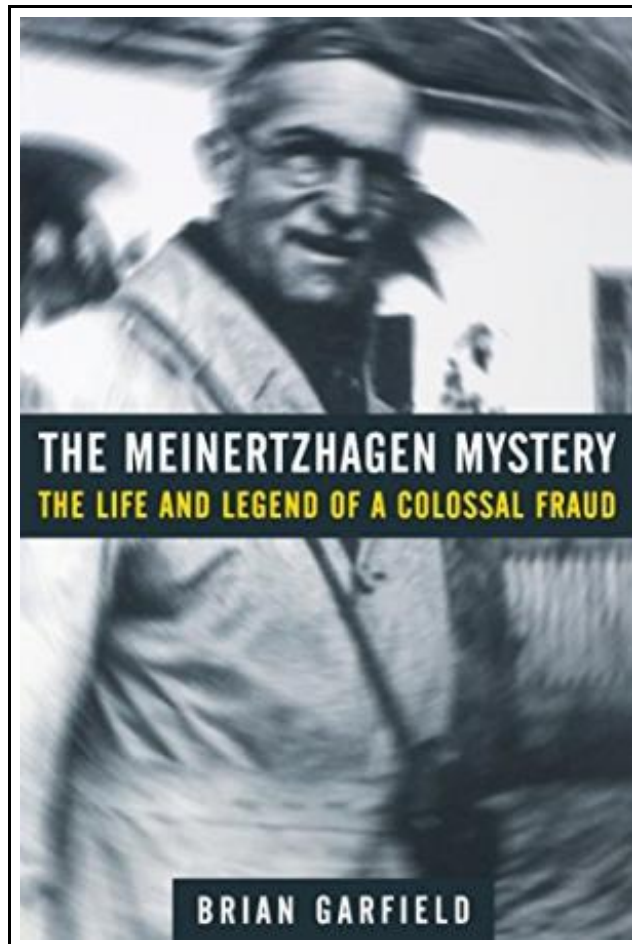


The Meinertzhagen Mystery: The Life and Legend of a Colossal Fraud



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THE MEINERTZHAGEN MYSTERY: THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF A COLOSSAL FRAUD



Potomac Books Inc. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The Meinertzhagen Mystery: The Life and Legend of a Colossal Fraud, Brian Garfield, Tall, handsome, and charming, Col. Richard Meinertzhagen (1878-1967) was an acclaimed British war hero, a secret agent, and a dean of international ornithology. His exploits inspired three biographies, movies have been based on his life, and a square in Jerusalem is dedicated to his memory. But Meinertzhagen was a fraud - many of the adventures recorded in his celebrated diaries were imaginary. A compelling read about a flamboyant rogue, "The Meinertzhagen Mystery" shows how recorded history reflects not what happened, but what we believe happened. When Richard Meinertzhagen arrives late for a dinner party he carries a revolver in his hand. The party is in a posh British country estate. The hosts and dinner guests wear evening attire. For this company Meinertzhagen wears a hunter's jacket and a pair of rumpled military slacks over scuffed boots. He can dress properly when he chooses to, but among his friends and their friends he seems to enjoy the disapproval he arouses, especially among the women. His stride has the indolent menace of the very tall and very well-born. He makes his belated entrance without apology and offers the revolver to his host. The weapon is warm to the touch and smells of cordite: it has been fired - it is literally a smoking gun. Meinertzhagen asks in a not-quite stage whisper whether his host would mind putting it out of sight and holding onto it for a few minutes. Then he takes his seat as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened. The guests around him are by turns startled, puzzled, awed, and amused. After a bit someone asks Meinertzhagen a question - something neutral, nothing about the revolver, of course. The innocuous...



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