

ГЛЯРГХ!

A few weeks ago Bitchin' old Ted White revealed a deep dark secret about me -- so deep and so dark that I didn't even know it! These were the fateful words: "Do you know what you are, Ed Meskys? You are a typewriter fan."

And ya know, by Ghu, I guess he's right! I am!

The revelation occurred thusly. I was down at Metropolitan Mimeo to see Terry Carr and find out if he'd be willing to participate on a panel at the upcoming Lunaco [29 April 1962, Adelphi Hall, 74 - 5th Av (off 14th St) NY, 1 PM ==adv]. Terry was out but Ted said he'd be back in about an hour, so I decided to wait.

Ted was busily running off the first 2 - color Void (a very good issue, both in appearance and content) while I watched over his shoulder or read parts of it. Somehow we got to talking about typers, stencils, and such. I think it got started by Ted bitching about the Gestetner company and how they rob you blind on color-change kits when the actual components thereof are inherently inexpensive to produce. This led him to comment about the phonyness of their stencil pricing. For instance, he said, their "Executive" stencils, designed for use with broad-faced typers, which are the most expensive ones that they make are identical with Meyer bulliten stencils, the cheapest ones in the latter company's line. Both are very thin and good only for short runs without falling apart, and the former comes with special gauze cushions (instead of the usual "carbon" cushions) so that the broad type-face will drive the wax from the stencil into the gauze. But you can buy this gauze from Gestetner for 25 or 50¢ per quire, use it with the cheap Meyer stencils, and get the same results.

This brot up the matter of Walter Breen's executive typer which Ted says can get as much on a page as Ted's micro-elite. I find this rather hard to believe (tho I never did do a word count) for executives come in three bases -- 32, 36, and 45. That is, there are 32, 36 or 45 "spaces" to the inch, and various letters are from 2 to 5 spaces long. Most lower case letters are 3, most upper are 4; f, i, l, j, the space between words and a few symbols are 2, so the average is 3. Since Walt's typer has a 36 basis, he should get an average of 12 letters per inch, the same as pica. And that his typer only gives 16 lines per 3 inches, while most give 6 per inch and Ted's micro-elite gives 7 per inch.

I kinda regret I didn't have my typer modified to give me 6 1/2 or 7 lines to the inch when I had it fixed to have a vertical half-space. I thing there is enuf space between lines to have justified this. And when I bought this typer I saw a 45 basis executive with a wide carriage which I fell in love with. But the price was just a little too rich for my blood -- I forgot whether he wanted \$375 or \$475 and I wasn't willing to go over \$300. But ghu, think of the fantasies I could have cut with that!

Anyhow, I was telling Ted how I had it modified to take symbols like \sum , \int , Δ , π , ∞ , etc and have the vertical half-space, and he said he supposed the latter involved changing the wheel at the left end of the carriage for one with a different number of teeth. Well, then I started to tell him that a whole mess of other levers had to be changed too and began to elaborate when he made his startling announcement.

Gurk, I see I've done it again and blathered for a whole page about nothing but typers. Well, I suppose I am a typer fan then.

This sheet is being very hastily composed on waster after the deadline date for the Feb 1962 Shadow FAPA mailing by one Edmund R Moskys, 723A, 45 St., Brooklyn 20 NY. I hope to have either 1 or 2 sheets in each Shadow mailing from here on in (Possibly a bit more during the Summer months) until I'm finished with grad school in about two more years. At that point I hope to be able to expand my fanac. [I'm similarly limiting myself to 4 sheets in SAPS and 3 in IPSO.]

LIKE, I GET fapazines TOO,...

For instance, tho I didn't buy the 97th bundle (they were sold out by when I inquired) I got a good part of it direct. Lessee what I have here now...of course, there's the FA (and FA+, too, for that matter) and...hmmm, here's fap #3. Thanks, Les -- I guess -- just think, another 2 or 3 years on the waiting list and I'll be in Shadow FAPA. I sent letters to the publishers of Bobolings and Lighthouse ("Flæa in the Beat Ointment" reminds me of the recent foofaraw (hi, Fred!) here in NY about some kid-killer & how it wasn't his fault because of his lousy homelife. The two descriptions sound almost identical and I wonder how many beatnik kids will develop similarly) so they're took care of. NULL-f 23 -- I'm eagerly following developments to see how things turn out, but why the hell did this have to happen in NY? Just when we were beginning to live down our reputation too! (And anyone got a copy of null-f 22 he doesn't want? I'm curious about how this mess got started and Ted sez he can't (ie, isn't allowed to) give me a copy.) Digital = SF5Yrly in clever plastic disguise?/(courtesy of TAWF)-ya mean past issues were even more colorful? Young certainly captured the spirit of scientific meetings in his excellent parody. And the names he used... This was the best thing by Harz Nalrah that I ever read. He should write in this style more often -- it would do wonders for his reputation. Bloch was superb? I don't know. I suppose that this leaves me cold because it is based on the mythos and mores of an older, unfamiliar, era of fandom. Or is this another symptom of my affliction (discussed in A Merrit's Fantasy Magazine ((spelled that way--my last SAPSzine) AND Pesky's 10) which causes me to not dig most of the modern Willis? Withdrawal and Budrys were excellent. Horizons == "Whatever Happened to Charlette?" was excellent! Since you once printed a Phillycon report in the same position at first I assumed that this was another factual item, especially since a NY fan was locked up for molesting a child 8-10 years ago. (I don't know whether he was ever a fanzine fan, but he does still occasionally show up at cons and was at some Metrofen & Futurian meetings about two years back.) But knowing of your extreme caution re the law and such I was rather puzzled by the candor of some of the reservations and I literally jumped when I came to the knifing! At this point I decided that it must be fiction, but phoned and asked Ted White just to be sure. Another thing which sort of seemed out of place in a true personal narrative but not in a story was the bit about the trouble with your shoes, etc. Anyhow, very well done, and I wonder how much confusion this will cause sometime in the future and what sort of myths will spring up among the uninformed. And finally there's Idle Hands -- 'twas enjoyed, but I got nothin to say. And thanks one and all for the zines!

I didn't order the 96th mng in time either, but I received FA, Idle Hands, Vinegar Worm, Pipsissewa, TAFF ballot, Surplus Stock, & Horizons directly. Thanks again.

I did buy the 95th, but among the missing zines were HEZB's, including the ish of Astra's Tower on Tolkien. Since then I've read the books (like, WOW!) and was faunching muchly for this zine. I am greatly indebted to Richard Bergeron who had recently purchased some Back FAPA bundles, wound up with an extra copy of this, and sent it to me. It was a very good zine, and I am very happy to have it.

I don't think I'll be buying any more bundles. When it comes in such a big gob all at once I keep putting off reading it, but when the zines come one at a time I usually manage to read them on the day of arrival. Also, I'm now receiving a good portion of the bundles (in page count and quality, if not in number of zines), so there's even less reason for buying the bundles. But I think I will pick up any available zines I don't have at the end-of-administration surplus stock sale (if there is one this year, that is -- I think Rub has been giving excess zines to Pracier, and I don't know what he does with them.)

To fill out this remaining line, I might mention that I already received null-f Scrapbook from the 98th.

Ed Moskys