

DLAS

THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY
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What DLAS is all about

The Society grew out of the Free Art Legal Fund, established for the defence of *Last Exit to Brooklyn*, which had three trials (1966–1968). During the case, and after the dramatic victory in the Appeal Court, the sponsors of the fund felt there was a need for a continuing organisation which would assist publishers, writers and artists who were threatened by censorship. An Executive Committee was formed and in May 1968 the Defence of Literature and the Arts Society was set up.

The aims of the Society are:

1. To work towards a change in the law so as to safeguard freedom of speech and expression.
2. To educate the public towards a greater understanding of the need for intellectual and artistic freedom.
3. To give moral and practical support to writers and artists, publishers, film-makers and makers of radio and TV programmes, theatrical producers and directors, and all others connected with the arts whose work is censored or under attack on moral, political or other grounds.
4. To raise funds to defend such works in the courts.

The main principle underlying the Society's work is the opposition of censorship. As the late William Hamling, MP, put it, "a piece of low-grade rubbish must be as important to us as *Ulysses* even though that principle may lose us both sympathy and battles".

The Society believes that the dangers of censorship outweigh any benefits, and that decency should be a matter of personal judgment rather than a matter for legal action.

What DLAS does

The Society is now firmly established in the forefront of the struggle for enlightenment and is constantly approached by publishers, lawyers and others to advise on the law and tactics in actual cases, preventing threatened action and to assist in meeting defence costs. In numerous cases the Society has recommended sympathetic solicitors; many members have given evidence in court for defendants involved in prosecutions and have taken part in TV and radio broadcasts and public debates on the subject of censorship. Meetings are held for members and the public. The Society also has a useful and effective parliamentary lobby.

The Society is urgently seeking to extend its membership, and it is always in need of money to counter pro-censorship propaganda and to offer financial assistance to those in need. Overleaf is a form for membership and donations; we hope you will complete this as soon as possible (especially the banker's order to save being troubled with reminders over subscription renewals) and join us in our battle to achieve a more adult, responsible and enlightened Britain.

DEFENCE OF LITERATURE & THE ARTS SOCIETY

Treasurer: 4, Croham Close, South Croydon, Surrey.

To Bank Ltd.

(Address).....

Please pay to the Account of the Defence of Literature & the Arts Society (A/c No. 80293547) at Midland Bank Ltd., 202, Sloane Street, London, S.W.1. the sum of £.....* (amount in words)..... on..... 197

and on the same date annually thereafter until further notice from me in writing, and debit the same to my Account.

(Signed)..... BANKERS PLEASE NOTE

When remitting kindly quote your Account Holder's name and account number.

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USE BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

*Minimum £2.50; any further sum would be appreciated. Please return this form to The Treasurer, DLAS, 4, Croham Close, South Croydon, Surrey.