

MAYHEM ANNEX # 29 (Come now, this is getting out of hand) (NP65:40) from Felice Rolfe, 1360 Emerson, Palo Alto, California 94301. December 3, 1965.

THE LAMPLIGHTERS

are doing some non-G&S which still looks interesting: Claude Debussy's one-act comedy, L'ENFANT PRODIGUE, in English, and Menotti's opera coquette, AMELIA GOES TO THE BALL; this begins January 15th and runs for four weeks. Personally, I'm not fond of Menotti, but that's irrelevant. Anybody down there interested in going? Let me know, if so -- I haven't decided whether or not to arrange a theater party for it...

This means that the next G&S they do will start in late February. I dunno what it is yet. These theater parties seem to be one more of the ~~Frankensta~~ interesting activities Ed's leaving me. I enjoy them so much, I'll probably try to continue them.

INDIGNANT LETTER DEP'T.

This morning as I struggled downstairs, only partly awake and fighting it all the way, Ben handed me his thermos bottle to put back together. He neglected to tell me he'd filled it with chocolate milk before it came apart.

After wiping up the floor, changing my clothes (had to get dressed early for once!), and fixing the blasted thing for him, I sat down and wrote the following letter. Mailed it, too, before I could chicken out.

Heads of Manufacturing
Vacuum Bottle Makers
Aladdin and Thermos Companies
Norwich, Conn.; Nashville, Tenn.

Dear sirs,

I am a dissatisfied customer. Extremely dissatisfied. For several years now I have been buying your products -- and docilely buying more every three months, when some cantankerous part quits working, because I thought my kids should have milk at school, no matter what.

They can drink water from now on.

Your plastic stoppers, gentlemen, don't fit your plastic neck-rings, and neither do your plastic cups. Your plastic neck-rings don't stay in your metal cases; turn the stopper, and the whole works comes loose, spilling the contents over the unlucky individual who tried to open it. And your fillers don't fit any of the other parts; neither your own nor your competitor's do they fit. I would be hard pressed to say which of you makes the worse product, but certainly they are both lousy.

I can remember when a vacuum bottle was a perfectly satisfactory device unless it was actually broken. Until that happy day returns, I remain,

Not yours,

Felice Rolfe

cc: Aladdin Industries; Thermos Div., King-Seeley Thermos Co.

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AN INTERESTING BOOK

if you're hooked on THE THREE MUSKETEERS like I am, is Stanley J. Weyman's A GENTLEMAN OF FRANCE, 412 pp., published by Longmans, Green, & Co., New York, in 1895. That's right, 1895. I picked this book up in a Goodwill-type store for 40¢ (what the hell, I sez to myself, it's cheaper than a paperback). It's set in 1560; the hero is the Sieur de Marsac, a gentleman of Henri of Navarre, Henri IV of France. The book is slower-paced and more thorough than Dumas (from whose Marguerite de Valois series I gained a liking for that poor Huguenot Henri), but I found the greater wealth of detail increased my enjoyment of the book.

Stay wicked.