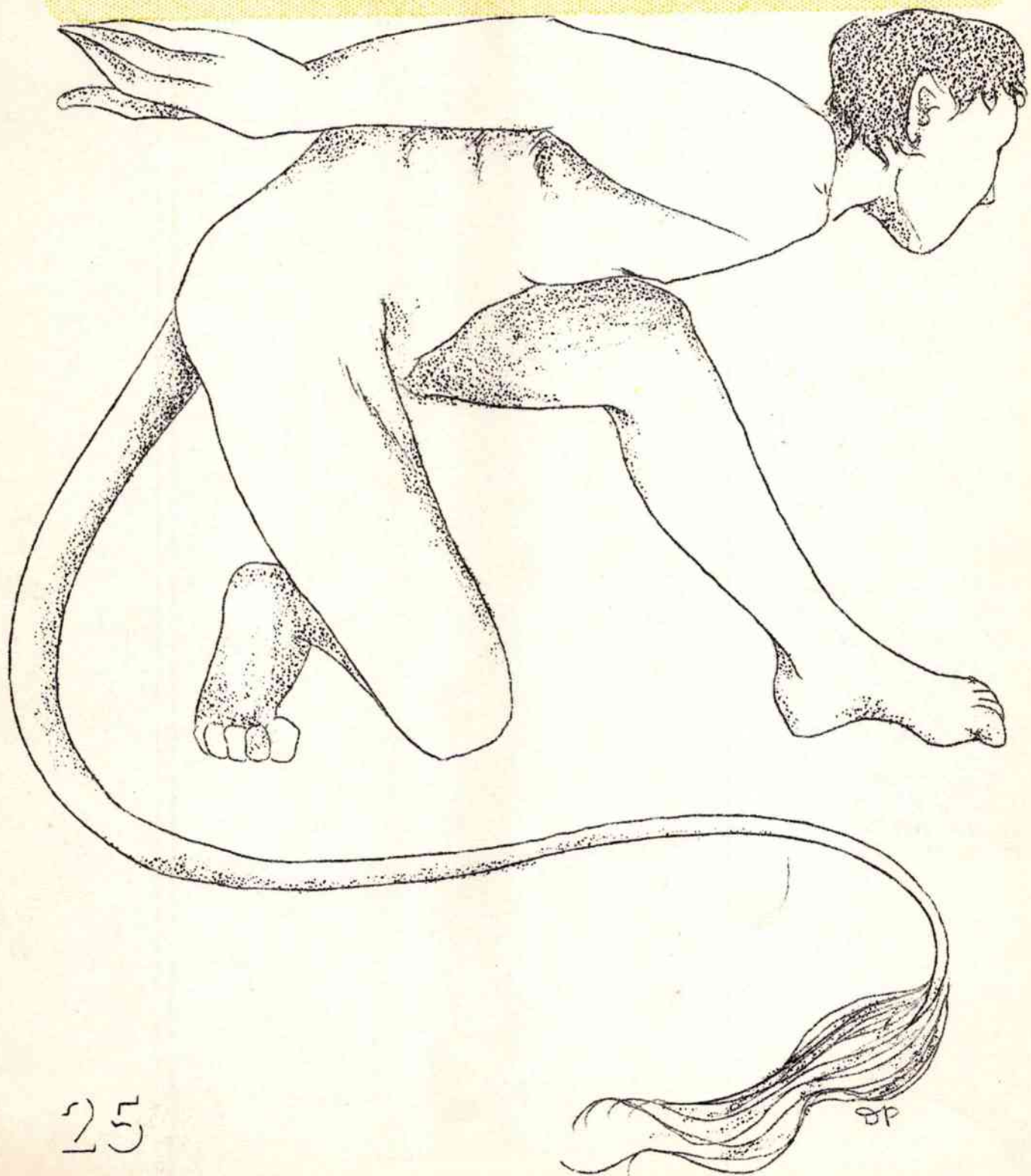


RACHE



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"I see no scientific proof  
That this idea is sound  
And I should say they wound about  
To find the town of Roundabout,  
The merry town of Roundabout  
That makes the world go round."

Back in what newcomers to the IArea like to call the Golden Age of modern IASFS -- 1960-61 or so -- the Terrible Trio of Tech came up with an organization for those who are Carousel nuts: The Carousel Lovers of America. Membership was available only to couples, and then only if a single person was available to be (temporarily)

excluded -- so the organization could be exclusive. (The excludee, if he paired up, could be the next member, once a new excludee was available.) It wasn't more than a word-of-mouth organization, but it was a very nice idea. There are quite a few Carousel nuts in IASFS and environs, and most of them are joiners... Perhaps it can be revived and taken one more step, so that membership cards can be issued.

In any case, organization or no, the IASFS Carousel nuts go on occasional Carousel Trips to the various Carousels in the Southern California area. (Another is planned for 19 March.) So far we have limited the trips to about five locations, mostly for lack of time to visit the far-away ones and the expense of visiting some located in amusement parks.

The first on our list is the Griffith Park Merry-Go-Found. (A Carousel is a Carousel, no matter what you call it -- Merry-Go-Round, Carousel, Roundabout, or whatever.) It has horses only, but rides are a dime, and there are two orchestrons accompanying the rides with music. It and the Lincoln Park Carousel are run by the Los Angeles Dept. of Parks and playgrounds -- which is one reason rides are so cheap. A couple decades ago 78RPM recordings were made of the Lincoln Park Carousel orchestron, and some of these records are still available at the parks -- \$1 each. If you like orchestron music, these are excellent. (Unfortunately, even four years ago when we got our set, they were out of the Wagner record.)

Lincoln Park Carousel is almost identical with Griffith Park's, but rides are a bit longer and slightly faster. The Park is in a poorer section of LA, however, and surroundings are much dingier, making it less attractive to visit than Griffith.

On the Santa Monica Pier there is an indoor carousel, remnant of earlier years when that area had a boardwalk and was a big center of entertainment. The building which houses the carousel also includes a number of small apartments on the upper floor, arranged in a circle around the upper braces and poles of the carousel. I have no idea how much rent is charged, but I should expect it to be rather small -- after all, the novelty of it could hardly make up for the constant din. I like carousel music, myself, but hearing day in and day out would drive me dippy! Anyway, rides on this carousel are 2¢ each, and though they are faster than the other two, they aren't really worth twice as much. They are trading on their uniqueness as The Carousel Apartments, and one visit is quite enough to satisfy a carousel fan.

There are several carousels at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park -- in fact, I'm not sure if there are 3, 4, or how many, I know of 3, at least. Two are huge old machines of the Great Old Carousel Days, when the carousel animals were hand-carved and everything on the thing was done up in gingerbread trimming. Besides horses, there are dogs, pigs, cats (one with a fish in his mouth, another with a bird), chickens, ostriches -- all kinds of animals. The third is located in the children's section of this bucolic Disneyland, an area called "Old MacDonald's Farm." It is over 100-years old, made almost entirely of split tim-

bers, and powered by a mule. Quite delightful indeed.

As a start towards reorganizing the CIA, I have been working on a data sheet for members to fill out when they visit a carousel new to them. Even partial information is useful for the records, so if all information is not available, the form should be filled out as far as possible. Information wanted includes:

Location: Griffith Park, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Date of construction:  
Manufacturer: Ross Allen  
Music: Large Wurlitzer orchestration (with 40<sup>+</sup> rolls); smaller orchestration (played during weekdays)  
Animals: Horses only; 2 carriages  
Arrangements: 16 full rows of 4, 2 half-rows (inside carriages); all up-and-down; various designs  
Cost and length of rides: 15¢, 3/4¢; 3 minutes.  
Speed (RPM):  
Historical notes: Previously located at San Diego Exposition.  
Misc. notes:

Under Misc. notes, presence of brass-ring mechanism -- San Diego's Balboa Park Carousel has one operating on Sundays -- could be noted. Other suggestions will be welcomed. Perhaps I can actually stencil and run off such a form and circulate it before all the fans take off for summer vacations, so some of them can be filled out and the file begun. (Copies of such reports would be published and made available to members.)

I wonder where I can buy an orchestration... .?

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I HAVEN'T BEEN READING MUCH SCIENCE FICTION LATELY, BUT...I have been reading mysteries and Intrigues -- about the only term I can suggest for the James-Bond-stuff (or Matt Helm, or a number of other such). And some of them are surprisingly good. (Others, of course, are surprisingly bad.) I read only books involving series characters. Why, I'm not really sure. Possibly because, if they are good I will want to read more of the same, and if they are bad I may read a couple more to see if the stories improve by building on each other.

Of the newly-discovered series, the best I've found is David St. John's CIA agent Peter Ward (The Venus Probe; The Towers of Silence; etc.). They are 50¢ Signet books and very well done, with apparently exact background details for the various locales of the books. Perhaps the fact that the author is an ex-CIA agent himself is responsible. Whatever the reason, the books hang together well; and are informative as well as entertaining. (The Venus Probe is even science fictional).

On the other hand, we have M.G. Braun's Al Glenne, who is billed by Berkeley Books as "The French James Bond." They are translated from French (Pas de Bonheur pour Spyros comes out retitled That Girl From Istanbul), and I hope the faults are the result of things being lost in translation -- I'd hate to think the original was as bad! There are jump-shifts, as the plot lurches forward assuming facts never presented to the reader, and dei ex machina pop up all over the place. The dialogue is stilted and sometimes downright mawkish, and the conclusion happens off-stage!! Pfu!

In the wake of heroes like the Man from U.N.C.L.E. and heroines like the Girl from U.N.C.L.E., and travesty-heroes like the Man from O.R.G.Y., we are getting men from A.L.-M.O.S.T. A.N.Y.T.H.I.N.G. Seriously, I've got one about a Man from A.P.E., and one concerning a Man from W.A.R. -- I haven't read them yet, and won't until my David St. John books run out. But I should be able to report on ten or more of them by next mailing -- so you can look forward to it.

Cover by Dian Pelz, utilizing some left-over Jack Harness paper with yellow blobs.