

FANTASY ARTISANS

by Franklin M. Dietz-SCIENCE, FANTASY, & SCIENCE FICTION

The FANTASY ARTISANS CLUB was founded in late 1947 as a club of and for the amateur and semi-pro artists and authors in science fiction fandom. The following summer the club all but died when Russ Manning, the club's most active officer, resigned his office. It was at that time that I became active in the club; I didn't want to see it die completely....and so was given the President's office. Since then I have seen the club through to the present time, handling most of the administrative work.

I believe, therefore, that I have had enough experience with the club to present this, a report to the members, the fanzine editors and all concerned. In this report I will attempt to give you all an overall view of just what the club is and what services it renders.

THE FANTASY ARTISANS CLUB, as I have said before, is of and for the amateur and semi-pro artists and writers in fandom. Quite a number of better known artists and authors are represented among its members as well as several others who will soon have their talents recognised. Unfortunately, it cannot be said that it is a club representing a large number of artists and authors in fandom at present.

Like any other club, we are steadily welcoming new members and, at the same time we are almost as rapidly bidding sad adieu to many. I must point out that most of those we lose are those individuals who join the club and then entirely forget about its existence.

This sums it up to our present status of an average of 30 members who are scattered over four countries. The situation only comes to its true light when we look behind this. The main problem (the one that has retarded the more flourishing growth of the club) is a pronounced lack of manpower among the members to handle the administrative work. But then again, I think this situation is more or less normal too. A club of this type, with its membership composed of authors and artists, you find that there are few members who have the time to devote to other occupations besides their work.

It's a very few who realise that actual time involved in preparing one of those deathless masterpieces of artistic work. They do take time, there are many hours between the original sketch to the finished work (or the first draft to the polished story).....it's a very fast worker who can complete a piece of work with a couple evenings work and still be satisfied with his project.

So, this results in our present status; only two elected officers handling the work of four. We have, because of this shortage of help, postponed some activities like a membership campaign, and have just begun the establishment of others like the Authors' and Artists' Service.

Just what does the club offer to a member? To the fan just learning or developing his work the club is an invaluable asset; examination of his work by the more experienced members, giving him their advice and suggestions. The opportunity to try his hand at actual work for publication, as well as any other help possible. To the more experienced member it offers him an outlet to the fanzines
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Club Bulletin July-Aug. 1950, taken directly from stencils used to present it as an article in The Fanzine Editor.

for his work without the initial contacts, a means of keeping informed on all the fields and a place where he can get together with the others; where the artist and the author can get together personally with their work.

Many of these benefits are the results of the two services in the club. There is Authors' and Artists' Service, which in operation is a go between, to make the fanzine editors aware of the talents of the club, to urge them to make use of such and keep them up to date on the events in the field.

In the Authors' and Artists' Service, the service director gets information from the editors as to what material they need or can use and then, in turn, passes the details to those members who will be interested, each of whom gets busy and submits his work directly to the editor. Many times the editor gets just what he wanted and then he has more artwork that he can use in the future.

Then there is the Review Service, designed for the beginner particularly, to afford him the help possible through having his work analyzed by the more experienced members. The advice and suggestions of the service committee is given to the member to aid in the development and improvement of his work.

With all this, I consider we've covered ground despite the time it's taken. Much praise is deserved by the few who have given their time and energy to accomplish what we have. Maybe NOW things will go easier and quicker, with the club becoming more and more a club OF and FOR the amateur authors and artists in fandom, representing them and giving them as much as possible. It will take work between we few with available time, but it's not impossible!

Respectfully submitted,

(signed) Franklin M. Dietz Jr.
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If any editor wishes to have material submitted to him from the members of the FANTASY ARTISANS CLUB, write to:

Mr. Franklin M. Dietz Jr.,
P.O.Box 696, Kings Park,
Long Island, N. Y.

Tell, in your letter, just what your requirements are and how soon you will need the work. This service is available to all fanzine editors even if you are not in the FANTASY ARTISANS CLUB. If you have any artistic tendency it will pay you well to join this fine club and get the help offered.

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Lee D. Quinn,
Box 1199, Grand Central Station,
New York 17, N. Y.

Any fanzine editor; past or present, can get this magazine. The editor will be very glad to receive the names and addresses of past fanzine editors.