

A FAPA PUBLICATION

WHOLE NUMBER II

Issued When Needed

By Al Ashley, 25 Poplar, Battle Creek, Michigan, U.S.A., Tellus.

### INTER-MAILING REPORT

Under the provisions of the recent amendment to the Constitution, the Winter FAPA Mailing was due to go out January 13, 1945. On January 9, the bundle of publications from Slanshack was ready to be dispatched to the OE by parcel post, special delivery. However, I had wanted to finish the first issue of the "Precipitant" for inclusion in that mailing, as well as adding a few more pages to En Garde. As the FAPA mailings have seldom gone out right on time in the past, I felt there was a good chance this one might be delayed a little, so I called New York by phone to find out. Don Wollheim was the only one I was able to reach. He informed me that Shaw was just starting to get the Fantasy Amateur ready, and that the Mailing would be delayed two or three weeks---probably until the end of the month. Wherefore the Slanshack bundle was held up, not being mailed until sometime during the fourth week of January.

On February 8, I received a letter from Lowndes enclosed with a copy of Crutch's magazine, "Light", on which he requested an obscenity ruling. Also inclosed were resignations from Shaw (dated January 30) and Lowndes (dated January 31). Doc's letter was dated January 30. It said that the mailing was going out even then, and that statements from both Shaw and himself would appear in the FA, section C, covering the entire situation. A pencilled note at the bottom read. "Watson has accepted post of OE. Ballot counters for 1945 election appointed. See FA, Section C." Following, I will quote the two resignations.

"Dear Doc: Of late it appears to me that I have been guilty of a serious mistake in accepting the post of Official Editor of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association. There can be no answer to the charge of illegality in the "Bastard" mailing of December, 1944, for which I must take full responsibility. However, it should be obvious that the Vice-President, in making his decision on the question of this mailing, has made it impossible for me to put out any legal mailings at all; putting out a mailing on the exact date specified by the constitution simply cannot be done when people like Al Ashley send their magazines along two or three weeks late. Also, quite frankly, I have innumerable more important things to do than slave all my spare time away for a group of people who obvious-

ly do not appreciate my efforts. My present attitude towards fandom is not such as would be conducive to carrying on in the face of difficulties and severely adverse criticism I have encountered. Therefore, I hereby offer you my resignation, with the sincere plea that you accept it.

Very truly yours, Larry T. Shaw."

"Dear Al - Much as I dislike the appearance of quitting under fire, I consider myself honor bound to tender my resignation as President of the Fantasy Amateur Press Association, inasmuch as I have accepted an executive-administrative position in another press group.

Ordinarily, I would stand ground and slug it out, but my time is limited, and since my policies and ideas do not seem to be fitted to FAPA, the most sensible thing to do is to join an association where they are desirable.

I trust now there will be the utmost harmony and unanimity between FAPA's President and Vice-President. My appreciation to those who supported my administration; to those who opposed -- thanks for a hot battle.

Very Truly Yours, Robert W. Lowndes."

Had Larry Shaw seen fit to mention the point to me before resigning, I would have been glad to point out to him that:

1. Whereas few past mailings have been right on time, an OE has all the precedent in the world for being a little late with the mailing when it proves unavoidable.

2. The OE is not required to hold up the mailing just because one or a number of the members are going to be late getting their publications into his hands.

3. Whereas the Constitution makes no mention of post-mailings, the OE is not required to send out such post-mailings. Late publications may be held over for the next mailing, or returned to the publisher for separate mailing. However, practice in the past has been to send out post-mailings when they are warranted, providing the members represented are willing to stand their share of the cost. Be it understood though, that the time and labor of the OE in this latter case stem purely from his own generosity.

On February 9, I put through another phone call to Wollheim. He was very reticent, but finally made it quite clear that the Futurians felt they were the victims of a malicious and unwarranted attack from my quarter. He also told me about Shaw's troubles getting in touch with Schwartz, resulting in lack of funds to finance the mailing. I tried to assure him there was no malice of any sort directed at the Futurians, and urged him to try to persuade his two friends to reconsider their resignations. The next day, I wrote letters to the same effect to Lowndes and Shaw. Subsequent replies made it clear in vehement fashion that Lowndes had no desire to recall his resignation, and that it was too late for Shaw to do so, although he didn't wish to in any event.

On February 10, acting for the NFFF, EEEvans volunteered to loan the FAPA ten dollars to carry it over the emergency, and enable the mailing to be dispatched without further delay. This was mailed to

Shaw on February 10, special delivery.

On February 15, I wrote to Mike Fern, asking him to check as closely as possible on what was going on in New York, and to keep me informed. On February 18, he phoned me, and suggested that inasmuch as the mailing still apparently hadn't been sent out, he and Searles might call on Shaw and find out for sure. Then if it was still unmailed, they could take it over and mail it themselves. Tucker, Evans and I quickly discussed it, and approved. Later the plan was changed, Searles and Fern deciding it would be better to publish a report to the membership. This, of course, was done, and, while incorrect on a few minor points due to misunderstanding, this report was pretty accurate insofar as the available data permitted.

Late in February, the mailings began to arrive. On February 26, I sent Schwartz a registered letter wherein I demanded either a satisfactory explanation or his resignation by March 5. On March 5th, I received his explanation:

"116 West 80th, NYC 24.

Dear Al:

Here's my explanation; hope it reaches you in time.

During the first week in January, when the mailing was originally supposed to go out, I saw Larry and he told me that the mailing would be held up for two weeks. About 3 or 4 days later I moved. I went to Station X and no one was home, so I left a note for Larry in the door, telling him my new address, and asking him to put it in the FA. Then I tried to get in touch with Larry. I'd phone Liberty Mutual and everyone would either have gone home or out to lunch. I left note for Larry asking him to meet me at my darkroom, but he never got those either.

This went on for three weeks, and then I quit my job and got another. On the thursday after I quit, I saw the fellow who had taken my place at the Metropole, and he told me that there had been someone looking for me. ((here Suddsy relates the story this chap's odd sense of humor caused him to dish out to Mike Fern, thereby giving him the impression indicated in his report.))

The following Sunday, during a period of unemployment, I went back to Station X. Johnny was in; Larry wasn't. Then I received a letter from Koenig asking what had happened to his mailing. I looked up his record and saw that he was listed as expired, so naturally he didn't get a mailing. About three other letters caught up with me at about this time, all containing dues.

On Thursday, I went back to Station X. Johnny and Larry were going out on a date. (this was February 22) I got my mailing and told Larry I'd be back Saturday. I got my mailing a month late, but I didn't think anything was wrong. Larry always holds my mailings till I call for them.

Saturday I went back; read Mike's Neither Blind Nor Idiot; sent out all the remaining mailings with the exception of Waldeyer's who's address we didn't have with us. I saw Mike Wednesday (he had been in Washington over the weekend) and straightened matters out with him. So, you see, there was a wonderful comedy of errors in there and everything got SNAFUed.

"Will you please write me in care of Mike Fern for a while? My mail isn't getting to me and I've applied for a PO box, and until I get it I want my mail to go to someplace where I can get it easily. Mike knows where to find me at all times.

I'll send a money order for the NFFF's \$10 Thursday. After that's paid out, we'll have a treasury balance of roughly \$6 or \$7. Hope everything ends up OK. Suddsy."

On March 3, I received a letter from Croutch. As might be expected, he was rather irked at the exclusion of "Light" from the Winter mailing, and apparently had been making inquiries. Quoting from his letter:

"Quote from a recent letter from Don Wollheim: 'Your magazine Light was omitted from the mailing because of Searles' threat against the FAPA. Larry and Doc submitted a copy to Ashley for his advice and he failed to make any definite decision. He was afraid of it himself because of Searles.'"

Now let me quote from my letters to Larry and to Doc, dated February 10:

"((to Larry)) Regarding Crouch's Light, I read it over carefully. I fail to find anything in it that would necessarily bar it from the mails. That one picture is the only thing one might question, and I believe it would be difficult to construe it as intentional obscenity. As for being obscene per se, it decidedly isn't. Therefore I see no reason for withholding it. But it does serve as an example of flirting with trouble, trying to see how close one can come to the borderline, and I intend to say something on that subject in the next mailing."

"((to Lowndes)) Regarding 'Light', I wrote to Larry and told him I find insufficient reason to bar it. But I must admit it crowds close to the borderline, and that is something that must be discouraged."

I am unable to find where I "failed to make any definite decision." However, several explanations suggest themselves:

1. Lowndes and/or Shaw have again demonstrated that previously noted inability to comprehend what they read.
2. Lowndes and/or Shaw did not consider it expedient, for some reason, to acquaint Wollheim with the true facts.
3. Wollheim did not consider the true facts of any importance when endeavoring to explain the omission of "Light" from the mailing.
- or 4. Wollheim and/or other Futurians found it desirable and expedient to create a false impression regarding Light's omission.

Whereas the bulk of the mailing was sent out considerably later than their receipt of my decision, there appears to be no valid reason why "Light" should have been omitted.

Now to the future:

Unless or until forthcoming events or information indicate otherwise, Schwartz may be considered still the Secretary-Treasurer, and

in good standing.

Watson, being legally appointed to succeed Shaw, is the new Official Editor, and publications for inclusion in the mailings shall be sent to

BILL WATSON,  
1299 California,  
San Francisco 9,  
California.

Because the Winter Mailing was dispatched a month and a half late, and because a number of members have written me requesting such action, two weeks shall be borrowed from the interval between the Spring and Summer mailings and added to that between the Winter and Spring mailings. Thus the date of the Spring, 1945, Mailing shall be the fourth Saturday in April (April 28). It is hoped that this extension will enable all the members to complete their publications on time for inclusion in the mailing.

In conclusion, recent events have brought about considerable confusion, and raised a cloud of doubts and suspicions, not all of which may be entirely dispelled between now and the next election. Regarding these events, I have tried to present an accurate report. I shall make no charges or accusations, instead leaving the facts to speak for themselves, and the FAPA membership to draw its own conclusions. Needless to say, I shall endeavor to do everything possible to straighten out this regrettable mess. The cooperation of all the members is solicited that any possible overlooked injustices and confusions may be brought to light and receive their due attention.

Al Ashley, 20/March/45.