

An astral trip

By
Gerry Landsborough

On a recent trip to The Bookshop I purchased a copy of "Poems Infinitum". This book led me to a most unusual and interesting woman, Countess Helena De Silaghi Bethlen Sirag, an established and world renown artist.

Helena De Silaghi was born in Transylvania, Romania, and is the last of the Daco-Mongolian line.

Bobbie—as she is known to her friends—began painting before she could talk. "I used to draw pictures and then point to what I wanted, when I was only two years old." "My first one-man show was when I was 11. "Since that time I have travelled the world exhibiting in New Zealand, Israel, South Africa, Italy, France, and the Americas."

As she speaks her dark eyes smile and her face and hands are very animated. The interview took place in the artist's Burlington home—cum—private studio which was filled with canvases.

Bobbie's paintings are thickly done abstractions and semi-abstractions. They're brightly colored and pleasing to the eye. The most unusual aspect of Bobbie's art that has received world-wide attention is her "Cosmic Paintings", an entirely different form of art.

These paintings occur during "Astral Projection" in which the artist claims she finds herself "transported astrally" to view phantasmagoric colors of life on other planets beyond our own universe.

Impossible? Helena Silaghi has been examined by doctors from the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry and others who suggest her visions are any one of four things: strong dreams, hallucinations, highly developed fantasies, or a form of mental telepathy from outer space. Regardless of how the

artist captures the "Cosmos" on canvas one cannot help but be fascinated by the scope of these incredible paintings.

Bobbie is a soft spoken woman with a strong Romanian accent. Her book "Poems Infinitum" is written in beautiful flowing prose. "I'm not a poetry fan" she stated firmly. "It began when I was loaned some books on psychic matters, and a friend suggested I try "automatic writing". Automatic writing occurs under a trance-like state and is believed to be directed from forces outside the physical plane.

When Bobbie first experienced this phenomena she became violently ill but produced 10 pages of poetry. "The illness I experienced was a result of trying too hard. "I used to shut my eyes very tight, and as a result, I had severe headaches and muscle spasms in my arm. Through Dr. Joel Whitton of the International Graphonalysis Society, I learned to go into trance in a much more relaxed way until now the extreme pain I felt in the beginning passed."

Since the beginning of these trances she has completed over 250 poems since July of last year. Certainly a prolific production by

anyone's standards. Her book is illustrated with soft and simple watercolor sketches by the artist barely touching on the vastness of her work. Her "Cosmic Art" depicts life on the Blue Planet, the Mauve Planet, the Gray Planet and the Green Planet, as she calls them.

"They do exist somewhere on the outer edges of the Cosmos. The planets in the centre of the universe are the most primitive while those at the outer extremes are the most advanced. I see on the Green Planet 'plasmatic people,'

created by artificial insemination in rubber-like cocoons in which they live their whole lives. They are not warm-blooded like we are on earth.

"I do not paint too many of these comic paintings in a year—maybe one or two—it takes too much from me and I am drained for days after."

Astral projection, paintings and poetry in trance—pure fantasy? Maybe so, but one cannot help being impressed by the simple sincerity of the lady whose quick smile and candid conversation make her a delightful personality. It is perhaps because of this that she is in such demand as a lecturer speaking on her world travels, psychic phenomena, and her many other experiences.

A simple lady: quiet yet strong; humble yet proud. Perhaps the most complicated of all life's wonders are to be found in the simple things as this poem from her book illustrates. Simple life, healthy mind gives us ourselves. Enjoy the sun; Enjoy the light, with mesmerizing beauty Concentrate now on the magnificent simple things; They come every day. Leave the big, complicated affairs, until you are ready to cope with them.



THE NEW ADDITION to Georgetown District Memorial Hospital was opened to the public Monday as part of National Hospital Day and Ambulance Week. Ray Harley is given a brief demonstration of an electronic

shock machine used to stimulate nerves and muscles of the body. Jean Davis operates the machine in the physiotherapy section of the new wing.

People on the Inside

Have you ever wanted to know what's going on on the inside, behind what you read in the papers? Have you ever wondered what makes a successful businessman? What it's like to be the figure in the middle of a controversy? Why some people can persevere in the face of overwhelming odds, and others not quite make it?

In this new regular feature The Herald will present a series of interviews with those on the inside. A series on and about the people in your community? The successful; the dynamic; the controversial; the innovators; the unusual and the bizarre.

People from all over Halton Hills, and people whose decisions effect your community. People who in some way contribute, adding insight into what makes their system work for them.

Wins women's title

Charlene MacCormack of Georgetown won the Women's Aggregate Title for the Master Bowlers Association of Ontario with a 60-game average of 253. Charlene will be travelling to Vancouver June 27 to compete for the Canadian Ladies Master Singles title. Marg Bratkin of Georgetown won this prestigious title last year.

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