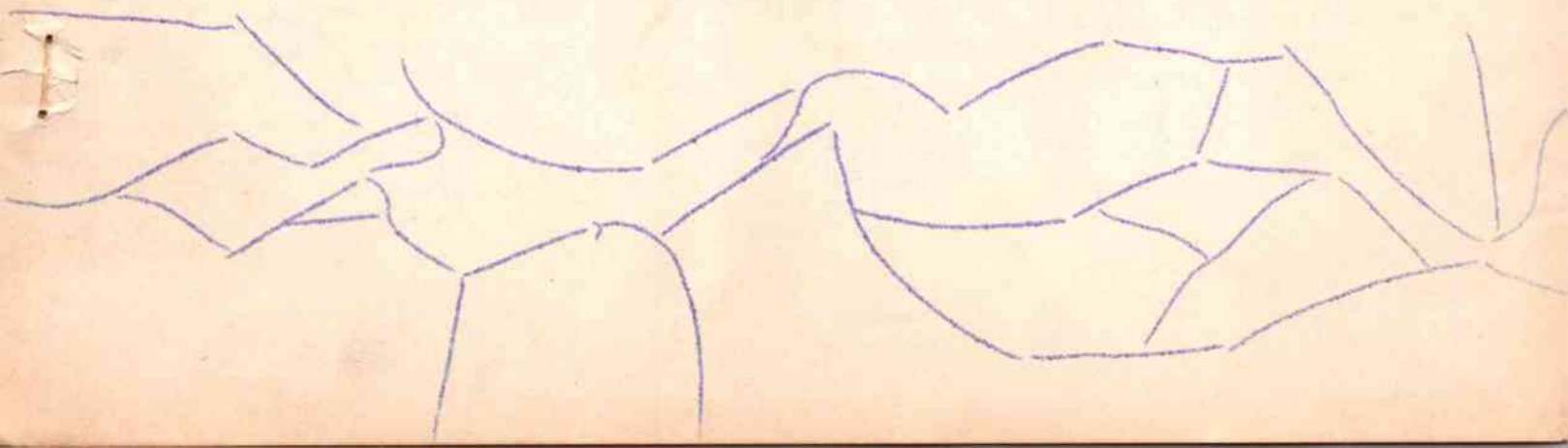


△ SYNAPSE ▽

Winter 48
F A P A



FORENOTES

No Rejected-- at this time. For many months past I've been scraping the bottom of the barrel for these features, and think it inadvisable to inflict upon you further fannish comments which the editor to whom they were originally written didn't publish. Better to turn this into an intermittent feature, to be run only with good reason. Though in view of its nine-year continuous history, I rather hate to break the record.

For that matter, there may be no back or front cover drawings unless I get some sudden inspirations. Front cover, maybe; but I don't feel like going to the trouble of turning out a back cover which I don't think is a credit to the backcovers' reputation. I might use my sketch of At The Mountains of Madness, but that was topical and the time is past. Maybe I can get Stan to turn out some of the fabulous boastings that he draws for his little sister.

2 Synapse as before is published at 4315 16th NE, Seattle 5, by Jack Spear.

REMARKS ON THE FORTYFIRST MAILING Pp 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
Spengler should be getting a lot of ego-boo out of this.

QUOTE/QUOTE QUOTES P 8
What practical criterion should determine the fulness of citations to sources?

SPECIAL REASONS FOR KEEPING FAPA OUT OF AMAZING P 9
Ego-boosting publicity for our accomplishments is a different matter, and in a manner distinct from recruiting might be desirable.

MAN SAGT Pp 10, 11
After which we clean up a lot of very old notes.

WHY I AM OPPOSING WALLACE'S CANDIDACY P 12
Does freedom of choice depend on uncertainty of prediction?

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS Pp 13, 14
The Isolated Intellectual turns up again.

LAST STOP TO LIMBO P 14
At that, I like it better than the emblem Nef is stuck with.

CATCHING UP WITH CRUD P 15
I can't imagine why anybody would want to read this page.

KEEPING UP WITH CAMPBELL Pp 16, 17, 18
Looking over this review, there seems to have been a sag in recent months.

NOW THAT YOU'VE GOTTEN
RID OF A LOT OF OLD
NOTES, WHEN WILL YOU
FINISH OFF THESE OLD
DITTO CARBONS?



NOT BEFORE
THE BLOWUP.

REMARKS ON THE FOURTH MAILING

This sort of thing isn't good for my heart. The other evening I was ready to finish reading the last mailing preparatory to commenting on it, and couldn't find the throttled thing anywhere. I paged thru all the habitations of the hilariously magnified woggle-bug, inquired of Stan if he had borrowed it, and even phoned Don accusingly. The next nite, just as I was about to read the comic strips, I remembered that I'd spread out the Sunday papers on the bed where the mailing was lying, and afterwards dumped them in the waste box in the hall. Yes, the mailing was there with them; but a day or so later all would have been taken out and burned. And this time I don't have a Weinbaumemorial to trade for the missing mailing.

To horse. Synapse: Am I correct in my impression that the life, duplicated from a master made of old carbon, is almost pure blue instead of purple?

By-Law: For honor's sake, I didn't enclose any propaganda with this, having so often objected to Rohrbachery and other one-sided stuff designed to catch you before there's adequate opportunity for rebuttal.

Front cover of Moonshine is pretty good. Interior work suffers badly from poor stylizing. I'll bet Len doesn't use a celluloid plate. Back cover, like most of the artwork, has neither intellectual (humorous) nor esthetic merit enough to justify any commendation. The bulk of The Music was pretty good writing. Toward the end certain uncomfortable inferences began to suggest themselves, but I'll hastily pass them. As I said, the writing was good. But the attempted surprise ending was a bad blunder. One reason it didn't surprise was that the author neglected to tell us before that the music was supposed to be coming over the radio. But even if it does surprise, such an ending seems a cheap twist out of keeping with the story's reason-to-be. Vranduski on Ice Cream was only offensive. Good humor, if possible, should use good logic in reaching its ridiculous conclusions; and much bad logic has become embedded in people's thinking because they liked to believe it in witty employments. I don't retract my criticism of The Bughouse Blues.

And what kind of gasoline were Easterners asking for this winter? Stormy petrol! Ah hahahaha. Ah hahahahahahaha. Choke. Oh ho ho. Fan-Dango. Muckraking? If people at large don't know about graft and corruption they can't do anything to clean it up. On the other hand, when it becomes generally known how universal dirty politics and dollar diplomacy are, people are likely to adopt an indulgent attitude toward it, and the minority (which may be a majority) of honest officeholders may feel that they might as well get what they can too. I am probably as passionate a believer as anyone that the truth should be known, but if people are to be told all about the rotteness in the world, I would want it to be interspersed with other treatment, information, argument, and training, to offset the tendency to pessimistic inaction which such knowledge has; and in the absence of such interpersements, would not rush into print with sweeping revelations. I trust I need not spell out the bearing of this on the topic you were really talking about.

Wild-Hair: A few comments on the vp report aside from the point raised in the current FA. Remarks in regard to the feud with Amazing are somewhat lacking in the judicial impartiality which should characterize a decision. Lancy errs in instancing the sending of mailings to the Library of Amateur Journalism as a precedent for sending mailings to prozines for publicity purposes. Edwin Hadley Smith received them as a regular member of the FAPA, not as the recipient of surplus stock.

Fantasy Amateur: Perhaps FAPA has made a new discovery in the domain of constitutional law: Revolution by unanimous consent. Thundering phrase. The nearest thing to it in the history of mankind that I can think of was Roosevelt's destroyer deal. A decision relying on this principle should, however, be conditional

only until there has been an opportunity for objectors to speak up. Members who obviously have the constitution on their side should not have to resort to the by-law process to overcome the vicepresident's flat making that constitutional which was not by prior law. It was quite correct to exclude the movie programs of neither of which Ackerman had enuf to cover the whole membership. It is important to the idea of FAPA that every member should see exactly what every other member gets, so that we may talk about them as if we were assembled in person. Aside from this, the programs were probably not eligible, if not stapled in with a fanzine, because they didn't represent a member's work. This would open the way again to enclosing political parties' pamphlets ktp. Of course I mean pamphlets.

Half-length articles is best discussed in conjunction with

Requiem though I would if could exclude the latter from consideration as part of this mailing, it violating the rule against replies to material published for the first time in the same mailing. Some miscellaneous remarks on FAPA Forever first: The cartoons are beautiful work, and the writing is Burbee at his best, though he must admit he had good material to work on. Sidney Johnston, in case Betty really wants to know, is an English teacher in a small town near Houston, and old enuf to have had a sonnet published in a Gernsback Amazing. The loveliest passage in the Burbee article is "He began to choke her. I went back to my lettering-guide work for Shangri-L'Affaire. (10¢ per single copy, 3/25¢, 6/50¢)." Betty's complaint about that particular incident shows an appalling lack of what is conventionally called sense of humor. She would have done better to let it pass. Indeed, the Perdues would have done better to let the whole matter pass. Their reply, when you come down to it, admits nearly everything implied against them in FAPA Forever, and offers nothing substantial to counteract it. In short, I don't see that they have any kick coming. True, the narrative cuts deeply into their right of privacy, far beyond the limits of the commercial press. But in fandom it's an old tradition to be much more personal than the commercial press would permit, and if some limit remains between publicity and a fan's very soul, I don't see that Burbee has transgressed it. Has his story stood alone, I don't think it would have made us think worse of the Perdues. Not me, anyhow; I'm surprised that Elmer has fitted himself into married life so well. Betty's suggestion that anyone who expresses dislike of homosexuals is himself suspect, because "Psychiatrists tell us we are most often prone to hate those faults in others that we have ourselves" is, like vulgar handling of the inferiority complex, an example of that (quick, somebody, render "omniprobative" into the passive voice) quality of popular psychiatry, reminiscent of the way in which everything that happened used to prove either God's justice or his benevolence. There may be some substance to the complaint that Burr was inconsiderate of possible grief at a parent's death. The explanation is that most fan have very little family feeling; they're an example of the last stage of urban civilization in which every individual is a dissociated atom. Had it been Elmer's mother, for example, there would have been little reason to make things easy for him on his FAPA reminiscence. The misunderstanding over your leaving town was a natural mistake. Ordinarily when someone's parent dies and heesh leaves town, one may assume that heesh is going to the funeral, not to a suburb to regain his equilibrium.

Test of Major Disaster Organization: I wonder what is the best way for a complex organization to prepare against such eventualities. The French were criticized in 1940 for having no plans for coping with the Breakthrough. The Germans reacted so swiftly to our North African invasion by seizing Tunisia with gliders, that it seems likely the general staff had only to reach into the appropriate pigeonhole and pull out orders carefully prepared to meet the situation. But possibilities are infinite, and a pre-existing plan may prove unsuitable when a similar, but not exactly like, situation develops in actuality. After Pearl Harbor we seemed to spend a week or two facing all our troop movements toward the point

where we were attacked, and then as suddenly faced about in the opposite direction in accordance with a plan for participation in the European war which didn't contemplate explosive campaigns by the Japanese when it was drawn up. The best solution would be to have instructions prepared for all the basic operations, such as metropolitan fires out of control or destruction of the Panama Canal, which would be about the same regardless of the overall situation, and then above them more general prepared plans with details to be filled in by executives after the disaster happens. But such solution might not be possible; if the rulebook for fires out of control says to borrow San Bernardino's fire department and San Bernardino isn't there any more, the lower echelon command might be at a loss.

Elmamura: What do people, or slans, see in those How It Began jokes? FAPA Flypaper contained little of interest, but you have to give the Angelinos credit for coming thru for dear old FAPA, even if it's only a single-sheet.

Slithy Toves: Charles McWatt used to be criticized for copying or countenancing copying of pro artists' work. Now how about that cover? "I'm afraid some of us will feel a little reservation about your declaration that the spirit of fantasy is what holds us together, the fanzine end being unimportant. As for the view that one must grow up in the fantasy atmosphere to be able to criticize our microcosm, something is to be said for it, and yet I would hate to think that we are like the sects or parties who will not listen to the observations of intelligent outsiders. It is rather fruitless to argue about the size of "fandom"; but even if you could so define it as to include 3,000 persons, I don't see that this would affect Meason's criticism of the LASFans she saw." I think you overestimate the grandeur of Hyacinthum almost as much as it is usually underestimated. A propos of your general discussion, there is a line in Spengler that struck me as terrific, a revelation of something you never see suggested elsewhere, but which has tremendous possibilities for interpretation. "that sudden illumination which we most ineptly call the Carolingian Renaissance is a ray from Baghdad." Afterwards he refers to Charlemagne's domain as Frankistan. He does not think that it has anything to do with Western civilization, which had its origins later. Lin's (Yutang, not Carter) analysis of "fashions" as two-valued syntheses of dressing and undressing seems as specious as most of that "sage"'s observations. This certainly is not the only admissible way of systematizing the subject, and such dualisms are very likely to be deceptive oversimplifications.

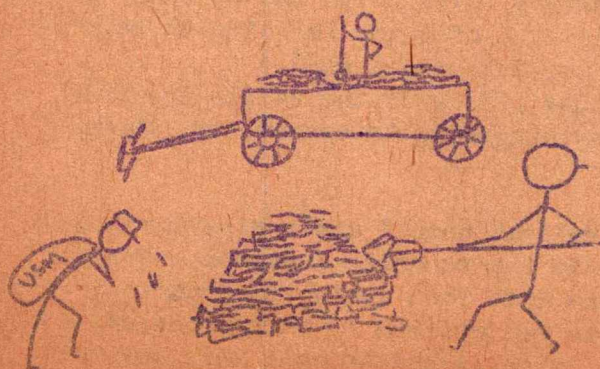
A Tale of the 'Evans: Whaddaya mean, senders of fakely signed telegrams can't be sued for forgery? Prove who they are, and you have a perfectly good cause of action. Wanta hire me to represent you? "Tripoli's account of his trip around the country was enjoyable on the whole, provoking the malicious marginal note, "When he gets outside himself Everett isn't bad." "I naturally feel some disagreement with his reference to "Speer's bid for his annual ego-boo". Even adopting the practice of thinking the worst of people's motives, isn't it straining the term "annual" a bit to apply it to something for which there is only one imaginable prior instance? "You passed thru the most desert part of Texas; surprisingly, that part of New Mexico north of Pecos-land isn't bad, and is rightly claimed by the inhabitants as South Plains country, along with the dukedom of Amarillo and western Oklahoma counties. (This sort of thing is going to be very confusing to Herbert Haysler if he receives the Synapses I send.)

I should have saved my comments on the affair of the stills for this paragraph on Gloom, because I can't think of anything else to comment on, though I enjoyed the four pages.

No need to tell you how the Snix duplimat pencil cover experiment came out. "Shame on Torry. Sherwood Anderson is the recently deceased author of the unforgettable Winesburg Ohio sketches, and Home Town during the patriotic period at the turn of this decade. Green Pastures was written by Marc Connelly, drawing heavily on Ol' Man Adam and his Chillum. (Yes, I checked all this against the encyclopedia, but I already knew it.) "Was the BRASF illic for Trouble Times

Two was the same as in Campbell's SF, it wasn't by George Smith unless he's a pseudonym for Alex Raymond, which seems improbable. " The only fault I've noted in your speech to the toastmasters was that you should have proved at the beginning that all the descriptive data about stef which you were to give was worth listening to and trying to remember. Instead you saved this till near the end. " Your remark on Cerebustera instances that overcompensating pride in mathematical inability which most Americans have. I speak as one who is indifferent poor at math, but has aspirations. " There is no definite number in the Brain Trust, and it certainly isn't a closed group. " I don't remember the Night Land quote now, but it is permissible to reprint short excerpts from a copyrighted work for purpose of criticism. " Dunno about URS, but I break up my mailings and file the contents like any other fanzine; geographically. " No, not dead in 1952; just running for re-election. " I just wrote to the war and navy depts; the navy came across, and war told me to write Governors Island. " There was no reason for Spengler to consider mobile vegetation. He was just interpreting life up to now, not sketching a theory with a place for everything. " No, but had I not been busy, I still wouldn't have driven all the way to Tacoma to attend a URS meeting. By the way, fellows, what's happened to the URS? " Sounds like you could give us a fascinating report, Coswel, on the results of some of your experiments in calling up strangers to ask if they have old stef rags. " Is that Otto Binder or Bette Orr?

Phanteur is welcome back, but the contents are a little below DB's best. Dive into our conversations more, Don, 'steads standing off with topics that you thot up all by yourself. " It doesn't seem to me that arguing against the exact opposite (whatever that means) of an all-Alpha society implies being in favor of the latter. Mayhap I misunderstand you. But my guess would be that Aldous's sole ideological object in Brave New World was destructive criticism--showing that some things won't work well, that A does not imply B.. Quite the opposite of (now I'm speaking of opposites!) Looking Backward et al. "the people who really matter" is rather ambiguous. Do you mean the people who most influence the future, or the people for whose sake society should be designed? " Campbell's explanation for not mentioning negroes incidentally in stef stories was that this would almost inevitably involve some sort of a propaganda slant, which would risk antagonizing someone, and is none of the function of a magazine like his--this in reply to Chan's bringing up an excision from To Still the Drums which he has already mentioned in FAPA. The idea that negroes would be noticeably better than others in understanding the other fellow's viewpoint--speaking of e-t's--because they're a persecuted group, seems very strained. " Darned if I can guess who Willison is. If he's only been reading s-f since returning from overseas, how could he be former president of a one-time flourishing fan club?



SINCE OUR FANZINE GOT
THAT REVIEW IN AMAZING
WE HAVE SO MANY SUB-
SCRIPTIONS WE
DON'T KNOW
WHAT TO DO
WITH THEM.

With my weakness for soap, I liked the cover of Phanorama. "The Eutopian" wasn't bad at all, though it adds nothing to Keller's reputation. "Andy's reports of several convention occurrences seem somewhat misloading. His summarization of the discussion on Is Science Catching Up with Science-Fiction was quite unsatisfactory. He takes more words to say that the discussion got off on side issues and the question wasn't finally answered, than it would have taken to give some idea of the collateral questions that came up, and the conclusion that could be implied from the whole discussion, that there's plenty of new story material in more detailed treatment of problems that have been passed over. As to his report on the anti-Lomurian resolution, he indicates that it condemned all who even pretend to believe the stories, whereas the resolution limited condemned pretenders to those who do so for money, which would be Geier, Hamling, possibly Palmer, and a handful of others. His report on the final disposition of the resolutions is inaccurate in every detail. And I'd be interested to know who, if anybody, spoke the third and fourth of the four general opinions mentioned."

Horizons. The technique of the Leaders of Lord of the Storm doesn't sound like a pure creation of the imagination. Under the present system, these individuals who show, not at birth, but at maturity, the greatest potentialities are given moderately good jobs in private business which takes away their incentive to apply their talents for improving the condition of everyone. If an aristocracy should ever establish itself which adhered rigorously to the idea of adopting people into itself solely on the basis of ability, it would have a nearly unshakeable grip on power. But most of them are corrupted by favoritism, identification with their children,. The aristocracies of ability in Germany and Russia can only be defeated from outside. "I doubt that calling the sky blue, or naming 'dove' with 'love' can be "the right things in the right place" much any more, for the simple reason that the audience has heard them too often. Perhaps Stan Krebs, who goes for Poe, even his humor, will argue with you on him, but I'd rather take my stand on such other pioneers as Homer, Sophocles, Chaucer, Wordsworth, and Wells, to maintain that if originality in itself is not a virtue, it is found remarkably often in conjunction with work of the highest order."

Fleming's story of the convention management is very enlightening. "The funniest thing about the telegram from Burbee and Laney is that every word of it is true. "Richmond Indiana, ehun, is where the state--uh--hospital is located. "Who crossed Perdue's name off the statement of debtors on the back page? "The front cover looks like a piece of a bone."

Gruzak: Trick ending of The Ultimate Fan fooled me. "I'd say that the saddest story titles are those full-sentence jobs like Lancelot Pigge Cooks a Pirate. They reek of the comic magazines. "Tis certain that the little lights in the sky have more associations for the stief addict than for the ordinary citizen. Mean you more than this? "I've heard that the vitamins in carrots have a lot to do with colorblindness, at least the degree of it. "I'd say the secret of Toynbee's success is that he has put into learned words, and documented with facts to suit, the underlying assumptions of the great mass of thinking Saxons about the course of history. I'd also say that he's wrong, and said so at some length in a multipaged letter to Time. Lots of authors have pulled the same trick, telling people what they already think they know, some pulling it in all sincerity. Say, joke, I have no objection to abstractions per se, though I'm certainly suspicious of them. If it makes any difference, his idea of challenge and progress isn't original with Toynbee. You suggest skepticism, on the basis of general semantics, about "listing civilizations in cut-and-dried charts and columns" or a "formula that'll predict the future course of contemporary civilizations", yet

Spangler does this, and Toynbee goes out of his way to praise Spangler's work. It might be worth adding that Gould wasn't at all dogmatic about the absolute certainty of the West's future developing as prognosticated. Once before, there was a fundamental change in human development, when men stopped being a few wandering savages and attaching themselves to the soil began to develop cultures, and another such change might occur at any time. However he says, I am bound to think, a bit cavalierly, "Here experience ends, and all speculation on what new forms will govern the life of future mankind (or, for that matter, whether there will be any such new forms) all building of majestic card-houses on the foundation of 'it should be, it shall be' is more trifling--far too futile, it seems to me, to justify one single life of any value being expended on it." At any rate he is much more positive than Toynbee in his predictions; Toynbee gets his perceptions all mixed up with exhortations, and from a believer in free will the result is bound to be uncertainty. "I wouldn't say bomb-dodging is hopeless. As to whether we'd do better to discuss preventing the atomic war, you've touched an unsolved problem in logic. Alternative A has a desirability-index of 100, and a probability of .05. Alternative B has a desirability-index of 10, and a probability of .35. Which should you take? Something like a bird in the hand and two in the bush, except the one in the hand isn't very securely held." "A spaceship ark isn't a half-bad idea. The week after Hiroshima, Tom Gardner said we'd better get busy and conquer space so a few humans can get away to carry on the race. And a little later there was Chan's sestet ending, "Now when the world explodes," he said, "I'll be some other place."

Frappe: Methinks Virginia Kidd's Baltimorean origins have overly impressed her with Roman Catholicism. I flatly dispute that a Protestant could not care as much as a Catholic about the establishment of Antichrist. Protestantism is a Nordic phenomenon, and the Northern is indisputably capable of intense feeling than the Mediterranean. "Lament for now is the only of Ree's three poems that seems to say much of anything, and it was said long ago by Poe in Sonnet to Science. Perhaps the theme is worth using more than once." I dutifully disagree with the criticism of our libel laws. In the first place, VIKR has overlooked the prophylactic effect of such laws. Like the Statute of Frauds (which requires many agreements to be in writing), the value of the law of libel isn't to be judged only by watching the cases that come into court, but also by looking to situations in which the parties have never allowed the trouble to begin because they knew where they would end up if they were hauled into court. Look at the unspeakable personalities in neoclassical literary feuds, or the mudslinging of the Jefferson-Hamilton war, when the law of libel was in such a primitive condition as to be quite ineffective. If we had no effective libel law today, there would be no deterrent to the dominant organs of public opinion spreading, for example, the lie that Wallace made a fortune from information received as Secretary of Agriculture; he would have no way of hauling them into a forum where they would be compelled to back up their accusation according to scientific rules of proof. Of course defamation can still be done, but it is severely hampered. As for your statement that anyone can sue you for libel, and you have to clear yourself, this doesn't reflect the law on the subject, and I suppose all you mean is that a person can be put to the trouble of hiring a lawyer by anyone who wants to sue him. (True of assault and battery or anything else as well as libel.) This is unfortunate, but I can't think of any better arrangement. If the workings of the law are to be governed largely by rules rather than judges' arbitrary discretion, the rules are inevitably complicated, and not a field for laymen. This liability to expense, like the cost of protection against criminals, may be a fundamental injustice, but that's the way our world is made. "No, my prozine reviews aren't completist, because I don't read every story. Stopped doing that nigh ten years ago." Orifanac translates critical fan activity, meaning any activity.

7

If all the covers on Spark were as indistinct as that on my copy, you should demand a refund. " Seems to me that Carter's data is (I said is) rather too meager to support his sweeping generalization about pros making the convention. The incipient disintegration of the LASFS is one factor he should have taken into account. He goes too far in saying Van Vogt was the only "name" at the Pacificcon. There were a number of other pros, Bradbury, Brackett, Bloch, Olsen, Hornig., and Tucker, since Paul insists on calling him a pro. More serious than the lack of pros, from my viewpoint, was the small number of fan from outside trans-Tenachapi. For me, the steinists are the convention. Dignitaries' speeches from the rostrum are all right, and certainly some pros at Philadelphia contributed their share to bull sessions, but I wouldn't come to a convention just to hear a speech that I could as well read, which makes up the bulk of Carter's citations. The one case he does mention, of a session with pros that could not have found a substitute in some other medium than conventioning, was Chan's forum on new areas for science-fiction. It's not enough alone to support Paul's point. " Glad to get the words of Begin the Beguine; as I read it I can still hear the ESFA quartet rending it. " Takeoff was a very good job of writing. I think it might have been better had we been allowed to see the crew entering the ship and the port sealed; I felt that the ship was taking off before the description finished building up for it. " I've skipped thru Zots on the bookstand. Resembles Mr Adam all right, but is inferior. In fact, after I'd finished it I decided it was a silly book. Much of its theme seems to be that a man can't get to the President or Secretary of War or anybody really high up merely by saying that he has something which will materially shorten the war.

Tangents: Those were conventions, chum, not atomic wars. " I would be slow to cite signpainter's plural and similar errors as evidence of national disintegration. Signpainters have always been an illiterate class, which may be beside the point. You might look to the economic rise of the intellectually common man for an explanation of the increasing toleration of bad grammar; of course this is linked to decadence, at least in Spengler's pattern. There is probably less pride in the more menial types of work, including perhaps proofreading, since people can make good money by shifting into an entirely different job. It certainly seems to me that Street & Smith's typesetting has deteriorated of recent years, though I may just be more sensitive. If our spelling and grammar were defensible it might be easier to condemn deviations. " Workers share in profits in proportion to earnings? I suppose you mean in proportion to their contribution to production. How can you measure that? People commonly assume that the proportion can be calculated, because of the prevalent fallacy that workers are now paid more or less in proportion to what they contribute. But actually what they get is determined by the methods of the market, not by scientific formulae. " No reason under the constitution why ballots can't be sent separately airmail to members overseas.

I see as how Maria Montez is going to play in a movie about Atlantis.

(W Daily reports on an issue of Month's Best, UW lit'ry magazine. "The next story represents a definite departure from the conventional," they say, little knowing how conventional it is in another context. "Written by Walter Fox, also a senior in English, 'A New Experience for Richard Moraby' is a delightful story of a young college professor's reaction to life after death. The fact that the professor was an agnostic during life on earth provides an unusual twist that is the basis for some real humor throughout the story."

Ookil'karabin? Isasara, nibanara. Ikil'karabin.

QUOTE WORTHY QUOTES

"The conceptions I have summarized here I first put forward only tentatively, but in the course of time they have won such a hold over me that I can no longer think in any other way."

--Sigmund Freud

"In pleasure which is fulfilled, its opposite is already stirring."

--Albert Schweitzer

"The next war won't determine who is right--only who is left."

--Paul Whiteman on Armistice day

"Surely it must be plain that an ingenious man could speculate without end on both sides, and find analogies for all his dreams. Nor does it help me to tell me that the aspirations of mankind--that my own highest aspirations even--lead me towards the doctrine of immortality. I doubt the fact, to begin with, but if it be so even, what is this but in grand words asking me to believe a thing because I like it?"

"Science has taught to me the opposite lesson. She warns me to be careful how I adopt a view which jumps with my preconceptions, and to require stronger evidence for such belief than for one to which I was previously hostile."

--Huxley to Kingsley, on the death of a son of Huxley's

"My convictions, positive and negative, on all the matters of which you speak, are of long and slow growth and are firmly rooted. But the great blow which fell upon me seemed to stir them to their foundation, and had I lived a couple of centuries earlier I could have fancied a devil scoffing at me and then--and asking me what profit it was to have stripped myself of the hopes and consolations of the mass of mankind? To which my only reply was and is--Oh devil! Truth is better than much profit. I have searched over the grounds of my belief, and if wife and child and name and fame were all to be lost to me one after the other as the penalty, still I will not lie."

--Idem

"Probably many, certainly some, rules of law based on less than universal considerations are made absolute and universal in order to limit those over-refined speculations that we all deprecate"

--Holmes, 252 US 340

"Human thought never operates by first assuming all the facts or data, and then asking them to deliver their meaning. Philosophic inquiry resembles all other human inquiry in seizing upon some organizing hypothesis as the tool with which to search for further data; the interpretation goes on simultaneously with the discovery of fresh facts which are relevant to it."

--College Outline Series

"This inclusiveness of its materials is something to which, if it be carried far enough, philosophy eventually arrives, not something with which it sets out; it comes at the end, after a long process of clarification and criticism, not at the beginning with its initial insights."

--Ibid

"All that I mean by the thing an sich is a somewhat, independent of my thought, presumably amounting to more than I know."

---Holmes 22 Jul 19

"Nor is it any discovery that in extreme cases disobedience to lawful authority may be a moral duty if conscience clearly forbids obedience (at the risk indeed that conscience may be wrongly informed, in which case wholly right action is impossible)."

--Pollock 20 Sep 19

SPECIAL REASONS FOR KEEPING FAPA OUT OF AMAZING

As we have several new members this quarter, and as I desire to renew the question with that majority of older members who have not yet responded, I am enclosing herewith another copy of the by-law circulated with the postponed Symposia at year's end. If you are in favor of the action indicated, sign one side of this sheet--you can tear off the other side to keep in your files if you're a completist--and return it to me at 4518 16th NE, Seattle 5 Wn.

A dozen signatures have been received, and two or three others have written me their reasons for not signing--in one case it was that the writer was allowing his membership to lapse. Such reasons will probably be discussed at some length in this mailing.

This is not the place for going over the arguments against the Lemurian ideology, and for a fanish stand against it. But there are considerations applying peculiarly to groups like FAPA and the Spectator club (which has a similar by-law in the mill) for not seizing on this proffered publicity.

We have a membership limit. In the last year or so we have been a dozen or so under that limit, and despite the several new members this past quarter will probably not have a full roster this time, due to new vacancies. Good argument for advertising for new members?

No. Not in the prozines. The FAPA is a society for experienced fantasites. They need not be of long standing, but they definitely ought to have some idea of what fandom is and how it functions before they attempt to participate in FAPA. We have a nominal activity requirement for new members, but that this is not enough to guarantee that an applicant meeting it will contribute to FAPA after he gets in, or that he will, like what he finds, has been proved by many names which stayed on our roster for four quarters in times past and then slid away into the darkness. Minimizing this unfortunate carrying of deadwood does not require raising our entrance requirements, but using some discretion as to the areas in which we recruit.

People who know of FAPA only thru publicity in a prozine are not promising material for membership. Let them get acquainted with the subzine field first, and then they will have some idea of what membership in the FAPA involves. People reading about FAPA in a fanzine review column are very likely to reach the conclusion that here is a way of getting loads of reading matter for a year for the measly sum of one dollar.

Add to that the fact that the people we are really thinking about here are people who hear about us only thru publicity in Amazing Stories. How likely is a person of this class to be a valuable addition to the FAPA? If his reading of stuff is not confined to Amazing, he can hear about us even though we withhold our mailings from Roger Phillips Graham--thru reviews in Startling, if you wish, or indirectly thru subzines which can be contacted via a number of reputable commercial magazines. One who comes to us by such avenues is much more likely to be an asset to the association.

This is not a matter of arbitrarily excluding a particular class. It is a question of where we shall look for the few men required to bring our membership up to its limit of 65. We are not equipped to take on neophytes wholesale and afterwards sort the wheat from the chaff. We want as good a group of fantasites as possible within the limit of 65. Such an ideal does not recommend soliciting cave-finders, turtle-voice prophets, 14-year-old Forteanes, connoisseurs of sadism, and interpreters of the Book of Revelation.

I leave to your own imagination the possibilities if a clique of these, after gaining admission to the FAPA, should decide that they want to stay.

... Think Burbee's treatment of Purdie and wife much more aesthetically-
worthy than his unauthorized sending of mailing to Amazing.

--You can't get π as the answer to an equation, you can merely get clo-
ser and closer to it by following it farther and farther, since the "e" in π
can itself only be approximated in this way.

"Pearsonianly" referred to Karl Pearson--not Droop. See Swisher's ori-
ginal article in "a" on the Palmer story-rating mathematics for further details.
... I'll get around to answering the rest of your enormous last letter one of
these years, yet. I've had to break off our reciprocal trade treaty on mailing
comments due to infrequency of publication of "a" as compared with Suspro. 'Twould-
n't be fair to you as it is.

This is the first time I have ever addressed a letter to a fan magazine,
but I am breaking precedent just this once to tell you that I recently received
the initial issue of your sterling little publication and completely enjoyed it.
I must admit that the symbolism on the cover escapes me, but then I seldom dig
these astronomical covers anyway.

I did enjoy the article (or first of a series?), "Catching Up With Grud",
and it was that which prompted this letter. Your research into that Sterling,
gone-but-not-forgotten fanzine, Stardust provided old memories to the extent that
I went searching back thru Le3 to see what I could find on Hamling and Stardust.
I found this on page 8 of the December 1940 (335) issue:

Hamling quote(source not now remembered): "Unfortunately, circumstances
over which I have no control make it necessary for me to temporarily lapse Star-
dust's publication. Rest assured that the magazine will be continued at the ear-
liest possible moment." Followed then my snide remark: "Dear fellow subscribers
to Stardust: are we out a buck?"

One begins to wonder at this late date just when "the earliest possible
moment" will occur, and one also suspects my closing question may be considered
answered. Eh?

The cartoons on the rc make me wish I had paid less attention to poker
and more to you at Philly. When and where were the colored slides and how did
I miss them? I've recently dipped into this field myself; have a projector for
the 2 1/2 x 2 1/4 inch color transparencies I'm getting these days. Have no more than
a dozen Eastern fans thus preserved for posterity, the majority of my stuff being
family and local color.

I'll bite ... where do the fairies hide their heads when snow lies on
the hills?

The equation you quote ($e^{\pi i} = -1$) is one of the most interesting things in mathematics, showing the relation between the three most important numbers in mathematics, e, pi, and i. You can't use it as an equation defining pi, because e is also a transcendental number, so you are merely giving one transcendental number in terms of another. You just can't state e or pi as any finite arrangement of rational numbers.

And a certain badly misquoting:

Only grammatical error I noted in Synapse's margin was, "I don't like you [sic] beating in here like this." Better later.

Now, that was a misquoting. I think the thing diagrams all right without a caption. How would you reform? I object to the great mass of the concerning public, who must ultimately pay the bills, being required to subsidize these operations.

Top fanzine today - - - - - Gold crud tomorrow

"Our Appalling Crisis--What Would Lincoln Do?" was the approximate title of a story in Liberty around 1930. Guy dreams Lincoln comes back and converses with him, every quoted word of Lincoln's being from his recorded remarks. But, as I recall, the "appalling crisis" in question concerned mostly prohibition!

Wuxtry! Wuxtry! Czechoslovakian aide-de-camp issues pronouncement to Reichs-

Surprising that with all the stuff which appears nowadays in mundane mags there has been no repetition of the single instance in which a mundane mag (other than Munsey) carried a cover illustrating such a stuff story.

Fushesi's charge d'affaires!!

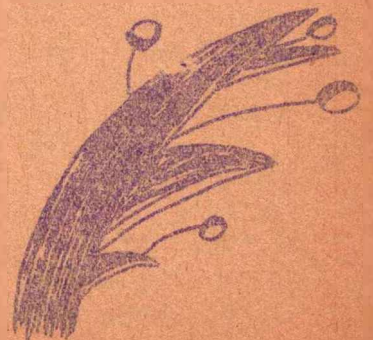
To show that these random paragraphs have not heretofore reached their nadir, much as you might think it, I quote here an inaccurately remembered line from Herriman's Krazy Kat: "Bum Bill Bee, heading northward in his southerly course, with the rising sun setting gently before him, pauses swiftly and considers that this and that are similarly different."

Shay Amholchand Abaahor

Little fbd wouldn't go badly here. The following ad placed in the 20 Apr 47 Saturday Review of Literature by a he-fan interested in psychological research, produced some very surprising results:

Single girl, 22, desires agreeable correspondent interested in art, records, fantastic stories, travel, etc. Box 336-K.

And Ivan Skizavitsky Skivar.



WHY I AM OPPOSING WALLACE'S CANDIDACY

We haven't got much time.

Things are shaping up for The War around 1951. By that time the USSR will have a good stockpile of A-bombs, and will have completed its armament and munitions program. At that time, too, the United States will probably be wallowing in a depression and there will be some among Americans willing to use drastic means to redress our economic imbalances. More likely than not, Europe will still be too weak to be an important peace factor.

In short, there is a good chance that we won't live to see November 1952.

This prediction is based on the election of Dewey or Taft and a Congress to match. Things work toward the same end regardless, but the Dewey/Taft road leads to it with more certainty.

The conditions tending toward this end are primarily in the minds of people. Were people's thoughts otherwise, the physical destruction and depletion in the world might as easily be a hopeful thing. But the weariness of Europeans, the suspicion of Russians, and the disillusion of Americans; the shortsightedness of individuals, the desperation of conservatives, and the stupidity of radicals, are like huge boulders beyond the power to move of any scheme which you or I could help effect. Accepting them for the near future, we must pick the best path thru them that we can, in our efforts to keep that probability of doom as low as possible. To say that peace could be won by a convincing display of pacifism from America or by the Politburo's opening its realm to information from outside, is as pointless as to say that we could prevent war with the electromagnetic-gravitic gadgets they had in Sixth Column. Such speculations furnish no basis for individual action.

To return, then, to the theme of urgency. What Wallace is trying to do will make the USA and the world a worse place for the next four years, and a place in which war is more probable. Any such protest vote as he can build up will be a first failure. It will not adequately reflect the numbers of people to whom keeping the peace is the paramount issue, and the whole number of people with whom this question comes first are only a minority in the country. A head-on attack against war will not have the power behind it to succeed. The men it will put into office by splitting the vote are the worst men for attacking war indirectly thru alleviating its causes.

That Wallace does weaken the Democratic cause can hardly be doubted. In places where the PCA party allows a major-party liberal to run unopposed by them, he will be damned with the Red tag worse than liberals have ever been before, because anti-Communist sentiment has been whipped up to a higher pitch, and because the endorsement proceeds from a more obviously Communist-infiltrated group. You may not like this, but only by projecting your internal states onto the outside world can you get around it. I saw Charley Savage defeated by Wallace's endorsement in a by-election here last year. In places where the PCA puts a man in the field against the Democrat--often against a good liberal who has peeved them by voting for the BRP--they will draw off votes and, more important, campaign workers, sufficient in many cases to defeat the Democrat. You will see the Chicago Tribune's senator Wayland Brooks assured of another six-year term this way. And the presidential race itself may easily turn on this mechanism.

If 1952 cannot be counted on, and if it admits that it will help put reactionaries and isolationists into office for the next four years, the last defense of the third party is that Truman and a Democratic Congress would be just as bad. If the latter give a perceptibly better chance for a hopeful future than their alternative, and if they have, as they have, a reasonable chance at winning the election, then we must support them.

I think they do, I believe they have, and I feel I must. I will therefore do what I can, except attack its principles, to weaken the third-party movement.

ITEMS FROM MY SCRAPBOOKS

Other notes, while Stan looked thru some older ones, I actually did some sticking of things in those bulging volumes. This current stuff, however, is still in a folder:

"In the name of Zeus, Amen. The august imperial majesty of Cappadocia and Paphlagonia, the 73rd king of Asia, Croesus, son of the sun, favored heir to the throne, master of all peoples, most blessed of mortals, whose kingdom inspires terror, has granted a charter to the society of Doodlers, . . . after over 2400 years, the secret & honorable society of Doodlers has decided to admit to membership a chosen few of high quality. Starting this the 15th day of November 1947 for the 4,734th year since the founding of the city of Sardis, the ancient order was opened to a competition for membership shall be held. Eligible is any law student, student, taxation or business associations. . . . Entries shall be judged for originality, skill, & propriety - doodles with moral content are specially welcomed. . . ." My entry, though sufficient to gain me a membership, lacked the essentially spontaneous and uncerebral character of true doodles. Some of the others were as good as anything hanging in the Museum of Modern Art.

I shall not bother to reproduce a very revised version of that personalized typewriter keyboard which I once fouled up so miserably on the stencil, but here it is in the scpbk. The shift key is in the middle.

Also destined for the book is an extra of the foto of McGWells sent out with Ackerman's memorial pamphlet. I had it over my door for some months, but took it down for repainting of the walls and haven't felt like remarring them with scotch tape.

After sticking paragraphs together, I find that this page needs a little padding. Let me refer briefly then to an old scrapbook where we find: Folder plugging the Oregon Vortex which we visited on our invasion to southward. A foto each (taken by someone else) from a Boskone and a Philco. The contrast between the look and feel of these events is poignant. A slip found in Apes, Men, and Morons (have I mentioned this before?), which says, "This book was written to show the author's knowledge of English, his wit and his conceit. # It is worthless. # Please excuse him." After some readin in it, I'm inclined to some agreement, though I know Hooton is hily regarded.

How long do you expect it to be before you see a notice like this in your paper: "Major Leo Schmidlauf who recently developed a super-sonic rocket ship will attempt his first flight today at noon. Conceivably the ship has enough fuel to reach the moon in 17 hours if all goes as planned. The American Society for Exploration of the Universe invites all to attend his departure from E. 45th and 19th N.E." Lockman brot that to me, but I had already seen the sequels, a report on the attempt, in the University Daily, one day, and the next an actual fotograf of the intrepid major and his ship. In the meantime, however, his name appeared to have changed from Schmidlauf to--Degler! Honest. Later Stan, who plays for dances (not the oboe), brot home something which indicates that the starward surge was merely a publicity stunt for the "1947 ΔΥ Brawl", these words being printed on a rocketship across the face of the moon, whose shape is the shape of the dance program. He says the Delta Upsilon house was fixed up inside with an interminable passageway along which Greeks under the influence of a Greek Venus wandered happily.

I enjoyed a fan from Vars piece by Samuel Crafton not so long ago: "If a man from Vars were to read the record of the present Congress and were to try to figure out from it what sort of country the United States was this year, he might reach some strange conclusions. He would almost certainly say to himself that the United States had no housing problem in 1947, for the subject never came up before Congress. . . . It would appear, however, from the Congressional record, that many American tenants were anxious to pay their landlords 15 per cent more money than they had been paying, but were prevented from doing this by a law which Congress, in its haste to please the people, amended. . . . The Housing Act of 1947." After citing some other "amendments", Crafton goes on to say: "The Housing Act of the United States is a masterpiece of legislative art."

with neat houses, many of them vacant and for rent. # Down the middle of one such street comes a ditch-digger, in his usual disguise. He pretends to glance at a diamond on his finger, so as not to notice the sight of a landlord grubbing in a garbage can for something to eat. # The 2 other figures skulking in a doorway are producers of basic commodities, such as wool and sugar; they are waiting for the street to grow quiet, so that they can cover themselves with some newspapers and go to sleep. # The ditch-digger turns the corner, unmindful of the little group of junior executives in ragged trousers who are shaking their thin, almost translucent, fists at him as he passes. # These are the outlines of whatever strange country it is for which Congress has been legislating, however sincerely, these past 6 months. It isn't the United States. Maybe it's Mars."

And to end this installment, old faithful Lichty gives the parting advice of a state department official to pilots about to take off on an official stratoflight to Mars: "Good luck!...and should you find any life there, be firm!... NO TOWNS!!!"

Now, if you could see what these pages look like, patch together with scotch tape,

LAST STOP TO LIMEO

Does anybody know of a semipublic figure called Gene Ashley? I have just the name written down here, without the vaguest idea of when or where or why I jotted it.

And here in something in shorthand which I would translate "I am sho bull corn", but that's probably not right. Maybe it's an errand list.

Here was a suggested, but never proposed, emblem for the NTPP:

And back before we got a command from FooFoo to work for a compromise which was abroad in the world, we planned to run the ghughuist and FooFooist calendars side by side, designating the one with its symbol and the other with



Now, and I, the creature yearning in one direction and going in the other.

Here's a possible market for new fancies. William-Fredrick Press, 313 + 35th, New York 1, advertises that its Pamphlet-Monthly lists alphabetically "all titles in all fields in synopsis form, currently issued by publishers, radio, government, educational, cultural, political and business agencies." Sample copy etc. I don't know whether their scope should include fancies, but I'll bet they don't in fact.

Free enterprise and all points west.

My only justification for the horrid appearance of several pages of this issue is that I never wright to experiment and find out what we can get away with, in using ordinary paper for ditto masters or copy, in using ditto carbon a second time, half a 1st pla. Maybe it would be better that experiments which turn out unfavorable never see the light of day, but I might as well type up the experimental work as the material for Synopses, and there if it's terrible, so be it and use it.

Do you have trouble with three consecutive unprinted syllables in the same word?

CATCHING UP WITH CRUD

Years and years ago, as so many of my observations seem to be premised nowadays, when I am asked to Swisher that he broaden the scope of the S-F Checklist to include all bulletins, occasional notices, etc, which were reproduced by any of the usual methods, I made up from memory a list of such papers which I knew of having appeared up to that time. To preface this and some later installments of miscellany, I will reproduce the list I made then, so that if anybody is ever disposed to incorporate such material in a master check-list of fantasy amateur publications, he can get off to a more or less flying start on such hard-to-trace items at this point.

The titles are descriptive rather than official. All of the first related to FAPA, and some are on Larry Shaw's index, but he probably missed some which were sent out separately. The list: FSES open letter on the subject of 24's assaults on them in 1932. F's open letter accompanying the Jun 32 FAPA ballot. Ballots--first term at the end of 1937, the regular one of 1938, special ballot on an amendment that year, and in the next year Taurasi's, and Higgins's. Messieurs et Mesdames, the postcard I published early in the Interregnum. Marconette's vp decision in the latter part of 1939. My Concerning Amendments. Something by Madle in a Mephail mailing. Sheet by Vollheim on Taurasi's ballot; and something he published for Marconette about the Luncheon. Now enter some nonFAPA items. Ad Astra ad. Cosmic Tales contents page distributed as an ad. Tucker Nova cover. Goukret ad. Letter to Oneself--Experiment in Mimeo. To Ourselves--Dear Dupes! Higgins presidential ad. Higgins on liberals. FO ads. Madle for vice-president. This FAPA Campaign. JHaggard's postcards campaigning for back covers on Amazing. Dick Wilson's subscription expiration notice. Fantasy-News's expiration notice. Fantasy-News's delinquent slip. The Nycon Warning!. International Song Sheet. Novarikon throwaway on the CIO discharger from Standard. DVI's 1937 Bulletin. Cosmic News. Dollens's expiration notice. Day-Dreaming. Final IFO report. SFCollector's Vote card. FantasyScience Direct expiration notice. Fantasy Magazine ditto. Fandom debunked. Shroyer article. Bronside on Three Thousand Years. The Truth About the ISA. My Platform--. Concerning V's bureau. De-Iran. DVI reply thereto. Fuh! on Fantasy-News. Let subman notice, and another direct. Louis Leliovits ad. De Lige de itle. Parker & Gehrig ad. Higgins notice of separate mailing Mar39.

And today what do we find? A board ad for Necromancer with the three mico monkey's attitudes reversed. Printed board on the Checklist of Fantastic Literature. Carcosa House's leaflet on Edison's Conquest of Mars. Hektoed card for Vortex '2--Can you take it? Announcement of Fantasy Review. Folder on The Garden of Fear. VAPA's mimeoed invitation to membership. Mimeoed letter, personalized with inside address and penned signature, plugging The Chinese Doll. Shae-ta's leaflet announcement of the Checklist. Mimeoed plug for To Keep or Kill, less personalized. Kish's 'Order Now! Immediately!' on The Shadow Girl and Liners of Time. Which was mailed out with a leaflet on The Forbidden Garden. First issue of Jim Williams's Book News for Science Fiction and Fantasy Readers. Kishi's Science Fiction What Is It? Trash or Literature? Which?, advertising the Bailey treatise, with which went a leaflet on The Legion of Space. Fantasy Press announcement and order blank for The Forbidden Garden and Of Worlds Beyond. Accompanied by leaflets on both. And of somewhat superior interest to the thunder-thru is FOCI's booklet on its forthcoming titles, giving a few comments (omitting, I noticed, to name the author of The Radium Doll) and a sample title for each. But it is the best exhibit for an argument that book publishers are overextending themselves.

Now that this mention-and-run stuff, old and new, is out of the way, we can plan to look somewhat more closely at other stuff, old, middleaged, and new, as my bulging outline files.

MEETING UP WITH CAMPBELL

Concluding Oct/7, I was going to say something more about *The End Is Not Yet*. It was a terrific disappointment. The action in the last installment is not natural or necessary. The opinions expressed by various characters who may be taken to speak for Hubbard are not logical. The writing is bad--it fails to carry the reader along when it wants to be spirited or solemn. The story is not even clearly told; I had difficulty determining what the relations were between Haushofer's group and Martel's, and probably Campbell contributed to this confusion. But the plainest cause of my letdown was that Elron let himself into the same dramatic dead end as *Sixth Column* and many another sf story has explored: After our sentiments are enlisted on behalf of the valiant heroes struggling to keep alive by daring, animal wit, and determination, they get hold of an invention or a whole group of inventions which enables them to do just about anything you could think of, and from there on the story of oppression-and-revolt is about as interesting as a wrestling match with Superman on your side.

When I bring myself to look more closely at the Nov/7 ASF cover, it's not really so bad. But one wonders if Rogers doesn't have a wife or somebody to tell him when he's making such an awful mistake. By the way, don't expect me to review *Children of the Lens*. I haven't read it. "Thunder and Roses 41K/35.5" was a wellwritten job. I think it might have been more compelling if Sturgeon had been able to think up a clearer and simpler case of sacrificing revenge for the sake of a better future. Whatever the mutations develop, it will not be an embodiment of humanity's common ideals, and it's not clear that Pete's actions have assured them of a chance to live--they may die anyway. This is probably the gloomiest of the atom-war cycle, but I don't feel physically depressed by it. "Boomerang 44.5/35.8 is a story of the old school, and pretty enjoyable." In *Margin for Error 41.2/34.41* Padgett seemed to drop opportunity after opportunity to make it a distinguished story, ending up with a Superman who, like whatever comes at the end of a Van Vogt story, is heap big medicine enough to take care of everything in the plot that needs to be taken care of. Why not let *Margin* turn out to be psychotic, as a rational weighing of the evidence 2/3 of the way thru the story would have shown? Or let Archer turn out to be just an exceptionally lucky guy, the opposite of an accident-prone. I'm annoyed, too, by the theory of predictability in the story. But I've been over that ground before.

The December cover is really beautiful. Fine simple and poignant symbolism gets me. I like the colors and the uncluttered treatment; think perhaps the composition is a little scattered, and Jenkins's face and the rabbit are a little inexpert. But I'd like very much to see more covers like this. *Aesop 41/32.3* is the best of the City series. Look what a rich cast of characters Simak has developed, and how he works them all together in this story, directly or indirectly. Homo exists in several different types: the decadents buried in Geneva; the naive "Websters"; the mutants, gone on to their unguessable destiny; and the great mass of mankind in desertion on Jupiter. In addition there are the dogs and the animal kingdom they have created; the cobbles; the wild robots; and at the junction point of them all, the admirable figure of Jenkins. I fear I'm not doing justice to the story with these ragged observations, and in a minute I must suggest some weaknesses. But first I'd like to pay tribute to the effectiveness of such passages as Lupus and Bruin talking about forbidden fruits; "What is a bow and arrow?"; the abrupt sight of the world of the blue sun; Jenkins's wishful thinking in going to the mutants, which had no fooled along with him; What I fear is that Simak has written himself into a hole. This story seems to say that man cannot be allowed to live with the rest of the characters, and transporting him across the dimensions instead of exterminating him doesn't change this; and if man is removed from the

story it will lose its interest for us. But perhaps out of Geneva will come a breed still recognizably human but with murder worked out of them. For the rest, the story is not static; it's made quite clear that the animals' peace can't last forever. Perhaps the cracks in it shown in Aesop are not unusual, not indicative of a trend toward breaking down the morals of several milleniums; but if nothing else, overpopulation must force new adjustments. And I expect to see the wild robots project themselves into the main stream of the history before long. Something I dislike to see is the interjection in the series of two elements, telepathy and transdimensional travel by purely mental means, which I think are beyond the pale of possibility. Heretofore the City series has seemed as good a forecast of what may actually happen as the History of the Future (of course Heinlein had his impossibilities too, but they weren't important until the end). In particular the existence of Cobbleland, and its relation to our world--temporal rather than dimensional--seems unnatural, contrived. I think I've said about all I had in mind about this. It is one of the few stories in ASF which makes the best use of Cartier's illustrative talents. "Does Alfred Coppel jr have a history of the future? What are we to infer from the "Geneva Keep Press" in the citation for his opening quotation? The temporal theory presented in his second quotation, "predestination with allowances already made for the perturbations inherent in time travel" seems to be unavoidable, the other suggested theory, "Variable futures based on certain key events", would not permit timetravelers to meet each other in the past which their world was cut away from by every jaunt they took, and they would be constantly returning to a future different from the home they left. I'd like to take issue with Toran Long, too, who is quoted as saying "The human concept of randomness is questionable. I believe that there is a cosmic pattern to randomness." But first I'd have to ask him to state more clearly what he means. The quotation crediting Mr Isaac Asimov with being the first to speculate on Psychohistory seems very unlearned. As to the story between the quotations, I thought it stank. The general plot was obvious from the very beginning; but Torres's finding of the very newspaper which told what would happen to a temporonautician about to leave just as he dug it up, is the sort of outrageous coincidence which belongs only in the comic books. Quite by the way, unless it was put there temporarily in connection with the Freedom Train, Jannine wouldn't have found the Declaration of Independence in the Capitol rotunda. The briefest look at a reference book would have told Coppel that it's ordinarily kept on display in the Library of Congress. Say, did any of you see a resemblance between the diggers in Napoli's fullpage illustration, and the Paul cover for The Human Termites? The foregoing, as I kept thinking I'd get a chance to mention, is about Age of Unreason 63. "I suppose we might possibly be expected to guess that the thing in the box in The Barbarian 44.3K was the vanguard of an extra-Solar menace, but I do not believe that Van Vogt gives sufficient data to tell us how the rolling ball of energy was supposed to function, and I emphatically object to this magic-wand method of the hero winning. The deus ex machina has never been highly regarded as a literary device, and VV has pulled it for the second or third time in this series. I'm getting tired.

January 1948 Astounding Science Fiction: I think it's more than my prejudice against telepathy which made me disappointed with Now You See It 45.7/34.1. The Second Foundationers were supposed to be experts in psychology, psychology which is accessible as a field to everyone. Psychohistory, for example; the layman should be able to understand that in direct proportion as he wishes to go into it--it's not a new realm whose threshold he suddenly crosses. Advertising and other means of influencing people as individuals are the same sort of study. The Second Foundation simply had more data, more exact patterns of analysis, to achieve its spectacularly accurate results. It was by such means that Hari Seldon established the Foundation, the First Foundation, that it should successfully meet every crisis before the walls. By such means the Second Foundation could have faced the crisis on Trantor and, thru some combination of circumstances such as timing is good at looking up, from his balcony can hear whatever is said in the situation that

nothing he could do would profit him. Instead, we get a hypostelepathic tug-of-war which might have been won by either side, the result having no more relevance to the ethical position of the two sides than the victories of Batman and Robin. As for the puzzle with which the story ends, I adhere to my guess that the Second Foundation has no geographical seat, but that many of its members will be found on the First Foundation and on Kalgan. "The Helping Hand" 63. is so much like Age of Unreason in the December issue that one wonders at Campbell placing them so close together. "Advent" 44.3 (I have my doubts as to what world the Sky-lords actually are visiting, in this story) is a pleasant little piece, all the ideas and incidents for which have probably been in the minds of scientific-fictionists for a long time.

The current cover is all right, but not as good as his other two. "I wonder where Campbell got the name for Megopolis 41-A. Both Spengler's translator and Gunther use "megapolis". If what Campbell says about the obsolescence of the megalopolis is to be understood as applying only to places like Chicago, New York, and Berlin, then I quite agree and raise him one. But at the outset he speaks of us as products of an Age of Cities, and seems to be using "cities" in a more general way--including perhaps anything over a hundred thousand. And there is no particular connection between the state of science and the fact of an urban culture. Memphis, Baghdad, Delhi, Peking, Alexandria, Cordova, and Tenochtitlan were true megalopolises, though some may never have had as many as a million inhabitants. "I feel very angry about There Is No Defense 45.3. That phrase has definite connotations, and we have a right to expect that it will not be taken in vain. Yet I'm Striberdigibeted if I can see any valid propaganda point to the story. On the contrary, the only propaganda in it seems to run in the opposite direction: Sturgeon makes his chief pacifist much too stupid to be the leader of pacifism, if he can't think of anything better to say than "I had to strike you, or I ..." after Belter tricked him into acting thalamically instead of cortically. Taken as a space opera, the story is miserable again. It has resemblance to a mystery, but falls down there on two counts: A piece of deception by the author, intended to make us think the invading ship is piloted, is not finally explained: the ship's remarkable reaction to The Death. And the general explanation that is finally given sounds like the kind of thing a positivist would contrive if he were ordered to formulate an explanation on the basis of observed phenomena; it has no organic unity within itself, no plausibility except such as is forced on it by otherwise inexplicable manifestations. "New Lives for Old 34.3 is rather refreshing in the directness with which this new author tells it. The only trick in it is a transparent one, starting the narration in the middle of the story. But thereafter the author himself starts at the beginning and tells you all about his scientific process, rather than having one character lecture another. That is about all I can say for the story. Against it are loose ends (he was the boy's backer?), a promised ingenious solution to the problem of quieting Logan for which instead we get something very much like main strength, and an undemocratic ideology. The ultimate differentiation between liberal and radical, the liberal's humility, implies that he must not be so certain of the rightness of a grand programme that he will put it over by foul means. What are foul means? Not necessarily every type of objectionable means; those which are generally in use, we may have to adopt in order that the enemy may not have inordinate advantage by monopolizing them. But as to any methods, such as those of the Science Centers, which do not because of their nature give the advantage to right over wrong, and which are not socially approved, we should not undermine public disapproval of them by using them ourselves, because soon enough the wrong hands will employ them. "Cosmetics 34. is good by comparison with the other two stories in this issue, but far from outstanding. I knew what the end would be when I saw there was only one page to go. While MacDonald's reasoning about the importance of not being as handsome as you like is probably sound, I think the situation depicted here would solve itself in a generation or so. But there's no room to speak further on that.

