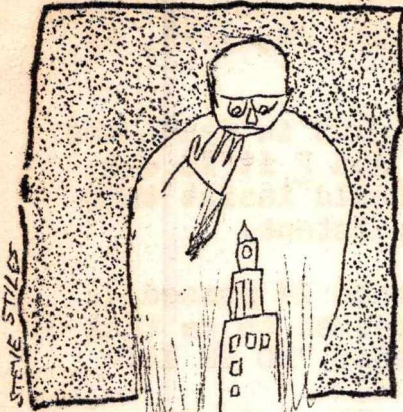


OPO #20

For Apa F, November 20, 1964, this is OPO #20; for Apa L, November 26, it is OSO #5.



THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE EMPIRE STATE BLDG..

AT TWO O'CLOCK SUNDAY MORNING last the tele- phone screamed me out of the arms of Morpheus (and/or my wife, as the case may have been). Staggering dazedly across the bedroom I lifted the receiver to my ear, and mumbled a sleepy "Hello" into the mouthpiece.

One sixty-two thousandth of a second later the voice of Harlan Ellison was pouring out of the instrument, down my right aural canal and into my spongy unresisting brain.

Harlan was very upset about the 1965 Hugos. Very. He felt that the Loncon Committee, in opting not to reinstate the Drama category suspended by Pacificon II was gyping him out of a deserved honor. He'd called Ella Parker to protest only to meet with rebuff. He'd phoned Roy Tackett to take issue with Roy's anti-Hugo Committee blast in DYNATRON only to be

turned away with a polite but unyielding reply. Harlan was highly agitated...the only competition for "Demon with a Glass Hand" which he saw was "Dr. Strangelove," to which he would not really mind losing...too much. But to be done out of the chance even to compete...!

I told Harlan that I had a document in my briefcase, ready for stenciling, which might ease his plight somewhat. I described the document, Harlan offered a suggestion or two, which I incorporated, and the result you see in this week's mailing. While not Apa F/L documents per se, the Hugo Committee Open Letter series will be put through both weekly apas; comments of Effers are welcome. Ellers also.

BOOK WEEK: THE STORY OF ULLA by Edwin Lester Arnold, Longmans, 1895.

Sturgeon's Corollary, you've probably forgotten, is "Any book is new if you haven't read it yet." This is not strictly true. If a book is so dated in style, in literary convention, in the mores and attitudes it reflects...then, while it may still be worthwhile to read, it is not new. Thus, The Story of Ulla, a period piece of Victorian prose by the author of Phra the Phoenecian, Lepidus the Centurian, and Lieut. Gullivar Jones.

The present volume is a collection of short stories and novelettes from such magazines as "Graphic," "Pall Mall," "Idler," "Lloyds," and "Atalanta." Most of the ten stories are romances, with or without a fillip of historical adventure. The title story, for instance, is a telegraphed snap-ender about a viking leader and an English maiden. Three other stories in the book are of interest to the fantast.

"A Dreadful Night," although not supernatural in nature, is a fine spooky tale of Colorado, somewhat reminiscent in style of Bret Harte. "Rutherford the Twice-Born" is a sort of Bridey Murphy narration, with a ghostly visitant playing the role of Morey Bernstein.

Best of all is "The Vengeance of Dungarvan," even if solely for its marvelous villain, Black John Hackett, whose escape from a 1630 Irish hangman's noose smacks of the devil's aid, and whose correspondence in a mysterious script with unknown addressee brings an avenging shipload of bloodthirsty Arabs to Ireland's shore.

MAILING COMMENTS: I haven't received last week's Apa F mailing yet, so straight on to Apa L. I notice that this is listed as the Second Distribution, but I know better. It's the, err, well, I know it's not the second. It's dated November 12, 1964, so there.

TITLE PAGE (D. Pelz) You are a charming girl, Dian, but in Apa L the fanzine you are now reading is oso. In Apa F it is opo. Or if you want to get ratty about it, I guess you could insist that it is oposo in both places, although that it not my intent.

NET VREMIA (B. Pelz) I was very surprised to hear that 14 passed... while Pat and I were in California, it seemed to me that between 75% and 90% of the bumper stickers we saw said "NO ON 14!" What ever became of the featherbedding referendum?

The only Hugo choice I've made (barring startlement by a November or December release) is Fritz L's THE WANDERER. A glorious book...I felt, at the end of it, the way one is supposed to feel at the end of LotR.

COLEING (Fitch) But I really would draw a difference between F'clasts and LASFS, using the mailing assembly as a distinct symptom of the difference in attitudes. There are a good many others, of course, especially as those of us who are members of both clubs know.

RABANOS RADIOACTIVOS (Patten) We found in the Fanoclasts that for a while Apa F "revitalized" us to the point where we ignored one another and just read Effzines at our meetings. But it passed.

BILL BLACKBEARD (Cauldron Bubble) Ever get the feeling that your fanzine was taking control?

To my knowledge you are the only Edogawa Rampo fan in stfandom other than myself. I came across his "Japanese Tales of Mystery and Imagination" in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands [VIRGINVENTION IN 67!] and was totally enraptured. I swore that I would do a Big Fanzine Article on Rampo, and maybe I will some time. It's only been a few years now.

Or is it that you just love Rampo's name, because you know what it really means?

OPOSO (me) Well, maybe combining OPO and OSO will prove the answer, with general comments falling where they may, and mlg comments Right Out There In the Open, so the members of each weekly apa can see how bad the other is.

CARCASILLA (Gilbert) Gee, what interesting reading. No, no particular further comments to add to any of yours. Just, nice stuff here, which I enjoyed as I have few other fannish items in some time. Thank you. Oh, one thing -- how about "The Boy Who Bought Old Earth" for a Hugo as short fiction?

HYDRA (McInerney) This has a familiar look to it. Say, has it dawned on you non-resident Ellers (Mike, Dave, Mann, me) that this is all a clever ploy to get a buck apiece from us? Devilishly clever, those LASFen.

I really have intended to make up a booklist, Mike.RSN!

Uvver worsewile stuff, but no rheum. Czarry.

--Dick (& Pat)--