

The New Port News
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for

SFPA 223

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Art by Mahlon Blaine from **Hashish and Incense** by Paul Verlaine
The Paul Verlaine Society 1929

OO - Jeff - Got the mailing on August 8. Thanks for the extra copy of the *Commonplace Book*!

Tyndallite - Metcalf - About all I remember now of **Bring the Jubilee** was the basic idea and the flavor of it. I don't have anything but the *F&SF* version, and may well have read it in a copy bought at a newstand in Concepcion Chile - though the copy of that issue I have now must be one I got later, when I decided to have a complete set. I see it wasn't serialized - the book version must be a bit longer. In general I prefer short novels.

SFPA is an odd place for you to accuse me of "going into the realm of science fiction", in saying that a truly advanced past culture might not have left any traces!

I am confused by your reference to "Harry B./P. Warner, Jr." - is this a coded admission that you don't know his middle initial, or that he changed it at some time? I didn't know he had one.

Speaking of SF extrapolation, Steve Sneyd found a reference to what sounds like radio in a poem published in 1851 - Ernest Jones' *The New World* contains the lines
*With steely fingers on twin dials placed,
the thoughts of farthest friends are instant traced.*

This was written while Jones was in prison for sedition as a Chartist in the 1840s - Morse had only just had his famous experimental telegraphy success in 1844.

While I agree that Verne's *Nautilus* was structurally possible in the 1860s, I'm not sure that the battery technology was really advanced enough for propulsion power. But it's been a long time since I read it, and I don't remember how big it was supposed to be or how fast it was supposed to go.

Twygdrasil - Dengrove - What a cover - DSC as a Godzilla movie.... I saw the *manbeef* site, hard to imagine how anyone could take it seriously. The site claiming that Pippi Longstocking is Satan is much more frightening. I don't know quite what to make of the page at Powell's with a long column explaining how Truman Capote and William Rehnquist were lovers.

Are you sure it is illegal to sell human flesh? Aren't mummies bought and sold? And human hair? I'm glad to hear the FBI doesn't consider this sort of spoof illegal.

Sorry to hear about Geis - I knew he was not well, but I didn't know he was that sick. I suppose I should take him off the IGOTS list.

I have had the machine crash and found *filennnn.chk* content that was actual ascii text I had written - but not anything I wanted. I guess it is possible that a fragment of the Great American Novel (or something equally important) could wind up in one of these files and could thus be saved from oblivion.

I have had little experience of public schools. Certainly there were idiots and bullies in the schools I went to, but except for history most of what I was taught seems to have been pretty much right. I never had a course in biology or sex education however.

There apparently are people (though Gary probably isn't one of them) whose faulty genes insist they should weigh 500 lbs. They tend to die young - and may well be glad to go.

I have had Norton Anti-Virus claim that it detected a contaminated file and repaired it - once. It was a text file sent me to give my sister as a printout, and I never saw any problem with it.

A nice selection of witches and goats. In one the witch seems to have fallen off her goat... And what is that two-pronged fork? In one picture it seems to be an implement for handling a hot pot of some sort.

My impression - though I am certainly no expert - was that Dodgson stopped his photography of nude children because someone else thought it was wrong. Did he ever say what he thought about it? Nudity in art cannot be wrong *per se* - the idea that it is wrong can only be cultural. It was certainly marginal in his culture, if only because the subjects were recognizable individuals - nudity in art had been common in Western civilization for hundreds of years. I wonder if the new laws written as part of the current child abuse witch-hunt make it illegal to sell the little book of Dodgson's photos? Or even to possess it? At the moment anyway there are a dozen or so copies offered at abebooks.com at \$20-\$175.

Variations - Lynch - Deciding you like choral works from hearing *Carmina Burana* is sort of like deciding you like fantasy novels from reading **LotR** - there is really nothing else like it!

It seems to me that the best way to get rid of surplus carbon dioxide would be to freeze it and store it at the South Pole.

Revenant - Sheila - I haven't heard any more about the project to reprint Tim Kirk's Tolkien art in time for the movie release - pretty late now to have it for worldcon!

Ken Lake tells me that the kilt is worn in Cornwall as well, and that he has worn a Cornish kilt to formal events.

The latest I've heard about *X-Files* is that both Scully and Muldur will go and a new character will be played by Xena!

The Mark Twain house doesn't look ugly to me. A great place - the interior has been seen in detail on *Antiques Roadshow*. Those high balconies were probably very practical before A/C - most of the annoying flying insects stay fairly close to the ground.

The Frozen Weblog - Hlavaty - Great stuff! Robert Anton Wilson is right about serial killers as a symbol of our era.

Offline - Irv - I will have sent you a couple of Net addresses that might be able to supply the key cap for a Brother typewriter, but it would probably be easier just to get another machine - there are plenty of portable typewriters around. I don't have a Brother and so don't know how the key caps are held on. If they can be replaced you don't have to have a "D" cap - the letter on the cap can be changed. You are looking for a working machine after all, not a historical restoration. I have, at least once, made a key cap by hand from epoxy.

Spiritus - Guy - Nice photos - what a smirk on your face!

I was undecided about the Ramsey case until they said they had found DNA on the body that could not be linked to anyone in the family - that alone would probably make a conviction of any one else impossible unless they could prove it was planted.

I thought the first lb of Media Mail was \$1.30 - they pushed it up to \$1.33 while I wasn't looking. And after printing all those 21¢ stamps, the second oz of First Class is now 23¢. It would be far better for the government to subsidize low postal rates than to waste our taxes on the asinine Star Wars boondoggle! For what that will cost, we could have free mail!

You would pay a lot to find anyone to print the monstrous *Challenger* outside the US, probably more than you would save in postage. At some point I suppose mailing large lumps of dead tree around the world will become prohibitively expensive and it will all be on the Net.

Interesting about the Dag Hammarskjold stamp - but I don't understand the PO's motivation to print more of their mistake. What did they care if the guy got rich off it? The only effect on PO affairs would seem to be that the publicity would interest more people in stamp collecting, which is one of their cash cows.

I don't know why fans in general didn't like the Hildebrandts - somebody liked their stuff, enough to keep more of it coming out. I disliked it from the first time I saw it because to me it seemed stiff and lifeless. A totally subjective judgement, of course.

All of my SFPA mailings are in order in boxes in what was supposed to be a linen closet. But you have all the same stuff, what does it matter where mine are?

My aging brainpan is stumped on your idea that nephew Joe is having "British adventures" - the sailing ship *Mimi* that he worked on just gets up and down the Atlantic coast. He is in Gloucester (MA) now and will apparently be here in late August.

The Net is well predicted - long before anyone had the technology - in Murray Leinster's *A Logic Named Joe* (*Astounding*, Mar'46).

Dewachen - Trinlay - We get *Mutts* here but I don't see *Bizarro* very often - great Martha Stewart cartoon! I have Model-A vintage typewriters that still work - cold machines last a lot longer than hot ones. Even with a demon typist, nothing in an manual typewriter moves fast enough to heat from the mechanical friction.

I love the bizarre inanity of the statement that "Zen has nothing to do with itself"!

I don't think many of the "faith-based" charities looking to cash in on the Bush boondoggle would discriminate against clients on the basis of their faith or lack thereof. The problem, as foreseen in the First Amendment, is that only the government-approved Faiths will get their noses in the trough. And what they do with our tax money when they get it may not really be in the public interest.

I have run into Welch at cons once or twice, but not Letha as far as I can recall. But we have traded zines and locs for some time.

Most people can manage 10-12 point type - at least judging from those being the most common on typewriters over the last 125 years. Technically it is no more difficult to make machines that type larger (until you over-run the ribbon or the platen curvature) or smaller (until you lose resolution in the ribbon fibers). Reading glasses to overcome the farsightedness that often comes with age predate the typewriter by 100 years at least.

My mother has a stapler like the one in your photo that I got her. The "Satanic fountain" in front of the Methodist church in Birmingham is just a joke based on the fact that the largest

figure in the set of bronze sculptures is a life-size goat - standing upright and reading from a book. The other figures around the fountain are smaller animals. I have a photo of it somewhere, with that Jolly Methodist Giant George Wells standing beside it. I might even have put it up at *fanac.org* - no, apparently not. If we had the promised SFPA website I could put it there....

Beer is thought to predate history - there used to be a fan group in the NE called the Beaker People Liberation Front, based on the idea that the prehistoric Beaker People in Britain noted only for their having learned to make fired clay beakers were inspired to do so because they needed somewhere to put their beer.

Is the tiger-striped rabbit for real?

Peter Pan & Merry - Schlosser - I don't think the technology for distilling alcohol was available in Biblical times, but according to an old Bible Dictionary I have they did make wine, beer, and mead - that is, they fermented anything that would ferment!

I think the rather artificial separation of the old USPO into the supposedly semi-autonomous USPS was a mistake. Delivery of the mail is a positive aspect of civilized society and thus a proper function of government. It should not be a cash cow - in fact I think postage should only be set high enough to reduce frivolous use to a manageable level. The government wastes a lot more on much less worthy items than a postal deficit.

That's what I was curious about - but is it really true that kosher beef has not been fed on animal products? I was under the impression that almost all commercial beef was fed partly on feeds enriched with animal byproducts. Does kosher include how the cow was raised as well as how it was slaughtered? Seems like it would get hard to track!

Trivial Pursuits - Janice - Funny cover, reminds me of the Rudy Rucker novel where *size* is the 4th dimension.

I read **Bring the Jubilee** in the 50s, and probably the short *F&SF* version at that. I don't remember enough about it to understand your remark about what the narrator doesn't realize - about all I remember is that I did like it, and was vastly disappointed when I finally read the same author's **Greener Than You Think**. The idea of Monty Python knights action figures is really inane - the wit was in the dialog and the action, not the costumes, which were probably recycled from *Ivanhoe*. Now if they have a working model of the Holy Hand Grenade of Antioch.... A doctor would have to put the full Latin name *chronosynclastic infundibulum* on an excuse slip - this disease is too rare to have a common name!

It seems a little odd thinking back on it that I got through the standard 15 years of formal education without ever encountering a course in biology, art, or drama. Just lucky I guess!

Oblio - Brown - Great cover! I like the *Brain Boy* comic cover too - I bet that title didn't last long.

I see *Futurama* occasionally - it doesn't seem as funny to me as *The Simpsons*, hard to say why.

I hope the *Old Blind Dogs* CD is worth the hoopla - I've gotten the same spam offering it six times today alone!

Comments - Hughes - So if I were to delete all those Mxxxxx files in the browser cache, the worst that would happen is that the browser would be slower loading sites I had been to before? I

don't really notice that much difference on new sites.

Parody is a loaded word, implying a sort of mocking critical commentary. I'm not sure exactly how the "fair use" provision of the copyright law is worded, but I thought it allowed as well what might be called a *pastiche* or *homage*. In the case of **The Wind Done Gone**, the author's comments seem to indicate that she certainly *intended* a parody of **Gone With the Wind!** I have not read any of it myself - probably find a copy for \$1.99 in remainder or a thrift store soon enough.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is interesting from a cynical point of view - the Israelis are honest - what other government has adopted assassination and torture as *overt* policy? And the Arabs are really sincere - a helicopter pilot might launch rockets on civilian populations for fun or money or glory but a suicide bomber is the ultimate in sincere dedication!

The Sphere - Don - Well, I am a bit puzzled about your snit over the Boutillier article in *Mimosa* 10 being online - you don't appear in it. If you are the person behind the *****, then I am surprised that Lynch didn't publish whatever you wanted to say about it as a LoC in the next issue. I don't see anything libelous though - to have been a hero in the culture wars by being arrested under an unconstitutional law seems more like a badge of honor to me.

You are right about land mines - a truly evil idea. "Let's hide something here that will kill or maim whoever might walk by in the next 20 (30? 40? 50?) years."

Notorious - Jeff - I enjoyed the account of your Alaska trip. *Infinity* sounds interesting - I've read a couple of Feynman's books.

I am getting more e-mail now - I joined another list, Ghu help me - and even more (and less competent) spam. But not 50% of the total, even with the 6 Green Linnet ads for *Old Blind Dogs* that came today. I get several a week of the Nigerian spam letter.

I agree with you about the DVD scam. There are not that many US movies I would want, but quite a few from the UK - but I can't buy a DVD player that will play both. Unless I want to pay a very high price - there are Net sites for dealers apparently located in Asia who offer standard brand DVD players in which they have put a chip that allows the thing to play DVDs from all 6 regions. The cheapest seems to run about \$1000 with shipping.

Not all stamps are self-adhesive - I have stamps fresh out of the USPS catalog that are lickum and stickum. The \$1 pentagonal Space stamps, for example, and the odd sheet with four 80¢ Buffalo Exposition stamps and one each of the 1¢, 2¢, and 4¢ invert booboo reprints. Probably not what you wanted to carry in your wallet though!

Yngvi - Toni - The '60s Hank looks like Ringo Starr! Odd that I don't remember thinking that at the time.... Maybe it's only when he's asleep.

The proposed \$8 billion for African dictators to buy arms with "to oppress minorities" rather pales in comparison with the US arms budget, none of which (in theory at least) is needed to "oppress minorities"! Are you sure that the African dictators really would spend the \$8 billion on AIDS drugs ("that don't work") rather than arms? My impression is that they have more arms than they know what to do with and don't give a damn about the AIDS and whatever \$\$ they get goes into payola and their Swiss bank accounts.

I haven't heard from Harry Warner in some time. I don't know what he is using for a typewriter now - I offered to give him a good manual one, or get ribbons for whatever he is

using. The big office-supply chains still carry them - at worst you might have to rewind the ribbon onto the old reel but for most machines the "universal" reel now in use is fine. I know people who could probably replace his Underwood 5, or fix whatever is wrong with it - and the Underwood 5 can use the modern universal reel.

The Underwood 5 is a remarkable machine. It has mechanical smarts built into it that I don't understand - when your typing approaches the right-hand margin, the bell rings and then the keys lock up. There is a button on the left that you push if you need a few more characters on the line - the first time you push it you get 4 more characters, the second time you get one more. After that you either do a carriage return to the next line or reset the margin - which on this model is right up front, just above the keyboard. The carriage tension adjustment apparently varied over the years they made the Model 5 - mine is a knurled knob that turns a worm gear, so that you increased the tension slowly but without effort. And unlike the more common ratchet design that would sometimes let the tension spring whiz back, the worm drive is inherently safe against that. It could creep backwards with vibration however - so they provided a set screw to lock it with.

I think you might get salmonella from handling a lizard and not washing your hands after. Most of the lizards I have seen here are too fast for that to be a concern!

Tennessee Trash - Robe - Fascinating trip report, especially that about the change in deities at the pyramid. Many Christian churches were built on older pagan sites, but I never heard of any where the pagan idols were preserved!

Armadillo - Liz - Today's Atlanta paper says that armadillos are moving north into Georgia and have gotten as far as the E-W interstate I-20 that runs through Atlanta. The article warns that you could get leprosy from handling one, or eating the undercooked meat, and that their major predator is the automobile - they leap straight up when startled, and thus encounter the auto bumper that might have passed harmlessly over them.

There are no trees within ten feet of the house, but a crepe myrtle bush reaches up past the gutter. I had cut it back, but if I had cut it ten feet back it would have been gone. It's grown above the gutter again, I will have to cut it back before it gets cold enough for the roof to interest the squirrels.

False Knight - weber - I like the song on the cover, is it traditional? Ah, I see you explain it on p.4. I have one King Crimson LP but it's *In the Wake of Poseidon*.

I must say I have been fairly well satisfied with my 1997 Gateway PC - nothing in the CPU has failed except the modem, and when the monitor failed they replaced it free. The HP laser printer had to have a new fuser unit. My only complaint is against the techs and the software - they insisted on trying to install the new modem to Windows95 when there were people there that knew it could not be done.

I don't think much of your complaint that NASA failed to protect the Apollo astronauts against the possibility of one of them breaking his leg on the lunar surface - in those suits, in lunar gravity? Give me a break, a meteor strike (which could not be protected against) would be far more likely.

