

FAN
JAN

Liked your cover

P. 8

Liked Eddy Berlin's piece

OCT
'72

1



INTRODUCTION TO

Lunchbreak.

You don't mind, do you, that I should be working on this page with a couple of fingers, whilst having an occasional bite from the sandwiches so thoughtfully prepared by myself.

That's the nuisance with most office people, at least here in Belgium. Most of us have nearly two hours free for the midday break, and quite a few, including myself, don't manage to get home. So either we go out for something to eat, or we bring our lunchpacket. It's usually the latter with me - easiest, and to tell the truth, the most satisfying. At least I know what I've put between the sandwich a couple of hours earlier on.

Wondering why I make the sandwiches myself? Rosa goes out to work too. And she goes out real early. Seven o'clock each morning. Which gives me time to make her a cup of coffee before leaving, and then arrange my lunch packet. Why she doesn't do it? Well, she used to. Years and years ago. But as she has been working at a sandwich bar for years, it's rather silly for her to take anything to work herself (especially as she gets a free meal anyway) and as I have more time in the morning.... Besides which she's rid of another worry, what to put between my sandwiches. No use grumbling about this not being available, or having already had that for yesterday's meal, the invariable answer being that I can go to the shop and get what I like.

Except that I'm lazy. I'd rather have most (not all) things three times running rather than go out and get something for lunch. Up till now this has never yet happened, having three times the same stuff in the sandwiches I mean. Though the time may be just around the corner.

You see, I have a daughter. But she went and got married a couple of weeks ago. Had a nice habit of eating all the leftovers, not because they were leftovers, but because she was continually searching for something to eat. And once the biscuits or cake were gone, she'd start on the cheese of whatever was left in the icebox. Sorry. Refrigerator. Belgium isn't that backward. Now that Sonia has gone, the overs are left. And sooner or later I shall find myself facing filet d'anvers or chester cheese for the third time running. That'll be the time I'll start eating out.

In the meantime I'll try and get some stencils done for

FANJAN

October the first, nineteen seventy two (the last time I looked)

published by

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on at least two duplicators and heavens know how many typewriters.

BRUSSELS IT IS

A COLUMN ON LOCAL ACTIVITIES _____ biased

You can't do justice to a fanclub in a short article, much less attempt to describe what happens in a country on a page or something that length; Other than SFAN there seems to be only one organised group near LIEGE, with a smattering of fans spread over the country which have some contact outside of Belgium itself.

I know only about SFAN which is the Flemish fangroup, mainly centred about Antwerp but with members all through Flanders. It's mainly because the Antwerp fans are the active ones that most activities should be scheduled in Antwerp for Ghent certainly has as many fans meeting each other as we have here.

SFAN started about three years ago - and promptly organised a successful local convention with representatives from Holland and France on the podium. At Heidelberg a couple of months later someone suggested that Brussels should be considered as a Eurocon town in the near future, and what with Triest offering to take on 1972, the next one in 1974 was suggested. With active fandom concentrated around Antwerp, then president Julien Raasveld thought that perhaps it would be more realistic to put Antwerp up in Triest rather than Brussels, which led to a first full-fledged fanfeud which hasn't died down yet.

SFAN was contacted several times through Simon Joukes, OE for Info-Sfan, the clubzine, about their support for the Eurocon in Brussels 1974, a motion which was never carried by the committee, mainly due to the fantastic ideas some '74 supporters had on running a convention.

The main item which cancelled SFAN's support was the idea to hire the con-building for a price of some 110.000 Bf (and just work that out at the current rate of 108 frs to the pound), admittedly a wonderful place for a convention and certainly not lacking any facilities you could think of. Except roomsq, for attendants to the con would have to board in hotels in the neighbourhood.

Brussels in 1974 was founded in 1970, and has already foundered a couple of times, always struggling up again with someone else's support. SFAN just prior to the Triest convention learned only that: instead of 1974 they would suggest holding a convention in Brussels 1973, which would also be slanted to the comics addicts.

Simon Joukes, only committee member to go to Triest, was refused permission to speak up for Brussels in 1974 on behalf of SFAN, seeing that there was no definite planning or proposals made that could even be considered.

Sometime in July, somewhere in Triest a vote was held, and somehow Brussels has won the nomination for the Eurocon next time around. We were quite happy to read, yes that's right, read about it in an issue ~~xxxx~~ of LOCUS (congratulations Locus) which arrived here about eight days before an editorial from Simon Joukes for the next Info-Sfan, in which we learn that he is a member of the organising committee.

You know, I wonder just how long it is going to take us to get blamed for not co-operating on a 110.000 fr expense account (hire only) and for opposing a convention in Brussels.

And yes, the above is my knowledge and my opinion. There may be facts never mentioned to any of us or to me. And I certainly don't mind anyone organising a convention in Brussels. I'd even much prefer one in Schoten, nearer home still, and the more the chance to get there.

The above also proves you shouldn't use an electric typewriter on stencil unless you really get the hang of it first.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

Hi, Dick !
Hi, Lynn !
Hi, Terry !!

And those the only names from the old days left? None whatsoever of the first year graduates? Yes, indeed where have all the OMPans gone?

Hi, Michel !
You louse, you. Not even saying a word that you'd joined OMPA. Scared I'd follow your example, and tell on you????

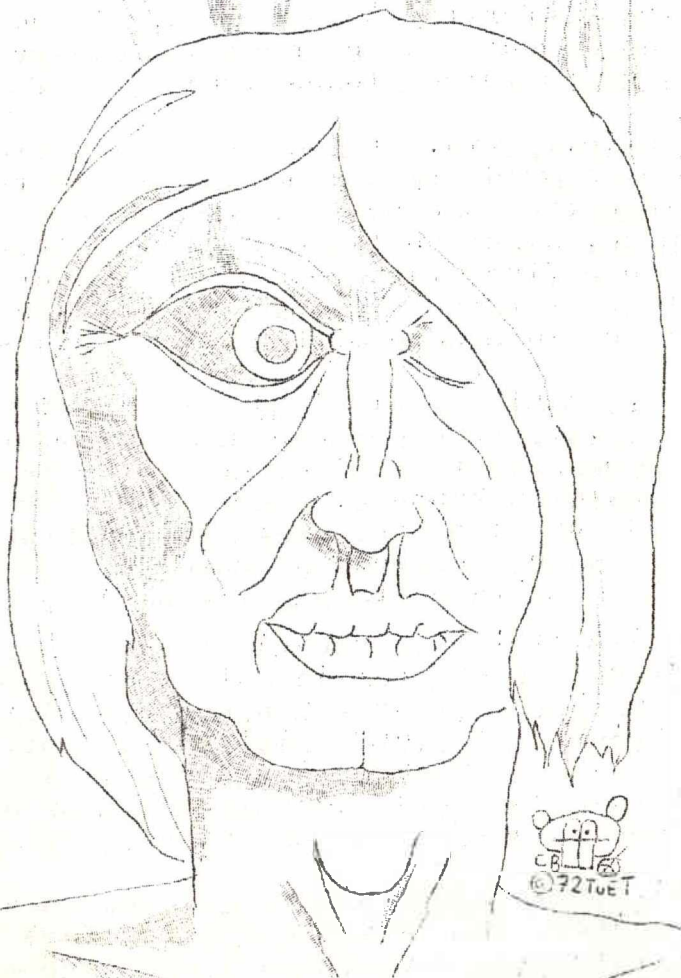
I'll not overdo it this time, but you know that Michel gets around a lot and occasionally throws a party at his place. Don't know whether he keeps an early and a late mailing list, but getting an invitation to a swallow-slivovits con on a friday evening when the party's due the next sunday, just doesn't give me enough time to persuade Rosa that I simply have to go. Just make it a couple of days earlier next time, won't you? And byghod, I do hope to see a report on this time's party from the short second-hand handout we got from Simon.

Hi, Nick !
Well, at least I've written to you, which is more than I've done for the rest of the lads in the present OMPArade.

Lads? Lads? Ghee whizz, there's even girls too!

Hi, everybody! Don't think that I'm disappointed because I find a Ken but not a Bulmer, nor a Slater, a John, but not a Hitchcock, nor a Koles, a Paul but not an Enever, a Pat, but again not a Bulmer, a ... or, why go on.

I'll back. Hope for the best.
This is a lousy way to start a comments-column.....



CB
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J.J. for once not being flemish, but a John and Jane Coombe, hello! Don't know much about sheep-farming. The last ones I saw running about more or less free, free, well I mean in a flock with shepherd and dog, was at least ten years ago. But now they have put in a new flock on Kalmphout Heide (=heath, moor) to stop it from being ultimately changed into beachwoods. Seems grazing sheep won't hurt the heath too much but certainly put a stop to new growing trees. Assume this to be because they like the taste of young leaves rather than that they go and sit on the seeds, but that's out of my usual realm. Nevertheless, a herd of sheep will certainly enhance the already lovely moors there. Thanks for the Howlers - I'll quote you some local ones one day, soon as I manage to get you people to understand flemish.

As for the French connection - glad you made it french by the way - we've got lots of lóacks too like land and skilled farmers, but we've got rich ones. Not exactly fair to the poor blokes, that. Subsidies muck up the whole pricing system. Especially when it comes to the import/export stage. But when you hear the prices offered farmers for their vegetables, or for their meat (on the hoof?) and then compare with the prices paid, farmers sure don't get much of what we pay in the shops.

Thanks for the beef though. I'm not particular about whether I have a hot meal or not, but Rosa can't do without. Sure nice to know you nice blokes help out when we run short.

Hello, David. If you want to know when the first Sputnik went up you should try any book on space travel, but I can sure tell you when the announcement of a space research programme was first made. Right on the day of the first Twerpcon. Easy to recall since Vinç Clarke - another flower gone? - wired us congratulations for the con and added that he thought it wonderful that we could manage such a proppaganda stunt on conday.

Hi, Gerb! Gerb it ish? Looks of it I'd be inclined to spell it Garb... Strange the names ones meets nowadays. No offence meant Gerb, just that I've recently been invited to say hello to a Saskia, a Vanessa, newborns with friends of ours here at Schoten, and now am beginning to wonder what Sonia will dream up for her son/daughter next january. Time will tell. Sorry, but commenting on comments on things I haven't seen is rather difficult.

Hello, Jim! If you can't make up your mind whether it's an untitled zine or whether it's called Arcenum, you can't expect me to decypher it. Not a nice start is it, saying you don't know whether you'll make every mailing or not, you could at least promise. Would like a chat with Brian Aldiss too, but going all the way to England to do so is a bit of a nuisance. Why don't they all come to Belgium more often? Parhabs I too could put in a phone-call.

Hi, Fred! Hope you've got the OMPAcon sub by this time. Simon says you're one of these English fans that manages to get to most conventions, so perhaps I should put in a plug about GHENT IN '73 here? Right on your doorstep. Trip in Dover and you land smack in the middle o Ghent. (If not, we'll try and pick up the pieces and arrange transport to Ghent.) Or would that be the straw to break your back, after OMPAcon and before Toronto?

I manage to find quite enough to do (and far too little time to do it in) as it is without bothering about diplomacy (as a game) and its relations. But if you should be at Ghent on May 20th, I'll listen to what you have to say about it.

Re the Irish problem... and as a matter of fact all other inter- and national strife: wasn't it a Beam-Piper (?) story about the diplomat who settled these affairs by tossing up a coin?

I knew there was something missing. Page 20. Surely you didn't mean it to be a virginal white space? Wouldn't it be lovely if they could decide to normalise paper sizes? In the recently started (one mailing old) PAPA, the specification is that quarto pages must be used, and that they should be stapled together in one booklet. The whole mailing that is. As long as the size isn't too big, this should be OK, but anyway, the one size paper is an improvement on the current OMPA mixup.

Re sizes. And mixups. By this time you'll have gotten used to the idea of using centimetres (or at least that you're going to use them in the near future) so I wonder what's happened in the photographic industry where they're switching from the cm sizes to inches. What a wonderful world.

If the Torcon bit doesn't come off, and you all (including Pete Weston) realise it in time, you're welcome at... Oh, you know....

I'm one of the stupids that doesn't like cats. At least not in the house I live in. Couldn't care less whether anyone else wants dozens of the little beasts... the only things I like about them is the pictures I (very) occasionally take of them.

Hello Terry! Ghee, what a relief to find someone in the mailing that I really know. That I've actually met and talked with. We've even sung together. Sung, not hung. My turn to apologise for not dropping you a line lately. As you'll have noticed (if you've read this far conscientiously) ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Sonia is expecting, and of course that'll make me a granddaddy, a real one and not like these local twerps who insist I'm the granddaddy of Belgian fandom, and that implies (not necessarily, but in this case, yes) that she's gotten married with all the attending ballyhoo, complicated, and in some way very much obstructed by Rosa's mother dying only a fortnight before. Things really got tied up somehow or other, and, well, you can guess...

I'm one to support you on the 'at least two staples' though you do tempt people to issue a magazine without any. Must say that Paul Torfs manages this wonderfully well. Paul by the way, for you ignorants, is also known as the silent slave of sfan, and bears the tremendous work attached to duplicating, sorting, collating and mailing each issue of the monthly INFOSFAN. After collating, about six to eight issues are put together in a small press, the backspine glued together, and after leaving the press and sorting out the separate issues, a tape around the spine finishes off a lovely stapleless zine. Stapling is much easier and much faster though.

Does a lettercolumn with Eric Bentcliffe and Alan Burns mean that there are other living remnants?

Yes

Hi, Sam! Some of these fans do travel don't they? Now.. at this moment I have an aunt and uncle visiting from New Jersey, but they'll be moving to Utah in the near future. There are the usual invitations to return the visit and drop in on them for a prolonged stay. Only thing is, do they ever have a convention in Utah?

You one of the Ron Bennett crowd that moans about I=l or not? I don't know what typer the Coombes use, but if I remeber correctly, English (possibly American as well) have the numbers on lower case. So that one would normally employ the letter l as the number one. Belgian, and most continental, typewriters have the numbers as upper case, so that typing like this I'd get

for é " ' (- è ¯ ç
 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 WHEN USING CAPITALS.

When you're writing lists with plenty of numbers, logically you put your typewriter in the LOCK position and type I972 or if you prefer GHENT IN I973.

I try to remember and use l when writing Ron, but habit... Horsemeat is good for you. Unless it's a worked down beast it's a damn sight better than beef. Steak is really good, but where it's best is the liver. Best thing ever found out for curing (or at least aiding) people who have suffered a loss of a lot of blood. And with a wink at Fred - returning to Belgium after a war-long stay in London, heard that cat wasn't too bad either. Just as well they breed fairly fast, there weren't that many left after the war.

Hello, Pam! Hello, Mike! I've just bought a new shading mat from Pelikan, a West German firm for typing supplies. Cost roundabout £ 1,- . Used to go round to Gestener offices at Antwerp for material but since they've moved out of town... Local dealers supply most anything, but unless something has changed for the worse (i.e. British prices have gone up) they're always a damn sight dearer than the prices I see mentioned on your side of the Channel.

Very much appreciated Peter Weston's speech on fan-publishing. You wouldn't have a copy of the previous Lurk to spare, or perhaps some slipsheets containing just that first instalment? Start commenting on that and I'd wind up with a tw ty page zine. And ten is enough for this time. I hope.

You may be surprised at Walter Bruyninckx work, I'm not. We Belgians have always been suckers..... Your conreport makes me feel bad, missing all those goodies. But I've taken the first step to future betterment. I sent in my two bucks to Fred.

Since the 65th mailing is the first complete....seems to be a sudden rise of newcomers then? Talk about snowballing..the only thing I dream about is an alter-ego shouting "I told you so" all night long, every night. Fat lot of good it does.

I agree that we need keen, dedicated and capable faneds. Not only in OMPA either. Nuisance is you get plenty with one or the other of those qualities, but how often do you find them all combined in one person? Then too, there is the name, magazine publishers, but in order to have fairly good fanzines you must also have the writers and the artists, preferably not publishing on their own, because in that case they haven't the time to turn out material for other editor's magazines. Don't know whether the 'should publish or have published' (by someone else) rule in the constitution still

stands, but having everybody publish their own, stops the publication of let's call them 'general Ompazines'. And then, you have ups and downs everywhere, so why not in OMPA. Let's hope it's on the upswing, yes? Unless of course you mean that people should put out a general zine, putting first of all the required 35 (?) copies through OMPA? LURK's lettercolumn reads more like a general zine than OMPAone.

If you insist on Derby in '99, you'll excuse my Ghent in '73?

Hell, sorry, Hello Brian and Paul! I'm in one hell of a mess too. Commenting still at three in the morning, and suddenly finding a magazine which hasn't a single mark on it! Must have read this on the bus to and from work with the (usually) honourable intention to mark parts afterwards where a comment is felt necessary, but heck, there's none there. So now what? Reread the thing at this unghodely hour? I'll see you....

I'll try and makeup somehow. Next time. Or lateron if time permits.

Hi, Keith!

Seems not only from this but also elsewhere that last year's (this year's?) Ompacombozine was a rather lousy affair. Your suggestions re a combozine on how to produce a fanzine reminds me that last year I spent about two days looking for 'Duplicating without Tears' by Vinç Clarke, a mag that Terry will certainly recall, but which I have apparently lost. Hasn't anyone got a copy. It should be worth republishing it.

Hello Michel! You should grumble at the Belgian post office. Even with their increase on just about everything with 50 to 100% you're still able to send your rags at 15 centimes. You can't even express that amount in English currency, because change that small simply doesn't exist. Anyway, being in the clearance matter myself, the charge is ridiculously low, and if you're charged for some items you say are free it's usually because the required statements haven't been attached or made on posting the stuff wherever it comes from. (As for the rest, the service is lousy, and the rates on anything but periodicals, scandalous!) No need to mention Ghent to you, I know you'll be there.

Hi, to a lot of people already mentioned above. This isn't a one-shot.

And the whole crowd. As represented in OMPAcon '73. OMPAGRESS is (to me) a horrible title. Liked the cover though. We'll see what can be done by that time.

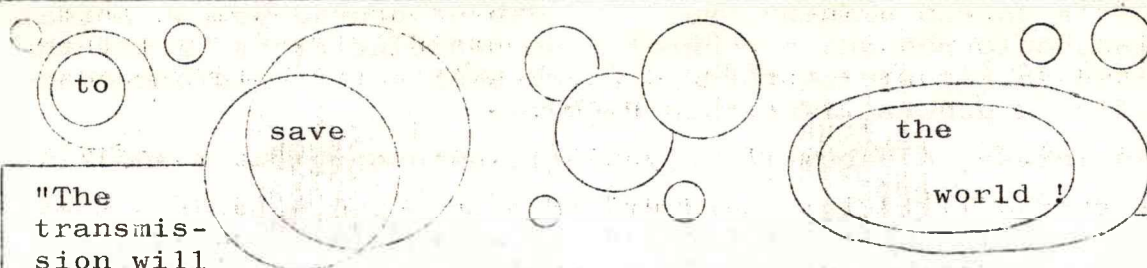
All 25 of you on the members list (I exclude the Principal Keeper of the Printed Books, after all, why should he be interested in a Belgian magazine?) plus the odds and ends attached to some of these members, (whow, couldn't you have expressed that just a bit more delicately?) pleased to have made your acquaintance, or at least a fair proportion of you, and I'll just hope I haven't made too much of a nuisance of myself. Evidently, I shall be doing the same thing again next time around.

PRACTICALLY ON YOUR DOORSTEP
GHENT IN '73

alright, alright
Derby in '99.

8

eddy.c. bertin



"The transmiss-
sion will

be instantaneous, and absolutely painless," Bakhall explained to his colleagues, who were seated with him around the circular table. "Our volunteer, Corporal Dhoughs here, will be placed in the rotation center of the energy-fields. All the necessary tests have been made, the final preparations won't take but a few minutes. Then we'll switch Dhoughs on the separate time-track, speed up the atoms of his mind and body, and literally throw him fifty years into the future... if there is a future at all for this world !"

The six men were sitting in a clinical white room, one side-wall of which was covered completely by the strange contraption which they cynically had nicknamed 'The Time Machine', mainly because they found the official terminology 'Parallel Time-Track Molecular Accelerator' too long and unpronounceable. The room had two big windows, but no sunlight filtered through them inside. Instead thick swirling clouds of brown-greenish fog were clinging to the windows like wet and damp fingers, and the room was lighted by small yellow emergency lamps. A portable TV-set was playing, giving the latest developments on the Chinese border-incidents, the European market crash, and the rising gold-panic. After that came the newest statistics on the rise of aerial and soil-pollution. Neither being very cheerful.

"You're absolutely certain that it'll work?" one of the politicians inquired for the n-th time.

"It'll have to !" Bakhall exclaimed. "With the world's situation being what it is now, and all the emergency installations working day and night just to save the necessary atmosphere for breathing, we don't have much time left. But everything has been checked again and again, there's nothing which could go wrong here. We have established the set movement-patterns which have been followed by the atoms of the world since the beginning. The only thing our machine does, is to estimate the tracks which the atoms of Dhoughs' mind and body will follow during the coming fifty years, then speeding their movement up so that he will be deposited, complete with clothes and all, fifty years in

the future. There he'll have to find a solution to the pollution problem which is strangling us here... if there is one. As we have discovered this method of time-travel now, we have every reason to suppose that during those fifty years to come, someone will have found a way to reverse the process, so that Dhoughs will be able to return to us. But we have lost enough time as it is, let's get on with the project... to save the world !"

So after the final arrangements had been made, including Dhoughs signature on a royal life insurance policy, they put Corporal Dhoughs in the machine. For the record it must be stated that he was brave - after all, a hero has to be, especially if he wants to save this world. They connected everything which had to be connected, then pulled a few switches, and flashed him into the dark future.

Then they waited, and waited, and after they had been waiting for several months, finally Dhoughs came back to them. That is to say, some parts of Dhoughs were sent back from the future in a little black box, which could never have contained the whole Dhoughs otherwise. It should have been a warning, but of course they didn't understand the message.

Corporal Dhoughs in fact arrived quite safely, in the middle of an enormous mass of people, who were all cheering, exploding firecrackers, and dancing madly in the streets. His arrival was quite a surprise, most of these people hadn't seen one of his kind for a long time. However, after the first initial shock had worn off, they immediately decided to make the best of it. They came running to him, overcrowded him, and with enormous pleasure and delight tore him into a thousand little pieces.

It was quite unfortunate for Corporal Dhoughs that he had to arrive exactly on Freedom Day, in the middle of a mass meeting of the free people of the United States of Black America.

the end

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IN

TRAY

OUT

Ron/Eric/Eddie/Norman/Ina/Archie/Beryl & C°

Now if you could have arranged that meeting in the first couple of weeks of August, and have warned me in time, I'd certainly have turned up. With Rosa, yet. It's been touch and go whether or not we'd make a trip to England during the holidays, but especially the strike of dockers, and the attendant possibility of it spreading to other services had us worried. Though I wouldn't have objected to getting stuck over there for a couple of weeks, Rosa would have - especially since Sonia kept dropping in unexpectedly every other day or so. And where you're supposed to be rid of a daughter, and have no further worry when she gets married, Rosa's actions seem to indicate quite the opposite. Talk about mother-hens...

But an invitation to see all you people at one and the same time and place? Gosh, I'd cycle. Though I'll warn you it's not much use sending an invitation now, I've only another week left, mostly to be spent in Cologne at the PHOTOKINA, and a final two days, probably beginning November which just might...might....

Brian/Paul

I said in the comments I'd try and make up for the lack of response to Hell. Well, large zines often get less reaction than smaller ones, simply because one can't do justice to them in a conveniently small space, and really should write a LOC on them. Then too, I often tend to read the smaller items first, and as they're often mainly made up of mailing comments, usually carry part of the discussion of comment-upon-able material found in the larger mags in their comments or even in their letter-column. Having talked about one subject here, another there, by the time you pick up the larger zine you've talked about most of the items in it. If the rest consist of let's say: a fan's visiting the Globe, another's description of the first year of a fan group, or an article on jazz guitar, it's only too possible to have to say no comment. I don't know enough about jazz guitars in the first place, and could only say I'd read it with interest, and with the promise, when available to get some on loan to listen to them. About the other items, I've personally always been interested in reading about what fans do, have done or will do, but further than a 'liked it' or 'no comment' is all. Perhaps it would be better to take the meatier items first next time and ignore that OO in this respect.

Did like the idea of the programmed guide, and hope you won't object to seeing it in Flemish sometime? Should I ever pass the Stockport/Manchester area, and always assuming I've gotten that far through the guide, and should I have the cash left, I'll drop in and buy both a drink. And if I promise that to a couple of more people I'll need a good atlas to know how to get someplace passing all the addresses by, or visiting them, depending on the financial state. (Which is nearly the same as saying, depending on whether Rosa's along or not.)

Photopages. Nice to be able to recognise at least a couple of fans at this late date. Reminds me I still should make some pics for Eric (and Ron, and Mike) but Rosa won't let me till those of Sonia's wedding have all been done. And eight 35mm ~~xxxxxxx~~ as well as ten 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ films to be spread out in three albums.....

Archie/Beryl/Ron/Ethel/Norman/Ina/Ken/Pam

And others I've undoubtedly forgotten. And please, I know that the Ron/Ethel combination amongst all the others up there looks queer, but I've never got used to Ron's married state as far as fandom is concerned. Whereas Elisabeth is the only fan's wife (fanzine fandom of old that is) I regularly do see. Perhaps because I have met her not through fandom directly, but along with Ron and always on personal ~~xxxxxx~~ meetings and visitings. The others have all become connected let's say, before having met them (and Beryl I haven't seen anyway).

And now the spacing is mucked up.

But the query is, you're all still in fandom, and yet, not in OMPA. I know about the 'He/She was an old fan, and tired', but none of you? No wonder they're moaning about OMPA being in bad shape. Though I find SHAPE a nice institution. They should keep teachers there indefinitely.

Archie/Beryl

Sorry about the cats. But really, I don't like animals in the house. And feeling nasty at that ungodly hour in the morning.

Ron/Elisabeth

Sorry we didn't show up. But at least you should've had a letter. Hope to have seen you before you get to reading this thing. Why didn't you stop me before it was too late instead of handing over that pile of fanzines. I told Rosa it was all your fault. She doesn't know Eney, so for once can't blame him. Ghee, will you feel sleepy when we've shown you all the slides we took at Sonia's wedding! Did you know Rosa's already gone and ordered a cradle?

Norman/Ina

1958 is a long way away isn't it? What worries me is that so many people travelled the Dover/Ostend road and on to the South, and forgot to make a detour. Nowadays with the E3 autoroute at Ghent you're there with only half an hour's detour, though obviously you'd lose far more time if you did actually ring the bell.

Ken/Pam

I've always kept a look-out on the Flemish shelves for a translation of one of your books, but so far no luck. See from reports and the photopages that you're still around at convention time, so why not here? Found 'Nativity' under hand a couple of weeks ago, and thought it would make a nice intro for a Flemish zine, soon as one does appear other than IS (Infosfan, not the IS mentioned in OMPA) and will write you about this. Still at the same address I hope. And where's Vinc?

Ethel

Sorry, but one thing and another, one thing after the other, has life been hectic these past few months. And then I should ignore your good advice. But it was thoughtful putting in the wrong street-number. It was the best way to allow me ^{to} remain obscurely hidden. But once the bug has bitten.... Got some more pics for you but honestly daren't deliver till I get Mike's and Ron's share done. These are already solong overdue.

Mike/ John/ Dave/ Ruth/ and all the others I have not forgotten but who seem to have strayed from the good path.

Love.

Jan

CONSTITUTIONAL WALK

(EARLY TO BED)

To quote Harry Belafonte at Carnegie Hall: "Oh, what a bloody mess!"

I have always thought that a set of rules, if they should prove necessary, should be kept as simple as possible. That any interpretation of said rules should be left to the officers, and that once you start writing a new rule for every possible situation that may arise, you'll wind up with endless tracts of unreadable, misunderstood, misinterpreted articles which in the end will still require the officers to make a decision because of the special aspect of a certain case. Looking at the present batch of amendments, Ompa's constitution is going that way.

Unless of course (I'll admit not having a copy of the present constitution, my copy dating back to the first year) it's already wound up in red tape.

But as for comments on the desirada of certain bright lads:

- A. associate membership: doesn't the name of the organisation imply that members are publishers? that the idea behind the association is that members should publish (or have published). You're striking at the roots of the organisation. Down with it.
- B. compulsory voting for elections and club matters such as constitutional amendments etc. Living in Belgium where voting is compulsory, I have always been surprised that other countries don't have this. I find it abnormal when after having obtained the right to vote through fighting or striking or whatever, descendants don't bother to use their rights. After all, if you don't feel either way about any matter you're allowed to leave the form a blank. Should have been in long ago.
- C. egoboo poll: but where it concerns praising something or somebody - or having to register an appreciation of material presented in the mailing - surely that's not a matter of vital interest to the association as such. And quarterly yet? Have all the polls you like (even on the outcome of suggested amendments) but not obligatory.
- D. as under b.
- E. a sliding scale of dues : makes me think more of a scale of fines. And it makes things so complicated. Does the 75p. really make any difference when you're running off 50 pages instead of 20 ? I don't know about the other members, but I feel that the sub might just as well be raised - 75p. seems (to me) ridiculously low. So if you need the money get it from raising the subscription rate. If it's an award for publishing pages and pages, institute an award giving a free subscription to the member publishing most pages in the regular mailings to avoid hasty post-mailing\$ killings.
- F. 25% up for late delivery - heck, surely the constitution somewhere states when the money should be due, and if you want to be tough then the member is out. Why complicate matters?
- G. The best mailing comments are practically articles inspired by something in a previous publication. It should come freely, like the egoboo poll, and not under any compulsion, which will most likely lead to comments as: no comments, noted, and so on.

H. fees due december - does it really make any difference to anyone except the poor bod who has to keep the books? Makes things easier when members continue their activities, but a nuisance for new members who won't know how much to pay, not knowing which mailing they'll be allowed to start off with (especially when there's a waiting list). And yes, so you credit them with anything they've paid too much, but then where's the simplification? Besides which, I always am short of money in december. (Though you should enquire in January, that's even worse!)

I. Is Jar Jansen. Just in case you'd forgotten. But since there's no more amendments to grumble about - could Ken number the pages of the OO so that I'd know whether I missed anything out on that blank page. since the contents list states 5 pages, and I've already seen 7, I can't really protest, but it would relieve my mind. Can't sleep nights.

By the way, would the above count towards the five pages of mailing comments?

For the whole of the OO, same quote from good old Harry?

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FINAL

You start one day, wondering how you're going to get those ten pages together that the OE mentions needing as requirement, and finally come to your senses again to find that there's fifteen stencils done, and that it'd be far better to stop right now.

Policy? Only one. Enjoyment.

If not for the readers, though there is always hope, then at least for myself. If that fails the answer is simple. Crawl back under the stone.

But if you're wondering what you may expect in the future, mainly jansen, and most likely mainly about OMPA. An occasional page about Belgium and Stan, generally an attempt to persuade you to visit me which saves me a lot of travelling time, and if they're willing, a short item by one of the local fans, just to ensure I don't have to write everything myself.

Some of you will undoubtedly wonder how come so many old-time friends were mentioned, and some weren't. The main ones that were not in the pages are already working, although unknowingly, to build up a fannish fandom here. HYPHEN, BEM, RETRIBUTION are some of the titles that I pass around to likely customers, and for the material as stories and articles, and as proof that stencilling if carried out properly is quite sufficient to reproduce a decent magazine. You don't need to go litho or get printed and certainly not when you're wondering how to tie ends together.

In case you wonder - besides the 35 copies for OMPA, most everyone mentioned herein will receive a copy, if I can find their addresses and they still hold good. Likely creatures locally will also be persuaded to read it, arm-twisting if necessary, but I'm not going to try for a general zine.

That snowball resembles, already, an avalanche more than anything else. See you in Ompa.

FANJAN 1

October 1972

verantw uitgever

JAN JANSEN

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and isn't it nice to be responsible once again?

TUJDSCHRIFT
PERIODICAL

