



AFTER SPAIN

-WHAT?

by H.G.Wells

HER GENTLEMAN

SECRETARY: A Novel of

opsy-TurvyLove in 1938

Speare

WHAT IS

WRONG WITH AMERICAN

YOUTH?

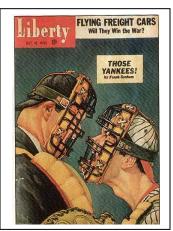
by Father Ignatius W. Cox

Hell in the Holy Land ... The Divorce Factory ... Our Problem of National Defense ... Social Security, Limited ... Why America's Next President Should Be a Woman ... Science Fights Cancer with Diet ... The Truth about Marihuana ... Life After Death: Are We Getting New Proofs? ... Is the Klan Coming Back

The headlines above might be found in any current magazine, but they actually appeared in a popular periodical of the 1920's, 30's, and 40's. **Liberty**, the magazine that rivaled Collier's and the Saturday Evening Post for readership, records Lowell Thomas eyeing the Middle East Crisis back in 1937, a divorce "epidemic" hitting in 1929, and the Klu Klux Klan "returning" in 1940, the same year Gracie Allen proclaimed a woman president a great idea.

Now students, teachers, historians, and researchers, using **Liberty**, can trace the development of recent history. Researchers interested in popular culture will find **Liberty**'s pages full of information covering every phase of America's evolution for over a quarter of a

century. Because more than 90 percent of the material in **Liberty** has never been reprinted or anthologized, this collection creates endless possibilities for new and more thorough research.



For 3,000,000 Americans every week, **Liberty** provided the latest coverage of the national and international scene. FDR wrote on the New Deal and the dole; he also entertained his readers with a mystery story. Gorki wrote an essay on Lenin. And J. Edgar Hoover encouraged scouts to become G-Men, while Mary Pickford advised teenage girls on the art of arguing with their mothers for bobbed hair.

Published for 26 consecutive years (from May 1924 to July 1950), **Liberty** contains over 17,000 stories and articles. Eighty percent of the material was non-fiction, an attribute which set **Liberty** apart from the Saturday Evening Post. Here is indispensible material for a researcher of the

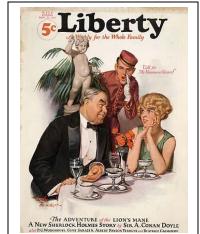
period – and a new primary source providing fresh approaches for students of current problems and issues:

Margaret Sanger debated Mahatma Gandhi about birth control, arguing in 1939 for a woman's right to control her own body's functions. She said Gandhi's support of birth control by abstinence reduced "the most idealistic human relationship to the level of stock-breeding."

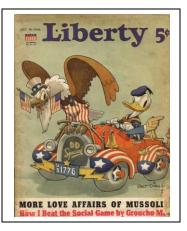
Charles de Gaulle and Neville Chamberlain wrote about the threat of war in 1938. And Japan's ambassador to America asked "Must Japan and the United States Go to War?" that same year.

A 1949 article on marihuana shared the opinions of doctors, government officials, and smokers with readers, and quoted Dr. Kinsey ("the much-talked-about author of male sexuality"), as saying "marihuana is not a drug," that it"...releases inhibitions, but that's about all."

Liberty's fictional offerings are also outstanding. Among its writers were F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sinclair Lewis, Somerset Maugham, John Dos Passos, and Dashiell Hammett. One of **Liberty**'s most famous departments was its short stories. Known and unknown writers turned out almost 1300 stories of just 1,000 words which were considered classics for their tight editing and twist endings. And **Liberty** holds a major collection of Robert Benchley's works among its 340 humor stories. The **Liberty** archive includes over 900 adventure stories, 300 Westerns, 1500 British and American mystery/spy stories, and 500 World War I and II stories.



Liberty's documentation of the nation's ideals, values, worries, and desires is fascinating.



Albert Einstein explained why civilization will not end. Madame Chiang Kai-shek pondered what would happen to China and Japan, while George Bernard Shaw described "the Palestinian muddle." H.L. Mencken declared that capitalism wouldn't die. Mussolini called Roosevelt a dictator, and H.G. Wells feared for the future of the Jews. Dizzy Dean and Joe Louis discussed their respective sports. While Mickey Rooney's marriages were reviewed, Garbo told why she would never marry. Women sought advice about writing to servicemen, using their husbands' names, and being drafted. The Lindbergh kidnapping and the Nuremberg trial were emotionally reported, with Bruno Hauptmann, the man accused and executed for the kidnapping, asking readers "why did you kill me?" Billy Mitchell's war diary was a **Liberty** exclusive. Winston

Churchill, Theodore Dreiser, Leo Tolstoy – all were contributors.

Unquestionably, **Liberty** magazine illuminated numerous aspects of American life during the mid-20th century. But its relevance is not confined to the past. **Liberty** chronicles the nation recovering from one war, preparing for another. The magazine records American popular culture, unlocking the immediate past so scholars can examine the nation's history, helping us to better understand our present concerns and pleasures.

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