

Beall Calls Boccaccio Father of Italian Prose

Literary students know less about the life of Boccaccio than any other important Italian writer, Chandler Beall, professor of romance languages, said in his browsing room lecture Wednesday night.

"Boccaccio is called the father of Italian prose," Beall said. "For the past two centuries it has been the custom to present Christian Dante as the last writer of the Middle Ages; lovelorn, tormented Petrarch as a transitional figure; and "pagan" Boccaccio as marking the coming of age of the free spirit of the Renaissance."

"His book, the Decameron, is composed of a hundred different and independent stories. It belongs to folklore; it can be

studied as a picture of Italian manners in the last Middle Ages, as a commentary on numerous historical personages who figure in the book, as satire, or as a linguistic monument."

Characteristics of Book

The lecture, entitled "Boccaccio," was mainly concerned with the overall literary characteristics of his main work, the Decameron, and its importance in the history of Italian literature. Beall also commented on the author's life.

Discussion leader for the lecture was R. C. Gordon, assistant professor of English.

The browsing room, lecture given next Wednesday will be last in the series of lectures this year.

Policemen, Four Others Fail in Robbery Attempt

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP)—A policeman and four other persons were in custody Wednesday after a heavily-armed posse nipped an attempt to pull a million dollar mail robbery.

Officers on foot and in armored cars and carrying shotguns and rifles ambushed three of the suspects at the post office Tuesday night after being tipped about an elaborate plan to take the money by force.

The huge sum—large bills in one mail sack—was being transported from the post office two blocks to the railroad station to be shipped to the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco. The money, from Las Vegas

banks, included large deposits from gambling casinos.

"Our forces were dispersed around the post office in such a way would have been able to mow the gang down instantly," said Police Chief A. H. Kennedy. "And we would have, if any of them had fired a shot."

The gang became suspicious when one member failed to show up for a final briefing Tuesday night, the chief said. This member had turned informer and was in protective custody in a hospital, he added.

Three suspects were arrested, Kennedy said, when they "cased" the post office to see if a trap had been set.

George Hayden Anderson, 31, Las Vegas policeman, and his pretty wife, Joyce, 24, casino cocktail waitress, were nabbed as they drove away from the post office. A third suspect, Robert Schomer, 29, father of five children and an electrician, was arrested at the rear of the building. Schomer has admitted his part in the plot, Kennedy said.

The three were booked on suspicion of conspiracy to commit robbery.

So were two others, Walter Fred Ludwig, 34, former Detroit and Las Vegas police officer, and Robert Dean Anderson, 19, George's brother, who were picked up later at their homes.

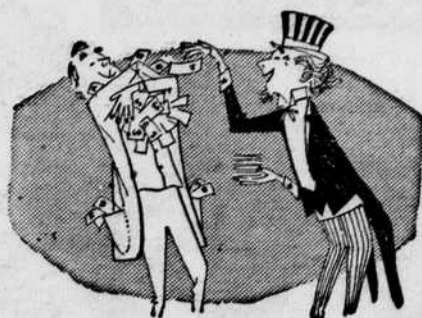
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By Homer J. Livingston, President of The First National Bank of Chicago and President, American Bankers Association

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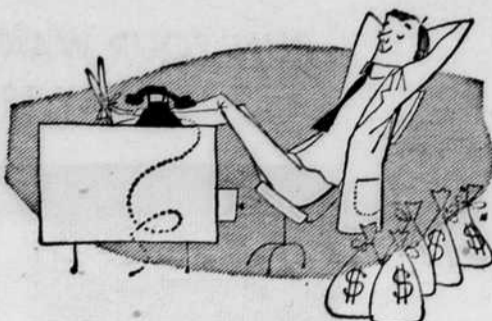


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