

Chelm's Bill of Rights

by Philip Fishl Kutner

Who found the Chelm Bill of Rights? Where was it found? Who wrote it? What did it say? What impact did it have on the good citizens of Chelm—and to the rest of the world?

The lead researcher who discovered the Chelm Bill of Rights presented a paper at the Annual Conference of the International Association of Archaeologists. Prof. Nakhum Noitall Department Chairman of the Obscure Archaeology Department at University College, London gave the presentation, and it had the greatest attendance and media coverage of any of the sessions at the conference.

The team of archaeologists, that Prof. Noitall led, consisted of internationally recognized researchers from around the world. The discovery was made in a passage heretofore overlooked in the chalk mines under the City of Chelm, Poland.

There was a note attached that read: "I am making this document, for I am not sure that Adam, Eve and the Snake will follow my commands. If it is necessary for Me to banish them from the Garden, then this place will be the Heaven on Earth that the Garden was supposed to be. If this should occur, then the wonderful people who inhabit this Garden will have another set of commands, for they will be unique inhabitants."

The documents found included:

- The Declaration of Dependence
- The Commandments
- The Chelm Bill of Rights

Just as the United States Bill of Rights is a list of amendments to the Constitution, so is the Chelm Bill of Rights a list of amendments to the Commandments.

The Chelm Bill of Rights

- **Thou shalt have fun and laughter.**
- **Thou shalt play games all the days of your life**
- **Thou shalt love thy children**
- **Thou shalt teach your children to be happy.**
- **Thou shalt consider thy wife as an equal**
- **Thou shalt not demean Conservative, Reform, Reconstructionist, Humanist or Secular Jews.**
- **Thou shalt not chew gum during services.**
- **Thou shalt not use idle chatter during services.**
- **Thou shalt not denigrate the rebetsin.**
- **Thou shalt not hate him who loves another man.**

When this highly unorthodox set of rules was read at the archaeological conference, not only was there a stir of utter amazement, but it immediately was headline news in the newspapers and television internationally. It became the center of conversation at scientific meetings, sisterhood meetings and in taverns.

- Archeo-paleontologists wanted the documents to be Carbon 14 tested to determine its age.
- Handwriting experts wanted to analyze the writing to determine the personality of the writer.
- Bankers wanted to bid on them as an investment instrument.
- The great museums of the world called to have them on exhibit.
- Theologians wanted to analyze them for possible changes in their dogma.
- Children, women and *lovers* regaled in their new-found acceptance and roles.
- The media had a field day, for it meant that everyone wanted to know what others were saying.

As for the Chelmers, at first they were oblivious to the notoriety. Then at a meeting of the city elders, the matter came up for serious discussions. Rebe Ruvn was quite distraught. He saw this as undermining his authority. However, one of the invited women said "Everyone knows that the women are the boss at home in the bedroom, and the men outside of the home where it counts." All shook their heads in agreement.

She continued and said, "In Chelm the only kind of Jews we have are God-fearing, law abiding citizens—not the other kinds, so we can treat everyone alike." Again there was nodding throughout the room and complete agreement.

"As far as those men who like other men, all men in Chelm get married. If men like men, then they don't hate men and everyone gets along well—that's got to be very good." Thus the Chelm Bill of Rights made Chelm a better place to live.

This happy situation was not the case for the rest of the world—the ultra fanatical type. It meant that the power and hate, that fanatics wielded, would be diminished. A ray of hope spread over womankind.