinion radically. During the early 1970s, Uri (along with some other apparent psychics) went on to be the subject of formal experimentation in research in the USA funded by the CIA to the tune, we now know, of \$20m. The most significant of these exhaustive tests had been done in 1972, by Stanford Research International (SRI), a big laboratory complex in Menlo Park outside San Francisco. Their extraordinary success was widely reported after the CIA agreed to allow the lead scientists to write a largely positive report on Uri's mind-reading abilities for the prestigious British science journal *Nature* as a reward for their endeavours. It would do no harm if the Soviets got to read it, either.

All this, William Casey would have known from the file when he called Uri in 1981. The headlines and facts were not even secret; it is no exaggeration to say that Uri Geller was one of the most famous people in the world, a guest – bizarrely for someone being assessed for use as an espionage asset – on entertainment shows around the (non-communist) globe, a buddy of celebrities from John Lennon to Salvador Dali.

The Geller files – and we will see later a recently revealed extract from one of the documents that Casey will have had to hand – were also very clear on another thing about Uri Geller. That he was, and remains even today at the age of 66, an incorrigible, extrovert showman with a penchant for self-publicity – none of which, it goes without saying, suggests a man marked out by the CIA and other secret government agencies in the US, Israel, Mexico and possibly the UK for a life as psychic spy.

Psychic spy he most certainly was, as we will discover, but 'cool', in either the 1950s' and 60s' James Bond-ish mode that Casey would have understood, or in the more modern, dark espionage fiction sense, Uri Geller most definitely was not. With examples of show business luminaries from Errol Flynn to Noël Coward known to have done their bit of intelligence work on the side, Geller saw no reason why he couldn't ride two horses and be both a celebrity and a spy. In his own field, almost the great Harry Houdini had done just that in his day. Houdini's stunts made headlines, but also caught the eye of influential figures in US and British intelligence agencies.

A 2006 biography of the great Austrian-American stunt performer revealed that both the Secret Service and Scotland Yard hired him to infiltrate police stations in mainland Europe and Russia, keeping an eye out and an ear open for informative titbits. In return, Houdini demanded that the intelligence agencies help further his career. Before he would agree to spying assignments, Houdini

insisted that William Melville, the head of the British Special Branch and later of the British Secret Service, who died in 1918, arranged for him to audition with London theatre managers.

Another important aspect of the Uri Geller story that would have featured high in his CIA case notes needs to be flagged up for the millions of those under the age of 35 or so and others who may be unacquainted with the known story of Uri Geller. That is that he was despised and derided, actively vocally and with a vengeance, by many stage magicians and a substantial number of scientists initially at home but later around the world.

To understand why Uri was the focus of such hatred, we must realize that conjurors specialize in performing feats for entertainment purposes that *look* like ‘paranormal’ or magical effects, but are actually produced by physical and mental trickery. They spend years honing and perfecting their tricks and were infuriated beyond imagining when Uri Geller cropped up in the 1960s saying that the abilities he possessed were natural, that he had had them since early childhood and had no idea how he did what he did; it just ‘kind of worked’.

The appearance of Uri Geller on the scene at the height of the hippy era, when rationalists were getting increasingly irritated by the boom in mysticism, was to prompt the growth of what might be termed ‘professional scepticism’. All over the world, societies were founded and magazines published that cast an ever-cynical eye on all things mystic. What will be referred to in this story occasionally as ‘the sceptics’ tend to be dominated by an odd coalition of disgruntled stage magicians and scientists, atheists and devout ultra-rationalists, all with their own agendas. And ‘the sceptics’ have, in the minds of many educated people in different parts of the world, come to dominate the discussion that rages around Uri Geller and the paranormal. It is not the intention of this book to go too deeply into the 40-year argument between those who take Uri Geller and ‘Gellerism’ seriously and those who believe him to be a charlatan, but to let the evidence speak for itself and allow the reader to make a judgment call.

To make such a judgment, however, it is necessary to know – as one can be sure William Casey did – that the intellectual honesty of some of ‘the sceptics’ is far from a given. Most educated young people tend to believe it is the sceptics who are the cowboys in white hats, when in reality a noisy minority are more like traditional Wild-West-movie, black-hat wearers.

To be fair, there are many honest, rigorous-minded people among the sceptics, who do not just sneer as an ill-considered kneejerk reaction. But more than a few journalists, lawyers and others, even former professional sceptics – have been surprised to discover a significant scattering of rogues amongst them. And the ranks of the organized, militant sceptics are, to this day, thick with rather over-emotional, excitable characters. Those on the fringes of this group are often, weirdly superstitious. They are careless with accusations of fraud, engaging in multiple, documented cases of vicious personal attacks based on invented evidence. And they are notoriously reluctant even to read the research that challenges their prejudices. They are quick with fanciful conspiracy theories on how Uri and others do what they do – and, as with so many fundamentalists in various fields, fatally prone to falling out with one another.

One of the most prominent and public among the militantly anti-Uri Geller crusaders in the US had been lobbying against Geller since the 1970s. Beyond question, his and other names will have been highlighted in Geller’s case notes, now lying in front of William Casey: among them was a somewhat maverick character who had been exposed in a Baltimore court case as unreliable.

Decades later, indeed, when one reviews the strange, intense period most of this book covers, it is hard not to wonder, not only if Uri’s loud, showy persona was a front, to make it impossible for anyone to believe he was engaged in serious espionage work, but also that the sceptics’ ranks were riddled with CIA men, planted there to spread propaganda against Geller in an effort to convince the Soviets that the Americans’ ‘psychic secret weapon’ was a fake, while in fact, significant elements

among US intelligence were convinced that their mouthy Israeli superstar was absolutely the real thing. Andrija Puharich, indeed, believed the Defense Department decided that short of killing Uri, the best thing was to ridicule him, at least for public consumption, and that they effectively set up the sceptics' campaign. It's a theory, at least ...

The language of some of the CIA's recently declassified (although heavily redacted) internal communications of the time – which again, not to labour the point, would have been available to Casey when he called Geller – strongly suggests, however, that the CIA considered Geller an extremely interesting potential asset.

One memo argues for taking Geller out of the hands of the semi-private SRI and getting him firmly under CIA control. Thus it proposes: *'Telling SRI (sincerely by the way) that we have no intention of easing them out and that they will have full access to the data and first option on publication, we persuade them to use their good offices with Geller in the following manner. They tell him that, in order to get the kind of money necessary for prolonged research, they showed the data on film on a highly selective basis to officials in the USG. [US government] While all expressed interest (and many incredulity) only one group had both the vision and the courage and the means to pursue the matter and they urge Geller to at least listen to the proposition they wish to make.'*

*'If he asks who they represent,' the document continues, 'SRI finesses the matter by telling him that the representatives themselves would rather explain their status. (NOTE: alternatively, with appropriate backstopping, we could pass ourselves off as NIH [National Institutes of Health] officials). SRI then provides the introduction to Geller and we try to convince him to accept a contract as a consultant for a two- or three-month period renewable if both parties concur. If we don't pose as NIH officials and if he insists on knowing who we are, we tell him but only after enough low-key and sympathetic exposure to permit him at least to judge us subjectively.'*

*'If we pose as NIH, the rationale for our interest is simple – straight basic research. If we drop the cover, the rationale is simply that in addition to our scientific interest in understanding the phenomena we are concerned about the potentialities for its use in the wrong hands and against the interests of humanity as a whole. We have a defensive responsibility in that regard and solicit his help in meeting it. In other words, we virtually level with him.'*

*'As matters now stand we have little to lose and, handled adeptly, we might get a reasonably cooperative response. If so, we arrange for him to be ensconced in an NIH clinic (under alias if he prefers) and ensure that the conditions (privacy, security, yet freedom of movement for G, who will live and sleep there, but be free to leave outside "office" hours are optimum from his and our point of view.'*

*'We then conduct the experiments designed for him and have him examined by an array of NIH specialists. In this context, while we probably have to keep the regimen as un-threatening and un-painful as possible, it would be great value if we could obtain blood/ metabolic/ other indices both when he is "high" (performing well) and when he is in a normal state. If consistent traces lead to biochemical suggestions, the whole matter of both identification and enhancement in others (drug-wise for example) might be short-circuited. All of us experience in less dramatic ways "on" and "off" states with minor cycles being measured in hours or days and major ones measured sometimes in years. When we are "on" we "click", feel fit and on top of things and we are perceived by others as being effective, dynamic magnetic etc. It seems reasonable to assume that similar or analogous cycles are operative in the "psi" arena and that (as with us) the underlying causes are physical/chemical as well as environmental/ psychological.'*

Another document sets out some of the reasons the CIA wanted to get its hands directly on the Israeli prodigy. *'It strikes me that what is of interest to CIA is not whether Geller's perceptions are sensory or extrasensory but rather whether his capabilities are exploitable by CIA (not necessarily*

utilizing Geller personally: possibly others could be trained to do what he does),’ it says. ‘And indeed someone who could reproduce blueprints locked in safes without looking at the blueprints, or someone who could distinguish from a distance decoys from real missiles, would be an undoubted asset ... SRI experiments with Geller to date have dealt exclusively with behavioural tasks and not at all with the examination of Geller himself (other than a cursory EEG examination which apparently revealed nothing abnormal) and future activities with him could deal with an examination of his perceptual abilities to learn whether e.g., his vision or hearing extends beyond normal human limits.’

What we learn from the first of these typewritten documents (CIA-RDP96-00787B000400070026 for anyone keen to check it and others on the subject out personally) is nothing short of incredible. The spooks taking Uri Geller seriously in the early 1970s were not just the mavericks portrayed in the entertaining 2009 film starring George Clooney, *The Men Who Stare At Goats*, which was based very loosely on the events around (but not including) Uri Geller. They were real, memo-writing, career CIA spymasters. And so anxious were they to enlist Uri’s powers that they plotted, if necessary, to pose as members of the US government’s medical bureaucracy and appeal to his better nature, citing ‘the potentialities for its use in the wrong hands and against the interests of humanity as a whole.’ The impression can hardly be avoided that, after his testing at SRI, Geller’s powers were a given; to those in the know, they were not even up for discussion.

So what was the nature and substance of William Casey’s call that morning in 1981? Well, it was nothing particularly heavy. In fact, it was curiously low key and informal – and brief. We have only Uri’s story to rely on, but, as will emerge in due course, we have numerous accounts from other highly plausible sources – plus documents such as the ones above – to suggest that what Uri has said is most likely true and accurate. (He has also told the same story consistently to the author for the past 20 years. Its implications only became clearer in 2013, when the Oscar-winning BBC TV director Vikram Jayanti made his acclaimed 90-minute documentary *The Secret Life of Uri Geller*. It majored on detailed new revelations about Uri’s espionage past, unearthed in interviews with witnesses who were only able to come forward with the passing of the years and the release of previously secret documents and programmes.)

But back to that call. The ringing phone was picked up by Uri’s brother-in-law, Shipi. ‘Hello,’ Casey said. ‘Am I speaking to Mr Uri Geller?’ Casey, with Russians clearly on his mind, made the common mistake of pronouncing the Hebrew name ‘Uri’ as the quite different Russian name, ‘Yuri.’ Shipi, in his lugubrious way, asked to whom he was speaking; callers to the Geller property were seldom selecting to some extent as the number wasn’t listed. ‘This is William Casey, Director, Central Intelligence Agency, calling from Langley, Virginia.’

‘Uri,’ called Shipi. ‘It’s the Director of the CIA.’ He spoke in English rather than the Hebrew he would normally use with his brother-in-law. It was probable that Casey could tell that Shipi was smiling as he said this. Team Geller had been around spooks long enough to know that the Director of the CIA wouldn’t normally make his own calls. It had also been at least a couple of years since Uri had been involved in any intelligence work. What could this be about? Uri took the call anyway. ‘Hello, this is Uri Geller,’ he said, his voice disarmingly lighter than Shipi’s, making him sound a little younger. Casey again politely introduced himself, explained that he was new in post and was acquainting himself with a few ongoing matters of interest.

‘Sir, I don’t like to sound rude or sceptical,’ Uri said, ‘but could you please tell me some more about what you know about me. I am sure you are who you say you are, but you will excuse me if I say you could be anybody. You will understand that I have to be a little bit careful.’ Casey was remarkably patient for an older man who was used to people jumping at his command, especially since he had been in his elevated new role. But he gave a few details about the programme at SRI almost a decade earlier, naming the key scientists involved, Dr Hal Puthoff, a laser physicist, and Russell Targ,

specialist in plasma physics, as well as several lesser-known researchers. Uri was soon convinced  
'OK, so how may I help you, Mr Casey?'

It turned out that the Director was merely curious to do a little ESP test personally. 'Mr Geller,' he said. 'I'm sitting at my desk at CIA. Can you tell me what I'm holding in my hand right now?' Uri thought about this for a minute or so, as he recalls, although he concedes that it may not have been that long – a minute is a very long silence in a phone call, especially one with a complete stranger who happens to be one of the most important people in the USA. Eventually, he said, 'I can't be sure, but my feeling is that it's a dagger with a white, possibly ivory, handle.' It was Casey's turn to be silent now. 'Well, I'll be darned,' he finally said, thanked Uri for his time and was not heard from – directly – again.

\* \* \*

The reasons for William Casey's 1981 call to Uri Geller can never be known. He died six years later and so far as we know, never confided in anyone. Maybe it was just a bit of curiosity on his part during an idle moment at work; maybe he did it because he could; maybe simply because he had the power in his new job to call up Uri Geller on a whim. Nonetheless, it seems no small thing for the head of the world's leading intelligence agency to have taken time out to satisfy such a whim if such was, right in the middle of an escalating Cold War. One can only speculate beyond the bald fact. There was no obvious, immediate consequence so far as anyone in a position to say so knows.

The high point of the extraordinary spy story around Uri had, after all been concentrated on the key early 1970s' period. So let us now spool back to that time, through the eyes of several of the key people involved, especially the ones who first came to light in Vikram Jayanti's documentary. In later chapters, we will add many layers of detail to the story, and look at the equally fascinating build-up to Uri Geller's American adventures, as well as the many sequels.

The most important new voice to emerge publicly – the biggest piece by far in the jigsaw one had to assemble to get a true picture of Uri Geller's hidden, below-the-line life as a spy – is that of one Kit Green. Green was the CIA contract monitor who oversaw the research into Uri and other psychics who were examined – albeit at arm's length, via Puthoff and Targ at SRI – in the spy establishment's quest to explore unorthodox methods of countering the perceived threat of the Soviet Union.

Chief amongst these methods was 'remote viewing' – using psychics with ESP to 'observe' Soviet military installations from thousands of kilometres away. It was understood that the Soviets were experimenting with the same potential method of espionage, and indeed were far more advanced with it. Kit Green, who was a PhD medical scientist in his early 30s at the time, was identified by name only in the Jayanti documentary; his current role and location were not specified. But when approached for this book, Green the spymaster decided to come in still further from the cold.

Kit Green is truly the man who knows. At the CIA, where he gave the green light to the American psychic 'remote-viewing' programme, that started with Uri Geller and became a 20-year research project called 'Stargate', this remarkably multi-faceted scientist was the Agency's Branch Chief for Life Science in the Office of Scientific Intelligence. By the early 1980s, he was the Senior Division Analyst and Deputy Division Director, as well as being Assistant National Intelligence Officer for Science and Technology. After leaving the CIA, he became Chief Technology Officer for General Motors in Detroit – and then qualified as a medical doctor!

Today, aged 73, Dr Christopher C. Green, to give him his full name, is a Professor of Diagnostic Radiology and Psychiatry at Detroit Medical Center and Assistant Dean at Wayne State School of Medicine, the largest medical school in the USA. In 2011, he addressed the Royal Society in London, the world's oldest scientific fellowship, at a conference on 'Applications of Neuroscience for Policy

and Threat Assessment,' with particular reference to the enhancement, manipulation or degradation of human performance. His actual address was entitled, *Neuroscience Applications for Military Intelligence and Law Enforcement*. It argued that medical scientists must remain aware that, with the explosion of discoveries in the area of neurosciences, will come individuals, political entities and countries, all seeking to exploit those findings for their own, nefarious purposes.

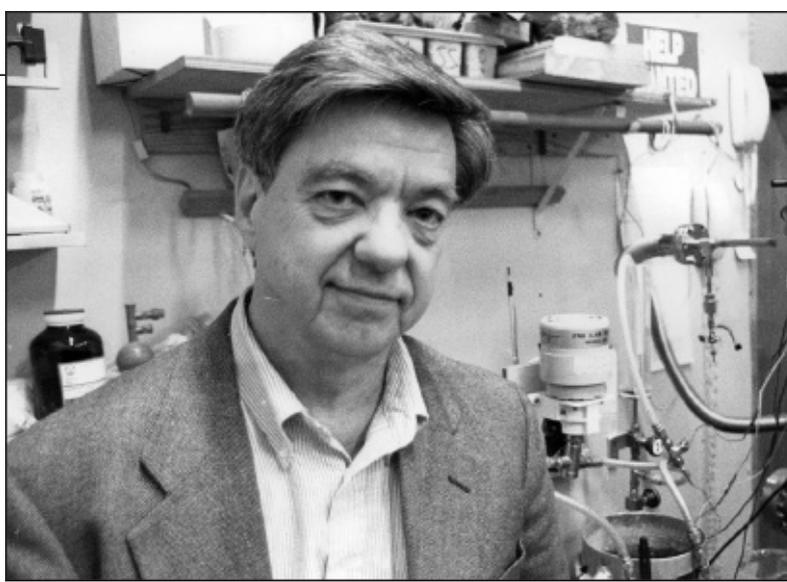
Curiously, perhaps, since Kit Green began to figure more and more in Uri's strange double life in the USA in the 1970s, both before and after Uri came to learn that Green was a CIA official, Green was never known to Geller by his real name. Until recently, to Uri, he was 'Rick', his CIA contact. And to this day, the two have never met.

This, then, is how Kit Green remembers first hearing of Uri in 1972.

'One afternoon, I got a telephone call at my desk, in the headquarters building. And the phone call initially was on what we called "the red line", a classified line. It was an intelligence agency of a very powerful ally of the United States of America, and they were troubled because a member of the military, an enlisted man, was doing things for them that they couldn't understand that appeared to have an electromagnetic aspect. He was capable of altering highly sophisticated electronics, which included imaging electronics, at will. And they didn't know how he was doing it. The question was simply, "Can you help us?" My response initially was, "Of course, I'll be glad to try." I was very interested as an electrophysiologist and neurophysiologist, not as a physician initially. And that was what I was initially asked about. The word "psychic" didn't appear for a long time with Geller.'

It was some months before Uri, for he it was who was the subject of the phone call, finally made it into Puthoff and Targ's safe hands at SRI, the CIA having seen to it that what was being done did not look overtly as if it was in any way a CIA project. But when the tests on Geller were underway, Green's phone was soon ringing again. 'Within a very short period of time, a week or ten days, I had a call at headquarters. It was the chief scientist at the Stanford Research Institute and he was talking about other aspects of Uri Geller's capabilities. I of course said, "Well, what other kinds of things are you talking about?" And without much of a pause the scientist said, "Well, he says he can see things at a distance." And I said, "No, he can't." And they said, "Yes, he can – and he's right here." So I said, "Hi, Uri. Well what can you see?"

Hal Puthoff explains today that Uri was kept in the dark about who was on the phone, because the pretence had to be maintained that the Virginia-based CIA was not involved in any way with the laboratory testing in distant California. As we saw in the CIA document above, the Agency was nervous not only about the news leaking prematurely that they were working, albeit through a third party, with psychics, but that Uri would be upset if he thought he was working for the CIA. They were not to know that working in espionage had been his dream since he was a boy, and that he would have seen coming to America to work for the CIA after his connections with Mossad back home (of which more later) was akin to being promoted to a big league from a lower division. So Uri was simply told on the call with Green that he was 'a scientific colleague on the East Coast' who was curious about his remote-viewing capability.



Physicist Hal Puthoff, one of the first scientists to test Geller at Stanford Research Institute, California.

‘So,’ continues Dr Green, ‘I turned and picked up a book, a collection of medical illustrations of the nervous system, and I opened it up to a page and I just stared at it. And Uri said, “Oh, I’m seeing something kind of strange.” Uri, Puthoff recalls, scribbled something and crumpled it up, did the same again, and finally said, “Well, I don’t know what to think. It looks like I have made a drawing of a part of scrambled eggs. Yet I have the word ‘architecture’ coming in strong.”’

What astonished Green – to the extent that he went on to get authorization for the \$20 million programme that would become ‘Stargate’ – was that the illustration on the page he had ‘shown’ Uri was a cross-section of the human brain. ‘But what caught my attention was that I had written across the top of his drawing the words “architecture of a viral infection”. I had been looking at the biological warfare effect on the nervous system of a threat virus.

‘They then did tremendous analysis to see if there was any chance that there were any cues over the telephone lines and so on,’ Puthoff says today. ‘But that was a genuine result. There are others like that that we did that we’ve never published. But it certainly convinced us that he has ability.’

Fascinated by the impromptu experiment in the office, Kit Green, the archetype of the sceptical scientist (sceptical in the sense of inquiring, not merely dogmatic) resolved to redo it – unannounced and from home – at the weekend. Certain things were still troubling him about the approach from SRI. Unlikely as it was, perhaps he had been fooled; the folks at SRI had, after all initiated the test by calling him. What if it had been the other way round?

‘So I did an experiment in which I established myself and some documentary materials, including some numbers written on paper by a colleague and sealed in an envelope and then in another,’ Dr Green relates. ‘And I arranged to do this experiment in my home as an unclassified project with no forewarning to him. Although it was the weekend, the team at SRI happened to be there when I called and I asked if Uri could describe the unspecified item. I had put the double envelope up on a music stand in my den.

‘Two things occurred along with him reading the numbers correctly, as I established when I broke the seals and opened the envelopes. While he was “viewing” them, I moved the documents from one position to another inside the envelopes; I went over and lifted the outer envelope while I was on the phone and turned it through 180 degrees because it was upside down. And he became very upset while I was doing it. Actually, he started to scream and asked, “What happened? What did you just do? I’m getting nauseous, I want to vomit.” When I explained, he said, “Please don’t do that again because I was reading when you rotated it.” But then after that he said something else had happened and wanted

to know if I was all right.

~~‘I said, “Slow down. I’m sitting upstairs in my den at my home, in northern Virginia, it’s a beautiful day, my family’s downstairs, what are you talking about? He said, “OK, Rick. For reasons I can’t explain, something happens and I get suffused with an incredible amount of information, which in some cases is very disturbing, and I just now received a strange picture and event. I had a picture of glass shards fracturing and going through a body and pain as it went through, and in the background I saw a square-headed dog that was completely white with blood coming down from the dog’s neck onto the floor, which was a sea of green. I didn’t know what that meant and I was worried because it was while we were having our conversation.”’~~

~~‘About an hour later, we finished and I went downstairs into our family room, which we’d moved all the furniture out of a few hours before to have a new green carpet laid down. And my family had put in the room on the new carpet a tall pole lamp with a huge glass shade and it had shattered all over the carpet. I found the family and asked what happened.~~

~~‘They said that about an hour ago, Charles, our snow-white English bulldog – with a square head – had run into the room, got tangled in the cable and pulled the lamp over. And my mother the week before had macraméd a huge, wide, bright-red collar to go around the bulldog’s neck. And it had been the collar that twisted round the cable. Now when I’ve reported this in the past,’ says Dr Green, ‘people have said, “So what. It’s an anecdote”. And I say, “Sure it’s an anecdote, an uncontrolled experiment, but it happened to me.” And it was too far away in the house for me to have heard the crash.’~~

~~Did such incidents not severely challenge the rationality of a young scientist, already in a plum position in the CIA and clearly destined to go places? ‘I did find it disturbing intellectually because there was no way I could explain it from a materialistic perspective,’ Green says. ‘What we now know, many years later, is that there is a theoretical framework, which is quantum entanglement, which is the way in which brains communicate internally and externally. So at the time, I found it scientifically intriguing, but not a counterintelligence issue, because I know darned well I was not being spied on in my home, or that they were looking into my home with cameras or something. Because they didn’t know I was going to be having this conversation until a minute or two before when I picked up the phone and called.’~~

~~So since those strange, unsettling episodes happened to him personally, how does Dr Green feel when he hears magicians and sceptical fellow scientists say all such things are simple magician tricks and of no scientific interest? ‘That kind of comment comes from people who don’t know, who will read something by a magician and they’ll look at this and hear it said that Geller did this or that.~~

~~‘But the fact of the matter is that that isn’t correct. Anybody who has studied Geller and seen what he does and the films of what he does recognizes that there are profound differences between what Geller does and magicians’ tricks. There’s not even a remotely qualified individual who’s ever investigated Geller who believes this orthodoxy – that it’s all trickery – has any value. It does not.~~

~~‘There’s another issue, too,’ says Kit Green. ‘Many of the individuals who have been making their living out of debunking Geller are intellectually and morally bankrupt individuals. The RV [remote viewing] experiments for me were astonishing. He was a superb remote viewer. He was a superstar. He is sometimes asked why, since he was so good at remote viewing, he wasn’t officially in our elite group of remote viewers, and the reason for that is that it was his physics characteristics that were being researched very profoundly in a lot of laboratories, including government facilities. He was under review principally because he was of interest in the physics and materials science – the thing that inexplicably it appeared he could do interacting with materials and electronics. In other words, we already had some outstanding remote viewers and needed Uri Geller for other, potentially even more important, matters.’~~

Let's try, then, because it will be mentioned again, to get a handle on the quantum entanglement theory, which is essence, what Dr Green is talking about when he mentions the interaction of materials and electronics. A warning first, though; because quantum physics or quantum mechanics involves phenomena which even scientists describe as 'weird' or 'spooky', it has become a bit of a mantra for non-scientists to put anything unusual, from ghosts to strange coincidences down to quantum physics. This causes some scientists to get extremely heated and dismissive about what they call 'woo woo science'. It's notable, by the way, that Uri never tries to invoke quantum as an explanation for his abilities, but plenty of his supporters do, and if they're not knowledgeable about quantum physics they probably do him a disservice by making it easy for scientists to scoff.

The problem, however, is that scientists are not of one mind and love nothing better than tearing into one another and calling each other idiots who know nothing about what quantum *really* is. They do this either in scholarly articles – or more often in emotional emails and statements to one another. This squabbling and bitching has been going on since the 1930s, when quantum theory was first developed, and it is not a pretty spectacle to anyone who likes to think – as do a lot of the professional sceptics who hate Uri Geller – that science has definitive, black-and-white answers to everything.

The reality is that, and this really is not using over-emotive language, that quantum entanglement – which broadly speaking involves separate sub-atomic particles affecting one another more or less instantaneously whether they are centimetres or light years apart – is probably the most mysterious phenomenon we know of in the universe. We are talking here about separate, distant objects behaving like one entity, while remaining two separate objects. Additionally, although 'non-locality', as quantum entanglement is also often called, has been demonstrated regularly in laboratories since the 1990s and is already being exploited in real-life applications in electronics and other fields, not even the most knowledgeable scientist has much of a clue how it works.

One quantum theory pioneer, the Princeton physicist, John Wheeler, said if you are not completely confused by quantum mechanics, you do not understand it, while the great theoretical physicist Richard Feynman famously said that nobody understands quantum mechanics and that if anyone tells you they know how it works, they're lying.

Even Einstein, who was partly responsible for describing quantum theory, was disturbed by aspects of it from the start. The non-locality in particular troubled him: he described it as 'spooky action at a distance'. His issue was that if particles could act in concert almost instantaneously from one side of the Universe to the other, information (or whatever it is) would need to be travelling faster than light, which his own work argued was an impossibility. (How much faster than the speed of light quantum entanglement provably works might have spooked Einstein still further; in one recent experiment, physicist Nicolas Gisin of the University of Geneva measured photons – light particles – 18 kilometres apart apparently sending information to one another at 10,000 times faster than the speed of light. 'I want to be able to tell a story,' Professor Gisin has said, 'and I cannot tell you a story of how nature manages the trick.')

So in quantum theory we have sub-atomic particles entangled, in the sense of being 'tied together' affecting one another and seemingly communicating at absurd speeds. We have the prospect, any year now, of quantum computers using quantum effects, even though these can't be explained, to work millions of times faster than today's electronic computers.

Entanglement is also the basis of teleportation, which is no longer 'Beam-me-up-Scotty' science fiction, since it has been demonstrable in the laboratory since 1997, four years after it was first seriously proposed. In teleportation, two quantum-entangled objects seem to act in concert as a link that moves information from one physical location to another. Chinese researchers currently hold the official record for teleportation distance, having teleported a piece of information via entangled photons across 16 kilometres of urban landscape and a lake.

But what does all this have to do with Uri Geller, mind reading, ESP, remote viewing and metemorphosis, not to forget ghosts, poltergeists, and even while we're at it, the placebo effect, mind-over-matter, Jungian synchronicity, chanting, prayer, miracles and religion?

Obviously, broadly speaking, everything 'paranormal' from spoon bending to prayer power is in the same ballpark as thought transference. But there has been no experimental work on the mechanism of how any of this might be working. So far, photons are the main things to have been provably entangled, although the size of demonstrably entangled objects is slowly increasing; in various experiments, a blob of thousands of photons and even a centimetre-long crystal have reportedly been entangled with a photon. And nothing experimental has (yet) demonstrated anything remotely involving brain cells swapping information via quantum entanglement. Yet we have globally respected scientists like Dr Green in Detroit and other researchers who are not even notably 'heretical', explicitly stating that the explanation for the abilities of Uri Geller and his like is most likely quantum entanglement.

And there are tantalizing glimpses of what you might call Geller-like aspects within what is known about entanglement. One such hint is the puzzling fickleness and unreliability of entanglement. It is famously finicky, declining and even disappearing abruptly – something known as 'entanglement sudden death' – with even slight external disturbance. 'Gellerism', to coin a phrase, is similarly unpredictable and often weak and indeterminate. Sceptics love to hoot with laughter at Uri's not uncommon inability to 'perform', especially when he is surrounded by people who want him to fail. These sceptics, though, don't appear to find it odd that people in the public eye, from comedians and athletes to politicians, seem to do better with an audience willing them on, and often flop with a crowd that's against them, but we'll let that pass.

In conventional science, however, effects are meant to be consistent on all occasions, in all conditions, regardless of the experimenter's feelings. Yet amongst its oddities, a particularly peculiar part of quantum entanglement is that an observer can affect an entangled system; yes, merely *measuring* one object that is entangled with another can cause the state of the distant object to change to that of the one being measured. Indeed, even emotions can, in this field, affect outcomes. No wonder, perhaps, that sceptical scientists by and large shun this kind of research on the somewhat unscientific grounds that it just can't be true!

There are other fragments of the work in progress that is the understanding of quantum entanglement, which hint at Gellerism and the whole gamut of weird science. Some research suggests that everyday objects are so made that their components are entangled not just with each other but also with almost everything with which they have interacted throughout their existence.

To those who like to think (woo woo) of the Universe in holistic terms, this is most interesting. There are also tantalizing, though unconfirmed, theories emerging that quantum entanglement may not be limited to physics, but might also appear in living systems. Some research suggests, for example, that migrating birds use quantum effects unwittingly (OK, it wouldn't be wittingly) to increase their sensitivity to the Earth's magnetic field, possibly by entangling the electrons of cryptochrome, a light-sensitive molecule believed to be involved in avian navigation.

It is all still some journey that starts from the basis of photons acting in cahoots across laboratories and finishes with a proposal that neurons in separate brains might be able to fire off another remotely. It is an even longer journey before you arrive at quantum entanglement as a theoretical framework for the reason why the molecules in a spoon should change in nature as a result of Uri Geller being in the vicinity and putting on his cross, concentrating face. Yet the fact that serious scientists protective of their reputations willingly associate themselves with the notion – indeed not just associate with it, but take it out for dinner and invite it to stay over – that the paranormal abilities of Uri Geller and others are down to quantum entanglement or something like it can surely not be

ignored.

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### LAB RAT

Even before it became known that Uri Geller had an intriguing and fascinating past – and an intriguing and fascinating present, too – as someone definitely involved in espionage on behalf of three nations (Israel, the United States, Mexico) and possibly a fourth (the United Kingdom), one of the most common questions asked about him by those curious to know more about this unusual media personality and fixture of British life, is usually expressed as something like, ‘Yes, but has he ever been tested by science?’

That Uri is in his 60s, yet looks to be in his 40s, has been friends with the likes of Michael Jackson and John Lennon and lives in a fine mansion on one of the most exclusive stretches of the River Thames in Berkshire, is still generally well known. That he is famous for being able to bend spoons and interfere with old-fashioned, mechanical watches by some disputed form of mental power is, these days, possibly a little less well known, his mind-reading ability, less so still.

Even less known, indeed practically *unknown*, is the fact that he has been tested and validated by some of the most rigorous and protracted research ever unleashed on one individual. Even where this is known, it tends to be disbelieved, or its results reported falsely. This is only partly because the waters have been deliberately muddied by the orchestrated sneering of the ubiquitous, closed-minded – yet undeniably fashionable – lobby occupied by professional sceptics. A lot of ignorance about Uri Geller’s true scientific background is simply the result of his heyday dating back to another monochrome, naïve era, to a feeling that we have ‘moved on’ and become less gullible and more sophisticated.

And yet the details of what happened around Uri back then more than stand up to the test of time. They actually amount to some of the more fascinating scientific history on record – along with, as we will see shortly, some of the spookiest accounts given by reliable witnesses of what can only be called X-Files-type events.

‘I’d never bought an ESP journal or ever subscribed to *Fate* magazine,’ says lead investigator Harold Puthoff, laughing, as he looks back on why he accepted the challenge of working with Uri Geller at the Electronics and Bioengineering unit of Stanford Research Institute in 1972. ‘No, I wasn’t interested at all. In fact, as it turns out, the only reason I got involved in this was that I was interested in what we now call quantum entanglement. I said at the time, “OK, here’s something that apparently occurs. So there must be some physics here. So, let’s take a look at it.” To a physicist, if it moves, it’s physics.’

Puthoff had early indications, however, that he and his colleague Russell Targ would be examining someone who was rather more than a nightclub magician, as Uri had been when Targ and doctor/physicist friend Andrija Puharich first saw him in Tel Aviv. ‘Behind the scenes,’ Puthoff explains today, ‘we were approached by Israeli Intelligence and they had been working with Geller in Israel.’

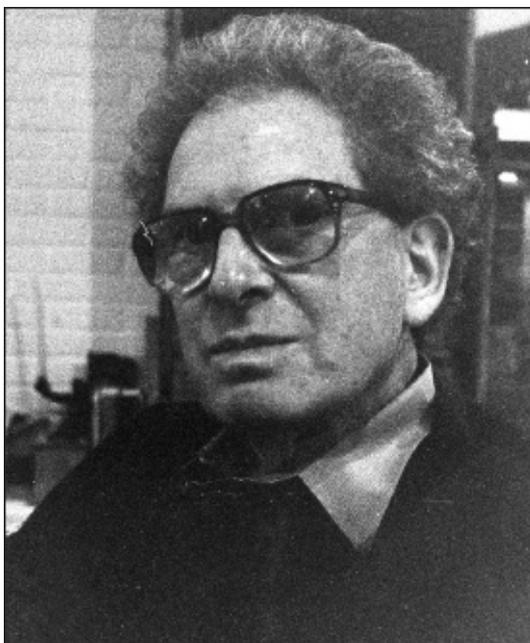
‘But they had only been doing operational things; they had not had any chance to do anything scientific. So they asked us if we would be willing to share with them whatever we found out in a scientific venue. That wasn’t my call. So that was up to the CIA if they wanted to do that.’ (The programme, originally funded by the CIA, was later passed on to its military equivalent, the DIA. But

as Russell Targ says today, ‘The whole government was aware. We were supported by the CIA/Defence Intelligence Agency, Army Intelligence and NASA.’)

Kit Green, known officially to all as ‘Rick’, the CIA contract monitor, was concerned, as were Puthoff and Targ, that the young Israeli delivered to them could be a fraud. The Mossad had been candid with Green that their conclusion from their experience with him in Israel was that Geller was a potentially powerful military weapon who had proved himself useful in secret military tests, but at the same time, as a flamboyant show business personality, in terms of keeping a secret, he was likely to be about as discreet as a giant megaphone. Their recommendation to the Americans, therefore, was to test him and use him, with their compliments as it were, but to be careful. Israel, for its part, was letting the USA take a look at Geller in exchange for use of American spy satellites as they passed over the Arab countries.

Part of the preparation at SRI was to eliminate any chance that Uri might be using standard magician’s effects. The scientists were well aware that however qualified they were in their field, it was still possible to be fooled by magicians expert in theirs. To this end (and despite the fact that Targ was a keen amateur magician who was a regular in the magic shops on 42nd Street in New York and prided himself on knowing well the field of professional magic) several stage magicians were drafted in to SRI, both to pose as lab assistants and to review frame-by-frame video tapes of Geller at work. One such was an expert of the day in psychic magicianship called Christopher Evans and even he confessed on many occasions that he could not work out how Uri could be doing what he did.

None of this convinced the most devout sceptics, of course. Among their more implausible conspiracy theories was one that in the course of his own preparations for SRI, Uri had had a radio fitted in a tooth, by means of which Shipi, the Mossad or possibly the Tooth Fairy herself, could communicate with him; even though one of the most prominent anti-Geller magician activists, Canadian-born performer called James Randi, conclusively trashed the tooth radio notion in an open letter to the British Magic Circle magazine *Abracadabra*, it is still occasionally touted on the Internet.



Physicist Russell Targ who carried out experiments with Uri Geller, Stanford Research Institute, California, USA.

It is an attractive but ultimately not-quite plausible idea. For one thing, SRI was alert to all sorts of possibilities for fraud, some kind of radio scam amongst them. Uri was duly shielded by a radioprotective Faraday cage. In Britain, *New Scientist* magazine, possibly peeved that SRI had gone to its rival *Nature* with the Geller report, cleverly unearthed patents Andrija Puharich had filed back in the 1960s.

for a variety of tooth radii. The significant point, however, was that these projects were never built – the electronic components for anything workable simply didn't exist. As a sensible precaution, however, Uri submitted himself for an examination with a prominent New York dentist, Dr John K. Lind, who was a full clinical professor at Columbia University, and in his private capacity looked after Greta Garbo's, Errol Flynn's, Arthur Miller's and Marilyn Monroe's teeth. 'I can attest to the fact that a clinical and radiographic examination of Geller's mouth, teeth and jaws reveals no foreign objects implanted such as transistors, metal devices, etc.' Dr Lind reported in a statement.

Another amusing example of the sceptics' near-panic at the spectre of Uri Geller being taken seriously was when, under the auspices of another government agency (ARPA, the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency), they managed to get a renowned sceptical psychologist who was also a skilled magician to observe the SRI tests for a day. Using his trained eye, he reported back without being specific, on all kinds of areas in which it was probable Geller was fooling SRI. Unfortunately, his observational expertise also led him to state in his report that Geller's eyes are blue; they are, in fact, brown. So much for the trained eyes of the sceptical.

Uri Geller had finally got to the SRI at the end of 1972. The rumour that he was going to be tested at such a prestigious establishment had spread throughout a bemused scientific world, not to mention an incandescent conjuring fraternity. Uri knew that how he performed at SRI would be crucial to his future in the States, and that a failure here would almost certainly wipe him out worldwide, as well as bury forever the fledgling academic study of *psi* – the blanket term for all forms of parapsychology and the paranormal.

The pressure on Geller was immense. He knew that he was genuine, but if he failed to convince the scientists testing him that he was not some sort of clever charlatan who had managed to contrive even more clever ways of covering his tracks in ARPA's fully fledged laboratory setting, he would be finished. His reputation in Israel, especially among the intelligence community there, which he had been assiduously courting (and they him) in his efforts to fulfil his childhood dream of being a spy, would be in tatters.

Uri, Shipi and Dr Puharich were met at San Francisco Airport by Edgar Mitchell, Dr Wilbur Franklin of Kent State University's Physics Department, who was interested in him, and Puthoff and Targ. Puthoff at the time was a senior research engineer at SRI and held patents in the field of laser and optical instruments. He was also co-author of *Fundamentals of Quantum Electronics*, a textbook on the interrelation between quantum mechanics, engineering and applied physics. He had been a lieutenant in naval intelligence, handling the highest category of classified material, a civilian operative of the National Security Agency, and was involved in the early 1960s in the development of ultra-fast computers for military use.

Targ, meanwhile, was a senior research physicist and an inventor, who had been a pioneer in the development of lasers, and had a series of abstruse laser devices, such as the tuneable plasma oscillator and the high-power gas-transport laser, to his name. He had built a laser-listening device for the CIA to 'get information from distant places' as he puts it guardedly. Targ had sought out Puthoff for two reasons when he heard that he was doing high-level research into psychics. The first was that he already had an interest in psychic research, the second, his fascination with magic.

SRI had been part of the neighbouring Stanford University since 1946, but had become an independent think tank, laboratory and problem-solving organization in 1970. Its 2,800 staff members worked in 100 different disciplines on the 28-hectare site in Menlo Park and other offices around the USA and overseas. The Institute worked on contract for both private industry and government, including secret defence work. But the fact that the client for the investigation into Uri Geller (as well as other psychics who were examined as part of the same programme) was the CIA remained a closely held secret until recently. Back in the early 1970s, the cover story was that the work was sponsored by

a foundation Edgar Mitchell had established, along with a paranormal investigation group in New York.

Uri's testing took place in two parts, the first in late 1972, and the remainder in March 1974. Once it was clear that the Israelis were monitoring the SRI tests, the security around Geller increased. 'We were doing our own security as SRI, but we were reporting to the CIA, and they wanted to be sure that we were taking every possible precaution,' recounts Puthoff.

'We were stationing people on the top of SRI buildings looking for people on the top of other SRI buildings. We did all kinds of things. Another concern was that he was working for Israeli intelligence, and that they were just out to prove that he was a superman in order to scare the Arabs and that therefore he might be something like the Six Million Dollar Man. He might have a whole shadow team with eavesdropping equipment. So we tore apart the ceiling tiles every evening looking for bugs. Our concern that this was an intelligence plot resulted in our paranoia being much deeper than the typical sceptic would demand.'

Of course, trying to fool Uri Geller is not easy, as Puthoff noticed. 'He is one of the brightest people I have met. He is very quick on the uptake, he doesn't miss a thing, and for those who would say that he is a magician pure and simple, he certainly sees things that the ordinary person doesn't. We might walk by a laboratory where I had a couple of agents hidden in the back with 30 other people and Uri would walk by and point to them and say, "Who are those two guys?" As far as I could tell they looked just like everybody else.'

Along with salting the laboratory with undercover conjurers, Puthoff and Targ had also taken advice on the kind of conditions that might help psychics to perform. 'They tried to make the environment very homely,' Uri says. 'They had a living-room setting with paintings on the wall and all those at-home kind of features so that I would feel good. But outside, they had all the equipment in another room. Everything was wired. It was really very professionally set up, to have it under total controlled conditions.'

The main thrust of the work took place over five weeks up to Christmas 1972. It was an especially frantic time in modern American history; President Nixon had just been re-elected, the Watergate scandal was starting to come to light, the Vietnam war was reaching its crescendo, the USSR was clamping down on dissidents, and US airlines had started screening passengers for the first time since the stave off a glut of hijackings.

The release of the Puthoff and Targ investigation's findings unfolded in parts. Before the work was finished, a constantly inquiring media was forewarned that something remarkable was up at Menlo Park.

Accordingly, like the opening scene of a movie, a dramatic holding statement went out in print and on TV from the head of SRI in 1973 saying, 'We have observed certain phenomena for which we have no scientific explanation.' It was a gift to the news media, and they gave the story extraordinary prominence. (SRI showed little sign of being media-shy at this exciting time for them. In 2011, a resident of Palo Alto, close to SRI, turned up a 23-centimetre-thick scrapbook clearly compiled by the Institute, filled with hundreds of press cuttings on the Geller story from all over the world. The scrapbook seems to have ended up being thrown out with the garbage at some point, but is now in Uri's possession.)

Late in 1974, with the cream of the SRI work having appeared in *Nature*, a more wide-ranging analysis of the things Geller did at the Institute was released in a film made there, *Experiments With Uri Geller*, which Puthoff and Targ explained was made to 'share with the viewer observations of phenomena that in our estimation clearly deserve further study'. More observations, meanwhile, which Puthoff and Targ deemed too anecdotal for the film – or were noted informally without the cameras running – are still emerging 40 years on, as the two physicists and other major players live

Kit Green reveal them.

The findings reported in the magazine concerned telepathy only, not metal bending. All the same, the material was so revolutionary for conservative science that the ripples it caused would be far-reaching. *Nature's* editors warned in their preamble to the article that it was 'bound to create a stir in the scientific community', and added that the paper would be 'greeted with a preconditioned reaction amongst many scientists. To some, it simply confirms what they have always known or believed. To others, it is beyond the laws of science, and therefore necessarily unacceptable.'

Puthoff's and Targ's first conclusion was that Geller had succeeded in reproducing randomly chosen drawings made by people unknown to him, while he was in a double-walled steel room which was acoustically, visually and electrically shielded. The chance of him doing as well as he did by chance was calculated at a million to one.

In another test, where he was asked to 'guess' the face of a die shaken in a closed steel box – so that the investigator could not possibly know the position of the die either – Geller managed the correct answer eight times out of ten. What was especially interesting was that the twice he did not get the answer, he had not attempted one, saying his perception was not clear. The die test, again, represented a million-to-one chance.

The rest of the *Nature* report concerned another psychic called Pat Price, a former California police commissioner. Price was a 'remote viewer', and in perceiving and describing in detail randomly chosen outdoor scenes from many kilometres away, he managed to beat odds of a billion to one. A third test on six unnamed psychics to see if their brainwaves could be measured responding to flashing light in a distant room yielded one of the six with a measurable reaction in his brain.

Targ and Puthoff also speculated that 'remote perceptual ability' might be available to many of us but we are unaware of it. They made the point that, although they had seen Uri bend metal in their laboratory, they had been unable to do a full, controlled experiment to support a paranormal hypothesis of metal bending.

The SRI Geller film went much further than the drier official report. Geller was first shown 'sending' numbers to Puthoff, Targ and Franklin, along with Don Scheuch, Vice President of Research at SRI. Then we see him playing what the experimenters call 'ten can Russian roulette', in which he successfully finds a steel ball in one of ten cans without touching them. He graduates from first doing this by holding his hands over the cans, to later detecting which one contains the ball as he walks in a room and sees them lined up on a blackboard sill. He also succeeds at the same test when one of the cans contains room-temperature water. When faced with a line-up of cans where one contains a sugar cube, or a paper-wrapped ball bearing, he passes and says he cannot be sure. We are told in the film that, whereas 'officially' SRI could only report Geller as having achieved a one-in-a million chance in reality, and taking all the tests into account, he had defeated odds of a trillion to one again by correctly guessing the cans' contents.

In the area of PK (psychokinesis, affecting materials with the power of the mind) which the experimenters did not touch in the *Nature* article, the film showed Geller decreasing and increasing the weight of a one-gram piece of metal on an electronic scale which has been covered by a bell jar. All Puthoff and Targ's precautions to preclude fraud by such methods as tapping the bell jar or even jumping on the floor are shown.

In another PK test, Geller successfully deflects a magnetometer to full scale, having first been checked out with the same instrument for magnets concealed on him. In another test, he is seen deflecting a compass needle, although the experimenters make the point that they are not satisfied by this test, not because they have any evidence of Uri cheating, but because they discover that a small concealed piece of metal can in some circumstances produce the same effect. On spoon bending, the commentary was cautious, as it was on some tests the scientists had done on Uri's ability to bend

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