

2962 Santa Ana St.
South Gate, Calif.
April 8, 1962

Dear Fred,

This is a letter of thanks and comment on Salamander. As it is your first issue, maybe I should explain a little, my answering system.. For even though I have a great deal of time I could devote to fanac, I find I enjoy a fairly limited amount. Not enough to answer all my mail and write LofC on everything I receive.. And especially, not as they come, as I work in your sports.. Thus incoming fanzines go into a box by my bed, in the order I want to answer them.. And when I have the energy, I take the first in the row.. Thus I usually get to everyone, but it some times takes months. ---And, because of that I rarely read a fanzine very throughly untell I am going to answer it, for I forget very easily. (Usual read editorial as they come, tho.)

Now.. Beautiful cover.. But no doubt everyone has told you that. This kind of three color work, were register is not importen, looks so very good. It was looking so good, is the reason I thought it was Shaggy. I hope you try some like it for Shaggy, though it is more expensive.

I've already pretty well expressed my opinion on a formal name for the "Hugo" awards.. Here again is a case were it is to bad that the World Science Fiction Society failed.. The awards could have then been given in the name of the W.S.F.S. --Though I think "Fantasy" as in the LASFS, is a better and more inclusive title.. As I said before, the "Oscars" and "Emmys" are awrads of Societies.. If we need a formal title, it should indicate the group making the award -- or it will appear to speak for all the feild, which the "Hugo"s never do.

Lightman's article is fine stuff.. This is the sort of thing that the NFF or some such group ought to have in stock some were in stacks, to supply to neo-fans, and fringe fans, to answer their questions about what fandom is.. Every once in a while I read an artile like this that explains things very clearly -- but regreatfull they are in fanzines that for a large part are going to people who allready know the answers. I've been guilty of writing this kind.. But still, it is a good article-- and I have more to argue with him on the next time. For now all I can say is I'm sorry he didn't mention the Carboniferous Amateur Press Alliance (CAPA), which is a carbon-reproduzed apa, formed for the perpose of keeping 5th Fandom alive..

Moffatt's story is one of his better ones.. There isn't much one can say about it though.. I liked it, and I don't generally like fan fiction.

The same is true of Gurney... I didn't think the ending had much punch, but he had some very good lines.. I don't know why but the trans-posed words "hot sludge fundae" seemed very funny to me. It also fitted his "beings".

Well, no one has told me who "k.v." is--and no one has asked.. But I'd opp that it was the Duke of Plazatora. I simply can't imagine anyone else pulling off some of those lines -- unless they were deliberately trying to ape Jack.--- But whether it be Jack-o'wapes, they are still good reviews. They express opinions, for the most part, rather than a straight review of the issue. -- I'd not seen five or read two of those covered, so I preferred an opinion to a limited review.

In our close society I feel a reviewer of fanzine should try more to express and form (mold) opinion, than merely inform.

Your article on the UCLA collection was of special interest to me-- for reasons you well know.. By now you must have your copy of the minutes (I typed up, as you know about all the opinions I have on the idea.. And I hope something will come of it.. Even if the U. only stores the stuff, it is still doing something that fans in general can be hopeful and grateful for. And nothing we can hope is that with UCLA starting, other colleges will become interested.. It is after all, not a sort of collection in which one college can become greatest because of single copies and "personal correspondence", as with the works of one man.. But we will talk more on this, and your article helps repair fandom for what might follow.

To points (public) on the micro-film bit.. Couldn't they sacrifice second copies. If they are going to be saved, they are going to have to be copied, because even thirty years has done a lot to magazine in my collection.. Better to tar them up now, while they are still readable.. -- The ones that were stapled would come apart pretty easily -- and might be salvaged by a fan too..

I will argue with you on one point, that science fiction is easier to find now days.. True there is more of it, but not easier to collect or buy.. Twenty years ago you found it in magazines and you could either subscribe or know that they would appear at certain news stands about a certain time each month (or quarter).. And, they would appear regularly.. But now that so much is in paper-backs, and books with strange titles, it is hard to keep up, let alone intouch.. A new stand that could carry all the magazines, even in the boom, can not be counted on to have all the p.b.s., -- and in my case, I can't always be sure it is not a doctored up reprint of something I already have in magazine form.. So, I'm missing most of what others say is good stuff.

Salamander is good stuff to, hope to see more..

Yours,
Rick Sneary