

PHANTASY PRESS

NO. 61



W. Rogers

Fantasy PRESS

DANIEL L. McPHAIL
Editor

VOLUME 18	WHOLE NUMBER	JANUARY	MAILING
NUMBER 4	61	1981	174

THAT FIRST MAILING

At a cost of only 3¢ postage, John B. Michel mailed out the very first mailing of the Fantasy Amateur Press Ass'n., in mid-summer of 1937.

Now, 44 years and 174 mailings later, FAPA continues its steady quarterly appearance. Although the constitution allowed 50 members, only 21 were charter members, and only seven of them contributed to the first bundle. Don Wollheim was the founder and served as first president. Dues were 50¢ per year. Ted Carnell and J.M. Rosenblum of England gave the club a slight British accent. By contrast, today's Non-U.S. members total 15 - with our cousins from Down Under in the majority.

Many decades ago, Don Wollheim stated that "the world of fantasy fans has entered upon the phase of amateur journalism and it will probably always have it". The prophetic nature of his words are confirmed today in the fact that several fan ayjay groups are flourishing. The early history of FAPA is hazy to many "old-timers" and is almost unknown to younger members. Following is a list of "fan mags" in the first mailing.

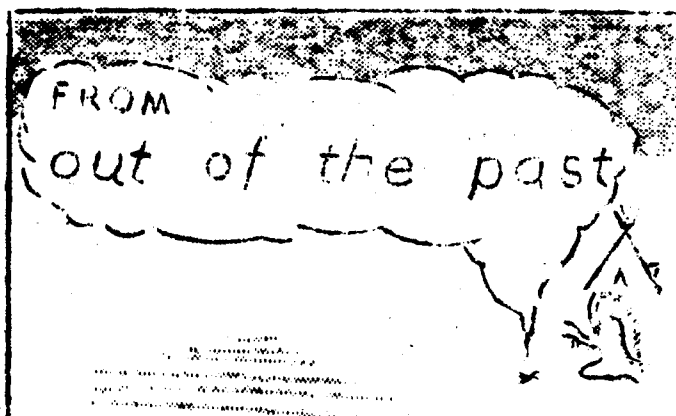
The F.A.P.A. FAN by DAW was 2 pages plus a ballot for the upcoming election THE AMATEUR SCIENCE REVIEW #1 Fine printing on odd-size (7x9) stock. Sent in by DAW. Ted Carnell offered Vol. 1, #4, 5 & 6 of the BULLETIN OF THE BRITISH INTERPLANTARY SOCIETY. Another odd-size (7x11) printed on one side only. Gem of the mailing was a 12-page, 5½x8 IMAGINATIVE FICTION BY John W. Baltadonis and was issue #3. Beautiful hecto color. Articles by Moskowitz, Madle & Hahn. A one-page, printed OBSERVATIONS & OTHERWISE by Willie Conover on Lovecraft. Another odd size 5½ x 12½ Vol. 6 and numbers 3 & 4. Four pages. Pohl, Long, Koenig & Lowndes, DAW & Michel submitted THE SCIENCE FICTION BARD - 8 pages of poetry, James V. Taurasi's SOLAR was 8 pages in color with news & art. Also the GhuGhu Calender. Summary: 42 pages, 13 zines.

In 1960, one issue of this zine had a drawing of that first mailing bag. In line with our theme, we have reproduced that picture as a back cover.

Front cover by James Rogers

YES, 84 MAILINGS WAS A LONG TIME AGO
(with apologies to P. Graham)

(Editor's Note: Peter Graham's interesting feature in ISOMER, in which he reviews mailings of the 1951 era, has prompted me to revive 'Out of the Past'. Readers of PP have asked me to devote more space to the earlier days of fandom, so this dept. will concern itself with reprints, reviews and serving as a vehicle for my recollections. To start, it will cover FAPA mailing Two (our Memory Book edition covered the 1st mailing) & continue thru 1940. Now remember, 84 mailings was a heck of a long time ago, so bear with me while I grope back thru the mists of time & memory.--Dan)



F.A.P.A. Mailing No. 2

Winter, 1937

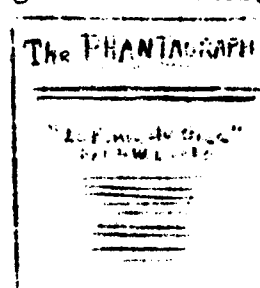
This was another thin bundle, although its 63 pages were 21 more than the initial mailing.-- a fact noted with enthusiasm by the score of members struggling to make the fledgling club a success. The postage on the bundles was still only 3¢ each.

Two single page editions of Don Wollheim's FAPA FAN contained news that William H. Miller, Jr. had resigned as Secretary-Treasurer, due to the pressure of school. He wrote "Yes, indeed, but stf is as dead and distant to me now as if I'd never heard of it. I'll see you some day when I come out of the fog...remember me as a good man who went wrong." Wollheim announced that, until elections could be held, that he would fill the vacant post, as well as president. The Michel-printed membership cards appear



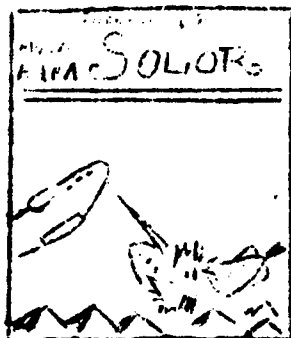
FAPA had started with a temporary slate of officers appointed by DAW that included Dan McPhail as vice-president & John B. Michel as Official Editor. With this mailing there was included a ballot for the first election of officers, to finish the remainder of the year. For prexy there were four candidates: DAW, Sam Moskowitz, Dick Wilson and Olon F. Wiggins. In the race for number 2 spot was the incumbent McPhail and Robert A. Madle. John V. Baltadonis was unopposed for Secy-Treasurer & Fred Pohl was contesting Michel for OE. Balty & Madle had hectoed campaign sheets extolling their virtues.

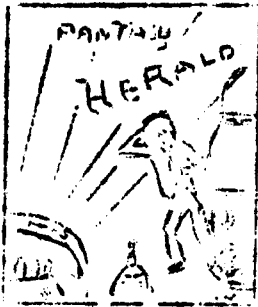
Three of the so-called "mijimags" by DAW & Michel appeared. They were 4 1/2 x 5 1/2 mimoed affairs; an 8-page MENTATOR (the periodical of meaningless mutterings & rancid rhyme), a 4-page SCIENCE FICTION ADVERTISER and VOICE OF THE GOSTOK, which, besides short fiction, carried ads for editor Frederik Pohl for OE - "The People's Choice". (Fred even stamped his Christmas cards that year with his campaign plugs).



Three issues of DAW's fine printed PHANTAGRAPH (issues 34-36) appeared, which contained excellent short fiction, including the short-short-shortest weird tale: "Boo!". Also a most interesting "History of the Necronomicon" by H.P. Lovecraft, which was printed by Wollheim in the same format as Phantagraph.

James V. Tarrasi (no "Senior" then) had the second SOLAR which featured in its 4 hectoed pages, "The Return of Zogo", a thrilling epic of doubtful humor by Jack Gillespie, while Baltadonis replaced his "Imaginative Fiction" of the 1st mailing with a hectoed 4-pg FANTASY HERALD, containing poetry by 'Stella Rover





Issues 7, 8 & 9 of the BULLETIN of the British Interplanetary Society was presented by Ted Carnell. Its single pages report not only a major debate on the question that a rocket to New York instead of the moon be their major project; but also chronicle the visit of Dr. Otto Steinitz, well-known German astronaut, urging closer collaboration between England, the U.S. & his own country.

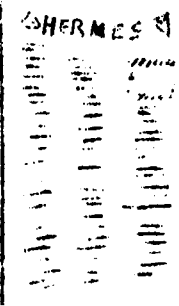
Three members made their initial Fapazine appearances: Madle with his 4-page hectoed METEOR containing a story by Willis Conover; Jack Speer launched his long publishing career with odd-sized HERMES, hectoed 3-columns on one side & containing comment

on fascism and an ad for McPhails ill-fated "Pictorial Fantasy" (an all-pic fanzine that expired half-completed); and the first ROCKET, whose one page of mimeoed news represented my very first use of my new Montgomery Wards duplicator. The Phantasy Press you read now is a direct descendent of that first effort and as such is the oldest active title in FAPA.

Since the organization at this time was at less than half its authorized strength, the o-e sent out many sample mailings & to encourage these prospective members, there was enclosed general information and an application form. Dues then were 50¢.

Olon F. Wiggins of Denver missed this mailing and shortly thereafter sent to each member a copy of his No. 1 GALAXY, thus not only scooping H.L. Gold on the title, but distinguishing himself as the very first (but certainly not the last) postmailer.

The fanzine contained eight hectographed pages which was taken up with an editorial a "Bob & Koso" story by Taurasi and a page boasting the planned American Fantasy Association. Illustrations were by Charles Stiles and Oklahoma's own James Rogers.



A page contained a listing of the major fanzines of that day: Cosmic Tales, S.F. Collector, Helios, S.F. News-Letter, Fantascience Digest, New Tesseract and the British Scientifiction and Novae Terrae.

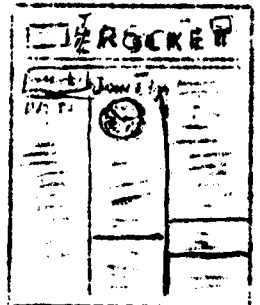
S U M M A R Y

The second mailing contained 22 items, coming from 10 different publishers and totaled 63 pages, including one postmailing of 8 pages. There were eight items mimeographed, and seven each printed and hectographed. New York led all states with three members represented, Oklahoma & Pennsylvania had two each, with one from Colorado and Alabama, (Franked by DAW) and England. It will be noted that the west coast,

unlike the present time, was not represented—even in the membership.

And speaking of the membership, there were 21 on the first complete list to appear of FAPA members. This was on the back of The F.A.P.A. Fan #3 & listed, in order: Michel, Wollheim, Carnell, J.M. Rosenblum, Pohl, David A. Kyle, Julius Schwartz, Robert W. Lowndes, H.C. Koenig, McPhail, Speer, Alex Osheroff, Robert G. Thompson, one "Vodoso", Richard Wilson, Wiggins, Baltadonis, Thomas Whiteside, S. Moskowitz and Madle.

I note with interest that I penciled a lot of notes & figures on this sheet of names, showing 15 members in the east, three in the central, one in the "west" and two overseas. It is apparant I was trying to dope the race for v-p between myself & Madle, because I had listed Bob and I each as having 5 votes "sure" and under my name I had put "7 votes possible". Finally, at the bottom of the page I had printed "Prediction: 9 votes to decide the race!"



Thus ended the second mailing of FAPA, and thus ended the fan world's year of 1937. Third Fandom was drawing to a close, marked by the demise of the great Fantasy Magazine but many new fan mags were appearing to fill the gap, and some of the most interesting were to appear in future mailings of the FAPA.



In the 173rd

E.A.P.A. Mailing

for

January, 1981

FANTASY AMATEUR: I like the alphabetical listing. I'm sorry to see Dean Grennell and Stan Woolston drop out. A real welcome to Joe Siclari, and I'm sorry that we were unable to get together at Disney-World this past summer.

HORIZONS #163 (Warner) My thanks for your recent letter, Harry. It came at a time when I needed encouragement to stay in FAPA. I'll try not to miss future mailings - and hope I can get this one out....I have

always felt a fear at the thought of driving on the left side, as in England - and at those speeds! You are right: the only way to run the poll is for members to list their selections, in order, in each category My mother was a Zane Grey fan and saved all the issues of the Z. G. Magazine. (She later gave the file to my son, Carnell).... Yard, porch & garage sales are much advertised here.

RAMBLING FAP #85: Delightful cover art by Atom.

BOBOLINGS #32 (Pavlet) : I really enjoyed this "railroad" issue, Bob.....My sister gave me an interesting book at Christmas. It is titled "When Oklahoma Took the Trolley". It is a big book, with hundreds of pics of street cars and interurbans. It is Published by Interurbans of Glendale, California 91205.

SYNAPSE (Speer): You must have had real difficulty in getting out this issue with a broken arm - but it is a good sized edition....Hope your arm is OK now. "Fanzine" can now be found in the dictionary....I seem to recall the story "Red Star of Tarzan" but I can't find it mentioned in any source. No, I think I have the title confused with "Red Germ of Courage" by R. F. Starzl.....Its good to hear that you may come back to the old homestead some future date. I get over to Comanche now and then. The only kin I have there now is my sister. I had planned to write you before now, but I am far behind in everything.

KITTLE PITCHERING HUBBLE DE SHUFF #16 (Miller): 300,000 fanzines! Did you actually move that many? And you still have 10,000? Fantastic !.... this is an excellent index job.

CONACS #6 (Johnson): A very fine newszine and crammed with news items, in good detail. I hope you continue to distribute it thru FAPA.

FANTASIA (Wesson) An outstanding job on this issue, Helen! Although not in my primary field of interest, I found the contents very enjoyable.

SF HORIZONS #2 (Walker) This is packed to the rim with a lot of info.

LOEGEORNOST #2 (Lerner): Interesting reviews of a number of books. It is also interesting to know that you now work in Lebanon. I'm curious as to the effect of the fighting on your company operation. Has the shelling and bombing caused any damage to you? Tell us about it - I'm sure it would make an interesting article. Any way, good luck.

OF CABBAGES AND KINGS (Pavlet): Peggy Rae, you and Bob have had a most difficult year - the day by day care of your Mother and the heartbreak in losing her, besides your own work. I hope 1981 will be much better for you. Your mother's philosophy of life was wonderful and her creed is something we could all use. I admire your community contributions, especially in the field of mental health.

REBEL YELLS(Lillian): Is this a continuation of the old Dixie group that issued the excellent SOUTHERN STAR zine? Good luck!

DYNATRON #73(Tackett): Congrats, Roy, on your 20th Anniversary issue. May you have many more!I like many of the Star Trek re-runs. Some of the plots are very good. "Lost in Space" and "Buck Rogers" are series that always have excellent background effects. (mountains, clouds, ruins, architectural).

RED SHIFT DRUM #7 (Wayne): The feature article about toys and model kits is excellent and took me back to those early years, including a time when each boy in our group created a "country" with cities, sea ports on a small pond and, of course, I put out a newspaper. We connected our cities with mud highways (which badly cracked when dry - and the newspaper duly reported that the crooked road contractor was charged with using "faulty materials"). We bought cars & trucks at the Five and Ten, but we made a lot of planes (solid wood) and would "fly" them from place to place. At Marshall, a little town near the Oklahoma-Kansas border, I had a chum whose farm home was a couple of miles out of town and we build a "secret" air base mid-way between our homes. It had under-ground hangers, a water tower, searchlight, radio tower and several anti-aircraft guns. Many a time I would "board" a swift scout plane & fly to the base and leave a message & pick up mail outbound - usually plans for the upcoming week end....most of the planes we built were WW-I fighters, although (with the help of Lloyd's older brother) we built a German Gotha giant, It even had landing lites(battery) We did the "Spirit of St. Louis". We talked of duplicating the huge German D0-X 12=engine job....In those days we bought or browsed a lot of aviation periodicals. Among them were Wings, Aces, Air Stories, Air Trails, War Birds, Airplane Stories, Sky Riders, and once I found a copy of Aero Digest, which was high-priced - seems it was 50¢ or 75¢....I regret that I was unable to hang on to some of those model planes. Some of them were very good. About the only thing I have from that era is the small B U C K ROGERS battle cruiser, number 3030 and was designed to be strung on a string, so it could be moved across a room in the string...The rest of the zine, and its art work, is very good.

DAMBALLA #42 (Hansen): This is a striking cover by Walker....I echo your praise of Mike Horvat for his outstanding appearance, in both lay-out and in printing as well. In my youth, I had the pleasure of working in a small print shop, and put out three issues of Science Fiction News, in which I hand-set every piece of type in them, and printed them on a hand-fed press....as to your query on the origin of the Egoboo poll: Donald Wollheim, when retiring as FAPA's first president, established a Laureate Awards Committee to select outstanding talent among the membership & award certificates to the winners. The first was for the 1937 - 1938 year. The committee was composed of Richard Wilson, Robert Lownders, Robert Madle and Olon Wiggins, with myself as Chairman. They made their selections, giving three votes for first place, two for second. Final tabulations gave

the following results: Publishing Laureate to James Taurasi, with Honorable Mention to Don Wollheim. Editing Laureate to John Baltadonis with Honorable Mention to Dan McPhail. Art Laureate to Walter Marconette with Honorable Mention to John Baltadonis. Poetry Laureate to Robert Lownder with Honorable Mention to Fred Pohl. Literary Laureate to Robert Lowndes with Honorable Mention to Don Wollheim. The above information is taken from "FAPA MEMORY BOOK" which was Phantasy Press #15 - Commemorating the 20th anniversary of FAPA.. I, too, wish Sam Moskowitz, would do comments. He could be a gold mine of interesting facts....this is a good issue, Chuck.

FANTASY COMMENTATOR (Searles): This is the largest zine in the mailing and one of the best... this is another fanzine that is excellent in layout and printing...I enjoyed "Voyagers through Eternity" Sam is a smooth writer.

This has been a good mailing, and 28 members represented. Page count is 337, up from 314 in Mailing 172.

I hope that all of you found PHANATASY PRESS #60 to be of interest. When I started up the Press again, I decided I would concentrate on early history of fandom - especially on FAPA, and to continue my fan mag in the style of First Fandom. I feel I am providing such a service, when Bob Tucker writes that he finds the zine most enjoyable and it is the only fanzine that he sees that takes him back to the 1930s. That was my editorial policy when I revived the mag with issue #52, to attempt to bring back some of the flavor of the pioneer days in fandom. My thanks to those who have been kind enough to write and encourage me to continue.

Below is an Index of the first FAPA
mailing & additional data to go with
page two.

INDEX

of F.A.P.A. Mailing No. 1, for Fall, 1937

title	issue	date	size	pages	type	publisher
Amateur Science Review	vl,n1	Jan,1937	7x9	4	ptg	frank by Sykora
Bulletin of the B.I.S.	vl,n4	Jun 24,37	7x11	1	pt	E.J.Carnell
" " " "	vl,n5	Jly 29,37	"	1	"	"
" " " "	vl,n6	Aug 26,37	"	1	"	"
Constitution of FAPA	---	May 19,37	8 1/2 x 11	2	mimo	Wollheim-Michel
The F.A.P.A. Fan	#1	July,1937	8 1/2 x 11	3	"	Wollheim
Ghughuist Calendar	---	---	8 1/2 x 11	1	"	Wollheim-Michel
Imaginative Fiction	vl,n3	June,1937	5 1/2 x 8 1/2	12	hect	Baltadonis
Observations & Otherwise	---	---	5 1/2 x 12 1/4	1	ptg	Conover
Phantagraph	v6,n2	June,1937	4 1/2 x 6	4	"	Wollheim
Phantagraph	v6,n3	July,1937	4 1/2 x 6	4	"	"
Science Fiction Bard	vl,n1	May,1937	4 1/2 x 5 1/2	8	mimo	Wollheim-Michel
Solor	vl,n1	Sept, 37	5 1/2 x 8 1/2	4	hect	Taurasi

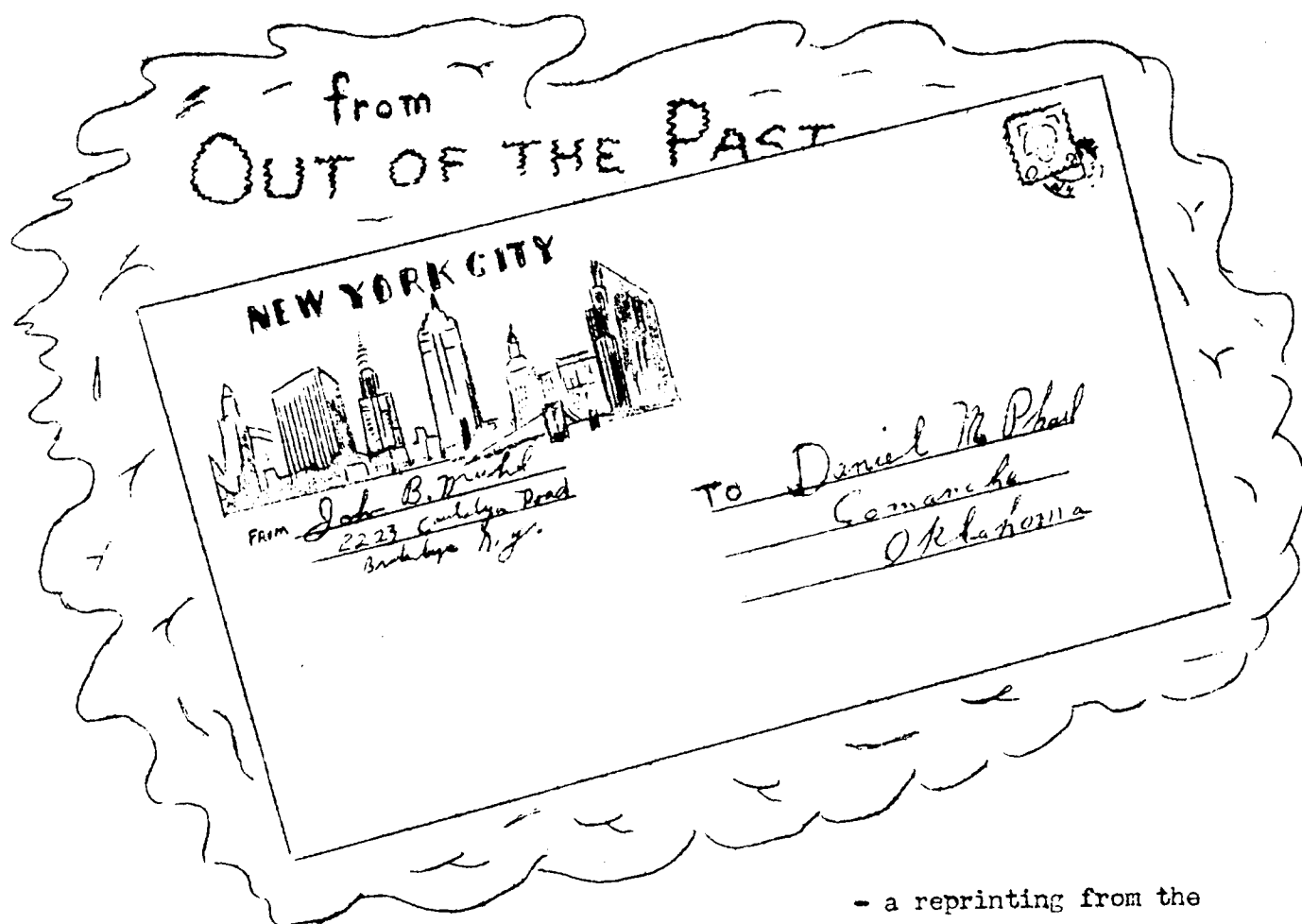
Total: 13 items, 9 publications, 42 pages.

Comment: The appearance of the pieces in the first mailing ranged from excellent to only fair. The mimeographed calendar and the SF Bard suffered due to poor legibility. The two hectographed mags were bright with the color this medium permits. Taurasi's SOLOR had a blue and green cover, purple type & blue illos, plus a excellent 3-color FAPA emblem on the back. Baltadonis used purple, red and green.

PHANTASY PRESS

Special  Edition

"Memory Book" series
— Number Two —



- a reprinting from the

FIRST F.A.P.A. MAILING
of Fall, 1937

DEDICATED
TO
HARRY
WARNER

with reproductions of the
covers, listing of contents,
editors, formats, and other
data from the original bundle