
***Liberator* to Have Second Class Rates: Communist Magazine Gets Favorable P.O. Ruling. Will Receive Refund.**

[event of May 25, 1921]

Unsigned article in *The Toiler* [Cleveland, OH], whole no. 174 (June 4, 1921), pg. 1.

The Liberator, Communist monthly magazine, edited by Max Eastman and to which the late John Reed was a contributor, has had its second class mail privileges restored.

Based solely upon the rule that any publication acceptable for mailing through the United States Post Office is entitled to the privilege of the special rates for its class, Postmaster General Will H. Hays granted the application of *The Liberator* for admission to second class mails on May 25 [1921].

The ruling is looked upon as an important one in respect to the post office censorship of the public press. Inasmuch as a number of radical and socialist magazines and papers were deprived of second class rates while being allowed to pass through the mails as mailable matter under the Wilson-Burleson-Palmer administration, the new Hays ruling comes as a welcome rift in the clouds of official suppression of public expression.

The Liberator (then named *The Masses*) was barred from the second class rates Nov. 2, 1917 when Judge Rogers upheld a decision of the post office declaring that “considering the natural and reasonable effect of the publication it was intended to willfully obstruct recruiting.”

Will Refund Excess Charges.

Mr. Hays in announcing his decision stated that the claims of *The Liberator's* publishers for a refund of the difference between the charges paid at the 3rd class rates and what they would have had to pay at their entitled rates would be paid. This amount is considerable. A total of \$14,321.96 has been paid by *The Liberator* in postage charges since the Burleson ruling. The cost for the second class rates would have been only \$3,044.96, a difference of \$11,277.30.

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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