

FAPA 80 - OMPA 12 FMLG - ALPHA & CONTACT SUBLIST.

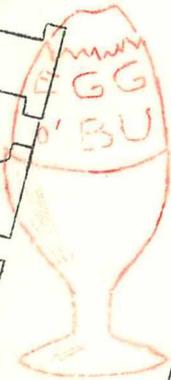
N° 9
CONTACT
31 july '57

ALPHA

NUMBER SIXTEEN - AUGUST '57

HIGH LEVEL 2

TIT
NUMBER FIVE
AUTUMN '57



FANJAN 2
FAPA 80

ALPHA
13 JULY 1957
N° 8

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VERANTW. UITGEVER:
JAN JANSEN
229 BERCHEMLEI BORGERHOUT
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PUBLICATION

AND A

NUMBER FIVE - AUGUST 27

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STANDS



THE NEW LINE



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BE

CONTRACT

Borgerhout, 16 July 1957

Dear Fan,

Sorry to have neglected you for so long, not only by not dropping you a line, but also because there have been no publications from here for some months, which would at least have given me an excuse for the delay of this letter.

Of course, I could drag in the old standby of having had too much work, I could even say that I had to play with Sonia instead of engaging in fanac, or I could accuse my wife of locking away the typewriter....

But then, I'm not the ordinary type of publishing fan, sweating away next to the duplicator. It doesn't behove someone of my stature, and I must have told you of the slave I keep locked up upstairs to turn the handle of our busy Roneograph.

It seems he couldn't hold the pace, and after lagging behind a bit in the early months of the year, he finally revolted against his master, and escaped to a sanatorium in the Flandres. Needless to say I immediately put the bloodhounds on his tracks, and having found him, I have arranged for the necessary extraction papers, which are now in the process of being validated by the court.

He'll be back within a four - five weeks, and then of course will follow sweet retribution. (This plug pays for these stencils). I am sorry that so many errors are slipping past me - but the devil took his favorite drink with him when he left.

One thing has been bothering me the last few days.

Assuming that a fan brought a friend along to New York, and assuming that he had some time to waste, meaning that he wouldn't be too rushed to get to any set destination, how would he get to such monumental places in the States as Boston, Baltimore, Hagerstown, Cleveland Pond du Lac to mention only a few...

He'd be encumbered with a bit of baggage of course, apart from the fact that he'd arrive practically penniless. I've tried to find a solution, but haven't found much, to which end I'm chucking the problem into your laps. Needstossing around a bit, and anyway, there's no immediate hurry.

Problem number two doesn't yet exist.

Oh yes, that query of yours about my future publication schedule. Well, I have learned a lesson from the events of the past few months, and there will be a bit of a slowdown on the publishing side, while I shall increase the correspondence angle. I intend to put CONTACT back on a regular schedule, and that will be my main contribution to the publication field. Alpha will not fold, but new subs won't be accepted, and from the looks of it I wouldn't advise anyone buying shares in that particular magazine. Fanjan, which may or may not be combined with Tiot, will appear at least twice a year, with a real effort being made to put it on a quarterly basis. Of the other titles only J has a chance to get anywhere the next year or so. The outlook isn't too exciting as you see, and certainly could do with some improvements, but what can you expect in these days. Even the Sunday papers are threatened with closure.

Something seems to have been forgotten in the melee of the last couple of months, namely the BELGIUM IN 1958 campaign. Even at this date, and without any specific dates or prices mentioned, several people have made inquiries and even made definite promises of attending anything I could arrange for them.

Well, I have recently had a look round, and as I'm not expecting too large a party, I think I could arrange something fairly interesting. There's a hotel in Antwerp that bears the appropriate name of CECIL, and it bears the names of Mills and Bennett on its register. Both have recommended it as being suitable. There are a couple of halls available for special events, and the prices are very reasonable, at least that is this fan's opinion of being asked for only about 10/- or \$1.50 for bed and breakfast.

Antwerp is half an hour distant from Brussels by direct train, and the fares that would result from staying in Antwerp and yet visiting the fair at Brussels would be easily recuperated because of the cheap hotel price.

In order to ensure the best of service, a period outside the normal holiday period would be most favorable of course. June or beginning July sound attractive in this respect, although there isn't too much objection against holding it during the tourist season. Being in a party of twenty or more by the way will offer the added attraction that you'd be liable to receive an adequate discount on train fares and admission to the World Fair grounds, if they are operated on the same base as other attractions, and during normal years. I even gather that there will be ~~xxxx~~ several special buslines laid on between Antwerp and the Fair Grounds which probably be most glad to handle a small party at decreased rates.

Everything considered, I'd like to hear whether there'd still be enough people interested in tripping over, for me to make more complete enquiries. Why not mention the matter to friends, after all, it was the 1939 World Fair that really started large conventions going, and we shouldn't let a new World Fair go past without paying some adequate tribute to this fact.

Did I tell you that it will be impossible for me to attend the London affair after all? Yes, I have to be back Monday morning first thing at the office, and no buts about it. Well, it would seem rather harsh to have to leave the con on the Sunday morning to get back here in time - so I'll just wave at the plane that'll carry Eric and Terry back to England. And of course, I'll try and make the Belgium in '58 affair a real thing. Not having to go too far should ascertain my attending that one!

Oh yes, I nearly forgot you asked me about the family. We're all doing fine, thanks. Rosa has gone back to the Rolmops because she couldn't get used to the changed hours and the different clients she was getting at the new place, and her health has completely turned for the best after that bad spot last year. Sonia still hasn't lost her good looks and charming attitude. In fact she was so enchanting (most of the time) last weekend we almost saw her carried off by the Mills family. They gave me a second look, but I couldn't really compete.

And of course, me, I'm feeling fine. My fingers hurt quite a bit now, having been typing for quite some time, and that's been a long, long time since they had to take similar punishment. But that shoulder healed remarkably well, and doesn't trouble me at all now. You should have seen Ellis' face when he saw my antics. Drawback was that I couldn't get him to do the washing up now...had no excuse for not doing it myself...

Oh well, I gather that's about all the news for the moment. You know I'm honestly glad to be back behind the typer again, and I'm certainly looking forward to the return of my unfaithful slave. Then we'll start bashing out stencils again. This is just a little practice run.

Until then, I trust you'll drink to my slave's wellbeing, as well as to

Yours,

Jan

FORD'S FARCE

1957 TAFF RESULTS

WELL?

1. Bob MADLE	486
2. Stuart HOFFMAN	316
3. Richard ENEY	287
4. Richard ELLINGTON	158
5. Boyd RABURN	135
6. Porry ACKERMAN	65
7. Ed McNULTY	54
8. George N. RAYBIN	44



Loveland, Ohio - 5 July:

Don Ford, in charge of the TAFF balloting, announced that 259 ballots had been received. (Since this would make 1554 votes apparently three people didn't fill in the last two places on their ballots.) Full payment for a round-trip plane fare for the TAFF winner has been made, plus a one-dollar WSFS membership fee. Don hasn't finished balancing the books yet, but unofficially informs that the TAFF bank balance now expenses are paid, is \$ 73.50, with an unknown sum in the hands of Sterling area TAFF manager Ken Bulmer. This doesn't include about \$ 12 in silver still in Don's hands, possible receipts from late ballots, or the results of the TAFF appeal to the prozines. (Eney).

MIDWESCON ADVISES CHANGE IN TAFF BALLOTING METHOD.

Washington, 7 July: By a general vote at the latest midWesCon a new plan of TAFF balloting was recommended.

After considering the new method, the present method (three places with a total of six points) and two others "which nobody could understand, much less operate", the Con voted approval of a single-choice system. Under such a system each voter would cast his ballot for one candidate--no second or third place votes.

"This of course, is not binding", explained Don Ford, current TAFF manager, "but the next person can use it as a strong expression of opinion to guide him." (Eney).

Apart from the page heading, no editorial comment is being made at this date. The discussion will be re-opened with the regular resumption of publication immediately after the Worldcon. I won't be there. JJ

TRAVELING MAN....

Ellis Mills who has now definitely succeeded to the title first used by Ron Bennett, arrived at Antwerp Friday, 12 July to spend the weekend at the one-time center of Continental fanaticism.

Accompanied by his parents (who said American tourists aren't nice?) and the Jansen family several excursions were made to places usually hidden from foreign tourists.

This visit was preceded by a trip to Vesoul, France, where Jean and Annie Linard were abducted and only returned after an exhausting week in Germany.

PRE-CON ATTRACTION.

Eric Bentcliffe and Terry Jeeves will be visiting Antwerp prior to attending the London convention.

Hotel prices at 10/- for bed and breakfast may attract other visitors. They too be welcomed here. Write me for further information.

SUBSCRIBERS:

===== will note that even if I have run off with your money I'm still around to keep up my end of the bargain. Due to an unfortunate illness of our galley slave, it had been impossible to print any material (unless I paid astronomical prices). Change of jobs of wife and change of school of daughter complicated matters no end - so that a rest was deemed necessary.

With the return of our printer in August regular publication will be resumed towards the middle of September, after my own family holidays. I sincerely regret having occasioned worry about my own person in some quarters, possibly some worry about the subscription price in other places. I hope this softens hard feelings.

I trust correspondents of this magazine will resume activities in good time.

CONTACT

N° 9 _____ 17 July 1957

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Belgium.

Return and/or Forwarding
postage guaranteed.

F O R T N I G H T L Y