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Who is Dietrich Varez?

Readers of the Hawaii Medical Journal know his art very well. His block prints of Hawaiiana have appeared on our covers for more than 10 years.

On assuming the Editor's post at the Journal, I reviewed some of the past 50 years of covers at the Hawaii Medical Library. Many were not very interesting nor eye-catching. Most merely depicted their table of contents. For a few months petroglyphs were on HMJ covers. I was planning to continue the Hawaiian petroglyphs when I was approached by several artists to use their art on our covers a la the JAMA which uses art. Some of our members even suggested we use my wife Ramsay's drawings of historic Hawaii buildings, which would have made me very proud - but speak of nepotism!

I discussed HMJ cover art with Ramsay, who suggested that I consider the prolific artistry of Dietrich Varez. I had seen his block prints at the Honolulu Academy of Art bookstore and had purchased a few prints years before. After a phone call to the Big Island, Dietrich and the Hawaii Medical Journal started an association that has lasted more than a decade, and promises to continue.

His prints speak for the Hawaiian Culture and for our Journal. But who is Dietrich Varez? Look for more about our cover artist and his art in the next issue of the Journal. 

