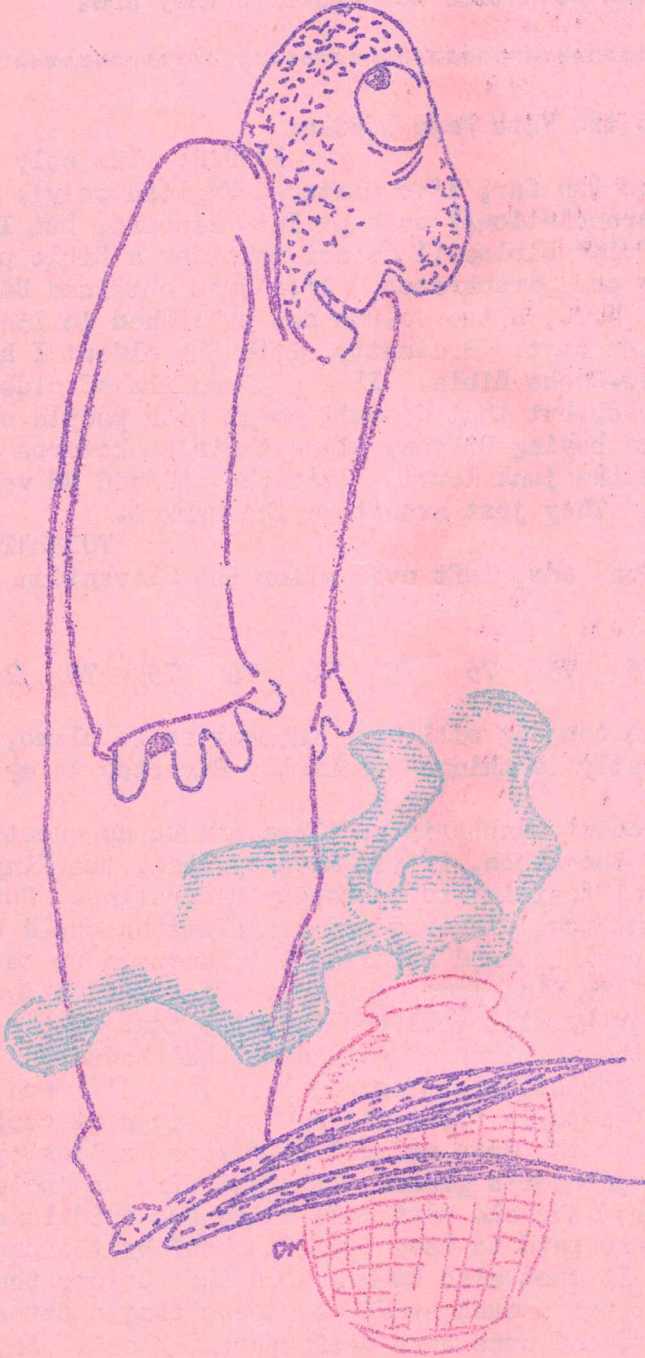


GUSTARD

(FANTASY Amateur
PRESS Association
MAILING #76)

COSWALZINE #133

ANOTHER
"OF Monsters & Beasts"
COVER



Talk religion, talk Christianity, talk Bible--but don't say anything specific...

Don't tell people they are sinners in danger of perishing. Don't tell them they must be born again to see and enter the kingdom of God. Don't tell them Christ died for our sins, and that "whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." Don't tell them that "now is the accepted time," and "now is the day of salvation."

Be pacific at the expense of being specific. Above all, don't review the preaching and teaching of Jesus and his apostles and so notice how specific they are.

Last minute postmailings credited to the 74th Papa bundle:

FANJAN: The only editions of the Bible I want are those I can read (so far, I've mastered English only). I do have the bilingual items (which present new translations) such as Interlinears, but I buy them only for the English. I don't buy just "old" Bibles (I do not consider a Bible printed after 1800 old) but differing translations and paraphrases. I've just obtained Udall's translation of Erasmus' Paraphrase of the N.T., a two volume set published in 1548-49. It also gives the "Great Bible" version of the text. Presently, it's the oldest I have. Previous oldest was an incomplete 1549 Matthew-Becke Bible. I've a microfilm of older, and reprints or facsimiles of even older, of course, but that doesn't count with people somehow. # I would much rather walk around England buying Bibles, since their bookstores are more business-like and not run so much on the junk level. It's the old/odd US version that's hard to obtain, though, as a result. They just aren't on the market.

TORRENTS: I picked up almost a ream of those unused NY Con ads, left over after the Clevention closed shop. Another aspect of my packratishness.

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f: and other mags on which I make no comment will have themselves to blame, inasmuch as this time my comments are limited mostly to things presumably directed to my attention.

DYAU: From available evidence of oldest manuscripts, there can be no question of the fallibility of the "present text" of the Bible, if you mean by that, the King James version. Even the English of it takes a special training to correctly understand. But even in (St.) Augustine's time, it was realized that mss. differed and translations could be misleading, and yet there was much objection to revision and bringing the language up to date. People! And that was more than 1000 years before King James set up the facilities for the revision of the Bishops' Bible. Yet any authority will tell you that the text of the Bible is the most certain and accurate of any of the writings of antiquity that have been preserved. The minor variations and presumed inconsistencies make no important difference. Before printing, if anyone made a "marginal" note in the text, how was the next copyist to be sure (when the centuries had passed) whether the note referred to matter accidentally omitted when the previous copy was made, or a commentator's gloss? It might also be "noted" here, that some of the "so-called" quotations from the old testament which are said to be from the wrong book, or not even in the O.T. are said to have been "spoken" by the prophet, rather than a written record, quoted from. It must also be realized that before the invention of verse numbers in the middle 1500s, it was a much harder task locating a passage, especially when few had a copy of the scriptures, and none were "reference Bibles". As for Matthew's Palm Sunday "ass & colt", perhaps the other authors thought the colt wasn't important enuf to mention as accompanying its mother, even as in the case of blind Bartimaeus, some accounts fail to mention his companion, since Bart did the talking. # Your remark objecting to people not only putting money in religion, but trying to force religion on unbelievers, reminds me of (from a modernist's review of a fundamentalist book) the time the modernist questioned why a fundamentalist was "wasting time" studying an ancient language, since, if he believed as the fundamentalist believed, the modernist would be spending his full time trying to get people saved from going to hell. Be glad the Christians aren't as militant missionaries as the Moslems are. Egypt now has a law that all schools, even Christian