

# DOWNLOAD PDF THE BATHTUB HOAX, AND OTHER BLASTS BRAVOS FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

## Chapter 1 : TalkBack!: CCC Museum 7

*The bathtub hoax, and other blasts & bravos from the Chicago tribune / edited, with an introduction and notes, by Robert McHugh.*

He proceeded to offer a history of the bathtub in the United States. President Millard Fillmore had installed the first one in the White House in 1846. Mencken was an established and respected newspaperman. He had started his career as a reporter for the Baltimore Morning Herald in 1888, becoming city editor in 1891. In 1892 he began his long association with the Baltimore Sun. Although this accusation had been absolutely accepted by the American people, it was later proven to be pure Allied propaganda. Mencken attempted to infuse some real-world perspective on the war into American newspapers. Near the end of the war he traveled as a reporter to the eastern front to cover the hostilities, but the breakdown of diplomatic relations between Germany and America forced him to return. At home he discovered to his horror that most of his dispatches had not been published. Martin writes in *H. The war and all of its ramifications were excluded from his writing until after 1918*. A Book of Prefaces, a collection of literary criticism, appeared in 1919. His book on the position of women in society, *In Defense of Women*, was issued in 1920. But Mencken was far from sanguine about having his political views suppressed. He complained to Ellery Sedgwick, editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, whose pages were also closed to him: How can I preach upon the dangerous hysterias of democracy without citing the super-obvious spy scare with its typical putting of public credulity to political and personal uses? It had levels of meaning. In the article, Mencken spoke in an eloquent tone of mock reason, which was supported by bogus citations and manufactured statistics. In short, his history of the bathtub was an utter hoax set within the framework of historical fact. The modern bathtub had not been invented in Cincinnati. Fillmore had not introduced it into the White House. It was easy to look that up. Also it said, obliquely, that Gen. Conrad was Secretary of War under Fillmore. No editor or scholar in the land could find these imaginary journals but they had plausible names. How much that was then devoured by the newspaper readers of the world was actually true? Probably not one per cent. Ever since the war ended learned and laborious men have been at work examining and exposing its fictions. It was also an appeal for reason to the American public. His hoax was a joke gone bad. Mencken had been receiving letters of corroboration from some readers and requests for more details from others. His history of the bathtub had been cited repeatedly by other writers and was starting to find its way into reference works. They began to be cited by medical men as proof of the progress of public hygiene. Fillmore had introduced the bathtub into the White House. The chiropractors will damn me for blowing up their ammunition. The medical gents, having swallowed my quackery, will denounce me as a quack for exposing them. Many people believed that his confession, and not the original article, was the hoax. That piece of fiction has even made it into the Age of the Internet. Her books include the *Independent Institute* volumes, *Liberty for Women*: This article is reprinted with permission from *The Freeman*, August

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### Chapter 2 : H. L. Mencken - Wikipedia

*To ask other readers questions about The Bathtub Hoax, and Other Blasts and Bravos from the Chicago Tribune, please sign up. Be the first to ask a question about The Bathtub Hoax, and Other Blasts and Bravos from the Chicago Tribune I come from smug and cynical stock. But I can't say that it's all.*

Beliefs[ edit ] In his capacity as editor, Mencken became close friends with the leading literary figures of his time, including Theodore Dreiser , F. He also championed artists whose works he considered worthy. For example, he asserted that books such as Caught Short! He also mentored John Fante. Hirshberg , he wrote a series of articles and in most of a book about the care of babies. His humor and satire owe much to Ambrose Bierce and Mark Twain. He did much to defend Dreiser despite freely admitting his faults, including stating forthrightly that Dreiser often wrote badly and was a gullible man. Hornbeck right , seen here as played by Gene Kelly in the Hollywood film version. These hucksters pose now as earnest fundraisers for temperance "who get drunk on the proceeds; as pious "saved" men collecting money for a far off evangelistic mission"to pirates on the high seas; and as learned doctors of phrenology , although they can barely spell. In the end the townsfolk wise up, and the scoundrels are ridden out on a rail. For Mencken the episode epitomizes the hilarious dark side of America, where democracy, as defined by Mencken, is "the worship of jackals by jackasses. A noted curmudgeon, [29] democratic in subjects attacked, Mencken savaged politics, [30] hypocrisy, and social convention. As a frank admirer of Nietzsche, Mencken was a detractor of populism and representative democracy , which he believed was a system in which inferior men dominated their superiors. The play Inherit the Wind is a fictionalized version of the trial, and, as noted above, the cynical reporter E. Hornbeck is based on Mencken. In , he deliberately had himself arrested for selling an issue of The American Mercury that was banned in Boston under the Comstock laws. She was accused of faking her reported kidnapping and the case attracted national attention. There was every expectation Mencken would continue his previous pattern of anti-fundamentalist articles, this time with a searing critique of McPherson. Unexpectedly, he came to her defense, identifying various local religious and civic groups which were using the case as an opportunity to pursue their respective ideological agendas against the embattled Pentecostal minister. After all charges had been dropped against McPherson, Mencken revisited the case in with a sarcastically biting and observant article. Mencken, says Charles A. He believed that every community produced a few people of clear superiority. He considered groupings on a par with hierarchies, which led to a kind of natural elitism and natural aristocracy. Mencken said, "There is no other Jew in Baltimore who seems suitable," according to the article. The diary also quoted him as saying of blacks, in September , that "it is impossible to talk anything resembling discretion or judgment to a colored woman. They are all essentially child-like, and even hard experience does not teach them anything. For example, he had this to say about a Maryland incident: Not a single bigwig came forward in the emergency, though the whole town knew what was afoot. Any one of a score of such bigwigs might have halted the crime, if only by threatening to denounce its perpetrators, but none spoke. So Williams was duly hanged, burned and mutilated. I admit freely enough that, by careful breeding, supervision of environment and education, extending over many generations, it might be possible to make an appreciable improvement in the stock of the American Negro, for example, but I must maintain that this enterprise would be a ridiculous waste of energy, for there is a high-caste white stock ready at hand, and it is inconceivable that the Negro stock, however carefully it might be nurtured, could ever even remotely approach it. The educated Negro of today is a failure, not because he meets insuperable difficulties in life, but because he is a Negro. He is, in brief, a low-caste man, to the manner born, and he will remain inert and inefficient until fifty generations of him have lived in civilization. And even then, the superior white race will be fifty generations ahead of him. Democracy gives [the beatification of mediocrity] a certain appearance of objective and demonstrable truth. The mob man, functioning as citizen, gets a feeling that he is really important to the world"that he is genuinely running things. Out of his maudlin herding after

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rogues and mountebanks there comes to him a sense of vast and mysterious powerâ€”which is what makes archbishops, police sergeants, the grand goblins of the Ku Klux and other such magnificoes happy. And out of it there comes, too, a conviction that he is somehow wise, that his views are taken seriously by his bettersâ€”which is what makes United States Senators, fortune tellers and Young Intellectuals happy. Finally, there comes out of it a glowing consciousness of a high duty triumphantly done which is what makes hangmen and husbands happy. The larger the mob, the harder the test. In small areas, before small electorates, a first-rate man occasionally fights his way through, carrying even the mob with him by force of his personality. But when the field is nationwide, and the fight must be waged chiefly at second and third hand, and the force of personality cannot so readily make itself felt, then all the odds are on the man who is, intrinsically, the most devious and mediocreâ€”the man who can most easily adeptly disperse the notion that his mind is a virtual vacuum. The Presidency tends, year by year, to go to such men. As democracy is perfected, the office represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. We move toward a lofty ideal. The rest is baloney. All of our sciences still suffer from their former attachment to religion, and that is why there is so much metaphysics and astrology, the two are the same, in science. Peirce in the American Mercury. He said mathematics is simply a fiction, compared with individual facts that make up science. The human mind, at its present stage of development, cannot function without the aid of fictions, but neither can it function without the aid of factsâ€”save, perhaps, when it is housed in the skull of a university professor of philosophy. Of the two, the facts are enormously the more important. In certain metaphysical fields, e. Very few fictions remain in use in anatomy, or in plumbing and gas-fitting; they have even begun to disappear from economics. According to Mencken, mathematics is necessarily infected with metaphysics because of the tendency of many mathematical people to engage in metaphysical speculation. In a review for A. Mencken also uses the term "theology" more generally, to refer to the use of logic in science or any other field of knowledge. In a review for both A. Is there anything in the general thinking of theologians which makes their opinion on the point of any interest or value? What have they ever done in other fields to match the fact-finding of the biologists? I can find nothing in the record. Their processes of thought, taking one day with another, are so defective as to be preposterous. True enough, they are masters of logic, but they always start out from palpably false premises. Instead of mathematical "speculation" such as quantum theory, Mencken believed physicists should just directly look at individual facts in the laboratory like chemists: If chemists were similarly given to fanciful and mystical guessing, they would have hatched a quantum theory forty years ago to account for the variations that they observed in atomic weights. But they kept on plugging away in their laboratories without calling in either mathematicians or theologians to aid them, and eventually they discovered the isotopes, and what had been chaos was reduced to the most exact sort of order. Physicists and especially astronomers are consequently not real scientists, because when looking at shapes or forces, they do not simply "patiently wait for further light", but resort to mathematical theory. There is no need for statistics in scientific physics, since one should simply look at the facts while statistics attempts to construct mathematical models. On the other hand, the really competent physicists do not bother with the "theology" or reasoning of mathematical theories such as in quantum mechanics: Some of the notions which they now try to foist upon the world, especially in the astronomical realm and about the atom, are obviously nonsensical, and will soon go the way of all unsupported speculations. But there is nothing intrinsically insoluble about the problems they mainly struggle with, and soon or late really competent physicists will arise to solve them. These really competent physicists, I predict, will be too busy in their laboratories to give any time to either metaphysics or theology. Both are eternal enemies of every variety of sound thinking, and no man can traffic with them without losing something of his good judgment. It is a well known fact that physicists are greatly given to the supernatural. One of the most absurd of all spiritualists is Sir Oliver Lodge. I have the suspicion that the cause may be that physics itself, as currently practised, is largely moonshine. Certainly there is a great deal of highly dubious stuff in the work of such men as Eddington. The Jews could be put down very plausibly as the most unpleasant race ever heard of. As commonly encountered, they lack many of the qualities that mark the civilized man: They have

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vanity without pride, voluptuousness without taste, and learning without wisdom. Their fortitude, such as it is, is wasted upon puerile objects, and their charity is mainly a form of display. Far from being an anti-Semite, Mencken was one of the first journalists to denounce the persecution of the Jews in Germany at a time when The New York Times, say, was notoriously reticent. On November 27, , Mencken writes Baltimore Sun , "It is to be hoped that the poor Jews now being robbed and mauled in Germany will not take too seriously the plans of various politicians to rescue them. There is only one way to help the fugitives, and that is to find places for them in a country in which they can really live. The City of Baltimore acquired the property in , and the H. Mencken House became part of the City Life Museums. It has been closed to general admission since , but is opened for special events and group visits by arrangement. At his death, it was in possession of most of the present large collection. The original third floor H. Mencken Room and Collection housing this collection was dedicated on April 17, In , Johns Hopkins acquired "nearly 6, books, photographs and letters by and about Mencken" from "the estate of an Ohio accountant.

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### Chapter 3 : The Bathtub, Mencken, and War: News: The Independent Institute

*The Bathtub Hoax, and Other Blasts and Bravos from the Chicago Tribune by H. L. Mencken (Author).*

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Selected Bibliography Principal Works of H. Mencken George Bernard Shaw: The Philosophy of Friedrich Nietzsche. A Book of Burlesques. Revised edition, New York: A Book of Prefaces. In Defense of Women. Revised edition with new Introduction, New York: Second edition revised and enlarged, Third edition, revised and enlarged, Fourth edition, enlarged and rewritten, Treatise on the Gods. A Footnote to the Saga of Democracy. Treatise on Right and Wrong. Illustrated by Bill Crawford. Mencken on Music, selected by Louis Cheslock. Mencken, selected and annotated by Guy J. Fergie with a Personal Note by Hamilton Owens. A Mencken Chrestomathy, edited and annotated by the author. Current American Reprints On Politics: A Carnival of Buncombe, edited by Malcolm Moos. A Selection, edited by James T. The Vintage Mencken, gathered by Alistair Cooke. Bibliographies Adler, Betty, with the assistance of Jane Wilhelm. A Bibliography of the Writings of H. Mencken, with a Foreword by H. Making a Mencken Collection. Yale University Gazette, Critical and Biographical Studies Angoff, Charles. Mencken, a Portrait from Memory. Mencken, a reprint of three articles: Disturber of the Peace: The Life of H. Mencken, with an Introduction by Gerald W. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

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## Chapter 4 : THE BATHTUB HOAX by H.L. Mencken | Kirkus Reviews

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Notess Reference Librarian Montana State University I have been pondering the whole concept of the role of the changing information cycle. There, a typical research process revolves around articles and books, and knowledge of the traditional information cycle helps determine which source may have the most relevant information. On the Internet, the traditional information cycle is broken in a variety of ways. News may be reported, analyzed, debated, corrected, and reinterpreted in a matter of hours. Old stories from decades ago may be re-examined. Factual information can be evaluated, expanded upon, and expounded on by a wide variety of readers. Instead of reading through complete Web pages or sites, searchers can browse results and choose to read a variety of extracts from pages created by completely different organizations. Finding a community of Web sites that together provide an answer can offer a deeper and broader understanding of certain issues. While many Web sites, including some of the most popular ones, continue to use the print model of publishing information in somewhat static articles, others are experimenting with improving overall information quality by having broader participation in the writing, correcting, and updating of content. With the linking patterns on the Web, sites can create virtual communities of interlinked sites that provide different views, related information, and varying interpretations while still linking to each other. Following the links between the sites can create a more complete information portrait of an issue. When an information need is of relatively low value, a single Web page will satisfy most users. Simply looking for the stars in the movie Rear Window, the meaning of "photosphere," or the five stages of grief? A Web search on any of these will pull up plenty of pages, all of which will probably have a correct answer. For those just looking for answers for their own curiosity, to help a friend, or on a whim, the single page can work. For information professionals, there are times when an answer on a single page may suffice, but more often confirmation from several diverse sources helps confirm authenticity of the information. Yet with the Web, authenticity and accuracy is always questionable. Many pages, even from reliable organizations, have typographical errors and misstatements of fact. It is so easy to post a Web page that much Web content fails to have significant editorial oversight. Geological Survey Web page from the biology side, not the geology side gave one explanation that did not match the text of the search query. This small removal completely changed the explanation of the process, and made it match the definition from other reputable sources. But it goes to show how even reputable, often authoritative organizations can make simple errors on Web pages. Consider someone looking for the Spanish way of saying "happy birthday. Feliz cumpleaños The diacritic mark may be left out on some sites or may not display correctly. In both these cases, trusting a single page, no matter how reliable the organization, can lead to incorrect information. Fortunately, the Web makes it easy to move beyond the single article focus. Yet even with just 10 results, the results should be scanned to see how much difference they provide in their answers. Using an advanced search form, or the preferences to display more results, helps to further explore the possibility of conflicting or contradictory information. Both of these examples showed a variety of conflicting answers in the results list. This led to the exploration of the contradictory or conflicting answers which when combined with evaluating the sources, comparing wording, and checking the frequency of the various answers, helped deduce the most likely correct answer to each. Take for example the highly entertaining, if somewhat trivial, issue of when the first bathtub appeared in the White House. In the print era of book and article dominance, H. It discussed the "history" of the first bathtubs in America and the controversy around the installation of the first one at the White House by Millard Fillmore. The only problem is that this article by Mencken was fiction. After finding his "history" had been quoted as fact by other writers, Mencken wrote another article in in the Chicago Tribune as a public confession that his earlier piece was pure fiction and



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explained his reasons. Note that this took 8 years in the print age of the article. By that point, his earlier fiction had been repeated so often that it continues to this day to appear in reputable reference sources, in print and online. Note the difference with how the Web can handle this kind of situation. Searching for white house bathtub at Yahoo! One of the best results for this question comes from a page that reprints a article from Plumbing and Mechanical on the history of plumbing in the White House. It discusses the hoax along with earlier reports of tubs in the White House. But for this question, no one single Web page really answers this question well. It is the sum total of the Web pages, incorrect and accurate, along with the reproduced articles that really help answer this question.

### Chapter 5 : The bathtub hoax, and other blasts & bravos from the Chicago tribune (Book, ) [blog.quintoapp

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### Chapter 6 : On The Net - The Changing Information Cycle

*New York: Alfred A. Knopf, First edition. Hardcover. pages. Anthology of Mencken's contributions to the Chicago Tribune edited and with an introduction and notes by Robert McHugh.*

### Chapter 7 : H. L. Mencken: used books, rare books and new books (page 5) @ blog.quintoapp.com

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