

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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15 Erotic Stories from Esoterica Press

[1956]

\$7500

A group of fifteen erotic stories from the 1950s produced by the clandestine publisher Esoterica Press. Each is composed of mimeographed or photomechanically reproduced sheets stapled with a colored front wrap, a few illustrated. Many of the stories have punch holes along the right margin (as issued?) and are stamped with a date and red serial number; one is prong bound. Overall very good with minor creases and bumping at the corners.

Information about Esoterica Press is virtual nonexistent unlike some of the known back room erotic publishers, such as 7 Zephyrs Press. The individual stories shed little light on their origin with little or no publishing information outside of the press's name, nor advertisements or indexes for other titles, and with but two authors identified by name: Phoebe Smith and Gavin Moore. The time period of the publications suggest they may be copies of stories commissioned by the Oklahoma oil man and smut connoisseur, Roy Melisander Johnson, which were duplicated by book agents and sold privately for extra cash unbeknownst to Johnson. No matter the source, little is known outside the stories themselves which usually follow the popular theme of an innocent man or woman exposed to the siren calls of wanton sex through seduction or by force and discipline.

A fascinating collection of erotic stories exposing the hidden sexual mores of the 1950s America and the clandestine method of distribution and consumption. OCLC locates no copies.

List:

1. *The Amors of Armando*. Esoterica Press 1956. [17]pp. Story #105.
2. *Doctor Hot*. Esoterica Press 1956. 38pp. Story #38.
3. *Free and Plenty** by Phoebe Smith. Esoterica Press 1956. 22pp. Story #223. "The Amazing tale of a poor orphan English girl who is beaten and taken advantage of, but finally rises to riches."
4. *Happy Harlot*. Esoterica Press 1956. [18]pp. Illustrated front wrapper. Story #146.
5. *Janet's Journey*. Esoterica Press 1956. [11]pp. Story #25.
6. *The Lewd Revelry*. Esoterica Press 1956. [15]pp. Illustrated front wrapper. Story #189.
7. *Liquid Love*. Esoterica Press [no date]. [16]pp. Story #289.
8. *The Mad Afternoon*. Esoterica Press 1956. 5pp. Story #26.
9. *The Missouri Sex Club*. Esoterica Press [no date]. [15]pp. Story #27.
10. *Night of Horror Part I and II [The Vortex]* by Gavin Moore. Esoterica Press [no date]. [25]pp., and [20]pp. Illustrated front wrapper. Story #231.
11. *Rat Pack*. Esoterica Press 1956. [8]pp. Story #134.
12. *The Red Circle*. Esoterica Press 1956. [17]pp. Story #40. "A tale of wild lust on the part of a young girl, and the vengeance of her boy friend's father, a member of a secret cult."
13. *Successful "Lover" Part II*. [Esoterica Press] 1955. [11]pp. Book 95. "The hot confession of a husky fellow and his relations with a convent girl."
14. *Teacher's Pet*. Esoterica Press [no date]. [23]pp. Illustrated front wrapper. Story #189.
15. *Ten Big Inches*. Esoterica Press [1956]. [15]pp. Story #121.

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