

number two
for Apa L #6
Thanksgiving 1964



THE OTHER DAY AT DUPLICATING SUPPLY

I ran out of Gestetner ink, an intolerable situation for any

trupubbing fan -- so I drove out to Duplicating Supply to get a fresh supply. In I strolled, and "Hi" I said to Diana, DupSupply's loyal office girl and Friend in Need to the publishing fan.

Gretchen had accompanied me to the store, having been alerted to the charm of Diana by Fred Patten's account in Irabanos Radiactivos! in Distribution #4. She said to Diana, "Say, I read about you in a fanzine last week. Did you see Fred Patten's story about you?"

"No, I didn't," Diana said, looking up inquiringly from writing up my order. "Which one is Fred Patten? Is he the young man who wears a suit and tie and glasses? I can't keep everybody straight. Of course I know John and Bjo."

"They're pretty distinctive personalities," I remarked.

"Yes -- and I remember Bill Blackbeard, too. I couldn't remember his name at first. The name 'Blackbeard' conjures up a picture in my mind" -- Diana gestured with her hands to indicate a vast bushy set of whiskers -- "and he doesn't fit it!" She shook a finger reprovngly at the absent Bill Blackbeard.

"I remember another couple of people who used to come in here from the LASFS," she went on. "A big burly fellow and a girl with long dark hair and glasses. Was his name Ron Ellik?"

"Bruce and Dian Pelz," Gretchen identified them.

"Anyway, they came in pretty often and ordered a lot of stuff. Sometimes they'd think of something else they needed after giving me a big order and they would both be digging down for their last pennies to pay for it all. I felt so sorry for them.

"The girl with the dark hair came in one time when it was raining, and he phoned to tell her to buy a lot of other supplies besides the ones she had ordered, and she ended up going out of here into the rain staggering under a huge box of stencils and ink and paper. Isn't that horrible?"

"That's the life of the trupubbing fan," I said hopelessly.

"You folks sure publish a lot," Diana finished. "But I sure would like to see that one publication to find out what, uh, Fred Patten said about me. And what anybody else says elsewhere that mentions me."

"I'll see to it," I promised.

The Hexameros Horsetail



This is HORSETAIL VI, by Gretchen Schwenn
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BJO:

The eight-pointed star comes to me from two sources. It is a very ancient sign in Europe, and apparently has been used by my family for many centuries. In the use of it by others of my relatives, it resembles the mediaeval and renaissance rubrics, used to designate a specific family, and the dots are a countersign to indicate which individual of the family is writing it. I have an uncle who uses the rubric with a dot in the center. I have used my rubric signature for bank checks in Latin America, and elsewhere that banks know their customers -- of course, the use of a rubric signature is not at all rare in Latin America, or Europe.

When I lived in Mexico I became acquainted with the aboriginal use of the same eight-pointed star. It is worldwide, certainly, and research into its origin doesn't yield much information. The sign is related to the eight points of the earth, but in some uses can also be oriented up and down. Different configurations of dark and light within the interior divisions have different names, and the star has been used in a series of Changes, rather like those of the I Ching, but more complicated. I have a MS giving some of these Changes, but it is in Albuquerque right now; I hope to bring it back with me after Christmas. The I Ching has 64 Changes (2^6), because of its hexameral basis, and the Star has 256 Changes (2^8), for the numerical base.

I have attempted to illustrate three of the named signs, on the right. The upper is called The Great Bird, and is seen actually as two interpenetrating Birds: the Earth Bird, and the Sky Bird (dark and light). The second is called The Darts, or Arrows. The third is best translated as the Gyre (I take this from Yeats use of the same sign), or, perhaps, The Vortex. -- more another day.

