

CELEPHAIS

#508

It is hard for me to realize that three months have passed since I was last racing a deadline for the Spring FAPA mailing. And yet, the weather should be enough to convince me that such is the case. The usual Washington summer of hot and steamy days and hot and steamy nights, with a few thunderstorms thrown in to wet things more, but not to cool things off is well underway. So far as I can see, there is only one redeeming feature of the weather - it makes it a pleasure to go to work, where it is air conditioned, and at least cool, although rather humid. But the lack of sleep or the poor quality of sleep are not conducive to good work.... And there certainly is enough of that. Deadlines of all sorts keep approaching, with the frantic efforts to catch up. It appears I'll be taking my usual summer vacation at Christmas time again this year.

But enough of such bitching. The main purpose of that was to explain the small bulk of this issue, and the lack of enthusiasm in the comments on comments, if there are any. And, of course, there will be no trip report this time - no travelling, not even to New York.

I've picked up another facet of one of my hobbies - philately. I've started on Japanese stamps - just since 1920, as my pocket-book is not that stuffed (quite the contrary) and only in the strictly general type collection. However, for some time I've been fascinated by two aspects of the Japanese stamps - the beautiful scenery on their National Parks issues and the reproductions of old Japanese art works, especially the series on the stamp day, with large selections from famous old manuscripts, paintings, books, etc. The coloring is intriguing, with the delicate intermingling of the shades. I think it was the desire to have a collection that I can show to outsiders and which they will enjoy, that gave me the push. I still enjoy the specialized South African springboks and ships, and the French Swowers, but the details aren't the types that can be explained well to the mildly interested outsider. The trains would, but writing up that collection takes a lot of time - time, that thing I need so much more of - or otherwise it's just a collection of random stamps that happen to have trains on them. I think, though, I can get a pretty good commercial album for the Japanese (I hope it isn't one annotated in Japanese!) that will give some brief explanation of the stamps and why they were issued. I've got the same problem with the Austrian collection; here, though, I've come to a screeching halt. Aside for a few odd perforation varieties not listed by Scott, I need only about a dozen items, with a total catalogue value of about \$1800.

So, I'm looking for new worlds to collect. And something that doesn't take up too much room. (And don't say coins, Walter; I'm still looking for a number of English silver pennies from 1066 to 1600.)(And they aren't cheap, either.)

But enough of this chitter. I'd like to spend a little time on a few random thoughts evoked by some items in the 1101011 mailing (=1538). Things are grabbed from the pile as I reach them, with no effort at arranging them in any sort of order. And, if I say nought about your submission, be not dismayed; I read and enjoyed items that I had no comment hook in.

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It's now the next evening, and still hot. I've thought of a couple of added topics I'd like to natter about. First, there is this matter of typos, uncorrected errors, and sloppy sentence structure. My own point of view is that Celephais is not a polished publication, but rather a substitute for a letter to a group of friends. And like a letter to a friend, I normally don't first-draft the material. If I am writing a letter in which it is imeritive that I specify exactly what I mean, in unambiguous terms, then I will do a rough draft; I do this often at the office, where I must be careful to indicate what is may own opinion, what is the official position, and what is a quotation from so e other source, which I am presenting with no indication as to the validity or truth (an example of the perils of on-stencil writing; I should have used accuracy back there, instead of truth) of the material contained therein. There is the second point, too. I I spend the time necessary to rough-draft the material, and then type it on stencil, I'd probably never get anything done. Firstly, I'd be too full of the material to want to read it again so soon, and secondly, I'd probably edit it out the window, with only about half the material originally written going in. Not that that might be such a bad thing, but I'd have to write so much more to get the minimum in that I'd give up.

Somewhat the same is true of proofing stencils. I find I cannot proof my own material within a week or two; I tend to read what I remember should be there rather than what actually is there. When the material is cold, I can do a pretty fair job of spotting errors; I'm always catching things in papers of other people at work, or in books I just pick up to relax with. Some of the newspapers are hard to read because of the multitude of typos that hook my eyes as I read.

So, Celephais will continue to come to you composed on stencil and as a general rule unproofed, except right after typing, with the strong probability that I'll miss a lot of troubles.

The second matter is the matter of Walter Breen, and the fusses that are going around. I've more or less been on the sidelines, although pretty well up on what is going on. I've kept pretty quiet about the matter, because I wasn't too sure of several points - or rather my thinking on them. However, I think my present position is about this - and I realize that several people will consider I've switched sides on them. I probably have; I'm still not completely settled.

First, the Pacificon committee have the power to run the con as they feel fit and proper. (Look at the hassle on the Hugo for publisher, which I feel should not be called a Hugo. If it is, then two people who got Special Awards at the Discon should start screaming.) This includes denying membership to anyone they have reason to believe - not necessarily legal proof, but adequate reason - would be a danger to the convention. Remember, it is the committee who will get it in the neck and pocketbook if anything serious goes wrong, and especially if it could be shown they had prior knowledge or reasonable suspicion of the possibility of the event taking place and did nothing about it. Having been on the inside of a con, I know some of the problems that can arrise, and the steps that must be taken. Example: we wanted a bar at the costume ball, which was the reason, or one, for the time. So did the hotel, because it would have made money for them. But, the problem of underage drinkers, especially when they learned it was a costume/masked affair, and the bartenders would have no real method of checking, stopped them. They didn't dare risk their overall bar operations for the one bar. So, we had a dry party. (And the high school frat made them more certain. Therefore, this action by the committee is within their domain, and a matter for their considered judgment. However, with hindsight, I don't

feel the matter was handled in the best way. At the time, it seemed that a full explanation of the reasons behind the action would serve to make it appear something that was not done on a whim, and would set at rest the insinuations that would arise if only the final action were made known, either by the committee or by the other side. Unfortunately, this didn't work; personalities were injected in the matter, and the fight really spilled over the ropes into the audience.

One of the spill-over was the FAPA matter. Some members felt that nothing but complete separation would do. Buz has given some of his reasons. I know that there were others based upon other persons involved. There have been accusations of a campaign - which I did not encounter - to get enough votes. There are statements that a number of people, other than Buz, know who voted how. To the best of my knowledge, and it is confirmed by letters from Buz, no one else knows who voted which way. I know of how four people voted, because they told me. I can guess how a few others voted. But I don't know. And I wonder how various other people are supposed to have learned. Especially before the official totals were out.

Anyway, I note that FAPA has reversed itself, and adopted a special rule to cover the situation. Although I might chide Redd for a somewhat loosely worded resolution; it should have been rough-drafted. After all, FAPA isn't an organization that has frequent meetings, nor is it composed of small children. Regardless of his sexual mores, I think Walter can be interesting in print/conversation, even though I don't always agree with him. After all, he hasn't posed the positive threat to certain people and to the organization that certain other potential members once did; those for whom the black ball was designed. In that case, I had a positive interest; that person could have cost me my job and the prospect of getting another good one through loss of my security clearance.

The experience at that time makes me feel that any attempt to change the number of objectors upwards would defeat the purpose of the section. At that time, with a positive campaign, and the threats of a number of members to drop if GW were admitted - including yhos - there were still only a very few over the minimum number. Remember that the action required is a positive action, the actual selection of a particular name and the writing it on the form, and then sending it in, rather than merely checking an appropriate square.

You know, it might be interesting to see what would happen if the reverse vote were also allowed - name one w/ member to be jumped to the top of the list. With no place to check off a name from a list, and no votes needed. Or even allow two names....

So, on to the mailing, blotting up the drops of water from the keys between magazines.

Phantasy Press [McPhail] Thanks for the rundown on the year, Dan, even if a quarter late. Interesting that Warner, with one more page, jumps from 6 to 2. I'd guess my total will be lower than ever this year, unless I come up with a big Nov mailing. We'll see. And, I note that the Busby total is equal to the Cox total, or a tie for 10th. Hope the next issues of PP will be back to size, Dan.

Deep in the Glen [Raeburn/Clarkes] It's things like this that give the s-t headaches in assigning credit. I enjoy reading it, but hate to have to total it up. Maybe I'll rule that if the material isn't readily identified as to author, Mr. Anon. gets full credit.

Jesus Bug [Main] I like to read about your travels, Andy, especially as I've done little of my own this year. I'm still afflicted with an itching foot.

Bete Noire [Boggs] And I suppose if those armies have trouble, it would be a gastrophe? And what more can I say except this caused some pleasant moments.

Spinnaker Reach [Chauvenet] No, I didn't think of flying back. First, I already had my ticket and all; getting a refund etc would have taken a lot of time - after all, the only ticket office in town is the SP, and I didn't travel SP at all this time - that I had better plans for, and second, I didn't want to put out the extra cash for the airline ticket then and get the refund when I got back, and third, at that time of year there was all too much chance of having my flight cancelled out; it happened several times while I was home. And at that time of year, it can be tough to get a seat back. And, here is one word of appreciation for the index to the Tolkien verse. [But haven't you ever seen brown, sore grass? This goes into the reference file.

The Tattooed Dragon and His Electric Whing-a-Ding [Rotsler, who else?] I've just finished going through this for the umpteenth time - and re-enjoying it anew. Especially your "catalog" of beauty - with the artist's eye and the artists pen (typer) you can make things come alive for others. I would say that one ingredient of beauty - one essential, without which there is not beauty, but only prettiness - is honesty. If the thing is honest it will have a feel of something without which there can be no real beauty. This is true in art, in music, in literature, in any field in which feeling plays a role [even in science, I feel. There is beauty in a mathematical curve, in the development of an equation....]

A Fanzine for Now! [Alan Lewis] And to hash old items again. So far as I know, John has never reversed his decision. If he had, then there would have been no need for further action. If he didn't, and I believe that he said he thought he was wrong in his decision, but wasn't sure, then action must be taken within the framework of the rules. It's not a question of the S-T not acting, or acting improperly; he acted in accordance with the duties of his office. But I think the matter is moot - as shown by the reaction to the last two petitions. And remember, never has Martin denied the accusation. I don't believe he is unable to write.

It would be interesting to check that list of CAS poems against the published items, to see which are unpublished. I can recognize a part of the titles.

Melange [Trimbles] Somewhere I understood that William came from Wilhelm, "resolute helmet. My list also shows Edmund as defender of property [anglosaxon] Martine probably would be the feminine of Martin. How about last names? This could be interesting, as you can find both last and first names used interchangeably. Evan Williams and William Evans, for example, are both good Welsh names, meaning, originally, Evan, son of William, and William, son of Evan. Kathryn - wasn't this in Slan?

Couldn't agree more with your remarks on mundane. Fandom is not a way of life, or shouldn't be. It is a hobby, that brings you into contact with some interesting people - and some of the other kind - and gives a stimulating outlet, but there are a lot of interesting things that can be done in the rest of the world. Like stamps, and records, and detective stories, for me, and bridge.

Diamonds wouldn't become that cheap; they are too useful industrially; In fact, most of the flawed stones and off color stones unsalable for jewelry, end up in industrial uses. Like cutting tools or phonograph needles. Platinum is another example, though, where jewelry demand has pushed the price of an industrial necessity up and up. Doc Smith had some harsh words to say about this (via DuQuesne) in Skylark of Space and they are even more true today. I know. John on police/Bobbies was interesting. And the cover brought back memories.

Synapse [Sp eer] Of course, there could have been a switch or a curve in that railroad track. # Wilfred Meyers was the stray former mundane apa member who was first dropped, and then blackballed off the wl at the same time Wetzal was. (And never cashed the check I sent for dues refund...) That Magic Tape is put out by MMM, but is especially designed for permanent paper mending. ## Acid sodium carbonate, or sodium bicarbonate. So called because only one of the two acid hydrogen atoms in carbonic acid (aqueous), H_2CO_3 , is replaced by the sodium ion, Na, leaving it still able to act as an acid. In this case the base, NaOH, is stronger than the acid, so the half-neutralized salt is slightly basic - with only a very mild taste - and hence is used when a very slightly alkaline effect is wanted (to neutralize some of the stomach acid, for example, where the strong acid HCl replaces the weaker, which escapes as CO_2 in a belch. The other type, the acidic acid salt, is found in ammonium bisulfate, NH_4HSO_4 , where sulfuric acid is stronger than ammonium hydroxide - ammonia water, $aqueous$ ammonia. Polyhydroxybas es can give the reverse type, basic salts. One common one is bleaching powder, $Ca(OH)Cl$ - take that back, bleaching powder is a mixed salt, as I realized after I got started on the formula, $Ca(OCl)Cl$ - Starting over, try $BiOCl$, bismuth oxychloride, which is formed from $Bi(OH)_2Cl$ by loss of water. This type of mixed salt is found in many minerals - hydroxyapetite, for example. And nothaving any handbooks here, I won't give the formula; the name is as I remember it.

It would be just as easy for you to quiz the FAA about that tempo- nautical collision; I'd have to write a letter to get any action. [As I'm in Washington, everyone back home automatically assumes I know all the inside details on politics. They don't believe me when I give them the answer "All I know is what I read in the papers." even though that is true.] ## You once worked in the government; you should know that government pay isn't always divisible by 12. Like 7355, 8410, 5335, 4915, etc, from the current table. And they aren't divisible by 26 either, which is the no of pay periods per year. Or by 365, the days per year.

Karuna [Ellern] Rose of Tibet is now out as a paperback, I'll have to get it. Otherwise, I didn't get hooked, but just enjoyed. And, Bill, I've not renewed my F&SF sub, mostly because the stories are of such low quality, in general. Ted must be putting the slush pile in the wrong bin.

Scatalog [Wilson] And a beautiful cover. This and Helen's Fantasia finally hooked me - I'm now collecting Japanese stamps. Some of the art on them, and I use the word purposely, is wonderful, timeless, different. But that equation on the bottom of page 4 is incomplete; open (). And isn't that in the expansion? Fifty years ago discussion on the effects of splitting the atom - economic effects, I mean - would be academic, too, Jack. Matter transmission is not impossible, as is perpetual motion or squaring the circle; it is theoretically possible.

Target FAPA [Bney] When does the first issue appear? And do you send out free samples?

Serenade [Bergeron] You really should have sent Norm a copy of Wrhm 19. But welcome aboard. In spite of the fact that you have no credentials.

Ankus [Pelz] Amen to the note re Hugos. This is exactly what the thing adopted last year was to prevent. Unless they don't call it a Hugo - like ours were special awards. Having the membership vote on the award is one thing, calling it a Hugo is another. [And a special award should be more impressive; it is not just the best of a year, but a special nomination for outstanding merit in some way.]

Godot [Deckinger] A good percentage of DC bus drivers are helpful; they are used to tourist inquiries. But not in rush hours... I find that H. Poirot is better in the short stories; they have less space to develop his unpleasing characteristics. DC has several theatres which use the nudies most of the time.

A Propos de Rien [Coughran] I really don't see what the problem is with the egoboo poll. After all, it is for the material published in the preceding 12 months - and not including the mailing in which the poll appears. This was done with purpose, to prevent the material at hand from seeming better than the preceding three months. I wonder how well scanning would work - for a matter transmitter, though, when it involves not merely the spacial location of atoms, but the bonding between them. Changing a couple of bonds can play hell with the value of a particular compound for a particular use. Isn't the absolute value of a line segment the scalar part of the vector to the point? What kind of an IBM doesn't like commas - or I see now that you mean in large numbers. The European problem is the more serious, though; it is very easy to misread an "European number by a factor of 10" and vice versa. The trend in some European journals is to write the numbers in groups of three, without any comma or period, except for the decimal point - 123 456 789,234 567. (That is a period, not a decimal point.)

Quip [Bennett] The run-down on the English school system is intriguing, and raises more questions. Like, what about the universities and the various degrees they grant. And the various teaching posts at these. Please continue. A note - most American kindergartens are for children just below primary school, like 5-years. Below that are the nurseries. Our kindergartens will correspond to your infant schools, I'd guess. This goes with my notes on cricket for translating English novels.

Vandy [Coulsons] Agree on the seats of the Rambler; although I'd like a little more firmness in the small of the back. I've found some sports car seats comfortable for short trips; I don't know how bucket seats would be on a long trip. They don't let you change position as much as the regular seat, but seat belts in the latter case are a restriction for the latter. And to BT - streetcars are a vanishing species in the us, and in Canada, but try Europe, except in the British Isles. Germany, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Sweden, etc, are full of them, right down town, hauling lots more people than the busses, and more comfortably.

Vandy is one of the eagerly grabbed items in the mailing - but one that often stirs nothing but pleasure.

Danballe [Hansen] One point of issue, Chuck. based on the Discon I'd guess that at least half the attendees are fringe-fans who are interested in science fiction rather than fandom. They don't give a damn about FAPA, for example, or First Fandom. They are interested in seeing and hearing their pet pros. They want to hear Uncle Willy talk about some oddity of science, watch while three or four pros tell how they do it, etc. Or look for comic books they need (?). This is another zine like the Coulsons that is read with enjoyment, but this time leaves me with little to say. Except that your mailing comments, Chuck, do what Jack Speer says they should (and which his so often don't); they give a clue at least as to what the comment is commenting on. Which means I don't have to dig out the mailing two back to see what was being said.

Day*Star

[Bradley] I've enjoyed browsing through your notes on the Meridian/Darkovian worlds; it is fascinating to trace the development of the ideas, the working out of the backgrounds. [And I've been enjoying your books, too. Even buying them...] So far as I can tell, this new magic tape is not subject to the ills of the old Scotch Tape. I've some maps and such that were mended at least 6 years ago and they are still ok - no bleeding, no hardening, no browning. Of course, the modern wood pulp paper will rot out from under anything in a few years. And amen to that college bit - having taught classes of both GIs and fresh from highschool teenagers, I can say the difference is tremendous. The GIs kept you on your toes - they wanted everything they could get, and weren't afraid to ask questions. It made for a stimulating class for the teacher - you didn't have to work coaxing the brats. [And that's all I've time/paper/stencils for. And both Buz and Harry get cheated.]