

[Editor's note: Collector Claude Verpy saw our online plea for help to contact French illustrator Agnès Dusaugéy. He was able to track her down and put us in touch with her. Below, she talks about her serendipitous meeting with Christian Tabart and describes some of the details on her backlasses, **Le Grand 8** and **L'Hexagone**. With her permission, we present the following to you. – Jay]

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Dusaugéy Artwork on IPDB

From: agnes dusaugéy

Date: Fri, February 1, 2013 5:51 am

To: jay@ipdb.org

Bonjour Monsieur Stafford,

Thank you for your mail.

Sorry for the delay of my answer.

It's surprising and funny for me to come back nearly 30 years before.

The Grand Huit and L'Hexagone were two great adventures.

The story began in a dance school.

To attract the attention of parents who used to forget to pay the lessons of their children and, too, to ask to the pupils to turn off the lights before leave, the school contacted me to realize panels drawn with humour.

Christian Tabart discovered my drawings one day he was waiting for his little daughter.

So he wanted to meet me and I accepted to collaborate on his project the Grand Huit, for making the illustrations.

From the theme of the fun fair, Christian Tabart let me all freedom to my imagination. Christian Tabart wanted especially that the subject would be caricatured, treated with humour.

We repeated our collaboration for L'Hexagone which had to accentuate details representing France for foreigners and, of course, for French people himself.

Christian Tabart wanted to link up the game's plateau [playfield] around our famous cycle race, Le Tour de France.

For the glass, first, I had chosen to caricature our sex symbol Brigitte Bardot. To avoid any juridical problem with her, for exploiting her public image, I reduced the resemblance but not completely. So the players could ask: "does not she look a little like Brigitte Bardot...?"

I enjoyed with L'Hexagone. I amused myself to incorporate a lot of references of our history.

Our emblem: the rooster symbol of our pride.

Napoleon – Louis the 14th, “sun king” – Vercingetorix – Henri the 4th and his murderer Ravaillac – The 3 musketeers from the roman of Alexandre Dumas - the little Gavroche revolutionary hero from the roman of Victor Hugo: Les Misérables – Roland de Roncevaux, (legendary combatant in the Charlemagne’s army) fell down in a ravine during the battle against the Saracen, hurt, at the point of death, blowing into his horn calling for help.

But also football, another national sport!

And our typical French man cliché, a “gauloise” (cigarette) in mouth, pencil behind ear, famous beret on head, feet in warm slippers, the Charentaises, and also the “cabas” in hand, this shopping bag very used until the sixteen years, with, of course, the famous French bread the “baguette”.

It was ... before... not today !

A little wink [tribute] for the Java’s dance to the sound of accordion in the popular dancing until the 1960s. Dance which had bad reputation in the middle-class, because attributed to bad boys and loose women (we said in French: girls of bad life)

What else?

About me, I have a classic graphic formation in decorative arts but life and his meetings (like Christian Tabart for example) took me towards all kinds of directions. I have a very eclectic round of illustrator, interspersed with time devoted to painting.

In fashion I was illustrator for clothing industry not for magazines. When Christian Tabart found me I believe I was preparing for Le Salon d'Automne, (yearly painting exposition in Paris) but really I don't remember (?)

I know I might to find somebody to correct my mail because my English is not fluent for this kind of exercise!

For your better comprehension, I can do it if you want.

Thank you for this nice trip in the time!

Read you soon may be !

à bientôt !

Agnès