

and is so treated as to reflect the life of primitive shepherd and fisher communities. The camera work that illustrates it appears to be brilliantly faithful to its purpose, which is not exceptionable. The book is a work of art and is in no way indecent.

An Analysis of Human Sexual Response—Edited by Ruth and Edward Brecher. Andre Deutch Ltd., London. \$4.30.

This work is a critical assessment of the work of Masters and Johnson and others, together with some survey of the practical application of such research and of its relevance in our culture. The contributors include well-known experts in medicine, sociology, psychology, and marriage guidance. It is an interpretation for the layman of the latest findings from the physiological laboratory and other sources, and although largely non-technical in language its tone is scholarly and scientific, its purpose proper and useful. This analysis moreover is honest enough to include a very able statement from a doctor who distrusts the research methods used and therefore doubts the conclusions. It is not indecent for anyone but may be thought inappropriate for children. Any young person, however, who was interested (and able) to read it would gain two things from it: straight knowledge imparted and discussed in a sane and balanced fashion; and some sense of the dignity and worth of an inquiry which is too often merely furtive and haphazard. The kind, calibre, and price of the book together with the normal practice of libraries and booksellers will ensure its right distribution. We accordingly classify this book as not indecent.

Eros Modern Style—Patrick Waldberg. Bibliotheque Internationale d'erotologie No. 14. \$7.50.

This book is No. 14 in what is described as an international series on eroticism. Its text is French and it consists of an elaborate essay reviewing decades (1880-1910) of erotic publications, world-wide but chiefly European. It is copiously illustrated with photographic reproductions of photographs, posters, paintings, etc. Although some of the artists responsible are renowned, many of the illustrations are vulgar and ugly and, in the sense that they are debasing, we consider they could have a corrupting influence. The fact that the text is French will mean that most of those persons in this country who take up the book will be interested only in the illustrations. Having regard to these matters, its price, and its probably very limited circulation, we classify the book as not indecent in the hands of adults but as indecent in the hands of persons under 18 years of age.

The Cradle of Erotica—Allen Edwardes and R. E. L. Masters. Julian Press, New York. \$9.50.

This book is described as a companion volume to *The Jewel in the Lotus* by Allen Edwardes which has already been considered by the Tribunal.

It is described as an examination of African and Asian sexual behaviour. The accounts of such behaviour are in some instances detailed, decidedly unpleasant, and provide an insight into sexual practices probably unfamiliar to the Western world. The study appears to be serious as indicated by its bibliography and careful index, but occasionally jaunty phrases are inconsistent. However, we consider its accounts of unusual sexual practices could be disturbing to juveniles and we accordingly classify it as not indecent except in the hands of persons under 18 years of age.

L. G. H. SINCLAIR, Chairman.

19 February 1968.

Decision and Report of Indecent Publications Tribunal

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963 and in the matter of a reference to the Tribunal under section 12 (1) of the said Act by the Magistrate's Court at Dunedin for a decision and report in terms of the said section in respect of the following books:

Six Nymphets.
Human Sexual Response.
The Merry Muses.
Stimulants for Love.
Origins of the Sexual Impulse.
Two Serious Ladies.
An Honourable Estate.
The Immoral Tradition.

DECISION AND REPORT

THE above books were seized under a search warrant issued under section 25 (1) of the Act and Wallace Mann, trading as Mann's Newsagency, was summoned before the Magistrate's Court at Dunedin to show cause why the said books should not be destroyed. The question of their indecency having arisen in these proceedings the Tribunal is required to make a decision and report in terms of section 12 (1) in respect of each of the said books.

At the hearing before the Tribunal the Police were represented by Mr Savage and Mr Neazor of the Crown Law Office. In respect of the books *Six Nymphets*, *Human Sexual Response*, *Two Serious Ladies*, and *An Honourable Estate*, Mr Savage made no submissions, but in respect of *Stimulants for Love* and *Origins of the Sexual Impulse* he submitted

that they should be classified as indecent in the hands of persons under 18 years of age. In respect of *The Merry Muses* and *The Immoral Tradition*, Mr Neazor submitted that they also should be classified as indecent in the hands of persons under 18 years of age. No submissions were received by the Tribunal by or on behalf of Mr Mann.

In respect of each book the Tribunal decides and reports as follows:

Six Nymphets—Photographs by David Larcher and Philip O. Stearns. Edited by Norman Vane. Kings Road Publishers, London. \$10.50.

This elaborately produced and expensive book consists of 140 photographs linked by a pretentious and fatuous string of brief sentences or phrases. Some of the photographs are beautiful, more of them are ugly, contrived, suggestive of either ageing nymphets or over-sophisticated ones. The camera work of two experts in their craft is technically resourceful, artistically ambiguous, and emotionally somewhat distasteful. The book's safeguards are perhaps the unconscious pathos of the models, and its price. Although we find much in it that is unpleasant we are unable to say that it is indecent within the meaning of the Act and we classify it accordingly.

Human Sexual Response—W. H. Masters and Virginia E. Johnson. Little Brown and Co., Boston. Hard cover (no dust jacket). \$10.25.

This book is a scientific and scholarly work, the status of which is sufficiently indicated by the fact that the authors are the Research Director and Research Associate respectively of the Reproductive Biology Research Foundation of St. Louis, Missouri, who acknowledge the help of members of three faculties of the University of Washington. The publishers are the reputable Little Brown and Co. of Boston. As an account of laboratory research methods and findings, objectively presented in technical language and precisely documented, this work is a contribution to knowledge. It is not indecent nor do we see fit to restrict its sale, which, with books of this kind, calibre and price, may well be left to the discretion of booksellers.

The Merry Muses—A collection of songs and fragments from the secret collections of Robert Burns, edited by E. L. Randall. Luxor Press Ltd., London. 95c.

Although claimed to be an entirely new compendium of Scottish songs it is not entirely new in respect of its contents. All of it has been published before; only the notes and introduction are new. Burns was a peasant who lived among a very free-spoken people whose coarse and bawdy idiom was his own, and whose love of song was his also. He was a collector and improver of such pieces. It would be regrettable if anybody who wished to study the life, works, character, and genius of Burns was precluded from extending his study to this book by a decision classifying it as indecent.

It does not provide easy reading, and it is to be expected that the merely casual reader would soon become tired of the numerous figures in the text alongside obscure Lowland Scots words and the corresponding footnoted definitions. We consider the book to be not indecent in terms of the Statute and classify it accordingly.

Stimulants for Love—Alan Hull Walton. Tandem Books Ltd., London.

This is a revised paperback reissue of a book first published in Great Britain 12 years ago and then, 10 years ago, in the United States of America. The sub-title, "The Quest for Virility", sufficiently explains the author's purpose: he is studying the history of aphrodisiacs. (The American title was *Aphrodisiacs: from Legend to Prescription*.) In the course of his review of theories and practices throughout the ages, in literature as well as in life, it is not surprising to find that he uncovers and laughs at a good deal of nonsense. There is a long section on "the cookery of love", another on the endocrine system. The work is well documented and we do not think it could have any harmful effects on persons old enough to persist with its perusal. We decide that it is not indecent.

Origins of the Sexual Impulse—Colin Wilson. Panther Books Ltd., London. 92c.

This is a paperback reprint published by Panther Books: the original edition was published as a hard cover book by Arthur Barker Ltd., a reputable publisher. It is a serious and competent work which adds to the understanding of the subject matter as expressed in its title by examining the extent to which modern psychology can throw light on sexual aberration. This involves a consideration of a number of celebrated crimes: the author puts forward the suggestion that his method of examination helps to explain the multiplication of sex crimes, especially among the young. We are disposed to agree, and decide that the book is not indecent within the meaning of the Indecent Publications Act 1963.

Two Serious Ladies—Jane Bowles. Mayflower Books Ltd., London.

The colour photograph on the jacket, though by no means lurid, suggests a bolder emphasis on sex than the novel develops. It is in fact a fantastic story about freakish characters in freakish episodes, relations, and conversations, leading to a conclusion that some readers will think pointless but others ironically pathetic. This ironic pathos is matched by ironic humour and these qualities are blended in the narrative, the characterisation and the dialogue. There is no element of indecency in this novel and we decide that it is not indecent.