

4 FEB '56

Hongkong Theatre

(To the Editor, S.C.M. Post)

Sir,—The action of your correspondent Aeneas, in criticising the Hongkong Stage Club for producing "Othello" at the Lee Theatre, appears not only to do a disservice but also to underestimate the public of Hongkong.

The Garrison Players applaud this initiative and faith on the part of our Stage Club colleagues in attempting to make their dramatic contribution to the Festival of the Arts an even more resounding success than last year, and in addition, are attempting to complement these efforts by producing "The Circle," both in Kowloon and Hongkong and thus catering for a greater percentage of the public.

Surely, the discriminating theatre-goer in our midst should be given the opportunity to see live performances not only of contemporary drama but also of the better examples of the playwright's art through the ages; equally should our younger generation be given the opportunity to acquire this discrimination. To be fully appreciated for their true value, these examples of dramatic writing must be seen in the medium for which they were originally written and not with all the trappings available to the film producer.

We are confident that the action of both the Stage Club and our own Society in breaking new ground (albeit in different ways) for this year's Festival productions will be amply rewarded by the public's response and support. No reminder is necessary that both Societies are taking a considerable financial risk; they seek merely to cover expenses from production to production and not to make a profit. Should they fail through the exercise of courage, whither the theatre in Hongkong?

JOHN LITTLE,
Hon. Secretary,
The Garrison Players.