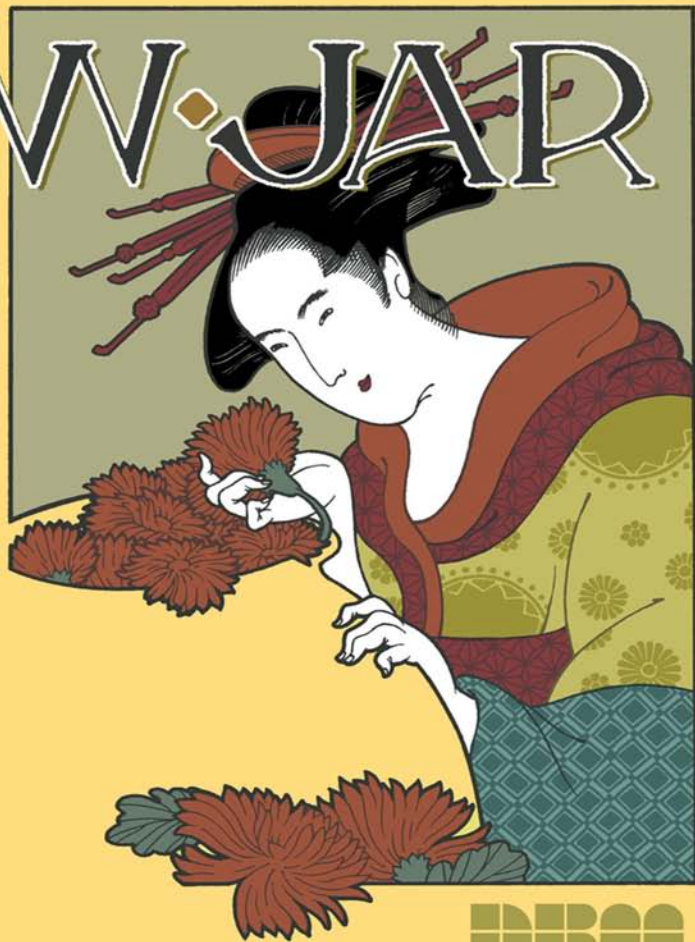


THE YELLOW JAR

TWO TALES FROM
JAPANESE TRADITION

PATRICK ATANGAN

WITH INTRODUCTION BY
P. CRAIG RUSSELL



SONGS OF OUR ANCESTORS
VOLUME I

THE
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TWO·TALES·FROM·JAPANESE·TRADITION

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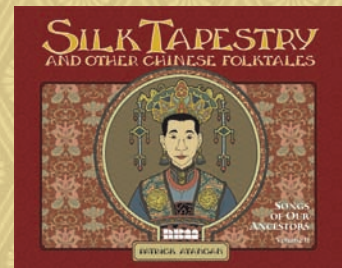
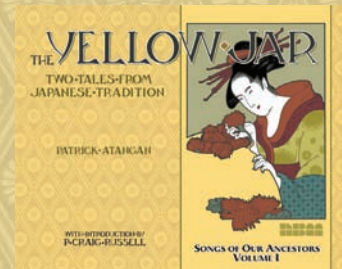
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Introduction by P. Craig RUSSELL



A few years ago, fellow cartoonist Brian Aporp sent me a package containing drawing samples of a young student of his. Seeing similarities of temperament, style, and influence between Patrick's work and my own, particularly that of Japanese woodblock prints and European Art Nouveau (what he sent me was a Batman story drawn in the style of an Art Nouveau stained glass window), he asked if I might have any suggestions for the obviously talented young artist. Patrick and I eventually made contact and he began sending me copies of his latest work through the mail and by e-mail.

Unlike so many young artists over the years who have shown me their work with a request for a critique and who I've spent an hour or two with, making suggestions on storytelling techniques, composition, layout, etc., and who go off and are never heard from again, Patrick actually addressed the new challenges and possibilities presented to him and returned in a few weeks or a month or two with an entirely new story. Every new piece presented a significant advance over his previous work. His artistic growth could be charted, literally, on a weekly basis. It was very exciting to witness.

Patrick, being still a somewhat shy young man (this will pass), was hesitant to put himself forward and so it was my pleasure, a couple of years ago, to escort him around the San Diego comic convention and introduce him and his work to the editors of a half dozen or so 'alternative' (i.e. outside the mainstream world of Marvel/DC superhero comics) publishing houses. Several expressed immediate interest in his work and I watched with particular interest as Thierry Nantier of NBM sat down and very carefully addressed his work, criticizing and suggesting, as I happily noticed, with the air of an editor handling the work of an artist who is not being sent back to the studio to try again but is instead being readied for publication.

I think *The Yellow Jar*, the book that resulted from Patrick and Thierry's initial meeting, is a stellar piece of work and I take great pleasure in being here to toast a young artist's inaugural publication.

Here's to many more.