

Celephais

STRICTLY PERSONAL

Hi! After three years of inactivity it seems rather good to get back into the good old FAPA. On looking over the last mailing I notice that there have been a number of changes - some for the better (the Cosmic Circle appears to be almost dead!) - and a great change in membership. On checking the membership list I notice two things - about half the members are new to me - since 1947 - and there is a large proportion of Washington fan among them.

I had planned a rather full issue for the first of the new Celephais, but circumstances - or rather temptation - got the better of my good resolutions. I was offered a chance to drive out to the west coast with friends on a month's trip, with an opportunity to spend some time at home. Since I have never driven across the country, I fell. Hence, this issue is being cut directly on stencils on the first Sunday in August, and may make the mailing - if it does, you'll read this; if not, you won't!

One of the greatest regrets I have about dropping out of FAPA in 1947 is the break in my files of certain of the zines I'd been keeping. If any fan has the following for disposal - cash or trade, early Wird Tales, etc - please let me know: Horizons: Nos 31-42 inc. Fan Tods: All after No 16. I'm also looking for a number of earlier fanzines to complete files for binding; again help will be appreciated: Futurian War Digest: after Oct 1944. Reader and Collector A number from Vol 1, 2, 3, 4. Fantast #1. VoM #25, 35, 37-39, 41-43, 49-. Alchemist Vol 2, No 2. Scientisnaps from vol 1 and 2. Science Fiction Digest Nov 1952. I'm also interested in files of some of the newer magazines that I've missed. That's all the commercial for this issue, thank you!

For future issues of Celephais I'm planning to do a series of indices on some of the magazines in the Library of Congress, starting probably with The Black Cat, that wonderful little story magazine with some of the best weirds I've ever read. I have a number of them, and am always looking for other copies at reasonable prices; the fantasy is not too frequent, but all the stories are readable and enjoyable.

THE 51 MAILING

In general, the last mailing wasn't up to standard, either for the earlier mailings as I remember them - although I could be very wrong on this - or for the recent ones I've seen. In detail:

F.A. Re Bogg's message - as a recent waiting-lister I'm strongly in favor of sending the OO to waiting listers; from my experience, nothing is so annoying as to send in your name -- and then wait and wait and wait. At least the waitee would know what was happening and would probably keep up his interest more, especially since he would see the listing of fanzines going out and would wonder what was in them (we hope!)

As for the question of copyright. Anyone who is really interested in protecting his material from any reuse can copyright it for a few dollars; information from the Copyright Office, Library of Congress, Washington D.C.

Manual of Postal Instruction: (The OE, in the interests of completeness, should have listed the full title) Useful and somewhat calming. One little item, though, appears that may cause trouble - page 2, line 7-8 requires at least 5 sheets and two staples to qualify for 3rd/4th class mailing, if under 20 copies. This wouldn't affect the general mailing, but might cause trouble in the case of separate mailings to new members, since, in the last mailing, Astra's Tower, Papaparade, Thirteen, and Manual (!) wouldn't pass. I'm also wondering about mags stitched on a sewing machine (as have appeared in FAPA) or with aglued back.

Green Thoughts: The Pictorial Review of the Mailing was unusual, but why not a little more personal comment? I'd originally planned to do a page or two on How I Would Change the World, but lack the time. One comment though, from the inside looking out. I'm a civil service worker, although in a scientific position, and I certainly would not like to be living under a civil service system for everything. The government that Kennedy refers to as the post office type, not the politician type, is the very thing that is responsible for a lot of the messes; no one is willing or able to take responsibility, and those that do, or are ambitious, are knocked down rather fast. If this were the future government of the world, everyone would be merely a number in the big files, with a card for this, a form (and I don't mean Turner) that.

Spaceship: Fiction - I'm again fan fiction in general. Otherwise . . .

Fandango: Re the NFFF: I can remember way back when Damon Knight had an article entitled Unite of Fie! in the October 1940 Fanfare in which he first proposed that fandom unite, with seconding remarks by Widner. From personal conversations with Damon at that time, I know that he didn't have the present monstrosity in mind. I've never bothered to join - at first it was too exclusive, and I didn't have the necessary writing and publishing activities; later, it just wasn't worth it.

Laney is always worth reading and re-reading. Speaking of the last, I've been reading some of the early Fandandos and am really amazed at the changes that have taken place.

Peace and Olaf Stapledon: Too much SaM, too little Stapledon. Interesting, though.

Wild Hair: Enjoyed it, especially the art.

Horizons: Harry, I'm planning to dig into my files of Fantast and Fido soon for reprintable material. One item that might be worth reviving is Ackerman's famous letter on nude women. Otherwise, I thoroughly enjoy all of Harry's reviews; they are consistently the best in FAPA.

The remarks on reviewing are very much to the point; I expect to apply them as much as possible. One small quibble, though. I think, from the point of view of the collector, that a notation of the date, publisher, format, number of pages, etc, is of use. After all, the checklists are not complete (I have a bunch of errors, omissions, and commissions, etc.) and do not give all the data. As for misleading dates, reprints, etc.; the text could mention these.

Contour: I've already told Bob what I think of it, and this is for general circulation . . . Actually, I liked it. I might mention that I'm planning on helping Bob on the Fanzine checklist. Any help welcomed!!!

Thirteen: I'll volunteer to supply Coswal with anything that comes out on the news-stands that he can't get in Helena. We have fairly good service here

Masque: Purty pictures, yet! I liked.

THOUGHTS ON INDEXING

Coswal's notes in the current Thirteen have prompted me to do a little thinking on the matter, since I've done quite a lot of it, both professionally and in fandom. Furthermore, since I am the one responsible for the Peterson index, although not for the printing and typing, I feel I should get a few remarks off my chest.

First, just what is an index and what is it to be used for? These questions must be answered before any start can be made on an index. From my personal experience I have found that there are three types of indices: ranging from simple listings of contents, through more comprehensive systems to the ultimate cross-indexed file with everything under every possible heading. The simpler an index can be made, and still do the job it is required the better. For the general fan, the title and authro and magazine contents would be enough; fillers, unless of importance, and letters could be omitted.

At present, I'm working on completing the index which Peterson is putting out, as well as a list of corrections and additions (the artist code is available, and will be published at the end of the index) and also with transferring the data to key-sort cards, which may be punched to indicate story title, author, classification, etc, all on one card. From this, if I ever get it done, I can then put out an index of a given authro, a list by title (and how some titles have been reused!), a classified list, etc.

This system does not have the completeness of the Coswal system, which certainly has more detail, but has the advantage of compactness and ease of cross-referencing.

One thing that is holding me up greatly is the lack of any data on most of the Canadian magazines, both the reprint Super Science group and the original Canadian mags. Any help here would be appreciated.

This is another of those items I'd intended to do up in a much larger scale and a more orderly fashion, but just didn't get time for.

THE THRILL BOOK

Although I don't have the other references at hand, I can give a little more information on the never issued monthly issues. From the Oct 15 issue the following are forecast for the December issue to be published on Nov 15.

For Art's Sake	Tod Robbins	(two part)
Girls of Tsin Lee	Leslie B. Blade	
Medusa's Victim	H. B. Jones	
Impulse	Francis Stevens	
John James 1748 - 1788	Reba R. Cornell	

A note from Grege LaSpina to someone (I don't remember who) "Thrill Book died during printers' strike paper shortage. I sold yarns and then bought them back; later sold them to Weird Tales, except for "The Giant Wistaria"

THE "NOT AT NIGHT" SERIES

All this series that I've seen were small octavo, bound in red paper. Most of the early ones were reprints from *Weird Tales*.

NOT AT NIGHT Edited by Christine Campbell Thomson; Selwyn and Blunt, Ltd., London, England. October 1925

Monsters of the Pit	Paul S. Powers
Four Wooden Stakes	Victor Roman
The Third Thumb-Print	Mortimer Levitan
Lips of the Dead	W. J. Stamper
The Devil Bed	Gerald Dean
Death Waters	Frank Belknap Long
Black Curtains	G. Frederick Montefiore
The Plant-Thing	R. G. Macready
His Family	C. Franklin Miller
A Hand from the Deep	Romeo Poole
The Tortoise-Shell Cat	Grege La Spina
The Case of the Russian Stevedore	Henry W. Mitchill
The Leopard's Trail	W. Chiswell Collins
The Last Trip	Archie Binns
The Purple Cincture	H. Thompson Rich

MORE NOT AT NIGHT Edited by Christine Campbell Thomson; Selwyn and Blunt, Ltd., London, England. September 1926

The Hooded Death	Joel Martin Nichols, Jr
The Man Who Was Saved	B. W. Sliney
Fidel Bassin	W. J. Stamper
Teeth	Galen C. Colin
Vials of Wrath	Edith Lyle Ragsdale
The Experiment of Eric Weigert	Sewell Peaslee Wright
The Mystery Under the Sea	Donald Edwald Keyhoe
The Horror on the Links	Seabury Quinn
The Yellow Spectre	Stewart van der Veer
Swamp Horror	Will Smith & R. J. Robbins
The Dead Soul	Raoul Lenoir
The Sea Thing	Frank Belknap Long, Jr.
The Black Box	H. Thompson Rich
Bat's Belfry	August W. Derleth
The Phantom Drug	A. W. Kapper