

"I suppose you're giving him all he wants?"
 "Oh, Doctor, he's been far too ill to think
 about anything of that sort!"



**"Gentlemen's Requisites? Yes,
 Sir, go right through 'Ladies'
 Underwear'!"**



Two Donald McGill postcards that were declared obscene in 1954 at Grimsby. 'If you were a doctor' (number 58), 'Gentleman's requisites?' (number 108).

at being charged. It had been in business for 50 years and protested to the DPP that it thoroughly deplored the smut that had come into the business in recent years; all its cards were vetted by the Blackpool censorship committee. As president of the Postcard Publishers' Association, Mr Bamforth's plea was not ignored. He was acquitted of the charges.

McGill's cards were undoubtedly vulgar but have been celebrated by George Orwell and others as traditional examples of English humour. A typical example had the caption:

'I want you to put this notice of the birth of my son in your paper.' 'Yes, sir. How many insertions?' 'Mind your own business.'

Another of the cards for which McGill was charged by the Cleethorpes police on 12 September 1953 with 'publishing an obscene postcard' showed a male customer talking to an attractive shop girl: 'Gentleman's Requisites? Yes, Sir, go right through "Ladies' Underwear"!'. Another showed a woman sitting on the lap of a man on a sofa with the caption of her saying: 'Don't worry, Dear, we'll straighten that out when we're married.' One with the caption 'The further you're in, the nicer it feels' attracted a £5 fine alone. Defence counsel argued:

They may be things that are extremely vulgar, but they are not obscene. Some of these, I suggest, are of the traditional English music hall vulgarity which has stood the test of many years.¹

But the prosecution was not prepared to accept that Max Miller had been cracking even bluer jokes on the boards for years: 'The postcards are displayed for public sale indiscriminately, to be seen by all, particularly at holiday resorts,' they complained before sending them off to the furnaces to be burned with the books.

The Home Office files show that a total of 1,772 different

IPN 22/1/3

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Novels in respect of which orders for destruction have been made by various Magistrates Courts in the years 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953.

Note.—Details are included of all successful proceedings taken in respect of the titles named. The lists enclosed with Home Office letters dated 20th April 1951, 26th June 1952, and 2nd July 1953, should now be destroyed.

			Destruction Orders
Title	Author	Publisher	
Abandoned	Henri Lamonte	Phoenix Press	22
Accused	Hank Janson	New Fiction Press	27
Fine imposed for selling, Douglas, Isle of Man, 7/8/53.			
Affaire in Montmartre	Don Hugo	Hamilton & Co. (Stafford) Ltd. . . .	7
Afterwards	Paul Renin	R. & L. Locker	4
Alcatraz Break	Steve Markham	Art Publicity	38
All That Glitters	Paul Renin	R. & L. Locker	13
All The Things You Ain't	Nat Karta	Muir-Watson Ltd. . . .	36
Allouma	Guy de Maupassant	Camden Publishing Co. Ltd. . . .	3
Always a Dame	Brett Vane	Curtis Warren Ltd. . . .	9
Amok	Hank Janson	New Fiction Press	13
Amorous Adventuress	Roland Vane	Archer Press Ltd. . . .	11
*Amorous Moments	Jacque Braza	Modern Fiction Ltd. . . .	1
*Amorous Nights	Ramon Lacroix	Barnardo Amalgamated Industries Ltd. . . .	2
Amorous Nymph	Ramon Lacroix	Barnardo Amalgamated Industries Ltd. . . .	3
Amours of Marie, The	D. L'Arnaud	1. H. & J. Edmands 2. M.C. Publications Ltd. . . .	28
£100 fine imposed for publishing, Sheffield, 5/3/53.			
And The Body Came Too	Leonard Boden	Hamilton & Co. (Stafford) Ltd. . . .	7
And Worms Have	William J. Elliott	1. Gerald G. Swan Ltd. . . . 2. Harborough Publishing Co. Ltd. . . .	25
Eaten Them.		Phoenix Press	5
Angel of Desire	Henri Lamonte	1. S. D. Frances	49
Angel Shoot to Kill	Hank Janson	2. New Fiction Press	
£5 fine imposed for publishing, Blackburn, 30/5/52.			
Angel Without Wings	Frank Norman	Hamilton & Co. (Stafford) Ltd. . . .	27
Angela Darling	Gordon Grinstead	Rylee Ltd. . . .	4
Angels Are So Few	Earl Ellison	John Spencer & Co. . . .	25
Angels Bruise Easy	Larry O'Brien	World Distributors (Manchester) Ltd. . . .	35
*Angels Shoot to Kill	—	Hamilton & Co. (Stafford) Ltd. . . .	1
Angels Sleep in Bed	Nat Karta	Muir-Watson Ltd. . . .	30
Any Minute Now	Al Bocca	Scion Ltd. . . .	9
Anyone's Grief	Ricky Drayton	Scion Ltd. . . .	11
Ape-Man's Offering	H. Kaner	Kaner Publishing Co. . . .	2
Arabian Passion	Paul Reville	R. & L. Locker and Archer Press Ltd. . . .	5
Fine imposed for selling, Douglas, Isle of Man, 7/8/53.			
*Armchair in Hell	Henry Kane	T. V. Boardman & Co. . . .	3
Arrest Ace Lannigan	Leslie Halward	Bear, Hudson Ltd. . . .	1

The secret Home Office Blue Book for 1954 sent to all chief constables.