

THE TIMES
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CHARGE OF RECEIVING LETTERS

MR. ALEISTER CROWLEY ON TRIAL

Before Judge Whiteley, at the Central Criminal Court yesterday, the trial began of Edward Alexander Crowley, 58, on bail, described as an explorer (and known as an author under the name of Aleister Crowley), who pleaded "Not Guilty" to a charge of receiving four original letters and one copy of a letter said to have been stolen from Mrs. Betty Sedgwick, known as Betty May, an artist's model.

Mr. Melford Stevenson and Mr. A. E. Reade prosecuted, and Mr. C. Gallop defended. Mr. Stevenson explained that Crowley became a plaintiff in a civil action for damages for libel. It was brought against a firm of publishers, and it was in respect of passage in a book published by them in which, according to Crowley, certain reflections were made upon him in the name of Aleister Crowley. Mrs. Sedgwick had given to the solicitors for the defence in that action a certain amount of information about Crowley, and in June last year she was expecting to be called as a witness in the libel action. She gave evidence in April this year. As often happened, she had received certain sums of money in respect of her evidence.

In June, 1933, Mrs. Sedgwick was living at an address in Seymour Street, W., and there was also living there a man names Cruze. Mrs. Sedgwick had in her possession a number of letters, four of which had passed between her and the solicitors who were arranging for her to be called as a witness.