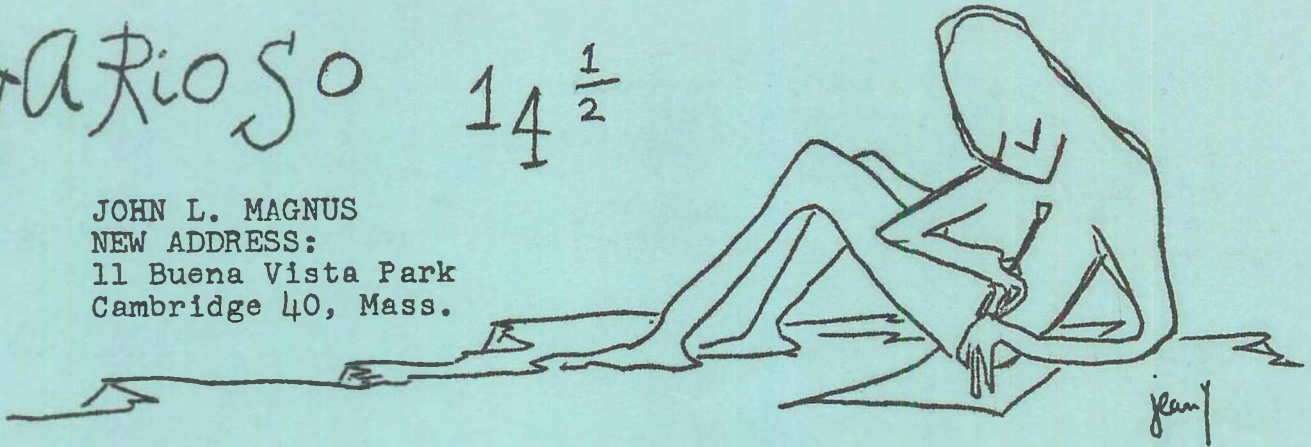


Varioso

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Dear late Varioso readers:

Betcha thought we wouldn't make it, didn't you?

This issue was started early in 1955, as soon as VARI 13 was postmailed to an eagerly-waiting FAPA. I was busy becoming editor of a college mag, however, and not much got done until summer rolled around. At that time, among other things, my father acquired a Varityper (how appropriate) for his business...at the avid urging of guess who. Things slowed a bit while I made new plans, learned how to use The Thing, and typed the first few stencils. The Metrocon reminiscences (aged & mellowed by now, but still fannish) and the Aletaster article were done around this time.

When a batch of us arrived in Cleveland for the '55 convention, we decided to finish up the issue on the spot...in the very hotel. We rented an old A.B.Dick, bought a case of lovely Gestetner paper, and happily carted it all back to the Manger. Among other things, we gathered a batch of short letters on stencil from various interesting personages at the con. We also got the bright idea of having everybody present whose name would be familiar to our readers to sign their names On Stencil. We also planned to have all the Pros turn the crank a few times so they could be listed as Assistant Editors, etc. But the convention was too interesting, & somehow... So the only thing left over on the lovely Gestetner cherry-collared paper is the Harness illo in thish's editorial.

From the con till the next summer, I ^{was} busy with the actual mechanics of editing the Oberlin mag, getting an education, and things. Even when summer rolled around, the first thing on the list was to do a lot of fictioneering, so maybe I could sell something & convince the folks that I wasn't loafing if I kept on writing. Nonetheless, Tod White & I managed to get Vari run off in time for the Biltmore convention. We even assembled a few copies there, "we" being A&J Young, Hitchcock, Eney, Pavlat, Stark, and of course Ted E. A very few people got their copies of VARI then. The remaining copies remained unassembled in my apartment in Oberlin — not entirely because I'm irresponsible. Oberlin is a pretty interesting place, this was my last year there, and it was costing me a couple grand to stay up there. Sooo, VARI waited.

But now...Oberlin is over...I have convinced my folks that I'm not loafing when I write (I huckstered a couple of crime stories)...and now I am situated comfortably at the Young Institute with A&J and Larry Stark, hoping to write full time. What with all the inspiration, VARI should get back to regular publication in very short order. Smatter a fact, you might as well start expecting an issue with sparking fresh contents just about a month from now. Thanks for waiting, anyhow.

Wasn't much else you could do, was there?