



Ray Nelson

In Re, Reprints

A lot of people have been writing me to ask if they can reprint old cartoons, fanzine stories, and letters of mine, so I think I'd better make clear my position on this sort of thing. Ol' Rayo's main motivation in writing and drawing for the fanzines is to get a little decent reading matter... that is, something not as idiotic as the mass circulation magazines and not as pretentious as the "little literary magazines". I could not possibly pay for all theazines I'd like to read since I am kind of unemployable and mostly pretty low on cash, so I send out my cartoons as the only kind of payment I am able to make. Thus it follows that I want my work to appear as widely and often as possible. The more my stuff gets published, the more fanzines I get to read. That's why I say, if you want to reprint anything of mine, go ahead. You

don't even have to ask me about it, just try and see that I get a copy of the issue it appears in, that's all. That goes for everything, even letters. I have never yet written anything "do not quote" and I doubt if I ever will. Of course, this blanket permission applies only to non-profit publications. If, by some fantastic twist of fate, anyone wants to run something of mine in a paying magazine, I will, of course, want the standard rate for such work.

My address over the summer will be

Ray Nelson
1155 East 61st St.
Chicago 37, Ill.

just in case you run something of mine in the near future. I'm going back to school, you see, after playing truant for more than 4 years. I'm going to be taking French at the University of Chicago and I expect to be pretty busy, so I may not answer my mail as promptly as I should, but I'll try to send something (a few cartoons or a short letter or both) to anyone who writes me or sends me their fanzine.

CONSPIRACY OF SILENCE

While in France these last few years I've been publishing a little French language fanzine called "Le Marché Aux Puces Fantastique". I sent copies of it to all the fans I knew who spoke French and had reasonably stable addresses, but I have never seen it mentioned even in passing in any English language fanzine, tho a great many things from it have been translated into German and published in German language fanzines. Even the lowest crudzine deserves at least a sneer, and I don't honestly think my zine was THAT bad. I have a feeling that there are a lot of

31-May-60 / Fanzone

fans who can read French in that sea of English-speaking sensitive fannish faces, but unless someone mentions my zine in fanzine reviews, how am I to get in touch with them?

I would like to continue publishing "Marché" here in the states, if I can get someone to print it and co-edit it with me. I have no printing equipment of my own, so what I'm really looking for is some French-speaking or French-learning fan with some sort of duper. The zine is nothing ambitious...only about eight or ten pages, roughly twice a year (tho I'd make it of teneer if I could) but we have managed to run some rather remarkable material and expect to run even better in the future. If you'll pardon my name-dropping, we've published items by Serge Martel, winner of the Prix Jules Verne for the best science-fiction novel of the year in France, Raymond Queneau, author of the soon-to-be-movieized best seller, "Zazie dans le Metro" (Zazie in the Subway), Jean Linard, Terry Jeeves, Marcel Battin and many others well-known either in English-speaking fandom or in French-speaking fandom, or both.

Aside from the egoboo, which is the only real payment a fan can expect, there is the chance for a student of French to find interesting French pen pals, exchange magazines, and improve his command of the language. As a method of studying French, it can't be beat. I was a total failure at languages in school; tried three times to learn Latin, Spanish and German in school, without success. It was only by publishing a fanzine in French that I finally overcame the obstacle of my broad-arsed fannish mind and really captured a beach-head in the linguistic world.

Anybody interested?

.....

REAL SOON NOW

Yes, speaking of fanzine publishing, I would like real soon now to publish a fat cartoonzine containing nothing but uncaptioned cartoons. For this project, I will need the co-operation of someone with a duper for reasons sadly explained above.

I insist on captionless cartoons mainly because I think that, when they are done right, they tend to be more funny in the profound non-gag-ish way I wish I could do them but hardly ever can. Also I want them captionless so I can send them to non-English-speaking fans in Europe (mainly France and Germany) without bumping my nose against the language barrier. Also, this format will make possible the use of some first-rate Fr. cartoonists who did some stuff for "Marché". I'd particularly like to introduce English-speaking fandom to Marcel Battin, even though in doing so I will be giving up any chance I might ever have had of getting voted number one cartoonist in the FANAC Poll.

The only title I can think of that would be understandable in Fr, German and English is "HA!" Short but not very sweet. Don't worry, though; I'll listen to reason.

Yerz,
Ray Nelson