

DD.IP.2359.66  
1A.1443/4/5/PS.728(c)

May 18, 1966

Dear Sir,

Re Stassinios Paraskos  
Eric Wilfred Taylor  
and  
Peter David Hughes

Although it appears that this enquiry has been made rather under the provisions of the Vagrancy Act than those of the Obscene Publications Acts, it would be convenient if I considered the relevance of both to the incident in question.

The latter Acts control the publication of material which may have the tendency to deprave and corrupt those who are likely to see it.

But it is also provided that a person is not to be convicted even though the material was in fact obscene if on account of its artistic merit it was desirable that it should be seen by the persons likely to see it.

Although this is a matter for the defence to raise I would not normally advise proceedings unless there was a reasonable prospect that such a defence would not succeed.

In this instance the exhibition though actually open to the public was not advertised and was clearly intended for art students and the like. Such persons therefore constituted the class of persons likely to see the pictures complained about.

It must I think be agreed that as a class they are rather more familiar with the human body and its functions than most others and are therefore rather less likely to be depraved or corrupted by pictures dealing with such matters.

/Moreover

The Chief Constable,  
Leeds City Police,  
C.I.D., Police H.Q.,  
Leeds, 1.

## LEEDS CITY POLICE

Form No. 39

From The Superintendent,  
Central Division.

Station Millarth Street.

Date 16th May, 1966

ASSISTANT  
To the Chief Constable

Sir,

Re: Indecent oil painting and drawing  
exhibited at the Leeds Institute of Art,  
Cookridge Street, Leeds 1 (See attached  
Information Report).

1. The oil painting and drawing were confiscated by P.S. 728 Jew to be produced as evidence, should Court proceedings be instituted. A warrant had not been applied for under the Obscene Publications Act, 1959. Proceedings are not recommended under the Obscene Publications Act, 1959, as the exhibition appears to have been held mainly for the benefit of art students, who see works of art in a different light to members of the general public. However, the exhibition was open to the public who could gain admission free of charge.
2. In view of the above circumstances, I am of the opinion that the proposed charges under the Vagrancy Act, 1824, are more appropriate, and suggest process accordingly. The maximum penalty under the Vagrancy Act, 1824, is £25 or three months' imprisonment.
3. Antecedents.  
PARASKOS, Stassinos, is 32 years of age, born 17.10.33, a native of Cyprus, and a married man residing with his English born wife. He was educated in Cyprus until he was 15 years of age and was then engaged first in farming and as a printer's apprentice. In 1956 he came to this country on his own, obtaining employment as a cook in a local Cypriot cafe. He remained in that employment until 1959 and during this period attended the Leeds College of Art as a part-time student. In 1959 he became a professional artist and also obtained a post with the Leicester College of Art as a lecturer

contd....

WILFRID WARREN, M.A., M.D., D.F.M., Consultant Psychiatrist, Physician to  
Childrens' and Adolescents' Department, The Bethlem Royal Hospital and The  
Maudsley Hospital, London, S.E.5; states:-

I have examined the photographs of the pictures exhibited at an Art Exhibition in the premises of the Leeds Education Department. I note that although the exhibition was open to the public, those attending were principally art students and the like.

While that picture marked (2) is erotic, it is not I consider sexually stimulating; the others of nudes of both sexes are not particularly erotic. I cannot consider that any of these pictures are likely to deprave or corrupt young persons or even children. They might learn something of 'the facts of life' from them, but they would not in my opinion thereby be harmed. I am not asked to give an opinion as to whether or not these pictures should be considered in good taste.

WILFRID WARREN, M.A., M.D., D.F.M.

CONTINUATION SHEET No. 1 Division Report Dated 16th May, 19 66  
Re: Indecent oil painting and drawing exhibited at the Leeds Institute of Art.

Leeds College of Art and is still so employed. He has exhibited a number of his paintings at various exhibitions throughout Europe. No previous convictions recorded against him.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(sgd.) David L. Noble,

Superintendent.

WILFRID WARREN, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist, Physician to  
Childrens' and Adolescents' Department, The Bethlem Royal Hospital and The  
Maudsley Hospital, London, S.E.5; states:-

I have examined the photographs of the pictures exhibited at an Art Exhibition in the premises of the Leeds Education Department. I note that although the exhibition was open to the public, those attending were principally art students and the like.

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WILFRID WARREN, M.A., M.D., D.P.M.

DD.IP.2359.66  
1A.1443/4/5P.S.728(C)

August 2, 1966

Dear Sir,

I have on my return from leave noted with regret the contents of your letter of 15th July.

Having regard to the judicial dicta cited in the opening words of Paragraph 1374 of Archbold you will appreciate that you are now under an obligation to make Dr. Warren available to the defence.

Accordingly in order to enable you to discharge your  
/// legal duty in that respect I now enclose herewith three copies of his statement with regard to the pictures in question.

I would also observe that the whole matter is now somewhat stale and therefore liable to criticism in that respect.

Yours sincerely,

**Maurice Crump**

(MAURICE CRUMP)

The Chief Constable,  
Police Headquarters,  
Leeds, 1.

TO : THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS  
FROM : THE CHIEF CONSTABLE, POLICE HEADQUARTERS, WESTGATE, LEEDS 1.

(A) Proposed defendant(s)

Full names.	Addresses	Age.	Occupation	Alias(es)	Nationality (if other than British)
1. <u>Stassinios PARASKOS</u>	13 Lucas St. Leeds 6.	32	Art Lecturer		Cypriot
2. <u>Eric Wilfred TAYLOR</u>	13 Tredgold Avenue, Bramhope, Nr. Leeds.	56	Art College Principal.		
3. <u>Peter David Hughes</u>	2 Broomfield Road, Leeds 6.		Art Lecturer		

(B) If charged, offences.

.....  
.....

(C) If not charged, any alleged offence(s)

1. Wilfully expose to view, in public place, two obscene pictures, ... Contrary to Section 4, Vagrancy Act, 1824.
- 2 & 3. Aid & Abet 1. in commission of this offence. Contrary to Section 35 of Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952.

(D) Venue and, where applicable, the remand date.

.....

(E) Police reference number of case.

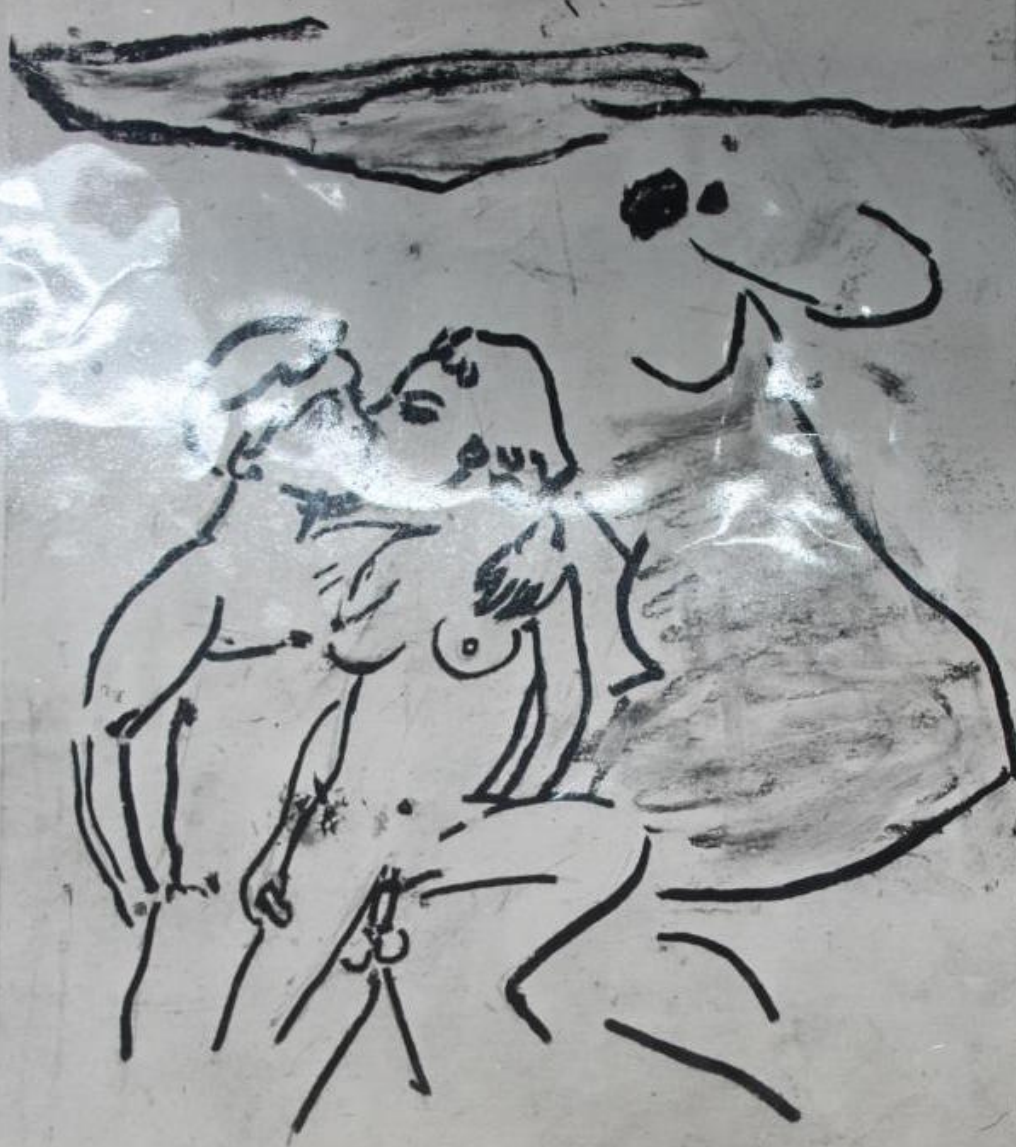
..... 1A.1443/4/5 P.S. 72B (C) .....

(F) Name of defending solicitor (if known)

.....

(G) Officer in Case, DS.728 George E. Jew, Leeds City Police. 35353.

.....



stass-  
2.7.65



CONTINUATION SHEET No. 1 Division Report Dated 16th May, 19 66Re: Indecent oil painting and drawing exhibited at the Leeds Institute of Art.

and receives £14 per week from this source. No previous convictions recorded.

TAYLOR, Eric Wilfred is 56 years of age, born 6.8.1909, a native of London. He is a married man residing with his wife and two grown up children in good home circumstances in this City. He was educated at the William Ellis School, Hampstead, London, and was also a student at the Royal College of Art until he attained the age of 26 years. After leaving the Royal College of Art, he obtained employment at various Art Colleges in the London area and has also practised as a professional artist. He served in the Royal Artillery and Royal Engineers, both at home and overseas during the 1939/45 War, attaining the rank of Sergeant and being discharged with an 'exemplary character'. After his discharge from H.M. Forces, he continued teaching at various London art schools and during this period painted some works for the Imperial War Museum. He has also exhibited many of his works at Art Galleries all over the world. He came to Leeds in 1949 on appointment as Head of the Design Department at the Leeds College of Art. In 1959 he was appointed Principal of this establishment and is still so employed. No previous convictions recorded against him.

HUGHES, Peter David is 26 years of age, born 20.10.39, a native of Birmingham, and a married man residing with his wife and three young children. He was educated at Grammar Schools at Hillingdon and Hull and at 19 years of age entered the James Graham College of Education for a 2 years course in teaching. He came to Leeds in 1958 and taught at Secondary Modern Schools in Leeds and Dewsbury until 1963, when he went to the Bradford College of Art for a 12 months course. In 1964 he was appointed as a lecturer at the

contd.....





4

# Lovers & Romances

An exhibition of  
Paintings and Drawings  
by  
**STASS PARASKOS**

Leeds Institute Gallery

25th April—12th May  
1966



Mr. Dowsing

RKD IP 2359.66

24th May, 1966.

Dear Dr. Warren,

I am under some pressure with regard to these pictures which were exhibited at an Art Exhibition organised by the Leeds Institute of Art in the premises of the Leeds Education Department. The pictures are by a Lecturer at the Leicester College of Art.

Although the Exhibition was open to the public those attending it were principally, as was only to be expected, art students and the like.

Not unnaturally, I feel that it would be absurd to have recourse to the criminal law in a matter of this kind. It is in my view a purely domestic one. All that the Leeds authorities have to do is not to allow pictures of which they - or some of them - disapprove, to be exhibited in their premises.

I am however asked, and have to advise, whether as a matter of law there has been a breach of the Obscene Publications Acts.

While I have formed the view that these pictures would be unlikely to deprave and corrupt the somewhat sophisticated type of person who would view them, it would help me to know that in this I could rely on your support if necessary.

I shall be glad if you would return the pictures in due course.

Yours sincerely,  
Maurice Crump

RKD  
Dr. Wilfrid Warren,  
The Mawdsley Hospital,  
Children's Department,  
Denmark Hill,  
S.E. 5.

*Continuation of Statement of* PS.728 Jew

had been on display at the preview on Friday, 22nd April, 1966, and he said "Yes, they were." I told him that in my opinion these pictures were indecent, and he said "Well I must disagree with you." I cautioned him and told him that he would be reported for aiding and abetting PARASKOS for wilfully displaying indecent pictures in a public place, and he said "Yes, I understand."

(sgd.) George E. Jew, PS. 728

*Signature* \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature witnessed by* \_\_\_\_\_

5. Mr. Kenneth Coute Smith of 43 Argyle Mansions, Kings Road, London, an Art Critic.
6. Mr. David Schreiber a Writer who had exhibited some of the Defendant's work in *his gallery*
7. Mr. William Thomson Oliver of 18 Hollin Park Drive Calverley, Deputy Editor and Art Critic of the Yorkshire Post.
8. Mr. John Edward Jones of 28 Rochester Terrace, Leeds, a Lecturer in Art.
9. Professor Quintin Bell of Highthorne House, Shadwell Lane, Leeds. 17 a Professor of Fine Arts University of Leeds.

The following is a summary of the Judgment of the Court delivered by the Learned Stipendiary Magistrate.

We should not convict unless satisfied beyond reasonable doubt by the Prosecution that the Defendants guilt has been established. It seems to us that the Prosecution have to prove two things, firstly is it proved that either picture is obscene and if the answer is yes, whether or not it can be said that the publication was for the public good as necessary or advantageous to art. If evidence establishes that this is so then we accept that the Defendant would be entitled to an acquittal provided the publication does not exceed what the public good requires.

We accept the definition of obscenity in R. -v- Hicklin viz whether the tendency is to deprave and corrupt those whose minds are open to immoral influence. The Intention of the Artist is irrelevant, similarly whether other artists have done similar work can have no bearing on what we have to consider, nor are we concerned with the effects of our decision  
*Rv*  
See Secker Warbourg.

## Continuation of Statement of PS.728 Jew

the man's penis. The woman's legs were wide apart and between her legs was a drawing of what could only be interpreted as a man's erect penis and testicles. The drawing was one of three drawings, it had no catalogue number, but was recorded in the catalogue as 'No. 60 Drawings'.

Whilst examining the paintings seven persons entered the exhibition, all females, two of whom were schoolgirls, aged about 15 years.

Enquiries were made and I ascertained that the exhibition was open to the general public. No advertising is made in the local press, or even outside the Leeds Institute of Art, but the Administration Staff of the Leeds College of Art are in possession of a list of persons interested in works of art. When an exhibition of any kind is being held at the Leeds Institute, all the persons mentioned on this list are automatically notified by letter. They were so notified on this occasion. In addition, on this occasion, the Civic Theatre was open to members of the public during the evening and any of these persons could easily have seen the notice on the door of the exhibition. Enquiries reveal that the preview was held on Friday, 22nd April, and not Saturday, 23rd April, 1966, as stated by Paraskos when I interviewed him, and at that time all the paintings, including the two concerned in this report were displayed on the walls of the room, and were deemed suitable for public exhibition.

The exhibition was of paintings by an artist named Stassinou PARASKOS, but I was unable to interview him at this stage as he was out of the City.

I then interviewed Peter David HUGHES (known as Patrick Hughes in the Art College), Art Lecturer, and Secretary of the Exhibition Gallery Committee. I told him who we were and that I had examined the paintings in the gallery and that, in my opinion, two of them were indecent. He said, "I'd rather not make any comment. I'll take you to see the principal, Mr. Taylor." I then interviewed Mr. Taylor. I told him who we were

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (sgd.) George E. Jew, PS. 728.

Signature witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

contd.....



Director

Miss Owen (Home Office ext 27)

Telephoned to see if we had been concerned in the Leeds Art Gallery case of PARASKOS. I told her we had advised but did not intervene.

She will now obtain a report from C.C. Leeds as to the actual charges &c. (I have seen that there were convictions — from the daily Press). There is a question down to the Home Sec. as to the desirability of adding a "literary" defence provision to the Vagrancy Act.

X ? Should we not ask the C.C. for a report of the charges, pleas, and result of this case. The time for appeal will be up in a few days.

RT 3/1

*[Signature]*  
N.J.S 3/1/67



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2.7.65



Stass  
2.7.65



Stass -  
2.7.65

TELEPHONE 35133  
THE OLE 2  
DX 55135

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO "THE CHIEF CONSTABLE"  
LEEDS, 1, AND NOT TO THE UNDERSIGNED BY NAME



LEEDS CITY POLICE  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS

A. J. PATERSON  
B.E.M., M.A., B.L.  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

LEEDS, 1

16th May, 1966

PLEASE QUOTE  
OUR REF. 1A.1443/4/5/PS.728(C)  
YOUR REF.....

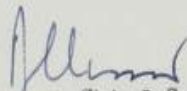
Dear Sir,

Stassinios PARASKOS (32); Eric Wilfred  
TAYLOR (56); and Peter David HUGHES (26)

I enclose herewith copy of a report which  
has been submitted to me regarding the exhibiting  
of obscene pictures at a Local Authority Art  
Gallery.

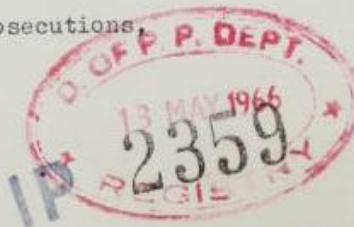
In view of the local considerations involved,  
I would be grateful for your assistance in this  
matter.

Yours faithfully,

  
Assistant Chief Constable

The Director of Public Prosecutions,  
12, Buckingham Gate,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

Enc.



LIST OF EXHIBITS

1. Photograph of drawings
2. Photograph of 1 drawing (enlarged)
3. Photograph of oil painting
4. Catalogue.

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1021

10204365

DPP 2/4193

Return by (29/08/2016 09:27:25)

doris sp\8929190 (Michael Paraskos)

Closure status: Open

S 18/07/2016 09:27:25

# The Bethlem Royal Hospital and The Maudsley Hospital

Chairman :  
Viscount SANDON, T.D.

Patron :  
H.R.H. PRINCESS MARINA, DUCHESS OF KENT

THE MAUDSLEY HOSPITAL,  
DENMARK HILL,  
S.E.5.

House Governor and Secretary:  
L. H. W. PAINE, M.A.



Your ref: RKD IP 2359.66

26th May, 1966

Children's Department

Dear Mr. Crump,

In reply to your letter of 24th May, I have examined the photographs of the pictures exhibited at an Art Exhibition in the premises of the Leeds Education Department. I note that although the exhibition was open to the public, those attending were principally art students and the like.

While that picture marked (2) is erotic, it is not I consider sexually stimulating; the others of nudes of both sexes are not particularly erotic. I cannot consider that any of these pictures are likely to deprave or corrupt young persons or even children. They might learn something of 'the facts of life' from them, but they would not in my opinion thereby be harmed. I am not asked to give an opinion as to whether or not these pictures should be considered in good taste. //

Yours sincerely,

W. Warren, M.A., M.D., D.P.M.,  
Consultant Psychiatrist,  
Physician to Childrens' and Adolescents'  
Department, The Bethlem Royal Hospital and  
The Maudsley Hospital, London, S.E.5.

*States*

Maurice Crump Esq.,  
Director of Public Prosecutions Department,  
12, Buckingham Gate,  
London S.W.1.

ERT IP 2359.66  
1A.1443/4/5/PS. 728 (C)

4th January, 1967

Dear Sir,

Stassinios PARASKOS

With reference to our previous correspondence, I should be obliged if you would let me know the nature of the charges preferred in this case, together with the pleas offered, and the adjudication of the Court. If any information is forthcoming as to an appeal, perhaps this could also be included.

Yours faithfully,

RYLAND THOMAS

The Chief Constable,  
Police Headquarters,  
Leeds. 1.

R. - v - STASSINOS PARASKOS

This case was heard on the 19th and 20th of December, 1966 before the Learned Stipendiary Magistrate for the City of Leeds The Chairman of The Leeds Justices and another lay Magistrate. The only evidence called by the Prosecution was that of the Officers who had seised the pictures, the Defence did not call the Defendant himself accepting the view that the test as to whether or not these pictures were obscene was objective and all that the Defendant could say was what he himself had intended to convey. The evidence for the Defence therefore concentrated upon seeking to show that art would be advanced and be for the public good if these pictures were displayed. No clear distinction was put forward by the Defence between the advancement of art on the one hand and the public good on the other hand.

The witnesses called by the Defence as art experts were:-

1. Mr. Eric Taylor of 13, Treadgold Avenue, Bramhope, the Principal of the College of Art under the auspices of which the exhibition was held.
2. Norbert Lynton of 27 Walham Grove, S.W. 6. Head of the Department of Art History & General Studies at Chelsea College of Art and an Art Critic and Lecturer.
3. Sir Herbert Read of Stonegrove House, a Trustee of the Tate Gallery and well known author of books on Art and other allied subjects.
4. Mr. Tom Hudson of 8, Lynmouth Drive, Barry, Glamorgan, a Lecturer in Art and teacher specialising in the teaching of Art in Education

Continuation of Statement of

PS.728 Jew

and that I had examined the paintings on display, and that I thought two of them were of an indecent nature, and told him that I intended seizing these paintings, and he said, "Well I'm afraid I can't agree with you. You can take them if you let me have a receipt."

With Mr. Hughes, I then went to the exhibition room and the two paintings were seized. A catalogue was also obtained. Photographs of the paintings were later prepared by D.S. MacLeod, Studio Staff.

At 1.55 p.m. on Saturday, 30th April, 1966, with P.C. Underwood, I interviewed Stassinou PARASKOS, 32 years, Art Lecturer, at his home address, 13 Lucas Street, Leeds 6. I told him who we were, cautioned him, and showed him the photographs of the two pictures which I had seized from the Leeds Institute of Art. I asked him if he had painted the pictures, and he said "Yes, I painted them, and those are good photographs of them." I told Mr. PARASKOS that the original paintings were now in my possession, and that in my opinion they were indecent, and he said "You may think so, but I do not." I asked him if he was responsible for exhibiting the paintings at the Leeds Institute, and he said "Well, yes, I was approached by Mr. Patrick Hughes, the Secretary of the Art Committee of the Education Department, who asked me if I would exhibit my pictures, and I agreed to do so." I asked PARASKOS who had given him authority to use the hall for his exhibition, and he said "Indirectly it was Mr. Taylor, but I only spoke to Mr. Hughes about it." I asked PARASKOS if he was present at the preview showing on Saturday, 23rd April, 1966, and he said, "Yes, I was there between seven and nine o'clock." I asked him if the two paintings I had seized were on display at the time, and he said "Yes." I asked him if Mr. Taylor and Mr. Hughes were present at the preview, and he said "Yes, they were there, and there were a lot of other prominent members of Leeds there too."

I again cautioned PARASKOS and told him that a full report of the circumstances would be submitted, and that he would be reported for

*Signature* (sgd.) George E. Jew, PS.728.

*Signature witnessed by* \_\_\_\_\_

contd.....



NOTE.

As you will see from my  
letter of 18th I tried to turn  
this one down. But - he cc.  
(no doubt under pressure)  
wanted to go on under sec

24. He interprets picture

No 3 as depicting a  
sexual act between three  
people. If it does I think

it would be obscene though

I myself think that the artist

had intended the issue sufficiently

to stop it being obscene.

In my letter I didn't deal  
with the question - as it wasn't

necessary for me to - as

to whether the exhibition was

LIST OF WITNESSES

		<u>Pages.</u>
JEW, George Edward	Police Sergeant 728	1 - 5
UNDERWOOD, Jack	Police Constable 577	6 - 10.

a public place.  
I think that we should  
first consider whether it is a  
public place and then possibly  
send it to Col

23 May

me.

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1021

10204365

DPP 2/4193

Return by (29/08/2016 09:27:25)

doris spl8929190 (Michael Paraskos)

Closure status: Open

S 18/07/2016 09:27:25

The stand point of those making that judgment is different from that of the ordinary layman. There are pictures of various subjects which might be considered to be obscene by artists of much greater renown than the Defendant, whether their merit saves them or other causes is no concern of ours.

We accept that those who study art see pictures in different ways, as <sup>a</sup> ~~lay~~ witness said laymen may see only the subject, another witness said that if the drawing was not done by an artist it could well be obscene. We have to consider would the artistic merit be obvious to a layman, another witness said people do look at pictures for the wrong reasons, this we accept is something to be guarded against.

If the ~~act~~ depicted happened in real life they would be it is said by one witness socially offensive, in our view this is a distinction without a difference. Sexual behaviour in private is one thing similar behaviour in public is another. Why it should be any different if shown in a picture which is more permanent we do not know, If drawings such as these may be obscene if done by one not an artist, we have to ask why they should not be if done by an artist, just where is the magic.

We think that looking at the matter as a whole there is no difference between the painting and the sketch and we think it can be truly said that the tendency is to deprave. We then have to consider whether it is for the public good, one witness said that these pictures added nothing to the other pictures on display in line, form and colour etc, we cannot say on the evidence that publication/ was necessary to art as a whole, we therefore find the case proved.

PENALTY - Found Guilty on both charges - fined £5. 0. 0.  
on each ordered to pay contribution towards the  
cost of the prosecution not exceeding £10. 0. 0.  
on each charge.

May 31, 1966

Dear Sir,

As promised on the telephone I have given further thought to the exhibition of the pictures about which you wrote to me.

The Obscene Publications Acts 1959-1963 were passed in order - inter alia - to prevent erotic pictures being shown to persons who were likely to be adversely morally affected by them.

These Acts therefore represent the proper criteria as recently laid down by Parliament by which such matters are to be judged.

That the object of the Vagrancy Act of 1824 was quite different appears from its Preamble and text which make it clear that it was designed to cope with the behaviour in the streets and public places of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, pedlars, prostitutes, persons wandering abroad, beggars, fortune tellers and persons failing to give a good account of themselves.

The words "exposing to view any obscene picture" occur in this context and it would be necessary to remove them from their context in order to make them applicable to the present case and in my view this cannot properly be done.

The pictures must therefore be judged on the criteria laid down in the Obscene Publications Acts.

I have therefore consulted Dr. Warren, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist, Physician to Children's and Adolescents' Department, The Bethlem Royal Hospital and The Maudsley Hospital, London, S.E.5, and he gives it as his opinion that these pictures would not be likely to deprave or corrupt young persons or even children.

/In

The Chief Constable,  
Leeds City Police,  
C.I.D., Police H.Q.,  
Leeds, 1.



A.C.C./SD

A. J. PATERSON  
B.E.M., M.A., B.L.,  
CHIEF CONSTABLECHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE  
POLICE HEADQUARTERS  
LEEDS, 1

PLEASE QUOTE

OUR REF. 1A.1443/4/5P.S.728 (C)

YOUR REF. DD.IP.2359.66

15th July, 1966.

Dear Sir,


Re: Stassinou PARASKOS  
Eric Wilfred TAYLOR  
and  
Peter David HUGHES

Thank you for your letters of the  
18th May and 31st May, concerning the above.

I am grateful for the consideration  
you have given to this case and I have taken  
note of the advice given.

I would like you to know that I intend  
to take proceedings against Stassinou Paraskos  
only, both under the Vagrancy Act and the Obscene  
Publications Act.

Yours faithfully,

  
Assistant Chief Constable

The Director of Public Prosecutions,  
12, Buckingham Gate,  
LONDON, S.W.1.



revised by  
Candy  
18/3/66

Continuation of Statement of

PS.728 Jew

wilfully displaying indecent pictures in a public place, and he said "I don't want anyone to get into trouble over these pictures, would it make any difference if I got the pictures back, and did not put them on display."

At 12.10 p.m. on Monday, 2nd May, 1966, with P.C. Underwood, I interviewed Eric Taylor, Principal of the Leeds College of Art (home address, 13 Tredgold Avenue, Bramhope, Nr. Leeds), at his office. He knew who we were. I cautioned him and told him that I had interviewed Mr. PARASKOS regarding the pictures I had seized from the Institute of Art, and I asked him if he had given his consent for the two pictures to be exhibited, and he said, "Yes". I asked Mr. Taylor if he was present at the preview on Saturday, 23rd April, 1966, and he said "Yes, I was there, but it was on Friday, not Saturday." I asked him if these two pictures were on display, and I showed him a photograph of the two pictures, he replied "Yes, they were both being exhibited." I told him that in my opinion both these pictures were indecent, and he said "I certainly do not consider them indecent at all." I cautioned him and told him that he would be reported for aiding and abetting PARASKOS in the offence of wilfully displaying indecent pictures in a public place, and he said, "Obviously I did not consider the pictures to be indecent otherwise I would not have allowed them to be shown."

At 2.15 p.m. on Monday, 2nd May, 1966, with P.C. Underwood, I interviewed Peter David Hughes, 26 years, 2 Broomfield Road, Leeds 6, Art Lecturer at Leeds College of Art, at the Art College in the presence of Mr. Taylor. I cautioned him and told him that I had interviewed PARASKOS who informed me that he was instrumental in having his (PARASKOS) paintings put on display, he said "Yes, I was the secretary at the time, and also assisted with the organising of the exhibition." I showed him photographs of the two pictures I had seized and asked him if they

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (sgd.) George E. Jew, PS.728

Signature witnessed by \_\_\_\_\_

contd...

DD.R.KD.2359.66

May 31, 1966

Dear Dr. Warren,

Many thanks for your letter of 26th returning the photographs.

I have pleasure in enclosing a postal draft for 5 guineas which I hope that you will consider adequate.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Maurice Crump

(MAURICE CRUMP)

Dr. W. Warren, M.A., M.D., D.P.M.,  
Consultant Psychiatrist,  
Children's Department,  
The Maudsley Hospital,  
Denmark Hill, S.E.5.



In these circumstances I am fortified in my opinion that while the exhibition of these pictures may not have been to everyone's taste, there is no justification for attempting to allege that there has been a breach of the criminal law.

Yours sincerely,

**Maurice Crump**  
(MAURICE CRUMP)

Whilst we appreciate that Artists, Art Critics and Experts have probably a good deal in common, in allowing artists unlimited freedom and whilst we have sympathy and whilst we recognise that standards are advancing and vastly different from those of years ago, nevertheless there must be a distinction between liberty and near license, there is nothing to prevent publication in private that we are aware of.

We have to protect the ordinary member of the public from matters tending to deprave and corrupt. The Defence and through these experts sought to argue that there should be a protection for artists which was not allowed to other lesser mortals, clearly this is not so. It may be that experts may help to set standards which help the Court. This matter has not got to be decided by one extreme or the other but by a middle of the road approach (reference again made to the judgment of Mr. Justice Stable in R. v Secker Warbourg). For technical reasons these charges cannot be tried by a Jury and in order to get a wider point of view the bench has been re-enforced.

We have to remember that pictures formed part of a larger display, no doubt this can and should be taken into account but the pictures were <sup>in</sup> display for individual sale. We are satisfied that the Bulking was properly described as a public place and there is no doubt that the pictures were open to view by all and sundry, there is not much evidence as to who saw the pictures or as to their reaction though there is evidence that two girls were amused by them, but when considering such an abstract conception we have to think what could have been the effect of these pictures upon others. That these works have artistic merit particularly the coloured picture there can be no doubt if one accepts the views of the experts and there is no evidence the other way. But of course

## LEEDS CITY POLICE. INFORMATION REPORT 'C' Division

Against 1. That you did wilfully expose to view in a public place two obscene pictures.

Contrary to Section 4 of the Vagrancy Act, 1824.

Against 2. That you did aid and abet, counsel and procure Stassinios Paraskos in  
and 3. the above offence.

Contrary to Section 35 of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952.

Where committed Leeds Institute of Art, Cookridge Street, Leeds.

Time and Date 3.30 p.m., Thursday, 28th April, 1966.

## DEFENDANTS

NAME.	AGE.	OCCUPATION.	ADDRESS.
1. STASSINIOS PARASKOS	32	Art Lecturer.	13 Lucas Street, Leeds 6.
2. ERIC WILFRED TAYLOR	56	Art College Principal.	13 Tredgold Avenue, Bramhope, Nr. Leeds.
3. PETER DAVID HUGHES	26	Art Lecturer.	2 Broomfield Road, Leeds 6.

## WITNESSES

PS. 728 Jew.  
PC. 577 Underwood.

Police Officer.	3 Rotary Leave Dates next ensuing.	Annual Leave.	
		From.	To.
PS. 728 Jew		18.6.66	7.7.66
PC 577 Underwood		6.8.66	30.8.66.

Recommendation of Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent.

Date of Hearing \_\_\_\_\_

Adjournment \_\_\_\_\_

Result \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Charge Office No. \_\_\_\_\_

May 31, 1966

Dear Sir,

As promised on the telephone I have given further thought to the exhibition of the pictures about which you wrote to me.

The Obscene Publications Acts 1959-1963 were passed in order - inter alia - to prevent erotic pictures being shown to persons who were likely to be adversely morally affected by them.

These Acts therefore represent the proper criteria as recently laid down by Parliament by which such matters are to be judged.

That the object of the Vagrancy Act of 1824 was quite different appears from its Preamble and text which make it clear that it was designed to cope with the behaviour in the streets and public places of idle and disorderly persons, rogues and vagabonds, pedlars, prostitutes, persons wandering abroad, beggars, fortune tellers and persons failing to give a good account of themselves.

The words "exposing to view any obscene picture" occur in this context and it would be necessary to remove them from their context in order to make them applicable to the present case and in my view this cannot properly be done.

The pictures must therefore be judged on the criteria laid down in the Obscene Publications Acts.

I have therefore consulted Dr. Warren, M.A., M.D., D.P.M., Consultant Psychiatrist, Physician to Children's and Adolescents' Department, The Bethlem Royal Hospital and The Maudsley Hospital, London, S.E.5, and he gives it as his opinion that these pictures would not be likely to deprave or corrupt young persons or even children.

/In

The Chief Constable,  
Leeds City Police,  
C.I.D., Police H.Q.,  
Leeds, 1.

CHARGES PREFERRED AGAINST STASSINOS PARASKOS.

- (1) That on the 28th April, 1966, you did publish an obscene article, namely a coloured picture entitled "Lost Love".

Contrary to Section 2, Obscene Publications Act, 1959, as amended by Section 1, Obscene Publications Act, 1964.

Result: No evidence offered.  
Dismissed Not Guilty.

- (2) Did wilfully expose to view in a public place, namely the Leeds Institute of Art, an obscene picture, namely a coloured picture entitled "Lost Love".

Contrary to Section 4, Vagrancy Act, 1824, and Section 2, Vagrancy Act, 1838.

Result: Found Guilty. Fined £5. Costs £10.10.0.

- (3) Did wilfully expose to view in a public place, namely the Leeds Institute of Art, an obscene drawing, namely a drawing signed 'STASS' and dated 2nd July, 1965.

Contrary to Section 4, Vagrancy Act, 1824, and Section 2, Vagrancy Act, 1838.

Result: Found Guilty. Fined £5. Costs £10.10.0.

---

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS,  
12 BUCKINGHAM GATE,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

2359

16/18 MAY, 1966

APPLICANT'S REFERENCE  
1A.1443/4/5/PS.728(C)

RELATED FILE

Re

- (1) PARASKOS, STASSINOS (32)  
(CYPRIOT)
- (2) TAYLOR, ERIC WILFRED (56)
- (3) HUGHES, PETER DAVID (26)  
(2) ART COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

CROSS REFERENCE(S)

5A  
1021

4193

**DPP**  
**2**

TRANSIT CHART

TO	DATE	TO	DATE
IND. OBSC. PUBNS.	18.5.66		
<i>Mr Stevens</i>	<i>18/5/66</i>		
<i>AS (R)</i>	<i>23 May</i>		
<i>Reentry</i>	<i>17/6</i>		
<i>Mr Stevens</i>	<i>18/7</i>		
<i>Mr Stevens</i>	<i>2/8/66</i>		
<i>A/S M/T</i>	<i>21/9/66</i>		
<i>Dunlop</i>	<i>22/9</i>		
<i>A/P Sec</i>	<i>3/1/67</i>		
<i>Director</i>	<i>8/1</i>		
<i>A/P Gen</i>	<i>4/4/67</i>		
<i>M/S (E)</i>	<i>4/4</i>		
<i>P/K</i>	<i>19/4/67</i>		
<i>MR. BATES</i>	<i>19/4/67</i>		
<i>P/K</i>	<i>19/4</i>		
<i>I. P. Section</i>	<i>15/6/67</i>		
<i>P/K</i>	<i>16/4/67</i>		

Group DPP  
Class 2  
Piece 4193

**CLOSED  
UNTIL  
OPEN**

**R**

APPLICANT

CHIEF CONSTABLE,  
CITY POLICE,  
LEEDS.

OFFENCE

IND. O. SC. PUBNS. (DRAWINGS)  
(On show LEEDS INSTITUTE of ART)  
S.4. VAGRANCY ACT, 1824.

VENUE

DATE OF HEARING

OFFICER IN CHARGE

PRECEDENT No.

ACCOUNTS BRANCH

NOTED BY (INITS.)

(FOR USE IN REGISTRY ONLY)

**A** CASE (INITS.)

**B** CASE (INITS.)

Duerton

to see CC's report of result &c.

The Comd' seems to have imported  
into the Vagrancy act offences  
a requirement that the prosecution  
have to negative pub<sup>h</sup> for the public  
good — as per Obs, Public Act.

BT 9/1

N/S: 4/4/67

A/S(E)

You may like to see these papers and  
perhaps Registry could be asked to  
note on their Subject index.

BT 4/4/67

Moreover if the pictures had any artistic merit - and there is no evidence that they had not - it would be difficult to rebut a defence that art students should have the benefit of seeing them.

For these reasons I do not consider that there would be a reasonable prospect of success under the Obscene Publications Acts.

The provisions of Section 4 of the Vagrancy Act are intended for a different purpose, not to protect the community from being corrupted but to protect them from having thrust upon their sight things which are offensive to them.

Accordingly under the Section it is made an offence "to expose to view .... in a public place .... any obscene picture or .... indecent exhibition".

The generally accepted distinction between obscene and indecent lies in the particular effect produced on the viewer. Accordingly it is not regarded as indecent to bathe publicly in the nude so long as it is among those who like that sort of thing. But it is indecent to do so on a beach crowded with ordinary holiday makers. To do so may be obscene should the naked bather draw attention to his private parts.

Applying those criteria to these pictures and having regard to the circumstances in which they were put on view I am of the opinion that the pictures are not sufficiently obscene nor the exhibition, as such, sufficiently indecent as to provide a reasonable prospect of proceedings being successfully instituted under the 1824 Act.

Yours faithfully,

**Maurice Crump**  
(MAURICE CRUMP)



CITY OF LEEDS



ACC/MS

Chief Constable's Office,

Police Headquarters,

Leeds, 1

A. J. PATERSON  
B.E.M., M.A., B.L.  
CHIEF CONSTABLE

PLEASE QUOTE  
OUR REF. IA.1443/4/5/PS.728(C)  
YOUR REF. ERT IP.2359.66.

6th January, 1967.

*add by card  
9/1/67  
AT*

*CP*

RECEIVED  
- 9 JAN 1967  
REGISTRY

Dear Sir,

Stassinou PARASKOS.

In reply to your letter of the 4th January, 1967, as requested I enclose details of the charges preferred in this case, together with the pleas offered, and the adjudication of the Court.

The case was heard on the 19th/20th December, 1966, before the Stipendiary Magistrate, Mr. John Randolph, LL.B., who on this occasion sat together with Dr. J.W. Silversides, M.B., Chairman of the Bench of Justices for the City of Leeds, and Mrs. Joyce Mary Latchmore, a member of the Bench of Justices.

I also enclose, for your information, a copy of a letter dated 4th January, 1967, from Armitage, Ashworth & Co., Solicitors, together with a copy of the summary of the Judgment of the Court referred to. It will be seen from this letter that it does not appear there is going to be an appeal.

Yours faithfully,

*[Signature]*  
Assistant Chief Constable.

The Director of Public Prosecutions,  
12, Buckingham Gate,  
LONDON.S.W.1.

Encs.

ARMITAGE, SPEIGHT  
& ASHWORTH

DAVID B. SMITH  
GEORGE H. COX

ARMITAGE · ASHWORTH & CO.

SOLICITORS

PROVINCIAL HOUSE  
ALBION STREET · LEEDS 1

TELEPHONE — LEEDS (OLE 2) 39855

CATLOW &  
ARMITAGE

WM. ARTHUR ARMITAGE  
KENNETH J. ARMITAGE

OUR REF: GMC/DMW  
YOUR REF:

4th January 1967.

The Assistant Chief Constable,  
Chief Constable's Office,  
Police Headquarters,  
Leeds.1.

Dear Sir,

R. -v- Stassinou Paraskos.

As requested by you we now return your file together with various coloured prints which we held and a note which we have prepared setting out the names of the witnesses called by the defence and also in case it is of assistance to you our summary of the Judgment of the Court.

It would seem that there is not going to be an appeal, we will therefore let you have a note of our charges shortly, but in the meantime we have written to the Defendant's Solicitors asking if they are agreeable to make the contribution towards our costs without taxation.

Yours faithfully,

*J H Cox*

## LEEDS CITY POLICE MC

## STATEMENT FORM

Millgarth Street Station Central Division  
 11th day of May 19 66

Name George Edward JEW

Address Leeds City Police

Age Occupation PS. 728.

## Statement:

At 3.30 p.m. on Thursday, 28th April, 1966, as a result of information received, along with P.C. 577 Underwood, I went to the Leeds Institute of Art, Cookridge Street, Leeds 2. I entered the building by the main steps in Cookridge Street and entered the main building.

This building is used by the Leeds Education Department, and houses the Civic Theatre, several offices and large rooms which are used by students from the Art College. On the ground floor, a large room on the right at the top of a short flight of stairs is kept by the Leeds Education Department for Art Exhibitions etc.

As I entered the building on the above date, I saw no signs outside the Institute advertising the exhibition, but on the door of the room where the exhibition was being held was a notice painted on a piece of paper about 6" square with the words "Paraskos Exhibition. Open 25th April - 13th May. Monday to Friday. 10.0 am - 5.0 pm". I entered the exhibition room and saw approximately 65 paintings and drawings on display, entry to the exhibition was free but catalogues could be purchased for 1s.0d. Most of the exhibits were numbered and the paintings were named in the catalogue.

I examined the paintings on display and Exhibit No. 45 (Lost Love) portrayed a naked man on the right of the painting, and on the left was a naked man and woman who were kissing each other, the woman was shown to be holding what appeared to be the man's penis. Another drawing which was being exhibited, was in black and white, and portrayed a naked man and woman. As in the oil painting the woman was holding what appeared to be

Signature (sgd.) George E.Jew, PS. 728

Signature witnessed by

contd...