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CIA Meets TV-Movie CIA

"Open Channel D." Danny Biederman, wearing Napoleon Solo's triangular U.N.C.L.E. ID badge, demonstrates the one-of-a-kind U.N.C.L.E. pen communicator.

Biederman, Danny Biederman. When he was only 10-years-old, he bought an Ideal Toys Napoleon Solo (*The Man from U.N.C.L.E.*) gun, his first spy toy. Some 30+ years later, this father of daughter Illya, 13, Bond, 7, and Moriah Flint, 9, is bringing the best of the Spy-Fi Archives—his collection of 4,000 items from television and movie espionage fiction—to CIA Headquarters. Would you believe the world's largest spy-fi collection includes:

- Maxwell Smart's shoe phone.
- Three unique U.N.C.L.E. cigarette case and pen communicators, an U.N.C.L.E. handgun and a carbine, original scripts used by David McCallum, THRUSH rifles, uniforms, berets, and ID cards.
- The tarantula that almost got James Bond in *Dr. No*.
- Shoes worn in the James Bond series by Sean Connery.
- Several MOD files from the Austin Powers series.
- John Steed's bowler hat and Mrs. Peel's leather pants from *The Avengers* TV series.
- The sleeve gun device and two of James West's outfits from the TV version of *Wild Wild West*. You'll also see original pencil sketch artwork for the opening scenes and Artemus Gordon's concealment device case.
- Tom Cruise's exploding gum and stunt watch from the first *Mission Impossible* movie and Martin Landau's script from the TV series.
- *I Spy* artwork and storyboards, along with Bill Cosby's Emmy plaque.
- *Our Man Flint's* Galaxy jacket and Z.O.W.I.E. ID patches.
- ID cards from *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*.
- Licensed merchandise, including never-marketed prototypes of tie-in toys.

As part of the exhibit, the Fine Arts Commission will host a lunchtime film festival in the Headquarters Auditorium, using rare footage from these movies and series. The collection includes a 1954 television version of *Casino Royale* starring Barry Nelson as the first James Bond, unaired television pilots, and long-lost promos (watch *What's News* for showtimes and titles).

Biederman isn't just a collector of these fabulous props; he's also a writer/producer in the spy-fi business. At age 17, he directed and wrote a documentary—*A Spy for All Seasons*—on the making of *Diamonds are Forever*. Hundreds of his articles have appeared in virtually every industry magazine, along with *P.O.V.*, *American Cinematographer*, *Playboy*, *Premiere*, and *Los Angeles*. He's also written books, newspaper articles, and scripts for television (*Gavilan*, *Renegades*, *James Bond, Jr.*, *Bugzburg*, and the upcoming *The Avengers: The Journey Back*) and the movies (He was the co-producer/writer for the proposed *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* movie project.), and the CD booklet *The Best of Bond...James Bond*. One of his earlier writing jobs was collaborating with his uncle Irving Wallace and cousin David Wallechensky on the best selling, multi-volume *The Book of Lists* and *The People's Almanac* series. He worked for MGM for 30 months as a James Bond expert in a recent copyright lawsuit.

Beiderman explains that "It got into filmmaking because of my passion for the genre; the collection mirrors this passion. It makes me think of my childhood, which inspired me to get into my line of work. My parents were huge fans, and encouraged this interest. I love sharing these items with friends, helping them recall fond experiences from decades ago. I'm very excited by



the opportunity to share this collection with the American heroes for whom espionage is not a fantasy, but a daily reality."

Danny Biederman's script for the tv documentary The Avengers: The Journey Back rests on the set of the production, along with replica props used to re-create The Avengers opening title sequence. Biederman wrote the teleplay for the documentary, hosted by Patrick MacNee (John Steed).

Overview of a portion of the James Bond memorabilia in the Spy-Fi Archives.

Among the props that will be on display: Fab magazine appears in Austin Powers, as do Dr. Evil's ring and Austin's glasses; James Bond's Walther PPK used by Roger Moore in A View to a Kill; Galaxy and Z.O.W.I.E. patches from Our Man Flint; propr cigarette case communicator used in The Man From U.N.C.L.E.; the Del Floria's Tailor Shop U.N.C.L.E. secret entrance coat hook.