

"Oh Lord," I said. "Just look at the time!"

"So why should you be panic stricken?" she said.

"Damn it all, I've just finished a Post Mailing, recovered from Christmas and written a column for Bennett, and the deadline is upon me again."

"Well," she said. "You'll have to do something this time. You've been talking about it long enough."

I thought for a moment. "Ah, but you see, up to now I have been doing everything myself - except for one piece of artwork and some extracts from letters. From now on I'll ask for outside contributions. For instance Joy Clarke can do a column for this issue. Soon I'll have hundreds of fans writing for me and all I'll have to do is the assembling."

She sneered.

"And just why should all those people write for you?"

I was hurt.

"You're always getting at me," I said.

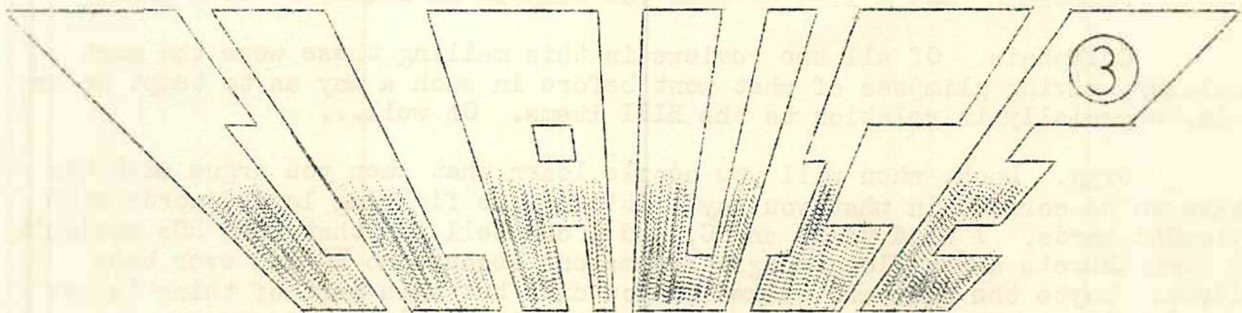
"Nyaaaaah."

"Well," I said. "I don't see why a fan shouldn't fall over himself to send a contribution to me. after all,

IT WILL ALL

BE IN

A GOOD



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Road, Catford, London S.E.6, for FAPA

Gem Carr Deprecation Issue! See?

CLAUSTR A

n. thin layers of grey matter in
the brain hemispheres.
THE NEW IMPERIAL REFERENCE
DICTIONARY

My first complete mailing, the 80th, will of necessity receive scant attention. I was not sufficiently aware of the FAPA background to review this mailing when I received it, and even now I am only just beginning to find my feet amongst the shifting sands of argument. So, for what they are worth, here are a few brief comments on some of the contents of the 80th mailing.

Gem Carr - The remarks on religion I anticipated but I was surprised to see you enter the jazz controversy. Especially since you so obviously use the word incorrectly. In the comment on Bennett's QUIP! you mention the remarks on the Coslet Bible compilations as definite proof that at least somebody read it. As it happens he didn't, and his paragraph is a complete fabrication.

Sambo. Some people will become psychotic over almost anything, but why HiFi I wonder? If there is one thing I can't stand, it's unnecessary noise. There is an early stage in the volume control of my amplifying equipment where the sound changes from something heard at the other end of a large hall, to something right in the room with me. The control knob never varies more than a fraction of an inch past that point. It's quiet. Maybe the salesmen are to blame - they never show-off products at room volume. Almost always they use enough volume to fill a large concert hall. Who is Ron Parker, and why does he sound so juvenile when he's trying to be "Oh look-fellers-ain't-I-funny-tho' "?

Fanalysis. Your definition of bore at top of page 7. See also Bierce and Melville Landon.

Phlotsam. But I like it when you compose on stencil. It's good.

Celephais. Of all the reviews in this mailing these were the most tantalising, giving glimpses of what went before in such a way as to tempt me to join in, especially in relation to the HIFI items. Oh well...

Orgy. Look, when will you people learn that when you argue with Gem you have to be correct in what you say? It's no use fighting loaded words with more loaded words. I used to be an RC, and I can tell you that most RCs wouldn't dream that there's a Big Plot amongst Freemasons because no RC has ever been President. Maybe the ones who talked to you did, but this sort of thing is not a general belief. They have other reasons for being against Freemasons.

Target FAPA. Would love to know the sources of the figures you use in commenting on Lark. Personally I don't believe them. I can accept the figures for converts to Catholicism - and such converts are generally the strong-converts - but from experience I'd say that when people finally pull away from the Catholic Church they just don't go anywhere. Like me, for instance. When you leave the Catholic Church you leave organised religion with a capitol R. You don't go and join some other pottyfogging little church.

Special mention should go to Horizons for 'And Pare Her Nails'; Rambling Fap for the Poll Results; Remembrance of Things Past for Campbell on writing and on 'Who Goes There' (first time I knew this had been cut from a three-part serial); Qabal for the fine humour of the conversation piece; Pamphrey for that glorious baseball bat comment at the foot of the title page; Kesbird for the humour of the artwork; and finally Alif for the appreciation of Lugosi and the Shakespeare quote which is taken incorrectly from Hamlet Act 3 SceneII (Hamlet speaking to Polonius) Should have been "'Tis now the very..." not "Now is..." God, but I'm an educated bastard.

The post-mailings are notable for the interest caused by Phosphor and Poo - and the lack of panic in the last named in connection with the Sputnik. I wonder what Gem was thinking at the time? Also for the l'le cartoon in Diaspar 5 with the words 'Joan Carr Lives'. It's all lies, I tell you. Lies...lies...LIES.

And so on to the 81st mailing.

FANTASY AMATEUR (official) Joy Clarke is handling the dues increase in her column. As the OMPA treasurer I agree with her.

THE RAMBLING FAP 13 (calkins) Was this produced on the same basis as the Eney art folio in the last mailing? Effect was the same.

THE RAMBLING FAP 14 (calkins) Agree with your comment on the FA that a mag not worth credit is not worth postage - especially in view of the proposed increase. * I have yet to see a 'good' gruesome joke. First contact with these was in an article in one of our Sunday papers - Reynolds News - some months ago. Just been looking all over the house but can't find that copy. The article was by a psychiatrist who outlined the various neuroses that would give rise to just such a form of humour. Most of the examples quoted were not funny even considering the gruesome content. * Your idea on how to keep a male prisoner immobilized sounds perfect. Only how do you translate this into film? Or even a book for that matter. Mike Hamme. might get away with it but then his methods are even simpler.

CONBOY (damfino!) Entertainment for fen? Depends on the definition I guess.

SPUTNIK (gromnell & economou) 'Lo DAG. Miz Economou, Ma'am, I'm terribobbilly sorry if I caused you to choke on your coffee. We-all here at 7 Inchmery drink Maxwell House too. I have a cup by my side at the moment. * Seems I've been under a misaprehension for years (awfully cramped, you know) because I was convinced that nobody ever took any notice of Bentcliffe. And here you are. As you have now discovered from several sources we just love American money and will even go to the trouble of fixing prices upwards - like the OMPA subs - so's you can send dollar bills. I thought I'd mention this not to cause you further anguish but to remark to FAPA members who are also OMPA members that cheques on American banks are no good to us at all. Just send dollar bills, hmm? It is perfectly legal over here. * Your review on Orgy isn't quite right. Catholics can belong to Unions and many of these have rules against revealing union matters to outsiders. The main objection to Freemasons is that a Catholic can't take the oath of allegiance that is required. It's a throwback to the beginnings of Freemasonry when the world was run by Kings with Divine Right. A Catholic owed allegiance to his Church and King (who was considered to be appointed by God) and therefore couldn't go through the initiation ceremonies or take the oaths of the Freemasons. * Talking about girls climbing into full baths to shrink their jeans reminds me that the only difference between this and the actions of men who bought 'Levis' when they first started was that the men did it to shrink 'em to size, whereas the girls get them a size too small to begin with. A few hundred

years ago the habit of women in England was to wear full length dresses that concealed all but the face. The dresses were made of a thin white material, and part of the 'getting dressed' routine was to have a maid pour water on you until the dress was soaking wet. Watch, they didn't wear anything underneath. I see in today's paper that the sack/bag line is becoming accepted in the States now that manufacturers have put a label inside the neck of the dresses saying 'This is the Front'. * Regarding your minco troubles - get a Gestetner. Alternatively either leave the last stencil on the machine (if you've been in the habit of taking it off) so as to prevent the ink drying too quickly, or else try inking the outer surface directly under the stencil. It takes time to get used to judging the amount of ink required for each run but it can save a considerable amount of money. The stencil can always be lifted to allow re-inking. This zinc will be duplicated on Ving Clarke's Gestetner which celebrated its 50th birthday last year. Ving loves it like it was his father. Any faults in the duplicating can be attributed to me and not to the machine. * Capacious memory banks - re Quiz Contestants - remind me of a couple of quotes I used in a recent OMPazine that will stand repeating:

a) The best qualification of a prophet is to have a good memory. Lord Halifax.

b) Men with remarkable memories are rarely if ever conspicuous for original thought. W.J. Turner.

* Hey now, wimmen didn't go selling themselves for American cigarettes because they were good. (Is that why they're called 'loose' women, I wonder?) No, the reason was that, at the time cigarettes were a better medium of exchange than money. And since the Americans, as usual, had more to spare than anyone else, the main currency became American cigarettes. * I assume that, when you say 'tone controls will always have to be built into radio' etc. because of loud commercials, you really mean volume con-trols? * And suddenly it's DAG. That for a while you'd got lost. I think I'll start a 'DAG is unfair to reviewers' movement. I got so carried away by your fine flow of prose that I didn't stop to make notes in the margin. All I can think of is to say that 'sod' is a cuss word over here, unprintable in 'good' books, and is, I believe, the only unprintable cuss word with an unprintable slang term to replace it. It's a noun made out of sodomy I think. You no doubt know the slang term. Oh yes, and I wanted to make a mild reference to the fact that we'd spent some time ourselves keeping Adolph's goosestepping legions off the tight little islands of Britain before Pearl Harbour. It always tends to amuse me, in a sick sort of way, to read something like 'In 1941, at the beginning of WWII....' in an American book.

ALIF (anderson) Enjoyed, but not much to comment on except that "The Tales of Hoffman" has always been my favourite opera also. The film version was better than any stage version I think because the film could handle the fantasy better. Best combination of sight and sound was to watch the movements of Helpmann as he fashioned jewels from candlewax while Bruce Dargel sang "So Gleam with Desire". I have the three 12" LP's of the sound track but the surfaces are not too good now. I played them on an autochanger before I LEARNED MY LESSON.

SF 50 YEARLY (bloch/tucker) Whatever happened to Dave McIlwaine? Last time I saw him at the Globe he was talking about the trouble he's had with the Censor over his latest film script. We were helpless with laughter - Latest book by Dave/Charles Eric Maine is High Vacuum (Ballantyne). I think I'll have to include you two in with DAG in the 'unfair to reviewers' campaign. I read SF 50 Yearly in about half the time taken on smaller mags. It was so damned pleasant!

REPORT ON THE LONDON CONVENTION (weber) Wasn't it just great, tho'? Thought we'd cleared up the mystery of the Moskowitz voice. We had been led to believe it was loud, like our own Charlie Dun-

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combe. It wasn't anything of the sort. It was a deep resonant voice whose carrying powers were enormous. I could have listened to Sam for hours on end. The B.B.C. did eventually give us a 10-minute spot on a peak-hour TV show about a month after the Con. It was an extremely well-handled item. What's more, after Sputnik I went up they gave us a repeat. The introduction to this went something like... 'In view of the present news on artificial satellites, you might like to see again the events of the first World SF Convention held in London...' and then straight into the film. This was the only time we've ever regretted not having a television set. Since you mentioned the Newman moustache without explanation, except for the photo, perhaps I should point out that this magnificent foliage is grown each year for one purpose only. Some time during an all night party one half is shaved off. The remainder stays as it is until after Dave has been down for breakfast the following morning (hardy types these Liverpool Group fans. All night parties and breakfast.) Breakfast over, the other half comes off. Then the job of growing another one for next year's convention begins. This has been going on for years and is just another example of the Traditions of English Fandom.

HAEMOGoblin (smith) The amount of time devoted to jazz on the BBC has no relation to the time devoted to other forms of music, that I'll agree. Whether it is disproportionate or not is another matter. Disproportionate to what? Your desires? Or those of the majority? For a start you have to deduct the vast bulk of music played before 6 p.m. since this is mainly a housewife's 'background' music (if anything). The stuff that's left has to be divided not between jazz and other, but between jazz & swing & dance & classic & light classic & brass band etc. etc. Each group has its own supporters. So maybe the proportions still aren't right, but they're not as bad as you would make out. Then again maybe the people at the BBC have read Elliott Paul's book on jazz (about which more later) in which case they are trying to steer as well clear of the stuff as I would if I didn't know that jazz is nothing like the way Paul tells it. * No, I know of no 'Joan Sanderson' or the wallpaper people. If I had my way, I'd find myself related to the Sandersons who produce whisky - Vat 69.

PHANTASY PRESS (mcphail) The FAPA Memory Book issue. I guess that what we were all going to join you in saying (on Page 5) was a colour run that was missed. From my copy at least. Still, you can't do everything right all the time and it's a minor quibble in comparison with the excellent production of the remainder of the book. I now know that Ron Parker is someone who is prepared to do a lot of work. He should be congratulated.

LARK (damner) The place you've moved to sounds great. The 'tgl' business has been bothering me also. It's probably Jean herself. That TV frequency not only sets up a whistle it also induces whistle in my hi-fi via the mains supply. We don't have a TV of our own here.

GAVAGE (janko) But you did produce 8 pages. I counted them. You very carefully state what that load of bilge on eggheads is not, but what is it? Apart from bilge, I mean. Brother, do you know how to use loaded words! You have every right in the world to your opinions on eggheads. They're wrong but you have every right to them. But don't duck the responsibility of making them known. In two different places you explain in detail that what you say is not meant to be of Earth Shaking Importance. Then you make with a lot of nonsense. So, as soon as anyone challenges your opinions, you can retire with a sneer and say that the challenger is an egghead for attaching importance to your words. Heads you win, tails we lose. Look, if you want to say something then take the responsibility of having said it as well. Otherwise stick to the humour, hmn? I must confess that I was very surprised to find you among the new intelligentsia, the new elite, the new snobs, the new eggheads. Your attitude throughout is similar to the reversed attitude of the modern group - i.e. it is more educated to be

uneducated than educated. There are so many fallacies in your argument I hardly know where to start - or even if it's worth it. For instance if the origin of good singing came from performing in large places to huge audiences without the use of PA systems, it doesn't mean, as you would have it, that a good voice by definition is one that can be heard down the next block without artificial expansion. It simply means that a good voice is one that can be heard in a large hall without the use of a PA system. There is a considerable difference even if you won't admit it. There is a considerable difference in tone, also, between an unamplified voice in a large hall and some two bit dance band crooner breathing into a microphone. Hell, it isn't worth it.

HORIZONS (warner) I agree with you entirely when you say that if Willis won't take the money raised for him it will be easy enough to find another recipient. A damn sight too easy, because there are not many people with the honesty and sense of ethics possessed by Willis. There are even fewer people who could replace his value as a fan. * The signal from the magnetic cartridge is of the order of 10 millivolts. The input required by the amplifier can be varied between 30 and 60 millivolts only. Thus a crystal cartridge will successfully feed it, but not the magnetic.

THE FOSSIL (wesson) Sorry but I have never yet managed to become even slightly interested in Lovecraft. My loss?

HELEN'S FANTASIA (wesson) Ditto. I'm truly sorry but I have no interest and it is no use my pretending I have.

PHANTASY PRESS (mcphail) Ron Parker improves as I go through the mailing. By the time two or three more have passed he might have left the childishness well behind. I note a tendency among several fans to refer to me as Harry or Pete. It's wrong. So is Harold. There's no real reason, and I'm not trying to be awkward. It's just that I've been called Sandy for so long now - at school - at the office - in the army - in fandom - even at home - that I just don't realise you mean me unless you say Sandy. * Recent events show that you blooped a bit in your comments on Sputnik.

SAMBO (martinez) Didn't know you were holding classes for five year olds, Sam. Bowart, even drunkenness (real or assumed) is not an excuse for disgusting manners. Same applies to Corey. Oh yes, the film 'May We Have The Pleasure' was a product of the Liverpool Group, not the London Group. A lot of attention must have been paid to it.

PHLOTSAM (economou) Seems I wrote myself out on you when I was reviewing Sputnik Phyllis. * In England the cricket spectators are the highest social strata. I'd say Rugby and Lawn Tennis come next with football somewhere at the end. Naturally football has the greatest number... Those German definitions you used were another example of ESP -- no? Pity three of you had to quote them at the same time - but I preferred yours in view of the Addenda.

LE MOINDRE (raeburn) The proposed amendment re the OMPA waiting list was not included in the latest mailing. Unfortunately it would have been too late for its immediate objective so it was decided to keep it at the discussion level a little longer. It will come up tho'. I could feel Freeberg creeping into your final remarks to Gem on jazz. Lovely.

ALL THAT THERE JAZZ (schaffer) But there wasn't any jazz. Production was
SOUND ON THE REBOUND { -- } terrific but contents singularly lacking in
TOUGH TOENAILS { -- } interest - at least to me.

NULL-F (white) I must have spent hours trying to find out what you said about Contact. I think someone is covering up. * When you were talking about classical music being tame I think it was in answer to a remark of mine about Beethoven's Emperor Piano Concerto. I'm afraid you didn't quite get it right. What I was saying was that after each note you felt as if it could not have been written any other way.

BIRDSMITH (mccain) Reading your remarks on Choog and the reference to Chaplin reminded me that I saw 'King In New York' and was rather annoyed because it was so tame in comparison with what one had been lead to expect from all the hoo-ha. Reading Bill Morse's column I find it hard to work out (from the style) that he is on this side of the Atlantic. Even harder to work out is why he is.

TARGET FAPA (eney) But then you don't fully realise my guile - I already have looked up something good about the States. Lots and lots of things in fact. Hence my feeling of certainty that SEP was not representative.

TYKE (harness) The mailing comments were generally interesting, but three pages is too much to spend on Target Fapa especially as you didn't really say anything. The semantic content of your remarks, when it comes to Scientology, appears to be nil. You would make a good politician.

CELEPHAIS (evans) Nice comments but I don't see a starting point for me. Maybe it's because I'm coming to the end of the stack. Now watch me make a liar of myself with this next one.

GEMZINE (carr) This was left until the last because Joy Clarke had it for her column. However we decided that I would handle any religious comments (having more knowledge on the subject from the R.C. viewpoint) and there are some other remarks I want to make. To begin with, Joy's opinions are her own, naturally. These are mine. I don't honestly think I have ever been so amused in my life as I have by the 'logic' in Gemzine. It is no use arguing with Gem since she has supreme faith in her rightness, and yet people try. I guess it's because she gets them mad. Now, I rarely get mad at anyone, and never when I can see the mechanism that is supposed to set me off. * "I have been genuinely unable to understand how I could be both 'inconsistent' in my arguments and stubbornly c-linging to them at the same time." You stubbornly cling to the belief that you are right and are consequently inconsistent in the arguments used to bolster that belief, when it is challenged. * Re social structures, I believe I am right in saying that in America you have people who are very rich, or averagely rich, or poor. All three groups exist in the UK. Does it really matter, therefore, which label you attach to them? As far as I can see the only difference between the countries is the fact that our upper class is the result of ages of breeding and consequently it shows itself and has no reason to keep telling everyone what it is. In America the riches are rather newly come by as we measure cultural time. * "In fact, the very richest seem to be the most popular in Seattle". This appears to place the whole of the city in the position of a fairweather friend. * I notice you also use fake-German definitions. ESP? * "It took, as I remember it, a hell of a lot of American lease-lend plus the combined strength of the U.S, British, and Russian forces to hold Hitler out of Russia". You remember wrong. Hitler was in Russia - as far in as Moscow. The Russians went into attack during and after the first winter the Germans spent there (the parallel has been drawn with Napoleon's invasion) and it soon became obvious that it would be quite a race between the Russians and the UK/USA forces to see who could reach Berlin first. They covered a considerably greater area of land in a shorter space of time than we did and won the race. * Alan Dodd in his letter mentions cutting out reports from U.K. -

papers and sending them to someone in the locality concerned to see if there is anything in them. He's trying to Learn from the only people who Really Know. So you jump on him for sending bulky envelopes to you in careful anonymity. Why? Are his words not plain enough? Wouldn't he only send you clippings about Seattle? (These should fill a bulky envelope?) Wouldn't he ask you to verify them? Would he therefore be anonymous? Nuts. * "This clipping is a typical example of the Yellow-Journalist type. It relates a truthful incident, but distorts and slants the facts - even adding false interpretation to them - in such a way that the resulting half-truth is more vicious than the outright lie." You should know, you are the expert. * Re Jazz - about which you obviously know nothing. "I say that if these men were noticeably so much better than the prevailing norm of musicians, the halo should have been visible at that time and we should have seen it." The men were noticeably better and the halo was visible - even to the third rate musicians who imitated them and gave rise to the sort of music you danced to and called Jazz. But what makes you think you were equipped to see halos? * Your tirade against WAW is too ridiculous for words. * "I have been very carefully quoting verbatim the statements which are the basis for my comments." Such as the one from WAW on sex-starved Americans? Verbatim it reads "Consider me nodding wisely at the suggestion we play down the fogsnoog angle. Apart from the point you make, if we're not careful some of these sex-starved Americans will ask for their money back if we don't run the con like a brothel." For your purpose it was necessary to have a straight - as opposed to humorous - interpretation, which is no doubt why you only quoted a part of the remark 'verbatim'. * "A religious fanatic who insists the world is flat because "It's in the Book!". " And one who believes in the Immaculate Conception for the same reason? "Some of the brainiest men in history have been Catholic theologians." I agree, in fact Father Ronald Knox was one of the best of the more recent group, and he never pretended that the Vatican is a tolerant, liberal institution. He knew that in this, as in some other essentials, Rome is like the Communist party, which makes use of liberal institutions in order to gain power - only to throw away the pretence when it has been successful. * If a Catholic student wishes to examine a subject why should he be limited to reading only what Catholic scholars have to say? And why don't you go on to refer to non-Catholic scholars when mentioning the opposition instead of switching to "plausible non-Catholic philosophers"? Loaded words, Gem. "A real 'Brain' is only too glad to learn all there is to know before it decides to venture off on its own." So no Catholic student can ever be a real 'Brain' because he's limited to learning only from Catholic scholars instead of learning all there is? * The thoughts occasioned by the Raeburn quote seem needlessly complicated in view of the fact that the quote was doubtless a twist on the theory that male gorillas rape native women. I don't know if this idea is true or simply a wild story, but I have heard it said. * Surely MZB put forward "cheap and simple" contraceptives as the answer to the problem of the fecundity of the lower IQ females (since they would then use them) and not as the cause (because high IQ women use the present day types) as you appear to have twisted things round. I think there is some confused thinking on your part. * And surely Speer was saying he'd give you \$5,000 if you'd give him one-tenth of the amount Presley would have left after taxation? Not one-tenth of Presley's money, but an amount of your money equivalent to one-tenth of Presley's. It was a straightforward challenge, and if you thought Presley would have so little you'd have taken him up on it. You tried to make it into a flip wisecrack, which is always one way of getting out of an argument. * God, what a mess.

POST MAILINGS

FAKE FANT AM (non-official) The non-Presidents Report was wonderful - but what happened to the list of non-members and non-waiting-listers - and - and - - -

DIMENSIONS 16 (shaws) Very much enjoyed, mainly for the Silverberg cat episode, but there are no comments to make.

RUNE (wansborough) First time through I decided this was a parody. Second time through I decided Leeh would never be as cruel as this and that it really must be a genuine Wansborough script she'd stencilled and duplicated. Third time through I decided it had to be a parody because I simply couldn't imagine Wansborough knowing so many big words. Take a phrase like "It is not inconceivable that -". Is this Wansborough? Damfino.

THE SATELLITE IN THE SKY (young) I think that this must rank as the sanest and
SPUTNIK STORIES (young) most honestly logical reaction to the satellite that I have yet seen. Congratulations Andy, you did a good job. There is one point I would like to take you up on tho' (not to argue - just to amplify). On Page 4 you say "Suppose Russia were to discover a means of controlling hydrogen fusion before we do". On Page 6 "We honour inventors and gimmickry, instead of theoreticians and theory". Later on you say England might be the best bet to catch up with Russian leadership in science.

The fact that England contributed most of the original theoretical work on the Manhattan Project is known to the people working in Atomics but not to the average person who still considers this to be an American-only development. It was really an international project and very basically England supplied theory and America technical development. There were overlaps of course, but neither group would have been successful by themselves without a considerably greater period of time to work in and even vaster sums of money to work with. The fact that England, on a very limited budget, perfected and put into use the world's first commercial Atom-power plant (an affair somewhat smaller - and more efficient than anything under consideration in other countries) is better known. It is better known because Mr. Lewis Strauss of the Atomic Energy Commission was strongly criticised in Congress for 'allowing' Britain to beat America in the 'race' for commercial atom-power. (I don't think that a discussion of the resulting untruths spread by American firms about the questionable safety of the English system to prospective buyers of the plant has a place in this discussion.)

On the other hand it would appear from the first quote from Andy given above that many of you are unaware that in October 1957 the H-bomb was tamed in England and that work on H-power is already being farmed out to industry. This work will eventually lead to the generation of electrical power from a form of hydrogen which can be extracted in unlimited quantities from seawater. It is known for certain that a temperature of 12 million degrees C was obtained with a small scale controlled H-bomb reaction. It is believed that a temperature of 60 million degrees C might have been achieved but there were no means of measuring such a temperature. Why aren't you aware of this? Well, it appears that after having taken one beating from Congress, Mr. Strauss was in no mood for another for 'allowing' England to get ahead in yet another vital field. On a political level he requested that the British Atom Chiefs play down their findings until such time as the Americans could catch up. The politicians agreed rather than wreck completely the chances of having the McMahon Act repealed. (This has since been denied, naturally. When you've engineered a shady deal, you never admit it no matter how many people get to know.) Even so the scientists have been able to force the hands of the politicians, to a minor extent, and the official announcement of their achievement to the world will be made on January 24th in 'Nature'.

In any case, it does not appear to have occurred to anyone that England has gone ahead in these fields because of the McMahon Act. Forced to go our own way without information - forced into operating on limited budgets - English scientists have developed their own theoretical knowledge and have discovered easier and cheaper ways of doing things. They had to.

(Continued on Page 20) S

CONVERSATION PIECE ---

--- ON THE SUBJECT OF SPEECH

The Grand Council of 24 men assembled in the Conference Room at 10.30 hours. H.P. Sanderson took the Chair & Anon sat on his right as his deputy. The meeting was called to order, the Agenda consulted, & the question of "Speech" was thrown open to the Assembly.

BURKE: A very great part of the mischiefs that vex the world come from words.

AUGUSTINE BIRRELL (sniffing): An illogical opinion only requires rope enough to hang itself.

THOMAS MANN: (Hear! Hear!). Speech is civilization.

SANDY (calling for order): That is an interesting idea. Let us examine the relationship of speech and civilization. For instance, what about the effects of television?

ANON: Television hasn't really killed the art of conversation, as any parent knows who has tried to listen to a program the children don't care for.
(General laughter.)

SANDY: Order! Well now, women are supposed to talk a lot. As someone once said 'Every time I argue with my wife words flail me'. How about that?
(Polite laughter.)

ROUSSEAU: Man says what he knows: woman what will please.

ANON (bitterly): My wife and I had words, but I didn't get around to using mine.

THOMAS WILSON (laughing): Love is a talkative passion (!)

SANDY: Alright then. But what about men who talk too much?

AMBROSE BIERCE (with a glance to the right): Bore: a person who talks when you wish him to listen.

MELVILLE LANDON (on the right, sarcastically): A bore is a man who spends so much time talking about himself that you can't talk about yourself.(!)

SAMUEL TAYLOR COLERIDGE (to both): The first defence of weak minds is to recriminate.
(Cries of "Shame!")

DANIEL WEBSTER: (Now, now.) Anger is not argument.

VOLTAIRE (returning to the subject): The secret of being a bore is to tell everything.

SANDY: And how about the honesty of our speechified civilization?

VISCOUNT SAMUEL (musingly): The Irish are a fair people. They never speak well of one another.

JEROME K. JEROME: It is always the best policy to speak the truth, unless of course you are an exceptionally good liar.

GEORGE HERBERT (in anger): Dare to be true. Nothing can need a lie.

SOPHOCLES (as an afterthought): A lie never lives to be old.

SOMERSET MAUGHAM: (I knew a man). He made one laugh sometimes by speaking the truth, but this is a form of humour which gains its force by its unusualness. (General laughter.)

VISCOUNT SAMUEL (Aside): He suffered occasionally from a rush of words to the head.

SAMUEL BUTLER: I do not mind lying but I hate inaccuracy.

FRANK M^CKINNEY HUBBARD: (That's a damfool thing to say). Nobuddy kin talk as interestin' as the feller that's not hampered by facts or information.

LORD AVEBURY: Talking should be an exercise of the brain rather than of the tongue.

ROUSSEAU (sadly): People who know little are usually great talkers.

CHRISTOPHER MORLEY: There is only one rule for being a good talker. Learn to listen.

HORACE (horrified): Shun the inquisitive person for he is also a talker.

SANDY: What about ourselves as individual speakers?

VOLTAIRE: The only way to compel men to speak good of us is to do it.

LA ROCHEFOUCAULD: We would rather speak ill of ourselves than not talk about ourselves at all.

OSCAR WILDE: There is only one thing worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.

MEREDITH (sneering): Cynics are only happy in making the world as barren for others as they have made it for themselves.

SANDY: Order! Mr. Shaw, do you have a contribution to make? You have been strangely silent.

BERNARD SHAW: Silence is the most perfect expression of scorn.

(UPROAR!!!)

———— end ————

hps

THE LIL PITCHER

By
Joy



It seems that some people only join FAPA in order to get others to write their zines for them. At least, it sometimes looks that way when I'm feeling sour. Right now, however, I'm mellow, and Sandy is a dear, sweet boy for whom I promised to write a column. And it is Sandy, not Harry, Harold Pete or any other version of HPS you can think of - not even Sandersod as Linard avers - he won't answer to anything but Sandy so I guess you'll have to like it.

As to the title of this column, I don't know if the Americans have heard of the saying: "Lil pitchers have long ears" or "Fer gawd's sake, shut up, the kids are listening"... anyway, that's the derivation.

Fapa Dues

Now, I know I have no say in the matter of putting FAPA dues up to \$3.00 but, as an ex-editor of OMPA with a finger still stirring the pie, let me have my say.

The reason given for a rise in dues is that there may POSSIBLY be a rise in postage. There isn't yet, you've got over 60 bucks in hand & yet you're screaming for more money. You get approximately \$35.00 per mailing in dues (approximately 15 members per quarter). The average expense is \$40 per quarter, leaving a difference of \$5.00. With the cash in hand you could carry on for three years unless there is an actual increase in postage rates.

When OMPA first started in 1954, postage approximated 6d per bundle with only 29 members. Today, with 45 members and one extra for the Keeper of the Printed Books - who get his buckshee - we pay out approximately £3-7-0 per quarter for postage alone. This, without allowing for paper & ink which is far more expensive over here than yours is. Most of the rise in postage charges was caused by two increases, as Bill Morse has told you. Yet the subscription, calculated at \$1.00 or 6/- a year, has never risen, and we still have a balance in hand. (Small granted, less than the cost of mailing one quarter's bundles, but while it's there we refuse to raise our rates.) If we can do it with that small amount, where is the necessity for FAPA to raise rates on a possible increase?

Fans on the American continent will obviously be able to afford \$3: after all, that is only approximately 1/30 of a week's wages. Those who will feel it strongly are the people this side of the Atlantic - to whom \$3.00 (IF they can manage to acquire it by a little judicious hard/soft currency manipulation) is almost approximately 1/10 of a week's wages.

Here, too, the cost of producing even a smallish fanzine on the cheapest paper is almost four times the actual ex-change-rate cost of a largeish US zine on good quality paper (what we over here call 'blotting-paper'). With wages only a third of U.S. rates, you can see some of the financial difficulties attendant upon joining FAPA.

To my knowledge, on FAPA will have to drop out (no, NOT Sandy) if the dues are raised, and, supposing all East Atlantic fans did so as their dues expired, there goes another eight members off the waiting list into FAPA and, perhaps, a further four Europeans frightened off the waiting list. Hey, it just occurs to me - is this the latest method of reducing the length of the waiting list?

Queen Elizabeth II

Well, I guess I spread myself rather on that last item and, as I've got a lot to take up with G.M.Carr, I shall deal only with Gemzine 4/17 in this mailing but, take cover yours'uns - your turn will come.

Gemzine, however violently one may disagree with Gem, is always interesting and lively to read. The reproduction is good when Gem doesn't use the italic face and, of course, one can always use the famous fansmanship ploy of saying "MMM, Nice paper."

To me, it seems obvious that Gem purposely uses loaded words to make the rest of us explode, whether with rage or laughter and, while I can see what she is doing, I must take up some points of hers. So, here goes, Gem - en garde!!

First, to Queen Elizabeth. Now, in the first place, no^{one}/outside Britain can comment with any knowledge on why so many Britons are sick to death of hearing about, reading about, and seeing - whether on television or in the flesh - any of the Royal family. Since, as a princess, Elizabeth accompanied her mother and father to Africa, press, radio and TV have all grabbed at every tiny item regarding any of the Royal family and boosted it to the equivalent of front page news.

Suppose it's the Duchess of Kent's birthday next week, what happens? Every paper publishes a minimum of 1,000 words on her. Every weekly woman's magazine has a four page spread complete with pictures. Every weekly general matter magazine has at least a two page spread, once again with pictures. Every monthly magazine runs another four or six page article. You get sick of the sound of her: you pay out money for magazines, half of which you won't read because it contains all the phrases you read yesterday in another magazine. After all, there are only so many items of interest and they won't spread over approximately 30 articles in a new and interesting fashion each time.

An American magazine recently ran a long article on the Queen's jewels and, so far, I've seen it reproduced over here at least twice. Read it? Not on your life - I've read it once, I've got an eidetic memory, why should I bother to read it again?

Every speech made by major members of the Royal family will be reproduced in every evening paper and again, in full, in all the next morning's dailies. For ten years, at least once a week, some member of the Royal family, in many cases the Queen, has made a speech which has been reported. Only we who have to read about them or hear them on the radio or TV, can say how sickeningly monotonous they become... the same old cliches, the same ideas, repeated this often would bore anyone but those without the capacity to think and reason. The moronic population who read the Daily Mirror (a paper famous for its pin-ups, comic strips, sensationalism, and circulation ... the largest in the WORLD... and for its complete lack of news reportage, which prints most of its pages in the largest possible type, usually a minimum of 12-point) also lap up any report of the Royal family. Fleet Street and the B.B.C., with the usual aim of interesting the larger, more gullible section of the population, naturally print or broadcast this type of item. Abroad, however, so little is reported that each item comes as something new.

The criticisms by Altrincham, Muggeridge and Londonderry were richly deserved. Around the Queen and Prince Philip are gathered all the same old courtiers who gathered round previous kings and queens: Salisburys, Marlboroughs, Lascelles, Buckinghams - the names that 'rang' through history. A Salisbury can topple an Eden or build a MacMillan as surely as a Buckingham topped a Richard from his throne centuries ago. Muggeridge's article in SEP was commissioned nine months before the Queen's visit, yet he was blamed because the editors held it until she was in America. In not one phrase did he criticise the Queen herself, his criticisms were directed at the stranglehold the court had got, the cliched and outmoded speeches devised by the Queen's advisors, the complete lack of recognition of present day trends. For instance, Sir Anthony Eden, a divorced man, could be Prime Minister but not a visitor to the Royal Enclosure at Ascot, a ruling retained by the Court Advisors.

The truth about the Muggeridge affair is that the SEP containing the article was not available over here UNTIL A FORTNIGHT AFTER MUGGERIDGE'S CONTRACT WAS CANCELLED BY THE B.B.C. The cause of all the trouble was that 2 Sunday papers picked phrased out of context from a copy (which I understand was a proofcopy) flown from America and completely distorted the meaning of what he said by dropping qualifying phrases such as GEM does. These 2 papers are read by the low IQ members of the population and, immediately, the B.B.C. was flooded with telephone calls regarding Muggeridge - who was due to appear on TV - by people who had not read his article, but only a distorted version produced by biased writers.

Since the criticisms by both Muggeridge and Altrincham, it has been noted by all the papers that the current speeches are being written by Elizabeth & Philip, instead of by her advisors. Everyone seems to approve of these (Philip's have always been held up as an example) and, if there was no foundation for the criticisms, why then should she have changed her style?

The Queen has decided, also, to stop presentations at Court, a privilege confined to those who know someone who has previously been presented at Court. Her voice has been pitched lower & all these items taken together tacitly acknowledge the legitimacy of these criticisms.

Finally, Gem gleans at the "roundabout coup de etat (sic) by which the Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry laid out her audacious grandson'. Ah, but she didn't, Gem, she didn't! She laid into her grandson, yes, and he might have appeared to capitulate in the eyes of those who are unable to reason. BUT he didn't apologise for what he'd said, he didn't retract one single word of his criticisms. All he apologised for was his bad behaviour in having voiced them publicly - a far more clever and praiseworthy coup d'etat than any by the Dowager, and one which has caused us great amusement.

Airstrip One ~~-----~~ 1958!

Way back in 1939, Gem, the continent of Europe had a German wolf howling at its door but America sat back and decided that things weren't too serious and that they would only lease-lend items... in other words hire them - don't think that Britain got these goods free of charge. When the wolf's partner bit America from the rear, only then did you begin to worry. Nowadays, however, the wolf has evolved into a bear thundering at America's back door step (how wide is the Bering Strait?) - and America begins to worry and scream blue murder because this time Britain doesn't seem to be so panicstricken. Nor does Britain seem quite so worried about Russia as about America. You know why? Because it's the AMERICAN planes that are circling over Britain every day, carrying H-bombs NOT THE RUSSIANS!

This is part of the reason for the resentment against the American G.I's stationed in England. The "resentment" Gem refers to is that deducted from newspaper clippings, and we all know how accurate they are and how, if they can report something bad in preference to good, they will do so. In most cases, anything good done by Americans is repaid by good, and vice versa. Any resentment there is, however, is not aimed at the individual G.I. who is well liked in the main, but at American Governmental policies.

However, there is one basic item that grates, and I'd like to do a bit of extrapolation myself. In this instance, America is treating Britain as an occupied country, instead of the partner that she was during WWII and that she is supposed to be now. In the event of Russia and the States going to war upon each other, it is not America that will be devastated: Britain will be wiped out, demolished, kaput, before America is touched. Because Russia will try to wipe out those rocket bases that are nearest to her and liable to do most damage and, dear Gem, they are not sitting on your back doorstep... they're all around us here, day in, day out.

Under the present circumstances, too, Britain may even suffer contamination from American H-bombs, even in peace, should any GI aircraft on 'ready patrol' crash in this country. Accidents happen at the best of times and American planes are patrolling over these islands NOW daily, carrying H-bombs which only need the press of one button to be primed. In the event of a crash - even assuming that the crash did not cause accidental priming and explosion of the bomb, the impact would cause plutonium to make radioactive a very large area of a country that is supposed to be your partner. Imagine those planes circling over your town day after day...

The missile bases America is being granted in this country are for the prime purpose of reducing the likelihood of a Russian missile attack ON THE STATES until America is armed with ICBM's. The only country getting any benefit from this is the U.S. Britain would be attacked by Russia, in the event of war, to prevent the launching of the rockets,

and 100 Russian ICBM's with H-bomb warheads down the length of this country and poof! - that's Britain, that was!

To add insult to injury BRITAIN has to pay approximately 100,000,000 dollars to build the sites and will not even be permitted to have a say in the launching of such rockets.

You wonder why there is resentment against Americans, Gem. Do the facts above make it any easier to visualise that other people don't like to pull American coals out of the fire?

My guess about all this is that during 1958, so much fuss will be kicked up by the british public that America will have to do some or all of the following:-

- a) Permit Britain an equal say regarding the priming & if necessary the release of H-bombs and the launching of ICBM's.
- b) Reimburse Britain for the expense of constructing the sites
- c) Stop patrolling over Britain with H-bombs OR have H-Bombs carried only by planes from a carrier patrolling the North Sea or from seaplanes that are not permitted to fly over Britain.

In case nothing like this happens. I think the Government will fall (in my opinion a good thing) and that the Liberal Party will gain a large number of seats by using these points as their main aims. Any takers?

The Open Insult To Walt Willis

Well, really Gem, this was both bad-mannered and inaccurate. Walt did none of the things of which you accused him, except state the phrase regarding "sex-starved Americans" - which of course you lifted out of context, thereby altering its meaning, hiding its ironic intent and causing so much fuss that I can only say "If the cap fits, it's couponfree".

There most certainly has been 'widespread disagreement' with the method of voting, immediately it was discovered that

- a) two methods of vote counting had been used in the 1956 election. (Did you Amerifen know that?)
- b) that plumping for a candidate by giving him as first choice and leaving the rest blank was not enough, and that you could give him another 3 votes by filling his name in the other places, thereby acquiring the right to give your candidate the equivalent of two first place votes, whilst only paying for the right to vote once.

Maybe you didn't know that as soon as this latter system of voting was mentioned, over 20 people who heard of it wrote to John Hitchcock as a member of the Contact Group protesting about it, but thro' lack of co-ordination, Don Ford did not receive them, and he therefore said he had only received about six protests. Furthermore, there was little in the way of PUBLISHED protests, for the Britfen frantically conferred by tape letter and meeting, & decided that if too much was said on paper, Bob Madle would feel that the criticisms were aimed at him personally and not at Don's method of vote-counting and Hoffman's method of vote-getting, which in our eyes, could only be called vote-buying.

First, Walt did not say Bob Madle 'bought' any votes. Letters were received in Britain from AMERICAN fen - I must emphasise the plural - stating that there had been vote-buying. NO ONE accused Bob of this: in fact the whole hoo-haw arose because no names were mentioned. There was a hasty enquiry sent asking what it was all about, and wanting to know who had been buying votes.

This was immediately converted by Don Ford into an accusation from Walt that Bob Madle had been buying votes. The tape enquiry was an amalgamated effort by Vinç, Sandy, Pamela & Ken Bulmer, the Liverpool Group, Walt & myself. Vinç, Sandy Walt & I were the only ones who heard the tape in its entirety before it was sent to Don Ford but there was no suggestion on it that Bob Madle had personally been involved in v-b. This shows how worried we all were. Don Ford's reply was a collection of furious denunciations of Walt for suspecting there had been vote-buying at all. Finally gen was received that Hoffman had been round clubs offering to pay the 50¢ for those who voted for him... that's vote-buying however you look at it.

Don says if we trufans don't like the way he runs TAFF, why don't we start our own? I should like to quote Jim Champion's comment on this (in OMPA)... Who does he think started TAFF?

I think it should be pointed out that the candidate is usually feted round the host country (and always, in the case of Britain) by the active fans. Since it is they and not the fringe fans who extend hospitality, surely they should have a rather stronger say in the matter as to whom they entertain. I am sure Bob had no complaints of his treatment here: he was better known than Hoffman, BUT his tastes were not as well known to the majority of Britfen as Eney's, hence the preference for Eney.

Walt has never tried to dictate to anybody in fandom. It seems obvious to me that if you ever met him in America, you certainly didn't get to know him very well. ~~Had you done so,~~ you could not have written what you did. By those of us who know Walt well, he is regarded as a gentleman. No gentleman would do what you suggest he had done. No lady would have suggested he did. I can only suggest that YOU and not he apologise, not only for the letter, but also for the snide comment regarding him in your review. (Moonshine). You may say if a fan wants to attend Southgate in 1958 badly enough, he'll find a way, but I'd like to say that however willing a fan is, it's not possible to swim or hitch the Atlantic, and someone with as responsible a job as Walt's does not chuck it up so as to take a three months' holiday & attend a Con at which people like Gem are liable to attend.

Euthanasia

Gem's idea that doctors should stop trying to cure the incurables makes me wonder when do you know they're incurable? Might not a new discovery next week cure the presently sick? "Thou shalt not kill, but need'st not strive, Officiously to keep alive". You approve that attitude, yet you call yourself a Christian! My Ghod, I'm only an agnostic humanist & wouldn't dream of taking that attitude. And what makes you think if you had cancer & didn't take drugs, that you would 'die in dignity'? There's nothing dignified in writhing in agony. And what about Frank? YOU would be selfish enough to let him suffer the pain of watching you die an excruciatingly painful death without being permitted to ease it with drugs? You wonder why people say Gem Carr is obnoxious!

Did I say when I began that I was mellow? Ha!

jkc

17

SO, WHO IS THIS GUY

"GILGAMESH" ANYWAY !!!???

Merlin is the most interesting character in the Arthurian Legend, and I do mean character. All efforts to trace his origin have been unfruitful - perhaps there was once a Welsh bard who gave rise to various tales, but no historical records of such a person now exist. The Merlin we know is almost the creation of Geoffrey of Monmouth, who drew the inspiration for his 'Historia' from several sources. As far as I have been able to discover, the legend of Merlin is a mixture of other legends, both Celtic and Eastern in origin, together with a certain amount of Celtic oral tradition plus various inventions by Geoffrey & later writers.

Nennius, in his 'Historia Brittonum' tells of the building of a tower on Snowdon as a refuge from the Saxons. Wise men predict that in order for the project to be successful, it is necessary to sprinkle the ground with the blood of a boy born without a father. A boy is eventually found whose mother says he is the son of no mortal, and he is brought before Vortigern, the king. The boy tells Vortigern and his wise men that if they will dig into the ground on the site of the tower, they will find a pond in which are two vases & a folded tent containing two sleeping dragons, one red, one white. They dig and find his words are true. The dragons fight, and the red one wins. The boy explains that the pool represents the world, the ten Britain, the red dragon the British nation, and the white the Saxons. He then goes on to say that Vortigern must leave the place, but he himself will remain. He adds that his name is Ambrosius and he is the son of a Roman consul. It's a wise boy that knows his own father - even if his mother doesn't.

The idea of sacrificing a victim on the foundation of a new structure was an ancient custom, while the part played by Ambrosius is reminiscent of one of the numerous Talmudic legends of Solomon, the Demon Aschmedia (or Asmodeus) and the building of the Temple of Jerusalem. Geoffrey adapted the story by calling the boy Merlin as well as Ambrosius, and making his mother explain to Vortigern that his father was an incubus. Just after this incident he inserted the famous prophecies of Merlin, which actually referred to recent political events of the author's own time.

Later in Geoffrey's 'Historia' we are told of the moving of the stones of Stonehenge - or Giant's Dance - from Mt. Killarus in Ireland to their present site. In this tho', Merlin appears as hardly more than a marvellous engineer. He reappears a little later, in a more magical form, in connection with Uther Pendragon. This is the last, & most famous (or infamous, depending on how you look at it), of Merlin's achievements as narrated by Geoffrey; the transformation of Uther into the likeness of Gorlois, Duke of Cornwall, so that he might have access to Igera, wife of Gorlois - on which occasion he makes with the smooth words & fathers Arthur. This incident is similar to the conception of Hercules - Jupiter assumed the appearance of Amphitruo, and in the latter's absence deceived Alcmena & fathered the famous hero. It might also have a connection with the ancient Greek legend of the 'house-hero' who was supposed to take the image of the husband of the house so as to make a barren marriage fertile. Gifts of food & wine were left outside the houses each night in order to gain the spirit's help in this matter. Maybe this

is what is known as "the good old days".

The 'Vita Merlini' has been termed the most original of the mediaeval works on Merlin. This poem in Latin hexameters was thought for a long time to be the work of Geoffrey also, but modern scholars have thrown some doubt on the matter. Briefly, the poem is as follows:- Merlin is a king and prophet who has already lived for an indefinite age, when a war breaks out between the Kings of Vendotia (N.Wales) & Scotland. He loses three brothers in a battle and the grief plunges him into madness so that he becomes a wild man of the woods. (Silvester Homo. At one time it was believed that there might have been two Merlins - Merlin Ambrosius & Merlin Sylvestris - but this has now been discounted). Rodarchus, the husband of Ganieda - Merlin's sister - takes him from the woods to his court, but he has to be restrained to prevent his wandering back. One day, Rodarchus takes a leaf from his wife's hair and throws it on the ground, whereupon Merlin bursts into laughter. When he is asked why he says that the leaf had fallen into Ganieda's hair when she had passed through the thicket on the way to a rendezvous with her lover. Ganieda tries to discredit Merlin's powers of deduction by having the same child brought before him three times in different costumes, and asking him the future of each. Merlin predicts three deaths: he will fall from a high rock - he will die on a tree - he will be drowned. Ganieda thinks that she has succeeded but the child, when he grows up, falls from a rock while chasing a stag. His feet are caught in a tree, and he hangs there with his head and shoulders in a stream flowing round the base.

Merlin returns to the forest, but he is caught again. While he is walking thro' a town with his captors, he sees a porter miserably clad asking alms of the passers-by. He bursts into laughter. The same thing happens a few minutes later when he sees a young man buying shoes & pieces of leather to repair them with. When he is asked to explain, he at first refuses, but later in return for his freedom explains that the beggar had at that moment a hidden treasure under his feet - and the young man was drowned immediately after making his purchases. Back in the woods, Merlin is joined by Taliesin, and together they find a fountain of pure water which cures Merlin of his madness. He then sees a man who has been driven mad by eating some apples. (The poisoned fruit had really been intended for Merlin by a mistress he had abandoned. It's very difficult to keep track of his various females.) They force the madman to drink from the fountain, & he also is cured. All rejoice.

As I said before, this has been termed one of the most original works on Merlin, and yet -- an earlier Scottish legend concerns a madman (Lailoken) who gives the triple prediction of the death of one man (himself in this case) and it also contains the incident of the leaf in the Queen's hair. On top of that, it is not known how much of the Lailoken legend itself represents oral tradition among the Celts. The prophecy of a triple death is found in the East - so, too, the revelation of adultery by the scornful laughter of a person gifted with supernatural knowledge. The same is true of the incident of the boy whose ignorance of his impending fate, when preparing to mend his shoes, causes the prophet to laugh.

After the appearance of the 'Vita Merlini', the fame of Merlin spread through many writers, but the next real development came at the end of the twelfth century with Robert de Boron's poem 'Merlin'. Much of the material in this is taken from Geoffrey, with one or two variations. The main variation is made in the account of Arthur's childhood. In Geoffrey's version, immediately after Arthur is conceived, Gorlois is killed and Uther Pendragon marries his widow so that, when Arthur is born, there is no scandal. It looks as if Geoffrey was writing with an eye on the film rights. In order to increase Merlin's importance, Robert put the marriage two months after the conception, (rather daring) and to obviate scandal /9

the boy is handed over to Merlin. From this alteration stems the whole story of the sword in a block of stone which can only be drawn out by the man destined to be king. When an unknown boy performs the feat, the barons grumble amongst themselves but Merlin then reveals that the boy is Arthur, the son of Uther Pendragon.

Robert de Boron's 'Merlin' was turned into prose, and in this form it provided the basis for the various prose 'Merlins' written in the first half of the 13th century. In fact, up to the present date there have only been a few variations, of which the best known are the Grisandole episode, and the episode of Merlin and Viviane. In the first of these, Merlin goes to Rome, where the emperor Julius Caesar is troubled by a dream. Merlin appears as a stag and tells Caesar that only the wild man of the woods can interpret his dream. Caesar promises his daughter's hand to the knight who can capture the wild man, and the quest is achieved by Grisandole, a princess disguised as a knight. The wild man (Merlin) interpretes the emperor's dream as meaning that the twelve ladies of honour of the queen are really twelve disguised youths with whom she leads an adulterous life. The queen and her paramours are burnt (poor crazy mixed-up kids), Grisandole marries the emperor, and her brother marries the emperor's daughter. Everyone lives happily every after. The main motifs of this story are found elsewhere in European and Eastern stories and do not appear to be Celtic in origin.

The same is true of the Viviane episode. In this, Merlin betrays a magic spell to Viviane (or Niniane) in return for her promised love, but she uses the magic power to make him believe he has enjoyed her favours though he has not done so. (That's double-crossing, if you like!) Finally she shuts him up for ever in a cave in the forest of Darnantes. This story is the more important of the two because it later passed into Mallory's version, and then to Tennyson's 'Idylls of the King'. The last two writers named have given us the legend in its more or less permanent, and considerably cleaned-up, form.

— end —

hps

(Continued from Page 9)

CLAUSTRA

Let's recapitulate. Theoretical work on the Manhattan Project. The world's first small, economic, commercial power plant. The world's first small controlled H-bomb experiments leading to H-power on a commercial level. Small A- and H-bombs (the Penney bombs), so-called 'clean'. I don't know what we have at Woomera in the rocket line but believe me it will be small. On our budget we couldn't afford more than a Penny Rocket. And yet even now the repeal of the McMahon Act is being blocked because it is thought by many that all the 'secrets' will be going from the U.S.A. to U.K. Have you ever read Asimov's Foundation story "The Big and the Little"? I think that is where we are now. Asimov had a story-line to follow and he needed conflict. Personally, I've always thought that the Second Empire could have developed more quickly (on a scientific level at least) if the Foundation had combined its brains with the resources and technical abilities of the First Empire, instead of their fighting it out. Also the First Empire would have gained most in the exchange because they'd have the theoretical knowledge of the Foundation to call on and the ability to go on from there and then mass-produce the finished product.

GARAGE FLOOR (young/stark) Thoroughly enjoyed this, especially the article on art.

SUNDANCE/SONGS/ART FOLIO (young) I enjoyed each item but can find nothing to say in the line of a comment. Sorry.

SF MARKET SURVEY (moskowitz) From the '57 Yearbook. Interesting.

20
And that's the lot!

ME, I JUST LIKE



Various fans have discussed jazz in FAPA & OMPA and lots of arguments have been started over the relative merits of jazz and classical music, or traditional and modern. Like it says up there, me, I just like music. I decided a long time ago that there is good and bad in any division of music you care to name, and that no division can be rejected in toto. There are as many, if not more, jazz snobs as classical snobs - and in most cases neither side knows enough about the other to give adequate judgment. The jazz fans in the apas are not snobs by any means and this in itself is a refreshing thing. Unfortunately, the few jazz fans I know outside the apas are snobs, just as are the lovers of classical music that I know.

The trouble is that it's so damned difficult to change the situation, especially when certain books are widely circulated. If you like jazz and wish to convert a classic infidel, then for god's sake don't show him "That Crazy Music" The Story of North American Jazz by Elliot Paul. I've just finished trying to read it (quoting to Joy and Ving Clarke as I went on - Joy said it should have been called 'That Music' by Crazy Elliot Paul.) and jazz wasn't mentioned until Page 150. There are only 280 pages in the book.

I like jazz, but had I been a newcomer to it this book would have made the whole subject laughable. Those 150 pages at the beginning are full of loaded words designed to show that if you happen to like classical music then you are 'Un-American'. To like jazz, apparently makes you 100% red-blooded etc. etc. I gather the idea is that an appreciation of classical music makes you as near a Communist as any intellectual pursuit does these days - and that is pretty near.

If the book had been well-written it might have gone down easier, but Paul must have been paid by the word because he used long lists of names as often as possible. On page 43 are listed the names of 46 composers (they're all 'dirty foreigners') having works performed in the principal cities of America between the Revolution and the Civil War. There follow two complete paragraphs of the names of artists. Then on page 50, after name-calling opera, the second paragraph commences "The mere mention of names like ..." and there follows 16 lines of the names of opera singers "... any chance association of ideas leading back to artists like these, brings back recollections like peaks in summer heat lightning." It's

hardly a sentence, let alone a paragraph, but of course it is mainly the incongruity of it that amuses.

Pages 52,53,54 and 55 consist almost exclusively of titles of operas, and the intention, apparently (and after reading this section three times I'm still not sure), is to say what a crying shame it is that foreign music should be given such a good showing in America. Maybe quality had something to do with this? But wait, all is not yet lost. After complaining about Italians hogging the operatic field and Germans the symphonic programmes, chamber music and recitals, Paul continues - "And now that our crazy American music, springing from negro Dixieland Jazz and jumping today in the form of Rock and Roll and Mambo, has taken over night spots, cabarets, cafes, and dance halls all the way round from Formosa to the Iron Curtain and including the Free Orient, North and South America, Africa, the British Isles, and civilized Europe all the way through Western Germany, there may be something to justify the faith of those who prefer to see some justice in a divine plan, applying even in music, if one takes the astronomically long view."

Balderdash!

What do the uncivilized Europeans think? I object to Paul's idea of Jazz, and to his inference that it has 'taken over' in the places mentioned, from opera and symphonic music. Jazz has held a place of its own just as have operas and symphonies - and in most cabarets they still use 'cocktail piano'. As I've said before, I like Jazz, but when anyone starts to get into a religious fervour about it I become slightly sick. Even more so when you can imagine this author with his pig-headed positive views selecting his geographical locations almost as if to say "Nobody's going to accuse me of being un-American."

Chapter 4 deals with the songs of Stephen Foster which "are not, because of their American qualities, above or below the masterpieces of Schubert, Monteverde, Purcell, Glinka, Brahms, Mendelssohn or Grieg." Since they are not alongside I'd like to know just where that does place them.

Chapter 5 deals with the sentimental songs, and Chapter 6 with Indian music, both mock and real. But it's the next one that really threw me. Quote....

"When radio sets enlivened all the houses 100,000 Americans heard Ed Gardner in 'Duffy's Tavern' for every 100 who tuned in Ed Grieg's 'In the Hall of the Mountain King'. Sound pictures convulsed an audience of 100,000,000 with Disney's 'Don Duck', while Mozart's 'Don Giovanni' was used perfunctorily for intermission music for the so-called 'art-theatres' only."

"Television offered 'serious' music to ten times more listeners than had tolerated (my lining) it before, but the number of Americans who hear it is still an unrepresentative minority."

About this time I was beginning to wonder why Paul should be running down his country so badly. Poor tho' the general American education is, it couldn't be this bad. There couldn't be quite such a large group of sub-morons in the country. Then I realised that Paul thought all of this was a Good Thing. Listen....

"Long-haired musicians who fly up near the stratosphere and associate only with others in the same refined racket cannot grasp the common mentality, the mind of a citizen, for instance, who, on hearing a rendition of the Brahms 'Variations', might ring up the sherriff under the misapprehension that some new neighbour was destroying valuable property or disturbing the peace."

I find something frightening in the idea that musicians should write nothing that can't be understood by the mass mind. It would rule out a great deal of the

modern developments of Jazz, also, but Paul doesn't appear to have realised this.

And then there's the following. "How little they seemed to realise that the Negroes were creating the pure and crazy American folk-music that was to fascinate and transform the world!" Negroes created Jazz, and other negroes developed modern jazz (because developments along the main line of jazz can only be made by negroes). This music has a place in the world along with all other forms of music, but Paul's superlatives are horribly out of place.

Attention to the book tended to wander a little after this, although I did try. The guff kept flowing but the only part that is worth quoting is as follows. (Paul appears to believe that Rock and Roll is a part of Modern Jazz). "If the popularity of, and unrestrained indulgence in 'rock and roll' and 'mambo' dancing among our high school students and young white collar workers of the middle class has increased somewhat the consumption of marijuana, narcotics, liquor, benzadrine, dexamil, barbiturates, penicillin, aborticides, contraceptives and cigarettes, there are compensating values." He then goes on to describe these values. Seems the students etc acquire insight into adult human nature (God!) and learn how to mix. Also life is fairer and more democratic 'cos everyone is equal on the (rock and roll) dance floor.

This book must have done more harm to Jazz (and America) than anything else I can think of. Nobody reading it as an introduction to Jazz would like the music by the time he'd finished. If I hadn't known enough about Jazz to realise that Paul is nuts my feelings toward it would be that it was tripe. In truth Jazz has a real place in the development of music and is itself constantly being developed by the Negro - but it is only a part of the musical world and not the be-all or end-all of musical art.

Modern Jazz has slowly gained interest with me, just as Chamber Music has in the 'Classico' field, and as is my habit I have taken some trouble to find out about the development. An OMPA member who is a modern jazz fan has named his OMPazine '52nd Street' after the birthplace of the music. This has been corrected by another member - in part - but even he was not quite right.

The Gillespie Quintet established itself in 52nd Street early in 1944, as the first regular small group to feature modern jazz in the New York club area. Don Byas (tenor) Oscar Pettiford (bass) Max Roach (drums) and George Wallington (piano).

Four years earlier the first of the moderns gathered at Minton's on West 118th Street in Harlem. It was there that guitarist Charlie Christian led the whole progressive movement out into the open. Musical ideas were exchanged between Christian, Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Pettiford, Tadd Dameron, Thelonius Monk, etc.

And one year before this, in 1939, six soloists were independantly working their way into progressive styles, fashioning the early beginnings of the new music. Tenorman Lester Young and trumpeter Harry Edison with the Count Basie Orchestra; Jimmy Blanton playing bass with Duke Ellington; the piano style of Clyde Hart; the trumpet style of Roy Eldridge and Charlie Christian then a young guitarist developing in the Benny Goodman Orchestra.

You'd have a hard time establishing their location in any one spot.

— end —

hps

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TALKING

POINTS

SEGREGATION

I remember a time in fandom when the colour of a man's skin didn't matter to anyone. It still doesn't, to most of us, but the subject has crept into one or two fanzines and intolerance might easily follow. Even those people on the side of the negro do a switch when it comes to the question of inter-racial marriage. Funnily enough such marriages occur most frequently in those areas where strict segregation of the races is maintained. It's true that Washington DC has the highest ratio but this is because of the many mixed couples who move down from the South to marry. It doesn't do them very much good and many white people, men and women, insist they are Negroes because it is easier to live that way. Even in Northern States there are some hotels that welcome Negroes but refuse accommodation for mixed couples. Clergymen are for the most part against mixed marriages, although statistically they have a 50% better chance of survival than marriages generally. All of this becomes of minor importance, however, when you realise that the establishment of a Sperm Bank - just in case nuclear radiation brings about sterility - is tied up in the Senate because Southern legislators know doctors cannot identify the 'race' of a male sperm cell. Comes the Hydrogen Bomb and everyone dies out.

CAPITALISM

From John Kerr's column in the Tribune dated 13th December, 1957.

"For some time now a clever and expensive campaign has been waged in the United States to convince Americans that they live under a 'people's capitalism'.

"Public relations experts emphasise that ordinary people have a major stake in industry. The ruthless multi-millionaire tycoon is as out-of-date as periwigs.

"They deliberately conceal the fact that while over half-a-million wage earners own stocks and shares they own only one-fifth of one percent of all shares - and have absolutely no control.

"A new book sent to me from America "The Empire of High Finance" (International Publishers \$5.50) gives this and many other facts to prove that ownership and control far from being dispersed, is becoming more and more concentrated.

"In 1920, for example, the 200 largest industrial firms obtained a third of the industrial profits. In 1955 they grabbed 57 per cent.

"The 200 largest corporations which dominate America's economic life are controlled by eight centres of high finance.

"And who are the people who own these eight centres? Why, the same as of old - the Morgans, Rockefellers, du Ponts, Astors and Vanderbilts.

"This book describes American monopoly capitalism as it really exists. If only for that reason it is worthwhile reading."

Do you think the people named above might finance scientific research? I don't.

HI-FI

Letter to the Chief Engineer, British Broadcasting Company.

"I am writing to you to see if you can be of assistance in helping me to correct two faults in my HiFi equipment, both caused by the closeness and strength of the television transmitter at Crystal Palace.

"I do not possess a television set myself, having no time for this particular form of 'entertainment', but this does not appear to hale at all.

"The first fault is that the BBC television sound is picked up whenever I plug a microphone into the tape amplifier and use this in connection with my main amplifier and speaker. No other unit need be in operation. With the tape amp on 'replay' the sound comes through the speaker quite clearly. On 'record' it is transmitted to the recording head and then on to the tape.

"You can imagine the confusion that this causes when replaying a tape that has just been recorded. I have to listen to the original signal plus the TV signal on the tape plus the TV signal being picked up as I play the tape. The microphone cable is screened. Also the sound is quite directional and falls off when the mic. is placed in a different position. However, at no point is the sound ever completely missing. As it happens I can see no reason why my friends and I should crouch in a corner of the room - naturally the coldest - to record a tape, simply because the idiot population of this country must gawp at television.

"I should be most grateful if you could inform me of the procedure to be adopted to prevent this pick-up of sound - bearing in mind, of course, that I don't wish in any way to limit the frequency range of the microphone or any other item.

"The second fault is considerably worse than the first since its effects are present when any item of equipment is in use with the amplifier and speaker, whereas the first is limited to the tape equipment. This fault is the production of a high frequency whistle that is painfully obvious above everything I attempt to play through the equipment. I understand that this note is injected into the mains by television and can be kept out by the use of a mains frequency filter fitted between the power point and the equipment. I should also be very grateful for any information on this, and would appreciate a description of such a filter and components.

"I cannot honestly see why, after having spent a considerable amount of money to obtain good reproduction from recorded tapes, records and radio, I should now be put to further expense simply because of the need to supply 'entertainment' to the masses through the medium of television. One is constantly hearing of 'television-suppressed' electrical equipment but no thought appears to have been given to the idea of 'suppressed-television'. The easiest solution is to do away with it altogether. However, the only real choice that I have in the matter is between poor reproduction and no interference, and good reproduction with interference. I shall have to take the latter and pay for the removal of the interference.

"Your reply is awaited with considerable interest.

Yours faithfully, hps."

YOU HAVE BEEN READING CLAUSE THREE OR BLUNT SEVEN DEPENDING ON WHETHER YOU ARE IN FAPA OR OMPA. AT LEAST YOU HAVE UNLESS YOU ARE SNEAKING A LOOK AT THE BACK PAGE.

NAUGHTY!

Stencil cutting this time has been split between myself and Joy Clarke because of the time element. Joy types faster than I do. My stencils are the bad ones.

Vinç Clarke did the heading for "The Li'l Pitcher (included in FAPA only) and the rest are by me. As I've said before, contributions are welcome. Especially art.

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"CONFUSED"
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