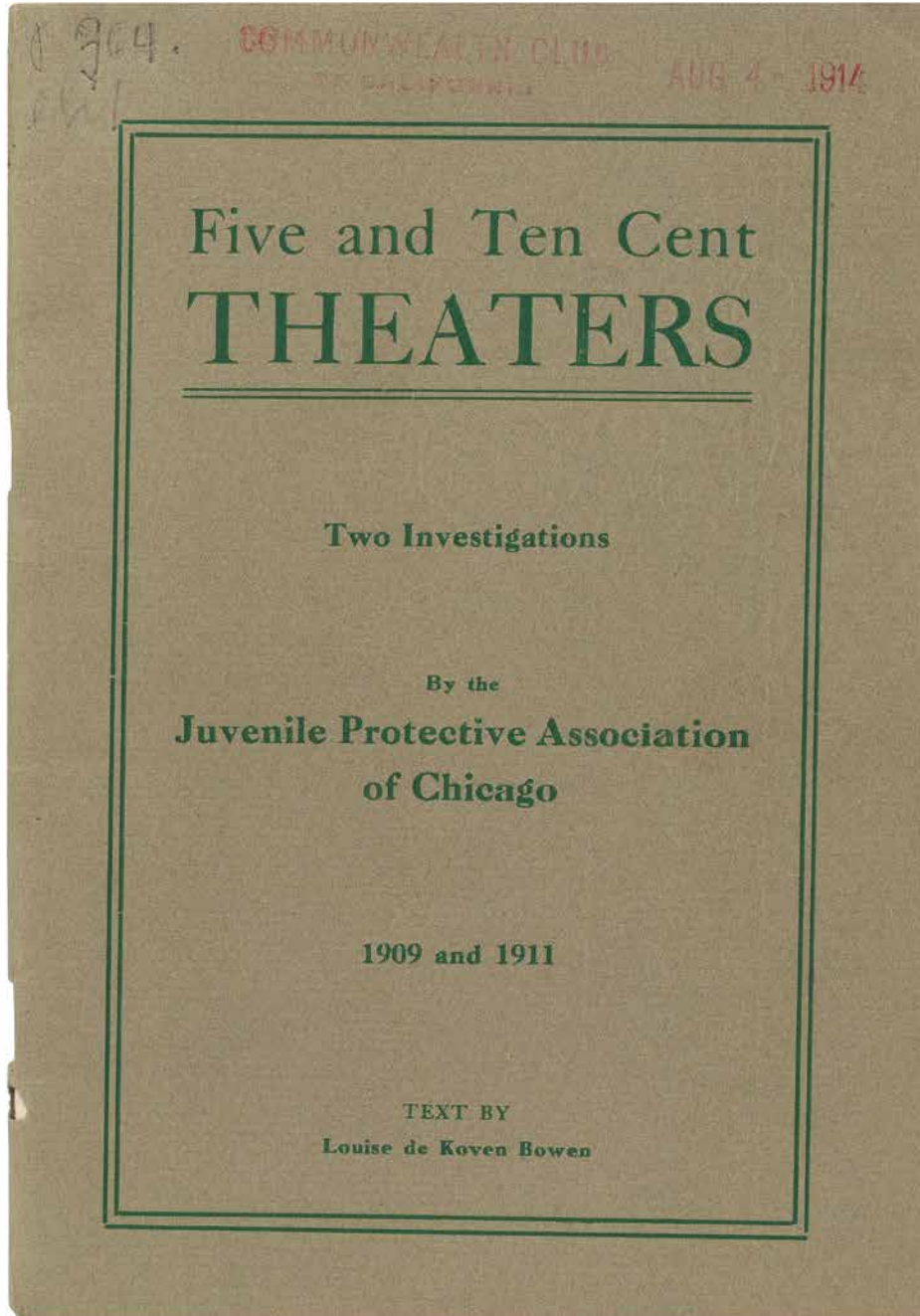


Louise de Koven Bowen

Five and Ten Cent Theaters: Two Investigations by the Juvenile Protective Association of Chicago

Chicago: Juvenile Protection Association of Chicago 1911

\$500



First edition. 12mo. [16]pp. Gray stapled wrappers printed in green. Faint stamp of a community club and a tiny chip, both on the front wrap, else near fine. Account of two investigations in 1909 and 1911, that explored the exploitation of children by operators of movie theaters, both as laborers and as sexual prey to the operators of the theaters, and as targets of violent and sexually suggestive films, but reporting some progress made after the 1909 investigation. *OCLC* appears to locate two copies over two records (British Library and Harvard). [\[BTC#434296\]](#)

Evil Minded Men and Young Girls found where little girls congregate. The boys and men in such crowds often speak to the girls and invite them to see the show, and there is an unwritten code that such courtesies shall be paid for later by the girls.

Late Hours and Cheap Tickets In most of the theatres the hours were late, because they offered at the close of the evening three admissions for ten cents, or sometimes two for five cents, and the children stood around pilfering or begging in order to obtain the price of admission. Inside the theatres the

Physical Conditions Bad ventilation was bad, the air was viti-ated, the exits were inadequate, and the darkness afforded a cover for familiarity and sometimes even for immorality. The buildings frequently did not comply with the building and fire ordinances. The motion pictures thrown upon

Pictures Uncensored the screens were demoralizing. The imagination of the boy who attended these shows was fired by what he saw. The gentlemanly burglar, the expert safe blower, the daring train robber, the reckless scout, all filled his ideas of what a hero ought to be. At one time, after a set of pictures had been given on the West Side which depicted the hero as a burglar, thirteen boys were brought into court, all of whom had in their possession house-breakers' tools, and all stated they had invested in these tools because they had seen these pictures and they were anxious to become gentlemanly burglars.

Crime Made Attractive The pictures not only showed crime of all kinds, but scenes of brutality and revenge calculated to arouse coarse and brutal emotions. One set of pictures, for instance, would show