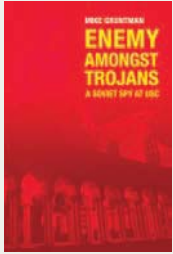


Enemy Amongst Trojans

TELLING THE STORY OF A USC INSTRUCTOR—AND SOVIET SPY



A part-time political science instructor at the University of Southern California vanished from a California beach in 1945.

Several years later the U.S. Congress described the man as an important Soviet spy whose true identity remained a mystery.

Recently de-classified documents reveal what happened to this enigmatic Soviet military intelligence officer in Los Angeles.

And Viterbi professor Mike Gruntman reconstructed the story in his book *Enemy Amongst Trojans: A Soviet Spy at USC*, published in 2010 by Figueroa Press.

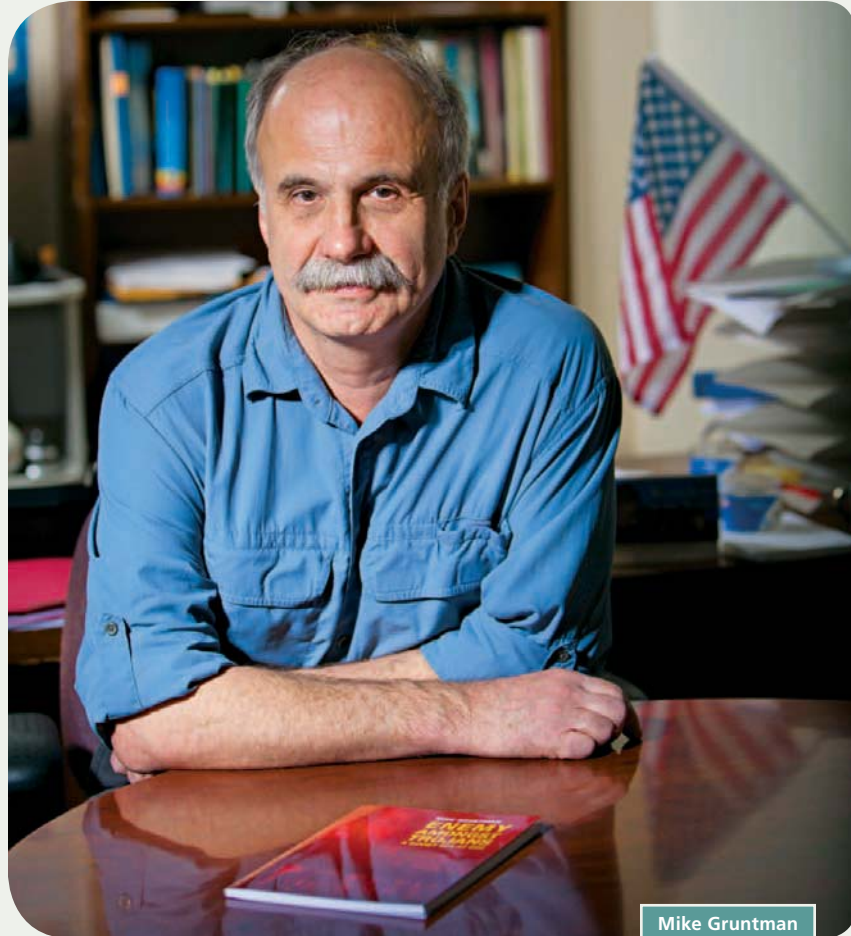
The book traces the story of Ignacy Samuel Witezak, who received his bachelor of arts degree from USC in 1942 and a master's in political science in 1943. He then continued to pursue his doctorate and worked as a part time instructor at the University.

The story goes like this: In 1939 a Soviet military intelligence officer named Zalman Litvin arrived in the U.S. under the name Witezak, an identity borrowed from a naturalized Canadian who fought in the Spanish Civil War in the late 1930s.

The chief spy, or “rezident” of the Soviet military intelligence in Los Angeles, Witezak-Litvin took advantage of his cover as a USC student to support espionage operations against Japan and the United States. His resumé as a USC student was stellar; he even belonged to the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies.

The book unravels a plot that includes Witezak-Litvin's recruitment of agents, his achievements as a USC student, fraudulent passports, the Spanish civil war, an FBI investigation, and secret messages. It ends with the eventual unmasking of Witezak-Litvin, who fled to the Soviet Union where he faced hostility and state-directed anti-Semitism.

Gruntman stumbled upon the story of the mysterious Trojan while researching his earlier book on rocket history (*Blazing the Trail: The Early History of*



Mike Gruntman

Spacecraft and Rocketry), in which he looked into the possibility of Soviet espionage in America's ballistic missile program in 1940s.

Throughout much of the last half of the 20th century, there had been no information about Witezak's true identity or even how he came to leave the country.

But in the 1990s new information came to light in an FBI agent's memoirs as well as the National Security Agency's declassification of its Verona project, which included deciphered 1940s-era cables between the chiefs of Soviet intelligence in the United States and Moscow.

Enemy Amongst Trojans is the result of Gruntman's exhaustive search of historical documents, various publications and declassified archives, including those of British counterintelligence MI-5.

Gruntman says that this spy story could be a great “teachable moment.”

It involves elements of history, international relations, the behavior of politicians, and the concept of the free world versus totalitarian socialist societies.

The story also involves characters prominent in the history of espionage—such as Igor Gouzenko and Kim Philby—and offers a glimpse of life in Los Angeles as well as at USC during the 1940s.

Gruntman is a professor of astronautics who is actively involved in R&D programs in space science and space technology. He served as the founding chairman of the VSOE Department of Astronautical Engineering from 2004-2007. He researched the book while serving as co-investigator on two NASA missions. //