

The Worlds of Don Lawrence



Newsletter - Volume 21 - Issue 3

The First Words

December 2004. A year after the terrible news that turned my world completely upside down. A year in which we all had to find a way to cope with Don's death.

When I look back at 2004 I'm amazed how quickly time has flown by. My daughter, Floor, was born on January 22nd, almost two weeks after we took Don to his final resting place at the cemetery in Jevington. Floor can now sit up unaided, play games with my son Max, or crawl around on exciting expeditions through our living room.

At the same time, it seems like only yesterday that I wished Don a safe trip back home when he stepped into the car that was taking him to the airport after two exciting days in Archeon where he was attending the first Strip Days festival. It was a warm goodbye and, although we spoke on the phone twice before December, that was the last time I saw him.

In the past year the fan club has grown steadily. We have launched a number of new series and tried to give the fan club a more international appeal, starting in January with the In Memoriam book in which family and friends looked back over Don's life. Our newsletters appeared in English for the first time, as did the first volumes in two major series – Storm – The Collection and Trigan Empire – The Collection. With each new newsletter and book we have also produced premiums like trading cards and art portfolios.

Thanks to our websites and English language publications, we now have a great many members outside the Netherlands – fans from England, Ireland, Europe, Australia and America have joined and we were pleased to welcome fans from Poland and the Ukraine to the club.

Our schedule for 2005 is already coming together and we will keep everyone informed through the Worlds of Don Lawrence newsletter. We are planning to continue issuing new trading cards with the newsletter, but we also have a few surprises up our sleeves... which we will tell you more about in our next newsletter.

Enjoy!

Rob van Bavel

Promotion campagne Trigan -the collection-

The release of the Trigan Empire – The Collection books has been supported by a strong promotional campaign by the Don Lawrence Collection, with adverts appearing in well known Dutch comic magazines like Myx, Stripschrift and Schapnieuws and some fine promotion has appeared in Britain thanks to the help of Conquistador and Dez Skinn's Comics International. Because we think it's important

for every collector to keep their collection as complete as possible, we enclose two promotional cards, previously only available to customers of Dutch comic shops, for fans who may not have seen them.

The first card was made for the second volume of the Trigan Empire -the collection- series which is scheduled for January 2005. The second one was made to promote the first Legacy book that came out in October 2004.

Flyer for the next volume of the Trigan Empire -the collection series.



The stand of the Don Lawrence Collection at Archeon.



Brian Hughes received the first copy of the European release of True Brit at the book presentation in Archeon.



-The Legacy-

In October, DLC publishers launched their latest publication, Don Lawrence: The Legacy Volume 1 – Storm, at De Stripdagen ('The Strip Days') comic festival in Het Archeon. This deluxe hardback – available in both Dutch and English – contains almost every surviving piece of pencil art featuring

Storm and Ember, very little of which has been previously published. The original artwork was on display at the DLC stand to promote the publication of the Special Edition of The Legacy, issued in a slipcase with a portfolio of all the artwork in the book and one piece of original artwork chosen by the purchaser. The edition was limited to 50

copies of which 20 have already been sold. For more information about the Legacy special edition, please visit our website.

The Legacy was very well received by visitors to De Stripdagen. Viewing Don's pencil work was especially exciting for fans; in some ways, you can bring your own imagination into play far more with pencilled roughs than with a finished piece of artwork. Although rough, the pencilled pages were all of Don's usual, high quality, with some outstanding pieces on show: the portraits of Storm and Ember, the sketch where Storm fights a giant with a spear, the portrait of Nomad with a tiny burning hole (by which Don has written 'Rot Hole'), Storm and Ember riding on the backs of alien creatures, the skull series and, last by certainly not least, the beautiful pin-ups of Ember, from statuesque poses to finding her bound by what can only be described as a 'one-eyed snake'. For a grand finale, The Legacy reproduces 12 pages of an unfinished Storm story that Don originally planned as the ninth book of the series, a rare and unique insight into Don's handling of these famous characters, his storytelling and his dialogue, written, as you would expect, in English.

The Legacy – Storm can be ordered through our website and the cost to members is only eur 55.00 (approx. £37.75) instead of eur 65.00 (approx. £44.50).



Storm fights giants in the first Legacy album, published by DLC Publishers.



Trigan -the collection-

It is still possible to subscribe to the series. You will receive two albums a year and pay eur 49.95 (approx £33.40) instead of eur 55.00 (approx. £36.75).

You also receive a limited edition portfolio of The Trigan Empire for free!

For further information please visit our website www.triganempire.co.uk.

The second Trigan book is now at the printers and should be distributed by the end of January. 'The Sun Worshippers' has over 100 full colour pages and contains the following stories: 'The Sun Worshippers', 'The Man from the Future', 'The Mission of Lukaz Rann', 'Torga's Mind Controller' and 'Nastor, the Faith Healer'. We are already working on volume three, which is due for release in June 2005.

When you order the book directly from us, or subscribe to the series, you will receive this art print for free.



Puzzles

Over the past two years the Belgium firm Puzzelman has produced some very nice jigsaw puzzles based on famous Dutch and Flemish cartoons. Next year, in collaboration with Don Lawrence Collection, they have plans to produce two Storm jigsaws featuring the covers for City of the Damned and The Slayer of Eriban. Each jigsaw will be 1000 pieces and measure 70 x 50 cm and they should both be available through our web shop by February.

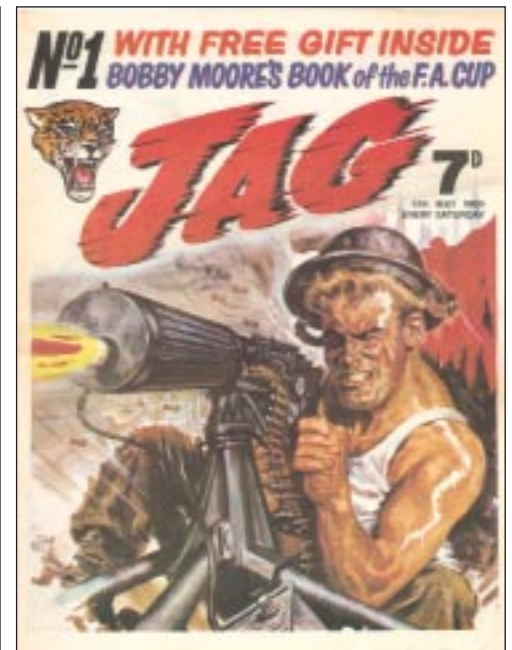


Jag

Thanks to our internet sites and the reprinting of 'Storm' and 'Trigan Empire' in English, we have been contacted by many fans from around the world and made some surprising discoveries. We knew, for instance, that Don had drawn some illustrations for the British comic Jag but had no details. Because of its size (the early issues were broadsheet) it is almost impossible to find a complete run. But, thanks for a lead from our scout Brian Hughes, the Don Lawrence Collection was able to buy a complete set.

Jag was published by IPC Magazines, the same publisher as Look & Learn, appearing between 4 May 1968 and 29 March 1969. It was a mixture of comics and football magazine, the main strips including 'The Mouse Patrol', 'The Indestructible Man', 'Custer' and 'Football Family Robinson'. For the first seven issues, Don illustrated a series of true-life adventure stories, 'When Death Reached Out!' Three of the illustrations were already known to us, but the other four are newly found treasures. This latest discovery will be added to Don's stripography and we will hopefully find a way to reproduce them in one of our publications next year.

New Discoveries



The first issue of Jag appeared on 4 May 1968. This issue featured the by Don Lawrence illustrated story 'Fight to the last man!'



Update volume 2

Our search for 'Trigan Empire' pages to be digitised continues and, we're pleased to say, with great success! Since our last newsletter in October we've added four more pages to our archive. Two of them will be used in the upcoming book 'The Sun Worshippers'. These pages come from the private collections of Leonie van Alphen and Jos van Gerwen who generously loaned us the pages for scanning. The results you can see for yourself in the second book that will come out in January.



Book Collector

The November 2004 issue of Book and Magazine Collector (No. 248) features a nice article about Don Lawrence, part of the series on 'The Great British Comic Artists' written by Norman Wright and David Ashford. It covers Don's career in nine pages, much of it based on information gathered from interviews that appeared in British magazines like Strip and Comic Collector. A surprising comment relates to Don's first full colour strip, 'Herod the Great', published in the religious educational magazine The Bible Story. Don always felt he had "screwed up" the artwork because, like a child, he had used every colour from his colouring box. Wright and Ashford, however, state that,

"Occupying the centre pages, this was work of outstanding quality. In addition to the impeccable drawing and composition, Lawrence showed his new-found mastery of colour."

Wright and Ashford make a connection between 'Herod the Great' and 'The Trigan Empire', claiming that it was due to his work on 'Herod' that Don was offered 'The Trigan Empire'. Don, on the other hand, said more than once that it was his second colour strip, 'Karl the Viking and the Ghost of the Tideless Sea' that earned him the Trigan Empire and, through that strip, his army of loyal fans.

The magazine can be ordered by sending an e-mail to janice.mayne@metropolis.co.uk or call at 0044-8707327070.

Artprint cover Pas 70

In Archeon we also presented the deluxe Art print of the painting 'Happy Anniversary' which was painted by Don for the slipcase of his anniversary book, Pas Zeventig. The album has sold out, but through our website you

can still order one of the very limited number of copies of the book signed by Don. 'Happy Anniversary' is published in a limited and numbered edition of sixty copies, printed on 300 grams deluxe paper. The art print costs eur 45.00 (approx. £31) plus shipping.



Orderlist

These productions can be ordered directly through our website. The prices are in euro's without p&p. You can order through our website or at 0031-162-461651.

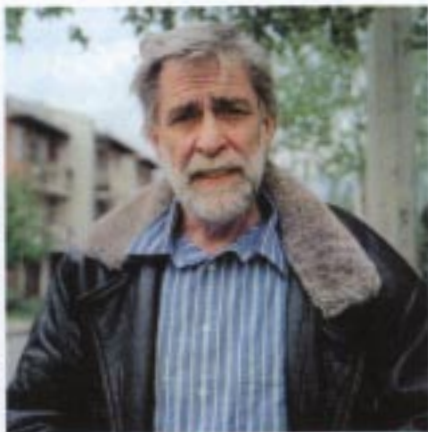
	REGULARPRICE	MEMBERS
THE LEGACY		
-Storm- (UK)	65,00	55,00
TRIGAN -THE COLLECTION-		
The Prisoner of Zerss	57,50	55,00
The Sunworshippers	57,50	55,00
STORM -THE COLLECTION-		
part one (UK)	57,50	55,00
part two (UK)	57,50	55,00
part three (UK)	57,50	55,00
part four - available May 2005		
True Brit	29,50	22,50
Don Lawrence -In Memoriam- (NL)	6,95	5,00
Don Lawrence -Sketchbook- introduction (2 pages) in Dutch	49,95	44,95
Don Lawrence Verzameld	sold-out	
Genesis Formule - deluxe edition introduction in Dutch script of the book in English.	125,00	95,00
Stripmakers in the Picture photobook of famous dutch artist (included Don Lawrence)	49,95	44,95

EACH PRODUCTION COMES WITH A SPECIAL BONUS.

Don Lawrence

By Norman Wright and David Ashford

Towering cities, mail-clad warriors and spectacular landscapes, all painted with an epic sweep and meticulous attention to detail. These are the images that come to mind when one thinks of the work of Don Lawrence. His three great strip series - 'Karl the Viking', 'The Trigan Empire' and 'Storm' - have large followings both here and on the continent. His death at the end of last year robbed the world of one of its finest adventure strip artists.



For 'Marvelman' he was paid just £1 per page. He quickly learnt to speed up his technique in order to make a living

Don Lawrence was born in South East London in November 1928. He attended St. Paul's School, Hammersmith, where he found himself overshadowed academically by his elder brother and, to quote his own words "sack refuge from academic studies by doing Art." After finishing school and doing two years of National Service, he began a course at art school. It was here that he developed an interest in comics, discovering that, in the years since his childhood, the adventure strip had developed and was now proving to be an art form that offered the creative illustrator endless scope.

In 1954, having finished his four year course, he decided to pursue a career in comics and, searching for an opening, sent some

sample drawings along to Ted Holmes at the Amalgamated Press. Unfortunately he was rejected but, undeterred, he approached Mick Anglo, whose busy Gower Street Studios produced work for many comics, including Marvelman and its associated group of comics, published by L. Miller & Son of Hackney.



The Worlds of Don Lawrence
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