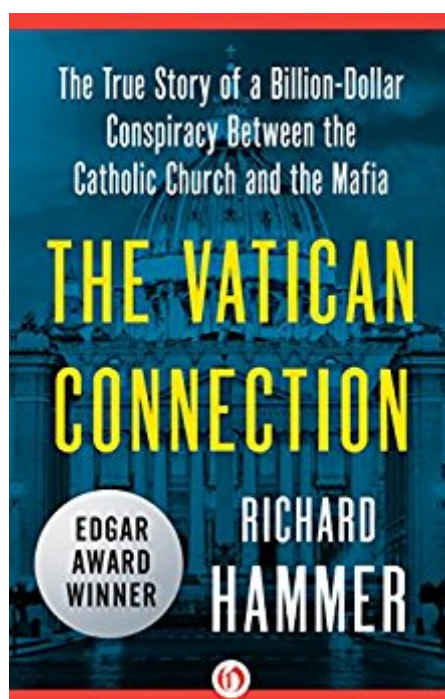


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# The Vatican Connection: The True Story Of A Billion-Dollar Conspiracy Between The Catholic Church And The Mafia



## Synopsis

Winner of the Edgar Award: The riveting account of an audacious fraud scheme that stretched from a Mafia hangout on the Lower East Side to the Vatican. With a round, open face and a penchant for tall tales, Matteo de Lorenzo resembled everyone's kindly uncle. But Uncle Marty, as he was known throughout the Genovese crime family, was one of the New York mob's top earners throughout the 1960s and '70s, the mastermind of a billion-dollar trade in stolen and counterfeit securities. In the spring of 1972, de Lorenzo and his shrewd and ruthless business partner, Vincent Rizzo, traveled to Europe to discuss a plan to launder millions of dollars worth of phony securities. Shockingly, the plot involved Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, the scandal-plagued president of the Vatican Bank. Unbeknownst to de Lorenzo and Rizzo, however, the NYPD was already on the case thanks to the crusading work of Det. Joseph Coffey. Coffey, the legendary New York policeman who investigated the Lufthansa heist and took the Son of Sam's confession, first learned of the scheme in a wiretap related to the attempted mob takeover of the Playboy Club in Manhattan. From those unlikely beginnings, Detective Coffey worked tirelessly to trace the fraudulent stocks and bonds around the world and deep into the corridors of power in Washington, DC, and Rome. Meticulously researched and relentlessly gripping, *The Vatican Connection* is a true story of corruption and deceit, packed with all the ingredients of a thriller. (San Francisco Chronicle).

## Book Information

File Size: 1350 KB

Print Length: 336 pages

Publisher: Open Road Media (August 9, 2016)

Publication Date: August 9, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B011QJ4BV0

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #76,109 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #27 in Kindle

Store > Kindle eBooks > Religion & Spirituality > Christian Books & Bibles > Bible Study & Reference > Biographies > Popes & the Vatican #33 inÂ Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Biographies > Popes & the Vatican #47 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Biographies & Memoirs > True Crime > Organized Crime

## Customer Reviews

Richard Hammer has written/cowritten many other books, such as *The Helmsleys: The Rise and Fall of Harry and Leona Helmsley*, *Blood from a Stone: The Quest for the Life Diamonds*, *The Last Testament of Lucky Luciano: The Mafia Story in His Own Words*, etc. He said in the "Author's Note" of this 1982 book, "The events described in this book are true and the characters are real. Except for certain interpretations and conclusions, which are the author's responsibility alone, the story is based on the recollections, files and records of Detective Sergeant Joseph J. Coffey, Jr., commanding officer of the Organized Crime Homicide Task Force and special assistant for organized crime affairs to the Chief of Detectives of the New York City Police Department. It also relies heavily on wiretaps and electronic surveillance done under court order ... Those conversations that have been re-created are either taken directly from transcripts of legal wiretaps and electronic eavesdropping devices or are based on the recollections of one or more of the participants in them." He wrote, "How much money was involved? There was no way Coffey could calculate that, but it certainly ran way up in the millions. There had been references several times to \$900,000 and that was only one deal.

This 1982 book, is based on a little known incident said to have taken place in the 1970s. There exists nothing in the legitimate press to support it. One could say most anything. It ignores the big scandal of the 1970s. It is easier for me to copy-paste from another book *The Vatican Murders: The Life and Death of John Paul I* that explains Sindona's relationship with the Vatican. Something not explained in this book. I quote from Lucien Gregoire's 'The Vatican Murders' :â œIn 1969, Michele Sindona was hired by Giuseppe Caprio, Treasurer of the Vatican bank, to school the Vatican in offshore banking..22Because Caprio was of the Mafia Gambino family, this gave birth to rumors that the Vatican laundered drug money. Dirty money would flow from eastern sources into the Vatican and then to offshore ghost companies and be returned as clean money. It was then deposited in the account of the Gambino family in the Vatican Bank's private affiliate Banco Ambrosiano; the transactions having bypassed the Bank of Italy.Fact: there exists no record the Vatican has ever been implicated much less convicted of laundering drug money in a court of law.

This is the product of fiction writers. Yet it is true, in 1972, the democratic congress had cut off funds for President Nixon's war in Central America. Nixon engaged Sindona to acquire control of the Franklin National Bank. Two years later it collapsed. The courts determined Sindona and Nixon had siphoned off large sums of the bank's money to Somoza and other dictators in Central America to suppress the revolution of the poor on the poverty stricken isthmus.

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