

P H A N T Y

DEC. 1944



F. A. P. A.

VOL. III

NO. III

P H A N N Y

"The Phlimsy Phanzine"

Perpetrated Occasionally

for the

F A P A

by

D. B. Thompson

705 Scott St.

Alexandria 2, La.

Volume III

Number III

December 1914

---:oOo:---
Cover T/5 Johnny Sablich, USA

T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S.

TOC and Editorial Comments	--	Page 1
Random Thoughts -- Economic vs. Political Democracy (Article)		Page 2
Apparition	A Sonnet -- James Russell Gray	Page 5
Autumn Fantasy	A Sonnet -- James Russell Gray	Page 5
Futility	Verse -- Ye Editor	Page 6
"By Their Works Ye Shall Know Them"	-- <u>Phanny</u> Reviews the Mailing	Page 7

---:oOo:---

On The cover this time, Phanny has another in the series of histyrical --oops, that's historical--scenes from the early days of interstellar flight. This picture was brought back by the Centaurian Visitation Committee, headed by Joan Phann 17^(e-1)+11. (The+11 in Joan's numerical patronym indicates that there was considerable uncertainty as to the exact status of her earlier progenitors, but detracts not one whit from her remarkable scientific achievements.)

The scene presents two aspects which, at that time, were considered quite noteworthy. First, and least, is the startlingly anthropomorphic aspect of the insectile Centaurian native. The other is the strange double ring around the inner satellite of the planet, Centaur 13. It was strange enough to find any kind of a ring around a satellite so close to its primary; but that there should be two rings, revolving in parallel planes, and separated by a distance equal to one-tenth the diameter of the satellite, was regarded as quite incredible. It was this disconcerting situation which, as you may remember, eventually led to the discovery of the sub-etheric force of poopootation, so-called because the idea of such a meta-gravitic force was widely poo-pooed in the popular press of the time.

---:oOo:---

T/5 Johnny departed from the Camp where I work, shortly after completing the cover-pic; but, ^{only} after two girls who work in the office of the Post Engineer dragged him off the train, and, in the presence of all his buddies, kissed him good-bye. So you see, Johnny probably remembers the Post Engineers quite well; at least, two members of the civilian staff--pretty members, incidentally. T/5 Johnny is probably on his way right now to another battle-zone; he is a veteran of service somewhere, but I don't know where it was he fought. Luck, J.S.

RANDOM THOUGHTS -- ECONOMIC VS. POLITICAL DEMOCRACY

There was a time not so long ago when Democracy, simply stated, meant "Government of, by, and for the People." This ideal has never been completely attained, nor is it likely to be soon, if ever; but in a few instances, including that of our own government, a good start toward this ideal of Political Democracy has been made, with results which, however far they may fall short of the perfection of political set-ups in fictional Utopias, have at least surpassed those achieved by other forms of governmental organization of the past.

Recently, however, we have been hearing a great deal about another kind of Democracy; Economic Democracy. The Soviet Union is usually cited as the best --sometimes the only--example of this newer Democracy. For the purpose of this discussion, no further definition of these two types of organization will be given, it being assumed that the readers, if any, will be at least as conversant with their principal characteristics as I am. Many FAPA members, of course, are way ahead of me in this respect, and it is from them that I would like to hear, through the pages of their own publications.

Economic Democracy is not entirely new, of course, nor is it possible to state that it is diametrically opposed to Political Democracy. In fact, the former seems to have developed largely as a necessary adjunct of the latter. I say "necessary," because economic pressure has long been a major factor in political operations. It is hard to conceive of any type of government, even an absolute dictatorship, in which this did not hold true.

But there are differences; differences which, in my opinion, make a complete fusion difficult, if not impossible. That is, a government which is basically a Political Democracy can never achieve the degree of Economic Democracy possible in a state like Russia; and a government like that of the Soviet Union can never attain the degree of Political Democracy possible in a state like ours.

The reason is simple and basic. In the Economic type of organization, unanimity of thought and action is essential, if carefully planned, long-range economic goals are to be reached. There can be no dissent, no conflict. The broad, basic principles are laid down and accepted by everyone, either through mutual agreement, or through the application of force. Once established, these principles are not subject to rapid change, but only to slow, carefully controlled evolution. Any conflicting plans must be dealt with promptly and harshly, if the Plan is to succeed. The complete and rapid suppression of conflicting ideologies has been an outstanding characteristic of current regime in Russia. Suspected persons have, however, been granted free and open trials, a situation which is in complete contrast to that applying in countries where the fascist doctrines have been applied. Otherwise, the ruthless elimination of dissenters has been almost as violent as in the fascist states.

Democracy of the Political brand, however, is nevertheless present in this seemingly anti-Democratic set-up. Local elections are numerous and frequent, as a means of dealing with purely local matters. Party members are elected to a legislative body, although, to the outside observer, this body seems to have little importance, as far as policy-formation is concerned. Some, at least, of the industrial managers and executives are selected democratically. Just how "democratic" --as we understand the term--these political functions are, I do not know, nor does it matter particularly for the purpose of this article; it is sufficient to note that democratic processes of a political nature are not eliminated, however much they are hampered. It is evident, too, that as long as a substantial degree of agreement exists, a reasonably high standard of Political Democracy is possible.

In a Political Democracy, the entire basis of action is diametrically

to that of the Economic Democracy. Instead of eliminating the expression of Political and economic opinions contrary to those of the party in power, this older system encourages such expression; in fact, it could not very well exist except through such expressed disagreements. The result is a series of compromises between extreme views on many subjects, plus substantial agreement on other matters which have developed through the interchange of contrasting views. Such a system functions best when the number of divergent groups is relatively small; a large number of dissident groups, capable of only very temporary agreement on controversial topics, results in such frequent changes of government that stagnation may result.

The most logical division is that of Conservative against Progressive, Conservative meaning the party which wishes to retain all or most of the institutions existing presently, or to "return to normalcy," meaning the status before the Progressives took over, if the Progressives happen to be "in," and Progressive meaning the group which favors the principal experimentation in the field of government, usually for the purpose of correcting economic and political inequalities, when such exist (and they always do!). The Conservative is satisfied with what he has, or what he hopes to get, under existing conditions; the Progressive advocates change, as the only way to avoid stagnation and eventual decadence. Generally speaking, the Progressive tends to favor a higher degree of Economic Democracy, while the Conservative is likely to prate of the "place" of "inferior racial groups," or "lower social and economic classes," and the "advantages" which accrue to these groups as a by-product of their "Betterments" to get rich.

efforts

Under such a set-up, a very considerable degree of Economic Democracy may exist, simply because economic factors are so important in the daily lives of the people who make up the electorate. People of similar ideas unite on economic grounds, and vote for those candidates which most nearly represent their desires. A very large part of the economic progress of the last century --and it has certainly been very considerable--has resulted from this system of Political Democracy.

Actually, of course, insofar as this country is concerned, at least, there is no division into discrete Progressive and Conservative parties, each of the two major parties containing within their make-up, both Conservative and Progressive elements: as for example, the presence of the Southern Democrats and the New Dealers in the same party, a situation which almost automatically drives the Negro voters into the Republican Party, which, in this particular respect is the more liberal of the two. The Co-Operative system, which is certainly on the liberal side, also flourishes in States which are normally Republican, and the system is forwarded vigorously by factions of that Party.

In fact, at present, both Parties lay claim to the "Progressive" label--at least for vote-getting purposes--although on somewhat different grounds, while Socialists and Communists, with some justice, label both of them "hopelessly conservative." (Note--in case your wondering, this is being stenciled before the National Election--on October 29, to be exact--but since you won't be reading it until long after November 7, I'm sure it won't affect the outcome of the election in anyway (ahem!).

The leavening in this hodge-podge is furnished by the Independent Voter, a mythical individual made up of the relatively small but important group of politically active persons who pay little attention to Party labels, but base their decisions on the avowed intentions and past records of the candidates. They regularly scratch their ballots, and it is to them that the major candidates direct their appeals.

Generally speaking, if a Conservative (basically) group is "in," it will

eventually swing too far to the Right for the Independent Voter, in which case the latter, having no bonds except those provided by his own political opinions, will switch to the other side. When an essentially Progressive group is in, it, too, is likely to go too far for this characteristically Middle-of-the-Road citizen, and he switches the other way. Since, in general, both Parties have, for a long time, been moving slowly to the left in some respects, this Independent Voter is a very real expression of the rate of progress, for he, in his central position, is also moving slowly in the direction of progress.

The constant shifting from one extreme to another--or rather, the tendencies toward such shifting--tends to inhibit the development of any long-range economic plans, and to this extent prevents the realization of complete Economic Democracy. On the other hand, it provides a constant stimulation to active thought on economic and political problems on the part of a fair share of the electorate, and in this sense promotes both Economic and Political Democracy. The system, moreover, gives each individual a much greater opportunity to express his own ideals and economic concepts than is possible in the smoothly functioning Economic Democracy, where active criticism is akin to treason.

Personally, I think the Democratic forms expressed in the Political organization are superior to the forms possible under the Economic Democracy. In its optimum form, it presents a greater stimulus to individual thinking and planning, and offers the best opportunity for the expression of individual ideals and opinions, of any important governmental system so far tried, including the current Russian type. At present, the American system is handicapped by the fact that Dollars may out-vote intelligence and/or personal convictions. Even so, the cause of Economic Democracy is advancing under our system; far too slowly for the radicals, but none-the-less surely.

Come on, you rats; there are plenty of holes in the above, big enough to accommodate you!

"Stefnistica, Mars,
33 Octombuary, A. G. 89346+ x

Joe Phan 23! scion of the ruling house of the second Slandom, received a badly bent bumper on his space-skimmer, when he attempted to cut directly thru the major ring around Mars, instead of hopping "over" it, during the 4,743d renewal of the annual Skimmer Races from Deimos to Mars. The accident cost him the race, as he was leading by a wide margin at the time."

So you think Mars doesn't have a Ring? Well, it doesn't, now, but recent observations indicate that it will have, some time in the future. Astronomer B. P. Sharpless announced (Oct. 28, 1944) that Phobos is accelerating his orbital speed around daddy Mars, and constantly creeping closer to Papa. At present, he is about 200 miles ahead of the point in his orbit where he should be, according to calculations based on the observations of the discoverer of the Moons of Mars, made in 1877. Approximate time of the breakup of Phobos is placed 43,000,000 years in the future. Incidentally, the hop from Deimos may be rather long at the time of Joe Phan's accident, as Deimos is decelerating in orbital speed, having dropped some 320 miles behind schedule, and is, of course, moving farther from Mars--at a rate of several inches a year. Several inches is a long way, when multiplied by 43,000,000.

I saved this space to finish up anything left over from the Editorial comments, but there is really nothing left to say, except to those of you who are not members. The members of the FAPA get copies with nearly-white covers, with the pic in black; most of the rest of you get midnight blue pic and letters on a dirty-indigo back-ground. I ran out of fresh scraps, so finished up with some old junk, even older than that used last time. Thaas all there is!

A p p a r i t i o n

Sometimes I feel a need for solitude,
And one dark night when I went for a stroll
Deep in a starlit wood, I was imbued
With fear and awe, and shaken to the soul.
I saw a dim, will-o-the-wisp of light,
And in the feeble glow a woman stood:
She made a strange, a weirdly charming sight--
The very spirit of this somber wood.
Such beauty! Then pure horror caught my throat;
I realized the thing that made her weird;
She had the hairy body of a goat!
I screamed, and all at once she disappeared.
I ran to look; the stars shone down, aloof,
Upon the imprint of a cloven hoof.

--James Russell Gray

A u t u m n F a n t a s y

Oh, Autumn is a witch! Her sorcery
Lights witch's fires across the sober heath;
The leaves burn gold and red on every tree,
And flame in pools of color underneath.
Her pots boil gaily, and steam rises up
Across the mountains in a purple haze;
She drinks the brew, then turns the empty cup
To form the sky that holds our dreamy days.
At night she rides beneath a harvest moon,
Her wind-steeds madly galloping; she sings
Into the fragrant dark a high, sweet tune;
While flocks of wild geese give the moonlight wings.
She is a witch! Small wonder that I fell
Beneath the subtle magic of her spell.

--James Russell Gray

F u t i l i t y

Softly there, Centaurian, Decadent One--
Your Kind knows naught of Space!
A 'Caster clicks--by grace
Of Cosmic Law, a train
Of atoms disassociate.
A timeless warp, a strain--
Disembodied, insensate,
You ripple the pattered grain
Of Nature. Thus you speed from place
To place. Would you then trace
The darkling course that Mankind chose to run?

Softly, I say, Centaurian! Have you no fear?
You stand where Giants stood!
Here spawned that mighty Brood
Who flung in high disdain
Against the stars their fragile craft;
Who pitted brawn and brain
Against the haunted void; who laughed
At Death, and made of Pain
A friend; -- whose blood
Became a scarlet flood
Across the thickening Eons, year on year.

You do not hear my words; I died
Too long ago; my voice grows weak.
How else? Ghosts may not speak
Unto the Living, for Life must seek
Its own reward in Life.

Yet would I warn you; strife
Brought only Death to all my Kind--
Must you, then, be so blind?
What is it that you hope to find?

Too much of blood is shed--
Too many mothers grieve for dead
Sons who for naught have bled--
Be warned! 'Twas thus my People died!

--D. B. Thompson

"By Their Works, Ye Shall Know Them"

I like Chauvenet's suggestion that alphabetic ratings be used in placing each item in the mailing. I also like the suggestion that each member should select his own "Laureate Awards" on each Mailing, as a means of simplifying the Laureate Committee's work. So I'm adopting both suggestions. But I also like to write and to read reviews, and they are here, too.

Laureate Suggestions:

PUBLISHING -- 1, Watson ("Mad Muse" and Sappho). 2, Shaw (Banshee # 5)
3, Purdue (Elmurmurings #3)

FICTION -- 1, none. 2, Lowndes ("Trigger Talk at Green Guna" in Agenbite of Inwit). 3, R. Wright ("Spawn of the Gods," Beyond).

ARTICLE -- 1, none. 2, Chauvenet ("The World of John Bristol Speer," Sardonyx). 3, Moscovitz ("Forgotten Fantasies," Fantasy Commentator, Sept.).

HUMOR -- 1, Washington ("Raymeses," Banshee # 5). 2, Spencer ("The Metamorphosis of John Q. Spingtumper," Banshee # 5). 3, Speer ("Peril in Pentagon," Yhos).

ART -- 1, Watson (cover, Sappho). 2, Wiedenbeck, (cover, Beyond).
3, Wilimczyk (cover, Banshee # 5).

POETRY -- 1, Gray ("The Mad Muse"). 2, Nuttall ("Succubus," Sappho).
3, Lowndes ("Demi-World," Agenbite of Inwit).

BEST IN MAILING -- 1, "The Mad Muse" -- Gray and Watson. 2, Fantods, -- Stanley. 3, Banshee # 5 -- Shaw.

Individual 'zine Reviews:

Ratings follow the Chauvenet values fairly closely. "A" occurs five times, which seems to me to be a reasonable number. Quality, appearance, and quantity of worthwhile material, in that order of importance, are the criteria I use. A mess of junk beautifully presented will never make the grade in my book; on the other hand, it is possible for material which is very good, even though it is merely legible, to gain the highest rating. Unlikely though; usually, there is plenty of good material well presented. A single sheet has very little chance; there are too many good mags of from six to thirty pages.

The "B" group contains most of the publications, and represents considerable spread. For this reason, it has been divided into "B+" and "B-" groups. Yah gotta be purty darn good to rate "B+". Most of the "C" ratings go to good single sheet publications; often these are excellent as to quality, but just too brief for a full meal. As for the ratings lower than "C", well....

FANTASY FICTION FIELD PRESENTS (B-) Worthwhile material well presented. At least part of it is reprint material, however, and none of it interested me particularly.

JANUS -- I'm sorry, Paul, but only the editorial was legible, so I'm skipping the rating. Too bad you changed typers.

BROWSING, #7 and # 8 (B-) The material in this continues to interest me more than that in other mags devoted primarily to fantasy books. I especially enjoyed the low-down on the child-hood hero, Robin Hood, and the half-page illustration on the back page of #8 was a pleasant surprise; excellent stencilling on this.

BY AN ANONYMOUS CIVILIAN (C-) Why, Willie; how bashful of you! At any rate, you have made a good point about the Wait-Lister problem. Something ought to be done, but I dunno what. Accepting resignations from disinterested members might help.

THE MAD MUSE (A) Without disparaging previous collections of verse circulated throughout the FAPA, I unhesitantly declare that this is my favorite so far. Occasionally, Gray has used a trite figure of speech where a fresher one might have been devised; but such instances are rare, and even the trite ones seem to fit in very well, with his smooth phrasing and pleasing rhythms. My own taste in poetry is not especially modern; perhaps, in stead, it is very old fashioned.

Like Gray, I prefer rhyme and rhythm, although I do not consider rhyme of major importance. Outstanding in the collection are "Oblivion," "The Dreamer," "Morning and Night," "Night Magic," and "The Mad Muse."

THE FANTASY COMMENTATOR #2 and #3; (B+) and (A) respectively. The pleasing format and good mimeography, together with the authoritative comments on fantasy books and authors, put this publication near the top in the publishing and non-fiction categories. However, Searles assumption of the powers of censorship, and his rather boorish attitude toward FAPA activity which lies outside his own narrow circle of interests (which he rather egotistically asserts are the only true concerns of the organization) temper the enthusiasm with which I might otherwise greet each issue of F. C.

Your samples of the "page-per-book bibliography", together with the one in HORIZONS, have convinced me that the project is both worthwhile and feasible. I prefer the form used by Harry, as being more within range of the members; but I see no reason why either form might not be used, as suited the preference of the reviewer. I'd like to contribute a few reviews myself, but there is no immediate probability of that. (Searles probably draws a long sigh of relief, thereat; any reviews I might produce would certainly lack that ring of authority).

I'm genuinely glad to learn that "Green Thoughts" is not typical of Collier; quite frankly, I consider it tripe of the most insipid sort, only partly relieved by a few clever pokes at the vanity of the reader. I realize, also, that it is impossible to judge a writer by one short sample of his work; but it is too bad that misleading examples appear with such annoying regularity in anthologies. I notice you complain of the same thing in connection with Great Tales of Terror and the Supernatural.

SAM's talent for writing about the "Good Old Days" appears to advantage in "Forgotten Fantasies." Of all the stories he mentions--and I've read most of them--(except those in WT) my fondest memories are of "The Mother." I'd forgotten the title, but the mere mention of it brought back the whole tender tale, as clearly as if I had read it but yesterday. "Crucible of Power," also, awakened a responsive chord.

A word on your pet peeve. I'll admit that discussions of the why and wherefor of a curving baseball have little to do with fantasy--although the behavior of a rotating sphere in a very dense atmosphere might be a factor in a "heavy planet" story--but discussions of possible future worlds certainly lies within the realm of science fiction; in fact, most of these discussions have developed from ideas suggested in stories by popular authors. My own interest in weird fiction is almost nil; my interest in stories of the future, and in possible "real" futures which may develop from present day conditions, is rather intense. I therefore consider discussions of racial relations, political ideologies, or the socioeconomic results of technical advances, well within the FAPA field. A considerable number of others, including some who have been members from the beginning, seem to share that opinion. Some of us have, occasionally, found your detailed discussions of the works of certain Weirdists rather dull; but up to now, none of us have demanded that you discontinue them, nor are we likely to do so. Neither, I think, will we discontinue the topics which we like.

I wonder, incidentally, if you consider Chauvenet's discussion of the Negro question either "wholly emotional" or "wholly theoretical?" Or mine, for that matter; I think I'm fairly familiar with both the Middle Western and the Southern aspects of the problem.

SARDONYX (A) Chauvenet is back! Not the disinterested looker-on, but the keenly analytical LRC of other days. And that is good; very good indeed. I really feared, Russ, that your marriage meant the practical end of your participation FAPA. No doubt a number of others felt the same.

"The World of John Bristol Speer" is really, of course, the World of Louis Russell Chauvenet. It is a strange world, and an interesting one, but one which I would not care to share with him. However, were it not for modern hearing aids for the "hard of hearing," I might well be sharing it with him ten years hence; my hearing is not what it used to be.

"Suggested Ethics For Fandom" rather completely eliminates my previously

expressed idea that such a code was neither necessary, nor likely to be successful. I'll take this one the way it is. -- "Racial Equality" -- excellent; I think that I can now let the subject drop, as being well sewed up; but I still have a couple brickbats for Speer; he left some gaping holes in his latest opus along this line. -- "Presenting....Buck" -- Hmmm; reads very much like some modern poetry I've seen, only this seems to make a crazy sort of sense. Buck should have come sooner.

I didn't give your bit of verse a chance to work on what passes for my "sense of fantasy;" I was in too big a hurry to get on with the Mailing. And of course, after reading your interpretation, there wasn't much chance of carrying through an independent integration. Besides, about the only time such stuff can work on me--but good--is just after I go to bed; 'tis on such food my insomnia feeds. (The insomnia seems to thrive on it, too!) But in any case, I would scarcely have followed the same path you did, and the pictures probably wouldn't have been so vivid. -- "Davis vs. Chauvenet"- looks like Davis will have to clinch to weather this round.

BANSHEE #5 (A) I don't mind waiting a while for a fanzine like this, Larry; it is genuinely good from beginning to end. I especially liked "Raymeses" and Spencer's "The Metamorphosis of John Q. Spingtumper." The poll was interesting, although the obvious horse-play of the few largely negated any value it might otherwise have had. Speer's deductions were more interesting than the poll itself. "The Ruler Is No More," while well up to fan standards, was worthy of better handling.

Raym has a knack for parody, but it took more than a knack to produce "Raymeses." "Raymeses" will stand several re-readings. Within its lines can be found an amazingly complete, satirical summary of the tempests-in-a-teapot which have made up the high points in recent fan history. If you can't find a reference to yourself, you just haven't been around much lately. This is Raym's best to date, and the best thing of its sort I've seen in FAPA. -- Reviews-- look; three of them! Some guys are gonna object, but not me; I enjoyed 'em. THE NUCLEUS (B+) Trudy, the children of Hamden are very lucky; not only because they are going to have a teacher with ideas and ideals, but because they live in a town where those ideas and ideals will be given a chance of expression. I hope nothing stops you. Teaching of the type you hope to do is spreading, but only very slowly. There are a great many schools in which you wouldn't even be permitted to try out the newer methods you have been taught.

The kind of school of which I wrote is beginning to go, I'm glad to say; but it will be a long, long time before it is gone forever. The school in which special provisions are made for pupils of superior abilities may be inferior to the type of which you write, with proper stimuli and leadership for all; undoubtedly it is, if the leadership and stimuli are actually present; but it is still true that in the usual school class-room, the curriculum is suited to the gait of the dullards, and there is very little that the individual teacher can do about it. How would you like to teach in a school in which the policies were largely dictated by a school-board of opinionated local politicians, only one of whom had gotten beyond the fifth grade in school; a board which even attempted to get around the elementary requirements set up by the State and County? I had that pleasant experience, Trudy, and it wasn't good. And schools like that still exist, in many places.

All sorts of fads and systems have flared up briefly, and finally ended by leaving a little of genuine worth, in the schools of this country during the past fifty years. The progressivism of which you write seems to a logical outcome of many of these abortive experiments of the past. I hope it continues to grow.

Yes, the Reader's Digest is a bit conservative, Trudy; I always buy a copy of some other, rather radical Digest, along with it, as a sort of counter-irradiant; works fine. -- Bravo for your comments on "Black and White" and on Unionism; no doubt you will get sneers from some directions, and the conservatives, if they wish, can find plenty of loop-holes in your arguments; you cover too much ground too brief a space to plug them all, even if you could; but in general, I think your remarks are sound. And like Spencer, I've a notion you've grown a lot.

A ROUZINE (C) Quite all right as far as it goes, but it is quite a come-down from XENON, which is now a sub-zine. Kuttner's story is above the fan average. How about a little more stuff next time?

FAPA VARIETY (C) For a single-sheeter, this is hyper; perfectly reproduced and chuck full of Tucker--and Bob can get more in small space than most. How about from four to six pages, now and then, Bob? -- By the way, just how much do think 100% of nothing is, Bob? Doesn't sound like much of a profit to me!

FAN-TODS (A) Quote "This is wonderful!"--unquote; Fan-Tods, I mean. And some members want to eliminate "reviews!"

Curious how the mind (mine, anyway) will store away facts, and will later encounter a statement incompatible with those facts, yet never note the incompatibility. By the time I had completed the brief introduction to biology in a six weeks period devoted to that branch of science in a junior high school general science course, I knew enough about cell-life to enable me to deduce that body cells couldn't be readily hybridized; but I didn't discover that I knew it until Russ pointed out the obvious in "Riposte." Not, I should say, an example of "logic-tight compartmentation;" just a case of a very poor mental filing system with practically no cross-indexing.

"Yesterday's 10,000 Years" is very fine; Campbell must have come close to sticking his tongue clear thru his cheek when he printed that dilly by Bergh, with the "fallacious ratiocination which has never pleased...." -- Hmmm; if P. S. Miller is right in his conclusion (the only part I could read) about the quantity of energy necessary to equal the velocity of light, it is evident that Kimball Kinnison never heard of Mr. Miller.

"Revista" is the real meat of Fan-Tods. -- Yeah, Stanley, when we mention a two-year-old with the intelligence of a 14-year-old, we run into real difficulty as soon as he ages a year or so. Remember, in the "Query" which started all this, I asked whether our present measuring-rods could be used on such mentalities. I think it is fairly clear that they couldn't. -- The analogy of the human baby and the ape baby is apt; van-Vogt and Stapledon have both used the idea of a super-man developing more slowly than homo sap. Jommy Cross, I seem to remember, was slated to reach maturity at the age of 30. -- War vs. anti-war cultures argument continues merrily; hope Chan has a come-back. -- Yeah, Kelleam wrote "Rust,"-- I'm always getting Kelleam and Kenealy confused; I'm not so good at remembering names. Up to now, tho, I haven't confused either of them with Kelly or Kent. -- Which reminds me; somebody asked about the origin of "Aw poleema habby fee." 'Twas in a story by Kelvin Kent (I think that is right!) which was one of a humorous series which ran in ASF a few years ago, and concerned the adventures of a happy-go-lucky Irishman who got stuck on a very heavy planet. He discovered that the natives were susceptible to jive, and got a lot of work out of them, to the tune of "All Policemen Have Big Feet," even though their pronunciation wasn't too good.

HORIZONS (B+) Here are more excellent reviews, of the kind that not only make the abolition of the OC possible; they almost make it necessary, since his necessarily brief comments are made to look trifling in comparison. -- The "one-page" bibliography idea, I have already commented on, under Searles' pubs; personally, I prefer Harry's suggested form because it is less exacting in its requirements. -- I get "efficiency" ideas every so often, too, Harry, but nothing ever comes of them, except that I get rid of a lot of stuff which I have been keeping for I know not what reason--and for which I am sure to spend a futile half-hour searching in the future. -- "Man Sags" several interesting mouthfuls.

SAPPHO (B+) I liked the cover, the Nuttall cutting, "Succubus," "To Sylvia," "Prayer," "Phantasmagoria," and "In Memoriam--A Merritt." I kin see the rest of the artwork, and "The People Perish," "Figment," "Preludes IV." I got some sort of weird impression from "Kaleidoscope in Swing Time." The rest--just words scattered over a page, -- which brings me to "Bunko," cries the Sage.

I read "Bunko" with considerable curiosity, and even some interest. Abstruse technicalities always arouse my curiosity; even Miss Chapper's poetry does that. Miss Chapper may do all you say she does with her words before she she uses them; in fact, I'm inclined to think she does, considering the results.

But I can't get excited about her "cleansing" process, for to me, words have no significance except as vehicles of thought or emotion. Perhaps I'm egotistical, but it is my opinion that they can have no other significance. Ergo, from my standpoint, Miss Chapper succeeds best when she fails most completely of the purpose which you ascribe to her; I really like some of her less artificial verse. Aincha glad, Willie?

EN GARDE. (B+) Nice cover; such a uniform color; fuzzy, too. -- "Quizz"-- pyooooe! According to YOUR answers, I got only 80 %, which is pretty louzy. And you, of course, got 100%, obviously. Therefore, I set up the following proposition: "To Prove: that You missed more than I did!

First, as usual, I looked over your quizz to determine whether or not it had a "style" that I could recognize; all T-F quizzes tend to fall into certain classifications, a fact which is often of some help to the otherwise stupid test victim. This one belongs in the "key word" class; pick out the concealed key, and you have nearly always gotten the right answer.

The idea worked all right until I came to the very unsubtle statement, "All Science Fiction Magazine Covers are printed." I became over-subtle, and, suspecting Al of quibbling, by saying that such covers were "printed by the Four-Color Process." That was stupid of me; such an answer would hardly stand up. So I missed that one. But I think I'm right on No. 10; most stories are submitted as "typescripts," not as manuscripts, which are generally unacceptable. That makes one for me and one for you. Again, on #19, I'll argue with you. Not only do I insist that "The Great Red Spot of Saturn" is invisible to the naked eye; I insist that it is also invisible with a telescope. So are the Great Red Spots of Mars, Venus, and Neptune, to name only a few.

On #20, I went to sleep; I am ashamed. That makes it two for you and two for me. No. 22 is another tricky one. According to my dictionary, the first or preferred definition of asphyxiation is "suffocation," which in turn is defined as "death through suspension of respiration." Therefore, asphyxiation is always fatal, not just "almost always fatal." We agreed on the rest of the questions, so that makes it two for me, and three (misses) for you. Q. E. D.

Here is another fine Review Section; the OC looks less necessary, every minute.--Al's "Mutations" are interesting; especially the "receding hairline." I'm undergoing that "mutation" too; does that make me a slant? -- Comments on the alcohol question are right down the groove. -- "Forgotten Fantasies" is indeed excellent; should prove an excellent match for Stanley's "Yesterday's----." Incidentally, I remember seeing ads. for "Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery" painted on the sloping roofs of barns on Nebraska farms, not so many years ago. However, the modern exploiters of the good Dr.'s wonderful discovery had toned down their claims a wee mite.

WALT'S GRAMBLINGS (B-) Always an interesting little 'zine, and this is no exception. More interesting for the way Walt presents his stuff than for the contents themselves, and the contents are worthy of note. Especially like the mention of unexpected "finds" in the two-bit POCKETbooks; they fit my pocketbook very well. However, not all of them got here; even "Rebirth" didn't arrive until the first of September. -- "Add Lovecraftiana" enjoyable, and furnishes further interest that some of the fans' favorites are steadily gaining ground outside the circle of those who specialize in fantasy.--"Im-Pressions" enjoyed muchly, Suh; ditto, the very neat mimeography.

A TALE OF THE EVANS (B-) The editorial is strictly EEE in person, and that is a person I like very well indeed. -- "Emergency Landings...." has some interesting passages. For example, in making the landing on the rock similar in size to the ship, said ship would have been revolving in an orbit having a diameter but slightly greater than the length of the ship itself; practically spinning on its short axis, and at the same time, "diving" toward the rock. To add to the complications, the rock would have been revolving in approximately the same orbit, about the common center of gravity. Much fun.

"Should Fan Hospitality Be Free?" is an article which has needed writing, and the approach to the problem presented here is quite good. -- In re World Government, EEE, I didn't mean to imply that no sort of World Government is

possible or probable; merely that one based on joint action by mutually irreconcilable governmental and cultural units, must have very tough sledding indeed. LIGHT #132 (B-) A good issue, though not outstanding. "The Light Beyond" is a fairly good example of true "fan fiction;" that is, fiction involving fans, as distinguished from fiction by fans. Gibson's Gosh-awful pun-fest establishes some sort of a record, I imagine; I enjoyed it. The most serious drawback to the publication is its invariably sloppy appearance. What is the reason, Mr. Editor? ELMURMURINGS #3. (B-) One of the best-looking mags to appear in FAPA in many a moon; that bargain printing outfit was worth the money--to the rest of the members, anyway, if not to Elmer; and I suspect it has been to him. -- Yeah, I'd like to see the basic idea mentioned with each comment, too; when it isn't, and I can't remember, I just skip the reference. -- Add to all the list of quotable quotations "...surrealism---whose chief function seems to be that of providing the background for the books written explaining it." Bull'seye!

How many people, in their entire life, suffer more than three or four hurts sufficient to justify the use of a powerful snoddy of the spirit on that grounds alone? Very few, I think. Some people, because of their psychological make-up, are more susceptible to such hurts than others, and the occasions would be more frequent for such people; but the hurts would scarcely be as frequent as, say, one a year. If people drank heavily only on such occasions, the distillers would go broke. A somewhat larger number of individuals are subject to periods of heightened intensity which may lead to serious emotional explosions; in such case, the escape via alcohol may well be the least harmful alternative. But these people wouldn't support an industry in the multi-million dollar class. Drink for conviviality? Well, if you wish, although it looks unnecessary to me. At any rate, a very small quantity of alcohol serves this purpose; more just messes things up in general, and results in at least as many fights as love-fests. All of which leads up to this; if you must go on frequent benders, OK, (so long as you don't interfere with my rights) but don't try to justify weekly Wing-Ding on scientific grounds; you haven't got a leg to stand on--not even the wobbly kind.

Poetry Department--This is the sort of verse which confuses me most; it certainly has something, and I rather like that something; but I don't know what or why. Do it some more, will yah? -- Plagiarism questions etc.--you'll get some authoritative answers on this, no doubt; best I can do is to say that you better specify which rights you wish to sell to anything you write, cause iffen you don't, you'll find that you've sold them all. -- Roto Section; Bravo, Elmer! --Surrealistic pome, absolutely #2(*%93)!+!

CALIBAN #6 (B-) Quote--"...wailings about fans withdrawing from the world into a shell of fan activity are just so much bunk. The fan of that type hardly ever was a part of the real world to begin with!"--Unquote. There may be some exceptions to that, Larry, but they are few enough. Well said. --I go along with your "anti-fen" campaign, too. Somebody (Widner?) said that condemning the use of "fen" automatically condemns the use of "men" as the plural of "man." Not so! The rules of English word-formation are reasonably specific on that point. We inherited a lot of old, Anglo-Saxon words, including their plurals formed by radical change; but new words form plurals only by adding "s" or "es." Thus: goose, geese (old; radical change for plural) mongoose, mongooses (new, forms plural regularly). The plural of "fan" is "fans;" "fen" is something else!

The quote from Canby is good; I always feel sorry for the poor boob who never reads; of course, he is apt to feel sorry for me, because I can't find plenty of entertainment in "real life"--or, almost as often, in "reel life" (Hiyah, Tuck!). Books, of course, don't detract from "real life;" they add to it. ANIDEA (E) ?

PARADOX #8. (B+) Maybe you should write the whole thing longhand, Frank; the writing reproduced better than the typing; howdyah do it? But you are wrong; this issue is far from being a mess. -- Tucker on "Time Travel" uproarious. The diagram is especially obfuscatory. Story and Letter Section enjoyable, but little requiring comment. Gualterio's verse is a fine thing of its type; I liked it.

BOOKMARK --And a very good one, too, but it scarcely merits a rating as a publication; the poetry volume will make up for it, tho.

THE F. A. P. A. FAN. (C) There is considerable meat in this sloppy-looking single-sheeter. The voting situation is very bad; ditto the situation of the actual and potential Wait-Listers. The voting privelege (I'm referring to the NFFF, now) has not been permanently curtailed; the present constitution was approved by the membership; the current regime is accomplishing things under difficult circumstances; the NFFF has greater strength now than it ever had before. Vote for EEE and Tucker!

AGENBITE OF INWIT #6. (B+) Aggie continues near the top. While I don't agree that the suggested activities are the only worthwhile ones, I think they should be near the head of the list. -- Most interesting are the comments on STAR STUNG, and the poem used to point the argument, "Demi-World" suits me very well. "Trigger Talk at Green Guna has finally caught up with me, so is of greater interest than at first. Reckon as haow ther's more a-comin', too; whoopeeee! GUTETO (C) Exceptionally neat, as usual. The list of books, while scarcely sufficient to justify the learning of Esperanto for the sole purpose of reading those not available in English, is nevertheless evidence that there exists a very considerable literature in the lingvo.

ADAM SINGLESHEET (C)--but the FANCYCLOPEDIA is (A+); no less! I got in on the pre-publication, NFFF-member special price; wasn't I lucky? But I hadda pay full price for the second one I bought; it was worth it, too!

TWILIGHT ECHOES (B-) This reads like the Fortier I met at the Denvention; I never was able to reconcile that person with the personality of Reitrof, and I'm glad to see that Reitrof is gone. T-E is an excellent G. I. 'zine. The remark on the jet-plane was enlightening; you weren't letting out any unscheduled information, were you?

MILTY'S MAG (B-) The Army again, Gentlemen! I see that the inclusion of the numeral "1" on the special typer keyboard results in the "7" being where the "8" ought to be; so good ol' "1811," the hurried typist's favorite substitute for "I'll," loses a hundred; it's only 1711, now. -- Those hymn's are gonna git yah yet, Milt, if yah don't watch out! -- "Diddling Dep't." - this is all on the beam; working in an Army Camp as I do, I've heard it all before, in the conversation of scores of G. I.'s I've met. - Nifty likeness on the cover.

CUSHLOMOCHREE #1. Well, now we have both sides of the vote-counting difficulty. At least, they eventually got counted. -- Walt says he can speak more readily than he can write, and after hearing him at Denver, I think it is probably true. Of course, there are rumors from the vicinity of Hollywood to the effect that he likes to hear himself too well; I don't see that that is any worse than liking to read one's own stuff too well. (oops, the rating--((E-))).

FAN-DANGO (B+) Ackerman has a curious writing style--if it can be called that--a sort of "lemme see; did that happen at Fran Shack, or was it on Thursday" style. It is sometimes amusing, sometimes annoying, and is completely lacking in either organization or unity; still I liked the article, puns and all.

"An Experiment in Local Fan Organization" seems to be a clear and impartial analysis. Perhaps you overlooked one thing, Fran; it seems to me that one major element in the eventual break-up of the Knaves was that old bugaboo, over-activity (i. e., fan activity.). -- Me judgement is supported by higher authority! I thought "Tryst" excellent, even though I don't go strongly for weirds; if Fran thinks it good enough for Acolyte, that is good enough for me. BEYOND (B+) The cover is especially noteworthy; excellent drawing, fine symbolism, and the mimeophoto process (whatever that is) are here combined to produce a masterpiece of mimeo art. -- "Spawn of the Gods," while not quite up to "The Rose and the Robot," is enjoyable off-trail fiction. I also liked "The Improbable Ones." Stanley deserves a lot of credit for putting this out for Rosco.

YHOS (B+) This high rating is in spite of, not because of Shortype; on that basis it would have rated a rather weak (C). -- "Peril at Pentagon" is one of the most enjoyable items in the mailing. Also very much worth while is the poem, "Death of Your Dream."

Your comments on the race question as discussed in Black and White, taken together with Chauvenet's, just about wind up the case to the satisfaction of everybody, I should think, excepting of course, Speer, and probably Searles. Since I generally like polls, this was enjoyed, too; evidently, though, a considerable number of members don't share my interest there.

"Shorttype," in my opinion, is not as good as it might be. I didn't find it particularly difficult to read, partly because I once knew shorthand fairly well, in addition to using an abbreviated alphabetic system of my own, as mentioned previously; and partly because there is actually very little abbreviating, even many long words being spelled out in full.

Your trouble lay, I think, in your attempt to do two divergent things; (1) to produce a phonetic alphabet for English, using typewriter symbols; and (2) create a system of shorthand adapted to that same set of typewriter characters. You failed in the first, because you just didn't use enough different characters to represent all the sounds. You failed in the second because; (a) you ~~used~~ too many different characters which have the value of one sound, and one only; and (b) you do not have a general principle of abbreviation for long words; (c) you do not use nearly enough single-character symbols to represent frequently-occurring letter groups, especially prefixes and suffixes; and (d) you utilize too few of the characters on the key-board.

Your two aims are not easily combined. If you want a phonetic alphabet, then you will have some forty-odd characters, and will naturally use upper-case forms to represent part of the sounds, especially in the case of vowels. Every symbol would represent one and only one sound, and every sound would have its unique symbol. You would eliminate such monstrosities as "ae" for the long sound of "a" and "oo" for the vowel sound in "hood." You would use two symbols for a diphthong. You would have single characters for not only sh and ch, but also for the two sounds of th, etc. Probably such a system would take longer to type, because of much shifting, but it would be phonetic.

If you want to work up a shorthand system, you start out differently. In particular, you would drop minor differences, such as distinguishing between the various sounds of a given vowel, and use only one symbol to represent the group of sounds s, x, and z. Let's use x for th (ok, Harry?) and tackle a few words, starting with "anthropologist," which in "shorttype" is shortened to "anthrOpOlojist". I'd use something like nxpOL; it would also do for "anthropology," since context would tell which was meant. "Analogy" would become nOL; "theology," xOL. (Note; in using symbols involving two consecutive caps, care should be taken so that both caps were struck with the fingers of the same hand, so as to eliminate excessive shifting). For -ility, -illy, -ality, -ally, I would use L; thus: "personally," or "personality"; prsL. "Trivial," trvL; "trivially," trviality, "trvL. Similarly, "unanimous," nnms; "unanimity," nnM; "calamity," kLM; "proximity," prsM; "simple," or "sample," sP, "simplicity," sPS or smpS, the second form avoiding the double shift. "City," S; "perspicacity," prpkS. Well, that is enough to show you what I mean by really short "shorttype." You can get the general principals out of the back half of your Gregg shorthand text; it might help to consult one or more of the "simple" or "alphabetic" shorthand texts, too.

After all of which, I still think you can't shorten typing sufficiently by any such means to make it worth while as a time-saver, mainly because you have to strike the space-bar after every word; and, whereas it is only about twenty-per-cent of the stroking in ordinary typing, it becomes greater in proportion as the words shorten, so that you quickly reach the limit. BANSHEE #6 (B+) Not up to #5, but that could hardly be expected; this is still among the best in the Mailing. The top item, undoubtedly, is Spencer's enthusiastic write-up of his visit to Stan-Shack; he fairly effervesces. His comments on the mailing were also good, although I admit I was a little disappointed to find that the best PHANNY to date was among the "one or two items which did not impress....one way or the other." Spencer and Wollheim!

"Thunder from Atlas" is Speer unadulterated, and I always like to read Speer, even though I frequently disagree rather violently with his views.

CUSHLAMOCHREE #2 (B-) This is really a "pre-mailing," since it reviews material in the regular fall mailing. -- The editorial has the quality of frankness, if nothing else, and is fairly interesting. -- Just how do you go about drawing a distinction between "fan poetry" and other poetry, Walt? Would you have been able, without the name of the author and the publication, to tell which poems in the last issue of SAPPHO were "professional" and which were "fan?" Frankly, I don't think you could. Could distinguish between the professionally published work of Gray, and that published in The Mad Muse? I'm sure I can see no difference in quality, although there is sometimes a difference in subject matter.

I think, Walt, you are implying a property of "fan" poetry which does not exist. There is a definite distinction between the usual run of fan fiction and typical pro fiction, which can usually be perceived quite readily. Sometimes, "fan fiction" means merely regular fiction written by a fan. In this case, it may be an attempt at the pros which was rejected for reasons of policy having nothing to do with quality of the work; some very good fiction of this sort has appeared, but the quantity has been small. More often, it is an attempt to write for the pros which was turned down because it simply wasn't any good; there is more of this type, and this is the type to which the term "fan fiction" is often applied as a term of opprobrium. A third kind is fiction of high merit which is written in the style of the "little art" magazines; experimental fiction, fiction written to sustain a mood, etc. Much of this stinks, but some of it is excellent. And finally, there is the type of fiction written about fans or Fandom, such as Doc's "Trigger Talk...." serial.

Now, I think you have attempted to carry these classifications over into the field of fan-written poetry, but the analogy just doesn't hold, except in the case of something like Raym's "Raymeses," which is comparable to stuff like Doc's serial as to content and intent. -- I think you might write your editorial and any articles or general comments you have to make, beforehand, Walt, reserving the "direct on the stencil" procedure for reviews. You'd find considerable improvement, I think.

YNGVI, 1944 (C) From a literary standpoint, Forrie, this is probably the best thing you have presented in FAPA since I became a member; but it isn't intended as a literary gem, and so I'll not criticize it on that basis.

I don't like an informer, either, please understand, nor do I like the idea of one member assuming censorial powers; but there is another side to this question which you completely ignore. There exists now, and always has existed, the possibility that some outsider would take one peak at a mailing, get a glance at one of your less palatable nudes or an off-color joke in some other member's pub, and take the thing to the postal authorities, on the grounds that the laws governing dissemination of obscene matter through the mails are being violated. There is an excellent chance that FAPA would be destroyed thereby; not through the agency of any disgruntled member, but through the action of a very few who intentionally or otherwise--in your case, I think, intentionally--flout the law as a means of carrying out a personal whim, or propagandizing certain concepts which are not generally accepted. Note, too, that the would-be informer can't do any damage so long as the law is observed, although when a member avails himself of the special low mailing rates, he necessarily tacitly agrees to abide by the laws governing such special mailing rates.

If you, as publisher of VOM, wish to take such a chance, that is your privilege; I notice, however, that you are not disregarding advice along this line as you once did.

As for Fandom being "a society asynchronized with space and time, a world unto itself," that is utter hooey. I think, to you, it is; to me it is not, nor is it, I think, to more than ten per cent of the membership of FAPA. You have every right to regard Fandom in that light, but you have no right to endanger the rights of the rest of us, in order to forward that concept.

.....

Taken all together, this last has been a very good mailing; not the best, but one of the best; and certainly, some of the activities have been controversial enough for anybody. Which brings us to the very end of this Winter PHANNY.

The suggested vocabulary derived from "stef" is a good start, but is not at all complete.

As for the race question and emotionalism, it seems queer that Speer should see fit to make that criticism. Perhaps he is so used to taking an objective view of other matters, that he actually can't discern the emotional basis for his statements on this subject. His search is not for unbiased data on the subject, but for evidence of any and all sorts, however specious, which will support his convictions; a procedure which is not only unscientific, but foreign to his usual procedure.

So the principal opponents of inter-racial breeding are those who consider one race superior to the other? Just how, then, Jack, do you account for the very high percentage of mixed blood in our "negro" population of some 13,000,000? -- As for boogie-woogie and racial equality; well it certainly wasn't mentioned in PHANNY; in fact, I don't think anyone except Laney mentioned the matter of the Negro contribution to modern American music; you must have been basing your statements on Fran's comments; quite possibly you misinterpreted his statements.

Raym's "Rebuttal" is going to get more sneers than cheers, I suspect. I rather liked it, the idealism represented therein is too much lacking in fandom, and is a welcome relief to the over-sophisticated cynicism which is so prevalent. "Rebuttal" is very well written, too; probably the best prose Raym has turned out.

THE FANTASY AMATEUR seems to have everything in it that is necessary, plus a very good cover. -- I think, Suddsy, you'll find that Waldeyer's credentials are OK; I seem to remember listing them for him just before he applied, and he had more than the required amount of activity.

The Laureate Awards seem fair enough to me. I'm more than pleased with an honorable mention. Chauvenet's embarrassment really wasn't justified, and the other Committee members were right in overruling him, I think. SPECIAL FAPA BALLOT (no rating) "OPEN LETTER...." (from L. A., B+)(from Doc, B-). Had the discussion by Doc of the proposed amendments appeared three months sooner, I would have no serious criticism of his comments therein, even though I do not agree with him on many points. But in any case, there is no possible justification for combining the gag rule in racial discussion, with the "obscenity" clause; they are not related phases of the same thing, regardless of the form in which they are presented. Of the two unrelated parts, only one,-- the obscenity clause--had been discussed by the membership previous to publication of the ballot itself. It is impossible to avoid the suspicion that the "gag" rule was tied to it as means of assuring passage of a pet scheme of the proponents; a scheme which probably had no prospect of passage, except as a tail on the kite represented by the important "obscenity" clause. Such a procedure is an old but not so honorable trick for forcing through an otherwise unpopular piece of legislation.

The voting reform certainly merits consideration; at least three months consideration previous to the date of presentation. Here again, there is to be found the basis for an ugly suspicion. If this particular amendment passes, then any of the others which also pass at the time, will require a majority of the active membership, to remove them from the constitution; yet they will be put into the constitution by a minority vote. It follows then, that the proponents of these various amendments are deliberately taking advantage of an unparalleled opportunity to make these measures a permanent part of the constitution, without even the possibility of discussion on the part of the whole membership. The only honorable procedure would have been to introduce only the amendment to change voting procedure, leaving the others until the fate of that particular plan was determined.

The two "Open Letters" came out too late to affect a majority of the members who are regular voters; whether or not they will be responsible for a larger vote remains to be seen. -- The proposed change in the mailing date isn't particularly important, except for the fact (called to my attention by Warner) that it doesn't accomplish its avowed purpose. There will be twenty-five or thirty envelopes on the way to the official editor during the worst of the rush.