

The Worlds of Don Lawrence

Newsletter - Volume 22 - Issue 2 - Sept. 2005



From the Storm Front

In our last newsletter I finally got to reveal to the world the news that, after months of negotiations, DLC Publishers now owned the rights to Storm. We received many congratulations and the positive feedback has made us optimistic about the future of Storm and our publishing ventures. The last months have been very hectic but things are now calming down and we can start planning for the future. In October we are releasing the first Dutch reprints of Storm by DLC Publishers – seven titles at once! Storm has now moved back onto the A-list of Dutch publishing where he belongs.

The reprints were a priority for us as it makes the whole Storm series available again. The next stage will be to develop new Storm product. Next year is Storm's 30th anniversary so we want to make sure there is something to celebrate. At the moment we are still in the planning stage but as soon as we have news you will be the first to know.

Meanwhile, our 'normal' publication schedule continues uninterrupted with new editions of Storm—The Collection and Trigan Empire—The Collection in the pipeline plus news of the next Legacy volume. We are also thinking about possible giveaways for the newsletter – this issue it's a new packet of trading cards and a poster. Next time... you'll just have to wait and see. Even we like to save a few surprises!

Enjoy!

Rob van Bavel

Temple Raiders: The Secret of the Bloodstone

Back in 1991, Don Lawrence was working on a special project. He had agreed to produce artwork for Temple Raiders, The Secret Of The Bloodstone, a new game from Hasbro. The job came through an advertising agency and what should have taken only a few weeks eventually took several months.

Don was still working on the artwork for the box when the agency needed it as part of a presentation to Hasbro. Don was unhappy about letting the artwork go because it was unfinished and all the detail work still needed to be done. The agency assured him that this wouldn't be a problem and they would inform Hasbro that the artwork was incomplete. A day later, Don

learned that the artwork had been rejected because of the lack of detail.

A year later, Don was asked to do another game but, after his earlier experience, he never worked for the agency again.

The game has been unavailable for over a decade. However, the fan club recently managed to lay its hands on 20 copies of the Dutch edition, still in their original wrappers. The games can be ordered through our website and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis.

The game The Temple Raiders is not only a very nice adventure game to play, it also has astonishing artwork!

The new reprints of the Dutch Storm series, have got alternative covers. This cover on The Labyrinth of Death was originally a cover illustration for Eppo.

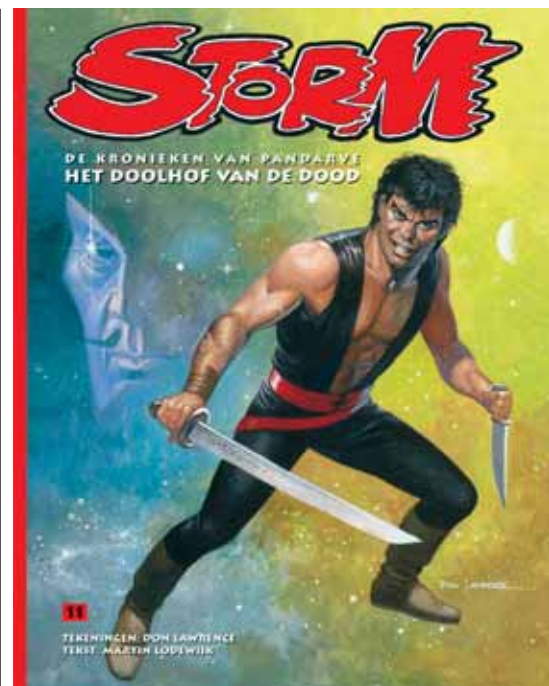


Illustration for the box of Temple Raiders, which was rejected by the board of Hasbro.



dEUS

On September 12, the latest album from the Belgian rock band dEUS (Tom Barman, Klaas Janzoon, Stéphane Misseghers, Mauro Pawlowski and Alan Gevaert) was released. As well as being big in their home country, they have had a few hits in Holland as well.

Although we're no judge of their music, you have to admire their taste in artwork. The CD cover for the Pocket Revolution album is a taken from page 17 of The Von-Neumann Machine, a detail of the spacecraft in which Storm and his companions make their way to the 'Intruder'.

The album is now available in Belgium and Holland. If you want to learn more about dEUS, their website can be found at www.deus.be.

Big Balloon's big move

Big Balloon, the former publishers of Storm and Trigan Empire in Holland, has said goodbye to their days as a comic publisher. They have donated their vast archive of printing film – virtually a history of Dutch comics from the past 30 years – to The Stripschap, an organisation that has been promoting the Dutch comic scene for over 40 years. Nowadays they concentrate on

producing books featuring TV personalities like Spongebob Squarepants and Bob the Builder.

The film used in the production of various Don Lawrence series such as Olac the Gladiator and Karl the Viking is now in the hands of DLC Publishers and we hope to put them to good use in the very near future.

The Legacy- 2

In February, DLC produced the deluxe edition of Don Lawrence—The Legacy—Storm. This was a beautifully produced slipcase edition containing the book, a portfolio with an extra eight prints, plus an original pencil drawing by Don Lawrence. This was an extremely limited production of 50 copies, from which purchasers could choose from one of over 70 pencil sketches available (we did this so that even the purchaser of the last copy still has 20 sketches to choose from). The complete selection of sketches still available can be seen on-line at our web shop.

The second volume of the three-

volume Legacy series is scheduled for February 2006. The working title is 'The Women of Don Lawrence'.

One of Don's pin-up illustrations for Ember: In the new Legacy book we will see her in many more poses!



Trigan -the collection-

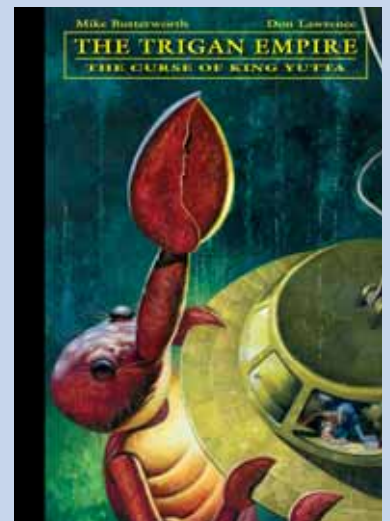
Volume 4 of Trigan Empire—The Collection is scheduled for October 2005 (week 44). This latest volume contains four stories originally produced in 1972-73: 'The Hydro Man', 'The Curse Of King Yutta', 'The Lost Years' and 'Journey To Orcadia'. As well as the usual introductory material, the book will contain a dossier about Elekton's most creative scientist as we explore the inventions to be found in 'Peric's Lab'.

Artwork for these books is taken from original art boards

wherever possible and we would like to thank fan club members Leonie van Alphen, Rene Visser and Ulrich Merkl for their contributions. The cover to this edition was originally painted for the tenth volume of the Dutch series, Planet Van De Angst – 'Planet Of Fear' – published in 1979.

If you have original artwork which could be used in the series, please contact us at collection@donlawrence.nl or call +31 (0) 162-461651.

Cover of The Curse of King Yutta, which will be released in October 2005.



Storm volume 5

The English language edition of Storm—The Collection volume 5 will be released in November 2005. For the first time fans will be able to read *The Creeping Death*, which was written and drawn by Don Lawrence, and will find themselves transported to the world of *The Pirates of Pandarve* which marked the return of Martin Lodewijk to Storm.

Poster Competition

The first new Storm product from DLC Publishers will be the poster used to promote the seven Storm reprints. We have produced about 3,000 of them but reserved many copies to be sent out with this newsletter to make

Don Lawrence made this illustration for the cover of the fifth volume of Storm -the collection- in 2002. The artwork was presented in the salescatalogue of 2005/2006 and was sold in August this year.



sure that fan club members have one. You can keep the poster for your collection or you can display it. If you decide to display the poster, please send us a photograph as we will be giving away a complete set of the Storm reprints for the most imaginative display.

This promo-poster is, of course, in Dutch but if you could give it a good home it would be very appreciated.

Update volume 4



It is still possible to subscribe to the series. You will receive three 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.

Softcovers

From October the complete series of 23 Storm books (including number 0) will be available in Holland again. DLC Publishers will be issuing 7 titles that are currently out of print, including The Deep World, The Last Fighter, The Battle For Earth, Secret Of The Nitron Rays, The Labyrinth Of Death, The Seven Of Aromater and Vandaahl The Destroyer.

These editions will be released with new covers and are produced from the digital scans that DLC Publishers have in their files. The new covers were previewed at the recent Rijswijk comic convention and the response was very positive. Images will be available on the website within a few weeks and the books can be ordered on-line through our shop.



Lithographs

Along with the rights to Storm, DLC Publishers has also bought up all remaining stocks of Big Balloon's Storm merchandise. This included 20 pallets of comic

These unique lithographs (size 60x80 cm) were signed by Don Lawrence, and are now for sale at our webshop with a great offer for members of the fanclub.

books and a nice collection of lithographs featuring Storm and Trigan Empire which were produced in 1995 and 1997. These lithographs were published as limited editions of 400 copies, numbered and signed by Don Lawrence, and priced about HFL 135.00 (about Eur 65.00). We have decided to make these available to members of the Fan Club at the knockdown price of Eur 35.00 each or Eur 50.00 for both.

This offer is valid until 31 October or until stocks run out.

Stripjaarboek

In July, the book Stripjaar 2004 ('Strip year 2004') was published by Sherpa Publishing. Author Geert de Weyer (a well known Belgian reporter) offers his view on the current Dutch/Belgian comic scene and an overview of the year's events; the book also contains a number of stories he wrote for a variety of Belgian magazines, including an obituary for Don Lawrence, published in the Belgian newspaper De



The book Stripjaar 2004 can be ordered on info@stripvoorraad.nl, priced Eur 19.95 plus shipping.

Morgen (The Morning) on 31 December, two days after Don died.

The book can be ordered on info@stripvoorraad.nl, priced Eur 19.95 plus shipping.

STORM.NL

It took longer than expected but, on Wednesday, September 7, Storm.nl went live.

Unfortunately, it isn't quite finished... we still have some work to do but it's a start. Think of it as Phase One.

Our first priority was to give web visitors information about the Storm series and the creators behind it. You will find biographical sketches of the whole Storm Crew – Don Lawrence, Martin Lodewijk, Dick Matena, Philip Dunn and Kelvin Gosnell – plus a brief description of all the Storm book published to date. It is possible to download the opening pages of each story so you can preview the albums.

Behind the scenes at DLC we are busy on Phase Two... at the moment the site is only available in Dutch. We should have an English language version online by the end of October and we will then concentrate on Phase Three which will add more information and downloads to the site. Hopefully we will have this completed by the end of the year.



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