

The Worlds of Don Lawrence



Newsletter - Volume 23 - Issue 3 - Sept. 2006

From the Storm Front

How Don would have loved this summer. The tropical temperatures wouldn't have bothered him one bit as he was a true sun-worshipper. Of course, he would have hated the rain that followed...

Sadly, the days are already getting shorter and that means we're heading towards autumn. Time to get a few projects into production to take us through those dark winter nights.

Just before The Stripdays in Haarlem, we announced that Romano Molenaar would be teaming up with Jorg de Vos to produce the upcoming all new Storm book. The dynamic duo have already turned in the first six pages.

Jorg first came to our attention a year earlier. An enthusiastic freelance illustrator, Jorg has made a close study of the painting techniques used by his great favourite, Don Lawrence. In 2005, Jorg sent a huge painting of Storm and Ember as a sample of his work to the publisher. Everybody who saw it was impressed by Jorg's technique, especially his backgrounds, but the drawing itself needed improvement. At the comic convention in Rijswijk that year, Jorg met Martin Lodewijk who offered to coach him. However, this would have taken some time and Martin was committed to finishing his latest Agent 327 book and any plans they had were forced onto the back burner.

In April 2006, Martin had completed the first pages for Book 23, *The Ring of Fire*, and artist Romano Molenaar was busy pencilling and colouring them. Unfortunately, the final results were not to Romano's satisfaction. That's when Jorg was asked if he would be interested in colouring the pages. He was, and the first examples he produced were very promising. Jorg uses the same materials Don Lawrence used, gouache and Indian inks, and is also using Don's colouring technique, building up tones and highlights in many layers of colour, to recreate the atmosphere of Don's work.

With Romano as penciller and Jorg as colourist, we've got a very strong team. After The Stripdays in Haarlem, the whole team (Romano, Jorg and Martin) got together at a bar at the Cargadoorskade in Rotterdam to talk about the project. Some pretty big decisions were made at the bar, the biggest of which was to start again with a new script. So book 23 will not be *The Ring of Fire* after all, but *The Navel of the Double God*.

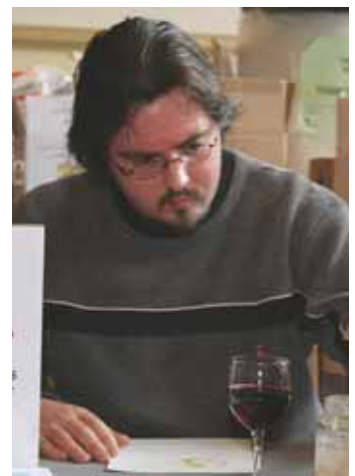
Last week there was a second meeting (at the same café at the harbour) and the first pages of *The Navel of the Double God* were passed around. AMAZING! With these artists, the legacy of Don Lawrence is in very good hands.

Enjoy

Rob van Bavel



Romano Molenaar is ready to go. At the Strip Days in Haarlem he produced many drawings of Storm which were then passed to Jorg for colouring.



Jorg de Vos has been drawing almost all of his life. His big influence was Don Lawrence and he is very proud to be following in the master's footsteps.

James Bond

The best thing about the internet is that you are in touch with the whole world. In our mail box we find e-mails from America, Australia, Spain, Greece, Hong Kong and elsewhere. Most of the time it is requests for information but sometimes it's a revelation. We've received two recently from Shaqui Le Vesconte who has given us leads of some previously unknown work produced by Don Lawrence. The first revelation was a project Don worked on with Ron Embleton; the second was an advert he

produced for Corgi cars. This advert was for a Corgi Moon Buggy based on the James Bond movie, *Diamonds Are Forever*. The advert appeared in *Look-In* from May 6, 1972. Unfortunately, Shaqui was only able to send us a scan from a photocopy. If anyone can help us with more info about this, please send it to rob@donlawrence.nl.

Trading cards

A second set of trading cards will come out at the end of the year. With the final newsletter of 2006, you will receive your first packet



of eight cards for free. Then you can trade cards through our website once again. To store all these beautiful cards, Don Lawrence Collection will be producing two binders, one for each series. These can be ordered from October 1st and we will also have them at The Stripdays in Houten. They cost Eur 4.95 each or Eur 8.95 for the pair. Clear plastic pockets which hold 9 cards per sheet can also be ordered through the web site. For more information, check at the web site or on the rear of this newsletter.

The cover for the first binder is an illustration Don produced in 1981 for the cover of the weekly comic *Eppo* announcing the appearance of 'The Creeping Death'. The second binder has a wraparound cover featuring the last frame from 'The Return of the Red Prince'.

The Return of...

Book 23 of Storm is in production right now and the big news is that an old acquaintance from the past will be showing up in Storm and Ember's lives again. Who is it? Well, if you want to be amongst the first to know you'll have to come to The Stripdays in Houten because that's where we'll be announcing

just who will be taking a leading role in *The Navel of the Double God*. Romano and Jorg have produced a superb poster with this mystery guest and this will also be presented at The Stripdays.



Trigan -the collection-

The last volume for 2006 will be the seventh release, *The Reign of Thara* which is scheduled for November. If everything works out OK we will actually make the deadline this time. You can follow the progress of the book through our website: in the section headed 'Upcoming Productions', we will continually update you on all the projects we are working on.

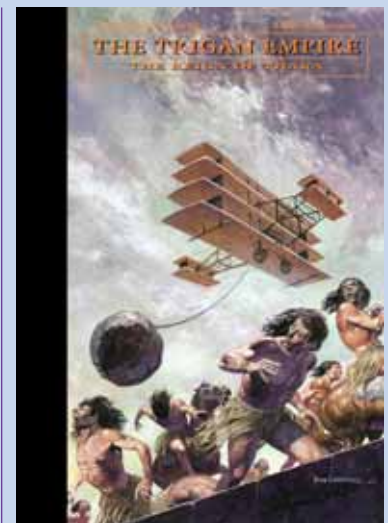
The seventh volume contains three stories originally produced by Mike Butterworth and Don Lawrence between 1967 and

1968, namely 'The Alien Invasion', 'The Reign of Thara' and 'The Invasion of Bolus'. As well as the introductory material for each of the stories, the book will contain a dossier about the female cast of the comic (yes, it's a very short dossier this time!).

As always, we would love to hear from anyone who has original artwork by Don Lawrence in his or her collection to support the series. If you think you have anything which we don't have in our digital archive, please contact us at

collection@donlawrence.co.uk or call +31 (0) 162-461651. The people who have contributed to this volume include Rene Visser, Mike O'Doherty, Silvio van der Loo, Alex Odijk, Chris Weston and Rene Dorenbos.

The cover for this edition was originally painted for the eighteenth volume of the Dutch series, *De Slag om Trigopolis* ['The Reign of Thara'], published by Oberon in 1981.



Brochure

As a publisher, it pays to advertise and the Don Lawrence Collection has recently done a little advertising by producing a brochure which folds out to become a nice, big poster. The brochure lists the schedule of all the upcoming Trigan Collection books and announces publication details of the next (third) Legacy book plus the artbook, *Pandarve: The Worlds of Don Lawrence* and the all-new Storm book, which is scheduled for Spring 2007. Now everyone will know what they have to look forward to and when the books are due out! A copy of the brochure is enclosed with this newsletter.

Pandarve

As part of the 30th birthday celebrations for Storm, the Don Lawrence Collection will be publishing *Pandarve: The Worlds of Don Lawrence*. It's a hardcover book measuring 36 x 25 cm, with 52 pages printed on deluxe paper which shows off Don's 'Chronicles of Pandarve' artwork at its best.

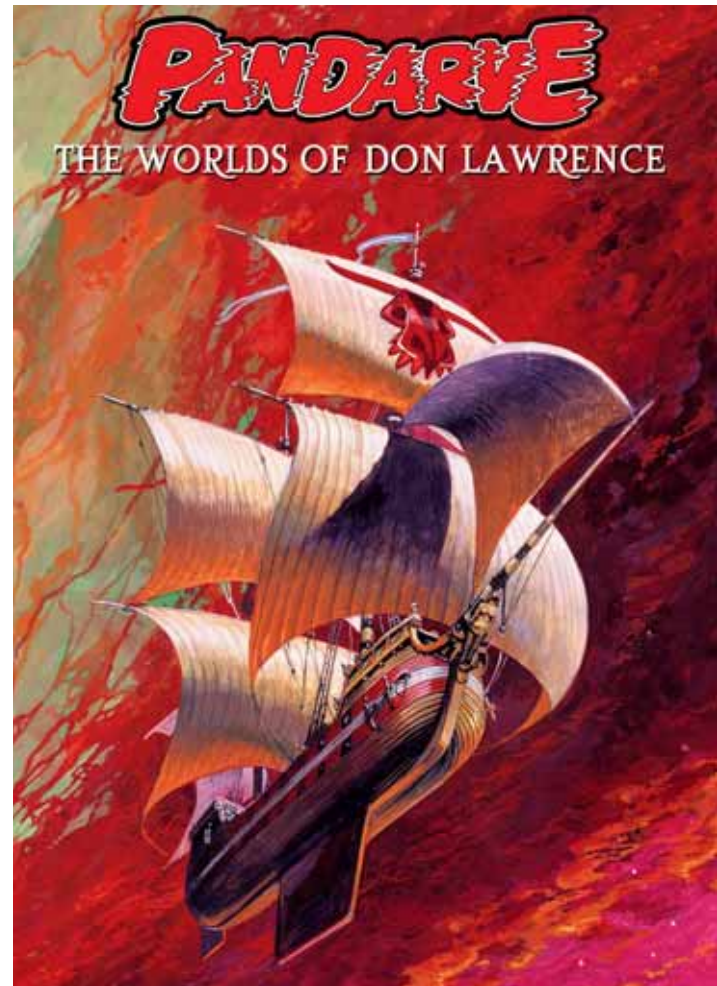
In 1976, Storm appeared for the very first time on Don's drawing board, the character having been created for a brand new Dutch weekly comic called *Eppo*. The concept for the character and the Deep World (the setting of Storm's first adventure) was the work of leading Dutch comics creator Martin Lodewijk and it

was up to Lawrence, the artist of the popular Trigan Empire series, to bring this fascinating world to life through his full-colour artwork.

Although two new Storm adventures (by various authors) appeared each year from 1977, there was little continuity between the stories until Lodewijk returned to take over the writing. With 'The Chronicles of Pandarve', Lodewijk created a whole new universe for Storm, Ember and Nomad to explore and his readers were about to embark on an expedition through the multiverse of which the living planet Pandarve was just a part.

'The Chronicles of Pandarve' gave Lawrence the chance to display the qualities and skills that had made him one of the finest comic artists in the world. The images dreamt up by Lodewijk were to stretch his talents to their limits – draw a ship the size of a small industrial town that sails on an ocean of burning lava; create a train that has followed its timetable for a thousand years during which time it has been fixed, extended, reconstructed, modernised, changed and otherwise mutated... Lawrence flawlessly executed every panel. In so doing, he portrayed many fascinating new worlds.

In *Pandarve: The Worlds of Don Lawrence* you will find the best



Cover of Pandarve: The Worlds of Don Lawrence, a special book to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Storm.

images from the series, chosen from the almost six hundred pages Don produced depicting the Pandarve system. Thanks to new digital scans from the original paintings, you will be able to enjoy the artwork the way it was meant to be seen. Before the visual spectacle begins, there is a touching introduction by Martin Lodewijk about his relationship

with the artwork and with Don himself.

The book is scheduled for release in week 40 and the introductory price is Eur 19.95 which we will hold until December 1st. After that, the price will be Eur 24.95.

Update volume 7



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.donlawrence.co.uk.

Strip Days

The next Strip Days – Stripdagen 2006 – will again be held at the Euretco Expo Center in Houten (September 30th and October 1st). The organisation is trying everything to bring back the atmosphere that existed ten years ago when the convention was held in Breda. For the Don Lawrence Collection this means that we will be present with a nice booth and the whole of the Storm crew will be there.

Romano and Jorg will be at the booth on both days between 10 am and 3 pm to sign autographs and Martin Lodewijk will drop by when he can; or you can visit him at the Uitgeverij L booth where he will be signing copies of his Agent 327 books.

At Strip Days 2006 we will be presenting *Pandarve: The Worlds of Don Lawrence* for the first time and we will also have the two trading card binders we are releasing. Also this year, there will be a VIP room, the Don Lawrence Pub. Unfortunately,

this will not be accessible to everyone, but maybe we will be able to pour visitors a drop of Storm Wine at the Don Lawrence Collection booth.

One of the highlights of the convention will be the Meet and Greet with the whole Storm team which is scheduled for Saturday the 30th September at 2.15 pm. Be there!

Legacy Women SE

In June we published volume two of the three-part deluxe *Legacy* series, this time featuring *The Women of Don Lawrence*. The third volume is scheduled for the

second quarter of 2007. The first volume, *The Legacy: Storm*, was published in 2004 and, in 2005, we produced a special edition (SE) in an especially designed case containing the book, a portfolio of all the sketches from the book and an original Don Lawrence sketch of your choice. A limited edition of 40 copies was available worldwide with each edition numbered and produced with a certificate of authenticity.

A special edition of *The Legacy: Women* is also being produced, scheduled for release in February 2007 at the comic convention at Rijswijk. Again, this will be

limited to 40 copies produced with a special case, a portfolio, a sketch of choice and all the other trimmings. The SE costs Eur 750 (Eur 850 for a sketch of A3 size) and can be paid in six instalments of Eur 125. Once the first instalment is paid, you will receive an overview of the artwork available and a subscription number which determines the order in which subscribers get to choose the piece they want. And even if you are subscriber number 40 you will still have a selection of 20 sketches to choose from.

If you are interested, please contact us through our website or call on 0031-162-461651.

This is the SE of The Legacy Storm. an especially designed case containing the book, a portfolio of all the sketches from the book and an original Don Lawrence sketch of your choice.



One of the beautiful sketches from the book Women.

Publications list

These productions can be ordered directly through our website. The prices are in euros without p&p. You can order these publications directly through our website or by phoning 0031-162-461651.

THE LEGACY	REGULARPRICE	MEMBERS
-Storm- (UK)	55.00	49.95
-Women- (UK)	55.00	49.95
PANDARVE - The Worlds of...	25.00	19.95
BINDER series 1	6.96	4.95
BINDER series 2	6.95	4.95
Combination binder 1&2	12.95	8.95
Plastic pocket	0.45 each	0.40 each
TRIGAN -THE COLLECTION- volume 1-6	55.00 each	49.95 each
STORM -THE COLLECTION- volume 1-6	55.00 each	49.95 each
DON LAWRENCE -SKETCHBOOK- introduction (2 pages) in Dutch	49.95	44.95
GENESIS FORMULE - DELUXE ED. introduction in Dutch script of the book in English.	125.00	95.00

EACH PRODUCTION COMES WITH A SPECIAL BONUS.