

# DAGON

#705, APA-Q #617

March 2019

## THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

This is **Dagon**, a monthly fanzine of commentary on science, science fiction, fantasy, mystery novels, comic art, role-playing games (RPGs), and anything else that seems like a good idea at the moment, is published by John Boardman, Room 108, 2250 S. Semoran Blvd, Orlando FL 32822-2704. My land line number is (407) 270-5613. The number of my new cell-phone, like that of its predecessor, is (718) 736-4901. **Dagon** circulates through **APA-Q**, an amateur press association (APA) edited once a month (if enough contributions come in) by Mark L. Blackman, Apt. 4A, 1745 E. 18th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11229-2119. His telephone number is (718) 336-3255, and his internet address is <marklblackman@juno.com>. The copy count for **APA-Q** is 15 print copies.

**Dagon** also goes to others who have indicated an interest in its subject matter. Subscriptions are 10 issues for \$10 in the United States, and for \$25 elsewhere. I also trade with other amateur publications.

#2240

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Every January, as regular as clockwork, the United States Postal "Service" delivers a rate increase to us its faithful paymasters, in the futile hope that this will keep e-mail from offering us its services. This year its rate increase came too late to get into the January-February issue of **Dagon**, #704. Its effective date was Sunday 27 January 2019. On that date, the price of the undenominated "Forever" stamp rose from 50¢ to 55¢, which means that all "Forever" stamps, no matter what purchase price you originally paid for them, are now good for 55¢ of postage. For large envelopes, the first ounce of postage remains \$1. But for any permissible weight of envelope, each additional ounce of postage up to the maximum weight for that size of envelope, fell from 21¢ to 15¢. If these maxima have not changed, they are 3.53 ounces (100 grams) for small envelopes and 13 ounces for large envelopes. Thus, the postage by first-class mail for a 13-ounce large envelope falls from \$3.52 to \$2.80. This information, which I got from Karina on 5 January 2019, does not include any changes in the rates for international mail, as far as I know. And I suspect that much of it may be subject to change. I will keep readers informed of any changes, particularly if I can get hold of a printed rate sheet from the USP"S" before this issue of **Dagon** goes to press. See also pp. 9-10.

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Last year I met a new resident here at Excellence, a veteran of the decisive naval battle of World War II. His name is Joseph, which I had at first thought is a given name, though I later learned is his surname; I never did learn his given name. He was 95 years old, which means that he

was 18 years old when the Japanese attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, on which President Roosevelt called a “day that will live in infamy”, killing over 2,000 servicemen and doing major damage to the American navy. Joseph, like many other American men, enlisted the next day in the navy. This unprovoked attack on what was then a nation neutral in World War II, made American entry into that war enormously popular, a fact which our government has attempted without success to repeat in every subsequent American conflict, in none of which was war declared by Congress as the Constitution provides.

One of the most obvious issues in World War II was who got to control the Pacific Ocean, the United States or Japan. The Japanese fleet was huge, and included the six aircraft carriers that had led the attack on Pearl Harbor. Six months after that attack, as Joseph was completing his basic training, the battleship *USS California* was raised off the sea bottom at Pearl Harbor and completely refitted for combat, with its original big guns. Meanwhile, Japan’s fleet was grouping in the western Pacific for a campaign that was intended to break contact between the United States and its ally Australia, and prepare an eastward attack against Hawaii to conquer those islands and use them as a base against the western coast of North America. The United States then had three fleet carriers in the Pacific, which had been absent on maneuvers during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Later, one of them suffered major damage in a battle for control of the Coral Sea. That carrier was rushed to Hawaii for round-the-clock major repairs, and all three fleet carriers were ready to meet the oncoming Japanese fleet. And by this time American admirals were beginning to realize that the aircraft carrier, not the battleship, was going to be the capital ship in the Pacific war.

Another American advantage was that they had broken the Japanese code, but the Japanese had not broken the American code. So the American fleet knew that the Japanese fleet would have available only four of the six fleet carriers that had attacked Pearl Harbor; the other two were in for repairs following the Coral Sea battle. The Japanese were planning to attack the isolated Midway Island, where there was a small American base, and use it as a forward base for their assault on Hawaii. But when the three American carriers attacked the oncoming Japanese fleet, they sank or fatally damaged three of the Japanese carriers. Planes from the fourth carrier, the *Hiryu*, put the hastily repaired American carrier out of action, and a few days later she was sunk by a Japanese submarine. But the planes from the other American carriers destroyed the *Hiryu*, and so an inferior American force made the Japanese fleet turn back in defeat. Walter Lord’s book with the obvious title *Incredible Victory* tells the whole story.

Joseph was stationed during the Battle of Midway on a smaller support ship which followed the line of battle. Its job was to pick up any sailor who had to ditch his plane and wait to be picked up. But he was aboard the *California* when she steamed into Tokyo Harbor in September 1945 to receive the Japanese surrender. He was also aboard the *California* when she steamed into New York harbor to show off the ship which Americans had paid for and worked on. Afterwards she was towed out into the Atlantic and scuttled, leaving Joseph still bitter, 72 years later, about all the money and

kabor that had been spent on keeping her in fighting trim. Joseph had also asked me about my walker, a device that is more effective than the cane he was using to support himself and steady his walk. My walker is a lightweight device with four small wheels, handbrakes, handles to push it with, and to support myself, and a seating compartment that can be opened to store any items I may wish to take with me. I found out why he was so curious about my walker only when it was too late to learn why.

I would very much have liked to introduce Al Nofi to Joseph, but he did not travel east from his home in Texas while Joseph was at Excellence. An interview with Joseph would have made excellent material for one of Al's books about the experiences and opinions of war veterans during their service. Al, who holds a Ph. D. in history, has written two books about their minor but interesting experiences during the Slaveholders' Rebellion, the name which I prefer for the most uncivil "Civil War", Such events, which he gleaned from their memoirs, or the tales of their descendants, make very interesting reading. I have provided him with a few examples from the experiences of my relatives who fought against the pro-slavery Rebels.

However, Joseph soon stopped showing up in the dining room of Excellence. I inquired, and found that he had been falling down a lot, and had been moved to another facility where he could be given the care he needed.

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One of the most interesting books on languages and linguistics that I have ever read is the late Michael Girsdansky's *The Adventure of Language*. Mike, who was my classmate at the University of Chicago and the father of my step-daughter Karina, spoke English, German, French, and Russian, and was conversant in other languages as well. One of the chapters in this book is entitled "The Grammar that was Greece - and is Russia", and relates the tale of how two missionaries designed the Russian alphabet and language on an unlikely Greek model. When the brothers Cyrillos and Methodios (or, in Russian, Kiril and Mefody) began to preach the gospel of the Greek Orthodox Church in Russia, they realized that they would first have to teach the Russians what reading is. So they designed an alphabet based on the Greek, Latin, and even Hebrew alphabets, so cleverly that variants of it have also been used for the other Slavic languages.

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If I had known some of the things I now know when I wrote **Dagon** #704 a month ago, people would have been informed about the change in postal rates when reading that issue. (See page 1 for such details as I currently have.) And, when Deirdre provided me with the names and addresses of the relatives for whom this information was not published in the "**Dagon** Directory" in **Dagon** #704 (January-February 2019), they appear in "Family Matters" elsewhere in this issue.

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(continued on p. 5)

## GETTING CAUGHT UP

What Mark Blackman had originally intended to be the December 2018 issue of his amateur press association **APA-Q** appeared at last as its December-January issue. My copy of **APA-Q** #615 arrived in the second week of January, and consisted only of Mark's cover and **Blancmange** #535, and my **Dagon** #703, originally intended to be its December 2018 issue. This delay was due to the failure of my computer to inform me that only one file could be open at a time, a failure that resulted to the loss of much material I had intended to put into that **Dagon**. I have already explained this failure in **Dagon** #704, in the February **APA-Q**.

It was rather difficult to read **Blancmange** because Mark prints it with very small type which I have trouble reading. This is nobody's fault, but merely a consequence of the fact that my eyes are about twenty years older than his. (The font that I use is 14, but his appears to be about twelve or eleven, though not the nine I used briefly in the first line of this paragraph.)

Mark gives considerable detail about the death of Gary Tesser and its attendant ceremony. I recall that once Mark had told me that as a Levite he could preside at any ceremony where a priest (cohan) was not present. There seem to be two different orders of religious ceremony among Jews. Cohanim are members of a family, purportedly all descended from Moses's brother Aaron, while the tribe of Levi are the one of the twelve tribes which handle all sacerdotal functions. Christians will recognize the trichotomy Cohan, Levi, and Israel, (the entire Jewish population) as figuring in Jesus's parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus's audience had obviously expected Jesus to condemn the Cohan and the Levite who refused to assist the badly beaten victim in his story as less worthy than the ordinary Jew who stopped to help him. But then Jesus introduced into his story its true hero - one of the hated Samaritans, the people whom the Jews found in their traditional lands after King Cyrus of Persia destroyed the Kingdom of Babylon and resettled in the Jewish homeland the Jews who had been moved elsewhere after Babylon conquered the Kingdom of Judaea. The Jews found Samaritans living in that homeland, and the history of our own times explains why the returning Jews and the Samaritans held harsh feelings towards each other. Many Jews of Jesus's time would have thought that the words "good Samaritan" were a contradiction in terms. However, we have lost the context in which Jesus used the term "good Samaritan". ..

The "other" Jewish clergy is the rabbinate. men (and now a few women) distinguished not by their ancestry but by their knowledge of Jewish scripture, customs, and usages. This is actually more important than ancestry, and has prevailed in modern usage.

And so the term "good Samaritan" is now applied to anyone who has helped out selflessly in a crisis, and Samaritans are sometimes regarded as people of any ancestry who offer such help, often without regard to their own safety.

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For several months I have neglected to cite in this column the issues of the **CAR-PGa**

**Newsletter** sent to me by David Millians, its editor. I have not commented on the reports from the Committee for the Advancement of Role-Playing Games (**CAR-PGa**) since **Dagon** #700 (August 2018). There, I brought my brief accounts of **CAR-PGa** up to the date of June 2018, and published them in this column in **Dagon** #700 (August 2018).

The July 2018 issue of **CAR-PGa Newsletter** begins with the news that Millians has learned that there are precisely as many candidates for seats on CAR-PGa's board as there are seats for them. He has therefore declared logically that they have all been elected.

There follow a brief report by Ted Skirvin on AndoCon 3018, a long list of "New Material" from readers, and an even longer list of upcoming gaming conventions in North America and Europe.

I cannot find any copies that may have been sent to me of the August and October 2018 issues of **CAR-PGa Newsletter**. They may have been sent to me and got lost after I received them, or they may not have been sent to me, and they might not even have been printed. But I do have the October issue. I would appreciate any information which CAR-PGa members may have on the issues which I am lacking.

The September 2018 issue of **CAR-PGa Newsletter** begins with a "Call for Candidates and Referendum" by M. Alan Thomas II. explaining the need for a membership vote on these matters following the resignation of Paul Cardwell from the organization's board,

There then follow two re[ports on Gen Con by Louis Zocchi and David Millians. and several shorter reports on various topics by other readers including myself. Then there is a long calendar of upcoming events.

### **THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 3)**

Another of my fellow residents at Excellence is a woman with a most interesting tale to tell. According to this tale, about whose veracity I have severe doubts, during the American invasion of Vietnam she served there with the Central Intelligence Agency (C. I. A.) while attached to a combat unit. While there she participated in a massacre of a Vietnamese civilian village, which she characterized as "Vietcong", and once identified to me as "My Lai", which she mispronounced as "Mee Lay". She proudly brags about this massacre, though some news reports called it totally unjustified. She uses the name "Valerie Pollock", though I have no idea whether it is actually hers.

If her tale is true, then she is seriously guilty of a major war crime. Fortunately, there is now a court, called the "International Criminal Court", which tries war crimes. It sits in the Netherlands, and has already tried several former heads of state from Africa, finding some of them guilty and others not guilty. I do not know whether it is a part of the Dutch legal system. If I were still a

(continued on p. 7)

## FAMILY MATTERS - IV

My daughter Deirdre has located for me the names and addresses of several relatives whose names were not included in the most recent “**Dagon Directory**” in **Dagon #704** (January-February 2019). Also included here, with the notation “COA”, are any addresses of relatives which have been changed since the publication of **Dagon #701**. To each of the persons on the list below, I have sent all issues of **Dagon** from, and including, #701 so they got all the issues with the column “Family Matters”.

These are the relatives whose names and addresses should be added to those in the “**Dagon Directory**”:

Flint and Krista Boardman (F), 10426 Rd 39. Mancos, CO 81328  
 Steven Boardman (F), 766 Rocky Rd., Trail, OR 97541  
 Teresa Boardman Conboy (F). 981 Broken Reed Court, Henderson, NV 89015  
 Dan Muldowney (F, COA), 2742 Virginia St., Sioux City, IA 51104  
 Terry Muldowney (F), 3520 Maricopa St. #UNT 24, Torrance, CA 9050  
 Dave and Mariah Nugent (F), 1137 Car Miles Road, Hiawassee, GA 30546  
 Cliff and Jonna Wierda (F, COA), 1010 7th Street NE #110, Orange City, IA 51041

Terry, Jonna, and Dan, in that order of birth, are the children of my aunt Jean Melton Muldowney, my mother’s youngest sister. There was a fourth child, a daughter whose name is, I believe, Judy. I have no information at all about her. Flint and Mariah are the first two children of my brother Karl by his first wife. There was another daughter, but I do not know whether she was older or younger than Mariah. She died years ago of natural causes, but her son took his own life when he learned of his mother’s death. By his second wife Karl had a son, given the frequently used Boardman name Martin. My great-grandfather’s name (and, of course, Karl’s and Keith’s) was a Martin and his dates were (1858-1925). And his grandfather’s name was also Martin. Karl was given “Martin” as a middle name, and he and his wife gave it to their son as a first name. Martin is now nearly 30 years old, and lives in Austin, the capital of Texas. His mother knows his address, and maybe Al Nofi, who lives in Austin, can find it in his telephone directory.

Keith and his wife had a daughter, Teresa, and then two sons, Dana and Steven. After his marriage broke up, Dana moved his chiropractic practice from California to Hawaii. (He followed his father and grandfather as a graduate of the Palmer School of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa.

Finally, I want to thank my daughter Deirdre Boardman Pérez, from whom I received today (Monday 21 January 2019) my entire printing of **Dagon #704**. She had already sent the requisite 15 copies of that issue of **Dagon #704** for inclusion in the February **APA-Q**.

**THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY** (continued from p. 5)

resident of New York City, I would get in touch with an organization of New Yorkers of Dutch ancestry there and get further information from them. But at present I do not know how to contact that organization, and would appreciate any information that readers of **Dagon** could send me.

The public's attitude towards war can best be gauged by whatever songs become popular in wartime. Consider, for example, the originally British song that began with this verse:

Once I was a lady's maid, down in Drury Lane.  
 My master he was kind to me, my mistress was the same/  
 But along came a sailor, home from thje sea,  
 And he was the cause of all my misery.

The chorus varied, but it inevitably included the line "Bell-bottom trousers, coat of Navy blue." The rest of the song can be easily imagined. The sailor gets the girl pregnant, and then disappears. The last verse is his farewell to her"

If you have a daughter, bunce her on your knee,  
 And if you have a son, send the bastard off to sea.  
 Bell-bottom trousers, coat of Navy blue,  
 He'll climb the rigging the way I climbed up you.

The British origin of the song can be traced to the mention of Drury Lane, a street in London. And the mention of climbing the rigging places its origin in the era if sailing ships.

And then came World War II, the only universally popular American war of the twentieth century. Children, including myself, saluted men in uniform in the streets, and those salutes were often returned. The song "Bell-bottom trousers" was frequently heard on the radio, but in a "respectable" version, sung by a women who made their love affair an act of patriotism, and looked forward to marrying him on his victorious return.

I recall no such sentiments in song during the the American wars in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, or Syria. That really says it all.

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The great haste with which **Dagonim** ##703 and 704 were prepared was largely responsible for numerous misprints, for which I apologize. Unfortunately, I was unable to catch many of them

(continued on p. 7)

## STIMULUS,,AND RESPONSE

In the column to the left (below) are the external stimuli to which I often respond orally, usually to stimuli on television. The column to the right is the response that I often give to each stimulus. Keys to the stimuli are: (A) advertisement, (F) Florida place names, or (L) law firms

STIMULUS	RESPONSE
(A) "Eye-witness news,,,"	"I'm witless news..."
(F) "Apopka..."	"Apopka goes the weasel..."
(L) Morgan & Morgan..."	"Organ & Organ.."
(F) "Leesburg..."	"Arnoldsburg..." (Well, if you're going to name towns after traitors, why leave out ol' Benedict?)
(F) "Seminole" (also a local native tribe, or Florida State University athletes)	"Smellyhole..."
(TV) "Odd Squad", WUCF-TV	"Don't try to figure out what this show means. <i>It doesn't mean anything!</i> That's the joke!"
(TV) "...a woman is (deliberately?) careless about the level of her hem line..."	"...thigh kingdom come..."
(A) "...psoriasis..."	"Is your iasis psore?"
(A) "Salvation Army"	"Put a nickel on the drum, Save another drunken bum..."
(F) "Yeehaw Junction"	"Well obviously, it's a place where yeehaws are united."
(F) "Dinkydock Beach"	"It's pnly a dinky little dock."

## THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 7)

in proof-reading. I hope that readers have nevertheless been able to follow my intentions in organizing these issues. Some of these misprints were particularly egregious. One of them placed the political-religious argument over whether the Earth revolves about the Sun, in the 15th century rather than in the 16th, when it actually happened. Another misprint confused the terms “revolve” and “rotate”. for planets and other objects. To clarify, the Moon rotates (very slowly) about its own axis and revolves once a month about the Earth. The Moon rotates so slowly that it always keeps one side facing the Earth. Sometimes the side of the Moon that always faces away from the Earth is called “the dark side of the Moon”, but this is grossly incorrect. Every point on the Moon receives the same amount of sunlight in one complete rotation, except for any points that are so deep in canyons that they never receives any sunlight. To be accurate, the Moon rotates about its own axis and revolves once a nionth around the Earth. And in describing Florida’s state university system on page 4 of **Dagon** #704, I mistakenly wrote that the Florida State College for Women was during the 1950s beginning to “admit women” while during that decade it was actually admitting *men*, becoming Florida State University. Also, in the 1950s, the University of Florida began to admit women.

\*

I am happy to be able to report the birth of my sixth great-grandchild. Maddox Anthony Pérez, the third child and second son of Karen and Anthony Pérez. He was expected sometime last November, but was actually born by Caesarian section on 30 October 2018. The attending physician expected that an early delivery by “C-Section” might be necessary, and it was done.

(By the way, the term “Caesarian section” probably should not be applied to the birth of Julius Caesar. In the medicine or midwifery of his era, delivering a baby by cutting open the womb was a last desperate measure taken after the practitioner had given up on the mother and was trying to at least save the baby. However, the ancient chronicles of that powerful family record that Julius Caesar’s mother lived to see her son an adult man.)

Be that as it may, Maddox now appears to be doing well as a new-born. His grandmother, my daughter Deirdre, is of the opinion that there are unlikely to be any more births in his generation of the family, which now consists of two boys and one girl born to Anthony and Karen, two girls born to Melissa, and one daughter born to Michael and Bethany.

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The complete tally of my great-grandchildren and their birthdates is:  
 Children of Anthony (b. 1984) and Karen Pérez:  
 Charlotte (“Charlie”), b. 31 January 2014  
 Mason, b. 4 November 2015  
 Maddox, b. 30 October 2018

Child of Michael (b. 1988) and Bethany Pérez:

Carmen b. 2March 2015

Children of Melissa Pérez b. 1989):

Elliana b. 5 December 2011

Alesia, b. 24July 2017

I want to thank Deirdre, who finally made a connection with me, and gave me all the information.

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**Dagon #705 (APA-Q #617)**

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you may find something of  
interest to you on p. \_\_\_\_.