

FAPA VARIETY

fantasy amateur press association

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Bloomington
Ill.

June 1944

GRIBE: We heatedly deny the accusations and insinuations freely given in the March Mailing to the effect that the LeZ sticker cover included in the December Mailing was for other than altruistic purposes. And please don't drag in that worn chestnut about the shoe fitting too tightly.

The cover was included for the twenty FAPA members who do not get LeZ (or didn't at that time. The number has now been whittled down to sixteen.) We presumed that those twenty might have some slight interest in such a fan item, plus whatever number of others who might like an additional copy. Had we included in this or the last mailing extra copies of that seven-color anniversary cover you wouldn't have squawked; there were plenty of requests for extra copies of that one. Nor has it come to the point where the mailings are dumping grounds of the leftover LeZ materials. We send our extras to Mike Rosenlum who makes good use of them. Nor did we include it for activity requirements. We haven't yet been forced to that.

This and presumably future mailings will contain items that have already appeared in LeZ. Keep your vile insinuations to yourselves.

CORRECTION: It was not Ashley's bound volume of Chicon fanzines that Speer found in the Slan Shack library, but ours. We had it and some other volumes there for exhibition during the 1943 Michicon that wasn't a Michicon. For several years we punched holes in the fanzines and bound them in ring binders. No more. We now take them to a bindery for a professional job.

At this writing we have 12 volumes of fanzines, all bound in dark maroon with goldleaf lettering. (Picture enclosed.) They are: 1) complete Spaceways; 2) complete Fantasy Fan; 3) complete Scienti-Snaps; 4) complete Nycon fmz; 5) complete Chicon fmz; 6) first 51 issues LeZ; 7) complete Alchemist & Snide; complete Golden Atom; 9) complete Pluto; 10) and two volumes holding the 1943 FAPA output. Oh yes-- forgot to mention still another volume containing all the Yearbooks published to date plus a copy of the Imagi-Index.

Our practice is to bind only those fanzines which have run their course, or have published so many issues that more than one finished volume will be required for the whole. Next on the program will be 1942 FAPA mailings, and then all those back to the date we joined. Most mailings of late have been so large it requires two volumes for each year's output. If they continue to increase it will mean a volume per mailing ... for which goody, goody. (Post mailings play heck with the plans; they usually arrive after the fmz have gone to the bindery.)

photo here

A nasty fly in our ointment is that damned Vom. We aren't going to attempt to have it bound. The outré size would cause a strike in the bindery.

So much for the fmz. As to pros:

We save very few prozines; only those worth a second reading are considered savable, and of late such have been precious few. We usually ~~shop~~ them on to Mike who sends 'em down the long, long, chain of Britishers at war.

When Unknown bit the dust we seized the opportunity to have them bound. The thirty-nine issues make 7 volumes (see picture); 5 small and 2 large ones. They are bound in blue with silverleaf lettering. Also in blue are the other keepable pros: five issues of the old Marvel, two Gnaedingers containing Merritt stories, and coming up, certain Startlings and Astoundings -- serials like "Slan" and novels like "Fortress of Utopia", etc. A concession to our ego is another volume containing the half dozen stories we've sold. We admire this most often.

For Liebscher we have had bound his complete set of Unknown, plus the old Wonder serial, "Exile of the Skies". This last makes a beautiful book, approximately the size of a single copy of that mag today. It cost him 65¢. For "Exile", that is. The cost of binding the Unks runs to a total of \$11.75

We get the work done at the regular library rate; all volumes are bound in heavy buckram that will probably outlast the owners. Highest price for an individual volume was the \$1.95 paid for Spacways. There were thirty fat issues and they made a monstrous book.

No, I am not a skill for the bindery business.

BAH: To Trudy, who leaps to amazing conclusions because of a postcard we sent her, requesting material for a feminine fanzine. "..... discriminating against and segregating girl fans ..." my eye! The request was made on the behalf of Mari Beth Wheeler who intended bringing out Rosebud chock full of femme stuff. She knew no girl fans, but we did, and volunteered to round them up.

None contributed, perhaps because they, like Trudy, thought they were to be exhibited and ridiculed. Nuts. When will women cease to demand "men's rights" at the same time they exercise full usage of their "women's rights"? When will they realize they must choose one and forevermore shut up about the other? We frankly don't care which. But we do believe they should either (in such a case as this) jump into a fanzine with both feet and make as much noise as the male on the opposite page; or be dainty and coy and hope for the best.

In any event, Trudy, you will never again be bothered by us for a request for material. Not that the matter is world-shaking.

SUGGESTION: Concerning the matter of a "practical" Laureate Award as mentioned in the March Fantasy Amateur. We kind of like the idea but would want to see a really practical award made. Can you think of anything more practical to a FAPA editor than a quire of good stencils? Such would run him the following two mailings, or he may make an occasion of it by a twenty-four page issue.

We use the AB Dick brand Mimeotype #961 stencil, and swear by it, not at it. It costs three bucks. There is yet a cheaper stencil, #1061K which sells locally for \$ 2.40. Personally, we would prefer such to a book, or a plaque, or an original.

"BULGING TREASURY:" Heh heh. A glance at the treasurer's report shows that we probably broke ourselves mailing the 27th Mailing. Temporarily, of course. It cost nineteen dollars to send out the December packages; probably cost the same to mail the March ditto. Yet the balance was only seventeen dollars on February 25th. We wonder if this sad state of affairs contributed to the lengthy delay in the arrival of our package. It came on March 25th, three weeks after the supposed mailing date, two days after Nebula arrived announcing the pkg was received there. Heh.

This monetary state of affairs recalls to mind the squawk let out some time ago when the dues were raised to 75¢. It wasn't necessary, so cried the opposition. Yet, deduct the twelve contributions (of probably a quarter each) acknowledged in March, and where would the treasury be? If the mailings continue to grow, it appears that still another raise in dues may become necessary.

COMPLAINT: In December, Mel Brown and Mike Fern printed in their "People Stories" a yarn entitled "Care and Feeding of Vampires" by Dick Wilson. As we see it, they slipped up on two important steps in connection with this: they failed to acknowledge it as a reprint, and they lifted it uncerimoniously from the original source without either permission or credit ... either one of the last two would have been regarded as satisfactory to us, the original publishers. But to be fair with fandom it should have been labeled a reprint.

QUERY: Would anyone be interested in an autographed copy of the Weinbaum Memorial Volume ("The Dawn of Flame" and others), with a dust jacket, in mint condition?"

US AND THE FUTURE: This may prove to be our last FAPA publication for some time, if the draft catches up with us. As you well know, it has become impossible to predict anything in that line, inasmuch as the Washington gents change the draft rules every other day except Tuesdays. A few weeks ago (in early April) we were told we would be in uniform by May. This is May as we write. We'll still wearing what we want to. So, maybe another month or so yet. If and when we go, we will keep up activity in you other guys fanzines. Thankee.

MR DEGLER'S HERE AGAIN: Back in January one of the Newcastle publica-
tions gave forth with the startling news that
friend Rogers was seeking an Alaska job and might not be with us dicta-
torial older fans anymore. Everyone outside of Newcastle (except possi-
bly Mr Wollheim and wife) breathed freely and hoped so.

Alas, such is not the case. Into Box 260 on April 27th came a bun-
dle of mimeographed matter labelled a "Fapa Postmailing" and containing
nine seperate fanzines, six of them being one-sheeters of questionable
merit and interest. (One of the others was titled: I Q). In one of the
things, a six-sheeter, Rogers reveals a news item that we had attempted
to suppress. However, now that the cat is out of the bag, we shall tell
all. First, the news item:

".... This led to a conference between Tucker and Rogers in Mar 44
prior to the 2nd Live Oak Conference. ... Doro visited Bob Tucker re-
garding the Midwest FFF, and then hitch-hiked from St. Louis to Phila-
delphia ..."

Following is part of the conversation between the two; inasmuch as
I seized the opportunity for some direct questioning and demanded Doro
give straight answers or get the hell off my front steps.

Tucker: "Don, you are continually harping about the NFFF being a dead
duck. What makes you think it is dead? The NFFF has seventy odd
members, many of them active. We are publishing Bonfire. Evans
is still going strong as President. In the face of this, and U
know it is true, why do you insist it is dead?"

Rogers: "But it has to be dead because it represents the old fandom. The
Cosmic Circle has succeeded it. The Cosmic Circle represents a
new fandom, a new cycle.

Tucker: "Nuts."

Rogers: "But it's true. The NFFF only has 70 members. The Cosmic Circle
has 223."

Tucker: "Now wait a minute. Either prove that or withdraw it. Frankly,
I think you are lying.

Rogers: "Well, we have a mailing list of 223 fans. I guess they are all
fans. I got the list from Unger's subscription list."

Tucker: "That's a lot different from what you just said. Do they all be-
long to your club? All 223 of them?"

Rogers: "No, not yet. But we mail out lots of material to all of them."

Tucker: "How many actually belong? Hold membership cards?"

Rogers: "I don't want to reveal that to you. You'll publish it."

Tucker: "You're damn right I'll publish it. I doubt if your paid-up
membership list equals that of the NFFF."

Rogers: "Well, I don't want to argue about it Tuck. I come here for a
friendly visit. You wrote me a letter you remember."

Tucker: "I remember. But it wasn't an invitation, only a criticism of
your publications. You print all sorts of untrue bilge."

- Rogers: "Don Wollheim and his wife joined the Cosmic Circle. Don thinks the Circle is worthwhile. He backs me."
- Tucker: "Which means exactly nothing. Don Wollheim is always backing a lost cause of one kind or another. And Wollheim's favoring your club means perhaps 5% of fandom is doing likewise. I'll wager 95% if the fans are against you, or are neutral."
- Rogers: "The biggest fans in England are for us. McIlwain, Rosenblum, Dr. Aiken, and . . ."
- Tucker: "Look Claude. I knew Rosenblum and McIlwain long before you ever heard of fandom. They are the international type of fan that'll join the Thrilling Wonder Junior Spacemen if someone asks them too. Of course they joined. They don't know it and you like we do. And one of them is in Service, more or less cut off from active news sources. Wait till they catch up with you."
- Rogers: "We have 26 members in Newcastle."
- Tucker: "Yeah. I've heard of those members. Every kid in the street you can line up to throw a stone or bust a window for you. And the business about the guys finding the girls in the woods and raping them. Fans? Don't make me laugh. They don't know an stf magazine from a sex pamphlet."
- Rogers: "I don't understand why you don't like me Tuck."
- Tucker: "I'm doing my best to point out why. Because you lie about your membership list; because you hand out fake claims and statemnts in your papers; because you call Ashley a fascist because he wouldn't let you stay in his house; because you spread untruth and turmoil in fandom."
- Rogers: "Name one of those things."
- Tucker: "All right. You claim you have retracted and withdrawn from the mails the first nine or ten Commentators because they messed up everything and that you didn't mean what was said in them. Yet, you are still saying some of the things said in them . . . and while we are at it, will you explain how you can "retract and withdraw from the mails" those nine issues. Ther's an awful lot of them still in curculation. I have some."
- Rogers: "Oh. That means we aren't mailing any more out, except to Inner Circle members who want a copy of everything printed."
- (There are a period of silence for five minutes here.)
- Tucker: "And another thing: In a one-sheeter called Bixel Bunk you present a cartoon and claim you had quite a time drawing it. Don't you know that's the foulest type of stealing? That cartoon came from a book of soldier cartoons on sale at the dime stores."
- Rogers: "Oh no, I drew that."
- Tucker: "Like hell you did. One of my kids has that very book, Rogers. I'll go in and find it for you if you think I'm kidding. So why lie and say you drew it?"
- Rogers: "I meant to say I stenciled it. From the book."

Tucker: "What you meant and what you said were two different things. I think I'll hang on to that sheet, Claude. You copied it from a copyrighted book. The sheet will come in handy when you start sueing Jack Speer, like you claim you'll do if he doesn't stop printing stuff about you."

Rogers: "Speer prints things that aint the truth. It's propaganda."

Tucker: "Is it? I happen to know what Speer has done in the past few weeks. Claude, Speer knows more about you right now then you know about yourself. He's spent the better part of a week going thru Indiana, checking up on you."

Rogers: "Speer's in washington, or sailing to Algiers."

Tucker: "Maybe you think so. He was in Newcastle about three weeks ago."

Rogers: "What was he doing there? He didn't visit anybody I know of."

Tucker: "That's the peculiar point. He visited people, but you didn't know of it. You will soon. Claude, my advice, for what it may be worth, is to get out of fandom and get out quick."

Rogers: "But I can't. The Cosmic Circle"



THE REVELATION: Frankly, friends, we'd like to pass the above along as truth, but we can't. We wont take mean advantage of U. None of it happened, because Claude never showed up here. But this is of importance: Claude said he visited me and talked about the NFFF !

That quotation (the third paragraph) on page 4 is exactly as it appeared in print, in Rogers' Future Fandom Stories #1. Maybe you got a copy. You'll find the alleged visit mentioned twice. Just what friend Claude is up to now we don't know. But he did not visit me, as stated!



WHO OWNS YOUR LETTERS? The following quotation is from an article by Mr Melville Cane, which appeared in the Saturday Review of Literature for Dec. 25, 1943. The article bore the same title as this department. We quote:

"The recipient of a letter owns the material paper; this he may sell, as any other article, or he may destroy it o keep it. The right of publication, however, remains in the sender and on his death passes to his estate or heirs. To the foregoing rules there are a few minor exceptions which need not concern us here. It is enough for us to understand in general the curious two-fold aspect of epistolary ownership."

The same Saturday Review, in their issue for December 18, 1943, ran a story in article form, "The Saturnine Commentary", which concerned a woman from the planet Saturn visiting Earth for a pre-invasion check-up.

Often in their pages will be found science- and weird-fiction addicts. Benet's column frequently carries material on the old Black Cat magazine, Argosy, Unknown Worlds and things and stuff of interest to the fan. Your library probably suscribes to it. Must do.



EYEBROW RAISER: From time to time we like to report in these pages the little items found in newspapers that deserve a wider circulation. You may remember the advertisement we reprinted some time ago concerning a Chick Sale 2-holer for sale. Now we have another. This one, a news item, is from the Bloomington Pantagraph for Jan. 5, 1944:

"Fred B---, 32, was arrested early Wednesday morning by the Bloomington police on a charge of attempt to "carnally know" ... Miss Mabel H----, 66."

We cheerfully admit we aren't over-bright. In fact, there are seldom times when we aren't downright stupid. Therefore, the sheer hyperness of the phrasing in the above quote completely threw us. For some minutes we wrestled with the wording, trying to untangle it so as to read some sense into it. The phrase "carnally know" was brand new to us and apparently the newspaper, who put the phrase in quotation marks as stated.

At first we thought mayhap Fred B. was a carnival worker, but then decided that tenting out in January weather with a 66 year-old coed is hardly sensible. Then it occurred to us that the thing might be a typographical error, but seating ourself in a linotyper's chair as we could, it still wasn't possible to make something understandable out of it, as say, something like qwerty or shrudlu etoain.

Finally we came to the conclusion that the guy simply attempted to carnally know the old lady, and went back to sleep in our newspaper.

THE CINEMA One day in January we received from a friend across the sea a copy of the new British book, "Sinister Barrier". It came wrapped in a newspaper, wartime style. The paper was as intertesting as the book. We turned, as we usually do in foreign publications, to the cinema section, to see what giffs at the receiving end of lend-lease. There wasn't any.

No cinema section, that is. The theatre advertisements were small two-to-six lines of minute type confined to the classified ad page. No startling cuts, no bold catch-lines, no undressed women shaking their breasts in your face. Merely a casual statement of title and cast!

We found the fillum companies still persist in the old-time gayety of tacking new titles on pictures going overseas. Something like, say, "The Mummy's Mummy" isn't good enough in England. The thing will most likely be re-titled, "The Wrapped-up Woman's Mater". An instance:

The Hyde Park picture house announces they are (were) playing "Katine" with Sonja Heini. You saw it here, if you did, as "Wintertime." They don't have winter in England so presumably the name was changed to something more familiar. And thr Strand let's it be known they are featuring Abbot and Costello in "Money for Jam". Don't ask me what that one is, I wouldn't know. I'm certain only that it never played in this country under that title.

From movies to books: an American author, travelling in Japan, had the pleasure of finding one of his detective novels on sale over there. He titled his book, "Dead Man Inside". The Japs translated that, and used the title, "Insides of The Dead Man" on their edition.

DELIGHTFUL PEOPLE: The following is reprinted from the April issue of The Knavve, a sterling fanzine. We feel that it is worth repeating. T. Bruce Yerke is speaking:

"... Out of the --perhaps 100-- fans whom I have met more than twice, six were homosexually inclined, one a lesbian, two were prostitutes, one arrested for bigamy, one skipped with his employer's car and considerable swag, two were rejected from the army for manic-depressive psychoses, two were dipsomaniacs, one a case of arrested development, one a paranoic, one case of simple dementia, one rejected from the army as a moron, three possessed abnormal sexual appetites, (and two had to have medical care), one was a plagiarist. ..."

We feel as if we'd known them all our life. Delightful people!

FLORIDA COMMUNIQUE: From a creature signing itself "Raym Pong" comes the following eerie note:

"While reading Robert Bloch's "Beast of Barsac" in WT this afternoon, one of my teeth began to break off. I am sure this will result in grave repercussions and that ALL FANDOM WILL BE PLUNGED INTO WAR."

Wait until Raym reads Robert Bloch's "Monster of Bartowel" in WC; his entire upper plate will fall out.

CLARION CALL: Let's have more creative writing in FAPA publications, and less --much less-- reviewing of other fanzines. It's beginning to smell. We hold the candle high-- can you see our light?

RE, A BOOK: Liebscher and I have discovered a difference between our copies of Michael Brandon's "Nonce", a weird volume worth your perusal. The difference lies in the colors of the dust jacket.

His is in simple black and white. Mine has, in addition, an orange streak of lightning slashing across the jacket. Both seem to be first editions. Apparently his is a misprint -- or maybe they ran out of ink. Will holders of other copies kindly state what they have?

DISCOVERY:

trudging aimlessly across a clover field one day we stumbled across an old metal box. The thing was rusted, and the brass was turning green. An ancient lock held the lid clamped tight.

It required most of the afternoon to break that lock and force the box open, despite the ancient, creaky appearance of both items. Finally we managed it, late in the afternoon as the sun was going down. There was a note inside, a slip of yellowed paper. The writing was in pencil and darned hard to make out. We finally had to take it inside and hold it under a strong electric light. The note said:

"Well, what did you expect, a five dollar bill?"

STREET & SMITH'S
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CONTENTS MARCH, 1939

VOLUME I NUMBER I

FEATURE NOVEL

- SINISTER BARRIER** Eric Frank Russell 9
Fifty Thousand Words that will make you unsure of your certainties—unsure that Man rules Earth! A full-length novel based on weird and discomfiting facts. The greatest imaginative novel in two decades!

SHORT STORIES

- WHO WANTS POWER?** Mona Farnsworth 95
Not, at least, a power that couldn't be controlled—
- DARK VISION** Frank Belknap Long 107
The power to read any man's mind—and the power to find there the seeds of a loathsome madness!
- TROUBLE WITH WATER** H. L. Gold 121
Beer for Breakfast—when the Little Folk are peeved!
- "WHERE ANGELS FEAR—"** Manly Wade Wellman 131
NOT to be read alone, in old houses!
- CLOSED DOORS** A. B. L. MacLadyen, Jr. 137
Are all those whose memories lie beyond closed doors victims of amnesia only, or—
- DEATH SENTENCE** Robert Moore Williams 151
When no lie can stand, when memory itself is the accuser—the Court becomes the Place of No Return!

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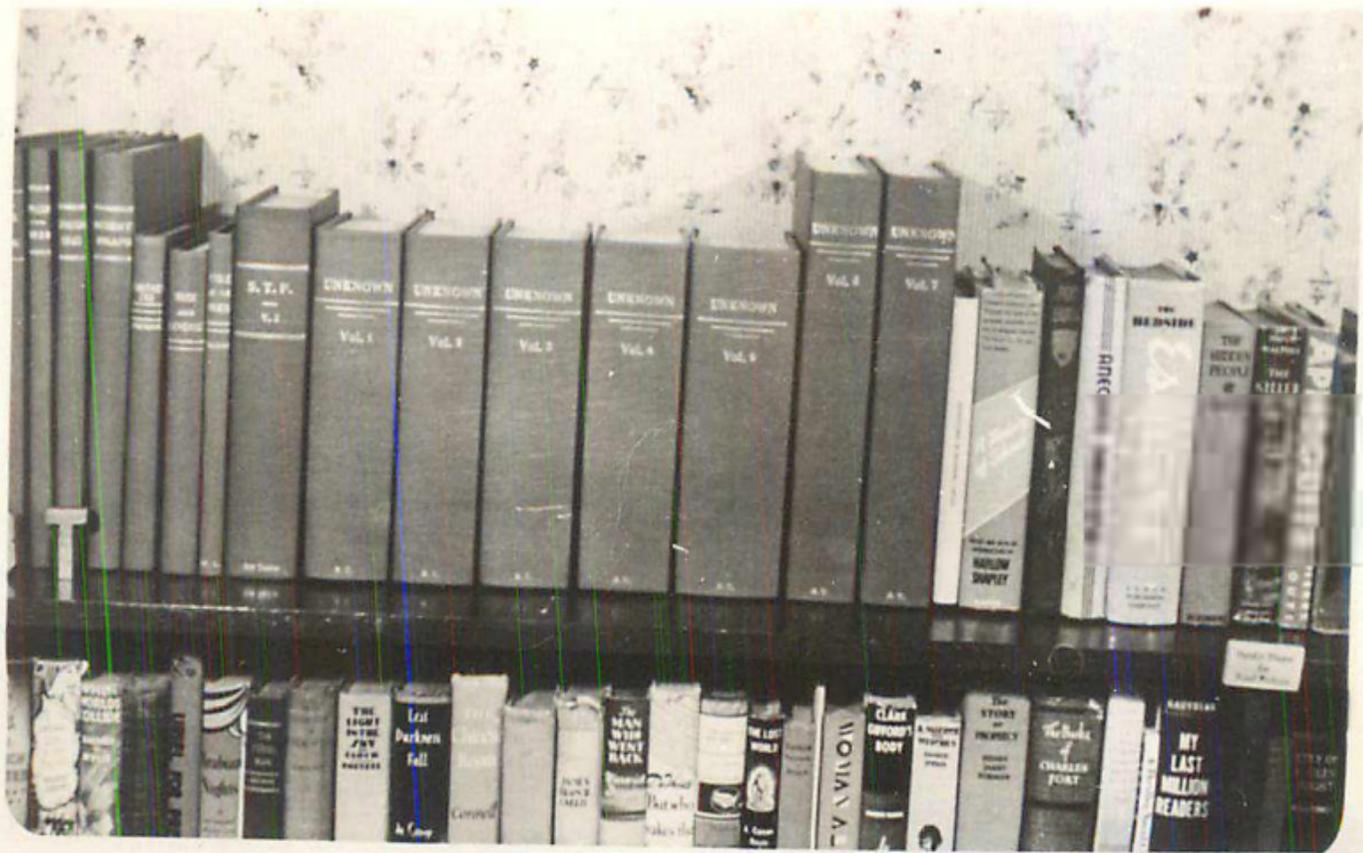
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