

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
<i>Notes on Terminology</i>	xiv
<i>Abbreviations and Dates of Publication</i>	xvi

SECRET-AGENT FICTION: A FORMULA GENRE

1	Contexts of History	
	The Genesis of the Genre	3
	Towards Genre Consolidation: From Childers to Cheyney, 1903-1945	7
	Post-War Genre Consolidation: Ian Fleming, John le Carré and Len Deighton	11
2	Contexts of Criticism	
	Thrillers and Literary Quality	15
	The Concept of Formula Fiction	19

FORMULA AND VARIATION (I): DICHOTOMY STRUCTURE AND ETHICAL DILEMMA

3	The Hero at Home and Abroad	
	The Dichotomy Structure	25
	Empathy	36
	Romance, Novel, Myth	38
4	National Cause and Private Conscience: an Ethical Dilemma	
	Ethics and Secret-Agent Fiction	46
	Ian Fleming and Aesthetic Replacement	47
	John le Carré and the Holiness of the Heart's Affections	50
	Len Deighton and the Problem of Conscience	64

**FORMULA AND VARIATION (II):
PLOT AND ROLE STRUCTURE**

5	Plot	The Formula in Action: Observations on Reading Dynamics	75
		Formula Plot and Variation Plot	78
		The Creation of Suspense	81
		Assignment	87
		Departure and Return	89
		Ordeals	92
		Conclusive Ordeal	95
		Clarification	97
6	Roles and Characters	The Secret Agent: an Anonymous Hero	101
		The Hero's Superior	117
		The Hero's Helper(s)	128
		The Adversary	131

**FORMULA AND VARIATION (III):
A WORLD DIVIDED**

7	Cold War, <i>Détente</i> and Secret-Agent Fiction	Formula and Reality	145
		Loss of Empire and Search for a Role	148
8	Ian Fleming: Anachronism and Adventure	The Case for Anachronism	150
		An Air of Superiority	154
		From SMERSH to SPECTRE	160
9	John le Carré: the Enemy Within	In Search of <i>Civitas</i>	170
		Fear of Extremes	180
		Treason: Evil Incarnate	188
10	Len Deighton: Adjustment	The Presentation of Clichés	209
		Disillusionment	211
		Simplicity Regained	217

EPILOGUE

11	Formula and Evaluation	237
	<i>Notes</i>	241
	<i>References</i>	252
	<i>Index</i>	256