

Comics

continued from last page

sometimes sparse and occasionally anticlimactic plots.

While the writing's strengths may outweigh its flaws, the same can't be said for the artwork by Mike Parobeck. In Mike's defence, his style is refreshingly original. Its pleasant and eye-catching as opposed to the often harsh, gritty linework of overrated hacks like Rob Liefeld, and Parobeck is also proficient at rendering a convincing variety of unique facial features so that each of the JSAers looks individually distinguishable even without their costumes; however, Parobeck's drawing is sparse

and blatantly cartoony. His layouts are unoriginal, his backgrounds range from non-existent to devoid of detail, and his generally undynamic figures are characterized by such thick, simple lines that they often look as though they've escaped from an *Archie* comic. Moreover, Mike can never seem to get the costume designs of the characters quite right, generally drawing simplified versions of the established costumes or copping out by contriving his own revised costume designs (though the new costume he's given the Atom is rather becoming). Costume designs aside, Mike's artwork can be attractive but is generally too cartoony and undetailed to be wholly satisfactory illustration.

All this having been said, its not astonish-

ing when I tell you that the new JSA series is (sob!) being cancelled due to poor sales. The JSA are survivors, though, and can be seen here and there in various DC books, including two upcoming series that will showcase JSAers in their prime: the aforementioned *Sandman Mystery Theatre*, and the upcoming *Golden Age* mini-series that will feature the JSA in their heyday in the forties. The present-day JSA will also become a recurring feature in the *Justice League Quarterly* anthology title. In the meantime, the current JSA series will last until issue ten, and even if you're not a Golden Age fan you might want to check them out. Its not a perfect series, but the old dogs have a few new tricks left in them. ●

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