



Turpitude

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The illustration above is one of a series that J. Allen St. John did around 1908. I have twelve states so far and rather believe that that is about all that he did. I have been watching for them for a couple years now. I even bought some duplicates, cough, and have tried selling them on biblio.com with no luck at all.

I have begun listing my books for sale on biblio.com. I sold a bunch for a dollar each (modern mystery first editions) which rankled me no end. I don't want to see my non-fiction go so cheaply, so I am listing it. Biblio does a great job for small sellers like me: one of their payment options is a flat 15% of the selling price with no monthly payment. Then, too, of course, they charge 3% to use their credit card service ~ but it is far better than a dollar a book! I only have around five hundred books listed but that is getting me a few sales. Once I get another five hundred online things will perk up.

I watched a few movies. It has been rather a kick getting back to television. I saw *Cocoon*, which was a pleasant escapist movie. The elderly actors did a fine

job of looking perky at 80. I hope to take a lesson from this, but suspect that my body will overrule my mind when the time comes. I saw *Diehard*, which I enjoyed. It was good to see a hero get beat up, scuffed up, chased all over ~ and still have him have the grit to not give up. My last movie for the month is *Reds*. I've had this on my "to watch" list for years. Beatty did a remarkable job directing, writing, and acting. I heard someone comment that his performance reminded them of Orson Welles in *Citizen Kane*. I can see the similarities and tend to agree. But then, I agree with anything for a while!

I went to a Salem Stamp Society meeting last night. The program was on Specialty Postmarks. Individual post offices around the country are allowed to use a special, decorative postmark for a single day to commemorate something. The lady that made the presentation didn't know half of what Dale knows about this ~ he had a marvelous collection of postmarks, and he would do caches as well. Ah, well, it just goes to show you how little the Real World knows about our passions!

Gary: Your tale of the block of wood for depression patients is humorous, but, of course, to those of us with depression the anger goes away mighty quickly and the depression is still there. The kernel of truth in the story is that a person can combat depression by “doing things.” I am taking lots of medications (less now that I am working with the DVA and not Kaiser Insurance) but the real help is to have something going on that is a distraction. I try to keep active in some hobbies and perhaps have an adventure scheduled to keep my mind active. The problem lately has been that “Nothing seems worth doing.” I haven’t kept myself busy enough.

I did recently begin planning an adventure, and it is helping a lot. A radio friend and I are thinking about flying to Prince Edward Island for a week in November. We were originally planning on “throwing up” a temporary antenna at a rental cottage and participating in a radio contest. But then, looking around, we found a rental home, owned by a lawyer in Los Angeles, that has TWELVE amateur radio antennas on the two acres and all sorts of radio equipment. Use of all these comes with the rent of the house.



We are really excited about the chance to operate really good equipment. Really. And the expense is not too bad; it will cost less than my Alaska Adventure of a couple years ago. My mother, bless her heart, is covering expenses, knowing that it is very good for my mental health.



The illustration of the girl to the left is another St. John. The photograph above is an antenna that a friend of mine and I put up last Field Day. Gosh, it worked well! And it’s only one-third the size of the antennas where we’ll be staying at Charlottetown!



Not as fancy a setup as Gobe has, but the photograph above shows the happy crowd of fanzine fans at the Horvat Estate, turning out words, words, words. (Did I mention that I collect pictures of printers?)

See you all next month!

Mike