

In Donaldismo Veritas

BY HANS VON STORCH

1. The History of Scientific Donaldism

The history of scientific Donaldism commenced in the USA at the beginning of the forties and in Europe - mainly in Scandinavia and FR Germany - at the end of the forties beginning of the fifties with the publication of reports by a certain Carl Barks on the Donaldistic Universe in periodically published magazines such as e.g. "Walt Disney's Comics and Stories", "Anders And", "Kalle Anka", "Donald Duck" or "Micky Maus".

The reports were exceedingly instructive as well as fascinating so that suddenly the whole adolescent population took up studying scientific Donaldism - even if - at that time - it could not yet be interpreted as such. The thoroughness of these studies can be examined by simply asking a German, who was in 1951 - the year of the first appearance of Donaldistic literature in FR Germany - not older than 12 and who hadn't been exposed to irresponsible education, about square eggs or the technique to lift sunken yachts by means of ping-pong balls. These facts are well remembered by the Donaldized,

and are thoroughly stored in their memories. Generally, however, most students never got as far in their scholarly work as to remember today the identity of Slinky Ratmore and which crime he committed against whom.

The absorption of Donaldism by the brains and hearts of the young was, however, heavily impeded, especially in Germany. In the German Democratic Republic the circulation of Donaldistic reports on Duckburg and the Duck family was prevented from the outset, and in the FR Germany mass media and the pillar of public morals, the German housewife, were mobilized. In unprecedented slander campaigns it was claimed that Donaldistic literature would make people morons or, at least, lessen their intellectual horizon. At the same time queer pedagogues forced children and adolescents to desist from their Micky Maus comics and to turn to so-called good books by, say, Goethe or May instead. The German housewives in turn confiscated the fundamental data of Donaldistic studies, misused it for firemaking or pancleaning, threw

it into dustbins or destroyed it in even more brutal ways. A lot of cases, reported by Donaldists, were registered by D.A.D.A. - institute at Grosshansdorf/Berlin (D.A.D.A. is the abbreviation of "Documentation of Anti-Donaldistic Aggressions"), which could in 1979 present to the shocked public a documentary movie about these crimes. This film, entitled "The Crimes of German Housewives Against Donaldizing Children, or: Housewife Report", was awarded a spectacular 5th prize, a wonderful non-fiction book "Hart am Wind" describing the career of a certain Helmut Schmidt, at a film-showing in 1979. (See Figure 1)

HART AM WIND



Helmut Schmidts politische Laufbahn

Einführung
Marion Gräfin Dönhoff

In the sixties and seventies the resistance of the "old" antidonaldistic forces became weaker and weaker but new enemies of Donaldism reared their ugly heads. The first to mention are the commercialists, who try to withdraw from circulation all reports about the Donaldistic Universe by increasing their value to astronomical heights by means of speculation. This can be regarded as an attack on the foundations of Donaldism by economical means. Mean villains, too, are Vulgar - or Anti-Donaldists who on purpose or by negligence damage Donaldistic "Kulturgut" (A term with no English equivalent. It approximately means "cultural goods" but this rough translation lacks all the emotional and darkly mystical qualities of the original term. Like "Kindergarten", "Realpolitik", "Angst" and "Berufsverbot", "Kulturgut" is bound to find its way into the English language.) or who slander Donaldism.

Whereas Donaldism existed more or less silently for its first 25 years, the offensive phase began all over the world at the end of the sixties. At the time, five major investigations were published simultaneously:

- 1) GROBLIAN GANS: DIE DUCKS -PSYCHOGRAMM EINER SIPPE, WISSENSCHAFTLICHE VERLAGSANSTALT ZUR PFLEGE DEUTSCHEN SINNGUTES IM HEINZ MOOS VERLAG, MUNCHEN, FR GERMANY, 1970 (The Ducks - Psychogram of a Kinship). The most important results of Gans's work are the establishment of the "Theory of Nu-

Figure 1

cleization", a preliminary genealogical tree of the Duck family, the suspicion of Gladstone Gander being a CIA agent as well as the attempt to set up a comprehensive survey of Scrooge McDuck's trust.

- 2) N. NOMIAT: ENTERHAUSEN - DAS NEUE JERUSALEM, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT KIEL UNIVERSITY, FR GERMANY, 1970, UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT; REPRINTED AS "HD-SPECIAL NO. 1" BY DUCK MUSEUM STORCH, GROSSHANS DORF, FR GERMANY, 1977 (Duckburg - the new Jerusalem).

The thesis of this book, which sadly in 1970 didn't get the attention it deserved, proves that the Donaldistic reports can be interpreted as an up-to-date version of the New Testament.

- 3) ARIEL DORFMAN / ARMAND MATTELART: PARA LEER AL PATO DONALD, EDICIONES UNIVERSITARIAS DE VALPARAISO, CHILE 1971; ENGLISH TRANSLATION: HOW TO READ DONALD DUCK, INTERNATIONAL GENERAL EDITIONS, N.Y., USA, 1975. Dorfman and Mattelart reprimand the misuse of Donaldistic characters for propagandistic purposes.

- 4) JON GISLE: DONALDISMEN, GYLDENDAL NORSK FORLAG OSLO, NORWAY, 1973. This book - as well as the first one - assigns Donaldism its proper place among other scientific disciplines emphasizing its sociological aspects. It was the first to classify the reports and to subdivide them into different epochs of artistic styles, e.h.: "Donaldismus antiquus maximus", "Donaldismus modernis vulgaris" or "Donaldismus macabris diabolus". The author

additionally developed the "Cosmos-Chaos-Theory"; according to this theory, Duckburg is a peaceful "cosmos" centered around the Donaldistic Olymp "Muck Duck's money bin" and surrounded by dangerous "chaos"-forces: foreigners, magicians, robbers and nature. See as a sketch Figure 2.

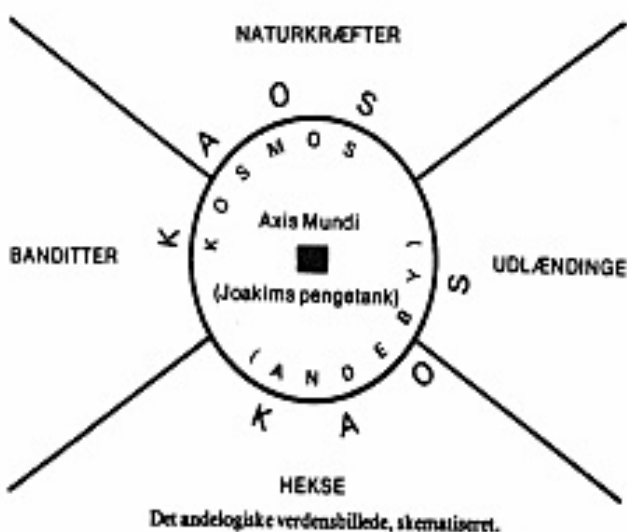


Figure 2

- 5) JACK L. CHALKER: AN INFORMAL BIOGRAPHY OF SCROOGE McDUCK, THE MIRAGE PRESS, BALTIMORE, USA, 1974. This book which is probably well-known in the USA describes the career of Scrooge McDuck in detail.

But these major books were only just the beginning. Already in October 1973 the first Donaldistic periodical DONALDISTEN was published in Ski (Norway) by Pal Jensen. A lot of important material and theories was published there, e.g. articles on the weather of Duckburg and the so-called "Bjurgren-Theory" claiming that homeless ducks are distributed from Grandma Duck's farm to "aunts" and "uncles" who now have to care for the little creatures. Donaldis-

ten unfortunately was suspended after 20 issues at the end of 1978. Two other Norwegian Donaldists tried to produce a Donaldistic periodical CARL BARKS & THE OLD MASTER'S SECRET and DUCKMITE but they managed only one issue, both.

A Danish magazine CARL BARKS & CO., published by Freddy Milton and more interested in technical and artistic problems of animated cartoons and movies, followed in 1974. Up to now there are 15 issues of CB&Co and it is still alive. The first issue of DER HAMBURGER DONALDIST, tenderly abbreviated HD, saw light of day with an initial circulation of 25 copies in August 1976 in Grosshansdorf, FRG. Hd was at first a simple carbon copy of Donaldisten and CB&Co, but luckily the editors of some German papers and journals thought the HD quite funny, the word spread around and finally grew into an avalanche-like reporting in the media so that confessing Donaldists living in diaspora heard of each other. The HD is still published, with currently 28 issues and 7 specials out. (Interested readers can get German-written information. Ask Duck Museum Storch, Ostpreussenweg 39, D 2070 Grosshansdorf, FRG.) It is a non-profit publication, its contents are produced by the Donaldists and it is the "Zentralorgan" of the German Donaldist-organization D.O.N.A.L.D., which was to be formed in 1977, since there were more than 3 German Donaldists, see below.

There are some more Donaldistic magazines in existence as e.g. NATS(K) URIREN, which was founded in 1977 in Stockholm (Sweden) or the American ones: FUNNYWORLD, THE BARKS COLLEC-

TOR and THE DUCKBURG TIMES which are probably well-known in USA.

2. The D.O.N.A.L.D.

This is the abbreviation of DEUTSCHE ORGANISATION NICHTKOMMERZIELLER ANHÄNGER DES LAUTEREN DONALDISMUS (German Organization of Non-commercial Supporters of Pure Donaldism) which was founded in Hamburg (FRG) on 16.4.1977. Like every self-respecting German society, D.O.N.A.L.D. has formulated a set of statutes, and its first article (of six) says:

"1.1 Purpose of the Society is the cultivation, furtherance and propagation of Donaldistic philosophy.

1.2 The Society's hymn is the well-known song DER RUHRSELIGE COWBOY."

("Der ruhrselige Cowboy" is the German version of "The Screaming Cowboy"; the interested reader will find words and music of this song in figure 3.)

The important question of membership is treated in

"2.1 The membership is open to everybody who can truthfully declare to wholly submit to the Society's statutes, to guarantee the Bill of Donaldistic Rights and to be irreproachable in the Donaldistic sense. It is, however, not required to be in full possession of one's mental or physical powers or one's civil rights."

The last sentence is important inso-

D.Duck / G.Hannoschöck

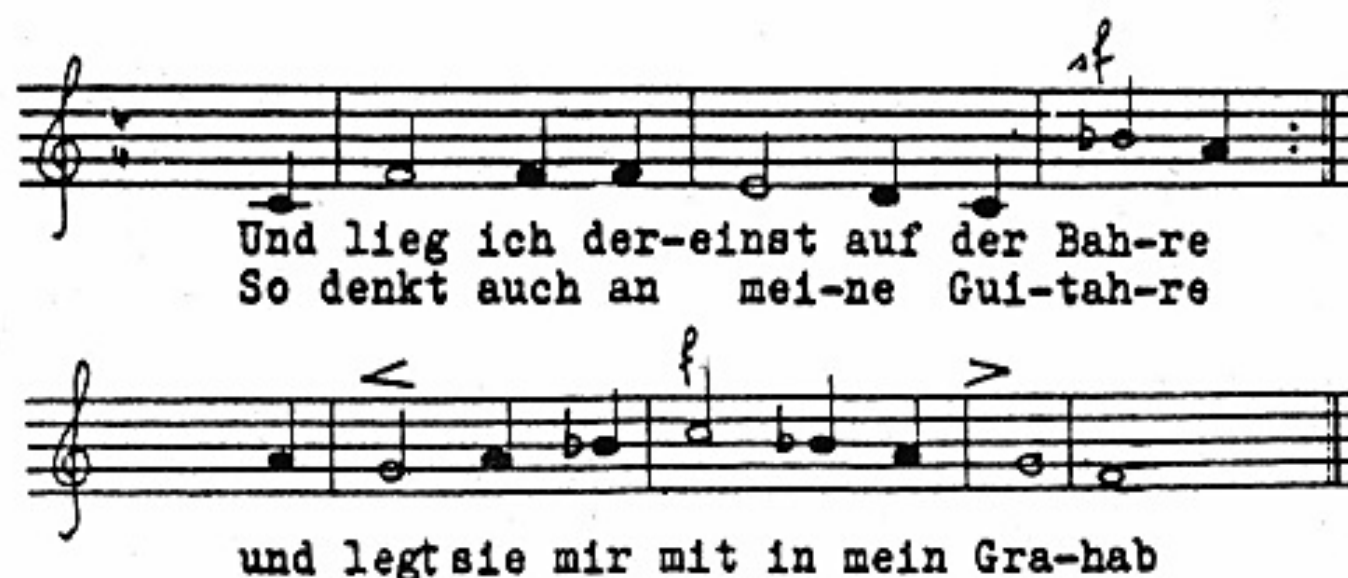


Figure 3

far as it states that also persons lacking existence can become a member of D.O.N.A.L.D., as e.g. the famous director of D.A.D.A. Peter Peinlich, who established the so-called FIRST PEINLICH THEOREM stating that real Donaldists are unable to destroy any Donaldistic Kulturgut.

As a consequence of these demands D.O.N.A.L.D. is one of the few German organizations where conservatives as well as communists (and people between these poles) are fighting against deprivation of rights or injustice (e.g. in the campaign against 6.8 during the years 1977/78, see HD-Special No. 2). This rare alliance is a consequence of two principles of the organization: Conservatism (as expressed in 2.15: "The meeting of all members has the right to decree anything except alter-

ations of the statutes. 'Alterations of the statutes' in the sense of the aforementioned sentence are all alterations which change the spirit of the Bill of the Donaldistic Rights.") and chaos: the latter being an intrinsic quality of the Society's Annual Congress. Four of these were already held: the first in 1977 in Hamburg to orderly found the Society; 1978 the Donaldists gathered in Munchen, where they finished with the evil supporters of the disgraceful 6.8. In 1979 the congress took place in Essen and in 1980 the Donaldists literally crowded in Frankfurt.

A traditional und splendid part of the congress is the scientific "Kolloquium" with its lectures about actual results of Donaldistic investigations, e.g. "How will the future of Duckburg look?", "On the stability of the Duck's body",

"A comparison of satellite photos of the Earth and the planet of Duckburg" etc. In figure 4 a

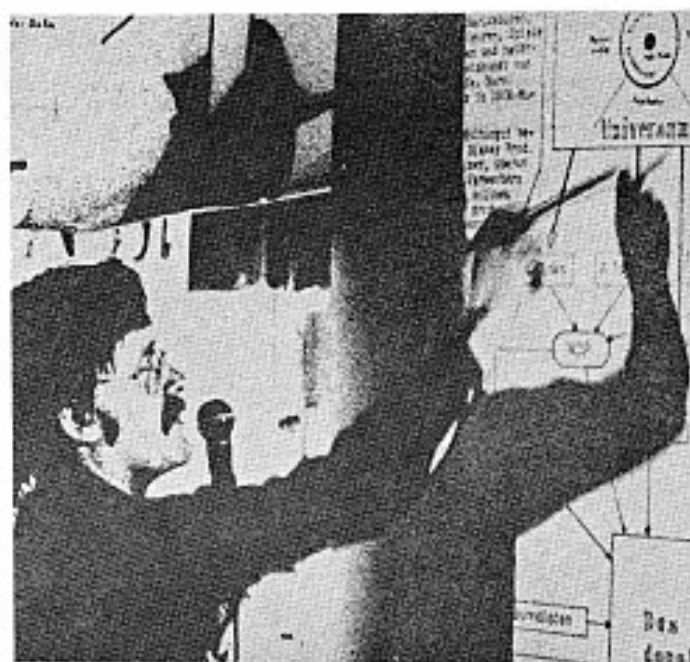


Figure 4

A brilliant donaldist displays his newest results.

scientist displaying his newest results is shown (for reasons of modesty the name of this excellent man remains unmentioned). An important task of the congress is the election of the chairman of the D.O.N.A.L.D., the so-called PRESIDENTE (Ente is the German word for duck). Up to now each year the congress had to elect a new Prasideute, because the old ones were all flops - which is a really Donaldistic property. The names of these unsuccessful persons are: Hans V. Storch (1977-78), Christian Zarnack (1978-79), Hartmut II Hansel (1979-80) and Tim Elbers (1980-81). Their faces are shown in Figure 5a-d.

At the start of the membership the prospective Donaldist is asked to pay a lump sum of DM 5.-, the monthly contribution is DM 1.-, and rumour has it that the money is used for filling the bath tub of the Society's cashier Bruno Sprenger! Unfortunately, no one was able up to now to watch or to photograph him during his daily bath. He could, however, be persuaded at the Essen congress to have a public shower with the money from the beer sale, see Fig. 6. It is not known why he kept his eyes closed during that act; some claimed afterwards that it was out of embarrassment about displaying something so pleasantly sensational in public.

Of course, D.O.N.A.L.D. is divided into diverse diverging factions; worth mentioning are the Barkists/Donaldists, the B.O.N.A.L.D. (a Bavarian offshot), the R.O.N.A.L.D. (the Rhinean equivalent), the Scroogeists (all right wing deviators), the Duckburg Red Brigades and the (feministic) Daisyists (both left wing deviators).

Connected to D.O.N.A.L.D. are a number of special services, e.g. the DSD (Donaldistic Security Service) headed by Debila Dusselbier (alias Dunnebier alias Dickebier), the D.A.D.A. Institute (mentioned above), the Procurement Office for Kulturgur, the regularly gambling Gladstone Gander Society and the Gus Goose Society.

The address is: D.O.N.A.L.D.; c/o Bruno Sprenger; Marienhof 9; D 2000 Hamburg 65, FR Germany.

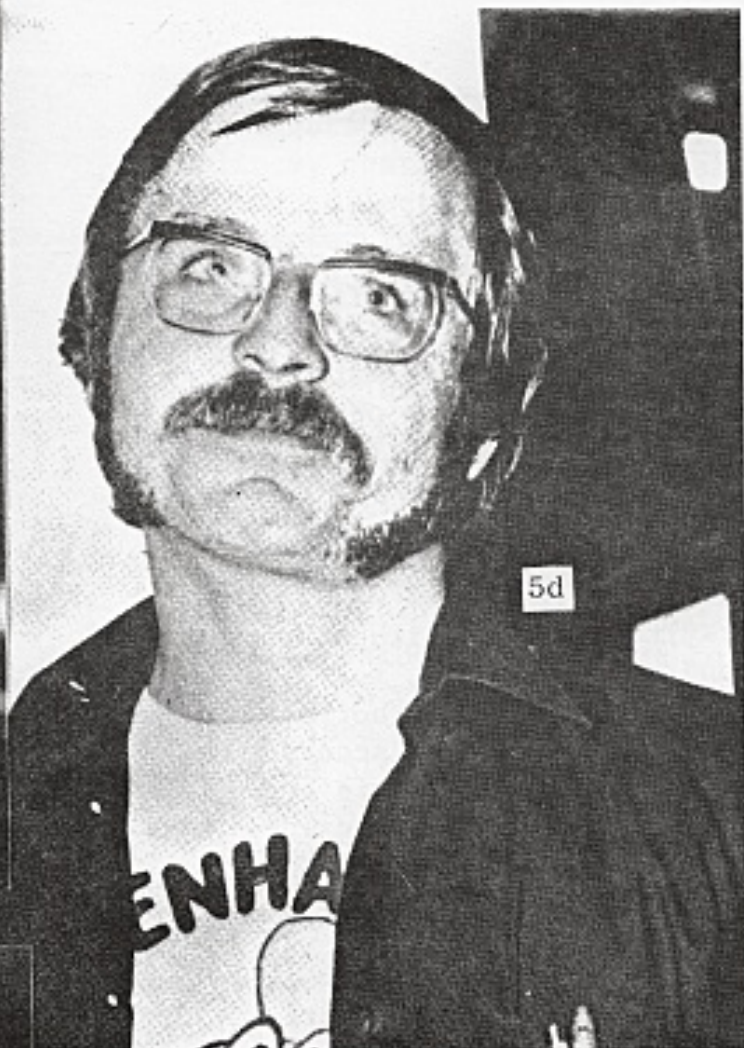


Fig. 5a Hans Von Storch (1977-78)
 Fig. 5b Christian Zarnack (1978-79)
 Fig. 5c Prasiderpel Hartmut II Hansel (1979-80)
 Fig. 5d Presidente Tim Elbers (1980-81)

3. Theoretical Foundations of Scientific Donaldism

3.1 The Reliability of the Data

As in many other scientific disciplines, an important and difficult question is the reliability of the reported data - which informations are trustworthy, which are obviously products of pure fantasy?

Here the author refers the reader to a fundamental contribution to this problem: "Das Donaldistische Kulturgut", published in HD 5 and HD 24. (Again, for reasons of modesty, the author's name remains unmentioned.) According to this brilliant analysis one has to distinguish between donaldistic reporters with different reliability.

Members of the group with maximum reliability and accuracy are Carl Barks, Al Taliaferro and the German translator of the Duck-stories, Dr. Erika Fuchs. Whether the new European journalists named Freddy Milton (Denmark), Daan Jippes (Holland) and Volker Reiche (FRG) belong to this category or not, is not clear yet.

A second group only sometimes reports correct data. Here, the names of Jack Bradbury, Tony Strobl and Murry are to be mentioned. The third group, with the guys working for the Italian Mondadori and Mr. Vicar working for the Danish Gutenberghus, consists of mere charlatans.

Because one shouldn't expect a simple reporter to be perfect, one has to accept that even a truth-

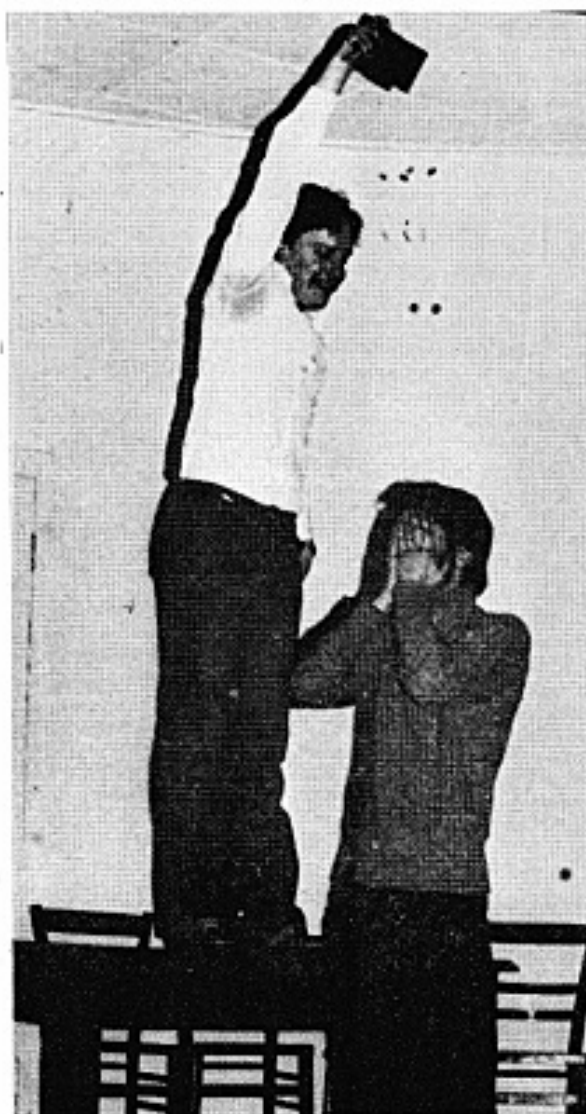


Figure 6

A shower for the Cashier.

worthy journalist as Mr. Barks erred in certain descriptions of the Donaldistic Universe. Additionally, it is possible that these men exert (ed) a certain self-censoring - Mr. Barks under the influence of Mc Carthyism?-, e.g. as far as the sexual sphere is concerned. Furthermore, one cannot exclude that their informants in the Duckburg Universe on purpose gave (and still give?) sometimes incorrect data.

Not all Donaldists agree with the analysis given in "Das donaldistische Kulturgut", some think that only reports coming from Carl Barks' pen are congruent with reality. In fact, he, now 80 years old, is the most important Donaldistic reporter and was the first one to inform mankind about such illustrious personalities as Scrooge McDuck, Gladstone Gander, Gyro Gearloose, Mr. McMoneysac and Magica de Spell. He discovered the City of Duckburg, the Money Bin ("Axis Mundi" according to Gisle's Cosmos-Chaos-theory) and old Mr. Duck's first dime. But Mr. Taliaferro, and his collaborator Mr. Karpp, found already in the thirties a lot of interesting details, as e.g. the existence of Donald's nephews, Daisy Duck, Grandma Duck and - last not least - Gus Goose. Therefore, a restriction on Mr. Barks' work is inappropriate and the Barksists/Donaldists are - as already said above - a right wing deviator faction.

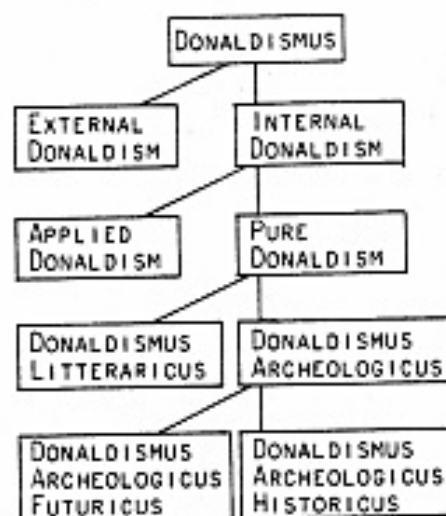
An open question is the reliability of Donaldistic movies. Do they show reality? Is the sound-track original? Are they all or in part features or documentary?

A special difficulty is the impossibility of experiments. One has to rely on the reports as data, keeping in mind their incompleteness and incorrectness.

3.2 Donaldistic Subdisciplines

Another important essay is Eduard Wehmeier's "Die Entitat des inneren Donaldismus", published in HD 3. In this paper, the author tried to associate the various donaldistic in-

vestigations with different subdisciplines, characterized by their diverse reflections of the Donaldistic Universe. In Wehmeier's estimation, which is summarized in Figure 7, the two main directions of Donaldism are "Internal Donaldism" and External Donaldism". The latter is only concerned with materialistic problems and analysis viewed from nondonaldistic scientific disciplines: artists? writers? times? persons? earning? Disney? pedagogical influence of Duck-stories on children and adolescents? Textbooks belonging to this category are "How to Read Donald Duck" (see Chapter 1), "Donald Duck (Marica Blitz) and "Donald Duck und das padagogische Ethos des Ehapa-Verlages" (Gerd Sembritzki, HD-Special No. 3: A comparison of US and Gutenberghus (FRG & Scandinavia) - Duck-story-editions) and a lot of essays and interviews in Fanzines like Funnyworld and Carl Barks & Co.



The Donaldistic Subdisciplines
Figure 7

Everything not being a part of External Donaldism makes up the Internal Donaldism that in turn consists of "Applied Donaldism" (a definition is given in HD 2) and "Pure Donaldism", working only with the contents of the Duck-stories. Within Pure Donaldism one has to distinguish between the literary variant "Donaldismus litteraricus" and the scientific "Donaldismus archeologicus".

The first is a Barksistic one which regards the totality of all Barks' Duck-stories as a gigantic literary opus. A lot of fine articles of the category can be found in the Danish fanzine Carl Barks & Co., e.g. "Peng, you are hypnotized", "Barksismus" and two "Barks analysis". A nice little book of Bruno Diepen "Die tollsten Details im Werk von Carl Barks" (HD-Special No. 4) shows a series of background-details in the work of Carl Barks.

An important task of Donaldismus litteraricus is the establishment of a catalogue of all Barks-stories, a so-called "Barks-Index". The first Barks-index was published by Mike Barrier in Funnyworld. Nowadays there can be found indices in Denmark (CB&Co 1, 1974), Norway (The Old Masters Secret, 1977), Holland ("Barks Boek", 1977), Sweden (NAFS (k)uriren 5, 1978), FR Germany ("Dutscher Barks-Index,

1979; HD 28, 1981) and Finland ("Sarjainfo 25", 1979).

The viewing point of Donaldismus archeologicus is that of an archeologue who uses all reliable Duck-stories as sources. By means of the informations given in these sources he tries to reconstruct the Donaldistic Universe and its society. Very important books belonging to this category are those of Gisle, Gans, Chalker and Nomiat mentioned above. A special variant of Donaldismus archeologicus is "Donaldismus archeologicus futuricus", which saw the light of day as early as 1954 with the publication of the science-fiction-essay "The last message" by A.C. Clarke: astronauts are coming to a destroyed earth. They find no people but only some Duck-comics and movies. With this material they try to understand human's world of the 20th century.

More serious is the "Donaldismus archeologicus historicus" which is based on the (former? future?) existence of the Donaldistic world, parallel to our own.

The aim of Der Hamburger Donalist is to support the progress of this discipline. In a subsequent paper we'll try to summarize some results of these investigations.

