

The 76th mailing of that august and venerable organization, FAPA, duly arrived some two weeks after it was mailed. The post-mailed issue of Celephais was sent out. I decided to wait for the election returns before doing much for the November mailing. So, a week from deadline, I'm starting another issue of Celephais, which seems to be becoming nothing but a mailing comment type of magazine. As usual, this is direct-on-master-composed material; I hope I can catch all the typos, but, as in the last issue, I'm afraid some will sneak through.

LOOKING BACKWARD

A glance at the 76th mailing, together with what post-mailings have arrived, taken in the order they are in the pile on the table. The only exception to this rule is starting, as always, with

The Fantasy Amateur. I have one big gripe at this issue of the FA; there was no exact wording of the various amendments published. Since several times the wording of the amendments makes a difference - the new member activity deadline, for example - I want to know, in the issue in which the official ballot appears - which it didn't, this time - exactly what I am voting on.

Beware, Fapan! So you didn't listen.

Phlotsam. This I like; it has an air about it that I can't define, but that I can reread and enjoy. The antique Time excerpts were fun. Ghad, Phyllis, your education has been neglected if you've never heard of Josh White. He's no Presley - thank the Lord - but a blues/folk singer. Originally he was g'quits authentic, but lately has become more commercial, tending to sing in the style he thinks his audiences think he should sing in. (I wish this typer would stop non-shifting). Anyway, there's the world of difference between his singing and that of Elvis the Felvis. However, for real folk singing try such as Bessie Smith and Leadbelly.

Isomer. One advantage to having several officers in one location is the aid they can give the O-E with the mailings. In fact, several times in the past it has been the only way a mailing has gotten out; when the O-E has been sick or gone gafia or something. There was a famous incident of this sort in the distant past, involving Speer, and Purdue, I believe. Roseman on chemistry shocks me. This is not the type of stuff to play with; too many students try something like this and end up minus fingers, hands, eyes, or life. I've had some experience with such events; a friend of mine was interested in explosives and was a good chemist. He'd kept up with safety precautions, etc. Yet, something went wrong with a simple reaction and he spent a couple of months in the hospital. The thermite reaction is also a dangerous one - it can easily start afire if you don't have proper equipment.

Day Star. I enjoy all, but find nothing to comment on. I wonder how many FAPAs caught the interlineation on pg-7?

Wotinthehell! Exactly.

Fapanager. I started with the first paragraph on page 1, and then found myself in the midst of exactly what was supposed to be lacking. I've a headache, so won't try to agree or disagree now; this demands a separate article.

Fapa Snooze. For once I'm on Myers' side, when he reprints the article on Trading Stamps. They have lately taken over in this area, and at present there are about four different kinds in circulation. Stores, etc., that don't give them are trying to fight fire with special discounts, etc. The stamps are a-headache. The tickets do fall within the Constitution, but don't jave much of interest in them; ditto the State Line Sentinel. I wish Myers would give more stuff like his two Snoozes, they, at least, are of some interest.

The Outlander. I enjoyed reading, but probably won't reread.

La Viand Rose.

An edible fanzine. I enjoyed Dick's description of his graduation; so many of his feelings duplicated mine - and others I've talked to. Actually, I feel that most graduations are for the parents and family of the graduate, not for him. He wants to get his degree and get out; the parents want something for the money, time, etc, they've put into it. The show makes them feel good. And it is so impressive, the long group of faculty in black, with the multi-colored hoods, walking so aimlessly along, as if they were bored with the whole thing (as they usually are). The graduates usually have a more impressive march than do the faculty. This, I feel, is the reason so many highschools are having impressive graduations, complete with cap-and-gown. I'd like to go to Oxford, tho, and get one of their scarlet Dr's gowns, and then join a faculty, just for the pleasure of outshining the rest of the faculty.

Phantasy Press. More of Dan's welcome diggings into the past of FAPA. Hey, Captain Hornblower is the naval officer featured in a series of stories by C. S. Forester that started in Argosy back in the late 30s, and then graduated to the kicks, I believe SatEvePost... Or were there other stories about a similarly named character? I was reading American Boy back then, but don't remember these stories. I do remember the Claudy stories, though. Dan, I'm intrigued about your sketch on Louis Clark. There was until recently a chemist at the Bureau of Standards by this name; would he be the same? I wonder if the "Betty Beep" you mention isn't really Betty Boop of the animated cartoons of some 25 years ago? I can remember several cartoons with her, back about the time the first Mickey Mouse films were coming out.

Stefantasy. In spite of being a non-official post-mailing I will mention it, because I like it. The article on the attempt to engage the "girls" in counterfeiting was most appreciated. Amen to Grennell re popular songs; so many of them are asinine. New Model is so true; and the one good springing system used in American cars has been discarded - the Packard torsion.

Mallophagan. The FA has the wrong whole number for this. Why should "1430" hours seem silly for an appointment? Much more logical than "9:00" when you don't know if it's day or night. After all, it is just a matter of usage.

Innuendo. I especially enjoyed Bennett's saga.

Erratic. A nice first issue; Jim should be an interesting addenda to FAPA.

Correction Fluid 368. The book review on the "Worm Ouroboros" was interesting; I've started the book twice, and never finished it. Will try once more. It will have to be good, though, to beat the "Lord of the Rings". Otherwise most interesting.

Null-F 4 $\frac{1}{2}$. Noted.
Tyke. Jack is much more interesting in his mailing comments this time; I actually enjoyed them.

Alif. Welcome in, Karen. And, please, next time more of yourself. This was interesting, but I would like more Karen. The archyisms were cute.

Fapa
Facts. Noted. This year, I should do better.

Twenty Important Spiritual Instructions.
The ad on the back cover was the only thing I read.

Fapa Booze. The small-town Tucker is interesting. Someday I will have to arrange to visit him, just to see such a typical small mid-Western town. Yes, Bob, I do read mystery novels (although I prefer the collected short stories). In fact, I collect a lot of them - especially Freeman and Crofts and Sayers. I have even read several Tucker books. And liked them! Washington is one city where traffic lights are against the driver. I know of one street with five lights in five blocks of which no two lights can be made. I've tried at almost every speed from 5 to 45 mph, with no luck. Otherwise, enjoyed, but not argument-stirring.

3

Fandaemonium. Jack is quite right on the dangers of digging up old FAPA writings from the days when the political was rampant in FAPA. In the reprints I'm doing, I'm trying to avoid such items as would be the ghost at the feast for more sedate ex-fans now. The coin problem is relatively simple; it was discussed in detail, including the general case, in a Fan-Tods of several years ago. The answer is that I can tell you how to find the bad coin in three weighings, and without being omniscient. /But analytical geometry is not a technique, but an inquiry into the structure of something - the relationships between geometric figures, etc.

I doubt that most charities get more by individual drives than by united drives; at least the experience in our office is such. I know that when I know that there are going to be only one or two drives a year, I will be to give more, since I can then budget more easily. (I'm listening to Strauss waltzes now, which Joe is playing - mostly Viennese recordings on 78s. It makes it hard to think, since I want to listen.)

Fanalysis. When were most of the canals built? I'm under the impression that they were generally built before the railroads became a major force in the nation. This would not include such things as river locks, which came much later. And what major farm areas have canals? Aside from New York, I can't think of any.

What is your authority for the internal explosion of the Maine? I don't have my reference works at hand to prove or disprove, but I'm not sure.

Custard. Interesting, but not comment-provoking. I can barely read part of the last page.

Target: Fapa. I see that Eny has settled the question above re the Maine, I hope. Otherwise, I enjoyed this, but having talked with Dick, I can't think of any comments.

Blorki. Another one-shot - interesting, but not something I'll go back to with avidity - like most of the stf mags.

Gemzine. Before I start in, let me say that I enjoyed reading this, I don't know of any past event where a member was allowed to go mafia and then find himself at the head of the waiting list. There have been cases where a member was dropped for lack of activity, and was readmitted the next mailing - no waiting list. Today, tho, that wouldn't happen.

I'm a little tired by now of the violent arguments running through FAPA now about religion. Sure, I've been mixed up in some of it, but enough is enough. Looking on from the sidelines, so to speak, it seems to me that there are several different arguments going on - some on the basic idea of all, is there a god, some on the forms of particular religions, and some on the social meanings and mores of the various religions, and their non-theistic actions. On some of these I find myself on one side, on some the other. I find it hard to deny the existence of a God, but I have difficulty in believing in the personified, anthropomorphic God of most western religions. Could be that scientific training does that to a person. As for the ritual, etc, I like some of the music and pomp, just as a stimulus for contemplative thinking.

I'm not opposed to censorship of indecent material - but who is to decide that something is indecent? What is indecent to one person is decent to another, of a different background. And what happens when this extends itself into political and religious fields? It is true that there are certain things that a large number of people do condemn - the sadistic "comics" as an example - but where do you draw the line. Once you get started, the censorship becomes self expanding. I much prefer educating people as to what they should like. As a matter of fact, most of the crime comics are deliberately written for the low grade adult - and sold to such.

But wouldn't Mr Carr object to your getting a wife who draws....

Writing this just after the election - one of the advantages of being near the editor - I feel that at least two FAPANS aren't too sure of the voting machinery used for the Presidential elections. No voter votes for candidates for President or Vice-President. You vote for Electors for President and Vice-President, who meet a couple of months - one, I guess - and cast their votes for the candidates for whom they have been pledged to vote. On the ballots I've seen, it appears that you cast your vote for Stevenson, say, but actually you are voting for 3 or 6 or 45 electors who have pledged to vote for him. For identification, often only the national candidate's name will appear, but the vote is actually for the electors. You may remember the case where some of the electors from one of the southern states four years - or eight years - ago decided to vote for someone other than the party candidate. Some states have laws requiring the electors to vote for the candidate of their party, but not all. Hence, a write-in of a candidate's name would be meaningless, since there would be no electors to be elected. Even if most of the votes - 4/5, for example - of a state's voters wrote in John Doe, the most that would happen would be that he might become an Elector - but probably not. The group getting the next highest would be elected. If this did happen, the electors might decide to vote for the high man, but only if their state didn't require them to follow the party selection. Oregon, I believe, is one where this is the case.

If you could change the system to a direct popular vote - which I doubt because of the change in balance of power that would result - it would be interesting to set up the system of proportional representation - if one party got 55% of the vote and the other 45%, they would split the places in the same proportion. Or if a state went 55-45 for A over B, its electoral votes would be split the same way. Hence, there would be some reason for the minor parties to try to build up their vote, since it would give the Republicans, for example, a chance at part of the solid south.

How many people do you know that aren't of divided racial inheritance? Or are you in favor of going back to the Aryan Herrenvolk?

I think that people are missing something by not looking at many of the modern machines for modern art. They are functional, clean-looking, a sight to behold, after the gimcracks like the modern cars. One of my favorites - and I'm prejudiced, of course - is a large steam engine (locomotive). The UP's "Big Boys," the SP's "Cab-in-front," and, to slip in an electric one, the Pennsy's GG-1 are truly pleasing creations, with a feeling of purpose and power, and nothing added just for the sake of adding something.

This was to be only a paragraph or so...
Celephais. In a letter McCain objects to my remarks re the under-paid, over-worked government employees. All I can judge by is the group I work with. At least half of them could get a good job in private industry at from 10 to 50% increase, and for doing about the same work. But most of them are settled in their habits, have friends and homes in Washington, and don't want to leave. Again, most take work home - some frequently, some occasionally. Actually, the turnover in our small section of about 15 professional people averages 2 per year, which is high, but not as high as a number of sections of the Bureau.

Sambo. Sam, Degler was a very nice guy, compared to Wetzel. He was only cracked, not not paranoiac. He did have delusions of grandeur, but not the spiteful nature of Wetzel. I would like to keep him out. Anyone want to circulate a petition? (See the current V.P. message.)

The misprint "Realtivity" is wonderful. But, the spectral shift doesn't involve a change in the velocity of the light, merely a change in its

frequency - the light becomes more red. Did you ever listen to a train whistling for a railroad crossing? Note how the pitch (frequency) is high as the train approaches, and becomes lower as the train goes by and recedes. Same type of thing. Because the two bodies are approaching, a given number of waves are crowded into a shorter interval of space, raising the frequency; going away, they are "stretched out" over a longer distance, lowering the frequency. But the light still travels at the same speed.

I feel in a devilish mood tonight - I'm going to translate the cricket item - although I've never seen a match. As I get it, England was at bat first, and by tea time had scored 217 runs while 8 batsmen had been bowled out (had their wickets knocked down). A wet "infield" made the field hard going. After tea the Australians batted, and with a drier field had trouble, losing the first two batters for only 19 runs. Richardson was out after scoring 81 runs, Ray ditto on 75. Apparently you keep batting until they get you out. Two batters at once, with only one batting at a time.

Lark. I'd be interested in your results on a carbon-paper ribbon, Bill. Would like one myself. One fault, though, I understand. They smear more than the regular type of ribbon does - or rather the typed material does.

Rock around the Conus. This still sounds pornographic, but I'm darned if I know why. Is my copy incomplete? It ends on the word "Time?" Anyway, I like your writing, Dick, and welcome back.

Gasps! Amen to the Manchester Guardian reviewer on the SF Theatre. This is one reason I don't have television. Where does the Texas fanzine end, page 17 or 18?

Foo. Send along the bombs, Andy; we'll send out some 60 of them, plus the rest to selected waiting-listers. There should be plenty of room in FAPA after that. I enjoyed Foo, have reread it just now - and can't find anything to comment on! What a state of affairs.

Here I Am Again. Yes.

Driftwood. I read and enjoyed; more I cannot say.

Wendigo. Another I read, enjoyed, and quietly put in the pile.

Contour. Berry was fine, of course. Griggs in prose reminds me of Griggs in person - same wry humor. (It was fun to listen to Nelson giving the local election returns - every so often a sly report, with a big build-up "...33 votes for T. Coleman Andrews.")

Le Moindre. If you can give me the Buddy Bolden Story, on 10 or even one lp, with Bolden playing the trumpet/cornet, I'll take it, even at that price. And I won't insist on hifi recording.

Horizons. We - the officers - would appreciate any comments anyone has re the waiting-list problem (I just thought of it, while staring at the first page of H.) You're wrong about the Scriabin 9th Sonata, Harry. Numbers 5 through 10 have all been recorded. I've looked up the listing, and can now give details. Recorded by S. Yaffo (piano) on 52 sides of Paraclete numbers 15 & 16, two 10" (although the World's Encyclopedia of Recorded Music says 12") 78 rpm records. Odd half side has Forms Op 69, No 2, Op 71, No 1, and Study Op 65, No 2 (Seventh). Very noisy records (surface, I mean).

You haven't destroyed the law of the conservation of energy; when the wound springs rusted, they gave off slightly more heat than a similar unwound spring would have done.

Someone else who likes fresh air when he drives; my friends look at me as if I were strange when I want at least the vent open in bad and cold weather. I just like fresh air and want to keep awake. Another active, though relative unknown fandom is the Sherlock Holmes group. They do publish - would shame FAPA and all of sf fandom - have clubs, etc.

All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight was the first I'd heard of

this festival. I'll have to look up the park; sounds interesting.

The rest of

Horizons is interesting, but I've run out of comments.

Another Cruddy Ellick One-

Shot. (That's what he calls it.) I think I would be against any special assess-
ment, or such for married fans. We would lose more than we'd gain.

FAPA Election

Results c/w Burblings. Thank you all.

And thus we stagger through the 76th mailing
of FAPA. Thank God it was a small one.

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THREE SONNETS ON OBLIVION

II. THE DUST DETHRONED

George Sterling

Sargon is dust, Semiramis a clod!
In crypts profaned the moon at midnight peers;
The owl upon the Sphinx hoots in her ears,
And scant and sere the desert grasses nod
Where once the armies of Assyria trod,
With younger sunlight splendid on the spears;
The lichens cling the closer with the years,
And seal the eyelids of the weary god.

Where high the tombs of royal Egypt heave,
The vulture shadows with arrested wings
The indecipherable boasts of kings,
As Arab children hear their mother's cry
And leave in mockery their toy--they leave
The skull of Pharaoh staring at the sky.

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