

**THE YORKSHIRE EVENING POST
LEEDS, ENGLAND
11 APRIL 1934**

**FURTHER REMARKABLE EVIDENCE IN "BLACK
MAGIC" CASE.**

PLAINTIFF DISCUSSES HIS WRITINGS.

"An Imaginary Author."

**WHAT COUNSEL READ LIKE "MAGNIFICENT
POETRY."**

There was further remarkable evidence in the "Black Magic" case in the King's Bench Division to-day.

The case is one in which Aleister Crowley, author, is suing Miss Nina Hamnett, authoress of "Laughing Torso," which, he alleges, imputes to him the practice of "black magic."

Counsel for the defendant elicited from him an admission that during the war he had written an article against his own country. "And I am proud of it." Crowley observed.

A burst of laughter followed another observation: and the Judge (Mr. Justice Swift) threatened to have the court cleared.

QUESTIONS ABOUT "ABBEY" IN SICILY.

In addition to Miss Hamnett, Constable and Company, publishers, and Charles Whittingham and Briggs, printers, were cited as defendants.

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

In his cross-examination yesterday, plaintiff agreed that he assumed the designation of "Beast 666," and "The Master Therium"—the great wild beast. "Six-six-six 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 he took a degree which conferred that title.

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 the plaintiff, "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."

"Dead for Years."

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

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

Plaintiff: 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," plaintiff added.

Still another poem was mentioned by Mr. Hilbery who asked: "Is that anything but disgusting and infamous?"

Mr. Crowley: It means, if I may so, that even the vilest of women can, through the influence of love, become a refining and inspiring influence in a man's life."

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

Plaintiff: I did, and am proud of it.

Mr. Hilbery: Was it part of the German propaganda in America?

Crowley said what he wanted to do was to overbalance the sanity of German propaganda 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.

Assailed in the Press.

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 degenerate cannibal"?—Yes.

There was some laughter at this, and Mr. Justice Swift 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 Crowley, a few moments later. He agreed that he had been depicted with his thumbs in a position representing the horns of a ram.

In a London flat 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.

Was Once Invisible.

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 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 your book on magic, "for nearly all purposes human sacrifice is best"—Yes it is.

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

Witness 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.

"Spiritual Ecstasy."

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?"

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

Asked if heroin was used there, he said it had been prescribed for him, for asthma.

Plaintiff agreed there were drawings on the walls at the "abbey" at Cefalu, but, in his opinion, they were not obscene.

There were, he said, about 50 paintings. The American Vice-Consul was a guest there, and he saw nothing wrong in them.

Went Round Like a Tiger.

Questioned about the ritual of his "magic circle" witness said he spoke words which might have been intoning words. He went round at a pace resembling the pace of a tiger stalking deer.

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

Mr. Hilbery referred to articles in which plaintiff 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."

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