

Wednesday digest

December 21, 2011

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New today from the *Century*:

- Carol Zaleski on [Tintin](#): "One has only to look at Tintin, his round face animated by the simplest imaginable features, to know that he is the ultimate Boy Scout."
- Carol Howard Merritt on [turning 40](#): "As we're all in the midst of Advent longing, I realize that I'm turning 40 in a couple of days. Which puts me in an odd position, since I [write](#) and speak about ministering with people in their 20s and 30s."
- Ryan Dueck on [God and goodness](#): "'They must not believe in God.' These words from my daughter came after a conversation we had been having at bedtime about someone who she had heard yelling at their baby. For her, it was clear: someone who believed in God simply would not do something as monstrous as scream 'shut up!' at an infant."
- Lil Copan on [artwork by Eija-Liisa Ahtila](#), whose "mixture of stills of familiar paintings of the annunciation and acted scenes--with angels, a patron, donkeys, Mary, cultural Christmas snapshots and layers of angel wings--creates a layered narrative." (subscription required)

In the news:

- [Atheists aim to change image of penny-pinching Scrooges](#)
- [Ala. governor rejects bishops' immigration plea](#)
- [Boy is source of Native American saint's miracle](#)