



ECBACC Mini-History:

By Yumy Odom, ECBACC Founder
Updated 2008

In the Fall of 1988: I came across a copy of Turtel Onli's **NOG** comic book (ca. 1981). Onli, a Chicago-based comic creator, is responsible for organizing **the first "Black Age" Art Convention** there in the early – mid-1990's. **Turtel Onli is the "Father" of the "Black Age" concept.**

Between 1990 and 1992: The seeds were planted for the *East Coast Black Age of Comics Convention* (ECBACC) when I put together a directory of the then-producers / creators of Africentric / African-centered / Black comic book characters, and distributed this list to as many of them as I could find. My intention was that this list would make for a more cohesive network. This is, essentially, how I first corresponded with Turtel Onli, the Bros. Simms, members of ANIA, and others. **Special note: *A New Direction in Original American Mythology*** ©1992 Yumy Odom published.

Between 1992 and 1997: I was on a mission to locate local artists to render my 45 characters, or at least the principal characters of ***Kham Chi: The Avenging Force #1!*** I found several good artists: Donovan P. ('92); D. Harden ('92); Damian & Demetrius ('93); and S. Gamble ('94). However, at the time, none had the artistic fortitude or business acumen necessary to achieve their artistic goals. None, that is, except for **Akinseye Brown, artist extraordinaire**, whom I met in 1995!

Circa 1998: While his educational project entitled "The Changing Image of African-Americans in Comics" was being exhibited at Temple University's Paley Library, **Prof. William H. Foster III**, Comic Book Historian, and I had discussed the idea of a Think Tank Project based on the "Black Age" concept introduced to us by Turtel Onli. The goal was to bring together the varied forces and interests in the myth-making and image-making comic industry, including cartoonists, illustrators, sci-fi writers, and others to share their ideas, concepts and concerns.

In the Spring of 2001: We re-hashed the idea with **Turtel Onli** and decided to realize it, understanding the industry's impact and the need to create images (Pan-African / Africentric / Black) that were both ennobling and reality-based. However, it wasn't until the **Spring of 2002**, with the indispensable support of **William H. Foster III**, Comic Book Historian, **Jerry Craft**, Creator of *Mama's Boyz*, and **Omar Bilal**, Founder of the Museum of Black Superheroes Website, that I was in a position to do so.

Thus, on Saturday, 11 May 2002, the 1st Annual East Coast Black Age of Comics Convention was successfully inaugurated!



The ECBACC, Inc.: The Comic Book Convention With a Mission!