

Book Dealer Urges Court Erase Ban on Classic From Mails

By HERB ALTSCHULL
WASHINGTON (UP)—A Los Angeles book dealer Saturday petitioned the U. S. courts to declare unconstitutional a law under which Aristophanes' celebrated comedy, "Lysistrata," has been banned from the mails.

The suit, filed in Federal District Court by counsel for Harry A. Levinson of Beverly Hills, Calif., was brought against Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield.

The play, imported by Levinson from a British book shop (Hammersmith) last July, was seized by Post Office authorities in Los Angeles. Subsequently, it was declared obscene and unmailable under provisions of the Comstock Act of 1873.

This law, pushed through Congress by Anthony Comstock, an anti-vice crusader from New Canaan, Conn., permits the Post Office Department to ban from the mails "every obscene, lewd, lascivious, or filthy book."

Attorney Edward de Grazia, representing the book dealer, assailed Summerfield's action in his brief: "What is obscene to the postmaster general may be as pure as mountain snow to another. What is obscene to the postmaster general is, in fact, the laughter of genius to 24 centuries of Western civilization."

De Grazia's 67-page brief is filled with quotations from authorities ranging all the way from Plato to Alfred Kinsey. In the brief, the attorney concedes that some may find "Lysistrata" obscene,

but that to thousands of persons it is a great work of art.

The play itself, sometimes used as a text book in university courses in Greek literature, is an anti-war testament written around 400 B. C. by Aristophanes, who is celebrated as the greatest satiric playwright of antiquity.

Refuse Relations
It tells the story of a group of Greek wives, led by Lysistrata, who taunt the men of Athens by arousing their erotic instincts and then refuse marital relations until the men quit their war with Sparta. In the end, Lysistrata and the other wives win a sort of moral victory.

The Post Office Department, in a letter to Levinson last November, wrote:

"Examination of this 'Lysistrata' shows that it contains numerous passages which are plainly obscene, lewd and lascivious in character which are well-calculated to deprave the morals of persons reading same and almost equally to arouse libidinous thoughts in the minds of the average normal reader."

It cited also as obscene a series of illustrations in the British edition in question.

As refutation, De Grazia quoted the renowned Greek scholar, Gilbert Murray, who wrote that the play was "not exactly a great comedy, but a great play, making its appeal not to laughter alone but also to deeper things than laughter."

De Grazia asks: "By what right would our post-

Mary Pickford To Continue Goldwyn Suit

HOLLYWOOD (UP)—Retired film star Mary Pickford says she fully intends to finish her court battle with Samuel Goldwyn over ownership of a motion picture studio.

"I always finish a fight, but I have never started one," Miss Pickford told a press conference Friday.

Miss Pickford owns slightly more than half interest in the Samuel Goldwyn Studios and has been involved in a drawn out court battle over operation and ownership of the property.

The studio, by court order, goes up for public auction April 2 and the actress indicated she intends to submit a sealed bid which will top all others. She has also asked Goldwyn for an accounting of studio finances during his operation of the property. A hearing on her request is scheduled March 21.

Miss Pickford also increased her ownership in United Artists Corp. last week to 33 1/3 per cent when comedian Charlie Chaplin sold his share of the studio. The actress, who and her husband, Buddy Rogers, plan to go into production of television and motion pictures.

master censor the ages? By what right would he attempt to reduce the adult population of the United States to the mental and moral level of 'schoolboys'?

"By what authority does he translate sex into sin, light into darkness, literature into obscenity, 'Lysistrata' into 'pornography'?"

To prevent freezing of concrete during winter construction of tall industrial chimneys, M. W. Kellogg Co. wraps the whole job in king size electric blankets.

Welcome Set For Chamber Manager, Wife

Stanley B. Grove, Salem's new Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Council manager, will receive an official welcome from the city at a reception Thursday night at the Marion Hotel.

The affair is under sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce and the Industrial Development Council. Mr. and Mrs. Grove arrived in Salem Thursday from San Diego, Calif.

The reception will be preceded by a 6:30 p.m. buffet dinner at which Mr. and Mrs. Grove will be the guests of honor.

A long list of persons will serve in various capacities at the affair. Members of the Chamber and the Industrial Council and their wives will act as hosts and hostesses. In the receiving line in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Grove will be Chamber President Elton H. Thompson, Industrial Council Chairman Carl Hogg and Mayor Robert F. White, all with their wives.

The committee in charge of arrangements for the fete is headed by Mrs. Donald J. Reinke and Mrs. Denver Young. Other committee members are Junior Eckley, W. L. Braun, O. L. Wiltzie, Howard Kaffan and Edward Lewis.

Tickets for the informal affair may be obtained in the Marion Hotel lobby the night of the event.

GUNMAN INDICTED

PORTLAND (UP)—Andrew Taylor, alias George H. O'Connor, was indicted for assault with intent to kill Friday as a result of a recent shooting scrape in which Portland Police Chief Jim Purcell narrowly missed death or serious injury.

Succumbs



Joseph K. Campbell

J. K. Campbell, State Highway Official, Dies

Joseph K. Campbell, 53, promoted late last week to equipment superintendent of state highway shops, died early Saturday at a Salem hospital following a heart attack. He lived at 1825 N. 18th St.

Born Oct. 14, 1901 at Salem, Campbell was paving plant foreman for the Warren Construction Co. from 1918 to 1923 when he joined the highway department as mechanic. In the department he had held the positions of paving plant foreman, street foreman, shop superintendent and, starting in 1947, assistant equipment superintendent.

As equipment superintendent Campbell was responsible for five large equipment repair shops, the maintenance and repair of all highway equipment, and the specifying of new equipment and its purchase.

He had recently returned to his desk from a heart attack he suffered in December.

Campbell was a Mason and a member of First Baptist Church.

His wife Olive died about two years ago. He leaves a daughter, Janet Campbell, at home, and a sister, Mrs. Enid Harrison, Boise, Ida.

Services will be 1:30 p. m. Monday at the W. T. Rigdon funeral home. Burial will be at Belcrest cemetery.

PARTY FOR PRINCESS

LONDON (UP)—Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh gave a dinner-dance welcome home party Friday night at Buckingham Palace for Princess Margaret. Margaret returned Thursday from a month-long tour of the British West Indies.

Handwriting of Young Adults Reverting to 'Hieroglyphics'

By ELIZABETH TOOMEY
United Press Staff Correspondent
NEW YORK (UP)—Archaeologists who a few thousand years from now sit down to decipher the handwriting of the average young adult of the year 1955 A. D. are in for trouble.

We can't even read large portions of our friends' handwriting when the ink's still damp on the page, laments a public-spirited group concerned with the dismal state of our national penmanship.

A generation or so ago school children competed in regional writing contests. They won "Palmer Method" certificates and took artistic pride in graceful, legible writing. Now it's different.

"We got into a period along about the 1930's where we felt that expression was the more important," J. Kendrick Noble, president of a school book publishing firm, said. "The way you wrote something was considered secondary to the way you expressed your thoughts."

High Button Shoes

"Schools used to have handwriting supervisors. They have gone out the same as high button shoes. Oh, I suppose some people must wear high button shoes, so I assume there is a handwriting supervisor here and there. But very few."

Our writing has become steadily more illegible, the newly-formed handwriting foundation reported after a survey of American business. Besides the personal confusion caused by post cards you can't decipher and letters with mysterious sentences, bad handwriting results in big business problems.

Now the foundation hopes to re-awaken our penmanship pride. Noble, whose company publishes handwriting manuals for grade schools, says we'll never go back to the old Palmer Method teaching. The children won't be expected to do the old "push-pulls" and "ovals" either.

"Now we believe in teaching handwriting for use and not as an art," he explained. "Palmer Method was the artistic approach. Ours is the functional approach. We correlate handwriting with subject matter, so that a child actually is being graded for handwriting in all subjects, including arithmetic."

There is less attempt to standardize a child's handwriting to a specific form, such as Palmer Method, but more emphasis on legibility and ease of writing, Noble said.

Youngsters learning to write now will have better handwriting than their parents, Noble predicted. The 20 to 30 age group produces some of the most baffling penmanship, since their early education fell somewhere between Palmer Method and the new enthusiasm for legibility.

"It's never too late, though, he said, looking curiously at the notes written during the interview by this reporter, whose handwriting falls into the latter 'push-pull-use-arm-movement' period."

"Take this," he said kindly, handing over a plastic letter guide which can be placed over your own handwriting to test major flaws. "Practice improves anybody's handwriting."

Salvation Army Plans Vacation Bible Instruction

The Salvation Army young people's department will hold a daily vacation Bible school during March 14-18. The time coincides with public school spring vacation.

The program will be under the leadership of 2nd Lt. Gene Crump and will be open to all between four and 15 years old. Classes will be at the Salvation Army building from 9 a.m. to noon.

There will be a total of four classes, consisting of primary ages (4-6) beginners (7-9); juniors (10-12); and intermediates (13-15).

Teachers and assistants for the classes will be Mrs. Prentice assisted by Jo Ellen Ellingson, primary class; Anne Vanderhoff with assistant Anne Mae Wright, beginners class; Mrs. Walter Vanderhoff with assistant David Vanderhoff, junior class; and 2nd Lt. Crump with assistant Bob Martell.

Graduation will be held at 7:30 p.m. March 18.

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