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THE "BLACK MAGIC" LIBEL CASE.

JURY RETURN VERDICT FOR THE DEFENDANTS.

Judge and Documents.

The hearing was concluded by Mr. Justice Swift and a special jury in the King's Bench Division, London, yesterday of the "Black Magic" libel action brought by Mr. Aleister Crowley, the author, against Miss Nina Hamnett, authoress of a book entitled "Laughing Torso."

Messrs. Constable & Co., Ltd., and Messrs. Charles Whittingham & Briggs, printers, were joined as defendants.

Mr. Crowley complained that the book imputed that he had practised "black magic," which, he said, was a libel upon him.

The defence was a plea of justification.

Mr. Crowley denied that he practised "black magic" at a villa which he occupied at Cefalu, Sicily, and which was known as the "Abbey of Thelema."

He admitted that he called himself "Beast 666" out of the Apocalypse.

Miss Hamnett was once a student of his, but he denied that he supplied to her the information on which her book was based.

The jury brought in a verdict in favour of the defendants with costs.

"I have been over forty years engaged in the administration of the law in one capacity or another," said the Judge. "I thought that I knew of every conceivable form of wickedness.

"I thought that everything which was vicious and bad had been produced at one time or another before me.

"I have learnt in this case that we can always learn something more if we live long enough."

The Judge refused a stay of execution.

As to the documents in his custody, he told the defence, "We will keep the letters in Court, and we shall certainly have them in proper custody if you take them to another Court."