

WARM CHAMPAGNE #7

This is Lion's Gate Publication #18, typed on May 18, 1977, by Susan Wood, Dept. of English, University of British Columbia, Vancouver B.C. V6T 1W5 Canada, for Anzapa.

--First off: I am typing this Very Brief issue without having seen the April Anzapa. I have no objections to S.A.L. mailings as such, given the High Cost of Postage. However, the Australian air traffic controllers' strike may have messed things up; I just got a letter from John Bangsund dated April 30, and it generally only takes 4 or 5 days for airmail to cross the Pacific. (Surface is another matter; I'm still expecting a package of fanzines that David Grigg mailed in January.) However, John, if you send my mailings S.A.L., please send them to ME, not to John Berry. I haven't seen John for a month, though I will be leaving for Seattle Very Early Friday morning enroute to the Bay Area. He may well have a mailing for me, but it's not much use to me, sitting in Seattle. (Yes, I know Carey mailed that lot, not you)

The trip is the reason this is only one page. Rushrusrush. I've been enjoying the first week since February that I haven't had houseguests, by Getting Ready, doing programming for the Westercon, writing my tribute to John Bangsund for Genre Plat (Vancouver's wondrous new fanzine, from Allyn Cadogan, 1916 W. 15th Ave., Vancouver B.C., free plug, \$1.00 or response), writing 2 long book reviews for John Berry's Pacific Northwest Review of Books, and, finally, writing a 3,000 word Scholarly Article. Not to mention doing University administration (still) and marking essays from one of our correspondence classes-- I took over from a chap who's returned to Australia, to teach at University of Sydney. (Another Academic Contact, useful for Getting Back to Australia Via a Research Grant)

The trip is also the reason this is being typed on house-mate Eli Cohen's cranky Remington 700, instead of my beloved Selectric. I'm officially doing a research trip, going to Berkeley to do Research for a Book on SF. Sure you are, Susan. I do plan to do some WORK, yes really, and will need a typewriter, but the Selectric isn't really portable. For 6 weeks, Eli will get to play with it, while I bash away at this machine, which never recovered from the attack by my Thesis Dybbuk. I want to see if it'll still cut a stencil, after its expensive overhaul.

I think the main reason for the trip is to get away from the Wood Hotel. I realized recently that I have scarcely had the house to myself since May 1976, and have had, I think, a maximum of 5 weekends (it may be 4) to myself since I returned, exhausted and still ill, from Worldcon in September. Since, as Eric and others know, my job is an 18-hour-a-day one, 7 days a week during term, you'll understand why I feel a little tired. Individually, each visitor was extremely welcome. (Recent ones include Dena Brown for 2 weeks, followed by Lesleigh Luttrell, followed by my mother for 2½ weeks-- which was fun because we did a lot of sight-seeing, walking in a half-dozen different wilderness parks, etc., but tiring since I was also doing end-of-term marking each night after Mother was in bed), Ken Fletcher and Linda Lounsbury, and Joan Baker (the former Joan Bowers.) I've also been doing some work for Westercon, and helping with the new genzine. Unfortunately, I haven't been answering the mail, as usual. I also haven't had nearly as much psychological free space around me as I need, especially during term, and especially when I want to write. No, make that need to write; it's my way of clarifying what I'm thinking, what's going on in my life. For that matter, apart from a Dick Francis orgy (with selected other mystery and thriller writers) at end of term, I haven't done much reading (during term, I can only read essays and the books I'm actually teaching.)

Next year, I think, the hotel will have to close during term. However, Eric Lindsay already has his reservation in for the summer of 1978. I'm looking forward to it. Off to California, and several weeks of sun, nice people, reading and maybe some writing.

Best,
Susan