

is a one-shot published for FAPA by C. J. (Mike) Fern, Jr., FBIS, G-2, GHQ FEC, APO 500, /o Postmaster, San Francisco, California. The idea originally was to try out some local Atom stencils, which are reputed not to hole through the o's or e's even when no backing sheet is present. And they only cost \$2 a hundred (before customs, that is). This is not a prospectus, just an outlet for ego-boo.

Looking around for a place to begin, I turned up a copy of H. W. Cheney's Fantasy Aspects. It's been a long time since we had a digest mag in fandom, and for that reason alone Cheney's is a welcome effort. In a way, it's too bad that Cheney lives in a small town. Were he in NY, LA, or Philly, he would have access to the rabbit-warrens of the old-time fans, and to a lot of worthwhile materials from magazines which today's neofan has never seen and is not likely to own unless he is able to pour several hundred bucks into his hobby. Since the NFFF is angeling the thing, it is to their Powers That Be that I suggest the appointment of an oldfan coeditor who can unlock the vaults of the top collectors and revive some of the masterworks of seven to ten years ago.

The time that has passed since many of the greats of the late '30s and early '40s emerged from the slipsheets has seen changes in fandom's literary standards. It would, I think, impose upon any digest editor who searches so far back a sense of perspective, among other things. The day has arrived when we can ask: "How well have the fan writings of the Early Years stood the test of time?" Fantasy Aspects and the NFFF can, if they will, answer this question for us.

Maybe my mind has taken a morbid turn, but my analysis of Speer's interlineations in the Spring '47 Suspro gives three atomic wars in the next fifteen years. Dammit, man, you'd better be wrong.

I don't have a Japanese dictionary handy, or I'd include in the margins of one of these pages the dozen or so kanji needed to translate "plemm." They may pop up on one of Milty's covers sooner or later.

Milty's remarks on the watering-down of personality and character are, regrettably, not to be discounted. Two things I find symptomatic of the decline of integrity in U.S. life are the amount of brown-nosing and responsibility-dodging in high places and, pause for a parenthetical exclamation point, the poor standard of English and proofreading which has infiltrated our national magazines within the last two or three years. The latter is allied to the "sigmpainter's plural;" apostrophe sugar, as in fan's, stencil's, milk shake's, which first forced itself on my attention in the fall of '45.

I think it was one of the Luce mags that spawned the idea that Europe under socialism will not be able to achieve the goal set for the socialist state by Karl Marx and that a return to capitalism after a generation or so is therefore inevitable.

It isn't enough merely to dismiss this idea as wishful thinking on the part of a group of conservative capitalists. The Luce magazines have, it's true, come out for support of socialist governments in western Europe as a bulwark against Communist expansion. The above proposition, if my memory is still working, was thrown in as a qualifier, as a sop to those diehard capitalists who can't see government ownership as anything except a prelude to Stalinist communism. (This category includes, much to my surprise, Senator Joseph all of Minnesota.)

The men behind this mental abortion ignored two things: (1) The people of Europe are, by and large, fed up with the unrestrained capitalism of the 19th and 20th centuries, and their reactions will be governed by a "once burned, twice shy" approach. (2) The idea that capitalism-as-we-know-it and national-ownership-as-we-know-it are the only choices available is merely a minor modification of the idea which dominated capitalist thinking in the period between wars and contributed to the rise of Fascism and Nazism.

If Socialism is to have a generation or more to prove itself, that generation should it become plain that socialism has major weaknesses--will be time enough for the development of a number of politico-economic systems, some libertarian and some not, which will compete for public favor. Speculation about mull-s, mull-c systems is going on today, and it isn't confined to journals of economics or sheets like the "New Republic". Some of it has been acclaimed as top-notch stuff.

Shortly after the Battle of the Bulge, one Robert Ardrey had a novel published titled "World's Beginning." I don't remember what the consensus of professional criticism was; I think SRL liked it, and I know that Time panned it for its "ludicrous" economics. You may remember the plot: A terrific post-War II depression, accentuated by a power-hungry labor government (in the U.S.), race riots, and an increase in individual irresponsibility. Two brothers develop a cheap plastic substitute for copper wire, and a new method of financing, which for the moment concerns us most.

Ardrey's inventors gave their workers shares in the profits in proportion to their earnings, and rights normally permitted shareholders in orthodox firms. The original came from holders of short-term bonds who had no voice in company affairs but had first call on company income after payments for supplies and before wages.

There's still some question in my mind as to whether Ardrey rigged his time-stream to the advantage of his economic plan. It might work for small, new plants, but transferring ownership of a corporation valued in the millions under this system would work only if business were good for several years running so that the bonds could be paid off and the workers' wages would remain at or above the agreed basic rates. Ardrey sees no need for labor unions under his system; apparently he is justifiably browned off at the power-hungry type of labor leader. But the workers will need some representation to settle questions of minimum wage and basic wage standards, not to mention legitimate employer-employee grievances.

Ardrey's economics aren't as ludicrous as the capitalist practice of issuing stock to buy new equipment, then paying interest on that stock for years after the equipment has been scrapped or replaced. And they do furnish an answer to the problem of the absentee owner, who is interested in so many corporations that he can't keep abreast of developments in all of them.

H. F. Heard's "Doppelgangers" says very little about economics, but looms as a challenge to the orthodox political setups of the day because its basis is not economic but psychological. Olaf Stapledon, in "Old Man in New World," based the economy of his null-Britain on the education of Britain's youth. Heard selects as his goal the achievement of happiness for everyone, whatever the cost and (disturbingly) whatever the means. His government is an outwardly benevolent dictatorship, his economics unspecified, possibly capitalist, possibly not. Plastic surgery, psychoanalysis, and vocational guidance are available at little or no cost, bread and circuses are furnished in unlimited quantity, and opponents of the system are whisked off for enforced treatments at the nearest mental home. An integral part of the Heard time-stream is the spectacular psychological-political ritual as originated by A. H., but carried to a height which Adolf never dreamed of. Heard's underground opposition is drawn from the believers in democracy and democratic processes—but he does not make clear whether it is western democracy or the other kind. Both the underground and the secret police are organized on a highly scientific basis; it is hard to see, until the closing chapters, how such a superbly fitted out underground could exist without detection.

Heard's thesis is that the political and economic quarrels of the 19th and 20th centuries will not be resolved on pure political or economic grounds but must give way before a program which is primarily psychological. His objectives are humanitarian but his tools—paternalism and the police state—are open to criticism by one whose conditioning is 20th-century American.

"World's Beginning" and "Doppelgangers" are the only recent books I've come across on the remaking of Sol III. The Heard and Ardrey novels show that people who can think are interested in the capitalist-socialist quandary and are attacking the problem with imagination; and where there's imagination, there's hope.

The Constitution according to Speer has lots to recommend it, but I shall probably vote for the Willmorth hui's mailing dates. Both of Speer's proposals require that at least one mailing be put out when the temperature in most parts of the Continental U.S. (and Japan!) is above 85 degrees Fahrenheit. That, I submit, is a fiendishly subtle form of torture to inflict on innocent fans.

I shall certainly vote against the fourth paragraph of the section on Elections if either the first or second paragraph is not changed to make the OE or Sec/Treas responsible for delivering ballots to overseas members so that they will be able to exercise their votes. The same should also apply to ballots on amendments.

—In closing, a word of thanks to Helen Wesson and the Emma Dai-oo Press for mimeographing and for the paper, without which these stencils would have gone to Gus or some Angeleno.