

AVON SCIENCE FICTION READER

published by

SAPSzine No 5

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FOR the 59th SAPS mailing
(April 15, 1962)



HARRY-

10 PM, Saturday, 30 March 1962, and I suppose it's time I started this $\pm\hat{C}\hat{A}$ zine if I want to make the mailing. Well, again I found the time to read the last mailing by skimping on the genzines I got and with the help of an undersized mailing. I hope that, as far as page count goes, things remain at about the present level. It is comfortable, and the bundle can be read in a reasonable time. Content wise, however, this mailing unfortunately was of about the same level as the last. That is, no real crudzines, a great majority of adequate ones, and only one outstanding zine. The average of the other zines seemed to be a bit higher, but this of Warhoon wasn't quite up to the standards set last time, thus balancing things out.

I now have most of mailings 52-date...I'm missing a few zines from 52 (Egotape & Coetus, if I remember) and 54 (Elinor's photopage and the full 8 page 0-0). The incomplete bundles I got second hand (from Eva Firestone and Art Hayes) because I couldn't get them from surplus stock. I read the first 2 a year ago January while proctoring exams, but the next 3 piled up mostly unread, but just skimmed thru. The last two I read within a month of arrival.

However, to vote in the Pillar Pole I wanted to read 55 and 56, and decided to go thru 54 first in order to have the others make more sense. Well, this I did but unfortunately it took longer than I expected and I finished the last zine of the 54th (Flabbergasting) only yesterday. Well, at this rate I'll be all caught up with SAPS in another 6 months....

I did eventually get around to filling in the Pillar Pole ballot on the basis of the last two mailings alone, but it was so close to the deadline that I wonder if it will arrive on time. Looking over the carbon copy I made, I see that I used up 115 out of a maximum possible 135 points, and awarded at least one point to 22 SAPS. Of these 22, 11 got 5 or more points (Dick Bergeron was tops with 18, followed by Lee Jacobs with 10) while the other 11 got from 1 to 4 for a total of 30.

TERRY CARR -- in your fanzine you spoke of reading speeds and asked us how long it took us to read your zine. Well, I didn't go back and re-read the first few pages in order to time myself, but from that point on I averaged a few seconds under two minutes a page. The first full page I timed took that long, and it had no illos or headings. However, the remaining pages averaged exactly the same time even tho there were illos or article/column headings. This puzzled me at first, but then I realized that I carefully read that first page going as fast as possible but that I maintained a more natural pace after that and even committed that cardinal sin against rapid reading and glanced back to re-read 2 or 3 sentences on a few occasions.

The only person I know who reads slower than I do is Matt Chlupsa, a close friend and fringe-fan who I spoke of quite a bit in my last SAPS zine. He violently disbelieves in speed-reading and everything associated with it, and purposely holds his speed down by purposely reading one word at a time and re-reading previous passages. He says he does this to increase understanding of what he does read, and that he might miss something important if he didn't.

And his slowness of reading did not prevent him from graduating from college (in Physics from St. John's, like me) and he is now working on a Master's Degree in Math at Steven's Institute, part time while holding down a job. But then, in both Physics and Math you are not expected to do much reading but to only go over and over the same thing until you understand it and to spend most of your time doing problems. On the other hand we did have to take and pass many liberal arts type courses, which our slow reading did not prevent us from doing. For instance, I had a total of 162 semester hours of courses when I finished. Of these, 51 were in Physics, 27 in Math, and 10 in Chemistry. All but 4 of the remaining credits were in required LA courses, referred to by the science students as "crap courses", including 30 credits of philosophy and religion. (The 4 non-required credits represented a 2nd year of speech, taken to presumably help get rid of my "Lithuanian Accent" -- the inability to pronounce "th", etc.)

Matt carried essentially the same program tho he didn't get Chemistry and did get about 9 additional credits in Math. He might also have had a few less in Physics tho I'm not sure. Oh yes, because I went summers I got out in $3\frac{1}{2}$ years despite having had 30 credits above the minimum required for graduation, while he didn't and took the full 4 years.

On the other hand, Carl Frederick and Charlie Brown are what I consider to be fantastically fast readers. For instance, a few months ago Charlie started to re-read The Hobbit one evening, and before quitting was half way thru The Two Towers. Both have had training in rapid reading -- Charlie in a course and Carl with a home-made "reading accelerator" (which he claims tripled his reading speed). They have me convinced that I must "do something" and I will either borrow Carl's gadget this summer or sign up for a course this fall. Looking at all those fanzines, prozines & books pile up makes me feel very frustrated. Now I have no intention of reading all the stuff published the way Charlie does, but I certainly envy his ability to do so and re-read the better stuff frequently and keep up with mystery and historical fiction too. I've recently bought a whole mess of fantasy adventure which I'm really faunching to read (Titus Groan, Gormenghast, The Devil's Guard, House on the Borderland [on your recommendation, Tosk], Well of the Unicorn, Jurgen, and several others) but I just don't know when I'll find the time to read them all. And when I think of the unread fanzines I have, particularly the several feet of 2nd hand ones which are virtually untouched, I just shudder and moan.

LEE JACOBS -- What's with you, anyhow? I was really puzzled by your remarks about my "monstrous size" and the comparisons with Bill Donaho, etc. Good grief, I'm nowhere near his size, being a mere 6'2" and 200 ±10 pounds. (And damn the catch on the line controll of this typer! I just had the platen changed on it, and apparently they put something back the wrong way. Every so often when I hit the "return" I only drop down $\frac{1}{2}$ of a line instead of a full space.) Ted White and Terry Carr expressed wonderment over your statements, too. Anyhow, 'twas nice meeting you and hope it happens again.

You spoke of disappointment at not finding Dick Bergeron at the Phillycon, and the fact that apparently no one had met him. And you mentioned as the final anomaly the fact that "someone" [I suspect Les Gerber] checked his address and found no Bergeron on any of the mail boxes. Well, about two or three months ago Terry Carr told me that Dick had visited "Metropolitan Mimeo" once and met 3 or 4 of the local fans at that time, and that it was doubtful that he would ever be at any fan gathering. I was supposed to contact several people, including Dick, about possible participation on a panel (on "The contribution of fanzines to SF and fandom") at the upcoming Lunacon [Sunday, April 29, 1 PM, Adelphi Hall, 74 - 5th Ave (off 14th St) NY : advt] and decided to give Dick a try despite what Terry said. (After all, I would lose nothing but a 4¢ stamp.) He declined, as predicted, and on the grounds that he doesn't have the time for both personal-contact type fanac and the publication of Warhoon and the associated correspondance.

Then while going thru the 54th mailing with all the foofaraw (Hi, Fred) about "Leslie Norris" the thot struck me that "Bergeron" might be another "Brandon." After all, who were the only fen who are supposed to have met him in reasonably recent times. There remained the question of his previous fannish incarnation about 52, and his supposed TASFIC attendance. (And I did just check my Progress Reports -- 2nd hand of course -- and a "Richard Bergeron" was member # 547.) The perpetrators of "Norris" spoke of "seeding" collections of old fanzines with fake back issues of *the old* incarnation, so something like that would be possible. But an old SAPS membership would be next to impossible to fake. It would all depend on how good the memories of Coslot, Rapp, Ballard and perhaps 1 or 2 others are and whether they would have any reason to dig into their back mailings and check. But the chances for discovery seemed just a bit too large...if he were a hoax it would have been much simpler and

This is presumably the last page of Avon Science Fiction Reader, the 5th of a series of pamphlets produced for the Spectator Amateur Press Society by one Edmund R Meškys. Luck and Brucifer willing, this will appear in the 59th mailing of said group. (It is now April 10th, and my only hope for having anything in the mailing is to airmail these 4 stencils to Brucifer with the \$ to have them LASFSrexed, and hope that he is able to do so for me. If he can't, these pages will then presumably become part of a somewhat larger zine in the 60th mailing. I hope to eventually have enuf copies printed to send to the SAPS Wlrs and to people who accept APazines in trade or are reasonably faithful letterhacks. Left over copies will be available for trade or LOC. safer to have created him without a previous APA membership.

Only one possibility remains -- that the "hoaxers" took the name of a real ex-fan and just hoaxed his return. (That would explain the TASFIC membership, too.)

But, you might say, Dick appeared (or re-appeared) in SAPS well before Terry came to NY. True, but TEW or some others could have started the thing on their own and have later brot Terry in on it, or he might have been part of it from the start & perhaps even the originator. Suspicion would run high on a West Coast fan that nobody met, but would be less likely in re a New Yorker. Then too, a local is likely to be turned off by all the feuding and fussing, and might not want any personal contact.

I have since come to doubt this theory myself, and believe in the reality of Dick, principally because of the horrid complexity of setting up such a revived personality. But the theory continues to interest me...what do you think?

The 54th mailing is more familiar than the 58th because it was read some two months later, and inspires a thot or two at this time. I suppose I'll find out when I get to the 55th & 56th mailings, but I suspect the items in "Tales of the Unforgotten Past" are reprints of early writings of members. For instance, I am reasonably sure that the TASFIC con report was written by Bjo way back when. (And when this zine was started about the 51st mailing, she was still a member.) Between that hunch and the title I suppose the other stuff is also reprints of the early writings of the various members.

And much was said about "Isomer" being previously unpublished and being rescued by Terry Carr after 6 years. The Dietz' had bought the non-APA part of Gem Carr's fanzine collection about 2 years ago and Frank recently gave me the picked over dregs. Included was 2 copies of the very same issue of Isomer, postmarked November 15, 1955. One was incorrectly addressed and had been returned to Pete (this bore the postmark) while the other was correct. Apparently the first (very beat up) copy was included with the 2nd as a sign of good intentions -- to indicate that he had sent her a copy when he had sent out the rest of the FAPA ones. And it was apparently a FAPA post-mailing because "You're in FAPA" was checked. (The bundle of old zines had quite a few FAPA postmailings which had become separated.)

Well, it looks like I'll be meeting a number of thus-far unmet SAPS this summer because I just got a summer job at the Lawrence Radiation Labs" in Livermore, Calif. Unfortunately this is 40 miles from Berkeley and I can't drive so I won't be active in Berkeley fandom, but I do hope to hitch-hike in 3 or 4 weekends to meet the fen. Also, I am pretty sure I will be able to get down to LA for the Westercon, and I now intend to quit one week before Lobar Day and cut up to Seattle to see the fair and fen before stopping off at the TriChiCon on the way home. I plan to start Monday, 18 Jue, and work there for 10 weeks. But there is still a small chance that I won't go at all. The job is conditional upon my getting a security clearance in time, and while I've had one before (in '58 when I worked at Fort Monmouth -- I didn't need one for NASA last summer) and will no doubt get it again, it just might not come thru in time. Also I had just about decided to take no summer job at all this summer and spend the time reviewing my old coursework when the offer came, and the chairman of the department does advise me to take it as it would be much more beneficial to me. There's still a small chance that I won't, however. Well, that's it till next mailing. Ed