

No Goat's Toe #2

A progress report on the publication of *Beyond The Enchanted Duplicator...To The Enchanted Convention* and related matters of fannish interest. Published October 30, 1990 by Geri Sullivan, Toad Hall, 3444 Blaisdell Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55408-4315. Phone: 612/825-3558; PROMote Communications: 612/825-2292. All copy not otherwise credited: Geri Sullivan. Mimeography by Jeff Schalles and Geri Sullivan. Happy Birthday, Walter!

In Search of the Enchanted Convention

When I'm not busy donning the mantle of virginity and conducting mystical rites of divination, when I'm between writing long overdue letters to LeeH and conducting interviews to determine the mysteries of fixed assets and fax machines at the Metropolitan Waste Control Commission, and when I'm not busy cooking a chocolate cabbage cake for Jeff's birthday, what small amusements do you suppose I pursue?

Writing ridiculously long sentences is always entertaining. There's the illusive appeal of mind-deadening computer card games. And there's Minicon. Intriguing, magical, overwhelming Minicon. As a member of the committee, I'm one of those people to whom Minicon is a year-round reality, rather than just a three (or four or five) day convention over Easter weekend. As the publisher of *Beyond the Enchanted Duplicator...To the Enchanted Convention*, I'm in the unique position of intimately knowing the story as well as the convention. After some consideration, the urge to play match-maker proved irresistible. The whole idea made entirely too much sense.

"What *Idea*" you wonder? "Certainly not the fanzine; there hasn't been a new one in ages."

Nah, this idea was even better than the fanzine *Idea*. Which may come as a surprise, as I have a rather biased and high opinion of the 'zine — an opinion that will rise even higher throughout fandom as soon as Chuch Harris sends his article for *Idea* #4.

The idea, which I will finally get around to telling you, was to get Minicon interested in the story. So I sent a note to Ves Bah, co-head of the newly-formed Recruiting Department. Minicon wants to do a better job of recruiting volunteers to work at the convention, and we want to do a better job of thanking and rewarding our volunteers. I suggested that Recruiting consider *BTED...TTEC* as a possible volunteer perk. (We've never had formal perks for volunteers before, aside from keen volunteer badges.)

Ves knows little of fanzine fandom, and had never heard of *The Enchanted Duplicator*. Her early response had me worried. When we first talked, I mentioned the names of Walt Willis and James White and she asked "Are they local?" She continued, "Will there be another one next year? No? That will work against you; we want to encourage people to volunteer again and again, a series would help your cause."

I restrained the urge to grab the story and run, screaming, from her apartment. "Patience, Geri," I counselled myself, "we all have to start somewhere." The task of enlightenment overwhelmed me on the drive home, but I soon realized I had found the ideal acid test — one that would test the tale's ability to draw out hidden fannishness while also testing for signs of fannish sensitivity in Ves.

It worked. And both passed the test with flying colors. When she returned the manuscript, Ves was enthusiastic. She was also delighted to borrow *The Neofan's Guide to SF Fandom* and *The Enchanted Duplicator*, reading them both within a week, eyes shining with interest and pleasure in her newfound knowledge and understanding.

continued...

INSIDE

Fame & Glory	2
Zen Pricing	3
Virgin Territory	3
Artists' Report	4
Proofreading Follies	5
Letters, etc.	5
SES Alert!	6
Publicity Flyer	8

**Continued:
In Search of the
Enchanted Convention**

The news gets better.

On Sunday, October 21, Ves presented five possible "perk packages" to the committee. *BTED...TTEC* was included in two of the options, including the package recommended by the Recruiting Committee. The convention committee discussed and debated and questioned why some of the members' "pet perks" were not among the recommendations. (Several committee members wanted a discount on current or future membership fees.) Eventually, two more options were added to the list. At long last, we voted.

The vote supported the Recruiting Department's recommendations. At Minicon 26, volunteers who work for 3 hours (or somesuch) will be given a copy of *Beyond the Enchanted Duplicator...To the Enchanted Convention*. Those who work a lot more hours will receive a special volunteer T-shirt in addition to the special fanzine. And everyone will get the keen badges they've come to expect and love.

Hot damn. We just sold 350 copies!

Or maybe more.

Yes. Really.

I'm working up special pricing for the Minicon order. I made it clear to the committee the price will be somewhat higher than production costs, with proceeds going to fannish causes. They seem comfy with that. I hope you are, too.

Knowing your perception and concern with my supposed ability to make unlikely things happen, I will tell you that I didn't succeed with the very best idea. If I had, Minicon would have mailed *BTED...TTEC* to all pre-registered attending members before the convention. IMHO, that approach holds the greatest promise for changing conventions for the better, but it would cost a lot, too.

Gee, I wonder if Chicon might be interested...

FYI — Minicon 26 will be held at the ~~Chadwick~~ Radisson Hotel South on March 29-31, 1991 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Bloomington, really, but we aren't always persnickety, are we?) Ves plans to excerpt the description of the Perfect Convention and include it the second progress report, which will be mailed in early January. I'm running the Minneapolis in '73 suite; you're welcome to drop by the party....

Fame and Glory

- ❖ Jeff and I printed up publicity flyers for Ditto (and general mailing, Real Soon Now). It was really gratifying to watch people's faces as they read the flyer. Pleasure is fun to watch. So is excitement. And wonder. I had aerogrammes handy, addressed to James and Walter, in an attempt to share some of the excitement and anticipation. I trust both arrived safely. You may want to compare them, as some people wrote different messages on each.
- Ⓞ After telling Tucker he will be receiving a complimentary copy, I encouraged him to buy one to give to a deserving neofan. It worked. Ghu bless rich brown.
- ➔ Speaking of complimentary copies, I've received mailing labels from Walter, including those who should receive only an announcement flyer rather than a freebie in addition to the announcement. (I'll let people getting comps know when I send their announcement flyers, so they know not to send money.) James, do you have any people to add to the list, or are yours included in Walter's labels?
- Ⓞ A recent letter from Robert Lichtman included the following intriguing tidbit: "Elinor Busby reprinted an advert for *Beyond the Enchanted Duplicator...and To the Enchanted Convention* indicating a collector's edition for \$15 and a trade edition for \$6." Intriguing in that Robert's letter is dated October 19, and Elinor reprinted the flyer we printed just two weeks earlier. That was *fast!* I'm glad to have some accurate information out there; perhaps it will clarify the mistakes made by *Fosfax*.

Zen and the Art of Fanzine Pricing

The most difficult task I had developing the publicity flyer for Ditto was writing the three kickers before the title. The second most difficult task was setting prices.

There's not a lot to say about the kickers. They're there. I hope they work. Finis. The price, however, bears some discussion.

As you know (and better than I), fanzine pricing is a curious endeavor. The usual rules of supply and demand apply. Cultural considerations play more than their usual "important role." Adding to the difficulty was a simple fact – we don't yet know how many pages we're dealing with, the number of copies we'll be running, or precisely which printing method we'll use on the standard edition. (I'm pulling for offset). Thanks to the uncertainty, determining accurate production costs still consists of taking a stab in the dark – an intelligent stab, mind you, but a stab nonetheless.

Jeff and I assumed a worse-case scenario for printing costs on the standard edition, then tacked on an extra bit for contingencies and to make some money for fannish causes. In this case, "an extra bit" = ~\$1.50.

The collector's edition was even trickier. While we can set the number of copies, knowing how many tubes of ink we'll go through is anybody's guess. Gestetner charges \$13.85/tube! We're checking into other sources. Vin¢, can you give us any clues to estimate ink usage? We both like heavy, rich coverage, but are searching for the Bridge of Moderation on the Gestetners in Toad Hall's Champion Mimeo Center and Frog Preserve.

We set the price at \$15 to reflect the Collector appeal and to make sure that the mimeo version, which will require days & weeks of our free time, will at least raise a decent amount of money for the fannish good. In

addition to the obvious value of numbered, autographed copies, we plan to do multi-color work, and are looking into custom binding for the Collector's Edition. (It will have at least two staples, expertly placed!)

Virgin Territory

I see my one and only son, fannish hero, bon vivant, libertine, devoted husband to my delightful daughter-in-law, and apple of his mother's eye, Chuch Harris, committed at least one mortal sin in his 15 October letter to Vin¢. While my usual approach is to discuss such things privately, I am compelled to address the alarming situation in these pages:

Just where did you learn about Magic *8* Balls, sonny? And why did you disregard everything you ever knew about the purity of Virgins and the sanctity of their word? 8,428 fonts of Roman capitals? Why, even your Britannica is out of date!

As the Virgin's Report in *No Goat's Toe #1* so clearly demonstrated, I approached the task with clean mind, body, and soul. While I've no complaints about the cleanliness of *your* alabaster temple, you'll never exceed the 60% mark, as each of the three aspects carries equal weight and not even the most starry-eyed neo would mistake your mind as having even the most remote connection to cleanliness or purity. As to your soul, tender-hearted though it may be, well, it's unlikely to make top marks. Let's leave it at that.

The questions asked – the words thought and spoken –

during the divination ceremonies represented the purest form of the thoughts, intents, and issues concerning authorship credits. The Magic *8* Ball, recognizing the purity involved (and revelling in the Virgin's gentle, fondling embrace, I might add), spoke, revealing the cosmic truth for us to follow. Follow it we shall. There will be no re-checks, no second guessing, and NO nit-picking. As I so plainly explained when teaching you the mysteries of the Magic *8* Ball, the second rule is that one must not attempt to test or entrap the oracle.

You know, Chuch love, I would have understood if egoboo had been the motivating force behind your words. Its intoxicating effects can lead to substance abuse and the abandonment of one's usual standards of deportment. But, as you so clearly stated in your letter, your august position in fandom's Hall of Fame is already assured.

As your mother, I suggest you strongly consider a prompt and thorough apology to the Virgin. As the Parkay margarine commercials ("Butter!") showed a decade of American television viewers, "It's not nice to fool Mother Nature." Believe-you-me, there's little distance between the Mother and the Virgin. Repent – Before it's Too Late!

And Now for a Word from our Artists...

You'll need your address book for the first report. Stu Shiffman and Andi Shechter will have a new address by the time you read this:

8618 Linden Ave. N.
Seattle, WA 98103
USA

Phone: 206/522-1262 (that's according to the phone company, before hook-up).

Stu and Andi are moving November 3rd. Their new home is within walking distance of Jerry and Suzle's, and Andi reports all is going very well, thanks to lots of help from Seattle fans. Stu and Andi found a two-family home, with a great landlady who has already given them the go-ahead to put in a garden.

On the *BTED...TTEC* front, Stu is using both traditional and modern art tools. He's using his Macintosh, working in Aldus Freehand, to develop standard graphic images for chapter ends. He's created a Shield of Umor and a silhouette of Jophan, and is working on other archetypal images. As soon as he's finished with those, he'll ship a disk my way and proceed with pen & ink illos for interior and cover art. Stu reports that he's enjoying the work and anticipates no problems meeting deadlines.

Ross Chamberlain must have known I was working on *No Goat's Toe*. I wrote to him on October 15, asking if he's interested in creating a new map for the *TED* sequel. Just ten days later, his response arrived in the mail. Heck, letters sent to NYC usually take seven days just to get there! Ross writes:

"Wow... It is quite a work! I was

quite uplifted by the ending. Now, it just happened that I had Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloë* on as background while I was reading the last part, with the timing of the conclusions of each almost matching, so perhaps there was a little untoward enhancement of the experience.

"I was really looking forward to doing the map for it. It's really great that Stu Shiffman is doing the cover and illustrations. He has become truly worthy of all the honors he's received and of being chosen to do this faanish work. True, I have this mad image of all the characters coming out looking like cute fuzzy animals with sardonic expressions...

"This sequel is rather a different work from the first. While *TED* was a faanish *Pilgrim's Progress*, in which all characters and nomenclature were allegoric, the return to Mundane brings also mundane characters and names (if possibly allusive ones now and then) among the archetypes, and there is occasional puzzlement as to the degree to which a name might have connotations. Is Les, for instance, an archetype? Is she sort of a Lee Hoffman, who was similarly mistaken for male until at last met in person? But Les and the analogically named Letteraxe, who seems to have lost his archetypal character, hit it off... I don't know. Very strange...

"Well, no doubt these and other questions will run the full range of speculation throughout the appropriate corridors of fandom shortly after *BTED...TTEC* is released, and it's not my place or intent to anticipate that now. The question of the moment is –

how in the @*!! – pardon me, how in the world – to do a map for it! It was relatively easy to do one for *TED*, which is linear and dotted with physical landmarks throughout. But *BTED...TTEC* is not. Only the return path from Tower of the Enchanted Duplicator to Mundane and the subsequent route to Quotidian is linear; the remainder of Jophan's journey is – well, I almost want to say 'spiritual,' but perhaps what it really is is *social* (which, from some perspectives, may not be all that great a distinction). It is the story of the re-integration of an ivory-tower intellectual loner (the archetypal fan, indeed) (but a remarkably people-savvy one!) into the mundane world. But it is hardly linear – nor as far as I can see, all that mappable, at least on first impressions. So – you mentioned that you had been wondering what a new map might be like. Any suggestions would be welcome!"

Well, Ross's letter got me thinking, which led to some ideas of what a map might look like. While there's one path from the Tower to Mundane, I visualize lots of paths and connections in the land of mundane and convention fandom. I also visualize an upward spiritual/cosmic movement to the Perfect Convention, which would be at the top of the map (and on another plane of existence). What do you think? Write to me, or directly to Ross, whose address is: 1 Cabrini Blvd. #1E, New York, NY 10033. (Don't write this one in ink in your address book; Ross hopes to move by the end of the year.)

Proofreading Follies

Vin[†], I can see from your letter of 28September that you and I could easily discuss grammar and word usage until the Millennium and beyond. I'd no doubt learn a lot in the process!

While I agree with Sir Ernest Gowers about *that*, the *that* he speaks of is not the same sort of *that* currently under scrutiny in *BTED...TTEC*. The erudite knight appears to be referring to the common and unpleasant, excessive use of *that*. I'm as guilty as the next writer. I've had to tap the "delete" key to remove *that* several times already tonight, most recently in the sentence in "Fame and Glory": "I trust *that* they both arrived safely."

On the other hand, your point about biblical style is right on the money. Thank you!

All this would be much easier if I really knew my grammar. Back when I was in 7th grade, teachers judged me fit for Advanced English. I spent an entire semester learning about propaganda and how it works in modern society while most of my classmates struggled with the fine points of prepositions and adverbs. Of course, considering how little I remember from the propaganda discussions, perhaps the grammar lessons would have been lost on me as well.

American feminists frown on 'girl' for the precise reason you stated, Vin[†]. A 'girl' is an immature child. Calling a woman a 'girl' implies she is immature, that she is a child rather than an adult. In most societies, children are considered to have limited decision-making abilities, and to be incapable of taking care of

themselves. They need adults to provide for them until they reach the legal age of consent, whatever it happens to be where they live.

As a whole, men have treated women like children since time immemorial. Hell, American women don't even have legal rights equal to those of men, and I believe the situation is worse in Britain. Women also sometimes treat men like children, acting as though men are incapable of picking up after themselves or cooking a decent meal. None of this behavior seems particularly useful, especially when compared to the glorious things that happen when people treat each other with respect, when they recognize, acknowledge, and support the multitude of capabilities and talents present in every person. Children, of course, are people, too. And I enjoy the aspects of my personality that others consider childish (or, to state it in my words, child like). But as a woman, I want to live in a society where women are commonly recognized and treated as adults, with adult rights and responsibilities.

Sermon aside, I stand by the choice of 'girl' when Jophan and Les meet. The tone of the entire story makes it clear the convention workers, and most attendees, are capable adults. 'Female' sounds awkward, and Les could hardly respond "I've been a woman for as long as I can remember." Besides, I don't want to mess with the fannish reference; it's too charming.

I haven't spoken with Stu about 'putz' yet, but can tell you my understanding of the term. (I just hope this doesn't turn out to

be a serious reply to a question intended to serve as a tweak.) 'Putz' is one of those delightful words with double meanings. I believe it's Yiddish slang, originally referring to — how to put this delicately? (Chuch Harris, where are you when I need you?!?) — the male sex organ. More recently, putz has found its way into the lexicon as a term for a goof-off (or, less delicately, 'dickhead'). There's a verb as well: "I'm just putzing around." Past tense = putzed: "We putzed about the house all weekend." (Meaning: "We did piddly squat.") Putzy errands are those little things that take up an entire afternoon once you get around to them.

Letters, Notes, & Jottings

Minneapolis Fan Karen Johnson jotted the following first thoughts about *Beyond The Enchanted Duplicator* after skimming a proof copy during a recent meeting of the Recruiting Department (Ves Bah and Sara Zoss) for Minicon 26. Karen has been in fandom for 16 years, attending conventions (including Brighton in '87), working on Minicon, and serving on the Minn-stf Board of Directors. Karen writes:

"This is Ves' 4th year on Minicon and Sara's first year working on the committee. Neither knows much about fanzines. (Neofans!) Ves has begun reading *BTED* and is full of questions. While they meet, I skim.

continued...

Continued:**Karen's Notes**

"First thought: I haven't seen these terms in years. How sad to have strayed, how fun to read them again. Shield of Umor? Ves asks what this is. Taking a stab in the dark, I reply "Shield of Humor (or Humour, being proper). At least, that's what I'd want to get me through life. (Geri confirms this later – guess I haven't lost all the good instincts yet.)

"I have only moments here, between discussions of T-shirts and other volunteer incentives. It's hard to catch the drift of the story this way, except that Jophan is questing. My eye catches the phrase "The Perfect Convention." Ah, here's a good spot. What has been the focus of all the turmoil here in Minneapolis fandom, but what different people think is the perfect convention? I read the description. In fact, I read it out loud to Sara and Ves after reading it to myself. **Don't change a word.** It evoked just what I'd like, and what I think most everyone else really wants. (How can we get everyone on the concommittee to read this?)

"It pulled at the heart. Like, when I die can I go to (heaven) the Perfect Convention? "Read further (still skimming), reach end. Tell myself I'm a grown-up and can read the end of something before all the pieces in the middle and find out – surprise – that Jophan does go to heaven. I begin to catch the story here, without seeing the journey unfold in detail. I want to **read** this. (Later, Geri calms me down by saying this is possible.)

"The nifty thing is that it becomes part of the discussion

with the department people (Sara and Ves) regarding how many people would love to get a copy of this (as a volunteer incentive) (really! they weren't sure), what is fanzine fandom, what do these words mean (such as LoC), and it ends up with my explaining a little about the history of fandom, offering to dig out a copy of the Neofan's Guide... to help out with translation, and generally encouraging them to not see this language and form as a barrier, but as a new world that, with diligence, they too can join in. Hey, they can (and probably will) have their own fannish history someday.

"Delighted to see *BTED*, see its relevance to things right now. It's still magic."

Speaking of Magic...

The TransAtlantic Stereo Encouragement System appears to be taking on a life of its own, with Geri Sullivan its latest victim.

(Shall we call it the SES, rather like an SOS, only for good causes?), For those unfamiliar with how SES works, the TransAtlantic team of James White and Geri Sullivan successfully encouraged Walter to work on *BTED*. The SES showed its power early on; James himself succumbed to its power while waiting for Walter to come around, writing the first draft and giving the entire project the collaborative effort it required.

Next came the lovely idea of encouraging James to come to MagiCon. As soon as Walter and I flipped the system's switch to 'ON' *click!* – solutions appeared for the "insurmountable" problems posed by such a trip.

But did I recognize the power inherent in what we had wrought? Of course not. I sat in Toad Hall, grinning and chuckling over our success. On July 3, I even wrote the following damning note to James: "I'm feeling very smug over the success of the Trans-Atlantic Stereo Encouragement System (even if you didn't let it get fully warmed up). Part of the smugness comes from the knowledge that I am the safe member of the trio, seeing as the separation between you and Walter is minuscule compared to the miles between Minnesota and Northern Ireland." (Stereo needs proper separation of the speakers, you know.)

How was I to know the SES would grow? But grow it has, as evidenced by the mail received at Toad Hall during the last two weeks. Walter Himself appears to have flipped the switch this time, encouraging me to actually write my trip report from last year's journey to the lands and homes of Brit and Irish fans.

Not an ominous sign by itself, but once the switch was flipped, the SES appears to have undertaken the task of creating the proper stereo balance needed for success. A week and a half later, a letter arrived from Las Vegas.

"I would be honored to serialize your entire visit to "SensaWondaLand," wrote Arnie Katz. "The excerpts are great, and I am sure the connected narrative would be even better. Doing it in chapters would give you incentive to turn your journal into a complete trip report – and you'd have the text files on disk for a possible one-volume collection of the installments."

continued...

Continued: Speaking of Magic...

Ghads, I'd sent Arnie 11 short paragraphs, intending only to share the wonder of Oblique House while showing him as clearly as I could that the work is far from ready for publication.

Twenty-four hours later, while I was still trying to figure out how to make installments work – and trying to talk myself out of it – a letter arrived from James: "Walter sent me your trip notes," he wrote. "Please finish it. Somebody is sure to ride roughshod over your shyness and publish it if you don't."

Well, now, my choices appear to be limited. How can I possibly decline Arnie's offer in light of James's threat? (Or is it a promise?)

The implications of all this are truly startling. Walter's concerns that the Minneapolis in '73 bid could hurtle Fandom, and perhaps the entire Universe, backwards in time, pale in comparison. Already the SES appears to seek its own speakers, once the switch is flipped. How long can it be before it learns how to turn itself on? Imagine a Fandom where Fans around the globe receive irresistible encouragement to do great and wondrous things — day after day, month after month, year after year, Millennium after Millennium?

Perhaps I do Fandom, and indeed, the entire Universe, a grave disservice by succumbing now. The SES is still young. Eons

from now, historians may shake their heads, saying "If only Geri Sullivan had been a bit stronger, she could have defeated SES before it achieved its maturity and full strength. She saw the danger, she knew the implications of such power unleashed upon the world; if she had chosen to stand firm against the efforts of the relative youngster, humankind would have perhaps had the chance to learn to manage and channel SES' power, rather than being completely at its mercy, as we are today."

Alas, my sense of fair play demands I follow the suggestions so kindly extended by Willis, White, and Katz. Ghu, I beg of you, enable tomorrow's historians to take this into consideration as they consider my crimes.

Regardless, my fate is sealed. I will write to Arnie tomorrow. And I will add three names to the cosmic, and oh so fannish, Fault List. Fred Levy Haskell, you've got a lot to answer for.*

Update: PRoMote Communications

Just two weeks after the cookbook arrived from the printer, I firmed up arrangements to do layout and design for my first **hardbound** book!

Minn-stf's publishing arm, *Rune Press*, plans to publish a hardbound sf poetry anthology. Terry Garey is editing the book, which will include the work of several nationally-known sf poets. (I don't know if any of the poets are from outside the U.S.) Our

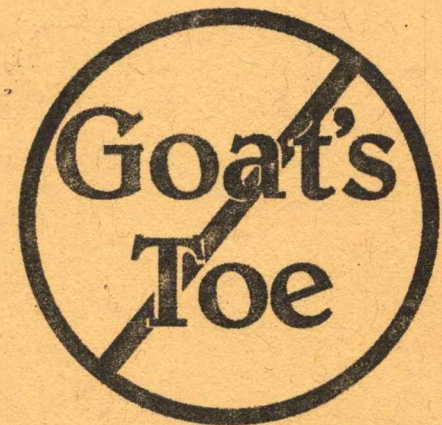
working title is **Time Frame**. We expect to have the book out by Minicon. Whee!

The cookbook looks good. It's collected numerous oohs and ahhs from my clients, which is always a Good Thing.

I didn't get another book project, and am very happy for it. The book was a technical forms design manual. The money would have been good, but the project showed every sign of being a nightmare. Recent projects include brochures for two clients and continued work at MWCC. Business is good enough that I'm finally talking with an accountant, which I should have done months ago. In short, I seem to have a real business!

Wanted: British Agent

It occurs to me that having a British agent for *BTED...TTEC* sales could be useful. Interested and willing, Vin? Also, do you have names/addresses for any of the Norwegian fans who have shown a keen interest in Irish Fandom?



* For those who didn't already know, it's Fred's fault. OK, it was Emma Bull's fault first. But it was Fred who showed me *Warboon 28* and invited me to Corflu 3. Speaking of whom, Walter, remember that famous fan who worked in the Foshay Tower and wrote about it for P&TNH's *Telos*? It's the same Fred who introduced me to fanzine fandom. Small world, eh?

The sequels you didn't even know you were waiting for...

A fannish dream come true...

Journey with Jophan...

Beyond The Enchanted Duplicator...

and

...To The Enchanted Convention

by

Walt Willis & James White

Illustrated by Stu Shiffman

Available Early 1991

Collector's Edition

(\$15, postage paid: Limited edition, mimeographed, numbered & signed)

Standard Edition

(\$6, postage paid: Volume discount available)

Proceeds to fannish causes

To order, or for more information, write to:

Gerri Sullivan

3444 Blaisdell Ave. S.

Minneapolis, MN 55408-4315 U.S.A.