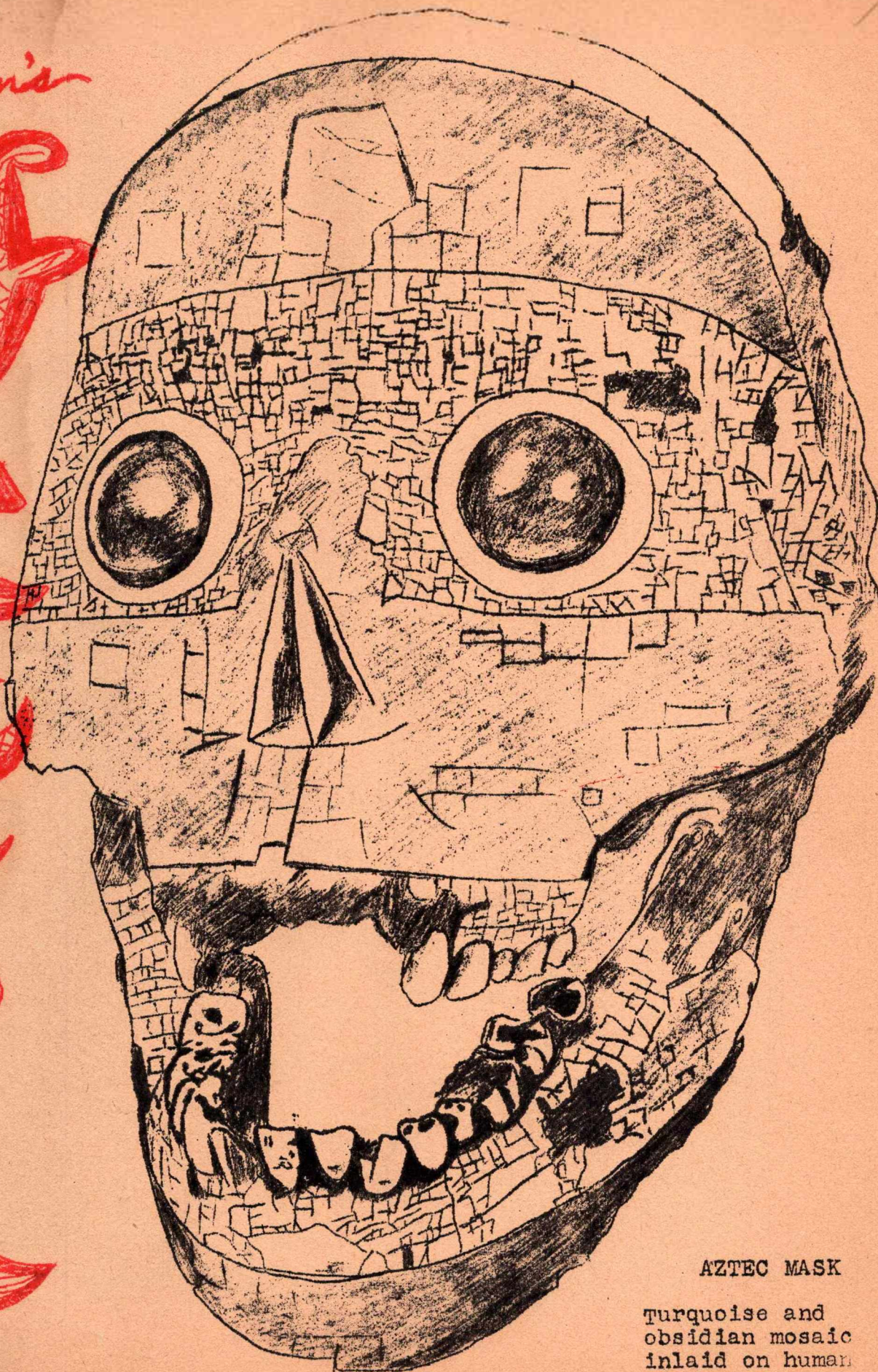


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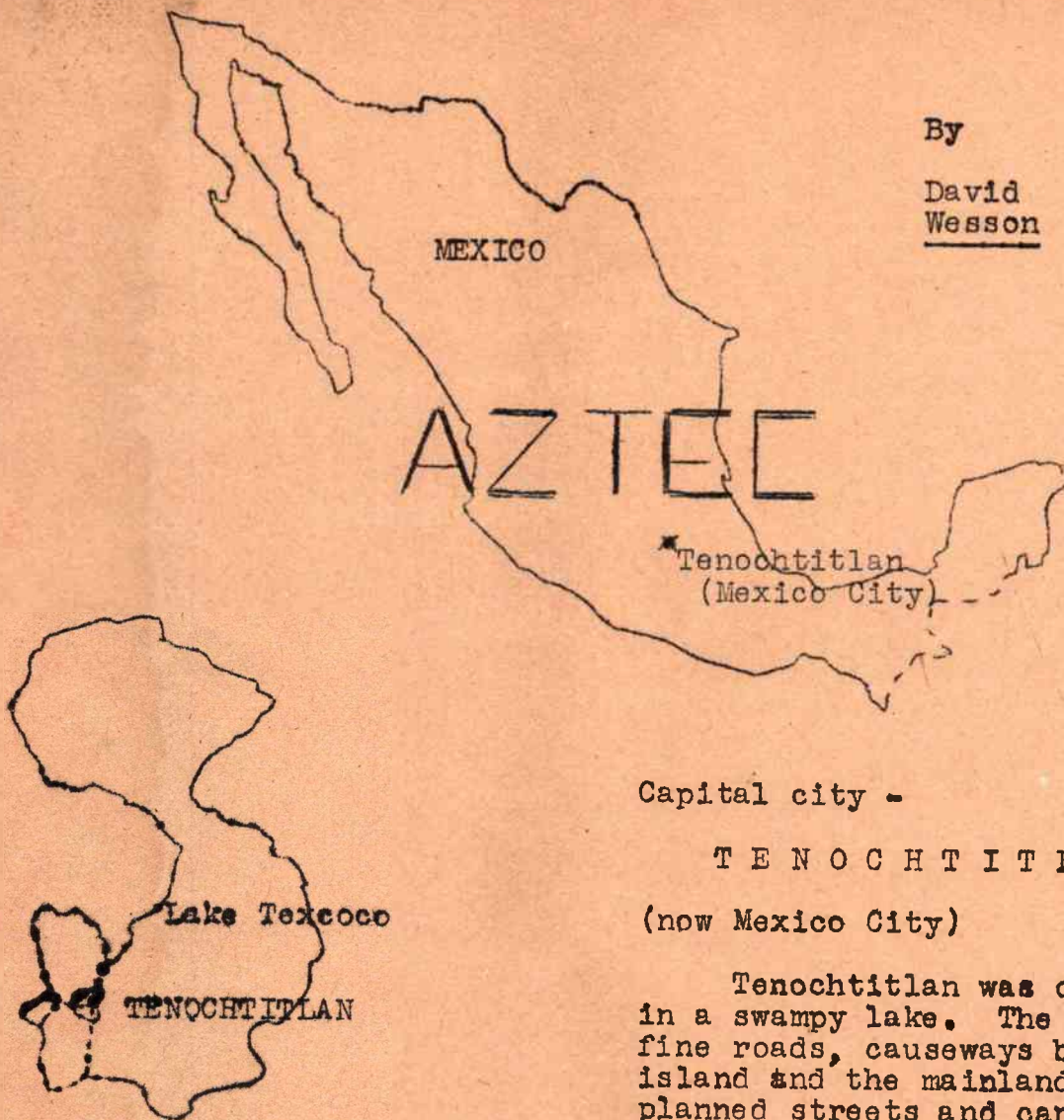


AZTEC MASK

Turquoise and
obsidian mosaic
inlaid on human
skull.

By

David
Wesson



Capital city -

T E N O C H T I T L A N

(now Mexico City)

Tenochtitlan was on an island in a swampy lake. The city had fine roads, causeways between the island and the mainland, well planned streets and canals.

(---Causeways)

INTRODUCTION

A Strange Coincidence

QUETZALCOATL was the peace loving ruler of the TOLTEC. The name means Feathered Serpent. His first appearance is in mythology as the God of Learning who brought civilization and ethics. The Toltec were a tribe before the Aztec. The Aztec word for builder is Toltec, as the Toltec were highly civilized.

Quetzalcoatl had blue eyes and a beard.

After a fight with evil warriors, Quetzalcoatl lost and had to leave. He set sail on a raft but he promised to return some day.

Hernando Cortes had blue eyes and a beard. He arrived in Mexico on the anniversary of Quetzalcoatl's birth, in 1519.

Aztec had black eyes, like Japanese.

MONTEZUMA's messengers reported that Quetzalcoatl had returned on magic animals - (horses).

Daily Life

Four days after the baby was born, the family had a party. They

made an offering to the Old Man Fire God. On that day the child was given toys according to its sex.

From three to six years, the child was educated at home. Up to eight years, he was not punished. After eight years he was punished badly, even though they were kind to thair (sic) children.

At fifteen to sixteen the boys were tested before assuming manhood.

There were two kinds of schools -- ordinary schools and religious training.

The boys married at twenty and the girls at sixteen. Priests and warriors were highly respected.

The Aztec laws were very strict and were about the same as the Ten Commandments. Even drunkenness was punished except at celebrations.

Old pictures show:

- a) Richman in fancy clothes
- b) Poor man in plain tunic carrying wood on his back
- c) Thief in prison
- d) Lawyer in court
- e) Doctor using medicine from leaves
- f) Merchant selling ocelot furs, embroidered cloth, jewelry, shields
- g) Warriors like knights, noble and hardy
- h) Gold smith making religious idols
- i) Feather worker making feather pictures

The Aztec body had a long trunk, short limbs and was strong. They were very clean. As a matter of fact, they always put a flower to their noses when they spoke to a Spaniard.

Their main food was corn.

Religion

Sacrifices - The method of sacrifice was to stab the victim with a stone knife and tear out his heart.

They sacrificed tens of thousands of captives from other tribes. Later these Indians helped Cortes capture Tenochtitlan in 1521.

The culture, art and knowledge were held by the priests and warriors. Therefore the Spaniards destroyed the religion with missionaries and torture.

Aztec practiced religious cannibalism.

The Aztec believed that Nature worked for good or evil like mankind. They made gods and goddesses (sic) out of the elements for instance, Fire God, Rain God and Cloud God, etc. The west, being the home of Venus, the evening star, was Quetzalcoatl, the God of Knowledge. The north gloomy and awful, was the home of the Lord of the Dead.

Sun worship was very important to the Aztec.

The Gods were married to beautiful goddesses, such as Young Corn Mother.

The Aztec had many rites by their powerful priests.

Arts

Aztec art was very good in architecture and sculpture but weak in painting and drawing.

Almost all of the ancient Aztec jewelry and idols were melted down by the greedy Spaniards.

Buildings:

The temples were pyramid shaped and beautiful.

Montezuma's palace had ascending platforms used by Aztec to elevate rooms. Montezuma's apartments were reached by stairs. War chiefs and nobles also lived in his palace, in their own apartments.

(contd)

A chief's house had adobe walls on stone foundations with wooden pillars and fresco paintings on the facade.

Commoners' houses had thatch roofs, like a Japanese farm house.

Carvings:

The Aztec made stone boxes to hold human hearts. They carved a calendar stone 13 feet in diameter showing the history of the world. They carved many stone idols.

They made jewelry with turquoise and jade.

They made masks by gluing turquoise and obsidian onto human skulls.

They made many kinds of clay figurines just like haniwa.

Montezuma

Montezuma was the war chief and dabbled in witchcraft. The year before the Spanish Conquest was filled with many signs of evil, for instance, a temple was struck by lightning.

The Aztec warfare was different from the Spanish. The Spaniards had cannons, muskets, crossbows, swords and horses. Therefore, Montezuma received Cortes without fighting.

Later Cortes made Montezuma captive. The Aztec thought Montezuma was a traitor.

There were many fights between Aztec and the Spaniards and other Indian allies. The Spaniards took all the Aztec treasures, some of which they lost. Cortes laid siege on Tenochtitlan. After a bloody defeat, he attacked the city again, and killed 40,000 Aztec.

Some Aztec are still living in Mexico and can speak Aztec.

The Aztecs of Mexico

American Heritage, February 1959

New Worlds to Conquer

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

David was 9½ years old when he wrote this. He has to be bludgeoned to open a book yet he volunteered for this project. Now, besides being a poor man's authority on the Aztec, he has learned another lesson in life: Never Volunteer! (Cover mask by HVW, out of Amer. Heritage.)

Takashimaya Department Store recently held an exhibit of Aztec folk art, to strengthen the cultural bonds between Mexico and Japan. The bonds, I do believe, are stronger than can be proven now. Writing about Japanese haniwa, I stated that certain BEM types seem Mayan in concept. These, I learn later, are not haniwa, but "dogu," and precede Third Century haniwa by 1,000 years or more. The originators could have been the race who sailed from Central Asia to Japan and then on across the Pacific to Central America. This theory has received substantiation by doctors who discovered a disease shared usually only by natives of Southeast Asia and Central America. Having seen the magnificent stone masonry and carvings of Angkor Thom and Angkor Wat, erected by the Khmers, contemporary with the Aztec, I believe this mutual skill in stone masonry and stone carvings is another link with the civilization which has left us the great stone temples of the Mayans of Yucatan, the Aztec of Mexico. The large Mayan stone heads are echoed in the still represented by the large Khmer stone heads, so heavy they have survived the vandals of years.

helen's FANTASIA 12, is published by

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~~68 Asahi-dai, Negishi, Yokohama, Japan. Tel. 64-3792~~

(CONTINUED FROM LAST PAGE)

the food prepared by my cook for the servants, and they choose what they want, she eats better than the wife of a company director. (The company director eats out every night on the company, part of his pay (untaxable) while his wife eats rice and pickle at home alone.)

Before Japan's present prosperity, many Japanese mistreated their servants. Probably many still do. But foreigners in Asia mean wealth to everyone. (My grocery bills are phenomenal.)

Servants in Africa, now, in the Congo, are mere children. It will be many years before the African bushman will become civilized enough to be a servant or an "equal" (whatever that is) and perhaps he doesn't want to become equal in this Nuclear Age. I don't blame him.

But servants who are well-trained have their definite place in the scheme of things and the old English servants were mighty proud of their place, too. They knew they were needed and depended upon, and that is a great psychological satisfaction.

Apparently the Rockerfellers are not prejudiced because one just recently married his Scandinavian servant.

After all this, I shall announce that my next article will be based on my belief that my greatest single frustration in Japan--if one can single out one frustration greater than another--is Servants. Meanwhile, sayonara...and Marion, before you dive into the swimming pool, make sure there's water in it.

EQUAL: "We'll all go together when we go...."

(This jump, incidentally, was deliberate. I didn't want Marion's quote on the back of David's article, which is going out to some of the younger element.)

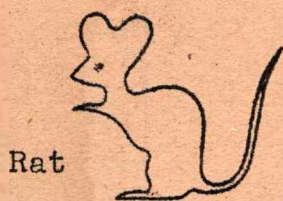
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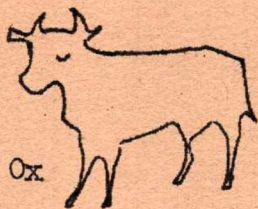
announces a change of address, though I don't know what it is now. As you read this in May, we shall be in Hong Kong, at Repulse Bay. Thence we sail to Singapore, Ceylon, Bombay, Karachi, Aden, Suez, and will need our sea legs to ride camels at the Pyramids. Then on to Genoa where, after driving a Ford Ranch Wagon these past ten years we shall pick up an Opel station wagon, and tour Austria, Switzerland, but mostly Italy for five weeks.

To New York on the Independence. We shall not return to Japan. Beyond that, I do not at this moment, Feb. 1962, know where we'll windup. Most likely spot is the home office in New York City, in which case we'll be busy house-hunting in New Jersey's better school districts, with only three weeks to meet the Opening of School deadline.

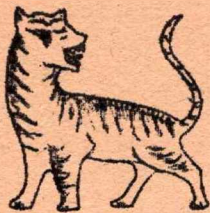
LOOK FOR NEW ADDRESS. --HWW



Rat



Ox



TIGER - 1962



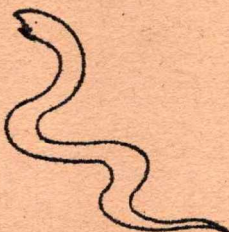
Hare

THE YEAR OF THE TIGER is the most auspicious in which a boy can be born. David, celebrating his 12th birthday on March 20, 1962, is a Tiger - Tora, in Japanese. No animal is as feared and respected in the Orient as the Tiger. The tiger bears in the center of its forehead three horizontal lines connected by a vertical line down the middle...easily recognizable as the Chinese ideograph for "Wang" - King. The Japanese written language is Chinese ideography, hence the Japanese, like the Chinese, have many proverbs about the tiger. It is not a good sign for women, however: "lofu-nah" signifies a wife or mother-in-law of alarming belligerence.

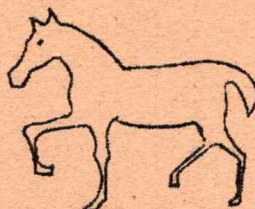
By some coincidence, the red-sailed Cadet chartered to my boys is the Tora, a sailboat.



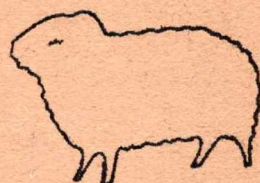
Dragon



Snake



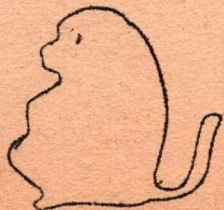
Horse



Sheep

BUDDHA CALLED THE ANIMALS TOGETHER, to appear before him on a certain day when he planned to establish this Zodiac. The twelve animals represent not only the cycle of years, but the months, days and even the hours. The Cat asked the Rat when Buddha had commanded the animals to appear. The wily Rat, who did not like the Cat, told him a day later. When the big day arrived, the Rat set forth, riding on the head of the Cow. As the Cow came to the door of the Temple, the Rat leaped off and ran through the gate ahead of the Cow....and that is how the Rat leads off the Zodiac. The Cat, arriving one day late, was not included at all, and from that day to this he has been the enemy of the Rat.

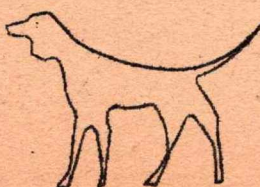
In case you think it is 1962 all over the Earth, you are hopelessly provincial. In Japan, for instance, my household bills are dated: 37 15 6 -- i.e., June 15, in the 37th year of Showa. Time, in Japan, is divided into eras of irregular lengths, which correspond with the reigns of the respective Emperors. This chronology dates from the ascension to throne of the first Emperor, Jimmu Tenno, in 660 B.C. This



Monkey



Cock



Dog



Wild Boar

makes the year 1933, for instance, 2593. These eras are named: the most easily recognized is Meiji (Enlightened Era) and it was; while Showa (1926-) is not quite so appropriately named "Radiant Peace." Officially, for communications and transactions with foreign Governments and peoples, the Gregorian calendar went into effect in Japan on January 1, 1873.

But we still don't have Daylight Saving Time in summer.

IN MACAO, an overnight ferryboat ride from Hong Kong, I found in a pottery shop, a complete set of the Oriental Zodiac - the 12 animals personified in Chinese dress. It is a very cheap set, but interesting. The four figurines which I acquired previously, antique, except for the Dragon, the least auspicious: Snake, Horse and Sheep. The Dragon is majestic. One would think the Horse would be a good sign, but not so: A friend of ours had a secretary, a woman, who by some incredibly bad luck, was born in the year of the Horse, the month, day and even the hour of the Horse. She was automatically doomed to spinsterhood no matter how beautiful and virtuous.

Young Shel was born in the Year of the Wild Boar, as far as we can figure out, and Pamela in the Year of the Dog. These are favorable to each: Man fears the onslaught of the boar; and dogs are affectionate and faithful, which sounds good for girls!

Here in Japan, little rubber stamps are sold so that New Year's Cards can be mailed out stamped with the proper sign of the Zodiac. The one I bought depicts the papier-mache tiger toy with bobbing head, a traditional folk-toy. (Now packed away, unfortunately.)

ON THE SUBJECT OF ANIMALS, Edward Seidensticker relates this anecdote in his column in Yomiuri Shimbun. He is an American professor of English who understands spoken Japanese well enough to follow anti-American propaganda in a low-dive burlesque, and written Japanese to translate the most complicated passages. This is highly unusual.

"The really high moment of the trip, however, came when I was viewing the monkeys on Mt. Takasaki, just outside Oita. About 1,000 native Japanese monkeys have been sufficiently tamed that anyone can go up and watch them, and study their social arrangements. Really dedicated students of the problem recognize each of the 1,000 monkeys, and know where each one stands in the hierarchy...."

"Or so said the gentleman guiding the party next to ours."

"One of his wards expressed mild disbelief that it was really possible to tell 1,000 monkeys apart."

"'Oh, it's very easy,' said the guide. 'It's just like telling foreigners apart.'"

EVENTS move faster than my mimeo. I shan't be paying bills in Japan in June. Our bills will be in Italian, for by then we'll be on the Italian liner Victoria. I still don't know our address, but I do hope FAPA membership list is not changed because I am now mimeoing for the August 1962 bundle.

I shall skip hf No. 13 as I am saving that number for a special issue. August ish will be 14, therefore.



Sha-a-ame, MARION — your

PREJUDICES

are showing

CATCHTRAP 95:

"I absolute cannot even IMAGINE the psychology of a woman who will willingly turn her children over to somebody else in order to do some job any man could do.....you take your kids with you, or dammit, you stay HOME where you belong....Marion Bradley

DAY*STAR, Nov. 1961:

Between July, 1961, and September 1961, I signed contracts for four novels; two written and two unwritten; two science-fiction and two mainstream under pen names. (I also broke into a new field, the confession magazines. Being a glutton for punishment, instead of staying home (underlining editor's) to write in peace, I decided to enroll in college..... Marion Bradley

Some go to college and some go to work. Each to his own talents. How does your boy react to the lectures? You do take him with you?

As a preface, let me say that this article is written in a tolerant manner to point out to Marion her own immaturity. Judge not lest ye be judged, and all that. I have no personal interest in Women Working as I have been very fortunate in not having to work outside the home since my Army-wifing days long past. If I have any opinions, they are European--let the husband be the wage-earner--and I do strongly feel that Women Working directly contributes to Juvenile Delinquency. This can be argued for hours: Some of the finest children I know have both parents working; yet there is no doubt that many, many children would not be tempted into JD if mothers hovered in the background as I do.

Also, on the subject of Parenthood, I consider myself three times the authority that Marion is, since I have three times as many children as Marion. From this Olympian height I descend rapidly, with assist from Mrs. Dean Grennell, to concur with Marion in the theory that if you have children, have children. The Wessons are considered the "togetherest" family in Yokohama. Yet, for reasons I shall perhaps set forth, I make sure that each of my children has his/her own individual interests, since they must face life individually.

CATCHTRAP: "...I've had it 'in' for you, actually, for years; ever since you said somewhere in a fanzine, that you resented your year in America because you 'couldn't even go to the drugstore for a soda without arranging for a baby sitter.' I felt like asking, 'Whassa-matta, don't your children drink sodas?'..."

Red - talk with the thing

You didn't stop to think that my children, then, were not allowed sodas--unless I want to be coy and say that the baby I was nursing probably enjoyed my sodas, if any, as much as I did. In other words, don't lash out until you know The Facts. I used that as an example; actually, I am still stricken when I remember the blizzardy evening when I had to leave young Shel alone and inch through the snowdrifts to pick up my husband at the railroad station..shudder.

CATCHTRAP: "...the willingness of the average parents to retrogress to an adolescent level by having 'dates' like children, and pretending the kids don't exist by shoving them off on baby sitters--well, by me, that's too MUCH togetherness. What the heck, if I wanted 'just the two of us' I'd never have bothered making it legal in the first place...."

That is your view of marriage, though it is a lot of sound and fury over only one offspring. Every marriage differs. My husband, for instance, is about 23 years younger than yours; his attitudes differ, therefore. In fact, my husband is in a business where, here in Japan, the more people he knows the better newsman he is. He may get a lead from any likely or unlikely source. He is by nature socially gregarious, anyway, and the foreign community has depended on him for the past ten years when they need his talents. He married me because he enjoys my company; doesn't he count? So we have as rich a social and cultural life as one can achieve here, --balanced with a rich family life.

(You'd never catch my husband allowing me to have knives thrown at me in a carnival, so you see all mankind has its prejudices.)

But back to prejudices...

CATCHTRAP: "I think the total disappearance from Japan, as from the Western world, of 'servants' will do more for humanity than any other separate step. I absolute cannot even IMAGINE the psychology of a woman who will willingly turn her children over to somebody else in order to do some job any man could do; as for paying some "lower class" woman an inadequate NON-living wage to do housework.... ...I would rather struggle the rest of my life with housework than divide women into 'servants' and 'equals'. America is the Land of the Free..." (underlining mine)

Marion, I hate to disillusion you but American women are the Slaves of the Twentieth Century. All work is honorable, if it is honorably done. Only in America is a woman a bonded slave, without freedom. Oriental women I know would not swap places with American women for anything! Even the coolie's wife has a servant, and that servant has someone else to help her. Here in Japan, actually, servants working for foreigners are paid premium wages and live better than those working for Japanese.

I don't think my housekeeper is "lower class" than you. She is middle class. She is as intelligent as you are, and frankly, much more socially poised. She differs from the average Japanese woman in being a strict disciplinarian even with the boys (especially with the boys). I can go on a trip knowing my children are safe in her hands.

As for her "NON-living wage" - she owns kimono outfits costing hundreds of dollars (how's your wardrobe?), wears a prize pearl in a gold ring, as well as a diamond ring when she's dressed for Japanese visiting as on her own; her Western wardrobe is as good as yours; and as she e

to p 4