

perhaps Horrey Ackerman, should write a preface for the volume---and it would have heavy lithographed covers prepared especially for it. I suggest full-size lithographed frontis pieces (reprint covers?) for each section. An edition of not less than 300 copies should be prepared, and the book should sell for between 75¢ and \$1.00---with positively no profit (head-heads and exchanges are what keep most fanzines in the red.)

Now I am well aware that all this would represent a terrible amount of work, but still this would be but very little larger than the last six fantasites. If Phil Bronson can turn out this much work in a year and a half, a group of us working together should be able to handle the same without too much trouble. As I see it, the dummied and stencilled work would have to be divided up among many of us as would undertake it, but the finished stencils would have to be shipped to some central point (the BASIS?) for running and assembling. The stapling of so thick a work would have to be done by a printer, and it would be a good idea to have him put on back-strips---but we could do all the rest of it ourselves.

The financing of the book should not prove too difficult. If we sold 100 advance copies at 75¢ each, it would give us a working fund of \$75.00--enough to pay for all the stencils and most of the paper. (200 stencils @ 2.99 per quire - \$59.80; 25,000 sheets 80lb mimeo bond at \$1.00 per 100 - \$25.00.) In addition we would probably have \$35.00 to \$50.00 lithographic expense, plus undetermined mailing costs. The sale of the remaining 300 copies at \$1.00 each should in time defray the deficit.

In order to go before the fans and ask for advance orders, we would have to have the book all dummied ready to stencil. This job could be done now during the war--or at least a start made on it.

The selection of contents for this anthology would be a pretty big job. I suggest that as a starter each FAF member might make two lists, comprising what he considers to be the best items that he's published and the other listing his favorite items in fanzines other than his own. In fact, it might be a good idea to try to run down everyone who has ever published a fanzine, and get such a list from him. Through such independent mags as Fantasite, LeZ, and Acolyte, the fan-readers could be appealed to for lists. Some of the various poll tabulations may be of some assistance; in fact, Widner might even be induced to take a new poll on the matter of anthology selections. It is not wholly clear to me exactly how the final selections should be made from the various lists, but the fellows who actually do the work on the volume can easily enough figure it out.

All these ideas are quite nebular and chaotic (as if I had to draw attention to this fact!), but I honestly believe that I have a reasonable idea here, and would surely welcome some comment on it. I'd particularly like to hear from any of you who would be willing to collaborate on the final publication of the book. As few as six or eight of us could handle this job, but of course, the more help we can enlist, the better volume we can present to fanland along about 1946.

Francis J. Widner

(1946)
I've been on out, and I'd like to see you...
of out-cha. Next time, maybe I'll have...
in mind. Oh, by the way, I know that...
second lavender's name September 10? Full...