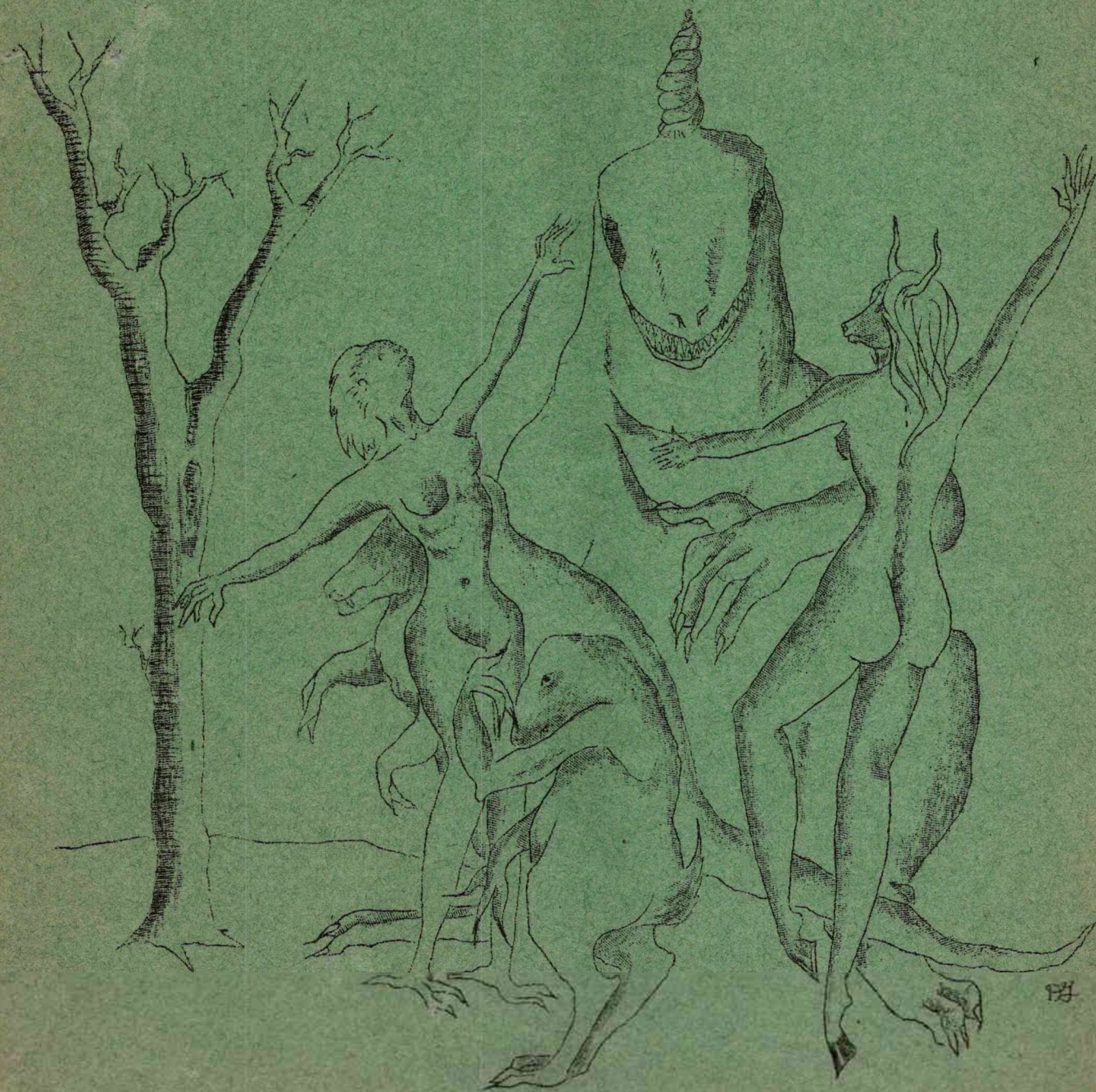


RACHE 12

Incunebulous Publication 212

N°ADA 19
DECEMBER

1963



This is RACHE 12
published by Bruce Pelz
Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, California 90024

for the 19th N'APA Mailing
December 1963

"Though He Might Be Less Humble..."

I really meant to have a zine in the last mailing -- it's the first one I've missed since I joined as a charter member, and I hated to lose a perfect record up by missing a mailing at all. But there was too much to do when I got back from the Discon that seemed/was more important than RACHE, so I didn't get around to it. Now Fred is making noises about "If you want to drop out, I'd like to know early..." so I'd better get this thing finished if I want to protect my almost-omni-apan status. Can't afford to let N'APA get down to two charter members with continuous membership. Hey -- maybe the three such Charter members ought to form some sort of a tontine, say the last one left gets the others' N'APA collections or something. How about it, GM? Stan?

I didn't put that Referendum in the 17th Mailing just to be snide, people. I was a bit sick of having people who were supposedly interested in the NFFF and its affairs a lot more than I was say things that indicated N'APA ought to be disbanded for lack of interest. When the President of the NFFF stays in N'APA "just to make sure it hangs on somehow," and the Chairman of the Directorate can't finish a six-page zine in six months when he has several pages already run off, and an OE warns people off the organization, etc. etc., I see cause for asking the entire membership whether they want to continue. Evidently they do, from the response. Now, if the quality -- of repro, even if not of content -- would improve, I might see better evidence that N'APA is worth continuing. I'd hate to have to count the illegible crudzines that have showed up in the last few mailings, and tick off the people who have no idea of margins, typography or layout at all.

So I'll limit myself to mailing 18:

A MONOGRAPH ON ASHES

GEMZINE 4:37 Sorry, GM, but that rule specifying the number of pages which must be textual material is necessary, and I'm glad it passed, no matter how small the margin. There are some people hanging onto APA memberships who put in as little as they can get away with, and some of them would be quite content to scribble some alleged "artwork" on six stencils and send it in for their minimum activity. SAPS has had a limitation like this for several years, and we find that it makes the deadwood types put in a little more work -- presenting, as a general rule, something more interesting to the membership -- than they would otherwise. Doesn't it, Jack Harness?

Re your inquiry to Armistead of the fittingness of Harvey Forman being member 69: As you could find from any good slang dictionary, "69" is used for "mutual oral intercourse," being derived from the French who found the two digits in the number analogous to two people engaged in such action. "69" has thus become an "obscene" or at least "dirty" number -- hence its fittingness for Forman and his crudzines. I'll be interested in seeing how many people try to answer you at all -- and in what way. The best dictionary for slang (American slang, anyway) is Wentworth and Flexner -- the one over which the controversy raged this past year. It is concise, accurate, up-to-date, and comprehensive. For best use, it should be used with a dictionary of classic and British



slang such as Partridge.

One problem with the lack of a Waiting List, in N'APA: the OE gets stuck with all sorts of extra bundles he has to try to get rid of. Fred has done quite well in this category, selling off the extras to anyone with the interest and money, but such a program must necessarily include sales to non-Neffers, which rather defeats the purpose of the organization. The second solution is to adjust the number of copies needed to the number of members in the club at the time the mailing goes out, and Fred has done this, too, with the varying 42/46 copies needed.

The only trouble with this is that it becomes mandatory for a contributor to read the AA every time to determine how many copies are wanted. Admittedly, this should be done anyway, but as you well know, a lot of people just sit down to bash out their pages with no regard to the past mailing(s), and are quite likely to send in whatever number of copies were required the last time they sent anything in.

I have no interest in prescribing subjects of discussion for N'APA -- or prescribing others. Let the members talk of what they wish; if it interests me, I'll read it. I do, however, reserve the right to bitch at cruddy mechanics of publication. Even neos should realize that publications should be legible, and that their N'APA efforts, far from being discarded in a year or so, will be held in several more or less permanent collections. Besides my own collection of bound mailings, which will go eventually to the Fantasy Foundation, UCIA receives the mailings for their library's Special Collections Department. These zines will be around as long as the paper and ink/carbon lasts (which in the case of hekto, may not be too long.) I know I'd hate to be reminded some years in the future that I once published such crap as has recently been seen in N'APA. PROFANITY 1 was bad enough.

As for assisting with either TIGHTBEAM or a program to publish non-publishers' letterhackings, I haven't the time or inclination.

SAURON 1 (Harrell) That poem of mine you quasi-quote isn't "in progress" -- it was finished in 1961, and published in two zines, my own CRAPzine, and WRR's Willish. Glad you liked it.

Calm down, Phil, I'm obviously not going to wreck N'APA, even if I had a flaming desire to do so instead of an occasional wish that it would drop dead peacefully -- too many other people want to keep it around. As for my being a cornerstone of N'APA, crappity-crap! You go too far in your compliments when you like someone or something. I consider you a friend (anyone who sends me his copy of GOD COMICS has to be a friend [anyone have no. 1 to spare?]), and I like having friends; but fawning acolytes are another story indeed. As far as I can tell, the only active IA fan who likes having a fawning acolyte is Johnstone, though I haven't asked some of the others like Bjo or Don Fitch. Lichtman might, if there were any acolyte that stupid. Fred and I don't. You haven't reached the f.a. stage yet, but you seem to be on your way, so...please... calm down, Phil.

You can still join the Fellowship of the Ring if you think it's worth a buck for a membership card (printed). I PALANTIR, the official organ, has had two issues -- one in 1960, and the second in 1961. The third issue is still in progress, having been held up by (1) lack of material; (2) lack of time on the part of the publisher (me) to do both the editor's job and his own; (3) objection of the publisher to the editor's continued harping on "We ought to get that issue out" when he (the publisher) had done all the work so far (the issue being about 90 percent finished.) I PALANTIR 1 is still available from the publisher at 25¢; no. 3 may be out this month, at the same price -- or it may not. Membership cards also available from yours truly if you think it's

worth it.

PHILADELPHIA FAN (Forman) Cpngratulations on licking the legibility problem. Now do something about the margins so that the text doesn't run off the page.

Normal George Wansborough was the bane of FAPA, SAPS, and OMPA because of his leousy repro and worthless contents in his zines. BEYOND REALITY 1 had him beat all the way down the line for crudness. The three APAs finally dropped him with loud sighs of relief, since, even after he got someone else to do his publishing, the content was still crud. And you?

KAYMAR 8 (Carlson) It should be explained that the only thing I had to do with the issue of Karen Anderson's ZED which appeared in mailing 17 was putting it into the mailing. It happened thus: Karen sent 44 copies of the ZED for the April SAPS mailing, sending 43 in a package and one by first class mail to let me know the others were on the way. By deadline the package had not appeared, and Karen needed the pages to save her membership, so I restencilled the zine, had Jack Harness copy the cover, and re-ran the zine for the mailing. A day after the mailing went out, the package showed up, of course. I told Karen I'd put them into N'APA if she didn't want them back, and she said to go ahead. I considered it might give the contents of the mailing an improving boost.

GIMBLE 3 and COVENTRANIAN GAZETTE 1 were included because I had 42 extra copies left over after their SAPS and general distribution, and wanted to get rid of them. GOOP was the result of Dian's wanting to try out a hekto and my refusing to take it in SAPS.

SPIRAL 2 (Primm) If "anybody can think up imaginary worlds and people," let's see one of yours. The kicker is: can you write about what you think up?

Bad stories are worse than bad mailing comments -- and not all of the latter are bad just because they're mailing comments.

CURSED 3 Re GIMBLE and other Coventraniana. Yours truly was not Bruce the Conqueror, King of New Scotland, but Bruziver of Heorot, Grand Marshal of Lynn and Autarch of Aizhparad. Might as well keep the record straight. Bruziver is no longer in Coventry, having been killed off in "A Voice Valedictory," about a year ago (Earth time) in SPELEOBEM, my SAPSzine.

You characters better watch your margins, too. Your duper won't print the stuff beyond a certain width -- a fact you either don't know, or ignore in this issue.

CANTICLES FROM LABOWITZ 3 You are quite correct, Gary, that a lot of fanzines ignore the existence of colophons, to the detriment of future readings of the zines. There are a couple tools which help put such zines in order, the primary one of which is the FANZINE INDEX, which indexes zines up through 1952, and may still be available from Bob Pavlat, who published it. He was going to publish a list of revisions and corrections, but nothing has been heard of it in the past few years since the INDEX was completed. Try writing him at 6001 - 43rd Avenue, Hyattsville, Maryland, 20781.

I suggest you read the mailings a little closer. Dian Girard isn't in N'APA and has no intention of joining in spite of several people's persuasion (and one ex-OE's dissuasion) because she doesn't have time. She is already in SAPS and the CULT, and has produced 5 issues of YEZIDEE, 3 SANGSANGs, about 9 GOOD INTENTIONS, 2 or 3 CORSVAJOs, and a beautiful mythos-zine called THE GOLDEN HARP; these zines were either ditto or mimeo or both. GOOP was her one (and, it is to be hoped, only) hekto zine.

We do have membership cards in N'APA -- or some of us do, anyway. Terwilleger made them up a while ago. Mine - like GMC's - says "Charter Member."

What flaming difference does it make that ZED was meant for SAPS instead of N'APA? Good fiction is good fiction for any audience...assuming it is general fiction rather

than a specialized type. (Sometime I'll show you some fiction -- SAPSfiction -- that is really specialized. It's called "The Fellowship of Nothing.")

Er, uh, Walt always nicknamed his zine "Channy," didn't he? Not "Chanty."

Also, Rich Brown would be quite pleased to see reviews of POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC 15 -- most of the FAPAns and SAPS to whom it went couldn't fight through it. Some few copies are still available, so go ahead and review it.

ANAGRAM (Katz) Want to bet that at least three "Old N'APAns" object to your comparison of N'APA and SAPS by citing the fact that SAPS is older and the comparison should have been N'APA 17 with SAPS 17? Their reasoning is invalid, I think, on the grounds that, beyond the formative first year or maybe two, the age of the organization means nothing in the determination of the quality -- nevertheless, they'll say it. Want to bet?

(Perlis) For examples of reactivated fans: Sam Russell, Russ Chauvenet, Art Widner. These have become active again, after a long gafiation, in LASFS & N'APA, FAPA, and GGFS (respectively). How long they stay active is still open to question, of course, but as the reactivation has lasted a couple years in each case already, I think it will continue for a while. So "ungafiation" is possible.

FOOFERAW (Patten) As it happens, there are a few fans who can determine exactly how much they have published. I think I'm one of them, in that I know I've done about 211 zines prior to this RACHE (the "about" resulting from the possibility of doing more between the time I stencil the mailing comments and the time I finish this zine), and have a list of them complete with page count, means of repro, and so forth. My only problem is not being able to decide whether or not some zines are legitimately "mine" -- such as STARSPINKLE, where I am the publisher and Ron Ellik the editor. Only after it had gone some 40-plus issues did I decide that MENACE OF THE LASFS was really my zine, and then it had to be assigned Retroactive numbers in my listing. Still, 211 zines in five and a half years isn't bad.

Had I been the publisher of GIMBLES 1 & 2, and wound up with 42 of the things kicking around that I didn't know what to do with, I would gladly have put them into N'APA. Not otherwise. And I think you are aware of my attitude toward the furtherance of Coventry per se: no.

What do you mean you were never able to "find yourself"? Your problem is you have yet to get lost. Might help if you did.

Assigning a new number to a returned N'APAn would be "apeing the big APAs" only if Ron Ellik's compilation had been done as an official FAPA project, which it was not. Therefore, you would be "profiting from example" rather than "apeing the big APAs."

The patriotic banner -- a red-white-and-blue with gold fringe thing that boosts "100 percent Americanism" -- which Harness bought at the Westercon XV auction was indeed lost (or stolen). Jack is quite annoyed that it's gone, because he did want to make a shirt of it. I happen to know what happened to it, but I'm not telling anyone for fear Jack will get it back and go ahead with his short-making plans. This has been a comment in the manner of W the B.

An excellent Simpson cover -- shame to waste it by double-running it through N'APA. [We will now hear from Harrell and four other 105-percent N'APAns.]

DUBHE 7 (Baker) What do you mean you'd like to read background books on, or biweekly newspapers from, Coventry to give you the illusion that you know what's going on around you. What do you use for that illusion in Terran life?

Die Esperanto, es gibt mir ein Weh;

Sag ich, zu dem Teufel kann es -- und sie -- geh' !

NIEKAS (Meskys, supposedly) Pfui. Anne Chatland has wasted several pages berating Judi Sephton for her slashing review of BEYOND REALITY 1, and

Bjo takes up two more doing the same. Waste of time and material -- Judi isn't long for membership in the first place, and BEYOND REALITY is still a crudzine whether or not anyone bitches at it, in the second. And I rather doubt that Judi's going to drive Forman out of N'APA by telling him to get out -- this bit is not really new, you know. Fuggheads have been telling other fuggheads to get out of APAs for years. I've done it myself a number of times. Again: Pfui.

Meskys, you almost prompt me to write a COVENTRANIAN GAZETTE No. 4 and send it through N'APA just to bug you. There isn't a reason in the world for rejecting CG, as it is very definitely the work of a member and is even sfantasy-oriented. There is more reason for rejecting NIEKAS, as the covers are hand-colored (badly), making them ineligible (technically) for fourth-class mailing. Hmmm. I have several pages stencilled for the fourth CG already...

Re: "Iolanthe." The finale is logical when you realize that the fairies first marry the peers and then turn them into peri. That is, when they marry them, the peers are still mortal. OK? The Lord Chancellor's train-bearer shouldn't be in the finale, though I suppose it was done for the usual college/university reason: get everyone on in the finale.

HAVE AT YE, KNAVES! (Russell) As to whether wearing a costume at a masquerade is worth the hours of effort in making it, I say yes! The reasons are various: the hopes of recognition in winning a prize, the possible plaudits of others for accuracy in depicting a character -- especially if one gets the plaudits of the author from whose story the character came, the chance to be an actor for while without having to go through the formalities of the Stage. Wearing a good costume is indeed worth it.

I'd be interested in hearing your ideas on the implications of the improvement of LASFS meetings since the "bloodless revolution" of June 1963. Really -- as one of the ousted group, I would seriously like to know what the general membership, or even one part of it, thought.

I applaud your comments to GMC. I fear you will find that arguments with her are futile, but they often -- as now -- make delightful reading.

The graffiti of at least one well-adorned restroom have been recorded for fannish posterity. They were published in the Cult after Dave Rike copied them down during a cross-country Peace March in 1961. As for condom dispensers, there was one rest room I found on my return trip from Discen that had machines vending five different kinds.

I hope to see more of your zines, Sam -- and in less than another 20 years, too.

N'APA YAP (Patten) I would object strongly to the idea of a non-limited membership. You would wind up with a situation wherein a zine would just miss a mailing, and have to wait for the next, but wind up with too few copies.

CURSED 4 (Railes, Katz, etc.) Len, you're not the only comic reader in the crew -- I'm still reading (and collecting the things. I disagree with you in a number of things -- mostly in regard to Superman (I think he should be dropped from the JLA and played down in the other comics) -- but I agree that Marvel is ahead of DC these days in stories. Possibly in artwork, too, but I don't know enough about artwork. Gold Key has obviously better art than either Marvel or DC, anyway -- see DR. SOLAR 7 and the new MAGNUS. JLA needs a good shakeup, with the elimination of a few superfluous characters: Superman is too much a deus ex machina, Snapper Carr is merely a sop to the sports-car set and adds nothing to the stories (the writer hasn't a very good idea of teener slang, either), and Batman has to rely on gimmicks. With them out there would be seven, and you could even drop Green Arrow (another gimmickman) or Aquaman (limited to water-action) to make room for the eventual addition of Hawkman.

HEARTS AT MIDNIGHT (Min O'Tour) A very nice Simpson cover. I recognize Dr. Gnaw, the bat with the walking stick, and Marmalade, the fox-critter in the foreground. I wonder if the other three have names?

Masters of the Microcosm chapter one

Not long ago, in the land of Neffermind, there was a small Principality called Dnieppuh, ruled over by the benevolent ~ if somewhat strange - Prince Frederick the Befuddled. The land was at peace and untroubled. Usually. This day was different.

The noon-time whistle blew at 10:50, and the foreman of the Royal Shipyards found he was unable to stem the tide of workmen streaming out for their lunch hour. His shouts that the whistle was wrong went unheard, so he picked himself up off the ground and hurried to the Office to see what was wrong besides the whistle. As he stepped through the door he saw the Office Manager, together with three other men and a woman. The Manager looked worried, the others looked smug.

"Come in and sit down, Harvey," said the Manager. "Let me introduce Count Ivan of Han, Duke Tredon of Corzz, and Baron Ferr." The Count locked the door behind Harvey.

The foreman, with a puzzled look, acknowledged the introductions, then looked inquiringly at the woman. The others followed his gaze.

"Oh," laughed the Baron, "don't mind Seffi. She's attractive but not very bright. She just wanted to blow the whistle on you, so we let her. Sit down, Seffi -- you, too, whatever-your-name is. We must get down to business, Mr. Chigs." The foreman sat down, and the Office Manager turned to face the others.

"We understand," the Baron continued, "that you have just finished building the Buhlawz, the fastest ship in the world, and probably the most powerful, since it can draw on all the power of the planet for its speed and weapons. We are going to steal your ship, as we need it to invade other worlds. To this effect, you will take us to the Buhlawz, and show us how it operates, before your men come back to work at the 1:00 whistle. Sit down, Seffi, you can't blow it until at least 2:00."

"B-b-but, that's preposterous!" stammered Mr. Chigs. "I shall refuse to do any such thing, and you won't be able to force me! I shall defend this ship, the glory of our country, to the very last, and no traitorous..."

"S---," said the foreman.

"What he means," interpreted the Duke, "is that he doesn't see how we can coerce them into cooperation. Explain, if you will, Baron." He bowed to the large black-caped figure.

"Gladly." The Baron returned the bow. "We come from the land of Schnapps, where sorcery is rife. Each of us retains our one greatest power, even in crossing the void between worlds -- or even between issues. I am master of the Rings, and call into being any ring for the space of an hour out of the twenty-four. The Count is master of the Crowns, and the Duke master of the Stones. Among the three of us we have the power to conquer worlds."

"This ring," he said, "is the Green Lantern's ring -- fully charged, I might add. It will insure that you lead us to the Buhlawz."

"You won't get away with it!" bristled Chigs, the hair standing up on his head like a Farnum illo. "The King will send out the Fleet -- the Space Guard -- the World Patrol -- the Welcommittee! Uh, yes, Sir," he said as the green beam hit him, "whatever you will. This way, sir."

The procession headed out the door for the hangars, the Baron alternating his beam between Chigs and the foreman. Suddenly, the latter broke away and ran for a nearby building. The green beam played upon him uselessly.

"Dammit!" cried the Baron, "I forgot the ring doesn't effect wood, and that block-head is escaping! Green Lantern II!!" he shouted, and the ring he held disappeared, to be replaced by another. Again a green beam lashed out, and again it was futile.

"He must be a coward," said the Duke. "The beam won't work on anything that's yellow. Try something else, quick, or he'll spread the alarm!!"

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MAILING