



## PRESS RELEASE

### The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

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June 25, 2008

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library author talk and book signing:  
Raymond J. Batvinis author of  
*The Origins of FBI Counterintelligence***

HYDE PARK, NY -- The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is pleased to announce that **Raymond J. Batvinis**, author of *The Origins of FBI Counterintelligence*, will speak at the Henry A. Wallace Visitor and Education Center on Wednesday, July 2, at 7 p.m. Following the talk, Mr. Batvinis will be available to sign copies of his book.

As the world prepared for war in the 1930s, the United States discovered that it faced the real threat of foreign spies stealing military and industrial secrets -- and that it had no established means to combat them. Into that breach stepped J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI.

Although the FBI's expanded role in World War II has been well documented, few have examined the crucial period before Pearl Harbor when the Bureau's powers secretly expanded to face the developing international emergency. Former FBI agent Raymond Batvinis now tells how the Bureau grew from a small law enforcement unit into America's first organized counter-espionage and counterintelligence service. Batvinis examines the FBI's emerging new roles during the two decades leading up to America's entry into World War II to show how it cooperated and competed with other federal agencies. He takes readers behind the scenes, as the State Department and Hoover fought fiercely over the control of counterintelligence, and tells how the agency combined its crime-fighting expertise with its new wiretapping authority to spy on foreign agents.

Based on newly declassified documents and interviews with former agents, Batvinis's account reconstructs and greatly expands our understanding of the FBI's achievements and failures during this period. Among these were the Bureau's mishandling of the 1938 Rumrich-Griehl spy case, which Hoover slyly used to broaden his agency's powers; its cracking of the Duquesne Espionage Case in 1941, which enabled Hoover to boost public and congressional support to new heights; and its failure to understand the value of Soviet agent Walter Krivitsky, which slowed Bureau efforts to combat Soviet espionage in America.

In addition, Batvinis offers a new view of the relationship between the FBI and the military, cites the crucial contributions of British intelligence to the FBI's counter-intelligence education, and reveals the agency's ultra-secret role in mining financial records for the Treasury Department. He also reviews the early days of the top-secret Special Intelligence Service, which quietly dispatched FBI agents posing as businessmen to South America to spy on their governments.

**Raymond J. Batvinis** is a retired FBI Supervisory Special Agent who served in the Bureau from 1972 to 1997. He spent the majority of his career conducting counterespionage, foreign counterintelligence and counterterrorism investigations both domestically and overseas. Batvinis served as the supervisor and coordinator for the National Foreign Intelligence Program at the Baltimore Field Office. In this capacity, he was directly involved in the investigation of many of this nation's most important espionage cases. His other assignments include the FBI Intelligence Division Training Unit. Batvinis received his masters degree and his doctorate degree at Catholic University in Washington, DC.

Copies of Mr. Batvinis's book will be available for sale after the talk. There is no charge for this program. Please contact Cliff Laube at (845) 486-7745 or email [clifford.laube@nara.gov](mailto:clifford.laube@nara.gov) with questions about the event.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum is dedicated to preserving historical material and providing innovative educational programs, community events, and public outreach. It is one of twelve presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration. For information about the FDR Presidential Library call (800) 337-8474 or visit [www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu](http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu).

Historic Hyde Park is a group of government and private non-profit organizations based in Hyde Park, New York. Each has a unique mission, but all are united in their dedication to extending the legacy of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt to new generations. HHP includes the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, the Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site, Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site. For more information about HHP visit [www.HistoricHydePark.org](http://www.HistoricHydePark.org).