

Venus not in RAW

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 12 May 1998

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m.driussi — 12 May 1998, 02:30

What a lot of activity has been going on.

Well, I've been away. And in my awayness I found opportunity to skim through the Illuminatus! trilogy, because I was fairly certain that it really =was= in there that I first read the curious detail(s) about how the statute "Venus di Milo" was a modern fake, a tale also a part of PEACE. I remember first making this claim about ten years ago, when both works were more freshly read.

I couldn't find it. More's the pity--it really =should= be in there, since it fits ILLUMINATUS! so well.

Well then, if not RAW (and it could not have been any other RAW since that was all I'd read by the time I read PEACE, or so I think), then who? Think, think: something Mediterranean, perhaps Greek; mysterious; gnostic and/or illuminated, to a greater or lesser degree; about conspiracy of one kind or another . . .

Might it be THE MAGUS? (Spooky that alga recommended this recently.) So I skimmed through that one. Skimming ILLUMINATUS! was depressing enough--it made me want to re-read it, and yet here I'd just ruined that for the moment by skimming. Skimming THE MAGUS was even worse . . . what a book. It made me ache, but again, desire to re-read thwarted by the action of skimming. And still no Venus-the-fake.

Where, where?

THE ALEXANDRIA QUARTET seemed like a long shot. It was. Another re-reading ruined for the season.

Where could it possibly be? ZORBA THE GREEK? Didn't have a copy on hand. Search abandoned for the moment.

Back to THE MAGUS. Peter Wright's essays play big on the "Godgame" of THE MAGUS, and while I knew he was (W)right, I was not remembering how very right he is. Wolfe has mentioned THE MAGUS in an essay, and/or an interview, I can't remember at the moment exactly where.

But gee, reel back your reading history fifteen or twenty years, see what you find, wonder how they shaped your life at that time, how they formed the dramas of those days, how they plotted the curve of your adventure. How often they quote from the same authors! You come back to the room of your own head and find that it has been rented out to folks who begin their chapters with quotes from de Sade--oh brother.

=mantis=