

nature of the work itself affects this general principle. There is in this autobiography nothing but unrelieved obsession with sex and sexual incidents described in full and repetitive detail. The picture which it presents of contemporary scenes and people is not comparable with that in "Frank Harris", and there is no pretence of a story and characterisation as in "Fanny Hill". What documentary value "Walter" may have for the general reader is brought out by the Kronhausen's commentary in the edition already passed for adult readers. We judge this edition to be indecent except in the hands of those persons over 18 years of age whose professional or academic studies properly extend into the field covered by this book.

L. G. H. SINCLAIR, Chairman.

11 November 1968.

#### Decisions of the Indecent Publications Tribunal

No. 120-130

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963 and in the matter of an application by Seven Seas Publishing Proprietary Ltd., of Wellington, bookseller and publishers, for decisions in respect of the following books:

*The Young Temptresses.*  
*Small Town Sex Today.*  
*Hollywood's Sexual Underground.*  
*Oriental Love in Action.*  
*Twilight Women around the World.*  
*Lesbian Love Old and New.*  
*Secret Techniques of Erotic Delight.*  
*Venus in Furs* together with *The Black Czarina.*  
*The Cruel and the Meek.*  
*Woman and the Sea.*  
*Nudist A.B.C.*

#### DECISIONS OF THE TRIBUNAL

THE following books were submitted to the Tribunal by leave of the Minister of Justice. Mr Downey appeared as Counsel for the applicant, Seven Seas Publishing Proprietary Ltd., of Wellington, and made submissions.

*The Young Temptresses*, by Steve Harding.  
*Small Town Sex Today*, by Victor J. Banis.  
*Hollywood's Sexual Underground*, by Roger Jordan. Medco Books, Los Angeles. Paperbacks at NZ\$3.15.

All three books deal with sex in a manner we deem to be injurious to the public good. They display no honest purpose in that all, while purporting to be serious studies of social phenomena, are in fact collections of doubtful case histories salaciously over-written and with only minimal "psychological comment". They have no compensating merit, either as literature or as a contribution to knowledge. They offer "probing detail, blistering pages"; the third one listed above provides "actual photographs", and is complete with map and "annotated guidebook to where the action is"; all of which is sufficient indication that these publications are designed as a guide and stimulus to the exploitation of the practices, perverse as well as normal, dwelt on in the text.

We judge all three to be indecent.

*Oriental Love in Action*, by Giovanni Comisso, illustrated by Mahlon Blaine; Luxor Press, London. Paperback at 9s. 6d.

This is a translation of the record of a journey through the East undertaken by a correspondent of the Milan *Corriere Della Sera*, who was awarded the Italian literary prize *Premio Bagutta* for an earlier work. It is a readable tale of average merit and does not really deserve the cover by which the publisher seeks to promote sales. We decide that it is not indecent.

*Twilight Women around the World*, by R. Leighton Hasselrodt, M.A., Luxor Press, London. Paperback at 9s. 6d.

This is a factual account of lesbian activity, past and present, in some 20 countries. It seems a serious study, though we have no means of judging how accurate its facts and figures are. Its final sentence claims: "It is to help all people understand the problem of female homosexuality so that a solution to it may eventually be found that this report was compiled and is being presented to the public". In our opinion, this intention is genuine. The honesty of the publisher's intention, however, is left in doubt by the lurid nature of a cover which misrepresents the tone of the book. To allow unrestricted display of the book in these circumstances would be to encourage a dubious commercial motive from which the young, at least, should be protected. We therefore classify the book as indecent in the hands of persons under 18 years of age.

*Lesbian Love Old and New*, by Dr Walter Braun; Luxor Press, London. Paperback at 9s. 6.

Walter Braun, M.D., emeritus professor of Breslau University, deals with lesbianism as it occurs in history, art, and literature and in ordinary life today. The subject is treated in a scholarly and objective fashion (attested by careful chapter notes, bibliographies, and index) calculated rather to

increase understanding than to pander to prurience. The outside appearance of this book does not indicate its real nature and is not suitable for general display. We therefore judge it to be indecent in the hands of persons under 18 years of age.

*Secret Techniques of Erotic Delight*, by Dr Vyvyan Howarth; Luxor Press, London. Paperback at 9s. 6d.

The cover of this book does disservice to its content; the title is falsely suggestive (and perhaps the cover drawing too); the back-cover review begins in a misleading tone; the term "illustrated" refers merely to four photographs of sculptures by Artists such as Auguste Rodin. The book is written by a sociologist and consultant sexologist who, from wide experience of case histories in clinics in various countries, discusses with sanity, sympathy, and some humour the problems and possibilities of sexual love. There is no doubt that the information and counsel offered would be of help to many persons, in middle age as well as in youth, who wish to achieve a satisfying sex relationship. We judge the book to be not indecent.

*Venus in Furs* together with *The Black Czarina*, by Leopold Sacher-Masoch, translated by H. J. Stenning.

*The Cruel and the Meek*, by Dr Walter Braun. Luxor Press, London. UK9s. 6d.

The publishers claim that *Venus in Furs* is translated directly from the first German edition; the derivation of the text of *The Black Czarina* is not shown. The cover is highly coloured and claims that *Venus in Furs* is a famous classic of the relationship between sex and cruelty; although it lacks literary merit it is, indeed, well known. It contains a useful biographical note, largely relating the life of the author to the perversity he illustrates in his books.

The same subject and its obverse, sadism, is dealt with in non-fictional form by Dr. Walter Braun in *The Cruel and the Meek*. The content here is responsibly presented, but again the cover illustration is clearly designed to promote sales on the least respectable grounds.

Since it appears to be established in psychiatric teaching that the seeds of both sadism and masochism exist in all normal people, it is in the public interest that people should be allowed the opportunity of confronting and understanding these tendencies. The *Cruel and the Meek* promotes such understanding. The fictional presentation of a history of masochism which *Venus in Furs* provides is not, we consider, objectionable in adult hands, and the relatively trifling story *The Black Czarina* is no more so. We doubt, however, that any good purpose would be served by making these expositions of extreme and unusual conduct available to younger persons, and, accordingly, we classify this edition of these two works, and *The Cruel and the Meek*, as indecent in the hands of persons under the age of 18 years.

*Woman and the Sea*, by Richard Tregaskis; Elysium Inc., Los Angeles. NZ\$7.45.

This is a collection of unexceptionable poems and capable photographs, the latter with a good deal of contrivance and unnatural emphasis. In terms of our decision published in the *New Zealand Gazette* of 25 July 1968, which dealt with nudist magazines, we classify this collection in the second category; that is to say, indecent in the hands of persons under 18 years of age.

*Nudist A.B.C.*, published by Elysium Inc., Los Angeles. NZ\$3.

This is a collection of photographs portraying indoor and outdoor activities of nude males and females, some including children, to portray family life. It is because a few of these photographs are posed so as to draw undue attention to the genitalia that we consider them to be unsuitable for unrestricted distribution and display. For this reason we place the publication in the second category mentioned in our decision published in the *New Zealand Gazette* of 25 July 1968, and decide that it is indecent in the hands of persons under 18 years of age.

L. G. H. SINCLAIR, Chairman.

11 November 1968.

#### Decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal

No. 131

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963 and in the matter of an application to the Tribunal for a decision in respect of the magazines *Squire*—Vol. 3, No. 12, October 1967, A40c; Vol. 4, No. 2, A50c; and Vol. 4, No. 3, A50c.

#### DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL

THESE magazines were submitted to the Tribunal for classification by the publishers, Gareth Powell Associates Pty. Ltd., of Sydney, New South Wales, with leave of the Minister of Justice. Mr Heron, of Counsel, appeared for the publishers and made submissions.

Mr Heron conceded that the articles in these magazines deal with matters of sex almost to the exclusion of other topics, but standing by themselves it is doubtful if these articles could be said to be indecent in the sense that they are injurious to the public good. It is rather upon the ground of the