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by Alex Beam



Writer-filmmaker Lorenzo DeStefano has secured the rights from Harvard University Press to one of the most bizarre literary endeavors of the 20th century, the Arthur Inman diaries.



Inman was a rich kid from Atlanta who settled in Boston in 1919 and stayed for almost half a century. A highly literate, reactionary, would-be poet, Inman kept a diary for 44 years, piling 17 million words into 55 volumes. He chronicled not only events outside of his apartment on Huntington Avenue, which he rarely left, but also his many entanglements, affairs, and eccentricities.

Inman famously hired “talkers,” men and women from the outside world, to tell him about their lives. He took his own life in 1963 because he couldn’t stand the construction noise emanating from the hole in the ground that was to become the Prudential Center.

Harvard professor Daniel Aaron edited and published the compulsively readable diaries in 1985, to considerable acclaim. Now, filmmaker DeStefano is trying to raise money for a movie about Inman. Actor John Hurt has agreed to play Inman, and DeStefano has already mounted a play and created a short movie trailer about the dotty Bostonian ([www.hypergraphiafilm.com](http://www.hypergraphiafilm.com))

*“I’ve been looking for Boston partners,” he said, shortly before boarding a flight back to Los Angeles. “I want this to be a Boston production, to take advantage of some incentives here, and to tell this quintessential Boston story.”*

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