

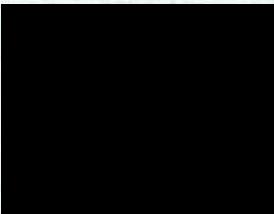
HON DIRECTOR

David Kennington Litt.D.,

Elizabeth Goodfellow BA, Alexander Barrie AADipl, MAIE

NO/DAW/DP

22ND July, 1987



Thank you for your letter of 3rd April, together with your membership application form and cheque for £5.00 subscription fee, and also for your further letter of 7th July.

I very much regret the extraordinary delay in responding to these letters. There have, however, been extenuating circumstances, including my father's death, and all that that entails, endeavouring to meet a publisher's deadline for a reference book I compile and edit (nothing to do with NCROPA), and then the publisher himself died, being away filming in Liverpool for a BBC television programme, and not least, suddenly finding that M.P. Gerald Howarth's private member's Bill had surprisingly re-surfaced in the House of Commons in spite of his low (eleventh) place in the ballot. (Fortunately the General Election intervened and his Bill was lost. However, and as I am sure you will know, there was a clear commitment for it to be re-introduced - or one like it - in the Conservative Party Manifesto). Anyway, please accept my sincere apologies. I am not normally so tardy.

Regarding your enquiry concerning the European Court case about the importation of rubber sex dolls from other EEC countries. I fear that the judgement will not be able to be applied to sexually explicit (or 'pornographic') publications. The argument rested solely on the fact that, although rubber sex dolls are not made in this country at present, there is no law here to prevent this happening. EEC law does not allow one member country to prevent the free trade in goods which could themselves be manufactured legally in ~~the country~~^{the country}. Sexually explicit (or 'pornographic') books and films of the kind freely permitted by the laws of other EEC countries are not lawfully permitted here already. The original seizure by Customs of the dolls was, of course, just another example of their cavalier interpretation of the antiquated 1876 Customs Consolidation Act. I am enclosing herewith a photocopy of "The Times" Law Report on the case dated 12th March 1986, and also a photocopy of an article from the 4th June 1986 edition of "The Guardian" which reported Lord Denning's extraordinary exhortation to ignore the EEC Court ruling. I wrote a letter to "The Guardian" about it but it was not, alas, published. However a copy is also enclosed since it may amuse you.

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Sexually explicit material has been freely available in Spain since the demise of Franco. The censorship of publications was abolished in 1975 and all film censorship was abolished in 1977. 'pornographic' magazines and books in Italy were legalised in 1974 but they must have printed on their covers "Vietato ai Minori" - forbidden to minors. Regional authorities do have film censorship powers but some are very lax in exercising them. However, 'pornographic' cinema clubs are lawful. I understand that even television stations transmit such material over the airwaves. (Incidentally, I have just written a letter of congratulation to Senora Ilona Staller, an Italian strip-tease artiste, who has just been overwhelmingly elected for the Radical Party, to the Italian Parliament's Chamber of Deputies. Imagine such a thing happening in this country?!)

I hope this information is helpful even though it is far from exhaustive, and, once again, many apologies for the long delay in replying. Thanks too, of course, for your cheque and we warmly welcome you to our ranks.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

David Webb,
Honorary Director,
National Campaign for the Reform of the Obscene Publications Acts

Encs/