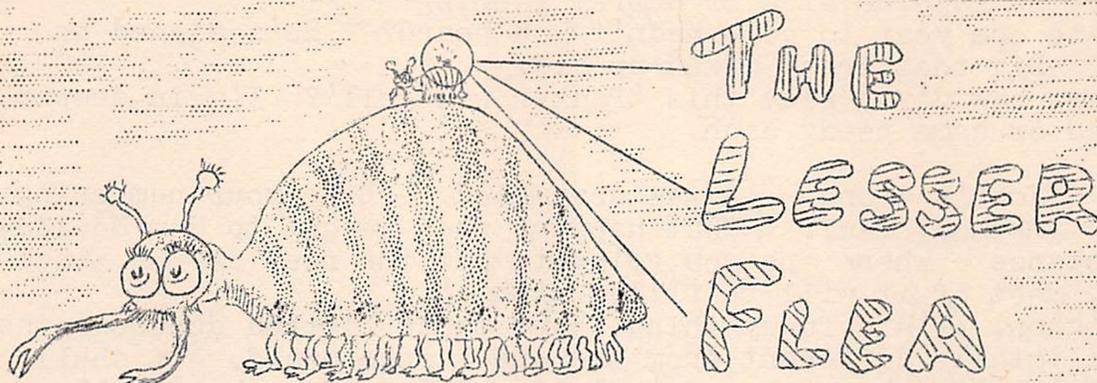


A Joy Goodwin Gmpazine



Yes, it's here - THE LESSER FLEA - the critzine you have waited for so long. I had decided only to discuss the second mailing, but it's now so long since that, that anything I had to say would be decidedly out of date. So... to No.3 and we'll forget all about No.2 except where there are some items I felt really deserved discussion.

These are in no particular order, just as they came out of the envelope. Here goes....

DYSTELEOLOGY. I wonder if Walt gazes open-mouthed at the puns flowing from the typing fingers of this zine's editors? Long live Bathmat - may it never be all wet.

Esoterics is doing fine - I look forward to more of this. As for the fan's Bartholomews, why did you miss out the offices of Gestetner and Roneo?

WOZ. Now this is the sort of thing I like - a nice hodge-podge of burblings. As Walt says, with friends like John Berry...Poor James!

Many thanks for the gen on Armagh and for the kind comment on Brantub 1. Praise from Ghod is enough to give me antigrav without a machine. Liked Madeleine's illo on the back. How nice to see her fanning.

BILCYN Didn't you get bored typing that lot out Ken? I suddenly spotted a sentence tucked in the middle. Nice work on the back page. I could read bits of it but was "Here is some more time wasted" all that was there, or did I give up too soon? Congratulations on the new club.

SNOOZE. Now this I like Geoff. The cover is real Quandry style. (M.H.D.O.I.F. is from P/O Prune = Most Highly Derogatory Order of the Finger, which led to the succinct phrase Extract Digit or Get Your Finger Out!) Let's see lots more in Snooze than just comments tho' Geoff.

IO. Huh, TWO Wingrove zines together. Now I liked this one - Geoff showed he had a sensayuma and wasn't being

as unfair to S.C. as I had thot. Sorry Geoff, but anyway Snooze is off on the right foot and, with Io folding, we look forward to more of the happier side of Surrey fanning.

Pete one year to go - hadn't you heard? He's signed on again! Dig that crazy mixed-up kid.

Hey, how d'you play this 'Banker wins all'? I'm in desperate need of some ready cash.

HOW!!! John's wrong - it was scrambled. Like your numbering method, Paul. What happens when we get to How No.135, for instance - where are you going to put the rest of the zine? I mean, most of it will be filled with !!!

Y'know, it's a funny thing about these flatbed dupers - they are all totally different from the one I once owned. I shall have to let Vinz have more details for DWT, and perhaps I'll natter more about it in the next mailing.

The idea of a negative stencil amused me intensely.

Agree about In Memoriam, Paul. I felt that a fanzine was not really the place for showing feelings like this. It made me feel as uncomfortable as if I were intruding into something personal and private. No, Marie-Louise is lots better when she is being funny.

PAUL! (Shocked silence as I read your comment on Platform) Are you, too, trying to keep we fannes out of fandom? I thought better of you...in fact, I wrote a rude letter to Vitriol saying how much better I thought of you. But if I don't get a good reason for your comment mighty soon, I'll write to Poisonpen himself and retract my former denunciation! So there!

SCOTTISHE. Well, having as a Scot felt for a long while that it should be Schottische, I now bow to superior decisions, but wha hoppen to your cover? I could hardly see it: that was the lightest grey ink I've ever seen.

Nice little poem Ethel - yours or Rabbie's? Your duping has definitely improved here, but still could improve.

Ah, happy memories of first-footing - how lucky you're dark-haired, Ethel. They never let me carry the lump of coal - red haired women are not considered lucky when first-footing, ye ken. They always made my stepfather go first.

Your comment about the staples reminds me of the time Walt sent me a Hyphen with a blank page. I returned a bitter tirade of his Irish meanness and backcame a page and a wee bittie map with the word "Sorry!" and a piece of cello tape covering a zig-zag on it. Took me a long time to guess that the z.z. was three staples! I kept this intact as a fine example of what I consider real fannish humour.

Nope, no school teacher...once wanted to teach Biology (you know, the birds and bees stuff) but my grandmother scotched that idea.

"Murder must advertise" - lovely thing. I like all Sayers detective stories - the clues are all fairly laid out and I can usually solve the puzzle before the book confirms my deduction. "The Nine Tailors" was one I particularly remember and also "The

Five Red Herrings", where a tube of Flake White was one of the essential clues. Lovely stuff.

LAUNCHING SITE. Vinç, why this fried-egg complex? Everywhere I look, I see little o's with  's round them. What gives?

Ah, "Cargo"! A lovely thing that.

Now look, bud, that comment about Brantub was ambiguous and I don't like ambiguity. I wonder you didn't say the il-los were the best thing in the issue. I'll settle your hash next time I see you.

And let Mashworth come and see me if he wants. I'm keen to meet the ~~monster~~ man. And it's all very well subtly distorting common chemicals but suppose I distort Salicylic Acid and call it Scallicylic Acid, I'll only get some clot howling "Why doncha learn ta spell?"

Loved that crack about Ron's duping.

Your comment on good cartoonists - it's here. Arthur Atom Thomson (no P.) Wonder if he'll do some for Brantub?

Liked this Vinç. Those who refuse to read mailings containing only reviews are going to miss out on a lot of interesting comments and discussions, I reckon.

NOISE LEVEL. Wheeee! The Art of Punning - ye Ghods, John you always make me feel so inferior in this line - how do you keep it up? Remember that time at Ron and Daphne's when you all kept it going solidly for about 30 minutes on bread and allied subjects and I just couldn't think of even one for laughing. Not fair.

Best of all, I think, was Ballads of Deep Space.

Poems... mmm...not as good as The Jew. That was a real wow! More like that, please.

Lend me that Star Short Novels, please, John?

POGROM. BAGMABS, whoopee! Dear John. If ever my poetry is pubbed proper-like, I'll dedicate it to you. I've never known anyone so appreciative before.

As I said before, it was Scrambled. Let's fight it out some time. And I agree with you about MYOB. I too knew it when I was only 9 and that's adding quite a number of years to yours.

Rah, about G.M. Hopkins. Remember "The mealed-with-yellow sallows" and "Look, look at the fire-folk". Oh yes, how I agree with your disquisition at Nigel.

Wonder how many OMPAns know what GRALLOCH is? Ya should ha' been a Scot.

PLATFORM. Cover - good. Many thanks for those kind words on Brantub. My head has now reached $7\frac{7}{8}$. As for the comment on J.K.H.B., yes, it's him and he wrote it when he was only seventeen! Wonder child - wish I had his genius. There's another, written by him at 19, in the December edition of ASF (U.S. edition). Wonder what he'll do now? There isn't enough of this zine to suit me - nothing

to get my teeth into, as it were.

HEP. I-yi? What's this sneaking in on us?

Re Mad as a Horror Comic - I've been panicking about this too. Both Mad and Panic could be classed as such under the definitions of the new bill and I'm keeping my fingers crossed. After all, is a lampoon a horror-comic? I think it's too adult for that.

INCANTATIONS. Now then Ken, whom did Dylan himself challenge before he got his stuff published?

Your comments anent the wheel strike a familiar note - I believe it was used in a recent issue of a prozine. (I'm not saying you cribbed it - it's just that it rings a bell.) I agree with you about the possibility, Ken, and wish I could hazard a guess at what would be the object at which we should be striking our brows - if I could I'd be worth plenty moola now.

Is it true that a large majority of fans are jazz-fans too? I very much doubt it. As far as I know the majority of the older fans (over 28) prefer classics, as I do.

That story - arrgh! Worse'n Shaggy Dogs - but I laughed. Consider that a tribute, Ken.

DUPE. Yep, I know it wasn't in the mailing and I was gonna save me beef about the Jazz-zine until I come to it, but since it's not here, I can't.

Now, look, Mashworth. I don't subscribe to Bem and be a member of OMPA for peanuts y'know. Why did I get no Jazzine? Yes, I know I don't understand jazz and prefer classics but at least you could try to convert me. Not only that, but I didn't even get an AMOUR. I hate you. N'Amour for now.

SCHNERDLITES. Oh, the lovely little thing. And the colour prospectus inside was so attractive. Say how did you manage to scrounge all that lot, Nigel?

First, though I can't come to the Convac, I hope it's highly successful. You deserve it for all the work you're putting in on it.

Cover - I thought that on the compressor was meant to be sign language till I realised it was a couple of switches and dials. Silly me.

You've done it now - see that one for Anti-Schnerdlites Cream. These ads are fun.

Please, more like Telepussey. Pamela is furiously jealous of your using her animal in your zine.

Art Treasures certainly shows an ability in shading. But you don't know how to draw those 5-pointed stars. You don't do each point separately. Just one line thus -  and then  Start where you like, see,  and then finish when you start running  into the beginning.

Liked your reply to DAG. I don't, I just don't believe it - no fan would DARE to have a g.f. called Helen Highwater. No, you are a lying hound, Lindsay. Per Abdullah ad astra? HUH?

Hey, who said poetry had to rhyme? Have you never heard of blank verse? I won't insist that mine is perfect blank verse, but

really, Nigel!

Now look, we want none of these cracks about 'immaculate'. Someone with a low mind might start getting ideas. But wait till you see B.T.3!

Classical music is not a set repetition. Compare some of Sir Malcolm Sargent's conducting with that of Stokowski and see. You just haven't listened to real classics carefully enough and there's no jazz that can 'send' me like Stanley Pope conducting say "The New World" or Thomas Beecham with "Song of the High Hills". And now look what's happened to the Polovtsian Dances... 'stranger in paradise', indeed! One armed with wrecking irons. Now Borodin will go the way Chopin and Tschaikovsky went, I suppose.

Can't tell a Mal from a Burgess - lovely!

A delightful piece of work Nigel - more please.

(Was nice to see you at the Globe - can't you come again soon?)

BURP. (2) Bless you for liking Vignette - I think it fills a definite need in s.f. and too many of the OMPAns seem to think that because they don't like poetry, none of us ought to.

(3) There was a lot missing from my point of view - the bottom of Page 2 and top of Page 3 might just as well have been a blank. How about a checklist of say Bach just to satisfy me. Archie's prose-verse was neatly done except for an oryble finish to verse two.

BURP GOES SLICK. (I've forgotten how I was typing this - the set of stencils I did for the first half of Hoppy are with the duplicator, commonly known as Vinyl - all opportunities given for puns! - and so I'm hoping that my style is consistent, though it probably isn't.) My Ghod! And how slick, too. I liked it, but the poetry's not to my taste except for your own piece Ron. Rousse? Rousse? My French fails me - qu'est que c'est que ca? (Sorry no cedilla) Whilst I liked it I was somewhat puzzled as though the words fell with a nice cadence I couldn't really make sense out of them. Now, don't let anyone say 'but if it doesn't make sense and it's just the cadence, it isn't poetry' because if they do I shall retaliate by saying read Louis MacNeice's "Bagpipe music,... aloud. The words just don't need to be understood. Roll out the next Burp.

NEEDLE. Hi, Fred. But surely one's fanzine is written to please oneself and, since I like poetry and want constructive criticism, it would therefore be senseless not to include it?

Fanbiography - nice Fred. Nice duping too.

STEAM. It's true, every word of it. Ken showed me the actual sentence. I've already told you I enjoyed this, Ken, but let's put it on record anyway.

W H E R E I S U G H ?

You henpecking husband you - let the girl do some fanning. Back to the boiler, Bulmer!

BURP (4) What goes on? Jhazz - phooce! Verse - poetry let me look it up in the dictionary. Verse - n. a metrical line; poetrv: - (Huh?) - a single stanza etc. etc. Poetry n. verse;

poems in general. What was that you were saying, Ron?

Typing paper from W.H.S. My Ghod, how much? And Duping on it too?

Aha! Nigel says classics are bound by convention and now see Ron says old style jazz is too. If that's the case, then why doesn't Nigel like classics, huh? Over to you two.

I'll lend you a coupla Mads after they've been the rounds here. I like Burp, Ron, even if I do pull it to pieces.

OMNIBUS. More lettering pinched from Quandry. Hah, see your views on Tiot and Titot corresponded with mine, only I didn't add fen to the end of Twerp. D'you remember the time when the Forces discovered there was a dictionary meaning for Twerp which then caused much indignant denial when unmarried females were called Twerps, or wern't you in the Forces then? Eh, what'd you say? Oh yes - this should be of interest to Archie - twerp means a pregnant fish!

Thanks Joan for the comments on TAFF. I do agree wholeheartedly about the London v The Rest angle. I feel fandom could be 'united' but till the "London O are a lot of swine" attitude is dropped, it is difficult to say anything at all that someone or other couldn't misinterpret. (Later... the Con seems to have blown this atmosphere away now, though, and I think we can rely on all feuds being fannish instead of spiteful.) Ken had to drop out of TAFF for business reasons, which is a pit.

You mean you actually silenced Sandy?

Nice Joan, the duping while a bit messy in patches doesn't yet compare with Ethel's.

T.I.O.T. This is one Twerp, Ja? I liked Mal's piece particularly. Is Brantub one of those you think will grow into a REAL FANZINE? Please, pretty please? Is "Vague...Futile" a legpull or is it just that I can't understand Flemish?

Yes, let's have T.I.O.T. again.

T.I.T.O.T. This, of course, is the other one. Hah, lurved that cover. And when is the Twerpcon, Dave? No d date - you want us all to stay away? Best piece I felt was "Quiet evening at home."

Thanks for the kind words on Brantub Dave. But why, if the poems are good, can't I find someone who'll publish them?

ARCHIVE. Dear Archie, that was fun! And you saw the TAFF thing as humourous - that was a good way to look at it. Liked that checklist. Paralysis-railway. Ah yes how I remember Lincoln. Ever tried to get you cycle up Steep (isn't it?) Hill? OOOH Archie, what you said! L.O justifying its existence with Nirvana, SFN and - but why go on? Vinz listed them somewhere in answer to Dawn Allen. And what about EYE?

I'm with Irish fandom - I don't like Spraggy either Thought once I was odd fanciulla out, but as you can see I'm in good company.

Hominy Grits is a sort of rough ground flour - I think - used in American cooking.

CAPRICE. Oh, M-L, that lovely Bloch letter - and DAG too.
Thanks for the comments on B.T. Here's hoping,
but, wha happen to you - long time no hear - you're not ill
are you?

Liked the idea of signing your zines personally. Real gone.

NOW & THEN. I've just thought - N & T. Now & Then. Needham
& Turner. Clover, aren't I? Wonderful Turner
illo - and that glorification of the Christmas 'i'. Yku.

Widower's are wonderful. May I write a testimonial?

Harry, before those horrid RFDS hear me, please may I
join the RFV & SDS - after all, I'm a Scot. The good old
Maxwell clan - my forebears -- oh, well, let's not go into
that - it's a lo-o-ong story. This zine I want more of.

Oh yes, there's

OFF-TRAILS. Thank Ghu, I've filled requirements anyway.
I wasn't sure if I'd be able to do so but it
looks as if from now on the fannish typer will be busy. First
a complain - I give you my vote verbally -- dammit, you only
live DOWNSTAIRS! - yet you didn't count it. No fair! Just 'cos
I didn't want to spoil the zine. Anyway it's in print this
time, so count you.... sample to Ass. Ed. first and then, on
O.K., post.

Officers, oh well - if there's space later on and time,
I might natter about them.

T.D.I. Chuck, I loves ya! This is really up to the TED
standard - or awful thought - is that blasphemy or
heresy? I loved and the illos by ATOM & BOSH.

BIAS BINDING. This was more fun. And that receipt is strictly
true - have you got one for cooking grunch?
Don't you ever do anything other than fanning (work I mean not
sex. Come to think of it Vin~~o~~ defined s.f. as the lowest den-
ominator of fandom, but surely it should be s-x?)

THE FANNISH CASE. Gosh Congratulations Ethel for having the
judge find for you. There's only one
thing - Chuch's duping does show up the rest of the issue.

MORPH. Here's another friend of mine - John, for liking my
brew of grue, I'm sending a kiss on your copy of Hoppy.
Why Brantub - because somebody either used it in Australia or
else Pamela wanted to use it for Wigwam. I've always wanted to
call a zine Gallimaufry ever since I first read Ivor Brown years
& years ago before the war but wait till you see the next Brantub.

Ah, but John, I'm working on the thesis that these talents
are latent. Knitting isn't latent, it has to be taught, but
something like, say, running when you can only walk would be a
latent talent and can't be taught by just being shown how to do
it. This is really interesting me. Are there no hypnotists
in OMPA. The cover of (2) is still wet - what did you use,

boiling tar?

Congratulations on the repro of the oriental languages, the Urdu in particular. It's difficult enough with pen & paper let alone stencilled. I know, I at one time started to learn Arabic the pukka written stuff - not your Imshi type.

That pic of Saturn looks familiar - Patrick Moore, Guide to the planets, yes? If so, what did you think of that peculiar picture supposed to represent an eclipse of the sun by Mars?

Nice work.

I seem to be in a good mood today - I don't think I've really panned anyone. Dupe, Zymic & Rune are missing. WHY?

CAPRICE 2. Thought "Kiss me again, Stranger" was the one about the girl who killed men in the Air Force. Which one d'you mean?

MEANDER. Y'know looking at Atom's illose to this I have a sneaking suspicion Chuch has a Weissenbach Complex. Is that his specs you wear, Chuch?

DUPE. Has it ever occurred to you that we disclose our characters a great deal more in our criticisms than in the rest of our stuff. Mal shows himself to be a real nice type - except when he plays horrible tricks like throwing Confetti over Irish Fandom.

ESPRIT. Why no E.2? I'm compelled to say I like Daphne - even if not for herself alone, just because she was the only one to realise my brew of grue, so generally disliked, was meant to take the micky. I'll buy you a drink for that Daphne. I did enjoy both your and Ron's fanbiogs. To think of you standing outside the W.H. And now look how you toss thos sherries back!

ZYMIC. Oh yes, there's that complex again. Fried eggs, it is. Sunny side up too! Now, look here, Clarke, smo-o-o-ooth is my patent (courtesy Red Skelton) & now everyone will think when I use it that I pinched it from you. What with someone pinching Gallimaufry and now you robbing my vocabulary it just ain't safe to open my mouth unless I'm alone. And there's no egoboo in that! You be careful or I'll renew that challenge!

Lettering guides - I've got some acetate. Perhaps you'd like to try some and then give your official verdict?

That's all folks, only a little room now, so I'd like to mention that with the co-operation of Pamela and Daphne I've proposed that the officals next time be Pamela Pres. Daphne Treas. and me A.Ed, which if we're elected would mean that we are close enough to consult if necessary and also that we shall be able to draw upon the experience gained during the last year by Ken, Chuch and Vinç. How d'you fancy OMPA as a feminist organisation? Vote for us, huh?

Till June then, when Brantub should be really something if the ideas I've got lined up really come off.

From 204 Wellmeadow Rd. S.E. 6. OMPA POSTMAILING