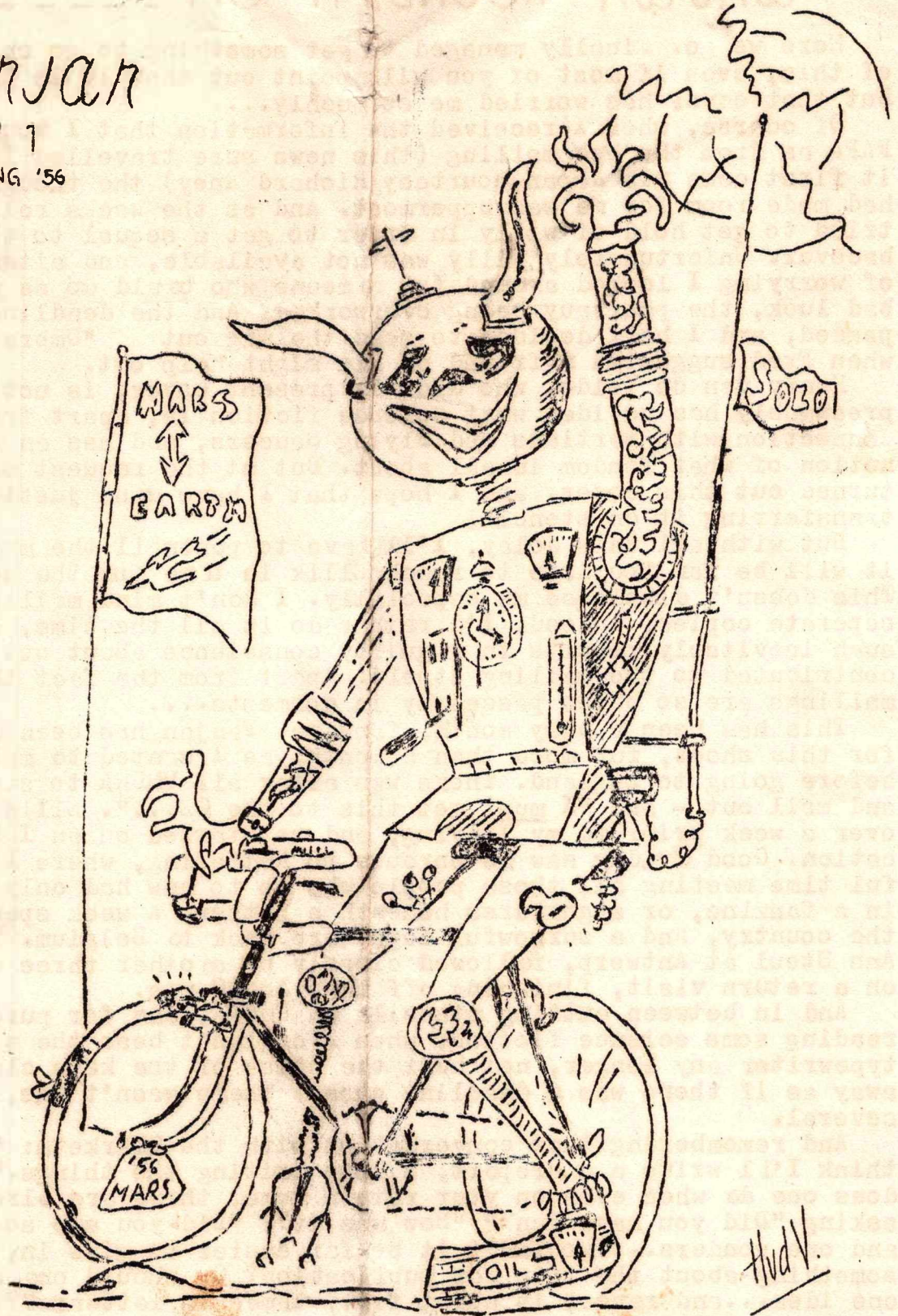


# FANJAAR

N° 1  
SPRING '56



Hvd V.

Verantw. Uitg. Jansen Jan, 229 Berchemlei, Borgerhout, België.



# FANJAN ROUNDS IT OFF - - - - -

Here we go. Finally managed to get something to go on the back of this, even if most of you will point out that it is on front. But that cover has worried me so muchly....

Of course, when I received the information that I would be in FAPA as from the Feb mailing (this news sure travelled far, since it first came via Japan, courtesy Richard Eney) the thought that PJV had made room for me was uppermost. And as the weeks rolled by I tried to get hold of Willy in order to get a sequel to that Alpha bacover. Unfortunately Willy was not available, and after a month of worrying I looked around for someone who could do as well. Again bad luck, the poor guy being overworked. And the deadline came and passed, and I half decided to send the mag out "Umbra" fashion, when Fred suggested a friend of his might help out.

Henry van de Velde, who did the present cover, is not a fan, presumably has no idea what science fiction is, apart from a vague connection with Martians and Flying Saucers, and has an even hazier notion of what fandom is all about. But at the request of Fred he turned out this cover, and I hope that I have done justice to it transferring it on stencil.

But with all this delay, I'll have to postmail the magazine, as it will be far too late to reach Ellik in time for the next mailing. This doesn't displease me especially. I don't mind mailing out all the separate copies, indeed, I'd rather do it all the time, except that such inevitably results in a guilty conscience about not having contributed to the mailing itself. Apart from the fact that post-mailings are so often passed by in comments....

This has been a busy month, fanwise. Fanjan has been ready except for this sheet, for more than a month, as I wanted to mail it out before going to England. There was after all UMBRA to stencil, run off and mail out - and "I must get this to the OE...". Ellis Mills was over a week prior to my leaving, and we started on an ISFCC publication. Good Friday saw me enroute to Kettering, where I had a wonderful time meeting all those people who up to now had only been names in a fanzine, or signatures beneath a letter. A week spent gallivanting the country, and a sorrowful departure back to Belgium. Three days of Ann Steul at Antwerp, followed closely by another three with Ellis on a return visit, finishing off that ISFCC mag.

And in between cutting stencils on UMBRA, and for pure relaxation reading some science fiction, when I couldn't bear the sight of my typewriter any longer, not hear the noise of the keys clattering away as if there was a deadline ahead. There wasn't one, there are several.

And remembering that conversation with the Clarke's: "No, I don't think I'll write a conreport, I hate writing the things." But what does one do when even on your return home, there are already letters asking "Did you have fun?" "How was it?" "Did you see so-and-so?" and one wonders... wouldn't it be far easier to give in, and write something about the trip for publication? Or should one stick to one idea...and repeat it about fifty times in letters ??? Oh well, if you are interested, your best bet is Umbra, Alpha or Ploy. (Plugs of course!) But I had a wonderful time, and I'll be back, so all you people please remember:

L O N D O N   I N   ' 5 7

*Fan.*

# AMERICAN FILMS ---

W.W. JIN

Although several European countries boast a film-industry of their own, American films are far in the majority here. In Antwerp the percentage of films shown runs to about 80% American, the rest mainly French, English, German and Italian productions. The filmshows are the popular recreation and the great competitors of theatre and opera, which both have a regular attendance, but can never incite the same mass-appeal.

The "box-office" shows are the so-called Superproductions: untold figurants, huge scenes and flashing colors. European history seen through American glasses and related in a superficial Hollywood style. And although the newspaper critics point out that such films are of little or no value, Sunday and Saturday has huge queues waiting at the doors. They are the "regulars", who don't bother to even think about what they see. From our European viewpoint, most of these films are ridiculous, history is twisted almost beyond recognition, and one witnesses the most idiotic anachronisms and blunders regularly. I saw "Helen of Troy" in company of a schoolteacher, and the man laughed till he cried. "The Gladiators", "David and Bethsabee" and "The Land of the Pharaohs" are blood-and-thunder stuff.

The showfilms with impressive and aesthetic staging, plus the technically perfect accomplished dances are crowd-drawers, whilst the songs have a similar success. "Lili" for instance drew appreciative audiences, and Gene Kelly, Leslie Caron and Cyd Charisse are very popular stars.

Very many picturgoers wanting to see a good film with substantial content prefer the so called Social Problems. "On the Waterfront" was an exceptional success and Marlon Brando's performance received the most complimentary remarks from the Antwerp press. "Blackboard Jungle", launched with the commercial "diplomatic scandal of Venice" gave cause to long discussions about the state of American schools. The general impression was that the film magnified the bad side of things a bit too much. But for the production and acting angle: nothing but praise. "Rock around the Clock" was an immediate top-hit.

"The wild One" didn't quite hit the jackpot, remained only one week at the city-centre and then vanished to the local cinemas. Once again though, Marlon Brando received praise for his acting. "From Here to Eternity" however, played for several weeks running, everyone wanted to see the film, and the whole city discussed the fate of the upright, stubborn Montgomery Clift. "Marty" was a big surprise, the opinions on the film were widely divergent, but everyone had to admit that the combine Hecht-Lancaster had worked a masterpiece. One objection a.o. was that Betty Blair was too charming to play the roll of the ugly duckling.

A good thriller also has a large following. "Black Tuesday" and "Desperate Hours" are recommended, both for continual suspense and for the excellent production. Hitchcock is appreciated by everybody. "To catch a Thief" was not of the same quality as usual, but its success was enormous due to the fact that at the time the film was first shown here, the announcement of Grace Kelly's "catch" was made public.



Filmed stage-plays draw a more critical audience. It often happens that the play has recently been staged here at Antwerp by one of our theatres, which immediately gives rise to interesting comparisons. Such was the case with "The death of a salesman", where our critics preferred our own actor, Gaston vander Meulen, above Fredric March. Further "Detective story" where Kirk Douglas gleaned the honors, just as Vivien Leigh and Marlon Brando received theirs for "A streetcar named desire". "The Gaine mutiny" was unanimously acclaimed on the stage by our National Theatre, where the film had but a moderate success. There was little or no preference to either stage or film production with "Come back little Sheba". Shirley Booth's part was played here by the famous Dutch actress : Ida Wasserman. "The seven year itch", "Stalag 17", "We are no angels" and "The moon is blue" saw the film carrying off with the credits.

Westerns too have regular supporters, but unless the film falls outside the run-of-the-mill productions, little space is wasted on them by the critics. Such productions as "High Noon", "The Ox Bow Incident", "Yellow Sky", "Shane", "Black day at Black Rock" and the old "Stagecoach" are however praised highly, and have known a tremendous success, and not only from the regular "western" attendees. Anyway, tense, dramatic work such as "High Noon" and the "Ox Bow Incident" count here as the worthiest American films. The scene in which a lonely Gary Cooper goes to meet his four attackers through a deserted town, is accepted as an example of "style-control", nearly an equal to the staircase scene in "Cruiser Potemkin", a Russian film.

Warfilms generally speaking have less success. The people as a whole has undergone the rigors of war and the theme is not ver much appreciated. To which may be added that American warfilms for the greater part seem to be fashioned to the glorification of war and its heroes itself, which just doesn't appeal. "Battle Cry" and "To hell and back" can be taken as examples. Besides which clashes occur with the Western world trying to keep a Germany on its side, yet picturing them as their enemies - and all that talk and show-off of warfilms leave a dubious feeling when on the other hand the US is painted as the one and only peaceloving nation. Soviet films are in that respect more attuned to peace and reconstruction. All this doesn't mean that some films are just neglected - some more 'humane' films, like "A walk in the sun" and "G.I. Joe" were much discussed and acclaimed.

Walt Disney's feature films are loved by one and all. "Lady and the Tramp", his latest creation, drew huge crowds. His documentary "True Life series" can boast a large interest and are presented in the best theatres. "The Living Desert" and "The Vanishing Prairie" made a good impression by the ingenious shots.

Examples for 'poetic feeling on the screen' = "Louisiana Story" (Flaherty) and some films of Ford, amongst which "The sun shines bright".

Martin and Lewis, Abott and Costello, and of course science fiction films have their own public, where especially the latter draws more and more crowds.

The Antwerp press takes an active part in film-activities, and each Friday the newspapers print critical articles by competent, impartial critics. They really make an effort to **teach** the public to appreciate the good productions, and the reasons why.

The prize of the Antwerp film press for 1955 (running in Antwerp sometime in 1955) went to "East of Eden", from Kazan. Other films

nominated for the award, were "On the Waterfront", "The little fugitive" and "Marty".

Most popular stars: Gary Cooper, James Stewart, Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, June Allyson and Jane Wyman.

And about Marilyn Monroe? Well, without humbling the different beauties of Marilyn, I think people prefer blackeyed Gina.

Wilfried Wijn.

Notes by your friendly editor.

All but the last paragraph were translated by me from an original Flemish text. Wijn works at my office, and as he is always talking about films, I suggested he'd do a short article on American films as seen locally. I hope I haven't botched up too much trying to translate this onto stencil....

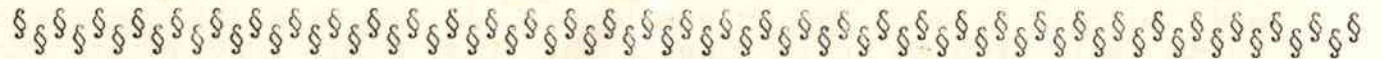
Antwerp, speaking of film, is divided in three sectors. First we have the "city centre" as I have called it, enfolding about fifteen to twenty cinemas where films are likely to come in "première", as far as Antwerp is concerned. Then there is a second chain of about ten movies which take over these films a few weeks, sometimes months, later. After which they are finally distributed to the cheaper cinemas in town and in the suburbs. The first two categories are of course not apart in geographical location, but nicely mixed up.

A film may take anything from three weeks to almost six months before it is shown in the suburbs. This depends of course on the length of time the film runs in the centre.

The film week begins on Friday, ends Thursday. No special Sunday shows except in further off villages. Some second rate cinemas have two programmes weekly, in which case one programme usually runs Friday thru' Monday, the other from Tuesday thru' Thursday.

"East of Eden" mentioned as award winner, is still running after thirteen weeks continual showing. I believe the record was the French or French/Italian movie "Don Camillo", which if memory proves correct, ran to twenty-one weeks.

I shall probably be able to coach 'Fried into doing another article on continental films. One pity, he doesn't go and see the films most of you want to read about. He is a nice chap....



While we're on the subject of films....

Dick Ellington writes: - "Yeah, we had Blackboard Jungle here. Is slightly overdone in spots of course, but in essence is realistic view of New York Trade School on lower east side New York. Kid gangs and all that rough stuff very much in evidence only not in such large quantities as papers would have you believe. Enjoyed pic muchly and book was pretty good. Is by former sf writer Even Hunter (Sal Lombino) you know...."

So you see, even a film review, not treating sf movies has connections with science fiction. Did I hear someone say that movies had no place in fanzines?

And I read somewhere this mailing that Fredric March was the best US actor..... And yes, Vernon, this Wijn is the Brando fan I mentioned in one of my letters a couple of months ago.



## YOU LUCKY PEOPLE !! (NOT BY T. TRINDER!)

The Fantasy Amateur:- Jan Jansen suggests...already that insidious  
----- character has infiltrated the official organ.  
For the record then: this mailing arrived here on the ninth of  
March, with a couple of days to spare for possible voting. But, also  
in the same postal delivery, a parcel arrived from California con-  
taining books, which had been mailed out on the third of February.  
You figure it out...By the way, no suggestions needed as to playing  
a tune, Dave's the musical genius around here.///That mention for  
Canadian bundles wouldn't hurt on other foreign mailings either.  
Custom duties on printed matter are 20% of the value, plus an addi-  
tional tax of 10%. Value is based on 70 US dollarcents per pound .  
So far I haven't had too much trouble, though I've had to pay duties  
on some parcels that through some reason or other arrived here in  
the same mailing postal delivery. As printed matter arrives by boat,  
I guess they just managed to meet on the way over. Poor me.///Congrats  
to Ron Ellik and possible assistants - bundle arrived in perfect  
shape - it must have taken you some time to tie up the parcels the  
way you did.///This issue will contain at least eight pages, but  
what happens if it arrives late at the OE's due to the PC?///P.J.  
Vorzimmer? Dô I weep bitter tears ? /// 11.64 - if it disappeared  
this week, it'd probably have gone into a present for my wife's  
birthday.

The not AL&W Gazette:- Presumably a last moment addition, as I can't  
----- find it listed on the Contents List. If sty-  
mied when commenting, make the others worry.

Nieuwe Jaarke zoete,  
't Varken heeft vier voeten  
Vier voeten en een staart,  
't Varken is geen duitje waard.

Folk song, rendered in "civilised" spelling.

Light 63 :- If that cover represents the board the Martian wants to  
----- play his games of chess with, there sure are going to  
be some worried players in the audience./// I would think that the  
best solution for those lazy people who won't mind paying, but refuse  
to take active part in publishing, would be to look around fandom  
and discover that there are several subzines in existence. If they  
want to keep up with fandom subbing to all the existing zines should  
solve their problem quite nicely. Then they could ignore requests  
for comments and material without being afraid of getting kicked out.  
///I have seen several of the discussions on increasing the member-  
ship of FAPA. The majority voted NO, but heck, fellows, just in from  
the ranks of those poor blighters - it's a damn long wait....

Fogbound :- A sober, constructive one-shot. Wonder what'll be next?  
-----

Grue:- This "Editor for Europe" biz - does that mean that I have to  
----- write to Chuck in future, instead of commenting to you? ///Re  
Bloch's article - the formation of the new German Army has resulted  
in another species of leaden soldiers. Pity it doesn't stop right  
there.///Wonderful stuff you print, Dean, but apart from saying that  
I've enjoyed it tremendously I'm stuck. Now if you had said something  
about Nic Carter, Lord Lister, John Raffles or Buffalo Bill, I could  
have rushed out and bought the Flemish editions....

TYKE :- Is that what scientology makes of people? Here in Belgium  
----- tyke is a heavy, strong woven cloth, used to protect the inner  
contents of mattresses . ///That coverlineation by Rotsler reminds me  
of one of his previous mags in FAPA, "I went shopping with Marilyn  
Monroe". I didn't quite manage to get that familiar with Rommy Schnei-  
der, one of the most popular German actresses of the screen. But I was  
stopped twice the same afternoon when she visited Antwerp. Movie stars  
seem to get preferential treatment in this fair city of ours, as the  
street was temporarily blocked to allow Rommy to pass unmolested  
on the main road. ///Had a thank-you card from Austria recently.  
"I kiss you on your three cheeks". I'm still trying to figure out  
how many heads I've got. /// And that's a lot to say on one cover.  
But then there isn't much to evoke me to verbosity inside.

Noted:- I even read it! Good News too.

Driftwood:- Liked this a lot - just rolling along.... +our remarks  
----- anent Poo being named after you. I thought I'd get a  
chunk of egoboo with the mailing with half a dozen mags named after  
me. But I've had to console myself with a doubtful wraith, and a  
selection of letters. Who the hell is this guy Feb anyway? ///Nuisance  
of having friends all over is that stamp-collectors seem to nose you  
out in short order, and pester you for those stamps one gets. No use  
telling them that fans are an unimaginative lot and use the 4d, 8¢ and  
15¢ variety nearly all the time, unless they take to airletter-forms.  
///I doubt whether LeeH has been over to England, didn't hear of it,  
anyway - but sure glad she picked this year. Cause I'll be there too  
you see. Now you people can be envious for a change, I've had that  
feeling all too long....

Ker:- And what is Ker supposed to mean? If anything. Only time I can  
----- find a use for it, is when I'm mad about something. Then it's  
sa-KER-djéu here, and sa-KER-djéu there. That isn't the correct spel-  
ling Dean, but you can add it to that list of "nasty words". ///Just  
as well I happened to be rowing up behind the Argos, and only got  
slightly wet from the spray. Fandom in Europe was saved. ///Did you  
give thought to the matter that "all ready is spelled the same way as  
all right," though? ///Oh, so at the end of the mag you explain KER.  
Well, it isn't the Greeks alone that have a "Mannikin". I'm sure that  
Brussels has one a bit better known. When it was suggested earlier  
in the year that we'd travel together to Kettering, I tried to make  
possible conventioners go in local "folklore" dress. Maurice Delplace  
however refused to accept. Pity....

Phantasy Press:- Four foreign nations - United States, Canada, Great  
----- Britain and Japan. But there are 64 foreigners in  
there. Rather a large percentage I feel. ///If you like statistics all  
that much, would 1/9.000.000 be a "good" percentage compared to all  
those foreign nations? ///Your cover would have been more appreciated  
if I hadn't run something similar on the German "FANTUM" Ann and my-  
self got ready for the Wetzcon. This was taken from a British mag  
ARCTURUS, but had the bookshelf to the left, and instead of the  
telescope, had a rocket towering in the background...

Isomer:- Some people might love that Dimensional Theory, but would  
----- you kindly send me a book on elementary algebra first? I'll  
try... otherwise I'll have to drag some clergy from Norman (Viking)  
days to the present, and have them modify their appeals to 'From the  
algebra of Rossman, deliver us Oh Lord!'. ///Seeing Norman is on our  
waiting list, perhaps the following may serve as an introduction.



At the Twerpcon, we had the inspiration to buy a load of postkaarten and sent them around fandom. Female fandom. Ira Shorrocks who is married to a Norman Shorrocks, received one on which we had written "How did you survive the Norman conquest". Wansborough was just then visiting the Shorrocks, and they wondered a long time about how we knew about it. Strange that people always look for complicated explanations....

Gemzine :- When you say the Netherlands, you're technically incorrect. ----- The country actually is The Kingdom of the Netherlands, or Netherland, more commonly Holland. You see, the Netherlands include Belgium. I've always chucked these chain-letters away - perhaps that would explain some of the bad things that befell us the last few years. If I thought that true, I'd certainly hit some guys in England over the head when I go there. Cause I still chuck them in the paperbasket./// A similar ruling was suggested in OMPA to ensure that members were active in each mailing, but never carried through as too many seemed to feel it would cause a lot of single sheet items, and no mags of any large size. The suggestion didn't even get to the voting stage. but please keep at that waiting-list problem. I'm in, but others are still out there in the cold./// Alpha: the four color crayoned ~~cartoon~~ cover looks like an escapee from a well-mannered kindergarten... Technically wrong again. The escapee isn't from kindergarten. Sonja is now a pupil of the first class, though only just gone six. Recipients of Alpha might have wondered about your remarks, as I for one wouldn't start on coloring 240-odd covers, and I doubt whether Sonja would stay at one job that long. So that only about ten copies are in existence. You being partly responsible for the cover, I thought you might appreciate it all the more. By the way, you disappointed a lot of faithful readers, both in Alpha and in Gemzine, by not commenting you know? ///Did anyone else note that in the last Monsoon G.M.Carr reviewed the mags of a Taff-candidate she herself had proposed as "the less said the better"? ///Some people may be surprised that Alpha isn't in the mailing. It never was intended as such. It is one of those subzines lazy people with money to spare, and lack of interest in publishing, can subscribe to, and sort of keep in contact with fandom at the same time.///The question no longer is "to be or not to be"...now it revolves around the point: who is the biggest: the letter-writer, or the person who publishes 12 pages of it.... And even so, I read the mag, and enjoyed it.

Target:FAPA :- And when you have that solution on article-commenting ----- how about figuring another one out on zines like this where the only comments I feel fit are on subjects that would simply take too long ( I can't afford to miss this deadline) to put down in a coherent manner?....

Birdsmith :- With reference to an earlier issue: News has just been ----- released that the "Flower Show" of last year will be staged again here at Antwerp. This show takes place in Het Sportpaleis, the largest hall, not supported by pillars, in the world. (Heheh, we too have something we can shout about!) I presume that it will be annual in future, so if you ever happen to be on the continent, make it begin April. Just checked the article - it was two years ago, so perhaps it won't be so regular after all. This show however, is arranged by one "garden-architect" and not by various firms, and should please you by having masses and masses of flowers. I hope to have time to visit it when I return from Kettering.///Your reviews with a little rewriting to bring in some material from the previous



mailing, stand out as articles on their own.///I wonder how good that cockney accent has stood those ten years in Belgium. The only English I've had since has been wireless and pictures - excepting for occasional talks with Englishmen on visit. On tape it sounded still too much like London, and as Dave said: It isn't nice you know. One correction - a Londoner wouldn't say that I was a Londoner, he'd hear the difference however slight it might have been. It was on some trips to Rugby that people said those nice things. Though even Londoners didn't guess I was a foreigner, but sort of placed me as a provincial with a long stay in London behind him. I'm very very curious to find out the present state of the language. The pronunciation, by the way, wasn't due to bad teachers, but to the kids I played with.///Kill off deadwood, and give the waiting listers a chance. I'm still enough of an ex-WL to remember the slow forward motion. And even then people talked about how fast the turnover actually was.///I'll remember and remind you about your election-offer, Vernon. I'll even drop a further note to G.M. at the time - she might still have dictatorial suggestions.///I don't even know the songs....

Null-F :- Well, it's four-colored too, but I could hardly add that it's ----- from a well-mannered kintergarten! You manage some wonderful artwork for your covers, Ted.///If I comment on the mag here, will I have to comment on it again in OMPA?///Archer's drawings remind me of Easter Island. Come to think of it, not a bad time to be reminded of it, with Sonja mouthing her opinion on what type of Easter eggs those Bells from Rome will/should bring her.///Liked your bringing in of mundane mags in your comments on Danner's mag. Of course, we can get various mags over here, SatEvePost, Life, Colliers, American, etc but others are a complete 'unknown' to me. Nice to know the US has something else beside the regulars here, the imported sf titles, and Mad/pogo stuff.///Re your pulp digression - same applies as to Grue. Any collector in the audience I can oblige with a Flemish copy of Buffalo Bill or something?....

Rambling Pap:- Oops! What's this about your birthday? What has that ----- to make with address changes? You're a guy, you are. I go and plug Oopsla in Alpha, and when I'm stapling the mag, in comes your change of address notice. Makes this latest ish seem so out of date!/// Am I a fan? This question is beginning to bother me. Ann Steul wrote a convention report in Femizine (Fez) ending with: it'll be nice to go to Kettering, at least I'll meet some fans...As I happened to be at Wetzlar, I suppose I wasn't a fan there. And now you come along with syzygy (I'll remember the spelling hereafter), and haven't the faintest clue as to its meaning. Enlightenment please? ///So I can't use anymore nor can't anymore? Isn't the language complicated enough without telling me to avoid these words, especially as I have used them quite often previously.///Your comment on Russia and Stalin came too early. Or too late. You've got to joke about him now. And before you (some of you) start cracking about gods falling from their pedestals in this respect, have a look at your own backyard. Memory seems to bring up a "great" Roosevelt, as well as one who even ~~ø~~ sold his civilisation....

Fantasia :- Walt Disney does it with film and strips - you use the ----- mimeograph. Actually I prefer Disney, though I admit I greatly enjoyed your account of life in Japan. Heavens, to think that Belgian fanzines will travel all that way....

Le Moindre :- Doesn't quite live up to its title, does it? Or is that ----- only by comparison to other Can-fapan's?/// You don't get mailings much earlier than I do then? Or was that mailing late



leaving California?/// Nice commenting - didn't note all those mistakes you seemed to be expecting...

Abharti :- This was as far as I got last time. And whereas I had ----- hoped to finish commenting on this mailing after all in time to make the deadline, I never did make it. Oh well, let's finish the stencil anyway./// I haven't sorted out all the FAPAns yet, but if I'm correct you're the one that loves walking round the US buying Bibles, no? Interest extended to foreign editions? There was a chap at the office hawking an ancient edition around a couple of months back./// After Rayburn's denunciation of N3P, I suppose I should be glad to find someone saying some good about it. When I next see Ellis I'll ask him to repeat his argument as to why I should join the organisation, must have been quite well-done as he managed to collect those dues. Or perhaps I was still too tired to argue??///

Grotesquette :- You sound as if you actually enjoyed that operation!

Poo :- Here comes mention of that Roosevelt administration....Re ----- that previous mention of Stalin/Roosevelt, didn't mean that I shall be defending Stalin. Heck no. Just a trend nowadays. Seems the only person who still has some respectability left is Churchill and they've winged him here and there. We'll probably end up by swallowing guff about Hitler being the only good man of the 1940's.///Guess I'll appreciate future mailings even more than this one. Never did get to see the 73rd, and lots of empty gaps in the commenting therefor...

Bhang 3:- Has this replaced Califen? ///What makes you think that ----- those postcards are typical "Americana" though? Belgium has its fair share (or more possibly with good ole' maniken from Brussels) and so have English towns. Your article there was very interesting though.///

Revoltin' Development:- When I'd read this I wondered where I had ----- heard or read a shortened version of it. I still haven't found out...

to be continued....

Reprint  
AWHA 4/11



Helas ~ now gafia.

But Alpha is still  
Continuing ~

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"They're the real McCoy, bud!"