



Science-fiction Fanclub  
ANTWERP = BELGIUM.

To all Super Con-men,  
Greetings,

Being as we have now "come of age" as it were and have taken up our rightful place in the Universe of Fandom, we felt it our duty to add our feeble voice to the tumultuous cascade of sound that will no doubt erupt from thousands of fan-atical throats at the SUPERMEN-CON. It is true that, as far as official fan-activities are concerned we are still in our "teething" period, but if we are to believe that "age-old adage" (sorry - Forry) about "Familiarity breeding contempt" then we stand a good chance of creating a lively interest... I must tell you that the actual state of Fandomitis over here is, to use a choice expression "lousy" (I could use some choicer expressions but I'm quite sure that your delicate hearing-appendages are not accustomed to such explosive outbursts). The total strength of our organisation amounts to about 15 members. It isn't much, but it's a start, and who knows....

In France there is only one fanclub we know of "Le Club de l'Hyperthèse". There is also a fanzine of a kind, that publishes news on "flying saucers". It's called "Ouranos" and, as most of you have probably read in our Alphanzine N°3, we have contacted them in the hope of obtaining s.f. news from France, .. if any...

In Holland there are no fanclubs, although there are quite a few fen, some of which have been so kind as to overwhelm us with worldly goods. Yes, we've actually got four paying members... Sometimes though, these financial problems get me down. To quote another "egada": "All work and no pay makes Dave a dull boy". Fortunately we now have a treasurer to do the worrying, and I must say he does it very well (you can figure that one out yourself). Suffice it to say that since his advent we have changed our policy from: "What can we do to please the fans" to "What can we possibly get out of the fans?" No but, seriously speaking, Harry Roscoe is a great help to us, and all we need now to make our happiness complete are about a hundred new subscribers .... any offers ???

And now, for those who may not have heard it, follows a shortened version of the incredible story of our birth (the club's of course): On the 2nd. day of April 1953, two lonely souls made their respective ways to the local bookshop to collect their copy of "FUTURE". Fan N°1 (Jan Jansen) had just made his purchase and was about to leave when Fan N°2 (that's me) came in and also asked for Future. Hardly daring to breathe, Fan N°1 dashed out and took up a strategic position outside and as soon as Fan N°2 came out, he pounced upon him and asked him whether he was really a S.F. Fan or whether he came from a co-existing Universe... On receiving a reassuring answer and a similar query, the two fans walked away, in

a state of supreme bliss, chatting gaily, like "long-lost-and-found-again-brothers", of things that were "out of this world". And so, the die was cast... The first step was taken, and the continued existence of Fandom assured... (ahem). We saw a lot of each other after that, the formation of a fanclub being the main topic of conversation. Well, that was soon fixed, so, after a few meetings we decided to stick our necks out and go in for publication of a newsletter, which was later to become a regular fanzine, with the contents of which most of you are already familiar (and if you're not you ought to be ashamed of yourself. Call yourself a fan?)

Before stepping off my soap-box, I shall deluge you with... some propaganda: Our club is the only one of its kind on the Continent of Europe. We should like to see more of 'course. We should also like to see our club expand; and that's why... if all you Editors of pro- and fanzines would plug us from time to time, it might help us considerably in our tire- and timeless search for new members. What is more, you would earn our undying gratitude and that, I can assure you, is not to be sneezed at... So long...

Dave Vendelmans (Editor).

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Look Dave, what's the good of passing this thing on to me? You said about everything I was going to put in then you hand me a blank space to fill up with...? Should any of you chaps at the Convention still be wondering why I didn't turn up there, I suggest you try and get hold of a copy of our latest issue, mailed from here to reach the fans just before the Con. This was done so that none of these fellows will have forgotten about us, should the question arise. That is if they read the fanzine at all, 'cause some of these guys who get it seem to think we send it to light fires with. At least that's what it looks like, as I could name some that haven't even bothered to use the self-addressed and pre-paid envelope put at their disposal. I'll be wondering - along with Tony Thorne, wasn't it? - whether the guys steamed the stamps off for - in their opinion - a better use. But then I expect by this time the fire may be put out for the summer and they'll start reading it.

Our n° 4 has an excellent cover (if I may say so) by a Dutch artist named Ben Abbas, whom some of you may have met in 1950, at the London Con. It also contains two stories, plus features and an article; all in all 20 pages of ... (Don't say it).

There is only one snag: there just aren't enough fans available in Belgium and Holland to support the financial side of such a venture, so... we must appeal to Anglo-Saxon fandom to help out the newborn. So if you'll kindly send us 4/- or 60 ¢ in stamps, you'll receive, in return, six issues of the finest of all Continental fanzines.

Subs welcomed at Berchemlei 229, Borgerhout (home address of undersigned. Contributions at Strijdhoflaan, 130, Berchem (home address of Dave). We don't care who you send it to, as long as you send it...

We might make the next Con, but in the meantime, why don't you come to ours ??? on June 31st. ???

Jan Jansen.

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