

Ray X *X-Rayer* #134

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<http://x-rayer.com>



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DIY Zining The Old Tech Way By Ray X

If civilization collapses – no internet, no electricity – James Dawson will keep on zining.

He would return to his old DIY production devices: manual typewriters, mimeograph machines. All non-electric, human powered. He could rebuild the zine scene.

Even without civilization collapsing James prefers old tech.

James: "Older technology is sturdier and more reliable, simpler and more intuitive to understand, less confusing, less glitchy and frustrating, and once you find supplies, cheaper than modern electronic technology. In fact I prefer mechanical technology over older electro-mechanical because I don't have a head for the latter conceptually and I'm not patient or skilled enough to tinker with it if it breaks down."

In his early zining days he used a mimeograph machine to publish. Mimeographic printing involves making impressions on a stencil via typing and drawing to create a master copy. The stencil is placed on a rotating drum and paper is fed through the unit by a hand crank, ink transferring the master copy impressions to each sheet. Before photocopiers and computers arrived on the scene many fanzines were printed with mimeograph machines and similar devices.

Such manual production isn't easy but James has always been an individualist, a fact reflected in what he writes about.



James Dawson

James: "I'm a private person so even though I share a little personal information here and there, I don't consider my zines as perzines (personal zines).

"I'm a vegan and libertarian and have written on the confluence of those two philosophies. I write about society, philosophy, movies, novels, and short stories, and how my take on these all blend together. Lately my favorite fiction has been speculative fiction, most notably by Charles Beaumont and Richard Matheson, but these are just a few. I'm into existential themes, in the broader sense, as they relate to my life, not so much the stereotypical Sarte and Camus stuff, which are a bunch of pretentious baloney. I may slip in some offbeat humor now and then, but so far, nobody seems to notice or get it. I hope to start getting back into making zines that are totally self-indulgent, no matter how much they might bore, confuse, or annoy people or make them uncomfortable."

Recently James has been forced to rely more on modern technology. But there's always old tech in reserve.

James: "I recently bought another mimeograph for \$40 but I haven't really looked at it too closely. It's in my detached garage and it's been too cold and snowy [to work on it.]"

"I always have a back-burner intention of trying to getting my old mimeographs and ditto machines working, but the likelihood gets more and more remote as ink cartridges and fluid get scarcer and scarcer.

"If it were a little more doable and I were a little more disciplined and energetic I'd definitely do more zines on ditto or mimeo. I recently went to a copy shop nearby and it's not only 12 cents a side with the only volume discount kicking in at 250 copies, where it goes down a mere 2 cents. And in both cases, unlike



in the past, there's no price break at all for double-sided. So DIY printing is still an economic issue, not just a quaint notion."

He tried somewhat more recent old tech, a Dell PC circa 2000 CE but that proved to be too problematic.

James: "I had some confusion and frustration with that now and then, but in the last few years I'd been using it, I had pretty much mastered it and could make it do my bidding. At some point, my composing computer kept telling me the ink cartridge in my HP deskjet printer was 'improperly installed' or something like that, and to 'remove and re-insert it'. After trying this a billion times over a few weeks, I gave up."

So he tried another used computer but was frustrated once again by overly technical problems.

James: "In the last 6 months or so [the second computer] wouldn't let me access my Word files anymore. It said: 'WINWORD caused an invalid default in module USEREXE at 0007:0006ad3'. I have no idea what that means and I'm not going to waste my precious time, wrack my brains, and subject myself to major boredom by investigating it."



He tries to keep zine production as efficient and easy as possible. He has been using old tech mixed in with some easy tech.

James: "Right now I'm composing shorter zines on my trusty old typewriters, who never give me terse, haughty, technicalese warnings and prohibitions, or composing in my Yahoo Mail Draft box, saving them, transferring these to a Word file at the library computer, and printing them out there."

He says 98% of his printing is done at a copy shop. The other 2%?

James: "Once in a while, only when I run out of copies of an issue and really need some, I'll make a few copies at a time on a Brother personal copier I have. It's very glitchy and misfeeds paper all the time, so it's frustrating and inefficient. I only use it in a pinch."

Ideally James would publish only using human powered machines.

James: "Electro-mechanical machines might be able to be run off solar or some other off-grid electrical source, but electricity, at least AC, has always scared me too much to

want to work with, at least with older, worn-out machines.”

And in the event that modern civilization with its complex technical structure should fall apart he can dust off that \$40 hand-cranker mimeograph in his garage.

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His zines are available for dollars/stamps/trades/the usual.

MailboX



Lloyd Penney

1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON CANADA M9C 2B2

March 21, 2017

Dear Ray:

Thank you for X-Rayer 133...I am sure I have a few things to say about what's inside, so the evening is mostly spoken for and I have a few minutes.

I remember the UFO days well. The family used to watch a show called Project Blue Book, and it seemed that UFO reports were taken pretty well seriously. It made us wonder, and it gave us something to think about, good points when it came to good ratings. I also remember seeing UFO magazines on the bookstore magazine racks, Flying Saucer Digest, if I recall. I think I have met Chris Rutkowski, who is billed as Canada's leading UFO expert, and I think he had some fannish connections some years ago before going over completely to the UFO side.

My letter...I have seen Trump's approval ratings lately...not too good. He did promise on international TV that he would never take a vacation with so much to do, and with that said, he has spent about one-quarter of his time in office travelling to and from Florida, and playing lots of golf. He seems without conscience, he is following his own bizarre agenda, and he seems smug over how he's screwed over his opponents, and the American electorate, for that matter. While his antics continue to get press coverage, he serves as camouflage for the Republican majority, intent on ripping the heart out of your country.

The job hunt continues apace...I have a couple of interviews in a couple of days, wish me luck on those. It has taken about 16 months, but with today, it looks like my hunt may be coming to an end, fingers crossed.

It isn't much, but there's only so much to say with a six-page zine. Still...many thanks for it, and we will see you with the next one.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

RX: I appreciate that you take the time to comment. I just wish I had more people getting involved in the conversation. Like other zinesters "profit" comes in the form of reader feedback. I do get tired of hearing only my own voice. That's why recently I have been writing profile articles, listening to the views of others.

I hope your job hunt is over. I've been in that situation, sending out resumes, meeting prospective employers, running through the interview gauntlet. One time I filled out around 50 job applications and the end result: 0.

Good luck.

Ray

tyrbolo@comcast.net Mar 26, 2017

Hi Ray,

I thought you might like to see the strange character I dredged up from Carroll Quigley's history book 'Tragedy and Hope'. Quigley was Bill Clintons mentor and a professor at Georgetown. So the modern banksters have a long pedigree of undesirable behaviors.

* * *

Norman Viewed Governments and Democracy As Threats to the Money Power

Norman was a strange man whose mental outlook was one of successfully suppressed hysteria or even paranoia. He had no use for governments and feared democracy. Both of these seemed to him to be threats to private banking, and thus to all that was proper and precious in human life. Strong-willed, tireless, and ruthless, he viewed his life as a kind of cloak-and-dagger struggle with the forces of ... [sound] money

When he rebuilt the Bank of England, he constructed it as a fortress prepared to defend itself against any popular revolt, with the sacred gold reserves hidden in deep vaults below the level of underground waters which could be released to cover them by pressing a button on the governor's desk. For much of his life Norman rushed about the world by fast steamship, covering tens of thousands of miles each year, often traveling incognito, concealed by a black slouch hat and a long black cloak, under the assumed name of "Professor Skinner." His embarkations and debarkations onto and off the fastest ocean liners of the day, sometimes through the freight hatch, were about as unobserved as the somewhat similar passages of Greta Garbo in the same years, and were carried out in a similarly "sincere" effort at self-effacement.

Montagu Norman's Devoted Colleague in New York City

Norman had a devoted colleague in Benjamin Strong, the first governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Strong owed his career to the favor of the Morgan Bank, especially of Henry P. Davison, who made him secretary of the Bankers Trust Company of New York (in succession to Thomas W. Lamont) in 1904, used him as Morgan's agent in the banking rearrangements following the crash of 1907, and made him vice-president of the Bankers Trust (still in succession to Lamont) in 1909. He became governor of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York as the joint nominee of Morgan and of Kuhn, Loeb, and Company in 1914. Two years later, Strong met Norman for the first time, and they at once made an agreement to work in cooperation for the financial practices they both revered.

These financial practices were explicitly stated many times in the voluminous correspondence between these two men and in many conversations they had.

* * *

On the saucer front the sheer variety of folks involved makes it one of the most fascinating studies of humans around. The phenomena pales in comparison to the folk on display trying to explain it.

I also found one of Shavers epics at archive .org, full of Lamia girls in personal saucers... : ^).

Dave

RX: As I say banks are the root of all evil. So Montagu Norman hated governments, especially democracies, because they interfered with his power? If he was alive now he would be happy to see the power banks now wield. Even if they're caught doing all sorts of illegal stuff the government just condones it. For example the HSBC scandal when that bank was caught conducting business with terrorists and drug traffickers. Here's an excerpt from a Rolling Stone article by Matt Taibbi about the HSBC scandal, Gangster Bankers: Too Big to Jail:

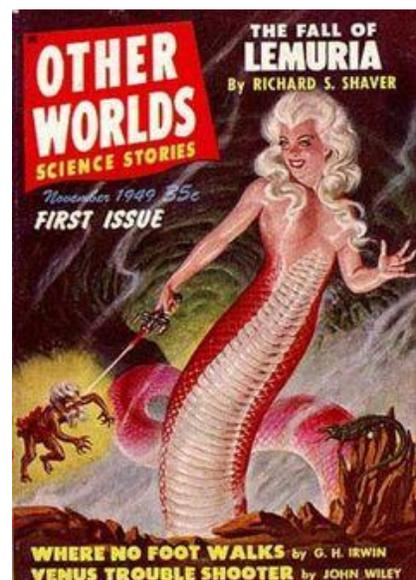
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"They (HSBC) violated every goddamn law in the book," says Jack Blum, an attorney and former Senate investigator who headed a major bribery investigation against Lockheed in the 1970s that led to the passage of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act. "They took every imaginable form of illegal and illicit business."

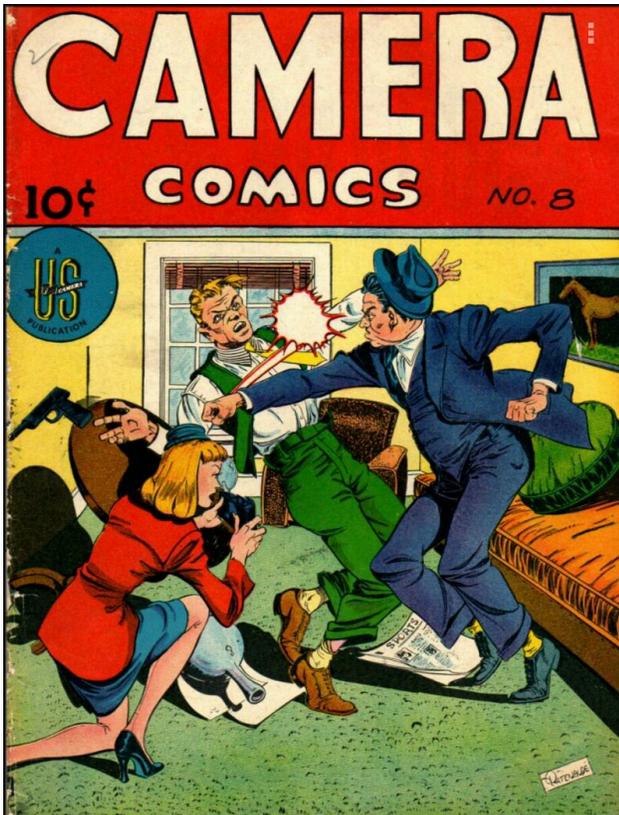
That nobody from the bank went to jail or paid a dollar in individual fines is nothing new in this era of financial crisis. What is different about this settlement is that the Justice Department, for the first time, admitted why it decided to go soft on this particular kind of criminal. It was worried that anything more than a wrist slap for HSBC might undermine the world economy. "Had the U.S. authorities decided to press criminal charges," said Assistant Attorney General Lanny Breuer at a press conference to announce the settlement, "HSBC would almost certainly have lost its banking license in the U.S., the future of the institution would have been under threat and the entire banking system would have been destabilized."

Source: <http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/gangster-bankers-too-big-to-jail-20130214>

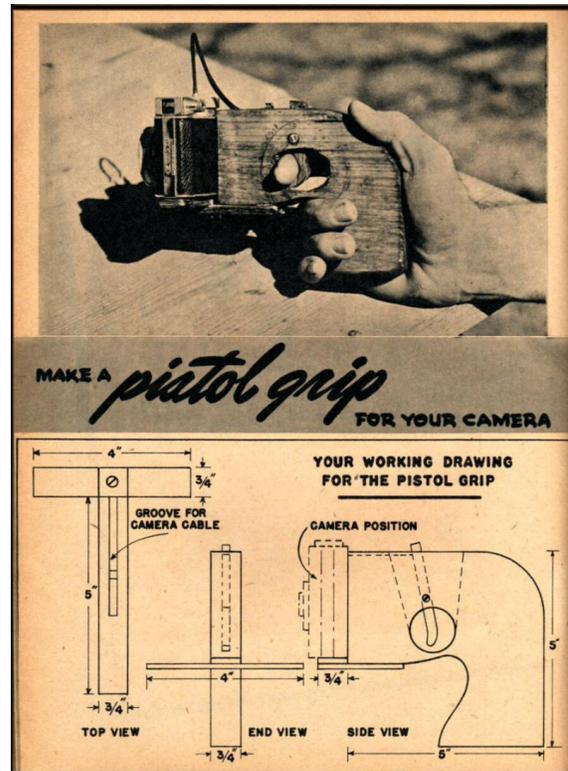
As for Richard Shaver I thought you were going to send me an illustration of a flying saucering lamia girl. I only located one cover, a lamia but sans saucer. Or was the saucer lamia only mentioned in the text? All I found at archive.org was a copy of I Remember Lemuria but after scanning through it I didn't find any relevant images. Could you cite your source?



Fun With Camera Comics



Hey, lady – what are you focusing on?



Here's a fun workshop project. Imagine all the subjects you can photograph after you build one. For example: a cop. What could go wrong?

Join in the adventures with your favorite shutterbug heroes in Camera Comics!

Art Fenton!

Kid Click!

Linda Lens!

Aperture Ghost!

Of course their stories are the usual low grade crime comic stuff but redeeming social value has been added with articles on famous photographers and how-to tips for the amateur photog.



Kinky thrills!

- END XR #134 -