My title is "What Does Judy Hallett Have to Do with Weatherman?"

The fact is that Judy Hallett's reach reaches far!

In 1969 the far right suspected that there was an American conduit of information between the Cuban Mission at the United Nations and the Weatherman terrorists. The FBI did not suspect this. They knew it was a fact--because they had a bug inside the Cuban Mission offices.

The American emissary between the Cubans and Weatherman was Martin Kenner. I was introduced to Martin through my friend the ex-Weatherman leader Mark Rudd. Kenner was at that time a student of the Roman historian W. V. Harris, at Columbia University. He is now a historian of the British Empire.

Before talking about his adventures as a conduit between the Cubans and Weatherman, Martin first wanted to talk some Roman History with me. He was a follower of William Harris, and believed that Roman was an extraordinary predator within the Mediterranean system of states; this was what explained Roman success. Martin was dubious about my own approach, which emphasizes that Rome was merely an ordinary predator within the Mediterranean system of states, just like every other state, and that therefore its "ordinary" militarism--though it is shocking to us--cannot explain its success.

Martin argued that Rome was indeed an extraordinary, voracious predator, and that Rome's predator and imperialistic foreign relations mirrored the terrible power that fathers in Roman families exercised over the family-members.

Relying on Judy Hallett's *Fathers and Daughters in Roman Society: Women and the Elite Family* (Princeton, 1984), I gently remonstrated with Martin about this view. I say gently, because after all I wanted to employ him as a source about the Weatherman Underground. This, I must say, I eventually succeeded in doing. He once witnessed a fierce argument between Bernadine Dohrn and the Cubans, at Katz's Delicatessen on Houston Street (like Judy, the Cubans loved Jewish cooking; so they always insisted on meeting Weatherman at one of New York's fabulous Jewish delis). The Cubans were protesting the Weatherman decision to go underground and engage in outright guerrilla war in the United States. The social conditions were simply not right. Dohrn, the leader of Weatherman, ferociously
responded that the Cubans were counter-revolutionaries (!). The Cuban spokesman responded, "No--we are *successful* revolutionaries".

But my point today is merely that I emphasized to Martin Kenner that Judy had shown that relations within the elite family at Rome were nuanced and modulated, that fathers loved their daughters, and even listened to them. A classic example is that it was Cicero’s daughter Tullia who convinced Cicero that he must be true to himself and his ideals, and join the Pompeians in Greece against Caesar—and she did this although she heself was married to an important Caesarian general, P. Cornelius Dolabella.

I then went on to suggest to Martin that just as Roman family relations were nuanced and modulated, though of course with the paterfamilias having by far the most power and status, so too Roman foreign relations were not necessarily as predatory as W. V. Harris had suggested they were to Martin. Those relations, too, were nuanced and modulated, not 100% predatory—although, as Bismarck said, "In every alliance, there is a rider and a horse."

Now, mention of Martin Kenner, who no doubt has his own FBI file, brings me to Judy Hallett's FBI file.

In 1969/1970, one of the major bombing groups in New York was led by Jane Alpert. When Alpert was finally arrested, the FBI took into its possession a notebook containing names, addresses, and phone-numbers. Judy Hallett’s name and address and phone number was in that notebook—and she got a visit from the FBI, at her apartment in Brookline. It was an unpleasant visit, and the FBI were even more unpleasant to her neighbors, refugees who had fled police-states in Eastern Europe.

Well, what was Judy’s name doing in Jane Alpert’s notebook? Terrorists like Jane have more in their lives than just making bombs. In Jane’s case, when she wasn’t blowing up corporate headquarters in skyscrapers in New York, she was also the American editor on Classical subjects for Cambridge University Press. Jane had majored in Classics at Swarthmore, and she and Judy were working on a Latin pedagogy project.

So one can say that Jane Alpert was a Classicist with attitude. And the same, thank the Gods, is true of Judy!
Okay, how's that?

Love,

A

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