

WELCOME LEAFLET NUMBER FIVE

FANSPEAK

THE NATIONAL FANTASY FAN FEDERATION

This leaflet is for the newcomers to science-fiction fandom.

Among other things in your orientation, you will find that the initiated in fandom use a rather technical system of jargon in their writings, mostly for the purposes of conservation of space and time, and also as symbols for ideas and things that are in themselves peculiar to science-fiction fandom. You will find that this system is quite highly developed, and it will be necessary to learn a greater percentage of the terms of this jargon, in order to letters, magazines, and other writings of fans which you will want to understand.

For purposes of simplicity, as well as orderliness, this leaflet is subject-indexed, somewhat on the order of a thesaurus, so that you can understand not only the meanings of the terms but their relations in usage with other terms as well, jargon and non jargon alike. The best way to make use of this leaflet is to read it through straight the first time and get a thorough grounding in fannish jargon. Then you can begin using the terms yourself; and you can read and understand the writings of other fans. If you are looking for a word, it will be easy to think of the approximate context in which you wish to use it, and then to look in the appropriate place in this leaflet. Or if you are puzzled by a word note the context in which it appears in the sentence that contains it, and then look it up under the subject-index.

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SECTION ONE: BASIC:

FAN: Science Fiction fan, always. You're one. The word FAN may be used in conjunction with a prefix or suffix to denote particular types of fan, or to denote things related to fans, as follows:

ACTIFAN, active fan;---**PASSIFAN**---inactive fan, or passive seme.
ANGLOFAN or **BRIFAN**, British or English fan. **AUSSIFAN**, Australian fan
---**CANFAN**, Canadian fan. Similar place names may be added to the base word FAN to denote where said fan lives; as, **MICHIFAN**, **DIXIEFAN**, etc. The sex may also be indicated; in general the word FAN refers to a male fan. A female may be denoted by **FEM-FAN** or **FEMME-FAN**.

The plural of FAN may be **FANS** or **FEN** (Man, men; fan, fan). Adjective **FANNISH**, adverb **FANNISHLY**.

Status in fandom gives us two classes: **NEOFAN**, or the new fan, and **Big Name Fan**, abbreviated **BNF**.

Relative to fans are the following terms:

CRIFANAC, from **CRITICAL FAN ACTIVITY**.

FANACTIVITY, self explanatory.

BEANIE BRIGADE, the juvenile contingent of fandom; coined by Bob Tucker and probably inspired by the wearing of helicopter beanies by Michifen during a convention.

BURNED OUT, the condition reached eventually by those neofen who plunge into crifanac with more enthusiasm than tolerable. They soon burn themselves out.

GOSHWOMBOYBOY: State of enthusiasm of the members of the Beanie Brigade.

INSURGENTS: Originally a schismatic group of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. Now used to denote any group who breaks away from a club and proceeds to defy convention.

LETTERHACK: A fan who writes letters to the professional science fiction magazines for the purpose of getting---

EGCBOO: A boost of the ego, usually derived by seeing ones name in print.

OLD GUARD: Term coined by Rick Sneary to designate Old Timers in fandom.

SERVIFAN or **UNIFAN**: Fan in the armed services, i.e. in uniform.

A thorough mastery of these usages would enable you to plunge in to the next section, and will increase your understanding of fannish language.

SECTION TWO: PUBLICATIONS:

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Sub-Section I: **FANZINES**---**FAN** magazines, or magazines edited and published by fans.

In general the word magazine is never used all at once. Either half of it may be used with a prefix to indicate a type of magazine; or "Mag" or "Zine" may be used as a substitute for the whole word. The word **PUBLICATION** is also shortened to **PUB**. Thus we have also **FANMAG** and **FANPUB**, with meanings synonymous with **FANZINE**. The word issue is shortened to **ISH**; fan-editor becomes **FANED**.

There are several subdivisions in which to classify fanzines. In content of magazine we have **GENERALZINE**: a magazine of general interest which may contain about anything;

NEWSZINE: Contains news.

LETTERZINE: Contains letters.

POETRYZINE: Contains poetry.

ADZINE, **TRADEZINE**, **SWAPZINE**: devoted to advertising.

Fanzines are also classified according to method of distribution. Thus we have:

- SUBZINE: May be obtained by subscribing to it.
- FREEZINE: The publisher gives this away.
- NEFZINE: Distributed through the NFFF
- APAZINE: Distributed through an Amateur Press Association (APA)

Or classified according to who publishes or finances it.

- NEFZINE: Same thing, falls into both classes.
- CLUBZINE: By a club.
- OO: Official Organ (of an organization).

Jargon terms are also applied to the various methods of reproduction; viz:

LITHO, PHOTO-LITH, PHOTO-OFFSET: Reproduction by the lithograph, or photo-offset process.

MIMEO: Short for mimeograph reproduction.

HEKTO: Short for hektograph, or gelatin-tray reproduction.

DITTO: A reproduction process similar to hekto, except it is done on a rotary mechanism.

And of course, printing. In connection with the reproduction processes, there are many jargon terms. Almost all of these apply to mimeo, since it is the most prevalent among fan. These terms include:

TYPYPER: Short for typewriter, which is used to cut stencils for mimeography.

ONSTENCIL: Composing as you go, right on the stencil sheet (as opposed to typing the work out beforehand and then copying it). Not recommended to inexperienced editors.

INTERLINEATION: Text set off by lines above and below. Often the spaces between words are omitted, and the editor may attempt to bring the text flush with the right hand margin. It is used to stick in comments apropos of anything, to plug something, or just to keep off the dull times.

This is an example of interlineation as you can see it is very interesting stuff

JUSTIFY: To adjust the spaces between words on each line so as to make the type come out even with the right hand margin all down the page.

DUMMY: To type up the magazine previous to putting it on stencil, mainly for the purpose of assuring yourself of enough space, and also to justify the margins. Most fanpubbers skip this step.

TYPO, plural TYPOES,---typographical errors.

QUASI-QUOTES: Quotation marks with a hyphen under them, indicating that the material inclosed has been changed slightly by the editor; as, "Government of the NFFF, by the NFFF, and for the NFFF."

Material, too, may have jargon terms applied to it. However, the usage of jargon here is very slight and usually only to shorten or abbreviate ordinary words. These terms are given here:

MSS: Manuscript.

CRUD: Worthless or undesirable material.

CONTRIB: Contribution.---CONTRIBBER: Contributor.

ILLO: Abbreviated form of Illustration.

0 OPEN LETTER: Proclamation intended (outwardly) to reach the eyes of one or more fans specifically, but designed to catch the gaze of other parties also.

And usages relating to parts of the magazine, etc...

BACOVER: The back cover of a magazine, usually the mailing page.

TOC: Table of contents.

MLG: Mailing

ANNISH: Anniversary issue.

Sub-Section II: PROZINES: Professional science fiction magazines: These include all sf mags which are pubbed by professional publishers: in order to make money, are edited by professional editors and contain material by pro-authors. Plural PROS or PROZ.

The prefix PRO is used in conjunction with many words to indicate professional status, such as PRO-AUTHOR, PRO-ED, PRO-ARTIST, etc. Prozines are divided into two classes:

PULPS: Prozines printed on cheap pulp paper, with untrimmed edges and flashy covers.

SLICKS: Prozines printed on high quality paper, with trimmed edges and tasteful covers---all the marks of a "slick" magazine.

Almost all proz have abbreviated versions of their names used by fans, such as:

FFM - Famous Fantastic Mysteries

FN - Fantastic novels

aSF - Astounding Science Fiction; the small case "a" became popular when Campbell, in 1947, began playing down the "Astounding" on the cover and enlarging the words "SCIENCE FICTION."

SS - Startling Stories

TWS - Thrilling Wonder Stories

FSQ - Fantastic Story Quarterly

OOTWA - Out Of This World Adventures

OW - Other Worlds

Madge - Imagination

Amz. - Amazing Stories

F&SF - Fantasy and Science Fiction, The Magazine Of

And so on, and so on---

Sub-Section III: PRO MATERIAL: Fans also apply jargon terms to famous plots and other features of pro material. These are more or less self-explanatory, so let's get into them:

SPACE OPERA: Horse Opera with space ships.

BEM: Bug Eyed Monster, such as the things that persecute ravishing nude females on the covers of pulps.

THE SHAVER MYSTERY: An enormous hoax perpetrated on the pages of AMAZING STORIES some years back by Richard S. Shaver, who wrote stories of his adventures in caves under the earth populated by evil beings he called:

DEROES:(Singular DERO), who lived in these caves and spent their time meddling in human affairs via a number of marvelous "rays" that enabled them to influence people's thoughts, disintegrate them in their living rooms, etc. Shaver maintained that all this was gospel truth.

SGT. SATURN: A goshwowboyoboy character that edited letter columns in the proz during world war II years. He has since passed.

XENO: A potent drink on which Sgt. Saturn and his pals supposedly got stewed now and then.

THUD AND BLUNDER: A reversal of Blood and Thunder, used to characterize "high adventure stories" such as Planet pubs.

SLAN: A character in a vanVogt story of aSF 1940 who was a super man. Now used in the same context as fan - e.g., slanzine, etc.

HANG FROM THE CEILING AND DRIP GREEN: From a story by Richard Matheson in F&SF; now used in the same context as, "Go jump in the lake."

HOUSE NAME: Pseudonym used by a publishing house for stories by several authors; i.e., any author can have his story pubbed under the house name. Examples---Alexander Blade of Ziff-Davis, Brett Sterling of Standard Pubs.

ORIGINAL: The drawing or painting from which a plate is made to print artwork in the proz. Originals are eagerly collected by fen.

FLOOR: A planet used by Doc Smith in his Lensmen series. Used now as an exclamation or as synonymous with any far-away place.

SECTION III: ORGANIZATIONS

There are too many fan organizations for us to list all of them-- and in any case that is not the purpose of this leaflet. You will soon receive, if you haven't already, a listing of all fanclubs in the US at present. A number of the more popular abbreviations and pronunciations will suffice here.

LASFS (Lasfas): Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society
GGFS (Gugfus): Golden Gate Futurian Society
PSFS (Pusfus): Portland and/or Philadelphia Science Fantasy Soc.
NFFF (N3F, Neff): National Fantasy Fan Federation
ESFA (Ess-fah): Eastern Science Fiction Association

and of course the amateur press societies:

A.J. (Ay-jay) stands for Amateur Journalism.

FAPA: Fantasy Amateur Press Association

GAPA: Galactic Amateur Press Association

NAPA: National Amateur Press Association

VAPA: Vanguard, etc...

MAPA: Mundane, etc.

SAPS: Spectator Amateur Press Society

(Ed. Note: I believe several of the above ayjay societies are defunct---though there are still references to them now and then.)

SECTION IV: GENERAL JARGON

Sub-Section I: CONVENTIONS; in order, the annual world science-fiction conventions were:

NYCON: The first annual convention in New York, 1939

CHICON: 2nd Annual Convention, Chicago, 1940

DENVENTION: 3rd Annual Convention in Denver, 1941

PACIFICON: 4th annual convention, Los Angeles, 1946

PHILCON: 5th annual convention, Philadelphia, 1947

TORCON: 6th annual convention, Toronto, Canada, 1948

CINVENTION: 7th annual convention in Cincinnati, 1949

NORWESCON: 8th annual convention in Portland, 1950

NOLAICON: 9th Annual convention in New Orleans, 1951

In general, the suffix CON refers to the annual world convention. The 1952 convention, for instance, will be the Chicon, once again held in the Windy City.

Local gatherings may be called conferences, conclaves, etc. Some of the most famous of these have been:

DISCLAVE: From District of Columbia Conclave; a regional conference held in Washington, D.C. in 1950

WESTERCON: The annual West Coast Conference; held a different place each year.

WHITCON: A British fan gathering held in 1949

MICHICON: A big fan gathering held in Michigan a few years back.

Sub-Section II: RELIGION AND SUPERSTITIONS:

Fen have at times invented, in more frenetic moments, various religions and superstitions that have persisted.

GHU: or, GHU-GHU: One of the gods invented.

FOO: or, FOO-FOO: another god, at times advocated by Redd Boggs and bitterly opposed to heretical Ghu worship.

ROSCOE: The legendary beaver, discovered by Arthur H. Rapp and opposed to both Ghu and Foo-foo.

GHOD: For some reason even the atheists in fandom generally spell God with an "H", as above. One of the few superstitions.

CTHULHU: A legendary god invented by H.P. Lovecraft, and perpetuated by August Derleth.

UL-UL: A blobby character invented by Ralph Rayburn Phillips to publicize the Norwescon.

Sub-Section III: MISCELLANY:

HEESH: He or she.

HISER: His or her.

NORS: Non-readers (of stf).

WILD HAIR SESSION: A meeting of insurgents for purposes of publishing a fanzine. From Charles Burbee's fanzine WILD HAIR.

ORT: Official Round Table, the round robin letter whereby the NFFF Directorate transacts its business.

ACKERMANESE: After Forrest J Ackerman: The use of what are called SCIENTIFICOMBINATIONS, which we can best illustrate by giving a few:

BRADBURYARN, MERRITALE, CALIANIA, ATOMIGGEDON, etc. etc.

FOUT: Usually an expression of annoyance, e.g., "Oh, fout!"

GAFIA: Get Away From It All

SEXOCRACY: A system of society advocated by Ray Nelson. Just what it sounds like.

Sub-Section IV: BOOK-DEALER TERMS:

Mint copy: New condition, unused.

ND: No date.

EYETRACKS: When you read a book you leave eyetracks, thus destroying its mint condition.

JAM: Mint, Dust Jacket.

PB: Paper Bound edition; or, Pocket-Book.

BRB: British Reprint Edition

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