



An incident from the Spanish Civil War is illustrated by Spain Rodriguez in "Anarchy Comics 1. (1978). The series presents other historical incidents like the Kronstadt mutiny, as well as analytical social dramas from a loosely "anarchist" viewpoint.



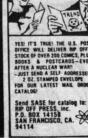












Advertisements from underground comics are often art and commentary in their own right. This one is from "Rip Off #11" (1982). The "Rip Off" series is edited by underground pioneer Gilbert Shelton, and it has endured longer than most lines. The contents of #11 include Shelton's own Wonder Warthog and Freak Brothers strips, as well as cartoons by other artists, a feature on cartoonists of the Netherlands (both underground and overground), and items on the "Knockabout Comics" obscenity bust in Britain, tattooing, the death of underground giant Dave Sheridan, and gallery exhibitions by various cartoonists (who displayed such things as "hand-worked xeroxes" and black velvet paintings of the JFK assassination).

PS: To purchase underground comics you must be an adult.

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the Ph.D's. The fact is that sixteen years after the publication of Robert Crumb's landmark Zap #1 the "undergrounds" are still being published. And though factors from the price of paper to obscenity busts have hampered their distribution, their quality is better than ever.

They are also as controversial as ever. The selection shown here is in no way representative of the comics - it greatly downplays their unapologetically forthright handling of sex and violence. It is this writer's opinion that the vast majority of these portrayals are healthy; that it is the sanitized and unreal Archie-sex and TV

violence which corrupts, by refusing to look at the troublesome side of human relations.

(Could there be anything more damaging and anti-social than the pervasive video illusion that violence causes little or no gore, and that it always solves some problem at the end of one or two hours? Or the comic-book conspiracy of silence over the fact that an unpredictable emotional volcano lies at the heart of all relationships between the sexes?)

Unfortunately, Canadian law doesn't respect these arguments, so the pleasant fantasies are sold much more freely than the searching and honest undergrounds.

But enough lectures. Let the selections

speak for themselves.

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