

# The Worlds of Don Lawrence

Newsletter - Volume 23 - Issue 1 - Jan. 2006



## From the Storm Front

This should have been the last newsletter of 2005 but, because of the hectic situation with Trigan Volume 4 and the Christmas holidays, it proved impossible to get it to the printers in time. So, instead of the finale for 2005, this newsletter has become the overture for 2006!

2005 was certainly a busy year but 2006 will see even more exciting projects. For a start, this is the year in which Storm celebrates his 30th anniversary and we will not let that pass unnoticed. In 1976, Don Lawrence quit his job at IPC to start work on a new series for the Dutch publishing house, Oberon—Storm. The original setting of the world in which Storm would experience his first adventure—The Deep World—was co-created with Martin Lodewijk. One false start later (requiring Don to set aside over thirty pages of completed artwork and start all over again from the beginning), the first pages of Storm were finally published in the weekly comic magazine, Eppo, at the beginning of 1977. Exactly how we are going to celebrate this anniversary, we don't yet know but rest assured we will have some very nice productions for you later this year.

With this newsletter, you should have received your new membership card together with the 'final' pack of Storm trading cards. In addition, there are two special Storm cards, the first two of a special set of 4 (the remaining two will be sent with the next newsletter in May). In fact, with each of the four newsletters this year you will receive a free gift—so keep your eyes on the mailbox for our next three newsletters, due in May, September and December.

Enjoy!

Rob van Bavel

## Future Storm

There have been many rumours going around about our plans to continue the Storm series. You might have read about this on various web-sites and in different magazine. Not everything that has been said is true but some guesses have been pretty close. Truth is, we really do want to have a new Storm volume out this year!

Who will be doing the artwork is something we have yet to decide but Martin Lodewijk will definitely be taking care of the story. At this moment we have three artists in the running, one of whom will produce the first book. The plan is for Martin to write three scenarios so that each

of the artists will have their own story. We hope to have more information about this in our next newsletter.

## Trading cards

As mentioned earlier, with this newsletter you will have received your last pack of trading cards from the first series of Storm. If you haven't got a complete set I advise you to visit our trade section on the website. You can also buy the packets on-line, while stocks last. We have been asked many times over the last couple of years whether there would be a second series (and also whether there would be a



nice collectors' album to keep the cards in). I don't have an answer to either question yet but I promise I'll come back on this one in the next newsletter.

*All cards from the series of 4. The first two are enclosed with this issue, the other two will come with the next newsletter.*

### Meet & Greet

Don Lawrence must have drawn hundreds of different faces over the year but he rarely based them on well-known characters or real people. Of course, there are a few exceptions—Lis Lawrence recognized Don's eldest son, Ian (Chuff) Lawrence, in one of the 'Carrie' pages which were sold through our 2005 / 2006 sales catalogue, for instance. Also, just a couple of months ago someone stood face to face with his own portrait, as drawn by Don Lawrence. It was the actor Richard Hatch, who played the role of Captain Apollo in the 1980s SF series Battlestar Galactica. Richard was in Holland for a meet and greet and diehard fan, Onno Jauernig took his copy of the Don Lawrence Anniversary book with him to

have Richard sign the reproduction of Don's Battlestar Galactica poster. Richard was certainly surprised with the attention. Onno is now hoping to track down the other cast members of Battlestar Galactica, together with the actors in the Disney Movie, The Black Hole and The Incredible Hulk himself, Lou Ferrigno!



### The Legacy- 2

The second part of the impressive series, Don Lawrence—The Legacy will be published this year, scheduled for release in week 16. The theme for Book 2 is 'women' since Don Lawrence loved women, as is evident from many of his drawings! Ember is his most famous female character but he also drew many other members of the fairer sex and in volume 2 there are over 60 beautiful illustrations, drawn between 1980 and 2000. Imposing, explosive and sometimes naughty but always a joy to look at, the book includes not only pencil illustrations but also full colour paintings and illustration in grey tones as well. The Legacy Book 2 is printed on deluxe paper, attractively cloth-bound and comes complete with a beautiful dust-jacket. This book deserves a place in your collection for the cover alone!

*In the final frame of an episode of 'Carrie' in which she plays hockey, one of the players is a young Ian (Chuff) Lawrence.*

*Theo Keijzer's Christmas card from 1988. Don drew a very nice portrait of Storm and Ember with a seasonal message before passing it on to other artists.*

*Richard Hatch signs his portrait drawn by Don Lawrence for a Battlestar Galactica poster in the magazine Eppo.*



*The cover for our second Legacy book reveals some of the delights in store as we take a closer look at a subject close to Don's heart: women.*

### Christmas card

In September 2005 at the comic convention in Valkenswaard, we were unexpectedly confronted with a Christmas card by Theo Keijzer, a well known Dutch fan-publisher. In amongst the contributions from many famous Dutch comic artists, the card also included an illustration done by Don Lawrence. Seeing the Christmas card, Rob van Bavel



# Trigan -the collection-

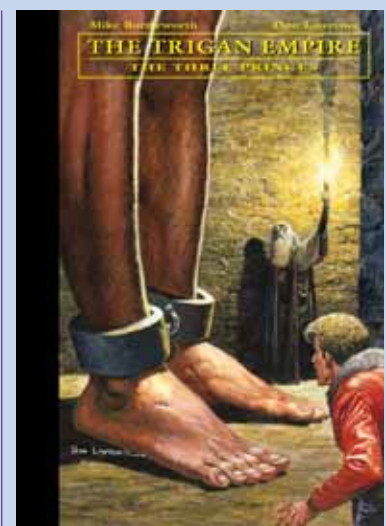
For 2006 we have three more volumes planned for the Trigan Empire—The Collection series. Volume 5 'The Three Princes' is scheduled for March, followed by the 'The Rallu Invasion' in June. Part 7 'The Reign of Thara' will be published in October.

The fifth volume contains two stories originally produced in 1968 and 1969: 'The Three Princes' (itself a group of inter-linked stories) and 'The Alien Dust'. As well as the introductory

material, this book will contain a dossier about the family, friends and foes of Trigo, an extended dossier with a fully illustrated genealogical chart of the family of the first emperor of the Trigan Empire.

As always, we would love to hear from anyone who has original artwork of Don Lawrence in his or her collection to support our series. If you think you have anything which we don't have in our digital archive, please contact us at [collection@donlawrence.nl](mailto:collection@donlawrence.nl) or call +31(0)162-461651.

*The cover to this edition was originally painted for the thirteenth volume of the Dutch series, De zonen van de keizer ['The Emperor's Son's'], published in 1980 by Oberon.*



remembered bringing this particular illustration back to Holland from England after a visit to Don & Lis at The Old Post Office in 1988. In fact, the card actually started life as a blank piece of paper (20 x 80 cm) with Don being the first artist to draw an illustration on it. From him, the page went to Henk Kuijpers, Peter de Smet, Peter de Wit Willem Ritstier, Gerrit de Jager, Dick Matena, Hanco Kolk Rene Uilenbroeck, Robert van der Kroft and Toon van Driel. The printed version was much smaller, of course, and has been on several of Theo's other Christmas cards. Theo kindly made us a high-definition scan of Don's contribution and this cheerful illustration will be used as the logo for the Storm 30th Anniversary.

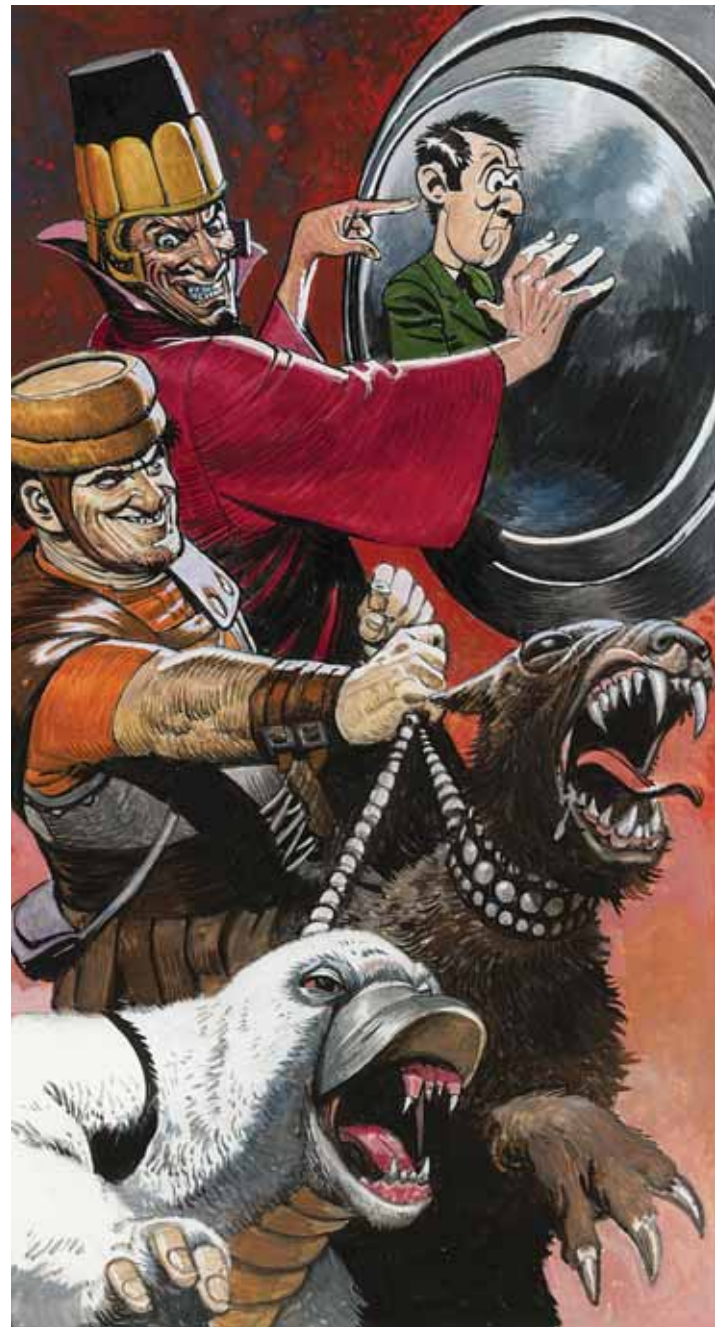
### Agent 327

Not only were Don Lawrence and Martin Lodewijk closely connected to each other through Storm, there was also a special connection between the character of Storm and the character Agent 327, created by Martin. Agent

327 and his companion Olga Lawina have made a number of guest appearances in the comic adventures of Storm and Ember. Now that The Don Lawrence Collection publishes Storm, Martin and DLC publisher Rob van Bavel have been plotting together to bring out some further projects not directly centred on Storm. The first of these will be a collectors' edition of Agent 327, which will come with an original page from the story. This is a truly remarkable project because it is the first time that Martin has agreed to sell original pages from the series.

The initial release is Cacoine and Commando's, which will be unveiled at the comic fair in Rijswijk (Holland) on February 4th & 5th. You can subscribe at The Don Lawrence Collection booth and make a reservation on the artwork you want to have. This is a limited edition of 75 copies and will cost about 395,00 euro.

*Agent 327 sometimes pops up during Storm's adventures. This drawing was produced for a tribute to Martin Lodewijk's creation in 1986.*



# Update volume 5



*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](http://www.triganempire.co.uk).*

### Look and Learn

Just as The Don Lawrence Collection strives to bring back happy memories from the past by publishing the Trigan Empire Collection, so another publishing house is to reprint some of the beautiful work from those magical sixties and seventies British educational magazines. The name of the company says it all: Look and Learn Magazine Ltd. This recently formed publisher intends to specialise in reprinting material from Look and Learn, Ranger, The Bible Story and Treasure. To make this possible, Look and Learn Magazine Ltd. recently purchased the complete archive of IPC, a real treasure trove with complete bound runs of the various magazines and original artwork by some of the dozens of artists who worked for Fleetway/IPC. Plans for a variety of reprints are already advancing quickly and a website ([www.lookandlearn.com](http://www.lookandlearn.com)) will debut in early 2006.

Good contacts have already been established between Look and Learn Magazine Ltd. and the Don Lawrence Collection and we will try to help each other wherever possible. This has already led to some very nice

surprises—at the end of 2005, cataloguing of the artwork archive began and some beautiful illustrations that Don did for Look and Learn and The Bible Story were discovered. Hopefully more treasures will follow. We will keep you posted!

### Syndication

Now that the rights on Storm belong to The Don Lawrence Collection, it's not only in Holland that things are starting to happen—publishers in other countries are also making plans for Storm again. At the end of December 2005, The Don Lawrence Collection struck a deal with publishing house, Editions Toth to publish Storm in France. Storm has been published in the past in France by Glenat but only up as far as Volume 14, 'The Hounds of Marduk'. Editions Toth will continue the series from this point and their first publications this year will be Volume 15 ('The Living Planet') and Volume 16 ('Vandaahl the Destroyer').

Much like The Don Lawrence Collection, Editions Toth is a small publishing house, specialising in attractive deluxe editions in small print runs of

between 1000 and 2000 copies. In the last two years they have published books on Richard Corben (Den), Bernet/Abuli (Torpedo), Willy Lambil (Blauwbloezen) and Milton Caniff (Male Call).

For more information about their publications, visit their site at [www.editions-toth.com](http://www.editions-toth.com).



### Storm volume 5

Volume 5 of Storm -The Collection is rescheduled for February 2006. Because of the delay with the fourth volume of Trigan, we decided to postpone this volume for a couple of months. Subscribers to the series will be informed individually about this upcoming production.

### Poster competition

The poster competition has almost come to an end. If you want to win the complete soft-cover series of Storm (in Dutch, of course) you'll have to compete with a police van and a real F16 fighter! This is what you have to do. Simply place the poster you received with the last newsletter somewhere out of the ordinary and then send us a picture ([actie@donlawrence.nl](mailto:actie@donlawrence.nl)). You can still send your submission up until January 31. We will announce the name of the winner in our next newsletter (May 2006) and, later on this year, we will have a brand new competition with a different promo poster, which you'll receive with the upcoming newsletter!

### Conventions

There were some nice conventions in 2005, such as the Stripdagen in Houten (great to see the return of this 'golden oldie' from long, long ago) and Strip Turnhout 2005, which was

*The dummy issue of the new Look and Learn magazine which reprints the historical first two pages of The Trigan Empire. This issue has been distributed to schools in the London area and given away to pupils for free.*

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put on by a new organisation this year and was also very nice to be at.

For 2006, we are also hoping to go to a few conventions. We start in February at Rijswijk with the Stripboekenbeurs on the 4th & 5th, followed by the Stripdagen in Haarlem (June 3rd & 4th). In Germany, there's the Comicsalon Erlangen (15th till 18th June) but we're not yet sure if we will participate this year. Finally, we will be back at the Stripdagen in Houten, to be held on September 30th and October 1st. This year, we would also like to attend a big convention in the UK, Bristol and now Brighton being the major events there. Hopefully I can give you more details about that in our next newsletter!

