



IT IS AN INCREDIBLY WARM, WISE, AND ABOVE ALL, BEAUTIFULLY ILLUSTRATED STORY ABOUT THE THINGS THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT IN LIFE, THINGS THAT SOMETIMES JUST SLIP BY US, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE NOT TO FALL IN LOVE WITH THESE CHARACTERS, THESE SITUATIONS, THESE STORIES, SINCE I FIRST READ KRAZY KAT'S ADVENTURES DECIDES AROUND IN THE 1990S IN SWEDEN, WHERE I FOUND A LARGE-FORMAT EDITION OF THE SMITHSONIAN COLLECTION OF NEWSPAPER COMICS? I'VE BEEN ABLE TO READ IT FOR HOURS ON END, AGAIN AND AGAIN, BECAUSE IT IS A COMIC OF THE HIGHEST CALIBER.

IT'S WORTH NOTING THAT HERRIMAN'S DRAWINGS WERE ALWAYS VERY WELL CRAFTED, HE DIDN'T ALLOW HIMSELF TO SLACK OFF ON ANYTHING, AND ALTHOUGH COCONINO COUNTY LIES IN AN EXCEPTIONALLY DULL AREA, BASICALLY IN THE DESERT, WHERE THERE ARE ONLY A FEW MOUNTAIN STORES, THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING IN HIS BACKGROUNDS. HIS BACKGROUNDS ARE ALWAYS FILLED WITH DETAILS, THE GRAPHIC SITUATION IN THE PICTURE IS ALWAYS PERICED WITH INCREDIBLE METICULOUSNESS, WITH A GREAT NUMBER OF DETAILS, AND THIS ALL CREATES AN IMPRESSION OF RICHNESS, HERRIMAN USES ALLITERATION AND WRITES CERTAIN WORDS PHONETICALLY, COMPLETELY UNCONCERNED WITH ANY LINGUISTIC CONVENTIONS, GRAMMAR, OR THE LIKE, THIS FITS PERFECTLY WITH THE DREAMLIKE, VERY FAIRY-TALE NATURE OF THE PROTAGONIST, WHO IS ENTIRELY DISCONNECTED FROM REALITY.

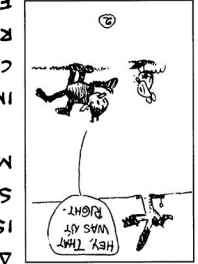
TER, A DUCK, SPILLS WATER IN THE FIRST PANEL, AND IT FLOWS THROUGH THE FRAMES UNTIL IT ENDS UP IN THE LAST PANEL.

IN THIS COMIC, PLAYING WITH FORM IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE SCRIPT, THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE PANELS, THE USE OF SPACE ON THE PAGE, AND THE PRESENTATION OF EVERYTHING, COMBINED WITH HERRIMAN'S TRULY INCREDIBLE VISUAL IMAGINATION, ARE WAYS OF TELLING THE STORY. THE NARRATIVE HAPPENS NOT ONLY ON THE TEXTUAL LEVEL BUT ALSO ON THE VISUAL LEVEL, A GREAT EXAMPLE OF BREAKING THE FOURTH WALL IS A SITUATION WHERE ONE CHARACTER

THE STRIPS ARE OFTEN PART OF SUNDAY EDITIONS, WITH ENTIRE PAGES, AND SOMETIMES THEY CONSIST OF MULTI-PART STORIES. BENEATH THE SEEMINGLY FUNNY GAGS, THIS STRIP TELLS VARIOUS WILD, STRANGE, OFTEN SOME AGREEMENTS, CHASING HIM, AND GENERALLY TRYING TO CURB HIS UNRULY TENDENCIES. THE THIRD MAIN CHARACTER IN THIS DRAMA IS OFFICER PUR, A DOG SOMETIMES CALLED OFFICER BULL PUP, WHO TRIES TO STOP IGNATZ FROM DOING THIS BY ARRESTING HIM, MAKING HIM SIGN FEELINGS FOR IGNATZ, A MOUSE, THE MAIN PLOT REVOLVES AROUND A VERY SIMPLE GAG WHERE IGNATZ THROWS A BRICK AT KRAZY AT EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

IN COCONINO COUNTY, ARIZONA, A FEW ANIMALS LIVE TOGETHER. THE TITLE CHARACTER, KRAZY KAT, IS A CAT, THOUGH THE TERM "CAT" HERE SHOULD REFER TO THE SPECIES, NOT NECESSARILY THE GENDER. KRAZY HARBORS DEEP FEELINGS FOR IGNATZ, A MOUSE, THE MAIN PLOT REVOLVES AROUND A VERY SIMPLE GAG WHERE IGNATZ THROWS A BRICK AT KRAZY AT EVERY POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

AND FROM 1913 TO 1944, KRAZY KAT WAS PUBLISHED ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY. IT IS AN ABSOLUTE MASTERPIECE. HERRIMAN SHOWS US HOW TO USE THE COMIC STRIP FORMAT TO TELL A STORY AND HOW TO INCLUDE MULTIPLE LAYERS OF MEANING WITHIN A COMIC.

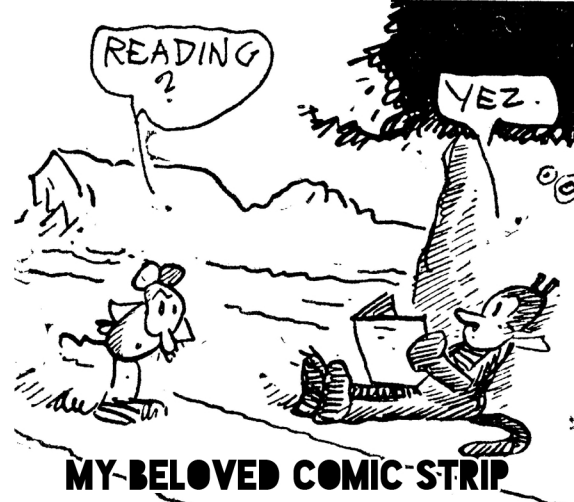
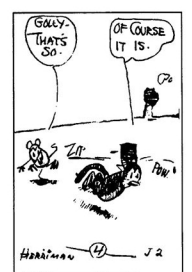


I READ COMICS IS A SERIES OF SHORT PUBLICATIONS ABOUT ME AND MY COMIC READING. IN IT, I INTRODUCE MY FAVORITE CHARACTERS, THE MOST IMPORTANT ALBUMS, CREATORS, AND OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE BROAD CONCEPT OF COMICS. LOOK FOR UPCOMING ISSUES AND OTHER ZINES IN MY FREE DISTR0: WWW.GNIAZDOSWIATOW.NET/DARMOWE-ZINY

#05 AUG 2024 I READ COMICS GOOD



THIS PUBLICATION USED ART CREATED BY GEORGE HERRIMAN



KRAZY KAT by Herriman

THE COMIC STRIP WAS BORN IN THE PRESS, IN NEWSPAPERS. THE VERY BEGINNING OF THIS MEDIUM CONSISTED OF NEWSPAPER STORIES, HUMOROUS COMIC STRIPS SUCH AS HOGAN'S ALLEY, YELLOW KID, AND LITTLE NEMO IN SLUMBERLAND. THERE WERE MANY CREATORS WORKING DURING THAT PERIOD, AND ONE OF THEM-WHO I FEEL IS PERHAPS UNJUSTLY SOMEWHAT FORGOTTEN-IS GEORGE HERRIMAN. GEORGE HERRIMAN WAS A MULATTO FROM LOUISIANA, ALTHOUGH, IF I MAY MAKE A LITTLE JOKE, HE PRETENDED TO BE GREEK. SPECIFICALLY, WHEN HE MOVED TO CALIFORNIA WITH HIS FAMILY, HIS COLLEAGUES OFTEN MISTOOK HIM FOR A GREEK, AND HE DIDN'T DENY IT. HE WAS A LIKABLE GUY, ALWAYS SEEN WEARING A HAT IN PHOTOGRAPHS. URBAN LEGEND HAS IT THAT HE NEVER ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED WITHOUT HIS BELOVED FEDORA BECAUSE HE HAD CURLY HAIR. THOSE WERE DIFFERENT, MORE DIFFICULT TIMES FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR. HE WAS A MAN WHO BEGAN HIS CAREER IN 1902 AND CONTINUED CREATING UNTIL THE 1950S. HE CREATED A WHOLE ARRAY OF SERIES, THE MOST FAMOUS OF WHICH INCLUDE BIG BAD FAMILY, GRANDMA'S GIRL, AND MOST NOTABLY, KRAZY KAT.

I AM A HUGE FAN OF KRAZY KAT, A TRUE ADMIRER, BECAUSE IT IS A SERIES THAT OFFERS EVERYTHING THAT, IN MY OPINION, A SERIOUS COMIC STRIP WITH A HUMOROUS EDGE, YET WITHOUT CRUDE HUMOR, SHOULD HAVE.

THE CHARACTERS OF KRAZY KAT FIRST APPEARED IN 1910 AS AN ADDITIONAL STRIP BENEATH THE COMICS OF THE DINGBAT FAMILY. OCCASIONALLY, IF THE CHARACTERS OF THE DINGBAT FAMILY WENT ON VACATION, FOR EXAMPLE, KRAZY AND HIS GANG WOULD TAKE OVER THE MAIN STRIP.

