

Hika

Gambier, Ohio

Robie Macauley, editor

Bud Southard, managing editor

Bob Weaver, business manager

Paul Herrick, circulation manager

[May 1941]

Tuesday

Dear Peter:

Robie showed me the three stories you sent him. I think the Queen of Pleasure is the best short story I've ever read, except for A Spinster's Tale. I'd like to just say that and leave it there, but I'm writing for a Purpose - to solicit a contribution to the June Hika. Have you got anything you can't peddle that you'd let me have? I've got to get a damned good story somewhere to save the issue, and I can't in Gambier. If you can find something, will you let me know? I need it by May 10.

Robie said the draft doctors found all sorts of things wrong with you, and put you to bed. What happens now? Do they get you as soon as they let you get out of bed, or don't they want you or are you going to get married or what? I hope you don't have to spend a year for Democracy when you're moving so fast. The things you've run in the Southern Review are remarkable. Mr. Ransom's mentioned several times that he wished the S. R. didn't have you sewed up, that he'd like to get a story from you. I suppose you know that.

I wish you were around here. McDowell is worse than ever, Nerber's brain is slowly congealing (I don't know into what) and there's nobody on campus who can write worth a damn except Robie, who usually won't either write or talk to me. I never got to know you or Cal at all; now I regret it. I might have found out a year earlier what was worth doing; I'm just now painfully coming around to it.

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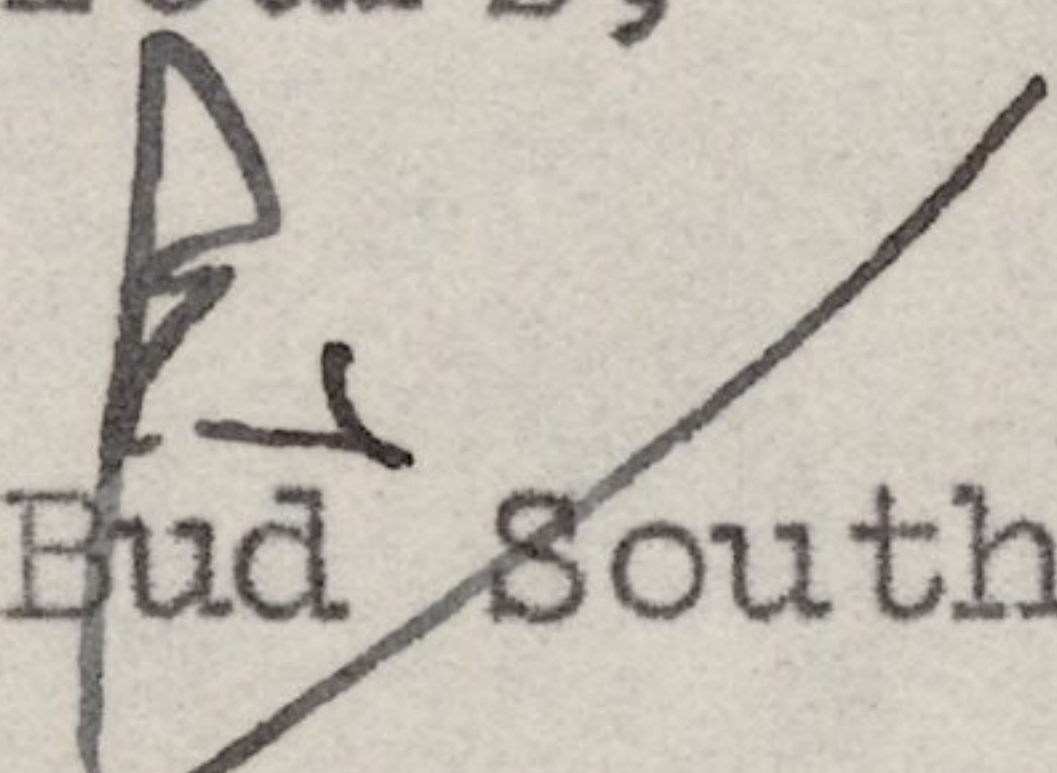
Paul Herrick, circulation manager

I wish I knew something exciting to tell you, but I don't. In Gambier everything, as you know, is indefinitely suspended. I don't see how the hell an ybody stands it four years. If somethin g violent doesn't come up soon I think I'll set Douglass House on fire.

Robert Frost is here, the President's pride and the students' idol. Christ.

Scratch yes or no on the enclosed sheet, will you?

Yours,


Bud Southard

4-30 [1941]

Dear Peter:

If your agent doesn't want any one of those stories Robie has, I'd like like hell to have it. I'd rather see you peddle it, which you certainly should be able to, but it'd make HIKA happy. Robie says The Queen is too rough for the Southern Review, but have you tried Mr. Ransom? He wanted one pretty badly a while ago - one of yours, I mean. Or Accent (Box 102, U. Station, Urbana, Ill.)? I'll bet you can't make a living writing as well as you are, though. They'll probably drag you into teaching or marrying a daughter of industry.

Thanks for the offer to send us a short piece if you do one, but don't do it because you love HIKA. I feel absurd even asking you. Say hello to Cal for me if you think of it, will you?

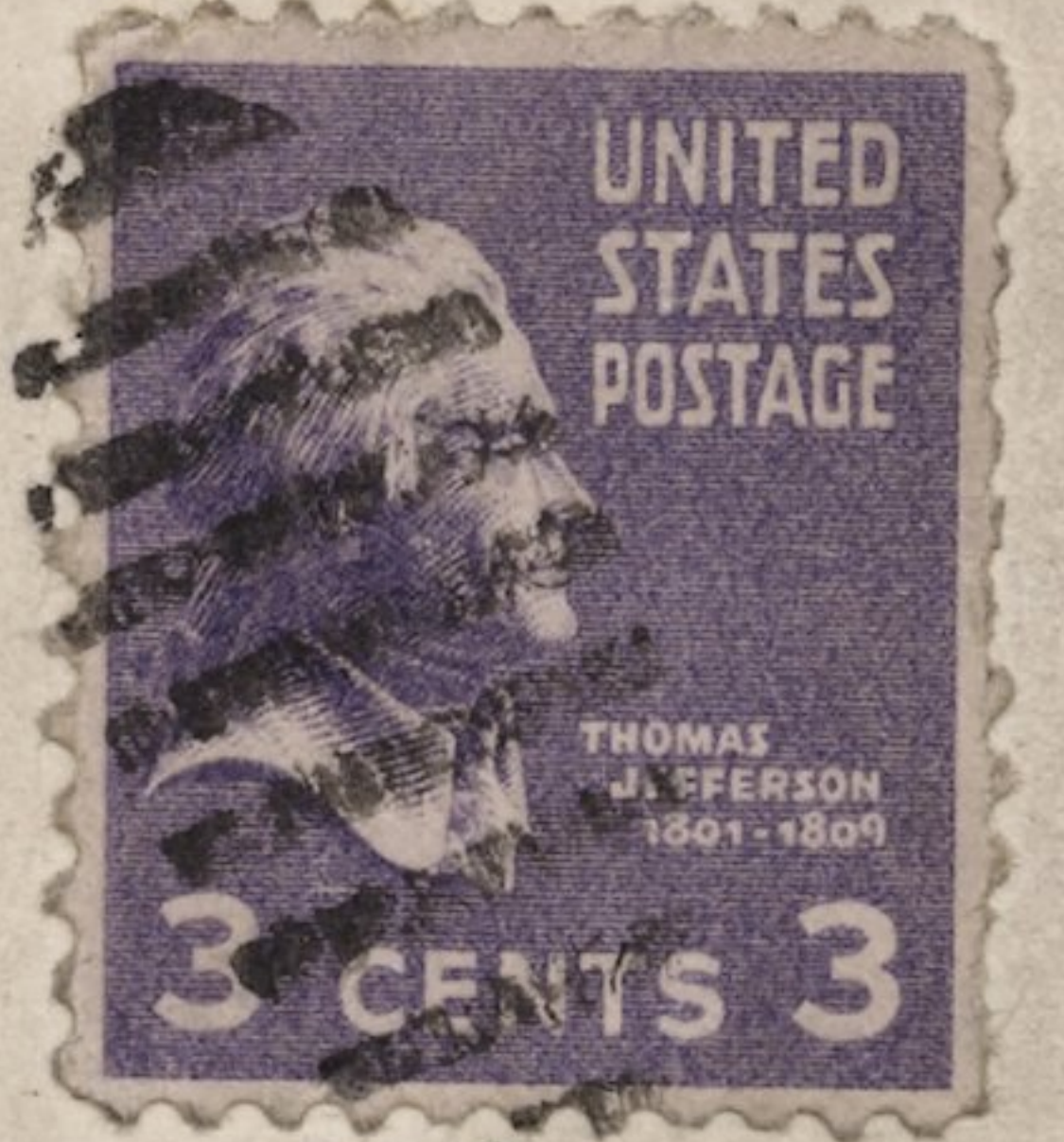
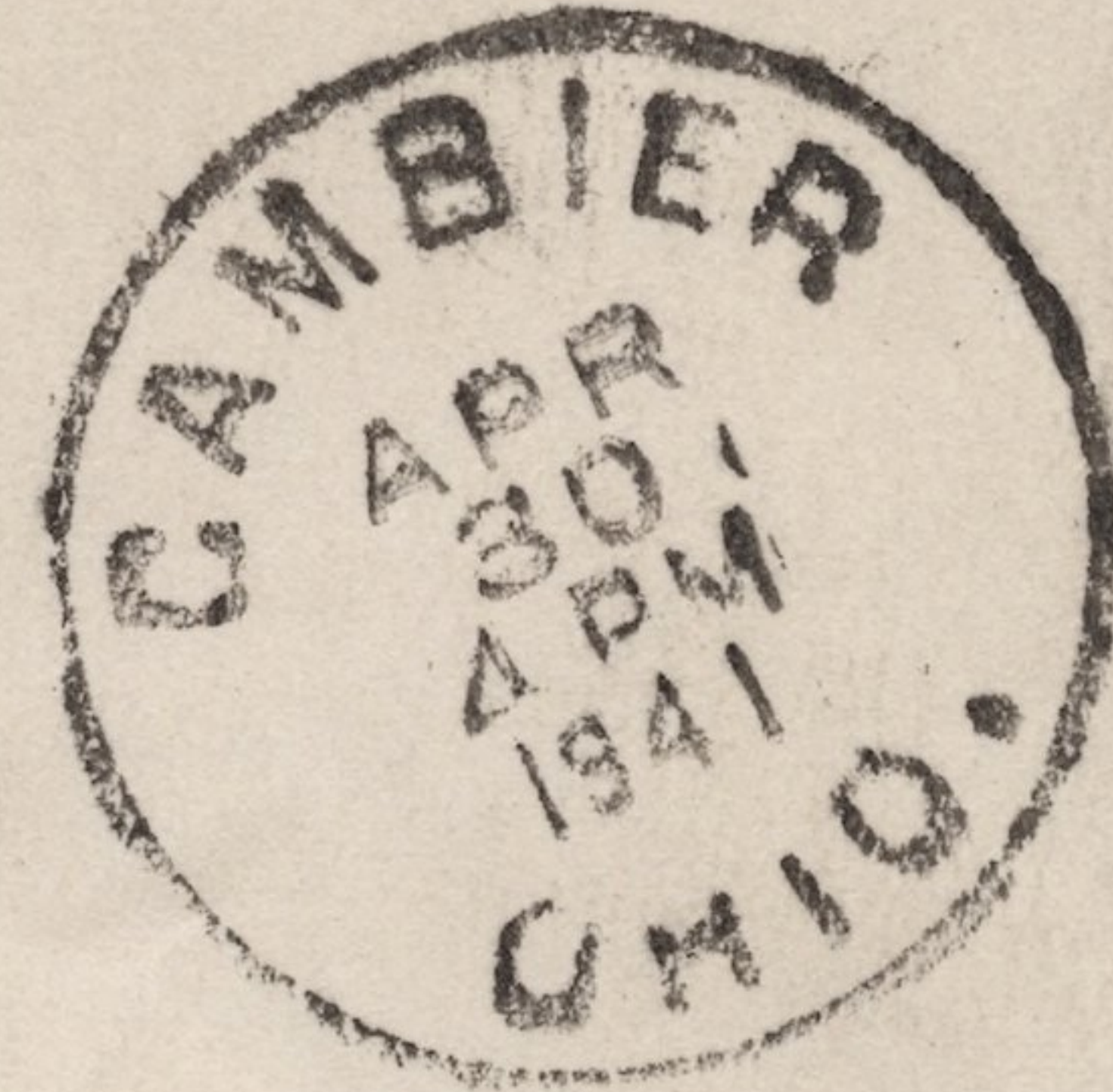
Yours,

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Bud Southard

HIKA

Gambier, Ohio



Mr. Peter Taylor

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