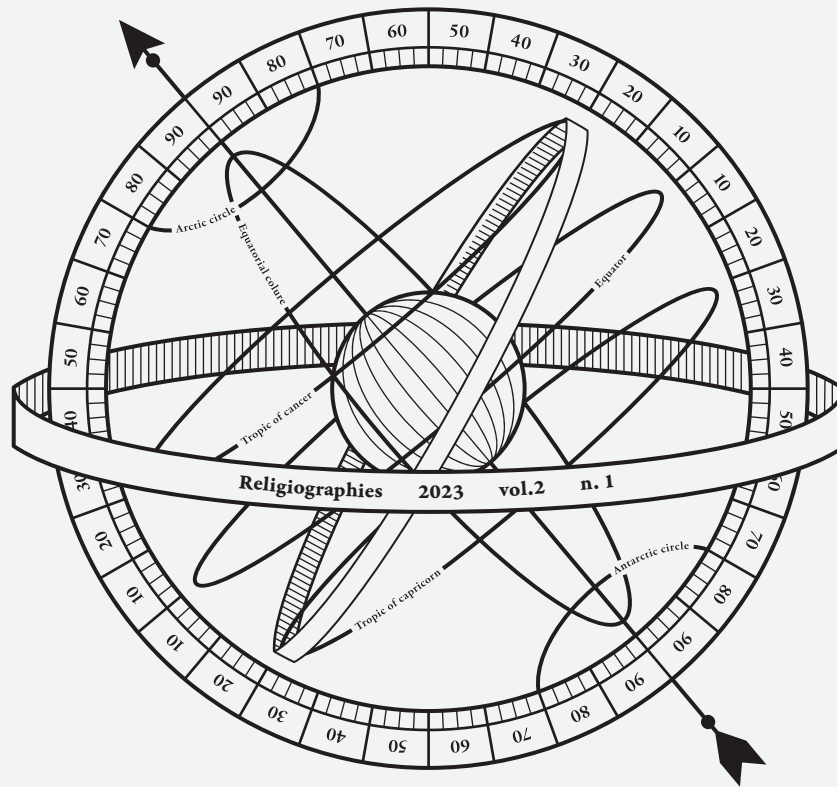


Religiographies



Special Issue
“Hans Thomas Hakl and His Library”
edited by
Marco Pasi

Heterography 2:

Libraries

David B.



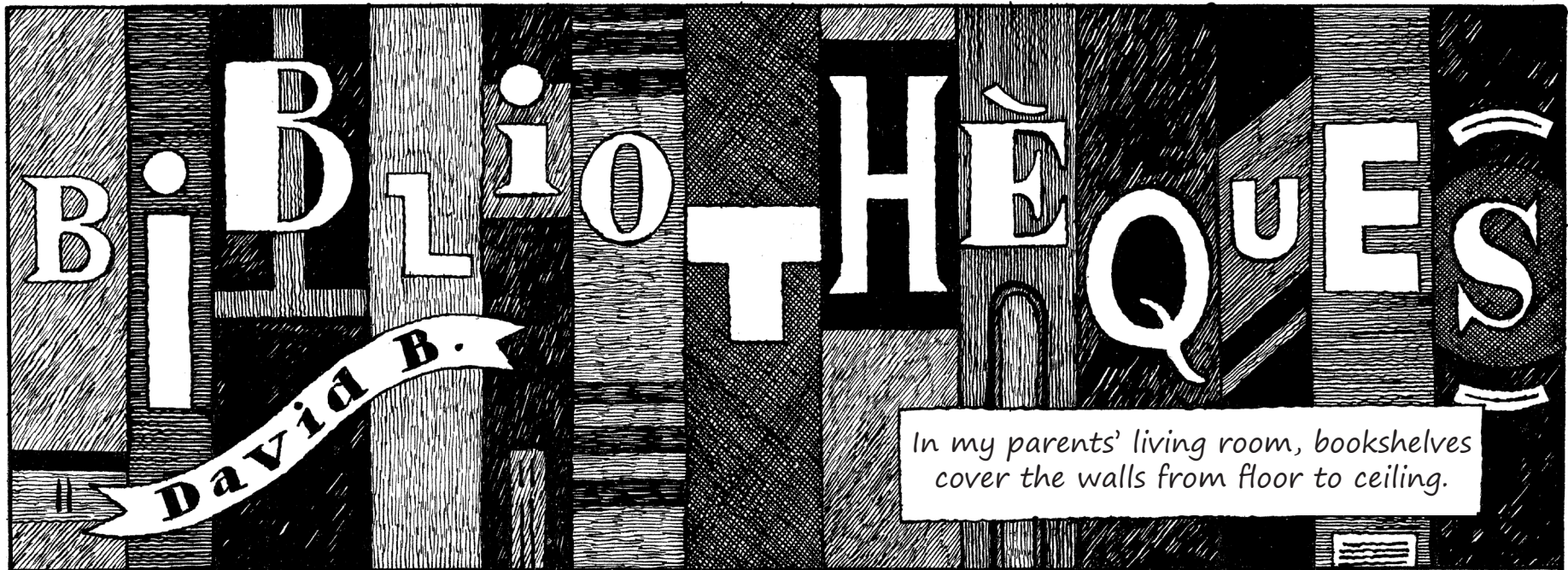
CENTRO STUDI
DI CIVILTÀ E SPIRITUALITÀ
COMPARATE

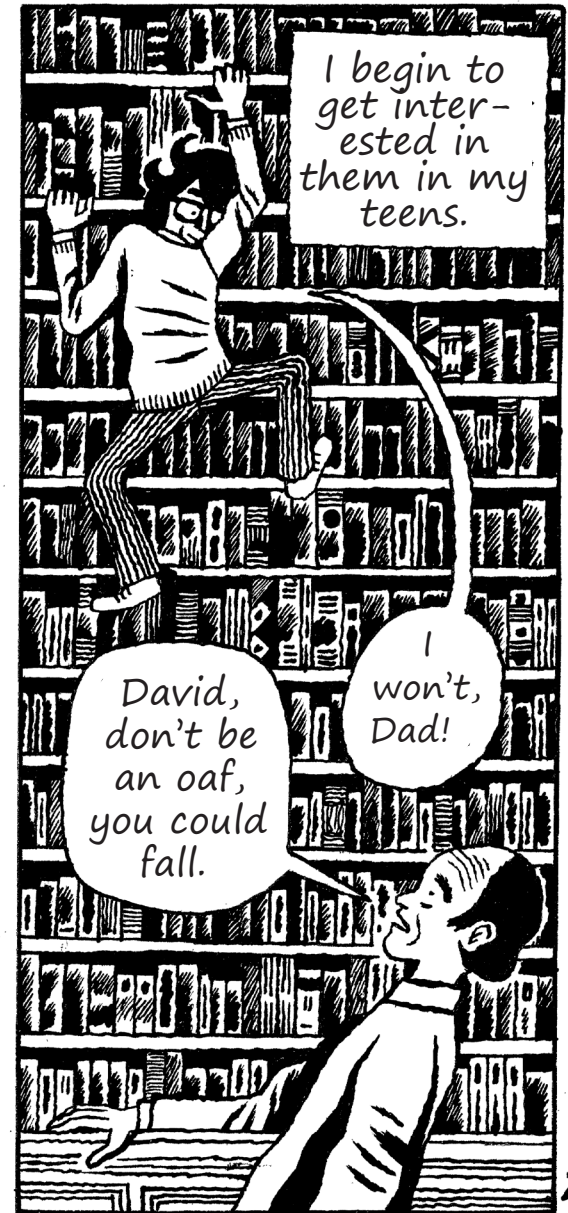
fondazione ONLUS
GIORGIO CINI

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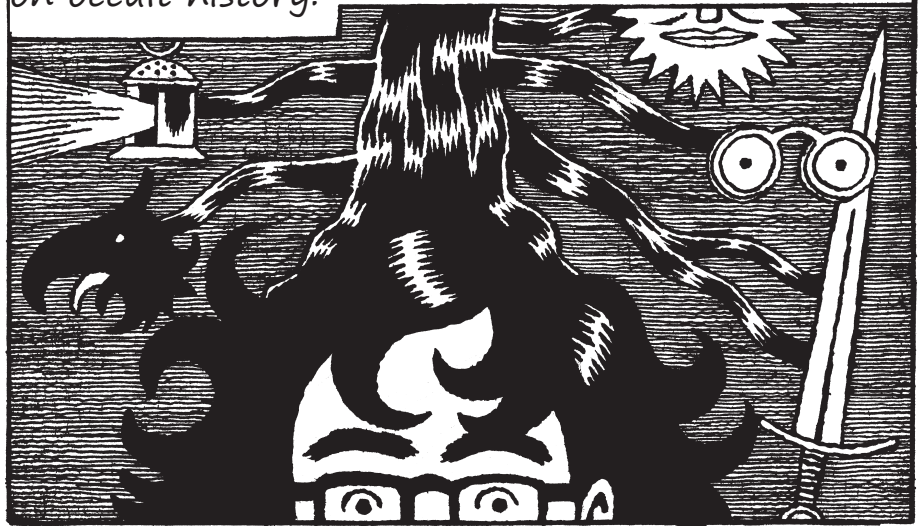




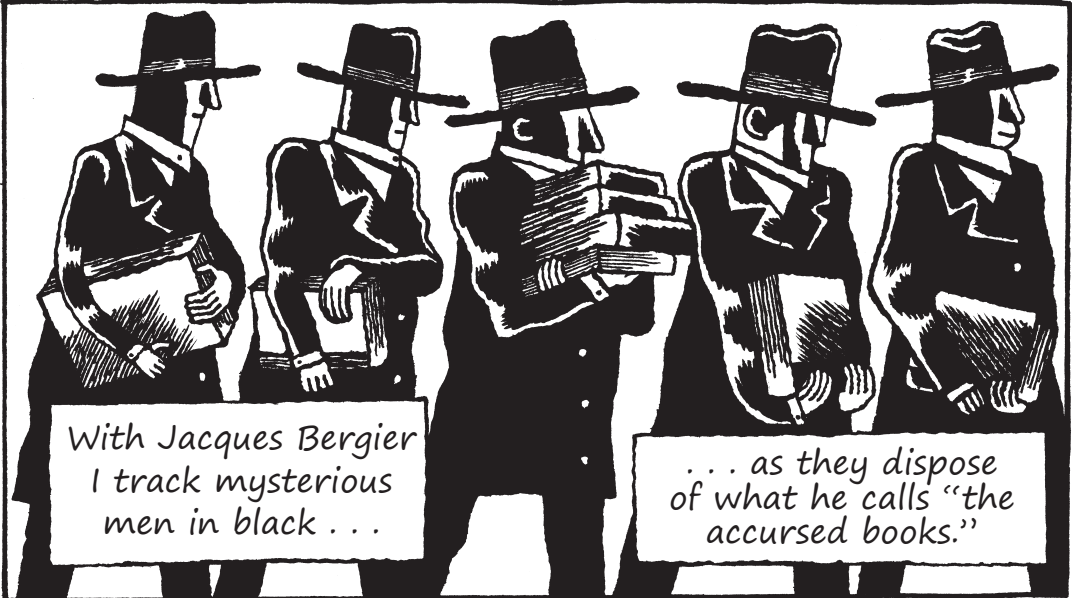




Of all these books on esotericism, the ones I like are on occult history.

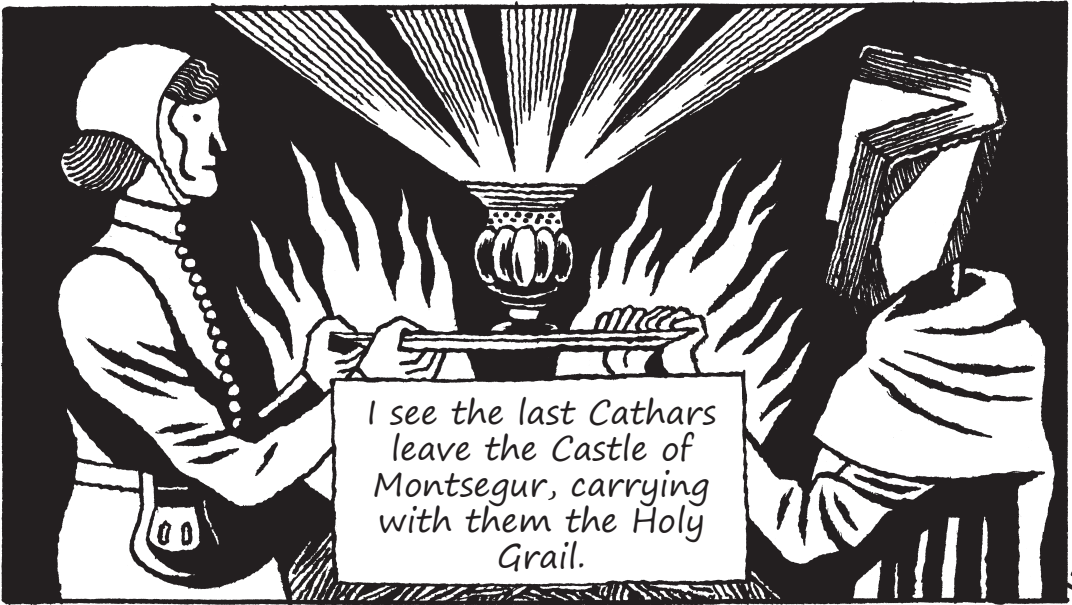


I explore the underground realms of Agartha with Serge Hutin.



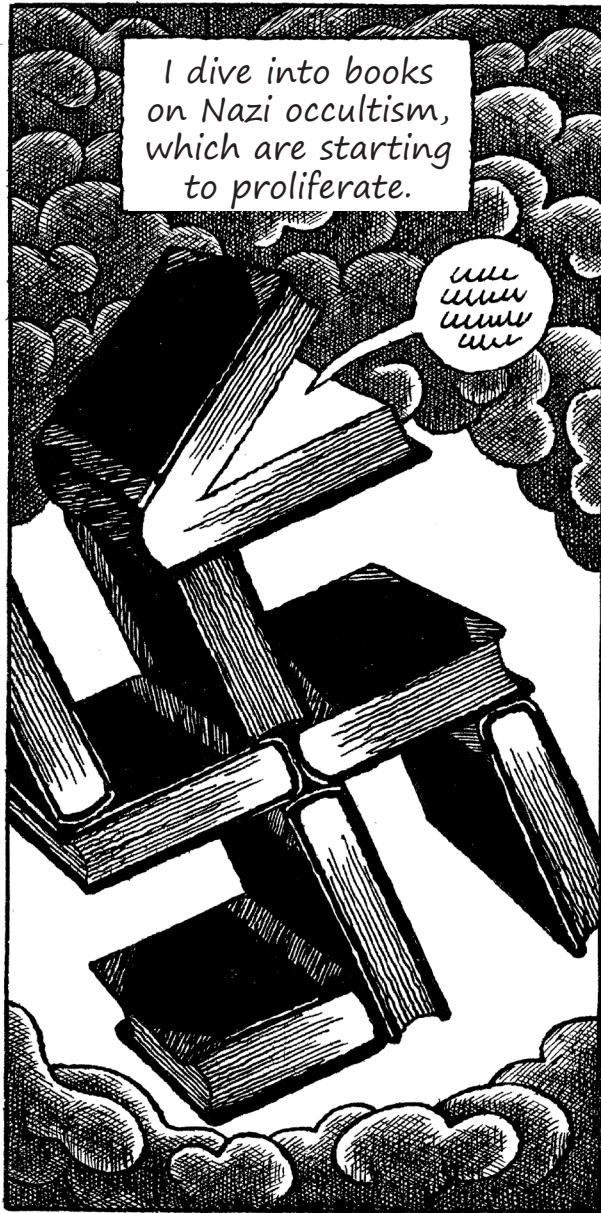
With Jacques Bergier I track mysterious men in black . . .

. . . as they dispose of what he calls "the accursed books."



I see the last Cathars leave the Castle of Montsegur, carrying with them the Holy Grail.

5





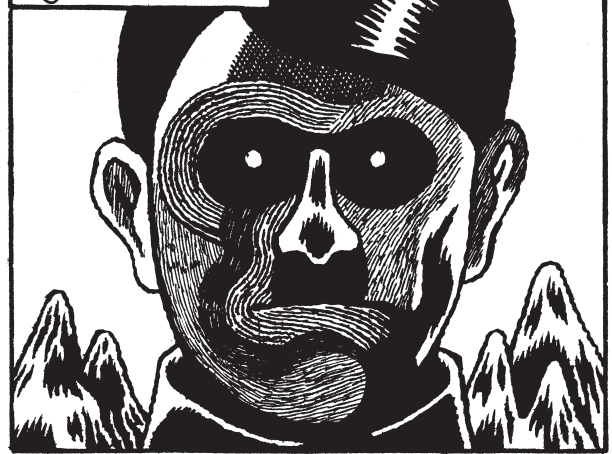
But the more I read, the more I begin to doubt.



I also like history and can't make sense of all of this.

Mmm...

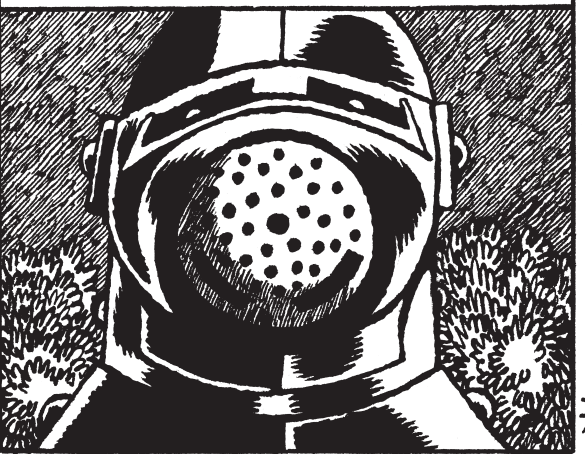
Adolf Hitler manipulated from deep within the underground realms of Tibet by mages of Agartha.



The head of Baphomet taken from the Knights Templar by the Mongols during the Battle of Legnica in Poland.



Or Joan of Arc escaping from being burned at the stake and leading another life under the name Jeanne des Armoises.



7



I'm not sure to what extent these writers believe what they write.

I like the paradox of these books, where the marvelous is presented as true.

I like how they jump from one subject to another, their absurd logic, and how they throw together facts and legends.

Some of them are the most wonderful fantasy novels I've ever read.

8

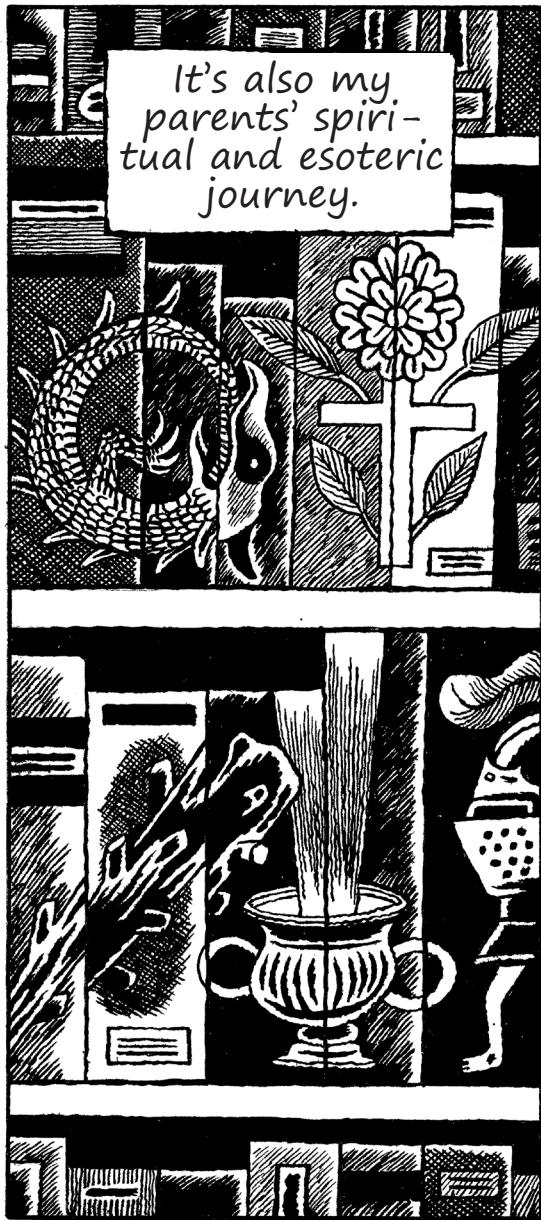


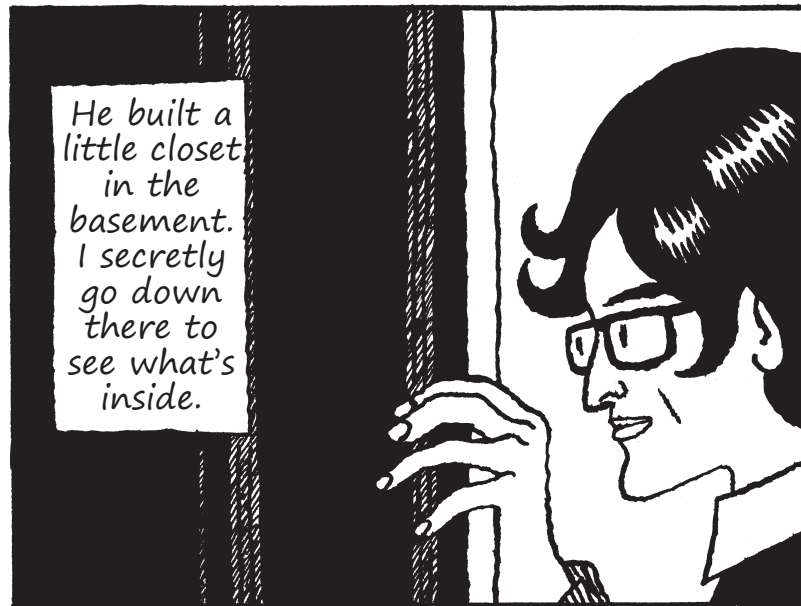
And I continue to peruse the library and find new books.

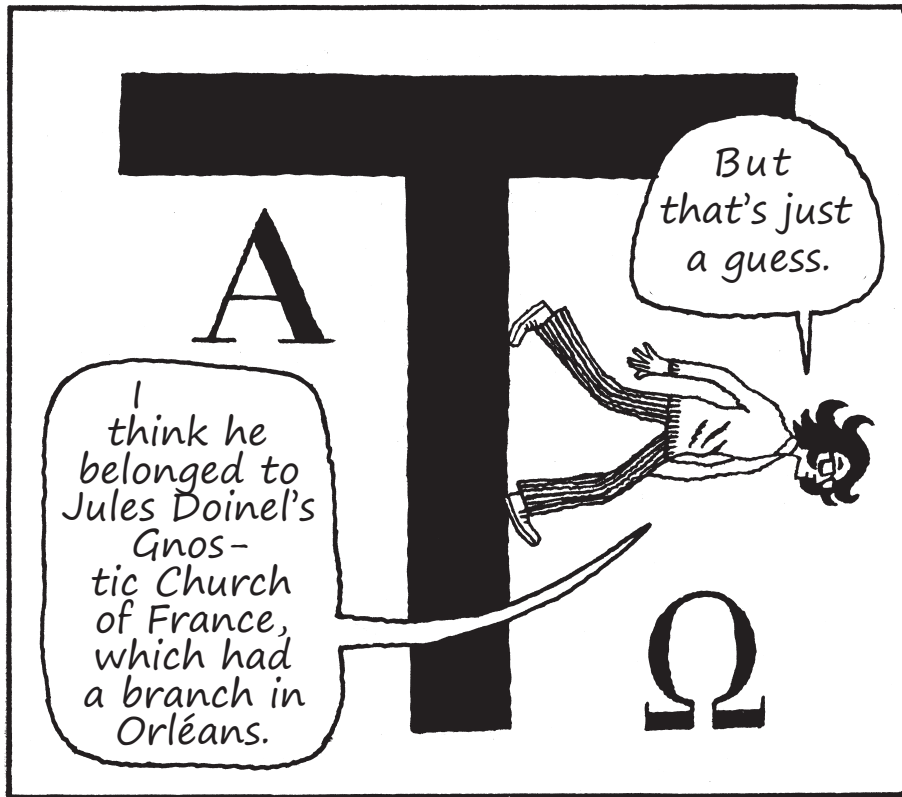
One of them intrigues me. It's a slim volume on the history of Catharism.

It was published by a Gnostic church I know my dad belonged to for a while.

This library is not just books.







David B. was born on February 9, 1959, in Nîmes. He creates art as well as scripts for comic books.

After studying applied arts at the Duperré School in Paris, in 1986 he published his first book, *Le timbre maudit* (Bayard). It was also at this time that David B. began to work regularly with the magazines *Okapi*, *Chic*, and *Tintin Reporter*. A story with five episodes, *Zèbre*, was published in *A suivre* between 1985 and 1990.

In 1990, he founded L'Association with J-C. Menu, Stanislas, Mattt Konture, Killoffer, and Lewis Trondheim. In 1991, *La bombe familiale* was published by L'Association in the Patte de Mouche collection.

In 1992, *Le cheval blême*—a collection of dreams recorded by the author over some ten years and transposed into comics—was the first book of the Ciboulette collection. It was nominated for the “Favorites” Alph'Art category at the 1993 Angoulême Festival. That same year, *Le cercueil de course* was published in the Patte de Mouche collection. David B.'s work was regularly published in *Lapin*, the magazine of L'Association.

From May 1993 to October 1994, Cornélius published a quarterly comic book by David B., *Le nain jaune*, of which there were five issues. In 1994, the publisher Automne 67 released a limited edition of a collection of drawings, *Le livre somnambule*. At the same time, Autrement published a narrative some twenty pages long, *Le Messie discret*, part of the collective *Le retour de Dieu* in the Histoires graphiques collection.

Les quatre savants no.1 was released in 1996 by Cornélius.

Les incidents de la nuit, first released in Amok's magazine *Le cheval sans tête*, was published by L'Association between 1999 and 2002.

Between 1996 and 2004, David B. created his masterpiece, *L'ascension du Haut Mal* (Epileptic in the English translation). In six volumes, he recounted his childhood with his epileptic brother (“haut-mal” refers to epilepsy in French). This powerful work centers on remembering his family life. It is often considered one of the greatest masterpieces of modern comics, as attested by its multiple nominations at the Angoulême Festival. In 2000, volume 4 received the Alph'art for the best script, and in 1998 and 2004, volumes 2 and 6 were nominated for the Best Comic Book Award.

Since 1997, David B. has worked with publishers other than L'Association and has worked with other authors such as Joann Sfar, Christophe Blain, and Emmanuel Guibert.

In 2005, *L'ascension du Haut Mal* was translated by Pantheon Books, publisher of the mythic *Maus* by Spiegelman.

La bombe familiale, Patte de Mouche Collection, L'Association, 1991.

Le cheval blême, L'Association, 1992.

Le cercueil de course, Patte de Mouche Collection, L'Association, 1993.

Le nain jaune, 5 issues, Cornélius, 1993–94.

Le livre somnambule, Automne 67, 1994
“Le Messie discret,” in *Le retour de Dieu*, Autrement, 1994.

Les quatre savants, 3 vols., Cornélius, 1996–98.

L'ascension du Haut Mal (epileptic), 6 vols., L'Association, 1996–2003.

Le tengû carré, Dargaud, 1997.

La révolte d'Hop-Frog, With Christophe Blain, Dargaud, 1997.

“Siwa,” in *L'Association en Égypte*, L'Association, 1998.

Les incidents de la nuit, 3 vols., Mîmolette Collection, L'Association, 1999–2002.

Le capitaine écarlate, with Emmanuel Guibert, Dupuis, 2000.

Les ogres, with Christophe Blain, Dargaud, 2000.

Le tengû carré, L'Association, 2002.

Les chercheurs de trésor, 2 vols., Dargaud, 2003–2004.

Babel, Coconino Press–Vertige Graphic, 2004.

Léonora, With Pauline Martin, Denoël Graphic, 2004.

Zèbre, Tartamudo, 2005.

Les complots nocturnes, Futuropolis, 2005.