

REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS RECENT: June 1980

Being comments upon contributions to mailings of the Australia and New Zealand Amateur Publishing Association done by John Foyster, 21 Shakespeare Grove, St. Kilda, Victoria 3182, Australia.

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Comments on the 73rd mailing

Gary Mason: Somehow I was sure that you would find several thorny issues to raise in this official organ. Official ones, if any, I'll take up in this mailing's OO, but I ought to take this opportunity to make a comment in reply to your remarks about me only just getting a page in in time for the 73rd. One thing we are agreed on is that ANZAPA is a play-by-mail organization, but occasionally the practice of that belief slips away. I've generally preferred to mail contributions to you, even when I knew you would be visiting before the deadline. On this occasion, however, the boot was slightly on the other foot, in that someone was offering to take the contribution to you, and even though this meant the page would reach you a little later (but still 'in time') there seemed to be advantages in taking up the offer. As you would know, Gary, relationships with ex-wives are a little delicate.

Mark Fraser: I'm afraid I don't get the point of the odd paper-shape.

John Bangsund: In your scholarly PROCRUSTEAN PAPERS 2 you manage to avoid the substantive matter: the verb in the sentence cited in your point 1. To 'contribute' is, for example, to 'give or pay jointly with others; to furnish to a common fund or charge'. The Oxford also gives '(t)o give or furnich along with others to a collective stock; to furnishan 'article' to a magazine, etc.' In my view, that which has been prepared for someone else, or contributed to another group, cannot be contributed to ANZAPA - it has already been given to someone else. The Section is less carefully worded than one might like (you were involved in drafting this constitution, were you not?), but it can be interpreted.

Eric Lindsay: Your constitution was going along quite nicely, I thought, until 2 b) where, in an otherwise scholarly listing, you managed to omit 'skiffy'. How can this be? The Hydro continues to sound great, and your comments on organizing a convention read very well indeed until you became bogged down in describing in far too much detail that increasing bane of my life, the auction. Not only did you rave on about it, you managed to omit a few matters, probably because you were overexcited about the auction. Shame, sir, shame!

Terry Hughes: I assume that only us old fogies will remember DANGER MAN, and since it was shown in Australia during a period when I was kept-informed about television I am able to provide you with the information which has already been conveyed in this sentence. // Doesn't selecting jurors only from amongst registered voters lead to a highly non-random/representative panel from which to choose a jury?

Peter & Elizabeth Darling: Peter, I wonder if you feel, after reading this mailing's OBO, that I really could rightly claim to be running a Laura Norder ship?

David Grigg: I am afraid that Gary and I haven't made any progress on old ANZAPA mailings, so your yearnings in this direction will have to be controlled.

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Peter Toluzzi: Police I don't know - well, the name is familiar but I can't place the tune - but SKY is a different matter, since someone gave me/us their first LP. Being me, I found their music boring and condescending.... // The way to react to John Bangsund passing over your contribution with the kinds of comment made is surely to put 'common' materials at the back of your contribution, and original stuff at the front. That way people will be inveigled into commenting and may not even notice that you are doubletiming. // Writing a GUFF report - or any trip report for that matter - isn't that simple. The time involved in writing is more than slight, and not many people can hack it. Consider, for example, the detail to which the various Aussies at SEACON have not gone in reporting on their journies - Allan Bray and Jeff Harris are notable examples. I'm hoping to make some progress in July... // I don't believe it is necessary to degrade the English language so far as you do in your proposed equation of 'nationalism' and 'racism'. They may both be linked with xenophobia, but they are not the same thing (now there's dreadful usage; let's make that 'but they cannot be used interchangeably', or 'but their distinct meanings are easy to identify'). Replacing one word by another may be a great way to start a fight, but is that what we are here for? // I find it fascinating that I should make so many comments to you. Generally, this has been a depressing experience. Perhaps, as I grow older, I find it harder to generate off-the-cuff remarks about this and that. Fifteen years ago I could have knocked off a dozen pages of mailing comments on something like ANZAPA 73, I'm sure. But the reaction I have had to your contribution suggests that maybe it isn't all my fault.

Mike O'Brien: You mention being sick of talk about computers in fanzines; spare a thought for me - I have to read all these comments about television programs. Now while I do know something about television - I've read a few books on the subject - I'm not well-placed to discuss the minutiae when seem to fascinate you and others. Maybe Peter Toluzzi didn't mention TV?

Leanne Frahm: We have ways of dealing with suck-eggsful riders.... We heard a little about your adventures with the Haldemans.

John Foyster: How thoughtful of you to make a remark which led Gary Mason to explain something, which will enable you to change someone's membership status this time around....

Marc Ortlieb: I really ought to comment extensively on your comments on education, but I can't see myself getting out of such a comment in a page or so. Perhaps this is why I am tending to write short comments; I am all too aware of the extent to which I will write an indefinite length at the drop of a hat and indeed, at my present employment my reputation for being prolix is now becoming a trifle embarrassing. Other folks there, thank heavens, can scarcely string a sentence together (they are rather like the teachers in ANZAPA, he said with less than due subtlety), so for the moment they are willing to suffer the verbal torrents I occasionally produce. // At one school my nickname amongst the students was, indeed, 'Clam'.

Leigh Edmonds: It is interesting to note that this time around the Poll Teller neglected to tabulate Tosk's votes; who will break the news to him. Canberra does not seem to have affected you very much. et.

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Comments on the 72nd Mailing

Denny Lien: "If there's no God, who pulls up the next Kleenex?"
was earlier a Bob Shaw remark on the back of HYPHEN, I'm fairly sure. // I came across a mention of HYPHEN in an unexpected place today. Gershon Legman's second collection of limericks, THE NEW LIMERICK (Crown, 1977), mentions HYPHEN in a footnote to number 2635. The surrounding limericks are all stfnal, some by Poul Anderson, by Brian Aldiss, and quite a few from SALACIOUS SCIENCE LIMERICKS. Legman has often quoted from fanzines in the past, so it isn't surprising to see him devoting so much space to the subject. At any rate, there are some neat verses in this collection, of which the following is a reasonable example.

He approached her with gentle affection
And a prominent cutthrust erection.
But the love of his life
Grabbed a large carving knife,
And - (see Diagram 6: Conic Section).

And here's one for JB.

'Twas a trait of small Thomas Love Peacock's
And his brother to sink both their wee cocks
Into fish, snake, or bird,
But the tail they preferred
Was the one that made Thomas love peacocks.

Marc Ortlieb: Perhaps I can no longer challenge your right to be regarded as the least reputable-looking member of ANZAPA for, winter and my failing blood circulation being what they are, I am now to be seen, on several days of the week, lurking within a suit.

David Grigg: Jennifer and I took a day trip to Cambridge by train. I had a cold, and it drizzled. The streets seemed very much as you describe them and I'm afraid my sneezing and coughing encouraged me to take even less interest than I could objectively have justified then (or now). I can remember a few interesting things, not the least of which was the quality of the bookshops. But then that remark could have been made about anywhere in England - wouldn't you agree? I see to recall seeing a car park, though; maybe I was in a different town.

Derriok Ashby: I hope you won't take it amiss when I suggest that I find your tables of numbers extremely boring. Once in a while such information is useful, but in wretched excess, in which you've been specialising lately, it is quite unpleasant. // And tell us all about the current state of ZAPA...

John Brosnan: Your SEACON notes made pleasant reading, if though I had heard most of it before. Do you really think Peter Roberts' suit was pink? Most people would have settled for orange, I suspect.

And so we say farewell to mailing comments; haven't I got anything to say at all?

WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO

Even I am surprised that I could not spin the February mailing out beyond a single page of comments. I'm clearly too dried up. But four pages is four pages, so here are some random notes upon non-random things.

Books For quite some time now I've been a subscriber to a monthly newsletter called THE COMPLETE PAPERBACK SHOPPER (PO Box 233, Kenilworth, Illinois 60043, \$14 a year (airmail only)), but have found it more than a little depressing. There's no doubt that if you wanted to buy the latest sfnal paperbacks this is probably okay for you (they usually list about 40 titles a month) since the cost is US cover price plus \$US1.75 per shipment plus whatever you have to pay in exchange, and that must be far below the shop prices here, as well as you getting earlier delivery, I suspect. It doesn't match Dick Witter's prices, but there you really have to be in a consortium or else a heavy buyer (who presently bulk-orders from Witter, I wonder. I know that Lee Harding usually sends off a couple of orders a year), but you can't go outside stf with Witter. Most people in ANZAPA, I suspect, read something other than stf. Well, TCGS has general books on their lists, and they'll even special order anything which isn't (I haven't tried this) at \$1 a book, which probably isn't too bad if you can afford hardcovers. But this isn't the answer to my prayer, which is for a reliable and preferably discount mailorder bookshop which can get anything in print. I can illustrate the difficulty by remarking that their idea of a quality paperback matches my idea of a mass-market paperback - you may be able to deduce from this what their idea of mass-market is like. So I'm still looking for a good bookshop: any suggestions?

A different kettle of fish entirely is a remainder shop I've been dealing with for several years (DAEDALUS BOOKS, 2260 25th Place NE, Washington, DC 20018) who have supplied me with some cheap and reasonably good hardcovers in that time. They are mainly general in their stock (as they say in the latest catalogue, they emphasize literature and criticism), but you can usually pick up one or two of the twenty SF hardcovers they offer at \$1.49 or \$1.98 US. (Postage here is \$3 per order). This month I'm ordering NOT TO MENTION CAMELS, which I missed out on at UNICON when the price reached some vast figure - I'll be paying \$1.49.

But the main value of DAEDALUS would be for general readers. I assume that John Bangsund has ONE HALF OF ROBERTSON DAVIES and WORLD OF WONDERS, but did he pay more than \$2.98 and \$1.98 respectively? Probably not many will want to imitate my order for INTRODUCTION TO MODERN BULGARIAN LITERATURE (at \$1.98), but presumably William Kotzwinkle has some fans in ANZAPA (\$1.49 or \$2.98 for some recent novels). (Whoops, just flipping through this I noticed another novel (at \$1) which I wouldn't mind having.) Bangsund probably has the Viking edition of A FLANN O'BRIEN READER, but did he pay US\$5.98 or more? Movies? They have occasional books, but this time have a trivia quiz of monumental proportions. Quick, what was Murray Melvin's occupation in A TASTE OF HONEY? What colour was James Dean's jacket in REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE? I don't think I'd buy it, but someone would presumably be interested in THE GREAT UNITED STATES EXPLORING EXPEDITION of 1838-1842 at \$5.98. (Went looking for Symmes' Hole; question for ANZAPAns - what is/was Symmes' Hole?) And so on and so on. Which takes me out on this happy note. June 8, 1980.