

UNASKED

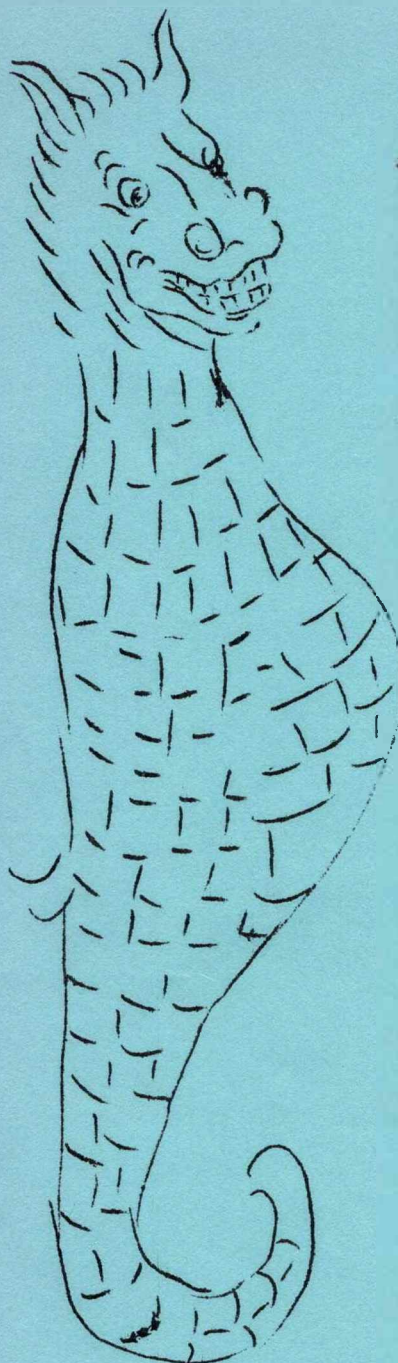
Mc Carr

FAPA 60TH
MAILING

OPINION



MAILING 59



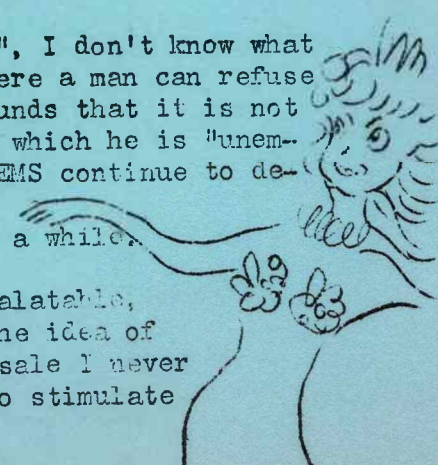
Austin: MACABRE INDEX and NAMELESSENTIALS - Both obviously represent a great deal of work, of which the latter had a more useful purpose. I was sorry that Bill was not able to continue this excellent analysis of Northwest ampubbing crifanac. Not being a collector of sadistic sex stories, I was unable to give MACABRE INDEX the appreciation it deserves.


Boggs: SKYHOOK, MANY SUNSETS, the OO - Two sentences in "Plain Talk or Plain Sense" kernel the nutshell of "obscurity in poetry" controversy: It is impossible to (1.) "...grant, but leave aside as beyond the scope of this discussion, the fact that some modern poetry is obscure merely to hide the sad truth that the poet really has nothing to say." The reason obscurity in poetry is objectionable stems largely from that very reason, as well as from would-be poets who (2.) "...use words and...read or listen to words for the sheer pleasure of it, not for the purpose of getting an idea put across in a neat and efficient way." The two selections you used merely point this out, because the latter, more expressive, phrase has "put across in a neat and efficient manner" a definite and understandable meaning. Actually, "obscurity" in writing (whether poetry or philosophy) results from the two causes you mentioned -- the writer (1.) has little or nothing to say, and (2.) is merely blathering around because he likes to hear his own words. Well, couldn't Emily blather around once in a while if she wants to? Did anybody say everything she wrote was good?

Carr: VULCAN - Hi, Terry. Glad to meet another Carr in FAPA. I liked your two poems, but I thought Peter Graham's stunk. Beautiful cover, mimeography not bad. I have SUSPENSE (but not MYSTERIOUS TRAVELER) in spite of the fact that the stf is nearly all reprints under new names..cheap trick, I thought. How can you define stf as "fiction that does not contradict science in any way..." Science contradicts itself continually -- a story which did not "contradict science" yesterday may contradict it today. Does that mean it is no longer science fiction?

Coslet: ELFIN - Re your comment on the "political article", I don't know what you consider "suitable work", but it is a fact that out here a man can refuse work he is physically able and qualified to do on the grounds that it is not his profession... that particular type of employment from which he is "unemployed" and drawing compensation. Bergeron's beautiful BEMS continue to delight me, but wish I could say the same for your reviews of these never-heard-of pulps. Gets kind of boring after a while.

Grutch: LIGHT - I think Voltaire's version sounds more palatable, he at least succeeded in giving a "literary" quality to the idea of callipygian edibles. Most of those books you offer for sale I never heard of. Why not give us a book review from the list, to stimulate sales?





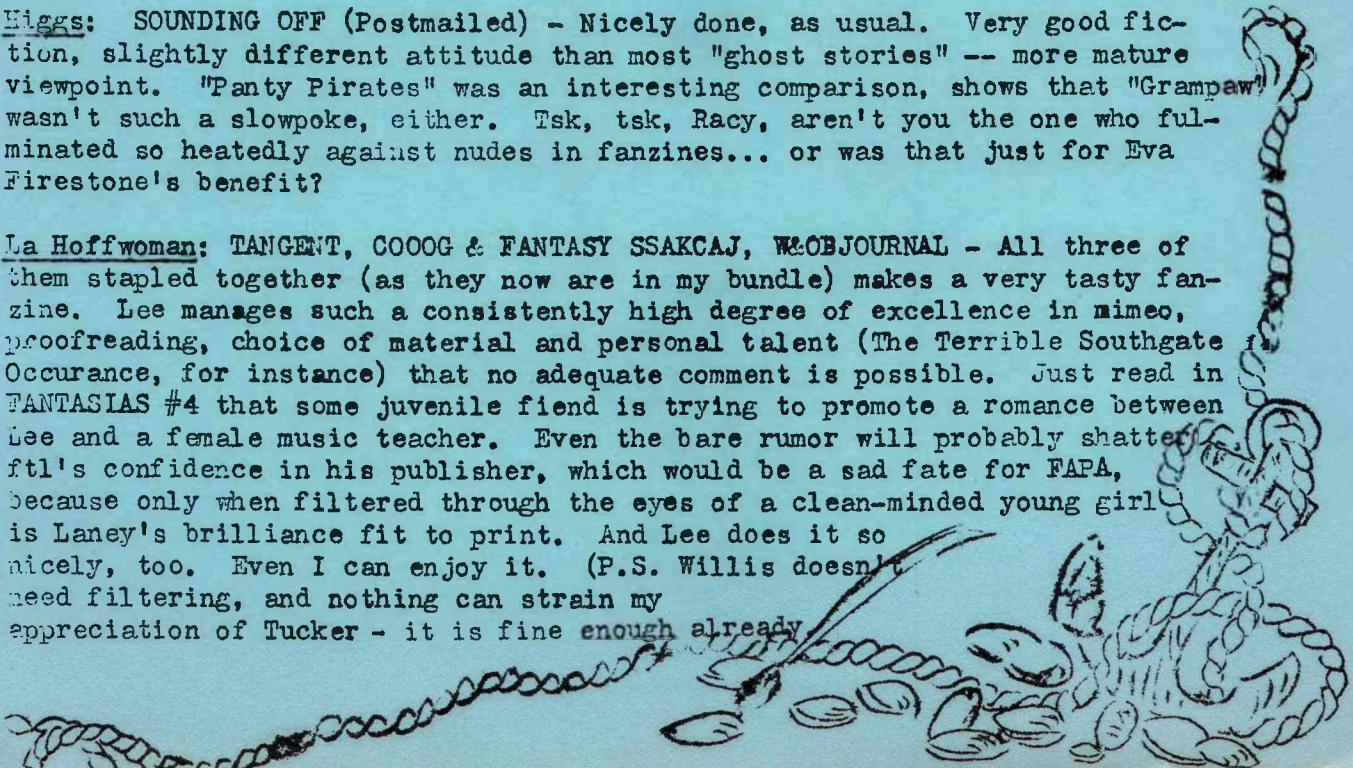
Drummond: DUCKSPEAK - This seems as good a place as any to disclose a dreadful secret. I don't find anything so funny about POGO. I look at that blasted "comic" strip faithfully and scrutinize it carefully in hopes of seeing what is hilarious enough to cause college riots and evoke paeans from great big grown up men like you.... All the reaction I can get from POGO is maybe a faint smile once in a while over some outrageous pun. Alas, my appreciation of "humor" must have been blunted by certain Irish puns. Oh, by the way, did you check with ftl before publishing "STYMIE"? You know how he feels about such things... Mustn't give him a chance to accuse you of corrupting innocent youths! Or maybe words don't matter?

Dunkelberger: FANEWS, etc. - Every time we get a new installment of FANEWS, I am beset with the problem of whether I should leave my mailings intact, or assemble it into the booklet it will eventually be.. How is the rest of FAPA handling this? Sure can't figure how you can lose out on the Finlay Portfolios, Dunk, they are really excellent. Maybe a paid ad in FFM or FN or some other pulp that features Finlay would reach the enthusiasts who haven't already got them. Swell for Christmas gifts for that "hard to please" person...Very "arty", just the thing for Grandma (or Gramp).

Eney: OBLAST - I ignore the maze you describe, lest I be overcome by a housewifely compulsion to come over there and tidy up the mess. Out here on the coast, a Potlatch is a well known phenomenon. It seems the early aborigines of this area had the pleasant custom of acquiring "face" by giving away all their possessions. A whole family - gens - would work assiduously for a couple of decades, then announce a "Potlatch". Coastal tribes of the same grouping would gather at the designated place and hold a whing-ding at said family's expense. They would ceremoniously give away every item of possible goods, down to the last cooking pot and carved horn spoon. Then, utterly penniless and covered with glory, proceed to live out their days on the reciprocated gifts the recipients gave to them in an effort to gain back the "face" lost by receiving the gift at the Potlatch. Sounds complicated, but represented about the same type of security that money in the bank does now. Early missionaries attempted to "civilize" the coastal Indians by eradicating the Potlatch, but merely succeeded in removing their sole incentive for working and acquiring possessions.

Higgs: SOUNDING OFF (Postmailed) - Nicely done, as usual. Very good fiction, slightly different attitude than most "ghost stories" -- more mature viewpoint. "Panty Pirates" was an interesting comparison, shows that "Grampaw" wasn't such a slowpoke, either. Tsk, tsk, Racy, aren't you the one who fulminated so heatedly against nudes in fanzines... or was that just for Eva Firestone's benefit?

La Hoffwoman: TANGENT, COOG & FANTASY SSKCAJ, W&OBJOURNAL - All three of them stapled together (as they now are in my bundle) makes a very tasty fanzine. Lee manages such a consistently high degree of excellence in mimeo, proofreading, choice of material and personal talent (The Terrible Southgate Occurance, for instance) that no adequate comment is possible. Just read in FANTASIAS #4 that some juvenile fiend is trying to promote a romance between Lee and a female music teacher. Even the bare rumor will probably shatter ftl's confidence in his publisher, which would be a sad fate for FAPA, because only when filtered through the eyes of a clean-minded young girl is Laney's brilliance fit to print. And Lee does it so nicely, too. Even I can enjoy it. (P.S. Willis doesn't need filtering, and nothing can strain my appreciation of Tucker - it is fine enough already)



Hunter: PAU - A copy of that "Letter to Jesus" might well be sent to the preaching profession as a whole just for the shock value. Its blatant commercialization of a religious tenet is no worse than much current practice. Laney's disgusted comments on Preachers vs Income Tax returns merely scratches the surface of this paradox. Do you remember the furor caused by "Elmer Gantry" a couple decades ago? Unfortunately no amount of crying "huckster" will change the gullibility of the very persons whose piety fosters them -- for the very good reason that it is unimportant to them. Those who give generously, give to God. If He wishes to share their gifts with chisellers and crooks, that is His business -- not theirs... The only ones who really get upset about the situation are the envious by-standers who have not figured a way to tap in on the "racket".

Jacobs: CHAOS - Welcome back to civilian crifanac, Lee. (My husband was very much relieved to discover there was no thought of the sexual connotations of the word in your choice of a name for that fanzine. It has bothered him somewhat wondering how three people could manage a mutual ORGASM....) This beautifully mimeographed, tastefully arranged, and highly interesting addition to FAPA included the further advantage of increasing my education on several pertinent points that I am sure I could never have learned otherwise. Now I see that I was, indeed, wrong in my estimate of the kind of artwork that the O would probably have contained (postal regulations permitting). I accept the correction and revise my statement to read... "the kind produced by the posing of prosperous prostitutes in the Place Pigalle..." Why are you surprised that O should receive a high rating for the quality of its contents at the same time that it received "caustic comments" for the way they were presented?

Keasler: A LA BABOOM Nice poetry by Marie-Louise. I wonder how many of you FAPANS saw the remark somebody made about Max - "Keasler is very broad-minded -- in fact, he's always got broads on his mind." That must be a libel, because I note that those real purty pix are very carefully neutral, 8 "he"s and 8 "she"s. Looks like Max is gonna please everybody or ~~blast~~ burst... (gotta watch my language here!)

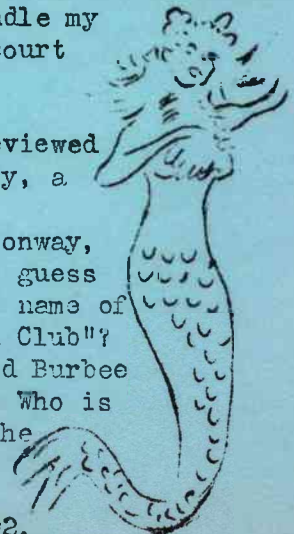
Martinez: SHADOWLAND - Sure is small this issue. No wonder you called it 3½. Wish you had remembered the name of that movie. It would be a pleasure to see a movie that is out and out corny and doesn't pretend to be anything else. "The Magic Carpet" and the rest of that Arabian Nights series in technicolor (with Lucille Ball & Shirley Temple's ex) was in that category. So sorry you practically had to brush the tassel-silk aside to see it, but fun nevertheless. Easy on the - pardon the expression - intellect as well as the eyes.

Rapp-by-Proxy: NON-WARP -- Art, you got took on that job. Eighty-two bucks for miming a lousy two-sheeter!! You ought to try me next time. Of course, nobody could read it (considering the kind of ink I use), but at least I can handle my liquid refreshments better. It is highly unlikely I'd run up any court costs for you on my husband's home made root beer...

Bose: TEROZINE (Postmailed) - stole a march on this mailing and reviewed the mailing of which it was, theoretically, a part! Is this legal? Well, why not.... Can't say I was much interested in Mike Conway, but I did enjoy the artwork and poems. I guess I just haven't lived yet, but what in the name of the ghods of Fandom is a "Mike Conrad Fan Club"? Ghughu, Foofoo, Roscoe, Eheer, Boggs and Burbee all have their adoring Faithful.... but Who is Mike Conrad? Are you sure you are in the right "fandom", Maggie?

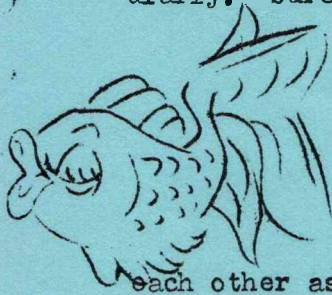
P.S. Hope you don't wait so long

before you put out TEROZINE #2.
That was a nice idea to include your picture.. what do you like besides Mike?

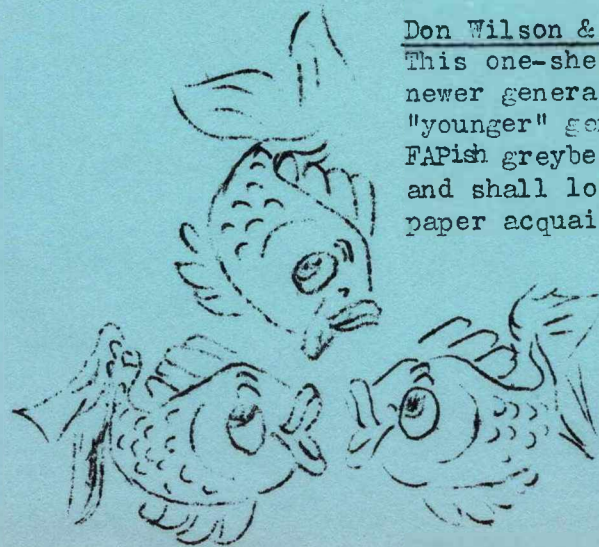


Silverberg: IRUSABEN - Thanks for straightening me out on the Hekto vs Ditto, that's not all I've been confused on. (Vigorous nods of agreement from assorted fen!) I kept confusing you and Gluck -- though what possible point of confusion your two different 'zines contain, not even Foofoo, Ghughu, Roscoe, Bheer et al could say... One thing you could well borrow from Sid, though, are some of those endless covers of his. Any cover is better than no cover, ne c'est pas?

Warner: HORIZONS - Drat! I just got through complaining about no cover... Son, what you don't know about this country's "welfare" would fill a Sat-EvePost article -- and did, this week (Dunno the date of it, sometime in July. The cover shows Mom washing dishes with rest of the family cavorting on the beach...) Those specific examples of Welfare I chose were not even slightly exaggerated. Out here it is not at all necessary for Grandma to sell the old family home; all she needs for a week or a month or a year in the hospital is a doctor's say-so. She gets free glasses, medicines, medical attention, even free non-medical devices occasionally. One "welfare" recipient got an expensive "cabbage juice extractor" like the "health foods" outfits set up in business with, just because a doctor recommended fresh cabbage juice for his stomach ulcers! The reason I think labor unions today are worse than old time ones is because the old time labor unions were fighting against a flagrant exploitation of the workers... now, all too frequently, they cause hardship and havoc merely for selfish jurisdictional reasons which have absolutely no beneficial effect on the workers they pretend to "protect".... Look, that 6 mailings per year wasn't my idea -- that was something Coslet sprung on us at the time he notified us that the SAPS were to be merged with FAPA unless we veto'd it. I still do not see what is "completely unworkable" about the idea that members should contribute to every mailing. I do not say they should necessarily submit one or two loose pages of material to every mailing -- that would be foolish. But I do not see any reason why some members should wait months on end before introducing themselves, and then submit as the climax of a year's wait some mediocre fanzine of less value than other members have been submitting regularly. Sure, if a member is able to publish once a year only, that is OK if by doing so we receive something worth waiting for -- but in the meantime, why should they be so stingy with their talent and friendship that they cannot even submit a page or two of material to pad some other member's skinny little 'zine? Those members who give nothing at all except their \$1.50 dues and a minimum requirements, are not fair to the bulk of the membership who give far more than that. FAPA is a reciprocal group, and as such, the members are entitled to receive from each other as consistently as they give. What's wrong with that?



Don Wilson & Howard Miller: DREAM QUEST & PRO PHILE - This one-sheet postmailing promises well. Being one of the newer generation of fans (notice how carefully I avoided "younger" generation...?) I don't remember either of these FAPish greybeards (young enough to be my sons, no doubt) and shall look forward with anticipation to making their paper acquaintance.



Wright: VIEWPOINTS - "This-will-fix-WHO-Dent.???" Huccome you hollering so loud, boy? Do you like deadwood? Does your announcement on page 14 mean that EUSI-FANSO is to be discontinued? If so, I'd better pull my "exchange" card out of the file before I waste any more GTs on a defunct fanzine that forgot to publish its obituary...