

**THE STAFFORDSHIRE SENTINEL
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MORE COURT STORIES OF MAGIC.

K.C. on Human Sacrifices.

STRANGE RITUALS

The hearing was resumed before Mr. Justice Swift and a special jury in the King's Bench Division to-day, of the libel action by Aleister Crowley, the author, against Miss Nina Hamnett, authoress of a book entitles "Laughing Torso," which he alleged imputed that he practised "Black Magic."

Other defendants were Constable and Co., Ltd., publishers, and Charles Whittingham and Briggs, printers, the defence being a plea of justification.

At the material time, Mr. Crowley had a villa on the mountain side at Cefalu, Sicily, which was known as the "Abbey of Thelema." He denied that he practised "black magic" there.

In his cross-examination yesterday Mr. Crowley agreed that he assumed the designation of "Beast 66" and "the Master Therium (The Great Wild Beast. "66 is the number of the sun, and you can call me 'Little Sunshine,' " he added.

He also said he had the distinguishing marks of a Buddha at birth, and still had some of them. He claimed to be a "master magician," saying that he took a degree which conferred that title.

"GREATEST LIVING POET."

Mr. Malcolm Hilbery, K.C., for the printers and publishers, in cross-examination to-day read a poem from the book, "Clouds Without Water," and asked Mr. Crowley, "Is that not filth?"

Mr. Crowley: You read it as if it were magnificent poetry. I congratulate you.

Later Mr. Crowley remarked, "I should like to be universally hailed as the greatest living poet. The truth will out, you know."

Asked about another poem, Mr. Crowley said that the author of those words had been "dead for years."

Mr. Hilbery: Is the Aleister Crowley who wrote that dead?

Mr. Crowley: Do I look like it? It is not Aleister Crowley who wrote that. It is an imaginary figure in a drama—I created the drama.

"I created this work of an imaginary author," Mr. Crowley added.

**A MAGAZINE ARTICLE.
Written as Part of the German
Propaganda in America.**

Mr. Hilbery read an extract from an article which Mr. Crowley said he contributed to a Chicago magazine before America came into the war, and asked: "Did you write that against your own country?"

Mr. Crowley: "I did, and I am proud of it."

Mr. Hilbery: "Was it part of the German propoganda in America?—Yes.

Mr. Crowley explained that what he wanted to do was to over-balance the sanity of German propoganda by turning it into absolute nonsense.

Mr. Hilbery: That is your explanation after the Allied cause is safe and no longer in danger?—Lots of people knew it at the time.

Mr. Crowley agreed that he wrote "The Diary of a Drug Fiend," which was assailed in the Press.

He agreed, too, that in a newspaper article he had written: "I have been shot at with broad arrows. They have called me 'The Worst Man in the World.' "

Mr. Hilbery" Did you say, "Horatio Bottomley branded me as a dirty, degenerated cannibal?"—Yes.

There was some laughter at this, and Mr. Justice Swift sternly intimated that a repetition of the laughter would cause him to have the court cleared.

"I also had the reputation of being the best man in the world," declared Mr. Crowley a few moments later.

WHITE MAGIC.

He agreed that he had been depicted with his thumbs in a position representing the horns of a ram.

In a London flat—which he once had was a "hall of mirrors," the function of which was to concentrate the invoked forces.

On one occasion he invoked the forces with the result that some people were attacked by unseen assailants.

Mr. Hilbery: Was that your black magic or your white magic?—It is white magic, in which you protect yourself from such things.

Mr. Crowley said that because of his magic he had once walked in the street in Mexico in a scarlet robe and with a jewelled crown, without anyone seeing him.

Mr. Hilbery: As a part of your magic you do believe in a practice of bloody sacrifice, do you?—I believe in its efficacy, but I do not approve it at all.

Don't approve it? You say (in his book on magic) "For nearly all purposes human sacrifice is best?"—Yes, it is.

Mr. Justice Swift: Do you say that you don't approve it?—Yes.

AT THE SICILIAN VILLA.

Box as Altar, Incense, Dagger and Sword.

Mr. Crowley said that at the villa at Cefalu there was "a sort of square box" used as an altar. On it were a book, purporting to contain the laws, and candles for ceremonial purposes. Incense, a dagger and a sword were used and he wore an appropriate robe.

Mr. Hilbery: In some of the ceremonies were you endeavouring to get concentrated spiritual ecstasy?—Yes.

Did you keep hasheesh and other drugs at Cefalu?—There was no hasheesh, but there was opium and strychnine.

Are you skilled to administer hasheesh?—I can get the desired results in 10 minutes.

Mr. Hilbery, referring to the "Abbey" in Sicily, asked, "With your approval an inmate had a razor or knife with which to cut himself if he stumbled into using a forbidden word, whatever it was?"

Mr. Crowley: They were not gashes but minute cuts. You can see marks of them on my own arm.

HIS MAGIC CIRCLE.

Questioned about the ritual of his Magic Circle, Mr. Crowley said that he walked round the room in "a sort of three-fold step which resembles the waltz."

"The pace resembled the pace of the tiger stalking the deer," he added.

He had never performed a ceremony naked in the presence of another person.

Mr. Hilbery referred to articles in which Mr. Crowley was described as "The king of depravity," "The Wickedest Man in the World," "The Man we would like to Hang," "Another Traitor Trounced" and "The Notorious Aleister Crowley."

Mr. Justice Swift: It is said of you: "It is hard to say whether he is man or beast."

Mr. Crowley: It was said of Shelley that he was sent from Hell.

Mr. Justice Swift: I am not trying Shelley. I am only trying your case. When that was said in the public Press, did you take any steps to clear your character?—I was 1,500 miles away. I was ill and I was penniless. I wrote to my solicitors.