The Secret Image 1 Verse 7 Theory (Brad, Aus)

The following is a theory for the Image 1 and Verse 7 combination for The Secret by Byron Preiss. The theory was dug on 12 April, at the location documented at the bottom, by users from the Wiki under the supervision of Park Rangers after going through the appropriate permit process. I was unable to dig, being quite literally on the exact opposite side of the world. The following is a walk through of the clues from the image and the verse, and are relatively interlinked, so will be done in a running commentary from the broadest clues, through the walk-through to the site, and details from the site, so please excuse the jumping from image to verse and back again.

I would like to take a moment now to thank the users and creators of the Wiki. Without them, I probably wouldn’t have even been able to start the puzzle, let alone put together this theory. As I honed in, many users chimed in and added details that backed up the ideas, and the diggers have been invaluable in getting detailed images of, and monitoring the final spot throughout the final stages.

More credit goes to them than me for solving the puzzle. I simply sewed together the patchwork quilt that is here.

1. (Image) Broad Location. 37 and 38 Latitudes in hair. 122 and 123 Longitudes on top of dress in roman numerals. See wiki for details. The roman numerals have to do with the final location and can easily be explained as being part of a pattern used to obscure later-explained details.
   - This lands us around the location of San Francisco.
2. (Image) City Location. The Arched door in the stone wall at the top of the rocks. Obviously Alcatraz, which directs us to the greater CBD of San Francisco. It can also symbolise a part of the final location, as explained later.
3. (Image) Park. Dress frontice is a map of Golden Gate Park. Long, rectangular and kinked at one corner, the same as GGP. The arms are cossed to symbolise Crossover Drv. G and h are at the top to symbolise Great Highway. G and h form a red herring for (Gh)iradelli. If it were that straight forwards, it would be easy to solve. Having 2 options for clues means there is a level of complexity to drive people away from the right spot, and create more possible end locations. The symbols around the outside symbolise different thing and will be explained later.
4. (Image) Starting point. Symbol at the bottom of the dress (difficult to make out on images. My best guess is it looks like a gate or door) is the staring point. I can roughly assume the bottom 5 symbols relate to entry points to the park- namely roads, and roads that are not closed. The symbols may have signified something in the area, either inside or outside the park. These details, 30 years on, may have been lost and would be unrecoverable. The other 4 are simply there to make sure that the starting point symbol is hidden among other symbols.
5. (Verse) Starting point. “At stone wall's door”. The entry at the corner was once called Stone wall's gate (or something similar) as it is a gate where there is a stone retaining wall that is still in place.
6. (Image) Path. From the symbol, moving diagonally upwards and to the Left, the same way as the entry's path into the park. Here we will move from symbol to the tip of the dragon's tail. The dragon's tail then becomes the path that we take, and the loops become the significant markers along the way, as we deviate off the path to note things in the environment.
7. (Verse) The park/ area. "The air smells sweet". Could have to do with the buildings around the start location, or the plants within the garden. Nearby were many large tracts of flowers in the park.
8. (Image) First Deviation. The first loop is symbolic of a need to deviate from the core path, to see the next line. Here, the path would continue back close by the start and back down the same path to continue on. This would mean that there would be no back-tracking on the path.

9. (Verse) First Deviation. "Not far away High posts are three". Horseshoe court has posts on it, and it on top of the hill- one of the highest points in the park. These posts would be "high". A 'ringer' or a horseshoe that lands touching the post scores 3 points, and hence, such a move on these high posts would be 3... points.
10. (Verse) Turning Point. "Education and Justice For all to see". Where we come to the next loop in the tail, where we need to turn off our path, is the Henry Halleck statue. Henry Halleck was a Scholar and Lawyer (Education, Justice) and his statue is out for all to see. The statue notes that he is a lawyer and scholar, so no further research is needed to work out that clue.
11. (Image) Second Deviation. The next loop around the Henry halleck statue shows us the next line in the verse, which is also not on our path.
12. (Verse) Second Deviation. "Sounds from the sky". Up the hill from here is a location known as Hippie Hill, where, even in the early 1980’s, people would congregate and play music on instruments. This was culturally significant for the city of San Francisco. Such sounds may have sounded like they were from the sky, or from high (high people that is. See also next line of verse)

13. (Image) Third Deviation. The next loop, just down the right path, is about the tennis courts, as described in the next line.

14. (Verse) Third Deviation. "Near ace is high". Ace refers to the tennis courts. These tennis courts are raised above the road, so are higher. Also... the sounds from the previous line could be "high" as per the hippies. "Sounds from the sky ... is high". I know it's incorrect grammar, but the verses are abstract...

15. (Verse) Continue the path. "Running north but first across." (non-capitalised North. Grammar anyone? ;) ) This describes the path to the final location, and needs to be read “across” first, then "North". The path of Nancy Pelosi Drv, then Martin Luther King Jnr Drv. goes across (West) then North, towards the final location. Interestingly, in 1980, these roads were named East Middle Drv (Nancy Pelosi), and South Drv (MLK Jnr), and you would be travelling backwards relative to their names- West on East, and North on South. May speak of the crossed arms symbolism.

16. (Image) Final location. The final loop in the dragon's tail signifies the last of our path. Note that the dragon above the location has no more loops, unlike the bottom section.
The centre circle is the location of the Verdi Statue, just up MLK Drv. And, not to spoil it, the X is the spot! You will notice the bricks just to the right of the X. 2 steps, just as the outline of the bottom of the statue is, which is noted in the verse. The rest of the bricks on the dragon, are relatively regular and grid-like, except for a couple of breaks, here being one, and an unusual one at that. A similar stepping occurs in the big blocks in the loop above, with 4 big bricks offset from the grid. The symbols around then act as things to hide the "X-marks the spot" symbol. You will note that these are not roman numerals, not oriented the same way as the 122 and 123 above, and are not geometric shapes as per the symbols below, where we started.

17. (Verse) The final run. "In jewel's direction" "Is an object" "Of Twain's attention". Again another double layered clue. From MLK Drv, to go towards the Jewel (in jewel's direction), we need to go towards the "object of twain's attention". This means go towards the Verdi statue, because, double in double... Verdi looks like Mark Twain. Get the clue wrong, and you move on from here. However, he's not Twain. The twain being referred to (note bad capitalisation. Did I mention grammar is used loosely to hide things?) are the twin boys on the base of the statue- twain meaning two, as in "never the twain shall meet". So we stay at Verdi, and see what the boys have their attention on.

18. (Verse) The final location. "Giant pole" "Giant step" "to the place" "the casque is kept." Why these exact words? There's a loose rhyme throughout most of the verses, so to rhyme step, "kept" was used and split across a line. What do the boys have their attention on? A giant pole. Where does to pole point? Over the edge of the statue base, which is a giant step (see image above for step reference, at x marks the spot.)
(image from 1953, prior to statue's redevelopment in 2003- note the plaque is on the side, not the front as it is now)

Note plaque has the date in roman numerals, setting up the roman numeral and roman-numeral-esque symbols.

If we then look at the image above showing the final loop of the dragon's tail, we see that the X sits bottom left of the four points, and if we are looking at the statue from front on, the giant pole points directly at the bottom left (same) corner fo the statue base

Other clues.
1. The rocks. Can't be there for decoration only, right? To the left of the woman's head is an odd-shaped rocked. It's similar to the right hand of the large figure on the statue, which holds a ball. To the right of the head is a hand-shaped rock, similar to the one of the boy who's left hand is reaching up.
The other, more regular ones are there to hide these ones, and probably pay homage to The Virgin of the Rocks, a famous Renaissance painting by Da Vinci. The Arched window, probably not Alcatraz, is more likely the arched door for the Shakespeare’s bust in the nearby Shakespeare’s garden.

2. The rest of the frontice. Is just the rest of the map. Between the wings is a strawberry, to signify Strawberry Hill, which sits in Stow Lake, just below Crossover Drv (the arms). All good maps need context.


Unexplained, superfluous or puzzle clues.
1. Pearl, Flower, Clock. Birthstone of June, birth flower of June, and 6 o’clock, AKA the 6th month. Each image has a similar set of objects to describe one of the 12 months.
2. 11 moons. This image, and 11 more, make the whole book’s puzzle count. This image “introduces” the rest of the images in the book, and these moons could be hinting to the rest of the puzzles.
3. Pedestal base. This part remains unsolved for me. Maybe there was a lamp post near by that had the same profile? Possibly just a streetcar which San Francisco is famous for.
4. 4 symbols on shoulders. Circle, square, square, triangle. I. Have. No. idea. I think they are important though.
5. The fingers pointing to blocks. The hands of the crossed arms of the character are pointing, obviously, to the sleeves that are made of 2 rows of squares, 2 rows of 9 squares to the left- 18 total, 2 rows of 10 to the right- 20 in total. The fingers point to the space between 4-5 rows down on the left, and the space between 3-4 rows down on the right. If we take the left and right to be 9 and 10, they could be 9th and 10th Ave South and North of the park, which align with entrances to the park that are closest to the Verdi statue, and would be good entrances to use to go straight to the end point. Why the specific squares? Why the entrances when the starting point is shown? Don’t know, and feel these could be better explained and probably create better theories.

The dig
To the best of my knowledge and research, no dig has been made at this location. Talk in a couple of online locations has seen one user come to the same conclusion as I did. As far as I know, we both
came to the same conclusion independant of one another, and I certainly was not aware of anyone else making the same conclusion when I posited the final location. There is no doubt in my mind that other people have come to the same conclusion, as it seemed rather obvious when I saw it. Talk in regards to digs has said that anywhere between 1 and 3 digs have already been made at this site, although I could not find any posts saying that a dig happened. No-one seems to have said openly that they have dug there. An inspection of the local area around the Verdi statue was made on the day of the dig, and there was no evidence of any fresh digs in the area. This does not however disclude a dig already having taken place in the last 30 years.

Worth noting here, without too much detail, is that a Dr Gerald Gay was said to have dug at this location. No credible evidence to the point has been made. The dig crew approached the Golden Gate Park staff, and asked for details of the Dr's dig, and were informed that the Dr applied to dig at the Verdi statue, but on the day, changed his mind and dug at Huntington Falls. Photos show him at this location, holding what has been proven (beyond a shadow of a doubt) to be a fake casque. The dig crew inspected the Verdi statue within days of the Dr's find, and found only scrapings of the surface, and no real significant disturbance, and came to the conclusion that no dig had been made. The surface disturbance hit a tree root at a very shallow depth, so any possible dig to bury a fake casque was probably quickly aborted. Later talk by the Dr stated that he did dig at Verdi, but "within 5m of the statue". No evidence of any such a dig was found at the location during the pre-dig search.

With no evidence of a dig every being made (either written or physical), it was decided that the dig would still occur. The area directly at the end of the pole was probed, as well as regular intervals in a line leading away from the statue, in line with the pole.

A dig with 2 holes was perfomed around the Verdi statue on 12 April, 2019 at 10am to investigate this theory.

3 users from the Wiki group plus a user's wife, with proper permits, under the supervision of a Ranger, dug at the South-Western corner of the Verdi statue, focussing on the area that the pole points to, and a second hole at the rear of the statue, approx 6 inches from the base, in line with the centre of the statue. Each hole was approx 2 foot by 2 foot at the top (as required by the permit restrictions), and were slightly bigger lower down in the ground.

The primary site (in line with the pole) yielded a series of small roots at a shallow depth which indicated that a dig had not occured at this location in the recent past (maybe even up to 10+ years ago) at a further depth, 2 larger roots were encountered, confirming that recent digs had not occurred. These roots were dug around, and a depth of 3-4 foot was reached. The hole was then probed downwards into its base, as well as out to all sides throughout the whole depth of the dig. These probes reached, where not obstructed, reached 1-2 foot into the sides and base of the hole. Distinctive, soft thuds were felt, indicative of tree roots only. No shards or fragments of ceramic or perspex were encountered.

The secondary hole was easier to dig due to the lack of tree roots, and the same dig and probe method was used to ensure a wider-than-hole exploration was made.

The Result

Sadly, no casque was found in either of the two holes.

We can confidently say that no casque was buried in either of the locations at the Verdi statue. There was no indication that a dig had ever been made at this location owing to the tree roots. The park ranger had worked at the park for 15 years, and had supervised people digging throughout the
park, but many had given up very quickly when they found some resistance. He commented on the determination of the dig crew to power on and work around the tree roots, and how others had not dug so much. There was no indication that a casque had been disturbed or broken, as no remnants were found.

Photos from the dig are included:

Primary Dig site- in line with pole. The lumpy green-brown object in the bottom left corner is the pole. Just above it, a few feet towards the road is the disturbance seen after the Dr Gay "dig". It was reported to be very superficial at best.
Tree roots in primary dig site
Secondary Dig Site
Depth in Secondary dig site.

This hypothesis and report are posted so that people can know where we dug and what we found. If people wish to utilise the hypothesis to find a different spot, they are more than welcome to do so, but please, credit where credit is due.

Regards,
Brad, Australia.