

Turpitude

Slanapa 455
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Mike Horvat
Post Office Box 741
Stayton, Oregon 97383
W7ASF@ARRL.NET
WWW.WVI.COM/~mmhorvat



The above poster is by Marcello Dudovich, supposedly an Italian but with a name like that I'll bet he was from the Dalmatian coast (where my forefathers were from).

I love the internet. Yesterday while browsing around the electronic world, I found an auction site of art nouveau posters. I spent a couple of hours reading the auction catalog and enjoying the illustrations. My, but those old posters are bringing lots of money, up to \$400,000. But the real surprise is that they are still available in some quantity. And we're talking real posters, up to 76 x 48 inches!

Ned: Congratulations to your mother on her birthday! My mother is only 84. She lives close to me. As an only child, I am pleased to be taking care of her. Susie, of course, does a lot of the actual work, while I take most of the credit in correspondence. Mom likes nothing more than a trip to Salem to go to the Goodwill Stores and have lunch at the Chinese all-you-can-eat. I'm a Goodwill fan and enjoy the Chinese buffets, too.

Avocados were a part of my diet my whole youth. I didn't like them as they were usually mushy,

reminded me of over-cooked yams. I remember seeing them sold along the roadside in California back as far as 1956. Were you implying that they have only recently become common?

My opinion on illegal immigrants is probably 99% fuggheadedness, as Gary so correctly points out. However, I can't shake it, but I will try to temper it with some sensitivity.

Dee: Good for you on the trip to Europe. I have been to Prague and Vienna, just a quick train through Paris. I was impressed by the former two. I was with my daughter, Jenny, and we stayed nearly a week in Prague, where I haunted the philately shops and the museums ~ saw the Crown of St Stephen, and his sword (and his arm holding the sword!). We were at Vienna during the Christmas season with the Lion's Club vending hot, alcoholic punch on the streets. It was beautiful. Susan and I talk about going; I hope we make it.

I like the concept of the "Write a Novel in a Month" and think it would be a great exercise. I don't think I have the dedication for it. Keep us posted on Erika's experience with it, please. And yours if you

decide to try it. I, of course, think you should even though I wouldn't do it myself!

Matthew graduated but has been working for nearly ten years, full time ~ so I think he's all ready had his "downhill from here". He is going to face an abundance of free time; wonder how he will utilize it. I suspect that it will disappear like smoke from a batchelor's pipe.

Wow, good on you for postcard collecting! I have boxes of them from places I went as a youth and teenager; more recently I have collected topical ones from the turn of the century. I collect cards on the Panama-Pacific Exposition, the Panama-California Exposition, the Alaska-Yukon-Exposition, the Russo-Japanese War, early shortwave radio, women (preferably semi-nude French postcards), World War I patriotic, and Japan. I collect other, individual cards as they spark my interest.

I store them in photograph albums, the ones for 4x6 inch prints. I get very nice ones at the Goodwill for a couple dollars apiece, will store two hundred cards. Then they sit on my shelves like books. I have printed up labels for the spines.

Jerry: My condolences on Shorty's demise. We certainly can get attached to animals. My mother is going through the agony of putting down some of her beloved cats; they are just old and hurting and she hates to see their pain. In fact, I am taking the second one to the vet to be put down today.

I appreciate your report on the television season. I don't watch any of the regular tv offerings and it is good to know that they are "missable" this year. I watch very little on television, most of what appeals to me is 1940s movies on Turner Classic Movies.

Frank: Thanks for the comment on Anne Perry's mysteries. I collect her but don't really read her (there just isn't enough time). I am quite curious about her World War I series; wonder if it is as good as the Charles Todd stuff.

Speaking of Charles Todd, I just finished *A False Mirror* and it was awful. It was slow and boring. I



hope it was just this one book that is bad; it would be a shame if my reading tastes change.

I hope you are wrong in the long run, about me and anime. It is something that I think I should like, but I haven't really watched very much of it ~ as you pointed out.

Gary: Thank you for your erudite and sane comments to me.

I like the notion of a guest-worker program. I would support that. I suppose I would be a little easier on the illegals if Oregon had a state sales tax; if we did, they would be paying into state coffers somewhat. Instead, we have a high state income tax which is a burden to the middle-class, but which is avoided by the illegals, to a large extent.

Bob: I can't, frankly, imagine you as sixty years old. Don't talk about it any more. Thanks for the Bloody Drip illustration. Yes, that is my favorite Kelly story.

Thanks for the great cover and fine bacover.

Best wishes to all for a glorious Christmas and a really wonderful New Year. Mike