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KABUMPO

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October 20, 1964

HELLO THERE! I guess I had better take a little time to introduce myself and tell you a little about me. My full name is Jeraldine Dian Pelz, but I have never been called anything but Dian. (to my face, that is) I am 5'5", with brown hair and eyes, and generally weigh somewhere between 128 and 130. I am married to a fantastically active fanzine collector, and am currently in more apas than is good for me. This brings me to the reason that I joined SFPA. I was looking for an apa with a small membership so that I could do some nice hand colored artwork. The other apas that I belong too are either too large to make such a project feasible, or are simply not the type one wastes good art work on. I was also looking for an apa to which my husband does not belong. It is rather tiresome not being able to call an apa my own. If you and I get on all right, and you are generally in favor of the things that I do, I will probably be devoting the majority of my more careful efforts to SFPA. I hope this marks the beginning of a long and mutually enjoyable relationship.

Dian

MAILING COMMENTS

ENDLESS SHADOW (Mitchell) You will find, after you have been around fandom for a while, that very few fans have titles relating to science fiction. Most fans choose titles that are puns, or references to something that they are interested in. The Coulsons publish Vandy, and Yandro because they are interested in folksongs, My husband publishes Speleobem because he used to be a spelunker, and Savoyard because he likes Gilbert and Sullivan. I publish Yezidee because I collect Robt. W. Chambers novels. Other, well known titles, that come to mind are: Pot Pourri, Kipple, Quandry, and Hypphen, none of which have anything to do with science fiction title-wise. During the years that Hugoes have been given to fanzines they were received by Inside, S.F. Times, Fanac, Cry, Who Killed Science Fiction, Warhoon, Zero, and Amra. That's exactly 50/50. The content of fanzines also has little to do with science fiction in many cases. About the only fanzine I can think of that is really devoted to stf is Zenith, published by a British fan.) (As for the use of Iscariot being sacriligious, have you ever seen a copy of Jesus Bug, or God Comics, or Pal Jesus? Some titles are ont only sacriligious but obscene as well. However, Most of these appeared in the Cult, or in the now defunct Carbon Reproduced Amateur Press. You can't change fans ways of thinking, so you will do best to ignore titles that displesse you. Your comment to Al and Richard makes me think, however, that it might be interesting to compile a list of science fiction stories where christian religion is a primary factor in the plot, such as The Nine Billion Names of God, Canticle for Leibowitz, and the Father John Carmody series.

PHOENIX(Locke) The verse inclusions are much enjoyed, especially the one by Jennings. I hope you are able to publish more by Paul Zimmer - my only complaint is that his was too short. }{ Sorry, but I've resolved not to discuss civil rights issues.

ZAJE ZACULO(Bailes) Who owned Z.Z.? It must have been Goldry, as nearly as I can recall. I am too lazy to try and look it up. I've been intending for some time to do a series of paintings from the Worm, but just haven't had the time lately.

ISCARIOT (Andrews and Ambrose) That is one of the nicest pieces of Gilbert artwork I have seen. }{ You guys be nice to our Lee Jacobs, unnerstand? You've only got him on loan, and we want him back in good condition. }{ I would probably have enjoyed your Burroughs articles but for the fact that there have been so many articles on the same subjects in the apas lately. To a person like myself, who read Burroughs at about age ten, this current re-surge of interest is kind of mind-croggling. }{ For caked corflu try using a small amount of womens oily nail polish remover. That is what I use to thin my corflu. Don't dilute the corflu too much, or the wax will all come off of the stencil.

BEL MARDUK(Harkness) Sorry, but FTL had a good deal to say. As a matter of fact, what he had to say nearly killed off the LASFS. It only really began to recover in 1958. }{ It is a shame that you were so turned off by Julius Caesar, which is really very readable, although of course, not nearly so meaningful as Hamlet or Macbeth. About that classmate of yours... did he really geek? }{ Your article on the Unenchanted Duplicator very much enjoyed.

EXCALIBUR(Katz and Bailes) Len, is the Purple Claw the fellow who becomes a dashing hero type when he puts on one enchanted glove? I've been trying to track that one down for four years or so. John Boardmans short very much enjoyed as was "Diagrams" by Jim Williams.

UTGARD(Hulan) Hi there! Thanks for putting in a good word to the noble OE for me. I bet you used a marsh marker on your cover. Has it never occurred to any of you fellows that there is absolutely no evidence to indicate that the breasts on martian women are organs of lactation? You are being misled by an accidental similarity to earth females visually. Actually the breasts of the women of Barsoom are the egg producing glands. The sperm travels up an extremely long fallopian tube to fertilize the immature egg, which is then released through the skin much in the same manner that the terran egg erupts from the ovary. Naturally, the Barsoomian women are somewhat flat chested for a time after laying. }{ In 1961, when I joined the LASFS, we had quite a few younger members, but we lost them to out of town colleges, and at least one to parental pressure. (Steve Epstein was forced to leave when his father saw Dik Daniels trying to get the kid to drink some booze. That is the basic reason Dik Daniels has been persona non grata for so long.) Also, our younger fans lack the transportation. }{ I have been meaning to mention to you for quite some time that knowing someone with a strong southern accent like you and Katya has certainly been good for me. You see, I grew up on the east side of L.A., where the pachuco accent is quite strong, and, at

one time a "poor white trash" neighbor rented the place next to us. The average intelligence of these two groups of people was somewhat lower than normal, to put it mildly, their main interest in life being likker and sex. Consequently, I have always had a tendancy to mentally downgrade the person using one or the other, purely as a subconscious reflex. You and Katya certainly cured me of any such prejudgements about southern accents!

INVADER(Staton) Are you currently taking any art classes anywhere?

I am a junior in the art department at UCLA, and I'd love to have someone to discuss modern art trends with.} (Your repro is awfully spotty. (Now, isn't that ungrateful of me, panning your zine after you so kindly let me on the roster!))

TALK(Katz) Arnie, just why do you refer to Bruce as "one of our children"? He is a charter member of N'APA, you know.

EXCALIBUR(Katz and Bailes) Hey, didn't I just review Excalibur?

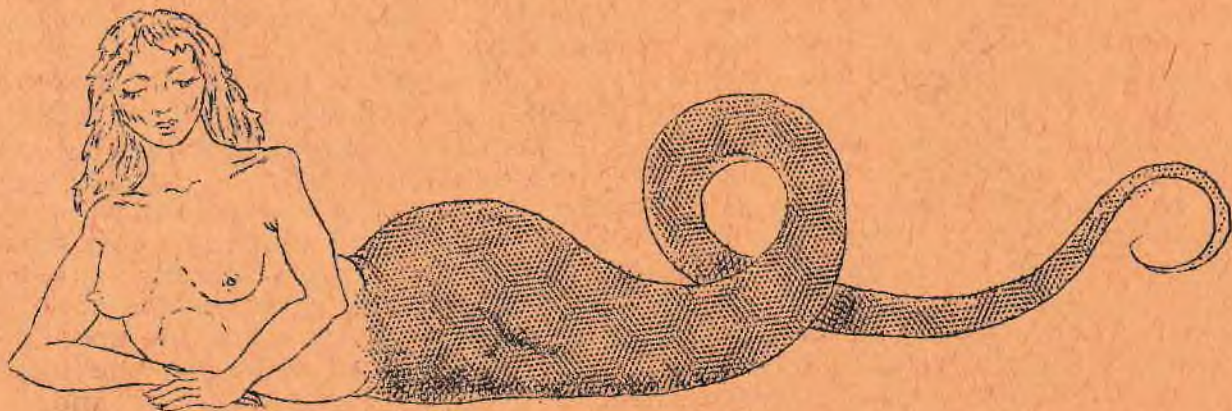
I thought the phrase was "The family that preys together, slays together." Tiajuana - it means Aunt Jane in Spanish. (Marijuana, incidentally, is often refered to in slang as Mary Jane, in a sort of bastardized translation.) About those things that you like, what order would you put them in?

WARLOCK(Montgomery) Very nice cover. Please don't run your text across the illos, it is a very bad habit, and hard on the continuity. I enjoyed the poetry inclusions, and the interillos. They break the page up very nicely.

CONGLOMERATION (all sorts people) Love that article by LeeJay. That's cur boy there! The "Fire Quencher" much enjoyed. You should collaborate more often.

STRANGER THAN FACT(Harkness) I know that even Cambell says it is a blivit, but a blivit, by all the definitions I've ever heard is "ten pounds of shit in a five pound sack".} (The "5th Flaw" is the first piece of fan fiction to really hold my interest in years. Thank you for a very enjoyable story.

THE PULP ERA(Hickman) Beautiful Barron your cover. He is one of my favorite artists. Both your format and your content are highly legible and very enjoyable.



BOWS and BUMPS

A few months back I read a really fascinating book, one of the best novels I've read in a long time. The book is "Catch 22", by Joseph Heller. Basically, it is a war novel, centered around a group of U.S. Air Force men stationed in Italy during World War II. This, however, is not one of the usual war novels depicting the tragedy of war, the suffering of the combatants, and the inevitable heroism of one or two men. Oh, the suffering is there, and so is the tragedy, but you'll find yourself laughing instead of mourning.

The protagonist is Yossarian, who is convinced that someone is trying to kill him, and wants desperately to quit flying and go home. Unfortunately, everytime he finishes his quota of missions the requirement is raised just before he can get out. Yossarian has a normal temperature of 102°

and can get into sick bay anytime he wants to. While there he censors letters - by removing all of the adjectives, or perhaps all of the pronouns. Some of the letters he doesn't read at all. Those he signs "Washington Irving", the others "Irving Washington".

Yossarian's friends gallop through "Catch 22" in a mad abandonment of logic that seems to point to the fact that all armed forces personnel are crazy, especially the officers.

The title of the book is taken from a clause in the airforce rules that says any man who is crazy may be excused from the required flights. Naturally, any man who goes up in a plane to get shot at is a little nuts. However, when he decides he's had enough and just can't face going up again, then he is proving his sanity and must therefore go on flying. Catch 22 also covers a multitude of things that just just can't get out of doing.

"Catch 22" abounds with fascinating characters. One of the wildest is Milo Minderbinder, who runs the Syndicate, of which every enlisted man is a member. Milo buys and sells produce, manufactured goods, and services at a prodigious rate, to both the Allies and the Axis. He reaches the high point of his career when he contracts with the Allies to bomb



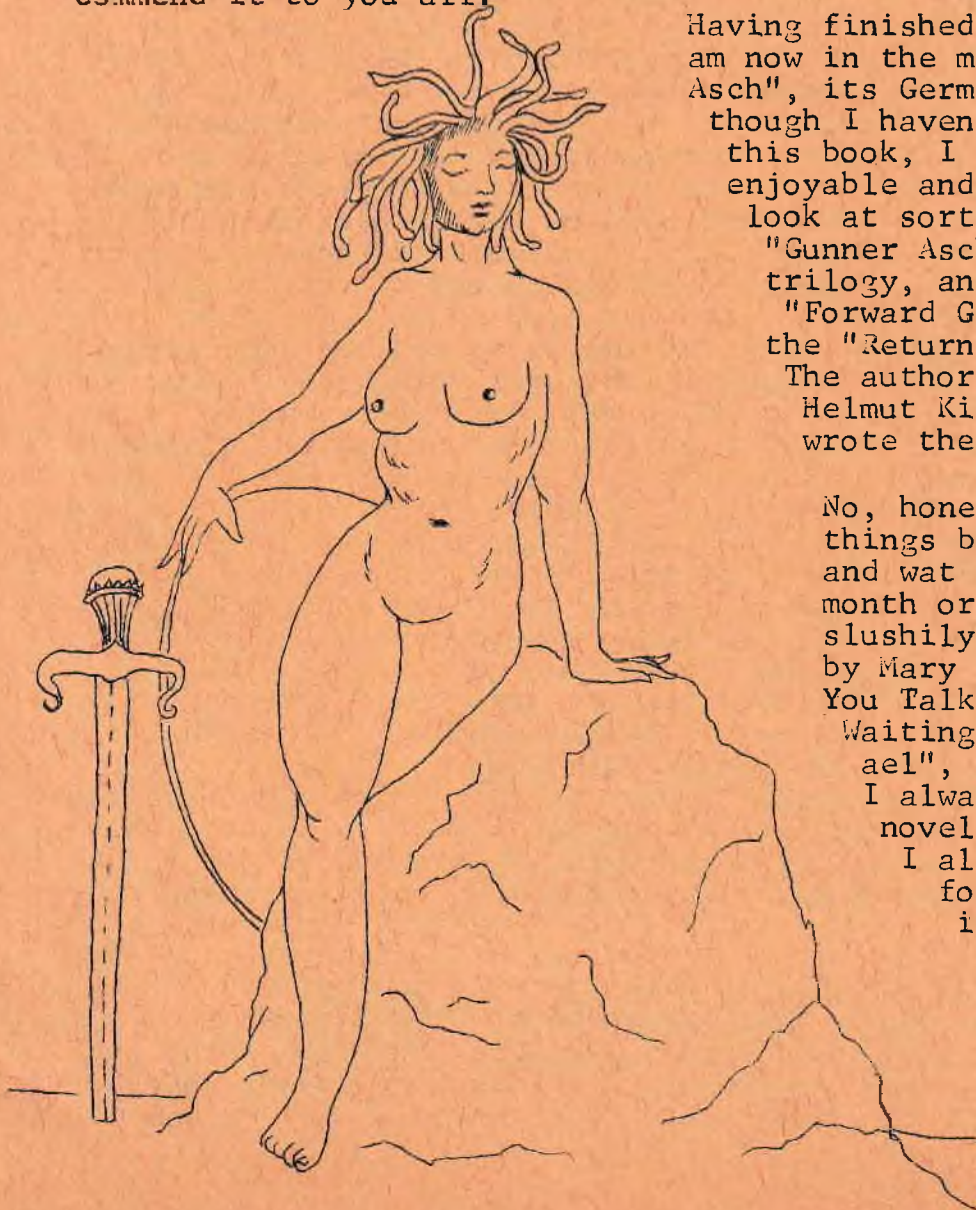
the Axis (using Syndicate planes commandeered from the U.S. bases) and then follows up this deal by helping the Axis to bomb his own squadron by directing their fire from the ground. Milo, the inventor of chocolate-covered cotton is a man worth studying.

Another interesting character is Major Major Major. His mother had planned on nameing him something innocuous, but his father fiendishly matched the child's last name with the same first name. The airforce added to the mess by promoting him, and now Major Major Major hides in his trailer and refuses to see anyone, coming and going through a back window.

Read "Catch 22" and find out why no one would fly with Orr, how Doc Daneeka "died" and couldn't collect his pay, what made McWatt fly into the side of a mountain, and especially, why there was a dead man in Yossarian's tent. "Catch 22" is an outrageous book. It has very little in the way of a plot, practically no consistent story line, and a group of the strangest men ever in uniform. (A bit of warning, however: you will think it is a comedy, and you will laugh and have an utterly wonderful time with it. Then, suddenly, it won't be a comedy any longer, and you are going to feel sort of sick.) I loved every minute of the book, and I heartily recommend it to you all.

Having finished "Catch 22", I am now in the middle of "Gunner Asch", its German prototype. Although I haven't yet finished this book, I am finding it very enjoyable and an interesting look at sort of a "G.I. Hans". "Gunner Asch" is part of a trilogy, and is followed by "Forward Gunner Asch", and the "Return of Gunner Asch". The author of these is Hans Helmut Kirst, who also wrote the "Officer Factory".

No, honest, I do read other things beside science fiction and wat novels! Why only a month or so ago I read four slushily romantic novels by Mary Stewart: "Madam, Will You Talk", "Nine Coaches Waiting", "My Brother Michael", and "This Rough Magic". I always enjoy reading a novel by Mary Stewart as I always have the comfortable feeling that if there is one unchanging thing in the world, it is her plots. I am fairly certain a man would absolutely abhor them all.



Oh Lord, I've got another page to go to round out my zine. (moan)
I guess that means you get treated to a brief discription of one
of the subjects I'm currently taking at UCLA. Lessee; Sculpture?
History of American Civilization? Photography? (Naw I don't know
anything about that myself!) Painting? Prints? Life Drawing? Med-
ieval Art? Yeah! that last one sounds like a good bet. I just had
a midtern on it today, and have three or four pages of notes.

Hmmm,
I suppose the bet place to start is with the catacomb paintings.
Up until the middle of the 4th century Christianity was illegal.
Therefore, some one got the bright idea of excavating a vast honey-
comb of passageways underground where the Christian dead could be
interred according to their sacraments without fear of discovery
by the authorities. Unlike modern masoleum practice, these Early
Christian dead were buried parallel to the walls. A niche was cut
into the tom in the form of a "D". the rounded portion to the top.
A holé was then cut into the floor of the niche and the sarcophogus
set into that. When space became more dear, an additional sarco-
phogus was sometimes set into the rear wall of the niche, which
would otherwise be covered with some sort of decoration. The
decorative style of the catacombs seems crude to us after the pol-
ished realism of the Greek and Roman, but is is to the Greek and
Roman that we must turn for a prototype. The prototype is found,
oddly enough, not in painting, but in mosaics. If you examine a
few reproductions of 1st and 2nd century mosaics you will be really
amazed at how closely they resemble the later catacomb paintings.
There is the same flattening out of the figures, the same use of
abbrevaited symbols to indicate everyday places and events, and
the same color scheme. The early christians even borrowed the mode
of dress of the classic period, and dressed the representations
of Christ in gold togas. Figures in the catacomb paintings were
shown in strictly frontal poses which was to remain traditional
for some time. Abruptly, in 313, the catacombs were put out of
business. Constantine passed the Edict of Milan recognizing Christ-
ianity as one of the state religions. Everyone immediately came
up from underground and began to build basilicas and circular
masoleums at a fantastic rate. The basilica, a barn like building
with a wooden roof, wooden walls, and a mason-
ry half dome on one end, was borrowed from the
ancient Roman building of the same type that
was used for public gatherings. The biggest of
the first basilicas built, and indeed one of
the biggest ever built was the Old Saint Peter's
in Rome. It had five aisles, and a big court in
front of the main entrance. It was lavishly de-
corated with mosaics and with marble columns and
slabs taken from the ruins of classic buildings.
(One thing about Rome, you could find a lot of
building material just lying around.) Unfor-
tunately, Saint Peter caught fire and was almost
completely distroyed during the 15th century.

Sorry gang, but that about does it for now.
This has been Talisman Press Publication #17.
I really am sorry about the left hand margina-
tion, but Calamity Jane got dropped on the side-
walk the other day and just hasn't been the
same since.

Cheers,

Dian Pelz

