

DREAM

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NOV 6
E. Barr



Cut of a dream as long and interestingly involved as a book-length novel, all that I can recall is one fragment... I had received a proposal from a Candy Manufacturer which I decline as follows:

"I've accepted the candy you've tempted me with, although it is bad for my figure, because what happens to my figure is not important.. but the marriage you now tempt me with would be bad for my soul. Although it does not matter what happens to my body, it matters very much to me what happens to my soul, so I must refuse. But, if you are really interested in getting married, I have a niece who is looking for a husband. In addition to being younger than I am, and better looking, she is a widow and therefore it would be all right for you to marry her."

(Generous of me, wasn't it?)

There's no Letter Bowl this.. I had a very intriguing metaphysical discussion all lined up for your enjoyment, but it turned out to be so long and so comprehensive in content that it would be almost topheavy for so slender a mag as this. Then, too, I'm too rushed right now to take the time to write it up. So, about all you'll find in this DREAM STUFF is Mailing Comments and a copy of my contribution to the Pitcon Memory Book.

However, I cannot pass up this one last chance to write up my ideas of what a good set of By-Laws should be. (Dietze, Raybin, Lichtman, Holland, et al take notice!)

Suggested BY-LAWS OF THE NEFFER AMATEUR PRESS SOCIETY

PREAMBLE: The NEFFER AMATEUR PRESS SOCIETY is an N3F Activity established for the convenience of N3F members who enjoy amateur publishing. It is an N3F subsidiary and has no separate identity apart from N3F.

ARTICLE I: Officers:

1. NAPS is a subsidiary to N3F, and, as such, is under the jurisdiction of the N3F Directorate and President, however, all internal matters and rulings dealing with administration shall be left to the discretion of the NAPS membership and OE.
2. There shall be an Official Editor elected annually from the NAPS members.
3. The OE shall have the necessary authority to handle emergencies or violations of NAPS rulings and to safeguard their activities.
4. In matters of administration, the decisions of the OE shall be final.
5. The duties of the OE shall be to receive individual magazines, keep the records, prepare the quarterly mailing bundle, post same, publish an official magazine of business (the OO) each mailing, and administer the details of conducting this activity.
6. In the event of sickness or failure on the part of the OE, the duties shall revert to the previous OE until the regular elections.
7. If the previous OE is unable to fulfill the duties, the N3F President shall appoint another member of NAPS to serve out the unexpired term.

ARTICLE II: Membership.

1. NAPS shall consist of (*) paid up N3F members in good standing.
2. Application for membership in NAPS shall be made in writing, by the applicant, to the Official Editor.
3. No proxy applications are permitted.
4. There will be no dual memberships. Husbands and wives, or twins, may participate as one entity, but only one of them shall be considered the member. If both desire membership, the other may join in the usual manner.

*Fill in your own number -- I really don't care what the membership is, so long as we pick a figure and stick with it! The turnover will be fast enough, no matter what.

5. If the quota is filled the applicant may be placed on a Waiting List from which vacancies shall be filled in chronological order.

6. The OE shall notify applicants each quarter as to their status on the Waiting List (preferably by a copy of the OO), requesting confirmation. Applicants failing to reply will be dropped from the Waiting List.

7. Any person dropped from the Membership Roster or Waiting List may re-apply for admission in the same channels as a new application, if desired. A place on the Roster or Waiting list which is forfeited cannot be re-instated except on proof of error.

ARTICLE III: Dues.

1. Dues shall consist of an additional \$1 added to the annual N3F dues and paid to the N3F Treasurer along with the regular dues. The N3F Treasurer will forward the NAPS dues to the OE together with a list of members paid up as of March 1st.

2. Any member who has not paid his dues prior to March 1 shall be dropped from the NAPS Membership Roster or the Waiting List.

3. In case of doubt, the burden of proof is on the member. A cancelled check, Postal Money Order receipt, or similar acknowledgement shall constitute grounds for re-instatement.

ARTICLE IV: Activity Requirements.

1. Each member must contribute at least 6 pages of substantially his own material every two mailings.

2. Any member failing to meet activity requirements for 2 consecutive mailings shall be dropped from the roster and his place given to an applicant from the W/L.

3. All material is subject to examination by the OE. Material likely to be in violation of Postal Regulations, or too illegible for normal reading, may be withdrawn from the mailing at the OE's discretion.

4. No activity credit may be given for material withdrawn from the mailing, but the activity deadline may be extended one mailing to permit the member to make it up.

5. Guest material by non-members is permitted in a member's fanzine, but material which is completely the work of non-members may be distributed under a member's frank only by arrangement with the OE with regard to postage and/or suitability.

6. If an applicant on the Waiting List has been notified of his admission as a member and the vacancy later proves to have been erroneous, the applicant shall be continued as a supernumerary member until the next vacancy.

ARTICLE V: Mailings.

1. Mailings shall go out quarterly, the 15th day of March, June, Sept. & Dec.

2. Deadline for receipt of material by the OE is the 10th of the month.

3. Postmailed material shall receive no credit, nor have official standing in the mailing, except by arrangement with the Official Editor.

4. Mailing contributions shall be submitted in at least (* +5) identical copies.

5. Excess copies may, at the OE's discretion, be sold as surplus stock to N3F members, the money thus obtained to be applied to the NAPS Treasury.

6. The OE shall publish or cause to be published, a magazine of business (known as the Official Organ or by its fanzine title, if preferred) to be included in each mailing and listing the status of memberships, applicants on Waiting List, treasurer's report, plus whatever else of interest may pertain to the administration of NAPS.

ARTICLE VI: Elections & Voting.

1. Ballots for the Annual Election of the Official Editor shall be distributed in the December Mailing.

2. The Previous Official Editor shall be the Official Teller.

3. All votes cast must be in the hands of the Teller prior to February 1.

4. Records, money, and surplus stock must be in the hands of the new OE by Mar. 1.

5. Upon vote of 3/4 of the full NAPS membership, and subject to the approval of the N3F Directorate and President, these by-laws may be changed as necessary.

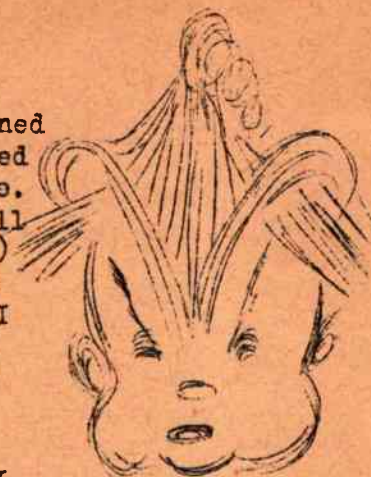
6. Nothing in these by-laws shall be construed as hampering the smooth, efficient administration of NAPS. The details of administration, subject to the limitations contained herein, shall be left to the OE unless proven unworthy of the trust. The N3F President may then invoke ART. 1, 6.

FINIS

AS I SEE IT

Mailing Comments, N'APA #5

N'APazines 1-5 - Bob Lambeck. The addition of a staple turned this unsightly clutter of one-sheets into a fairly good-sized fanzine and an addition to the mailing instead of a nuisance. The staple is donated free this time, Bob, but next time I'll charge straight "time and materials". (Oh, you're welcome!) Re changing the name from the unwieldy and affected present form, N'APA, I would welcome ... almost any name, but as I see it, the simplest thing to do would be merely change the last word from "Alliance" to "Society" -- then we could all stop worrying about it and rest up between NAPS....



FANAC 55 - Gerber. Well, they say the secret of a good hoax is to make it as fantastic as possible -- and this one certainly was!

FMZ for KA, PICTURE TRICK #3 - MZBradley. Probably the real difference between us boils down to the 20 years difference in our ages. With another couple of decades experience in meeting people you will get over feeling uneasy in the presence of someone who thinks differently about things than you do... Shucks, there's no trick to meeting people. It is just a slight shift in attitude toward them -- instead of concentrating on wondering what they are going to think about you, just start wondering what you are going to find in them... And then, too, it does take a bit of learning to be able to "separate the sin from the sinner," so to speak. We are enjoined to "hate the sin but love the sinner" and many people find it difficult to distinguish between the two. It isn't really difficult. Just remember that you don't hate your little son when he does something naughty -- even when it is very naughty, indeed! Well, the same mechanism applies to fans with whom one feuds in print. When you stop worrying about the affront to your own ego, and start wondering about the nature of the other person's personality -- there's nothing to it! You may not agree with their opinions any more after you've met them than you did before -- and there is no reason why you should -- but so what? Good heavens, what a monotonous world this would be if we were only able to like the people who say they like us! After all, isn't that the point of "tolerance" that people strive for -- the ability to like the human beings even though they hold different beliefs than we do? Have they no right to their own opinions?

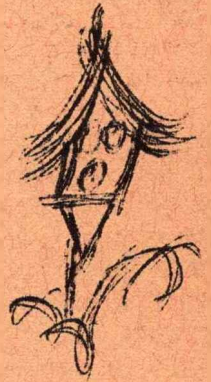
CONJURE #3 - Mike Deckinger. "Ted Pauls," you say, "being a cross between GW and GMC" Tut tut and hoity toity! None of these immoral suggestions in N'APA -- remember, we have women and children present!!!

THE VAUX HALL FANATIC - Seth Johnson. Seth took a pretty severe ear-chewing on two counts, I see, and I should like to speak up in his defense. First, it really isn't entirely his fault that his repro is so lousy. Art Hayes has been running the stuff and Art has been having trouble with his own material. Secondly, I don't think Seth really understands what Belle is trying to put across. Sure, sex is a legitimate subject for discussion if it is being discussed, ie, being referred to in the course of debate. It's the sniggering sort of verbal masturbation which is indulged in for the erotic "thrill" of reading and writing nasty words, which is not suitable for this apa. Anybody who wants to get their 'kicks' out of seeing risqué words in print had better go see about getting PAPA revived.... As to the "love-starved" females who get their "thrill" out of indulging in erotic love-play via letter whos Seth mentions, I doubt very much they ever were fans or interested in fandom. We are always running across unsavory characters who try to use NSF for their own purposes -- but they seldom last long. Belle is quite right to set up stringent rules both about legibility and postal purity in the mailings -- it is just unfortunate that poor Seth got the brunt of both these rulings.

PP #2 - Bob Lichtman. These by-laws typify a very often encountered phenomenon which I think, best described as the "Mother-in-Law" syndrome. With all good intentions Bob doesn't see the difference between setting up a guide for action which will outline what is to be done, and setting up a minutely detailed schedule of how to do it. Practically every section of this proposed revision is so snarled up in unnecessary qualifications and extraneous stipulations (some of them almost absurdly officious: for instance, "will be mailed first-class" -- why make such a foolish limitation? Who can force at this time the state of the NAPA treasury 10 years from now; or the bulk of future OOs, or even the Postal Regulations which may apply in the future?) I should regret very much to see these proposed "corrections" adopted. I think they are worse than what we already have. If any corrections are needed (and I agree they are) they should be in the nature of eliminating needless red tape, rather than adding more. All that we need in the way of By-Laws is a list of what this club needs done, and who is to do it, and how often. A broad outline of purpose, not a "Mother-In-Law type" of do-it-my-way minutia. A small club like this needs no more By-Laws than will fit on 1 page, merely a statement of purpose, membership, dues, frequency of distribution, and whatever activity requirements are decided upon. The administrative details should be left to the elected officials and so long as they get the job done, it is none of the business of anybody else how they go about doing it. After all, the By-Laws are merely supposed to give an outline -- not a detailed Chart of Instructions!

SONOMA #1 - Motcalf. I'm afraid I got lost 'way back there when you said you couldn't comment because you didn't have the mailings... I mean, if you haven't got the Mailings, how can you read 'em? And if you are reading 'em -- why can't you comment? Of course, if you are trying to say you can't comment on what was said in the previous mailing, about the mailing previous to that... Well, Goodie! That type of comment-on-comment is something we can well do without!

THE SAVOYARD - Pelz. If I had any reason to suppose there might be egoboo for GMC herein, I might forgive the affectation of artiness in ink & paper, and struggle through the primrose-on-purple print. But, thank heavens, I know there isn't, so I don't have to!



PESKYS & NAPazines - Meskys. Enjoyed this flood of chatter and comment, but of all the notes I made (and all the rough draft I've written) I think I'll comment only on Ed's remark... it has happened more than once that a female would come into fandom, trap a husband, & drag him out of fandom. This shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone, Ed. A nubile female is an unconscious mirror when it comes to reflecting the hobbies and interests of the males in the vicinity. They don't do it purposely -- or, perhaps I should say "consciously" inasmuch as this appears to be an instinctive mechanism -- but whatever it is the boys are doing, sooner or later the girls are going to become just terribly fascinated in doing it too.. They may never have even so much as looked at a mountain, but if the boys are mountain climbers, the girls will be swarming all over the peaks and crags; if the boys like skin-diving, the girls will emulate eels; if the boys want hi-fi; avant garde poetry, espresso coffee, or mimeographed fanzines, the girls will be right there panting for them too... Unfortunately, once the honeymoon is over, this enthusiasm lapses into the former apathy. They put away their alpen-stocks and Scuba-gear, start perking their morning coffee and go back to reading Emily Dickinson and Saventeen. But while it lasts it is as genuine as anybody else's. No wonder they boys are fooled -- the girls themselves are tricked into thinking they like it. Old Mother Nature isn't so dumb....

KAYMAR - Kaymar Carlson. Thanks for the picture and the suggestion that we all should introduce ourselves that way. There's no reason not to... almost any 5¢ & 10¢ store will give a strip of photos for a quarter which can be sent to Janie Johnson, 1011 E. Hoffman, Spokane 22, Wn (plug) who can provide a sheet of 50 or 100 pix for \$1.50. In fact, that snapshot would have made a very nice close-up, and probably much cheaper. By the way -- are you any relation to Racy Higgs? The resemblance is startling, to say nothing of the close likeness of the mags and editorial styles.

FANTASY REVIEWS - Prieto. Thanks for the lists. Although I usually keep an eye out for new releases on the bookstands, I seldom buy new books -- by waiting until they show up on the secondhand shelves, I can get ten times as many for my money. The only trouble with that system is that it isn't much help to the authors. I've been wondering how I can work out some way of sending the author a penny each time I take advantage of his brainchild's used condition... So far, I haven't been able to figure out how to send him his cut without paying more in postage to send it than the doolah's

SISU #1 - Andy Main. Finally I did get my playing cards, but only after persistent nagging -- and then, only because Howard Devore took it into his own hands. If you haven't received yours, I'd suggest you write down the full particulars: date of your order, who signed your receipt (or number of your check) etc. and send the details to Howard Devore, 4705 Weddel Street, Dearborn, Mich. He seems to be about the only one there who knows anything about it. Hmm... Here's a nice, clear, unprejudiced open mind... and I quote: "Being new on the fannish scene, I haven't heard any of the feuding that you are supposedly involved in, but anyway am against it." (!)

WYOMA #5 - Eva Firestone. Well, Eva, maybe you and Thoreau would, as you mentioned, "...rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than to be crowded on a velvet cushion" but I'd much rather be "crowded on a velvet cushion" -- especially by a handsome specimen of the opposite sex! Pumpkins are allright for pies, Jack-o-Lanterns and hiding secret documents, but I should judge they'd be rather uncomfortable for sitting. I can remember when I learned to read -- in fact, I can pinpoint the incident because it made such a dramatic impact. My older sister used to read fairy tales to me out of the library books I brought home. One day she was fixing up to go out on a date and I kept pestering her to read to me and she astonished me by the suggestion, "Why don't you read it yourself? You ought to know how to read by now, you've been reading in school... I'll help you with the hard words you don't know." This was a new idea to me because I had never connected the idea of the words I had memorized at school as having any relation with the library books, but inasmuch as she was adamant and I wanted a story, there was nothing for it but to try... So I did, running to her with every other word or so. I suspect it was more nuisance to her primping than if she'd taken time out to read it in the first place, but I did struggle through the page-and-a-half of text. When it was done, the realization flooded over my entire being (as the saying is) that I HAD READ A REAL STORY OUT OF A REAL BOOK! It was such a sense of achievement as I have never forgotten -- although I don't remember anything about the story itself except that the word I needed most help on was P*R*I*N*C*E. That incident was the turning point, and from then on there was no holding me -- I had my nose in a book practically all my waking hours.

TULGEY WOOD #5 - Guy Terwilliger. "I find that I am...wondering if most apazines really have much value" says Guy, then turns around and supplies the answer, "Regardless of the fact that I like a good genzine, I still find that an apazine gives me an opportunity to know more of the real personality of various fan." This, of course, is the real value of an apazine. Attempting to evaluate an apazine by the same scale as a genzine is as futile as attempting to judge a letter from a friend on the same basis as a newspaper. Just because there is a superficial resemblance, ie, they both are written on paper, arrive via the mailbox, contain news and information, and must be perused in order to be appreciated, does not mean they have the same scale of value.

However, while we are on the subject of the value of apas -- and the extension of further apa groups -- it has occurred to me that if the proposed Postal changes DO take place, it will increase the importance of the apas. The special rates which are under fire at the PO have never affected the large bundles of mags which are mailed out under Parcel Post rates. The only ones that would be affected would be the individual fanzines. If the single mags have to be mailed first class, it would obviously be prohibitive -- which would mean that apas would be about the only way we could distribute our zines without going broke in the process. Therefore, I suspect fanpublishing is likely to be confined to apazines, and the era of free "sample copies" being broadcast at random for letters of comment or exchange, is practically extinct. If it does turn out that way, apas will be springing up all over and may even have to merge for greater coverage. Bi-apas may disappear, with memberships of 100 or 200.



(Terwilliger, Cont'd) For instance, unless SAPS has changed a great deal since I left there is probably 1/3 to 1/2 of the membership which is bi-apan with FAPA and/or OMPA. And many of those who are not bi-apan, exchange fanzines with the members of the other apas. If Postal rates on individual fmz become excessive, it might be possible that out of sheer self-defense, these top-level apas might have to merge (which could be easily done, considering the high rate of lap-over.) I should guess that the combined memberships, once the bi-apan are merged, would come to little more than 100 or 150. Even if the combined membership included the Waiting Lists, I doubt it would come to more than 200. But supposing it did -- How many fans, outside of this minuscule N'APA run less than 100 copies of their fanzine? My guess is that once the shock of readjustment is over, we'd find the same fanpubbers producing at their same regular rate and in much the same manner as before, but the only difference would be that instead of picking and choosing the fans with whom they wish to correspond, they would find it necessary to bundle off all their zines to one apa for distribution. Instead of having their choice of exchange mags, they'd be limited only to what they'd get thro the apa. This might turn out to be a very desirable innovation. Certainly, it would give some point and reason for the existence of different groups. And it would certainly give point and meaning to an NSF apa for newcomers. It is not beyond the bounds of probability that all the currently well-known and well-established fanpubbers might find themselves in one apa-group, with the newer (or less active) in another; from which vacancies in the older apa could be filled. I do not say this would be the inevitable result of too great a Postal hike, but I do think it might turn out that way.)

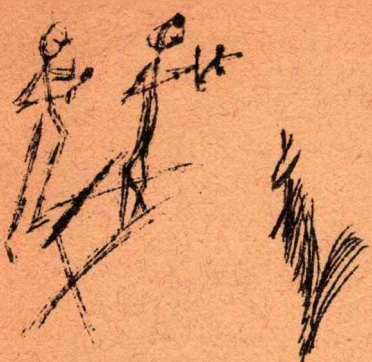
ZZZ - Berry/Hill. (Sounds appetizing, put that way...doesn't it?) Welcome, Berry. Glad to make your acquaintance. Alma, I certainly congratulate you for your effort to give meaning to the Classics in high school English. It certainly is time that somebody did... In most cases, the high school exposure to good literature acts only as an inoculation against it. I know in my case, the study of Shakespeare was so excruciating - both from the ^{class} reaction to Elizabethan four-letter-words spoken in mixed company, and the stumbling, bumbling attempts to read the unaccustomed language out loud - that to this day I cannot read Shakespeare for pleasure. The plays performed on stage, movie or TV, I enjoy immensely. But there just isn't any pleasure in reading it. In fact, this was true of all the books we had in highschool, but I was curious enough to hunt up and re-read them in later life when I was better able to understand and appreciate what I read. Now some of my favorite reading is Dickens, Jane Austen, Thackeray and the Brontes. But it was only because I fought against that high-school conditioning and managed to overcome it. In my opinion, this premature exposure of adolescent minds to great writing, is tragic. I was stubborn, so I learned to like it in spite of my highschool classes. But many students never did get over this unfortunate experience. A whole world of enjoyment was lost forever...needlessly.

WHY NOT -- CAL Lewis. (This is as good a place as any to congratulate Belle on a very clever way of distinguishing between the Al Lewises... I hope they don't mind being nicknamed Cal & Mich Lewis, but if they do, that just tough. I'm afraid they're stuck with it because this is just too handy to be overlooked.) Enjoyed Cal's comments, but if I get started saying what I think about the euphemisms Cal lists, well... I never did see much point in stroking the worker tenderly on the left reeler instead of smiting him harshly on the right one!

HIRONDEL #2 - Ron Ellik. In fact, casting me as the Duchess in that Wonderland series is perfect. All that would be necessary in the way of prompting would be to show me a copy of Dale Carnegie and I'd be hollering "Off with his head.." in the true Alice tradition....

A&V - Mich Lewis. As a membership saver, I suppose this does constitute the activity requirement -- but I'm afraid that's about all one can say for this sort of prattle. (Come to think of it, the proposed postal hike may have another good result: it'll make postage so expensive, that fans won't waste money on this kind of thing.)

PEOPLE ARE CRAZY BY MISCHA GOSS - George Nims Raybin. Well, until we know for sure what's going to happen in the PO, I suspect a lot of this worry about the rules is needless. As I mentioned in my comments to Lichtman and Terwilliger, the by-laws and the size of the apa should conform to the needs of the group, rather than red-tape for its own sake. Elect a good OE, and then sit back and forget the details!



e - Joe Casey. That's a nice mag, Joe, and I like most of what's in it. But there's one thing in it that irks me so much I can't comment on the rest of the mag for sputtering and fuming at this one thing: I mean, that horrible affectation you picked up from one of the other kids back there, "NF³". Now, maybe you are still in grade school and haven't gotten around to studying Algebra yet. But when you do, you'll soon find out that "N3F" and "NF³" are two entirely different symbols! You try using them interchangeably and you're going to find yourself really screwed up in your calculations. Now, same thing here in N'APA. "N3F" means one letter "N" followed by 3 capital "F" -- it is a contraction, legitimate, for "NFFF". But "NF³" means "N multiplied by F brought to the third power" or a total of nine NFs. "N3F" stands for National Fantasy Fan Federation. But NF³ stands for absolutely nothing at all -- unless it stands for the sheer ignorance of those who use it!

FACADE - Larry Anderson. Well, if you say so, I'll accept it as a compliment. But it seems to be my fate always to look "just like my aunt!" Fortunately, it usually turns out to be an exclamation of delight... But I must say it is very difficult for me. How can I keep up my reputation as "The Black Witch of Fandom" if everybody's always comparing me to their favorite auntie? Tsk, tsk... Your comment about liking to write mailing comments but not caring to read them, is the mark of an egoist, suh! (No offense, now... we're all egoists together in an apa!) But this is a very significant remark because it can mean the eclipse of a major portion of an apa's charm if the mailing comments are too private... That was the main reason I dropped out of SAPS, because the Reviews had become so exclusively person to person between reviewer and reviewee, that it was boring to everyone else. Naturally, you enjoy writing the comments, because you are participating in a conversation with the rest of the members... But when they, in turn, leave you out of their remarks to everyone else, no wonder you are bored. The secret of interesting Mailing Comments is to make them general enough to be enjoyed by all the readers, not only the person whose mag is being reviewed. And the only way this can be done, is to address your remarks in your own mind, to the entire membership. Let everybody in on the act and it's fun...

DERO - Coslet. You are quite right when you say in your comment on Terwilleger's LITTLE ACORNS that it is equally applicable to use "cruel" with regard to God and Nature... But I wonder how many people ever stop to realize that "Cruel" is merely a human evaluation? Actually, "cruel" applies only to humans because only they are limited by the values involved in this concept. For instance, there is no reason for assuming that occurrences which human beings consider "cruel" have any such connotations as far as either God or Nature are concerned. Human beings do not consider it "cruel" to scrub a floor with disinfectant... but undoubtedly if germs were able to formulate an equivalent opinion they would consider it "cruel" to exterminate whole germ-populations in such a ruthless manner... Neither does a bull-dozer operator regard it as "cruel" if, in the course of excavating for a building, he scoops up an anthill. In fact, he probably wouldn't even know it if he did. But I'm sure if the ants were able to speak, they'd regard the destruction of their elaborate cities in much the same terms as some humans use when speaking of the earthquakes which demolish their metropolises. The same people who rail at God for letting babies die, will not hesitate to pull up the tiny weeds sprouting in their garden, although it is undoubtedly as "cruel" to kill the baby weeds -- at least, "cruel" from the weeds' standpoint! Because events are undesirable from the human standpoint does not necessarily imply that God (or Nature) is "cruel" for letting it happen... The only thing it implies is that the humans to whom it happened didn't like it.

WALRUS - Holland. Postmoded. Noted. Interesting as usual, but no comments. This has been DREAM STUFF #6, produced by G.M.Carr, 5319 Ballard Ave., Seattle 7, Wn.

G M C A R R reviews

THE FANTASTIC UNIVERSE OMNIBUS, Edited by Hans Stefan Santesson. (Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J.) \$3.95. This anthology of short stories from Fantastic Universe has probably been reviewed in more sf mags than any hardcover book since "Childhood's End", but before you moan, "Oh, no .. not again..", let me also point out a thing or two. Probably one reason why this particular book has received so many reviews from fans --- especially from fans who do not ordinarily review books --- is because fans are honorable when it comes to acknowledging favors, and Hans Stefan Santesson has favored fandom with more free copies of this book than any I know of since "Revolt of the Triffids" was distributed gratis at the Chicago Convention in 1952. (And "Revolt" was in the paperback edition, at that.) This edition is a beautiful hardcover book, with a black and white, star-spangled dust jacket - trimmed in green (no doubt to match the green cloth covers) - with 270 pages of fiction plus an additional 15 pages of introduction. There are 19 stories listed, plus two delicate prose-poems "The Flowers of Venus" and "The Day Will Come" which are not mentioned. The 19 stories have been listed in so many reviews that I will not repeat them here, except to mention that this anthology contains Robert Bloch's noted extrapolation of fandom. The one wherein he flouted all existing taboos by naming the names of actual living fans, and referring to real fannish organizations like NSF and FAPA. This story is one of those fannish "naturals" which is assumed to be in every fans library -- it is rapidly approaching the "If you haven't read it, you just aren't a Fa-a-a-an!" category. No mere listing of the titles, even including the authors, could begin to give an idea of the range of subjects covered, nor the variety of writing moods. There is one aspect of the editing which deserves mention: These stories seem to have been deliberately and knowingly aimed to appeal to Fans and Fandom. If there ever was a pro publication which could be called a fannish "must", surely FANTASTIC UNIVERSE OMNIBUS falls in that category. Here we have a pro's recognition of fandom as a way of life. More than any anthology I can recall, the selection of stories seems to have been made with fandom in mind. Stories intended for a discriminating and knowledgeable group of readers -- recognition of fandom as worthy cognoscenti in a literary tradition. I think it is this aspect which is responsible for much of the attention this book has received. True, it would have been widely reviewed in any case, in view of the wide distribution of review copies. But, even more than the inherent obligation to review it which inevitably accompanies a free gift of this nature, this fan-slanted collection of stories has intrigued the fans who have read it. Another thing which makes this anthology of special interest to fans, is the fact that the magazine from which these stories were taken, Fantastic Universe, is now defunct. That not only means there will be no more anthologies from this particular source, but it also carries with it a sense of finality... another monument to science fiction's past glories. Fandom may or may not feel a sense of responsibility for FU's failure. Fandom is relatively too few in numbers to have compensated for the snafu in distribution which cut this mag away from its market. Even if every last one of us had subbed, it probably would not have saved it. But, nevertheless, the mag did fold for lack of sales, which places a burden of guilt on every fan who did not buy it regularly. This feeling of personal responsibility toward the mag, plus the fannish quality of the stories taken from it, plus the sheer quantity of fannish comment about it, can hardly fail to result in making this particular book somewhat of a Fannish Tradition. Now don't misunderstand me --- I'm not saying that FANTASTIC UNIVERSE OMNIBUS is Great Literature. It is just what it purports to be --- a collection of pulp fiction with a fannish slant. But there is no way of telling, at this point, whether this book is going to turn out to be one of those much-sought after "collector's items" which become scarcer than rubies once they are out of print. So, just to be on the safe side, if you do have a chance to pick up a copy (I mean buy it, natch!) it might be a good idea to latch on to it while you can.

WINGLESS

Wingless, from the shore I see
The seagulls wheeling wild and free
Between grey sky and greyer ocean
With wind and cloud in billowing motion
Circling, circling, grey-white all
High and far their screaming call --
Seagulls, wheeling in the sky,
"Here am I -- here am I!"

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ENIGMA

Forgotten in the purple haze
Of countless years, unnumbered days,
The splendid spires of temples stand
Half covered by the shifting sand.
Abandoned, lost, deserted, still --
Subjected to the wind's wild will,
A ruined city of the past
Endures as long as stone shall last.
It may, in patient silence, wait
For venturing footsteps in its gate..
For echoes of some stranger's feet
To break the quiet of its street;
Pall ready at the questing touch
Of venturing hands to offer much
Forgotten treasure -- hidden gold
Abandoned by the race of old;
Ready to welcome and open wide
Its doors on all the wealth inside.
But yet, perhaps, with timeless stealth
Death waits inside, instead of wealth!

TWO SIMILES: (Dedicated to Bjo and John Trimble on the occasion of their marriage.)

"MARRIAGE IS LIKE..."

Marriage is like a Fallout Shelter
Two refugees must share
With nothing inside that empty room
But what they carried there.

If one brings the bread of Tenderness
The other the wine of Love,
They can live in that hidden Shelter
Till the sky is clear above.

But if one brings only his hunger
and the other seeks only his gain,
They are no better off in the Shelter
Than out in the fall-out rain.

REPRINTED VERSES

by G. M. CARR

MUDDLE
PUDDLE

The day is cold and wet
Which is what travellers get
Who go out in it.

It is the kind of day
That makes people say,
"It is better to stay

In bed."
I wish
I had.

CHRISTMAS POEM - 1959

In Bethlehem tonight, no doubt
The stars are just as bright
As once they were, upon a night
When angels stood about...
The night is just as cold, I guess;
The pungent smell of spice
is just as nice;
and stables just as much a mess.
Does anyone bring gifts this year
Or search for Manger filled with straw
To gaze on it with mingled awe
and fear, remembering Who once
slept here?

Marriage is like two warriors who,
Out off from their Company's aid,
Stand back to back and continue the fight
With confidence, unafraid
So long as each knows the other
Provides the defense he may lack.
Protected each by his brother,
No blow can strike from the back.
But if one should about-face in anger
At the jostling blows of his friend,
They would both be in perilous danger.
So this is the counsel I send:

"Gentle words guard a marriage from danger.
Park your anger outside of the house.
If you must quarrel, pick on a stranger;
Fight the whole world... but don't fight
with your spouse!"