

2962 Santa Ana St.
South Gate, Calif.
Feb. 20, 1957.

Dear John, Hitchcock
Jean Linard
Andy & Jean Young
Ving & Joy Clarke

I have just read Umbra #16, and while doing so thought of the things I would like to say to each of you. But do to conditions which are unfortunately completely within my control -- but which I refuse to do -- I haven't had the time. Then the thought occurred that I might resort to something I have not done in four years... Multy-aimed missiles... Three of you will receive carbon copies, but chance are, any other way, you wouldn't have received anything.

As we all read Um, and are brought together by it, I'll start with a few words to you John. -- Glad to see it still coming. I suspected from your last editorial that you were about ready to give up completely.

The material content was very good.. If I was still reviewing zines for SF Parade I'd rate it a 7, maybe an 8.. Of course with Berry and McLeod, you were bound to please me... Berry is coming closer to my dream article.. A factual description, with blue-
print, of the Oblique House.. For years I have been after Willis to do it. I tried Harris.. I've asked Berry. ~~He~~ wouldn't, that I'd go to George.... Maybe if all of you added your voices..... Of course, it should appear in ~~the~~ ~~zine~~ ~~asked~~ before... Is McLeod real? I've felt for ever-so-long that he was Richard Siea, but no proof... And he keeps on, will Dick has dropped back. -- Like DEA, you never read anything of him but a by-line.

They is funny from the old 5th Fandom school.. Takes me back to my happy days with SPARKWARP.. Lars Helander was a little disjoineded.. The first sounded more like a letter.. -- While I imagine I agree with what they say, I can't help but feel unhappy to see these Swirfan and Gorfans cast stones on their own nations fandom.. Peth are just starting, and sound like the stories of our 1st - 3rd fandom.. While I'm a rock-hard internationalist, I see no reason that other countries should try to sound like US and English fandom.. But, then I'm getting old, and I couldn't work up much more than a mild amusement at activities of fans such as Wetzel.

Don't know how long my interest will last, so here is only 10¢ for the next one John..

To the Linard's and Young's I want to say I am sorry not to have written and thanked you for your fanzines.. While I like fans, and enjoy fansines, it is not to the extend I once did. (See Jean, Americans can do it too.. without trying.) The truth of the matter is that most of your fansines are unread. With Houh I have an excuse, its size.. I read in dabs and sports. So, when I have a chance to read, I pick up something short, so I can

atleast have hope of finishing it all at one setting (as with Umbra). In the of your zines Young's, it was partly the falt of the column I was doing. I didn't plan to review FAPA zines, so delayed reading them, when they came. And almost allways fatal mistake.. I'd read parts and bits, but never enough for a complete reply.. Infact, Meuh is the prime reason I am no doing a fanzine review column anymore. I reviewed #40 the last time, without fully reading it. This, I concidered such an unagardonable sin for a reviewer, that I cut my self off.

Ofcourse, the Young's have "wised up" and stoped sending me all their publications. But I still feel mighty asamed through as gratefull. Also to Georgana Ellis, who suffered the same fate. But things will clear up somewhat now.. Bob Pavlet has told me I am to the top of the Waiting List, and I will probably be in the May mailing. I might even have a magazine.. Maybe the one due in December..

I have also been somewhat reluctant to write you Jean Linard. As you have undoubtedly noticed by now I do not (can not) spell English the way others do. Having trouble understanding as it is, I hate to think what my botched up writing will do to you. And least you get the impression I do it as a joke.. let me assure you I find it very unfunny.. I'm just a little not bright.. Bad education or lack of same when young, and being a lazy fellow. I got a reputation in my day, something like your own. Many fans laughed at me, but fortunetly, like you, a few thought what I was trying to say was interesting too.

The news in Joy's letter that she and Vin (Goops) might be coming out here to live.. Even as soon as 1958, fills me with a unreasonable amount of joy. Unreasonable in the sense Ving that while I have long admired your work - especially in the early "A" and "B" -- we have never been correspondents. Also, other people I looked forward to having in the area, have scattered down 15 and miles away and yet I never see them.. But still----

I would say Joy, that while Southern California is a wonderful spot, Los Angeles isn't so great for health.. Undoubtedly as better than London or New York, but not as dry or clear as some of our inland towns.. It all depends what type of work you people plan to take up. I spent last winter in Las Vegas for my health, as a clerk for the telephone company. They had half a dozen English couples working for them.. But say, it would be grate if you could make it for our Convention. Put for the TAFB bid. I wouldn't cost much more to send you both one way, than one of you round trip.. The New York gang may be flasher, but don't decide tell you hear what Sunny So. Calif. has to offer.. We will have a couple people in London this Summer.. One thing, we haven't had a major fan feud here in ten years. And LASPS is 22 years old.

That then friends, is about it. Thanks for fanzines past and present.. Greeting to the Clarke's. And hope you will think a kindly thought about me and my great big pile of good intentions. Yours, [Name]