



newsletter

ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM

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J'ACCUSE!

GEORGE M. JENKS, *Assistant Librarian in Charge of Cataloguing, University of Tasmania Library*
Reprinted from *The Australian Library Journal*, December, 1963.

This unoriginal title is used to point the finger of shame at our profession. I believe that the profession has failed in its most important duty. The duty I speak of is to make available to all Australians any reading matter they wish. In Peter Coleman's *Obscenity, Blasphemy, Sedition: Censorship in Australia* (Brisbane, Jacaranda Press, 1962), librarians are conspicuous by their absence as opponents of censorship.

If we have any claim to professional status it is through our dedication to freedom to read, not through our dedication to library architecture or the Dewey Decimal Classification.

There exist today many official and unofficial bodies that attempt to limit the Australian's right to read. The private organizations that attempt this have my sufferance, if not my sympathy. It is their right to try to influence others in their reading habits. If any group says to its members, "Thou shalt not read this," and the members are so blind or faithful as to obey, that is the individual's concern and loss.

However, when the state attempts this, it is wrong, harmful, and an infringement of personal freedom. And when I say it is wrong to curtail the freedom to read, I mean just that. Any curtailment is wrong. There are those who say, "Oh no, I don't believe in censorship—except for pornography, of course." Such a statement is obviously contradictory. Censorship is like pregnancy, it is or it isn't. Once the seed is planted, it grows to maturity.

Literature at its greatest and in its lowest forms has probably had a profound effect on mankind. What its effects are is hard to measure. Surely Marx's *Capital* has had an influence on modern society. Just as surely has Dante's *Divine Comedy* had its effect. These two works, whether aesthetically pleasing or not, whether with a beneficial or deleterious effect, have influenced mankind. If we do not believe this, then all the world's literature has been for naught.

But what of such works as Grace Metalious's *Peyton Place* (New York, Messner, 1956), on the Customs Department's banned list, or such magazines as *Grace and Beauty*, recently banned in Tasmania? Have they been influential in any way? To deny it, is to deny the power of the written word (although in the case of the magazine, the visual sense is predominant). Works that are called pornographic may have some influence. Whether this influence is desirable is not clear.

The puritanically-minded see in every pornographic work an evil attraction. Comics and girly magazines are

for them the prime cause of juvenile delinquency. That may be, but there is no evidence to support their belief. It can just as logically be argued that, in modern society, with its ever-diminishing outlets for physical activity and release of tensions, books and movies with a strong dose of violence and sex provide a harmless outlet for those who might do violence otherwise. Who knows how many lives have been saved because a psychopath got his release from watching a horror movie or reading a pornographic volume? It is curious that the same person who objects to Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita* (New York, Putnam, 1958) on the library shelf, will avidly read the most deadening of "innocuous" popular prose. His mind may be warped far more by the stultifying prose of the latter than by *Lolita*.

I am not defending pornography on either aesthetic or psychological grounds. I simply say that if people wish to read pornography, let them. That is their right. If there are dangers involved, that is the risk every democracy must run, or else perish as a democracy.

In censoring books, movies or records, censors base their decisions on moral grounds, with noble intentions: the public must be protected. Since there is no evidence that the public needs such protection, or that the censors know what they are protecting the public from, the conclusion is clear: censors censor what they do not like, what offends their sensibilities. It is a purely subjective decision. As long as the law permits censorship in any form, there is the danger that the good will be excluded with the bad. No man can look at a book, any book, and say: "This book is harmful." A glance at the Customs Department's list of banned books will readily show the folly of letting men, even literate men, make decisions as to what is suitable for reading.

And what of the librarian's role in censorship? All too often the librarian plays the part of censor under the guise of book selection. Precensorship, if you will, which is even more insidious than the usual kind, since it operates without publicity. I see no reason for refusing to buy a book for a library that any part of the library's public wants.

What can librarians do to actively help in the fight against censorship? The most important thing is to scream to high heaven every time a book, magazine, film or record is banned. Librarians should scream singly and collectively. Protests, letters to the editor, demonstrations, should all be used. It must be kept in mind that censors, by their very nature, are cowards.

They can be intimidated. However, if they are permitted to quietly pursue their work, they become bolder. The lethargic librarian who says, "Oh, why all the fuss? They're just banning some picture magazine," may wake up to find something he considers worthwhile has been banned, which is exactly what has happened.

The argument is put forward that one can obtain a banned book easily enough, therefore why all the bother? This argument is, of course, morally and legally objectionable for two reasons: (1) In a democracy, all should have the same rights. The vast public does not have easy access to banned books. (2) Any law which is openly disobeyed is a mockery, and makes a mockery of other laws. A law must be either enforced or repealed.

What should the Library Association do? As a first step I think that a newsletter along the lines of the ALA's *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* should be published in order to keep librarians informed of infringements on the freedoms to read. As a second step I think that the LAA should enter a formal protest to every act of censorship of books, films and records perpetrated by the Commonwealth, the states, or other governmental bodies. The LAA should lend the weight of its prestige to oppose censorship. In this fashion librarianship can redeem itself.

Red Hunters' Target Resigns

Jerome Shore, target of a subcommittee headed by Senator James O. Eastland (Dem-Miss.) has resigned as executive vice-president of the Pacifica Foundation, operator of listener-sponsored FM radio stations in Berkeley, Los Angeles and New York.

Shore's resignation came quietly and unexpectedly on December 14—only moments after he received what amounted to a unanimous vote of confidence from the directors of the foundation.

The directors said then that they would stand by Shore—or any one else—who declined to answer the Federal Communications Commission when it asked if he was or ever had been a Communist.

The question was of particular significance in Shore's case. Though he testified he had never discussed Pacifica Foundation's affairs with any Communists, he refused last January to tell the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee if he had been a Communist prior to 1954. The question, he said, infringed on his constitutional rights. —Michael Harris in *SFC*, 31 January.

On 23 January the San Francisco *Chronicle* carried the story that the Pacifica Foundation and its subscription-supported FM radio stations were on 22 January cleared by the FCC of obscenity and Communist affiliation charges, and that three-year licenses were being issued to the four stations in Berkeley, Los Angeles and New York.

So!

Since such a connoisseur of the high and gamy as *Time* has missed it, we feel compelled out of mere waggery to note that anyone impressed with the saprological naughtiness of Jean Genet's *Our Lady of the Flowers* might as well be informed that the Grove Press translation is bowdlerized. —*National Review*, 14. January.

The Right To Read Privately

To the Editor:

I agree with Agnes H. Stein of New City whose letter appeared in the January 1964 issue of the *Newsletter*. There should be a right for an individual to read privately.

Properly constituted authority knew about the findings of the reporter and did not object to their release. This authority was also informed of the newspaperman's findings.

The subject who had read books in the Napoleon Branch of the New Orleans Public Library was no longer living at the time of the search. It was more a matter of informing the public in order to avoid wild speculation, continue to cooperate with duly constituted authority, and recognize that the subject was in the deepest sense a matter of concern for every American.

The decision was not easy, and perhaps to many an incorrect one, but it was made with the above considerations in mind. —Jerome Cushman, Librarian.

Tales Out of School

The *Dictionary of American Slang* was ordered removed from the Glendale, ARIZONA, Washington High School library late in November by the board of trustees. On 2 December the district's classroom teachers took the board to task for failing to follow a committee recommendation about the book. The resolution commended the board for turning the matter over to a committee for study, but "we deplore the board of education's refusal to accept the recommendation of the committee."

MacKinlay Kantor's *Andersonville* was withdrawn from the eleventh grade English class reading list at the Whitehall, MICHIGAN, high school on 12 December after an unspecified number of unidentified complaints were received by Supt. of Schools Melvin Lubbers and County Prosecutor Harry J. Knudsen. Prosecutor Knudsen, who doesn't care if it won 20 Pulitzer prizes, doesn't feel it to be fit reading for high school students. At least one Whitehall parent, Mrs. Jane Moog, was angry about the book being dropped. She called the banning of the book ridiculous and termed it a violation of civil liberties. Said Supt. Lubbers, "I have read quite a bit of the book; not all of it, however. We have no quarrel with *Andersonville* as to what the author was trying to get across, but it is not, in our judgment, of sufficient benefit to justify putting it before the young mind. Students were offered their money back if they returned the book; none did. Though vigorously defended by school board member Mrs. Evelyn Robinson and Circuit Judge John H. Piercy, the Board of Education on 18 December supported Lubbers by a vote of 6 to 1, Robinson dissenting.

Catcher in the Rye was removed from the recommended reading list of English teacher Raymond Meliza by the administrative directive of Elmira, OREGON, Supt. of Schools Nile Williams, after receiving some parental and ministerial complaints. The action was discussed at the January 8 meeting of the school board. Action was deferred to give the school board time to do its homework.

Fanny & Mandy in London

The British edition of John Cleland's *Fanny Hill, Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* was suppressed by Scotland Yard on November 8, scheduled date of publication. The same London AP story revealed that Mandy Rice-Davies' *After Denning, the Mandy Report*, scheduled for publication a week later, would not come out because "the printers say they do not wish to print the book," according to her publisher, Confidential Publications.

The Yard's case against *Fanny* on 20 January took the form of summoning a Soho bookseller under the Obscene Publications Act to show why 171 copies of the paper edition should not be confiscated. Prominent witness in *Fanny's* defense was author and critic Peter Quennell, who considered the book to be a literary counterpart of William Hogarth's "A Harlot's Progress." Meanwhile, the Luxor Press hard-cover edition was being sold freely at \$6.30. Chief metropolitan magistrate Sir Robert Blundell on 10 February declared the novel obscene and ordered the 171 copies forfeited. Publisher Mayflower Books indicated it might appeal, and maintained the decision was not binding outside of London. Same story revealed that the Luxor Press edition had been bowdlerized. AP reported on 13 February that 20 members of Parliament had signed a "Hands Off Fanny Hill" motion to halt prosecution.

Anoka County Library vs. Christian Research, Inc.

As part of a special program for the development of adult services, financed by a grant from the Minnesota State Library Division, the Anoka County Library chose as its first major adult education event, a lecture series entitled "Communism—What It Is and What It Means to Americans." The purpose of the series was to provide residents of the county with an opportunity to obtain sound, basic information on the communist ideology. Speakers for the series were chosen from a pamphlet prepared by the Minnesota World Affairs Center (of which the Minnesota Library Association is a member), *Sources of Information on Communism*. Speakers were selected primarily on the basis of their lecture topic, as listed in this pamphlet.

The three speakers invited, all faculty members of the University of Minnesota, were Mulford Q. Sibley, Professor of Political Science, whose topic was "The Basic Tenets of Communism"; Raymond B. Nixon, Professor of Journalism, whose topic was "East is West: Basic Similarities and Differences Between the Communist System and Ours"; and Arnold Rose, Professor of Sociology, who spoke on "Changing Attitudes Toward Communism in the U.S."

Before the final selection of dates and speakers, the Library Board of Trustees was informed of the proposed program and gave their endorsement of it. A few anonymous phone calls were received prior to the first lecture, objecting to Mr. Sibley, who is a socialist and

a pacifist, and to Mr. Rose, who is a Democrat, a member of the Minnesota Legislature and was co-author, with Gunnar Myrdal, of *An American Dilemma*.

Professor Sibley spoke on November 21st to an audience of some sixty-five persons. Following his lecture, members of an organization called Christian Research, Inc. distributed leaflets outside the library which denounced both Mr. Sibley and Mr. Rose as Communists and/or leftist-leaning.

On December 2, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners received a letter from a Mr. Adolph Grinde, a county resident and a member of Christian Research, Inc., in which he repeated the allegations made in the leaflets and asked that the lecture series be cancelled. The Board of Commissioners, in regular meeting that same day, called the county librarian, George Gardner, before them. Mr. Gardner informed the commissioners that all three speakers are professors in good standing at the University and that they had been selected from a suggested list prepared by the Minnesota World Affairs Center. The County Attorney then asked Mr. Gardner to postpone the lecture series until the Board of Commissioners could satisfy themselves as to the qualifications of the speakers. Mr. Gardner said he would take this request back to the Library Board of Trustees and that the decision concerning postponement would have to be made by them.

The following morning, December 3, the County Attorney informed Mr. Gardner that there was no question of the loyalty of either Mr. Nixon or Mr. Rose, the two remaining speakers, and that the commissioners did not wish to have the series cancelled. The County Attorney did not disclose his sources of information on the loyalty and qualifications of the speakers.

On the evening of December 3 the Library Board of Trustees met and drafted a letter to the Board of Commissioners in which they stated that the Board of Trustees assumes full responsibility for all library matters, that the lecture series would continue as planned and that they based their stand on the Library Bill of Rights, which was adopted by the Anoka County Library shortly after its founding in 1958.

The final two lectures were held as scheduled. At the final lecture a picket appeared in front of the library bearing a sign reading:

"Informed" people
know that commUNism
is merely a "tool" of
international "Zionism."
F.B.I. "real masters
of deceit?" Miles Lord
Rose, Rosen, Naftalin,
Lee Vogel "dare" debate "Kalki"

During the controversy the library received editorial support from the three county newspapers, the Minneapolis *Star and Tribune*, and a Minneapolis television station, WCCO-TV. The library also received official support from several county organizations.

The last week in January Mr. Rose filed a libel suit against Mr. Grinde and a Mrs. Gerda Koch, who acts as head of Christian Research, Inc., in the amount of \$10,000 for damages. —Barbara Snowfield, Anoka County Library Adult Services Librarian.

Labeling at Home?

In the course of recommending adoption of the commendable report of the LAD Board of Directors on the controversial *Access to Public Libraries* study at the Midwinter meeting, the ALA Executive Board also recommended to Council that all future sales of the published report be accompanied by the four-page LAD report, a point not among the LAD recommendations. Your editor pointed out to Council that this constituted labeling and was in conflict with the ALA statement on labeling adopted by Council on 13 July 1951. He was ably and vigorously supported by UCLA Librarian Robert Vosper. ALA IFC Chairman Archie McNeal disagreed. What do our readers think?

Model Obscenity Statute

I

I am concerned about the repeated tendency of public attorneys to use criminal statutes as a technique for suppressing books on a wide scale. It has been tried in California, it has been tried in New York, now we see it in Massachusetts. It strikes me that whether or not any state provides for *in rem* proceedings, local authorities prefer to circumvent or ignore this method of attack. And states without *in rem* statutes (New Hampshire, for example) are extremely vulnerable to oppressive legal moves or threats.

What I would like to see us do is to draw up a model statute, support it with a good solid essay explaining its purpose and its utility and "sell" it to state associations. Furthermore, I think it would be very useful to move a resolution condemning criminal proceedings as a means of attacking books. I am troubled when a bookseller handling copyrighted material is put into jeopardy before a determination has been made that what he is selling is illegal. On the other hand I think that we need not concern ourselves with under-the-counter stuff. Most of it is bootlegged anyway, and does not pass through the channels of distribution that libraries are concerned with. Openly published books are a different matter entirely. I think we would strengthen the hands of librarians if we encouraged the creation of a climate where books can be handled without threat to the personal safety of the book handler, be he librarian, seller, distributor or publisher.

I wonder from time to time just how many libraries in the United States lack books of a certain kind precisely because the librarians are afraid, literally afraid, of running afoul of the law. Aren't these librarians deserving of solid assurance that whatever book choices they make they are at least safe from arrest? Shouldn't there be a simple and clearly defined process of resolving doubts over given titles, and isn't the ALA Intellectual Freedom Committee a suitable agency for designing a model for this process? —Ervin Gaines.

II

I think I would oppose any expenditure of effort toward the writing of a model obscenity statute because, since obscenity is not definable, it is not possible to write any such thing as a model obscenity statute. The phrase is a contradiction in terms. Furthermore, by all the definitions of obscenity now extant, there

are some books in virtually every library which could be considered to be obscene under one definition or another by somebody bent on making a case for the existence of obscenity in libraries. This just is one of the facts of life we have to learn to live with.

I do not believe that librarians can place themselves in the position of considering that some censorship is okay, and that they have some materials in their libraries they are scared will get them into trouble. The New Hampshire statute provides exemption for books designed to advance literature, art, and education. If librarians cannot justify their collections under such phraseology, they are indeed running scared. Except for the fact that librarians are scared, the situation really isn't so terribly bad in this country. The burgeoning CDL-type activity—deplore and fight it as we must—is fulsome evidence that a host of people consider that it is not possible to get a conviction under the present obscenity laws. Since the CDL concern is with under-the-counter stuff, just what is it that librarians are worried about?

Until the profession is ready to forthrightly come out against all antiobscenity legislation, (as the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association has recently done) we had better leave this particular windmill for someone else to tilt at. Our activity is much better directed towards strengthening the librarian's backbone, rather than fashioning him another unreliable crutch. —LeRoy Merritt.

Censorship in Dallas

To The Dallas News:

November 11, 1963

When is Dallas going to send its long-overdue apology to our American literary genius, Henry Miller, and allow his controversial novel, "Tropic of Cancer," to be restored to its rightful and honored place on the shelves of Dallas book stores and the Dallas public libraries?

It seems that one can no longer express a dissenting opinion or read a controversial classic in this "cultural center of the Southwest" without being treated as a dangerous criminal. How long must the freedom-loving citizens of Dallas endure the indignities imposed upon them by superpatriots and other well-meaning bigots? —LOUIS GIBBONS.

New IFC Chairmen

Mrs. Sara K. Srygley, FSU Library School, is the Chairman of the Florida Library Association.

Louis Schreiber, Librarian of Brandeis University, is the new chairman of the Massachusetts Library Association IFC.

Long Island's Nassau and Suffolk county library associations have organized IFCs under the respective chairmanships of Great Neck Public Library Reference Librarian Joseph Covino, and Farmingdale Public Librarian Orrin B. Dow.

Donn Michael Farris, Librarian of the Duke University Divinity School, Durham, is the new chairman of the North Carolina IFC.

Miss Allie Beth Martin, of the Tulsa City-County Library, is the Chairman of the new IFC of the Oklahoma Library Association.

Welcome, one and all, and please keep the *Newsletter* informed of your activities.

Censorship Inquiry Urged by Authors

TORONTO (CP) — The Canadian Authors Association on 27 October appealed to the federal government to set up a royal commission to investigate censorship in Canada.

The association, in a telegram to Revenue Minister J. R. Garland, cited recent bans on works by controversial authors Jean Genet and Frank Harris.

"This is the latest in a long series of incidents which has deprived Canadians of the fundamental freedom to read books readily available in other parts of the Western world."

Obscenity's Witnesses

Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* won a measure of support in a pair of interrelated rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court on 16 December. The court refused to review a ruling by the California Supreme Court that the book is not hard-core pornography and thus may not be constitutionally barred from sale under California obscenity laws. The court also vacated the conviction of Los Angeles bookseller Bradley Smith for selling the book, and sent his case back to a state court in LA for further consideration in light of the ruling of the California Supreme Court in the first case. On 21 January the Los Angeles Superior Court appellate department reversed the conviction of Bradley Smith.

A U.S. District Court judge in Washington, D.C. was asked on 27 January to rule that a serious collector may send historical collections of erotic literature through the mails under the freedom of speech protections of the first amendment. The Court was also asked to hold that a collector may send pornographic literature through the mails in an effort to further his collections. The arguments were represented on the opening day of the trial of Washington art consultant Lawrence E. Gichner, who is accused of selling three pornographic books through the mails. Two of the titles are: *Erotic Aspects of Chinese Culture* and *Erotic Aspects of Japanese Culture*.

Having been seized by the Crown from the Frazer Bookbin in Vancouver, BRITISH COLUMBIA, on 16 September, *Sex, Perversion and the Law*, a publication of the Mental Health Press, is now in court as the result of a summons calling upon the Crown to show cause for the seizure. Case is being heard under the criminal code which defines obscenity as a publication where a dominant characteristic is undue exploitation of sex, or of sex and certain crimes. The book is made up of excerpts from the Bible, Freud and Havelock Ellis. — *Vancouver Sun*, 5 February.

A newsletter of the Greater Glen Burnie JCC (Anne Arundel County, MARYLAND) has described as "nonsense" a proposal by JCC national president Richard Headlee for a campaign to rid drug store newsstands of obscene materials. In a pointed editorial, editor Robert R. McQuaid said the national president "has taken the first step toward making the Jaycee an organization which is wittingly or unwittingly fighting the freedom of the press." In opposing the CDL-type activity, McQuaid asked, "Which Jaycee will don the robes of the Supreme Court and rule as chairman of the local pornography committee?"

The Grand Rapids, MICHIGAN, trial of West Coast News, Inc. and two of its officers for transporting obscene books into Western Michigan went into its sixth week early in December, with Judge Noel P. Fox refusing to admit as evidence for the defense four other books as not being similar to eight books under indictment. Defense counsel Stanley Fleishman brought Robert R. Kirsch, literary editor of the Los Angeles *Times*, author Guy Endor, and USC Dean of the School of Library Science Martha Boaz to Michigan as expert witnesses. The latter two were not allowed to testify during the time they were able to spend in Grand Rapids. Only one book, *Sex Life of a Cop*, was finally involved in the conviction on 12 December of Stanford E. Aday and Wallace de Ortega Maxey. On 30 December Judge Fox meted out a sentence of 25 years and \$25,000 fine to Aday, and 15 years and \$19,000 fine to Maxey. Defense counsel Fleishman said he would appeal on the ground that the sentences were "extreme and not justified. Previously the Federal Government brought a similar charge against the same people in California and lost. Therefore the Government went forum hunting and picked Grand Rapids, which is known to be an extremely conservative area." The conviction drew much favorable editorial support, including that of syndicated columnist Cleveland Amory, who got some of his facts wrong.

Michigan's Lt. Gov. T. John Lesinski, acting in Romney's absence on an out-of-state speaking tour, became incensed at the girlie magazines on sale at the State Capitol newsstand, and ordered their removal on 16 January. He followed up immediately with similar action for other state buildings throughout the state. Reaction was prompt and divided. Battle Creek Rep. Harry DeMaso, who heads a special House committee which has been investigating pornographic literature for four years, accused Lesinski of failing to distinguish between "obscene literature and legitimate art." Support came from Blissfield Sen. Elmer R. Porter, who was shocked to discover girlie magazines on sale in the Union Building at Eastern Michigan University while touring the campus with EMU prexy Eugene B. Elliott. Whereupon Elliott ordered the mags removed from the EMU newsstand. Porter followed up with a resolution asking Gov. Romney to ban the sale of girlie magazines at state colleges and other institutions; it was passed by the Senate on 22 January.

The NEW JERSEY Supreme Court on 16 December granted a new trial to the Hudson County News Company, which had been convicted of distributing obscene magazines in Hudson County. The case was sent back to the county court because "the jury was

Cambodia Bans Time and Newsweek

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The Cambodian government banned the American news magazines Time and Newsweek on 4 December, charging they had committed "critical acts of injury against the Cambodian government."

The announcement did not specify which stories in the two magazines were considered objectionable. But presumably the ban stemmed from the coverage of the rejection of U.S. aid by Cambodia's ruler, Prince Norodom Sihanouk, on Nov. 18.

Annual Report

Fifteen hundred and twenty-one copies of this issue are being distributed on a subscription basis, an increase of 28 per cent over March, 1963. Press run of this issue comes to 5,200 copies, the difference being accounted for by sales to state library associations for distribution at their annual conferences, and the mailing of 1,000 copies to the membership of the Louisiana Library Association, courtesy of Alex P. Allain, Chairman, Trustees' Section, LLA, and Chairman, Libraries' Freedom Committee, ALTA.

wrongly allowed" to apply local standards in determining whether a magazine was obscene. The proper standard, said the Court, was the "standard of the contemporary society of the country at large."

Three book store proprietors were arrested on 29 November in Camden, New Jersey, for having and selling John Cleland's *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*, which had been declared obscene by city attorney Stransky. Municipal Court Judge Julius Sklar took the case under advisement on 17 December, pending a holiday opportunity to read the book to decide whether he considers it obscene.

Bernalillo County, NEW MEXICO, had a new anti-obscenity ordinance as of 20 January as the result of a 2-1 vote of the county commission on 16 December, after two hours of debate among interested citizens on the bill which bars the sale and exhibition of obscene writings and pictures. Mrs. Elsa S. Thompson, librarian of the Albuquerque Public Library, spoke in opposition to the measure. She said she was speaking for the bulk of librarians in the area who objected to the ordinance because it was a form of censorship. Her statement was challenged by Rev. Elmer Goss, who said she could not put anything she wanted to on the library shelves.

The operator of a bookstore convicted of selling *Fanny Hill* to a 16-year old girl was sentenced in New York on 20 December to 30 days in jail; his clerk was sentenced to serve 10 days, and the corporate owner was fined \$500. The sentences were automatically stayed when Supreme Court Justice Abraham N. Geller issued a certificate of reasonable doubt, which frees the defendants on bail pending appeal.

In a separate action the New York City Corporation Counsel and five district attorneys appealed the ruling of Supreme Court Justice Arthur G. Klein that the work was not obscene. Arguments were heard on 22 January by five justices of the Appellate Division, who told the lawyers there was no need to inform them of the contents of the book, since they had all read it.

In a legal contretemps we confess we can't follow, the New York Court of Appeals in Albany on January 16 blocked the attempt of Rochester bookseller Nathan J. Bunis to gain the right to sell Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer*, despite the fact the book was last July declared obscene by the Court of Appeals on a 4-3 vote. Interested readers may consult the Rochester *Democrat & Chronicle* for 17 January, p. B-1. Daunted not at all by our inability to follow, Bunis' attorney on 24 January filed a notice of appeal of a State Supreme Court Justice's ruling banning sale of the book.

Dayton, OHIO, has been having itself a time with some CDL-inspired activity under the leadership of, to quote the *Dayton Journal Herald* for 7 December, "anti-smut leader William F. Griesemer, Jr." Which would hardly be news had Dayton Public Library Director William Chait not also been quoted as having told Griesemer that he (Chait) would have filed a warrant for his arrest if he'd considered material Griesemer displayed at last month's city hall obscenity hearing really obscene. "Frankly, I'd rather he shot dead than show this material publicly," said Chait. "You're exposing your audience to just the sort of thing you're trying to protect them from." Flurry occurred at a city hall round table discussion attended by 17 persons on various sides of the issue bent on determining what action the city ought to take. During the discussion Chait said he did not consider the material Griesemer was worried about to be "hard-core" pornography, and that it probably could not be prosecuted successfully. Outcome was that Dayton police will purchase what they consider the worst of alleged pornography available in town, and discuss prosecution ground rules with County Prosecutor Paul R. Young, who has expressed himself as uninterested in the role of censor. Continuing feud between Young and Dayton City Manager Herbert W. Starick was seemingly resolved on 23 January when they agreed to submit alleged newsstand pornography to a panel of five "witnesses," to be chosen from the community in general, for determination as to its obscenity.

The ONTARIO Attorney-General's advisory panel on obscene literature on 26 November refused to recommend that *Fanny Hill* be removed from the newsstands, as had been requested by Richmond Hill police chief R. P. Robbins. On the other hand, the committee conceded that the book might be held as obscene by a court. It recommended that no action be taken against the book unless such a court decision is made.

Ralph Ginzburg, New York City publisher of *Eros*, was in Philadelphia sentenced to five years in prison on 19 December and fined \$28,000 for mailing obscene matter. Ginzburg's three publishing firms were fined a total of \$14,000 by U.S. District Judge Ralph C. Body. His attorneys plan to appeal.

Dallas Public Library Director Lillian M. Bradshaw and twenty of the library's books were subpoenaed by defense attorney Fred Bruner in the November trial of bookseller Robert E. Clark for selling obscene literature. Bruner planned to show that some of the classics and contemporary novels to be found in the library "have passages which make *The Girls of the Club Sappho* seem like a nursery rhyme." Judge Jim Guthrie was in no mood for literary criticism, however; the books were not admitted as evidence and Mrs. Bradshaw was allowed to testify only in the interest of the freedom to read. Verdict on bookseller Clark: Not Guilty.

Librarian Bradshaw appeared in court again on 16 January as a defense witness in a similar case involving bookseller Roy Lee Urban and a book entitled *Sin Servant*. While refusing to concede the book to be obscene, she did admit under prosecution cross-examination that she considered certain passages to be obscene, but added that it was difficult to determine the general theme of any book by a few selected passages. Verdict: Not guilty.

Man Bites Dog

The Vancouver, BRITISH COLUMBIA, Council of Women has scheduled a two-day seminar on censorship in cooperation with the Department of University Extension on March 10 and 11. Seminar will open on evening of March 10 with a public meeting to hear a panel discuss The Foundations of Censorship Practice, Censorship and Democracy, Present Provisions in re various media, and Alternatives. The following day sixty participants in the seminar will engage in small group discussions of the issues raised by the panel.

The United News Company of Philadelphia is seeking \$100,000 in damages from eleven members of the Salem County CDL in a suit filed in U.S. District Court in Camden, NEW JERSEY, on 17 January. The company charges the CDL violated the Sherman Anti-Trust Act by restraining trade. The suit contends the Committee forced news dealers into stopping the sale of various magazines distributed by United News, and threatening a general boycott of all the stores' merchandise. The company claims the magazines are not ruled objectionable by New Jersey courts and people are being deprived of material they are entitled to read.

The House of Delegates of the NEW YORK State Teachers Association on 25 November strongly protested any action by a school board to ban books or other materials without full examination and careful evaluation in cooperation with its professional staff. In passing the resolution, the 1200-member House, representing some 95,000 members of NYSTA, said, "The right to read and the right to free inquiry (consistent with the rights of individuals and the principles of American democracy) must be zealously guarded."

Newark Paperback Bookmobile

Last year the Legion of Decency Office of the Archdiocese of Newark undertook a four-month trial run of a Mobile Book Fair. The experiment was so successful (the fair was solidly booked in various parishes or schools during that time) that the Legion of Decency has now obtained its own mobile unit.

The Paperback Bookmobile, as it is called, is part of a program for decency in reading and a service to parishes, schools, and inter-parochial societies.

More than 1500 titles are displayed in the mobile unit. The books, which may be purchased for from 35 cents to \$1.00, range from classics to modern books of general interest.

Arrangements are made with the Legion of Decency Office to leave the bookmobile for a period of time, usually one week, near a parish, school, or local shopping center. During that period only one person is needed at any particular time to staff the unit. Classes from the school may be brought through the bookmobile. In addition to having the unit available on Saturday afternoon and evening and during the day for pupils of the school, it has been found fruitful to have it open from seven to nine o'clock each evening.

There is no charge to the sponsoring group. "Our purpose," the Legion of Decency office states, "is to introduce both adults and youths to a wealth of good literature." —*NODL Newsletter*, Winter, 1963.

March, 1964

Index, Anyone?

The editor is considering the compilation of an index to the first twelve volumes of the *Newsletter*, largely for his own use. It has been suggested that others might be interested, and that it ought to be published, perhaps as a supplement. Just guessing for now, it would probably have to be priced at about \$2.00. Anyone interested?

Fitting Verdict on 'Playboy'

A municipal court jury charged with deciding whether or not an issue of Playboy magazine was obscene found only that it couldn't decide. After 8 hours of argument, not a member of the jury had changed views; the first and last ballots both showed 7 to 5 for acquittal. So the jury was dismissed and publisher Hugh Hefner was freed, pending a possible [but very unlikely] attempt by the city to prosecute him again on obscenity charges.

In a way, the jury's inability to reach a verdict was a fitting verdict in itself. It showed the near-impossibility of reaching unanimous agreement on what is largely a matter of individual feeling. A person whose judgment and conscience tell him that a given picture is not obscene can't be convinced by argument that it is, and the opposite of course is just as true.

We have no respect for Playboy or its seedy imitators. We doubt that anyone will ever convince us that Hefner's trade in glamorized smut is respectable, and we still hope that the community will find some way, some time, to set a clear limit on its tolerance for this kind of material.

But the failure this time cannot be blamed on the jurors. We believe that they obeyed their private judgment and conscience, which is all they were asked to do and the best they could have done.—*Chicago American*, 9 December.

Utah Regents Remove Art Exhibit

The University of Utah Board of Regents on 13 January requested the Union Board to remove a controversial art display, including several nude studies, from the Union Ballroom corridor. In complying the following day, the Union Board noted in a statement the distracting influence of the exhibit from "Spotlight on Greece," a display featuring Hellenic culture located a few feet away, which included two nude statues. Two of the three artists involved are instructors in the University's art and sculpture department. They had been asked nine months previously to display their work in the Union corridor, and were not interested in the availability of other campus locations for their exhibit. Controversy arose following "a number of complaints" from unidentified off-campus visitors who used the corridor on their way to "Spotlight on Greece."

The Union Board in reviewing the controversy is proposing to the Board of Regents that art of a conventional nature continue to be displayed in the Union Building main corridor. Attempts will be made to locate non-conventional art in less public areas of the building.

Eros Decision a Shame

15 January

To the Herald Tribune:

Your news report on the *Eros* case has just come to my attention. In it your reporter, Albin Krebs, summarizes my testimony for the defense: "He said he considered *Eros* 'nice.'" I did use that adjective but in a much broader context, and I'd be grateful if you'd correct the misquotation. The actual testimony ran:

"Q. In your opinion, does *Eros* No. 4 go substantially beyond the customary limits of candor that we in our country now tolerate and accept in discussion of sexual matters?

"A. No. I should say it goes considerably this side of it.

"Q. By 'this side' you mean considerably within these limits?

"A. I mean the safe side, the legal side, the nice side." This kind of frivolous distortion runs through Mr. Krebs' story. He ends the first paragraph, after stating that Federal Judge Body sentenced *Eros*' publisher, Ralph Ginzburg, to five years in prison and a \$42,000 fine, "Mr. Ginzburg said it was a dirty shame." Well, I think it was a dirty shame too, and I'm surprised to find a paper like the Tribune, which is usually sensitive to violations of civil liberties, printing this kind of reporting.

Without denying the *Eros* case had its comic aspects and without making any great literary claims for *Eros* and its sister publications—as I made clear on the stand—may I suggest that an injustice has been done and that, if it is not corrected by higher courts, it may have, as Mr. Ginzburg said to the amusement of your reporter, serious effects on freedom of expression? Before I agreed to testify for the defense, I read the complete file of *Eros* and its newsletter, *Liaison*, plus "*The Housewife's Handbook on Selective Promiscuity*" (which Mr. Krebs gags up as an "erotobiography," but which I thought a serious case history despite its lack of literary interest). None of them seemed to me to push "the customary limits of candor that we now tolerate in discussion of sexual matters" as far as have such works, recently accepted by the Federal courts, as *Naked Lunch*, *Lady Chatterley's Lover* and *Tropic of Cancer*. And if it's a matter of commercial exploitation of sex—which by the way is *ipso facto* illegal else where would Hollywood be?—then I see no significant difference between Mr. Ginzburg's publications and the dozens of "girlie" magazines that for years have been sold without any legal protest on newsstands throughout the country.

I'm bewildered by your reporter's animus—or rather by your tolerating it—as I was by Judge Body's decision. After my testimony, in which I tried to give some of the recent history of the increasing acceptance by the courts of freedom of expression in novels, plays, movies and magazines, I was expecting some cross-examination by the prosecution and some questions from the judge. Not a word, not a question. I didn't think I was as persuasive as all that and it turned out I was right. But I think some dialogue might have been useful. The *Eros* case is more complex and significant than Judge Body thought. Or your reporter. —Dwight Macdonald.

East Germany Restricts Book Imports

The Minister of Culture of East Germany has signed a law making it mandatory for East Germans to gain special permission from the Ministry in order to import books or periodicals from West Germany, West Berlin, and Western countries generally. Under the new law, persons wishing to import western books will have to supply the reason why they need the book, what the book is about, and, if it is a periodical which is wanted, how long they intend to subscribe to it.—*Edition*, December, 1963.

Book Censorship Charged

Too much censorship is being practiced. I think it is an insult to the reading public when the Free Library refuses to give us books in demand.

Why doesn't someone ask the librarians officially why they do not have such books as *City of Night* or *Tropic of Capricorn*, or even *Fanny Hill*? I care enough to ask.
Frank Barber

[*The Free Library says that City of Night and Fanny Hill are in its stacks at the central library only and are available to adults. Tropic of Capricorn is not. The library has hesitated purchasing Capricorn, which is by Henry Miller whose novel Tropic of Cancer has been banned as obscene by the Philadelphia court.—Ed.*] —*Philadelphia Bulletin*, 19 January.

"Obscenity" Is Not a Roulette Wheel

To the Editor:

A matter that may be of interest for your *Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom* occurred in Chicago recently. Police officers of the Chicago Police Department's Vice Squad obtained, on the basis of mere allegations that certain bookstores possessed "obscene paperback books and magazines," four illegal search warrants which purported to authorize searches for "various obscene magazines and paperback books." Armed with these warrants the police raided the four Chicago stores and conducted a mass search for what each believed to be "obscene paperback books and magazines." Thousands of books and magazines were seized and, since the haul was so large, the Police Department refused to give proper receipts or inventories of the items taken.

On the return of the warrants the issuing judge entered an order "confiscating" the property without any hearing.

The Illinois Division of the American Civil Liberties Union furnished legal counsel and filed a petition and a notice of appeal, asserting the unconstitutionality of the procedures sanctioned by the court and used by the police. After a hearing, in which the State argued that obscene reading material is like gambling equipment and therefore can be confiscated without a hearing, the court ordered the warrants quashed and all the property returned. I think it can be fairly said that the judge realized that he had made a rather large mistake. —Seymour H. Bucholz, Staff Counsel.

Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom

Don't Stop Pornography, Says Liberties Group

The British Columbia Civil Liberties Association wants the repeal of all laws dealing with censorship of pornography and obscenity.

The association agreed at its first annual meeting on 9 December to organize a campaign to achieve this, and to give legal and other support to persons charged under existing laws.

"We have been foolishly beguiled into the false belief (regarding) the nature and gravity of the harm alleged to be present in obscenity," said a policy statement put before the meeting at International House at University of B.C. More than 70 persons discussed the statement, prepared by a censorship committee of seven members.

"The belief that obscenity constitutes a danger of such magnitude as to warrant wholesale repressions is not only false, it is ironically absurd," added the statement. The report stated obscene materials may excite, or incite, and produce psychological and physiological effects of many kinds. "But excitement or actions following incitement, if the actions are not themselves criminal, does not constitute depravity or corruption in any sense of the terms which the law should control or concern itself with," the statement said.

"While the general public is convinced obscene materials are harmful, portions of the scientific community doubt that the materials are harmful and even conject that they may be beneficial from certain points of view.

"Negative steps, like the suppression of obscene ideas and material, will not get at the problem. It will in fact encourage us to continue to ignore the problem, thus failing to take the necessary, positive steps to correct whatever needs correcting in our attitude and practices."—Vancouver *Sun*.

Victory for Censorship

By finding two Wilkes-Barre newsstand operators guilty of exhibiting, possessing, and offering obscene literature for sale, a Luzerne County jury has, in effect, determined what reading matter shall be available to the people of this community and what shall not.

The personal tastes and standards of the nine women and three men who comprised the jury have become a yardstick against which to measure community standards.

Although a verdict has been rendered in the case, it would be unwise to conclude from it that the law can impose or enforce a moral sense upon an individual or

Which Indeed?

From the Library Bulletin, which previews new books for U.S. librarians: "*The Madams of San Francisco*—Curt Gentry, March 20. One hundred years of S.F. history as seen through the rise and fall of its famous parlor houses. More conservative libraries should check before ordering." Right. They may want more than one. —Caen, in *SFC*, 11 February. Which library bulletin could he be talking about? And which libraries?

Score: 52-2

At the Midwinter Meeting of the ALA, Executive Director David Clift on January 29 reported to Council that a letter had been received from the Mississippi Library Association stating it could not certify it was meeting the requirements of the ALA Statement on Individual Membership, Chapter Status, and Institutional Membership. Whereupon Council acted to dissolve the relationship between MLA and ALA.

a group. The most pertinent illustration of its failing in this respect is the Volstead Act which attempted unsuccessfully to legislate liquor out of the lives of Americans.

The verdict in the obscenity trial can in no way be viewed as a victory for the cause of morality in Wyoming Valley. Rather, it is a victory for censorship, and a rebuke to freedom of choice.

In the light of past experience in this nation and abroad, it would be well to ponder some of the far-reaching influences of undue restriction of basic freedoms. —Wilkes-Barre *Record*, 12 December.

As You Like It

It is not likely that the morals of the American people will be much improved by the five-year prison sentence given to Ralph Ginzburg, publisher of a magazine called *Eros*. The magazine was pronounced obscene by a Federal District Judge in Philadelphia, and the publisher was punished for sending it through the mail.

There can be little doubt that *Eros* panders to prurency. The particular issue which fell foul of the law contains an assorted menu of more or less titillating material.

None of it is very elevating. But we doubt that it adds up to obscenity within the meaning of that term as the Supreme Court has defined it. The conviction of the publisher will be appealed and, we surmise, reversed. And we think the country will be safer if this happens.

We do not recommend *Eros* to any of our readers. It would amuse some, outrage and disgust many, bore most. There is one nice thing about it. No one is obliged to purchase it or even look at it. The magazine costs \$10 a copy. This means that most of its subscribers are probably affluent enough to afford psychiatric assistance in assessing their interest in it. It also means that it is unlikely to corrupt the masses—if it corrupts anyone at all.

There is no persuasive evidence to show that the kind of ornate and mannered lubricity purveyed by this publication produces crime or immoral conduct of any kind. On the other hand, there is a great deal of evidence to show that official suppression of publications, short of what is called hard-core pornography, can lead to dangerous and damaging incursions on the right of a free people to read what they please and judge it for themselves. —Washington *Post*, 7 January.

Andersonville Rewritten

The scene is the Civil War prison of Andersonville: A guard, hunched shoulders, hard eyes burning with anger, approaches a limp huddle of starving prisoners.

"Have you gentlemen been informed there is no lounging on the exercise field?" he spits through clenched teeth.

A prisoner looks up through eyes that slowly focus on the guard. "We're sorry, sir, but we're physically incapable of moving."

"Mercy, mercy," says the guard, "that's against my instructions."

"But heavens to Betsy," says the prisoner. "The meals have been insufficient and unappetizing, and I fear I'm weakened by disease."

Nevertheless, the prisoner tries to comply with the order, but falls to the ground. A fellow prisoner bends over his dying companion.

"Gee whiz," says the guard. "This is awful."

This scene, we should hope, would be acceptable to Muskegon County Prosecutor Harry J. Knudsen, although he might object to "heavens to Betsy."

Some such rewriting would have to be necessary to satisfy Prosecutor Knudsen. He suggests that Whitehall school officials ban *Andersonville* from the school's recommended reading list.

It doesn't matter that McKinley Kantor's book was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. "I don't care if it's won 20 Pulitzer's," he said.

It doesn't matter that prisoners and guards wouldn't be expected to use Sunday School language. He objects to violence and profanity.

It doesn't matter that *Andersonville* is a powerful story of the conditions of the South's prison where it is likely a few of Muskegon County's 800 Civil War soldiers died.

It doesn't matter that high school students who are shielded from the real world as it exists and has existed are ill-prepared to understand history's pageantry of brutality and kindness.

None of these has ever mattered to the book banners.—Detroit *Free Press*, 18 December.

Obscenity Protection Called Job of Family

"It is the job of each family to protect itself against obscenity."

That's where U. S. postal inspector Donald F. Schoof placed the responsibility when he spoke at a meeting of the Muir School PTA Thursday night.

Schoof said, "High priced attorneys have whittled away at obscenity laws through the federal courts."

He said quickly changing judicial opinions have made convictions in pornography cases almost impossible.

"The courts say a piece of literature or art must be utterly without redeeming factors of social importance to be called obscene," Schoof said. "It is that word utterly that makes things difficult."

Schoof was invited to the PTA meeting to discuss the effects of pornographic literature which filters into homes through the mail.

He said, "The main customers in the smut market are two groups of males. One is the 17 and 18 years old group. The other is the 45 years and up group. Before 17 years there is not too much interest in obscene materials. "Between 19 and 44 there are other things with which to keep busy. The main consumers keeping the smut markets going are adults, not grade school junior high or high school students." —Glendale *News-Press*, 17 January.

Miller Revisited

HENRY MILLER AND THE CRITICS. Edited by George Wickes with a Preface by Harry T. Moore. Carbondale, Southern Illinois University Press, 1963. 194 pp., \$4.50.

While the Illinois Supreme Court was grappling with the long pending *Tropic of Cancer* case, trying to determine whether Henry Miller's bold modern classic is "obscene" or "constitutionally protected," another arm of the government of the sovereign State of Illinois, Southern Illinois University Press, was publishing, as if to point a paradox, a book largely in praise of Miller and his pioneer work. If the seven Illinois justices have read the volume, we don't know. If it were up to the Corporation Counsel of Chicago, they would not even have read *Tropic* itself, but, rather, a 64-page "abstract" of it prepared by the city law department as possibly more suitable for the judiciary.

It is clear that other works will be written from time to time about *Tropic*, the most litigated literary creation in American history. The present too little noticed title is as good as any study of the subject that is likely to appear for years. It is an anthology of the best pieces about Miller that have been written since that bad boy from the Fourteenth Ward of Brooklyn alighted in Paris in 1930 and declared that he was going to become a writer, or die. He almost died, and some say that he never became a writer. Certainly, he was noticed by discerning souls from the very beginning, and today there are few Americans to whom his name is not familiar. Even in the eminently respectable book, *Creative America*, which deals with the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Miller's picture is in the select company of the creators.

George Wickes, who did so brilliant a job in the editing of the Miller-Durrell correspondence some months ago, groups the material under three appropriate headings: Miller in Paris (1930-1940), Miller in America (1940-1960), *Tropic of Cancer* in America (1961 and after). Readers are likely to turn to the last section first, because of the continuing thunder over *Tropic* in the courts. There my essay on "Henry Miller and the Law" is sandwiched between a statement Aldous Huxley prepared for the Los Angeles trial and a "Draconian Postscript" by Miller himself. Miller's contribution and mine, as well as Kingsley Widmer's and the editor's words, are new; the rest of the material is reprinted.

Miller sums himself up my saying: "I am like one who has found God but not yet learned to give himself entirely to Him. Or, what is worse, who prefers to do this in his own way rather than in God's way." This is a softer, perhaps less effective way of phrasing the

matter than in *Tropic*, where, towards the very beginning of the books, he writes: "This is not a book, in the ordinary sense of the word. No, this is a prolonged insult, a gob of spit in the face of Art, a kick in the pants to God, Man, Destiny, Time, Love, Beauty . . . what you will. I am going to sing for you, a little off key perhaps, but I will sing. I will sing while you croak, I will dance over your dirty corpse. . . ."

What better explanation is there for the bitterness of the Philistines, the book-burners, the police, the priests? As I quote him as having said in connection with the *Sexus* prosecution in Norway: "Guilty, in other words, because I am the way I am. The marvel is that I am walking about as a free man. I should have been condemned the moment I stepped out of my mother's womb."

So George Orwell, Blaise Cendrars, Edmund Wilson, Lawrence Durrell, Sir Herbert Read, among the more famous creative spirits, write of him; and with greater verve his jovial bad boy companion of the immortal Paris days, Alfred Perles, the author of the first informal biography of him. There is a common note that runs through all of these words about Miller. Perles phrase it: "He had need of people, not so much for friendship's sake but to use them up." There was life where Miller foregathered with people, life in the midst of decay, demolition, death; there was something pristine and beautiful, even in the midst of the ugly and the obscene. This is what cannot be understood by the prosecutors. You sense it when a witness like Mark Schorer or Harry Levin is being examined in the Boston case. "Have you heard those words used in the Harvard Faculty Club while you have been there?" they are asked, as if this proved anything. "Do any of your books deal with sex or sex episodes?" "Can you tell us what is the literary design of this work?" Etc., etc. Few witnesses can cope with this kind of self-righteousness or literalness.

A great merit of this book is that it is not cut from one kind of cloth. It is as variegated as the contributors, as unexpected in its responses as Miller himself. Wilson regards *Tropic* as a good piece of writing and of historical importance, but thinks that its tone is low. Orwell compares Miller to Whitman and other masters. Read says: "What makes Miller distinctive among modern writers is his ability to combine, without confusion, the aesthetic and prophetic functions."

The truth, as I see it, is that, being himself, being natural, being truthful, meant for Miller being at war with the law and the upholders of the legal order; he could not accept ordained oracles or respectables in any guise. This was bound to invite trouble for him. *Tropic of Cancer* may actually use more four-letter words and sexual explicitness than any other book of literary standing; but its affront is not to the verbal virgins alone. There is a kind of galling indifference it has to the common man's sense of literary orderliness: it lacks a conventional plot, a story with a beginning, a middle and an end; the velvety texture of the professionals. Any soft-bound abomination in the book-stalls pays greater tribute to the proprieties than this author and his most notorious book. These things and more are brought out in this skilfully edited anthology. It deserves a wide audience amongst those who prize intellectual freedom. —Elmer Gertz.

It Does Happen Here

A patron walked into the Rock Hill Public Library, informed Librarian Mrs. Paul Carson that he found the book he held in his hands to be "offensive," and one that should not be read, particularly by juveniles.

The book was not lewd or salacious. It was political. But it joined the library's "restricted list." It did not go back on the book-shelf. It will not be handed out to a high school student, and is available to adults only is specifically requested.

Mrs. Carson told the *Herald* that she did not read *Red Star Over Cuba* and did not know the book's content. She "restricted" its availability because she had "confidence in the opinion" of the library patron, whom she declined to name.

Was this a general practice, to make a decision to restrict a book's availability, without reading it: Mrs. Carson did not answer the question directly. Instead, she told a *Herald* newsman: "Well, if you feel it's of any importance, we could put the book back on the shelf."

And E. R. Jeter, Chairman of the Library Board interjected: "Yes, and we probably wouldn't have a single person interested in reading it—unless you put in the paper that people shouldn't read it—that's how people are, you know."

Many other books are on the library's "restricted" list. How many of them may have been banned because they were objectionable to some individual, due to political or economic content, was impossible to determine. Library personnel would not discuss the restricted list, nor produce it for inspection.

Apparently there is more than one such restricted list. Titles viewed by a *Herald* reporter several weeks ago were not the same as those on a typewritten list handed by Mrs. Carson to Board Chairman Jeter during a conference with this reporter.

Jeter observed "it is a difficult task" to determine what should and should not be read. Mrs. Carson was not specific as to how she reached her determination to restrict a specific book.

"Some of these sex books, these men's novels, are simply not suitable . . . you don't want to place them in the hands of a 15-year-old child," she said. "These sex books," Mrs. Carson said, "it seems to me this is the responsibility of the parent. The books are here for the parents, if they ask for them."

Evaluation of suitable material, Jeter said, has been left largely to Mrs. Carson. The Library Board has not approved her classifications, specifically. "The board has never worried about it," he said, adding: "and,—I'm speaking for myself, not the Board—I, for one, am perfectly willing to leave it up to Mrs. Carson."

Specifically, on her decision to remove *Red Star Over Cuba* from the bookshelves, Mrs. Carson said: "I don't think we should have communist books on the open shelves." She added, however, in answer to a question, that the basic theory of Communism, contained in the Communist Manifesto, is available.

Glancing over a typewritten list of books, with brief observations on their content which Mrs. Carson handed him, Jeter, said of the library's restricting policy: "Thank God for it."

How are books, considered objectionable for juveniles, kept from youngsters who might wander into the adult section, Mrs. Carson was asked. She explained: "Well, they're not on the open shelves—but we'll get them for adults if they ask for them."

Books restricted to juveniles have also, in a measure, been kept from adults, since Mrs. Carson explains they are "not where a casual passerby might see them." What books are restricted? Some indication may be obtained from the list referred to by Mrs. Carson and Jeter during the interview.

Most of the volumes were restricted because they contain references to sex, in one form or another. But at least one was restricted on racial grounds. *Call Down the Stars* is stricken with the notation "miscegenation."

It was not clear, from the librarian's list, whether objections were based on the fact novels play up objectionable material in a favorable light, or merely included it as part of the work.

For example *King's Row*, primarily a story of a doctor in a small mining town, dealing heavily with conditions under which workers live, is restricted in Rock Hill with the simple notation "incest." The sensational best seller, *Peyton Place*, is restricted in Rock Hill with the over-simplified notation, "sex and more sex."

Books considered "unsuitable" in Rock Hill include the works of many of the outstanding authors of modern literature. Included on the restricted list are works of a number of winners of the Pulitzer Prize—highest U. S. award for excellence in literature.

These "restricted" authors—whose works are available only on request—include Ernest Hemingway, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in Literature in 1954, and the Pulitzer Prize in 1953. His *Farewell to Arms*, rated by critics as an outstanding preachment on the futility of war, is on Rock Hill's restricted list.

John Steinbeck, Pulitzer Prize winner for 1940 with his *Grapes of Wrath*, which exposed exploitation of share-croppers, is considered an unsuitable writer.

Thornton Wilder, Pulitzer Prize winner as the best American contributor to literature in 1928, is restricted with his *Written on the Wind*, reviewed on the library list with the notation "Story of human waste and dereliction, with raciness."

The Naked and the Dead, acclaimed universally by critics as one of the great books to come out of World War Two, is restricted on this observation: "a man's book—virtually a Kinsey Report on the sexual behavior of a GI."

John Hershey, 1945 Pulitzer Prize winner, has his *The War Lover* restricted on the observation that it is "a rowdy man's novel, with frank and frequently bawdy references to sex."

Another best-seller, made into a highly-successful movie, and restricted here, is James Jones, *From Here to Eternity*. The Rock Hill library notation is that this book is "for the non-squemish adult," and goes on to describe it as "the best picture of army life ever written by an American."

All of the "restricted" books are, or have been, available on newsstands in paper-back editions.—Pat J. McDonnell, Associate Editor, Rock Hill, South Carolina, *Evening Herald*, 7 November.

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