

Libertine

43, Silver Street, Whitwick, Leicestershire.

5 Monmouth Place
London W2
01-229 9000
29.11.1976

Dear Mr. Webb,

No doubt the NCROPA member whom we met at the DLAS general meeting will have mentioned our case to you. I'm sorry, I'm terrible with names and I didn't write his down at the time, so I don't remember who he was. Still, he will, no doubt.

Anyway...our trial was to start today, but Offenbach succeeded in delaying it because we haven't finished preparing our defence. Not that I know quite what he's up to, or what he's doing, because we haven't had the meeting with counsel to discuss strategy.

Nevertheless we are still seeking support, and witnesses, and we hope that you may be willing to help. I've sent letters to the sponsors of the DLAS; would you send some to members of NCROPA?

If you're in London and you think you could offer assistance, we'd be happy to show you copies of the magazines. Unfortunately we're very short of the particular numbers for which we're on trial, since the police are thorough when they raid, and few escaped their clutches. However, I enclose the current issue of Libertine which reflects the attitudes that are the real reason for the trial.

Specifically, we're accused of inciting our readers to everything from promiscuity to underage homosexual prostitution; including anal intercourse, incest, cannabis, - you name it. In fact we're inciting people to question conventional attitudes.

Any help would be welcome - even addressing envelopes takes hours in a case of this magnitude. And as for finance...well, quite simply, we're broke. Although we do have legal aid (and what a struggle it was to get that!).

I hope we'll be hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Arabella Melville

Arabella Melville

LIBERTINE

c/o Paperchain Ltd
5 Monmouth Place
London W2

24.11.1976

Dear

As a member of the DLAS we believe that you might be interested in our current fight against charges brought against our magazine under the Obscene Publications Act.

We (Colin Johnson and Arabella Melville) publish a magazine called Libertine which attempts to fight repressive attitudes, anxiety and guilt about sex. Our publishing company, and also our wholesale and retail outlets, were raided twice by the police in July 1975 and once in August 1975. Since then, we and the publishing company have been charged on 10 counts under the Obscene Publications Act with publishing and distributing obscene material, namely Libertine Nos. 7 and 10. These are Section 2 charges and they carry up to three years imprisonment and unlimited fines. We expect our High Court trial in late November or early December this year at Leicester Crown Court. No date has yet been given to us for the proceedings. This action has so far resulted in the bankruptcy of our bookshop and a publishing company, and we estimate the cost before trial to be £5,000.

We consider that this case is particularly important since it seems to be based on antagonism to the principles which we seek to promote. Our attitude in the magazine is that every individual should be free to enjoy any form of sexual experience, as long as it does not cause objective harm to another individual and only if there is full informed consent. We are outspoken in our rejection of those laws which we consider to interfere with personal liberty.

We hope that you will sympathise with our position. We are seeking help with our trial and we would be glad if you would contact us. We need witnesses who would be willing to testify either in writing or in Court that our magazine is not, in their opinion, liable to deprave and corrupt and to support us in our argument that the law should have no right to make moral judgements in the field of personal relationships or to control what people may read or see.

If you think that you can help us in any way, please contact us on 01-451 0186 or 01-229 9000, or write to us at the above address.

Yours sincerely,

Arabella Melville

Arabella Melville and Colin Johnson.