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## Masterpieces Of Legal Fiction. Ed. By Maximiliankoessler.

Mark Ferdinand

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self-restraint in the area of judicial law-making. However, *Of Men, and Not of Law* fails rather miserably in its attempt, and is hardly the "revealing expose of judicial usurpation" claimed in the book's foreword. The book is of little value to laymen, lawyers, or students of government. It is neither particularly well-written nor well-documented, and the author's bias and lack of objectivity outweigh the occasional valid and interesting comment. The book is especially disappointing because of the importance of its subject, for today judges are exercising vast and undefined powers. The social philosophies of our judges are quite legitimately a matter of great concern to all citizens, because judges, once installed, are relatively independent of popular control. Such independence, coupled with legislation on a grand scale, can violate classical democratic theory. The people should rely on their legislative representatives (who can raise the issues with the people in their election campaigns) to make laws preserving the liberties of all.

MALCOLM G. CRAWFORD

MASTERPIECES OF LEGAL FICTION. Ed. by Maximilian Koessler. Rochester, New York: The Lawyers Co-operative Publishing Company, 1964. 862 pp., \$9.95.

For this collection of 38 stories, Maximilian Koessler gathers notable fiction in which law plays a prominent part. His scheme is simple. He includes full stories only and generally arranges them according to their time setting. Spanning Europe, America, and the Orient, the stories in this collection suggest problems leading into and out of the courtroom. Included are Herman Melville's "Billy Budd, Foretopman," Steen Steensen Blicher's "The Rector of Veilbye," and Anatole France's "Crainquebille." Less familiar treasures include Sir A. P. Herbert's "Is Marriage Lawful?" and "Computer in Court," Robert Bristow's "Beyond Any Doubt," and Vincent Starrett's "The Eleventh Juror."

The stories in this volume appeal to a wide variety of literary tastes. The suspense of "Billy Budd, Foretopman," for example, centers on 2 characters who, representing moral extremes, clash in a court-martial. As whimsical as "Billy Budd" is dramatic, Sir Herbert's "*Marrowfat v. Marrowfat: Is Marriage Lawful?*" questions whether marriage is a contract or a gamble. For those who enjoy speculating as to tomorrow's law, there is a futuristic twist in "Computer in Court," which discusses the possibility of a libel suit when a power failure causes a computer to publish an erroneous credit report.

For readers who enjoy classic stories for the changeless problems they present, there is Robert Bristow's "Beyond Any Doubt," an exploration into the minds of jurors during deliberation of a murder case; Steen Steensen Blicher's "The Rector of Veilbye," involving the execution of an innocent man as a result of the perfidious fabrication of circumstantial evidence; and Anatole France's "Crainquebille," the classic reflection on how justice is administered to the poor. In all of these stories, whether the central issue concerns jury deliberation, the execution of the innocent, or legal treatment of the poor, law is treated as a social dynamic, rather than as an intellectual discipline.

Aside from the intrinsic delights of each of the stories collected by Mr. Koessler the book has a further advantage: it does not have to be read from cover to cover to be enjoyed. The reader can enjoy it whether he reads for an hour or an afternoon. The final test of a good anthology is not whether you cannot put it down but how often you pick it up. This book should be picked up often.

MARK FERDINAND

**UNSAFE AT ANY SPEED.** Ralph Nader. New York: Grossman Publishers, 1965. 365 pp., \$5.95.

When the Senate Commerce Committee opened its hearings on the Highway Safety Act of 1966, Ralph Nader as author of *Unsafe At Any Speed* was among the first witnesses. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Princeton and a graduate of the Harvard Law School, this Washington, D. C., attorney has become the principal crusader for compulsory automobile safety standards. Before the Commerce Committee, he acted as the prime antagonist of the automobile manufacturers in calling for safety engineering legislation to take effect immediately. Nader's testimony received much publicity for himself and his book, which, on July 17, 1966, was 8th on the New York Times Book Review "General Best Seller List," its 13th week on the list.

Both the Commerce Committee and the author are concerned with the prevention of the shocking number of automotive deaths and injuries; in 1964 there were 47,700 deaths and more than 4 million injuries. Automobile crashes are the 4th leading cause of death in the United States and are responsible for 1/3 of the hospitalizations for injuries. Nader accuses the \$25 billion automobile industry of ignoring safety in spending only 23¢ per car on safety research,<sup>1</sup> compared to \$700 per car on the annual model change, mostly styling.

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<sup>1</sup>In the absence of company figures, federal highway safety researchers