

# DAGON

#658, APA-Q #???

hopefully, November 2014

## SO LONG AND BEST WISHES

Since our daughters, who have been getting issues of **Dagon** duplicated, have a great many calls on their time, I have found it increasingly difficult to get issues of **Dagon** duplicated in time to get them included in the same month's issue of **APA-Q**. When it became likely that I might once again miss an **APA-Q**, this time with the October issue (#657), I concluded that I can no longer manage to get **Dagon** duplicated in time to get it published on schedule, or to keep some of the topics of discussion timely and relevant. Therefore I decided to suspend its publication indefinitely. This will therefore be the last issue.

These problems with printing **Dagon** do not seem to be anyone's fault but mine and maybe the printer's, but are most likely the result of inadvertence and unexpected interruptions. Or perhaps I did not properly estimate how the printing could be done and how long it could take.

**Dagon**, a monthly fanzine of commentary on science, science fiction, fantasy, mystery novels, comic art, role-playing games (RPGs), and anything else that seemed like a good idea at the moment, has been published by John Boardman, Room 238, 1910 Rosemont Avenue, Frederick, Maryland 21702-8249. My land-line telephone number is 301-662-8718. My cell phone number is 718-736-4901. **Dagon** circulated through **APA-Q**, an amateur press association (APA) which continues to be edited once a month (if enough contributions come in) by Mark Blackman, Apt. #4A, 1745 E. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn, New York 11229. The copy count for **APA-Q** is 20. For information about receiving and contributing to **APA-Q**, write to Mark. To **Dagon** readers who don't get **APA-Q** now, I recommend that you try it. I plan to continue getting **APA-Q**, and will comment to Mark on its Distributions.

I had intended to publish more articles about events in the Four And A Half Kingdoms in subsequent issues of **Dagon**, so instead I have just printed below the remaining articles on their histories, structures, and beliefs. I will be unable to circulate any further articles about those small nations in the Balkan Massif.

**Dagon** #657 and #658 have been printed by an expedient I had used once before, with #651 (April 2014). A man who works at Montevue has access to a printer, and was able to run up the necessary copies for me, though they came out a bit light. I have asked him to do these last two issues, though such a use of Montevue's printer may be frowned on by the management. This is why I do not want to continue to presume on his time and good will, and on Montevue's printer.

(continued on the last page)

## THE FOUR AND A HALF KINGDOMS - iv

The Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schlämpenbüttel owes its origins to Charlemagne, who created one of his illegitimate sons "Grand Duke of Wogastisburg", a place located rather vaguely in the Balkan Massif. Not knowing of this, a few centuries later Kaiser Otto (it is not known which one) created his cup-bearer "Pfalzgraf of Schlämpenbüttel" in the same region. After a desultory war between its two lines of claimants, an agreement was reached whereby the son and heir of one of them was married to the daughter and heiress of the other, creating the Grand Duchy of Wogastisburg-Schlämpenbüttel (henceforth "the Grand Duchy"), with its capital in Wogastisburger-Neustadt. All subsequent Grand Dukes are descended from this union, including the current Grand Duke, Rhadagast IV.

Most of the original population of the Grand Duchy is of German origin, and speaks a dialect known as "Very Low German" ("*Sehrplattdeutsch*"). But in the 15<sup>th</sup> century the Grand Duchy obtained a sizable population of speakers of Muddle English. With the end of the Hundred Years War, a large number of mostly English mercenaries, with their camp followers and hangers-on, left France and were led by their commander, Sir John Fastolph, into the Balkan Massif, where they settled in the Grand Duchy. (Shakespeare's character Falstaff is believed to be modeled on Sir John.)

Sir John Fastolph, incidentally, also played a role in the history of Skandalutz. While attending a Vernal Equinox festival there, he was chosen King in the Sacred Lottery. A number of her courtiers noted that the then Queen was in high spirits all through the year of his reign. Some mystery attends the end of that reign. His sacrifice to the Mother Goddess was held in private, which is not the usual Skandalous custom. Supposedly he was then served at the Sacred Feast, but one junior priestess was heard to remark that the main dish tasted uncommonly like beef. The Queen then ordered one wing of the palace cordoned off, with only herself, a few priestesses, and some deaf-mute servants allowed to enter it. For several years afterwards, the Queen spent much time in that wing of the palace, and went into deep mourning after it was re-opened.

The descendants of the English mercenaries still live in the Grand Duchy, and still speak Muddle English. Because highly laughable dialects of the two principal languages of Europe are spoken there, the Grand Duchy is in more contact with the rest of Europe than are the others of the Four And A Half Kingdoms. The works of the Grand Duchy's great playwright William Shakewrist are often performed there at an annual summer festival, attracting visitors from many parts of Europe, and from as far away as San Francisco. In recent years have been performed his *Romeo and Julius*, *Two Gentlemen of Gomorrah*, *King Rear*, *The Merry Wives of Lesbos*, *Titus Androgynous*, *Symboline*, *The Comedy of Eros*, and *Love's Labor Misplaced*. Next summer a more ambitious project is planned - a complete performance of *Queen Henry*

*the Sixth* (all parts).

The Grand Duchy is also the only one of the Four And A Half Kingdoms which has a colonial possession. It is an island located somewhere between the east coast of Africa and the west coast of South America. At present its few white residents include a retired sea captain, a widow with mischievous twin sons, and a prim New England schoolteacher whose class consists of her niece and nephew, the afore-mentioned twins, and several native children. (The natives speak better English than do the German-descended whites.) There is also a long-bearded school inspector who was sent out to inspect this school but never returned to the Grand Duchy. He spends most of his time playing pinochle and drinking hard cider with the captain and a native king, while the twins' mother exchanges recipes with the queen. Meanwhile, the twins and their hated rival the teacher's nephew play malicious pranks on all of them and on each other, despite their inevitable punishments, usually administered by the captain, the inspector, and the king, although sometimes "Mama" also paddles her sons.

### **THE FOUR AND A HALF KINGDOMS - V**

The last group of invaders to settle in the Balkan Massif were the Pundschrudi, a group of uncertain heritage and linguistic affiliation. The philologist Dr. O. Midt Umlaut claims that their language is related to Berber and Finnish, while his colleague Prof. Piltown suggests that they might speak a dialect of Basque, possibly related to the speech of the Cro-Magnon people.

From their settlement in the Balkan Massif to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Pundschrudi lived under an absolute but ineffectual monarchy. However, its occasionally tyrannical character led many Pundschrudi to join revolutionary organizations which, inspired by the Russian Revolution, overthrew the monarchy in 1920 and established the "People's Republic of Pundschrud". The People's Republic, under the rule of Yosef Stannin, was governed with a rather rusty iron fist, but any public resentment of his dictatorship was met with Stannin's reply, "Would you rather have the king back?" This remark invariably silenced any unrest.

When the Soviet dictator Stalin broke with Leon Trotsky, the Pundschrudi revolutionary government, unlike most Communists, sided with Trotsky. This led to a paradoxical situation in which most of Europe condemned the Pundschrudi government as "Atheistic Red Commie anarchistic radicals" while Moscow called them "jack-booted crypto-Fascist running dogs of Wall Street" but never explained what "running dog" means. During World War II, both sides declared war against Pundschrud, but neither attacked it, probably because neither side had maps showing where Pundschrud is located.

Stannin died in 1953, leaving behind a portfolio showing investments in several major European and American corporations. The rule of his successors has been somewhat milder, giving rise to the well-known expression that it is "despotism tempered by inefficiency", and in

the Grand Duchy as “*Despotismus von Schlämperei*” (or sometimes “*Schlämpenbüttlerei*”) “*gemildert*”. This has encouraged the exiled royalists in their attempts to restore their “pretender”. Pundschruck is currently ruled by First Commissar of the People Vladimir Ptui, and the current pretender is an imperfectly exiled prince who works as a streetcar conductor in Drzunkdump, the country’s capital, but claims the title as “King Gurgustus XIV”.

### THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

I recently received a birthday card from a **Dagon** reader whom I thought had moved, as an issue of **Dagon** had come back in the mail from the address I had for her. But apparently she did not move, and still has the same address. She is Angelique Trouvere (K), Apt. 12, 2003 Georgian Woods Place, Wheaton, MD 20902-1831.

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The October uissue of **CAR-PGa Newsletter** leads off with an article by editor Paul Cardwell about a topic introduced by Michael Tresca in the September issue: religions of various types in RPGs. Cardwell, a Methodist minister and a sometime teacher, regards most RPG religions as polytheistic or henotheistic, indicating that game designers have been drawing on Greco-Roman or Norse Paganism for games, presumably causing all strongmen to be versions of the muscular Thor, or all love goddesses to be versions of the sextop Freya. (Check what Loki says in the *Lokasenna* about her activities, particularly with her brother Frey.)

This is followed by an article by Carsten Obst, “Comics and Patterns for Role-Playing Games”. He uses a French comic strip, *La Dernies Envol* (*The Final Flight*), whose chief characters are fighter pilots from both sides of World war II, and gives us vignettes of some of them.

Each issue of **CAR-PGa Newsletter** contains a listing of upcoming RPGaming conventions. To receive **CAR-PGa Newsletter**, which is published monthly by Paul Cardwell for the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games, send \$1.50 a copy or \$15 a year to him at 1127 Cedar, Bonham, TX 75418. (Costs are \$2.25 a copy and \$20 a year to addresses outside the United States.) Each issue contains a long listing of gaming conventions and sites. Paul also offers a subscription anywhere, by e-mail, for \$5.

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Sometime around 1970 I happened to wander into a French-language bookshop in Rockefeller Center. There I founds several books of a French comic strip, *Les Aventures d’Astérix le Gaulois* (*The Adventures of Asterix the Gaul*), written by René Goscinny and drawn by Albert Uderzo. The comic books were set in ancient Gaul just after Julius Caesar’s troops had conquered most of the country. However, one village still fought to maintain its independence - the home of Astérix and his good friend Obélix, and of a few hundred other

Gauls who resisted the Roman conquest thanks to a potion of strength brewed by the tribal druid Panoramix. Astérix is short, wiry, intelligent, and active, so his friend Obélix, who delivers menhirs for a living, is, in the best tradition of the comics, big, slow, and good-hearted, but not terribly bright - think of a French version of Li'l Abner, eating entire wild boars instead of just pork chops. (Whenever I mention the name of another Gaul, it will be followed in parentheses by that character's name in the English translation if it differs from the French.) Obélix is not issued any of the magic potion, because he fell into a vat of it when he was a baby, and the greatly magnified effects are permanent with him.

These stories became enormously popular, not only in French-speaking countries, but also in the rest of the world following their translations. There is even a Latin translation, published in Germany and presumably for use in Latin classes throughout the world. (I am certain they will be useful, since my French has greatly improved since I began reading them in their original language.) Goscinny died in 1977, but Uderzo continued the books, writing as well as drawing them.

Recently these books came to my notice in the *New York Times* of 27 September 2014, in the report of a lawsuit in which Uderzo's daughter Sylvie had claimed that her father, now 87, is incapable of handling his literary estate. The court rejected this claim, as part of a reconciliation between father and daughter.

*Les Aventures d'Astérix le Gaulois*, begun in 1949, has by now been published in 350,000,000 copies of the books since it went international in 1959, and in 100 languages. The names of all male Gauls end in "-ix", and those of Roman males in "-us", which sometimes give the translators a few problems in retaining their comic features. The village's chief characters are well drawn and developed. They include the druid Panoramix (Getafix), the tribal chieftain Abraracourcix (Vitalstatistix), the less than harmonious bard Assurancetourix (Cacofonix), and even Obélix's feisty little dog Ideefix (Dogmatix).

Astérix has even inspired a German imitation, which also shows brave tribesmen fighting off Roman troops. The German hero is Fritzi Blitz, and the obligatory big, slow-witted friend is Donnerkeil ("Thunderboar").

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I had been greatly surprised by the amount of material in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* about the attempt to separate Scotland from England. I had expected that British newspapers would have a lot about it, but never dreamed that the American press would be this much interested. I expect that there may have been even more such articles in the Canadian press, since Canada has a greater proportion of people of Scottish origin than the U. S. does. Canada has even been referred to as "Scotch on ice". Prior to the referendum on 18 September, I had sent American commentary on that approaching vote to Paul Evans in England

The most amusing comment on the referendum was a cartoon by Tom Toles, based on the characters in A. A. Milne's stories for and about children, and printed in the *Washington Post* of 16 September. It is entitled "Next Trial Balloon", and shows Winnie the Pooh floating with a balloon past Piglet, Tigger, and a disconsolate Eeyore. Tigger is reading a newspaper headlined "SCOTLAND!", and Pooh's balloon is labeled "Independent Republic of the Hundred Acre Wood". I have sent the cartoon to Evans.

And, incidentally, the referendum failed, with about 55% of the vote going against it. I was reminded of a non-binding advisory vote taken several years ago in Staten Island, the least populous of New York City's five boroughs. This vote was about separating Staten Island from the rest of the city. On Manhattan, a voter asked how he could vote in favor of the plan. He was told that the vote was being held only on Staten Island. It seems he had wanted to throw Staten Island out of the city. I wonder how many English voters would have voted to expel Scotland. And no, I don't recall how the advisory vote on Staten Island went, but I do know that Staten Islanders seem to have dropped the plan to secede.

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It now appears that President O'Bomba has personally declared war on the Islamic State, without bothering about that boring ol' Constitution and its requirement for congressional action on such a matter. (His personal enemy is the one which the majority of the media are calling "ISIS" or "ISIL".) And he seems to be moving towards putting American "boots on the ground" in the regions of the Muddle East which the Islamic State dominates. In fact, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Dempsey has already said that such a step will be necessary, and most of the Muddle Eastern countries on whose military support the U. S. is counting are willing to contribute money but no troops. And Americans will be asked to ignore the patently obvious fact that, while Islamic religious militants are capable of committing crimes and getting arrested in the United States, the notion that this country could be invaded, occupied, and converted by the Islamic State is the stuff of fever dreams. Indeed, the army of Turkey, which is being threatened in Islamic State propaganda, could wipe up the desert with the Islamic State's army. (*Washington Post*, 3 October 2014)

A majority of the American public seems to oppose this war, and it does seem to be shaping up as Vietnam with sand. And one factor, which until now has been regarded as pro-military, could turn eligible young men and women against volunteering for the armed forces, or even responding to conscription. The media have been displaying, mostly in advertisements, at sporting events, or in political speeches, respect and sympathy for the armed forces and especially for veterans who were badly wounded in Vietnam, Iraq, or Afghanistan. But a lot of young people are going to be looking at these men and women who are lacking arms, legs, eyes, or sanity, and saying, "That ain't gonna be me!"

If a draft is resumed to fight the Islamic State, young people could oppose it as vigor-

ously as their predecessors did during the American invasion of Vietnam, particularly if they are concentrated on college campuses or in the 21<sup>st</sup>-century equivalents of such places as Haight-Ashbury or Greenwich Village. And I will have to write to the War Resisters League for the 21<sup>st</sup>-century version of the information I supplied to draft-eligible people fifty years ago on where to go and whom to contact in Canada. The Canadian national anthem may have to be “re-written”, as it was fifty years ago, to “*O Canada, la terre de nos enfants.*”

It is almost amusing to observe the great similarity among allegedly menacing conspiracies against the United States. Whether Communistic (1945 to 1990) or Arabian (check your daily paper), they have the same features, even support for the supposedly sinister metric system (see **Dagon** #657 for examples). And in both cases, outwardly respectable Americans are said to secretly support the currently fashionable conspiracy and must be found out.

Or, just maybe, President O’Bomba has something else in mind for the Islamic State. America is, after all, a nuclear power...

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Many authors have had the experience of a character suddenly tsking off on his or her own, and playing a much larger role in the work that the author had originally planned. However, the writers of comic strips or books have also had this experience. The most famous such experience happened to Walt Disney in the 1930s, when he was doing an animated cartoon based on the children’s story “The Little Red Hen”. Two of the characters interrogated in the search for the hen were Peter Pig and Donald Duck, who were on board a ship, dressed as sailors. It was the first appearance in Disney cartoons of either character, and the ship’s commander was Peter Pig. But the pig was not heard from again, while the brash, short-tempered Donald Duck became a character seen more often in Disney works than any other except Mickey Mouse. Somewhere in the cartoon world is probably a bar in which Peter Pig complains to anyone who will listen that an underling shoved him aside and took over what should have been his role.

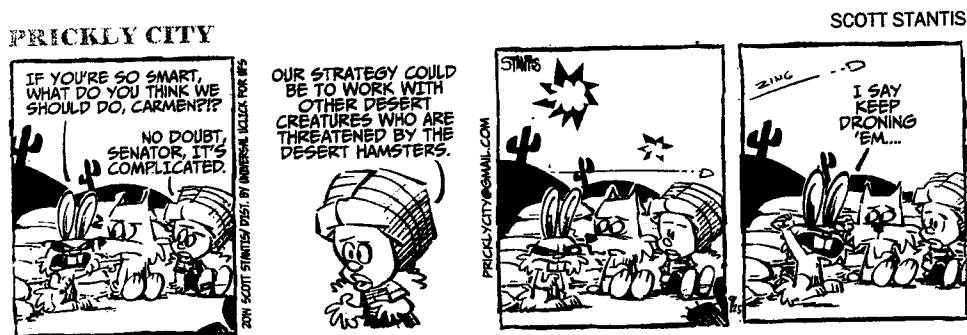
Other Disney characters changed too. All Disney’s cartoon characters had alliterative names: Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Donald and Daisy Duck, Clarabelle Cow, Horace Horse-collar, Peg-Leg Pete, Donald’s country cousin Gus Goose, and Dippy Dawg. You don’t remember Dippy Dawg? Well, he became Dippy the Goof, and then just Goofy. As for Pete, somebody eventually realized that a crippled character shouldn’t be a figure of fun even if he is a villain, as Pete was. So Pete acquired an artificial foot that, with a shoe, couldn’t be told from a real one, and his peg leg was not thereafter mentioned. Then for a while he was “Black Pete”, until presumably African-American villains also became undesirable in comic strips. Now he is just “Pete”, and rarely seen.

Less well known cartoon strips have also had characters run away with story lines. The daily comic strip *Sally Forth*, by Francesco Marciuliano and Jim Keefe, is a *Blondie*-style

domestic comedy featuring the title character, her husband and daughter, and a few relatives and co-workers. But Sally's daughter Hillary is now about 12 or 13, and taking over many of the strip's sequences. She and two other girls have formed a traditional "garage band", and their struggles to get gigs, and their arguments over music, are now a large part of the strip. Hillary has written a song entitled "You're So Party, Let's Go Dancey", and seems to think that her song will be the "I Want to Hold Your Hand" of the twenty-first century. But the other girls are decidedly not of this opinion.

Scott Stantis's daily strip *Prickly City* contains satirical conservative comedy about contemporary politics, and so its story lines change often. The artist's voice is a bright little girl named Carmen, and her foil is Winslow, a coyote - a beast very rare in comic strips. Winslow voices what Stantis thinks are liberal opinions. There is also a buck-toothed rabbit, "Senator Kevin", who is the source of the liberal notions that the artist satirizes, and who seems to be a combination of Presidents Clinton and Obama. Senator Kevin has an equally buck-toothed and wild-eyed wife who is out to replace him at the next election - obviously Hillary Clinton.

In a recent week's strip, a difference of opinion developed between Carmen and Winslow. It appeared as the two of them talking out of cartoon panels that became increasingly separated by blank space as the week progressed. Their dialog made me think that Stantis might be writing Winslow out of the strip, and he did not appear in the next week's strip. But eventually he returned; apparently Stantis could not do without his liberal foil. Now the two of them are wondering what to do about the threat posed by the "desert hamsters", who are clearly Stantis's view of the Islamic State, or maybe about all Arabians, Muslims, or both. Winslow suggests "making friends" with the desert hamsters, a notion scornfully dismissed by Carmen, but sure to be taken up by Senator Kevin. (I am not sure how well this strip will reproduce upon duplication.)



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Many of the European protests against Israeli actions in the 'Aza Strip seem to be inspired not by concern about the 'Aza Arabians, but by European anti-Semitism as it has



existed for many tragic centuries. (And don't bother protesting that Arabian is also a Semitic language. Since the term first appeared during the Dreyfus case in France over a century ago, "anti-Semitism" has had no meaning except hatred against Jews.) I have already cited a few brief mentions of this in the media, but on 24 September 2014 the *New York Times* gave it a front-page report by Jim Yardley, with a long continuation in *two* interior pages.

The evidence is not at all dubious. In Germany, France, and Belgium, at meetings protesting Israeli policy in the 'Aza strip, people shout "Death to the Jews" and "Gas the Jews". Four people were killed in May at the Jewish Museum in Brussels, and businesses owned by Jews have been destroyed. A firebomb, fortunately ineffective, was thrown at a synagogue in Germany. The presence of a growing immigrant Muslim minority in Europe is not helping matters.

### GETTING CAUGHT UP

**How to... #112 (Del Grande):** I recently had occasion to send a seven-ounce large envelope to England. According to the list of postal rates you sent me, it should have cost \$7.60. However, about the middle of September I telephoned 1-800-ASK-USPS, and after waiting a few minutes for a live reply, I was told that the rate is \$7.91. I guessed that the rate might have increased since you wrote **How to... #112**, and I put \$7.91 of stamps on the letter.

**Blancmange #686 (Blackman):** The reprinted comic strips on your first two pages were difficult to read.

I had never heard of Irving Berlin's anti-war song from 1915 or so, "Stay Down Here Where You Belong". It would have been a good idea to revive it in, say, 1967. Or 2014.

Despite the government's alleged reluctance to put "boots on the ground" in the Muddle East, soldiers and military historians are often quoted as saying that wars are won only when men go on foot with hand-held weapons and defeat other men who are on foot with hand-held weapons. Right now, few of the combatants in that region seem terribly willing to put their boots on the ground in the American interest. This may be why the Pentagon is inflating the number of alleged "ISIS" boots on the ground, or claiming that the United States is the *real* target of "ISIS". (The *New York Times* calls them "ISIS" and ABC-TV news prefers "ISIL", but use of the accurate term "The Islamic State" is likely to get Americans mad at any and all Muslims, right down to the guy who delivers sausage-free pizza for Musa's Hallal Pizzeria.)

Thanks for correcting my error; Tolkien translated Jonah, not Job, for the Jerusalem Bible. I should have realized that Jonah would appeal more than Job to the author of fantastic adventures and mythical monsters. ("What time does this whale stop at Nineveh?" "Nineveh isn't on a seacoast.")

It has been mentioned in **APA-Q** that in the original Hebrew the words in Jonah, often

translated as “whale”, are actually “דג גדול” (“dag gadol”, “big fish”). But when the Jewish scriptures were translated into Greek in ancient times, “דג גדול” became “κετος” - “ketos” or “cetacean”, whence “cetacean”. (There’s no terminal sigma on my word processor, and I don’t have a Greek dictionary.) This word means “whale” in modern Greek, but in ancient times it referred to any large sea creature, real or mythical - whale, shark, leviathan, even tuna. When these scriptures were translated into modern languages during the Protestant Reformation, the local word for “whale” was therefore used. To complicate matters still further, the modern Hebrew word for “whale” is “ליווייתן” = “leviathan”!

I would say that our “worst-ever president” was not Harding but his predecessor. It was Woodrow Wilson who invented the notion that the United States should get into any war fought on this planet, no matter where or why it is fought. Most of his successors have followed this notion. In fact, if Mars were to invade Venus, someone in Washington would probably advocate the intervention of U. S. troops.

A conservative Roman Catholic group called “The Society of St. Pius X” *still* maintains that Galileo was wrong and Pope Urban VIII, who condemned him, was right. See a quote from one of its officials in **Dagon** #653 (June 2014).

**APA-Qover #567 (Blackman)**: The last few commemorative covers have noted some of the military commemorations currently occurring: the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the British invasion of Maryland during the War of 1812, the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Slaveholders’ Rebellion, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of World War I, and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of World War II. Instead, for a relief, Mark notes the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Donald Wollheim and the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Batman. And we get a recognition of what the media call “ISIS”, but it is illustrated with a picture of the ancient Egyptian goddess Isis!

**Blancmange #487 (Blackman)**: Mark’s indictment of the mismanagement of Lunarians and Lunacon in the last several years is accurate and long overdue.

He also cites a verse honoring Margot Adler, from “That Real OldTime Religion” - that is, Paganism. (It’s to the right.) The book is her *Drawing Down the Moon*, her account of contemporary Witchcraft and Neo-Paganism. See **Dagon** #656, pp. 2-3.

It was good enough for Margot,  
It was good enough for Margot,  
And her book I could not forego  
And it’s good enough for me!

The NFL will have to do something, for the sake of its own image, about misbehaving football players. We already have, in the two nearest teams, the “Washington Racists” and the “Baltimore Wife-Beaters”.

You write “*Nero Matere Irrumator Est*”, but it should be “*Nero Matris Irrumator Est*”, And eventually someone will write a comical historical novel in which a small boy will write these words on a wall in first-century Rome. Several members of Rome’s Julio-Claudian imperial family, of both sexes, took numerous lovers, also of both sexes, and it would be

difficult to identify any one of the women as the “Empress Mympho”.

Other languages are necessary for travel if for nothing else. And don’t confuse near-homophones. For example, don’t pronounce German *Nacht* and *nackt* the same way. The former means “night”; the latter means “naked”. It is particularly useful to be able to say, in several major languages, that you don’t speak that language. “*Wo bu hwei-shwo Chung-kwo hwa*” tells one sixth of the world’s people that you cannot communicate in their language.

Who is Alan Keyes?

Mark quotes a joke from Ed Meškys: “If ISIS is destroyed does it become WASWAS?” “No, if the Islamic State fizzles, it becomes the Fizzlamic State.”

As for American jihadists returning here to blow things up, they would not be soldiers but criminals, and can be handled by the processes of criminal law - as indeed some already have been. (Remember the guy who tried to blow up a car in Times Square?)

Al Nofi writes that his ancestor didn’t poison Cardinal Ippolito d’Medici, who did die in his ancestor’s town, and rumor had it that he died in the ancestor’s home. The cardinal. “who preferred soldiering to cardinaling”, actually died of “swamp fever” contracted while hunting in the region, and Al’s ancestor may have been his guide then.

In the tale of Baruch Rogers, would “Lazar Klein” be a sort of Jewish Lazarus Long? (That’s the hero of “Methuselah’s Children”, a famous Heinlein story of a man who through several generations of selective breeding has a fantastically long life-span.)

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With **APA-Q #567**, Mark also sent a copy of an article which I had originally published in **Graustark #232** on 13 February 1971, and reprinted in **Graustark #629**, sometime around 2000 - Mark didn’t provide its date. I did not recall when I had begun writing of the *Four And A Half Kingdoms*, and hadn’t realized that it was as early as 1971, when **Graustark**, my fanzine for the postal play of the board game *Diplomacy*, was only in its eighth year.

The article that Mark sent me dealt with the history of the Pravoslavnican Patrimony of Polykarp, in much more detail than what I had written in **Dagon #657** for the 567<sup>th</sup> Distribution of **APA-Q** lasst month. Obviously the other articles from old issues of **Graustark** would also be more detailed than the ones printed in recent issues of **Dagon**. I have therefore asked Mark if he could locate and mail to me copies of those earlier articles. If through some unforeseen circumstance I should be able to resume the publication of **Dagon**, I might be able to reprint them.

Lazarus Woodrow Wilson Long-  
That’s my dad, too!  
When he begins to preach,  
His great-grandchildren screech  
“Lazarus Woodrow Wilson  
Long! (and long and long  
(and long and...)”  
Lazarus Woodrow Wilson Long-  
[continue until forcibly  
suppressed]

**SO LONG AND BEST WISHES** (continued from p. 1)

I have enjoyed writing **Dagon** and researching topics mentioned in it, and I hope that the readers have found it interesting. I regret that circumstances make it impossible for me to continue producing it.

**Dagon #658**  
John Boardman  
Room 238, Montevue  
1910 Rosemont Avenue  
Frederick, MD 21702-8249

( ) - If this space is checked,  
You may find something of  
interest to you on p. \_\_\_\_