

GHU'S

LEXICON



G H U ' S
L E X I C O N

Translated from the
Original Venusian cuneiform
by

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for

The National Fantasy Fan Federation.

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O wad some Power the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us !
It wad frae many a blunder free us,

An' foolish notion:

-- Robert Burns.

ACTIFAN - Active fan. One who proves that misery really does love company by attempting to spread and intensify the disease as much as possible. He organizes and officers fan clubs, publishes or writes for fan or prozines, writes innumerable letters, etc., etc., etc., ad infinitum.

ANISH - Anniversary issue of a fanzine. Put out to celebrate the fact that the publisher has been able to dodge its infuriated readers for one or two or five years.

BACOVER - Back cover. The less said about this the better. It is usually the last stencil cut and ye publisher is tired by then.

BEANIE - A court jester or "town cut up" at a Con or Fanflab. So called because the first group wore beanies to distinguish themselves from the sane members of the Con. Various sub orders of the species have adopted other eccentricities as their badge of office, such as full beards, artists' berets, etc.

PEMS - Bug Eyed Monsters. Horrible alien life forms which inhabit the jungles of S-F magazine covers. They are usually preparing to devour some shapely and scantily clad damsel but don't worry about her. The handsome hero will get there in time to save her and live happily ever after.

BNF - Big Name Fan. One who has been places and seen people. This is an ancient term, having been applied to Cyrano de Bergerac in the 15th Century as Big Nose Fan. Cyrano was very sensitive about his oversize proboscis and resented any reference to it with a quick and deadly sword. When he happened to hear a group refer to him as a BNF, and demanded an interpretation, they discreetly changed it to the present Big Name Fan.

COMPOZINE - A publication in which two or more editors combined their diabolical talents to perpetrate a more monstrous journalistic atrocity than any one of them could achieve by himself.

CON - Convention. Usually prefixed by initials which, to the initiate, indicate where it was held, such as: Chicon, Nycon, etc. Usually sponsored by a group of fans who feel that their talents deserve a larger sweep than can be obtained locally.

Con attending is one of the most deadly of all fan diseases. Once the victim has been infected with it, no permanent cure is known. Even amputation of funds is useless.

CRUD - A nauseating and worthless mess. Anything not written by you or some of your current friends.

CRUDZINE - A publication containing only crud (q.v.) Also: a zine poorly edited or reproduced.

DITTO - A duplicating process which uses a master sheet made with hektograph carbon paper, rolled against a sheet of copy paper which has been moistened with alcohol. Sometimes is called "spirit process", because the success of it depends on the nature of the spirits the user invokes.

DUPER - General name for any sort of duplicating equipment used to try to dupe the other fen into reading your ideas on various things.

See: *Ditto, Litho, Mimeo.*

EGOBOO - Anything which boosts the ego or morale of a fan, particularly seeing his name in print. Egoboo is the fan's reward for long hours of brain beating and labor. It is the cream in his coffee. The egg in his beer. It is his very life blood; the real reason why he is a fan.

FAKEFAN - Specifically: a fan who is guilty of unfannish activities, such as: subscribing to fanzines instead of wangling them for free by various stratagems. In general: any fan who fails to show proper respect for you and/or your ideas.

FAN - Abbreviation for: (1) fanatic, or (2) fancier; depending on whether you are in or out. The plural, when you're feeling mean and want to confuse outsiders and neofans, is *fen*.

Otherwise, you can say *fans*.

FANAC - Fan activity. A noble effort by actifans to erase the Post Office deficit by writing letters, publishing fanzines, etc.

FANED - Fanzine editor. A misanthropic fan who gratifies his saddistic urges by butchering the masterpieces of literature which have been trustingly submitted by other fans.

FANFLAB - See *Con*. Is also used in a more restricted sense to indicate a *Con* within a *Con*. A bull session. It usually produces much heat on controversial subjects, but seldom much illumination.

FANZINE (fmz), also *Fanmag* - A magazine published by and for (?) fans. It is considered unfannish to cater to the whims and desires of readers. Iffen they don't like it the way you write it, let them start their own!

FANVET - During the war this was a fan who was in, or recently had been in, the armed services. Now usually used to designate an old timer -- a fan who can remember 'way back when.

FEMFAN - A female fan. From *cherchez la femme*, which means: "Look for the damsel who done all the dirt." They are responsible for removing most of the science from our "stf" (because they don't understand it) and adding (because they like it) a sickening mess of amorous crud which ought to be sent back to *True Romances*, and kept there!

Aside from that, they are sort of nice to have around now and then.

FUGGHEAD - A dim wit. A lame brain. A fan who is either too dumb to know or too stubborn to admit that your way is the logical, most practical, and best way of doing anything.

CAFIA - Getting Away From It All. A fan's desperate attempt to break the clutches of his vice. It seldom produces a lasting reformation. Usually the hapless wretch furtively sneaks down to the corner news-stand to buy "just one more copy for the road" -- the long road back to respectability -- and the vicious circle rolls on.

GHOD - An attempt to evade any possible curse for blasphemy by disguising the name of the Deity. Some also put an extra "H" in "bheer", "dhog", and other words. I consider these to be simple misspellings, not words.

GHU - The chief of the gods of outer space. Certain rebel groups refuse to recognize Ghu, and set up rivals, such as Foo, etc.

HEKTO - Hektograph. Prehistoric ancestor of the *Ditto*. The ink from a master copy is transferred to the surface of gelatin which has either been poured into a pan or spread on a belt. It is picked up from this by the copy paper. Most fans say: "To heck with Hekto." Life is too short to fool with it.

ILLCS - Illustrations. Art (?) work. In stf zines they usually consist of space ships, Bems, girls, or a combination of these. The ladies may or may not be godly, but usually are at least cleanly, having obviously just stepped out of their baths.

ISH - Issue. Don't ask me where it came from because I don't know -- it might have been from some inebriated fan trying to say "ishue".

LETTERCOL - A letter column. One of the favorite haunts of the actifans. Many fanzines have them, but in prozines they are practically standard equipment. Aprozine without a letter column is a fakezine, and no trufan will buy one.

LETTERHACK - An actifan who specializes in writing letters for zines. One of the simplest and yet the most effective phases of fanac. Give the letterhack a ream of paper, stamps, and one or two other letterhacks for him to argue with, and he will keep happy and tractable for months.

LETTERZINE - A do-it-yourself fanzine specializing in letters. All an editor has to do is publish excerpts from letters he receives, plus a few pontifical interlineations whenever he senses an opportunity to let his own wit and wisdom shine forth.

LITHO - Lithography. The snootiest of the reproduction processes. Also known as: *Multilith*, *photo offset*, or simply: *offset*. Few fans have the kind of money it takes to own one of these outfits, so why waste time and space describing them!

MIMEO - Mimeograph. A stencil process duplicator. The typewriter type or a stylus pushes aside the plastic or wax coating on the stencil, which permits the ink to come through from the ink pad onto the copy paper.

It is probably the most popular of the duplicating processes since they can be found on the used equipment market at prices to fit almost any fan's bankroll.

NEOFAN - A beginner. One who is just beginning his career as a stf addict without realizing what an insidious and hopelessly incurable disease it is. Some fortunately acquire different interests and break free. Others continue innocently on until they are beyond redemption.

C-O - Official Organ. A place where officers of a club give their alibis for not doing the things they were supposed to do, and where the irate members register their unlauded opinions of the officers.

It is not only considered unfanish to write them any other sort of letter, but also quite dangerous. A few years ago one club officer got a laudatory letter from a member, very probably a fakefan planted there for that purpose by some of his enemies. The shock completely unbalanced him. When last seen he was being led off, babbling incoherently, and clutching the tattered remnants of the letter happily to his breast.

PROZINE - Professional magazine. Are also commonly referred to as "pulp" from the grade of paper upon which they are printed. A few have become classics. Most of them, however, are crudzines, started merely to try and make a fast buck for the publisher.

These latter usually fold after a few issues, sans any fannish tears.

SERCON (also *SERICON*) Originally the business or serious sessions at conventions. Now also applied to a fan who plays a "skeleton at the feast" role. One who discusses the sordid details of some fan activity instead of following the trufan motto: Let's pretend they aren't there and maybe they'll go away.

SLAN - Fans who deny that they are fans. Apparently they cannot bear to admit the depth of their addiction even to themselves. Their rationalization is that they merely read the stuff to see how silly it can get and associate with other fans merely to try to save them from their own evil selves.

SLUM - Food -- or, rather, what fans laughingly refer to as food at Cons and other fan gatherings; which can cover a lot of territory.

In general: anything which is capable of providing nourishment, such as worm is to fish, and fish is to man, and man is to worm.

SPACE OPERA - Similar to a Western, or "Horse Opera", which it actually is in many cases. The "author" just modernizes an ancient Western. The hero trades his chaps and ten gallon hat in on a space patrol uniform. The heroine takes off as many of her clothes as the Postal Laws and T-V censor permits. Ol' Paint, the faithful steed becomes a space ship; and the six-shooter a blast-ray gun. The rustlers from over the border become bandits from the dark planet Xumpta. Otherwise the plot and action remain just about the same.

STF - Short for *Scientifiction*, the word coined by Hugo Gernsback, father of American S-F, to designate the particular style of fiction he wrote and published -- long on the science and lightly on the romance. A later generation of male fen demanded more pornography in their "art", and the later addition of femfans brought a sharp increase in the boy-meets-girl angle. Scientifiction degenerated to the present-day anemic "stf".

TAPER - Tape recorder. An instrument used to record for posterity all the asininites of some fan gathering. A fan with a new tapecord has all the perseverance and tenacity of a proud father with a new snap-shot of his offspring. You might evade him for a while, but eventually you are going to listen to the whole two hours of some sordid fanflab.

TRUFAN - A true or genuine fan. Specifically: yourself; with perhaps a limited few of your closest and most intimate friends also listed, but on a probationary basis.

TYPER - Typewriter. The only really essential tool for a fan. They come in various styles, prices and social castes. At the bottom is the weary, but faithful, \$25 "rebuilt" drudge. At the top is the snooty and temperamental mink-clad IBM electric, with "executive" type, differential type spacing, carbon paper tape, and semi automatic marginator. If you can buy one of these, you're a fakefan!

N O T I C E

This leaflet is free to members of the NFFF. Fakefans (non-Neffers) can secure it by following these rules :

1. Write a 2000 word essay on "Why I should have a free copy."
2. Tear the fender fins off a new swept-wing Dodge.
3. Send these to me, together with the name, address, and phone number of your favorite femfan. (If you are a femfan, send your own name.)

Immediately upon receipt of these, I will throw your essay in the fireplace, sell the fender fins to the junk man, and take the femfan out to lunch with the proceeds.

Or, if this is too much trouble, just send \$1.60 for a year's membership in the NFFF to:

Janie Lamb, Route 1, Heiskell, Tenn.
U. S. A.