

Appendix: Licenses refused – 1945–1968¹⁰⁰

Year	Play	Author	Reader	Reason
1945	<i>First Thing</i>		Game	Salacity – ‘black-out sketch . . . implying an overindulgence of sexual intercourse’
1945	<i>Outrageous Fortune</i>	Franken	Game	Homosexual character – ‘pervert theme’
1945	<i>The Querulous Queens</i>	Pemberton	Game	Queen Victoria appears in ‘non-serious play’
1945	<i>Surface</i>	Ambler	Game	Homosexual characters – ‘pansies’
1946	<i>Patricia English</i>	Pierson	Game	Prostitution – a licence would be granted if the heroine’s seven inherited brothels became nightclubs
1946	<i>God’s Punishment</i>	Ash	Game	Prostitution – ‘brothels and the White Slave trade’ – and offence to Jews
1946	<i>Should a Doctor Tell?</i>	Grade	Game	Salacity – sketch about a man described as suffering from ‘too much sexual exercise’
1946	<i>Oscar Wilde</i>	Stokes and Stokes	Game	Homosexuality – ‘perverts and perversion’
1946	<i>Getting a Flat</i>	Norton	Game	Verbal crudity – ‘vulgar’ misunderstanding over the words ‘lavatory and ‘laboratory’
1947	<i>A Ha’porth of Tar</i>	Jones	Heriot	Salacity, immorality – ‘subversion of the Christian attitude to immorality’
1947	<i>Hinkemann</i>	Toller, tr. Mendel	Game	Coarseness, embarrassing theme (impotence)
1948	<i>If He Came</i>	Raynor	Dearmer	Representation of the deity – second coming of Christ
1948	<i>Jonathan</i>	Griffiths	Jones	Salacity – ‘silliest and smuttiest Welsh play I have ever read’
1948	<i>A Pin to See the Peepshow</i>	Tennyson, Jesse and Harwood	Heriot	Living persons rule – refers to Thompson/Bywaters case
1949	<i>Modernity</i>	Morris	Heriot	Incestuous theme of last act – ‘a play written from a depraved imagination’

DECLINE AND FALL: 1945–1968

Year	Play	Author	Reader	Reason
1950	<i>The Baker's Daughter</i>	Walsh and Walsh	Heriot	Living persons – story of Seretse Khame's marriage
1950	<i>Birthday Bouquet</i>	Ginsbury and Maschwitz	Heriot	Queen Victoria
1950	<i>Hiatus</i>	McKay	Game	Homosexuality – 'John is an invert'
1950	<i>House of Shame</i>	Mabelle	Game	Vice trade
1950	<i>The House of the Red Lamp</i>	Mabelle	Game	Vice trade – 'nasty play'
1950	<i>The Naked Lady</i>	St John	Heriot	Vice trade – 'sex and sadism'
1950	<i>Sex for Sale</i>	Kaplan	Game	Vice trade – 'loathsome'
1950	<i>Street Girl</i>	Harris	Heriot	Vice trade – 'pornography ... salacious and disgusting'
1951	<i>Ceremony of Innocence</i>	Huganir	Game	Possibly 'offensive to Christians'
1951	<i>The Flamingo Screams</i>	'Chefils' (H. J. Cookson)	Heriot	Vice trade – 'smelly little oeuvre'
1951	<i>The Happy Time</i>	Taylor	Heriot	Salacity
1951	<i>The Lonely Heart</i>	Warren	Heriot	Lesbianism
1951	<i>My Good Brown</i>	Kemp	Heriot	Queen Victoria
1951	<i>The Ostrich Eggs</i>	Roussin, trans. Lowe	Heriot	Homosexuality
1951	<i>Third Person</i>	Rosenthal	Heriot	Homosexuality
1952	<i>The Maids</i>	Genet, trans. Frechtman	St V. Troubridge	Sadism, lesbians – 'definite indication of lesbianism'
1952	<i>Two Loves I Have</i>	Baker and Baker	Dearmer	Lesbianism
1952	<i>White Terror</i>	Squires	St V. Troubridge	Lesbianism – 'a most definite Lesbian thread'
1953	<i>Fig Leaf</i>	Bernard-Kuc, trans. Grew and Ashmore	Heriot	Promiscuity – 'concerned with the impact of the Kinsey report'

THE LORD CHAMBERLAIN REGRETS . . .

Year	Play	Author	Reader	Reason
1953	<i>The House of Death</i>	Griffith	Heriot	'cash-in on the Christie murders . . . poisonous and degenerate'
1953	<i>Les Oeufs de l'Autriche</i>	Roussin	Heriot	Homosexuality
1953	<i>Old Ladies Meet</i>		Dearmer	Queen Victoria
1953	<i>The Rosenberg Story</i>	Hargreaves	Heriot	Sub-judice
1953	<i>Strangers in the Land</i>	Brand	St V. Troubridge	Political objections – deals with Malaya
1954	<i>The King of Life</i>	Renaud and de Saix, trans. Adam	Heriot	Homosexuality – Oscar Wilde
1954	<i>The Trial of Oscar Wilde</i>	Rostand, trans. Williamson	Heriot	Oscar Wilde – 'General atmosphere of sodomy'
1954	<i>The Wicked and the Weak</i>	Chappell	St V. Troubridge	Homosexuality – 'This will not do at all!'
1955	<i>The Brothel</i>	Arundel	Heriot	Prostitution – 'pornographic'
1955	<i>The Golden Mask</i>	Comstock	St V. Troubridge	Concerned 'entirely with homosexuality'
1955	<i>Zoe</i>	Marsan, trans. Frank	St V. Troubridge	Promiscuity – 'sexual perversity'
1956	<i>The Life of Christ</i>	Branigan	Dearmer	Representation of deity
1957	<i>Foolish Attachment</i>	Wood	St V. Troubridge	Lesbianism
1957	<i>No Retreat</i>	Beckwith	Heriot	Homosexuality – 'arguments might encourage rather than deter young persons'
1957	<i>The Road to Emmaus</i>	Forsyth	Dearmer	Portrayal of Christ
1957	<i>Sex</i>	Saltoun	Heriot	'Pure pornography . . . nauseating mixture of sex, sadism, coprology and sentiment'
1961	<i>The Boy Who Carved Birds</i>	Etheridge	Heriot	Representation of deity

DECLINE AND FALL: 1945–1968

Year	Play	Author	Reader	Reason
1961	<i>Knights of Song</i>	Allvine	St V. Troubridge	Queen Victoria, Edward VII
1963	<i>Clap Hands, Here Comes Charlie</i>	Barnes	Heriot	Bad language and 'scatological'
1963	<i>The Wayward Stork</i>	Tugend	Heriot	Promiscuity and artificial insemination
1964	<i>A Patriot for Me</i>	Osborne	Heriot	Homosexuality
1965	<i>Saved</i>	Bond	Heriot	Language, violence
1965	<i>Simple Golgotha</i>	Adamson	Heriot	Representation of Christ
1966	<i>Leda Had a Little Swan</i>	Gascoigne	Heriot	'Bestiality'
1966	<i>Macbird!</i>	Garson	Heriot	Living person – satire on career of President Johnson
1967	<i>The Inheritance of the Just</i>	Watson	Heriot	Portrayal of deity
1967	<i>White Man, Black Man, Yellow Man, Chief</i>	Hagopian	Heriot	Sadism, blasphemy, language, race – banned 'for integrational reasons'
1968	<i>The Car Cemetery</i>	Arrabel, trans. Wright	Heriot	Blasphemy
1968	<i>Early Morning</i>	Bond	Harward	Queen Victoria, lesbianism, cannibalism
1968	<i>A Fig for Eloquence</i>	Coppel	Heriot	Salacity – 'one long snigger at the male genitalia'
1968	<i>Hair</i>	Ragni and Rado	Harward, Heriot	Nudity, indecent language

NOTES

- 1 The office of the Lord Chamberlain was not abolished in 1968, simply the duty to censor drama.
- 2 Reader's report, 14 July 1945. Unless otherwise noted, all archival material is from the Lord Chamberlain's Correspondence Files, Manuscript Room, British Library, London.
- 3 Place of production stated in correspondence kept in the production file.
- 4 John Johnston, *The Lord Chamberlain's Blue Pencil*, (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1990), p. 171.