

SMORGASBORD #2

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 Another issue of Ahrvid Engholm's (Renstiernas Gata, S-116 31 Stockholm, Sweden; m9731@msg.abc.se) zine for FHAPA. "Smorgasbord" is by the way the name of the famous Swedish dish, or more precisely - a table of dishes: Different spiced fish, sausages, meatballs, sliced meat, salmon, ribs, Janson's Temptation, and so on. This issue will have different sorts of material, just as a smorgasbord.

ZINE AND THE ART OF MIMEOGRAPH MAINTENANCE

Many fantique documents have been lost to fan-historical research, especially after the invasion of the Beanie Brigade when many fanzine collections were burned down. Much knowledge is now known only in oral tradition, and only fragments remain of the famous dialogues between the Zine Master and the Neofan.

In these fragments we learn of a fannish high culture in fancient times, though some of the wisdom of the Zine Master seems puzzling to us today and is the subject of heated feuds among our scholars.

In the dialogues the Zine Master (believed to be identical to the philosopher Donald A Willis, or possibly Walter Wollheim) represents the pure fannish essence in direct intellectual contact with the Ghods. The Neofan is the innocent pupil, not yet exposed to the evils of the world, such as offset printing, dirty old pros and Star Trek. Despite very limited knowledge of Fandom, the Neofan is more than willing to learn and as he learns more and more about the fundamental forces of the universe - so does the reader. This was before tridee N-matrixes were invented, and the Master and the student often refer to communication devices like "typewriters", "paper" and other things. Historians are unsure of what this is. A theory is that "paper" is some sort of memory unit, produced from trees through a very complicated process. A "typewriter", on the other hand, is believed to be the result of digging for iron and lead in the ground. More research is needed.

But historians are nowadays sure of what a "mimeograph" is. There is convincing evidence that the mimeograph was an ancient super-computer of enormous capacity. It is mindboggling to imagine that our forefathers possessed technology that in some respects was far superior to our own, but the evidence of all available sources forces us to accept this as a fact.

In the oral tradition there is almost no limit to what a mimeograph could do. It could transmit hundreds of LoCs across continents and oceans, without utilizing Y-wavelinks, telelasers and bit-fuzzers - how this was achieved is not yet known. The mimeograph could also handle fillos, linos, progress reports, logos, ToCs and dozens of other advanced information units, all at the same time without the slightest decrease in speed.

In these days, fans were totally unaware of things like hagubrilects and gomoniels, which the modern fan of today of course can't do without. Thus, our forefathers had to develop an alternate and in some respects perhaps more down to Earth philosophy (see "Earth" in your databank), totally independent of gesmuckskamock.

Finally, a word of warning. Some cheap amateur "historians", like Danny von Erichen, have become popular with bizarre theories about our fancient history. By twisting facts and misinterpreting sources von Erichen claims that our forefathers weren't demi-Ghods that arrived from the stars, but ordinary people with four arms, three eyes and purple skin just like all of us. The only purpose the likes of von Erichen has is to earn money from theories so absurd that they could only have emerged from a man of very limited intellectual capacity.

We will present the fragment as it is, though some of the used concepts and words are difficult to understand. Unclear details are open for anyone's interpretations.-- Ralph $1+2=3$

~~~~~COMMERCIAL BREAK:~~~~~

Buy QXTL! The only nutrition you need for your wolvox! Now with extra antimatter.

QXTL - the choice of the mutated generation!

GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING: Prolonged exposure to wolvox may cause damage to your head antennas.

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N: The Neofan (N): Tell me master, what is the purpose of Zine?

Z: The Zine Master (Z): The purpose of Zine is to be published.

N: What are the means by which Zine reaches enpublishment? Z: The typewriter, the mimeo, the ink and the paper. These are the four fundamental forces of Zine. The purpose of the typewriter is to be hacked. The purpose of the mimeo is to be cranked. The purpose of the ink is to be squeezed. The purpose of the paper is to be endarkened. Through hacking, cranking and squeezing you reach endarkment. You become one with the paper.

N: Will this please the Ghods?

Z: Zine says that when the Ghods laugh you have made a good joke. But you must overcome the evil forces - the Postal Authorities, who will take all you own and leave you with nothing but LoCs. The Ghods have placed evil in Fandom to test you. If you get enough LoCs you have reached a sufficient level of Zine. The Ghods speak to you through the typewriter and give you Egoboo.

N: What will I do with Egoboo?

Z: It will give you more strength to hack, crank and squeeze. Zine says that if you only have Egoboo the universe could explode but you will not be affected. Egoboo is like the universe - ever expanding. But you must be humble in your quest for Egoboo. You can never catch Egoboo. The only way to get Egoboo, Zine says, is to let it catch you.

N: What is the purpose of bheer?

Z: You drink bheer. Bheer will comfort you and show you the way to Zine when you think that everything that can be done has been done. You must drink bheer to see the stars in the universe.

N: Won't I get drunk?

Z: No, the bheer will get drunk.

N: How will I get bheer?

Z: You will go to a convention. There you will find plenty of bheer. But you must have published before you can go, and you must have Egoboo before anyone will give you bheer. On the convention you will find the deeper meaning of Zine.

N: Tell me, Oh Master, how do I get a mimeograph to reach Zine?

Z: You can buy, borrow or get one as a gift. When you least expect it a mimeograph will cross your way, and if you have training in zine you will know how to use this opportunity. When you get your mimeograph you will open a small vein in your arm and mix your blood with mimeo ink; you and the mimeograph will become a unity in the universe. This is required by Zine. If you have drunk bheer there is no pain to be felt.

N: From where do I get ink?

Z: Ink comes from a company called Ink, inc.

N: Where do I get paper and a typewriter?

Z: When the time comes you will find it. Zine will lead your feet towards a place where a typewriter can be found, and where a typewriter is paper is not far away.

N: How do I fight any sudden urge for gafia?

Z: You use the typewriter. Every time you press a key a small portion of gafia disappears. If this does not work, drink some bheer. In extreme cases, go to a convention. If you have learned the ways of Zine you will know how to fight gafia.

N: Is corflu a part of Zine?

Z: Corflu is necessary to reach enpubishment, and thus a vital fluid as you travel on the river of Fandom. This river is made of ink, bheer and corflu. Zine says fanta rei. ("rei"? -ed)

N: How long does corflu take to dry?

Z: Twelve seconds. This is an eternity.

N: How does staples apply to Zine?

Z: Along one side. Two is usually enough.

N: If I have forgotten the first page of Zine, what do I do?

Z. Run for cover.

N: If I make a bad pun, is there still hope for me?

Z: The Ghods are forgiving, but not that forgiving. But Zine says that puns cannot be made. Puns are eternal and exist independently, in time and space with /this fragment is lost. --

Ralph $1 + 2 = 3/$. You cannot make a pun, the pun can make you. One day, the ultimate pun will escape and the universe will explode. If you have Egoboo, you will survive.

N: If I get astray, how can I come back to the way of Zine?

Z: You go straight on along the big road and turn left after about five minutes, then to the right until you see a sign: Zine 7. From there you should have no problems.

N: Thank you Master.

Z: It's a proud and lonely thing to be a Zine Master.

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COMMERCIAL BREAK:

N: What is the best nutrition for your wolvox!

Z: Zine says it is QXTL.

GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING: Prolonged exposure to wolvox may cause unwanted, unexpected visits by your mother-in-law.

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A FEW COMMENTS ON VARIOUS THINGS

In June the entertainment supplement of Sweden's biggest daily, Expressen, had a total of three pages dealing with "fanzines". It said so with large letters on the cover, at least. Of course, the article was all about music "fanzines", rock music. One interesting point is that many music "fanzines" aren't really fanzines, but semi-pro or prozines.

We learned that "a fanzine is an amateur publication about music" and that "the first Swedish fanzine was published in 1977". The paper did not mention sf oriented fanzines with one single word, or that the fanzine phenomena is much, much older (1954 in Sweden). I wrote to the paper in quite some length, and gave the whole background of the real fanzine world, the one in sf fandom, but I got no answer. Nothing was published in the paper about the errors in their "fanzine" coverage.

Music fans seem to be TOTALLY ignorant on the background of fanzines. This is unfortunate because music fanzines are often covered in media - and each time the general public get more and more twisted information about fanzines. Just as science fiction for the general public is equivalent to Star Trek, fanzines are becoming equivalent to music magazines. The position of media is one of hijacking of sf fandom's heritage.

In the newsgroup rec.arts.sf.fandom I recently saw an article by someone claiming that fanzine fandom is virtually of no importance, and hasn't contributed to fandom in any way. (I don't remember who wrote it. I forgot to save the article and now it's gone from my system.) I don't know if the person in question was serious (maybe he wasn't), but I would still like to say something in defence of fanzine fandom.

In my opinion fanzine fandom is the basis for most of the important developments in fandom. Conventions and con fandom wouldn't have appeared at all without fanzines.

Fannish vocabulary is to 90% or something created in fanzines. Fanzines got people together so they could start clubs and organizations. Fandom's history is preserved in fanzines.

The view that fanzines have not contributed to fandom is pure bullshit. I also think that fanzines are a very important breeding ground for all the writing science fiction is so dependent on. A number of authors started in fanzines, and this to an even higher degree also true for reviewers and other non-fiction writers. In my opinion written science fiction - books, short stories, articles etc; in magazines, books, fanzines, etc - is the foundation for science fiction's development and fanzines have always had an important role here. TV and film is totally different - it surely leads the commercial exploitation of sf, but it is far behind in the idea development (and even a TV show starts with someone *writing* a script!). Only people who can't read without moving their lips can be ignorant of the importance of the written word in sf.

Finally, many fanzine fans are today leading the way in the new electronic medias. Fanzine fans are very active on Internet, and they are many. The fanzine fans don't show any signs of being stone-age, retarded people afraid of new technology. Internet fits very well into the world of fanzine fans. A newsgroup works like an APA, E-mail is like a LoC, a Web-site is like a fanzine, a flame is like a feud, etc. Fanzine fandom has made great contributions to the electronic world.

FUNNY SWEDISH WORDS

A number of Swedish words similar to English, but which a totally different meaning (as indicated to the right).

OR - a small animal that lives in cheese

LIBERAL - somewhat to the right in politics

REALISATION - "sale" (as in cheaper prices)

FART - "speed"

FASTER - "aunt"

FAR - "father"

BARN - "child"

SEMESTER - "vacation"

GUN - a female first name

SEX - "six"

IS - "ice"

GLASS - "ice cream"

LAG - "team" or "law"

LEG - short for "ID-card"

MASK - "worm"

MAT - "food"

BY - "village"

MUST - a malt based soft drink

OK - "yoke"

ART - "spieces" (spices? species? -ed)

RENT - "clean"

RAP - "belch"

ROCK - "coat"

ROLL - "role"

SAME - "Laplander"

SIN - "his/her/its/their"

STOCK - "log"

SMALL - "exploded"

SPY - "throw up"

STICK - "piss off!"

STOP - "stoup" (soup? stoop? -ed)

TOKEN - "the fool"

TOM - "empty"

ODD - male first name

GYMNASIUM - "high school"

BALL - "cool" (slang)

ROMAN - "novel"

FAN - "dammit!"

SPRING - "run"

SLUT - "end"

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