



# FANNING

Well, hello. Here it is OMPA mailing No.3, and I have yet to finish answering all my letters. To those as yet unanswered, my apologies. Oh dear, where does the time go to?

This issue is going to be a small one because as most of you know, Pamela and Ken have a lot of decorating to do & I am 'helping' - my term for it! What Pamela calls it may be spelt somewhat differently. Which, at the moment doesn't leave a lot of time for fanning. Once it's all finished, though, wow! Watch out for UGH! And I, too, shall get more time to fill up the BRANTUB.

FIRST, to those of you who wrote and said you liked it, many thanks. To those locally who told me in person that it was too spaced out, and too much space wasted, yaaah! It may be a waste of paper, but it sure is easy on the eyes. I wonder if I can work out a way to combine the two properties?

(Sorry for any typos - the usual complaint, no correcting fluid. I really must remember to get some. Yes, I know about nail polish, but I don't use it, sorry.)

Next, for those Christmas cards, many thanks - in particular to - guess who? - you're right! John Roles for a very sweet gesture. You've heard of cards that make one's mouth water? I'm torn between the desire to eat it and the desire to keep it. So far keeping's won.

Now for some news. To most of you, it will be oldhat but maybe some of you people up North haven't heard that one of my questions in QUERY (oops!) CORNER was very kindly answered by a National Sunday paper, namely, The Times. (High class, ain't we?) Yes, that one about the Planetarium. Seems Madame Tussaud's descendants have purchased the building next door & are already placing the orders for Britain's first Planetarium. It is apparently, (grapevine stuff, this) liable to have the projector completed within two years so roll on 1957. Maybe we can then sit and watch the star formations of 200,057 from an armchair. I intend - I've been intending for weeks - to write to them and congratulate them on their enterprise and say that all local s-f fans are highly interested, and that they (Tussaud's) can rely upon us for any help within our capacities - such as advertising of course. Anyway, it might be an idea for all of us to write on such lines, and give them countrywide encouragement. What say?



Now, anybody want a brand-new stapler for 2/8d? Yea, I said 2/8d, and new! Try your local Woolworth's - at Catford we also found punches at 2/3d. The staples seem to be standard size so it looks like a bargain. The things are sturdy-looking jobs and work perfectly - see this issue. (Ghod, Vinc, make sure none of the things are put in wrongly! I'll never live it down)

Next, oh yes, congratulations to John Brunner - for two reasons. First, he's been at Astounding again - a story called Armistice. He tells me it's written at the age of 19 - remember Thou Good and Faithful? written at 17? Is there something magic about John's abilities when his age is an uneven number of years? Finally, congrats. on his exit from the R.A.F. slightly delayed, alas but final. John was at the Globe the last two Thursdays, and brightened up the place again. Good luck to you John.

The poetry section this time is being filled by one of the London fans, David Thurlby, to whom goes my grateful thanks for the use of his two pieces. Let me know if you like them, folks.

From now on, Meteorites is going to spread itself from the Brantub to a separate zine - commonly called the "Lesser Flea" - work it out for yourself. Fraid this will have to be a postmailing, but it'll be coming. There'll be comments on comments in it, (ah, that rang a bell did it?) as well as the critz. of the zines in issue 2 - I'll probably save mailing 3 for the next mailing's copy of The Lesser Flea.

To Jan, or was it Dave, goes my apologies for not printing his letter - as usual it's somewhere in the heap but I can't find it at the moment. But I'll have it by the time "Hoppy" comes out. (Well, I've got to have a nickname for it. TLF is rather long!)

The only comments coming in this zine will be some further information on my postmailing. I had a few letters of comment, one from Ken himself. Ethel and Mashworth thought we had done right in airing the matter, as it probably killed the feud quicker than it had boiled up. Harry commented thus: When will Fandom grow up?

Not having commented in the issue, I should like to say that London hold no grudge against Ken, and that the sizing up of the letters should show that Ken just felt a little hot-headed. He wasn't spiteful, and the text should do nothing to damage his chances in TAFK. Whilst one letter was slanderous, we did publish the full text of every letter, except a few personal remarks of Ken's re his children, and ECT's first letter, to which the suggestion for the bond was attached, the letter dealing with other irrelevant matters not being considered necessary. It would seem impossible that any other construction could be put on the matter but if anyone feels inclined to add any more comments, perhaps they'd let me know.

However, perhaps everyone now, me included, sees what BF's we made of ourselves, and the whole thing has blown over. Here's hoping we're all pals again soon. (I'M not at war with Ken, please don't think that from that last comment.) Got any room on that fence, Harry?

# Seeds

A seed is a secret word -  
Wood and fibre, bound by a spell,  
In darkness stirred,  
to grow to something new, unknown.

Encased in wood -- and flesh and bone --  
An immortality can swell,  
Beyond its guarded limits spurred  
By the unknown notes that start  
Like the mystery in its heart --  
A seed is a secret word.

\* \* \* \* \*

# Nocturne

Perfumes in the night  
Under the light  
Of constellations --  
The lamentations  
Of night-gnats  
Rise above the quiet mats  
Of Pine-leaves;  
Over falls the water grieves  
At having left the sky,  
Against a window moth-wings fly --  
And my mind beats against the wall of thought,  
To sink in silence, think of naught.

\* \* \* \* \*

This is query corner by rights, but I've only got one question this time, so here it is?

How did a numerical system based on 12 come into being when we have only five digits on each hand and foot? Yes I know the metric system fits in but we prefer the inch and foot, penny and shilling. Could it be that we five-fingered bods are -- mutants?

\* \* \* \* \*

Head in a Tresco orchard - So I got down on my hands and knees and scrubbed it with a carpet cleaner and I discovered THERE WERE COLOURS IN IT!

O.K. folks, apart from Taff Stuff, that's all for the moment, so cheerio until Hoppy enters your house. Good reading.

THE END OF THE AFFAIR. ----- (we hope)

HARRY TURNER - adds "Fanarchy is the only hope for a mature Fandom!"

ETHEL LINDSAY- "there was a great deal to be said for both sides of the question. As to the other aspect of the letters, when I first started reading it I felt quite sad, not disillusioned I am too old for that, however towards the end I felt quite full of admiration. Vigorous action by all the principals involved had prevented what could have been a nasty row sufficient to split fandom in two....rarely have I seen it handled in such a civilised manner. I do especially applaud your decision to publish the letters and so dispel any false rumours to fog the issue.//There is nothing more outrageous to the feelingsthan to be unjustly accused - I do sympathise with you all there.//What I particularly admired was that, although none of the principals failed to mince their words or opinions, neither did they fail to apologise when proved wrong.// I do hope this will not make Walt give up his position in the TFF. No one could have handled it more reasonably, he has that admirable quality of seeing both sides of every question." Ethel adds that KFS, ECT & HKB are "all reasonable men...Facing the future as we do in 1955 the world could do with a few more men like them." Many thanks Ethel and I do agree with you.

KEN SLATER himself wrote a lo-o-ong letter which I just haven't room to quote in full. He did however point out one glaring injustice to him, with which I do agree. Mea culpa! And our semantics. He says that on Page 8 of taff HKB says "it is time these attacks ceased" inferring that KFS is "habitually attacking London Circle. That is an outrageous distortion of the truth." Ken is quite right - it is. But it wasn't meant like that. We meant all attacks by everybody, when unfounded, should cease. I cannot apologise enough to Ken if anybody else misconstrued it that way. Please note, we DID NOT MEAN K.F.S was continually attacking London. He has NOT PREVIOUSLY DONE SO AND IT WAS PURELY THAT HE WAS NOT IN FULL POSSESSION OF THE FACTS THAT IT HAPPENED THIS TIME. We admit our blame, and hope you will vote for Ken. May the best fan win.

ERIC FRANK RUSSELL to whom we sent a copy says "All this un-seemly brawl proves is that meat's been off the ration quite a time. There wouldn't have been a squeak out of a soul had we all still been trying to extract nourishment from sawdust bread and utility hake pie." "Incidentally, I consider it a disgraceful indictment of the London Circle and Provincial Fandom like that all TAFF candidates wear pants. Not one among this motley collection of bums has sufficient gallantry to propose somebody who will be Britain's answer to La Mahaffey.// The country's going to the dogs."

And with that final load of humour I will leave you. Remember to send your cash to WAW for TAFF. Here's hoping the winner has a wonderful time in the USA and dodges the radioactivity. One last word, did anyone see that 1,800 babies have been adversely affected by radioactivity from A-bomb explosions? When are we going to get the facts on this. It seems that the Govt. are hushing it up. Bye for now,

Joy