

The content of these two books is clearly indecent and the tribunal can see no redeeming feature in them.

The tribunal classifies these two books as indecent.

Dated this 18th day of October 1976.

LAURENCE M. GREIG, Chairman.

(Reference No. 19/2/27)

No. 871

Decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963, and in the matter of an application by Norman George Sturt, acting on behalf of Hutchinson Publishing Group Ltd., for a decision in respect of the publication *The Illustrated Manual of Sex Therapy*, by Helen Singer Kaplan M.D. PH.D., published by Souvenir Press Ltd., of London.

BEFORE THE INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TRIBUNAL

Messrs L. M. Greig (Chairman), D. M. Wylie, I. R. Cross, and Miss W. M. Rolleston.

Hearing: 19 July 1976.

Appearances: No appearances.

DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL

Helen Singer Kaplan, the author of this manual, is Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Cornell University College of Medicine. As might be expected, therefore, this manual is the work of a professional for the benefit of others in her profession and of persons experiencing sexual problems. The language is the language of the disciplines of medicine and psychiatry, and as a result the book is unlikely to have wide popular appeal.

Following a general review of the nature and the causes of sexual dysfunction, Dr Kaplan isolates six of the more common types of dysfunction and then describes in detail the various treatments which she has used. In each case, the treatment includes specific erotic tasks and exercises to be carried out by the patients. These are illustrated by line drawings which are presented in a sensitive and restrained manner.

The tribunal is of the opinion that this book represents a serious attempt to disseminate knowledge on the subject of the treatment of sexual problems and can see no reason to restrict its circulation.

The tribunal classifies this book as not indecent.

Dated this 18th day of October 1976.

LAURENCE M. GREIG, Chairman.

(Reference No. 19/2/23)

No. 872

Decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963, and in the matter of a reference by the Magistrates Court, Wellington, for a decision in respect of the publication *A History of Underground Comics*, by Mark James Estren, published by Straight Arrow Books, of San Francisco.

BEFORE THE INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TRIBUNAL

Messrs L. M. Greig (Chairman), D. M. Wylie, I. R. Cross, and Mrs L. Edmond.

Hearing: 16 August 1976.

Appearances: Mr P. E. Leloir for Comptroller of Customs; Mr A. Taylor for Huyser Bookshop Ltd.

DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL

This is a copiously illustrated account of the development of the so-called "underground" comic in the United States. Although it deals principally with the 1960's and early 1970's the origins are traced back to before the war.

It is a serious treatment which has developed from a master's thesis in journalism at Columbia University; it explores its subject in many aspects. Although there is an inevitable degree of emphasis on sex and violence (reflecting the pattern of many of the comics dealt with) there is no attempt to indulge them for their own sake.

The submission by the Customs Department relied principally on the fact that many of the illustrations in the book had appeared in comics which have been ruled indecent by the Tribunal. Whatever may have been the cumulative effect of such illustrations in their original context they are here taken out of that context and presented on their own, often as a single drawing, not even part of a small sequence. They are no longer a "picture-story book likely to be read by children" but illustrations in a work which is discussing them in a serious manner, exploring their origins, their place in American society, and their role as a new form of graphic act of some cultural significance. Statements from a variety of sources both in the United States and in New Zealand were produced by the importer concerned in this case to support such a view of the work.

Although s. 11 (3) of the Act has required us to find many of the comics dealt with in this book indecent, it must now be dealt with on its own merits.

We do not consider, after taking into account the criteria in s. 11 (1) of the Act, that availability of the book would be injurious to the public good. We therefore find *The History of Underground Comics* to be not indecent.

Dated this 18th day of October 1976.

LAURENCE M. GREIG, Chairman.

(Reference No. 19/2/24)

No. 873

Decision of the Indecent Publications Tribunal

IN the matter of the Indecent Publications Act 1963, and in the matter of an application by Norman George Sturt, acting on behalf of Hutchinson Publishing Group Ltd., for a decision in respect of the publication *My Secret Garden (Women's Sexual Fantasies)*, compiled by Nancy Friday, published by Virago Ltd., in association with Quartet Books Ltd., of London.

BEFORE THE INDECENT PUBLICATIONS TRIBUNAL

Messrs L. M. Greig (Chairman), D. M. Wylie, I. R. Cross, and Miss W. M. Rolleston.

Hearing: 19 July 1976.

Appearances: No appearances.

DECISION OF THE TRIBUNAL

My Secret Garden describes the intimate fantasies that sexually arouse women. The author began by publishing a series of advertisements in British and American newspapers requesting material for such a study. From the "flood of letters" which followed she selected four hundred examples for closer study. These became personal statements, written or recorded, and are reproduced verbatim with a brief introduction and commentary for each.

Published first in 1973 in America, the book became a best seller. It is written in order to help women to achieve greater understanding of themselves, and uses sexual confessions for a serious social and psychological purpose. Women's feelings have been forced inwards through fear and prudery, asserts the author-editor, and this situation has led to gross distortions in the image women have of themselves and project on to others.

The tribunal regards this as an honestly conceived sociological study; it therefore classifies it as not indecent.

Dated this 9th day of November 1976.

LAURENCE M. GREIG, Chairman.

(Reference No. 19/2/23)

New Zealand Post Office—Schedule of Building Contracts of \$20,000 or More in Value

Name of Work	Successful Tenderer	Amount of Tender Accepted \$
Sherwood new post office building	Colson Builders Ltd.	86,476

W. J. SEWELL, Director-General.

(P.O.H.Q. 3/1203)