

THE



Once again, time rolls round and the mailing date is upon us with its inexorable inevitability, and as time gets shorter and shorter, I'd better get straight on with the reviews.

HOW

HOW (enever) You made it, boy, you made it... the 15th mailing I mean. No comments, just general approval, but oh, how I know that heartfelt phrase, that Cox's don't come true from seed.

CAMPAIGN N.D. Bravo, I'm all for it. Unfortunately, approving of some- (confd, and brunner) thing does not call for much to be added, but just let anyone start putting up arguments against it and then I can marshal a whole lot for it. The interesting thing is that, if as the opponents of ND say there is no danger, either from bomb-carrying planes or fall-out, why, why, why have the states stopped such planes from flying over their own territory? Hm? Answer me that.

For example, on Sunday 18th an exercise was carried out in the Kent area by Civil Defence (which as present constituted is as much good as nothing) and it was to be considered that an atomic bomb had been dropped on Waterloo Station. Now, I assume by the details that they mean an H-bomb because the CD was coming from the Medway area a long long way from Waterloo station, and round about ten time yesterday, I guess that we three at No.7. must have been considered to be fully irradiated, burnt, and blasted. Ben 'em, I'm all for it.

MAN IN SPACE

MAN IN SPACE I was very interested to see this in the NS and even more (new scientist) so to find out about the time-extension. If this is still going, I can get some more questionnaires filled in.

SIZAR (burn) Ah, gawd, those horrible puns. The thought of Cecil sniffing Guinness curled me up. What in the name of Hyphen is that fogged 35 mm doing on the back? I feel there must be some esoteric significance.

ARCHIVE (mercer) Y'know, Archie's scurvy doesn't seem to have affected his output. Look at the stuff he's put into this mailing! Your comments on Zynic - so disappointed that more was

not said about the Bureau at Kettering. Candidly I feel that this was bulldozed out of the way by Ted Tubb, and if only someone had been there who knew Ted's tactics and could have stood up to him, we might have had a bureau instead of a BSFA. Re Blunt - does this mean you didn't get Metric because you couldn't pass in Maths? Damned hard luck. Biped - don't you remember seeing Turner illos in Zenith? And you think MacKey better than Turner? Tut-tut. Remembrance of things past - Vince has some Weinbaum - he's so busy doing the Con report on the BSFA, from tapes but if you want to borrow them, I've no doubt he'd lend it to you if you give a whistle. Let us know. Re advertisements - well, my attitude is this: if the women hasn't the guts to know where to draw the line in buying food, she's as bad as those who can't switch off the tv set and sit there drugged by the tube. Too if you cut advertising, the country's whole economy would go down the drain and there'd be e-

W.D.

Joy K. Clarke,
7, Inchmery Road,
Cotford.
London S.E.6.

ven less money in the pockets of the workers (me, included). Mind you, there is a certain sound basis of fact in your argument, but don't tell me a woman with intelligence can't refuse to buy unnecessary stuff. The main trouble here is, of course that it's the UNintelligent that suffers...although often they're the ones with most money to spend - see the comparison in wages between say an engine driver and a sweeper-upper (about £1 a week).

Quote-cards. I discovered yesterday what nearly happens to some of them anyway. Was checking through the waste-paper box at home and after fishing out the newspapers, discovered an envelope thrown away by my dearly-beloved. A flick of white at the edge caught my eye, and therein I discovered a quote-card (no clotted no in my eye, in the envelope). Another factor is that one corresponds mainly say with one or two people, and from them you receive one after one. You can seldom send them one, because they've already had them. So who are you going to send them to? You can't send 'em out in OMPA (not identical) so you have to send 'em out as and when. Our method is to send several out at once. Bespoke Overcoat - I understand from a Jewish colleague that this is mainly based on Jewish details and that therefore a Gentile might not appreciate it. I suspect this is probably why you were bored. Can't tell as I haven't seen it myself. Zenna Henderson - yes, it's a nice thought that she might be a People person.

FANZINE INDEX This is just one of those things that makes one admire the work and the effort, but one just can't comment. Wonderful work.

TALES FROM THE OUBLIETTE This beat me, I'm not sure just what it's meant to be.

SULFURIC, RINE. Noted. LESSER FLEA . Noted.

CHUX OWN (harris) More Harris scurilous material. As to newspapers etc, here goes... Daily - News Chronicle (us), Express & Mail (Sandy for clippings), The Observer, Reynolds News, Illustrated, Everybody's, John Bull, Punch (now improving again), New Scientist, New Statesman, Tribune, Kentish Mercury (local), Women, Women's Own, Woman's Realm, Woman's Day, Woman's Illustrated (all for market research and clippings), Star Weekly, Satevepost, Writer, Gramophone, Hi-fi News, various oddities at various times. All s.f. zines (yes, we DO read s.f. and talk about it - review it too when our subsines are published). What you can make of our minds out of that list, I don't know.

FANANNIA (steul). Interested in your Worldcon trip and liked very much to get your reactions. Sorry, we were so busy running the damned show - we missed so much of the programme like that. Think the photos in the prozine were very good, but only wish I could read German. There looked so much interesting material in this.

LAUNCHING SITE (clarke) Hah! I should review reviews. Especially yours!!!

PARAFANALIA (burn) Ah, yes, this is good stuff. Disappointed at the payoff of the story, but it was very well written. Faked originals of Oct. 1952 OZ cover, eh? So you can remove the rocket? I know about you...

RON BENNETT A.I. (berry) And how! Here's to our Ron.

DIRECTORY (bennett) Now you see WHY we appreciate our Ron. Bennett for taff.

VERITAS (ber-stom) The whole point about controversy is that it doesn't arise until someone disagrees with you out loud (such as in a recent

Bennett subzine.) Then, of course, once it's in print, comes the controversy. For instance, state you don't like someone and give reasons, then you'll get it - in the neck, probably. I'm willing to be your scapegoat. No more x's in the margins - so what can I say but another good issue. Life gits tejus, don't it?

MORPH (roles) Aha, now I've got it. Just shows how dim I am... those 1,000 books are the ones you've bought, not just read - I must be getting senile. I see you got a copy of the ORIGINAL edition of Burn, Witch, Burn, for quarter the original price too. Not this current upstart being claimed by the publishers as an original.

By the way, if you should see a copy of the Penguin Art Series on Edmund Burra on your rounds, would you get it for me. I've been searching for years for it and it's been out of print for about 10 of 'em. Not over 2/6 tho', please John, postage extra. "Hidden Persuaders" - had a reservation in for months at the library and am now next on the list. Should have read it by the time I get the mailing - I hope. But I can't place the story you want the title of, tho.

Here we are again, back at the old idea of personally training new fen. Yeah, and I have a horrid feeling who'll get stuck with it down in London - good old Unke Winkent. As bloody usual. Ho-hum.

SCOTTISHE (lindsay) Yes, your comments on G.M.Carr. The same thing struck you as struck me - the sickening desire to hurt. She's been dealt with as you no doubt know. Generally enjoyed Scottishe, as usual.

DOGIE (pav-l-t) Enjoyed the Remudo, lots of logic, good sound sense. Re your comments on Phenotype - I don't feel that any specific fen should bear the cost of a poll - this should automatically be OMPA expenses. I agree with your comments on Sputnik and the States. I felt for a long time that, without a war, nothing would be done on space research in a hurry. The Russians have saved us that - the sheer spirit of competition should do it now. An illo by Shere! An illo by Shere? Nancy or M-L? If M-L where's she springing from?

PHENOTYPE (dikini) So long as all your 'little squibs' are like Phenotype, we shall have little to complain about. Good luck with your exams. Don't worry about elite and ditto, it seems perfectly legible in my copy. Who says Arthur Hayes is a fringe-fen, and him on the waiting-list? You who live in the US don't know that 16 r.p.m. is for people going along in cars, or for changing where every 20-minutes is too frequent. There are some 16 rpm records on sale in the US. Your comment on Satan's Child was most amusing. Another enjoyable zine.

SATAN'S CHILD (ratigan) But, Dorothy, this BNF attitude isn't taken up by the BNFs ils-meme. It's those who would like to think of themselves as BNFs but who aren't that make this attitude that 'has an irritant quality'.

Why should an sf society act as the spearhead for the development of good s.f. in "the legitimate arts", hm? Remember Ken Slater did a damned good job on organising so that neofens could contact those already in fandom? Should he have used such an organisation to develop s.f. in the leg. arts? After all, what I consider as literary s.f. - Day of the Triffids, 1984, for example - are of course in the legitimate arts NOT considered as s.f. Once anything gets really well done the critics deprive it of the name of s.f. Surely, anyway, it's up to the artists and authors themselves to improve the quality, not the readers, who can only act as a spur.

Ted Tubb, of course, does his usual stirring. Pity he didn't make some useful constructive criticisms, either in your zine or at Kettering. What, for instance, did he ever do in group activities, except participate in a ballet? It's all right

by Ted if organisation is undertaken, provided of course it's undertaken by someone else, probably Vinç. It's odd how everyone always turns round with the idea of an organisation in which Vinç will do the work.

I'll tell Ted too why there are so few subscribers to fanzines. Because most of the editors are now limiting their circulation (due to the expense of paper and stencils) and are therefore using them for exchanges with fanzines they would like to read, instead of sending them to people who might pay, and might not, and who can't even be bothered to drop a note to the editor when they receive a copy.

Of course, it's easy to suggest that Vinç's idea entailed a phony organisation, which it didn't, but that's typical of Ted's "stirring proclivities". What Vinç suggested was that perhaps the usual business subterfuges might be used to gain prestige. If that's phony, then will Ted state honestly, hand on heart, and mean it that he or his ad manager never misquoted the circulation of Authentic? I've never yet known any prozine that didn't exaggerate its circulation, so as to obtain ads, and if Panthers didn't then I'll want to know how come. This sort of destructive and twisted criticism tends to get a little boring, rather the same as Gem Carr.

VAGARY (wild) Yeah, you know how I enjoyed your comment on Steam. And what d'ya mean, the kids wheel guys round days before Nov.5? Hell, I was saying no in the middle of SEPTEMBER last year!

I know just what you mean when you talk about the grind of putting on a con - as usual, leave it to the mugs, you Vinç and the other suckers who get roped in for the work. What do you mean leaving me out of the beefcake talk? I'm all for it, but steady, steady, my favourites are Sintra, Brynner, Crosby, and the now late Ronald Colman.

Talking of Sandy and the 6th commandment, we've just discovered why he got all tied up with 7th and 6th. Apparently, the RC bible differs in the order in which the commandments are listed from the Anglo-Catholic one - which now leaves people to wonder which 6th and which 7th he meant. Black Market in Germany - now surely you know only the hard-hearted can make profits out of the poor. What did you expect yourself to do?

Talking of water closets in the 16th century, don't forget that earth closets were the thing till they caught on. Barth was shovelled on to the ordure and made jolly good humus -- eh, Paul?

Suprememoments, I might as well add mine. I was solo on a cycling holiday and had been taken across the Fowey river about 10.30 at night by Daphne du Maurier and family, because the ferry had stopped at 9 and I didn't know. Bike and all. It was a nice night and I decided to keep on for a bit and about two I decided to take a kip in a nice convenient haystack. Well wrapped up, and lulled by the rustlings and scrapings of the mice in the stack I slept a couple of hours. The chill of dawn woke me and ahead, on the hills above St. Austell were the kaolin slag hills, gleaming a wonderful dawn-pink in the rising sun's light. I cycled into St. Austell and had a delicious breakfast there, but I've never forgotten those hills glowing pink in the dawn, even tho it's ten years ago.

Strongly agree with you about music - emotionless music is equivalent to that produced by computers. Congratulations on the Arthurian article.

BLUNT (s&erson) Can't think why there's no x's in the margin - must be because I discuss the damn thing at home instead of in OMPA. Resolve to do better next time. I enjoyed it though. I should do, I agree with what you say, though even if I didn't, as Francois Marie Galouet would say, 'I defend to the death your right to say it'. And let 'em puzzle that out.

Nobody seems to like Tories now, only Tories.... Sid Bounds

COLD COLLATION,

being a re-hash on ROAST FANDOM.

Sandy stated last issue in BLUNT that, if the neofan is not met on his own level first, he will be lost to us. Speaking personally, I like to consider myself a trufan - in fact, I believe other people often consider me as a seventh fander (which I don't mind) in spite of the fact that the first contact I had with fandom was the Medcon in 1953. I first noticed a mention of fandom in, I believe, Nebula, where Operation Protest was mentioned and eventually I joined this and Ken Slater introduced me to many of his contacts. I then saw a note somewhere, either through Ken or the prozines, of the Medcon and knowing nothing about fandom, wrote to Tony Thorne asking him to book me a room at a hotel so I could go.

I believe that this caused considerable consternation - an unknown fan writing out of the blue, asking for a hotel room. But he did book me a room, I attended - and was completely confused, and desperately shy. Not knowing what to do, I asked Win Thorne (no relation, was she? I've forgotten) if there was anything I could do to help. There was ... collating and stapling the Medway Journal. In the midst of this, I met MachieVarley, Dave Newman, Stuart and Connie Mackenzie, and Eric Bentoliffe. Furthermore, there was a gang of crazy people running around squirting waterpistols - I was mystified. One was an eminent author, another a now bearded trufan, known to Bob Madle as sercon. Gawd, what an odd crew. But nobody, I repeat NOBODY met me on my level and I still wasn't lost to fandom... tho' perhaps you wish I were.

I had no more contact although I tried (didn't I, dear?) ... I tried to find out about Operation Watersplash for the Supermancon (remember, dear?) but was unsuccessful. I had to go up by train, didn't I, DEAR? Chuck Harris, Fred Smith took me under their fannish wings - Chuck introduced me to Hyphen and pogo. Now, I ask you, what sort of treatment is this for a poor mystified neofan? Yet, I figured the slang out, I laughed at Pogo and I've been a fan ever since.

My attitude then is that, if the trufan is a possible, he or she'll join fandom whatever the difficulties. I did: others can. It's the fan who'll develop only to fringe-fandom who needs encouragement and gentle persuasion, not the trufan.

ADVERTISING REARS ITS UGLY HEAD AGAIN.

Well, Sandy pinched the picture for his last issue from WPN, so I might as well add the following taken from it too. A motivation research man was in a pub and swears the following is gospel. He met a fairly typical man-in-the-street and the conversation went:

RESEARCH: What brand of cigarettes do you smoke?

Friend: Players, of course. Have one?

R: Thanks. Why do you smoke Players?

F: Well, I've always smoked them.

R: Come on now, why do you really smoke Players?

F: Well, they please me.

R: You're drinking Guinness. Why?

F: It's a good drink - and I think it's good for me.

R: Hmm, how about razor blades?

F: Always use Gillette. Force of habit, I suppose.

R: But there's a deep-down reason for everything, Joe. Why Gillette?

F: Expect it's a good start to the morning.

R: Revealing. What do you do when you've a headache or feel a cold coming on?

F: Oh, Aspro. Always take Aspro when I'm one degree under.
R: Finally, Joe, are you influenced by advertising in your selection of branded goods?
F: No. Ads are just a pack of nonsense. Never read them - don't believe in them. I just stick to the names I know.

See, Archie?

Finally, a comment from the WPN ... good advertising is that which is forgotten - in other words, as the above conversation shows, you don't remember anything specific, just the name.

THAT SHOW

Yes, we've seen it. After sickening all our visitors with the tape for the last 18 months or so, we've seen it. And some time I hope to see it again, but not yet. MFL, of course. The colour is terrific. Stanley Holloway acts everybody off the stage, while Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews take a lot of their basic mannerisms from, and in many parts the actual script is almost word for word the same as, Leslie Howard's film of Pygmalion. Julie Andrews, though suffering from throat trouble did wonders with her part.

The thing that struck me most was the similarity of Boston's costumes to pictures by Aubrey Beardsley in such places as the Yellow Book. The show itself is definitely worth seeing, if only for the Michael-Kidd-style choreography, and it's still possible to get seats (about 15/- to a £) with about only a three month wait. I recommend it. Those in London could try CITY 1473 for tickets - it's a good agency.

Advertising agents of course are cashing in on the show wholesale, stocking manufacturers in particular. 50 records of one sort or another are available all of MFL music. And at 49/- the show-cast LP can stay available too, we've got better channels. The old story about increased production bringing reduced costs to the public has been rather forgotten in this case.

THE AMERICAN PALATE - or lack of it.

Every now and again, one sees a mention in American books about the insipidity of American frozen foods. Now this is something that I couldn't understand until the other day a memory struck me. Someone in a film said "Where's the ketchup?" (catsup to the Yanks). Part of the answer struck me then. Most of the time, Americans eat highly-seasoned food. It might not have seasonings in, so then they add ketchup, which itself is strong tasting. Blimey, trying to taste delicate flavours through these is like trying to feel pain in a sore tooth when it's anaesthetised. If one's palate is continually bludgeoned by tastes that practically knock the tastebuds off one's tongue, then the more delicate flavours like young peas, or crisp un-french-dressed lettuce and tomatoes straight off the vine are going to take a helluva lot of finding. Then again, a lot of American frozen food manufacturers believe the bigger the vegetable, the better. But the small young vegetables nearly always have more and better flavour. Over here we can taste our frozen foods all right. I feel sorry for the Americans losing their sense of taste like that... I'd suggest they stop taking strong seasonings for a while... then in time they'd notice the difference.

SANDY: Please write out 100 times, excellent is spelt with an e and an e and an e. Your tendency to spell it with an e is repellent.

Is all, see you next time.

Joy