



ANKUS
22

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IVORY HOARD

BLEATHERINGS 1 (Ethel Lindsay) The only era -- a place and a time, plus a status -- which is really "Romantic" to someone is one that exists almost entirely in his own imagination. I suspect the Europeans are less likely to be interested in Medievalism and such than Americans are because they can feel closer to the reality of such an era. For the same reason, the Wild West syndrome hits mainly Europe, the U.K., and Japan -- and the Eastern United States. Everyone has some portion of himself that is one with "the idiot who praises, in enthusiastic tone/ Every century but this, and every country but his own."

As for everyone seeing himself as a prince or princess in the Romantic Eras... . Generally, of course, you're quite right. But a couple years ago, at a Renaissance/Medieval Pleasure Faire held as a fund-raising event by the local Pacifica Foundation subscription-radio station, Dian went as a leper. Torn and raggedy clothing, wooden begging bowl and clacker, and the most repulsive makeup imaginable! It was a great success -- she got exclamations of revulsion from some, congratulations from others...and about a couple dollars in the begging bowl! (The next year, the station sent out its own beggars and lepers.)

The U.S. screening of "The Prisoner" on TV didn't have any more definite an ending than yours, apparently. But the series is being re-run this summer, and the fans are chomping at the bit, waiting to see it again, and see if they can figure things out better this time. I wish it weren'r going to be on Thursday nights, though -- I have to be at LASFS, and some of them aren't enough interested in "The Prisoner" that we could move the whole meeting to somewhere with a color TV. Fascinating series.

"Moody Reflections" by Phyllis McGinley is delightful; I'm glad that you included it. The same problem has showed up in fandom on occasion: "What do I do now -- John Boardman says he likes me?!" (Of course, there's always Don Marquis to fall back upon: "An idea is not responsible for the people who believe in it.")

HORIZONS 117 (Harry Warner) I grabbed up one of the first eight copies of your history that got into general circulation when Ed Wood brought them to the Lunacon, and read through it in the next few days after the con. General impression: a very good job that could have been still better. A couple of improvements could have been made by merely having someone proof it who also has some knowledge of fan history. (E.g., p.252: "Burbee resigned as editor of SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES, now the club official organ, on November 13, 1947, because the club wanted to censor material about the homosexuality charges... ." And p.286: "Burbee was kicked out of the editorship [of SHANGRI-L'AFFAIRES] on November 13, 1947, and promptly sent the rest of the club to the borders of a collective nervous breakdown by spreading the false rumor that he intended to continue to publish an unauthorized club organ." [Maybe I should also cite the previous sentence: "The climax came when the club voted to boycott a fanzine review column in Amazing Stories and Burbee announced in an editorial that he was going to send SHAGGY to the prozine anyway."]

I don't want the preceding comments to sound like damning with faint praise, because, no matter how much criticism may come, from those who think the emphasis was wrong, or something should have been mentioned that wasn't, or... it is still quite a worthwhile feat just to get the thing written and published at all. And, in spite of the fact that I'm sure you are not yet ready to start the next volume, I am. If I can be of any help, let me know.

Is there any possibility of you publishing -- in HORIZONS, or some other fanzine -- a bibliography of AOY, for those who are interested enough to look up some of the original articles and items in the sources?

A more in-depth commentary must be postponed for when I have more time, but hopefully, I will get it done.

I have the solution to that "special situation in fandom" problem you mention, but I can't mention it for quite some time yet.

Why should the "legibly reproduced" section of the Constitution of FAPA deter you from including 8mm copies? Even if they were not "legible" in some nit-picking sense of the word, when did you ever need credit badly enough that disallowance of 8mm or so would bother you? And what OE is going to go to the bother of actually removing such a thing from 68 copies of a 24-page zine when the thing is firmly affixed in the middle of the zine? Cop-out excuse, is all.

I got around to sorting several more cartons of fanzines a week or so ago, and came up with a few things like: a complete run of IMAGINATION, the first two dozen issues of HORIZONS, and an almost complete SPACEWAYS. If anyone has an extra copy of #3, I'll be glad to trade #24 or #29 -- or maybe both. (Did you keep any copies of the abortive first hektoid half-issue?)

SERCON'S BANE 39 (F.M. Busby) There's another exception to Rich Brown's generalization about Hugo-winning fanzines having a circulation of 200+ -- WHO KILLED SCIENCE FICTION, the winner at Seacon. (Like you, I agree with his main point, though. Big circulation generally means more votes.)

Jerry Pournelle has recently been appointed as some sort of political researcher for Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles. We translate this to mean he is supposed to dig up all possible dirt on Yorty's opponent. One result is the immediate receipt of two nominations of Pournelle to Worst Fandom. (I don't think he can win, against the other ten nominees we have so far, but it's nice his appointment got him some recognition... .)

VANDY 31 (Coulsons) That guy in the National Wildlife article who hooked his polygraph up to a philodendron sounds like he belongs in the same class with L. Ron Hubbard, who was using E-meters on tomatoes!

NIEKAS 20 (Ed Meskys) Wollheim's Lunacon speech is interesting, mainly for its view of Wollheim. I more agree with Doc Lowndes, this year's Lunacon CoH, who said he didn't like New Wave, but there was room for it in Science Fiction along with Old Wave, Weird Wave, and anything else. Personally, I admit to not understanding a large part of the New Wave -- and I suspect the writers themselves don't understand some of it. But I try to read NW stuff on its own terms: is the stylistic fooferaw consistent, or erratic? Does it get in the way of the story or not? Is it obviously being done for its own sake and not because the rest of the story -- plot, characters, situation, etc. -- require it? It would be well for Second Foundation types to remember that Science Fiction is never the same thing to any two people -- or even to the same person at two different times, and most particularly, it is not the sole property of any person or group of persons. As a matter of afterthought fact, it would also be well for the New Wave types to remember the same things. Thanks for reprinting the speech; I may even use it to start the Convention Index of Papers I've

been considering for a couple years. (It would be an index to Con speeches, panels, etc., that finally get published -- other than in a complete PROCEEDINGS volume. Cross-index by speaker, convention, date... .)

I was a hold-out on reading Georgette Heyer books, mostly, like Ted White, because it was/is becoming a fad. Then some sneak named Brown shipped me three of the things for Christmas... . As if I don't have enough to do without going bookstore-scouring for Georgette Heyer books... . Mumble grumble mmph.

There has been much discussion of Worldcons and their relation to both U.S. Fandom and Fandom as a whole this year. Most of the Regional Cons have had panel discussions on the subject. (There will be one at Westercon, too.) My idea/opinion at this point is: An International SF Congress should be instituted, beginning with HeiCon 1970. The HeiCon Business meeting should determine mobility pattern (or lack of it) for the InterCon. A North American SF Convention should take the place of the World SF Convention, and continue its numbering and Hugo Awards. The change of name should not occur earlier than 1971, possibly as late as 1973, depending on whether the "World" name is vital to the bids for the 1971-3 conventions. And the NASFiC should go back to the three-year rotation. When the InterCon schedule places it in the N.America region, it should be combined with the NASFiC -- hopefully, the InterCon schedule will be other than one which puts it in the N.A. region every three years. It is only fair to the many thousands of N.A. fans to have a large con on this continent every year -- as Germany, Sweden, the U.K. and others have their own annual cons. But it is not fair to call such a continental con a "World" con.

TAFF BALLOT (Steve Stiles) Why the overly long qualification time? September 1967? Isn't that a bit long? (Maybe better TAFF got every interested fan participating... .
How many FAPAns have voted?

GODOT #10 (Mike Deckinger) Nice to hear from a non-costume fan who likes to see the masquerade, and agrees with the costume fans about the BayCon masquerade.

I should think that anyone winning Three Hugos in two years ought to be eligible for GoH at a Worldcon. And I think it's more than about time we honored a top-rank SF artist, before he drops dead or goes to Mexico to draw for Mad Magazine.

ALQUOT (Rusty Hevelin) Aha! Another non-costume but pro-masquerade type!
Nice seeing you at Lunacon -- Midwescon next?

GRANDFATHER STORIES (Howard Devore) So what is one to do about the hard sell Worldcon bidding? Make "Gentlemen's Agreements" among the various bidders in a region and by tossing a coin determine in what order they will all take turns putting on the Worldcon for that region? Sounds great, but what do you do with non-Gentlemen? It's possible that the growing conventions will eventually make their intrinsic self-limiting effect felt more than now -- after all, with 2000 attendees, there are only so many cities, and so many hotels in those cities, that can handle a Worldcon. And as other cons are growing, too, fewer hotels are going to be willing to agree four years or more ahead of the con when you can't guarantee you'll have the thing until only two years before.

Only occasionally is everything rosy to the heads. (A propos your suggestion that someone or other stay on dope where everything was rosy.) The other night a bunch of them, at a "meeting" of the Valley SF Assn. in Pomona, went out back to turn on, and were so damned paranoid they lit for cover and swallowed the joint when a car drove by slowly, they thinking it was one of the older members arriving. (He showed up about 20 minutes later, causing more flap.)

TAFF railing

HERE WE GO AGAIN, on a subject I have ranted on about before: The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund and its support -- or lack of same -- by fandom. It is my contention that interest in TAFF has lagged since about 1963, due mostly to the failure of TAFFmen to write their reports and provide continuity for TAFF. In support of my contention, I offer some facts, some personal conversations, and some impressions.

The facts first: In the 1957 race, with 8 candidates, there were 257 valid ballots counted by Don Ford. (I know there were charges of vote-buying and much non-fan voting, but since even a Midwescon Fan can be a Fan, let us merely accept the figure, as reported in Ford's TAFF REPORT, September 3, 1957.) I can find no statistics for the Bennett-Newman-Berry race -- FANAC gave placements only, and SF TIMES gave Bennett a 1-line Stop Press announcement -- but about 360 ballots came in for the Ford-Carr-Bjo race-(FANAC 50, 1/1/60). 50 of these were from England. 89 British votes were received in the Bentcliffe-Ashworth-Sanderson race (SKYRACK 20, 6/20/60). The number of U.S. ballots is not reported, but if the ratio of unused second and third place votes was the same as in England, about 127 ballots were returned over here (377 pts.:89 ballots.:538 pts:127 ballots). Now it gets easier. 147 U.S. and 58 British ballots decided the Ellik-Eney race (TAFF PROGRESS REPORT: 1961, Jan. 1962).

- 1962: 186 ballots valid, 70 of them from the U.K. (Lindsay-Jones) [TPR #3]
1963: 196 ballots, about 49 of them from U.K. (Weber-Bradley-Pelz) [TPR #5]
1964: 136 ballots, 60 of them from U.K. (Thomson-Rogers) [TPR #6]
1965: ? ballots; 410 points total (3 for first, etc.), 77 of them from the U.K. [mimeoed Weber letter 3/2/65, from which all newszines took their data. If there was a TPR #7, I don't know where it was circulated.] [Carr-Root-Donaho]
1966: 149 ballots, 78 of them from overseas [Schlück-Eric Jones-Weston-Sten-fors-Hold Over Funds] [RATATOSK 32 4/16/66]
1968: 133 ballots, only 15 from overseas. (Stiles-Johnstone-Cox) [SFT 451]

CONVERSATIONS: I talked to Terry Carr, and he said TAFF-Interest in Fandom was so bad it made him think no one would be interested in his TAFF Report if he did write it. He was especially disappointed in the lack of votes from overseas in the 1968 race. Fifteen is a pretty cruddy showing.

I talked to various new fans who have become reasonably well-known in the three or four years they've been in fandom, and they said, "TAFF? What's That?"

I talked to people who could talk to Wally Weber and maybe get him to write his TAFF Report. (When I talk to Wally Weber, he smiles in his usual manner and says something on the order of "Oh, yes, Real Soon Now.") They says Wally has a list of things that have to be done, that the list has items on it going back before TAFF even came around, and he is going to do them in order. Sometime. Maybe.

IMPRESSIONS: TAFF appears to need several things: (1) Interest; (2) Money; (3) Publicity. The last-named is needed to get the other two, and it is something all of us can work on. More mention of TAFF in fanzines; more circulation of TAFF ballots by fanzines -- LOCUS, CRY, & TNFF are the only ones I know of that circulated ballots in the 1969 race so far. QUICKER writing of TAFF Reports by returning winners, and the keeping of such reports permanently in print with a Central Clearing House for sales -- I volunteer, if needed.

Correct timing of campaigns would also help. The current campaign is supposed to end 31 May, having begun 1 November 1968. Seven months ought to be enough, right? Wrong. This period excludes almost all the important SF conventions, at which a big TAFF push might be made. (To a degree, this is academic, as no such push has been made at the conventions which are encompassed by the campaign dates: Boskone, Lunacon, Phillycon, Minicon, Marcon. There's still a chance for the Disclave, over the May FAPA Deadline weekend... .) If the deadline were extended another six weeks, there would be the Midwescon and the West-ercon during which to operate, but this may be cutting things too close for the candidates; I dunno whether a little over a month is enough to get ready for a TAFF trip. Ideally, Nominations should be held during the "dead months" of fall and winter, with elections held beginning in March or April and continuing thru September, for East-bound trips, and through mid-July, if possible, for West-bound ones. Sample schedule, swiped mostly from the Ellik-Bentcliffe one for 1962-64:

- 15 August 1969 - Open nominations for American to [Heicon?]
- 28 February 70 - Close "
- 1 March - Open voting for TAFF 7-East
- 10 July - Close " " " " ; winner notified immediately, giving him 1-1 1/2 months to prepare. Voting time: 4 1/2 months.
- 15 August - Open nominations for European fan to 1971 U.S. con
- 28 February 71 - Close "
- 1 March - Open voting for TAFF 8-West
- 10 July - Close " " " "
- 15 August - Open nominations for American to U.K./European con [Assume British Eastercon, but...] in '73.
- 28 February 72 - Close nominations
- 1 March - Open voting for TAFF 8-East
- 31 December - Close voting " " " ; winner to travel in April. This gives TAFF a breathing spell, with no TAFF trip in 1972.
- 15 August 1972 - Open nominations for European fan to U.S. in 1973.
- 28 February 73 - Close "
- 1 March - Open voting for TAFF 9-West
- 10 July - Close "

ETC.

The skip-year, with a campaign but no trip, followed by two trips the following year, worked quite well with two trips in 1964. It should do so again. And this schedule gives opportunities for large conventions -- National cons, large Regional cons, or Worldcons -- to be held in each voting and nominating period. Assuming there are enough people interested to push TAFF during these times, the Fund should thus make optimum use of the large clusters of fans.

OPEN TAFF LETTERS:

STEVE STILES, TOM SCHLÜCK: Is it possible to extent the present campaign through 10 July? How about adoption of a schedule like the above after the present race?

RON BENNETT, ETHEL LINDSAY, ERIC BENTCLIFFE,

ARTHUR THOMSON/Ian Peters: Are any copies of your published TAFF Reports Still available? Can you ship them to me if I send postage money, so that they can be sold at conventions and used to advertise TAFF? Are the stencils still available for re-running? If not, can permission be obtained to offset more copies?

TOM SCHLÜCK: What is the status of your Report?

KEN BULMER, ELLA PARKER: May the various episodes of "TAFF Tales" be collected in one volume? How about additional ones?

BOB MADLE: How about re-opening negotiations for complete publication of FAKE FAN IN LONDON?

HOWARD DEVORE: Who would have extra copies of Don Ford's TAFF BAEDEKER? Could reprint rights be obtained if no extras exist?

STEVE STILES, THOMAS SCHLÜCK: How about publishing a complete TAFF Financial Report in a TAFF PROGRESS REPORT issue? I think it would be valuable to find out just where the money is coming from and how fast it is going out -- \$600 a time, isn't it? It would tell if most money is from donations, Convention or personal, or from votes, or what. And complete tally of votes is a necessity, too. As you can see from the first page of this article, the reportage on TAFF has sometimes been less than good.

BUSBIXII: Please lean on Wally a bit about writing that report!?

TERRY CARR: When?

GENERAL NOTICE: Ron Ellik's Report, "The Squirrel's Tale," is finally finished, and available from me at \$1.00 plus 25¢ postage. I'll also have a few copies with me at various conventions.

GENERAL INQUIRY: Are you interested in having TAFF continue? Interested enough to at least say so -- or maybe even vote? How about Fund-Raising projects? (Of course, with no published Financial Report, I don't know if TAFF needs money badly, or what, but I understand there was no convention donation this past year.) LASFS is so wrapped up with raising money for its building fund that it really can't do much in the way of TAFF events these days, but doesn't any other club have such things? Hell, the LASFS has had all sorts of TAFF, TAWF, ANDY CAPP, & TOFF Fund Raising programs in the not-too-far past, and there ought to be some other groups that could try it. That is, if anyone is interested enough to goad said groups into action. I know very well that clubs exist in an atmosphere of apathy and inaction unless prodded by someone willing to take the time and make the effort. So... . Are you interested in TAFF's continued existence?

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LUNACONREP

LUNACON 1969 was enjoyable, though, as usual these past few years, I didn't go to too much of the program. I flew into New York Thursday, April 10, a day early. I'd hoped to get either some business, some shopping, or some visiting with relatives done Thursday, and wound up doing none of these. Spend the evening with the Browns and got roped into helping with LOCUS. (One does not refuse requests of the Ultimate SMOFs, but going 3000 miles just to cut and proofread stencils is a bit strange, I say!)[If someone has slipped a copy of this to the Browns, this is all a joke, ok?]

Friday was spent in the lobby of the McAlpin, talking to fans and a few pros who also arrived early. As usual, almost the first person I saw was -- not 4E, this time, but another L.A. expatriate, Norm Spinrad. Even A.J. Budrys showed up. The McAlpin lobby is a rotten place to talk to people -- there are no chairs whatsoever -- but no other public rooms were open yet. I even wound up arguing science fiction, of all things, with Tom Bulmer!

Friday night there was registration and a large open room where people milled around for several hours, talking and patronizing the cash bar, before they wandered off to the Boston party. The latter roared along, happily overcrowded, until some awful hour of the morning.

The only Saturday program I attended was Asimov's talk on "How I Became TV GUIDE's Resident SF Expert," which was amusing. I tried watching the auction, but it was very dragging -- either no had money, or Al Schuster couldn't talk them into parting with it -- or both.

That night, the Official Eastercon Party was deserted rather early, with almost everyone in either the D.C. Party or the Boston Party. I tried both, winding up in the corridor outside the latter, holding a small conversation party with Marsha Brown, Alex Eisenstein, Lee Hoffman, Rusty Hevelin, and various others who wandered by. Very pleasant. (Can Boston take the credit for the enjoyment of parties held in corridors near their suite? They'll probably try, so unless anyone else has a more legitimate claim, I guess they can.)

Sunday started with the Worldcon Panel, which wound up pretty much at the attitudes I mention in my Mailing Comments. Ted White moderated, and Tony Lewis, Jay Haldeman, and I made up the panel.

Doc Lowndes followed, and I enjoyed his CoH talk quite a bit.

Then came another auction, where I managed to pick up the sketch for a Gaughan illustration (from Galaxy) I already own, and about a half dozen home-made Tribbles I have nefarious plans for.

We then went into the Eastercon bidding session. The Eastercon was begun a few years ago as an attempt by Mike McInerney to have an East Coast Westercon held around Easter. It turned out to be a big Party attached to the Lunacon and run by the FISTFA. Well, with McInerney and several FISTFANS moved West, there was question about the continuance of the Eastercon, so it was put up for bid. Ted White, who was chairing the session thought the whole thing slightly silly, and so did most everyone else, but they went into the session anyway. The first bid came from Jim Sanders, on behalf of the remnants of FISTFA, to hold the Eastercon as usual with the Lunacon. Arnie Katz, Jon White, and Robin White then bid on behalf of Jew Fandom, to hold it in Tel Aviv. There was applause, but I think it was for Robin, not the bid. Then I bid, on behalf of the L.A. IN '72 Committee, to hold the thing as part of the Lunacon. The idea took a while to settle; Ted White first thought I wanted to move it to the West Coast, then he thought I might be joking. When he found I wasn't, he almost ~~reamed~~ ~~reamed~~. At that, Jim Sanders jumped up and withdrew the FISTFA bid, and Arnie withdrew the Tel Aviv bid. The L.A. IN '72 Committee won unanimously. (A fleeting bid for East Bree from a Tolkienist sort of got lost in the shuffle.) So we get to put the Eastercon on next year.

I can't take credit for the idea of bidding: Tony Lewis suggested it, and on viewing the facts, there was no reason at all not to do it. The Eastercon is run by having a cash bar available and selling drink tickets. You buy in to the hotel for the drinks, then sell them to the attendees. The Lunacon will get the room for the Eastercon -- probably the Winter Garden room again, as this year, and various people have offered to provide help if needed. And, since the L.A. IN '72 Committee was planning to throw a party there next year anyway, it seemed an excellent idea. (Why, when I got back and told the rest of the Committee what I'd committed us to, they even approved!) See you at the Eastercon next year!

Attendance at Lunacon was around 600 -- up from slightly over 400 last year. I stood watching the registration line grow Saturday morning, and I kept upping my estimate of how large Westercon will be. Lunacon was enjoyable -- for the people I got to talk to, mostly. But then, that's why most cons are enjoyable.