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JOHN SAWATSKY

REVISED APRIL 2009

By ELIZABETH SEITZ

INTRODUCTION

John Sawatsky researched his expose of the private life of Igor Gouzenko after Gouzenko brought a suit against him for a chapter Sawatsky wrote in his book Men in the Shadows: the RCMP Security Service. Although Gouzenko died in 1982 before the trail had begun, Sawatsky's research to bolster his claims made in Men in the Shadows started him down another path: to expose Gouzenko as he was, and as few knew him. 150 oral interviews produced the book Gouzenko: the Untold Story in 1984. This collection of papers from John Sawatsky includes transcripts of the original interviews, as well as drafts of the book. A copy of the actual book, purchased by the Library at the book launch held at the University of Regina Bookstore, and signed by the author, has been added to the collection.

Sawatsky was Max Bell Professor of Journalism at the University of Regina in 1984-85. He was born in Manitoba, but grew up in the Fraser Valley in British Columbia. He graduated in Canadian politics at Simon Fraser University and became a reporter for the Vancouver Sun. A founding member of the Centre for Investigative Journalism, Sawatsky was a member of the Parliamentary Press Gallery from 1975 till his stint at the Journalism School at the University of Regina. After his time here, he returned to Ottawa, where he has produced a number of books relating to Canadian politics. He is perhaps best known for his two exposes of the RCMP, Men in the Shadows and For Services Rendered: Leslie James Bennett and the RCMP Security Service. He won the Michener Award for Public Service Journalism in 1976, for reporting the police breakin at the Agence de Presse Libre du Quebec in Montreal.

Gouzenko

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