

**Zeitschrift:** Der Kreis : eine Monatsschrift = Le Cercle : revue mensuelle  
**Band:** 33 (1965)  
**Heft:** 7

**Rubrik:** Letter from the post office dept., Office of the General Counsel,  
Washington, D.C.

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 30.01.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

## Letter from the Post Office Dept., Office of the General Counsel, Washington, D.C.

In January 1965 The Circle was informed by various USA subscribers that a smaller number of the November and/or December 1964 issues of The Circle had been held up for inspection by the New York Postal Authorities. Quite a few of the subscribers when receiving notification of this went to the post office where in every single case the issue in question was handed over to them without any fuss since the question of 'obscenity' did, naturally, not arise at all. Other subscribers, understandably, let the matter drop and in consequence did not renew their subscription for 1965.

In trying to clear the whole matter up The Circle wrote on April 23d to the Postmaster New York. Just before the material for the July issue 1965 of The Circle was sent to our printer we received under the date of June 11th a letter in answer to our inquiries from the Post Office Dept., Washington, D.C. We think this letter will be of sufficient interest to all our USA subscribers to warrant reprinting below:

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
Washington, D.C. 20260

Mr. Rolf  
Der Kreis / Le Cercle  
Postfach 547 Fraumunster  
Zurich 22, Switzerland

Dear Mr. Rolf:

This will acknowledge your inquiry of April 23, 1965, to the postmaster, New York, New York, as to why copies of the November and December 1964 issues of your publication were returned.

We have examined these two issues and from our examination and information from the New York post office, they were not returned because of any decision that they constituted obscenity, per se. Rather, according to our information, they were returned for the reason that the addressee failed to provide the necessary authorization for opening to study the contents as requested by the post office in accordance with the regulations.

Joint Customs-Post Office regulations were established many years ago to assist in the enforcement of certain laws administered by the Customs Service. It is prohibited to bring into the United States various classes of illegal matter, such as obscenity, lottery tickets and advertising. Therefore, when a sealed first-class article is received and there is suspicion as to the nature of its contents, it is necessary to obtain the cooperation of the addressee to make an examination of the material. If this authorization is not forthcoming then, under the regulations, the mail article is returned to the sender.

For the General Counsel  
Sincerely yours,  
Saul J. Mindel  
Assistant General Counsel  
Mailability Division