

120, SHERWOOD PARK ROAD

WINDYBAY

A.M. CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

SURREY, CR2 1XS

Telephone: 01-254 7524

OFFICE OF BRIBES UNDER THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ACTS 1979

26 March 1987

URGENT

Office date stamp

Dear David,

May I please have some advice? You will see from the enclosed that Customs have seized some magazines sent from H.O.M. Inc. in the USA; two lots, actually, because they stopped the first lot without telling me and then stopped the second lot when H.O.M. sent me replacements. I'm not quite sure of the content of Ashley magazines, but I think they're mainly bondage. As a matter of (irrelevant) fact, I ordered them by mistake thinking they were paperback books.

I believe that there has been a change in Customs attitude to imports and that they are no longer able to seize something on the grounds that it is judged to be indecent (Guardian, 5:8:86). I suspect that that means that a book is now unlikely to be seized - one has only to see what is on the shelves of W. H. Smith to realise that censorship of reading matter - so long as it is sexual - is almost a dead letter now; but I wonder about illustrated magazines showing bondage et al. Do you agree with this interpretation?

Can you tell me what happens if I object to seizure in this case? Am I likely to be called on to attend court and face prosecution?

I was about to order some more paperbacks from H.O.M. - they have already sent me half a dozen. Would it be wise to cancel, or to postpone, that idea?

Yours sincerely,

*Derek*

Derek Roberts

David Webb  
15 Sloane Court West  
London, SW3 4TD

*27/13/87*  
*Phoned & then referred to Terry.*

Officer of Customs and Excise



H.M. CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

PO 145A

NOTICE OF SEIZURE UNDER THE CUSTOMS AND EXCISE ACTS 1979

Office date stamp

To: D. Roberts  
198 Sherwood Park Rd.  
Mitcham,  
Surrey CR4 1NF

From:

H.M. CUSTOMS & EXCISE  
SEIZURES  
MOUNT PLEASANT DEPOT  
25 MAR 1987  
FARRINGDON ROAD  
LONDON, EC1A 1BB  
TEL. 01.

Pursuant to Section 139(6) of the Customs and Excise Management Act, 1979, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 thereto, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise hereby give you notice that by virtue of the powers contained in the customs and excise Acts and enactments amending those Acts, certain goods namely:-

Two Magazines - 'Ashley' Nos. 1 + 2.

have been seized as liable to forfeiture upon the grounds that the said goods are indecent or obscene articles which were imported contrary to the prohibition contained in section 42 of the Customs Consolidation Act, 1876 whereby and by force of section 49(1)(b) of the Customs and Excise Management Act, 1979 the said goods are liable to forfeiture.

If you claim that the said goods are not liable to forfeiture you must within one month from the date of this notice of seizure give notice of your claim in accordance with Schedule 3 to the Customs and Excise Management Act, 1979. In default of such notice the said goods will be deemed to have been duly condemned as forfeited and will be liable to be disposed of in such a manner as the Commissioners of Customs and Excise may direct. If you make such a claim within the time aforesaid, legal proceedings will be taken for the condemnation thereof.

G. Windy

Officer of Customs and Excise